

When it comes to Mike Richards, I'm a Fan

While most of you were lying comfortably in that warm bed or still nursing your first coffee last Wednesday morning at 6 a.m., this stalwart scribe was winging his way through the rainy darkness in pursuit of a 'small town boy makes good in the big city' story.

Normally, I avoid pre-dawn assignments in the same way a miniature poodle steers clear of a pitbull. While I consider anything up to 10:30 at night fair, game, interviews before 9 in the morning are lined up only as a last ditch attempt when all else has failed. Some of us just don't function well in the early hours of the day.

So when former Stouffville school boy Mike Richards, a.k.a. Mike Rehill, suggested I slide on into the Fan 590 Radio studios at Yonge and Eglinton at around 6:45 a.m. for a first-hand look at what he does for a living, I tried to suppress my trepidation.



From where I live

Bruce Stapley

Those who listen to the Fan's 'Derringer in the Morning' between 5:30 and 9 a.m. on weekdays know that Mike is the man behind the myriad quirky voices and wacky impersonations. I had done a story on his funny-man radio exploits back in 1989 and thought it was time for an update. Having familiarized myself over the past decade or so with what goes on in a newspaper office, I thought it would be enlightening to broaden my horizons by checking out how the radio media does things.

Eyes popped open with toothpicks, I finally arrived at the building that houses the Fan.

It took me a full five minutes to figure out how to use the intercom so I could be escorted inside doors still locked at such an ungodly hour. What I saw upon entering was reminiscent of WKRP in Cincinnati, that zany 1970s radio sitcom. There was Mike, clad in jeans, a sweat shirt and a baseball hat on backwards, along with John Derringer, the morning show host, who was attired in an untucked shirt and well-worn blue jeans. The twosome, along with the show's producer and technician, were spending a commercial break engaged in a most animated and side-splitting critique of the early morning TV news anchorperson on one of two monitors used to bring the outside world inside the radio station.

I quickly discovered the hijinks and humor that have

become an integral part of the Fan's morning show aren't restricted to the on-air production alone. If it's true that laughter is the best form of medicine, Mike and his accomplices are brain surgeons. Feeding off each other they treat everything and everyone as raw material for their humor mill. The hilarity was contagious, and the cre-

(Please see page 16)



