

# **BULKY DOCUMENTS**

(exceeds 300 pages)

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

**Part 4 of 10**

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The Miami Herald

May 26, 2005 Thursday BRTL EDITION

**SECTION:** E; Pg. 10

**LENGTH:** 793 words

**HEADLINE:** New chef brings bold and rustic style to Azul;  
FINE DINING REVIEW

**BYLINE:** BY VICTORIA PESCE ELLIOTT; vpe@aol.com

**BODY:**

Azul at the Mandarin Oriental, one of Miami's sexiest hotel restaurants, has a new chef behind the rainforest-like drip of the waterfall that fronts the lively kitchen.

His name is Clay Conley, and he offers a sharp contrast to his predecessor, award-winning chef and culinary cover girl Michelle Bernstein. In place of the French-trained Bernstein's often precious, Caribbean-accented jewels are bold, multi-faceted dishes with a more rustic flair.

Conley, 30, who worked in Todd English kitchens including Olives in Boston, D.C., Vegas and Tokyo, has a more Mediterranean style. It is, in just a few cases, too heavy-handed for South Florida, and the execution is less consistent than one expects for such a pricey proposition.

Five months into the job, Conley says he has been charmed by the local produce and is incorporating more of it into his cooking each day. That's evident in such splashy appetizers as lobster salad with hearts of palm and avocado served in a coconut shell and dressed in a tangy grapefruit vinaigrette. Its light but lusty flavors could serve as a postcard for Miami dining.

Ditto the only remnant from the old menu: an outstanding seafood bar of oysters, lobster, stone crab claws, shrimp cocktail, classic ceviches and caviar, which is as appealing -- and pricey -- as ever.

The simple, feng shuied dining room with elements of stone, glass, water and wood and the multi-million-dollar bay view remain a big draw, but it is the service that would make me a repeat, expense-account customer.

As a resort restaurant, Azul is accustomed to children in its elegant dining room, but the staff outdid itself one evening when our party included a 5-year-old girl. The child was regaled with crayons, a coloring book and a pair of pashmina shawls. She ordered from a budget-priced kids' menu (pizza, spaghetti and meatballs, mac and cheese, a fine chicken noodle soup). Grandfatherly Swiss maitre'd Patrick Bragger all but sang her a lullaby as she put her head down to sleep on the upholstered chair he'd pulled up for her.

The adults, meanwhile, were not at all neglected. An attentive but unobtrusive sommelier offered sage advice on the diverse and fairly priced list. Our waiter brought a stool for my handbag in between delivering dishes with speed and accuracy. On another visit I was offered magazines while waiting for a friend.

It would be hard for any cuisine to measure up to such over-the-top coddling. Conley's decadently rich cooking nearly makes the grade, but it is at times a bit macho and, unfortunately, uneven.

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The Miami Herald May 26, 2005 Thursday BRTL EDITION

On one visit my swordfish was cooked to sawdust while on another a delicious salmon "brick" was carefully seared outside and still perfectly rare in the center.

The bouillabaisse -- a Noah's ark of seafood including meaty shrimp, clams, mussels, snapper and a seared scallop in a rich and hearty chile-and-curry sauce with a plank of charred garlic toast -- was competent if a bit weighty for a tropical afternoon.

So, too, a baby chicken paprikash with a luscious sauce and foie gras stuffing but an arid chicken breast roulade. The so-called crme frache dumplings were simply croutons doused in cream.

A 14-ounce rib-eye steak filled the plate and was cooked medium-rare, as ordered, but was tough and did not have the depth of flavor one would expect for \$43.

The simplest dishes were the best, including a sublime, miso-marinated hamachi -- a delectably buttery slab of fish so tender it hardly needed a knife. It was complemented perfectly by edamame-dotted rice and shrimp dumplings.

Another winner was the peppery grilled shrimp -- as meaty as any steak -- with ricotta gnocchi (a bit gummy) in a sweet tomato-and-lobster sauce with hints of shallot and basil.

An emerald pea soup was full of the bright flavors of spring, balanced with lusty, coarsely ground pepper and a fist-sized sidecar of sweetbreads blanketed by glazed ham.

Salt phobic diners take note: There is no escaping the chef's heavy hand with the shaker.

Chocoholics on the other hand, will be charmed by pastry chef Patrick Lassaque's elegantly grown-up desserts. His puff of a vanilla soufflé filled with a semi-sweet chocolate sauce and equally deft hazelnut chocolate tart with rum coffee ice cream are divine.

Place: Azul at the Mandarin Oriental.

Address: 500 Brickell Key Dr., Miami.

Rating:

Contact: 305-913-8254.

Hours: noon-3 p.m. weekdays, 6:30-11 p.m. nightly.

Prices: Soups and other starters \$12-\$22 (seafood bar \$65/person, \$120/couple), entrees \$28-\$45, desserts \$10-\$14, kid's menu \$2.50-\$8.25.

FYI: Full bar. Reservations strongly suggested, especially on weekends. Complimentary valet-parking with validation. AX, DS, MC, VS.

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national-jeweler.com

May 26, 2005

**SECTION:** NEWS

**LENGTH:** 78 words

**HEADLINE:** Memorial lecture in Vegas to honor Gubelin

**SOURCE:** Online

**HIGHLIGHT:**

Dr. Eduard J. Gubelin, leading gemologist who passed away in March at age 91, will be honored with a memorial lecture to be held June 6 at 8:30 a.m. during the JCK show in Las Vegas.

**BODY:**

Dr. Eduard J. Gubelin, leading gemologist who passed away in March at age 91, will be honored with a memorial lecture to be held June 6 at 8:30 a.m. during the JCK show in Las Vegas.

Open to all colleagues and friends of Gubelin, the talk will be presented by his grandson Edward Boehm, of JOEB Enterprises and Laboratory Services; and Gubelin Gem Lab Ltd.'s managing director, Daniel Nyfeler.

The lecture will be held in Room 207 of the Sands Expo, Level 1.

**LOAD-DATE:** May 26, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Sentinel Communications Co.  
Orlando Sentinel (Florida)

May 26, 2005 Thursday  
FINAL

**SECTION:** SPORTS; FLORIDA; FROM THE CHEAP SEATS; Pg. D2

**LENGTH:** 1071 words

**HEADLINE:** NFL needs Vegas? You can bet on it

**BYLINE:** Jerry Greene, Sentinel Columnist

**BODY:**

High time we talk about the NFL considering the start of the regular season is merely days away.

OK, it's 105 days away, but who's counting?

Before reading further, you should know the league disavows all knowledge of this column. Not only that, you could receive a lifetime ban from the NFL Experience just by reading this.

That's because we're talking about gambling on football.

Listen to this:

"It's a fact of life -- Without wagering, stadiums would be empty. And the NFL realizes that. The NFL needs Las Vegas."

Lou D'Amico made that startling statement. I don't agree that stadiums would be empty, but D'Amico is the expert. D'Amico is the Race & Sports Book Director for the Plaza Hotel and Casino in Vegas. And as such, he has already gone where no oddsmaker has gone before.

On a visit to the Plaza Race Book, you can place a wager on any game scheduled for the entire NFL regular season. Right now. D'Amico has set odds on every game. It took two weeks of doing nothing else.

"We're fortunate to have a terrific staff," he said. "And people like it. Some are making \$500 bets on games from every week during the season."

Mike Colbert, the Plaza's Race Book manager, believes fans can't help but be fascinated by the point spreads on their favorite teams throughout the season. He offered some fresh examples Wednesday.

