

GRAPE VINE

Marzo leaves Mr. Mugs

"Sometimes you've just got to know when to walk away."

That's how Phil Marzo explains his decision to sell downtown donut shop Mr. Mugs last month. Head office took over on Feb. 13.

Phil, who owned the business for five years, says that "I tried everything I could, but things just didn't work out."

Business was good, he says, until Tim Horton Donuts opened on the east end of town. Then sales dropped some 37%.

"There's no such thing as customer loyalty. It's the laziness factor; people just don't want to get out of their cars. They'd rather use a drive-through."

Phil says that he did consider installing a drive-through window, but he found that his location was too close to the traffic lights.

MPP Duignan collapses

Tanner readers will have to wait a bit longer for any answers from Halton North MPP Noel Duignan.

In last week's Editorial column we demanded from Duignan an explanation of the costs, origin and objective of the recently-published *Halton North Gazette*, which we described as an "eight-page propaganda piece."

However at press time Duignan was still in Toronto General Hospital after collapsing Sunday morning at the University of Toronto.

Duignan was attending the NDP's Provincial Council at the time.

Assistant Edna Toth said Monday the reasons for Duignan's collapse were unknown.

Expands service

Main Street's Needle Gnome shop has expanded its service, and now offers custom framing for photos, artwork and needlework.

"We have a huge selection of frames to choose from," explains owner Renata Georgeff, a certified framer.

Georgeff is also starting to offer needlework classes on Sunday afternoons in the store.

"They're fun, and there is free coffee for everybody!"

Harris visits Friday

Provincial P.C. leader Mike Harris brings his "Common Sense Revolution" to the North Halton Golf Club on Friday evening.

The local P.C. riding association is arranging the visit and organizer Darryl DeMille says that "we want lots of Acton residents to come and meet Mike."

The Meet the Leader wine and cheese event begins at 6 pm; the cost is just \$5 per person.

Correction

Last week's article on the weekend Acton Figure Skating Club carnival did not include the names of two skaters who will be giving solo performances. Ruth Eddolls will appear as the "Mystical Queen of Darkness," while the "Golden Treasure" will be played by Krista Petty.

"Imagination: Through the Eyes of a Child" will be performed at the arena this Friday (7:30 pm) and Saturday (2 and 7:30).



IT'S PAT! Pat Giguere was busy painting an exit door on Thursday at the new Seniors' Centre at the arena. After a seven-year search for a suitable site, the centre should open April 7 with soup and sandwiches offered at noon and bingo later in the day. (Doug Harrison photo)

Stupid is as stupid does ...

It's hard to believe that Pan-American Games organizers stripped Silken Laumann and her teammates of their gold medals.

Silken took the wrong type of Benadryl and subsequently tested positive for trace amounts of a banned substance, which is an insignificant component of the popular cold remedy.

I don't think anyone believes Silken was "doping" or trying to cheat. Losing her medal is unfair to her and tragic for her teammates. Still, rules are rules, and she admitted to taking the wrong brand. She should have checked her own list instead of taking the word of the team doctor.

I was disappointed in her press conference. Last year, she earned admiration by battling back from a serious injury to win a bronze medal at the Olympics. This year she showed a different side.

She should have come out fighting against the unreasonable and shallow attitude of the organizers. I think she could have defended her position, attacked the organizers and put them on the defensive in the court of world opinion. Her press conference came after the decision was announced.

Instead, Silken came out swinging at the team's doctor. It's someone else's fault you see. That attitude is becoming too common in our country. Less and less is there any acceptance of the concept of self-responsibility. We're turning into a nation of bureaucrats.

The organizers, crafty politicians that they are, quickly ordered sanctions against the doctor. His professional reputation will suffer, and rightly so say many.

I still wish she had come out fighting instead of whining.

Cartoonist Dewar of *The Sun* asked the best question: How come it's OK to drive a car, operate on a brain, or fly a plane on cold medication ... but you can't row a boat?