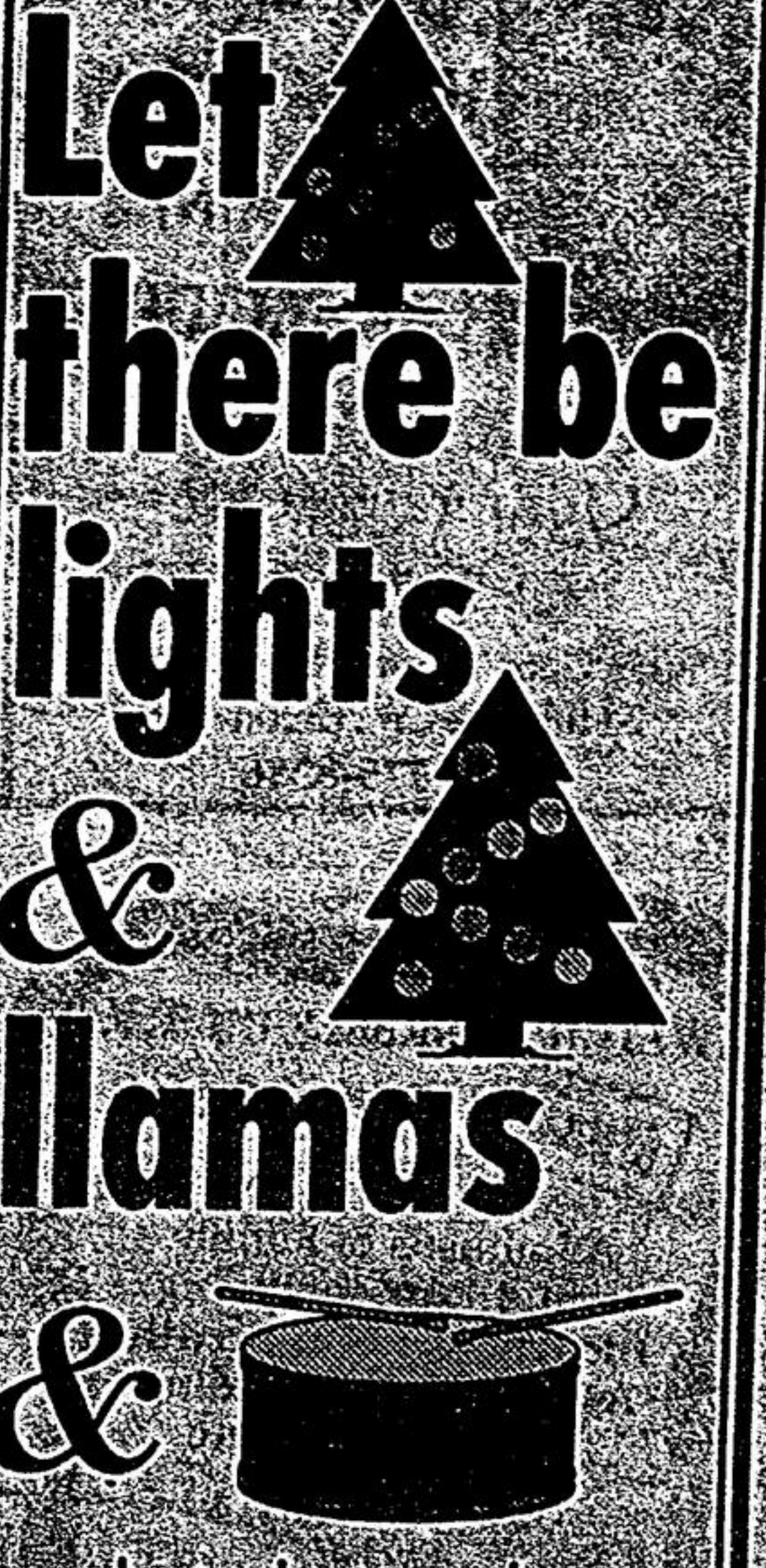
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ADVERTISING CORRECTION

Eaton's Holidays - Women insert, which appeared in this newspaper, Wednesday, November 8, 1995. Please note the following: Page 9 - Attitude watch with leopard print strap is not immediately available. However, orders will be accepted for delivery by November 28. Also, November Beauty Book from November 8, Page 5 - Halston gift set is incorrectly described. Copy should read: Halston Fragrance Favourites Gift Set: 120ml. Body Lotion, 50ml. Natural Spray Cologne and 120ml Bath and Shower Gel, all in a Halston box. Only \$49.50. Inadvertently, the errors listed appeared in our advertising. We sincerely regret any inconvenience or confusion to our customers.

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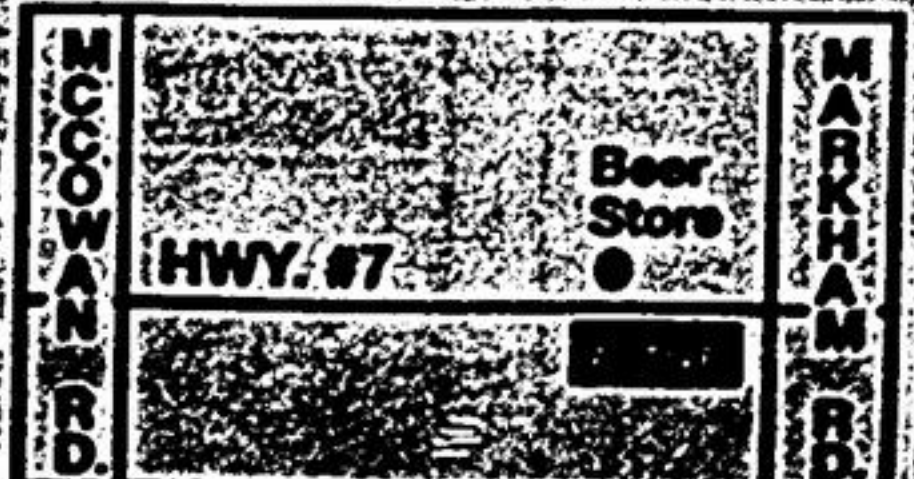
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