

Stop the music! Battling Broken Record Syndrome

I had occasion to mention the movie "Saturday Night Fever" here in a recent column and the sound track,

SLICE OF LIFE



GREG BURT

one of my favorites, was still fresh on my mind when I found a two-disc set of the Bee Gees Greatest Hits on a shelf at the library. I played it through only once — that was all Rebeca would stand for — but that was enough. Too much, evidently. For three weeks now, snatches from one or another of the numbers in that set have been playing over and over inside my head.

As in, "Haaaaooooowww, could a love so right, turn out to be so wrong —"

That one mostly, which isn't even from the movie, and just that one line, over and over, without cease. Why?

To make matters worse, I've been under the weather since Christmas with some kind of complaint of the personal plumbing. The doctors seem to think that several things are going on down there simultaneously, all of them with tongue-twister names, so I've just been calling it Humours of the Spleen, as Captain Bligh might have.

In any case, it's keeping me close to home — especially to the bathroom — and spending a lot of time in bed, from which I must spring half a dozen times nightly. After each one of these little trips, I slip back under the still-warm covers between the beagle and the Jack Russell terrier, all set to ease back into dreamland, but the moment my head touches the pillow, there it is again:

"Haaaaooooow could a love so right —"

I try to stifle it with something completely different; a waltz maybe — a little "Blue Danube," Da da da da da, dot dot, dot dot. Or something rousing from a Broadway musical: "The rain in Spain stays mainly on the plaaaaaiiiiin — by George, I think she's got it!"

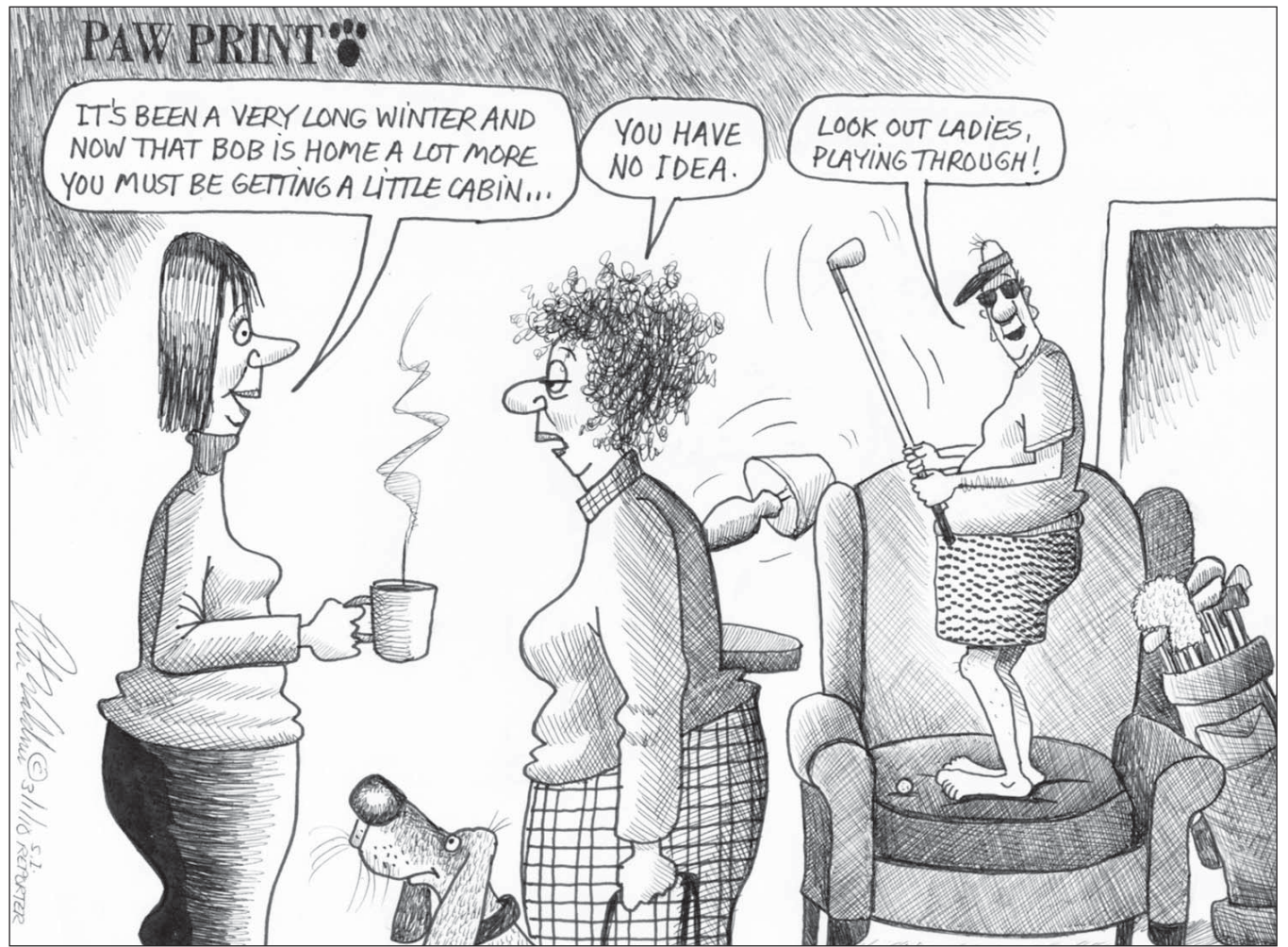
But I can only keep this going with great effort. As soon as I take my hand off the mental Victrola, the Bee Gees return.