Gar Mahood of the Non-Smokers' Rights Association is best known for fighting against smoking in public. Last week an ad in *The Sun* quoted him as saying "I would rather go to dinner with a

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



convicted murderer than a tobacco executive." That's what he thinks of "the opposition."

I'm sure families of the victims of his preferred dinner companions have a different perspective.

So what do you think? Was he being insensitive, melodramatic or just plain stupid? Or is he trying for a spot on the Parole Board?

It was nice to see those English fishing boats flying the Canadian flag. They realize - even if their government doesn't - that Canada is only trying to protect the future of her people.

Now, if only we could get that same message through to Quebec, we'd all be better off.

An observer of the baseball strike put it in perspective when he wrote: "There should be tremendous competition for top rookie honours during the replacement season."

Which begs the question, "Who cares?"

Would someone give Regional Councillor Barry Quinn (Burlington) a valium?

There is a problem with speeding trucks on Maple Avenue in Georgetown. Quinn's brainstorm (or rather, *braindrizzle*) is to get photo-radar on Maple. This will slow down the trucks, he claims.

Councillors "cringed" when they saw a video of trucks passing school buses, running red lights and making improper turns. If the trucks aren't speeding, though, what good is photo-radar?

How many times have you seen a truck speeding while making a right turn on an amber light? Is the councillor aware that photo-radar isn't processing tractor-trailer pictures because the trailer plates usu-

ally can't be read?

Also, adjusting the timing on the photo units to allow for a 50-foot rig would screw it up for nailing cars. That's where the money is, and that's what photo-radar is all about.

This is not meant to trivialize the problem with trucks on Maple. Strong measures must be taken. Here's a novel idea - call a cop!

They might also get in touch with the Ministry of Transportation and demand regular patrols by the "green hornets" we see cruising up and down Hwy. 401 or in packs at truck weigh scales.

The Region just spent over \$200,000 for legal opinions on how to avoid spending \$200,000 on Pete Pomeroy's legal bills, and they may still have to pick up the tab. Fewer stupid moves like that would allow them to pay for policing of Maple. Photo-radar? Indeed!

This was another bad week for the NDP. First, Pink Floyd is quoted as saying he will raise taxes. Next day, nope, he says he never said it.

Premier Bob (or is it Boob?) is being sued for racism. It's all about the Barnes Exhibit and is being brought by his old buddy, black activist Charlie Roach.

Meanwhile, one of Rae's candidates, who works in Rae's office, has been accused by the former president of his riding executive (who also works in Rae's office) of referring to her community as "little black monkeys."

I wonder if Stephen Lewis will find that racism in the party is "systematic?"

Coffee breaks must be a treat in the Premier's office these days.

I've finally figured out what NDP really means. I've been confused: they haven't proposed anything new, they don't listen to the people, so they're not democratic, and anyone who thinks the last five years was a party is a masochist.

The initials NDP really stand for Next Disaster Pending. Remember, you read it first in *The Tanner*, your real community newspaper.

HEY!

Your reaction to Canada's fishing dispute with Spain?



"The Spanish should be ashamed of what they are doing. We should ban all sales of Spanish products in Canada or overtax everything, so nobody can afford it."

Mike Brozic, R.R. 3, Acton

"We should get after them. These new fish nets grab anything. It's a pity we can't cut the nets or do more. But the Canadian government is in a tough position, because we don't have much power."

Isobel Gallant, Churchill Road



"Canada had to flex our muscles; we don't do it often enough. If they don't listen, then maybe our big brother to the south might get involved. Maybe the Spanish are trying to put themselves on the map, because they aren't famous for anything."

Randy English, Rosemary Road



"I support it but I'm surprised they (Spanish) are back already. The Spanish are crafty, so maybe we should be a bit harsher. Canada's a bit too easy on others. But it was nice to see some unity in our country."

Linda Herbert, Kingham Road