

BULKY DOCUMENTS

(exceeds 300 pages)

Proceeding/Serial No: 91162078

Filed: 03-27-2006

Title: Trial Brief; Notice of Filing; Depositions and Deposition Exhibits; and Index to Notice of Reliance Documents

Part 3 of 10

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE
TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD**

The United States Playing Card Company

**v
Harbro, LLC.**

INDEX TO THE NOTICE OF RELIANCE DOCUMENTS

VOLUME 1

	Publication	Date	Use
1.	<i>Merriam - Webster's Geographical Dictionary Third Edition</i> (not retrieved from LEXIS/NEXIS)	©1997	Definitions of Las Vegas and Vegas
2.	<i>MSN - Encarta Encyclopedia Article</i> (not retrieved from LEXIS/NEXIS)	©1993-2005	Entry on Las Vegas, Nevada
3.	NO EXHIBIT		
4.	NO EXHIBIT		
5.	<i>Entertainment Weekly</i>	June 3, 2005	A movie about teens gone wild ...ride through L.A. and Vegas
6.	<i>Entertainment Weekly</i>	June 3, 2005	Angelina Jolie and Billy Bob Thornton tie the knot May 5 in Vegas
7.	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>	June 1, 2005	What happens in Vegas may stay in Vegas
8.	<i>Curve</i>	June, 2005	... high-rollin' types, Vegas may be more your style
9.	<i>FSB</i>	June, 2005	Drive 35 minutes northwest from Vegas ... decidedly un-/Vegas amenities...
10.	<i>Market Wire</i>	June 1, 2005	... at places like Cabo or Vegas?
11.	<i>The Myrtle Beach Sun-News</i>	June 1, 2005	... and Tower in Vegas with a Sin City building of her [Ivana Trump] own.
12.	<i>San Jose Mercury News</i> (California)	June 1, 2005	I haven't seen the show in Vegas, but the view...
13.	<i>Texas Monthly</i>	June, 2005	... the self-make billionaire headed to Vegas with a goal...
14.	<i>The Vancouver Province</i> (British Columbia)	June 1, 2005	Donald Trump is getting some competition in Vegas from a rival ...
15.	<i>Washingtonian</i>	June, 2005	Power poker players in Vegas

	Publication	Date	Use
16.	<i>Associated Press Financial Wire</i>	May 31, 2005	... flights from the Chinese mainland to Vegas ... Macau may soon overtake Vegas...
17.	<i>The Associated Press</i>	May 31, 2005	Some Vegas hotels added family attractions...
18.	<i>The Associated Press State & Local Wire</i>	May 31, 2005	We picked Vegas because ...
19.	<i>Contra Costa Times</i>	May 31, 2005	... gig at a new Vegas Trump hotel ...
20.	<i>Geelong Advertiser</i>	May 31, 2005	... managing the troupe in Vegas ...
21.	<i>High Point Enterprise</i>	May 31, 2005	Original plans for the Vegas market ...
22.	<i>Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (Ontario)</i>	May 31, 2005	... while detectives in Vegas were...
23.	<i>Newsday</i>	May 31, 2005	I'd be barred for life, which I am now in Vegas...
24.	<i>Newsday</i>	May 31, 2005	In Vegas, they overtly told me to get the hell out.
25.	<i>The Orange County Register</i>	May 31, 2005	Last year, Vegas developers sought permission to build ...
26.	<i>The Baltimore Sun</i>	May 30, 2005	... picked up the Vegas trip tab.
27.	AMERICAN MORNING TV show transcript	May 30, 2005 7:00 a.m. EST	... these are people who live in red hot markets, Miami, Vegas, you name it ...
28.	<i>Fortune</i>	May 30, 2005	... when the speculating boom hit Vegas
29.	<i>The Halivax Daily News Nova Scotia</i>	May 30, 2005	... attending a Vegas wedding.
30.	<i>Lexington Herald Leader</i>	May 30, 2005	It's kind of like going to Vegas.
31.	<i>The Mirror</i>	May 30, 2005	I saw Rod in Vegas ...
32.	<i>The New York Post</i>	May 30, 2005	... had not gotten permission to go to Vegas ...
33.	<i>Philadelphia Inquirer</i>	May 30, 2005	... no personal financial gain at the Vegas meeting.
34.	<i>The Sports Network</i>	May 30, 2005	... Sacramento Kings and the Palms casino here in Vegas ...
35.	<i>VARBusiness</i>	May 30, 2005	... after the May show in Vegas ...
36.	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>	May 29, 2005	... as anyone who has been to Vegas can attest.
37.	<i>Detroit Free Press</i>	May 29, 2005	... players expected to descend on Vegas over six weeks ...
38.	<i>The Gazette</i>	May 29, 2005	... both Mystere and Ka on a recent Vegas trip ...
39.	<i>Hindustan Times</i>	May 29, 2005	... go with my mother to Vegas so I ...
40.	<i>The Jakarta Post</i>	May 29, 2005	And if he gets to Vegas, what then?

	Publication	Date	Use
41.	<i>Lincoln Journal Star</i>	May 29, 2005	Since Vegas is within driving distance ...
42.	<i>The New York Post</i>	May 29, 2005	... marathon that began in Vegas ...
43.	<i>The People</i>	May 29, 2005	His welcome in Vegas as an unknown ...
44.	<i>The San Francisco Chronicle</i>	May 29, 2005	<i>The History of Vegas</i> by Jodi Angel ...
45.	<i>The Sunday Independent Ireland</i>	May 29, 2005	... to leave Memphis and go to Vegas at certain times ...
46.	<i>Sunday Mail Scotland</i>	May 29, 2005	... to reach the final table in Vegas ...
47.	<i>Sunday Mirror</i>	May 29, 2005	He still plays Vegas four times a year ...
48.	<i>Sunday Times London</i>	May 29, 2005	... unlucky guy employed by a Vegas casino ...
49.	<i>Time-Picayune</i>	May 29, 2005	... has a gig in Vegas just before Barry's next concert.
50.	<i>The Washington Post</i>	May 29, 2005	His years in Vegas, ...
51.	<i>The Wichita Eagle</i>	May 29, 2005	... domestic U.S. vacation, such as Orlando or Vegas ...
52.	<i>Bristol Evening Post</i>	May 28, 2005	... who will fly out to meet him in Vegas ...
53.	<i>Channel NewsAsia</i>	May 28, 2005	However you slice or dice Vegas, one thing is for sure, the tourists just keep coming.
54.	<i>Gold Coast Bulletin Australia</i>	May 28, 2005	... once a dancer at Vegas's Desert Inn ...
55.	<i>The Guardian London</i>	May 28, 2005	... says he always feels phoney in Vegas ...
56.	<i>Guelph Mercury Ontario, Canada</i>	May 28, 2005	... who now lives in Vegas ...
57.	<i>The Journal News</i>	May 28, 2005	Her fiancé is going to Vegas ...
58.	<i>The Mirror</i>	May 28, 2005	... and a trip to Vegas is the only roll ...
59.	<i>The Montgomery Advertiser</i>	May 28, 2005	They spent the weekend in Vegas ...
60.	<i>The Montgomery Advertiser</i>	May 28, 2005	When we showed up to play in Vegas ...
61.	<i>Philadelphia Inquirer</i>	May 28, 2005	... at the Wynn Hotel and Casino in Vegas ...
62.	<i>Press & Sun-Bulletin</i>	May 28, 2005	A trend that's very hot in Vegas ...
63.	<i>Sacramento Bee</i>	May 28, 2005	... during a Vegas concert ...
64.	<i>The Toronto Sun</i>	May 28, 2005	... when Kim called him from Vegas.
65.	<i>Albuquerque Tribune</i>	May 27, 2005	... Golden Nugget Hotel in downtown Vegas ...
66.	<i>Business Wire</i>	May 27, 2005	... Evans returned to Vegas to begin ...

	Publication	Date	Use
67.	<i>The Capital Times</i>	May 27, 2005	... consumer electronics show in Vegas ...
68.	<i>Channel NewsAsia</i>	May 27, 2005	... for many resorts in Vegas ...
69.	<i>Chicago Tribune</i>	May 27, 2005	Vegas has its Vegas spectacles. New York has ...
70.	<i>The Commercial Appeal</i>	May 27, 2005	... all over the country ... Vegas, Dallas, Atlanta, Iowa ...
71.	<i>Copley News Service</i>	May 27, 2005	... is coming to Vegas.
72.	<i>The Daily News of Los Angeles</i>	May 27, 2005	Instead of doing a Vegas trip ...
73.	<i>Philadelphia Inquirer</i>	May 27, 2005	Forget Vegas; this time the hip Ocean cats ...
74.	<i>Richmond Times Dispatch</i>	May 27, 2005	... 24-hour marathons at the Bellagio in Vegas.
75.	<i>St. Johns' Telegram Newfoundland</i>	May 27, 2005	... for a trip to Vegas or anything.
76.	<i>Tampa Tribune</i>	May 27, 2005	... A Winner in Vegas
77.	<i>Akron Beacon Journal</i>	May 26, 2005	A lot of people want to go to Vegas, ...
78.	<i>Daily ews</i>	May 26, 2005	The star even invited them to the Vegas set ...
79.	<i>The Daily Oklahoman</i>	May 26, 2005	... go to Vegas and lose it all in one roll ...
80.	<i>The Frontrunner</i>	May 26, 2005	... co-hosting a fundraiser in Vegas.
81.	<i>The Hill</i>	May 26, 2005	... draw some of Washington's top names to Vegas ...
82.	<i>Las Vegas Review-Journal</i>	May 26, 2005	... about having a second home in Vegas, ...
83.	<i>Las Vegas Review-Journal</i>	May 26, 2005	...I might plan to be in Vegas at that time.
84.	<i>The Ledger</i>	May 26, 2005	I've been to Vegas plenty of times, ...
85.	<i>The Miami Herald</i>	May 26, 2005	... Todd English kitchens including Olives in Boston, D.C., Vegas and Tokyo ...
86.	<i>national-jeweler.com</i>	May 26, 2005	Memorial lecture in Vegas ...
87.	<i>Orlando Sentinel</i>	May 26, 2005	... Director for the Plaza Hotel and Casino in Vegas.
88.	<i>Rocky Mountain News</i>	May 26, 2005	... important thing right now is for us to be in Vegas.
89.	<i>Tulsa World</i>	May 26, 2005	... found that state resident preferred Vegas more than 2-to-1.
90.	<i>The Vancouver Province British Columbia</i>	May 26, 2005	...we assume the sports book in Vegas thinks ...
91.	<i>The Washington Post</i>	May 26, 2005	It was during the Vegas visit that ...

	Publication	Date	Use
92.	<i>Variety</i>	May 23, 2005	... the integrity of the awards had been compromised when "Q" quickly dumped them to play Vegas.
93.	<i>South Bend Tribune</i>	May 22, 2005	NBA reps revisiting Vegas
94.	<i>Albuquerque Journal</i>	May 22, 2005	... to fight on the Hopkins-Taylor card in Vegas ...
95.	<i>The Atlanta Journal-Constitution</i>	May 22, 2005	..a good shot at winning Daytona, Vegas and California.
96.	<i>The Boston Herald</i>	May 22, 2005	... was eager to catch Celine in Vegas, ...
97.	<i>Connecticut Post</i>	May 22, 2005	I played with Paula Creamer in Vegas ...
98.	<i>The Dallas Morning News</i>	May 22, 2005	Luxury ride rolls in Vegas
99.	<i>The Desert Sun</i>	May 22, 2005	... hops a bus and goes to Vegas ...
100.	<i>Great Falls Tribune</i>	May 22, 2005	One big-name project in Vegas; the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy
101.	<i>The Herald</i>	May 22, 2005	... trips to California and Vegas....
102.	<i>The Miami Herald</i>	May 22, 2005	... a trio from Havana Night Club, the Vegas show featuring ...
103.	<i>The New York Times</i>	May 22, 2005	... absconded to Vegas ...
104.	<i>Philadelphia Inquirer</i>	May 22, 2005	... simply known as Binions's in downtown Vegas.
105.	<i>Plain Dealer</i>	May 22, 2005	We went to Vegas together 11 times ...
106.	<i>Times-Picayune</i>	May 22, 2005	... (2007) All-Star Game coming to Vegas.
107.	<i>The Washington Post</i>	May 22, 2005	... to make a debauched night in Vegas disappear ...
108.	<i>Winnipeg Sun Manitoba</i>	May 22, 2005	... win the trip to Vegas, ...
109.	<i>GOOD MORNING AMERICA TV show, ABC</i>	May 21, 2005 7:00 am ET	... if you're headed to Vegas.
110.	<i>Copley News Service</i>	May 21, 2005	... and he wants to go to Vegas ...
111.	<i>Daily Town Talk</i>	May 21, 2005	... four round-robin games in the Vegas tournament...
112.	<i>The Daily Telegraph London</i>	May 21, 2005	... A sense of History? In Vegas? Come on!
113.	<i>Reno Gazette-Journal</i>	May 21, 2005	... are of the quality you see in Vegas ...
114.	<i>Spokesman Review</i>	May 21, 2005	We successfully avoided Vegas one more time, ...
115.	<i>The Daily News of Los Angeles</i>	May 20, 2005	... as the residential outskirts of Vegas.
116.	<i>The Desert Sun</i>	May 20, 2005	Cities send teams to Vegas for shopping centers convention
117.	<i>Detroit Free Press</i>	May 20, 2005	... luxury suite in a Vegas hotel ...

	Publication	Date	Use
118.	<i>Las Vegas Review-Journal</i>	May 20, 2005	... especially being from Vegas, ...
119.	<i>Pasadena Star-News</i>	May 20, 2005	... Vegas hotelier, Steve Wynn ...
120.	<i>Sacramento Bee</i>	May 20, 2005	... \$1 million jackpot in Vegas ...
121.	<i>Springfield News-Leader</i>	May 20, 2005	... flew 10 family member to Vegas for the ceremony.
122.	<i>Sun-Sentinel</i>	May 20, 2005	... two- or three-day junket to Vegas.
123.	<i>The Vancouver Sun</i> <i>British Columbia</i>	May 20, 2005	A Vegas news paper reports ...
124.	<i>backstage.com</i>	May 19, 2005	They have theatre in Vegas!
125.	<i>Birmingham Post</i>	May 19, 2005	... I became a headliner in Vegas ...
126.	<i>The Denver Post</i>	May 19, 2005	... that references poker in Vegas.
127.	<i>The Denver Post</i>	May 19, 2005	... it's not like playing the slots in Vegas ...
128.	<i>The News & Observer</i>	May 19, 2005	... she's a fixture in Vegas, ...
129.	<i>The Post-Standard</i>	May 19, 2005	... to be able to go to Vegas ...
130.	<i>Toledo Blade</i>	May 19, 2005	... produced a Vegas show ...
131.	<i>Western Morning News</i>	May 19, 2005	... at one of his Vegas shows: ...
132.	<i>Albuquerque Journal</i>	May 18, 2005	... well, it's Vegas.
133.	<i>Associated Press</i>	May 18, 2005	... will have 57 meetings in Vegas with retailers ...
134.	<i>Birmingham Evening Mail</i>	May 18, 2005	... and went to Vegas on the spur of the moment.
135.	<i>Cablefax Daily</i>	May 18, 2005	... aired live from Vegas last night ...
136.	<i>The Capital Times</i>	May 18, 2005	... "escort service" operator in Vegas.
137.	<i>Daily News</i>	May 18, 2005	... an annulled marriage in Vegas.
138.	<i>Detroit Free Press</i>	May 18, 2005	... luxury suit in a Vegas hotel ...
139.	THE O'REILLY FACTOR TV Show	May 18, 2005 8:37 pm EST	... I ran into him, Belinda, in Vegas
140.	<i>Fresno Bee</i>	May 18, 2005	... How far to Vegas?
141.	<i>The Hollywood Reporter</i>	May 18, 2005	It's Vegas, baby, for Greenberg Traurig
142.	<i>Las Vegas Review-Journal</i>	May 18, 2005	Urban wasn't in Vegas to Celebrate
143.	TODAY TV Show, NBC	May 18, 2005 7:00 am EST	Fun playing poker with you in Vegas, too.
144.	<i>The New York Post</i>	May 18, 2005	... enjoyed a memorable two weeks in Vegas.
145.	<i>Philadelphia Daily News</i>	May 18, 2005	... Cole plans to move to Vegas ...
146.	<i>Philadelphia Daily News</i>	May 18, 2005	... I've had most of my fights in Vegas. ...
147.	<i>Reno Gazette-Journal</i>	May 18, 2005	Those Vegas schools are really solid.
148.	<i>San Antonio Express-News</i>	May 18, 2005	And all the other hotels in Vegas.
149.	<i>The San Francisco Chronicle</i>	May 18, 2005	But Vegas id different.
150.	<i>The San Francisco Chronicle</i>	May 18, 2005	This is Vegas, after all.

	Publication	Date	Use
151.	<i>The Santa Fe New Mexican</i>	May 18, 2005	... high-concept restaurants enter the region -- especially in Vegas.
152.	<i>The Seattle Times</i>	May 18, 2005	... a rock star destined for Vegas, ...
153.	<i>The Tennessean</i>	May 18, 2005	...ACM finds itself after 40 years, move to Vegas, ...
154.	<i>The Tennessean</i>	May 18, 2005	... he apologized for not being in Vegas ...
155.	<i>The Tennessean</i>	May 18, 2005	... on his tour bus, which wheeled everybody to Vegas.
156.	<i>CNN LARRY KING LIVE TV Show</i>	May 17, 2005	Why has Donald Trump not come to Vegas until Now?
157.	<i>Cox News Service</i>	My 17, 2005	... and hotel expenses that come with staying in Vegas ...
158.	<i>The Denver Post</i>	May 17, 2005	,,, Silhouette dancing (a hit in Vegas), ...
159.	<i>Las Vegas Review-Journal</i>	May 17, 2005	... free tickets to the July 2 'Vegas Rocks 100' outdoor concert...
160.	<i>Las Vegas Review-Journal</i>	May 17, 2005	Vegas hosts annual recognition show
161.	<i>Las Vegas Review-Journal</i>	May 17, 2005	The festival also spotlights several Vegas-themed features ...
162.	<i>Las Vegas Review-Journal</i>	May 17, 2005	Vegas is a great defensive team, ...
163.	<i>The Macon Telegraph</i>	May 17, 2005	... like a weekend in Vegas.
164.	<i>The Miami Herald</i>	May 17, 2005	... Marlins ownership was hobnobbing in Vegas ...
165.	<i>The New York Times</i>	May 17, 2005	... and even later nights in Vegas.
166.	<i>Anchorage Daily News</i>	May 16, 2005	... and attend those events in Vegas.
167.	<i>Broadcasting and cable</i>	May 16, 2005	<i>Party @ The Palms</i> showcases revelry at the Vegas
168.	<i>Buffalo News</i>	May 16, 2005	As they say in Vegas ...
169.	<i>Business Week</i>	May 16, 2005	Having bought and sold two Vegas casinos ...
170.	<i>Charlotte Observer</i>	May 16, 2005	If it's OK to go to Vegas to do it, ...
171.	<i>Dayton Daily News</i>	May 16, 2005	... and she moved to Ames, Iowa - from Vegas ...
172.	<i>HFN The Weekly Newspaper for the Home Furnishing Network</i>	May 16, 2005	... transplanted Unica to Vegas several years ago...
173.	<i>Las Vegas Review-Journal</i>	May 16, 2005	... for her painting 'A Little Bit of Vegas.'
174.	<i>Las Vegas Review-Journal</i>	May 16, 2005	... we thought, Vegas being the Extreme eye-candy town it is ...
175.	<i>TODAY TV Show - NBC</i>	May 16, 2005 7:00 am EST	Happy birthday, Vegas.

INDEX 1

Merriam-Webster's Geographical Dictionary

THIRD EDITION



MERRIAM-WEBSTER, INCORPORATED, *Publishers*
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

PC-01909

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Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data
Main entry under title:

Merriam-Webster's geographical dictionary. — 3rd ed.
p. cm.

Rev. ed. of: Webster's new geographical dictionary. 1972.
ISBN 0-87779-546-0 (alk. paper)

I. Gazetteers. I. Merriam-Webster, Inc. II. Webster's new geographical dictionary.

G103.5.W42 1997
910'.3—dc21

96-52365
CIP

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L'Assomption

Lasswade

La Tuque

th cent.; late Romanesque (v. French president) of mer. (scen-). Seaport com. Mediterranean Sea 4 mi. 6 liding center.

1. Locality, E Cuba, ESE of ement 1898, won by Amer- ttle of El Cancy and taking ican War.

ndoza prov., W cen. Argen- city of Mendoza.

1. Myanmar; pop. (1983).

a Pradesh, N cen. India; for- zes the new part of Greater ew miles S of the old city; te (Hindi *laskar* "camp")

wp, S cen. Afghanistan, on

in table at APENNINES. the-ou also Las-el-ti (la- see table at GREECE.

1-tis \. Municipality, Chia- n.) SE of Tuxtla Gutierrez, municipality, W Puerto Rico, 7306.

hā-tā-tō-10-ed \. Village, in; scene of battle 1212 in Moors.

une, Ciudad Real prov., S of the commune of Ciudad

ovince of Spain. See table

a Ca-na-ria \iā-grā-tā- talmas prov., Spain, in NE SE of Santa Cruz de Ten- city; chief port of Ca- ban- tourism; govern- al; year-round cent.; major growth since

ince of Liguria, NW Italy.

of La Spezia 51 mi. (82) 104,511; naval arsen- f naval station of Italy af- sm. In WWII surrendered.

Municipality, E Puerto) 27,896.

ay; pop. (1985c) 58,281.

ifornia. See table at CALI-

cano, NE California, at S), near border of Phoen one 6913 ft. (2107 m.) t after until 1921; nri- tional Park (see UNITED

ce dept., N France, near ; throughout WWI.

-sō-p-tyō \. 1. River, coe., S Quebec, Canada; wrence River opp. N end) long. able at QUEBEC.

1. NNE of Montreal or 706.

Lasswade \la-'swād \. Village, Lothian region, SE Scotland, SE of Edinburgh; residence 1798-1804 of author Sir Walter Scott; English author Thomas De Quincey established his daughters here 1840 and lived with them at intervals until his death 1859.

Las Tablas \lā-'stā-blās \. Town, * of Los Santos prov., S Panama; pop. (1990p) 6731; near coast on W side of Gulf of Panama.

Last Mountain Lake \last \. Long narrow lake, S cen. Saskatchewan, Canada; S end ab. 20 mi. (32 km.) NW of Regina; 89 sq. mi. (231 sq. km.); discharges into Qu'Appelle River.

Lastovo \lā-stō-'vō \ or Ital. La-gosta \lā-gō-stā \. Island, Croatia, in Adriatic Sea off Dalmatian coast; 24 sq. mi. (62 sq. km.); formerly Italian.

Lastra a Signa \lās-tā-ā-'sō-nyā \. Commune, Firenze prov., Tuscany, cen. Italy, on Arno River 8 mi. (13 km.) W of Florence; pop. (1981p) 16,356; church with 14th cent. fresco; 14th cent. walls.

Las Tres Marias. See MARIAS, ISLAS.

Las Tres Virgenes \lās-'trās-'vir-hā-'nās \. Mountain, E cen. Baja California, NW Mexico; 6547 ft. (1996 m.).

Las Te-nas \lās-'tē-nās \. Province of E Cuba. See table at CUBA.

Las Vegas \lās-'vā-gās \. 1. Often shortened to Vegas, City, * of Clark co., SE corner of Nevada, 22 mi. (35 km.) NW of Boulder Dam; pop. (1990c) 258,295; alt. 2030 ft. (619 m.); distribution center for mining and stock-raising region; major tourist resort featuring legalized gaming and glittery hotels; Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas (1957); hot springs NW of city; housed offices for Hoover Dam (Boulder Dam) project until 1932. Occupied by Mormons 1855-57; bought by railroad for townsite and diversion point 1903; became * 1909, incorp. 1911; pop. grew rapidly in 1980s.

2. City, * of San Miguel co., NE cen. New Mexico, ab. 40 mi. (64 km.) E of Santa Fe; pop. (1990c) 14,753; formerly constituted two municipalities separated from each other by Gallinas River: City of Las Vegas, sometimes called East Las Vegas or New Town, and Town of Las Vegas, some- times called West Las Vegas or Old Town; shipping point and supply depot in cattle and sheep country; lumber; dairy products; New Mexico Highlands Univ. (1893); health resort and hot springs nearby. Old Town settled on Santa Fe Trail by Spaniards 1823-33; taken for U.S. by Gen. Stephen W. Kearny 1846; seat of military operations until establishment nearby of Fort Union 1851.

Las Villas \lās-'vā-yās \. Former province of W cen. Cuba.

Laswar-el \lā-'swār-'ē \. Village, Rajasthan, NW India, in former Alwar state, 12 mi. (19 km.) E of the city of Alwar and ab. 78 mi. (126 km.) SSW of Delhi; scene of English Gen. Gerard Lake's defeat of Marathas 1803 in Second Maratha War.

La Syrie. See SYRIA 2.

Latacunga \lā-tā-'kūŋ-gā \. City, * of Cotacachi prov., cen. Ecuador, 50 mi. (81 km.) S of Quito; pop. (1990c) 39,882; on plateau ab. 9150 ft. (2789 m.) above sea level; ab. 25 mi. (40 km.) S of the volcano Cotacachi; has suffered repeatedly from eruptions and earthquakes; founded by Spanish 1534.

La-tah \lā-'tā, lā-'tā \. County in NW Idaho. See table at IDA- HO.

Latakia \lā-'tā-'kī-ā \. 1. Former republic, orig. a territory, now part of Syria; 1671 sq. mi. (4328 sq. km.); pop. (1992e) 738,000; * Latakia; coastal region bet. N extension of Leb- non Mts. (Djebel Ansariya) and the Mediterranean Sea and opp. island of Cyprus; the Orontes forms part of its E bound- ary. Before WWI a part of Turkey; became a territory of the French mandate of Syria 1920; made a state 1922 and later an autonomous part of Syria; made an integral part of Syria 1942.

2. or Fr. Latakia \lā-tā-'kī-ā \; anc. La-odicea \lā-'lō-dī- kē-ā \ or Laodicea ad Mare \lā-'lō-dī-ē, -'mār-'ē \. Seaport, * of Latakia, W Syria; pop. (1992e) 284,000; center of rich agricultural region; exports asphalt, cereals, pottery, tobacco; sponge fishing; in antiquity had several other names; cap- tured by Norman leader Tancred 1103; became an important

and wealthy city during the Crusades; taken by Muslim Sul- tan Saladin 1188; declined in importance but revived in 17th cent. by its cultivation of and trade in Latakia tobacco, which is still a major export.

La Tene \lā-'tēn, -'tān \. Shallows at E end of Lac de Neu- châtel, Switzerland; site of discovery of Iron Age remains; name now applied to a period of the Iron Age assumed to date from c. 500 B.C. to c. first cent. A.D.

La Teste \lā-'tēs \; formerly La Teste-de-Buch \lā-'dā-'būsh \. Town, Gironde dept., SW France, SSE of Arcachon; ancient * of the Pays de Buch \pā-'dā-, a territory ruled by a feudal lord.

La-tham and Burs-cough \lā-'thām ... 'bā-s-kō \. Former ur- ban district, Lancashire, NW England, NE of Liverpool; site of Latham House, formerly seat of the Stanley family (earls of Derby) and object of siege by Parliamentarians Feb.-May 1644 when it was defended by the countess of Derby, Char- lotte de la Trémoille.

La-thrup Village \lā-'thrap \. City, Oakland co., SE Michigan; pop. (1990c) 4329.

La Thuile \lā-'twē \. Town, Valle d'Aosta, NW Italy; terminal of Little St. Bernard Pass; pop. (1981p) 723.

Latimer \lā-'tā-mār \. County in E Oklahoma. See table at OKLAHOMA.

La-ti-na \lā-'tē-nā \; formerly Lit-to-ria \lī-'tō-rī-ā \. 1. Pro- vince of Lazio, cen. Italy. See table at ITALY.

2. Commune, its *, 35 mi. (56 km.) SE of Rome; pop. (1991p) 105,543.

Latin America. 1. Spanish America (q.v.) and Brazil.

2. All of the Americas S of the U.S.

Latin Empire. Part of the Byzantine Empire ruled by the Cru- saders 1204-61; * Constantinople; included lands on W, N, and NE shores of the Aegean Sea (except Euboea) and around the Sea of Marmara. See BYZANTINE EMPIRE.

Latin Way or Lat. Via La-ti-na \lā-'tā-'tī-nā \. Ancient Ro- man road running SE from Rome and joining the Appian Way near Capua.

La-ti-num \lā-'shē-om \. 1. Ancient country of Italy in cen- part of W coast on Tyrrhenian Sea, bounded by Etruria on NW and by Campania on SE; inhabited by Latins whose cities (incl. Ardea, Lavinium, Tusculum, and Alba Longa) had formed Latin League by 500 B.C.; dominated by Rome from 4th cent. B.C.; Latins revolted and Latin League dissolved af- ter its defeat in Latin War 340-338 B.C.; after Social War c. 90-88 B.C. Latin cities received rights of Roman citizenship.

2. Autonomous region, Italy. See LAZIO.

La Tortuga \lā-'tōr-'tū-gā \. Venezuelan island in the Carib- bean Sea off N cen. coast of Venezuela, 55 mi. (88 km.) W of the island of Margarita; 85 sq. mi. (220 sq. km.).

La Tri-ni-dad \lā-'trē-nē-'tād \. Municipality, * of Benguet prov., Luzon, Philippines, ab. 3 mi. (5 km.) N of City of Ba- guio; pop. (1980c) 28,713; at elev. of ab. 8000 ft. (2440 m.); has cool climate; vegetables of temperate zone raised in sur- rounding gardens.

La Tri-ni-té \lā-'trē-nē-'tā \. Commune, E coast of Martinique, West Indies.

La-trobe \lā-'trōb \. Borough, Westmoreland co., SW Pennsylv- ania, 26 mi. (42 km.) W of Johnstown; pop. (1990c) 9265; St. Vincent Coll. (1846).

La-trun \lā-'trūn \. Village in Israeli-occupied West Bank, on highway 15 mi. (24 km.) W of Jerusalem.

Lattaquie. See LATAKIA 2.

La-tu-kān, Mount \lā-'tū-'kān \. Active volcano, Lanao del Sur prov., Mindanao, Philippines, on Cotabato boundary; 7078 ft. (2157 m.).

La Tuque \lā-'tūk \. Town, Champlain co., S Quebec, Cana- da, on St.-Maurice River 77 mi. (124 km.) N of Trois- Rivières; pop. (1991c) 10,003; resort; paper; hydroelectric power station.

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- Vau-de-Vire. See VIRE 2.
- Vau-dreuil \vó-'dré-é, vó-'dréil\ Town, Quebec, Canada, on Ottawa River near its mouth ab. 24 mi. (39 km.) WSW of Montreal; pop. (1991c) 11,187.
- Vau-dreuil-Sou-langes \vó-,dré-é-sú-'lã-zh\ County, Quebec, Canada. See table at QUEBEC.
- Vaughan \vón\ City, York munic. region, Ontario, Canada, NW of Toronto; pop. (1991c) 111,359; grew rapidly in 1980s.
- Vaught, Mount \vót\ Peak, Glacier National Park, NW Montana; 8840 ft. (2694 m.).
- Vau-pés \vaú-'pás\ 1. River, South America. See UAU-PÉS.
2. Department of SE Colombia. See table at COLOMBIA.
- Vaux \vó\ Village, Meuse dept., NE France, 3 mi. (5 km.) NE of Verdun; scene of severe fighting in WWI 1916.
- Vava'u \vã-'vã-u\ 1. Island group, N Tonga, SW cen. Pacific Ocean; includes island of Vava'u and ab. 30 islets; ab. 60 sq. mi. (155 sq. km.); mountainous, of volcanic origin.
2. Chief island of the Vava'u group; 10 mi. (16 km.) long; 44 sq. mi. (114 sq. km.); pop. (1986c) 15,175; island noted for its caves.
- Vavuniya \vó-vũ-nũ-yo, 'vã-\ Town, N cen. Sri Lanka; pop. (1989e) 21,000.
- Väckjö \væk-'shé\ Town, Ø of Kronoberg prov., S Sweden, 60 mi. (97 km.) WNW of Kalmar; pop. (1993e) 70,704; manufactures matches; cathedral.
- Vayenga. See SEVEROMORSK.
- Vay-gach also Vai-gach \vi-'gách\ Island, NE Nenets Autonomous Okrug, NE Russia in Europe, bet. the mainland and Novaya Zemlya, SE of Kara Strait; 1306 sq. mi. (3382 sq. km.); 68 mi. (109 km.) long.
- Vecchia, Città. See MODENA.
- Vechte \vøk-'tə\ or Du. Vecht \vøk-t\ River, Germany and the Netherlands; flows NW through North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, and W through prov. of Overijssel, Netherlands, into IJsselmeer; ab. 125 mi. (200 km.) long.
- Vectis. See ISLE OF WIGHT 3.
- Vedea \vã-'dyã\ River, S Romania, E of the Olt; flows SE into the Danube near Giurgiu; ab. 130 mi. (210 km.) long.
- Veen-dam \vín-'dãtm, 'vãn-\ Commune, Groningen prov., NE Netherlands, 14 mi. (23 km.) SE of the city of Groningen; pop. (1981c) 28,487.
- Yee-nen-daal \vã-nøn-'dãil\ Commune, Utrecht prov., cen. Netherlands, just N of the Neder Rijn SE of the city of Utrecht; pop. (1992e) 50,791.
- Vega \vã-'gə\ Town, Ø of Oldham co., NW Texas; pop. (1990c) 840.
- Vega, La. See LA VEGA.
- Vega Alta \bã-'gã-'ãl-'ã\ Municipality, N Puerto Rico, SW of San Juan; pop. (1990c) 34,559.
- Vega Baja \bã-'gã-'bã-'ã\ Municipality, N Puerto Rico, WSW of San Juan; pop. (1990c) 55,997.
- Vega Real \bã-'gã-'rã-'ã\ Valley, N Dominican Republic; formed by two streams flowing in opposite directions.
- Vegas. See LAS VEGAS 1.
- Veglia. See KRK.
- Vego-rifis, Lake \və-'gə-'rẽ-tas\ or Gk. Límni Vego-rifis \vẽm-nẽ-və-'gõ-'rẽ-tẽs\ Lake, N Greece, near border with Republic of Macedonia; ab. 25 sq. mi. (65 sq. km.).
- Vegre-ville \və-'gər-'vil\ Town, E Alberta, Canada, on a tributary of the North Saskatchewan River 57 mi. (92 km.) E of Edmonton; pop. (1991c) 5138.
- Velli \vè-'yl, 'vã-'yè\; mod. Volo \vã-'v\ Ancient city of Etruria, ab. 12 mi. (19 km.) N of Rome, Italy; an Etruscan stronghold, one of the important cities of the Etruscan Confederation; for 350 years almost continually at war with Rome; captured by Roman soldier Camillus 396 B.C. after a 10-year siege.
- Vejle \vi-'lə\ 1. County of SE Jutland, Denmark. See table at DENMARK.
2. Seaport, its Ø, at the head of Vejle Fjord (inlet 15 mi. or 24 km. long); pop. (1989e) 50,879; ships dairy products; textile mills, ironworks; St. Nicholas church, dating from 13th cent.
- Vela-de-ro \bã-'lã-'lã-'rõ\ or Vela-de-res \-rãs\ Peak, NW La Rioja prov., NW Argentina, near border of Chile; 20,735 ft. (6320 m.).
- Vélan \vã-'lã\ Mountain in the Pennine Alps, on the Switzerland-Italy border; 12,353 ft. (3765 m.).
- Vela-nai Island \vã-'lã-'nã\ Island, N Palk Bay, off N tip of Sri Lanka.
- Velas, Cape \bã-'lãs\ Cape, NW coast of Costa Rica, extending into the Pacific Ocean.
- Vel-bert \vèl-'bært\ City, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, in the Ruhr Valley 14 mi. (23 km.) NE of Düsseldorf; pop. (1992e) 89,347; manufactures locks.
- Velch. See VULCI.
- Veld-ho-ven \vèlt-'bõ-võ\ Commune, North Brabant prov., Netherlands; pop. (1981e) 35,191.
- Vele-bit \vè-'lè-bit\ Mountain range, W Croatia, extending from NW to SE along the Adriatic coast from ab. 44° to 45°N; greatest height 5768 ft. (1758 m.).
- Veleb-it-ek \kã-'nãl \vø-'lè-bit-'ek-'kø-'nãl\; formerly Mor-lac-ca \mòr-'lã-'kã, '-lã-\ Channel along the coast of Croatia, bet. Krk I. and the mainland.
- Velen-je \vø-'lèn-'yø\ Town, N Slovenia; pop. (1992e) 27,665.
- Veles. See ТИРОВ VELES.
- Vele-ta, Pi-ca-cho de \pè-'kã-'chõ-'tã-'bã-'lã-'tã\ Peak in the Sierra Nevada, Granada prov., S Spain, just WNW of Mulhacén; 11,125 ft. (3391 m.).
- Vélez-Málaga \bã-'lãs-'mã-'lã-'gã\ Commune, Málaga prov., S Spain, on the Mediterranean 16 mi. (26 km.) ENE of the city of Málaga; pop. (1991c) 50,999; sugarcane; remains of ancient Moorish castle.
- Velho. See PORTO VELHO.
- Velia \vè-'lã-'o\ or Elea \è-'lã-'o\ Ancient town of Lucania, S Italy, its ruins near coast ab. halfway bet. Gulf of Salerno and Gulf of Policastro; includes remains of walls; founded c. 530 B.C. by Phocaean Greeks; home of Parmenides and Zeno of the Eleatic school of philosophers.
- Velika Morava. See MORAVA 3.
- Veli-ka-ya \vi-'lã-'kø-'yø\ River, Pskov Oblast, W Russia in Europe; flows N into Lake Pskov; 252 mi. (405 km.) long.
- Veliki Bečkerek. See ZRENIANIN.
- Veli-ki Ustyug or Veli-kiy Ustyug \vi-'lã-'kẽ-'u-'styk\ Town, NE Vologda Oblast, N cen. Russia in Europe, on the left bank of the Northern Dvina River just below the junction of the Sukhona and the Yug; pop. (1991e) 36,200.
- Veli-ki-ye Luki \vi-'lã-'kẽ-'yø-'lũ-'kẽ\ Town, Pskov Oblast, W Russia in Europe, on right bank of upper Lovat' River 200 mi. (322 km.) W of Tver'; pop. (1992e) 116,000; railroad junction; railroad shops; first mentioned 1166; scene of heavy fighting in WWII.
- Velikiy Ustyug. See VELIKI USTYUG.
- Veli-ko Tír-no-vo \vèl-'i-'kõ-'tør-nø-'võ\ or Tír-no-vo \tír-'no-'vø\ or Tír-no-va \tír-'nø-'vø\ also Tír-no-vo \tør-nø-'vø\ City, N Bulgaria, on the Yantra River 55 mi. (88 km.) ESE of Pleven; pop. (1991e) 72,600; furniture, textiles; university; cultural center. Situated on a deep gorge with two high promontories and a connecting ridge. Served as Ø of 2d Bulgarian empire 1186-1393; under Turkish rule 1394-1877; independent kingdom of Bulgaria proclaimed here Oct. 5, 1908; destructive earthquake 1911; much of medieval city has been restored.
- Velin-grad \vèl-'lĩ-'grãt\ Town, SW Bulgaria.
- Veli-no \vè-'lã-'nõ\ River, cen. Italy; flows out of the Apennines into Nera River; 54 mi. (87 km.) long; contains noted waterfall, Cas-ca-ta delle Mar-mo-re \kã-'kã-'tã-'dèl-'lẽ-'mã-'mõ-'rã\, in three separate cascades.
- Vel'kiy Zítnyf. See GREAT SCHÜTT.
- Vella Gulf \vø-'lə\ Open water area in Solomon Is., W Pacific Ocean, SE of Vella Lavella I. and NW of Kolombangara I.; partly closed on the W by Ganongga I.
- Vella La-vel-la \vø-'lã-'lã-'vèl-'ø\ Island in the New Georgia Is., cen. Solomon Is., W Pacific Ocean, NW of Kolombangara I. and separated from it by Vella Gulf; ab. 200 sq. mi. (520 sq. km.); surrounded by coral reefs which prevent use of its many bays. Highest point 3000 ft. (914 m.).

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I INTRODUCTION

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Las Vegas (Nevada), city in southern Nevada. The seat of Clark County, Las Vegas is located in the Las Vegas Valley, a desert surrounded by the Spring Mountains and the Sierra Nevada. Las Vegas serves as the center of one of the fastest-growing metropolitan areas in the United States. Its population has multiplied by a factor of 30 since the 1940s—more than that of any other major American city. Las Vegas is renowned for tourism, gaming, a dry and vigorous climate, and an assortment of indoor and outdoor recreational

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activities. The city is also booming in manufacturing and industrial employment, in the construction of new houses, and in the creation of new service jobs.

II LAS VEGAS AND ITS METROPOLITAN AREA

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The city of Las Vegas covers a land area of 215.2 sq km (83.1 sq mi). In addition to Las Vegas, the city's metropolitan region includes North Las Vegas, Boulder City, Henderson, Mesquite, and a large number of unincorporated communities.

The downtown area of Las Vegas, known as Glitter Gulch, is characterized by long-established casinos. It is the site of the Fremont Street Experience, a renovation project completed in 1995, designed to revitalize the downtown area and attract more people to the street's casinos. Covering a five-block stretch of Fremont Street, this section is a covered pedestrian mall where thousands of lights play out animated scenes overhead. In addition to the casinos and attractions downtown, more are located on The Strip, a 6-km (4-mi) neon-lined portion of Las Vegas Boulevard, located slightly south of downtown. Some of the extravagant casinos on The Strip play on epic Hollywood themes, such as the Treasure Island Casino, while others advertise attractions, such as an Egyptian pyramid, a medieval castle, or an erupting volcano. Ever-grander casinos open each year, attracting patrons with such draws as replicas of New York City landmarks or roller-coasters atop tall towers. Outside the city lies Hoover Dam, a massive concrete dam that was completed in 1936 as part of a federally funded water works project.

III POPULATION

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The population of Las Vegas increased markedly in recent decades, rising from 164,674 in 1980 to 258,295 in 1990. The city's population

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in 2000 was 478,434. In 2003, Las Vegas's population was estimated at 517,017.

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According to the 2000 census, whites constituted 69.9 percent of the city's population; blacks, 10.4 percent; Asians, 4.8 percent; Native Americans, 0.7 percent; Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, 0.4 percent; and people of mixed heritage or not reporting race, 13.8 percent. Hispanics, who may be of any race, made up 23.6 percent of the population.

Increasingly, Las Vegas is home to people who have left California for Nevada. California migrants constitute about one-third of the newcomers to Las Vegas and contribute to the growth in home construction, landscaping, residential security, and light manufacturing in the increasingly varied Vegas economy.

The growth of the Las Vegas metropolitan region was the fastest in the nation in the 1990s, increasing 83 percent between 1990 and 2000. The population of the region jumped from 528,000 in 1980 to 853,000 in 1990. By 2003 the population reached 1,577,000.

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IV ECONOMY

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Las Vegas bills itself as the "Entertainment Capital of the World," and tourism, gaming, and entertainment represent a large portion of the city's revenue. In addition to its renowned casinos, Las Vegas attracts visitors to its outdoor shows, including simulated volcanic eruptions, pirate duels on artificial lakes, and laser cannon displays. Indoor casino shows, with world-famous entertainers, are also popular. Annual events include the National Finals Rodeo and the Las Vegas Invitational Golf Tournament. Las Vegas is a popular destination for tours and conventions, including COMDEX, an annual computer show. The Las Vegas Motor Speedway opened in 1996.

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The federal government is also a major presence in Las Vegas. Nellis Air Force Base is the city's largest single employer. In addition, there are a number of military bases headquartered nearby, and a permanent nuclear waste site at Yucca Mountain has been proposed.

Las Vegas is served by McCarran International Airport, rail service, and several major highways.

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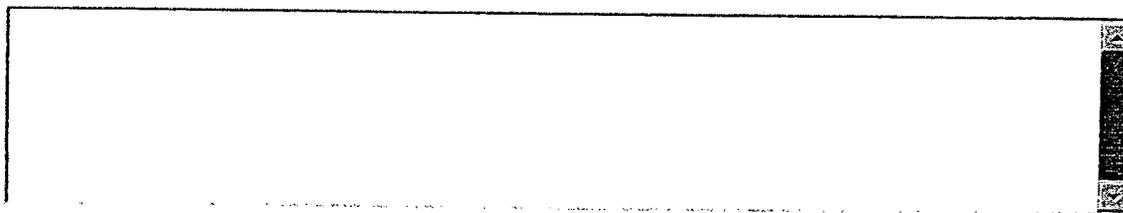
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IV ECONOMY

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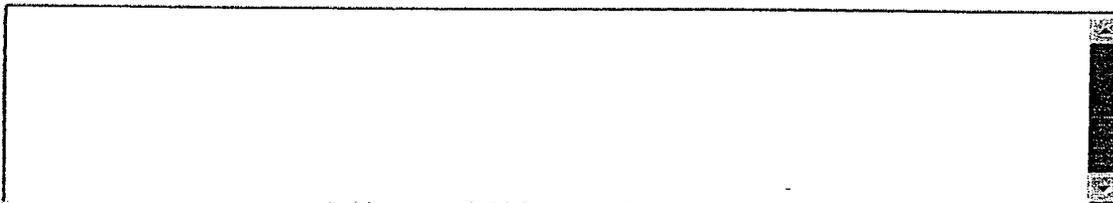
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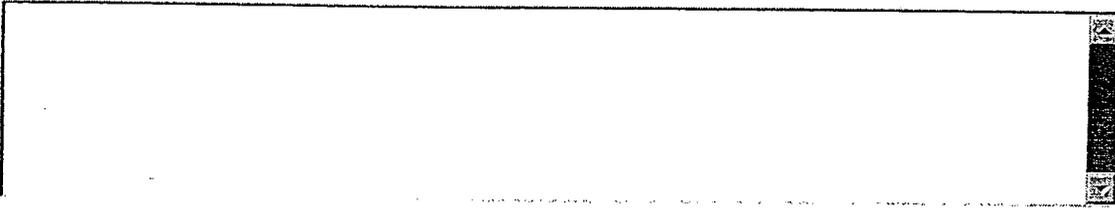
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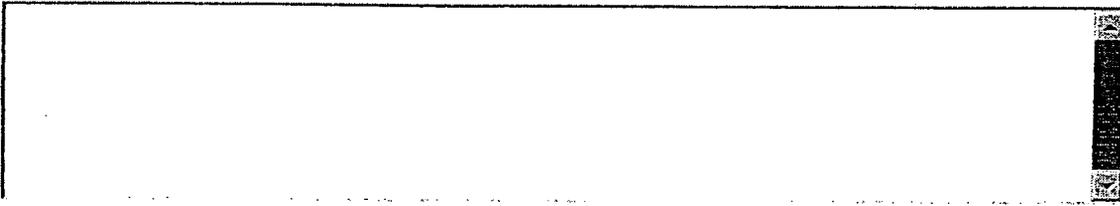
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Entertainment WeeklyJune 3, 2005**SECTION:** FEATURES; Pg. 37**LENGTH:** 331 words**HEADLINE:** Liman on Liman;

Even before fending off paparazzi on the set of Mr. & Mrs. Smith, director Doug Liman had a career that was so money, baby.

BYLINE: Steve Daly**BODY:**

How's this for small-world coincidence? For his 1994 feature-directing debut, the med-school comedy *Getting In*, Doug Liman cast a then-unknown Jennifer Aniston as the female lead. The backers nixed her, he recalls, for Kristy Swanson, who was hot off *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (the movie). "The next year, Jennifer got *Friends*," says Liman. "I was like, You guys were idiots not to let me cast the person I wanted." Liman's luck improved after that. To wit:

SWINGERS (1996) According to Liman, he formed a mini production company and financed this odd-couple paean to wannabe L.A. hipsters (starring Jon Favreau, who wrote the script, and Vince Vaughn) for \$250,000, with his father, lawyer Arthur Liman, basically acting as his producer. When Miramax offered \$750,000 for the finished movie, Liman senior said to take it. But junior held out for more, against Dad's wishes—and won big. "I sent a fax to my parents saying, 'Miramax. \$5.5 million. Doug.' A very good feeling."

GO (1999) After *Swingers*, Liman found "I was the flavor of the month in Hollywood." He prepped a medium-budget studio comedy called *The Breakers* with Alicia Silverstone—but switched to this low-budget Tarantino-esque fresco of teens on a wild, drug-deal-fueled ride through L.A. and Vegas (written by Charlie and the Chocolate Factory's John August). The flick didn't gross much—\$17 million—but gave a boost to stars Katie Holmes, Sarah Polley, and Taye Diggs.

THE BOURNE IDENTITY (2002) Liman courted Brad Pitt to play amnesiac killing machine Jason Bourne, but Pitt chose to make Tony Scott's *Spy Game* instead. Matt Damon stepped in as Bourne, with Franka Potente as his romantic interest, and became an action star, while costars Chris Cooper and Brian Cox, as CIA baddies, landed mainly on the cutting-room floor after their scenes bombed with test audiences. "Nobody cared," says Liman of the villains. "The audience just wanted to follow Matt and Franka."—SD

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Entertainment Weekly

June 3, 2005

SECTION: FEATURES; Pg. 34

LENGTH: 487 words

HEADLINE: Star-Crossed;

From the first script draft to a Kenyan vacation, here's a look at how Brad and Angelina became Mr. & Mrs. Smith

BYLINE: Steve Daly; Mandi Bierly

BODY:

Spring 2000 Film student Simon Kinberg sends a seven-page outline about a couple of married spies to writer-producer Akiva Goldsman.

Summer 2000 Angelina Jolie and Billy Bob Thornton tie the knot May 5 in Vegas. Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston throw a \$ 1 million Malibu wedding on July 29.

April 2001 Kinberg delivers a first-draft screenplay to Summit Entertainment. He'll eventually deliver over 100 more versions. August 2001 Jolie is appointed a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Fall 2001 Fox-based Regency Pictures agrees to finance Smith.

March 2002 Jolie and Thornton adopt a Cambodian baby. He's given the name Maddox--and a Mohawk.

May 2002 John Woo kicks the tires to direct. Nicole Kidman begins circling to play Mrs. Smith.

July 2002 Jolie files for divorce, citing irreconcilable differences. (The problem of that "Billy Bob" tattoo can be resolved.)

Fall 2002 Pitt joins Kidman in negotiations to star in Smith, with Doug Liman likely to direct.

Summer 2003 Kidman drops out due to long Stepford Wives shoot. Jolie signs on as Pitt's costar. He'll start after Troy, she after Alexander.

January 2004 Filming begins in Los Angeles. Liman is ecstatic over his stars' chemistry, but as time goes on, the schedule slips.

Late April 2004 With a good third of Smith still to be shot, Pitt leaves for Chicago to begin work on Ocean's Twelve.

May 3, 2004 Rumors of Jolie and Pitt's "growing intimacy" on and off the Smith set are suddenly an Us Weekly "Hot Topic" and a Starcover story.

May 10, 2004 Pitt and Aniston attend the Troy premiere in New York and dispel speculation of a Pitt-Jolie affair.

July 12, 2004 Ocean's Twelve wraps.

August 2004 Filming on Smith resumes in L.A. and, later, Italy. Paparazzi snap the stars looking smitten. They're in character, says the film troupe.

N/R 6

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Entertainment Weekly, June 3, 2005

Dec. 27, 2004 - Jan. 8, 2005 Pitt and Aniston vacation in Anguilla.

Jan. 7, 2005 Pitt and Aniston announce they are separating. Entire forests are felled to print magazines heralding the news.

March 2005 During nine days of Smith reshoots outside L.A., paparazzi swarm but can't get shots because the stars' trailers are inside the set.

March 17, 2005 Between reshoots, Pitt and Jolie appear at ShoWest to promote the movie. Hours after they leave, Aniston arrives to receive an award.

March 25, 2005 Aniston files for divorce; that same weekend Pitt and Jolie stay at the Parker Palm Springs (separately) during a photo shoot promoting Smith.

April 19, 2005 Pitt and Jolie vacation in Kenya's Diani Beach with Jolie's 3-year-old son, Maddox.

April 30, 2005 According to PEOPLE, Pitt flies to London to pick up Jolie; the two jet off to Morocco, where Pitt is shooting Babel, and dine together in Pitt's suite.

June 7, 2005 Smith will have its premiere in L.A. Will the stars attend? That's classified.