Week 15: San Francisco at Jacksonville, Jags favored by 10. (If Jags RB Fred Taylor can't go this year, should you be jumping on the Niners?)

Week 16: Atlanta at Tampa Bay, no favorite. (Will the Bucs still be in the hunt?)

Week 17: Miami at New England, Pats favored by 10. (Hah-hah-hah.)

Beyond that, D'Amico, Colbert and their staff have set all the traditional odds -- such as winning the Super Bowl. The Plaza has three co-favorites at 6-1 each in New England, Indianapolis and Philadelphia. What? You expected the Dolphins?

Jags were 30-1, Bucs 60-1 and Fish 125-1 even if Ricky Williams does come back to earth.

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Orlando Sentinel (Florida) May 26, 2005 Thursday

There's also the popular "over/under" on how many games each team will win during the regular season. And based on that wager, D'Amico must be favoring the Colts because their "over/under" is highest at 12 games, while the Pats and Eagles are a shade lower at 11 1/2.

So it's the Colts, Lou?

"Well, all I'm saying is that teams with great players like Peyton Manning have a window to win the Super Bowl."

Yeah, like Miami during the Marino years.

But never forget a great oddsmaker isn't in the predicting business. His job is to set a line that you and I will find tough to beat. And those lines are never etched in stone, which makes his job pretty close to 24/7.

"Yeah, I try to sleep without a cell phone in my ear," he said, "but it's hard to relax. A lot of responsibility."

Darn tooting. Without guys like Lou D'Amico, what would the NFL do with all those empty stadiums?

STANDING O FOR A-ROD

Have you been paying attention to what Alex Rodriguez is doing? While other baseball stars are being talked about because they can't perform, A-Rod is on pace for about 65 home runs and a thousand or so ribbies.

Not only that, he's got the courage to talk about his mental therapy. Most of us, especially men, do not have the self-confidence to admit we even know how to spell "psychiatrist," much less admit to seeing one.

Still, there's a dark place inside me that wonders what it is about A-Rod's life that can cause emotional problems. Is it his fame, his ability, his wealth or just his good looks?

I don't have any of those problems.

HOT NOTES, OVEN FRESH

Can Tampa keep the 2009 Super Bowl if by then the only team in town is the relocated Manchester United at Tampa Bay?

Saw this gigantic truck on I-4 carrying a new and huge neon sign for the Parliament House. You go, guys.

Heard Johnny Miller say to Jim Rome on the radio: "Jim, you're awesome." And Rome replied: "Johnny, you're awesome." Glad we got that settled.

Fictional headline: NFL says "neigh" to horse-collar tackles.

Now you know why they don't let me write headlines.

Magic tell me season-ticket renewal was at 83 percent Monday, a notch higher than the NBA's average. But surely they wouldn't mind if a couple thousand new season-ticket holders were to join the crowd.

The Orlando Predators were waiting for game tapes of the New York Dragons, their playoff opponent Sunday, but got a box instead that contained a gas mask. Then they got an anonymous call from a guy who said: "I got your tapes. You got my gas mask?" Equipment manager John Bewley made the exchange but doesn't want to talk about it.

And did you see Pat Williams when they announced he had failed to produce another No. 1 draft pick for the Magic with his pingpong wizardry? He was visibly crushed. . . . Details will be in his new book next month.

Words of wisdom: "All men make mistakes. But married men find out about them a lot sooner." -- Red Skelton.

And don't you dare say, "Who's Red Skelton?"

CINDERELLA WRITER

Jeremy Schaap is caught in an interesting place. He is the author of a book about fighter James Braddock with "Cinderella Man" as part of its title, but he was not involved in the filming of the upcoming much-hyped movie of the same name.

Does he root for the movie? He recently said in a local radio interview that he does but he has some concerns about how far the film may stray from the true story of a Depression-era hero that he meticulously researched.

Orlando Sentinel (Florida) May 26, 2005 Thursday

The book is Cinderella Man: James Braddock, Max Baer, and the Greatest Upset in Boxing History (\$24, Houghton Mifflin). And the title of Schaap's book hints at what I suspect will be the greatest difference from the film -- Schaap gives a lot of sympathetic development to Baer, the fearsome fighter Braddock beats. Trailers of the film make Baer look like a stereotypical "bad guy."

Try the book. Sometimes it actually feels over-researched as the vast amount of details can obscure the points Schaap wants to make about these men and their role in a wounded American culture. But Braddock became a hero primarily because of his work ethic -- something we don't often get anymore. That's good reading.

**CONTACT:** The Seats are closed until Monday. But Jerry joins Lynn "Hitman" Hoppes and Mike Bianchi today and Friday at 9 a.m. for Keep'n Score on 740 The Team (WQTM AM). Jerry also reviews the week that was for the Magic late tonight and early Friday on Central Florida News 13. Send your weekend thoughts to [jgreene@orlandosentinel.com](mailto:jgreene@orlandosentinel.com) or 633 N. Orange Ave., Orlando 32801. And have a great week.

**GRAPHIC: PHOTO:** Peyton Manning and the Colts join early co-favorites New England and Philadelphia to win Super Bowl XL. All are listed at 6-1 odds by the Plaza Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.  
MARK CORNELISON/LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER (JANUARY)

**LOAD-DATE:** May 26, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Denver Publishing Company  
Rocky Mountain News (Denver, CO)

May 26, 2005 Thursday Final Edition

**SECTION:** SPORTS; Pg. 19C

**LENGTH:** 544 words

**HEADLINE:** HONOR NICE, BUT WINNING HARRELL'S FOCUS

**BYLINE:** Jim Benton, Rocky Mountain News

**BODY:**

Colorado Crush offensive specialist Damian Harrell believes this season wasn't his best but the Arena Football League coaches didn't agree with him.

League coaches Wednesday selected Harrell to the All-Arena team as a first-team offensive specialist.

Crush kicker Clay Rush, who scored 147 points, and fullback/linebacker Rich Young, who led the team with five sacks, were second-team selections.

"I've been in this league seven seasons and I just feel like I've had better seasons," Harrell said. "I honestly feel like it's the surroundings. It's the guys around me that made me stand out a little bit more. I've had better seasons but I've been on worse teams. It's more the team and the coaching staff. It's more than just me."

Harrell, an All-Arena second-team pick in 2004, holds the AFL record for 49 consecutive games with at least one touchdown reception. He led the Crush with 122 catches for 1,486 yards and 41 touchdowns this season.

He has reached 1,000 receiving yards in five consecutive seasons. In the past seven AFL seasons, Harrell has 609 catches for 8,414 yards and 188 touchdowns.

Crush coach Mike Dailey, who has witnessed all of Harrell's breathtaking catches the past two seasons, contends the former Florida State player has been spectacular.

"When you think of the (offensive specialist), I think of a guy that has to be a dominant guy, a go-to type of guy not only in what he can do but in his demeanor. That's the way Damian is. I don't think there is any question he's the best guy in the league at his position."

Dailey, though, admires Harrell for more than his clutch catches.

"He is a great human being," Dailey said. "So many times when you get a superstar player, there is something there that is just not what society or anybody really wants. This guy is everything."

Harrell had other things on his mind other than the award Wednesday.

"I'll take it but I still feel like the most important thing right now is for us to be in Vegas," Harrell said of the ArenaBowl which will be held June 12 in Las Vegas. "It's a great accomplishment but I'm not dwelling on it."

