

I'll always be his girl

When my father, Bruce Stapley, asked me to cover for him while he was vacationing with my stepmother, Susan, and my two younger brothers in Prince Edward Island, I found myself feeling slightly nervous.

For years living with my father, I observed the wildly-fluctuating stress levels involved in a week in the life of a freelance journalist. It was almost like living in a "Shoe" comic strip. Now that he is responsible for three issues a week, I can only imagine the extent of his panic. Mondays were bad enough, but deadlines on Wednesday and Friday, too?

However, after giving the matter a little more thought, I realized I had been handed the opportunity of a lifetime.

For as long as my dad has been writing this column, mentions of me, his 18-year-old daughter, have been frequent, often embarrassing and sometimes tear jerking. Now that he's safely in P.E.I., it's my turn to share a few embarrassing moments and maybe provoke a few tears.

I figure that a few extra deadline panics are worth it.

The first mention of me in this column occurred way back in the late '80s. I was nine years old, entering my first season as a little league baseball player, and my ever-loving daddy was one of the coaches of the team.

He had practically pleaded with me to take ballet or jazz lessons, like most other little girls, but I refused. I wanted to play baseball like my big brother.

My father described, with heartfelt sentiment, the image of his only little girl stepping up to bat. He shared with his readers the anxiety that he experienced as he watched me swing and miss twice, with an expression of utter concentration on my little face.

When I hit a bouncing single along the first base line, he was ecstatic, and gathered me in his arms for a big hug.

What he didn't mention was that Daddy's little girl never played baseball again. In fact,



From Where I Live

Marissa Stapley

she was quite happy to enroll in ballet and tap lessons the next year, abandoning hopes of becoming the first girl in the Major Leagues.

All the extra time my coach spent with me after our games, while all the other little girls were off having milk shakes with their dads, was in vain. I just wasn't cut out for baseball.

I'm not so sure my dad was cut out to be a coach, either.

In the final inning of our league tournament, ending what had not been a great season, my dad made the strategic move of telling my team to "go easy" on our opponents, since we were winning anyway. He didn't want the other team to feel bad.

We all struck out and the umpire decided that since that inning had gone by so quickly, we might as well have another one. Needless to say, mine was the team that ended up feeling bad.

Yet I still have to admit that every time I read the "Daddy's Little Girl Steps Up to Bat" column, which hangs on my dad's office wall along with a similar column about my older brother in a snowshoe race, I get a little misty-eyed.

And for a time, I think it was the fact that it was the last column for a long while in which I was mentioned at all favourably that made me a little sad.

You see, I went through my Terrible Teenage Phase, and was no longer Daddy's Sweet Little Girl. I'm quite sure that I was his worst nightmare for three or four years.

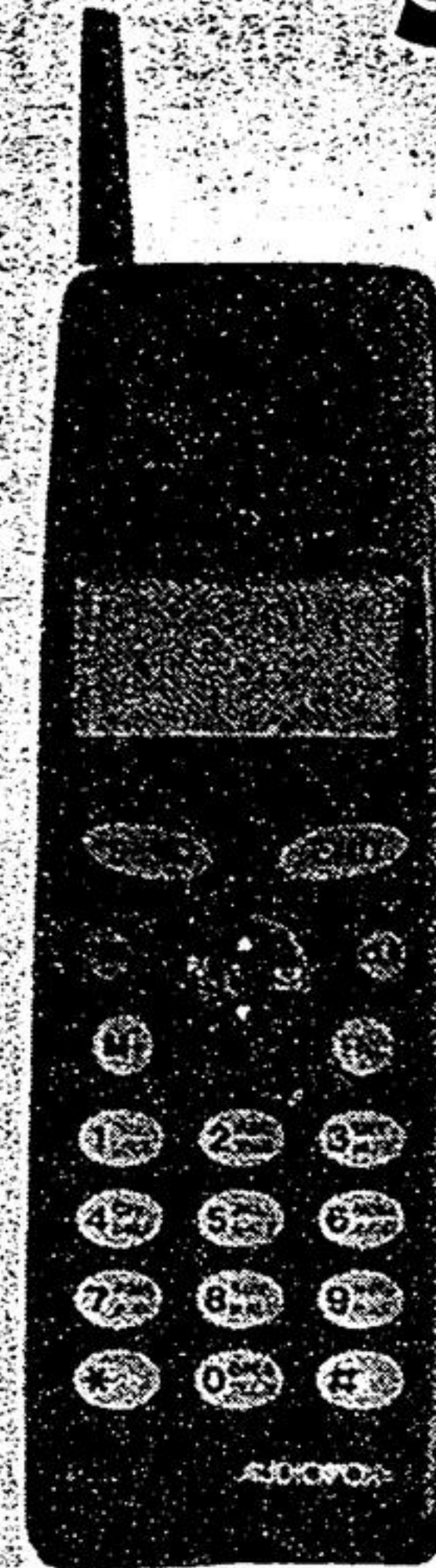
I have told my dad many times that I honestly don't think I was that horrible. I'll admit