--SD and Mandi Bierly

GRAPHIC: COLOR PHOTO: THORNTON: JEFF VESPA/WIREIMAGE.COM, COLOR PHOTO: JOLIE: MLADEN ANTONOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES, COLOR PHOTO: MADDOX: RIQUET/BAUER-GRIFFIN.COM, COLOR PHOTO: WOO: FERDAUS SHAMIM/WIREIMAGE.COM, COLOR PHOTO: JOLIE TATTOO: ARMANDO GALLO/RETNA LTD. USA, COLOR PHOTO: THE STEPFORD WIVES: ANDREW SCHWARTZ, THREE COLOR PHOTOS, COLOR PHOTO: TROY: ALEX BAILEY, COLOR PHOTO: OCEAN'S TWELVE: RALPH NELSON, COLOR PHOTO: PENTAX CAMERA: © DK LIMITED/CORBIS, COLOR PHOTO: ANISTON AT SHOWEST: GREGG DEGUIRE/WIREIMAGE.COM, COLOR PHOTO: AIRPLANE: © ROYALTY-FREE/CORBIS, COLOR PHOTO: MR. & MRS. SMITH: STEPHEN VAUGHAN

LOAD-DATE: May 26, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Chicago Tribune Company
Chicago Tribune

June 1, 2005 Wednesday
Chicago Final Edition

SECTION: TEMPO ; ZONE C; TALES FROM THE FRONT. ; Pg. 4

LENGTH: 682 words

HEADLINE: Love Boat-style fling smashes up in rough seas

BYLINE: BY CHERYL LAVIN.

BODY:

A couple of years ago, Victoria went on a company-paid, all-inclusive four-day trip to the Bahamas. The trip was a reward for employee excellence, and the company put everyone up at one of the best resorts on Paradise Island.

"It was fantastic!" says Victoria. Just one small problem: For some reason, her room was far from the other employees'. She asked to be moved: "Long story short, when the bellman knocked on my door at 11 that night, I almost fainted; he was that gorgeous! He was also nice and charming, and he just swept me off my feet.

"Oh, did I mention that I'm married?"

The bellman's name is Noah, and he got Victoria the best suite in the resort.

The next day, after the company events, Victoria went MIA. She was with Noah: "He took me everywhere, parasailing, snorkeling, diving, on a drinking boat tour. I didn't know this man from Adam -- he could have been a stalker -- but I trusted him. He wined and dined me, and I kissed him several times, but that was it. I couldn't believe this was happening."

The next morning, Noah knocked on her door with breakfast. "I started thinking, 'Why doesn't my husband do stuff like this?'" Victoria let Noah stay in her room while she attended her company's events, but she couldn't wait to get back to him: "I wasn't very social, and everyone just thought I wasn't feeling well. Later that day, Noah and I hung out and shopped. He purchased a beautiful dress for me and a Rolex. Yes, a Rolex. I thought this was a bit much, but what the heck, what happens in the Bahamas stays in the Bahamas."

Or does it? Hmmm . . .

The next day, Victoria told Noah she had to participate in some company events and he didn't like it. He wanted her to stay with him, but she couldn't. She already had missed enough.

Later, when she got back to her room, he was there: "It was really scary. I thought, 'What have I gotten myself into?' I was starting to feel uncomfortable."

That evening, Noah stood outside a private room the company had rented for a party. Victoria ignored him, and she could tell he was angry. Later that night, while she was dancing in the resort disco, he stood in a corner, watching her. When she returned to her room, he was there: "He trashed the room and began throwing my clothes. I threatened to call security if he didn't leave."

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It was finally the last day of Victoria's all-inclusive (which by now was beginning to mean something very different) trip: "I thought, 'What have I done?'" She and some co-workers were walking to the airport bus when Noah showed up, asking if he could take her to the airport.

"Why did I go with this idiot? He could have made me disappear. But, I thought this would be the last of it, and I'd never hear from him again," Victoria says, "so, I let him take me to the airport. I told my co-workers he was my friend's brother, but I discreetly gave the license plate number to one" of the co-workers.

Victoria made her plane and made it home safely: "I was so happy to be back with my husband." Then they started getting crank calls at weird hours. Then, she received roses at work. Finally, she called the resort to speak to Noah. Another bellman that she had met on her tropical adventure told her that Noah had been arrested on various charges.

Victoria told her husband everything because, "The situation was out of control, and I was afraid for my life."

She's still married and says she will never cheat again, even if it's only a kiss. As far as she's concerned, what happens in Vegas may stay in Vegas, but what happens in the Bahamas can come home with you.

Does what happen in Vegas (or the Bahamas or the Holiday Inn conference room) stay there? Send your tale, along with your relationship questions, to Cheryl Lavin, Tales From the Front, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611 or e-mail cheryllavin@aol.com. All names are changed. Letters cannot be considered without name, address and day and evening phone numbers. Letters may be used in whole or in part for any purpose and become the property of the column. Read Tales From the Front Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Tempo.

LOAD-DATE: June 1, 2005

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Contemporary Women's Issues
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Curve

June 2005

SECTION: Vol. 15, No. 4; Pg. 36; ISSN: 1087-867X

CWI-ACC-NO: 4695436

LENGTH: 710 words

HEADLINE: Honeymoon hot spots: you're in love. She's said yes. Now what?

HIGHLIGHT:
Pride AND Joy

BODY:

At the brisk pace that some lesbian weddings are taking places these days, a lot of chicks haven't even had a chance to plan the event. Dress? Cake? Honeymoon? When we both ran off to City Hall to marry (different women, of course) during last year's same-sex nuptials craze, we worried about finding parking and getting in one of those around-the-block lines before it looked like an all-night ticket line for a Pink concert.

So we've culled together some quick info to help you do some advance planning just in case l'amour is in your near future.

OK, you're going to do it, but where? Why not pick a place where it's legal? If Scottish castles, tropical islands and grandiose villas are slightly outside your price range, you don't have to give up the dream of the destination wedding. For European flair without crossing an ocean, look no further than Montreal. Although there are now many places you can marry in Canada, Montreal, Quebec, hails itself as the Paris of North America and heck, that might just be the closest you and your gal ever get to the City of Lights. Say "I do" in the Montreal Botanical Garden (www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin) or Gothic Notre-Dame Basilica (www.basiliquenddm.org) and make your mom proud, too.

Fancy a beach wedding instead? Imagine the light rising across the water, traversing sand dunes and returning to shine brilliant reds and golds on your beachfront wedding reception at sunset. That's what you'll get when you head to the dyke burg of Provincetown, Mass., where locals have defied the governor's orders not to marry out-of-state couples and the Women Inn Keepers (www.womeninnkeepers.com) invite you to wed and honeymoon in this lesbian mecca. Ester's or Gabrielle's will treat you and your bride-to-be like the queens you are (www.provincetown.com/plan/marriages).

For some dames, a beachy resort--no matter how queer--is just too, uh, natural. For you high-rollin' types, Vegas may be more your style. Have yourself an Elvis or Liberace wedding at the Gay Chapel of Las Vegas (www.gaychapeloflasvegas.com) and spend your honeymoon in campy comfort at the Las Vegas Gay Hotel.

Last year, newlywed dykes jaunted off for short honeymoons everywhere from Bora Bora, Tahiti, and Chilean Patagonia to Tijuana and Taos. Others waited and celebrated with their kids by joining Rosie O'Donnell on R Family Vacations' maiden cruise. Some West Coast girls, though, opted to stay closer to home. Their fave? The gay destination resort area of Sonoma County, Calif. One of the most gay-friendly spots in Northern California, Sonoma County has set

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PG-00007

out to become the gay honeymoon destination of choice, with six inns offering unique same-sex honeymoon packages with a range of accommodations, prices and options, including cooking classes, couples' massage classes, adventure outings, spa-style pampering and intimate dinners. Sonoma County supervisors even issued invitations to the numerous couples who have wed since last year. The six inns are fab, from Guerneville's stream-side Applewood Inn (www.applewoodinn.com), where chefs will explain how cooking and lovemaking use all the same senses--to Santa Rosa's historic and elegant Hotel La Rose (www.hotellarose.com), which covers your bed in roses, gives you and the Mrs. in-room couples' massages and serves you champagne and chocolate-covered strawberries.

A favorite among adventure lovers is the redwood-nestled Creekside Inn and Resort (www.creeksideinn.com), which will convince you to leave your marital bed at least once for kayaking or canoeing on the glorious Russian River, horseback riding among the majestic redwoods at Armstrong Redwood State Preserve or embarking on a peewee golf and ice cream soda outing. The inn has dog-friendly rooms and provides a list of Sonoma County dog-friendly venues for moms who want to take their four-legged kids along on their honeymoon.

As corny as it sounds, we just have to admit certain things bring us great joy, like bringing home a new puppy or seeing our best friend get married to the girl of her dreams or watching hundreds of topless lesbians wander through town during the Dyke March. So this month we share with you a few of our favorite things.

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TYPE: Journal; Fulltext

JOURNAL-CODE: CURVE

LOAD-DATE: May 27, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Time Inc.
FSB

June, 2005

SECTION: OFF HOURS/A LITTLE VISIT TO LAS VEGAS; Pg. 110

LENGTH: 669 words

HEADLINE: Secrets of Sin City;
Away from the corporate-owned Strip, you can still find a few pockets of indie authenticity.

BYLINE: Jeff Garigiano

BODY:

On its surface Las Vegas seems to offer a lot of variety. Within a few blocks you can be in New York City, Paris, Cairo, or Venice. Yet most of the big hotels are owned by a decreasing number of corporations, and the consolidation is only getting worse. MGM Mirage just bought Mandalay Resort Group, and Harrah's Entertainment is acquiring Caesars. In this market the new \$ 2.7 billion Wynn Las Vegas hotel, at 2,700 rooms, looks like a boutique.

But off the Strip there is a strong undercurrent of entrepreneurship. If you're in town for business (the Women's Business Enterprise National Council convention runs June 28-30) and you want a break from the neon, try something independently owned and a little more authentic. Here are a couple of options.

Escape for a meal: Rosemary's. The location is underwhelming, but everything else about Rosemary's stands out. Consistently rated one of the best Las Vegas restaurants over its six-year history, Rosemary's is in a strip mall ten miles west of the main hotels, near a nail salon and a Wiggin' Out Wigs. If you weren't looking for it, you'd never find it.

Inside, chef-owner Michael Jordan (no relation), 39, prepares dishes such as panko-crusted crab boulettes or pork chops with Hoppin' John (black-eyed peas and rice) and a creole mustard reduction sauce. Note the New Orleans influence--after studying at the Culinary Institute of America, Jordan trained with Emeril Lagasse in the Crescent City. In 1998 he came west to launch Emeril's New Orleans Fish House at the MGM Grand; 18 months later he and his wife, Wendy, opened Rosemary's, which is named for Jordan's mom.

The restaurant gets its share of tourists making pilgrimages from the Strip, but they're outnumbered by city residents. "Our main thing is to be a local Las Vegas restaurant for a local Las Vegas crowd," Jordan says. That extends to his suppliers too. When he set up the kitchen, Jordan passed on a walk-in refrigerator. "I didn't want that case of lettuce sitting around for two weeks," he says. Instead he buys fresh produce daily from nearby vendors, goes through everything he has that day, and starts over the next morning. The wine list is also noteworthy--in 2004, Wine Spectator named it the best in Las Vegas.

Entrees \$ 21-\$ 36; 8125 W. Sahara Boulevard; 702-869-2251

Escape for a night: Mount Charleston Lodge. Drive 35 minutes northwest from Vegas and you're not in the desert--you're in the mountains. Mount Charleston, 11,919 feet high and anchoring a national forest, feels more like Colorado than Nevada. Two-thirds of the way up sits Mount Charleston Lodge, a cluster of cabins offering some decidedly un-Vegas amenities, namely peace and seclusion. All 24 cabins--800 square feet for families, 500 square feet for couples--have an indoor Jacuzzi and private balcony with views of Kyle Canyon. Significantly, none of them has air conditioning, which you don't miss: Temperatures on the mountain run 30 degrees cooler than in Las Vegas.

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The lodge dates back to 1950, when it was built as a weekend retreat for the owners of the Hacienda Hotel (precursor to Mandalay Bay). Current owners Barbara and Collie Orcutt, originally real estate agents in Boca Raton, came to Las Vegas in 1973 for a convention and fell in love with the six-acre property.

The cabins all have parquet floors, wood paneling, and lots of details that skate on the border between rustic and kitschy. The region is laced with hiking trails reachable by foot from the lodge--short loops or more ambitious eight-mile treks that require most of an afternoon. The lodge offers a bar (with video poker, the only hint of Las Vegas glitz) and a restaurant that makes claims to fine dining, though I'd rate the experience a few notches below that. A better option: Spend a night in one of the cabins, take a long hike to build up your appetite, then drive back to Rosemary's for dinner.

Cabins \$ 125-\$ 220; 1200 Old Park Road; 702-872-5408

GRAPHIC: TWO COLOR PHOTOS, SAFE BET:The dining room at Rosemary's; above, Jordan's Halibut Linquist, served over garlic spinach

LOAD-DATE: May 23, 2005

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Market Wire

June 1, 2005 Wednesday 8:00 AM Eastern Time

LENGTH: 456 words

HEADLINE: The Ultimate West Coast Golf Vacation Offers up Dream Courses in One Extreme Package; GolfAdventures.com Brings on Cabo, Vegas, and Scottsdale in One Marvelous Package

DATELINE: Jun 01, 2005; LAS VEGAS, NV; MARKET WIRE

BODY:

GolfAdventures.com, the leading golf vacation provider in the West, today launched their West Coast Swing Must Play Golf Package, enticing golfers to the best courses in Cabo San Lucas, Las Vegas and Scottsdale. This exclusive ten-day, ten-course package includes airfare, hotel, and tee times at some of the world's most sought-after courses for eight players or more. GolfAdventures.com is accepting immediate reservations for travel starting in October 2005.

"Every golfer dreams about getting away with his friends to shot a round or two over the weekend. How about ten rounds over ten days at places like Cabo or Vegas? We wanted to put together the ULTIMATE golf vacation," said Alex Isaac, vice-president of marketing at GolfAdventures.com. "And that's exactly what we have done -- we rounded up the best courses in exotic 'got to go' places."

The package starts off in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, at the Hilton Los Cabos Beach and Golf Resort for four nights and four rounds of golf at Cabo Del Sol, Desert Cabo Del Sol, Ocean Cabo Real Golf Club, and Palmilla Golf Club. Then you head off to the oasis in the desert, Scottsdale, Arizona, for three nights at the Resort Suites at Scottsdale to play Grayhawk Raptor, SunRidge Canyon, and Grayhawk Talon. Finally, you fly out to sunny Las Vegas, Nevada, and stay at the Mirage Hotel and Casino and play at Bear's Best Golf Club, Dragon Ridge, and Reflection Bay Golf Club. Packages are available from October 1, 2005, through April 30, 2006, and include airfare, hotel, and golf fees. For more information, contact GolfAdventures.com.

About GolfAdventures.com

Specialists in their realm, GolfAdventures.com focuses on one thing -- providing exceptional golfing experiences on the best golf courses throughout the world. Whether the client is a seasoned professional golfer or the occasional golf enthusiast, GolfAdventures.com specializes in providing both custom-tailored golf packages, as well as corporate "Stay and Play" golf outings. Knowledgeable and helpful Professional Golf Association (PGA) professionals enhance every golf vacation as the client's personal golf concierge. GolfAdventures.com also offers special packages for groups, special settings for meetings, banquets, and corporate events, as well as all-inclusive event planning services. A privately held company, GolfAdventures.com is driven by an accomplished team of leaders with an impressive track record of accomplishments in the golf and destination travel industries. For more information, visit www.golfadventures.com.

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SOURCE: Golf Adventures

LOAD-DATE: June 1, 2005

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Copyright 2005 The Myrtle Beach Sun-News
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The Myrtle Beach Sun-News

June 1, 2005 Wednesday TSN EDITION

SECTION: A; BRIEF; Pg. 2

LENGTH: 500 words

HEADLINE: Talk of the Day Five concerts lined up for Live 8

BODY:

London/ London's Hyde Park, Circus Maximus in Rome and the Philadelphia Museum of Art are among the venues for Live 8, a series of concerts being organized by Bob Geldof, the driving force behind the 1985 Band Aid and Live Aid campaigns for African famine relief.

The July 2 concerts, which will be free, also will be held near the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin and in Paris.

"We don't want people's money. We want them," Geldof told a news conference Tuesday.

Performers will include Elton John, Mariah Carey, Coldplay, Madonna, Paul McCartney, R.E.M., Sting and U2 in London; Will Smith, Bon Jovi, Dave Matthews Band, Stevie Wonder, Jay-Z and P. Diddy in Philadelphia; Crosby, Stills and Nash, Lauryn Hill and Brian Wilson in Berlin; Jamiroquai, Youssou N'Dour, Yannick Noah and Craig David in Paris; and Faith Hill and Duran Duran in Rome.

The concerts are aimed at raising world awareness of poverty in Africa just days before G8 leaders meet in Britain.

Slater accused of groping

New York/ Christian Slater, who is appearing in a revival of "The Glass Menagerie" on Broadway, has been arrested on a charge that he groped a woman.

Slater and his girlfriend were arguing at a small grocery store on Manhattan's Upper East Side early Tuesday, a prosecutor said in Manhattan criminal court. The actor was buying a soda when he allegedly walked up behind the woman and grabbed her buttocks.

The woman, who wasn't identified, flagged down police, said police spokesman Detective John Sweeney. Slater, 35, was found nearby and the woman identified him as the man who allegedly had groped her.

Slater was charged with third-degree sexual abuse. He didn't enter a plea when he appeared in court. He was given a July 14 court date and left without speaking to reporters.

Ivana aims to trump ex with tower

In other capitalism-gone-wild news, the New York Daily News reports Donald Trump's ex-wife Ivana is challenging the ego-endowed Donald's planned 64-story Trump International Hotel and Tower in Vegas with a Sin City building of her own. Seems Ivana is partnering up with Australian developer Victor Altomare to build The Ivana, a 73-story condo tower billed as "the tallest residential building Las Vegas will ever see." Ivana's rep wouldn't comment to the News.

Miss Canada wins Miss Universe

N/R 11

PC-00013

The diamond-encrusted Miss Universe crown, well really a tiara, passed from one Anglo-speaking country to another as Russian-born Miss Canada, Natalie Glebova, triumphed at a poignant pageant beamed from the Thai capital of Bangkok. She succeeds last year's winner, Australian Jennifer Hawkins. Glebova, 23, a motivational speaker - and motivated contestant - beat out 81 others, including runner-up Miss Puerto Rico, Cynthia Olavarria.

Birthdays today Actor Andy Griffith, 79

Singer Pat Boone, 71

Actor Morgan Freeman, 68

Country singer Ronnie Dunn (Brooks and Dunn), 52

Actress Lisa Hartman Black, 49

Model-actress Heidi Klum, 32

Singer Alanis Morissette, 31

From wire reports

LOAD-DATE: June 1, 2005

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Copyright 2005 San Jose Mercury News
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San Jose Mercury News (California)

June 1, 2005 Wednesday MO1 EDITION

SECTION: B; Pg. 2

LENGTH: 567 words

HEADLINE: What S.J. needs: an imaginative icon

BYLINE: By Leigh Weimers; Mercury News

BODY:

Leigh's Final Tour chugs into June, a month with so much to recommend it. Family vacations. Barbecues at home. The parade of mostly warm, mostly sunny days in San Jose. The start of San Francisco's annual summer fog festival. Luscious fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers markets. Even better, the tomatoes you grow yourself in your back yard. The aroma of roses and jasmine on the evening breeze. Diving into a pool or running through sprinklers. Fewer than six months to go before the tour's final stop Nov. 11, but who's counting? Plenty of news between now and then. For example:

ARTBEATS: There's the continuing push to give San Jose an icon, something striking enough for picture postcards, something that says, "Silicon Valley -- you are here." Vice Mayor Cindy Chavez and others have suggested a 21st century version of the old electric light tower that was a city landmark early last century. What form might a new landmark take? JoAnne Northrup, senior curator at the San Jose Museum of Art has an idea.

"You may already be aware that the SJMA will be presenting a major mid-career survey of the work of digital light artist Jennifer Steinkamp, an L.A.-based artist," e-mails Northrup. (The show will be July 1-Oct. 1 next year, coinciding with the big ZeroOne art/technology festival here.) "Jennifer has done monumental outdoor works in the past -- in fact, you may already be familiar with Jennifer's work if you have been to the Fremont Street Experience in Las Vegas, where she did a four-block-long light installation with LEDs (see her Web site: jsteinkamp.com)."

I haven't seen the show in Vegas, but the view on Steinkamp's Web site is impressive -- a canopy soaring 90 feet above the street, illuminated with wildly colorful abstract animations set to music.

If an artist could think that big in the desert, there should be someone to do something even bigger in San Jose. Crank up those imaginations.

That's an imaginative act by the faculty and staff of San Jose State University's School of Art and Design.

They've donated funds to purchase San Jose Museum of Art memberships for the school's 2005 graduates. The idea -- a good one -- is to help the more than 100 new grads plug right into the city's cultural life.

You may have had your imagination stimulated last month when artists throughout the valley opened their studios for their annual tour. But if you want to see a lot of art in one place, consider the 10th annual Artfest at Santa Clara's Triton Museum Saturday and Sunday -- works by more than 200 artists, organized by the all-volunteer Alliance of Visual Artists. Yes, the works are for sale. Artists have to eat too, but they'll donate 10 percent of the proceeds to the Triton for arts education and acquisition.

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PC-00015

San Jose Mercury News (California) June 1, 2005 Wednesday MO1 EDITION

CLASS ACTS: Speaking of donating money, that's a healthy chunk of change John M. and Abby Sobrato gave to Santa Clara University -- \$1 million toward completion of a new commons and library there. The developer Sobratos are alumni: class of '83.

In Morgan Hill, meanwhile, parents and sports boosters of the new Ann Sobrato High School there have a fundraising party set for Saturday night at Coyote Ranch. And yes, if the school's name seems familiar it's because the philanthropic Sobrato family donated the land on which it sits. Another nice way to leave your mark.

Contact Leigh Weimers at lweimers@mercurynews.com

LOAD-DATE: June 1, 2005

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June, 2005

SECTION: TEXAS MONTHLY REPORTER; The State of Our State; Previews+Reviews; Pg. 64

LENGTH: 883 words

BYLINE: Jeff McCord and Mike Shea

BODY:

1

In the eighties **KATHY MCCARTY** was co-leader of Glass Eye, a peerless Austin band that attracted a cultish national following. Her songs were awash in mysterious imagery and old-world melodies, and no one expected her music to stop along with her band. Yet McCarty delivered her acclaimed 1994 Daniel Johnston tribute, *Dead Dog's Eyeball* (Bar/None, recently reissued), and then . . . nothing. *ANOTHER DAY IN THE SUN* (Rexy Rex, available at cdbaby.com) makes up for lost time. Some songs recall Glass Eye's art-rock explosives (the creepy "Basement" is a holdover), and McCarty's lyrical acuity remains intact (light "paler than champagne and colder than the moon"). But there's an open, folkish quality too, as on the wistful title track, where friends "pass around the truth like a worn dollar bill," that lends her work uncommon depth and staying power. J.M.

2

Former Austinite **OLEN STEINHAUER** (currently of Budapest) invents a fictional Soviet bloc nation circa 1967 as the setting for *36 YALTA BOULEVARD* (St. Martin's Minotaur), the third in a series of brainy espionage novels featuring commie spy Brano Sev. Sev has fallen out of favor with the comrade lieutenant general, and his new, nasty assignment leaves him bruised, confused, and suspected of treason. A retro atmosphere accounts for much of *36 Yalta Boulevard's* entertainment value; lacking cell phones and computers, these spooks operate with surreptitious calls from phone booths and coded notes dropped behind park benches. Despite the sometimes stolid tone, Steinhauer's world of shadow and fog succeeds by harking back to politico thrillers that were about real politics (think Graham Greene and Len Deighton), not flash-bang gizmos. M.S.

3

Who? **MIKE JONES**. Who? Mike Jones. It's a mantra repeated on almost every song of this aptly named Houston rapper's major-label debut, *WHO IS MIKE JONES?* (SwishaHouse/Asylum/Warner Bros.) None too shy about self-promotion, Jones even works his cell phone number into his music. Such incessant hype has earned Jones his share of fans and detractors ("a lot of haters and a lot of homies," as he puts it), but they all know his name. By hooking up with Warner Bros., Jones becomes the first of the proteges of DJ Screw -- the late pioneer of the screwed (slowed down) mix tapes that now distinguish the city's burgeoning hip-hop scene -- to go national. "Still Tippin'," the album's first single, typifies his sludgy, smirking, and playful drawl, with a hometown charm that can come only from the slow-crawl highways of Houston. J.M.

4

BITTER MILK (Picador) doesn't lack for offbeat and entertaining citizens to populate Chilhowee Mountain, the backwoods East Tennessee setting of Austinite **JOHN MCMANUS's** first novel. There's Avery Garland, who suffers from gender dysphoria. And her overweight nine-year-old son, Loren, and his prattling alter ego, Luther. And patriarch

Papaw, who's given to crooning off-color ditties at inappropriate moments. But having birthed his characters, McManus seems unsure what to do with them. Avery disappears to a clinic, leaving Loren to wander from relative to relative. He fishes a little and climbs a roof with Papaw, but there's not much else going on other than the Garland clan talk, talk, talking in their hillbilly patois. Ultimately, *Bitter Milk* seems less a novel than a short story in search of an ending. M.S.

5

Thanks to movies like *The Rose* and, okay, to **JANIS JOPLIN** herself, the Port Arthur native is remembered as a drug-addled mess. But as one of the great white blues singers of her generation, Joplin left significant work behind. What's illuminating about **PEARL: LEGACY EDITION** (Columbia/Legacy) are the demos and live tracks (some previously unreleased) that augment this two-CD reissue of her 1971 classic. They display a singer with her demons largely behind her, controlling her voice with newfound maturity and clarity. Even moments like the wordless sing-along to "Me and Bobby McGee" seem meticulously thought out, while her live performances are physical triumphs. Had she not succumbed, during the last phases of recording, to boredom and, subsequently, bad heroin, *Pearl* could have marked a career milestone instead of a poignant finale. J.M.

6

In the wake of America's obsession with Texas Hold 'Em comes the tale of Andy Beal, the Dallas banker and amateur numbers-theory whiz whose poker-playing exploits are chronicled by **MICHAEL CRAIG** in **THE PROFESSOR, THE BANKER, AND THE SUICIDE KING: INSIDE THE RICHEST POKER GAME OF ALL TIME** (Warner). In March 2001 the self-made billionaire headed to Vegas with a goal that seemed like lunacy -- to play winner-take-all Hold 'Em against a tag team of the world's top pros, with each player bringing a cool million to the table. Three years later, Beal had pushed the stone-cold gamblers' skills to the limit and the pot to an eye-popping \$ 20 million. Craig's access to the players provides insight into the pressure-cooker atmosphere of a big-money card room. And stay tuned. Negotiations are under way to continue play with the stakes doubled. M.S.

GRAPHIC: Photos 1 through 6, no caption

LOAD-DATE: May 28, 2005

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The Vancouver Province (British Columbia)

June 1, 2005 Wednesday

Final Edition

SECTION: E-TODAZ; Pg. B7

LENGTH: 218 words

HEADLINE: Trump and Ivana spar over Vegas towers

BYLINE: Rush & Molloy

BODY:

Donald Trump is getting some competition in Vegas from a rival developer: his ex-wife Ivana.

Just the other day, The Donald was boasting to Larry King that his 64-story Trump International Hotel and Tower will be "absolutely fantastic . . . There will be nothing like it in Las Vegas."

Guess he hadn't heard that Ivana is sticking her name on a nearby 73-story condo tower billed as "the tallest residential building Las Vegas will ever see."

Donald and Ivana long ago put their bitter divorce battle behind them for the sake of their three children. But they're not above oneupsmanship -- a few years ago, they bickered publicly over who had the bigger yacht.

Construction on The Ivana (formerly known as The Summit) is due to begin in July. Donald isn't expected to break ground until later this year.

Though she's made a home-shopping fortune off jewelry, fashion and cosmetics, it's only of late that Ivana has dipped her pedicured toe into real estate. She recently lent her name to a luxury condo complex in Australia and she's talking with developers of a resort and casino in Croatia.

Let's hope she fares better in Vegas than she did in Miami, where she helped market a waterfront complex. The developer of the delayed South Beach condos has been accused of fraud and forced to file for bankruptcy protection.

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Copyright 2005 Washington Magazine, Inc.
Washingtonian

June, 2005

SECTION: CAPITAL COMMENT; Pg. 10

LENGTH: 196 words

HEADLINE: Power Poker Players Head to Vegas

BODY:

Matt Matros, the MicroStrategy software whiz turned poker star, will be one of several Washingtonians trying to win the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas in June.

Matros has had an extraordinary run since leaving the Virginia high-tech firm: He won \$706,000 in a single poker tournament and now has published his first book, *The Making of a Poker Player*.

In the book, Matros describes a private poker game in Washington where he learned to play Texas Hold 'em. Matros claims to have "crushed" his opponents in that game.

Local poker sources say Matros may do well in Nevada, but he still isn't king of the hill in Washington. Last month at a \$500-a-person tournament, at which the winner got free entry to the World Series of Poker, Matros immediately became the favorite.

But on the final hand, Bethesda real-estate agent Larry Weiner hit a tournament-winning straight--getting the right to take part in his first World Series and earn a shot at national TV recognition.

Weiner will have to thread his way through plenty of local poker giants, including a possible rematch with Matros, who has vowed to post his own \$10,000 entry fee to earn revenge.

GRAPHIC: Editor: Conconi, Chuck.

LOAD-DATE: May 20, 2005

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Associated Press Financial Wire

May 31, 2005 Tuesday 8:55 AM GMT

SECTION: BUSINESS NEWS

LENGTH: 507 words

HEADLINE: Vegas on Trade Mission in China

BYLINE: By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

DATELINE: SHANGHAI, China

BODY:

Las Vegas is looking East, betting that rising affluence will make China a big market for tourism and trade shows _ despite a gambling crackdown aimed at officials waging with stolen public funds.

"China is one of Las Vegas's top emerging markets," Cam Usher, director of the city's Convention and Visitor's Authority, said Tuesday during a trade promotion visit to Shanghai. "We expect to work with Chinese as business partners."

There's plenty of room for growth.

There are no official figures on the number of mainland Chinese visitors to Las Vegas, though Usher said estimates ranged from 12,000 to 20,000 a year _ out of the total 37.4 million who traveled there last year.

Nevada's Tourism Commission opened an office in Beijing last year. It also has offices in Japan, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Australia, South Korea and Mexico.

Usher's group, which she says "Lives the Las Vegas brand," plans to attend trade shows in China and to "have more brochures" to help raise the city's profile as a destination for international conventions, entertainment, year-round golf and shopping.

It also is lobbying for direct flights from the Chinese mainland to Vegas _ visitors from Asia now must first land on the West coast or elsewhere. Other members of the trade mission said they were seeking a loosening of U.S. visa restrictions that prevent many Chinese from visiting either for business or tourism.

"It was helpful to see the visa process firsthand," said Karen Chupka, vice president of the Consumer Electronics Association, which sponsors electronics industry exhibitions. "This is a really big problem."

CEA is co-sponsoring an industry show in the eastern Chinese city of Qingdao in July _ part of an effort both to encourage Chinese attendance at U.S.-based exhibitions and to tap the growing market in Asia for such events, she said.

Members of the trade mission said they were not pushing Las Vegas as a gambling destination, and perhaps that's just as well.

Early this year, China's communist leaders launched a campaign against gambling, targeting overseas gambling, online gambling and illegal lotteries. They've also urged neighboring Vietnam, Myanmar and North Korea to shut down casinos along China's borders that thrived on business from high-rolling officials gambling on the public purse.

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PC-00021

The mainland has banned most gambling since the 1949 communist revolution. But it condones private wagering, state authorized lotteries and the booming casino business in Macau, a former Portuguese colony on the southern Chinese coast.

Industry insiders have forecast that tiny Macau may soon overtake Vegas as the world's biggest gambling market, with more than US\$5 billion (euro4 billion) in annual gaming revenues.

Gambling accounts for only 15 percent of Las Vegas's revenues, compared with the 60 percent that comes from tourism, noted Karen Chen, China representative for the Nevada Tourism Commission.

"We don't feel that industry is the most important focus of our promotions," Chen said. "Gambling is a very small part of it."

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The Associated Press

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May 31, 2005, Tuesday, BC cycle

SECTION: Travel News

LENGTH: 1231 words

HEADLINE: NEW ORLEANS: Beyond Bourbon Street, family fun

BYLINE: By JANET McCONNAUGHEY, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: NEW ORLEANS

BODY:

It's a city of hot times and cold cocktails, known in the 1800s as the Great Southern Babylon and now as an annual gathering spot for women willing to bare their breasts at Mardi Gras.

But now New Orleans is cultivating a new reputation - as a destination for families.

Sure, the city has casinos, more bars than you can shake a swizzle stick at, and strip joints where signs boast "Bottomless topless tabletop dancing."

But it also has a highly regarded zoo, aquarium and children's museum; a theme park with enough rides to keep you dizzy for a week, and one of the nation's largest city parks, with an antique carousel and a miniature train exhibit.

In addition, it's a short drive to swamp and plantation tours and only an hour to Baton Rouge, with its new planetarium and an Old State Capitol built to look like a castle.

These and many other attractions - including the family-friendly side of Mardi Gras (yes, there really is one) - are featured in a new marketing campaign by the city: "If your family hasn't been to New Orleans, you haven't lived."

On a recent day, the David family from West Los Angeles was visiting the Aquarium of the Americas on the riverfront. They came for the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and a condo time-share that Paul and Mary David bought during a visit 15 years ago - before Rachel, 14, and Will, 5, were born.

The Davids had rented out the condo to others until this year, when they decided to start with Jazz Fest and stay a week.

"We were a little worried about taking the kids," said Paul David. But they found lots of great places to take them, including swamp tours and plantations.

"There's a lot of history for kids this age," Mary David said.

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Of course the city also has a sleazy side - like the strip joints on Bourbon Street. "I wouldn't call Bourbon Street a family promenade," said Dan Cornwall of Marietta, Ga., visiting on business but traveling with his wife, Kris, and their children, Jessica, 14, Rebecca, 12, and Aaron, 9. But he added that he liked the art and antique stores there.

About a nine-block walk from the French Quarter, 80 second-graders from an Alabama public school raced from exhibit to exhibit at the Louisiana Children's Museum. Some clambered up a 7-foot-high climbing wall. Others played at shopping and working in a kid-sized supermarket. Some lined up to ride a stationary bicycle while a skeleton pedaled in a glass case next to it.

One of the most popular stops was a cut-down tractor tire holding an inch or so of soapy water. Hauling on a rope at its center pulled a hoop up from the water, and a giant bubble with it.

"For us, a good day is when it's noisy," marketing director Leslie Doles said.

"The children have not stopped playing," said Cindy Sayasane, a teacher at Robert E. Lee Elementary. "They have not stopped learning. This is just an awesome place to bring children."

They had left Mobile at 6 a.m. for the three-hour drive to New Orleans, and spent the morning at the Audubon Zoo, picnicking in Audubon Park.

What was the best part of the museum? Ashley Dix, 7, liked the climbing wall. Bradley Jackson, 8, liked the exhibit where children can pull a big bubble up around themselves.

Before the family campaign started in 2001, family travel was "not even a blip on the radar screen in New Orleans," said Sandy Shilstone, president of the New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corp. "We've always been known as an adult destination."

A study by the University of New Orleans found that between 2003 and 2004, the percentage of adults traveling with children to New Orleans rose from 6.8 percent to 15.4 percent.

In contrast, about 10 percent of those visiting Las Vegas are adults traveling with someone under 21. Some Vegas hotels added family attractions in the early 1990s, but "the primary target market for Las Vegas is the adult market," said Kevin Bagger, director of research for the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority.

For some family-oriented New Orleans attractions, out-of-towners are nothing new, consistently comprising 80 percent of visitors to the aquarium, half the visitors to the zoo and half the visitors to Six Flags.

In the French Quarter, Rachel David's favorite sight was a man making music from wine glasses filled with different levels of water. Running dampened fingers around the rims, he played songs in harmony, with tones almost achingly pure.

"We watched him for 15 minutes," she said.

The David family hopes to come back to New Orleans next year.

"Seven days," Paul David began, "I don't..."

"...Think it's enough," finished Rachel.

If You Go...@

CITY PARK: 1 Palm Drive; www.neworleanscitypark.com or (504) 482-4888. Grounds include Carousel Gardens (\$2 admission, plus \$1 per ride), Storyland playground (\$2) and the Botanical Gardens (adults \$5, children \$2), which has a miniature train exhibit.

AUDUBON NATURE INSTITUTE: www.auduboninstitute.org or (504) 861-2537. Includes Audubon Park, aquarium, Imax theater, zoo, nature center. Insectarium opening later this year.

-Audubon Aquarium of the Americas: Canal Street at the Mississippi River; (504) 861-2537. Sunday to Thursday, 9:30a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; adults \$16, children \$9.50.

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-Entergy Imax Theater: Located next to the aquarium; (504) 581-4629. Films run daily on the hour from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Adults \$8, children \$5.

-Audubon Zoo: 6500 Magazine St., (866) 487-2966. Weekdays, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; weekends until 6 p.m. Adults \$12, children, \$7.

-Audubon Nature Center: Off I-10 in New Orleans East; (504) 246-5672. Tuesday to Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Adults \$5, children \$3.

FRENCH QUARTER: Street performers in Jackson Square and elsewhere; view of boats on the Mississippi from Moon Walk across from Jackson Square.

BLAIN KERN'S MARDI GRAS WORLD: 233 Newton St. in Algiers (on New Orleans' West Bank); www.mardigrasworld.com or (504) 361-7821. Mardi Gras history and floats on display. Adults, \$15, children, \$7.25.

LOUISIANA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: Warehouse District, 420 Julia St., between Magazine and Tchoupitoulas streets; www.lcm.org or (504) 523-1357. Tuesday to Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4:30 p.m. Adults and children over 12 months, \$6.

SIX FLAGS: www.sixflags.com or (504) 253-8100. Located at the intersection of Interstates 10 and 510, exit 246A to Lake Forest Boulevard. Open daily through Aug. 14 and weekends thereafter through Oct. 31. Hours vary slightly as the seasons change. Adults and children over 48 inches tall, \$35.99 plus tax; \$25.99 plus tax for tickets bought through the Web site, or for children under 48 inches. Children under 2, free.

GETTING AROUND: John James Audubon riverboat runs between the aquarium and the zoo. A shuttle bus runs between the streetcar stop at Audubon Park and the zoo on Magazine Street. Canal and St. Charles Avenue streetcars are \$1.25. Other fun ways to see the sights include carriage rides, paddlewheeler cruises and the Canal Street ferry.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: For information on swamp tours, plantation tours, museums and other family-oriented attractions, visit www.neworleansonline.com/tours-attractions/family/ or www.neworleanskids.com/index.html.

GRAPHIC: AP Photos of May 31: NY400-404

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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May 31, 2005, Tuesday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 225 words

HEADLINE: MTV lands in Las Vegas for a "Summer on the Strip"

DATELINE: LAS VEGAS

BODY:

This is no odd couple.

MTV landed in Las Vegas over Memorial Day weekend to kick off the network's "Summer on the Strip."

MTV took over the famous (or is that infamous?) pool at the Hard Rock hotel-casino, a property teeming with that young, sexy and hip demographic MTV covets.

"We picked Vegas because of the energy," said Tony DiBari, MTV's vice president of production. "The place is electric. Our programming thrives on that kind of energy."

And the Hard Rock?

"It captures Vegas," DiBari added.

That was clear Monday as gaggles of bikini-clad women and musclebound men clamored to hear Gwen Stefani perform on MTV's Total Request Live program. Stefani, sporting some very long stilettos and very short pants, sang her hit song, "Hollaback Girl."

"It's pretty hot," Mark Shevit, 25, from Long Island, said, referring to the scenery dotting the pool. "A good way to end (my) vacation."

Stefani was among a slew of stars - Snoop Dogg, Shakira and Black Eyed Peas - set to perform this week. Celebrities such as Hilary Duff and Jesse McCartney also were slated to make appearances.

DiBari said MTV won't be spending all its time at "The Rock," as it's known to Las Vegas locals.

He said other programs, including MTV Hits, Direct Effect and the Weekend Dime, will be filmed at various resorts around the Las Vegas Strip.

GRAPHIC: AP Photos

LOAD-DATE: June 1, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Contra Costa Times (Walnut Creek, CA)
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Contra Costa Times (California)

May 31, 2005 Tuesday

SECTION: F; Pg. 4

LENGTH: 962 words

HEADLINE: Geldof's Live 8 concert in the works for July 2;
PEOPLE

BODY:

Two decades after the original Live Aid, when rock stars raised money for Ethiopian famine relief, singer-activist Bob Geldof is planning another star-studded, humanitarian event.

Live 8 is set for July 2, with simultaneous shows in Philadelphia, London and possibly other cities, concert publicist Laura Perez told the Philadelphia Inquirer. Details, including the lineup and other possible venues, are expected to be announced today. But the Inquirer and the New York Daily News (which cited sources close to concert organizers) say performers will include Sting, U2, Madonna and Paul McCartney. Others who have reportedly been asked to take part are the Spice Girls, who would reunite for the first time since Geri Halliwell quit the group in 1998, as well as Mick Jagger, David Bowie, Bob Dylan and Eminem.

The name "Live 8" is a nod to the G-8 summit, a meeting of the world's leading powers, set to start days later in Scotland. Geldof has pressed for the world's wealthiest countries to do more to fight famine and poverty in Africa. It has not been disclosed exactly where the funds raised from Live 8 will be directed.

Live Aid, held July 13, 1985, brought Mick Jagger, Madonna, Tina Turner and other stars to Philadelphia while others performed at Wembley Stadium in London. The effort raised tens of millions of dollars for Ethiopia.

"What started 20 years ago is coming to a political point in a few weeks," Geldof told the BBC last week. "There's more than a chance that the boys and girls with guitars will finally get to turn the world on its axis."

Sting confirmed to the Inquirer that he will take part in the event. "Bob called me up and said I was doing it," Sting said. "He doesn't ask you, he tells you."

JACKO COMING TO VEGAS? Michael Jackson probably won't be invited to Live 8, but he might yet get his gig in Las Vegas. Two months after reports surfaced, and were subsequently denied, that Donald Trump was wooing the scandal-scarred onetime pop star for a long-running gig at a new Vegas Trump hotel, it's been reported that another Vegas big name is after Jacko.

"Celebrity Justice," the court TV show, reports that Jackson may be inked to a long-term performance deal at the Wynn Hotel and Casino.

Jackson hasn't performed live since his 2001 30th anniversary celebration. But "Court TV," citing sources close to Steve Wynn's hotel empire, says Jackson, currently on trial on molestation charges, and reps for Wynn have had numerous discussions about the potential gig for more than a year.

This isn't some exploitive "COME SEE THE LATEST HORRIFYING VEGAS FREAK SHOW!!!!!" kind of setup we're talking about. Wynn and Jackson have reportedly been pals since Jacko resided off and on at Wynn's Mirage hotel

in the 1980s (Wynn no longer owns that facility). Wynn was named in the Jackson trial as a potential character witness for the defense, but was never called.

On the record, Wynn's people call the reports "completely false and inaccurate." There has been no comment from Jackson.

IT'S FRIDAY, I'M IN LOVE ... AND YOU'RE FIRED: Two veteran members of the Cure have been fired from the U.K. Goth-rock band, which has long featured a revolving door of musicians backing leader Robert Smith, reports Billboard.

Keyboardist Roger O'Donnell and guitarist Perry Bamonte are out, leaving singer/guitarist Smith, bassist Simon Gallup and drummer Jason Cooper.

"I am no longer a member of the Cure," O'Donnell wrote on his Web site (www.rogerodonnell.com)

The Cure's Web site promised more news soon. The new lineup will have to be unveiled by Aug. 5 when the Cure plays a festival in Castellon, Spain. The band is also confirmed for festival dates in France, Switzerland and Turkey.

O'Donnell first played with the Cure from 1987 to 1990, when he was replaced by Bamonte, then a Cure roadie. Bamonte switched to lead guitar after Porl Thompson left in 1993, and O'Donnell returned to the fold in 1995.

NO, NO, IT'S NOT TRUE!!!: Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, co-anchors of "Weekend Update" on "Saturday Night Live," took aim at America's hottest new couple during a recent fund-raising gala in New York City.

Poking fun at Tom Cruise's appearance on "The Oprah Winfrey Show," during which he gushed (ad nauseum) about his girlfriend Katie Holmes, Fey thrust her fist in the air, saying, "I love this woman! This woman is so hot! She's a woman!" She finished by slapping herself and saying, "Oh, my God, I'm so gay."

In the audience were Gwyneth Paltrow, Diane Sawyer, Whoopi Goldberg and Jay-Z, reports the New York Daily News. The event was said to have raised \$30 million for the anti-poverty group the Robin Hood Foundation.

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "The tabloid newspaper in England that published the picture of Saddam in his underwear has issued an apology. They said 'Saddam? We thought it was Camilla!'" -- Jay Leno.

Today's People Column was compiled by Randy McMullen from staff, Associated Press and Knight Ridder wire reports. Comments? Write to us c/o the Times, P.O. Box 8099, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-8099. Or call 925-943-8262, fax 925-943-8265, or e-mail spin@cctimes.com

Birthdays: Actress Elaine Stewart (76), actor-director Clint Eastwood (75), singer Peter Yarrow (67), former Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite (66), singer-musician Augie Meyers (65), actress Sharon Gless (62), Football Hall of Famer Joe Namath (62), actor Tom Berenger (55), actor Gregory Harrison (55), comedian Chris Elliott (45), actor Kyle Secor (45), actress Lea Thompson (44), singer Corey Hart (43), rapper DMC (41), rapper Kid Frost (41), actress Brooke Shields (40), country musician Ed Adkins of the Derailers (38), actor Colin Farrell (29), rock musician Scott Klopfenstein of Reel Big Fish (28), actor Curtis Williams Jr. (18).

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Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited
Geelong Advertiser

May 31, 2005 Tuesday

SECTION: WORLD; Pg. 18

LENGTH: 130 words

HEADLINE: Ripper stripper hits the big time

BYLINE: US Las Vegas, Sunday

BODY:

MATTHEW Fardell should probably have ended up working on his parents' farm after finishing high school.

Instead, he studied human movement at university and has spent the past six years working as a stripper for Australian dance troupe Thunder from Down Under in Las Vegas.

"Being up on stage with my clothes off was so foreign to me," said Fardell, 32, from Trundle in rural NSW, of his earlier days with the all-male troupe.

"I grew up on a farm and it was just something you knew people did but it was nothing I'd ever have thought of doing."

Fardell began working with Thunder from Down Under, or Manpower as the group used to be known in Australia, six years ago.

Recently, he has been managing the troupe in Vegas and appears in the TV series Strip Search.

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Copyright 2005 Knight Ridder/Tribune Business News
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High Point Enterprise

May 31, 2005, Tuesday

KR-ACC-NO: HP-FURNITURE-20050531

LENGTH: 677 words

HEADLINE: Furniture market battle looms

BYLINE: By Heath E. Combs

BODY:

HIGH POINT -- From furniture majors like Ashley and Magnussen to development and marketing companies, to the just plain curious, High Pointers will confront a new reality when the Las Vegas market opens July 24-29.

From those who see it as the proverbial kryptonite to the High Point International Home Furnishings Market to those who acknowledge its existence as the future West Coast regional market, the inaugural World Market Center has piqued the interest of the furniture community perhaps like no other event in a generation.

Long hyped since its inception was announced some five years ago, the inaugural desert market at World Market Center should be well-attended.

Las Vegas' debut event will encompass nearly 2.5 million square feet of permanent and temporary exhibition space, including:

- A 10-story, 1.3-million-square-foot main building with 230 permanent showrooms.
- More than 200 exhibitors in World Pavilions temporary facility on the Market Center campus.
- Some 630,000 square feet of exhibitors in the World MarketPlace at the Las Vegas Convention Center.
- An interior lifestyle event produced by Messe Frankfurt at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

In all, World Market Center developers expect to host as many as 700 exhibitors for the first Las Vegas market.

The Las Vegas market dates, additionally, coincide with the Association of Woodworking & Furnishings Suppliers trade show, which will have its inaugural show at the Las Vegas Convention Center July 27-30.

World Market Center recently announced plans for to expand its campus to 12 million square feet of permanent and temporary showrooms to be constructed in eight phases on a 57-acre campus in Las Vegas by 2015.

Lodging has not been expected to be a problem in Las Vegas, a city accustomed to serving major conventions throughout the year.

World Market Center officials announced in January that weekly nonfluctuating discount hotel rates will start at \$ 52 a night for exhibitors and attendees at the inaugural market.

Prices ranged to \$ 139 a room nightly at Marriott Suites, and four of 11 hotels named by World Market Center are nongaming.

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But those who want to stay on the Las Vegas Strip were offered complimentary shuttle service between host hotels and the World Market Center and Las Vegas Convention Center, every day of market running continuously from 6:30 a.m. daily.

The World Market Center has promoted ample free parking for the event.

Competition with High Point's estimated 11.5 million square feet of showroom space has become an intense point of interest. Business and political leaders in the Piedmont Triad have rallied in recent years behind the High Point market, one of the major economic events each year in the state. A bill to create the International Home Furnishings Market Authority sailed through the N.C. General Assembly four years ago, receiving bipartisan support.

Triad legislators now are lobbying in the 2005 legislative session to secure money for transportation services for the High Point market, as well as money to promote the trade show.

Also, the two congressmen who represent High Point, Reps. Howard Coble, R-6th, and Mel Watt, D-12th, serve as co-chairmen of the Congressional Furnishings Caucus.

The Las Vegas developers have ambitious plans.

In April, World Market Center officials announced plans for its expansion of permanent and temporary showrooms.

Original plans for the Vegas market consisted of 7.5 million square feet of showrooms. Market developers have reported that construction of is ahead of schedule. The second Las Vegas market will take place Jan. 30-Feb. 3, 2006.

To see more of the High Point Enterprise, or to subscribe to the newspaper, go to <http://www.hpe.com>. Copyright (c) 2005, High Point Enterprise, N.C.

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JOURNAL-CODE: HP

LOAD-DATE: June 1, 2005

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Copyright 2005 MediaNews Group, Inc.
Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (Ontario, CA)

May 31, 2005 Tuesday

SECTION: NEWS

LENGTH: 1103 words

HEADLINE: Handhelds keep fingers on pulse

BYLINE: Megan Blaney, Staff Writer

BODY:

Want 2 meet 2day @ 5. Can u b there?

No prob. C u there.

As computers and keyboards shrink to pocket size, communications are becoming shorter and speedier.

One of those pocket computers, a small lightweight device called a BlackBerry, has proved so indispensable that it's no longer just a trendy gadget it's practically a necessity, county officials said.

The device, featuring a phone, e-mail, personal planner and calendar, is cropping up in government offices and briefcases all over the country.

Many of the county supervisors' right-hand men can frequently be seen at Board of Supervisors' meetings, heads bent in prayer position, thumbs flying over the miniature keyboard.

The messages they send could be going anywhere, but are most likely moving around to their colleagues' devices.

County spokesman David Wert said he uses his to communicate with county Chief Administrative Officer Mark Uffer and the supervisors at board meetings. The messages he sends can be read either on their BlackBerry devices or on their computer e-mail.

"For instance, I'll let them know if protesters are gathering in front of the building, if a public speaker might raise an issue they otherwise wouldn't be expecting, or whether the news media wants to interview them following the meeting," Wert said.

Wert also follows up on requests for information he receives from Uffer and the supervisors during the meetings.

Brad Mitzelfelt, chief of staff for Board Chairman Bill Postmus, uses the BlackBerry 7100. He said it increases his productivity since he can accomplish much more while waiting around.

It can also be a helpful way to communicate silently.

"One of our staffers once told me to fix my collar of my coat across a table during a meeting without having to say anything or even gesture anything," he said.

Postmus even schedules meetings and appointments while at evening baseball games at Angel Stadium of Anaheim, Mitzelfelt said. Sometimes they trade baseball scores while at separate games.

Mitzelfelt owns his device, but the county has provided about 130 BlackBerrys to the supervisors and staff, county executives and department heads.

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Third District Supervisor Dennis Hansberger said he uses the planning features and address book on his BlackBerry, but doesn't use it for e-mail or text messaging.

"I'm not a very good techie," he said. "I don't like the constancy of something at my hand that interrupts me from what I'm doing. Once you have an appointment, it's rude to let yourself be interrupted."

Mark Kirk, 4th District Supervisor Gary Ovitt's chief of staff, said it's difficult not to answer the call of the BlackBerry once it buzzes.

"I'm sure it's somewhat annoying to people who are meeting with us, and we're fiddling with the BlackBerry," Kirk said. "But there are a lot of people who need an answer right now or there's something that needs more critical attention."

Kirk uses a Treo SmartPhone, a similar device made by PalmOne, the company that makes the handheld computers Palm Pilots.

Mitzelfelt said there is friendly competition between BlackBerry users and "Treo-ians."

"The BlackBerry is better," Mitzelfelt claimed at a recent board meeting. "It's lighter and fits in my pocket."

Kirk pulled out his Treo and weighed it in his hand.

"It's not that heavy. I don't seem to have a problem lifting it. Maybe you're just weak," Kirk responded jokingly.

Other differences include a track wheel to scroll through options on the BlackBerry versus the Treo's touch screen and stylus pen.

Public safety tools

Some cities use them for crime fighting.

"For our purposes, it's one of the smartest things in terms of communication," Redlands Police Chief Jim Bueermann said. "We're an operation that runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and this allows us to have a higher level of awareness."

Bueermann said he is updated throughout the day and night with reports of incidents and investigations.

Redlands police recently arrested a suspect they believe is the fourth and final suspect in a murder during an April home invasion in Redlands.