Colorado (10-6) begins its bid to advance to Las Vegas on Sunday with a first-round American Conference playoff game against defending ArenaBowl champions San Jose (9-7) at 1:30 p.m. at the Pepsi Center.

The Crush, which lost four of its final six regular-season games, is the top-seeded American Conference team but will be facing a San Jose team that has gone 4-0 against Colorado in the past three seasons.

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The SaberCats defeated the Crush by an average of 31 in those games, including a record-setting 89-41 victory April 22 at the Pepsi Center. The 48-point loss was the worst in Crush franchise history.

"You definitely want to win your games going into the playoffs," Harrell said. "But we're still in a great position. San Jose has to come here. If you are a true competitor, which 99 percent of the guys on this team are, we really didn't want any other team to come in but San Jose.

"I don't want to stick my foot in my mouth and say that's who we wanted but we're competitors and we want to redeem the loss we had earlier in the season. That was one of the worst whippings I've been in since I've been playing arena football."

**NOTES:**

bentonj@RockyMountainNews.com or 303-892-2597

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Copyright 2005 The Tulsa World  
Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

May 26, 2005 Thursday  
Final Home Edition

**SECTION:** News; International; Pg. A2

**LENGTH:** 371 words

**HEADLINE:** Dateline Briefs: Suntan oil benefits greater than advertised

**BYLINE:** Wire Reports

**BODY:**

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. -- A woman who had slathered herself with suntan oil escaped an attacker in a park restroom in part because she was too slippery for him to grab, authorities said.

The woman, whose identity was not released, told authorities she had been jogging in Mile Square Regional Park on Sunday when another jogger began following her.

She ducked into a park restroom but when she emerged from a stall, he lunged from another stall and grabbed her arm, said Orange County sheriff's spokesman Jim Amormino, who noted "She had a large amount of suntan oil on, which made her very slippery and hard to grasp."

The woman struggled with the man and ran away.

Memphis Dem wants Frist's Senate seat

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- Democratic U.S. Rep. Harold Ford Jr. filed the federal paperwork Wednesday to run for the Senate seat held by GOP Majority Leader Bill Frist.

The five-term congressman from Memphis is the second Democrat to enter the 2006 race. Frist has said he does not plan to seek a third term.

Ford, 35, is a member of a Memphis political dynasty. He delivered the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention in 2000 and served as a national campaign co-chairman for John Kerry's presidential run in 2004.

State Sen. Rosalind Kurita is the only other declared Democratic candidate. Republicans running are former Reps. Ed Bryant and Van Hilleary and former Chattanooga Mayor Bob Corker.

Poll: Jersey gamblers prefer to travel

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. -- This seaside city has 12 casinos, a world-famous boardwalk and is about a half-day's drive for the most distant state resident. Still, New Jerseyans prefer to do their gambling 2,000 miles away -- in Las Vegas, according to a poll released Wednesday.

The survey found that state residents preferred Vegas more than 2-to-1. It also found that about 10 percent said they would stop going to Atlantic City if Philadelphia, New York City or the Catskills region of New York state had casinos.

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Tulsa World (Oklahoma) May 26, 2005 Thursday

Commissioned by the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and conducted by Zogby International between May 17 and 25, the poll contacted 1,001 randomly selected adults by telephone. It has a sampling error margin of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

**LOAD-DATE:** May 27, 2005

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The Vancouver Province (British Columbia)

May 26, 2005 Thursday  
Final Edition

**SECTION:** SPORTS; Walking the Line; Pg. A49

**LENGTH:** 307 words

**HEADLINE:** Bookies are wise to keep an eye on the wise guys

**BYLINE:** Jason Brough, The Province

**BODY:**

Most of us didn't grow up in a pool hall learning the ins and outs of bookmaking from a guy with a toothpick in his mouth and an ice-pick in his back pocket.

So when we read in the paper that Team A is favoured by six points over Team B, we assume the sports book in Vegas thinks that Team A will win by six over Team B.

However, it's important to understand that books generally set a line that allows an equal amount of money to flow in on both sides. So no matter who wins they make their commission.

If they believe a flood of money is going to come in on one side -- typically a publicly-hyped favourite -- they'll adjust the line in order to sway more people to bet the underdog.

Either that, or they'll accept a slight imbalance in the action and trust the favourite doesn't cover the inflated spread on average.

A good example of this came last week in my upset pick. Although the Sonics were 5-0 at home in the playoffs, the perennial favourite Spurs were still giving six points in Game 6 at Seattle.

The Sonics lost by two when Ray Allen missed a last-second three-pointer, but they still covered the spread for the third straight time at home in the series.

So always bet the underdog, right?

Not necessarily. By inflating a spread the books also leave themselves exposed to the wise guys.

Who are these wise guys?

Back in the day, a wise guy was like Robert De Niro's character, Ace Rothstein, in Casino.

He'd know if the quarterback was on coke, the kind of inside stuff nobody else knew, and that's what he'd put his money on. Nowadays, though, a wise guy is someone who does the statistics homework and backs it with big money.

Accordingly, the proportion of wise guy bettors at a book can affect the line greatly, with books that take a lot of wise action -- or "sharp money" -- generally having more accurate lines.

brough\_jason@yahoo.com

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**LOAD-DATE:** May 26, 2005

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Copyright 2005 The Washington Post  
The Washington Post

May 26, 2005 Thursday  
Final Edition

**SECTION:** Style; C01

**LENGTH:** 867 words

**HEADLINE:** Accuser's Celebrity Circle;  
Final Defense Witness Chris Tucker Was 'Suspicious' of Mother

**BYLINE:** Peter Carlson, Washington Post Staff Writer

**DATELINE:** SANTA MARIA, Calif. May 25

**BODY:**

The defense in the Michael Jackson child molestation trial rested its case Wednesday, but not before its final witness, comedian Chris Tucker, told how he spent lavishly on the accuser's family, then warned the pop star to "be careful" around them.

Tucker's testimony seemed to buttress the defense's portrayal of the accuser's family as gold diggers, as the actor detailed how he at one point chartered a plane for the family to fly to Miami for \$39,000 and footed the bill for them to stay for weeks in Las Vegas.

And though the defense has rested, the trial is far from over.

The prosecution, which began presenting witnesses in a rebuttal phase of the trial Wednesday, asked Santa Barbara County Judge Rodney S. Melville for permission to play an hour-long videotape of the first police interview with the teenage boy who has accused Jackson of molesting him in 2003. The interview has never been played in court, and defense attorney Robert Sanger urged the judge not to allow it, charging that the prosecution had saved it for "dramatic effect."

"It's too late," Sanger said. "They had their opportunity and didn't take it."

Sanger told the judge that if the videotape is played, the defense might want to cross-examine the boy again. The judge said he would watch the tape and issue his ruling Thursday morning.

The defense stopped without any testimony from Jackson himself, or from a gaggle of celebrities who appeared on the witness list unveiled at the start of the trial back in February. That list included Diana Ross, Elizabeth Taylor, Stevie Wonder, Kobe Bryant and psychic spoon-bender Uri Geller.

But the defense did call Tucker -- star of the "Rush Hour" movies and a friend of both Jackson and his accuser -- who testified that he warned Jackson about the accuser's mother.

"I told him to watch out for [the mother] because I was suspicious of her," Tucker said.

Tucker testified that he met Jackson's accuser about five years ago when Tucker performed at a benefit to raise money for the boy, who was then battling cancer. When the boy later told him that the benefit failed to raise money, Tucker donated "\$1,500 or more" to the family. He later took the boy and his family to an Oakland Raiders football

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The Washington Post May 26, 2005 Thursday

game and a Los Angeles Lakers basketball game, where he arranged for the boy to visit the Lakers' locker room and meet Bryant.