"Haaaaooooow could —"

Desperate for variety, I can only tune in more Bee Gees but, with luck, I get one from the movie:

"Daddle-a-dat, dat-adda-dat dat dat dat, — stayin' alive, stayin' alive — Ah, ah, ah, ah, stayin' alliiiiiii-ah ah-iiiiiiiiive —" (Travolta's bell bottoms flapping around his ankles as he struts down the block headed for the paint store.) To add to the general cacophony inside my head, my teeth clack to the beat in helpless syncopation. Anybody seeing me lying there might note an occasional twitch but no one could guess there's a disco go-

MORE SLICE OF LIFE | 12



PETER WALDNER CARTOON

YOUR VIEW

Speak out on MTA

To the Editor:

There will be an MTA/LIRR hearing at the Riverhead County Center on Monday, March 8 at 6 p.m. to discuss the cancellation of train service between Ronkonkoma and Greenport (except on summer weekends) beginning in the fall of 2010. The Evans Griffing Building is on County Road 51. Come prepared to speak your mind. If you cannot be present, write a letter to:

Ms. Helena E. Williams
President, LIRR, Jamaica Station
Jamaica, NY 11435-5438

PATRICIA SHILLINGBURG
SHELTER ISLAND

Refutes Wein letter

To the Editor:

After reading Marc Wein's response to my family's letter addressing his application for a change of use permit, he left me no recourse but to respond. I was disappointed to find that he has decided to make the issue of the irreversible loss of the luncheonette a personal one.

No one in my family spoke to Mr. Wein about the luncheonette over the summer, except for the one instance he refers to when he says: "On one occasion I spent a very pleasant two hours with Steve Kessler." Those two hours were during a game of golf in which we ended up in the same foursome by accident. Mr. Wein wasted no time to press his campaign about why he had problems converting the luncheonette to a viable business.

I listened politely, asking a few questions to clarify some issues and sympathizing with his dilem-

ma. But his statement that I said: "I can assure you that my family will not interfere this time around" is simply untrue. I said nothing of the kind.

I am surprised and disappointed at the misrepresentation Mr. Wein made in his letter published in last week's Reporter. I am frustrated and angered by his attempt to put words in my mouth. For this reason, I am setting the record straight. However, I am most disappointed that attention is being deflected away from the true issues at stake — the value of the luncheonette to the Island community and the effort that should be taken to find an educated and energetic buyer.

If my family are the only four people on Shelter Island who care about the luncheonette, then, by all means, the Town Board should approve his application. But, if there are others who believe that this luncheonette is a staple of this community and should not be irrevocably lost to it, then we urge the Town Board to listen to a chorus of voices speaking up in favor of a long-time Island establishment.

STEVE KESSLER
SHELTER ISLAND

Take time on café

To the Editor:

When I read that Marc Wein was going in front of the Town Board to request a change of use permit — to irrevocably turn the luncheonette into an office — my family and I immediately wrote the letter that appeared in last week's Reporter. We sent it to the members of the Town Board, the town clerk, and the Reporter, as we could not be in attendance.

The letter wasn't read into the record at the meeting, but hopefully it was heard by those who have the Island's welfare in their hands. I hope you will let members of the Town Board know how you feel as well.

I understand that, at the meeting, Mr. Wein stated before those in attendance that he was open to selling the luncheonette and had advertised it for sale. Now I hope we can all rally together to find a potential buyer.

In a few weeks, the Town Board will be voting on Mr. Wein's request for a change of use. Before then, I implore you to get the word out that Mr. Wein will entertain offers to purchase the property. And, hopefully, the board will give the community the time to make sure this process can be seen through.

RANDY OSOFSKY
SHELTER ISLAND

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor that are exclusive to the Reporter are welcome. Submissions may be faxed, hand delivered or mailed but the preferred method is by email as an attached document sent to mail@sireporter.com. The regular mailing address is P.O. Box 756, Shelter Island, 11964.

Addresses and telephone numbers are required but will not be published. Copies of third-party letters will not be published unless revised as letters written to the editor. Thank-you letters may be held until space is available for them. All letters must have a signer; letters sent on behalf of a committee or other organization will not be accepted without a name. Anonymous letters will not be accepted. Libelous content in an otherwise publishable letter will be edited. Repetitive letters from the same author will be edited.