Bueermann said the BlackBerrys were an integral part of the investigation, especially when detectives needed to communicate unobtrusively while on surveillance in San Bernardino County, Los Angeles and Las Vegas.

"We use 'em all the time," Bueermann said. "In the murder investigation, they were invaluable. It creates a communication community of the detectives. We were literally searching houses in L.A. looking for clues while detectives in Vegas were instantaneously sharing knowledge."

The Los Angeles Police Department and the New York City Fire Department each use BlackBerrys to improve communication. An office in your pocket

"It's not unlike having your desktop computer chained to your hip," Bueermann said. "It's the unintended consequence of this whole thing that I am sometimes almost too connected. It can be hard on me and hard on my family."

Still, he said his responsibility to protect the community makes it worth it.

"I can't tell you that it is the healthiest thing for me personally," he said. "But it's the community expectation that I should be connected 24/7. It is good for the citizens, and it's probably the best thing."

Wert said his work follows him wherever he goes.

"I'm never out of touch," he said. "But that's also the downside. If someone knows I have one, then I can't just say, 'Oh, I didn't get the message.' They know it came right to my phone."

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors voted last Tuesday to establish a special network for county workers with BlackBerrys.

"There are so many of 'em now that use them," said Rick Hoffman, legislative assistant to Supervisor Marion Ashley. "The guys that are using it love 'em, and they can return e-mail and travel without a laptop and still keep in touch."

Governments, which represent about 10 percent of the customers, have used BlackBerry devices for about four years, said Mark Guibert, vice-president of corporate marketing for BlackBerry developer Research in Motion, based in Canada.

"BlackBerry is already prevalent nationally and ... is expanding rapidly around the world within all sectors, including government," he wrote in an e-mail from his BlackBerry device.

As technology progresses, Bueermann wants his department to upgrade along with it.

"Eventually they'll have little cameras or video capability," he said. "When that happens, they'll be very useful to us. Field supervisors at the scene can snap a few shots of whatever they're looking at and roll 'em out to a forensic specialist."

LOAD-DATE: May 31, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Newsday, Inc.
Newsday (New York)

May 31, 2005 Tuesday
ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: SPORTS; Pg. A43

LENGTH: 523 words

HEADLINE: MIKE TYSON'S CAREER MILESTONES

BYLINE: COMPILED BY WALLACE MATTHEWS

BODY:

March 6, 1985 - Makes pro debut with first-round TKO over Hector Mercedes in Albany

Nov. 22, 1986 - Becomes youngest heavyweight champion with second-round TKO over Trevor Berbick in Las Vegas

Feb. 9, 1988 - Marries actress Robin Givens

June 27, 1988 - Knocks out Michael Spinks in 91 seconds in Atlantic City

Aug. 23, 1988 - Brawls with heavyweight Mitch Green outside Dapper Dan's in Harlem

Feb. 14, 1989 - Is divorced from Givens

Feb. 11, 1990 - Becomes youngest man to lose the heavyweight title to Buster Douglas (KO by 10) in Tokyo

Feb. 10, 1992 - Convicted of the rape of Desiree Washington in Indianapolis, sentenced to 10 years (four suspended) in prison

March 25, 1995 - Released from prison

Aug. 18, 1995 - Returns to ring with 73-second KO over Peter McNeeley in Las Vegas

March 16, 1996 - Regains a portion of the heavyweight title with a third-round TKO over Frank Bruno in Las Vegas

Nov. 9, 1996 - Loses title to Evander Holyfield on 11th-round TKO

June 28, 1997 - Disqualified in third round of Holyfield rematch when he bites off a chunk of Holyfield's ear; boxing license revoked by Nevada and fined \$3 million

Feb. 5, 1999 - Sentenced to one year in jail for assault in connection with an auto accident in Maryland

June 8, 2002 - Knocked out in the eighth round by heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis in Memphis

Aug. 1, 2003 - Files for bankruptcy in New York City, claiming more than \$30 million in debts and just \$5,600 in assets

July 30, 2004 - Knocked out in the fourth round by Danny Williams in Louisville

TYSON'S MEMORABLE QUOTES

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PC-00035

Newsday (New York) May 31, 2005 Tuesday

"I was trying to drive the bone in his nose up into his brain." - Tyson after knocking out Jesse Ferguson in Feb. 1986

"How dare they challenge me with their primitive skills?"

- Tyson after defeating James (Boncrusher) Smith in 1987

"I want to throw down your kid and stomp on his testicles, and then you will know what it is like to experience waking up every day as me. And only then will you feel my pain."

- Tyson to a group of sportswriters before the Lennox Lewis title fight, 2002

"I want to rip out his heart and feed it to him. I want to eat his children. All praise be to Allah."

- Tyson on Lewis before their 2002 fight

"I guess I'll fade into Bolivian now."

- Tyson on his future after being KO'd by Lewis in 2002

TYSON NOW:

On James Toney's recent positive steroid test following a heavyweight title fight with John Ruiz: "I think if that was me, I'd be barred for life, which I am now in Vegas. I hit some guy after the bell. Gol-ly! That poor guy. This guy [Toney] turned his body into a weapon. That's worse than what I did. When I smoked a joint in Detroit [before the Andrew Golota fight], they fined me \$250,000. That's not an enhancement drug, that's a de-hancement drug. I smoked a joint before the fight, this guy did steroids and they only fined him \$10,000? I don't know, maybe it's just me. Imagine if I didn't smoke that joint? I might have lost. I might not have showed up!"

On lingering resentments: "I think they hold against me things I said when I was young. But man, I just said it for us in boxing, just for our own little world. And man, the rest of the world took it personally!"

LOAD-DATE: May 31, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Newsday, Inc.
Newsday (New York)

May 31, 2005 Tuesday
ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: SPORTS; Pg. A47

LENGTH: 1675 words

HEADLINE: Punching the clock;

Over the past 20 years, it has seemed as if there was nothing Mike Tyson couldn't do.

BYLINE: BY WALLACE MATTHEWS. SPECIAL TO NEWSDAY

BODY:

He was the youngest man to win the heavyweight title and the youngest to lose it. He amassed, and squandered, three fortunes of more than \$100 million each. He bit off a chunk of an opponent's ear in a fight and threatened to eat another's children. He went to jail for three years for rape, came out, and won another title. Fourteen years after his last truly great performance and greatly diminished as a fighter, he still was enough of an attraction to be paid \$30 million for a night's work. He got a tattoo on his face, of all places.

Yes, Mike Tyson was truly capable of just about anything.

With one exception. Nobody, not his most ardent supporters or his most strident detractors, ever expected Mike Tyson to get old. Now he has. And that may be his greatest, and unlikeliest, achievement of all.

After all, wasn't Tyson the kid who wasn't supposed to live to see 25? Who, if he did, no doubt would live out the rest of his days in a maximum-security prison or a mental institution?

Now it looks as if the ending to the Mike Tyson Story won't be nearly so melodramatic. The erstwhile "baddest man on the planet," the ferocious kid who wanted to rip out hearts, smash skulls and drive nasal bones up into brain tissue, has neither burned out nor faded away.

Instead, like most middle-aged men, Mike Tyson has simply cooled off.

"Getting old, man, it happens overnight," Tyson told Newsday recently in an exclusive, far-ranging interview in Phoenix, where he is training to meet journeyman Kevin McBride June 11 in Washington, D.C. "Some days, I just don't feel capable of doing anything. But it's OK. I really love my life now. I've come to grips with it."

It turns out Tyson's world-class rage did not have the half-life of Uranium-235 after all. Just the normal course of time for the average male who by the age of 40 or so has become domesticated, if not quite tamed.

Tyson creaks when he gets out of bed, worries about his children, frets over how classmates will taunt them about their infamous father, and wrestles with precisely how to break the news to them about his past before someone beats him to it.

He owns fast motorcycles he has grown leery of riding. He recently - get this! - turned down the offer of a free Aston-Martin AR-1, James Bond's ride, because what he needs more than anything now is a house.

Newsday (New York) May 31, 2005 Tuesday

He lost his palatial homes in Las Vegas, Ohio, Connecticut and New Jersey to ex-wives or bankruptcy. Right now he's sleeping on the couch in the home of the mother of his two youngest children. Last year, home was a rented one-bedroom house in a Phoenix suburb.

Tyson tries to keep up appearances, arriving at the gym in a gleaming white Hummer H2. "It's all I got left, man," he said.

Like a lot of people his age, Tyson is downsizing. But "downsizing" is a relative term.

Despite filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in November 2003, claiming \$55 million in debts and \$5,583 in cash, Tyson last week was able to scrape up \$420,000 for a down payment on a \$2.1-million house in Paradise Valley's exclusive Mummy Mountain district. Despite the bankruptcy and continuing debt, he secured a mortgage with a monthly payment of nearly \$11,000.

"His 'broke' is a little different from your 'broke' or mine," said Steven Espinoza, Tyson's bankruptcy attorney.

"This is one of the few places where I feel equal," Tyson said of his latest hometown. "No one's judgmental and stuff here. Even in New York these days, I feel like I don't belong. In Vegas, they overtly told me to get the hell out. Here, everybody's, like, live and let live."

The laid-back attitude seems to have rubbed off on Tyson.

"I don't think I have it in me anymore to punch somebody in the face, just because they said something to me or looked at me funny," Tyson said. "Maybe it's the aging process, I don't know. When I was younger, I could chase girls all day, every day. When I see a beautiful woman now, I don't even want to go out with her. Damn, that's the depressing part of life, gettin' old."

This is all well, good and natural for the average middle-aged man about to turn 39, as Tyson will on June 30. But Tyson is not your average middle-aged man. By choice or by necessity, he is still a professional boxer.

And the hard, cruel truth of the Mike Tyson Story is that even in middle age, there is only so much cooling off he can do. The kid who lived to fight has become the man who must fight to live. Divorce, extravagance and poor choices in management, promotion and friendships have left him still owing approximately \$21 million in back taxes, and from \$5 million to \$7 million to 246 private creditors.

"Man, I haven't really wanted to fight since the Buster Douglas fight," Tyson said. That was back in 1990, on a surreal Sunday morning in Tokyo when Douglas, a lazy underachiever motivated by his mother's death, showed the world that despite all prior evidence to the contrary, Mike Tyson was human.

In the past 15 years, that point has been proven again and again, by Evander Holyfield twice, by Lennox Lewis and by Danny Williams, a hand-picked sacrificial lamb who somehow got loose and slaughtered the butcher, knocking Tyson out in four pitiful rounds last July.

Tyson, who once challenged opponents to "take your beating like a man," took the 10-count seated, fully conscious, his right knee burning from a torn meniscus suffered in the first round. In short, he quit.

"I just said, '[-] this, I'm in too much pain,' " Tyson said. "Under normal circumstances, Williams is a one- or two-round fight for me. I hope he doesn't really think he won that fight."

But he did, and now, who's to say the same thing won't happen with McBride, who like Williams may not be much of a fighter but is bigger (6-6, 260), younger (32) and perhaps even hungrier at this stage of his career than Tyson. "Mike Tyson is an old man," McBride said. "It's the end of his era and the start of mine."

At the news conference to announce the fight last month, Tyson, who took a swing at Lewis' bodyguard and a bite out of Lewis' thigh at a similar gathering in 2002, could only say this about McBride: "He's cute."

You'd think Tyson was talking about one of his five kids, ranging from 16 to two months. While in training, Tyson has been living in the same house with 3-year-old Miguel and 2-month-old daughter, Exodus.

"I always tell my children, protect your name," Tyson said. "It's worth more than a million dollars. I tell them, 'Your daddy doesn't have a good name right now, but you can change your daddy's name by the lives you lead.' "

One thing about Tyson hasn't changed, and that is the shame with which he regards his tumultuous past.

"It's hard to gain back self-respect when for 20 years you didn't have any," he said. "Throughout my career, I was one of those guys who only dwelt on the negatives. Sometimes I watch these shows about the greatest sports feats, the greatest athletic legends, and I never see my name mentioned, so I start to think maybe it wasn't that big a deal after all."

With his pro debut more than 20 years behind him, Tyson has gone on longer than all but a select few: Archie Moore, Sugar Ray Robinson, Emile Griffith, Roberto Duran and Holyfield.

"Years ago, it was a badge of honor to fight that long," Tyson said. "That was your job. Nowadays, if you fight 20 years you're a pugnacious clod. I don't know how history will remember me and really, I don't care. I'll just be happy to be remembered, even if it's as a [--]. Mike Tyson the [--]."

In truth, Tyson briefly was among the world's most popular athletes, and he remains one of the five most compelling sports figures of the past 25 years, along with Barry Bonds, Michael Jordan, Tiger Woods and Wayne Gretzky. Compelling doesn't always mean good or pleasant. It means even now, when Tyson is at work, attention must be paid.

Of this, he is acutely aware. "I can be champ again," he said, laughing dismissively. "Look at what's out there. John Ruiz, Wladimir Klitschko, Andrew Golota, Lamon Brewster, Chris Byrd. How many of those guys can sell out a place like the MCI Center in three days? When's the last time one of them made over \$500,000 for a fight? I'm making \$6 million to fight some Irish pug."

Tyson said lately he has found solace from a 68-year-old Scottsdale-based clinical psychologist named Marilyn Murray. "She's my mentor and I'm her protégé," Tyson said. "It's incredible to finally find someone I can trust."

Murray, who has known Tyson for six years, said, "He really wants to start a whole new clean life. I told him you're only 39, you could live another 60 years. God has given you so many great gifts, you can take off and be anything you want to be."

Finally, Tyson seems to be buying into the possibility of a future. He says most of his problems as a young man stemmed from clinical depression, an affliction he realized he suffered from while watching Terry Bradshaw talk about his battle with it on HBO's "Real Sports."

"I was always embarrassed to tell people and then I saw Terry Bradshaw, a man's man, a real tough guy, and he was crying on television, and I started crying, too," Tyson said. "People would look at me, big strong guy, always acting tough all the time, and they think that's how I'm supposed to be all the time, but in reality, I'm really kind of a docile guy. I didn't know why I was mad at people all the time or why I wanted to slug people."

"It just amazes me that I finally decided to be a man at 38 years old," Tyson said. "All those years I thought I was a man, a big shot, but I was just a foolish, dumb kid."

Time will tell whether Tyson is sincere, but there's no doubt he is vulnerable, perhaps more than ever. The bravado, the threats, the cloak of invincibility are all gone. For the first time he'll have to fight without them, a middle-aged man trying to compete in a young, vicious man's game. And of necessity, he's not close to getting out.

"Will I be fighting when I'm 40?" he said. "Hell, yeah. Definitely. Damn, 40 is just around the corner. Forty is, like, tomorrow!"

Who would have believed Mike Tyson capable of getting there?

GRAPHIC: 1) PHOTO- Mike Tyson PHOTOS BY BLAIR BUNTING- 2) Tyson spars with middle age (front cover photo) 3) A month from turning 39 and with big bills to pay, Mike Tyson says he's mellowing with age as he trains for a June 11 fight with Kevin McBride in Washington. (back cover photo)

LOAD-DATE: May 31, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Knight Ridder/Tribune Business News
Copyright 2005 The Orange County Register
The Orange County Register

May 31, 2005, Tuesday

KR-ACC-NO: OC-LANSNER-COL-20050531

LENGTH: 1109 words

HEADLINE: The Orange County Register, Calif., Jonathan Lansner column

BYLINE: By Jonathan Lansner

BODY:

The sizzle in the Las Vegas housing market rivals the surrounding desert's heat and the casino town's glitz.

Home prices soar. Buyers and speculators outbid each other for residences.

And builders frenetically try to keep pace.

Let me put it this way: Last year, Vegas developers sought permission to build 36,000 new single-family homes -- slightly more than what was done in Orange County this century. (That's five years, for those without calendars.) Sin City's feverish housing pace scares many observers, who often cite Vegas as a prime example of a risky, overheated market.

So why is Standard Pacific, a homebuilder from Irvine, entering the perplexing Vegas market at what may be very late in the game?

The answer from Andy Parnes, chief financial officer, reflects both the short-run concerns and the long-term promise of the mecca of excess.

In Vegas, a developer finds a dream mix of job, wealth and population growth that perhaps built a worrisome thirst for housing.

That's why Standard Pacific will slowly go to Vegas. They say they won't pay up and buy out a local builder to gain traction as they did when the company branched out to everywhere from Florida to Sacramento.

Rather, Standard Pacific hired some Vegas housing veterans who'll scour the town for what at first may be modest land investments. Standard Pacific won't actually sell a Vegas home until 2007.

"This is a market that we need to get into," Parnes says. "This is the least risky way to enter." Standard Pacific is encouraged by what it sees in Vegas. Coming from almost-as-hot Orange County probably helps getting over the skittishness that Vegas can inspire.

To Parnes, the Vegas market is very healthy.

"It seems it has cooled from where it was a year ago," he says of what many folks saw as a super-heated state. "Not much different than what we're seeing in Orange County."

So how hot is Vegas?

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According to one home-value index, it had the highest appreciation rate of the nation's major metropolitan areas in the fourth quarter. That was a 36 percent jump in a year, says the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight.

And Realtor data says Vegas was the second-hottest region in the western U.S. for sales-price increases in the first quarter, up 29 percent, trailing only the Inland Empire's 36 percent pop.

These kind of profits attract opportunists.

Vegas ranked seventh among all regions nationwide in building permits filed for single-family homes last year, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. It ranked eighth the year before.

Owners are cashing in, too.

By housing-tracker DataQuick's count, 12 percent of Vegas homes were "flipped" in the first quarter -- bought and sold within six months -- far more than any major market surveyed by the company.

So are these superlatives just damning evidence of folks rushing like lemmings into the perfect housing bubble?

Perhaps. But the gains are not totally illogical.

In the past four years, Clark County -- home to Vegas -- added 257,000 people. The 18 percent jump is the fourth-biggest gain of any U.S. county.

Those people need homes. Of course, at what price?

Well, there's plenty of money around Vegas.

Nevada added more jobs than any other state in 2004's fourth quarter. It's a key reason why Nevada's personal-income growth has ranked in the top three of the 50 states the past two years.

You can credit Las Vegas' huge tourist trade for much of this boom. The region had a record-setting year in 2004, highlighted by, among other things, a stunning 95 percent occupancy rate at local hotels on weekends.

Housing consultant John Burns from Irvine calls Vegas, "a strong economy with a great future. -- Vegas has its issues, like speculators, but no market is perfect." Consider that Vegas homes rose 84 percent in value during the past five years, OFHEO says.

If that's too toasty for your blood, then note this: Orange County homes are up 106 percent in the same period.

2005 will mark the first year in Standard Pacific's four decades of business that California won't be the builder's top market. That honor will go to Florida.

The O.C. lesson of the great 1990s real-estate debacle was: Don't bet on one region.

Standard Pacific began diversifying its geographic reach in 1998 by going to Arizona. It has since added Florida, Texas, Colorado and the Carolinas.

But for Standard Pacific, expansion isn't just about building homes in different towns. They've had to adjust by leaving the luxury niche they occupy at home.

In California, Standard Pacific is catering to the classic move-up buyer -- a couple who've made it financially and are ready to make a statement with their house.

That's partly due to demographics. And it's partly pragmatism -- land costs so much here that builders must often go upscale to recoup their investments.

In regions like Vegas, Standard Pacific will be primarily selling to first-time buyers or those making modest increments in housing quality.

That's why Standard Pacific's typical price tag is \$ 700,000 for California homes -- and \$ 200,000 elsewhere.

"We love what we build here," Parnes says. "But there are very few markets where you can get meaningful volume" selling luxury homes.

In Vegas, for example, Standard Pacific will be building homes about 2,000 square feet in size with price tags in the mid-\$ 300,000 range.

The Vegas product, Parnes says, will "clearly not be the same product we build here." Builders are an optimistic group by nature, so I must often weigh their comments with some sort of enthusiasm context.

Parnes insists Standard Pacific's cautious approach to Vegas shouldn't be taken too far.

"If we thought the market would blow up, we wouldn't have gone in," he says.

That's fair.

However, compare this very cautious approach to Vegas to how Standard Pacific recently entered another fast-moving market.

This same builder seemingly had zero qualms about making two good-sized acquisitions to leap into Bakersfield.

That central California town's homes appreciated at a 30 percent rate in 2004's fourth quarter, by OFHEO's count. That fat gain trailed only Vegas for title of "nation's hottest housing market."

To see more of The Orange County Register, or to subscribe to the newspaper, go to <http://www.ocregister.com>.
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JOURNAL-CODE: OC

LOAD-DATE: June 1, 2005

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Copyright 2005 The Baltimore Sun Company
The Baltimore Sun

May 30, 2005 Monday
FINAL EDITION

SECTION: LOCAL; BETWEEN THE LINES; Pg. 2B

LENGTH: 511 words

HEADLINE: It's just like a second language to her

BODY:

At a meeting Tuesday night, Baltimore County school board members had high praise for Superintendent Joe A. Hairston's "Blueprint for Progress," a pamphlet outlining the school district's goals that drives spending and instruction.

Board member Michael P. Kennedy said the blueprint, which was undergoing minor revisions, "reminds me a little of the Constitution." Board member Joy Shillman called it "magnificent."

Shillman said she was especially impressed that the blueprint is available to parents in six languages. She listed five - Korean, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Urdu - then paused and said, "I may have forgotten one."

The audience responded in unison: "English!"

- Sara Neufeld

Hi-tech animal rescue

The Carroll County Humane Society's "cat-scan" helped return an errant tomcat to his rightful owner after a two-year hiatus. When the gray-and-white striped male turned up in the society's after-hours kennel, he was routinely "cat-scanned" for identifying microchips. A tiny chip, the size of a grain of rice, gave the cogent details.

The chip implanted in the cat, named Lucky 13 in honor of the Friday the 13th that he was found by his original owner, showed he had an elapsed license, an owner and a home in Baltimore. Interestingly, the cat showed up at the humane society in Westminster on May 13, another fateful Friday.

Seems Lucky had strayed during Michelle Northam's move to the city two years ago. She searched in vain for the cat she had nourished for two years. Northam reconnected with Lucky immediately in the society's "get-acquainted" room.

"I know he recognized me," she said. "He curled up in my lap right away. He is not in bad shape so somebody must have taken care of him."

Lucky is adapting to Broccoli, a female feline in the Northam household and will never be allowed to roam again, Northam said. Where had Lucky been these two long years while making his way from Sparrows Point to Westminster?

"Hanging out somewhere," said Nicky Ratliff, director of the Carroll County Humane Society.

- Mary Gail Hare

Charm City love fest

Baltimore has enjoyed a positive run in the national press this year. Time magazine named Martin O'Malley one of the nation's best mayors. The Wall Street Journal published a front-page article on how the housing boom is trickling

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down to distressed areas of the city. The Preakness provided its annual amount of national media exposure. And Frommer's travel guide called Baltimore one of its top 10 international destinations for summer travelers.

As the city has gone national and international, so, too, has its mayor. Last week, O'Malley - and City Council President Sheila Dixon - spent three days in Las Vegas for his annual trip to the conference of supermarkets. He returned Tuesday night, attended Wednesday's 9 a.m. Board of Estimates meeting and flew out that night for England for a four-day Memorial Day weekend trip with his wife, Katie.

The London trip was paid for by the mayor's host. The Baltimore Development Corp. picked up the Vegas trip tab. The positive press, however, came free.

- Doug Donovan

LOAD-DATE: May 30, 2005

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CNN

SHOW: AMERICAN MORNING 7:00 AM EST

May 30, 2005 Monday

TRANSCRIPT: 053001CN.V74

SECTION: NEWS; International

LENGTH: 3536 words

HEADLINE: Two Suicide Bombers Kill at Least 27 People in Hilla; U.S. Troops in Iraq Observing Memorial Day

BYLINE: Soledad O'Brien, Ali Velshi, Gerri Willis, Bob Franken, Ryan Chilcote, Jane Arraf

GUESTS: Richard Myers

HIGHLIGHT:

Two suicide bombers killed at least 27 people in Hilla. U.S. troops in Iraq are observing Memorial Day even as the death toll there keeps rising.

BODY:

ALI VELSHI, CNN ANCHOR: I'm Ali Velshi, in for Bill Hemmer. Americans are making huge profits in real estate by buying and quickly selling homes. This morning, we look at the risks to flipping.

SOLEDAD O'BRIEN, CNN ANCHOR: And it wasn't a win, but it was one for the record books. Indy 500 sensation Danica Patrick doing what no woman has done before, on this AMERICAN MORNING.

Good morning. Welcome on this Memorial Day. Bill Hemmer has got the day off, but Ali Velshi has been kind enough to help us out.

Good morning.

VELSHI: And I would have thought it was kind enough -- good morning, Soledad -- if it were yesterday, when it was a bright sunny day, but I'm not really feeling so bad about being inside in the rain.

O'BRIEN: Well, Jack's got the day off as well, but Toure's going to be around in just a little bit to answer the question of the day.

Let's get right to the news this morning. We begin with the latest developments out of Iraq. Two suicide bombers killed at least 27 people in Hilla, which is south of Baghdad. That makes at least eight bombings since Sunday, and at least 46 deaths. Ryan Chilcote in Baghdad for us this morning.

Ryan, good morning to you.

What was the target?

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RYAN CHILCOTE, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Well, the Iraqi police are telling us that the target in those twin attacks in the city of Hilla was Iraq's security forces. We've seen this before. These two suicide bombers were operating about one minute from one another. The first one walked up to a crowd of police recruits. They were standing in line waiting for the last medical tests, the last medical tests they need to clear before they could become police. That's when the suicide bomber, with one of these so-called suicide vests packed with explosives, walked up to the crowd of police recruits and blew himself up.

Then just about 50 yards from there, and as I said, within a minute's time, a second suicide bomber walked up to a group of former policemen, who were staging a demonstration of protest against the fact that they'd just been removed from the local police force, the Iraqi police are telling us that at least 27 Iraqis were killed in those attacks, at least 118 wounded -- Soledad.

O'BRIEN: Well, Ryan, we've heard about Operation Lightning. What's its status at this point?

CHILCOTE: We expect it to begin any time now. The U.S. military says shaping operations for Operation Lightning are already under way. It will be the largest operation that the Iraqi security forces have ever carried out since the fall of Saddam Hussein, some 40,000 members of Iraq's security forces, backed up by 10,000 U.S. troops who won't be celebrating or reflecting too much on this Memorial Day, will be going out, fanning out into almost all of the streets of the Iraqi capital. Keep in mind, this is a city of more than seven million people. They're going to be conducting door-to-door searches, searching all vehicles, setting up more than 600 checkpoints. Of course the whole idea of this operation is to try to bring a stop to the violence that we have seen in the Iraqi capital over the last month.

From all the indications we have at this point, the insurgents are not getting out of the Iraqi capital since this operation was announced on Thursday. All indications are that they appear to be planning on keeping their ground here and planning on fighting U.S. and Iraqi forces in the Iraqi capital -- Soledad.

O'BRIEN: Ryan Chilcote, in Baghdad for us this morning. Ryan, thanks.

VELSHI: Well, U.S. troops in Iraq are observing Memorial Day even as the death toll there keeps rising. It's been a little over 800 days since the U.S.-led coalition launched the war, and in that time, more than 1,650 Americans have been killed. More than 1,830 coalition troops have died. Now more than 70 U.S. military personnel were killed in May alone. That's the highest death toll in five months.

Our Baghdad bureau chief Jane Arraf joins us live via phone from Camp Victory, where Memorial Day is being observed shortly.

Jane, how is the troop morale there at Camp Victory?

JANE ARRAF, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Ari, it's -- troop morale, we've got to understand this is two years into this war, but we're seeing a new series of troops. Now some of them have come back for their second deployment. But Memorial Day, as you might imagine, on a main military base, in a war zone, is -- ceremonies like this, quite somber.

Now we're at the main palace. It's the main military headquarters in Iraq, part an extraordinary series of Saddam's palaces. And starting in just a few minutes is a service that will remember the 701 U.S. service people who have been killed here over the past year. Those names are going to take almost five minutes to read.

One of the things, though, is, while Memorial Day in the states, obviously, is a time of barbecues, the unofficial start of summer and a lot of other things, here it's a working day for soldiers and Marines, but in a sense almost every day here is Memorial Day. They do not forget their colleagues, their comrades who have full fallen in battle -- Ari.

VELSHI: Those numbers that we were just talking about when we introduced you, Jane, they're kind of staggering, and I guess in some case the soldiers at Camp Victory would like to celebrate Memorial Day as the beginning of something else, a new time for them. At some point, though, after five minutes of reading the names of their fallen comrades, does it start to sort of seep out, the frustration, the idea that some of them would just like to be home?

ARRAF: Oh, everybody would like to be home. There's absolutely no doubt about it. There are a few people who hate this war more than the people fighting it. And just think of it, I mean, a year away from your family, a year in oftentimes a very dangerous situation, not watching your children grow up, being away from your husband or wife.

It's, again, the -- almost the beginning of summer here, but it's already 110 degrees, and that's in the shade. It is not easy here. So they very much would like to be back.

And you're right, there is some soul-searching going on these days about perhaps whether it's worth it.

But overall, the main theme when you talk to the soldiers and Marines, that they've been sent out to do a job, and they're going to do that job -- Ali.

VELSHI: Jane Arraf, our Baghdad bureau chief. Thank you, Jane.

O'BRIEN: Back in this country now, federal authorities are announcing new terrorism arrests. Rafiq Abdu (ph) Sabir, also known as "The Doctor," was arrested over the weekend in Florida. Authorities say he promised to provide medical help to wounded terrorists.

And in New York, FBI agents picked up a man named Tarik Shah (ph). Authorities say he is an expert in martial arts who offered to train Al Qaeda members in hand-to-hand combat.

Investigators say both men were recorded pledging their loyalty to Osama Bin Laden.

As legal proceedings begin in these latest terror arrests, behind the scenes, the Bush administration is considering some key adjustments in how it fights the war on terror.

Let's get right to Bob Franken. He's at the White House this morning with that.

Good morning, Bob.

BOB FRANKEN, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Good morning.

And there's an ongoing spirited debate within the administration about the constant efforts to define exactly what the war on terrorism is.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

BOB FRANKEN, CNN NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): As President Bush devotes part of his Memorial Day to commemorating the nation's war dead, his advisers are engaged in a significant review of today's war, the global war on terrorism.

GEN. RICHARD MYERS, JOINT CHIEFS CHAIRMAN: What they're trying to do, and what we're trying to do is look at our strategy and ensure that we use the right words, the right vocabulary and focus all interest of national power, just the refinement of what our current strategy is.

FRANKEN: That strategy since the September 11 attacks has included an intense emphasis on breaking the back of al Qaeda. But even though efforts to kill or capture Osama bin Laden have been unsuccessful, several other leaders have been removed.

Still, others have moved in. As the president's chief terrorism adviser told the "Washington Post," "Nature abhors a vacuum."

So officials in and out of the administration believe the time has come to expand the focus. And the co-chairman of the 9/11 Commission agrees.

LEE HAMILTON, 9/11 COMMISSION: The threat remains still very formidable, but it's much more diffuse than it was in a single little al Qaeda cell.

FRANKEN: Critics charge this review is long overdue.

SEN. CHRIS DODD, (D) CONNECTICUT: This is a debate they should have been having months ago, not just more recently, about whether or not there is a broader problem out there than just al Qaeda.

FRANKEN: In fact, the debate has been going on for some time, hampered by a delay in filling key positions in the anti-terrorism hierarchy.

(on camera): Critics say that the delay is causing a drift in policy, but the administration contends the need for change grows out of success. All agree that the war on terror is far from over.

Bob Franken, CNN, the White House.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

FRANKEN: And that delay, critics say, has caused a drift in the war against terror, but the administration says that the need to change things is a symbol of success. All agree, Soledad, that this war on terror is far from over.

O'BRIEN: Bob Franken for us this morning at the White House.

Bob, thanks for that update. Well, later this morning, the president will honor America's war dead during memorial day observances at Arlington National Cemetery. You want to stay tuned to CNN for live coverage. of that.

(WEATHER REPORT)

O'BRIEN: Well, ahead this morning, the housing market is booming. Investors are making some big bucks buying homes and selling them quickly. We're going to take a look, though, this morning at the risks of flipping.

VELSHI: Also tension mounting between Australia and Indonesia after a controversial smuggling trial. Can the Aussie government head off a crisis?

O'BRIEN: And Iraq's new military prepares for its biggest operation yet. Joint Chiefs Chairman General Richard Myers tells about Operation Lightning, up next on AMERICAN MORNING.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

PFC JASON MENNING: I'm PFC Jason Menning. I'm from St. Louis, Missouri. I have a mother, father back home in St. Louis, my wife, Susan, my daughter, Alexandra, who is 15 weeks old now, a brother at the Naval Academy. I'd like to say hello to all of them and thanks for all the support.

VELSHI: Well, the outlook at the pump is getting a bit brighter as we enter the summer driving season. Industry analysts are predicting that the trend toward lower gas price will continue. The average price of gas in the United States this holiday weekend is now \$2.11 a gallon. That's according to AAA, and that's down four cents from last week. It's a drop of 18 cents from last month's peak.

Not only is gas expensive, houses continue to be expensive, and some home owners are in it for the long hall, so it doesn't matter as much of them. But some of them put some work into the house, hoping that the place is worth more than it was when they bought it when they get ready to sell it, and then there are those speculators for whom all of that work and time is too much to ask. So in this, a booming housing market, the name of their game is flipping.

Our personal finance editor Gerri Willis joins me now to explain flipping, who is doing it, what it's all about.

Hello, Gerri.

GERRI WILLIS, CNN ANCHOR: Hey, Ali. Reunion here. Good to see you.

VELSHI: Good to see you.

WILLIS: Let's talk about flipping here for a minute, because a lot of people out there are really interested in this. Listen up, you know the old-fashion flipping. Let's tell you about that first, that's when somebody takes a rundown house and fixes it up in three to six months, and then sells it and makes a profit.

But the new flipping is something entirely different. It's truly speculative. People only hold onto their homes for a day, a few weeks, and turn it over very quickly.

VELSHI: These are the speculators that work in any market that's hot really, and they've decided that the place that you can do this, despite all of the expenses of buying a house, and the commissions and the legal fees, it's so worth it so buy a house and turn it around. Who are these people? Are these regular folk?

WILLIS: Well, there's a lot of regular folk doing this right now. In fact, the National Association of Realtors says that some 23 percent of people out there who are home buying are speculators, really investors.

And what I was talking about earlier, the really speculative part of this and turning over houses so quickly, these are people who live in red hot markets, Miami, Vegas, you name it, Ali.

And what they're doing is they're buying these with the idea they'll turn them over so quickly, housing prices going up so far, so fast, they'll be able to make money.

Now when I was in the Miami area this winter, what I found is that people were selling rights to buy these condos on the ocean front and making a ton of money doing this. Now the problem can be, what if prices go down?

VELSHI: Right. And a lot of the speculators, a lot of these flippers are highly leveraged; they're not paying capital down, they're not putting much of a down payment down, so if prices go down, you're now left with this full debt and exposure to your property.

WILLIS: Well, a lot of people, too, never expected to hold onto these mortgages. So they're really not prepared to pay for them.

VELSHI: Speaking of mortgages, how is it different from my going to the bank to get a mortgage on the home that I live in?

WILLIS: Right. Well, a lot of people are using for these speculative mortgages as well. Interest-only mortgages, you may be familiar with those. Those are the ones where you pay interest only, not the principle. A lot of people are using them for their primary homes. They can be a little dangerous if you never pay down the principle on your mortgage, but it does allow to you stretch your dollars if you're getting into highly speculative real estate.

VELSHI: And like stock trading, there's a line here between those people who kind of do on it the side for fun. Maybe they'll get another house, fix it up, or maybe they'll sell it sooner, and people who are now putting all of their net worth really into the business of being in property, and that's just dangerous because you're not spread out enough; you're not diversified. WILLIS: Well, possibly, and also this is really the day trading of the 2005s is what's going on here. When the music stops, when the market goes down, these people could be in a lot of trouble. In the meantime, they're having a heck of a good time, and having a lot of fun and making a lot of money. But it's going to be interesting to see how long this can go on for.

VELSHI: History says these things are often signs of a market top, when everyone's getting into it.

WILLIS: You bet. It could be a bubble.

VELSHI: Good to see you.

WILLIS: Good to you see, Ali.

VELSHI: Gerri Willis, our personal finance editor.

O'BRIEN: Ahead this morning, with a little help from the U.S., Iraq's rebuilt military gets ready for its biggest operation yet. We're going talk to Joint Chiefs Chairman General Richard Myers. That's up next on AMERICAN MORNING. Stay with us.

O'BRIEN: A familiar sight in Washington D.C. this Memorial Day weekend, Rolling Thunder, the annual motorcycle tribute to veterans, POWs and those who are missing in action roared into the nation's Capitol.

General Richard Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, addressed a Rolling Thunder rally earlier. He left his stars at home, though, dressed instead in the red, white and blue.

General Myers, in fact, is right there. He's joining us live from Washington, where he is monitoring the latest developments from Iraq in front of the World War II memorial at the nation's capital, in fact.

Nice to see you, general. Thank you for being with us this morning.

GEN. RICHARD MYERS, JOINT CHIEFS CHAIRMAN: Nice to see you, Soledad.

O'BRIEN: Thank you very much.

When does Operation thunder -- Operation Lightning, rather, get under way?

MYERS: It got under way in the last several days. The good news about it, is it's cooperation between the Iraqi Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense. It's important they cooperate. That's the police and the army, of course. It's important they cooperate given the security situation they have, so that's all very, very encouraging. O'BRIEN: It's operating in the wake, really, of a terrible week of violence. Some in the military say that the violence shows an increased sophistication on the part of the insurgents. Others say it's a sign of increased desperation. What do you think?

MYERS: Well, it's -- I think it's a pattern that we've seen. You know, a couple of years ago, they started going after coalition forces, hoping to drive them out of Iraq. That didn't work. Then they went after Iraqi security forces, hoping to keep them from signing up, and yet they're signing up in record numbers, both police and their army. And then they

went after Iraqi civilians, and that's pretty much where they are today. And yet Iraqis voted in the elections and January, and they say by a margin of 85 percent, they're going to vote in the constitutional referendum.

So they keep going after what we in the military call these centers of gravity. They're not successful. And they're using a very lethal means now with these vehicle-borne explosive devices. And they don't care who they kill. I mean it's men, women and children, average Iraqi citizens. They simply don't care.

O'BRIEN: There's a military intelligence officer, in fact, who says that five percent of the insurgents are foreign fighters, but they're the cause of the greater percentage of all the damage. How do you ever stop what you call incredibly destructive, those suicide attacks? What's the plan?

MYERS: Well, the plan is that the Iraqi security forces, as they get stronger, will take on more and more of this responsibility, and then we need a little help from the neighbors as well. We think most of the foreign fighters come in through Syria, so Syria needs to get a lot more serious about stopping that flow of fighters into the country, and then those neighbors of Iraq that are Sunni in nature, majority, need to encourage Sunnis in Iraq to become part of the political process, because in the end, since there is no political base in Iraq for the fighters causing all of this havoc, that in the end, the political process will be the way we'll win this.

O'BRIEN: There's a reporter out of "The Sunday Times of London" that says that Al Zarfawi has been treated in Iran for a shrapnel wound to the chest. Any evidence that these reports are true, that he's wounded?

MYERS: Soledad, what we believe is that the reports posted on their own Web site saying that he's been wounded, we believe those reports are true. We do not know the severity, though, of those wounds.

O'BRIEN: You are retiring in September, which makes this your last Memorial Day officially in uniform. Is it frustrating to leave the job before the work is done in Iraq?

MYERS: Well, I think there's been a lot of great work done overall in the -- our struggle against violent extremism, yet as you mentioned, there is a lot to do. It's not frustrating, and I'll tell you why it's not frustrating. We've got lots of folks ready to step in, certainly to replace me. General Pete Pace is going to be the new chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, if he's confirmed by the Senate. He's a terrific officer. So there's always somebody taking a step forward.

And on Saturday, I wasn't too far from New York City when we commissioned 911 new second lieutenants in the United States Army, graduating from West Point, and as you shake their hands, look into their eyes, wow, what a group of -- great group of young men and women, and they are absolutely ready. They call them the class of 9/11, because they came in before 9/11, 9/11 happened, the nation went to war, and they're going to take their place and they're going to do great things for this nation, as did the folks that are memorialized by this World War II Memorial in the background.

O'BRIEN: What would you like Americans to be thinking about today on this Memorial Day?

MYERS: Thinking probably about what they think about on every Memorial Day, that in America, one thing that's maybe not unique to our spirit, but very important to the American spirit, and that is that there are a few things worth fighting for, and one of them of course is our freedom, our way of life, and that's what we ought to think about, those that have gone before, that have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms that we enjoy today, and those that are currently fighting for those very same freedoms.

O'BRIEN: General Richard Myers is the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Nice to see you, sir. Thank you very much for being with us.

MYERS: Soledad, nice to see you again.

O'BRIEN: Thank you.

And AMERICAN MORNING is back in just a moment.

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Fortune

May 30, 2005

SECTION: U.S. EDITION; FEATURES/COVER STORY; Pg. 58

LENGTH: 5529 words

HEADLINE: Riding the Boom;

They snap up real estate, flip it, then chase the next hot market. They're the new day traders--and they're dancing on the edge of a volcano.

BYLINE: Grainger David, REPORTER ASSOCIATES Marilyn Adamo; Elias Rodriguez; Oliver Ryan; Christopher Tkaczyk; Jia Lynn Yang

BODY:

Zareh Tahmassebian is on the way to look at two of his houses in Phoenix. He is lost. Most people don't get lost driving to their own residence, but then, Tahmassebian has never actually been to these particular homes. There are a few reasons for that: (1) He has no intention of ever moving into them, (2) he lives in Las Vegas, not Phoenix, and (3) he owns six other houses--and a half share of seven more--in the greater Phoenix area. "Sometimes it's hard to keep track," he says.

Tahmassebian, just 22, is a big, affable guy who dresses the way a budding young speculator should: black trousers, a blue-and-white-striped shirt, cuff links, a Cartier watch, black suede loafers, and rimless purple sunglasses. The son of Armenian immigrants, he has spent the past four years in Las Vegas working as a mortgage banker, a job that he says paid him \$ 250,000 in salary and commissions last year. He has taken the day off to fly to Arizona for a "frame inspection." The houses he's inspecting are somewhere inside the Cholla Ranch development that's being put up by KB Home, one of the nation's largest builders. Right now he's in the general area--cruising southeast down Highway 10 in a white Chrysler 300M rental car--but lacking specifics. "Is that Tempe?" he asks. "I think I have some houses there."

After several uninterrupted miles of cactus, desert, and tumbleweed, it becomes clear that he's missed the turn, and he exits the freeway while dialing his broker. "Papa John!" Tahmassebian says into his cellphone. "Where are my houses?" To get more help, he dials KB Home on another phone, and soon he has a gleaming silver clamshell at each ear. For a moment the car drifts dangerously across the exit ramp, until I reach over to grab the steering wheel. "It's okay," Tahmassebian whispers, nodding toward the place where his trousers meet the bottom of the wheel. "This knee can drive."

When we finally arrive at the first construction site, on Paradise Lane, Tahmassebian begins his inspection. "See this wood?" he says, gesturing to the slatted frame of the unfinished house. "This wood made money for me! I don't own it--but I own the rights. I put a 10% deposit down, I haven't even made a mortgage payment yet, and it's already gone up \$ 45,000. What a country!"

THIS COUNTRY is obsessed with real estate. The number of chapters of the National Real Estate Investors Association has jumped from 44 in 2002 to 170 today. Eighty-six books on real estate investing were published last year, nearly three times as many as in 1998. Even reality TV is getting into the act: This summer the Learning Channel will air a show about people flipping real estate in San Diego, hosted by a woman who has bought and sold more than 40 properties in the past seven years.

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PC-00051

Fortune, May 30, 2005

And the appreciation! Surely you've heard, because real estate profits are the kind of thing that no one--your neighbor, your boss, yourself--can seem to shut up about. Since 2000 the median sales price of a single-family home has jumped 77% in New York City, 92% in Miami, and 105% in San Diego. "Nationally, all levels of real estate activity are at all-time highs," says economist Mark Zandi at Economy.com.

Of all the phenomena that the boom has wrought, perhaps the most telling is the return of speculators like Tahmassebian. Speculators are creatures who emerge every decade or so to exploit the hot business cycle of the moment--those whose aim is to ride the wave to its highest point and then, with miraculous skill and timing, get out before it crashes on all the greater fools beneath. (They are also, like fishermen, more than willing to exaggerate the size of their catch.) Lately their numbers have been multiplying with every cocktail-party tale of a dentist, florist, or shrink buying "threesies" and "foursies" (three or four properties at a time, in speculatorese) and making a killing. In March the National Association of Realtors released a study estimating that investors represent 23% of the homebuying public. That number includes second-home buyers; mortgage lenders estimate that pure investors account for a hefty 10% of all buyers. Historically the U.S. rate has been half that.

"You're seeing people now for whom investing in real estate is their life," says Jay Butler, director of the Real Estate Center at Arizona State University. "They are quasi-pro and amateur investors driven by the idea of self-sufficiency: This is their way to become financially independent. It's a move taken straight from the old day traders of the stock market."

Comparisons to the stock market bubble of the late 1990s imply that this is a party that will be over soon. At least that's what analysts, experts, and magazines like this one have been saying for two years now (see "Is the Housing Boom Over?" on fortune.com). Except it hasn't turned out that way. At least not yet. The Commerce Department just announced that new-home sales in March soared 12.2%, setting a new record. Now it looks as if 2005 might be another record year.

What the hell is going on out there?

To answer that question, FORTUNE toured model homes and half-built developments, attended seminars, and stood in condo lines with dozens of real estate speculators (who would probably prefer to be called real estate investors) in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Austin, and Miami. As a group, they tend to alight on a hot market, gorge themselves on property until prices skyrocket, then move on to yet another promising town. Many of them acknowledge that they are part of a bubble and that a correction is coming. But they believe it won't hit their market--or that if it does, they'll be able to get out in time. Despite all the warnings and a few bleats of self-doubt, most of these people are continuing to behave with all the stark raving urgency of panicked shoppers at an after-Christmas clearance sale.

To appreciate how intense the real estate craze has become, you could have done a lot worse than visit last month's Real Estate Wealth Expo in Los Angeles (slogan: "One Weekend Can Make You a Millionaire"). A 46,000-people, two-day lovefest at the Los Angeles Convention Center, it featured the advice of Donald Trump, bestselling author Robert Kiyosaki, motivational speaker Tony Robbins, and hip-hop impresario Russell Simmons. Imagine a late-night infomercial sprung bizarrely to life, with all the hucksters and viewers mingling in the same giant room, whipping one another into a get-rich-quick frenzy.

More than 100 kiosks filled the exhibit hall, selling everything from Miami condos to massages. Inside a phone-booth-like contraption called the Money Vault, attendees grasped wildly as gusts of air blew around a mass of fluttering fake dollar bills. At the end of one seminar on commercial real estate, a speaker named Scott Scheel offered the crowd the chance to buy a "training packet" of books and DVDs for the "discounted price" of \$ 1,620.50. A mass of people surged toward the cashiers, credit cards at the ready.

It is fitting that this hoopla took place in Los Angeles, since it was California that gave birth to the modern real estate speculator. In 1997 the average price of a California home was \$ 186,490. Today it's \$ 495,400. A market experiencing that kind of rapid appreciation is the perfect breeding ground for speculation, and an impressive run of it is exactly what California got. In Los Angeles between May 2003 and May 2004, for example, the number of homes sold that had been owned for less than six months jumped 47%.

As prices ballooned, however, speculating on California real estate became more expensive. It also became harder, because developers began inserting what are known as antispeculation clauses into their sales contracts. The clauses require proof that new homes are being sold only to genuine, we-want-to-live-in-this-house buyers, and they include a litany of penalties if the home is resold within a year.

But it wasn't very appealing to just cash out of real estate altogether. That's because individuals can defer taxes on the sale of an investment property if they make another purchase of equal or greater value within six months. That provided a powerful incentive for speculators to invest real estate gains in yet more real estate--but not in the Golden State. If California was no longer a good option, where else was there?

Las Vegas: Leverage 101

AT THE INVESTING Get-Together at the Durango Hills Golf Club in Las Vegas, Debbie Smith, a thirtysomething blond, is grappling with one of the many dilemmas facing the modern real estate speculator: remembering exactly how many houses you have. "We have four, five, six, seven, eight--wait, let me think," Debbie is saying.

She begins counting homes on her fingers, ticking off the names of developments. "Palmilla, Terracina, Cliff Shadows--" Mid-count, her husband, Jason Jones, with whom she hosts the monthly Get-Togethers, comes over to help. "There's the Mount Charleston cabin," he says. "And Mar-a-Lago," she adds. "So what is that? Twelve properties? I'm trying to think if there are any more..." Debbie takes out a business card and begins writing down the names of the communities--in Las Vegas mostly, but also in Boise and Albuquerque--on the back. She gets 12 again. And pauses.

"Oh! We have Solana," she says, suddenly brightening, as if a dam has burst. Her heavily mascaraed eyelashes flutter. "That just closed this week. Oh! And I have one in Mississippi too. I forgot about that. Fourteen." (Actually the couple have 20 properties; they're forgetting a block of apartments they picked up last winter.)

It should come as no surprise that Debbie and Jason, a former teacher and financial advisor, respectively, are from California. Though they didn't have a stake in the California home-price bonanza, it definitely got their attention. Starting in 2002, they applied lessons they learned from well-known real estate guru Robert Allen and bought--online--five Florida houses that were in pre-foreclosure, putting just \$ 1,000 down on each. They lost some money when the rents didn't cover the holding costs; then they watched the values leap. They were hooked.

By the summer of 2003 they had moved to Las Vegas, a market that was just beginning to show signs of life. In 2004, prices there rose 49%, and the speculators were swarming. Debbie and Jason began snapping up properties, putting anywhere between 5% and 20% down. They bought seven of them by draining their remaining \$ 140,000 in savings, they say.

The rest they bought by taking maximum advantage of a speculator's favorite tool: leverage. Though they were out of cash, they managed to keep buying by borrowing some \$ 400,000 in down-payment money from friends, family, and local lenders. Most of the properties carry adjustable-rate mortgages that are fixed at favorable rates for the next three to five years; the rents they earn from those properties just about equal their total monthly mortgage payments.

Today the couple estimate that the 20 properties they own are worth about \$ 8 million. If that's true--and until they sell, no one really knows--their total equity has grown to about \$ 4 million. That amount, the couple say, represents their entire net worth. But that fact doesn't seem to trouble them much. They plan to sell properties when they need the cash and hold on to the others to fund their retirement. "It's a risk," concedes Debbie, "but I really feel like it's a lot less risky than the stock market. Even if it does crash, it's not like it's worth nothing--like a stock, where the value can go all the way to zero. I guess it's much more exciting than it is scary."

As the networking part of the Investing Get-Together winds down, a short man in an aloha shirt comes over to the couple to introduce himself. His name is Kelvin Nakasone. He has an announcement to make: He has just bought a new house with the help of his real estate--investing mentor.

His what? It turns out that Nakasone, 40, a high school sign-language teacher who invests with his sister, an accountant, is a member of Russ Whitney's mentor program. Whitney is one of hundreds of real estate counselors currently making the rounds on late-night infomercials and at local real estate gatherings around the country. Whitney's program supplied Nakasone with a "mentor" who gave him a weeklong crash course in real estate; "extra coaching" in the form of a weekly followup phone call; and multiple training seminars in places like Cape Coral, Fla. For that, Nakasone paid more than \$ 35,000. ("Sheesh," Debbie says later. "Some of those programs are really good. But his sounds like it was a little expensive.")

Nakasone started with the program in October and bought a house in Las Vegas in December. How much did he pay for it? "I can't remember," he says cheerfully. Is he worried about talk of a bubble? "Well, I can foresee what will happen," he says. "I know in the near future a lot of people who have interest-only mortgages will get in trouble."

He's probably right. Interest-only mortgages--which don't pay down principal, so borrowers make lower payments than with conventional mortgages and thus can afford more expensive houses--used to be considered risky. In 2001 just 1.6% of all new U.S. mortgages were interest-only. But last year a stunning 31% were. If there's any sign that a downturn could get loads of folks in trouble, that's it.

So what kind of mortgage does Nakasone have? "Interest-only," he says. "I didn't put any money down. But for investors, it makes sense. We get lower monthly payments. In my case, I'll be selling it for a profit, so I don't care about the interest-only. See, I'm from Hawaii? Property values there went through the roof. I saw the same things happening here, and I just know what is going to happen." His sister, who handles the money side of things, told him that the property has already appreciated \$ 50,000. "I'm just waiting for the back end," he says.

Phoenix: Working the system

TRISH DON FRANCESCO, a 55-year-old in a scarlet Asian-style shirt, is peering over her red spectacles at a map of Phoenix's ever-expanding suburbs. Don Francesco runs Metropolitan, a real-estate-portfolio management company in the city, where business has been brisk lately. A board nearby lists names of recent buyers; some have bought more than 20 properties in the last week. It has been a long time since she took a day off. "Honey," she says, "I never take a vacation during a boom."