Tucker said he started to get "suspicious" when he invited the family to Las Vegas to visit him on a movie set and they stayed for "weeks," at Tucker's expense, while the boy disrupted work on the film.

"The director told me it was time for him to go," Tucker said. "We couldn't hardly film because when it comes time for action, we got to have quiet."

It was during the Vegas visit that the boy arranged for his friend Michael Jackson to call Tucker, who was a fan of the pop singer: "The next day, Michael was on the phone and I went to my trailer to talk to him." After being introduced by the boy, Tucker and Jackson later became friends, the comedian testified.

Tucker continued to invite the boy and his family to his Los Angeles home although he became uncomfortable when the boy asked him for more money.

"He'd say, 'Chris, lemme have this, I want that, I don't feel good.' I knew it was going too far, but he was sick and he had a lot of family problems so I overlooked it."

In February 2003, the boy complained that his family was being hounded by the media, Tucker testified. So he agreed to fly the family to Miami, where Jackson was staying in a hotel. But the boy's mother became so effusive in her thanks that Tucker got suspicious.

"She was saying, 'You're like a brother and Michael's like a father,'" Tucker said. "She was frantically crying and shaking like she was possessed."

When they reached Miami, Tucker said he warned Jackson about the family. "I said, 'Something ain't right, be careful.'"

Apparently, Jackson didn't take Tucker's advice. He flew the family back to his Neverland ranch, where they stayed for weeks. It was on that visit, according to the indictment, that Jackson molested the boy.

Under cross-examination by prosecutor Tom Sneddon, Tucker became uncommunicative, claiming repeatedly that he couldn't remember various events. He didn't recall the date of his brother's wedding -- which the accuser and his family attended -- and couldn't remember whether he'd arranged for the boy's picture to be posted on a scoreboard at the Lakers game. At one point, Tucker claimed he couldn't understand his own phone records, explaining that he never sees phone bills because they are handled by "my business people."

Tucker's haziness on the details may have undercut the impact of his testimony, courtroom observers said afterward. "On cross-examination, he was so evasive," said Susan Filan, a former Connecticut prosecutor, "that it was clear he was here as Michael Jackson's friend."

Craig Smith, a law professor who worked as a prosecutor and a judge in this county, agreed. "I'm bothered and I think the jury's bothered by his sudden change of demeanor on cross-examination."

Through it all, Jackson sat watching, his face as it often is in the courtroom, utterly blank.

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Variety

May 23, 2005 - May 29, 2005

**SECTION:** LEGIT; Pg. 47

**LENGTH:** 987 words

**HEADLINE:** Will shows hit the road?

**BYLINE:** ROBERT HOFER and ZACHARY PINCUS-ROTH

**HIGHLIGHT:**

After 'Avenue Q's' detour to Vegas, producers promise this year's Tony contenders will pound the pavement

**BODY:**

To paraphrase an infamous Oscar speech, Broadway producers "really, really love" the road presenters. And wouldn't you know? This Broadway season, each and every one of the Tony-nommed tuners is "really, really going out" on the road. And that even includes the high-brow "The Light in the Piazza."

No wonder producers stressed their honesty when showing current wares during the Spring Road Conference (May 10-16) in Gotham.

Last year, road presenters voted their pocketbooks, their support proving instrumental in landing "Avenue Q" the Tony, then cried that the integrity of the awards had been compromised when "Q" quickly dumped them to play Vegas.

It was expected that the tuner's winning campaign ("Vote Your Heart!") and aggressive promises ("We're touring!") would transform the 2005 awards landscape into a free-for-all battleground of hype and hubris.

Curiously, the drama has remained onstage this season, and anxious producers were really, really careful when pitching presenters at their annual meet-and-greets.

"Actually, it's been pretty clean," says road presenter Al Nocciolino, president of NAC Entertainment.

"Everybody is behaving well," says marketing guru Nancy Coyne. Serino-Coyne's client was last year's big surprise loser, "Wicked."

Ironically, "Wicked" producer David Stone now finds himself holding the "Avenue Q" card with his new tiny tuner, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." In a repeat of last year, some road presenters are saying that, like "Wicked," the juggernaut "Monty Python's Spamalot" doesn't need the Tony.

Whatever the current odds, "Spelling Bee" is definitely not taking the puppet-show route and going to Las Vegas anytime soon. Stone & Co. made that abundantly clear at their lunch on May 12.

In an oblique reference to the issue of "Q" being too small for traditional road venues, "Bee" director James Lapine told the assembled presenters, "We can be adapted to any space." And to prove it, his cast of nine performed a shortened, pared-down version of the already tech-lite tuner on a small makeshift stage in the drab Hilton meeting room.

Whether "Spelling Bee" translates well for the road's biggest theaters, Nocciolino doesn't find it such a problem. "Many complexes have more than one stage today," he says.

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PC-00198

Variety, May 23, 2005 - May 29, 2005

A year ago, the "Avenue Q" people held intimate pizza parties designed to assure presenters that the show's X-rated lyrics could be softened to PG levels. Lapine made a more convincing pitch for the adaptability of "Bee." "We would encourage each presenter to personalize the show in his own way," he says, and suggests that the audience volunteer speller portion of the show could include local inside jokes.

Elsewhere at the Road Conference, other Tony-nommed producers also did their best to counteract any "Avenue Q" fallout. "If there was an aggressive element, it was people saying they weren't going to Las Vegas," says Pat Halloran, president of the Orpheum Theater in Memphis, Tenn. "That was verbally committed. But it was done tongue-in-cheek, and everybody laughed."

For example, at the "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" lunch on May 11, producer Marty Bell gave 10 reasons why the show would tour.

"We're going to have a very aggressive Tony campaign," Bell told Variety before the presentation. "The press has created a real false sense of the strength of 'Spamalot.'" Out of the 758 Tony voters, he said, each of the four nominated musicals gets "150 votes right off the bat, and it all comes down to the last 158" (85 of the voters are presenters-operators).

But "Spamalot" might have the edge there with its 13 producers, which include the multimembered Independent Presenters Network. Even so, at its May 12 cocktail party, Mike Nichols dazzled and Eric Idle felt the urge to make funny about the show's unwillingness to play Vegas.

Road presenter Jeff Chelesvig found the reassurance unnecessary. "With Clear Channel and IPN producing it, who ever thought 'Spamalot' would do anything but tour?" says the prexy at the Civic Center of Greater Des Moines, (Iowa).

Tom Gabbard heads up the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center in Charlotte, N.C., and has been attending the annual Road Conference for over 12 years. He rejects the Rialto buzz that producers were much more upfront about asking for votes this year, especially regarding their nommed actors.

"We were back to parties that were fundamentally less about the Tonys and much more about getting shows out on the road. This year's musicals look great. But we've been devastated," he said, referring to lackluster product now playing the road.

And the 2005-06 season out there looks bleak since the expected "Avenue Q" and "Bye Bye Birdie" tours never materialized. Not that Gabbard holds last year's big Tony winner responsible.

"I'm one of those Tony voters who voted for 'Wicked' and thinks 'Avenue Q' did the right thing," he says. "It would have been lost in a big theater."

Likewise, some presenters find "The Light in the Piazza" too big operationally for their Broadway subscription series, and find it a better fit for the nonprofit world. "It belongs in LORT theaters," says one road presenter.