■ Please see page 13 ■

THE CANTEL AT & T

WIRELESS SUMMER

A great call for summer.



Introducing the Audiovox MVX 470 phone **exclusively** from Cintel AT&T.

- Includes:
- hands-free ear piece (added safety while driving)
 - extended battery life (140 minute talk-time)
 - 30 number alpha memory display
 - multi-function access key
 - voicemail access key

Audiovox MVX 470
\$49⁹⁵

Just sign up on the Cintel AT&T 30 Plan!

Cintel AT&T 30 Plan
 • 30 local weekday minutes included;
 50¢ per minute thereafter. **\$24⁹⁵**
 • 10¢ local evening & weekend minutes **\$1⁹⁵** a month

Hurry, this exclusive offer ends soon!



Markham
 4560 Hwy. #7 East
 Markham
 (West of Kennedy)
 (905) 513-8448

Richmond Hill
 10 West Pearce St. Bldg. B
 Richmond Hill
 (Highway #7 & Leslie)
 (905) 731-7318

Hillcrest Mall
 9350 Yonge St.,
 Unit 5
 Richmond Hill
 (905) 770-4433

Long distance, roaming charges and applicable taxes are extra. Specialized term, early cancellation fees and system access fees apply. Offer good on new activations only and cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer ends August 31, 1997. © Rogers Cintel Inc. AT&T Corp. Used under license.

FOR AUTOS

Clearout '97

ALL 97's MUST GO BY AUGUST 30th!

SPECIAL FINANCING!

SPECIAL LEASE PAYMENTS!

SPECIAL LIMITED TIME DISCOUNTS!

EVERY CAR MUST GO!!

BEST BUY LEASE

FROM **\$850** DOWN **\$158⁰⁰** MO/48 MONTHS

Accent L BUY FROM **\$10,995****
3 DOOR



• Remote Fuel Filler Door Release
 • Remote Control Side View Mirrors
 • Intermittent Wipers

• Door Ajar Warning Light
 • Folding Rear Seats
 • More standard features than any other Car in its class!

• 1.8L Twin Cam 16V Engine
 • Power Rack & Pinion Steering
 • Intermittent Wipers
 • Side Impact Beams

• AM/FM Stereo Cassette with 4 speakers
 • More standard features than any other car in its class!

24 HR. Roadside Assistance Program



• 4 wheel independent suspension, fine-tuned by Porsche Engineering
 • Power steering

• Power windows
 • ETR AM/FM Stereo Cassette ... and more!

BEST BUY LEASE

FROM **\$850** DOWN **\$188⁰⁰** MO/48 MONTHS

Elantra GL BUY FROM **\$13,995****
4 DOOR



5 YR. 100,000 KM WARRANTY

BEST BUY LEASE

FROM **\$1395** DOWN **\$268⁰⁰** MO/48 MONTHS

Tiburon BUY FROM **\$17,595****

*Leasing and financing plans from Hyundai Credit Canada. Limited time only, based on new 1997 Accent L 3-dr MSRP from \$10,995; 1997 Elantra GL sedan MSRP from \$13,995. Interest rate 7.3%/7.2%. \$158/\$188 per month for a 48 month walkaway lease. Total lease obligation of \$7,584/\$9,024 O.A.C. and optional purchase price of \$4,753/\$7,034. Down payment or equivalent trade of \$850, plus first monthly payment and security deposit (\$200-\$250) required. 20,000 km mileage allowance per year applies. Additional km charge of \$0.08. **MSRP for 1997 Accent L 3-dr from \$10,995. MSRP for 1997 Elantra GL from \$13,995. All lease and purchase prices exclude freight, license, P.D.S. and taxes.

MARKHAM HYUNDAI

THE NEW HYUNDAI



DRIVING IS BELIEVING

5829 HIGHWAY 7 EAST

905-472-5525

Div. MARKHAM FINE CARS LTD.