Just as the Las Vegas market was starting to sag last year, the Phoenix housing market was heating up. Having heard stories of what happened when the speculating boom hit Vegas, local real estate offices like Metropolitan began contacting California investors directly. Don Francesco sent out "millions" of direct-marketing faxes all over the state. She estimates that more than 700 California investors have visited her office in the last 18 months. More than half of them have purchased property. "We pick them up at the airport and drop them off," she says. "Why rent a car? Sometimes they're here maybe six hours total. Even then, a lot of them don't need to see the houses. They get here, look at the prices, and say, 'Two hundred and fifty grand? I'll take two of 'em!'"

In the past year the number of Phoenix homebuyers who identified themselves as investors has more than doubled, to 2,703. They bought 18% of all homes sold in the Phoenix area in 2004, according to Infocom, a local real estate research company. Phoenix builders, fearing that the speculative frenzy would damage their primary business, soon announced the same kind of antispeculation clauses that had proved largely successful in both California and Las Vegas.

By the time those measures were in place in Phoenix last fall, however, the swarm of investors descending on the city was almost too much to stop. At one of the construction sites of big builder Toll Brothers, a van full of investors from Las Vegas pulled up to a sales trailer shortly after the antispeculation measures had gone into effect. According to a Toll Brothers spokesperson, the saleswoman on call was so flustered by the group's displeasure at being denied an opportunity to invest in such a scalding market that she had to radio headquarters for backup. "They all wanted to buy multiple properties, and they wouldn't take no for an answer," says the spokesperson. "They were trying to climb in and give her their deposits. She had to lock herself in the trailer."

Today builders in Phoenix will tell you that the new antispeculation clauses in their contracts have solved the problem. However, the example of Zareh Tahmassebian--he of the multiple houses and the knee that can drive--tells a different story. He bought several of his houses in Phoenix after the rules were in effect. How did Tahmassebian manage to circumvent them? It was, to hear him tell it, relatively easy: Sales reps for some builders, including KB Home, gave him a call every time a development was in danger of not selling out. "I didn't even care where it was," Tahmassebian says. "You have to be ready to jump." (When told of this breach, KB Home spokesman Derrick Hall is philosophical. "Is it a perfect system?" he says. "No, it's not. It's a deterrent.")

On several occasions Tahmassebian has even found himself at the grand opening of a community--an event typically reserved for "end users," as the builders like to refer to people who actually plan to take up residence. The openings are sales events where hopeful buyers are invited to gather with their families for a lottery in which the lucky new homeowners are selected. In oversubscribed communities the lotteries can get tense. Elsewhere, they take on the quality of a new-community pep rally. When a winner is chosen, the lucky family's name goes up on the board. They get a button. Someone takes a picture. Everyone applauds.

To keep up appearances, builders will often insist that Tahmassebian attend, even though they know he's an investor. When they do, he gets on a plane to Phoenix, hops in his standard 300M, and floors it to the sales office. "It's a little uncomfortable sometimes," he says. "I'm out there by myself eating eggs Benedict with all these families. Every time they announce a name, there's a bunch of clappers and noisemakers going off while I'm out there pacing."

Since last year, when the Las Vegas market began to cool off, Tahmassebian has made more than 20 trips to Phoenix to scout, buy, and inspect houses. He is obviously a quick study. At age 17 he learned about leverage from his cousin, who mapped out the principles on a napkin in a diner. ("You can buy one \$ 200,000 house with cash, or you can buy 20 with 10% down. Which would you rather have?") At age 18 he bought his first home for \$ 126,000, watched it appreciate, and decided not to go to college. (He sold 2 1/2 years later for \$ 369,000.)

Tahmassebian bought his eight Phoenix houses with 10% down, a total investment of \$ 150,000 including closing costs. To buy seven more houses, he entered into a limited partnership with his best friend's dad, who lost money in the tech crash and is looking to make it back in the housing market. Each contributed half the down payments.

The houses aren't exactly throwing off cash: Tahmassebian estimates that he loses \$ 3,500 a month on them, since he doesn't bother to rent out all 15. "If I'm negative on a few, that's okay," he says. "I'm in it for the appreciation." In seven months, he estimates, the 15 properties have appreciated from \$ 2 million to \$ 3 million. He's planning to sell in the next two to three years, but if the market does crash--which he doesn't expect--it wouldn't be a disaster, he says: "You just hold on till it comes right back up."

Austin: The nomads

CERCHEERCK. I AM sitting in the back seat of a Ford Excursion with Stephen and Crystal Wong, the second of a two-car real-estate-speculation convoy that is cruising through Austin. Cercheerck. The voice of Tom Polk, the broker leading the tour from his black BMW, comes over a walkie-talkie. "Now, you know, there's something important that separates Dallas and San Antonio from Austin," he says, his voice crackling. "It's a little thing called quality of life."

Polk is laying on the hard sell because the Wongs are currently in the middle of a three-day, three-city tour of Texas--San Antonio yesterday, Austin today, Dallas tomorrow--during which they plan on picking up 15 houses. Though their permanent residence is in San Francisco, the Wongs, who run a Home Instead Senior Care franchise, have already purchased 12 houses in Phoenix over the past 18 months. In that time, they say, those properties have appreciated 47%, to \$ 2.4 million.

Now the Wongs are starting to sell a few of their single-family homes in Phoenix and roll that money into the next market that looks primed for serious growth. Outside of Florida, there is no obvious successor, which for many has meant that now is the time for a longer-term growth play. Though most of the largest Texas cities have experienced stagnant housing markets in the past several years, many speculators have the state on their radar. The numbers are beginning to reflect that: Single-family-home sales volume in Austin jumped 38% in March over the year before.

The Wongs seem to have arrived with their minds made up. "Dude, this place is a total steal," says Stephen, 35. "It's like a penny stock!" He is wearing mint-colored slacks and a slate herringbone jacket with a yellow-and-blue-striped button-down shirt. A pair of dark sunglasses hangs from his collar. As Tom the Broker recites local landmarks ("And there is the bar where Jenna Bush got busted for underage drinking ..."), Stephen explains his thinking. "I definitely don't feel like America is going to be like this forever," he says, looking out at the newly developed houses that dot the Texas hillsides. "You need to stake your claim now. It's like the Wild West again. Actually, I'm kind of shaking right now. I feel like a Coronado or a Cortez."

Behind the wheel of the Excursion, 25-year-old Crystal--in a cream suit, pink shirt, pink heels, and matching pink watchband--is so eager to move the tour along that she floors it past the black BMW until Tom radios over a request that she get back in formation. "Come on, Tom," she practically shouts when the radio is safely off. "I want to buy!"

If the Wongs and their broker are not on exactly the same page, it may be because they have never met before. As the urge to invest in properties far from one's hometown has surged, companies have sprung up that help put buyers in touch with hot markets. The firm that matched the Wongs and Tom Polk is the ICG Group, a full-service property-management company with offices in San Francisco and Tel Aviv. Though Polk also gets many out-of-state investors independently through the Internet, his connection with ICG has changed his business. "I used to get about 20% of my business from investors," he says. "Now it's 80% investors and 20% homebuyers."

As the convoy comes to a stop at the last of six largely indistinguishable developments on the tour, the other potential buyers on the trip, Scott and Lynda Hibner, emerge from Tom's BMW. The Hibners, who live in Phoenix, have invested only in Las Vegas so far. Scott sees the property-value tidal wave moving east, so the Hibners are planning a "relo" to the Austin area. "It's been moving from California to Nevada to Arizona," he says. "It's coming this way. Or it seems to be. We're hoping to find another Vegas, but I don't think it will happen."

With everyone in one place, surrounded by houses in various states of completion, I ask them if they're worried that they might be caught up in a bubble. "No, no--see, bubbles are for-really high-priced areas," Tom says. "It can't get much lower than here. In Texas the sky's the limit." "Ah, that's all guesswork and theory anyway," says Scott. "Nobody really knows." "It's certainly not here yet," Stephen says. "Anyway," Tom says, "that would be like your stockbroker telling you, 'Don't buy Dell, don't buy Whole Foods.' Sure, the price is high--but it's still going up." "Yep," says Scott. "They said that in California five years ago, and look what happened."

Satisfied, they let the talk wander to other subjects. The Hibners are planning to look for an existing home they could move into in a nicer area. Stephen and Crystal have decided to buy in all the areas where Tom the Broker has invested in property. ("I'm going to be piggybacking on everything you did," Stephen says to Tom. "I'll call you on Monday. I'm not trying to--you know the market. I like what you like.") As we get back in the cars and part ways, another group of customers pulls into the development's sales center behind us.

Back in the Excursion, however, Stephen keeps the subject of the bubble alive. "I love all the talk of the bubble," he says. "It eliminates all the chickens. Then I can buy cheap when the bubble does burst. But it's important to stay ahead of it. That's why I'm liquidating in Phoenix to start buying in Texas. You gotta keep the money moving."

Miami: End of the line

AT THE LAKEVIEW CLUB in Oakland Park, Fla., a former apartment complex near Fort Lauderdale that's about to go condo, the line of wannabe buyers is some 40 strong. It is 10 A.M., and the first buyer arrived at 3 A.M. to stake out a spot. By 11 A.M., when the sales begin, the crowd outside the complex--which consists of 443 peach stucco units clustered around a rehabilitated swamp, with prices averaging about \$ 200,000--is getting antsy. "Each year that I haven't bought something, I've always said to myself, 'Gee, I should have done it,'" says Darrell, a mid-30s hospital administrator in a faded blue T-shirt, shorts, and a buzz haircut, who is there to buy his first investment property. "It's the only place to put your money now to be sure of getting a good return."

Several others in the line nod in agreement. "Oh, yeah, that's what my uncle says," offers Cecilia Martinez, a 42-year-old billing agent dressed largely in pastels, one of the few in line actually looking for a place to live. "He says take money out of your IRA and put it in real estate." (She hasn't yet.) "I've had retirement accounts since 2000, and I've watched them dwindle to almost nothing," chimes in Randy Leonard, 46, an oncology nurse. "Had I had it in real estate, I'd be sitting pretty."

Indeed. Since March 2004, home prices in Fort Lauderdale have jumped 31%, Port St. Lucie 39%, Cape Coral 43%. In Miami, the euphoria has reached, in many cases, truly over-the-top proportions. Consider a party thrown last month by Fortune International (no relation to this magazine), one of the largest developers in town, for a soon-to-be-constructed condo called the Ivy. White stretch Hummers carried guests between three party locations as bikini-clad models decorated with real-estate-themed body paint paraded amid massage tables and lychee martinis. Brokers and investors mingled with choice buyers and hotshot international clients.

The party was well attended, because getting in early on a Florida condo at pre-construction is the new version of scoring a spot in an Internet IPO. But while connected insiders usually get the choicest deals, most developers also host a public sale in which they release the remaining units to the masses. Those masses, many of whom are newbie investors, are piling in--in what feels like a last desperate attempt to get rich. The result is a sight that has become as much a part of Florida scenery as the palm tree: the condo line.

Because projects can sell out in a matter of hours, buyers will do nearly anything to assure themselves a piece of the action. They camp out for days in lawn chairs and beneath umbrellas in the hot sun. They bring coolers of food and drink. They bicker over who is ahead of whom. "Riots break out from time to time if the right security is not in place," says Kim Kirschner, head of Kirschner Realty in Hollywood, Fla.

Back at the Oakland Park condo sale, a team of 30 or so Kirschner employees wearing royal-blue shirts and black pants are scurrying around shuffling buyers through "model units" and into the "map room," where they pick remaining units from a giant aerial view of the development. As the day goes by and more condos sell, the Kirschner brain trust gathers behind closed doors to gradually raise prices for the remaining units; one unit is rumored to be up \$ 10,000 by early afternoon. As the development fills and word of further price increases spreads, the pressure mounts for buyers toward the back of the line.

"It's like any game. It's the guys who get in early and in the middle that make money," says John (he declines to give his last name), a chiropractor who is on hand with his girlfriend, a nurse in a white tank top and hot-pink lipstick

who's also in the market. He has bought three other investment condos in the area already this year. "It's the guys at the end who are left holding the bag."

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL how far a mania will go before it turns. But even some diehard speculators, like Jason Mitchell, are starting to get nervous. Before graduating from Syracuse Law School in 2003, Mitchell, 31, flipped two houses in Las Vegas in one month each. "It was a gold rush," he says. "Everyone was flipping houses as fast as they could. You would go to dinner, and the waitress had just moved from L.A. and flipped two houses in her first week." In total, Mitchell and his wife, Connie, bought seven investment properties in Las Vegas. Today, however, they have sold all but two. "I had almost like a eureka moment," he says. "It just hit me that I was seeing the same group of other investors at every development site. They were buying six to seven houses each. They were buying in other people's names. I thought, 'My God, the bottom is about to fall out of this thing.' So I stopped."

Further east, in Phoenix, sisters Cheryl and Carolyn Lawyer, 45 and 34, are also feeling a little wary. They both quit their jobs last year (as a marketing consultant and a manager at a semiconductor company, respectively) to rehab houses together. Now they often get calls from friends just getting in the game. "We're worried everyone's in denial," says Carolyn. "There are a lot of people getting in at the top of the market, and you could hear some horror stories if it doesn't last."

Then there's Eric, 39, a Wall Street banker who also declines to give his last name. He recently put a \$ 25,000 deposit down on a \$ 650,000 condo in Miami that he heard about from a broker friend at the Maley Group, who had recently helped him buy another condo in New York for \$ 1.25 million. The Miami waterfront building has yet to be constructed, so he's watching and waiting from the safety of his Manhattan office. "I read all the stories about real estate and condos in Miami," he says. "You know, saying, 'Everyone is a speculator,' and 'It's a herd mentality.' I see them all the time now, and I wonder: Am I one of those people?"

REPORTER ASSOCIATES Marilyn Adamo, Elias Rodriguez, Oliver Ryan, Christopher Tkaczyk, Jia Lynn Yang

FEEDBACK [gdavid@fortunemail.com](mailto:g david@fortunemail.com)

BOX STORY:

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BOX STORY:

Ten Hottest Markets

Home prices in these metro areas have been scalding. But real estate experts say that some of them-- such as Las Vegas--are cooling off.

City % increase in home price 2002--04

Riverside-San Bernardino 67.9%

Las Vegas 66.7%

Reno 55.2%

Los Angeles-Long Beach 53.9%

Anaheim-Santa Ana 52.0%

San Diego 51.5%

Sacramento 51.1%

Sarasota, Fla. 49.9%

Bradenton, Fla. 46.7%

Miami-Hialeah 46.0%

FORTUNE TABLE / SOURCE: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

"You're seeing people now for whom INVESTING IN REAL ESTATE is their life. It's a move taken straight from the old day traders of the stock market."

"It's a risk," says one speculator, "but I really feel like IT'S A LOT LESS RISKY THAN THE STOCK MARKET. I guess it's much more exciting than it is scary."

"Sometimes they're here six hours total," says a Phoenix property manager. "They look at the prices and say, 'Two hundred and fifty grand? I'LL TAKE TWO OF 'EM!'"

"I had almost like a eureka moment. I was seeing the same investors at every development site. I thought, 'My God, THE BOTTOM IS ABOUT TO FALL OUT OF THIS THING.'"

"It's like any game," says an investor. "IT'S THE GUYS WHO GET IN EARLY and in the middle that make money. It's the guys at the end who are left holding the bag."

GRAPHIC: FOUR COLOR PHOTOS: PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALYSON ALIANO, Meet the speculators (clockwise from top left): ZAREH TAHMASSEBIAN has 15 properties around Phoenix; DEBBIE SMITH AND JASON JONES control 20 properties in several cities; SCOTT AND LYNDA HIBNER are shopping for property in Austin; STEPHEN AND CRYSTAL WONG own 12 properties in Phoenix and the Dallas area.; COLOR PHOTO: ALYSON ALIANO, HALLELUJAH!, Attendees give it up for motivational speaker Tony Robbins at last month's Real Estate Wealth Expo in Los Angeles.; COLOR PHOTO: ERIKA LARSEN, SKY HIGH, New condo complexes like this one are sprouting all over Miami.; COLOR PHOTO: BAERBEL SCHMIDT, FOLLOW THE MONEY, The view in Surprise, Ariz., outside Phoenix, where developers can't seem to build houses fast enough; COLOR PHOTO: BAERBEL SCHMIDT, REAL ESTATE NATION, A house under construction near Phoenix; COLOR PHOTO: BRIAN SMITH, GET IN LINE, Condo buyers stew for hours in Florida (top); a sales army awaits them (bottom).; COLOR PHOTO: ALYSON ALIANO, LEAVING LAS VEGAS, Jason Mitchell is no longer buying in that market.; COLOR PHOTO: JEFFREY SALTER--REDUX, APOCALYPSE NOW?, Chocolate! Bikinis! Real estate! Welcome to a recent party thrown by Fortune International, a condo developer in Miami.

LOAD-DATE: May 16, 2005

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The Halifax Daily News (Nova Scotia)

May 30, 2005 Monday

SECTION: PERSPECTIVE; Pg. 11

LENGTH: 593 words

HEADLINE: Rolling the dice on marital bliss

BYLINE: Porteous, Sandra

BODY:

There are things you think you'll never do. You know the kind of stuff - skydiving, racecar driving, cruising down the Nile and, for me, attending a Vegas wedding.

Normally, the odds of a Nova Scotian witnessing a wedding in Vegas seem slim to none. It's the kind of thing Britney Spears does without blinking, but even going to Vegas seemed unlikely. Yet, there I was - a wedding party passenger in a long, lean limo heading down the strip.

People who go to Vegas talk a lot about the strip. It is the Spring Garden Road of Sin City. There are a few places in the world that cannot be captured by a photo or explained by a tour book. Vegas is one of those places. Look at a map and you see a line of massive hotels. Walk around Vegas in May, and you do so in 104-degree heat where the stroll from one hotel to the next takes 20 minutes. The clever visitor uses pedways or outdoor escalators, but even then, walking is a workout.

They say Vegas is like Disney World for adults, and that's about as close as you can get to describing it. This is the only city I have seen where the entire reason it exists is fun. It used to be if you didn't gamble, Vegas had little to offer. Today, every hotel is home to fabulous headliners, restaurants fronted by famous chefs and state-of-the-art shows. Vegas even has an art gallery!

So, when our good friends Sue and Greg decided to make their long relationship legal, we were lucky enough to be invited. The happy couple decided to skip the usual Halifax wedding followed by a boat-club reception. Instead a group of us would fly to Vegas for their wedding. It would not be just any wedding. Sue and Greg were getting married in a car.

It's not as easy as it sounds. They had to line up the day before at 8 a.m. to get their licence. In the hours before the wedding, we began noticing plenty of wedding parties coming and going. No fewer than 135,000 couples get married in Vegas each year. The folks at our wedding chapel knew we were coming, but since they are open 24 hours a day, timing was not a huge issue. The chapel added a drive-up window to make things easier, and it was a blast to have a front-row seat at the nuptials without opening the car door. Our limo driver, Karen, acted as if drive-through weddings were as common as a grocery store run, but we all started to get excited. The bride and groom looked wonderful and had their rings and paperwork ready to go. At the chapel, there were other wedding parties gathering. Sue, Greg and their witnesses got out to sign the papers and then it was on to the drive-through.

Funny thing about love. It doesn't matter where or how you get married. When the minister at our pull-up window pronounced Sue and Greg man and wife, we were all caught up in the moment. After passing around the tissue, it was time to pop the champagne and toast the happy couple.

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The entire wedding party went out for a five-course dinner and Sue and Greg's shiny new rings were proof I had not imagined the entire event. It will be a long time before any of us forgets the minister asking Sue if she would "take the man sitting beside her in the long, black limo."

It struck me that Vegas weddings are popular for a reason. Somewhere between eloping and the mega-weddings that cost more than a house lives the Vegas alternative. The wedding was simple, a tonne of fun and where else can you guarantee a wedding day without rain?

If getting married means playing the odds, you might as well take the gamble in the place that invented the game. Viva Las Vegas.

sandraporteous199@hotmail.com

GRAPHIC: She did: Britney Spears had one, but few of us ever get to a Vegas wedding.

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Copyright 2005 The Lexington Herald Leader
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Lexington Herald Leader (Kentucky)

May 30, 2005 Monday

SECTION: SPORTS COPY; BRIEF; Pg. C2

LENGTH: 341 words

HEADLINE: PEOPLE

BODY:

SENIOR PGA PLAYER REPRISSES 'TIN CUP' ROLE

Joe Inman was 13-over par in the Senior PGA Championship yesterday in Ligonier, Pa., and then things really started falling apart.

Inman, a three-time Champions Tour winner, took a 15 on the par-5 18th after hitting five consecutive sand wedges into the water that guards the right side of the green.

The first two shots hit the green where he wanted, only to find a ridge that carried the ball off the green and into the water. Inman also sliced two shots into the lake.

"I looked to my caddie and said, 'How many balls do we have left?' " Inman said. "He said, 'One.' The pressure is on -- last ball. So I aimed it farther left and put it over and then chunked it enough that it didn't have much spin and so it stayed on the green. And then I three-putted for 15."

Inman said he wasn't just going through the motions on the hole.

"I tried on every one of them," he said. "I wasn't not trying. And I wasn't going to quit. I went on and played and I didn't scream and yell, but I never realized ... can't understand how that green can be that soft, how that ball comes back that far."

THE DEVILS, YOU SAY

New Jersey State Assemblyman Craig Stanley is taking issue with the New Jersey Devils nickname. "This is an age where symbolism is very important," said Stanley, a Baptist deacon whose resolution to rename the team is to be introduced next month. What chance does the NHL team give the proposal? Think hell freezing over.

"I can assure you the Devils name will never change, and I think there are more important things to be thinking about than something that will never happen," chief executive officer Lou Lamoriello said. "It's who we are and what we want to be."

THE LAST WORD

Paul Konerko of the White Sox after playing the crosstown Cubs last weekend:

"This series is great, but I don't think anybody complains when it's over. It's kind of like going to Vegas. It's good for three days, then you want to get the heck out of there."

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LOAD-DATE: May 30, 2005

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The Mirror

May 30, 2005, Monday

SECTION: 3 Star Edition; NEWS; Pg. 3

LENGTH: 149 words

HEADLINE: DO YA THINK I'M CELTIC?;
DAD-TO-BE ROD'S JOY AT CUP WIN

BYLINE: BY CAMERON ROBERTSON

HIGHLIGHT:
BABY ON WAY: Pair at match

BODY:

ROD Stewart seems in seventh heaven as fiancée Penny Lancaster whispers to him.

Could it be the thought that Penny, 34, is set to make him a dad for the seventh time ... or that his beloved Celtic have just sealed the Scottish Cup Final with a 1-0 victory over Dundee?

Rod, 60, was flooded with congratulations from fellow fans at Hampden Park after pal Sir Elton John earlier confirmed The Mirror's exclusive that Penny was expecting.

Elton said: "I saw Rod in Vegas recently and he told me Penny was pregnant. I love Penny, she's good for him. She doesn't put up with any nonsense from him at all. He's changed a bit and I think she's a wonderful girl."

The rocker proposed to Penny at the top of the Eiffel Tower two months ago. They are expected to marry next May.

After the game, Penny confided to publican Ian McLeod that her first child was due in September.

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The New York Post

May 30, 2005 Monday

SECTION: All Editions; Pg. 17

LENGTH: 326 words

HEADLINE: WEIRD BUT TRUE

BYLINE: Bill Hoffmann, Wire Services

BODY:

A gas-station attendant working the overnight shift scratched \$1,400 worth of lottery tickets without paying for them - then wrote a letter to his boss, begging for forgiveness.

"I don't know why I bit the hand that fed me . . . This is what kills me: I'm not a stupid person. I know better," Bryan Lietz, 40, wrote to the manager of the Conoco station in Perham, Minn.

It didn't work. Lietz was fired and charged with state-lottery fraud. And, to add insult to injury, every one of his scratch-offs was a loser.

*

The real loser on "The Contender" last week was a 35-year-old Rhode Island man whom cops spotted in the audience of the reality-show boxing match - in violation of his bail.

Paul Iannuzzi, 35, of Gloucester, who's up on child-porn charges, had not gotten permission to go to Vegas, where the match was held, and a detective who had worked on the case spotted him on TV.

*

It's a wipeout in Finland, where a four-week-old paper-industry strike has led to a dramatic shortage of toilet paper.

Things have gotten so bad that desperate Finns flying home from other countries are stocking their suitcases with rolls of toilet paper instead of souvenirs.

*

A police sniffer dog has caused a political stink in South Africa's Parliament - by doing its business under the seat of a prominent opposition leader.

The pooch poop beneath the bench of Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi provoked outrage among politicians, because some believed it was left there as an insult before a speech by President Thabo Mbeki.

A police spokesman insisted that it amounted to a simple call of nature.

*

Dutch cops responding to a report of two burglars - a man and a woman - breaking into an empty house found the pair inside having sex.

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The frisky felons said they'd broken in because they were desperate to make love and wanted privacy but had no plans to steal anything.

Sympathetic police gave them a break and didn't press charges.

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Copyright 2005 Philadelphia Inquirer
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Philadelphia Inquirer

May 30, 2005 Monday CITY-D EDITION

SECTION: EDITORIAL; Pg. A10

LENGTH: 422 words

HEADLINE: Editorial / Rendell and Gaming Leaving Las Vegas

BODY:

Without Gov. Rendell's efforts, legalized slots gambling wouldn't be coming to Pennsylvania at all. And without a "yes" vote from his appointees to the state's Gaming Control Board, no gambling operator will receive one of 14 lucrative licenses.

Given such perceived clout, the governor must meet plenty of folks who hope to be his new best friend - none more so than those with designs on a gaming license or gambling-related interests.

So Rendell needs to keep his distance from gambling executives. That's common sense. It's also living by the spirit of ethics rules set down by the state's slot machine law.

Recently, the governor slipped up. And he knows it.

His duties as finance chairman of the Democratic Governors' Association brought him face-to-face with gambling company officials during an association fund-raising trip to Las Vegas.

Were Rendell not from a state about to launch slots, his schmoozing on behalf of the governors' group would have been just another outing on the national political stage. His own campaign couldn't benefit financially, since no corporate donations are permitted under state law. Being from Pennsylvania made all the difference, though.

Among the execs listening to Rendell's pitch on behalf of the governors' association were some in contention for slots business in Harrisburg. Others may seek to join the scramble here.

Rendell did not cross any legal line. Rather, the concern is that he risked creating an impression among citizens that gambling operators could try to gain the inside track by backing this cause.

Rendell now sees that problem.

"You can say that I used bad judgment" by attending the fund-raising event, he says. "Thinking about it, I might not do it again."

Those second thoughts are welcome.

To be clear, Rendell sought no personal financial gain at the Vegas meeting. And give the governor his due, also, for backing tough, ethical guidelines on gaming in his state. After signing the gaming law last summer, he issued an executive order barring his appointees from holding any financial interest in gaming operations.

State lawmakers weren't nearly so scrupulous about such conflicts. Under the gaming law, legislators and their families can hold up to 1 percent gaming interests, which could translate into millions of dollars.

Dubious moves such as that have created a lot of public doubts that the state's slots operation will be run on the straight and narrow.

Rendell should know better than to do anything to fuel such skepticism.

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The Sports Network

May 30, 2005 Monday

SECTION: Daily Racing Form - DRF (News Story)

LENGTH: 773 words

HEADLINE: Wheldon gives Maloofs a winner

BODY:

By DAVE TULEY (DRF) - On Sunday, King Palm ran second in Hollywood Park's fourth race, a maiden special event.

That is hardly newsworthy, even though King Palm is owned by Maloof Brothers Enterprises, the owners of the Sacramento Kings and the Palms casino here in Vegas - hence the name King Palm.

Away from the track for a full year, King Palm is now 0 for 5 lifetime with three consecutive runner-up finishes. Coupled with the Kings' unceremonious first-round exit from the NBA playoffs, it hasn't exactly been a banner spring for the Maloofs with their sports ventures.

But don't shed any tears for them, because shortly before King Palm's loss, Dan Wheldon won the Indianapolis 500. As Wheldon celebrated by drinking milk in Victory Lane at the famed Indianapolis Motor Speedway, his image was broadcast nationally and internationally with the Palms logo prominently displayed on his driver's suit.

The Palms is a sponsor of the Andretti Green Honda Racing team, and the investment certainly paid off in exposure on Sunday.

Wheldon was the fifth choice at most sports books in Las Vegas, ranging from 8-1 to 10-1.

* In the nightcap of Sunday's auto racing doubleheader, Jimmie Johnson won the Coca-Cola 600 at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C., for the third year in a row. Johnson was the 7-1 favorite at Station Casinos.

The 600-mile race, the longest on the Nextel Cup circuit, is usually a marathon, but it was even longer than usual - at least timewise - as a record 22 caution flags helped cause the race to last for 5 hours, 13 minutes, and 52 seconds.

Race officials put out a red flag with nine laps to go after leader Joe Nemechek ran into a wall after running over debris on the track, stopping the cars so that the race wouldn't be finished at a snail's pace under a yellow flag.

Bobby Labonte, a huge longshot at 45-1, seemed in control after the restart, but Johnson passed him on the final turn to win by less than half a car length.

Sports book notes

The Arena Football League playoffs are down to four teams after the playoffs opened Sunday.

Underdogs won three of the four first-round games - the lone exception being Georgia, which defeated Tampa Bay 62-46 at home. Colorado also won at home. The Crush - a 3-point underdog to defending AFL champion San Jose - won 56-48. The bigger upsets were Orlando going into New York and winning 47-42 and Chicago invading Los Angeles and winning 52-45.

Three of the four games went under the total.

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PC-00068

The Sports Network May 30, 2005 Monday

<table width="300" align="right" border="0" cellpadding="0" cellspacing="0"><tr><td align="center"></td></tr><tr><td><script language="javascript">AdVert('DRF','NEWS.SPORTSBETTING','300','250','EDIT300'); </script></td></tr></table>

The semifinals will be played on Sunday - point spreads and totals for the AFL usually come out on Wednesday - with the winners to meet on June 12 in ArenaBowl XIX at the Thomas & Mack Center here in Las Vegas.

Las Vegas Sports Consultants has Georgia as the 7-5 favorite to win it all, with Colorado at 5-2, Orlando at 3-1, and Chicago at 7-2.

* Justin Leonard nearly squandered an eight-stroke lead in the FedEx St. Jude's Classic in Memphis, Tenn., but held on to defeat David Toms by a stroke. Leonard was the 25-1 co-fifth choice at the Las Vegas Hilton, while Toms was the 7-1 favorite. This week, the PGA Tour moves to Dublin, Ohio, for the Memorial Tournament, with Tiger Woods back on the course as the 9-2 favorite, followed by Vijay Singh at 6-1 and Ernie Els at 8-1.

Coast contests have carryovers

Even though Hollywood Park ran on Monday with a special Memorial Day card, the track will be running Wednesday. And that's good news for horseplayers in Las Vegas, as the regular offerings of contests (Coast Casinos, plus another at the Excalibur) and twin quinellas (Station Casinos, and the Plaza downtown) will be available.

The highlight Wednesday is the weekly \$5 buy-in contest at the Coast Casinos (The Orleans, Gold Coast, Barbary Coast, Suncoast) on the first five races at Hollywood. In addition to the \$2,000 in daily prize money, there is also a \$2,960 carryover in the progressive jackpot for anyone going 5 for 5.

For those trying to turn short money into long money, it gets even better on Thursday in the \$10 buy-in contest at Coast Casinos, as the carryover in that separately run pool stands at \$22,040 after six straight carryovers. That contest also involves picking the first five races at Hollywood, and it has \$3,000 in daily prize money.

LOAD-DATE: May 31, 2005

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VARBusiness

May 30, 2005

SECTION: COVER STORY; Pg. 28

LENGTH: 4146 words

HEADLINE: Change Agents -- The story of Juniper's efforts to build a world-class channel program

BYLINE: Luc Hatlestad

HIGHLIGHT:

On a dreary Friday afternoon in March, a group of Juniper Networks employees gather at Arrivederci & Bella, a large, dimly lit, nautical-meets-Italian-themed restaurant that looks out over the bay about 30 miles south of San Francisco. The 15 or so Juniper folks are there to celebrate, sort of. The occasion: a wonkish event that only true industry insiders could appreciate-the completion of a project to make their M-Series routers "channel-ready."

BODY:

The attendees hail from two distinct parts of the company: Some are from the channel and business-partner team responsible for product sales and distribution, while the others are product-marketing types who spend their days trying to promote the technology.

Despite the abundance of food on the menu, the tempting bottles on the wine list and the imminent weekend, no one is getting too rowdy. The Juniper managers have planned a post-lunch round of fun in the form of go-cart racing, but relentless rain outside has jeopardized that plan. As the lunch winds down, the group, led by Juniper channel chief Tushar Kothari, discusses what else they might do to prolong the celebration, but few suggestions are forthcoming. Welcome to a blow-out, over-the-top party, Juniper style.

What Juniper lacks in flash, it more than makes up for in production. Since Kothari joined Juniper from Cisco last July, he and his lieutenants at this plucky David have been singularly focused on one big thing: building a world-class partner program that will bring the company the name recognition and, perhaps more important, the market share enjoyed by networking Goliath Cisco Systems.

During this time, Juniper has opened its doors to VARBusiness to observe the company, its people and its efforts. For six months, the magazine has enjoyed unprecedented access to a wide variety of closed-door meetings, internal and external briefings, and strategy sessions where Juniper's channel team has worked feverishly with its product, marketing and financial teams to create that world-class program.

Now, as the company begins to roll out the fruits of its labor, we can finally report what we observed firsthand, including the challenges Kothari and his colleagues face, the decisions they have to make, and the way they work. The result is a uniquely intimate look at what might just be the prototypical, post-boom, Silicon Valley company, one that eschews hype and glitz to produce predictable, positive results with yeoman consistency.

Starting From Scratch, Almost

There are times in the life of a hot Valley company when nothing seems to stop it. Think Apple in the 1980s, Netscape in the 1990s and Google today. That's the kind of roll Juniper's approaching right now. In two years, the company has more than doubled its revenue to \$1.3 billion. Losses posted in 2001 and 2002 have been completely

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erased, and last year the company generated roughly \$1 in profit from every \$10 that it sold. As for its share price, it, too, has doubled in the past two years.

The company's channel-management team is also on a roll. In barely two years, a mere 10 months with Kothari at the helm, it has transformed the company's sales model from 64 percent indirect in 2002 to 75 percent indirect last year, with an eye toward running 100 percent of business through the channel as soon as possible.

It's a time when even mistakes or setbacks seem to have a silver lining. At a recent off-site partner advisory council meeting, for example, two Juniper channel execs had their laptop computers stolen from their hotel minutes before they were scheduled to deliver a key PowerPoint presentation to their top partners. Steve Pataky, Juniper's marketing director for worldwide channels, thought his work was lost, but he and his colleagues buckled down and quickly rebuilt the presentation in time for their session. "It was a major headache, but it taught us a hard lesson about having backups," Pataky says.

This may have been the biggest bump in the road that Juniper's partner team has encountered since Kothari's arrival last summer. Recruited from rival Cisco after a long vetting process, Kothari was essentially told to do whatever he felt necessary to build a world-class program. "When I got hired, I went to my boss and asked how many open recommendations I'd have [to hire a channel team]," Kothari says. "Their response was, 'We've done our homework on you, and we're giving you carte blanche,' which allowed me to bring in very capable people to work with and build a team very quickly."

Kothari has assembled a group that comprises other Cisco veterans, including Bob Bruce, vice president of Americas channels, and Carolyn Crandall, who managed distribution at Cisco for eight years. The team also includes Donna Grothjan, who left Ingram Micro after 16 years to become the company's vice president of channels. Rounding out the team are Pataky, director of customer service Barry McPherson, global channel marketing manager Doug Erickson and vice president of marketing Christine Heckart. Does that mean the team's complete and no one's doing someone else's job now? "No one's doing two jobs now," Kothari says, with a laugh. "We're all doing five."

Juniper CEO Scott Kriens says the free reign he gave Kothari has paid off. "The results we've had so far speak to how well he has built the channel team," he says. "He was able to bring hundreds of years of experience to the table very quickly."

Though he was given carte blanche, Kothari didn't exactly start with a blank slate. When he arrived, the company had a fledgling J-Partner program that was largely based on the successful channel program built by NetScreen, which Juniper acquired in 2004. But Kothari and his team began revamping it right off. "We did some reconciliation work to put together our legacy-focused carrier company with the VAR-focused NetScreen," McPherson says. "We started to do that before Tushar arrived to provide a vision for a worldwide channel program, but once he got here, he backed up and took a broader look at what we want to do."

The Plan In Motion

When enticing resellers to go with Juniper, the company's channel team tries to strike a balance by making it easier for partners to qualify for its program without having the entire channel rushing to sign up. For example, the company made the decision early on to recognize Cisco certifications rather than making partners requalify. "We're late into the router game, so it's ludicrous to tell them to get all new Juniper certifications," Pataky says. "By giving them credit for Cisco certifications and doing gap training, it quick-starts them and us and provides investment protection." (According to Juniper, about 90 percent of its partners also partner with Cisco.)

That doesn't mean any VAR can qualify for the program. "We try to find the hybrid 'super' solution provider who can add value," McPherson says. "If you're just a box-pusher, you probably won't get into our program." Even with this screening process, the company has added approximately 1,000 new partners since October.

This suits partners just fine. Dan Wilson is vice president of vendor relations for Accuvant, a security reseller and consultant in Denver, and a member of Juniper's partner advisory board. Wilson says the company's selectivity has him optimistic about Accuvant's potential in the program. "They've drawn nice lines between the partner levels, and they want value, not volume, though there's probably a place for both," he says. "If training were the only barrier to entry, any Cisco VAR could automatically be a Juniper partner, which is why the elite levels are invitation-only."

Once partners are in the program, Juniper will create a system designed to make their daily lives run as smoothly as possible. The company has roughly 50 channel account managers who work with partners to plan two to four quarters

out, and they also have added a number of subtle techniques to the program that they hope will relieve some standard reseller headaches. These include encouraging partners to establish better relationships with their distributors, having distributors honor VAR-generated order ID numbers, simplifying the purchasing process by aggregating orders whenever possible, helping partners generate contacts and leads, and giving elite partners exclusive access to some products in exchange for adding value to them via services or bundling. Juniper also fulfills 100 percent of its orders through the channel and claims to have no designs on expanding its services business at the expense of partners.

"We don't want to undermine the channel and give the impression that they can put together a deal and we come in and take it direct," says Kothari's boss, Jim Dolce, Juniper's vice president of worldwide field operations.

Together, these qualities have resulted in positive feedback from J-Partner's "early adopters." One of these is CSCI, a security-focused systems integrator and managed-services provider in San Diego. CSCI came to Juniper as a NetScreen partner just as it did with Compaq when HP bought the PC-maker several years ago.

"After that acquisition, HP listened to us and brought us along in their program; Juniper is a miniversion of that," says CEO Rich Tear. "A year ago, I didn't know a damn thing about Juniper. But they're willing to give back what you put into it, and they've been very helpful [about] how I can be a better MSP; they're really thinking outside the box on that."

Channel-Focused, Channel-Friendly

Rewind to mid-January at Juniper's headquarters in Sunnyvale, Calif., the heart of Silicon Valley and, truth be told, the heart of an area brimming with once-booming, now frequently deserted, buildings and office parks. The company's main campus has three low, wide office buildings, one of which has basketball and volleyball courts that a Juniper spokesperson swears get used regularly, though all evidence is to the contrary.

Inside, the decor is largely glass, steel and blonde wood, sleek and modern but without a lot of dynamism. Behind the keycard-protected doors are acres of half-full farms of cubicles. Juniper isn't dour, but it is bland. The primary source of color is found in the generic modern art prints and photos, furnished by a corporate art supplier, that line the walls. Dot-com era start-ups were notorious for offbeat qualities like foosball tables, skateboarding employees and raucous work environments. There's little of that here; the decibel level throughout most of the campus makes a library seem like a gymnasium.

Inside one of the glass-walled conference rooms called the Amazon—they are all named after famous bodies of water—another in a seemingly endless series of meetings is under way. Today's topic: the partner portal. Inside the room are five people. They are joined on the phone by a caller from Europe. As in many meetings at Juniper, it's difficult to tell who's in charge, but that's not to suggest chaos. It's a by-product of the company's flat hierarchy, in which everyone shares an equal voice and ownership of his or her corner of the J-Partner program.

The discussion digs deep into the most granular levels as the attendees discuss such issues as whether to include model numbers on this form or that one, which e-mail address a J-Partner applicant should use and what calling an application "complete" truly means. In the midst of this, the voice on the phone warns of possible burnout among the IT staff. "At some point, we need to take a breather because we're starting to kill people," he says. "We need to get out of being reactive and stick to the six-to-nine-month plan for getting things done." The others briefly acknowledge his concern and move on.

Like many groups, Juniper's channel team is largely reflective of its leader. Kothari may lack the voluble personality of Symantec's Allyson Seelinger or IBM's Frank Vitagliano, the imposing presence of Cisco's Paul Mountford or Microsoft's Allison Watson, or the back-slapping sales vibe you get from Cisco's Chuck Robbins and Edison Peres (something Juniper's gregarious Bruce possesses in spades). In fact, some have speculated that one of the reasons Kothari didn't move farther up the channel food chain at Cisco was because he simply didn't fit in as well as the others; it's practically impossible to imagine him hamming it up onstage in all-black rock-star attire, as some Cisco executives did at their April partner conference in Vancouver.

What Kothari does have is a reticent quality that seems like shyness at first, but, in fact, is really a steady confidence that propels him and his team to tackle hurdles big and small in the same measured, focused way. Make no mistake: The IT staff building the portal may have been flirting with burnout, but they hit their deadlines. At Juniper, they've coined a phrase, "Tushar Time," to let each other know when a deadline is particularly crucial.

"'Tushar Time' means it needed to happen yesterday," Pataky explains with a laugh. "At one point, it had a nice connotation, but now it's, 'Oh my God, it's Tushar Time!'"

The transformation of Juniper's rudimentary partner program into a global one within nine months of Kothari's arrival was done on Tushar Time, which has made Kothari very proud indeed. "Our execution has been very good because I brought a lot of experience with me," he says, unable to resist a subtle dig at his former employer. "The biggest thing I've learned is that I don't always know what to do, but I always know what not to do, which has been very valuable."

One thing Kothari has decided not to do is offer rebates to partners. Many partners of other vendors, Cisco's especially, have grown accustomed to them, but Kothari is philosophically opposed to the concept. "Rebates are medicine for a disease we don't have," he says. Another disease Juniper is striving to avoid is channel conflict. Crandall, for example, who jumped from Cisco to Juniper last December to help manage J-Partner's systems integrators, says her new company's two-tier program has effectively reduced conflict thus far.

But not everything has gone smoothly. Integrating the NetScreen partners with Juniper's pre-existing channel has been one of the biggest challenges, especially among lower-level partners. "The NetScreen support structure was geared to react quickly to customer needs, but it wouldn't scale over time," McPherson says. "Some lower-level partners don't need the same access to some features of our support, and some still want access but don't want to qualify for it, so some of the NetScreen partners have realized that they have to evolve to more results-driven behaviors."

The truth is, Juniper isn't doing anything radically different in constructing J-Partner; it's merely stripping away the superfluous that befall a lot of cumbersome channel programs and streamlining its operations into something that's navigable. And it encourages the partners themselves to innovate.

Gary Fish is president and CEO of FishNet Security, an integrator in Kansas City, Mo. The one-time NetScreen partner says he hasn't actually seen many changes yet from Juniper, but was pleased with how smoothly the company helped him transition over from the acquired company.

"The ultimate driver for us is what technology our customer base is asking for, but the compelling reason to leave a relationship with a vendor is because they have a poor channel program," Fish says. "Juniper is not really doing that many unique things with its program, but they are doing an equally fantastic job as anyone else who has a good partner program."

Always Be Executing

While Juniper's ambitions are spectacular, its methods for achieving them are not. Six months spent inside the company leaves an impression of steady, almost mundane, consistency and execution. Juniper managers set goals, meet their deadlines, identify new objectives and don't rest on their laurels. There are no big egos hijacking meetings or storming from conference rooms in a huff; to this point, they're all on the same page.

Moving along to late March, Kothari sits down with CEO Scott Kriens to update him on J-Partner's progress. The two meet like this once or twice per quarter, but have little day-to-day contact; to wit, a moment after the meeting starts, Kriens interrupts Kothari to clarify why there's a reporter in the room.

With the company's partner conference approaching in May, Kothari is getting Kriens up to speed on all that has been accomplished and what he needs from the CEO to prepare for the event. The presentation is measured, almost formal; Kothari has prepared PowerPoint slides for Kriens to review, and much of the conversation is a fairly elementary discussion of partner programs in general.

"How do you measure how many partners you need?" Kriens asks.

"It's a dynamic thing," Kothari explains. "As long as you keep the sales practices clean and set the rules of engagement early, all the partners will add to a sustainable and profitable model."

Kothari tells Kriens that after the May show in Vegas, there will be others in Italy and Asia. "If it's Italy in the summer, I'll go," Kriens jokes. "I can survive that." They discuss what types of awards the channel team is preparing for the Vegas event—since it's their first partner conference, none—and Kriens asks if there will be a Q&A forum for partners to grill Juniper executives.

The meeting concludes with Kothari showing Kriens the company's latest print ads and a brief discussion of the success of their unique branding campaign (see "A Comical Approach To Selling," page 30). Kriens is pleased with the

results, but says he thinks the company is doing well for simpler reasons. "It's interesting to see the payback from the brand investments we've made," Kriens says, "but when I recently asked a customer why he does business with us, he said, 'Because you do what you say you're going to do.'"

That's Juniper in a nutshell. The company lays out plans big and small and completes them one by one, quickly and efficiently, with minimal conflict and even less flash. During the entire six months VARBusiness spent as a fly on the wall at Juniper's headquarters, by far the most colorful display put on by the company happened in Las Vegas in May, at the much-anticipated partner conference. Juniper hosted roughly 300 of its top partners for one day at the plush Bellagio Hotel, putting on a playful show that used the company's unique branding methods to sell the partners on why they should believe that Juniper will be the industry's next great channel company.

Emceed by Bruce, the program included a two-part spoof of the David Letterman show, dropped in between presentations by Juniper executives, that included comic bits, interviews with company executives, even a Top 10 list. The send-up could've been an outright bomb, but its clever conception succeeded, thanks largely to the performance of the celebrity impersonator. Even the Juniper execs got in on the fanciful act, eschewing PowerPoint almost entirely and concluding each of their speeches by figuratively laying a "paver"-inscribed with qualities such as "team engagement," "we listen" and "integrity"-onto a cartoon screen behind the stage that, when completed, showed partners a yellow brick road leading to a sunny, promising alternate route.

Kriens ended the day with an off-the-cuff address-part invitation, part challenge-to the partners, asking them to engage with the company on all levels and challenging them to strive for true innovation and excellence in bringing more value-adds to customers. "We're the ones who are laser-focused on the safety and satisfaction of users; people don't like important problems solved casually," he says. "If you see us acting ineffectively, step in and tell us. We can't create a win for Juniper unless it's preceded by a win for you."

Bottom line, it's all about that laser focus. It's why Juniper could create a global channel program almost from scratch within nine months. It's why it moved from not even on the map in the eyes of some VARs to their most crucial vendor partner within a year. It's why it can entice respected industry veterans with no compelling reason to switch jobs to come to Sunnyvale and take a shot at doing something great. "It has been a very comfortable transition for me," says Grothjan, a well-respected fixture at Ingram Micro who relocated from Southern California to become Juniper's vice president of channels. "In looking at Juniper and where they're heading and knowing of Tushar's presence here, that all made it an easy decision for me."

That focus is why on that dreary Friday afternoon, at the tail end of a celebration lunch with the weekend just a few hours away and the go-cart racing rained out, after discussing whether to go bowling, maybe play pinball or do something else to prolong the festivities, the team came to a unanimous decision: They went back to work.

Birth Of A Channel Company

- 2/04 Acquires NetScreen Technologies (completed 4/04)
- 3/04 NetScreen's partner program earns 5-star rating from VARBusiness
- 7/04 Hires Tushar Kothari, unveils J-Partner program
- 7/04 Kothari hires Bob Bruce
- 9/04 Begins training partners for J-Partner program
- 10/04 Formal J-Partner launch/road show
- 11/04 Kothari hires Donna Grothjan
- 12/04 Appoints Bob Dykes CFO and EVP, business operations
- 12/04 Kothari hires Carolyn Crandall
- 1/05 Launches J-Partner in EMEA region
- 2/05 Launches J-Partner in Asia Pacific region
- 3/05 Announces federal J-Partner program

3/05 Acquires Kagoor Networks (completed 5/05)

4/05 Acquires Peribit Networks and Redline Networks (Redline completed 5/05)

5/05 First annual J-Partner program; announces Service Affiliation and Enterprise Infranet programs

Source: VARBusiness

A Comical Approach To Selling

How's this for David and Goliath? At 12:31 a.m. on Jan. 1 of any given year, Cisco already has outspent Juniper's entire annual marketing budget.

Overwhelming disadvantages like that have caused Juniper to revamp its entire branding strategy. What it came up with departs wildly from classic technology marketing and, Juniper hopes, will produce wildly successful results.

Under the theme "Life on the Net," Juniper has created a cartoon-based campaign that takes a humorous look at the daily grind of the IT business. The approach is brought to life by Kevin Pope, an illustrator who takes everyday scenarios from Juniper and creates single-frame cartoons-think Dilbert crossed with The Far Side-that capture the comedy and absurdity of buying, selling and working with technology.

Christine Heckart, Juniper's vice president of marketing, says that by creating something people will clip out and post on their cubicle walls or breakroom bulletin boards, the company is leaving a memorable impression and getting more bang for its marketing buck. (Some of its print ads even have perforated edges for easy removal.)

"The Cisco brand is very well-known and highly regarded by its customer base, so we have to spend smartly," Heckart says. "We provide the insight to Pope about what makes life in this business exciting, frustrating and interesting, and he turns it into these funny scenarios."

She says the third-party focus-group feedback Juniper has received proves they're on the right track. "The focus group people told us that in 25 years, they've never seen a stronger positive response to a print campaign," she says.

Heckart admits that even though Juniper's brand awareness has increased by about one-third in the past year and the response rate to its direct-mail campaigns is strong, the company's overall base is still low. That is one reason the company sponsored a sweepstakes during the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

"By picking certain markets, you can look like a national advertiser for a lot less than it costs to actually run an ad," she says.

As successful as the campaign has been, however, it has its limits. The quirky brand extends to PowerPoint shows that look like handwritten white-board presentations rather than polished slides. The company says this method encourages more interaction, but sometimes-just like on a white board-the diagram gets so busy it becomes difficult to decipher the message.

Juniper partners also have occasionally questioned the campaign's ubiquitousness. Gary Fish, president and CEO of FishNet, a security integrator in Kansas City, Mo., tells of making a sales pitch to a corporate client who asked for white papers that could further explain the company's technology. The FishNet sales rep went to Juniper's Web site and found the white papers adorned with cartoons.

"They have some that don't have cartoons, but the one that was readily available did," Fish says. "I hate to be negative, and the illustrations are fine for ads and things like that. But our thought was that the client wouldn't take us seriously if we gave him something with cartoons all over it." -L.H.

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LOAD-DATE: May 30, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Chicago Tribune Company
Chicago Tribune

May 29, 2005 Sunday
Chicago Final Edition

SECTION: Q ; ZONE C; MALE CALL ; Pg. 9

LENGTH: 568 words

HEADLINE: It's a darker day for hero worship

BYLINE: Keith Blanchard

BODY:

Just saw "Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith" . . . awesome. No, I didn't wait in line for the grand opening at midnight with all the face-painted, light-saber-wielding, uh, performance artists. But I did see it the following afternoon, so technically I saw it on the first day. Which I guess makes me a flaming geekazoid.

So what? This baby made \$155 million in its opening weekend . . . it isn't just for nerds anymore. Or maybe we're all nerds now, with our laser pointers and cellphone cameras. Any way you slice it, though, "Sith" is a cultural touchstone, just like the original "Star Wars."

But it's a little more complicated this time around.

The hero myth affects guys at a gut level. We take movies home with us. I almost wrecked my car racing home from "The Road Warrior." My dad, as a child, lost an eye trying to deflect arrows a friend was tossing at his face, as they'd seen in a kung fu movie.

All our favorite movies, from "Scarface," "Animal House" and "The Blues Brothers" in the late '70s and early '80s to the more recent "Lord of the Rings" and "Matrix" trilogies, share a common theme: Regular guys encounter unusual circumstances that turn them into unlikely heroes.

Why the universal attraction of that one basic theme? Because guys believe our movies dress-rehearse us for real life.

In his heart every man believes he's a hero, or would be, confronted with dire enough circumstances.

Our movie hero isn't just a model; he's our proxy; he responds to situations in exactly the cool, clever manner we hope we'd deliver if we were Neo, Frodo or Serpico. What made "Star Wars" so compelling, back in 1977, was its good guy/bad guy simplicity. Mark Hamill wore white; he was a fresh-faced kid with a soft-spoken mentor . . . there's your hero.

And was there ever a clearer villain than Darth Vader? Black acrylic mask, storm-trooper henchmen, the voice of an emphysemic snake--there was nothing redeeming or even equivocal about him. Imagine him at a dinner party, for example:

HOSTESS: Well, Mr. Vader, can I get you some more mashed potatoes?

VADER: [hiss] [hiss] I find your lack of gravy disturbing. [hiss]

HOSTESS: Oh, go on, have some. Ack! [electric carving knife has risen of its own accord, hovering at the base of her neck.]