If there was any surprise at the 2005 Conference, it came from Lincoln Center Theater, which did not wine-and-dine to promote its "Piazza," but nonetheless announced a tour, if a tad belatedly.

Indeed, the booker AWA Touring Services had already printed its Road Conference brochure (which included "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," "The Pillowman," "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?") when, three days before the confab kickoff, AWA's Steven Schnepf saw the new Adam Guettel/Craig Lucas musical.

Duly impressed, he contacted LCT, and possibilities immediately started spinning. "We'll get a tour out at some point. Too early to say when exactly," says Schnepf.

During Road Conference week, optimism has a way of always taking center stage.

**LOAD-DATE:** May 23, 2005

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Copyright 2005 South Bend Tribune Corporation  
South Bend Tribune (Indiana)

May 22, 2005 Sunday Michigan Edition

**SECTION:** SPORTS; Pg. D9

**LENGTH:** 819 words

**HEADLINE:** Briefs/World

**BODY:** COLLEGE BASKETBALL

BC player arrested

Boston College forward Sean Williams was suspended from the team and university after he was charged with marijuana possession.

The 6-foot-10 Williams was arrested by campus police Friday. He pleaded innocent in Brighton District Court and is scheduled to appear at a pretrial hearing July 8.

After the arrest, Williams was suspended indefinitely from the team. He was also suspended from the university for the summer and fall semesters, sports information director Chris Cameron said.

Williams was the second BC freshman arrested in less than a week. Akida McLain was arrested in his hometown of Pittsburgh last Sunday after allegedly trying to pass counterfeit \$20 bills.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Michigan in regional final

Michigan hit a pair of solo home runs and logged its 29th shutout of the year to defeat Seton Hall 5-0 in the NCAA regional tournament on Saturday.

It was the 57th win this year for the Wolverines to set a school record, passing the 1997 and 1998 teams for most victories.

Michigan (57-4) advances to today's championship game.

PRO BASKETBALL

NBA reps revisiting Vegas

NBA officials will return to Las Vegas next week to scout potential venues as part of the city's bid to host the league's 2007 All-Star game.

Las Vegas is attempting to become the first city without an NBA team to hold the All-Star game. Memphis, Tenn., is the only other city with a confirmed interest in hosting the All-Star weekend in 2007 or 2008. New Orleans and Charlotte, N.C., also have been mentioned as possible bidders.

League officials were in Las Vegas in April for a day-long tour. NBA spokesman Tim Frank on Friday said Las Vegas' All-Star application is still under review.

PRO BASKETBALL

Shock wins season opener

N/R 93

PC-00200

South Bend Tribune (Indiana) May 22, 2005 Sunday

Deanna Nolan had the fourth triple-double in league history and Kara Braxton added 18 points to help the Detroit Shock beat the Connecticut Sun 78-67 in the WNBA's season opener Saturday afternoon.

Nolan finished with 11 points, a team-record 11 assists and 10 rebounds. Ayana Walker added 14, after only scoring 18 points in the 2004 season.

Detroit led 41-34 at halftime, but the Sun pulled to 45-44 with 17:07 to play.

The Shock answered with a 13-1 run that included three-point plays by Nolan and Walker, as well as a 3-pointer by Niele Ivey, a former Notre Dame player.

Another former Notre Dame player, Ruth Riley, scored 12 points for the Shock.

#### GOLF

Dougherty takes Irish lead

Nick Dougherty birdied three of the last six holes to shoot a 5-under 67 Saturday and take a two-stroke lead after three rounds of the Irish Open.

The English protg of Nick Faldo is at 9-under for the tournament and in position to win for the second time this year. David Howell (69) and Oliver Wilson (66) are tied for second. Colin Montgomerie slipped to a 3-over 75 and is virtually out of the running to win the event on the course at Carton House, which he designed. He is tied for 49th.

#### GOLF

Kite, Weibring on top

D.A. Weibring shot a 7-under-par 65 to take a one-stroke lead over first-round leader Dana Quigley and a surging Tom Kite Saturday in the second round of the Bruno's Memorial Classic in Hoover, Ala.

Kite tied the tournament record with a 63 and took the lead into the clubhouse, but Weibring birdied five of the final seven holes, including the par-5 18th to move to 12-under at Greystone Golf Club.

Quigley shot a 69 after a Champions Tour record-tying eight consecutive birdies in the rain-delayed opening round on Friday. He chipped in a birdie putt on 18 to tie Kite.

#### PRO FOOTBALL

David Lang killed

Former NFL running back David Lang was killed in a shooting near his suburban Atlanta home, police said Saturday.

The 37-year-old Lang, who played for the Los Angeles Rams and Dallas Cowboys, was shot following an apparent argument with an acquaintance Thursday near his Stone Mountain home, said police Lt. L.J. Florea.

Mario Holmes, 20, was arrested and charged with murder, according to Sgt. J. Germano of the DeKalb Police Department. Lang was shot twice, Germano said.

#### BOXING

Brewster scores TKO

WBO heavyweight champion Lamon Brewster made quick work of Andrew Golota on Saturday night, scoring a technical knockout 53 seconds into their scheduled 12-round bout at the United Center.

Tomasz Adamek of Poland won the vacant WBC light heavyweight championship Saturday night, earning a 12-round decision over Paul Briggs of Australia in a bloody fight.

Also on the undercard of the Andrew Golota-Lamon Brewster WBO heavyweight championship bout, Alejandro Garcia became the WBA's interim super welterweight champion with a technical knockout of Rhoshii Wells at 2:52 of the ninth round.

Carlos Baldomir (41-9-6, 12 KOs) scored a unanimous decision over Miguel Rodriguez (26-2, 21 KOs) in a WBC welterweight championship elimination bout.

LOAD-DATE: May 25, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Albuquerque Journal  
Albuquerque Journal (New Mexico)

May 22, 2005 Sunday

**SECTION:** FINAL; Pg. D10

**LENGTH:** 700 words

**HEADLINE:** Tapia-Larios Bout on Hopkins Undercard Won't Happen

**BYLINE:** Mike Hall Associate Sports Editor

**BODY:**

Negotiations for a July championship fight between Johnny Tapia and World Boxing Council title holder Oscar Larios have ended.

"They (Larios' promoters) wanted us to fight on the Hopkins-Taylor card in Vegas and we wanted to fight here," Albuquerque promoter Lenny Fresquez said Saturday.

On July 15, middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins will defend in Las Vegas, Nev., against Jermain Taylor.

Fresquez said he instead has offered a late-July, early-August bout in Albuquerque to International Boxing Federation super bantamweight champion Israel Vazquez (37-3, 27 KOs). "It's in negotiation, there's nothing concrete," Fresquez said.

Even if Tapia, a 38-year-old five-time world champion with a 55-4-2, 28-knockout record, wanted to fight in Las Vegas, it would have been a difficult proposition. Tapia was hospitalized in a coma and on life support in Las Vegas in January 2003. The Nevada Athletic Commission would have required him to pass a battery of tests to be licensed.

**OHKAY CARD:** The action will be outdoors at a temporary 3,500-seat arena Sunday, June 12, at the Ohkay Casino-Resort when Mia St. John (40-5-2, 17 KOs) fights Liz Drew (9-7, 2 KOs) for the vacant IFBA lightweight title.

The six-bout card is being promoted by Ross Sanchez of Pojoaque under the name Fire Inside Productions. Sanchez, in his first outing as a promoter, said it will be "a rain or shine event." The ring, he said, will be covered.

