A connoisseur of carbonation

co-worker has a dandy cartoon on the wall of his cubicle that sums up Athe life of a journalist. It shows a man throwing a dart at a wall where a number of topics are pasted under the heading Today I Am An Expert In:

It's an accurate assessment considering ink-stained wretches write about anything and everything in the course of their day.

While we're not truly "experts" in any of these areas, or the others we report on each day, there is one topic I feel I'm somewhat of an authority on.

Soft drinks.

Call me a connoisseur of carbonated confections, a sage of soft drinks or the professor of pop—I can discern the subtle delicacies of Barq's root beer from A&W's version or the aromatic differences between Crush and Jones' cream soda.

I mourned for a week when the Pop Shoppe stores went belly-up in the '70s and cried when New Coke was introduced.

Forget relaxing on the deck with cold Corona or a fine chablis— I'll take a mug of Pirate's Keg black cherry anytime.

Unfortunately, many of the finer brands of pop have become extinct—like Wishing Well cream soda— while others such as Faygo Red Pop and IBC root beer and cherry cola are available only south of the border.

With the summer party season now upon us it is imperative to know what is best to serve to guests. Therefore your humble servant has assembled the following list:

Good

You can't go wrong with staples like Coke, Pepsi, Canada Dry ginger ale, Sprite or any of the Crush varieties. They are a versatile bunch with varying degrees of sweetness. Cherry Coke offers a nice change from the norm.



Better

Mountain Dew's new Code Red version has been a pleasant arrival on the pop scene while Jones (a hard to find Canadian product) offers up a nice variety of interesting flavours such as Fun, Apple, Pineapple Upside Down and my favourite, Fufu Berry.

While hard to find (and a bit expensive), Stewart's Orange and Cream, Cherries and Cream or Pirate's Keg Key Lime and Black Cherry are made for special occasions.

Stay Away From

Brio (an Italian soft drink that surely fails to list liquid manure as its chief ingredient) and any soda that contains the word "diet". Pop is not pop without sugar and lots of it.

And I have the 87 lifetime cavities to prove it.

Dis 'n Data

I haven't had any interest in the Argos since Joe Theismann left town. Apparently neither has anyone else.... Crystal ball gazing: Toronto will finish third in the Olympic Games bidding...Euphemism of the week: Mole=beauty mark...Shouldn't the Alliance party be forced to change its name? They are a lot of things, but not allies... Your humble servant will return in two weeks.

Councillors take no action

Talton Hills council recently came face-to-face with the Lconsequence of a decision they made last month to vote against a staff recommendation.

Councillors had agreed with Stewart's Mill subdivision residents that a sidewalk in front of their homes on Lawlor St. wasn't needed. This decision was made despite a staff recommendation the sidewalk was needed for safety reasons.

While the sidewalk was not built, a concrete ramp was erected across the street to access a nearby park. But that move has now angered another Lawlor St. homeowner.

Regional Councillor John Day, who presented the unhappy resident's case at a council meeting, says the earlier decision and the newly-built ramp have increased pedestrian traffic on the homeowner's side of the street—something that wouldn't have happened if the sidewalk had been put in.

"In our zeal to address one issue, we created a problem elsewhere," Day told his colleagues. "I don't think residents should bear the brunt of a decision we made."

However, Town Engineer Bob Austin said it's staff's view the ramp creates a safer sightline for crossing to the park.

Ward 3 Councillor Moya Johnson who was reluctant to remove the original sidewalk, opposed removal of the ramp.

"Why do we have engineers then if we (council) design these things?" she asked. "Next week someone is back here with a child in a wheelchair or an elderly person and they can't get up to the sidewalk. Then what do we do? Let's just leave well enough alone."

Council opted to take no action on the matter.



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Wading Pool

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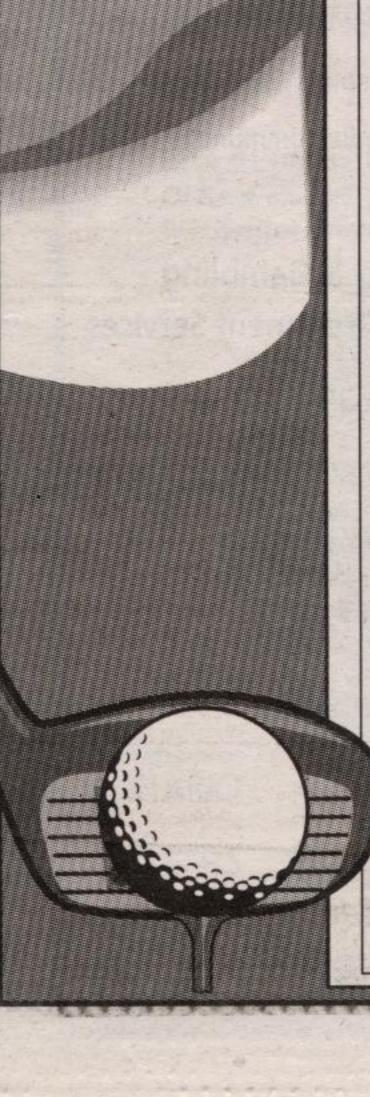
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