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VADER: [hiss] Perhaps some of those cookies instead.

Needless to say, the world has gotten complicated since 1977. We're back into the war business and have lost control of the deficit; we've seen sports scandals and school shootings and the horror of 9/11. It's surely no coincidence that somewhere along the way we developed a taste for darker, more complicated heroes.

"Good" simply isn't good enough anymore--Superman is a tights-wearing sissy compared with Batman; the Dark Knight, gloomy and haunted and impenetrable.

That brings us back to "Revenge of the Sith," which charts Anakin Skywalker's journey from dedicated Jedi wunderkind (at the end of Episode 2) into Darth Vader (in the original "Star Wars," a.k.a. Episode 4). And it turns out his fascinating fall from hero to villain is just right for these complicated times.

Although you can't exactly pull for Anakin, you can perhaps feel his pain: It's tough to resist the temptations of the Dark Side, as anyone who has been to Vegas can attest. Once, you could have sliced right through this sort of dilemma with a light saber. But that was a long time ago ... in a galaxy far, far away.

q@tribune.com

NOTES: QUALITIES OF LIFE: THE GUY PAGE

LOAD-DATE: May 29, 2005

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Detroit Free Press

May 29, 2005 Sunday 1 EDITION

LENGTH: 691 words

HEADLINE: Poker series moves to roomier casino

BYLINE: BY BILL ORDINE; KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

BODY:

For nearly a year, poker fans, many of them recent converts, have been watching last year's World Series of Poker on television, following Connecticut patent attorney Greg Raymer's triumph over a record field of more than 2,500 competitors on his way to a whopping grand prize of \$5 million in the No-Limit Texas Hold 'em World Championship.

And as Raymer's run has been broadcast over and over, poker rooms -- both actual ones in casinos and virtual ones on the Internet -- have been doing incredibly brisk business dealing to players hooked on gambling's runaway craze.

With the poker frenzy roiling, participation records will be shattered in a couple of weeks when the 36th World Series of Poker opens in Las Vegas and tens of thousands of players compete in more than 40 events that will be held from June 2 to July 15. The world championship spans the final nine days.

For the first time, the tournament will be held mostly away from its birthplace, the former Binion's Horseshoe Casino, now simply known as Binion's, in downtown Vegas. Harrah Entertainment, in its second year as owners of the tournament, will hold all but the final two days of the championship event in a new 60,000-square foot convention center at the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino, just off the Strip on Flamingo Avenue.

When the switch to the Rio was made -- the Horseshoe had been bursting at the seams last year, and the crowds are expected to triple -- it was announced that the last two days of the championship would still be held at Binion's, a parting salute to tradition. While some close to the tournament have said there has been talk about keeping the entire event at the Rio, Binion's -- now owned by a West Virginia-based gaming company -- was still scheduled for its last hurrah in mid-July.

Regardless of where the championship bracelet is handed out, organizers are bracing for a maximum field of 6,600 players for the World Championship, which will have a prize pool of more than \$60 million, if all seats are sold, and an estimated first-place prize of \$7.4 million. In fact, everyone who makes the final table will become a millionaire.

However, in addition to the marquee event, the so-called preliminary tournaments, many offering millions in prize money, are also expected to max out on entries. Last year, Scott Fischman, then 23, became the youngest player ever to win two World Series events.

Fischman won his two preliminary events in four days, a No-Limit Hold 'em championship that earned him \$300,000 and a tournament called HORSE, which included several poker games, for an additional \$100,200. TV viewers might remember Fischman as the player who jubilantly flopped backward on a cash-strewn table after one win.

With some many players expected to descend on Vegas over six weeks for the tournament, Fischman says it's unrealistic to expect to win again so soon in such a crowded field.

N/R 37

PC-00078

Detroit Free Press May 29, 2005 Sunday 1 EDITION

"It's going to be unreal," the former casino dealer said. "Whatever they had last year for any event, it will probably be double or triple that. It's really crazy when you think about it, because before last year, the largest tournament ever was the 2003 World Championship when (Chris) Moneymaker won, and that had about 830 players.

"You have to be willing to change your goals. If you talk to 1,000 players, 995 will tell you that their goal is to win the World Series. You can't set a goal like that, because you're setting yourself up for a big letdown."

Players gain entry to World Series tournaments either by buying a seat -- most preliminaries require a buy-in of \$1,000 to \$2,500 and the championship is \$10,000 -- or by qualifying in so-called satellite tournaments. Satellites are held in either real casinos or on Internet poker Web sites, where players pay smaller buy-ins and vie for a World Series seat. Harrah's officials say checks, some of them in seven figures, have been arriving regularly as satellite tournament sponsors send in their fees for players who have won those stepping-stone events. The opening field for the World Championship will start in three flights July 7-9.

LOAD-DATE: May 29, 2005

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The Gazette (Montreal)

May 29, 2005 Sunday
Final Edition

SECTION: SUNDAZ: PAPARAI; Chaud Show; Pg. B2

LENGTH: 598 words

HEADLINE: Antoine Durand: evermore Mr. Nice Guy

BYLINE: GAETAN L. CHARLEBOIS, Freelance

BODY:

In a Word: We like the work of Antoine Durand and when we asked others about the qualities they like in his acting, several words came up again and again: reliable, sensitive, touching.

The way an actor looks sometimes determines the ebb and flow of an entire career. Durand has a gentle man's face and much of his output has turned around that: featured roles in the series *Jamais deux sans toi* and *Mon meilleur ennemi* and in theatre in *La mort d'un commis voyageur* and *Le vent et la tempete*. He did get to break out a bit in TV's *Les Heritiers Duval*, playing a man caught between two women, and in *Oreste* in theatre, playing Menelaus, the stormy husband who launched the Trojan War.

He shakes things up a bit more with his voice-over work. You can hear him in the dubbed French versions of *The Perfect Storm* and *Scary Movie* and the animated *Robots*.

Last year, however, he got to break the mold, with his face out there, and appeared in the dramedy, *Premier juillet*, in which he portrayed the pater of a family whose dysfunctions are only heightened by the madness of moving day. This is one of those little overlooked gems - give it a look, it's just come out on DVD.

So we had to ask him - as we have asked actors pigeonholed as perverts, villains and stud muffins - what it's like when directors look at you and think "nice guy ... period." In a word: "It doesn't bother me too much. Sure you wish directors had more imagination because, as my father, also an actor, said, 'A bandit doesn't look like a bandit or they'd never let him in a bank.' But I do get a lot of satisfaction from my voice work. There I can really put aside that gentle man image and I love the work."

Sniping: TQc's *Les Francs-tireurs* is in reruns but it is difficult to watch all the bonhomie between the two hosts as, it turns out, it was clearly fake. Benoit Dutrizac and Richard Martineau have taken to sniping at each other in the press since Dutrizac was canned. Meanwhile, Dutrizac is joining the lunchtime news at TQS - if that ain't a downward career move, we don't know what is.

Inanimate rights watch: The consumer magazine *Protegez-vous* runs a little section each issue on hideous translations which appear in ads and packaging for various products. This month's issue showed a promotion for Motorola - not a small company, eh? - which, en anglais, offered a "Free Mini Backpack" and, in French, a "Liberer le mini-sac a dos." Call Amnesty International to liberate all backpacks now!

Spot the boob: How many times is Quebecor going to run the picture of Sophie Marceau having a wardrobe malfunction on the red carpet at Cannes? A few more at least. This week in the *Journal de Montreal* there it was to promote a TVA show with a reminder we would see the film of the actual event on said show.

N/R 38

PC-00080

Get it!: The must-have ring-tone for your Rogers cellular is available at casonneperusse.com. The sound/music/comedy genius Francois Perusse has made terrific sound bites available. The most hilarious - Le ble d'inde - is free until June 19.

Short Takes: How not to sell a movie: Radio-Canada ran the turgid and pretentiously titled Turbulence des fluids with this on-screen description: "A young seismologist falls for a bushfire pilot." Pierre Karl Peladeau and the little Julie Snyder's new baby: 10 pounds! - the mind reels. Wajdi Mouawad refuses the Moliere: Paris's Figaro calls him "un mechant couac." (Literal translation: false note; real translation: killjoy.) Britney Spears and Kevin Federline took in both Mystere and Ka on a recent Vegas trip - Viva Cirque du Trailer Trash!

gaetancharlebois@sympatico.ca

LOAD-DATE: May 29, 2005

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Hindustan Times

May 29, 2005 Sunday 2:30 PM EST

LENGTH: 86 words

HEADLINE: Jada Pinkett Smith's sexy weekends!

BYLINE: Hindustan Times

DATELINE: Sydney

BODY:

Sydney, May 29 -- Jada Pinkett Smith has revealed that she sends her children off to Las Vegas with her mother, so she can enjoy sex breaks with her husband Will Smith.

"You send the kids to the grandparents. My mother visits a lot and I make them go with my mother to Vegas so I can have the house to myself," News.com quoted her as saying.

The actress said that she keeps her relationship fresh by enjoying sexy weekends at home.

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-78400

LOAD-DATE: May 30, 2005

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PC-00082

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Global News Wire - Asia Africa Intelligence Wire
Copyright 2005 The Jakarta Post
The Jakarta Post

May 29, 2005

SECTION: 15

LENGTH: 809 words

HEADLINE: BARTENDING WITH A SMILE AND FLAIR

BODY:

The warm lighting, moon orchids and lounge atmosphere of the Oriental Bar at the Hotel Mandarin Oriental Jakarta provides a cozy place to unwind after a day's work, accompanied by a live band crooning the tunes of Norah Jones.

The Oriental may not be the neon-lit, rowdy establishment of Cocktail, the 1988 film starring Tom Cruise, but it has bottle-juggling bartenders.

Bar Manager Agung Adhi Prabowo has recently brought home a trophy from the 2005 International Bar Association (IBA) flairtending competition, held from May 10 through May 13 at the Hong Kong Exhibition and Convention Centre. The only Indonesian entry among 64 top bartenders from Asia, Australia and Europe, Agung came in second place.

"We are so, so proud of him," said Mandarin Resident Manager Markus Schneider, who was bubbling with excitement the week Agung returned from Hong Kong.

"But it's really 1st Runner-up," Agung said with his characteristic smile. "There's only one winner -- the No. 1 bartender."

Born and raised in Jakarta, Agung graduated in 1998 from state tourism senior high school Panca Sakti, where bartending is part of the hotel, restaurant and tourism services curriculum. He did not initially plan on becoming a professional bartender -- until he saw Cocktail. Inspired, he began practicing juggling and other bar tricks every day with a co-worker at the now-defunct Poni Cafe in Pondok Indah.

"Bartending is a way to have personal contact with guests, to get to know people. It's also about entertaining guests."

When Agung decided upon his career path, however, his parents disagreed: "My father said, your life will be in alcohol."

But determined to become a top-notch bartender, Agung became a member of the Jakarta Bartenders Club (JBC) in 2000, and used his spare time from a 5 nights on, one night off work week to take advanced certificate courses from 2001-2004 -- including a Ministry of Tourism bartender course and the Sopexa wine training course.

"But I didn't do it alone. I had the support of friends and fellow bartenders."

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PC-00083

The Jakarta Post May 29, 2005

Following his dream paid off when he entered the 2001 Jakarta Bartender Competition held at Hotel Horison Bekasi and placed fourth. With this initial success, he also won his parents' support.

Since then, he has competed annually in successively higher competitions. He has arguably been Indonesia's No. 1 bartender since 2001, when he won the From Java to Bali with Love competition -- but he missed the 2003 Java-Bali meet in Malang.

Agung usually prepares two months ahead of a competition with a daily regimen, but that year, he received the invitation with only two weeks left to practice.

"So I practiced every day after work until morning, from about 3 a.m. to 5 a.m. I pushed myself too hard when I was tired, so...," he shrugged. One night, he was juggling three bottles when two crashed in mid-air, and a small shard of glass flew into his eye, scratching it.

"I had to get an operation on my eye and was hospitalized for four days."

He traveled to Malang anyway, "to watch everyone's performance".

"When I got there, my friends from Lombok, Bali, Java, Surabaya, they all went 'what happened to you, Agung?'" He laughs, "Then they joked, 'Well, this time we can really compete'" -- because Agung was not.

From his humble beginnings as bar boy in 1997, he worked up through junior bartender and to bartender, and was working at the Hotel Shangri-La's BATS nightclub when he was scouted in 2003 by Schneider. The Mandarin was reopening the hotel bar under a new concept -- the Oriental -- and Agung joined the team as Bar Master, the No. 2 bartender.

Last year, he was invited to his first IBA competition, even though Indonesia is not an association member.

"I was sent to Excelsior Hotel Hong Kong in 2004 to train the bar staff there, and they remembered me."

Sponsored by the JBC and the Bartender Fan Club Jakarta, an informal network of professional and aspiring bartenders, he went to Shanghai and placed fifth.

"But the big one is the world bartending competition in Las Vegas held by Skyy Vodka ... the Skyy Legends." Entry is, again, by invitation only.

And if he gets to Vegas, what then?

"Well, I want to open my own bar as a reward, and a bartending school."

Now the vice president of the JBC, Agung is passing on his skills and experience to a new generation of bartenders while working to establish a national association.

As for becoming a great flairtender, he advises, "Practice, practice, practice."

"And break as many bottles as you can," he smiled.

Agung's competition cocktail, "Bamboo", with vodka, crushed lychee and passionfruit, and lychee and strawberry Monin syrups, will be featured in June as a Cocktail of the Month at the Oriental Bar.

Chisato Hara, The Jakarta Post, Jakarta

JOURNAL-CODE: FJKP

LOAD-DATE: May 30, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Lincoln Journal Star,
All Rights Reserved
Lincoln Journal Star (Nebraska)

May 29, 2005 Sunday
City Edition

SECTION: K; Pg. 5

LENGTH: 510 words

HEADLINE: Grand Canyon a wonderful day trip from Las Vegas

DATELINE: Lincoln, NE

BODY:

I'm not much of a gambler, so when my mom, sisters and I decided to go to Las Vegas, I knew I wasn't going to spend four days sitting in a casino.

Since Vegas is within driving distance of the Grand Canyon, I decided to look into day trips to one of the seven natural wonders of the world.

A search of the Internet provided a plethora of companies that have Grand Canyon trips - by bus, plane and raft. As much fun as the rafting and aerial trips would have been, my mom and I chose to take a bus trip instead. We were picked up at our hotel at 6 a.m. and got back at 10 p.m. It made for a long day, but it was worth it.

As part of the trip, we stopped at Hoover Dam. Construction of the dam in Black Canyon 34 miles from Vegas played an important role in Vegas' ability to withstand the effects of the Depression. The project employed more than 21,000 people in the five years it took to build the dam.

But before we got to the dam, we had to go through a checkpoint located about a mile away. Since 9/11, the dam is one of the most tightly guarded structures in the country. Every vehicle traveling across the dam is checked, and some, such as tourist buses with luggage, are not allowed to cross. The guns placed in the hills high above the dam, originally installed to shoot down Japanese kamikaze pilots in World War II, are once again armed 24/7.

Lake Mead, which was formed by damming the Colorado River, shows the effects of the drought that has affected the region for the last decade. The lake is more than 80 feet lower than it was in the 1980s, and this is more than evident by the white calcium carbonate deposits that ring the lake. You even can see this "white necklace" while flying high overhead.

Once we got past Hoover Dam, we drove three hours through northern Arizona. The landscape varied from desert to mountains to desolate plateaus. But then, all of a sudden, you're there, at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon.

Words cannot describe the immensity and grandeur of the Grand Canyon. It stretches as far as the eye can see: 277 miles long, 18 miles wide at its widest and one mile deep.

It's hard to imagine anyone trying to get to the bottom, but they do. You can hike down or ride a mule down, but it takes a full day just to get to the bottom. And it's 25-30 degrees warmer along the Colorado River than up on the rim.

There is no surface water in the South Rim, leading to plants and animals that have adapted to the conditions. All water for human use is trucked or pumped into the area.

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PC-00085

In 1540, Captain Garcia Lopez de Cardenas was sent by Francisco Vazquez de Coronado north from Mexico in search of the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola. Cardenas instead found the Grand Canyon, and reported back to Coronado that there was nothing there that anyone would be interested in. Was he ever wrong! Last year, more than 4.5 million people visited Grand Canyon National Park.

For more information

Grand Canyon: www.nps.gov/grca/

Hoover Dam: www.usbr.gov/lc/hooverdam

Las Vegas: www.visitlasvegas.com

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority: www.lvcva.com

GRAPHIC: 1. The Grand Canyon is a sight not to be missed. Recent rains in the Southwest have greened everything up, giving the canyon much more color than usual. 2. Security is high and the water level in Lake Mead is low at Hoover Dam, located 34 miles from Las Vegas. PHOTOS BY JULIE KOCH Lincoln Journal Star

LOAD-DATE: June 1, 2005

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Copyright 2005 N.Y.P. Holdings, Inc.
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The New York Post

May 29, 2005 Sunday

SECTION: All Editions; Pg. 22

LENGTH: 457 words

HEADLINE: HAMPTONS DIARY - GRASS ENCOUNTERS AT SPIELBERG SPOT

BODY:

STEVEN SPIELBERG is embroiled in a War of the Weeds: A tall grass is threatening to destroy the director's backyard in Wainscott.

Phragmites invaded part of Georgica Pond after a 1930s hurricane, and several decades later the weed began overrunning the enclosed waters near the filmmaker's home with its long underground roots, according to East Hampton Natural Resources director Larry Penny.

The reeds, measuring 12 to 16 feet high, have blocked scenic views for Spielberg and fellow neighbors like philanthropist Arthur Ross, and was on a course to take over the pond's cove, which is 50 to 60 acres.

Enter the state Department of Environmental Conservation, which recently granted East Hampton's request to remove the species without herbicides.

Phragmites removal - with sickle-bar mowers and hedge trimmers - is slated to begin near the end of June.

"It's going to be a war" against the phragmites, said Penny. But "I think it will work."

Asked if he'd rather have a machine or Tom Cruise to help rid East Hampton of phragmites, Penny replied: "I'll take the sickle bar mower."

*

The East End is Eden for celebrity dogs, who by Memorial Day weekend are begging to be cleansed of all their city dirt and grime.

Jimmy Buffett's Maltese and Christie Brinkley's mini-Labradoodle are among the regular clientele of Beach Paws Salon and Boutique in Wainscott, where owner Lara Plimpton helps the beleaguered canines unwind.

"It's amazing how dirty they get in the city," Plimpton told Diary.

Howard Stern prefers to wash his English Bulldog himself, but often shops at the boutique for couture collars.

In preparation for the summer season, the famous pets get spa treatments including clipped nails, plucked ears, a shampoo massage, a hairstyling and drying - all off leash.

"A lot of groomers will put them in a crate and bake them like chickens," Plimpton said. "We use a handheld hairdryer."

*

The party season kicks into gear tonight with a slew of soirees:

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PC-00087

* A screening of "Lords of Dogtown," a new skateboarding flick, will be followed by an after party at the Blue Parrot in East Hampton Village.

* Bellydancers and models will turn the tabletops at JL East into a catwalk at the release party of the Girls of Summer Calendar.

* Rap mogul Russell Simmons and wife Kimora will show off their new Baby Phat line of sneakers and accessories at the Star Room.

* Hamptons Magazine will turn up the heat at least six degrees with Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick at Cain at Cabana.

* Turntable titan Jonathan Peters is in the midst a Memorial Day weekend marathon that began begin in Vegas and ends tonight in the Hamptons.

By Jeremy Olshan, Selim Algar and Dan Kadison. E-mail Diary at hamptons@nypost.com

GRAPHIC: - JIMMY BUFFETT Puppy love. - KIMORA SIMMONS Sneaker feature. - WAR OF THE WEEDS: Steven Spielberg (right with wife Kate Capshaw) faces a menace at his Georgica Pond home (above). - JIMMY BUFFETT Puppy love. - KIMORA SIMMONS Sneaker feature.

LOAD-DATE: May 31, 2005

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Copyright 2005 MGN Ltd.
The People

May 29, 2005, Sunday

SECTION: 3 Star Edition; FEATURES; Pg. 30,31

LENGTH: 1355 words

HEADLINE: BRITAIN'S POKER MILLIONAIRE;
I WAS TEARAWAY SON OF A HUMBLE TRUCK-DRIVER.. BUT WINNING CARD GAMES

BYLINE: BY MANDY APPELYARD

HIGHLIGHT:

WINNING HANDS: Dave holds poker's unbeatable Royal Flush and (below) wears Devilfish rings Pictures: PHIL CALLAGHAN/ ROB RATHBONE; E CAR: Dave owns a Lexus with personal number plate; FAMILY MAN: Dave with wife and kids

BODY:

HE dresses in sharp suits, wears exquisite diamonds, drinks fine champagne and drives fast cars.

But Dave Ulliott is the son of a trucker who was thrown out by his dad at 16, has never had a proper job and even been in jail.

The slick-haired millionaire has made his fortune from playing POKER.

And the 46-year-old - whose poker circuit nickname is Devilfish - can't believe his luck. He said: "Yeah, life's a song.

"I stay at the best hotels, I travel first-class, I drive nice cars. It's a fast life with champagne and parties, swimming pools and aeroplanes, casinos and limos and I love it."

As poker suddenly becomes Britain's latest gambling craze with its own TV channel and millions of pounds staked on websites, hardbitten Dave admitted: "Sometimes I wake up and have to pinch myself to check I'm not dreaming."

The son of a truckdriver from the hard Yorkshire city of Hull smiles and winks - one of his trademarks, along with sunglasses and two gold rings the size of bricks which spell out Devilfish (an Oriental fish that's poisonous unless properly prepared).

Dave's "wages" vary enormously. In one tournament alone he bagged £ 325,000 - but lost £ 190,000 on the turn of a card in another high stakes competition.

At his luxury home near Hull, family portraits of the Ulliotts stand next to photos of the card sharp with actor James Woods, snooker's Steve Davis, Jimmy White and manager Barry Hearn, Ronnie Wood from the Stones, and jockey Lester Piggott - just some of the celebs Dave has befriended through an international poker career. Another is Hollywood actor Ben Affleck.

"Ben's a good man," says Dave. "And he loves poker."

N/R 43

PC-00089

The People, May 29, 2005

"We met in the States about three years ago and had a few drinks together - he'd heard of me, I'd heard of him and we became friends." Later they met up on the Caribbean island of Aruba, went to a nightclub, then on to the Holiday Inn casino where their photo was taken.

Months later Dave realised that he'd hit the big-time when he discovered that in some places he's more famous than Pearl Harbor star Ben.

Their photo had been put up on the casino wall.

Dave said: "During a tournament in Mississippi, a cowboy came up and said he'd seen the photo. He said he'd recognised the Devilfish, but who was the guy I was with?"

Father-of-seven Dave has taken the poker world by storm since he started playing at 15. He plays well because he's tough, confident, and not afraid of risk - and loves the high-rolling life which has bought him Lexus and BMW cars, a wardrobe of designer clothes and a collection of guitars.

"I'm not a pipe and slippers kind of guy and I like the James Bond life, so I guess I'll be playing poker and travelling the world until the day I die," he says.

"But the early days were tough, and I wouldn't want my kids to go down the same route as me.

"I played in some dodgy dives where they'd search you on the door and if you didn't have a knife, they'd give you one."

Dave was always attracted to trouble, hanging out with the local hardmen when he was a teenager and hustling in local snooker halls and card games to win money which he'd then lose at the bookies.

Dave said: "My dad was a truck driver and we didn't get on when I was little - I thought my name was 'Shut up' until I was about 14.

"He kicked me out when I was 16 - I think he got fed up of me coming home at 7am after playing cards all night with more money in my pockets than he had as he went to work."

Dave did a series of day jobs which didn't work out. When he met local girl Amanda in Hull, they married and used his winnings and her savings to open a pawnbrokers which they still own today. Eventually, in the early 1990s, Dave was winning too much money from local people for them to want to play him.

So he started playing in Leeds, Bradford, Birmingham and London. "I played in some bad games, where it was necessary to carry a gun because the local villains found a card game an easy touch," he says.

Dave lost a lot in the early days, including a friend's car he used as a bet.

He said: "I messed round with some rough geezers. Gamblers overlap with villains, so you're more prone to trouble than if you work in a shop and go home every night to watch telly.

"I did a bit of prison for fighting, and there's nothing great about being locked up in a cell 23 hours a day and peeing in a bucket. I've risked my money and I've risked my life - it was a tough road."

After increasing success in Britain, Dave turned his ambitions to big international tournaments and headed for the poker Mecca of Las Vegas in January 1997.

"I wasn't nervous, I've always been a confident b*****," he smiles.

"If you're not confident in poker, you've got no chance.

"I'm confident in everything I do. I've done stand-up comedy telling blue jokes, I'll jump up with a band anywhere in the world and grab a guitar and join in - I'm not shy."

His welcome in Vegas as an unknown wasn't exactly rapturous. But America's high-rollers had to take him seriously when he won.

Since then Dave's become one of the highest-profile players with a string of tournaments to his name in the UK, Europe and America.

In 2003 he pocketed £ 450,000 in the World Poker Tour and he wears his massive gold and diamond bracelet (poker's gold medal equivalent) with pride together with a couple of giant diamond pinkie rings and a Cartier watch.

Last year he won £ 100,000 at the British Open, and this year he's already notched up the Hall of Fame tournament in Paris.

Dave's two other prize bracelets are with his Devilfish memorabilia in the snooker room of his home in North Ferriby - a nodding doll Devilfish, and a set of chips with the Devilfish logo. Gone are the fuggy dives and used notes of Dave's youth, replaced by non-smoking casinos and fat cheques.

These days he's sponsored by the online poker company UltimateBet.com, which gave him the most lucrative individual contract ever in European poker.

Now he can play the tournaments he chooses and everything's all paid for. He spends eight months of the year playing poker in exotic destinations like Monaco, Monte Carlo, Paris, Vienna and California.

Next stop: Six weeks in Vegas at the World Poker Championships, starting this Friday. Needless to say, he's feeling chipper.

Dave said: "I always do well in the US and I'd swim through shark-infested waters with a pork chop round my neck to play there - it's big money and they're loose with it."

Playing closer to home isn't so easy. He was banned from one of Hull's two casinos years ago and is barred from virtually every bookies, so he relies on a friend in Scotland to place bets for him.

And he says he's regarded with some suspicion by neighbours in the leafy middle-class suburb where he lives, because he keeps nocturnal hours and has some scary mates.

"I've always liked to hang out with the local ruffians, and I still go to sleazy games now and again because it gives me a buzz," he says.

"But it's nice to come home to this village after such a lot of time on the road, and relax at race meetings and over a drink with my mates.

"My wife Amanda's the most easy-going woman in the world so she's never had any problem with the poker life, even though she's never gambled herself."

Playing poker is second-nature to him these days and he knows exactly what it takes to stay at the top.

Dave says: "Don't place too big a value on money or you won't take the risk to lose it. Be selectively aggressive, and you have to be a bully at the table, to make them scared.

"Sharpen your instincts so you can always read people and get inside their heads. And find yourself a good nickname."

The Devilfish adds: "I can get inside people's heads, I don't miss a thing, and these days I don't think there's anyone in the world who can con me."

Ace's star pals
STAR PLAYER: Dave meets actor Ben Affleck
ROLLING ON: Stones guitarist Ronnie Wood
CLASS ACT: He teams up with James Woods
ALL RIGHT: Dave and snooker's Jimmy White
POT LUCK: With Barry Hearn and Steve Davis

LOAD-DATE: May 29, 2005

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Copyright 2005 The Chronicle Publishing Co.
The San Francisco Chronicle

MAY 29, 2005, SUNDAY, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: SUNDAY REVIEW; Pg. E1

LENGTH: 3468 words

HEADLINE: The books of summer;

The big guns are coming: Michael Cunningham, Cormac McCarthy, Melissa Banks ... and oh, yeah, 'Harry Potter'

SOURCE: Chronicle Book Editor

BYLINE: Oscar Villalon

BODY:

It's not summer till Harry Potter says so.

Of course, that would move the solstice from June 21 to July 16, when J.K. Rowling's newest book in the series, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," comes out.

But that's how the publishing industry sees the summer, or any of the "seasons" -- summer, fall, winter, spring or their recombinant forms of spring-summer and fall-winter -- in which they release books. The "season" doesn't begin till its "Big Book" arrives in stores. Perhaps this is why agent Judith Regan moved to Hollywood: She's already in a business that thinks like the studios.

(Small digression: Why not publish in spring and fall semesters? You put out a bunch of books for January through May -- nothing June through August -- and then a bunch of other stuff for September through November and give readers another breather in December. Those respites would serve as blissful months for catching up on reading. Think of the joy! Think of the satisfaction! Think of all the playoff games you'd be able to watch guilt-free!)

Just the same, there are some "big" titles by "big" authors rolling out during the next three months -- some of them even arriving before a prodigal copy of "Harry" winds up on eBay. There are new novels by Michael Cunningham and Cormac McCarthy and Bebe Moore Campbell and Melissa Banks. And for those craving the fiber of facts, there are titles coming out on the American Revolution (David McCullough's "1776"), Henry Ford (Steven Watts' "The People's Tycoon") and the first panda brought back from China to America (Vicki Croke's "The Lady and the Panda").

What follows is a sampling of some of the more intriguing offerings for June through August. And if for some reason none of it appeals, think of it as a sign from God to finally read "Don Quixote."

June fiction

The Historian by Elizabeth Kostova (Little, Brown): Did you think Dracula was dead? Guess what? He's not. Mayhem ensues. The Icarus Girl by Helen Oyeyemi (Nan A. Talese/Doubleday): First novel by Nigerian-born Cambridge student Oyeyemi, who wrote the book before her 19th birthday. The Writing on the Wall by Lynne Sharon Schwartz (Counterpoint): A Sept. 11 novel from the author of "Leaving Brooklyn." House of Thieves by Kauai Hart Hemmings (The Penguin Press): Story collection set among Hawaii's upper-class families. No Direction Home by Marisa Silver (Norton): First novel by the author of the story collection "Babes in Paradise." A Mouth Like Yours by Daniel Duane (Farrar, Straus & Giroux): A carnal crisis for a surfer living in '90s San Francisco, by the author of "Caught Inside." The Almond: The Sexual Awakening of a Muslim Woman by Nedjma (Grove Press): An erotic

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PC-00092

The San Francisco Chronicle MAY 29, 2005, SUNDAY,

autobiographical novel by an author described only as in her 40s and living in the Maghreb, the Arab-Muslim region of North Africa.

The Mysterious Flame of Queen Loana by Umberto Eco (Harcourt): Perhaps the world's best-read semiotician offers an "illustrated novel." King of the Jews by Nick Tosches (Ecco/HarperCollins): From the author of "The Devil and Sonny Liston." Blinding Light by Paul Theroux (Houghton Mifflin): A writer loses his eyesight after ingesting a tropical drug. The People of Paper by Salvador Plascencia (McSweeney's): What Borges' novel might have read like -- if he had ever written one.

Specimen Days by Michael Cunningham (Farrar, Straus & Giroux): Walt Whitman plays a part in this story of terrorist bombings, the Industrial Revolution and outer space refugees. The Wonder Spot by Melissa Banks (Viking): Two decades in the life of a Jewish family living in Pennsylvania. Mr. Muo's Traveling Couch by Dai Sijie (Knopf): Follow-up from the author of the best-selling "Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress." The Closed Circle by Jonathan Coe (Knopf): Comic novelist Coe sets his newest in the Cool Britannia of today. The Crazy Ladies of Pearl Street by Trevanian (Crown): Autobiographical novel of growing up in Albany, N.Y., in the '30s and '40s by the one-named author. .

June nonfiction

1776 by David McCullough (Simon & Schuster): From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "Truman." White Gold: The Extraordinary Story of Thomas Pellow and Islam's One Million White Slaves by Giles Milton (Farrar, Straus & Giroux): The story of 18th century slave trading of Europeans. The Last Voyage of Columbus by Martin Dugard (Little, Brown): The California journalist and author recounts the fourth -- and most disastrous -- expedition by the explorer. American Gothic: A Life of America's Most Famous Painting by Steven Biel (Norton): A short social history of Grant Wood's iconic work. My Friend Leonard by James Frey (Riverhead): New work from the author of "A Million Little Pieces."

Bonjour Laziness: Jumping Off the Corporate Ladder by Corinne Maier (Pantheon): This best-seller in Europe asks, Do you really want to work yourself to death for a faceless company? The Sky's the Limit: Passion and Property in Manhattan by Steven Gaines (Little, Brown): Ridiculously expensive real estate -- something the Bay Area, of course, knows nothing about. How America Lost Iraq by Aaron Glantz (Tarcher/Putnam): Account of the war by the Pacifica Radio reporter. A Very Good Year: The Journey of a California Wine From Vine to Table by Mike Weiss (Gotham): Book based on The Chronicle's "Grape" series.

Finding George Orwell in Burma by Emma Larkin (The Penguin Press): A journalist's account of her time spent in the Southeast Asian country. Losing Moses: America's Broken Covenant With the 10 Commandments by Chris Hedges (Free Press): Religion in the United States explored by the author of "War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning."

She's Got Next: A Story of Getting In, Staying Open and Taking a Shot by Melissa King (Mariner Original): Memoir of a young woman finding herself on the basketball courts of Chicago. Istanbul: Memories and the City by Orhan Pamuk (Knopf): Personal history of the Turkish city by the novelist of "Snow" and "My Name Is Red." The Genius Factory: The Curious History of the Nobel Prize Sperm Bank by David Plotz (Random House): Curious, indeed.

Machete Season: The Killers in Rwanda Speak by Jean Hatzfeld (Farrar, Straus & Giroux): Personal testimony from Hutus, most of them farmers, who carried out the orders to hack to death their Tutsi neighbors. Sands of Empire: Missionary Zeal, American Foreign Policy and the Hazards of Global Ambition by Robert Merry (Simon & Schuster): The publisher of the Congressional Quarterly offers his critique of U.S. policy.

Lavoisier in the Year One: The Birth of a New Science in an Age of Revolution by Madison Smartt Bell (Atlas Books/Norton): Novelist Bell's brief history of the French scientist and pioneer of modern chemistry. The Elements of Murder: A History of Poison by John Emsley (Oxford University Press): Arsenic, antimony, lead, mercury and thallium get their due. Company C: An American's Life as a Citizen-Soldier in Israel by Haim Watzman (Farrar, Straus & Giroux): Memoir, spanning from 1984 to 2002, of Watzman's life as a conflicted reserve soldier. Devils on the Deep Blue Sea: The Dreams, Schemes and Showdowns That Built America's Cruise Ship Empires by Kristoffer A. Garin (Viking): The dirt on the industry that gave us "The Love Boat."

July fiction

The Every Boy by Dana Adam Shapiro (Houghton Mifflin): First novel by a former editor at Spin about a father puzzling out his teen son, who has mysteriously died. Sky Burial by Xinran Xue (Nan A. Talese/Doubleday): Tibetan

novel by the author of "The Good Women of China." No Country for Old Men by Cormac McCarthy (Knopf): The booming drug trade along the Texas-Mexico border sets a Vietnam vet on the run with a ruthless assassin on his trail. This is McCarthy's first novel since 1998's "Cities of the Plain."

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See (Random House): Novel set in 19th century China by the memoirist of "On Gold Mountain." Belly by Lisa Selin Davis (Little, Brown): A first novel about a man returning to his hometown after four years in prison. Until I Find You by John Irving (Random House): Mammoth work -- Irving's 11th novel -- follows the life of an actor and his tattoo artist mother. Brain Work by Michael Guista (Mariner Original): Story collection about psychologists, professors and brain disorders from the California writer. Little Beauties by Kim Addonizio (Simon & Schuster): First novel by the San Francisco poet.

Freddy and Fredericka by Mark Helprin (Penguin Press): British royals come to modern America to colonize it in Helprin's humorous novel. Trance by Christopher Sorrentino (Farrar, Straus & Giroux): A fictional account of Patty Hearst's kidnapping and her time in the SLA. Hat Trick by Lisa Kusel (Hyperion): An early love triangle resurfaces in Zanzibar. Envy by Kathryn Harrison (Random House): A sexually obsessed psychoanalyst comes apart after a college reunion.

Carnivore Diet by Julia Slavin (Norton): A dysfunctional D.C. family seems to be stalked by a Chagwa, "a famished and unruly menace," in this fantastical first novel. The History of Vegas by Jodi Angel (Chronicle Books): Story collection by Northern California writer and UC Davis graduate. Desertion by Abdulrazak Gurnah (Pantheon): Cultures clash and forbidden love arises in this novel set in 20th century Zanzibar.

72 Hour Hold by Bebe Moore Campbell (Knopf): The Los Angeles author of "Your Blues Ain't Like Mine" tells the story of a mother struggling with a bipolar daughter whom she sends to the Program, a radical treatment group whose members "model themselves after the Underground Railroad." In Perfect Light by Benjamin Alire Saenz (Rayo/HarperCollins): A young Mexican American man and his relationship to a psychologist set off Saenz's exploration of what it means to be an American and an exile. Their Magician and Other Stories by Gloria Kurian Broder (Handsel Books/Other Press): Collection of fiction by the Sausalito author. .

July nonfiction

Fourth of July, Asbury Park: A History of the Promised Land by Daniel Wolff (Bloomsbury): A social and musical history of the Jersey seaside town made famous by Bruce Springsteen, by Paris Review and Threepenny Review poet and Sam Cooke biographer Wolff. Everybody Into the Pool: True Tales by Beth Lisick (Regan Books/HarperCollins): The challenges of being a homeowner and a hip mom in the East Bay, by the SF Gate columnist. Big Bosoms and Square Jaws: The Biography of Russ Meyer, King of the Sex Film by Jimmy McDonough (Crown): Biography of the great sleaze-meister by the author of the Neil Young biography "Shakey." The Lady and the Panda: The True Adventures of the First American Explorer to Bring Back China's Most Exotic Animal by Vicki Croke (Random House): The grand history that preceded Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing.

Dam!: Water, Power, Politics and Preservation in Hetch Hetchy and Yosemite National Park by John Warfield Simpson (Pantheon): More on the history of the controversial water project that influences American environmentalism to this day. Killing Yourself to Live: 85% of a True Story by Chuck Klosterman (Scribner): The Esquire pop culture commentator visits the last stands of rock's greatest. Garbage Land: On the Secret Trail of Trash by Elizabeth Royte (Little, Brown): The Harper's and National Geographic writer follows the unpleasant travels of all manner of trash after it leaves the house. Think the "Fast Food Nation" of waste management. Superstud: Or How I Became a 24-Year-Old Virgin by Paul Feig (Three Rivers Press): The creator of the TV series "Geeks and Freaks" writes a memoir of intense adolescent sexual frustration. Happiness: The Science Behind Your Smile by Daniel Nettle (Oxford University Press): And you thought it was just you simply feelin' groovy.

The Dancing Girls of Lahore: Selling Love and Saving Dreams of Pakistan's Ancient Pleasure District by Louise Brown (Fourth Estate/HarperCollins): The stark lives of prostitutes in this Islamic country are laid bare by sociologist Brown as she studies the family life of one "dancing girl." Stargazer: The Life and Times of the Telescope by Fred Watson (Da Capo Press): Watson, one of Australia's top astronomers, traces the instrument's history from 17th century Holland to today. The Emperor of Wine: The Rise of Robert M. Parker Jr. and the Reign of American Taste by Elin McCoy (Ecco/HarperCollins): How a man "who grew up drinking soda" became the world's most powerful wine critic. By the Bloomberg wine and spirits columnist.

A Field Guide to Getting Lost by Rebecca Solnit (Viking): New essays by the award-winning San Francisco author of "River of Shadows: Eadweard Muybridge and the Technological Wild West." The Farewell Chronicles: On How We

Really Respond to Death by Anneli Rufus (Marlowe & Co.): Berkeley author of "Party of One: The Loners' Manifesto" meditates on the other reactions provoked by death besides grief, and the importance of embracing them. The Lost Night: A Daughter's Search for the Truth of Her Father's Murder by Rachel Howard (Dutton): San Francisco writer Howard explores the bizarre circumstances of her father's slaying in their house when she was a girl, and her life thereafter. The Essence of Style: How the French Invented High Fashion, Fine Food, Chic Cafes, Style, Sophistication and Glamour by Joan DeJean (Free Press): DeJean, the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, lives in Philadelphia and Paris. Surprise!.

August fiction

Crawl Space by Edie Meidav (Farrar, Straus & Giroux): New College of California instructor Meidav tells the tale of an escaped war criminal who in 1999 returns to the rural town in the South of France where he was a prefect during World War II. The Summer He Didn't Die by Jim Harrison (Atlantic Monthly Press): A collection of novellas by the author of "Dalva," "Legends of the Fall" and "True North." Incendiary by Chris Cleaves (Knopf): In this first novel, a woman who loses her husband and son in a London bombing goes to work for the government to fight terrorism, then starts questioning what she's defending. When It Burned to the Ground by Yolanda Barnes (Sarabande Books): Barnes' novel, inspired by the Los Angeles riots of 1992, looks at inner-city life along the fictional Piedmont Street. Here Is Where We Meet by John Berger (Pantheon): The Booker Prize-winning novelist and the author of "Ways of Seeing" sets off this uncategorizable piece of fiction with his narrator meeting his mother in Lisbon, 15 years after she has died.

The Time of the Uprooted by Elie Wiesel (Knopf): Spanning Europe and the United States before and after World War II, this tale looks at a Jewish refugee trying to come to terms with his past. Willful Creatures by Aimee Bender (Doubleday): Story collection from the author of "An Invisible Sign of My Own" and "The Girl in the Flammable Skirt." Lunar Park by Bret Easton Ellis (Knopf): New novel from the author of "Less Than Zero" in which a reformed writer by the name of Bret Easton Ellis starts losing his mind in the suburbs.

The Testing of Luther Albright by MacKenzie Bezos (Fourth Estate/HarperCollins): A Sacramento dam builder's life unravels after an earthquake. An Atomic Romance by Bobbie Ann Mason (Random House): The author of "In Country" sets her love story in a uranium-enrichment plant.

The Prophet of Zongo Street by Mohammed Naseehu Ali (Amistad/HarperCollins): Set in a community in Ghana, Ali's story collection presents recurring characters struggling to keep their optimism in dire times. Nobody's Baby and Other Stories by Leo Litwak (El Leon Literary Arts): Story collection by the San Francisco author of the memoir "The Medic" and longtime San Francisco State professor. A Sudden Country by Karen Fisher (Random House): A historical novel in which a bereaved man teams up with a family to reach Oregon in 1847.

August nonfiction

The Glorious Deception: The Double Life of William Robinson, a.k.a. Chung Ling Soo the "Marvelous Chinese Conjurer" by Jim Steinmeyer (Carroll & Graf): From the author of "Hiding the Elephant," the biography of a magician who was killed onstage trying to catch bullets on a plate. The Fate of Africa: From the Hopes of Freedom to the Heart of Despair by Martin Meredith (Public Affairs): An epic survey of the continent decades since the end of colonization, by the author of "Elephant Destiny." Mining California: An Ecological History by Andrew C. Isenberg (Hill and Wang): An examination of how all that gold was removed from the mountains in the 19th century, and the consequences of literally washing away hillsides.

In Search of the Promised Land: A Slave Family in the Old South by John Hope Franklin and Loren Schweninger (Oxford University Press): A portrait of the Thomas-Rapier family in antebellum America, co-written by Franklin, one of the country's finest historians. The Accidental Masterpiece: On the Art of Life and Vice Versa by Michael Kimmelman (The Penguin Press): The New York Times chief art critic weighs in on what we can learn about our existence by scrutinizing art and those who create it. The Infinite Book: A Short Guide to the Boundless, Timeless and Endless by John D. Barrow (Pantheon): The Cambridge mathematics professor and author tackles the "multiple permutations of the infinite." Despite the subtitle, this might take a while.

A Woman in Berlin: Eight Weeks in the Conquered City by Anonymous (Metropolitan/Henry Holt): A diary written by a young woman who experienced the harrowing Russian occupation of Berlin at the end of World War II.

Eudora Welty by Suzanne Marrs (Harcourt): Biography of the great Mississippi writer by the author of "One Writer's Imagination: The Fiction of Eudora Welty." War Reporting for Cowards by Chris Ayres (Atlantic Monthly Press): The Iraqi war recounted by the young war correspondent for the London Times.

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Why Geography Matters: Three Challenges Facing America – Climate Change, the Rise of China and Global Terrorism by Harm J. de Blij (Oxford University Press): A geography professor shows how that unique discipline can address the thorniest of problems. And, yes, it involves a lot more than knowing the capital of Burkina Faso. (It's Ouagadougou, by the way.)

War Powers: How the Imperial Presidency Hijacked the Constitution by Peter Irons (Metropolitan/Henry Holt): From the UC San Diego political science professor and author of "A People's History of the Supreme Court."

When Affirmative Action Was White: An Untold History of Racial Inequality in Twentieth-Century America by Ira Katznelson (Norton): The author argues that the New Deal and Fair Deal programs of the '30s and '40s purposely excluded African Americans.

Master Mind: The Rise and Fall of Fritz Haber, the Nobel Laureate Who Launched the Age of Chemical Warfare by Daniel Charles (Ecco/HarperCollins): From the former tech correspondent for National Public Radio and the author of "Lords of Harvest: Biotechnology, Big Money, and the Future of Food."

End of the Line: The Rise and Coming Fall of the Global Corporation by Barry C. Lynn (Doubleday): A fellow at the New American Foundation, Lynn argues that globalization "is inherently fragile, upsets social balances, undermines healthy competition, and profoundly and dangerously changes the relationships among nations."

1453: The Holy War for Constantinople and the Clash of Islam and the West by Roger Crowley (Hyperion): A history of when and where our recent troubles might have all began.

1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus by Charles C. Mann (Knopf): A history of the Americas that argues it was an advanced and sophisticated place before the Europeans got there. And now there's new evidence to prove it.

Ahmad's War, Ahmad's Peace: Surviving Under Saddam, Dying in the New Iraq by Michael Goldfarb (Carroll & Graf): The public radio correspondent's memoir of his Iraqi Kurdish translator.

A History of the Jews in the Modern World by Howard M. Sachar (Knopf): By the editor of the 39-volume "The Rise of Israel: A Documentary History."

Edmund Wilson: A Life in Literature by Lewis M. Dabney (Farrar, Straus & Giroux): The authorized biography of the legendary critic, by the editor of "The Edmund Wilson Reader."

The People's Tycoon: Henry Ford and the American Century by Steven Watts (Knopf): From the author of "The Magic Kingdom: Walt Disney and the American Way of Life."

A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs and the Tennis Match That Leveled the Game by Selena Roberts (Crown): The New York Times sports columnist's history of the 1973 "Battle of the Sexes" tennis game.

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GRAPHIC: GRAPHIC, PHOTO (3), / Dan Hubig / The Chronicle

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The Sunday Independent (Ireland)

May 29, 2005

LENGTH: 1789 words

HEADLINE: SHE'LL ALWAYS BE MRS ELVIS

BODY:

DID Elvis ever really leave the building? It is almost 30 years since he died - bloated, drug-befuddled, gun-mad - in the tacky opulence of Graceland, but not since Christ quit the tomb on the third day has any death seemed so provisional. His daughter Lisa Marie, nine at the time, spent the days before the funeral in the room with his body, willing him to reconsider.

Resurrection, as it happened, was more or less immediate. Supermarket tabloids soon reported sightings of an undead Elvis, and imitators in spangled capes lip-synched to his records in Las Vegas. His body, like Christ's, was available for consumption by true believers: a rumour alleged that Presleyburgers had been made from his minced corpse and distributed like communion wafers to "New York and West Coast rock aristocracy".

Less favoured acolytes made do with the fetishistic heirlooms they traded. Locks of his hair, dyed the blue-black of a raven's wing, still sell for thousands of dollars. His ghost, made of sequined ectoplasm, was in Jim Jarmusch's film *Mystery Train*. In 1979, an underground film showed the purported exhumation of the cadaver (unminced) for a farewell concert tour, at the end of which its putrid flesh was sliced off and sold piecemeal.

The Elvis myth exists to deny death, or to console us for its undeniability. Nevertheless, it's likely that whatever is left of him reposes in the meditation garden at Graceland, beneath a bronze plaque doubly emblazoned with a cross and his personal logo - a lightning bolt to signal the electric energy that caused his pelvis to jerk and quake, with the initials TCB as a reminder to Take Care of Business, the motto of his Memphis entourage.

Elvis is gone, but his widow Priscilla remains with us, and she was in London recently to promote a book and a memorial video documentary about him.

He may have mouldered, but she still looks exactly like the 14-year-old he began to woo while he was a GI in Germany in 1959. Myths repudiate death, and cosmetic surgery has its own way of slyly refuting time. "She looked like a little doll," cooed Elvis's cousin Patsy when the schoolgirl Priscilla, surrendered by her parents, came to live at Graceland as both his ward and bedmate.

Priscilla, now 60, is still doll-like - dainty, impenetrably painted, with waxen cheeks and a pursed mouth that is under too much duress, after the tightening she has undergone, to blab out secrets. A face not lived in has no way of registering her distress. Her eyes, pinioned open, continue to look at the world with dazed wonder, and her voice is that of a breathy, tentative teenager.

She is, whether she admits it or not, a damaged creature. "I was someone he created," she told me when we met. "I was just a kid, and I was consumed by him. I could never speak my mind; all I desired was not to disappoint him."

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PC-00097

The Sunday Independent (Ireland) May 29, 2005

Elvis dictated the colour of her hair, which was dyed as inkily as his own and then teased into gravity-defying cones; he insisted on the mascara that turned her eyes into volcanic craters, and the false lashes that flapped above them like nocturnal birds; he picked out the tarty costumes she wore when she came home from Catholic school, shed her uniform, and began to play what she calls "his femme fatale". He dosed her with uppers to adjust her moods, and deprived her of her favourite food, tuna salad, because he disliked its smell.

"Yes, he was quite critical. What you're seeing," said Priscilla, pointing to her transfixed face, "is the product of constant criticism." Elvis once caught her frowning as she glanced up from her homework, and gave her a slap on the forehead to warn her that it was wrinkling. "If I looked up, it had to be with my eyes only, so the skin would stay smooth. See, I'm so well trained that I can't do it now even if I want to!" She illustrated: her brow has indeed been immobilised, ironed flat.

Elvis "was committed to my purity", as Priscilla puts it. He courted her like one of the pining minstrels in medieval romance, and left her unsullied after she moved in with him. Until their marriage in 1967, they contented themselves with heavy petting. Consummation was adjourned until the wedding night in Las Vegas; the result was immediate impregnation.

The criticism continued. "Elvis was always talking about women who let themselves go when they were expecting, who used it as an excuse to gain weight. So I actually lost eight pounds when I was carrying! I ate only eggs and apples, I never drank milk. No, I wasn't allowed to see a doctor. Elvis didn't like to have new people around. We were in a cocoon at Graceland."

The birth of their daughter resulted in a wounding sexual rejection. Elvis felt, according to Priscilla's testimony in the book, that "he just couldn't have sex with a woman who'd had a child". When I asked her about this, she revised the record, although the book reports on the end of "intimacy". "No, no, of course we were having sex! I mean, he was Elvis after all, and I must say he was very creative, very playful." Despite this fervour, I was reminded of Lisa Marie's assertion - in a television interview during her brief marriage to Michael Jackson - that she and Jacko were rabbiting away in the nuptial suite at Neverland. So why did Elvis embargo post-partum intercourse? "Oh," said Priscilla a little prissily, "I guess he had a Madonna complex."

The marriage unravelled, and they were divorced in 1973. "He was still very lovey with me, but only upstairs, when the guys weren't around to impress. He was a southern boy, a man's man, and girls were kept out of sight. The other wives and I were only allowed to leave Memphis and go to Vegas at certain times - first nights or last nights. That left Elvis and his buddies free to be bad boys with the showgirls in between! Not that I was any angel. Eventually, I took on someone."

The euphemism is characteristic. Priscilla's maiden name is Beaulieu (pronounced Bewlew) and she is as much of a genteel southern belle as Tennessee Williams's Blanche du Bois. When my more mobile brow furrowed in puzzlement, she lisped a shy clarification: "I took a lover. It was my way out."

What, I wondered, were the demons that drove Elvis? She thought him vulnerable, and wanted to nurture him; a child herself, she had to replace the mother he lost a year before they met. "He was criticised when he was growing up for the way he looked, the way he wore his hair - just like he criticised me - and that must have been quite impactful. People laughed at him because he was very fussy, he'd always carry his own utensils when he went out to eat, because he didn't want germs."

I'd read that he was unhappy with his body, even though his fans worshipped it as a phallic totem. Was it true that he disliked his spindly legs? "I'm not quite agreeing about the legs," said Priscilla. "All I would say is that he always wore a T-shirt when we were at the beach or in the ocean. He thought, being Elvis, that he should have a hairier chest. Of course if it were now he'd be waxing off the few hairs he did have!"

Graceland was the court of an absolute monarch, whose nocturnal habits were fuelled by benzedrine. Priscilla has her own cautious way of describing his manic whims: "Well, Elvis was very spontaneous. It would be, 'Now we're all gonna go horseback riding, or out on our motor bikes. Or we're gonna take the plane to Vegas.' And you couldn't say you didn't want to."