Sanchez, owner of Cross Connection Inc., a general and mechanical contractor that does most of its work at Sandia and Los Alamos Labs, said promoting boxing "is just something I wanted to do. I'm a businessman looking for another venture."

St. John has been one of the bigger names in women's boxing, gaining a popularity boost from her appearance in Playboy magazine.

The card also features another women's title fight. Jackie Chavez (8-0, 3 KOs) of Los Lunas will defend her IFBA super bantamweight crown against Audrey Vela (5-0, 1 KO) of Austin, Texas.

Northern New Mexico favorite Monica Lovato (3-1, 1 KO) of nearby Espanola will also be on the card, taking on Stacy "Hard Headed" Lammars (0-2, 1 NC) of Jefferson, Mo. "She's (Lovato) popular here, and we've got her a decent fight. It should be nice," Sanchez said.

The remainder of the card will be filled by three men's bouts, the feature being between Jeremiah Torres (7-7, 1 KO) of Albuquerque and Vincent Garcia (6-1, 4 KOs) of San Bernardino, Calif.

N/R 94

PC-00203

Albuquerque Journal (New Mexico) May 22, 2005 Sunday

Tickets are priced between \$25 and \$65 and are available at Cross Connection in Albuquerque (4019 Edith, 344-4834), Cross Connection in Espanola (1101 Industrial Park, 747-4868) or at the Ohkay Casino.

Gates open at 2:30 p.m. with the first bell at 3:30 p.m. The Ohkay is located on the San Juan Pueblo, two miles north of Espanola on Highway 68.

**ZAMORA IMPRESSES:** Middleweight Joaquin Zamora says he's always been a slow starter. "Since the amateurs," he says of those three-rounders. "By the time I got warmed up, the fight was over."

That almost cost him May 13 against Ishwar Amador (11-7, 7 KOs) at the Orleans Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nev. Zamora was tagged hard in the first round and appeared groggy when he went down with what was ruled a slip. But Zamora got up and, with a sneaky left hook fired from close range, weathered the round.

From that point Zamora (7-2-1, 6 KOs) took control. He opened a 20-stitch gash over Amador's eye with a straight left, causing the bout to be stopped at 2:26 of the third.

Zamora, who works for the Santa Fe Parks and Recreation Department, had Amador hurt in the second, but instead of attacking, covered and let Amador wear himself out. Zamora said he learned that from watching "a lot of film of (middleweight champion) Bernard Hopkins. I like the way he picks his spots, when to engage and not to engage."

He said he also has watched a lot of Winky Wright, who the next night in Las Vegas pitched a near-shutout in his bout against Felix Trinidad.

**NEW COMMISSIONER:** Sam Kasscieh has been named to the New Mexico Athletic Commission by Gov. Bill Richardson. A family practice doctor in Albuquerque, Kasscieh was a lieutenant commander as a United States Public Health Service physician from 1982-1986. Kasscieh replaces Joe Chavez.

**GRAPHIC: PHOTO:** b/w TAPIA: Wants to fight at home, not in Nevada

**LOAD-DATE:** May 23, 2005

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Copyright 2005 The Atlanta Journal-Constitution  
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

May 22, 2005 Sunday Metro Edition

**SECTION:** Sports; Pg. 3D;

**LENGTH:** 255 words

**HEADLINE:** NASCAR REPORT: Ownership reorganization pleases Penske's Newman

**BYLINE:** RICK MINTER

**BODY:**

Concord, N.C. --- Ryan Newman said he sees smoother days ahead for his Penske Racing South team now that there's been a shift in ownership.

Newman and his teammate Rusty Wallace have waged a two-year feud, but Wallace is retiring at the end of this season, and last week he sold his share of the team to principal owner Roger Penske. Team executives Don Miller and John Erickson also sold their shares but plan to remain in their current management roles.

Newman said the sale is good news for him and his No. 12 team, which is led by crew chief Matt Borland and operates independently of Wallace's crew.

"I don't see it changing anything at all about the way Penske is run and operated," Newman said. "If anything, I'd say I hope for better results as far as the car drives."

Newman emphasized that he has no plans to look for a driving job elsewhere.

"Since we started in the Cup Series we've won the third most amount of races and had the most poles of anyone out there," he said. "Who'd want to walk away from that?"

He said that although all Dodge drivers have struggled somewhat in adapting to the new Charger body, as well as the shorter spoiler and different tire compound that all teams have had to adjust for, he's on the verge of victory.

"We were ready to win two weeks ago [at Darlington] until the yellow [flag] came out," he said. "We had a good shot at winning Daytona, Vegas and California.

"We struggled at points in between, but I think we've performed well the past two weeks."

**GRAPHIC:** Ryan Newman stands seventh in the Nextel Cup points standings.

**LOAD-DATE:** May 22, 2005

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PC-00205

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Copyright 2005 Boston Herald Inc.  
The Boston Herald

May 22, 2005 Sunday  
ALL EDITIONS

**SECTION:** THE EDGE; Pg. 035

**LENGTH:** 462 words

**HEADLINE:** FASHION POLICE;  
Oops and ahs;  
Celebs slip, while Hubsters reach new Horizons

**BYLINE:** By Ivana Martini

**BODY:**

What a morning! I just had brunch with my dear chums Ben and Jen. They've been tearing their publicist's hair out trying to arrange a secret wedding. As I've dipped my nacho in the salsa of marital bliss many times, I served the kids oodles of advice over Pop Tarts and Cristal. You see, my second marriage was a stealth affair. The senator and I tied the knot in his favorite wig shop (THERE'S a red flag, ladies). We emerged 20 minutes later with matching shags and a sacred vow.

My fourth wedding was also hush-hush, so much so that the groom wasn't even aware of it. That's why a videographer is so important, girls. When friends ask how I bagged a count, I give them my tried-and-true recipe for success: one cup gin to two Valium. Mix well. Mazel tov.

Speaking of weddings, I racked up the air miles this week to compile a lovely gift basket of nips for my dear niece Dyspepsia. Manolo, my beloved Pom, was eager to catch Celine in Vegas, and we took in the Country Music Awards to boot. I'd left my best snood in Cannes last week, so we jetted back to retrieve it and did a bit of red-carpet sidling. And of course, we took in the "I've Got Nothing to Wear" shopping benefit for Horizons for Homeless Children in Boston.

Let me board this fog cutter and I'll tell you all about it:

**THE RAG TRADE:** I don't blame Asia Argento for wanting to punch out whoever told her that a dress made from old ties, seat belts, potholders, shoelaces and general bits of drab tat would make a stellar Cannes statement. Hit them, dear. Hit them hard.

**WHEN HUMMELS GO BAD:** Sure, you get to attend the Country Music Awards, but there's a down side to being Deana Carter. You hit some mirror-shattering notes at home, and you're unable to see that putting a bed jacket over your junior prom dress is a bad idea. Who knows how many trailers are without curtains because of that skirt. I dub this look "The Ringling."

**VESTED INTEREST:** Trick Pony's Heidi Newfield is the Fergie of the country music scene in this minitop with breastplate accents. Wasn't there enough shiny fabric, dear? It's got a certain Atlantic City aerobic-instructor charm to it, though.

**THREE TIMES THE CHARM:** At the Horizons for Homeless Children benefit at the Ritz Carlton, Suzie O'Brien from Pixie Stix and the Red Wagon shows how to pull off the bohemian chic look. Center, Stil owner Betty Riaz wears a stunning pink top that should be in my closet, ditto for the lovely skirt, and Melissa Tuthill from Horizons for Homeless Children, right, tops a floral skirt with a simple white top for a study in sophistication.