As at court, the corridors were thick with whispers, and the paranoid king suspected his fawning entourage of treachery. "He'd call on the intercom every morning to see who was in the kitchen before he went down to have his breakfast. He didn't like it if there was someone in the room who was on the outs. Often it was a family member wanting money."

After their separation, Priscilla watched as Elvis simultaneously inflated and imploded. His body ballooned, choked with bacon cheeseburgers and pint tubs of ice cream, and he hid it behind jewelled capes or inside cavernous jumpsuits; his act became louder, more hollowly self-parodic.

"He was terribly insecure by the end. People were always saying to him, 'You didn't fill up the room today, it wasn't a sell-out.' Sometimes they had to curtain off whole areas of seating to make it look less empty. No one could tell him he had a problem, or get him to deal with his addictions. Just think - if he were alive now, he'd be in his early 70s, and remember how good Cary Grant looked when he was that age!"

Despite Priscilla's fond reverie, I find it hard to imagine Elvis as a dapper pensioner, elegant despite arthritis and a toupee. Premature death ensured his immortality, and led almost immediately to a flurry of reincarnations - the claims in the tabloids that his statue had been found on Mars, the plaster statuettes sold like votive icons, the annual competitions in Vegas for Elvis clones. After his death, Priscilla conferred another kind of immortality on him: she incorporated him. She set up Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc, which runs Graceland as a museum, and which controls commercial rights to his image; her book, the DVD and a new set of CDs are the latest attempts to perpetuate the franchise.

"No, I never did anything out of revenge," she said when I asked about her motives for taking that lover. But her triumph over the man who divorced her has been sweet and lucrative. "I loved him, I still love him," she told me, and her behaviour is wistfully reverential. But demolition is also part of the agenda: Priscilla knocked down the house Elvis occupied in Los Angeles, bronzed the bricks, then shipped them to Graceland for sale as souvenirs.

She speaks now about "the bigness of Elvis Presley". What you notice about Priscilla is her littleness - her frailty, and her bemusement at what has happened to her. It would be easy to call the adolescent who beguiled Elvis a nymphet, like Nabokov's Lolita. But she looks to me like one of those nymphs who in classical fables were snatched by a passing god and whipped off to heaven where they were flattered, pleased and shown the view from on top of the world before, when the fickle deity tired, being dumped back on earth again.

If Priscilla could look up (which she knows it's unwise to do) she would probably be scrutinising the sky and asking it the same questions she heard Elvis repeating during his sessions with the gurus he consulted: "Why me? Why was I chosen?" And if she had a single request, it would probably be the one she made when Lisa Marie phoned her in Los Angeles to tell her that Elvis had died: "Send the plane for me."

© Observer

'Elvis' by the Presleys, Century, E28.80

Peter Conrad

JOURNAL-CODE: FSII

LOAD-DATE: May 29, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Scottish Daily Record & Sunday Mail Ltd.
Sunday Mail

May 29, 2005, Sunday

SECTION: SPORT; Pg. 79

LENGTH: 305 words

HEADLINE: PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT: POINTS MAKE PRIZES

BYLINE: By Peter Sharkey

BODY:

THE world of on-line poker is constantly changing as rival websites pull out all the stops to attract punters.

You can now even get PAID for playing - William Hill are giving their users pounds 5 for every hour they play up to a maximum of pounds 25.

Similar offers involving points have been around for some time. Players receive 100 'poker points' when they sign up at Littlewoods Poker, a starting pot that can be added to each time you play.

At UK Betting Poker every person who gets a Royal Flush can win up to pounds 300 although you must be involved in real money games to qualify.

The new VC Poker site offers a range of gimmicks to try to keep punters gripped.

It gives players free entry to tournaments where table prizes can be anything from \$ 200 up to \$ 500.

Once the 25 per cent sign-up bonus is added this is a particularly good place for first timers to start.

The site has been well designed and is incredibly easy to use - even for novices.

Every weekday from 7am to 11am VC Poker run half hourly lotteries where anyone sitting in a cash game can win \$ 1,000. More dosh for just sitting at the table!

But the prizes on offer in cyberland can't begin to compare with poker's flagship tournaments.

The World Series of Poker, the biggest event on the planet, heads to Las Vegas in July.

The minimum pot is a cool \$ 5million and current favourite is Paul Darden Jr who is quoted at 40/1 by online bookies Stan James. World champion, Greg 'Fossilman' Raymer, is a hefty 80/1 at VCBet.co.uk.

At the most recent stop on the World Series of Poker circuit Jeffrey Lisandro beat Phil Ivey to collect \$ 542,360.

Despite this defeat Ivey was last night quoted at 50/1 by Blue Square to reach the final table in Vegas, while Lisandro was 70/1 at Betfair, the betting exchange

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Copyright 2005 MGN Ltd.
Sunday Mirror

May 29, 2005, Sunday

SECTION: 3 Star Edition; FEATURES; Pg. 22,23

LENGTH: 1125 words

HEADLINE: HE BEDDED 200 GIRLS A YEAR.. MISS WORLD WAS ONE.. BUT HE'LL NEVER DITCH
LINDA;
SEX BOMB TOM JONES AT 65

BYLINE: BY COLIN WILLS

HIGHLIGHT:

Love affair... Tom with Miss World Marjorie Wallace in Barbados in 1976; Devoted...Tom and wife Linda; Handsome ...Tom at last week's Ivor Novello awards in London; Jones the boy in Wales

BODY:

NO matter what the song says, it damn well is unusual... a pop star a few days short of his 65th birthday still selling himself on raw sex appeal.

It can only be Tom Jones, and even though he qualifies for his pension in just over a week, he makes no concession to the advancing years.

And as he contemplates getting his bus pass, he says he would like to go on for ever. "I haven't really got any plans to retire," he said. "I love performing and I'll keep doing it for as long as I can. But I hope I don't get to the bloody stage when I go past my sell-by date, when I can't sing songs like Delilah and Boy From Nowhere. When I get older and I'm not doing so many shows, maybe I'll move back to Wales."

For now he lives in a personal time warp. When he walks on stage, testosterone still fills the air like a potent mist. The hips still thrust like pistons. The knickers still flutter down like lacy snowflakes. Most singers his age would be releasing songs with titles like Pass The Cocoa... but Tom's last big hit was called Sex Bomb.

He still plays Vegas four times a year, packing them in as solidly as ever, the crowds yelling for the favourites that never pall - What's New Pussycat, Delilah, The Green Green Grass Of Home - and which made even Elvis Presley pronounce him the greatest singer who ever drew breath.

The pull of home is clearly as strong as ever. Last night Tom chose to celebrate his impending bus-pass days among his own people in Pontypridd, the Welsh former mining town where he was born. "I'm coming up to my 65th birthday and I have been in the business for 40 years, so now seemed like a good time," he said. It was the first time he had sung there since 1964.

"It was in the White Hart pub," he said. "I was paid a tenner, which I had to split five ways." The following week he signed a record deal which put him on the way to a fortune of around £ 250million.

Jones has survived glam dandies, punk rockers, new romantics with his image the same as it always was... the undiluted male, a little on the rough-and-ready side, the sex machine primed for action. Even brides on honeymoon have been known to bare their breasts and get him to sign his name on them.

N/R 47

PC-00101

Sunday Mirror, May 29, 2005

It's hardly surprising that his high-octane stage act has spilled over into his private life. Although married to the same woman for almost 50 years, Tom and his childhood sweetheart Linda long ago reached an understanding about what he gets up to on the road. He has always been able to keep sex and love apart. "Men are men," he said. "But you don't want to broadcast it. You don't want to hurt anybody." One man who has travelled with him told me that at his randy peak he probably slept with 200 women a year. But there are no stories about him being unkind or callous towards women, and many about his courtesy.

He has had two real love affairs - with Supremes singing star Mary Wilson and former Miss World Marjorie Wallace. He also has an illegitimate child, now aged 16, who he pays for but has never met. He has always been a man's man - something which endeared him to the Mob when he started playing Vegas.

When he married Linda, pregnant and just turned 16, he was strolling home from the Register Office, chatting with his coal miner father, when his dad said: "Don't you think you should be walking with your bride?" Mark, their only child, now 48, works as Tom's manager.

Despite Tom's sexual waywardness, his love for Linda has survived, and is clearly reciprocated. "I didn't marry Tom Jones," she said, "I married Tommy Woodward (his real name)."

While Tom has travelled the world from show to show Linda, who has never learned to drive, has lived the life of a near-recluse in a succession of mansions, currently one in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles. "She doesn't like flying any more," Tom said. "In fact she's not flown since 9/11."

Linda has become used to her own company. When they moved into their first big home in Weybridge, Surrey, a friend found her happily doing the cleaning while sipping a glass of Dom Perignon champagne.

It is an image that sums her up perfectly: Solitary, hard-working, devoted. But there must have been a lot of loneliness, especially when Tom started taking Mark on the road with him.

Age has been kind to him. Though cosmetics clearly play their part, he still has the thick curly hair, the muscular shoulders, the solid chest, the tan the colour of slightly milky espresso.

He told me he is surprised to have women still lusting after him after so many years, but he goes to great lengths to keep in shape. "I have a gym in my house in L.A. and I work out using a cross trainer, as you burn more calories on that than anything. But I don't have a personal trainer."

Today it's limos and first-class travel all the way. But it wasn't always like that. While he was waiting for his break, manager Gordon Mills hawked him and his backing band around London from record company to record company.

They had no money, hardly enough to feed themselves, and one night, in a plush London club where they'd gone to be seen, Tom was so hungry he pinched a steak from a passing waiter's tray. A few weeks before *It's Not Unusual* propelled him into the stratosphere he stood on a London Underground station platform and thought to himself how easy it would be to end it all by jumping in front of a train. "For a split second I thought, 'Aww, f*** it'. I felt so down. I didn't want to go back to Wales without proving myself.

"But then I thought, What about your wife? What about your son? What about your mother and father?"

Such memories are bound to rush in as he approaches his 65th: Memories of past struggles and how far he's come.

Typically, he will spend his birthday on the road, or more accurately, in the air, flying back to LA from a concert in New York. At midnight on June 7, 35,000ft above a slumbering Middle America, the top will come off a champagne bottle and Tom, his son, and his daughter-in-law Donna will toast a truly remarkable career. "Then the plan is I'll have dinner with my wife and sister."

When his time finally comes, he wants to be buried in Glyntaff Cemetery in Pontypridd - "all my forefathers are there."

He has already chosen exactly what he wants chiselled on his gravestone. An inscription which says, simply... "Jones The Voice."

It's Not Unusual 1965 No1

What's New Pussycat 1965 No11

Green Green Grass Of Home 1966 No1

I'll Never Fall In Love Again 1967 No2

I'm Coming Home 1967 No2

Delilah 1968 No2

Till 1971 No2

A Boy From Nowhere 1987 No2

Burning Down The House 1999 No7

Mama Told Me Not To Come 2000 No4

Sex Bomb 2000 No3THE HITS

LOAD-DATE: May 29, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Times Newspapers Limited
Sunday Times (London)

May 29, 2005, Sunday

SECTION: Features; Culture; 77

LENGTH: 216 words

HEADLINE: Film choice

BYLINE: Edward Porter

BODY:

Sense And Sensibility (C4, 6.55pm)

Fresh and funny, yet loyal to both the spirit and the details of Jane Austen's novel, this adaptation is hard to fault. Its director, Ang Lee, deserves a good share of the credit for this, but the main powerhouse here is Emma Thompson. As well as being the author of an elegant script, she shines on screen as the story's paragon of restraint, Elinor Dashwood, the sister of the impetuous Marianne (Kate Winslet). (1995)

The Cooler (FilmFour, 10pm)

In Wayne Kramer's film, right, WilliamH Macy plays a contagiously unlucky guy employed by a Vegas casino to jinx punters before they win too much. Such a fanciful idea could have gone skittering beyond control like a roulette ball, but Kramer builds a clever, involving drama and is rewarded with brilliant performances from Macy and, and the casino's fierce boss, Alec Baldwin. (2003)

The Graduate (ITV1, 11.25pm)

Starring Dustin Hoffman as middle-class rebel Benjamin Braddock, who is seduced by the celebrated Mrs Robinson (Anne Bancroft), Mike Nichols's film was a hit with America's baby-boomers, to whom this grown-up comedy represented Hollywood's capitulation to their values. Today it is easier to see the extent to which the film mocks Benjamin's antiestablishment stance. (1967)

LOAD-DATE: May 30, 2005

N/R 48

PC-00104

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Copyright 2005 The Times-Picayune Publishing Company
Times-Picayune (New Orleans)

May 29, 2005 Sunday

SECTION: BOOKS; Pg. 6

LENGTH: 1152 words

HEADLINE: Murder express;
Beach season beckons, bringing mysteries to chill the hottest day

BYLINE: By Diana Pinckley, Mysteries columnist

BODY:

Welcome to beach season! Mysteries offer a great escape in the sun and sand. And because some of the best authors build their plots around hot-button social and political issues, you may be prompted to think a little bit more than you expected while you're turning those pages.

Harry Bosch is back -- literally -- in 'The Closers' (Little, Brown, \$26.95), Michael Connelly's latest entry in the award-winning, best-selling series. As loyal fans will know, Bosch spent a 25-year career with the Los Angeles Police Department, most of it as a detective in the Hollywood station, before retiring three years ago. He's done one thing and another in the private investigator world since then, but he still bleeds blue. And now he's been invited to pick up his shield and join former partner Kiz Rider, this time with the cold case squad.

The new police chief calls those cases "the chorus of forgotten voices."

As he says, "Every one of them is like a stone thrown into a lake. The ripples move out through time and people. Families, friends, neighbors. How can we call ourselves a city when there are so many ripples, when so many voices have been forgotten by this department?"

The first voice to call out to Bosch and Rider is that of Becky Verloren, 16 when she died 17 years ago. Her body, clad in a light-blue nightgown, was found up a steep hill from her home. She had disappeared in the middle of the night, and the death was made to look like a suicide. Cops caught on to the fact it was murder after a few days, but no serious suspects ever emerged.

But now the DNA from a tiny piece of skin found inside the gun matches that of Roland Mackey, a small-time criminal with a white-supremacist background. Between stints in jail, he drives a tow truck. It's up to Bosch and Rider to figure out how he fits into the murder. Did he pull the trigger? Supply the gun? Decide to kill Becky simply because her mother is white and her father black?

"The Closers" is a straight police procedural, and a fine one. It follows Bosch step by step through the process, including those places where a rusty detective can make a potentially fatal mistake. Police department politics adds to the tension. Did a top cop cover up racist acts for political gain?

Because the crime happened years ago, we get to see its devastating impact. Her mother keeps Becky's room as a shrine, rarely leaving the house. The strain drove her father, a former chef and restaurant owner, into a life as an alcoholic street person, working through his pain by cooking tasty breakfasts every day for hundreds of men at a homeless shelter.

N/R 49

PC-00105

Those who prefer Bosch a little more tormented and introspective, as he has tended to be in his last two or three adventures, may be a little disappointed with this book. He knows that he's back in the middle of the action where he belongs, and mostly he just gets on with it. He's a closer.

Race is also key to 'I Right the Wrongs' (Bloomsbury, \$23.95), Dylan Schaffer's second entry in his Barry Manilow tribute series. Gordon Seegerman is an attorney who handles misdemeanors for the Santa Rita, Calif., public defender's office, but his real life and passion center on his Manilow tribute band, Barry X and the Mandys. The eclectic group -- a Sikh, a dreadlocked guy, a Jewish lawyer and a hugely pregnant lesbian -- has a gig in **Vegas** just before Barry's next concert. They have high hopes The Man will come to hear them. But then Seegerman's work life picks up, threatening the performance schedule.

Marcus Manners, the star high school quarterback in the state and, coincidentally, the godson of Seegerman's step-grandma, is arrested for kidnapping the arch-rival team's giant dog-mascot, and for having a baggie of marijuana in his car that he swears he didn't put there. Then Ella Swell, the dog's owner, is killed, and Marcus is looking good for it. Marcus is black, Ella is white (and rich), and Santa Rita may burn, as visions of Rodney King dance through Seegerman's head.

He defends misdemeanors, not murders. And the murder is pretty complicated anyway, because Ella was with Marcus' mother Grace years ago, when the cops raided Grace's bookstore as a drug distribution point and sent them both to jail. Grace never made it out alive. And there's incentive to keep Ella quiet. Powerful people were around then; some of them are getting ready to run for public office.

There are good cops, bad cops, a vegged-out dad-cop, a judge aspiring to dictator, and a lot of rabid sports fans in this treat. "I Right the Wrongs" (named to riff on one of Manilow's big hits) is an over-the-top romp with a generous heart and a couple of nice twists at the end.

'Stewball' (St. Martin's Minotaur, \$22.95) is indeed a race horse. Perhaps the best racing quarterhorse Montana has ever seen, especially when he has Gabriel Du Pré's 13-year-old granddaughter Lourdes on board. Peter Bowen's 12th Du Pré mystery takes on race, survivalists, and rich jerks who bet on illegal but remunerative brush races when they're not dissing the mud people and getting their armaments ready to take on the feds. Don't bet against Du Pré and his sidekick cowboy Booger Tom as they investigate the murder of Badger, Auntie Paulette's latest in a long series of husbands. The joy of this series is the voice, especially Du Pré's. It's wry, French-inflected from his Métis Indian heritage, rough-edged, quirky and unforgettable.

Harry Hunsicker combines race with Dallas real estate in 'Still River' (Thomas Dunne Books, \$23.95). Hunsicker's first mystery introduces Lee Henry Oswald, a private eye and Gulf War vet with an unfortunate name, interesting friends and extensive hardware, most of which goes "boom." A girl he knew in high school many years ago asks Lee to find her missing brother, a recovering drug addict and newly minted real estate salesperson. The trail leads through the Trinity River development project, the biggest Dallas has seen in years, and the competing black and white teams who hope to cash in on it. "Still River" is dark and sometimes runs slow along its predictable course, but when the rapids finally come, they pack a wallop.

The wilds of Wyoming is C.J. Box's territory, and game warden Joe Pickett is his star. In 'Out of Range' (Putnam, \$24.95), the fifth Pickett book, real estate is the thing. Pickett is assigned to a temporary post in Jackson Hole, after his friend and game warden colleague Will Jensen has apparently committed suicide. Jackson Hole comes with huge pressures -- a wealthy developer who wants to build a new community where he shouldn't, his wife who's just a bit too attractive to both Will and Joe, a legendary outfitter who may be breaking the law so his touring hunters can bag elks. Then there are the environmental extremists and the rampaging bears. If you're a Nevada Barr fan, or would rather be hiking the back country than sunning in the sand, this one's for you.

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Copyright 2005 The Washington Post
The Washington Post

May 29, 2005 Sunday
Final Edition

SECTION: TV Week; Y05

LENGTH: 487 words

HEADLINE: 'Aviator' Charts a Safe Course

BYLINE: Justin Rude, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

Like all biopics, Martin Scorsese's "The Aviator" is selective in what it portrays. And for a subject as complex and controversial as 20th-century innovator Howard Hughes, this is understandable: A complete biography would necessitate something like an epic Ken Burns documentary.

Yet the DVD release of "The Aviator," starring Leonardo DiCaprio, boasts a number of extras that help fill some - but not all -- of the gaps.

The two-disc set contains the standard fare: a feature-length commentary with Scorsese, a making-of showcase and a costuming and scoring featurette.

But there's much more. Warner Home Video filled out the extras roster with material that helps put the film into historical context.

Two featurettes address the issue of Hughes's contributions to modern aviation. One explains why his technical innovations were important and how they laid the groundwork for modern ideas about flight. Another, "Modern Marvels: Howard Hughes," is a documentary that aired on the History Channel. It looks at Hughes's accomplishments as well as the continuing success of the company he led, whose interests in today's world include guided missile systems, helicopter design and satellite television.

The documentary also looks at Hughes in later life and the regression that eventually led to his self-exile in a Las Vegas casino, where he was seen only by a handful of trusted aides.

Two additional segments deal more with his struggles, especially with obsessive-compulsive disorder. These features look at the disease itself, what factors led to his susceptibility and how DiCaprio prepared to play Hughes by studying the disorder.

The bonus features largely cover different subjects than the film. But some aspects of Hughes's life remain unexamined. His years in Vegas, including an incredible string of casino purchases, are only briefly examined in the History Channel documentary. Similarly untouched are Hughes's racial prejudices, his drug addiction and his hatred of communism and unions.

Despite those omissions, the DVD package is well-realized and provides ample information beyond the film. But it still fails to ground the film's unrealistically upbeat Hollywood spin on a tragic tale.

The Aviator

Warner Home Video; DVD \$29.95; rated PG-13; available now

N/R 50

PC-00107

The Washington Post May 29, 2005 Sunday

The Milagro Beanfield War (Universal: DVD \$12.98; rated R; available Tuesday) Robert Redford followed his Academy Award-winning "Ordinary People" with this wonderful adaptation of John Nichols's book about a small New Mexican town's fight against land developers. The film stars Chick Vennera, Ruben Blades, Sonia Braga and Christopher Walken.

Moonlighting -- Seasons 1 & 2 (Lions Gate Home Entertainment : six-disc DVD \$49.98; not rated; available Tuesday) Cybill Shepherd and Bruce Willis star in the classic "will they or won't they?" television series. The DVD features deleted scenes, commentaries and making-of materials.

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Copyright 2005 The Wichita Eagle
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The Wichita Eagle

May 29, 2005 Sunday MAIN EDITION

SECTION: H; Pg. 2

LENGTH: 676 words

HEADLINE: To be on the safe side, take passport on a cruise

BYLINE: BY ARLINE BLEECKER; The Orlando Sentinel

BODY:

Once upon a time, life really was more like a fairy tale -- at least when traveling.

Before the airplane hijackings of the 1960s, and even up to 9-11, passengers on some cruise itineraries could practically wave themselves aboard with hardly more than a voter's registration card as proof of U.S. citizenship.

But as the feds have gotten stricter, anyone age 16 or older now needs either a passport (valid or expired), original birth certificate or a certified copy of it with a raised seal, U.S. military I.D., or original naturalization papers. Even young children need an official birth certificate, passport or naturalization papers.

Come year-end, though, you may have to kiss most of those casual options goodbye. If proposed legislation passes, travel to some of the most popular cruise destinations will get more complicated after Dec. 31, 2005.

The U.S. State Department and Department of Homeland Security recently announced proposed legislation for three phased-in restrictions that require a passport, the whole passport and nothing but the passport.

The intelligence bill would require Americans to carry a passport when visiting Bermuda and the Caribbean. Birth certificates, drivers licenses, etc., may not fly anymore.

After Dec. 31, 2006, cruising even to our immediate neighbors -- Canada and Mexico -- would require a passport. And by Dec. 31, 2007, all air and sea travel would require that you present that little blue book with the funny picture of you on the first page.

The new rules won't catch cruise lines by surprise, though. Even before 9-11, Andrew Poulton, marketing director for luxury-line Radisson Seven Seas, noted that, for several years, "All of our pre-cruise information states very clearly that we strongly advise guests to bring their passports -- even on cruises where they are sailing from, and returning to, a U.S. port."

In fact, for the average passenger, "the most confusion concerns Mexico, Caribbean, Alaska and Hawaii cruises," said Michael Crye of the International Council of Cruise Lines. "As you know," he once observed, "a cruise, by virtue of going internationally, is a border crossing."

The upshot? Even under existing regulations, a passport is your best bet for avoiding problems.

Something could come up requiring that "all of a sudden you need to fly out of Mexico, say, and go home," explains Carnival spokeswoman Jennifer de la Cruz.

"If you don't have your passport, it's going to be a lot more difficult for you. It will be a much smoother transition out of that country -- whatever that country may be -- if you've got your passport."

N/R 51

PC-00109

The Wichita Eagle May 29, 2005 Sunday MAIN EDITION

There are many stories of people who have had difficulty at the airport trying to get out of a country because they showed up on a ship without solid proof of U.S. citizenship.

You're well-advised to factor the cost of a passport into your cruise vacation budget. A new passport costs \$97, including various surcharges. The good news: A passport is valid for a decade.

In response to the government's initiative, some land-based vacation providers -- Super Clubs in the Caribbean, for example -- hope to deflect the additional blow to your travel budget by absorbing those costs when you book with them.

Will we see "passport inclusive deals" offered with cruises? Not likely.

Vicki Freed, senior vice president of Carnival, told the industry newsletter Cruise Week, "Having a passport is a good idea for identification purposes for all ages -- especially children."

As for whether the new requirements will lessen a price advantage for Caribbean and Mexico cruises versus a domestic U.S. vacation, such as Orlando or Vegas, Freed says, "We will need to continue to express the specialness of a cruise vacation, and an investment of a passport as being similar to buying stuff (suitcase, camera) to prepare for a really great trip."

The bottom line: To ensure smooth sailing, don't wait to get a new passport or renew an existing one. It takes between six and eight weeks. For information, visit travel.state.gov/passport.

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Bristol Evening Post

May 28, 2005

EDITION: Default Edition

SECTION: News; Other; Others; Pg. 17

LENGTH: 512 words

HEADLINE: The 10m man

BODY:

A Kingswood man is jetting off to Las Vegas to take on the world's best poker players for a record 10 million jackpot. Professional gambler Ray Campbell won his seat at the World Series of Poker by spending up to nine hours a day winning online poker tournaments on PokerStars.com Using his redundancy cash as his original stake money, Ray has been successfully playing online poker for four years to secure his seat at the No-limit Texas Hold'em World Championship event.

And along the way Ray has also won holidays, cruises and other top prizes, including 57,000 in one tournament.

Ray, 49, lives with his partner, Dee, who will fly out to meet him in Vegas after he arrives there on June 23.

Born in Bristol, Ray moved to New York in 1979 and still regularly spends time there.

Ever since he was a child Ray has loved playing cards, but it was not until he saw some colleagues playing stud poker in their lunch break that he was bitten by the poker bug.

It was Dee who encouraged Ray to try and make a living from the game.

Ray said: "I remember taking redundancy from my job and Dee saying to me, 'You play poker, why not give it a shot?' So I did.

"Poker is a really changing game - you can be on a high one minute and on a low the next.

"I just like playing and trying to be consistent.

"Anyone can win a single tournament so it is consistency that is important.

"If you make one mistake - that's it. So you must learn from your mistakes. Poker does take a lot of skill but it also takes a lot of luck." Ray will be battling it out against poker professionals from all over the world at Binion's Horseshoe casino for the mega jackpot prize.

Although Ray does not want to tempt fate, he says if he scooped the jackpot he would like to spend part of the money on coaching his two favourite pastimes to children - football and singing.

Ray also joked that the money would help pay off a few bills.

To play at the World Series, Ray would have had to have paid the 10,000 'buy in' fee, but PokerStars.Com will cover the cost for him as well as paying for flights to the US.

Although there are many different types of poker, Ray's game is Texas Hold'em.

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Ray plays regularly in various casinos in Bristol and says poker's popularity has soared in recent years. He said: "I used to play at the Grosvenor Casino but now I play about three times a week at a casino near Clifton Triangle.

"Poker started getting big with Late Night Poker on Channel 4 and since then it has got even more massive online.

"The combination of the two has made it huge.

"With live poker some people are very obnoxious and impatient when you are playing. So it is best if you learn to play online first. No one can hassle you and you can be at peace in your own room.

"If you spend a bit of time doing it you will win more and more. Then you can start playing in live games." The World Series of Poker takes place in Las Vegas between June 2 and July 15, with the No-limit Texas Hold'em World Championship Event beginning on July 7.

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Channel NewsAsia

May 28, 2005 Saturday

SECTION: SINGAPORE NEWS

LENGTH: 332 words

HEADLINE: Gaming helps shape Las Vegas into total resort destination

BODY:

LAS VEGAS : Tourist numbers have been going nowhere but up in Las Vegas with casino resorts springing up over the years.

Visitors last year hit an all-time high of 37.4 million, up from 28 million a decade ago - something Singapore can aspire to with its two new integrated resorts.

Casino resorts have dramatically changed Las Vegas.

Glitzy, sleazy, or just plain 'over the top'.

However you slice or dice Vegas, one thing is for sure, the tourists just keep coming.

Vegas has a population of just 1.7 million, but 20 times more tourists.

And gone are the days of dirt cheap lodging and food meant to keep people glued to slot machines.

Tourists are now spending more money on other luxuries.

Mr Rob Powers, Vice President of Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, said: "We have gone from being recognised as a gambling destination to a destination that is known for shopping, for golf and for spas. So it has been quite a dramatic transformation for us in recent years."

In new resorts like Wynn Las Vegas, the casino is just one of its many offerings.

There are also lavish wedding chapels and courtyards.

And if you are thinking of doing a Britney Speares there, you better think again because prices are about a hundred times more expensive than regular street chapels in Vegas.

A wedding there could cost anywhere from \$5,000 to a couple of million dollars.

Interestingly, it is precisely because of its fun image that businesses too are flocking to town.

Over 15 percent of its 37 million visitors per year come to Vegas for conventions.

One centre there is the largest convention centre in Vegas and it has over three million square feet of convention space.

But while tourists crave a total resort experience, gaming is still very much on their minds - seven out of eight tourists say they gamble.

Still it is what gaming has brought to Vegas - the creation of a total resort destination - something Singapore also hopes to accomplish. - CNA/de

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LOAD-DATE: May 28, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited
Gold Coast Bulletin (Australia)

May 28, 2005 Saturday

LENGTH: 699 words

HEADLINE: Sex takes back;
seat for Mariah

BODY:

QUEEN of song Mariah Carey has hit the talk show circuit to promote her album *The Emancipation of Mimi*. Carey's seven-octave voice is well produced, with the help of Snoop Dogg, Nelly and a few other hot producers.

A native of Long Island, New York, she was named after the song They called the wind Mariah.

Her mother was an opera star and brought Mariah up not to judge people.

"Mum travelled so much I was actually raised by two gay men. My sister had a child at 15 and that changed her life. I decided to

focus on my career," says Carey.

Carey, who partly owns Las Vegas club Pure with Celine Dion, hit the big time with her Grammy-winning launch album in 1990.

She has been singing since she was four and writing songs since school days.

Although she is regarded as hot and sexy by her fans, she admits freely 'love and sex took a back seat during my youth'.

"I'm kind of a prude especially with straight guys because they can be dogs. I know that's kind of boring today, but I haven't really been sexually experimental."

Two stars tell

TWO new star books hit the market this week.

Goldie Hawn, once a dancer at Vegas's Desert Inn, tells her story in *Goldie: A Lotus Grows in the Mud*. She tells of her early days in movies and her rise to fame in 1968 in *Laugh In*, followed by her acting triumph in *Cactus Flower* for which she won an Oscar.

Sylvester Stallone also has a book out, titled *Sly Moves*, which covers the workings of his proven weight loss program.

President for King

WHAT do past presidents do to fill in time? This week former President Bush was in town to address Burger King executives and then attended the showing of *Star Wars - Episode III*.

Also in town, were Nicolas Cage, Dennis Hopper, Anne Margret and Bo Derek, all attending the Cine Vegas Film Festival.

Tony Curtis, who turns 80 on June 3, will be a special guest at the festival.

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PC-00115

Also seen out and about in Las Vegas recently:

* Bette Midler and Billie-Jean King back stage after Barry Manilow's show at the Hilton.

* Michael Jackson's father Jo dining at a Las Vegas restaurant with friends. The Jackson family has a home in Vegas.

* Prince sitting in the VIP box at the Lenny Kravitz concert at the Hard Rock and then at RAIN, the nightclub at the Palms Casino.

\$1m wedding present

IT could be the wedding of the year as far as publicity is concerned. Mary Kay Letourneau married her 'schoolboy' lover Vili Fualaau, now 22, at a simple ceremony attended by their two children.

The couple received \$1 million for the film rights to their affair. A book deal is also on the way.

Mary Kay says she has no qualms about accepting money, as she has paid her price and done her time.

Trump, true or false

MEANWHILE, Donald Trump who had THE wedding of the year has clearly stated he has no objection to a telemovie being made about his life, but warns it had better be factual or he will sue.

Trump's close friend Martha Stewart returns to the screen, portrayed in yet another movie, this time telling of her downfall, jail time and return to stardom.

Jail me: Joan

JOAN Rivers, the much face-lifted comic, was recently in town at the Stardust, in what used to be the Wayne Newton Theatre.

She tells the press the more she earns (and that's millions) the more she spends and wants the same amount of publicity as Martha and Michael Jackson.

"I think I need to do jail time, where do I sign?" she asks.

"Martha has made millions."

Rivers has her own line of clothes and jewellery and a lucrative contract with her daughter Melissa to host Hollywood events for the E! entertainment channel.

Springsteen on road

BRUCE Springsteen, 55, is planning another world tour to coincide with his new CD Devils and Dust. He starts his tour in Boston then heads to Europe.

Fockers on top

MEET The Fockers, starring Dustin Hoffman and Barbra Streisand, is the highest grossing comedy of all time, grossing a whopping \$500 million.

Tonight show host Jay Leno, who was issued a court order not to do Michael Jackson jokes, had the ban lifted. Leno has already testified in the case.

Experts say the Jackson trial could end in three weeks, which will be a relief for all.

LOAD-DATE: May 29, 2005

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The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

May 28, 2005

SECTION: Guardian Weekend Pages, Pg. 16

LENGTH: 3920 words

HEADLINE: Weekend: THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST: His band Coldplay has sold 17 million albums, he's married to one of Hollywood's hottest stars and he hangs out with the musicians he hailed as heroes when he was a kid. So how did singer Chris Martin, an insecure, self-confessed nerd, hit the bigtime? Craig McLean joins the band on the road to find out

BYLINE: Craig McLean

BODY:

Chris Martin is sitting in a Las Vegas hotel, thinking about the power of songs. Specifically, he is thinking about something Bono once said about Coldplay - that they have "a sense that the world's hardest of hearts can be thawed by a great melody". Martin disagrees. "I think there are some hearts that are fucked," he says.

Then, as he often does, he changes his mind. "Actually, to be fair, I was wondering whether certain people's policies would change if they heard certain songs," he says, in his slightly sinusy, barely West Country-accented voice. "Would it really be possible to start Nazi Germany if you'd just been listening to Bob Marley's Exodus back-to-back for the past three weeks and getting stoned? Would the idea of the Holocaust seem so appealing? I know this sounds really trite, but I mean it seriously, because music is something that every human responds to. There's a reason why people who've had bad relationships with their parents listen to angry stuff."

Martin, who has a very good relationship with his parents, tends to listen to - and write - dreamy, idealistic stuff. Coldplay's 28-year-old frontman is culturally engaged and politically passionate. The band give 10% of their considerable earnings to charity, although they don't like to talk about it, even to say which organisations benefit. Martin has travelled with Oxfam to Ghana and Haiti, and personally lobbied the World Trade Organisation at its 2003 meeting in Mexico. He doesn't drink alcohol or coffee, but when Coldplay were making their first album, Parachutes, he forced himself to booze to the point of vomiting as penance for briefly kicking drummer Will Champion out of the band. He wrote one of Coldplay's hits, Trouble, while huddled in a recording studio cupboard. He is a sensitive soul.

"So in some sense," he continues, "I do think melodies can do a lot. It would be interesting to see how the world would be different if Dick Cheney really listened to Radiohead's OK Computer. I think the world would probably improve. That album is fucking brilliant. It changed my life, so why wouldn't it change his?"

Martin needs Coldplay's long-awaited new album, X&Y, to have a similarly profound effect. The band's last album, 2002's A Rush Of Blood To The Head, did well enough, selling 10.5m copies, but their third has to accomplish more - it has to be the band's "definitive" album. It has taken Martin, Champion, guitarist Jonny Buckland and bass player Guy Berryman 18 months - in eight studios, in five cities, in two countries - to make it. They started, then stopped; they chucked stuff out, and started again. Along the way, they took advice from Michael Stipe, resurrected a song originally written for Johnny Cash, sought inspiration from a keyboard that once belonged to Gwyneth Paltrow's father, wrote a fan letter to Kraftwerk, sampled a 17th-century hymn and, in a sign of what a big deal a Coldplay album now is, saw their tardiness blamed for a fall in their record company's share price. (This annoyed Martin, who told reporters, "I don't really care about EMI. I think shareholders are the great evil of this modern world.")

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Now the hard work is done, the really hard work begins: taking the record around the world, starting here in Las Vegas. Martin looks around him and says he always feels phoney in Vegas: the cheesy, tropical vibes of the Hard Rock hotel make him think of TV's Fantasy Island, or of cabaret singer Tony Ferrino, one of Steve Coogan's less successful creations. "I think that was Coogan's X&Y," Martin says with a grin. "He was very proud of it, but no one else was."

Behind the hotel is a man-made beach - a perfect confection of water, sand, rocks, palms, bikinis and bermuda shorts. Silly muscles and fake breasts jostle for space in the late afternoon desert heat. Cocktails are being served to sunloungers and rock music pounds from the speakers. Martin pushes back the double glass doors and walks out into the blinding sunshine to take it all in. He doesn't get it, he says. Here he is, surrounded by the beautiful people, supposedly one of the biggest rock stars in the world - so why doesn't he feel as cool as they do? He is dressed all in black, with a scarf wound around his neck. There are smears of white cream crusting on his ears, and an unfortunate boil on his left temple. "I do an hour's yoga and go running every day. Then I see a picture of myself and I still look like a skinny, potbellied idiot - and I thought I had turned into this superhunk!"

Earlier that week, Speed Of Sound, the first single from X&Y, entered the Billboard chart at No 8, making Coldplay the first British band to debut in the US top 10 since the Beatles in 1968. This weekend, they are headlining at the massive Coachella music festival, the closest thing America has to Glastonbury. If Coldplay are occasionally derided in the UK as glum, overly sincere rockers, surely Martin recognises that in the US right now they are dead cool? "I don't think we're considered cool anywhere."

Tonight, Coldplay are performing in the hotel's 1,500-capacity venue, the Joint. The gig will be a warm-up for the first real unveiling of X&Y: in 30 hours the band will be out in the California desert, playing to a crowd of 50,000. In the meantime, Martin wants to buy me some sunglasses, to make up for getting my name wrong earlier. ("Have I offended you? Does the backlash start now?") On our way to a beachside kiosk, we are intercepted by an English stag party, pickled in the sunshine. It's the singer from Coldplay! Any chance of a photo? "C'mon then," says Martin, flinging his arms around their shoulders and crouching his 6ft 2in frame down to their height. Kelly, the singer's as-wide-as-he-is-tall security detail, stands impassively by.

Then there is another distraction, the actor Daniel Craig gingerly trying to say hello. He filmed Sylvia with Gwyneth Paltrow, and has just finished making another movie with her, the Truman Capote drama *Every Word Is True*. Now he is in town to promote the US release of the British gangster flick *Layer Cake*. They stop and talk, and afterwards Martin tells me Craig is the new James Bond. Really, I say? Officially, no decision has been made. "Oh," says Martin, and mutters something about not knowing after all.

This is the tension between the two sides of Martin's life, the X and the Y. He is a people's songwriter, an unashamedly mainstream people's songwriter, a normal, bumbling young man who, by dint of being married to Paltrow, has somehow become a member of fame's superleague. He is very aware of this. He still can't believe people actually like Coldplay, let alone that Steven Spielberg is now his godfather-in-law. "In my darker days," he tells me later, "I think people just see us as the band who married into Hollywood."

Right now, though, he is jabbering away to the girl at the kiosk, bouncing on his heels. We pick out some sunglasses, which Martin insists on paying for, and then head for a cabana at the back of the beach. He orders a strawberry daiquiri for me and a virgin daiquiri for his pure, toxin-free self. He is very chipper. "It's incredible," he says, wide-eyed. "We've started now. Our whole life at the moment is like Magnus Magnusson at the end with the clock - we've just got to get on with it." You've started so you'll finish? "Exactly. It's just been all cylinders. I mean, I said to" - he pauses as he remembers not to mention someone (Paltrow?) by name - "my friend yesterday, I still can't believe that I'm allowed to do it. That I got given this thing. I really can't believe it."

Martin's insecurity is a funny thing. He simply can't fathom that a band with him in it currently outsells Radiohead, U2, REM and Oasis. "I'm thinking, God, I remember being 13 and reading about U2's *Achtung Baby*, or 18 and reading about Oasis's *Definitely Maybe*. And now we're hang -" He stops himself again: "hanging out" sounds too naff. So he simply says he finds it "hilarious" that Coldplay are talked of in the same sentence as bands whose records he rushed out to buy when he was 15. "It just reminds me that my dreams have come true on a very pure level."

He is aware that with fame comes influence, and he has used it to champion the causes he holds dear (Fair Trade, Oxfam, the Make Poverty History campaign), even though he knows that the figure of the "conscious rocker" is open to ridicule. Liam Gallagher, noting Martin's propensity for writing slogans on the back of his hand, once called him a "knobhead student". (Martin half agrees: "In a sense, he's right. I am a knobhead. But I'm not a student any more.") Yet if you were to put it to Martin that he might be the next Bono, he would run a mile. Put a microphone in front of U2's

frontman and he will orate like a statesman. Faced with a crowd, or even a lone interviewer, Martin waffles like your clever, amusing but slightly confused mate. He does not think he's the next messiah.

At the soundcheck that afternoon, Martin playfully rambles through bits of Oasis's Champagne Supernova, REM's Perfect Circle and the Troggs' Wild Thing. The white stuff on his ears, it turns out, is monitor cream, used to fix his tiny onstage headphones. He is looking forward to headlining the middle night at Glastonbury, he says; if he is at all fazed by the prospect of this summer's huge UK stadium shows, he isn't showing it.

Where Coldplay used to wear what might charitably be described as student chic, they now dress like rock stars: black tops, black trousers, white shoes. "There's great security in looking over at Jonny and seeing he's wearing the same coloured shoes as me," he says. "I suppose it's the same reason the army wears a uniform - so that you feel part of a clan. And when we're all dressed that way, I just feel very much like, it's OK, coz I'm part of this team."

From the start, Coldplay have been very much a foursome, a tight partnership of friends and equals. (Martin is the main songwriter, but each receives a 25% share of earnings.) If their bonds were weaker, they might not have survived the rapid ascent from indie zeroes to stadium-rock heroes. Martin, Berryman (27, from Fife via Canterbury), Buckland (27, from London via north Wales) and Champion (27, from Southampton) met in their first year at University College London, in 1996. The current line-up was formalised in late 1997, and in February 1998 they played their first gig in a Camden pub. A year later came their first, self-released EP, swiftly followed by a record deal. Pausing only to take their degrees - Martin, ancient history; Champion, anthropology; Buckland, maths and astronomy; Berryman had dropped out of engineering - they began recording their debut album. In summer 2000, Parachutes entered the chart at No 1.

Five years on, there is a lot riding on the new album, but the stress can wait. Right now, Martin is excited about everything. Earlier that week, he was in Los Angeles, where Paltrow's mother, the actor Blythe Danner, has a house. They'd had Brian Eno over for tea - Coldplay used bits of Eno's Apollo album as their intro music on their last tour. "Actually, we use everything of his everywhere, some less subtly than others. I love that man with a deep passion. He's the cleverest man in the world, since Bob Marley died and John Lennon died. He is fucking mindblowing." Martin also went to a lecture given by Eno and the inventor Danny Hillis, called Thinking After Einstein, at LA's Skirball Cultural Centre. Eno and Hillis are members of the Long Now Foundation, which "hopes to provide counterpoints to today's 'faster/cheaper' mindset and promote 'slower/better' thinking". The lecture, he says, "was just about them and their way of working. It was fascinating, actually."

Yesterday he had an enforced day off because he was ill with a bug, courtesy of one-year-old Apple Blythe Alison Martin. "I caught it off my daughter, so I don't care," he says.

Has being a dad changed him? "Well, in the same way I can't believe that I've been allowed to be in Coldplay, I can't believe I'm allowed to be Apple's dad." He takes a ruminative suck on his cocktail. "It's extraordinary. Every day I treat it like, 'Wow, so you want to hang out with me!' It's made me see things in more extreme colour. If we're going to do something with the band, I want to do it properly and to the power of 10. And if I get upset about something now, I get upset about it a lot more. So it's made things more vivid. Things that seemed threatening seem even more threatening - on a very simple level, things like environmental stuff. Who's in power. Or Fair Trade." Fatherhood, he says, "makes me more driven".

He says that while making the album he kept meeting people who had been abandoned by their fathers, "which is weird. I never really thought about that till I had Apple. The only thing I can think of is, you're so terrified about messing them up that you think you'll do less damage if you're not there."

We finish our cocktails and head back to the hotel. Martin asks if I like my new sunglasses, and says they cost \$ 16. In fact, I later find out, they cost closer to \$ 100. Martin is embarrassed by his efforts to make up for his earlier embarrassment.

X&Y is indeed the work of an increasingly driven, punchier band. It uses more electronic-based noises, some found by Martin on the "massive" keyboard Bruce Paltrow bought not long before he died in autumn 2002. In places, the album suggests sparkling modern reboots of indie-rock classics: on the soaring opener, Square One, it's U2 circa The Unforgettable Fire; The Hardest Part is a steal from REM's Losing My Religion, so blatant that the band almost didn't include it. More intriguing are the songs where they sound more like themselves, even if these include a bit of borrowing. Talk makes uplifting use of the riff from Kraftwerk's Computer Love, while 'Til Kingdom Come is a hymnal acoustic song the band originally recorded as a backing track for Johnny Cash, a song the Man in Black never got around to singing. Twisted Logic is an intense, angry track encouraging people to make the right decisions about how

they live their lives and how they treat the planet. Martin describes it as like "being slapped by a model" - impactful, but beguilingly so. It's his most political song to date.

The album is a confident step up for the band, and will no doubt sell in the many millions. Compared with "edgier", newer British bands - Franz Ferdinand, Kasabian, Razorlight, Bloc Party - Coldplay have a more traditional sound and so a broader appeal. Critically, they often get lumped in with Athlete, Travis, Embrace and Keane, bands deemed to make polite, non-threatening, melodic rock, but Coldplay's tunes are more powerful, and Martin a more engaging frontman. This summer they will be pitched head-to-head with Oasis, whose new album, *Don't Believe The Truth*, is released next week. The Oasis comeback album is a convincing return to the fray, but it's still an Oasis album, chock-full of steals from the rock classicist's manual - good fun, but hardly fodder for the soul. *X&Y*, on the other hand, is heartfelt stuff, with thumping guitar lines, emotive piano and sublime electronic embellishments. Martin's voice, too, is a superior and astonishingly limber tool, maintained by a regime involving cinnamon, oils and hot lemon drinks.

The band's new muscularity is a long way from *Parachutes*, which, according to Berryman, was "a quiet, polite record". Sure, it had the anthemic *Yellow*, the song of the summer of 2000 and the tune that broke Coldplay. But, as Buckland admits, it could also be seen as a bit of a downer. "We were in France before the album came out. We had the album in a certain order. And every French interviewer would say to us (adopts 'Allo 'Allo accent), 'So, why are you so miserable?' We didn't think of it as a miserable album." He laughs. "But then you listened to it and it just had a really, really depressing ending."

A Rush Of Blood To The Head was more dynamic, edgier. Coldplay debuted much of it during their headline set at Glastonbury in 2002, more than two months before the album came out. No one had heard the tracks before, but the immediate power of songs such as *Clocks* and *The Scientist*, epic and intimate at the same time, was clear.

That night in Las Vegas, in the Hard Rock's small, tasteful venue - all blond wood, geometrically arrayed guitars on the wall, the po-faced legend "Humanity is instrumental" above the stage - the new songs burst into life. Down the front, Daniel Craig boogies self-consciously with a glamorous young woman. Upstairs in the balcony there is enthusiastic jewellery-rattling from Robbie Williams, Jessica Simpson, Elisabeth Shue, Matthew Perry, Courteney Cox and David Arquette. Dave Navarro and Carmen Electra are sufficiently moved to snog the faces off each other.

Backstage before showtime, Martin had been in top form, running around in snug black pants, throwing rubbish karate moves. Post-gig, it's a different story. The band had a terrible time onstage. They couldn't hear a thing. They felt the new songs stuttered in places. It wasn't their kind of crowd. So it is a rather glum Martin who makes small talk in a corridor outside the dressing rooms with his American booking agent - whose toddler daughter is also called Apple. Martin tells him that, since marrying Paltrow, whose father was Jewish, he is now an "honorary Jew" - "I just had my first Passover." Afterwards, everyone heads off to the casino with a bag of bespoke Coldplay gambling chips. Martin and Champion (whose wife is travelling with him) make their excuses early, but Berryman and Buckland play blackjack until the early hours.

The following lunchtime Coldplay fly by private jet to Palm Springs, 35 minutes from Las Vegas. The band can now afford to fly wherever possible, and the increased privacy and speed mean that Apple will be able to join her father on tour more often. "I certainly don't want her to stay at home all the time," Martin says. "As she gets older, hopefully she'll come out as and when she wants. I always thought it'd be cool to be in school and say, 'I'm not coming in today - I'm off to Costa Rica to see my dad play.' I do think that wins you a few points."

From the airport, it is a short drive to the La Quinta resort, where the paparazzi are waiting for a chance to snap Paltrow, who is joining the band from LA. We head through lush, irrigated polo fields to the edge of the desert, where the band have their pictures taken. "Our Joshua Tree fantasies come true!" jokes Martin as Berryman, Buckland and Champion stay silent behind their shades. Martin keeps thrusting his left hand towards the camera. He is wearing red and blue gaffer tape on his middle and index fingers, designed to draw attention to the Make Trade Fair "equals" sign he has drawn on the back of his hand. He never misses a chance to deliver the message.

He is not always so happy to be photographed. The paparazzi stake out his north London home almost daily, desperate for a shot of him, Paltrow or Apple, preferably all three. "People forget that my wife is just a young mother," he says. "I hate Heat magazine with a passion," he declares, before admitting, "I will pick it up at the dentist's ahead of some other magazine, coz I'm like, 'Oh, I wonder what . . .'"

You wonder if you're in it? "Well, not really. But, you know, we've all got that in us." He pauses. "I don't hate Heat especially, but I hate that side of me that likes to ogle because I know what it's like to be ogled."

And even the mild-mannered can snap. Last year Martin was cautioned for common assault after tussling with a photographer who tried to take pictures of him and Paltrow leaving a London restaurant (Paltrow was seven months pregnant at the time). In 2003, he took a rock to the windscreen of a photographer who had been following the couple around a beach in Australia. He was fined for this, and says now that he regrets "any form of aggression towards anybody else, but sometimes you can't really control the animal instinct inside you. When you or someone close to you feels directly threatened or shocked, you respond. If you go up and kick a dog, it's going to turn round and bite you."

He pointedly never mentions his wife by name. He is clearly uncomfortable talking about her, but makes things difficult for himself by being unfailingly polite and incapable of telling a lie. So, while refusing to answer questions about the specifics of their relationship - meeting her at a gig in 2002; their marriage in 2003; whether Paltrow, an accomplished singer whose soundtrack to the film *Duets* earned her a No 1 in Australia, was his muse for the new album - he will say this about being married to a famous person: "While I really understand all the interest in it, after half an hour with anybody they just become another person to you. And you just become another person to them. Of course, both of us knew who the other was before we met. But we're just little people, little creatures, as well. It's not like if a bomb went off we wouldn't be killed."

Late on Saturday night, Coldplay finally take to the main stage at Coachella. Martin bounds on as the opening keyboard washes of Square One flood the 80 acres of the Empire Polo Grounds. Justin Timberlake and Cameron Diaz stand clapping on one side of the stage, Paltrow on the other. Familiar anthems are greeted with roars from the crowd. Martin encourages everyone to clap along during *God Put A Smile Upon Your Face*, saying, "I know we're foreign, but give us a chance." He sings some Weezer (who were on just before) and some Nine Inch Nails (who are headlining on Sunday). It's easy to imagine the songs from *X&Y* blasting, rippling and drifting out in stadiums around the world for the next 18 months. *Speed Of Sound* is massive.

After waffling something about everyone joining forces to try to get "the heavens to open" for Low, Martin apologises: "I don't speak particularly well. That's one of the consequences of being extremely ugly." As his smiling face looms from the giant screens (yesterday's boil has subsided), 50,000 screams begged to differ.

Around midnight, they finish with *Fix You*, an organ-led song about reconciliation and hope that climaxes with a rousing, gospelly chorus. The crowd love it. Martin tells them that last night Coldplay played one of their worst shows ever, "in a place that had more silicone than Silicon Valley. Tonight," he beams, "is the polar opposite."

Afterwards, in the crowded paddock outside the band's backstage caravan, there is a sense of a job well done. Berryman, Buckland and Champion crack open cans of lager. Paltrow raids a bucket of cold drinks. The huge lumps of ginger provided are as yet untouched, but they'll soon be needing more alcohol. Management, crew, people from the British and American record labels and the baby-faced boy-man from Keane mill around. Martin pinballs from guest to guest, an exuberant host. Coldplay have their first big gig under their belt. Their frontman can't help worrying what the world will make of *X&Y*, but officially the suspense is over; they are on the road. Tomorrow they play football at Robbie Williams's house in LA. Life is good.

Eventually Martin makes his excuses. "Sorry," he says, "got to go and find my missus."

X&Y is released on June 6.

LOAD-DATE: May 28, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.
Guelph Mercury (Ontario, Canada)

May 28, 2005 Saturday Final Edition

SECTION: LOCAL NEWS; Pg. A3

LENGTH: 524 words

HEADLINE: Poker king pockets a cool million; Guelph native walks away with \$1.1 million at major poker tournament in Las Vegas

SOURCE: MERCURY STAFF

BYLINE: BRIAN WHITWHAM

DATELINE: GUELPH

BODY:

Gavin Smith went to sleep in a posh Las Vegas suite last night at the Mirage Hotel and Casino, knowing his hard work had paid off and a dream had come true.

But the former Guelphite said the feeling of winning \$1.1 million still hadn't hit him.

The 36-year-old has spent the week playing in the 2005 World Poker Tour Mirage Poker Showdown and he took first place on Thursday night.

"Not a bad hourly rate is it?" Smith said with a laugh in a phone interview from Las Vegas.

"It might change my lifestyle in that I'll get a cleaning lady."

From Monday to Wednesday, Smith, who now lives in Vegas, played about 32 hours of poker and advanced into the final five Thursday. After nearly six and a half hours, the competition came down to him and U.S. competitor Ted Forrest.

The organizers brought the cash jackpot out to the table as the two players sat under the lights, but Smith said he forced himself not to think about the money.

"I wanted to focus on winning the tournament and think about the money afterward," he said. "In a tournament, it takes time and you have to pay attention. If you lose your concentration, you could get knocked out."

The match hit its boiling point when Forrest, with an ace and jack of clubs, pushed all of his chips in against Smith's pair of queens.

"He's a pretty unbelievable player," Smith said of Forrest. "He's the first player I wouldn't have chosen, but at least it ended quickly."

"We put all that money into the middle of the table and decided to see what happens."

With his high pair, Smith walked away with the \$1.1 million -- his biggest single winning to date -- and an additional \$150,000 prize he won at a tournament last week.

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He and about 15 friends went out for a \$4,000 dinner to celebrate, and the Mirage provided a complimentary suite with a living room, dining room and wet bar.

Smith, who has been playing poker professionally since 1998, spent yesterday afternoon just trying to nap in between constant phone calls from relatives and friends wanting to congratulate him.

His brother Neil, who lives in Guelph, spent Thursday night on the Internet trying to get updates of Smith's progress in the tournament. He said he was shocked when his brother won.

"I was just blown away," the 39-year-old said. "It was awesome. It was so cool."

"Gavin has worked really hard to get to where he's at. The money is pretty cool but he's always wanted to win these tournaments and that's been the driving force. But the money is obviously pretty cool."

Gavin Smith said the feeling of winning will probably sink in soon, and the victory should raise his stature and give his career as a player a big boost.

"It's a life-changing amount of money and it will open a lot of doors for me," he said.

"It could lead to business opportunities and endorsement opportunities and it could lead to a lot more than the million I won yesterday."

He said he would spend a day or two enjoying himself with his girlfriend, Jen, but Smith scoffs at any suggestion he would take any more time off.

"The world series of poker starts next week" in Las Vegas.

GRAPHIC: Photo: Gavin Smith, 36, took first place at a high-stakes poker showdown this week at a casino in Las Vegas.

LOAD-DATE: May 28, 2005

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The Journal News (Westerchester County, New York)

May 28, 2005 Saturday

SECTION: BUSINESS; Pg. 1D

LENGTH: 1058 words

HEADLINE: Your best friend is tying the knot, and you're paying the price

BYLINE: Tara Weiss

BODY:

Tara Weiss

The Journal News

Always a bridesmaid and never a bride - it's a more expensive cliché than most realize. Tammy Toporek is at the final fitting of her bridesmaid dress for her friend Melissa Peterson's wedding. The dress, a deep red strapless A-line with red shoes that had to be dyed to match the dress, cost more than \$300.

So far Toporek has spent more than \$1,300 to be in Peterson's wedding. That's not counting having her hair professionally styled to the specifications that her friend set.

Such spending isn't unusual. There's more financial responsibility to being a bridesmaid than buying that dress you'll likely only wear once. These days being in a wedding party often means a destination bachelor or bachelorette party, contributing time and money to the bridal shower, having your hair professionally done, travel to the wedding and hotel accommodations. And, don't forget the gift.

The average cost for a groomsman is \$700 and for a bridesmaid it reaches \$1,400, according to Kathleen Murray, a weddings editor at theknot.com.

Toporek and the other bridesmaids paid about \$1,000 for the first bachelorette party - a five-day cruise to Mexico and a night in New Orleans. Each of the four bridesmaids who went paid for themselves and split the bride's fare. Bachelorette party No. 2 was a night out bar-hopping in Hoboken, N.J.

Toporek, who is getting married next year, says it's money well spent even though she hadn't budgeted for it and had to put much of it on a credit card.

"Her fiancé is going to Vegas so we said, 'If he's going away, we're going away,'" Toporek, 28, of New City, says. "Every penny of it was worth it. We had a blast."

Men, on the other hand, have significantly less expenses.

Danny Iacovides, a groomsman in Peterson's wedding, spent about \$500 for a three-day bachelor party trip to Las Vegas - that included the splitting the groom's fare with the rest of the groomsmen. The only other expense was the tuxedo and shoe rental, which cost \$160.

"It gets expensive but it's well worth it," Iacovides, 25, of New City, says. "I've never been in a wedding. I'm really enjoying it. He's my closest friend. It's an honor."

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If money is an issue, it's important to communicate that to the couple right away.

"There's nothing wrong with bringing up financial concerns," Murray says. "Most couples will understand that. Hopefully they'll work with you. If you don't feel you can afford the expense of being in the bridal party then maybe you can be an usher or do a reading. Or the bride and groom should consider their own financial situation and work out a deal where they help you out with the cost of attire or tell you it's OK to skip the bachelor or bachelorette party."

That's what bride-to-be Lindsay Ross, of Trumbull, Conn. did.

"I wouldn't want to sacrifice my day, but if it gets too high I'm willing to help out financially," says Ross, 24, who was recently at a dress-fitting at Botticelli Bridal Boutique in Bronxville with her bridesmaid Deanna Voisine. "I put that out to all of my bridesmaids."

Ross was a bridesmaid at Voisine's wedding three weeks earlier. Voisine, 26, of Bridgeport, Conn., said her bridesmaids all paid for their own dresses, which were about \$190 plus \$40 for the shoes, but she covered the cost of transportation from the hotel to the church and then to the reception. She also had snack baskets made up for the bridal party for their hotel rooms and she sponsored a breakfast for them the day after the wedding.

As a thank-you Peterson is taking her five bridesmaids and her maid of honor to a spa for facials and massages and giving them gifts that she'll present them at the rehearsal dinner.

The wedding party is often expected to stay in a hotel with the bride and groom and their families. If that's too expensive, Murray says there are ways to ease the cost without offending the couple.

She suggests staying with a friend or in a less expensive hotel closeby and telling the couple, "I don't think I can afford to stay in such a fancy hotel, but I'll be there as soon as you want me to and I'll do anything you want me to."

There are other non-financial ways to help too.

"When it comes to the bridal shower, you can say, 'I can't afford to give much, but let me write all the invitations and I'll do all the cleanup,'" say Sharon Naylor, author of more than 20 wedding planning books.

Two weeks before the wedding, bridesmaids Anna Aiello and Cara Vivenzio are huddled in a dressing room at Botticelli Bridal Boutique being shown how to bustle their friend Antonietta Pennella's wedding gown. The three, all of Port Chester, have been friends since kindergarten and say they always knew they'd be in each other's weddings.

They recently returned from a combined bachelorette party for Pennella and Vivenzio (she's getting married later in the year) in South Beach, Fla. Six members of the bridal party paid for themselves and for half the cost of the two brides, for a total of \$520 each.

Their bridesmaid dress for Pennella's wedding was \$250, plus they helped organize a bridal shower, which cost them about \$500.

"It's something we have been dreaming about our whole lives," Aiello, 27, says. "We don't even think about money."

Sometimes there are payoffs, though. Fernanda Botticellia, owner of Botticelli Bridal Boutique, fell in love with her husband when he was a groomsman and she was a bridesmaid in a mutual friends' wedding.

Keeping costs down

If you're asked to be a bridesmaid or a maid of honor, experts say you should expect to pay around \$1,400. Groomsmen get away with spending a lot less - about \$700. If that's not a financial option there are ways to keep costs down without starting a fight:

- * Be direct. If money is an issue, first express how much you care about the couple and how honored you are to be in the wedding. Then explain the financial constraints you have.
- * Instead of staying at a costly hotel or bed and breakfast tell the couple that you're going to stay at a less expensive hotel nearby but you'll arrive at the hotel at whatever time they need you there.
- * Instead of contributing money to the bridal shower, offer to address the invitations, do all the cleanup after the party and think of games to play at the party.

LOAD-DATE: June 1, 2005

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Copyright 2005 MGN Ltd.
The Mirror

May 28, 2005, Saturday

SECTION: 3 Star Edition; SPORT; Pg. 2,3

LENGTH: 322 words

HEADLINE: RACING: WIN A VIP DAY FOR TWO AT SANDOWN .. CHANCE OF TRIP FOR TWO TO LAS VEGAS.. £ 600 COMPLIMENTARY BETS ..

BODY:

TOP bookmakers Paddy Power and Mirror Racing have joined forces to offer a lucky reader a VIP day at Sandown Park on Saturday June 11 which could end in Las Vegas.

Paddy Power are celebrating the launch of paddypowerpoker.com by sponsoring three races on the Sandown card and a trip to Vegas is only the roll of the dice away for our lucky winner.

Up for grabs are

· A complimentary £ 500 win bet on the feature race of the day, the paddy powerpoker.com Stakes.

Two Premier badges for the Sandown meeting on June 11 PLUS lunch and drinks in the Tingle Creek restaurant.

a£ 100 travelling expenses. aTo celebrate the fact that Paddy Power pay TREBLE the odds on a single winner of a Lucky 15 bet placed in their UK shops our winner has a complimentary Lucky 15 to a total of £ 100 on four Sandown races, including the paddy powerpoker.com Stakes. alf our winner shows a profit of over £ 2,500 on the bet they will be offered a a trip to Las Vegas for two.

The five-day trip includes \$ 500 in complimentary gambling money courtesy of Paddy Power Casino plus accommodation and flights to the biggest gambling city in the world.

To win this great prize ring:

0901 560 9654

and answer this question: Which card game, popular in Las Vegas, has a variation called Five Card Stud: is it (a) Snap or (b) Poker.

Leave your answer with your name and contact details or text PADDY followed by a space and then your answer to 84080. Closing date is midnight, Tuesday May 31. Calls should take no longer than two minutes.

Calls cost 60p per minute. Text entries £ 1.50. Winner selected at random from all correct entries.

Usual MGN rules apply, there is no cash alternative. Entrants must be aged 18 and over. Not available in ROI. No cash alternative available. If our winner also wins the Las Vegas trip by showing more than £ 2,500 profit on the Lucky 15, it must be taken before November 1 2005.

LOAD-DATE: May 31, 2005

N/R 58

PC-00127

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Copyright 2005 MGN Ltd.
The Mirror

May 28, 2005, Saturday

SECTION: 3 Star Edition; SPORT; Pg. 2,3

LENGTH: 322 words

HEADLINE: RACING: WIN A VIP DAY FOR TWO AT SANDOWN .. CHANCE OF TRIP FOR TWO TO LAS VEGAS.. £ 600 COMPLIMENTARY BETS ..

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LOAD-DATE: May 31, 2005

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PC-00128

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Copyright 2005 The Montgomery Advertiser
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The Montgomery Advertiser (Alabama)

May 28, 2005 Saturday 01 Edition

SECTION: C; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 498 words

HEADLINE: Big winner hears: 'Rhonda Patton, come on down!'

BYLINE: Antoinette Konz Montgomery Advertiser, akonz@gannett.com

BODY:

Local school principal wins showcase on "The Price is Right"

Rhonda Patton has always been a fan of "The Price is Right," but she never imagined she would get the chance to become a contestant on the popular television game show.

On a show taped Monday, Patton, assistant principal at Montgomery's Morningview Elementary School, not only became a contestant, she was named the show's big winner.

"I still can't believe it," Patton said, moments after she watched the show that aired Friday. "I never thought I would become a contestant, much less be going to the showcase at the end and winning."

For Patton, 33, the journey to becoming a contestant began weeks ago. She ordered tickets in advance for a chance to be at Monday's taping. The Friday before, she flew to Las Vegas with her husband. They spent the weekend in Vegas and then drove to Los Angeles on Sunday.

"We wanted to make sure we knew where the studio was and get there early because the tickets were not guaranteed," she said. "You still have to stand in line."

Patton, her husband, Marius Patton, and two other family members got in line at 4:30 a.m. Monday and there were 200 people in line ahead of them.

"They had two tapings that day," she said. "We made it to the second taping, but even then there was a big process to make it in. They asked for our names and then interviewed us and asked us several questions."

Patton thinks the T-shirt she made a big difference for her making it onto the show. Her bright-colored shirt read "Bob, Let's Play Plinko ... If the Price is Right."

"I wanted to wear something that would draw attention to myself," she said.

Patton was the first contestant to have her name called on the hourlong game show, but she was the second-to-last person to appear onstage and play a game.

She played "Pass the Buck" for a chance to take home a new sport utility vehicle but didn't win that game. She later had the opportunity to spin the wheel for a chance to bid on the game-ending showcase.

She spun the wheel and got into the showcase. She bid \$24,500 on a prize package that consisted of a cappuccino maker, a Dell computer and a Pontiac Grand Prix.

Moments later, host Bob Barker announced the showcase was worth \$25,237 and Patton was the big winner.

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Patton said her prizes won't arrive until August.

"They will arrange for me to pick it up here," she said. "I am just really looking forward to driving a car that I didn't have to pay for."

But for Patton, becoming a contestant on "The Price Is Right" was about more than winning. It was a chance to honor her late grandmother, Beatrice Thornton, who passed away in 2000.

"My grandmother watched that show every single day. She lived to see that show," Patton said. "It was a dream of hers to be on the show one day and she never got that chance. At the end of the show, after I had won, I got a little emotional because she was all I could think about. But I know she was watching me from above."

LOAD-DATE: June 1, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Philadelphia Inquirer
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Philadelphia Inquirer

May 28, 2005 Saturday CITY-D EDITION

SECTION: FEATURES MAGAZINE; BRIEF; Pg. C06

LENGTH: 764 words

HEADLINE: Newsmakers / Dad can visit Lindsay Lohan - until he goes to prison

BYLINE: By Tirdad Derakhshani; Inquirer Staff Writer

BODY:

The never-ending Lohan Clan circus continues to go 'round and 'round. The latest has child-ingenue **Lindsay Lohan's** dad, **Michael**, convicted yesterday for a smorgasbord of crimes.

Newsday says Nassau County Court in Long Island has sentenced him to 11/3 to 4 years in prison for assaulting his brother-in-law with a shoe at a family gathering; DUI; and aggravated driving without a license. Lohan, 45, had pleaded with Judge **Claire Weinberg** to send him to rehab instead.

Lohan peredid win one point: The judge refused to sign an order of protection filed against him by his estranged wife, **Dinah**, on behalf of Lindsay that would have barred dad from contact with his daughter. Weinberg said that since Lindsay is 18, she has to file one herself. Dina's own order of protection was continued.

Mariah's triumph

Singing sensation **Mariah Carey** scored her 16th No. 1 hit on Billboard's singles chart this week with "We Belong Together," a love ballad off the two-million-selling **The Emancipation of Mimi**, in which Mimi, afraid she'll have no one "to talk to me on the phone / Till the sun comes up," exhorts a lover to "Come back, baby, please."

"When you left I lost a part of me," she deduces. Only the **Beatles** (with 20) and **Elvis Presley** (18) have had more No. 1s. Giving birth to Mimi was revelatory, Carey says: "For the first time, I feel like this is an expression of who I am."

Job for Jacko?

Looks as if **Michael Jackson** might get himself a Wynn - provided he wins. Celebrity Justice reports that Penn benefactor and hotel mega-magnate **Steve Wynn** is negotiating to sign the self-proclaimed King of Pop as a featured act at the Wynn Hotel and Casino in **Vegas**, provided M.J. is exonerated at his child-molestation trial. A Wynn rep refused to comment to CJ; M.J.'s reps didn't respond.

To tell all?

Lawrence Bass, the dude whose sexual-harassment suit against **Demi Moore** was chucked out of court, is threatening to publish a tell-all book detailing the private lives of Demi and ex-hubby **Bruce Willis**. According to the New York Post, Bass, the former manager of the Idaho ranch the stars once shared, contends he has already finished the

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manuscript. He says he'll show that Demi's life is "a sham." (Really?!) A lawyer for both actors says Bass is a "desperate guy" and a "loser."

A Scottish apparition?

Do I hear a ghost? That's the question New Zealand-born soprano **Kiri Te Kanawa** posed to the audience during a recital at Edinburgh's Usher Hall Wednesday. She heard footsteps behind her and asked if the audience heard them too. Some in the front row nodded in the affirmative, in a venue that has such a history of hauntings that ushers have quit out of fear. "Dame Kiri was completely serious about it. You could tell she was completely freaked out," an Usher Hall rep said. No theories were offered as to who the ghost might have been.

Fighting his fires

So where does winning a \$1 mil Survivor: Palau jackpot take you? If you're **Tom Westman**, it's, well, back to work. The New York Daily News says two weeks after raking in the dough, the 41-year-old firefighter is back to work at Brooklyn's Ladder 108 firehouse.

Model citizens

Janice Dickinson, the self-described world's first supermodel, who went from being high on drugs to being high on her well-endowed ego, has left the UPN reality show America's Next Top Model. British '60s belle **Twiggy** will replace her, joining judges **Tyra Banks**, photog **Nigel Barker**, and runway expert (they pay you for that?) **J. Alexander**.

Ozzy celebrates

Talking about being high, **Ozzy Osbourne** is celebrating some anniversaries: one year of sobriety and 10 years of that monster-mash music circus, Ozzfest (at Camden's Tweeter Center July 19). So what gets the beloved reality show patriarch pumped these days? Working out. As in exercising: "I get a normal endorphin; it's as good as any drug," he said. "I'm addicted to [that], and being yelled at by my wife."

Zooma zooms away

Ah, shucks: The inaugural Zooma tour, which was to bring former Phish guitarist **Trey Anastasio** and **Ben Harper** to the Tweeter Center June 16 and the Hersheypark Stadium July 1, has been canceled. Billboard.com says ticket sales were anemic. Refunds will be available at point of purchase. Most ticket-holders will get automatic refunds on their credit cards.

Contact "Newsmakers" at 215-854-5797 or newsmakers@phillynews.com

LOAD-DATE: May 28, 2005

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Press & Sun-Bulletin (Binghamton, New York)

May 28, 2005 Saturday

SECTION: OPINION; #column#; Pg. 4A

LENGTH: 431 words

HEADLINE: EDITORIAL - A safe bet;
'American Idol' winner steers clear of controversy

BODY:

Americans like to bet on just about anything. They bet on the horses; they bet on NASCAR. They bet on the NCAA Final Four; they bet on the Super Bowl. They even bet on the winners at the Academy Awards.

A trend that's very hot in Vegas -- the gambler's world capital -- is betting on reality TV. The Apprentice, The Contender and Survivor have all kept oddsmakers busy recently.

But if you were hanging out at the water cooler

earlier this week, you knew the real game in town was who would win American Idol.

The reality show, in its fourth season, is a singing contest that pits all types of genres against each other. Past seasons have been heavy on vocal

styles from the Whitney Houston-Mariah Carey School of Running Notes & Flourishes to the squeaky high notes of boy bands. This year the finalists, Carrie Underwood and Bo Bice, broke that trend by adding the genres of country and southern classic rock.

Opinions, and surely bets, were strong for either camp. Carrie was portrayed as the girl with an angelic voice but an ice princess facade. Bo was the soulful rocker who'd strayed over the wrong side of the law but returned to the straight and narrow after completing a drug program. They were running neck and neck until the semifinal round when Bo bravely sang the song In A Dream a capella. Slam dunk, some said. Bookmakers everywhere switched the odds heavily in favor of Bice.

However, could an American Idol be someone who'd been arrested? It seems every season there have been revelations about past indiscretions of contestants. And if you look at the celebrities of today's Hollywood and music world, you know there aren't many choir boys left in town. At least Bice had paid the price and did his time, and was up front with the show about his past.

In the finals, Bice's performances lacked the spirit of his others. Fox said he'd had a case of food poisoning. But that's just the sort of thing to get conspiracy theorists off and running. Was the story made up or did Bice purposefully have an off night so he could get a better contract than the stifling one offered by Idol? Was the fix in for a squeaky clean Carrie to win? A British paper announced Sunday that she was the winner. And what do you know, she did win.

The big question is, does it really matter? Both singers have talent and will likely enjoy successful careers. More than 20 million viewers watched each night. Who could beat that type of exposure.

Some people will never let it go, though. What do you bet this argument will continue on through the summer. Say, 10 to 1?

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LOAD-DATE: June 1, 2005

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Copyright 2005 McClatchy Newspapers, Inc.
Sacramento Bee

May 28, 2005, Saturday METRO FINAL EDITION

SECTION: EDITORIALS; Pg. B6; EDITORIALS

LENGTH: 284 words

HEADLINE: Cr el gr el Metal band fights for right to be stupid

BODY:

We were recently surprised to learn that M tley Cr e, the heavy metal band whose artistry includes songs about rape, knifings and "black-hearted alley fights," has turned to the courts to protect its civil liberties.

Band members, millionaires several times over, have cloaked themselves in the First Amendment before. In 1999, bassist Nikki Sixx riled the Las Vegas police when he joked, during a Vegas concert, about rolling over some of their squad cars. Prior to that, Tipper Gore helped the band sell records by labeling Cr e members as examples of "smut and sadism," all because they sang that:

I'll either break her face

Or take down her legs

Get my ways at will

Go for the throat

Now, M tley Cr e faces the ultimate persecution. NBC has banned the band from its airwaves, just because Vince Neil, the band's lead singer, used the F-word during a live broadcast of the "Tonight Show" on Dec. 31.

In response, M tley Cr e has filed suit against NBC. In its suit, filed in federal court in Los Angeles on Tuesday, the band posits the novel argument that NBC is kowtowing to the heavy-handed Federal Communications Commission.

Skip Miller, the band's lawyer, notes that NBC has not blacklisted U2's Bono or the singer John Mayer, both of whom uttered profanities on the same network. Band members are losing money, he adds, calling it "a tender, important time for them."

We have to side with the tender Cr e boys on this one. Although band members will surely fail in court - a judge can't dictate what NBC should broadcast - the network shouldn't ban them just for using a bad word. It should ban them because they are stupid, misogynistic and about as fresh as an old cow pie.

LOAD-DATE: May 29, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Sun Media Corporation
The Toronto Sun

May 28, 2005 Saturday
FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 63

LENGTH: 520 words

HEADLINE: FANS AT FEVER PITCH

BYLINE: BY JOE WARMINGTON

BODY:

IT'S THE best thing that has happened to Liverpool since the Beatles.

Of course we're talking about the dramatic Champions League final in which Liverpool came back on the soccer pitch from 3-0 and defeated A.C. Milan. Fantastic! Well, I guess that depends on who you talk to.

"If it were me I would not let (A.C. Milan) get off the plane," says my pal George Bigliardi, who like all Italians was stunned with the result.

But another friend Terry Sylvester, formerly of The Hollies and a neighbour of Paul McCartney o'er home, was still high when I met him at Lion on The Beach last night. "It's just the greatest thing," he said with his Liverpool accent. "I still can't quite believe it, you know."

Terry just flew in from the southern U.S. from being on tour with Andy Kim and was on Cloud 9 when Kim called him from Vegas. "He's pretty excited," says Kim, who was with Terry when he threw out the opening pitch at the Jackson Diamond Jaxx minor league baseball game in Tennessee last week.

Rough life those rock 'n' rollers have.

Special thanks to the cops at 51 Division -- Consts. Dane Ing, Al McCullough, Jeff Gillan and Staff-Sgt. Frank Bergen -- who responded so well early yesterday when I found a guy in my car, rifling through all of my stuff. Talk about a freaky moment. The guy was just seconds from scoring my camera and computer when King Eddy doorman Sean Loughran and I walked out of the Tim Hortons at King and Victoria. I was just stunned to see a guy sitting in my driver's seat. When he saw us, he darted out of the car, but minutes later police took down a suspect who we pointed out to them. Justin Pfaff, 22, of no fixed address, is charged with theft under \$5,000. Pfaff, who is known to police, spent the night in the slammer but was later released.

Man there's nothing like a good old-fashioned east-coast kitchen ceilidh, or kaylee for those who don't speak Cape Breton.

They were doing some serious Cape Breton partying last night at the Enoch Turner school at King and Parliament - complete with some legendary Celtic performers offering up great performances to help raise money for The Weekend to End Breast Cancer and also to pay tribute to the Godfather of Celtic Music, John Allan Cameron. "This is fantastic," says the legend, dressed in his kilt and sporting a giant smile.

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It's true he's a little under the weather fighting cancer but you would never have known it last night.

With people on stage like JP Cormier, Sandy MacIntyre and Steeped in Tradition, John Donald Cameron, Dave MacIsaac, Bobby Cameron, Douglas John Cameron and with former Leaf turned piper Glenn Healy, John Elliot and the rest of the Peel Police Pipe and Drum Band, it's no wonder John Allan was up playing air guitar.

"The guy gave a chance to so many Celtic musicians," says organizer Marty MacDougall. "He's an icon."

We also can't forget the "Femmes Feetales" team -- Carol Neil, Joanne Nelson, Donna Laing, Karen Chandler, Debbie Mann, Gail Raynard, Sheri Sabourin, Angela Steinmann and Khadija Sunderji -- who'll walk to raise money this weekend. Whatever you are doing this weekend, have fun. Scrawler out.

GRAPHIC: 6 photos by Joe Warmington 1. EAST COAST FLAVOUR photo of GLENN HEALY 2. photo of SANDY MACINTYRE 3. CELTIC MUSIC legend John Allan Cameron is decked out in full Scottish garb last night at the Enoch Turner school. "This is fantastic," he said. 4. OFFICERS ARREST a suspect after Scrawler's car was rifled. 5. Terry Sylvester rejoices Liverpool's win 6. Being on tour with Andy Kim.

LOAD-DATE: May 28, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Albuquerque Tribune
Albuquerque Tribune (New Mexico)

May 27, 2005 Friday

SECTION: EVENING; Pg. B1

LENGTH: 458 words

HEADLINE: Suspension almost finished

BYLINE: Jeremy Fowler jfowler@abqtrib.com / 823-3614

BODY:

ISOTOPES

Infielder Delgado itching to return, skipper says

No more long waits in the clubhouse for Wilson Delgado.

The Albuquerque Isotopes middle infielder, who hasn't been allowed to watch games from the dugout while serving a 15-game suspension for violating the minor league drug program, will be eligible to play Saturday against the Omaha Royals in Isotopes Park.

The game is the second of an eight-game Isotopes homestand that starts tonight against the Omaha Royals.

Since his suspension on May 12, Delgado has been taking batting and infield practice before retreating to the clubhouse to watch the game on TV.

Isotopes Manager Dean Treanor said his infielder is itching to return.

"I give him a lot of credit, because I see him in the clubhouse after a game, and he's in there clapping and all that stuff," Treanor said. "But this is obviously something, from a personal standpoint, that has set him back."

The suspension most likely stems from steroid use, as a 15-game absence is the standard punishment for first-time steroid abusers.

Delgado can speak to the media once the suspension is over, but Treanor says he is allowing Delgado to speak only about baseball, not possible steroid use.

A nine-year major league veteran, Delgado was hitting .244 with two homers and 14 RBIs in 33 games with Albuquerque (26-22).

Treanor said Delgado will be rusty, and the manager said he doesn't know when and where he will place his utility player into the lineup.

"He's been working out hard, taking his groundballs, taking batting practice," Treanor said. "We have to get him back in game shape. He's conditioned, but it's not the same."

The Isotopes have produced in Delgado's absence. A seven-game winning streak from May 14-21 helped revitalize Albuquerque from its previous 17-19 record.

Albuquerque is in a close race with the Round Rock Express for first place in the Pacific Coast League Southern Division.

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Treanor said he has been most proud of the way his team responded to a four-game road trip in Las Vegas, Nev., a usually distracting place to play.

The team stayed at the Golden Nugget Hotel in downtown Vegas but still won three of the four games against the Las Vegas 51s.

"It's Vegas, it's Sin City, and there are distractions," Treanor said. "Do I expect them to go out and have a good time? Yes. But our priority in Vegas was to win four games. We almost did that. We were out there in the 110-degree heat, not complaining, just working hard.

"It paid off."

The Isotopes' 9-6 win Thursday night at Tucson capped a 5-3 road swing, the Isotopes' best record on a road trip this season.

TONIGHT

Who: Albuquerque Isotopes vs. Omaha Royals

When: 7:05 p.m.

Where: Isotopes Park

On the air: KNML-AM (610) with Bob Socci and Mike Roberts

Isotopes Corner: Page B6

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: Color Delgado

LOAD-DATE: May 30, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Business Wire, Inc.
Business Wire

May 27, 2005 Friday 12:07 AM GMT

DISTRIBUTION: Music Writers; Entertainment Editors

LENGTH: 403 words

HEADLINE: Crooner Inc.: Jay Leno Opener Crooning for Better Than Ezra

DATELINE: LAS VEGAS May 27, 2005

BODY:

New crooner Brian Evans is laying in wait. The young singer has been opening for the likes of Joan Rivers and Jay Leno in Las Vegas...and on July 4th he's been asked to open for Social Distortion and Better Than Ezra in Las Vegas.

"I'm excited about it, and given their audience is so totally opposite of what I do, it proves this music crosses all boundaries and all ages," says Evans.

Evans, 31, recently licensed his last CD, "Brian Evans - Las Vegas" to BMG Direct, a catalog that is distributed to more than 5 million households in the United States. He remains the only single artist that BMG Direct has ever licensed for their catalog (www.bmgdirect.com).

In 2004, Evans took a year off to live in Hawaii...where he ran for the United States Senate. Evans finished second place while a Honolulu Prosecutor came in third (see www.rollcall.com). After the election, Evans returned to Vegas to begin opening for Leno.

"Leno was the coolest guy I've ever worked for. He was very helpful to me with some advice on what I do on stage," says Evans, who is currently working on a new album of original material in the genre. "What will separate me from the other new crooners is the fact that I've both lived the material, and I can write." Frank Sinatra once told the singer "It's not the age, it's the mileage," when Evans asked him whether or not "My Way" was a good song for a young man to perform. "When I sing it, I'm seeing my entire life," says Evans.

Evans music is also available on iTunes and Amazon.com. Earlier this month, Evans performed to more than 10,000 fans just outside of Toronto when he was opening for Joan Rivers. A video clip of that performance is available at www.brianevansonline.com, the singers official website.

Brian Evans will appear twice in Los Angeles on June 21st at The Knitting Factory, and July 13th at The Key Club. On July 23rd he'll play The Gateway Theatre in Richmond, BC, just outside of Vancouver, BC. The 4th of July date with Ezra/Social Distortion will occur in Las Vegas. Evans will also appear in his hometown of Haverhill, Massachusetts on July 31st, just north of Boston.

Evans, whose family is from Wales, England but whom was born in Massachusetts, believes he is laying in wait.

"I see the other crooners out there, but I just watch. My turn is coming and you will know my name."

CONTACT: Crooner Inc. Helen Bousquet (702) 798-7015 evansvegas@aol.com www.brianevansonline.com

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PC-00143

URL: <http://www.businesswire.com>

LOAD-DATE: May 28, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Madison Newspapers, Inc.
The Capital Times (Madison, Wisconsin)

May 27, 2005 Friday
ALL EDITION

SECTION: FRONT; THE TALK; Pg. 2A

LENGTH: 828 words

HEADLINE: 'LOST VEGAS' FINDS LOUNGE LIZARDS

BYLINE: Doug Moe

BODY:

ONE LOST night in the 1980s Tim Onosko and his wife, Beth Abrohams, found themselves in the lounge of the Stardust Hotel in Las Vegas, listening to an entertainer named Sonny King talk between songs about Frank and Dean and Sammy. If you needed last names, Sonny would tell you to go home to Iowa. If you pestered him again, he'd punch you out.

"I wasn't sure if I was watching a parody or the real thing," Onosko was recalling Thursday.

Certainly Onosko, who was born in Kenosha and has called Madison home for more than two decades, didn't think then that he would one day make a documentary film paying homage to lounge lizards like King.

"Lost Vegas: The Lounge Era," which Onosko has just completed, is that and more -- a chronicle of the evolution of Las Vegas itself, told in the smoke and whiskey rasp of the colorful characters who lived it.

"Lost Vegas" will have its world premiere June 15 at the 2005 CineVegas Film Festival in Las Vegas, but last weekend Onosko screened it for friends in Madison.

His friends know Onosko as one of those guys whose job description needs a lot of hyphens. He first surfaced here in the early 1980s as a writer, often on media and technology, who made his real living free-lancing for national publications like Omni.

By the end of that decade Onosko had begun working under the massive umbrella of the Walt Disney empire, living here, commuting to Southern California, working in design and development and helping the Mouse launch book and magazine publishing divisions. Later he crossed the street and did similar work for Universal, while continuing to reside in Madison. It wasn't easy but it was possible, until 9/11 made frequent travel a major headache.

Onosko -- who declined to give his age other than to note he may be the oldest director exhibiting at CineVegas -- decided that if he was ever going to make a career change, it was time.

It was around then, January 2003, that Onosko was at a consumer electronics show in Vegas with a friend who asked what Tim wanted to do. Onosko thought for a moment, then said on a whim, "Let's find Sonny King." He reasoned that while the Stardust was long gone, its ghosts might still be running loose.

A quick Internet search on King and Vegas produced the name Bootlegger's Bistro. It turned out to be a restaurant and bar way out on the Vegas strip, and while that first night Onosko didn't find King, he found the joint the lounge legends embraced after much of their city had been turned into a theme park. Sonny was due in the next night, Onosko was told. Tim changed his travel plans to stick around, and before the sun was up the idea for a documentary on a fast fading world had taken hold.

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"It was like finding a hundred dollar bill on the sidewalk," Onosko said. "I couldn't believe their stories hadn't been told."

Onosko wasn't as interested in the bigger lounge names -- Buddy Greco, Louis Prima, Don Rickles -- as in guys like King, Blackie Hunt, Joe Mayer and Freddie Bell, mainly journeymen pros who'd arrived in the desert when Vegas was little more than an oasis for that group of entrepreneurs known to the entertainers, then and now, as "the Boys."

Oh, they had stories to tell. It was as if the singers and mob guys were in competition to see who could drink, gamble and get married the most. One story led to another and Onosko was pleased to find that most of the guys -- a few gals, too -- were happy to talk. Hunt, who performed for 17 years in the Casbar lounge in the famed Sahara, opened a lot of doors. It didn't hurt that Hunt's wife, Lorraine Hunt, is a Vegas native, a former lounge singer and, today, the lieutenant governor of the state of Nevada.

"Blackie felt this was a story he wanted told," Onosko said.

Not that it was easy. Onosko admits frankly that "I thought I knew a lot more about filmmaking than I did." He made mistakes, got discouraged, but ultimately persevered. He got help from some film industry people with Wisconsin ties, including Chicago producer Ned Englehart and the documentary filmmaker Errol Morris. It was Morris who suggested Onosko employ the great magician and actor Ricky Jay, a connoisseur of con artists, who serves as narrator for "Lost Vegas."

Sonny King himself was hot and cold on the project. The lounge legend eventually sat for a lengthy interview, but not before demanding that Onosko go to an ATM machine for a stack of \$100 bills. Onosko agreed, because while he did not pay for any interviews, he paid the five performers who actually perform in the film, and one of those was Sonny. When King tried to sell Onosko a picture of himself, Tim passed.

Well, you don't spend decades in Vegas lounges without knowing how to play all the angles. Onosko needs a little of that cool and con himself, now that he's trying to hustle a distribution deal for his film, which he says will play Madison one of these days.

The Vegas festival is a good start. If it's a hit, drinks at the Bootlegger's Bistro are on the director.

NOTES: Heard something Moe should know? Call 252-6446, write PO Box 8060, Madison, WI 53708, or e-mail dmoe@madison.com.

GRAPHIC: SUBMITTED PHOTO Sonny King, a Vegas lounge lizard, is remembered in Tim Onosko's documentary.

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Channel NewsAsia

May 27, 2005 Friday

SECTION: SINGAPORE NEWS

LENGTH: 332 words

HEADLINE: Gambling no longer the mainstay for many resorts in Las Vegas

BODY:

LAS VEGAS : Las Vegas - the gambling capital of the world?

Well, yes... and maybe no.

Bidders for Singapore's integrated resort projects say gambling is forming an increasingly smaller part of their revenue - a model Singapore hopes to adopt.

So what can Singaporeans expect to see inside its new resorts?

It has been called 'Disney on Dice'.

And with slot machines that greet you as soon as you step out of your plane, it is no wonder 'Sin City' has its reputation.

But a radical shift has been taking place.

Rob Powers, Vice President of , Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, said: "Major properties here on the strip probably 10 years or so ago typically derived about 80 percent of its operating revenue from the casino. In many cases now...they will derive more than half of their revenue from non-gaming sources - with shows, room lodging, and entertainment."

At Wynn Las Vegas, the world's newest and most expensive gaming resort at US \$2.7billion - retail and Famp;B makes up over 60 percent of its revenue.

Terri Monsour, Senior Vice President of Retail Operations at Wynn Las Vegas, said: "The reason people come here is for the total experience, for dining, for shopping, for the entertainment. Of course we have casinos but that's just an added attraction that's no longer the main reason that they come to Las Vegas."

And tourists have a range of options to choose from.

Unique shows, 18-hole golf course, over 30 top-brand stores, and world class restaurants.

Over at Caesar's Palace, which will be acquired by Harrah's Entertainment, shows are big on the cards.

Sell out performances by Celine Dion and Elton John have attracted tourists from around the world.

Caesar's famous Roman baths, some 200 stores and restaurants, and 2,400 rooms and suites contribute to nearly 60 percent of its revenue.

So Sin City or not, gambling is no longer the mainstay for many resorts in Vegas - something authorities hope to create in Singapore. - CNA/de

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LOAD-DATE: May 27, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Chicago Tribune Company
Chicago Tribune

May 27, 2005 Friday
Chicago Final Edition

SECTION: ON THE TOWN ; ZONE C; Chris Jones ; Pg. 5

LENGTH: 533 words

HEADLINE: What's 'Blues' doing in sweet home Skokie?

BYLINE: Chris Jones, Tribune arts critic

BODY:

This Memorial Day weekend, Chicago fills with visitors. And every year around this time, it ticks me off that downtown Chicago doesn't have one live show in a tourist-friendly neighborhood that showcases this city's historical and musical heritage.

And no, Tommy Gun's Garage--at 773-RAT-A-TAT--does not count.

Nor do a few bars of Frank Sinatra in that crummy little movie at the Sears Tower observation deck.

This lack is particularly irritating this year, because the Northlight Theatre in Skokie is doing "It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues," a stellar and superbly performed Broadway-caliber blues revue that follows the trajectory of the music up the City of New Orleans tracks from the Mississippi Delta all the way to the South Side.

Discriminating Skokie's gain is downtown's loss--there's nothing wrong with a fine show lighting up a savvy suburb. But the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts is a mighty expensive cab ride from downtown Chicago. So most tourists won't go.

Stuff this thing somewhere near the Michigan Avenue hotels and you'd make a fortune.

"Shear Madness" made a killing for years in a crummy hotel ballroom. Why? It was fun--to a point. But mainly, it was convenient.

I've felt these twinges of irritation many times before--usually when I've just seen one of the Black Ensemble Theatre's fine series of biographical musicals about such Chicago-influenced blues talents as Bessie Smith or Howlin' Wolf. Unaccountably, none of those Black Ensemble shows ever has moved within walking distance--or even easy cab distance--of a Marriott or a Hyatt.

Talk about a lack of imagination. Those shows didn't need some posh theater. They'd have been fine anywhere a visitor could stumble.

Key West has its drag shows. Vegas has its Vegas spectacles. New York has indigenous Broadway. And in New Orleans, musicians are a virtually protected species.

Chicago loves to promote itself as a destination for culture tourism. So why cannot anyone come up with a classy musical made up of Chicago music?

The attempt should not start and end with last year's "The Official Blues Brothers Revival" debacle--that was a sub-par, ersatz-blues show presented off the beaten tourist track.

Chicago Tribune May 27, 2005 Friday

By contrast, "It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues"--devised by Randal Mylerand playing through June 19--is the real thing. It's a celebration of the art form and a history lesson. It's Blues 101, the Greatest Hits of the Blues, the Complete Idiots Guide to the Blues and yet also a treat for aficionados.

This show opened--and thrived--on Broadway more than six years ago. Six years ago. But until now, no one ever bothered to bring it anywhere near Chicago, which you'd think would be its spiritual home.

The Chicago Blues Festival aside, this city has never been very good at showcasing the blues to tourists.

Certainly, we have many fine clubs. But we bulldozed Maxwell Street. And as a June Chicago Magazine article by Kelly Aiglon aptly points out, local musician Gregg Parker has undergone an almighty struggle against local apathy to get his new Chicago Blues Museum--now located at 3636 S. Iron St.--off the ground.

Long-running Broadway imports have their place. But this is sweet home Chicago.

cjones5@tribune.com

NOTES: FRONT ROW

GRAPHIC: PHOTO (color): Felicia P. Fields sings in "It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues" at Northlight Theatre in Skokie.
PHOTO

LOAD-DATE: May 27, 2005

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Copyright 2005 The Commercial Appeal, Inc.
The Commercial Appeal (Memphis, TN)

May 27, 2005 Friday Final Edition

SECTION: SPORTS; Pg. D13

LENGTH: 1010 words

HEADLINE: There's always lessons to be learned from baseball

BYLINE: Don Wade dwade@commercialappeal.com

BODY:

No one knows for certain what Tommy West said in his first private moment with Daron Schoenrock, but maybe it was something like this:

"Oh, boy, I have been there and done that."

West, after all, took over the University of Memphis football program at a low point. Schoenrock did the same with the baseball program and just come through his first season with a 13-42 record.

But all the more reason, Schoenrock says, to heed the advice of a man who has taken the Tigers to back-to-back bowl games.

"Tommy actually become a good friend because we're going through some of the same things he went through," Schoenrock said Thursday at USA Stadium, where he and assistant coach Mike Federico were scouting the talent in the state tournament's Class AAA final four. "He told me, 'Set the parameters for your program and don't waver based on winning and losing.'"

For Schoenrock, priority one was to become more visible in local baseball circles.

"It's 180 degrees different," Bartlett High School baseball coach Phil Clark said of the visibility of this staff compared to previous Tiger coach Dave Anderson's staff. "These guys have seen more of my games this year than the other staff had seen in all their years combined."

On Thursday, two of the four teams playing in Class AAA were local - Houston and Collierville. Nashville Overton and Knoxville Farragut were also playing. Federico said there were at least "10 to 15" legitimate Division 1 prospects among the four teams. The Tigers already have signed two of them: Collierville pitcher/shortstop Marc Ashley and Houston outfielder Trey Wiedman.

But there's also a caution flag: This season's Tigers had 27 local players.

"There's a misconception that we can win a conference championship with all Memphis players," Schoenrock said. "Tulane (ranked first in the country) doesn't do it with all New Orleans and Baton Rouge players. The key is to recruit the correct local players.

"Statistics are very important to professional scouts evaluating my guys, but that's not the sole basis of evaluation," Schoenrock said, adding that it's important to project what a player's potential is. "And that's where seeing guys multiple times helps. The local guys we've signed, we've seen quite a bit."

Schoenrock is counting on two incoming Mississippi junior college players to make a big impact, but recruiting the local high schools will continue to be important.

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"I don't think kids are going to slip through the holes on these guys," Clark said. "The way these guys are working, if they're able to improve facilities, I truly believe they'll be a team that has a chance to compete to play in the NCAA Tournament.

Nature of the beast

On Wednesday, Collierville senior Marc Ashley pitched a no-hitter to keep his team alive.

On Thursday, he was asked to protect a one-run lead in the seventh inning and wound up the losing pitcher as Nashville Overton struck for five runs in an 11-7 victory.

So ended a Collierville season that saw the team go 37-7 and reach No. 25 in Baseball America's national poll.

Baseball, the cruel game, had pulled one of its dirtiest tricks. Which left Collierville coach Jeff Hopkins (the Memphis coach before Dave Anderson in this small, small baseball world) to try and console Ashley.

"He just told me he's proud of the way I played and to keep my head up," Ashley said, eyes still moist. "He said it was his mistake. It wasn't. It was mine.

"My arm felt fine. I had good velocity. I just didn't have any movement. They hit a couple off the end of the bat and then they started teeing off. They're a good ballclub."

Sophomore Drew Pomeranz had pitched 2 2/3 scoreless innings before yielding to Ashley.

"Bottom line, I'll accept the responsibility," Hopkins said. "I wanted to go into the seventh inning with a senior and not a sophomore, even though Pomeranz is as talented as he is. It blew up in my face. ...

"It breaks my heart to see a guy like Ashley go through this. It's a little bit different in high school than in college. They're more tender-hearted, younger. In college, you're dealing with 21, 22-year-old men. They're able to accept failure a little better. They've played longer and they understand the nature of the beast."

Less than 15 minutes after the loss, Ashley was trying to do just that: understand the nature of the beast.

"It's a game where, if you have a failure, you have to roll with it," he said. "But it's hard when you lose that last one."

And now ... the championship game

Rhonda Avant, mother of Houston first baseman Grey Avant, is like most parents out here:

She appreciates a good game.

But at this stage, who needs a good game?

On Wednesday, Houston had to rally from a six-run deficit to beat Knoxville Farragut, 10-7. Rhonda spent much of that game pacing. The two teams met again Thursday.

"This is a little bit more relaxing, up nine in the sixth," Rhonda said with a smile.

Houston went on to win, 12-0, and will play Nashville Overton today for the AAA title.

And for this baseball mom, it will close a chapter of life that started a decade ago as Grey began playing competitive baseball and competitive baseball grabbed the steering wheel of family life and took them, well, everywhere. .

"Hundreds of thousands of baseball games, all over the country," Rhonda said, in only a slight exaggeration. "Vegas, Dallas, Atlanta, Iowa ..."

Next year, Grey will be in Jonesboro; he's got a scholarship to play for Arkansas State. And so Mom will make many trips westward. But she's also got two other sons playing sports - they both like football - and one is playing competitive baseball.

So maybe this isn't an ending as much as it's new beginning.

"It's sad one's leaving," Baseball Mom said. "But we've still got a lot more action behind him."

- Don Wade: 529-2358

"Tommy actually became a good friend because we're going through some of the same things he went through."

Daron Schoenrock

U of M baseball coach on Tigers football coach Tommy West.

GRAPHIC: Photo; Daron Schoenrock

LOAD-DATE: May 28, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Copley News Service
Copley News Service

May 27, 2005 Friday

SECTION: CALIFORNIA ONLY

LENGTH: 1185 words

HEADLINE: More wiretaps played for jurors; FBI informant wraps up nearly 8 days of testimony

BYLINE: Kelly Thornton Copley News Service

DATELINE: SAN DIEGO

BODY:

The prosecution in the City Hall corruption trial played new recordings for the jury Thursday, in particular 2001 discussions about money and freebies between Las Vegas lobbyist Lance Malone and Councilman Charles Lewis.

Before that, FBI informant Tony Montagna stepped down after almost eight days on the witness stand, including four days of sometimes tedious and contentious cross-examination by four defense attorneys.

As Montagna left, one spectator clapped, and a few jurors waved goodbye.

In a July 2001 conversation played by federal prosecutors, Malone told Lewis, a defendant in the case until his death last August: "You gonna let me know when you need more money right?"

And Lewis, who was a council aide at the time of the conversation and then elected councilman in fall 2002, replied: "I need some whenever you can."

Malone then told Lewis: "You know anytime you come down (to Las Vegas) Charles, I mean especially now you know you're not in office, I mean, I'm happy to get you a room you know. They got some great shows going on ... like Cirque de Soleil."

Lewis: "Our anniversary's next month so we'll probably try and get up there next month."

Later in the conversation Lewis told Malone: "You know, ah, you're Ralph Inzunza's best friend now ... Ralph speaks highly of you. I said, 'Yeah, Mr. Lance is a good dude, man.' I said, 'He's a good dude.'"

Councilmen Ralph Inzunza, Michael Zucchet and Lewis were indicted in August 2003 on charges they schemed with strip-club owner Michael Galardi, Cheetahs manager John D'Intino and Malone to trade money for efforts to repeal the city's law forbidding touching between strippers and patrons.

The law, adopted in 2000, cut into Galardi's profits because patrons were less inspired to tip.

D'Intino and Galardi have pleaded guilty and are scheduled to take the stand later in the trial.

The councilmen and Malone say any money received was legally reported as campaign contributions and that they were just doing their jobs as politicians and lobbyist pursuing legislation they favored.

And, they contend that Montagna, who claimed to have connections among San Diego Police Department vice officers, tricked them into believing the police supported a repeal of the no-touching rule.

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In a July 18, 2001, conversation played for the jury by prosecutors, Malone told D'Intino he planned to give \$5,000 in campaign checks to Zucchet, who had not yet been elected. D'Intino questioned him: "You don't even know this guy's getting elected, right? This guy's just running?"

Malone: "Yeah, but you know, I'm doing this more as a favor to Ralph Inzunza, who's already there. He's the one that's throwing the fund-raiser."

FBI agent Karin Jarman, who monitored wiretaps during the investigation, took the stand after Montagna's departure, testifying that there were 346 calls between Malone and the three councilmen or their offices between 2001 and 2003, when the investigation became public.

There were 181 calls between Malone and Inzunza's office, cell phone and home; 128 calls between Malone and Lewis' office, cell and home; and 37 calls between Malone and Zucchet's office.

Jarman said the number of calls does not reflect the number of conversations, but the number of times the parties placed calls to each other. Some calls may have been hang-ups or voice-mail messages.

The majority of calls were placed by Malone.

Under cross-examination by Inzunza's attorney, Michael Pancer, Jarman indicated that just 11 of the Inzunza-Malone conversations lasted more than two minutes.

On the stand for most of the day was FBI agent Leonard Davey, one of two lead agents on the case. He testified that the FBI never intended for San Diego police vice detective Russ Bristol to be part of what eventually became the City Hall corruption case.

The agents told their FBI informant, Tony Montagna, to ingratiate himself with Cheetahs owner Michael Galardi and manager John D'Intino by pretending he had a friend in the vice unit who could warn them about upcoming vice inspections.

When Galardi and D'Intino decided they wanted to meet the vice cop and treat him to a weekend in Las Vegas to show their gratitude, "We realized we were going to have to come up with an actual body to play the role," Davey said. "We had to scramble to come up with a person who worked at the San Diego Police Department willing to play the role."

Only the highest-ranking officials at the Police Department, and a member of the department's criminal intelligence unit, were aware that Russ Bristol, a real vice detective, had agreed to work undercover for the FBI as a corrupt cop.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul Cook played a recording for the jury of a conversation between D'Intino and Malone that occurred May 1, 2001, just before Bristol went to Las Vegas for his reward.

D'Intino: "We're not 100 percent sure of this guy yet, when he gets there, so I don't want Mike (Galardi) to do anything silly. You know, incriminating. Just keep a, keep Mike on kind of a short leash ..."

Then D'Intino explained to Malone that Bristol - "the guy that's setting us up over here, that's taking care of us at the P.D. here" - is coming to Vegas.

Malone said: "I think I know where you're at now."

D'Intino: "I just don't want Mike to go tellin' him, 'Oh, I got every city councilman uh here on my payroll.' You know, I don't want him doin' any of that stuff. ... We're not 100 percent sure of this guy. I'm 100 percent sure of Tony, but I'm just not 100 percent sure of the guy he's bringin'."

Lawyers for the councilmen and Malone have said they did not know about Galardi's bribery plot, or that Galardi was paying Bristol.

Bristol's role was expanded when Galardi proposed paying him and an imaginary vice official \$50,000 to appear before the City Council and say police think enforcing no-touch is a waste of their time.

The rationale was that the councilmen would be willing to vote to repeal the law and face the political fallout if the police supported the repeal.

Dayey, the FBI agent, testified that Montagna initially was sent into Cheetahs in 1999 to observe. Once he saw D'Intino reimbursing strippers for campaign contributions to San Diego politicians in fall 2000, the FBI asked him to wear a hidden recording device known as a body wire.

The FBI also placed bugs in the Cheetahs office and obtained court-approved wiretaps of Galardi's and D'Intino's phones. And the case developed from there, Davey said.

Earlier in the morning, when defense attorneys were finishing up with Montagna, Inzunza's lawyer tried to again show the jury that Montagna moved the case along by introducing Bristol into the case.

Pancer played a recording in which he tried to show the jury that it was Montagna playing the councilmen, not the other way around. Speaking to Galardi and D'Intino, Montagna made a chess analogy: "We're the queens, they are the pawns." (laughs)

The trial doesn't resume until Wednesday because of a juror's college graduation ceremony today and the Memorial Day holiday.

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Copyright 2005 Tower Media, Inc.
The Daily News of Los Angeles

May 27, 2005 Friday
VALLEY EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. N1

LENGTH: 1154 words

HEADLINE: GETAWAY PLANS GET REELED IN;
HIGH GAS COST HAS MANY HEADING FOR LOCAL SITES

BYLINE: By Josh Kleinbaum Staff Writer

BODY:

High gas prices aren't keeping Southern California's road warriors home for Memorial Day weekend, but expensive fill-ups are forcing travelers to rethink their destinations.