N/R 96

PC-00206

A SPLASH OF COLOR: Lori Snyder from the Education Cooperative has New England weather down pat. Her pants and shoes say "spring," while her top says "in Boston, where it's still cold." Well done.

**LOAD-DATE:** May 22, 2005

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Copyright 2005 MediaNews Group, Inc.  
Connecticut Post (Bridgeport, CT)

May 22, 2005 Sunday

**SECTION:** LOCAL

**LENGTH:** 1136 words

**HEADLINE:** Youth serves itself: Annika rules, but she's not without new challengers

**BYLINE:** LOU PINTEK

**BODY:**

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. -- Annika Sorenstam isn't playing this week at the Sybase Classic, and while the sponsors rued her absence [it shows up most at the turnstiles], the rest of the LPGA Tour looks at it as an opportunity for victory.

"Any time a player dominates like this, it's a lot of fun, but there's a lot of work for us to do," Aree Song said. "I think it's great. She's motivating the whole tour to try and step it up."

Song may sound like a grizzled veteran, but in fact she's only 19. Song and her twin sister, Naree, are part of a new generation of LPGA players who've probably never heard of Elvis -- Costello, never mind the King.

Song made LPGA history when she qualified for the tour at age 17, and received a special exemption from LPGA commissioner Ty Votaw to compete [the minimum age is 18]. She won close to a half-million dollars in her first full season in 2004, and had a second-place finish at the Kraft Nabisco Championship, the LPGA's first major.

This year, she's 63rd on the money list and has two top-20 finishes.

"A lot of it has to do with attitude, I think," Song said. "I came out here the first year, I had low expectations, and that really helped me, because it was a much longer season than I anticipated. My first year I used as a learning curve. I came out, had fun, learned different golf courses and the travel that goes with the tour."

Teen dreamers

The Songs aren't the only teenagers trying to earn a living on tour. Brittany Lincicome of Florida won't turn 20 until September, but she earned her props by holding the first-round lead at last year's Women's Open before fading. A 20th-place finish at Q-school netted her exempt status for 2005. South Korean Aram Cho, 19, played her way onto the tour by finishing fourth on the Futures Tour money list in 2004. But until Michelle Wie comes of age [she's 15], perhaps the brightest star among the teen-aged sensations is Paula Creamer, who turns 19 in August and will graduate from high school next week.

Creamer, a top-ranked junior player as well as a top-flight amateur, tied for 13th at the Women's Open [sharing low amateur honors with Wie]. She validated her credentials as a player to be reckoned with last fall when she was the low qualifier at Q-School by five strokes, whereupon she immediately turned pro.

Her professional inexperience hasn't shown yet, because she's posted two top-10 finishes, including a tie for third at the LPGA Takefuji Classic in Las Vegas, and ranks 19th on the money list. She shot a 71 in Saturday's third round of the Sybase Classic and is among three players tied at 208, one shot behind leader Christina Kim going into today's final round.

N/R 97

PC-00208

Connecticut Post (Bridgeport, CT) May 22, 2005 Sunday

The influx of the teenaged prodigies raises an interesting question: Are they better off jumping into the grind of the LPGA Tour, or would they be better served by basking in a four-year college experience with golf a welcome diversion from their studies?

"I think it depends on the individual, I really do," said 40-year-old Michele Redman, the 1997 Sybase Classic champion. "I played with Paula Creamer in Vegas and I think she's a great player, so it's all a matter of timing. I don't think everybody should go to college and I don't think everybody should come out [on tour] at 18, either." "I think for me, it's normal, but I think for everybody else, it's far from normal," Creamer said. "It works with my schedule and it's all I'm used to. I think the other kids who don't go to academies and things like that, their life is normal. But to the normal 18-year-old, it's definitely not the same."

Veterans such as Redman, Sherri Steinhauer [age 42] and even the hottest LPGA player not named Annika -- 27-year-old Cristie Kerr -- concur that the opportunities presented to this generation of players are all geared to making them fit the mold of the modern LPGA player: talented, gifted and mentally focused. "They're just so much more prepared than when I played junior golf," said Steinhauer, a two-time winner here. "They have so many more events that they can participate in. As far as the players coming from the United States, I think it's wonderful that they're rearing the kids at a younger age, and they're just a lot more prepared. They have access to a lot more things that are getting them ready at an earlier age. They're coming out much stronger, they're working more closely with the sports psychologists. That wasn't something I thought of until I even got out on tour after a couple years. But they're starting out with that earlier. So I think it's great for the tour."

"I think the scores are lower now than they were when I first came out on tour, so that would probably be the biggest challenge [for them]," Redman said, "that and getting to be familiar with the courses. Some of them don't have the college experience and that probably has a little bit to do with it, too."

Who's next?

While promise and potential are the buzzwords for this new breed of player, the goal for all of them remains the same: somehow finding enough game to take down Sorenstam, who at 34 is in her prime. "She has raised the bar for women's golf, and she's made it obviously a better sport right now," Redman said. "I think it's great for the game. Personally, I don't think Annika gets the press that she deserves. "If you're comparing apples to apples, her record's definitely better than Tiger's [Woods] and I don't think she gets quite the media that he does ... and that's me saying that. I think they've both done a lot for the game, but I think Annika, record-wise, is way more dominating out here than Tiger is on the men's tour. That's pretty obvious now."

It was Kerr who halted Sorenstam's five-tournament winning streak by holding her off at the Michelob Ultra Championship at Kingsmill, and it is Kerr who is lurking some \$150,000 behind Annika on the money list. A victory this week would catapult her into the No. 1 position.

"It's going to take a lot to beat her and become No. 1 in the world," Kerr said. "There are a lot of players out here that do want to challenge her. I'm definitely one of them. I don't know if on a week-to-week basis I can be competitive to win every single week like she is, especially head to head with her right now. But I feel like I'm close to that. I feel like I'm playing more than her this year, so who knows what's going to happen?"

So they work hard, play well and earn their card. Age, after all, is just a state of mind, as Votaw said. "We have a great cadre of young players that are able to compete at an elite level," he said. "There are the 20-somethings like Cristie Kerr and Christina Kim, who just turned 21, and then there are the Beth Daniels, Meg Mallons, Annika, the veterans who can still play. So it's a very bright future."

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Copyright 2005 THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS  
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

May 22, 2005 Sunday  
SECOND EDITION

**SECTION:** BUSINESS; INSIDE BUSINESS; Pg. 2D

**LENGTH:** 253 words

**HEADLINE:** Luxury ride rolls in Vegas

**BYLINE:** TERRY BOX, Staff Writer

**BODY:**

High roller has a new meaning at the \$2.7 billion Wynn Las Vegas hotel.

Owner Steve Wynn commissioned Bentley Motors Inc. to build four Arnage RL limousines to fetch special guests.

The fleet cost \$1.08 million - or about \$270,000 each. Since Bentley normally builds only 10 of the limousines for North America annually, the Wynn order represents 40 percent of the total for 2005, company officials said.

"We're truly honored to be part of what looks to be one of the finest resort destinations in the world," said Dr. Franz-Josef Paefgen, chairman and chief executive of Bentley Motors.

The hotel says no one on the Strip has a fleet even roughly comparable to the silky Bentleys.