Nearly 3.1 million Southland residents are expected to travel during the holiday weekend, up from 2.99 million last year, despite gas prices approaching - and often topping - \$2.50 per gallon, according to the Automobile Club of Southern California. But instead of taking the six-hour trek to the San Francisco Bay Area - the most popular Memorial Day destination last year - motorists are heading to places like Las Vegas, Santa Barbara and San Diego.

"The good news is that people do feel good enough about going out and traveling that they're doing it," Auto Club spokeswoman Marie Montgomery said. "But a lot of members said to us that they'll do something a little closer, to economize that way. Instead of doing a Vegas trip, they're doing a San Diego trip."

Christina Hacopian, a 27-year-old Studio City resident, is leaving Saturday for San Diego by train. She said high gas prices were a factor in choosing to travel by rail, but only a minor one.

"It's really the convenience and the time, and we wouldn't have to exhaust ourselves driving," Hacopian said. "It's better for traffic, none of us have to drive, and we can read books and catch up on anything we need to do."

Officials predict this weekend could kick off the busiest summer of travel since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

An estimated 800,000 passengers will pass through Los Angeles International Airport this weekend, and 18.5 million passengers by Aug. 31, approaching the 2001 record of 19 million passengers, officials said.

"There's a pent-up demand for people who haven't traveled since 9-11 to see their relatives," LAX spokeswoman Nancy Castles said. "It's been over three years since 9-11. Not seeing your relatives for three years is a long time."

Crowds will be tough to avoid this weekend, whether in airport terminals, on the freeway or at local campgrounds.

The Angeles and San Pedro national forests are open for campers despite warnings from officials about a dangerous fire season, and this weekend could be one of the summer's busiest.

"It's been a cold, rainy winter, and a lot of people feel like it's time to get out while the weather's nice," said Robert Brady, a spokesman for Angeles National Forest. "Memorial Day weekend is usually the kickoff. We'll be three or four deep in the campsites."

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And for those heading north this weekend, Caltrans and CHP officials have been warning motorists to expect delays in Interstate 5 north of the Santa Clarita Valley, where construction crews have been working at a furious pace to repair storm-damaged lanes near Templin Highway.

By today, the state Department of Transportation had expected to have all but one lane reopened.

About 155,000 travelers will take train, bus or cruise routes to their weekend getaway, and 470,000 will fly, according to the Auto Club's survey. But the bulk of the travelers - 2.5 million - will drive this weekend, turning Southern California's freeways into parking lots.

"It's better to leave the days leading into the holiday weekend and return the days following the holiday weekend," California Highway Patrol Officer Jon Samson said. "People should plan routes accordingly and have alternate routes planned in case there is something major."

Samson warned drivers to be careful, use seat belts and not drink and drive.

Thirty-seven people died in traffic accidents in California during Memorial Day weekend last year, six of them in Los Angeles County. The CHP arrested 290 people for driving under the influence of alcohol during the holiday weekend last year, Samson said.

"This is a holiday to celebrate those fallen heroes who have given us security and freedom," Samson said. "We should honor them by having a pleasant time with families and celebrating in a responsible way."

Staff Writer Patricia Farrell Aidem contributed to this report.

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WEEKEND FUN

Here is a list of special events, festivals and parades scheduled for the Memorial Day weekend:

Topanga Days, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday at the Topanga Community House, 1440 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga. Activities include ethnically diverse music, crafts and a carnival. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$6 for seniors, free for children under 12. A Memorial Day Parade starts at 9 a.m. Monday from the Town Center at Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Old Topanga Canyon Road. See www.topangadays.com.

Valley Greek Festival, 1-9 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and Monday at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 9501 Balboa Blvd., Northridge. Activities include Greek music, dancing, foods and pastries, and gift items. Call (818) 886-4040 or see www.valleygreekfestival.com.

Cajun Creole Music Festival, 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday at Rancho Santa Susana Community Park, East Los Angeles Avenue and Stearns Street, Simi Valley. Activities include zydeco music and Cajun food. Tickets are \$15 at the gate or \$12 at www.cajun2005.com.

Festival Paise Colombiano, celebrating the independence of Colombia, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday at Woodley Park, 6335 Woodley Ave., Van Nuys. Activities include a patriotic ceremony, ethnic food and folklorico groups. Admission is \$10. Call (818) 752-6022.

Scottish Festival, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Fairplex, 1101 W. McKinley Ave., Pomona. Activities include Celtic music, Scottish foods, single malt Scotch tasting. Admission is \$2-\$22. See www.unitedscottishsociety.com.

Valley of the Stars Canoga Park Memorial Day Parade, 11 a.m. Monday starting at Owensmouth Avenue and Sherman Way. Call (818) 884-4222.

Memorial Day and flag-dedication ceremonies, 11:30 a.m. Monday at San Fernando Pioneer Memorial Cemetery, Bledsoe Street and Foothill Boulevard, Sylmar. Call (818) 365-5860 or see www.sfvhs.com.

Memorial Day tribute, 10:30 a.m. at the Los Angeles National Cemetery, 950 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West Los Angeles. Activities include a rifle salute, patriotic music and a F-16 flyover. A tribute to women veterans will be held at 9 a.m. Call (310) 268-4675.

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Memorial Day ceremony, 11 a.m.-noon at Pierce Brothers Valley Oaks Memorial Park, 5600 Lindero Canyon Road, Westlake Village. Activities include patriotic music and a flyover of military planes. Call (818) 889-0902.

Memorial Day ceremony, 10 a.m. Monday at the Simi Valley Public Cemetery, 1461 Thompson Lane.

Iraq War memorial ceremony, 8 a.m. Monday at Moorpark and Los Angeles avenues, Moorpark. Memorial Day ceremony, 10 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Grove in Poindexter Park. Call (805) 523-3355.

Memorial Day concert, 5 p.m. Monday at Conejo Community Park, 1175 Hendrix Ave., Thousand Oaks. The Side Street Strutters will perform jazz and swing music. Concertgoers are encouraged to bring a picnic dinner.

GRAPHIC: 2 photos, box

Photo: (1) Campers Bob and Melinda Alani of Mission Viejo are spending the holiday weekend camping at a Ventura County beach. Tina Burch/Staff Photographer (2) Eric Webber of Castaic and his family, including daughter Sara, are spending the Memorial Day weekend at Ventura County's Thornhill Broome Beach. Evan Yee/Staff Photographer Box: WEEKEND FUN (see text)

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Philadelphia Inquirer

May 27, 2005 Friday ADVANCE EDITION

SECTION: FEATURES WEEKEND; Pg. W16

LENGTH: 270 words

HEADLINE: Top Rentals

BODY:

1. **National Treasure** **1/2('04, PG) If Indiana Jones were your American history teacher, it might go down like this.

2. ***Assault on Precinct 13** **('05, R) Fans of John Carpenter's original may be disappointed, but Laurence Fishburne and Ethan Hawke keep thing respectable.

3. ***In Good Company** ***('05, PG-13) Dennis Quaid, Topher Grace, and Scarlett Johansson try to figure out who's the boss - on many different levels.

4. **Meet the Fockers** *1/2('04, PG-13) The Parents gang doubles up on the lewd and crude humor, dropping the film a notch or two.

5. ***Racing Stripes** **('05, PG) This talking-animal also-ran about a galloping zebra just barely has legs.

6. **Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events** *** ('04, PG-13) The hapless Baudelaire children wander from one brief family reunion to another, always with dire consequences.

7. ***The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou** ***1/2('04, R) Director Wes Anderson avoids the jaws of defeat as Bill Murray keeps this kooky quest for a killer shark afloat.

8. ***Alone in the Dark** *('05, R) Another tedious, videogame-based flick, Alonewon't push any buttons. Christian Slater stars.

9. **Blade: Trinity** **('04, R) Blade has been exposed by Dracula himself. Now he must battle the creature and the public's perception of his deeds.

10. **Ocean's Twelve** ***('04, PG-13) Forget Vegas; this time the hip Ocean cats heads to Europe for a series of high-profile burglaries.

Rob Watson * New this week. Stars indicate Inquirer reviewers' ratings. From Billboard magazine 5/28/05 2005.

LOAD-DATE: May 27, 2005

N/R 73

PC-00160

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Copyright 2005 Richmond Newspapers, Inc.
Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

May 27, 2005 Friday
CITY EDITION

SECTION: FLAIR; Pg. D-1

LENGTH: 888 words

HEADLINE: HEADFIRST INTO HOLD 'EM: HOW I FELL FOR POKER

BYLINE: By Pete Humes Times-Dispatch Staff Writer Contact Pete Humes at (804) 649-6733 or phumes@timesdispatch.com

BODY:

Something is wrong with me.

Every Wednesday night, I drive 25 minutes west on Interstate 64. I park my car on a quiet Henrico street and shuffle into the basement of a quiet Henrico home.

Once inside, I slide off my shoes, pull up a chair and hand over a \$20 bill that I'm likely to never see again.

Some call it wasteful and silly. I just call it "Poker Night."

These days, I'm not alone. More than 50 million Americans play poker, according to estimates from ESPN.com and the World Poker Tour.

Imagine every man, woman and child from New York, Texas and Virginia. Then picture all of them seated around an enormous green felt card table -- each one hungry for poker chips and praying for aces.

To be honest, poker night is silly. But for us, it's much more than 10 men in socks belching and talking trash. It's more than a game. It's psychological warfare with one goal: leave with the other guys' money.

We show up at the back door around 7:30.

The East End Boys saunter in together, a swarthy trio of twentysomething poker pirates clutching oversized bottles of convenience-store ale.

"J" talks with his hands and the hip-hop drawl of a Varina boy weaned on gangsta rap. The big one, call him "Lurch," keeps a lucky dollar bill folded in fourths. "P" is quiet and doesn't look a day older than 14.

The other players arrive separately, each just as eager to get started.

"Wachovia" likes to gamble (he earned his nickname one night after most everyone made a "deposit" in his chip stack). "D" is the nice guy who apologizes for taking your money. "G" doesn't stop talking long enough to take a breath. And "Chef" comes late in checkered pants, smelling of upscale French cuisine.

At the center is "Action Dan." It's his house, his table and his schoolboy crush on Texas Hold 'Em that drives our game forward.

Most of these guys play three, four games a week minimum. When there isn't a game, they go online. I'm lucky to get a weeknight free.

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Some nights, I wonder what I'm doing there. To me, a deck of cards was always something you kept in a cluttered kitchen drawer next to the duct tape and leftover packets of Chinese hot mustard. I knew aces were good and you tossed out the jokers. Beyond that, I was clueless.

But along came Texas Hold 'Em.

Hold 'Em is the game played at the final table of the World Series of Poker. It's the game played on television by people with funny names like "The Professor," "Devilfish" and "Ben Affleck."

The first time I sat down at a table (last year), I turned \$20 into \$85. The second time, I doubled up. After the night I won enough to buy a new clutch for my pickup, I was hooked.

But my good fortune didn't last. For months after, I lost and lost and lost some more.

Instead of driving home with extra cash, I left broke. Week after week I went from big stack to short stack to no stack.

I did everything I could to turn things around. I read and reread "Poker for Dummies." I practiced online. I even switched good-luck charms.

Out went the little sleeping Buddha figurine and in came a grimacing, 3-inch Incredible Hulk ink stamper. I liked to think the rippling green muscles and torn purple pants represented my ruthless, aggressive poker style. But whom was I kidding?

I play tighter than Lance Armstrong's calf muscles after the Tour de France. I'm a rock. I fold like crazy and wait for killer hands that almost never show.

The good news is that plenty of sage professionals recommend an almost Zen approach to Hold 'Em. In high-stakes tournament poker, patience is a virtue. But my problem is that I don't play 24-hour marathons at the Bellagio in Vegas. I gamble in the Short Pump suburbs and like to get home before midnight.

In time, I learned to take my lumps. To be great at poker, you have to be willing to lose. You have to be ready for a slap across the face, because that's what it feels like when you lose a big hand.

Busting out is even worse. Losing your last dollar stings like a laundry list of playground humiliations rolled into one (think noogies, wet willies and getting "pantsexed" in a crowded cafetorium).

Ultimately, poker is a game of decisions. When you make bad ones, they haunt you. When you make good ones, you get paid.

I never meant to fall in love with poker -- it just happened. And thanks to Wednesday nights, I've learned a lot about life along the way.

Sometimes you need to fold 20 hands before you're dealt a monster. Sometimes you need to push all your chips in the middle just to see what it feels like.

And no matter how many failed bluffs, stupid calls or bad beats befall you in a night, there's always next week.

Poker Speak 101

Confused by card-slinger slang? You're not alone. Poker lingo can be cryptic, especially when players insist on inventing terms on what seems like a daily basis. Here are a few samples to get you up to speed.

- * Bad beat: A lucky hand beats a strong one.
- * Big slick: Ace/King starting hand.
- * Cowboys: Pair of Kings starting hand.
- * Donkey: Someone who plays foolishly.
- * Drawing dead: No chance to win, no matter what cards come.
- * Fish: A poor player who is losing all his/her money.
- * Fish hooks: Pair of Jacks starting hand.

- * Full boat: Full house.
- * Nuts: A hand that cannot be beaten.
- * On tilt: Playing recklessly because of anger or frustration.
- * Pocket rockets: Pair of Aces starting hand.
- * Quads: Four of a kind.
- * Trips: Three of a kind.

GRAPHIC: Photo

LOAD-DATE: May 28, 2005

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St. John's Telegram (Newfoundland)

May 27, 2005 Friday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A1

LENGTH: 689 words

HEADLINE: Businessman to get money

BYLINE: Callahan, Brian

BODY:

A judge cleared the way Wednesday for Stratos Global to repay about \$2 million to businessman Paul Antle for breach of contract.

But Newfoundland Supreme Court Justice James Adams also delayed payment for at least a week to give the company the opportunity to mount an appeal of his most recent decision.

It was the second time in a week Antle came agonizingly close to recouping money he's been fighting to win back for four years, only to see it yanked from his grasp at the last minute.

He won the key battle three weeks ago, when Adams cited Stratos for breach of contract. The total award, including interest and court costs, is estimated at about \$2.15 million.

The company is appealing, and last week Stratos lawyer Ron Noseworthy asked Adams to delay, or stay, the payment to Antle pending the outcome at the higher court.

Noseworthy said the company's main concern is there are no guarantees Antle will be able to pay the money back if Stratos wins the appeal.

"We're concerned that if Stratos Global pays out the \$2 million to Mr. Antle, and the company wins on appeal, we may not be able to recover that money," Noseworthy argued.

He said the payout would cause "irreparable harm" and impact the company's bottom line by about 10 per cent. But he also admitted Stratos could produce a cheque within a day, if ordered to do so.

Noseworthy said the company should have "reasonable security" that the money will exist to be paid back, noting no one knows what Antle will do with it.

"I'm not suggesting he'll use it for a trip to Vegas or anything. But not to use it willy-nilly."

Give it to court

In the end, he suggested the company give the money to the court while the two sides negotiate how Antle might spend it. If they can't agree, Noseworthy said, the court could decide.

"So, Mr. Antle could have access to some of it, from time to time, for legitimate reasons?" Adams asked.

"Yes," said Noseworthy, adding interest could still be paid out on a quarterly basis.

Antle's lawyer, Philip Buckingham, would have none of that.

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He noted the onus was on the company to first prove Antle can't pay it back. And they didn't come close, he told Adams.

"They have no evidence - not a little, not a scintilla, not an iota, none - that he cannot repay that money," an animated Buckingham told Adams.

"They've sought to delay, annoy, hinder and incur more costs for Mr. Antle. They came in here with nothing. They didn't even present evidence for me to refute."

In the end, Adams was inclined to agree.

"(Stratos Global) has not supplied affidavit evidence that Mr. Antle cannot repay it," the judge stated in dismissing the application for a delay in payment pending the outcome of the company's appeal.

"They've relied only on speculation and supposition. And that is not something on which I can base a judicial decision."

Nonetheless, Adams said it was only fair to give the company some time to seek leave for an appeal of the ruling.

One week

He gave Noseworthy one week - until 5 p.m. Thursday, June 2 - to approach the Appeals Court, and suspended payments to Antle until then.

It's seemingly the last chance for Stratos to put off paying Antle. If successful, it would automatically delay payment further.

Antle was obviously frustrated with Thursday's events, and said he's only trying to recoup the money that he put into the company in the first place.

Buckingham was slightly more reserved, acknowledging the judge was simply following due process by giving Stratos time to mount an appeal.

Meanwhile, Stratos Global has agreed to pay Antle's court costs to date, estimated to be about \$100,000.

Adams ruled May 4 that Stratos Global breached a contract in the late 1990s with Antle, forcing him to pay compensation to Stratos before he could sell his shares in another company, SCC Environmental, to a third party.

He ruled Stratos did it again by refusing to honour an options agreement in March 2000 entitling Antle to sell his shares in that company.

Established in the mid-1990s, Stratos Global has grown from a St. John's based company to an international telecom provider with its corporate headquarters in Bethesda, Md.

bcallahan@thetelegram.com

LOAD-DATE: May 27, 2005

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Copyright 2005 The Tribune Co. Publishes The Tampa Tribune
Tampa Tribune (Florida)

May 27, 2005 Friday
FINAL EDITION

SECTION: MONEYSENSE; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 822 words

HEADLINE: Hooters Leaders Lay Odds Theme A Winner In Vegas

BYLINE: MICHAEL SASSO, msasso@tampatrib.com

DATELINE: LAS VEGAS

BODY:

WILL ORANGE SHORTS DRAW BLUE-COLLAR GAMBLERS?

By MICHAEL SASSO

msasso@tampatrib.com

LAS VEGAS - Beautiful women in tank tops and tight-fitting shorts can sell truckloads of beer and chicken wings. But will they attract affluent gamblers to a Las Vegas casino?

Several founders of the Hooters restaurant chain, which began in Clearwater, are betting that they can by constructing the new Hooters Casino Hotel here.

This week, an investment group that includes the Hooters founders were doing some early site work on their \$130 million casino project. They are redeveloping the 700-room Hotel San Remo, which is a relatively small casino/hotel just off the Las Vegas Strip, into a Hooters-brand resort. The projected opening is in February.

Hooters' "delightfully tacky, yet unrefined" atmosphere will be ever-present. As many as 300 Hooters girls, adorned in their trademark tight shirts and skimpy shorts, will serve up wings in the resort's Hooters restaurant and hand out cocktails on the casino floor. At least a few will even deal blackjack or other table games, marketing director Richard Langlois said.

Among the resort's nine bars and restaurants will be a Dan Marino's Fine Food & Spirits and a Pete & Shorty's Tavern.

The Hooters Casino Hotel will be modest in scale by Las Vegas standards. The massive 5,000-room MGM Grand is across the street. Just a stone's throw away are the spectacular New York-New York, with its faux New York skyline, the Luxor's shimmering black pyramid and the medieval-themed Excalibur.

The less extravagant Hooters Casino Hotel will try to re-create the comfortable sports bar feel of its restaurants. That will include installing a wood floor in the casino and, of course, women in tank tops and orange shorts throughout, Langlois said.

The resort is a partnership of three groups: four of the six original founders of Hooters; a major franchisee of the Hooters chain; and the Izumi family of Japan, which owns the Hotel San Remo, Langlois said. Although Hooters was

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Tampa Tribune (Florida) May 27, 2005 Friday

founded in Clearwater in 1983, the founders of the company sold the Hooters brand and most of the chain's restaurants to an Atlanta company called Hooters of America several years ago.

The founders still operate a Clearwater company, Hooters Management Corp., and own a number of Hooters restaurants across the country, including in the Tampa Bay area. They also have the right to develop a Hooters-branded casino.

With its Hooters brand, the new casino will enjoy instant name recognition and will be able to do cross-promotions with Hooters restaurants nationwide, Langlois said.

For example, plans call for every Hooters restaurant to eventually have a kiosk where customers can call for reservations at the new casino/hotel. Also, people in the Chicago area will be able to fly into Las Vegas on Hooters Air, which is Hooters' small airline. Currently, Hooters Air's only direct flight into Las Vegas is from Chicago, and Langlois knew of no plans to expand with more routes at this time.

Although Hooters has name recognition, one challenge for the new casino may be in luring the right customers, namely people ages 35 to 55 with plenty of disposable income.

"If we trend too young, we may miss our revenue projections if all of a sudden we become Hard Rock 2," Langlois said, referring to the off-the-Strip casino known for its Generation X appeal.

One expert on the Las Vegas scene said Hooters Casino Hotel has a chance to become a hit, perhaps because it will appeal to the middle class and not the rich. Bo Bernhard, director of gambling research at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas' International Gaming Institute, said in recent years that Las Vegas casino developers have courted the super-rich, with fabulous casinos such as the Wynn, Bellagio and The Venetian.

However, high-rollers often are extremely demanding and force casinos to compete for them. Upscale casinos often offer high-rollers a partial refund if they lose money at the gaming tables, which is called a "discount on loss." For example, Wynn Las Vegas might offer high-rollers a 15 percent refund on any gambling losses. In response, The Venetian might up the ante and offer wealthy customers a 17 percent discount on loss, Bernhard said.

Although conventional wisdom has it that high-rollers are where the money is at, Bernhard said Las Vegas actually has a long history of making lots of money off the middle class.

Bernhard said Hooters Casino Hotel becomes at least the third restaurant chain to create a Las Vegas casino. The Hard Rock Cafe chain spawned the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas and other cities, including Tampa. Meanwhile, the Aladdin Resort & Casino in Las Vegas will morph into the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino by late summer 2006, according to an Aladdin spokeswoman.

Reporter Michael Sasso can be reached at (813) 259-7865.

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GRAPHIC: PHOTO 3

Photo by Ethan Miller of the Las Vegas Sun Hotel San Remo, a relatively small, 700-room hotel and casino, is converting to a Hooters theme. Developers hope the scantily clad waitresses will help it develop a niche in the market, which is dominated by several huge casinos. Hooters Management Corp. The remodeled resort is set to open in February. Plans include wood floors in the casino, a Dan Marino's Fine Food & Spirits and a Pete & Shorty's Tavern. Tribune file photo by JAY CONNER Customers in the Chicago area will be able to book direct flights to Las Vegas aboard Hooters Air, the company's small airline. Eventually all Hooters restaurants will have a kiosk where customers can book reservations at the resort.

LOAD-DATE: May 30, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Akron Beacon Journal
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Akron Beacon Journal (Ohio)

May 26, 2005 Thursday 7X24 EDITION

SECTION: O; BRIEF; Pg. 11

LENGTH: 938 words

HEADLINE: Nonstop flights to Las Vegas? Bet on it soon;
AirTran starts service from Akron-Canton Airport on Aug. 4

BYLINE: By Betty Lin-Fisher

BODY:

AirTran Airways and Akron-Canton Airport are betting that a new nonstop flight to Las Vegas will hit a jackpot.

AirTran said it will begin a nonstop flight from Akron-Canton to Las Vegas on Aug. 4. Introductory fares will start at \$99 each way.

The news comes just two months after the airport touted its newest addition, Frontier Airlines, which will begin offering nonstop flights June 15 to Denver. From there, Frontier customers can connect to 17 destinations in the West and five in Mexico.

Akron-Canton's western connections could continue to grow in light of US Airways' merger with America West. US Airways already serves the airport.

Akron-Canton Airport has been bucking national trends with record-breaking passenger growth that is consistently among the largest in the nation.

And the airport is announcing new service and destinations at a time when other airports are struggling to keep airlines and flights. The airlines that tend to be at most risk are the major companies, such as United and American, which are known as legacy carriers that fly older planes and have high costs.

"Every airport wants low-cost and legacy service," said Doug Abbey, an aviation consultant and partner with The Velocity Group in Washington, D.C. Akron-Canton has "always had the latter, and now you're developing the former, which is strategically right where you want to be."

'Rare air'

The airports that are growing have affordable air carriers, said Kristie Van Auken, Akron-Canton Airport marketing director.

"We're definitely in rare air," she said.

The airport has been able to attract new airlines and destinations because it partners with the airlines to fill the planes, particularly through joint marketing efforts, Van Auken said.

AirTran and the airport have had parallel growth, said AirTran spokeswoman JudyGraham-Weaver. As demand grows, so does service. In the past few years, the airline has added nonstop flights to Boston and New York's LaGuardia Airport to great success, she said.

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Las Vegas has always been a popular destination that Akron-Canton didn't serve, those in the industry said.

"A lot of people want to go to Vegas, and they want to go out of Akron. It's always been a bone of contention," said Dan Lanser, owner of A Plus Travel Adventures in Green. "They want to go out of Akron until they hear the price."

Akron-Canton officials were aware of the demand, Van Auken said. "We get asked for Vegas more than any other place on Earth. It really was an answer to our prayers," she said.

Five times a week

The new AirTran-Las Vegas flight will be offered five times a week -- each day except Tuesday and Wednesday. The airline will use Boeing 737s, which hold 137 passengers.

While Frontier's new service is designed to allow travelers to fly to Denver and beyond, AirTran's Las Vegas service will not offer connections. AirTran's hub is in Atlanta.

Abbey, the analyst, said AirTran will stimulate the market to Las Vegas and may take travelers from Frontier.

But Frontier's entrance into the Akron-Canton market did not play a role in AirTran's decision to go to Las Vegas, said the airline's Graham-Weaver.

AirTran's new service was not a surprise, Frontier spokesman Joe Hodas said. He said he expects the airlines to match each other's fares to Las Vegas.

Lanser priced nonstop flights from Cleveland Hopkins International Airport and found FunJet charter flights with a \$199.99 round trip, Continental at \$349 round trip and America West at \$379 round trip.

Continental is offering a special of \$158 round trip from Cleveland to Las Vegas for its seven-day advance tickets for travel through July 4. Martin DeLeon, a Continental spokesman, said he could not comment on future airfares.

But in response to AirTran's announcement, he said: "Continental Airlines competes with cut-rate carriers throughout the U.S., but our product is so far superior that we always win our fair share of the business."

Before news broke of the US Airways merger, Abbey, the aviation consultant, said such a deal could lead America West to create Akron-Canton-to-Phoenix service. But he doubted a merger would lead to a second route to Las Vegas from Akron-Canton, given AirTran's service.

Other destinations

That's just as well with the airport's Van Auken. Phoenix is on the airport's "hit list" of other destinations it wants. Also on the list is Washington, D.C.; Dallas, Fort Myers, Fla., Los Angeles and Miami.

Already, the market going west out of Akron-Canton is exceeding Frontier's expectations, Hodas said. The airline has not started its service, but ticket sales for its two daily flights to Denver from Akron-Canton are going well, he said.

"When you open a new city, you always assume there's going to be some time to gain traction," he said. "In Akron-Canton, thanks to the support of the airport, it's really been a great-performing route already."

Hodas said he thinks that's in part a result of tapping into the Cleveland market. Usually a new market will draw most of its travelers from the hub to the new market. In Akron-Canton, two-thirds of the traffic is coming from Akron, he said.

Lanser, the travel agent, said having two low-cost carriers flying west is good for regional travelers.

"The biggest letdown for travelers out of this area is they know they can go cheap to Florida" from Akron-Canton, he said. "But every time they wanted to go west, they had to go to Cleveland. I think this will change that."

Betty Lin-Fisher can be reached at 330-996-3724 or blinfisher@thebeaconjournal.com

LOAD-DATE: May 26, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Daily News, L.P.
Daily News (New York)

May 26, 2005 Thursday
RACING FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 6

LENGTH: 721 words

HEADLINE: I WARNED JACKO, TUCKER TESTIFIES

BYLINE: BY MICHELLE CARUSO DAILY NEWS WEST COAST BUREAU CHIEF

BODY:

SANTA MARIA, CALIF. - "Rush Hour" star Chris Tucker testified yesterday he warned his pal Michael Jackson to "watch out - be careful" of the accuser and his family when he began to suspect they were out to "take advantage" of celebrities.

The 32-year-old actor said his fears came to a head when the accuser's mom went off on a "frantic" rant, repeatedly saying "Michael's the father . . . you're the brother" after he gave her the keys to a used Toyota pickup he planned to lend her.

"She was cryin', shakin', eyes red . . . like she was possessed," the actor said, his diamond-stud earring sparkling in the harsh courtroom lighting. "I pulled Michael in a room. I said 'You need to watch out . . . be careful. . . . Something ain't right!'"

The pop star "listened" but apparently didn't heed the advice. The next day he took the family back to Neverland Ranch for a month-long visit that led to the felony child-molestation, alcohol and conspiracy charges he now faces.

Tucker, best known for his role as Detective James Carter in the blockbuster "Rush Hour" films, said he felt sorry for the accuser, who had cancer when they met at a fund-raiser in 2000. He gave the kid and his family thousands of dollars and pricey trips during the next few years. The star even invited them to the Vegas set of "Rush Hour 2."

But Tucker said he finally decided to "distance" himself from the family in February 2003, after he saw the mother's dark side when he flew the family to Miami on a private jet to visit Jackson in a resort hotel.

The family alleges Jackson coerced them to go to Miami to appear in a press conference to rebut Martin Bashir's damaging documentary "Living with Michael Jackson." But Tucker testified the accuser called him and said the family "wanted to get out of town and see Michael." He described the accuser and his brother as "very cunning" and said the boys often played on his sympathies to coax him to buy them things.

When Tucker described the mother as acting "possessed," DA Tom Sneddon suggested she was merely "grateful and "excited." But Tucker didn't buy it. "No, I meet a lot of people. I know the difference."

Sneddon hopes to end his rebuttal case today or tomorrow by showing a one-hour police video of the accuser making allegations against Jackson. But the defense is fighting the move. If the judge allows the video, the defense wants the teen brought back to court for a cross-exam. mcaruso@nydailynews.com.

GRAPHIC.

WILL HE BEAT THE 10-COUNT?

THE JURORS in the Michael Jackson trial have 10 counts against him to examine.

After a strikingly weak prosecution case and an efficient attack on the accusers by the defense, the betting around the courthouse is that Jackson will skate on most of the charges but the jury will hang on the molestation counts.

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Many analysts said the biggest danger to Jackson is the prior evidence that he paid off other young male accusers.

"If you think Jackson is a pedophile, you might find him guilty even if you don't believe the evidence in this case," said former prosecutor Michael Cardoza. "Is that contrary to law? Heck, yes. But will some jurors think that way? Hell, yes. They're not going to let a pedophile get another kid."

Here's a look at the charges in detail:

ONE COUNT OF CONSPIRACY.

Jackson allegedly tried to hold the boy and his family against their will and coerce them into praising him in a video.

Prosecutors were never able to tie the alleged conspiracy to Jackson himself. "This count was built on a house of cards," said Loyola Law School Prof. Laurie Levenson. "It's the weakest of all the counts."

FOUR COUNTS OF LEWD ACTS ON A CHILD.

Two counts refer to the boy saying Jackson fondled him. The other two stem from his brother's testimony that he saw Jackson fondle the alleged victim when he was passed out. "It's ridiculous to guess, but if pushed, my guess is 9-3 not guilty on the molestation charges," Cardoza said.

ONE COUNT OF ATTEMPTED LEWD ACT ON A CHILD.

The accuser says Jackson tried to make him fondle the pop star. "There's not much they have to prove on this count," Levenson said. Four Counts of Giving Booze to a Child No one testified they saw Jackson give the boys alcohol. "And enough witnesses came in to say the kids were hammering down the 'Jesus juice' on their own," said Cardoza. "I think he'll be acquitted on that one."

GRAPHIC: GRAPHIC;INFOGRAPHIC, GETTY IMAGES [Michael Jackson]

LOAD-DATE: May 26, 2005

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Copyright 2005 The Daily Oklahoman
The Daily Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, OK)

May 26, 2005 Thursday
City Edition

SECTION: BUSINESS; Pg. 1B

LENGTH: 601 words

HEADLINE: Gold to green;
Wheat harvest sweeps across state

BYLINE: Jennifer Mock, Business Writer

BODY:

Far from the bustle of business power lunches and political battles, Oklahoma fields are filled with a golden hue and are ripe with anticipation as the wheat harvest sweeps across the state.

Almost as if in a different world, farmers in Oklahoma start each day with an itch this time of year - a yearning to harvest their wheat fields, sit back and hope their 16-hour days pay off. They want to see that golden wheat turn into green cash, and only time will tell how good of a crop - and cash - this year's bounty will rake in.

In a mere minute, the weather can move from too humid to perfectly dry and sunny, and send farmers running for the fields - literally - before it turns against them. Right now, farmers statewide are in a race against time. The chance of inclement weather increases the longer the wheat remains anchored to the ground.

Mark Hodges, executive director of the Oklahoma Wheat Commission, said farmers in the Panhandle saw Mother Nature's wrath with a hailstorm taking out an undetermined number of acres this week. The Panhandle is the only part of the state predicting an above average harvest.

Paul Jackson, a 73-year-old wheat farmer in Apache, said he once had a farmer say to him: "I just decided a long time ago to stop planting wheat, go to Vegas and lose it all in one roll of the dice instead of waiting around for it."

Jackson said almost every aspect of the harvest is dictated by the weather, making the business a true gamble. Dry conditions early this week allowed farmers in southwest Oklahoma to roll out the combines and cut as much as they could - sometimes going past midnight - before the weather starts working against them. But, Hodges said the northern portion of the state won't be ready for harvest for another seven to 10 days.

"This here's wheat-cuttin' weather," he said Tuesday. "You can feel it on your face; the weather is hot and dry with a slight wind. The dry dust just floats off (the field); that shows it is ready to go." David Gammill, whose family farms about 2,000 acres in the area, had six combines working Tuesday to clear as many acres as possible before the Wednesday rains hit the area. The combines are bringing in more wheat than expected. Gammill said he was getting about 50 bushels per acre out of the first 300 acres he had cut by Tuesday.

Last year in Cotton County, farmers saw an average of about 37 bushels per acre, but the area is expected to produce about 25 percent fewer bushels overall than 2004 after a wet winter, dry spring and high disease infestation. Statewide, this year's crop is predicted to produce 11 percent fewer bushels than last year, or about 147 million bushels compared with 165 million in 2004.

Regardless, Gammill said he is cautiously optimistic about the yield this year.

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"This is about as good as it gets for us," he said.

Gammill said he brought in a crew of six combines so he could complete his harvest in about five days, versus the two to three weeks it normally takes for him and his family to complete the cutting on their own. Though it will cost him about a quarter of what his crop is worth to pay the workers - or about \$30,000 - he said without help it is likely he would lose a quarter of his crop to weather anyway.

"It is really expensive to have a crew come in like this to cut your wheat, but when you have a good crop, we have such a danger from the weather," he said. "We can harvest more in the end because it can be done faster."

Hodges, with the wheat commission, said with only about 5 percent of the harvest completed statewide, it is too early to tell whether the crop is going to exceed this year's expectations.

GRAPHIC: Photo 1: A custom wheat harvester empties the grain out of a full combine into a transport truck in a field west of Walters.

Photo 2: A custom harvester in a wheat field near Walters harvests the crop. The owner of the field, wheat farmer David Gammill, said he hires large crews to allow for the most cutting in a day as possible. - PHOTOS BY DAVID McDANIEL, THE OKLAHOMAN

LOAD-DATE: May 27, 2005

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The Frontrunner

May 26, 2005 Thursday

SECTION: US SENATE

LENGTH: 180 words

HEADLINE: Senators, Lobbyists Head West For Annual Ensign Event

BODY:

The Hill (5/26, Eisele, Dufour) reports in its "Under the Dome" column that GOP Sens. Rick Santorum (Pa.), Jim Talent (Mo.), Conrad Burns (Mont.) and George Allen (Va.), "along with several D.C. lobbyists, are among those heading out to Las Vegas next week for Sen.

John Ensign's annual charity event -- and some fundraising of their own. The Nevada Republican's event includes the Mario Andretti Driving Experience at Las Vegas Motor Speedway on Wednesday and golf at the exclusive Cascada Golf Club on Thursday, said Mike Slanker, an Ensign political consultant and fundraiser. ... Ensign's popular yearly event originally raised money for Ensign's Battle Born PAC. But the event, renamed the Ensign Classic three years ago, is directing its proceeds to A Hand Up, a Las Vegas-based organization that raises money for charities for women, children and the disabled. But there's more than just charity fundraising on Ensign's Vegas agenda. On Wednesday night, Allen, Burns, Santorum and Talent are co-hosting a fundraiser in Vegas. Plus, Ensign's PAC will also be holding an event."

LOAD-DATE: May 26, 2005

N/R 80

PC-00174

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Copyright 2005 Capitol Hill Publishing Corp.
The Hill

May 26, 2005 Thursday

SECTION: Pg. 13

LENGTH: 1304 words

HEADLINE: Under the Dome

BYLINE: By Albert Eisele and Jeff Dufour

BODY:

Inhofe: Not offended by Coburn?

Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) says he wasn't offended when his freshman Republican colleague from Oklahoma, Sen. Tom Coburn, recently questioned why anyone would want to stay in the Senate when they reach the age of 68, as Inhofe and 28 other senators have.

Or was he?

Asked in a telephone interview Tuesday about the 57-year-old Coburn's remarks to the Heritage Foundation last week -- as reported on this page Tuesday -- Inhofe said, "I don't think he meant it, and I'm not offended. I think he's sorry he said it."

However, a few minutes later, Inhofe, who turns 72 in November, called back, apparently after reading Coburn's words in the "Under the Dome" column, and demonstrated his penchant for nondiplomatic language.

Noting that Coburn said, "Why would you want to be here when you're 68 years of age? If you have any type of life, this is the last place you'd want to be," Inhofe declared, "I'll compare my life with his any time. I've got four kids and 20 grandchildren, and I love all of them. I don't think he knows what a life is."

Then, pointing out that Coburn has pledged to serve only two terms in the Senate, Inhofe added, "If my math is right, he'll be 69 when he decides to retire. There's something wrong here."

Vegas, fast cars and fundraising for GOP

Republican Sens. Rick Santorum (Pa.), Jim Talent (Mo.), Conrad Burns (Mont.) and George Allen (Va.), along with several D.C. lobbyists, are among those heading out to Las Vegas next week for Sen. John Ensign's annual charity event -- and some fundraising of their own.

The Nevada Republican's event includes the Mario Andretti Driving Experience at Las Vegas Motor Speedway on Wednesday and golf at the exclusive Cascada Golf Club on Thursday, said Mike Slanker, an Ensign political consultant and fundraiser.

The racecar driving has helped to draw some of Washington's top names to Vegas year after year (as if they need another reason).

"We were looking for something that would be unique," Ensign said in a 2002 release. "Everybody does golf tournaments. This is the experience of a lifetime for these people. They'll be talking about it when they get back to Washington, and they'll still be talking about it a year from now."

N/R 81

PC-00175

The Hill May 26, 2005 Thursday

In the past, Ensign had stuck with stock cars, but Slanker said organizers decided to shake things up this year by changing to the Formula One race cars, which can reach 180 miles per hour on the Vegas Speedway's 1.5-mile oval. Santorum is expected to put the pedal to the metal Wednesday, a source said.

Ensign's popular yearly event originally raised money for Ensign's Battle Born PAC. But the event, renamed the Ensign Classic three years ago, is directing its proceeds to A Hand Up, a Las Vegas-based organization that raises money for charities for women, children and the disabled.

But there's more than just charity fundraising on Ensign's Vegas agenda.

On Wednesday night, Allen, Burns, Santorum and Talent are co-hosting a fundraiser in Vegas. Plus, Ensign's PAC will also be holding an event.

Ensign established his Battle Born PAC -- named for Nevada's state motto -- shortly after being elected in 2000. In the 2004 election cycle, the PAC took in \$128,283 and disbursed \$122,000 to Republican candidates, according to Opensecrets.org.

Campaigning equals couples therapy for the Clintons

Nothing like a long campaign to get those romantic fires roaring again.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's (D-N.Y.) 2000 campaign "provided a project upon which' she and President Clinton "could rebuild their marriage and remind themselves anew what it was that drew them to each other,' writes journalist John Harris in *The Survivor*, his new book on the Clinton presidency, which hits shelves next week.

Those who knew the first couple well, Harris writes, "almost invariably' agreed that Senator Clinton "loved him, and felt loved by him in return.'

This, apparently, despite the couple's well-publicized troubles during his presidency and rumors of marital tensions dating back long before that.

Harris reconstructs a political meeting at the White House in which the Clintons and their advisers were discussing why women remained skeptical of their marriage and her intentions.

"Women want to know why you stayed with me,' proclaimed politically savvy president.

"Yes, I've been wondering that myself,' came the future senator's response.

But Bill Clinton was ready with the solution. "Because you're a sticker,' he said. "That's what people need to know - you are a sticker. You stick at the things you care about.'

After that, Harris writes, the two would grow closer during the campaign. She "lit up' during their phone calls, and they would exchange drafts of speeches via fax as he became her de facto top campaign consultant. After making his comments and edits, he would often write, "I love you, B,' at the bottom.

Who says there are no second acts in American lives?

Power couple's honeymoon

Vice President Cheney isn't the only person in Washington who hides out at a secret, undisclosed location.

That's where Los Angeles Times columnist Ron Brownstein will be in the coming days on his honeymoon after he and Eileen McMenam, communications director for Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), were wed in Las Vegas on May 7.

"We got married with martinis and Frank Sinatra music,' McMenam said. "It was perfect.'

Brownstein told *The Hill* where he and his new bride will be honeymooning but asked that the location (hint: it's in Europe) and duration of their nuptial trip not be disclosed. As a favor to a fellow journalist, *The Hill* agreed to his request.

The couple met in New Hampshire during McCain's 2000 primary campaign, when McMenam was working as a producer for ABC-TV.

Told that her husband has wrapped a cloak of secrecy around their honeymoon, McMenam, who will keep her name, said, "God forbid that there should be any stories breaking during our honeymoon.'

Schumer: Get an independent into office

As the man charged with getting more Democrats elected to the Senate, Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) hardly could be expected to back anyone other than a Democrat to succeed retiring Independent Sen. Jim Jeffords of Vermont next year.

But Schumer, chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC), wouldn't be at all unhappy if Rep. Bernie Sanders, the only independent member of the House, wins Jeffords's seat.

"If Sanders gets to the Senate, it will make history,' Schumer told reporters at a Christian Science Monitor breakfast yesterday.

He went on to explain that it would be the first time the Senate would have a Democrat (himself), a Republican (Norm Coleman of Minnesota) and an independent (Sanders) who all graduated from the same high school, James Madison High School in Brooklyn.

Schumer said Sen. Pat Leahy (D-Vt.) "is sort of running the show there,' but said he hopes "there won't a bruising Democratic primary.'

Schumer also explained why he failed to carry all of New York's 62 counties while winning a second term in 2004.

"The only county I didn't carry was Hamilton. It's a beautiful county in the middle of the Adirondacks that has only 3,000 people. My staff explained to me why I lost. I must have been there six times. They said, 'It's the only county where you actually met everybody.'"

Rummy's modest wheels

What's Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld doing in the backseat of a Volkswagen Jetta?

A Hill spy tells us that earlier this month, on the way back from the Eastern Shore of Maryland on his motorcycle, he came upon a small motorcade of two black SUVs trailing a VW Jetta.

Upon pulling alongside the cars, whom should he see in the back of the Jetta but the SecDef?

Our source said he gave Rumsfeld a quick salute and got a thumbs-up in return.

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Copyright 2005 DR Partners d/b Las Vegas Review-Journal
Las Vegas Review-Journal (Nevada)

May 26, 2005 Thursday FINAL EDITION

SECTION: A; Pg. 3A

LENGTH: 511 words

HEADLINE: The bridesmaids wore G-strings?

BYLINE: Norm Clarke

BODY:

As wedding options go, they could have tied the knot aboard a gondola, a helicopter, a pirate ship, via a chapel drive-through or with Elvis officiating.

Even by Las Vegas' anything-goes standards, this was way out there.

Flanked by four strippers with their tops on, the bride and groom exchanged vows on the main stage of Club Paradise strip club Sunday.

Putting a new spin on Sin City weddings was Stan Smith, a commercial real estate developer, and Julianne Devereaux, a paralegal, both from Melissa, Texas.

'I think it was a spur-of-the-moment thing,' said Genghis Cohen, general manager and director of operations for the club. 'They showed up with a marriage license, and they made a request.'

It was a case of one-stop shopping: the bachelor party, the wedding and the reception were held under the same roof.

After the flowers and the preacher arrived, 'we basically fitted (the bride and groom) into the stage rotation.'

The bride was given away by the club's VIP host, Tonya McDonald. Wedding cake and lap dances were served for dessert, Cohen said.

Batman returns

Batman was on the Batphone, calling from the Batmobile, on a beeline to the Batcave.

He had some news: We may be seeing a lot more of the man who played the iconic winged warrior.

Actor Adam West had just left Las Vegas for his mountain home in Ketchum, Idaho, after shooting the film 'Buckaroo' as Frank Gorshin's replacement. Gorshin died last week.

'We're really thinking about having a second home in Vegas,' said West, who turns 77 in September. 'We love the action, and it's convenient for the family.'

The Scene and Heard

Resident comedian David Brenner's contract has been extended through Dec. 31 at the Shimmer Lounge at the Las Vegas Hilton.

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PC-00178

Las Vegas Review-Journal (Nevada) May 26, 2005 Thursday

MTV veejays Quedus Phillippe, Damien Fahey, Vanessa Minnillo, La La Vasquez and Susie Castillo are at the Hard Rock Hotel next week for 'Total Request Live' from Monday through Thursday. Guests include Gwen Stefani, Snoop Dogg, Shakira, Hilary Duff and the Black Eyed Peas

Lori Nelson leaves R&R Partners after five years June 3 to join Station Casinos Inc. as director of corporate communications.

Sightings

At Pure nightclub (Caesars Palace) on Tuesday: Cameron Diaz and Justin Timberlake, Eddie Murphy, reality show king Mark Burnett, Cuba Gooding Jr., 'Sugar' Ray Leonard, Hulk Hogan, Chuck Zito, Brooke Burke, Joe Frazier, Ken Norton, Thomas Hearn, Fernando Vargas and Peter Manfredo Jr., runner-up in 'The Contender.' ... Chevy Chase, wandering around the Hard Rock Hotel casino over the weekend. ... Former Dallas Cowboys star running back Emmitt Smith, in a boardroom dinner party at Morton's of Chicago on Tuesday. ... Gooding Jr. at the Snoop Dogg pool concert at the Palms and N9NE Steak House on Tuesday. ... Boxing's Klitschko brothers' family name was misspelled here Wednesday.

The Punch Line

'This just in: People magazine has just named Saddam Hussein sexiest man alive.' -- David Letterman

Norm Clarke can be reached at 383-0244 or norm@reviewjournal.com.

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Copyright 2005 DR Partners d/b Las Vegas Review-Journal
Las Vegas Review-Journal (Nevada)

May 26, 2005 Thursday FINAL EDITION

SECTION: B; Pg. 1B

LENGTH: 727 words

HEADLINE: Police raid home near slayings

BYLINE: FRANK CURRERI

BODY:

Homicide investigators want to question a rap music promoter and two others about a double slaying early Monday that is being investigated as possible retaliation for the shooting death of a California rap artist last year.

Las Vegas police Tuesday night raided an empty home in Southern Highlands, not far from the cul-de-sac where the bodies of 24-year-old Kansas City, Mo., rapper Anthony 'Fat Tone' Watkins and 22-year-old Jermaine Akins were discovered.

Rap promoter Andre 'Mac Minister' Dow, Tanisha Aaron and Jason Mathis had stayed at the residence where the search warrant was executed and knew the victims, but their whereabouts were unknown Wednesday, Las Vegas police Lt. Tom Monahan said.

'They are definitely not suspects,' Monahan said. 'These are known associates of the victims that may be able to shed some light on what happened. ... We know that there is some business connection between Mac Minister and Fat Tone.' Dow, 34, Aaron, 27, and Mathis, 24, have ties to the San Francisco Bay area, Monahan said.

Dow had collaborated professionally in years past with Andre 'Mac Dre' Hicks, a Bay area rap artist who was slain in a highway drive-by shooting in November in Kansas City.

Watkins was questioned in connection with Hicks' death but never was declared a suspect.

That did not stop many in his hometown and online chat forums from alleging that Watkins targeted Hicks after the latter showed up at a Kansas City club and declined to perform. Some predicted Watkins would fall prey to a revenge killing.

'People were upset' with Mac Dre's decision, Kansas City community activist Alonzo Washington said in an interview. 'But I don't know who the players were.'

Watkins acknowledged rumors he was involved in the killing in a later rap song, Washington said, and perhaps deepened suspicions by never saying they were lies.

Watkins' criminal legacy and artistic creations revealed a young man who had cheated both death and prison for a long time and who advertised himself as a gangster thug.

Watkins' marquee album was titled 'Tha Stick Up Kid,' and his rap sheet included being charged with the killing of a 19-year-old girl and her unborn child in 2002. Prosecutors said they later dismissed the charges because of insufficient evidence and a lack of cooperation from witnesses.

In 2003, Watkins was shot in Kansas City after leaving an early morning radio interview with several West Coast rappers. He survived the shooting, which Washington said might have helped boost his album sales among his Kansas City faithful.

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PC-00180

Watkins was arrested in Kansas City on Mother's Day in connection with an assault on a woman.

Police are unsure why he traveled to Las Vegas. But investigators are pursuing a theory that Watkins, Akins, Dow and the two others wanted for questioning might have been in town to attend concerts by rap superstars.

Both Snoop Dogg, from Southern California, and Nelly, a St. Louis native, have performed in Las Vegas in recent days.

'If I were trying to improve my status in the rap industry, I might plan to be in Vegas at that time. That's why people come here for conventions,' Monahan said, explaining a possible rationale for Watkins' and Akins' visit.

But Monahan said authorities have found nothing to suggest that either homicide victim attended the concerts.

A blue Toyota Tercel was found at the homicide scene, and police said it was registered to someone other than Watkins and Akins.

Monahan said he was unaware whether the vehicle was registered to one of the three people wanted for questioning.

While police were busy piecing together clues that might lead them to the killer, Washington was hundreds of miles away enduring rounds of media interviews and trying to keep the rumors from snowballing into a West Coast-Midwest rap war.

Another California rapper was gunned down in Kansas City last year. Washington fears that the killings, even if unrelated, could cause many to ignore the facts and jump to conclusions. That could cause a climate that would make it unsafe for California rappers to tour in Kansas City and vice versa.

'This is a dangerous type of thing,' Washington said. 'It doesn't matter what the facts are. ... This has to stop. We have to bring resolution. Otherwise, it will never stop. We cannot be in a never-ending war.'

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Copyright 2005 Lakeland Ledger Publishing Corporation
The Ledger (Lakeland, FL)

May 26, 2005, Thursday

SECTION: The Reporter; Pg. R1

LENGTH: 512 words

HEADLINE: LIFE'S NO GAMBLE, IT'S A SAFE BET; FOUR CORNERS: PERSPECTIVE

BYLINE: MICHAEL W. FREEMAN The Reporter

BODY:

I've been to Vegas plenty of times, and love the glitz and sheer tackiness of the city. What I don't like is spending more than five minutes in the casinos.

It's not that I'm afraid to lose money (although I have lost some pocket change to the slots); but the excitement of trying to beat the odds totally escapes me. I find the notion of spending hours at gambling tables to be boring. Tedious. It holds no interest for me.

You could say I have a noncompetitive personality. I'm not much attracted to the kind of thrill seeking that would make a compulsive gambler take that first roll of the dice.

The spouses and family members of compulsive gamblers would say I'm lucky to be this way, but sometimes I have to wonder. I suspect that some of the people who are attracted to the excitement of gambling are by their very nature quite competitive; they're also risk takers and highly driven to succeed. It's no small irony that many of them are very successful in business, and rise up the ladder at an early age, finding a degree of wealth that a noncompetitive personality type might never have.

I'm not suggesting it's good to be a compulsive gambler -- or to have any kind of addiction. But it does seem that many of the people who thrive in business and government have aggressive, outgoing personalities, who constantly challenge themselves to reach the next level, who are impatient with the status quo and feel restless when they're not campaigning for more. Obviously, high achievers will take plenty of risks along the way, which is why even the most successful ones crash and burn -- and not just at the roulette table. Think Bill Clinton, who pushed himself up the political ladder all the way to two-term president -- and stumbled badly a la Monica Lewinsky.

In fact, some of the most successful businessmen -- think Donald Trump and Ted Turner -- leave behind a string of broken marriages. The traits that made them great financial dealers also make them less than desirable marriage material.

As for me, my life screams out stability. I held my first job, as a reporter for an urban daily, for 11 years and only quit when I moved to Florida. I've been in a relationship for 11 years. I'm just like my father, who craves any deviation from his regular routine about as much as he longs for a terminal illness.

But sometimes I question if it's such a good thing to find satisfaction in what you've got, to be so easily content. Would it be better for noncompetitive personalities to be a bit more driven, to challenge themselves more, while at same time carefully avoiding the traps that highly competitive people fall into, like gambling addictions and ruined marriages. It's hard to say. Would life be more exciting if you lived it like a roller coaster ride rather than a boat ride on calm waters?

N/R 84

PC-00182

The Ledger (Lakeland, FL) May 26, 2005, Thursday

Am I missing out on something that the Bill Clintons and Donald Trumps have savored? Who knows?
I wonder if there's a support group for people who lead stable, secure lives in nurturing environments?
Maybe I should start one.

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