All will be painted "beluga" black and equipped with cream magnolia leather interiors and walnut burl trim. Each Arnage totes - quietly - a cocktail cabinet and wine cooler, and cossets its maximum of four occupants in seats stitched reassuringly with the winged Bentley marque. During production, it takes more than 110 "skilled artisans" to build the Arnage, officials say.

Two 13-inch LCD screens have been crafted into each seat back for passengers - presumably tuned to a poker channel.

The Arnage RL is Bentley's most exclusive edition, built largely to individual customers' requirements, company officials say.

Although the price of one Arnage could get you a nice house in Dallas, Bentley portrays the car as a good value. Its two main competitors, the Rolls-Royce Phantom and Mercedes Maybach, cost \$320,000 and \$357,000, respectively.

**GRAPHIC:** PHOTO(S): (Wynn Las Vegas) Fantasy then, reality now: An artist's rendering shows the four Bentley Arnage RL limousines in front of the recently opened Wynn Las Vegas.

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PC-00210

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The Desert Sun (Palm Springs, California)

May 22, 2005 Sunday

**SECTION:** OPINION; Pg. 9B

**LENGTH:** 1705 words

**HEADLINE:** Your voice: Letters to the Editor for Sunday, May 22, 2005

**BODY:**

Municipal priorities: Pay for move, sewers

The city of Cathedral City is in the process of readying lands south of Highway 111 for redevelopment. The new projects will include expansion of the auto park and new low-income housing. Affected is the old mobile home community, Desert Hills. The city is paying residents to relocate in amounts up to \$23,000.

All this expenditure seems ironic in light of the cove neighborhood residents having to shell up to \$25,000 of their own money for sewers and new streets if an assessment district is formed.

I feel if the city has the means to pay renters to relocate, it should have the funds to pay for services for residents that have lived in their homes for years and have been paying property taxes.

- Jack Griffin

Cathedral City

Restaurant competition: Concentrate on food

Where in the world has fair play gone? Bill Beck is complaining that another Italian restaurant is opening close to his Red Tomato restaurant. What is wrong with this? Doesn't competition make people endeavor to improve and succeed?

It isn't unusual for two businesses with similar products to open close to one another. Isn't it Bill Beck who ran a Mexican restaurant in the same space as The Red Tomato called The Red Pepper? This is just a few doors down from another Mexican restaurant called El Gallito, which I believe was there before Bill's.

Bill should concentrate on making his restaurant better and quit worrying about things he has no control over. With Bill trying to use his influence to stop another business from opening, I will look forward to supporting his competition regularly.

- Joe Kent

Palm Springs

Fragrance advertising: Warn those allergic

Recently, there was a section on the new or popular fragrances on the market. A while back there was a full-page, colored spread on same. My first reaction is fear. Why? Because I am allergic and these items are being promoted without proper directions or side effects.

N/R 99

PC-00211

The Desert Sun (Palm Springs, California) May 22, 2005 Sunday

In much the same way that some are allergic to cigarette smoke, when I am exposed to a heavy dose of perfume or cologne my air passages begin to close up and breathing changes. I believe every doctor's office should have a "no scent" sign and that when worn in restaurants or theatres there should be an awareness of how this might effect someone, by the wearer.

Therefore I would ask for responsible labeling, responsible reporting, and ads and responsibility by the wearer. These products should require the same attention that most others do, but I haven't seen it yet.

- Rita Firestone Seger

Rancho Mirage

24-hour news cycle: Is nothing off-limits?

It's official, our nation has finally lost any sense of decency. Between the Terry Schiavo affair and this recent case of Jennifer Wilbanks, the media has made it clear that there is "nothing sacred" anymore. There is absolutely nothing the media will not exploit for its own money-making purposes.

It's been "open season" on celebrities and politicians for decades. It's understood that this is part of the price of fame. However, for a private individual, seeking neither fame nor fortune, to have their most personal lives hijacked by a media which must be fed 24 hours every day, it means no one is safe.

A husband goes to court to protect his wife's wishes, and more than a dozen courts agree with him, but certain groups sensationalize the tragedy for their own base political purposes.

A woman gets cold feet over her wedding, hops a bus and goes to Vegas for a few days, and the national discussion is about whether or not she should be charged with a crime and billed for the search.

The discussion should be: What have we become as a nation? What things are important to us as Americans? Finally, is there any such thing as "privacy," and who is entitled to it, as it seems no longer a "right?"

- Steve Parker

La Quinta

Runaway bride: She must be punished

Runaway bride Jennifer Wilbanks should be prosecuted to dissuade others. It is only a matter of time before a search volunteer or rescue officer is killed by forsaking his/her own safety on an icy road or by getting up from a sick bed in the belief that finding a missing person is worth the personal risk.

Miss Wilbanks' dishonest behavior could have created such unnecessary risk and even death.

- Richard Franklin

Palm Desert

Megastores: Retailers exploit us all

"Growing cities welcome megastores," (April 30). Who? Did you forget that Palm Desert and Palm Springs citizens had lawsuits against Wal-Mart? Why would we get excited about a mega-retailer that preys on the poor to deliver billions in profits and shunts their workers to the state welfare system rather than provide benefits?

It is just beyond sad that our consumer-driven culture only wants to save a buck at the check-out line and not look at the bigger cost to taxpayers for social services. I, for one, will boycott Wal-Mart for not treating workers, women and families fairly.

- Greg Landenburg

Palm Springs

High gas prices: Bush misses gouging

"There will be no price gouging at gas pumps in America," Bush said at his news conference on April 28.

The Desert Sun (Palm Springs, California) May 22, 2005 Sunday

He spoke on the same day the world's largest publicly traded oil company, Exxon Mobil Corp., announced that its profit for the first three months of the year had risen 44 percent to \$7.86 billion from the corresponding quarter a year ago.

If that isn't price gouging, what is, Mr. President?

- Gary L. Vyne

Palm Springs

High gas demand: We need alternatives

James Payton's Valley Voice column is very short-sighted ("Nation's energy needs make oil drilling in Arctic necessary," May 2).

The U.S. shouldn't be looking forward to the day we "run out of oil," we should be looking forward to alternatives to oil.

The "need for oil will go away" when we use our own resources right here in the U.S.

General Motors recently took out full-page ads in major newspapers, like the Los Angeles Times, touting that they first developed alternative fuel 40 years ago. Why is it going to take another 20 years to "remove and replace existing vehicles and power plants?"

Oil companies are building huge skyscrapers and retirement packages out of the gouging they're putting on the rest of us.

"Increasing gas taxes" hurts the poor the most. It's been proven, and it's not fair.

Mr. Payton failed to mention the amount of Alaskan oil that we'll never use here but sell to China. Who profits from that? The oil companies.

The time has come for a politician to rise up and do something about our dependence on oil. Now. It's expensive, pollutes the air and causes us to send billions of our dollars to countries that abuse their own people, create dictators and use it against us.

- Art Mensor

Palm Springs

Role of judiciary: Dictators think alike

Recently, Pat Robertson went on national television to say liberal judges posed a greater threat to America than the Civil War, the Nazis or "a few bearded terrorists who fly into buildings."

I'm sorry that I do not have the time or resources to refute the "rationales" stated by Pat Robertson. However, if my memory serves me correctly, (I'm 80-plus years old), I believe Adolph Hitler removed all the judges in Germany that did not agree with his particular philosophy. Joseph Stalin, through his Politburo, also made sure that judges agreed with him as well.

It seems to me that Pat Robertson has chosen to follow some very successful examples of how to take over a country and dictate how, who and what it had better believe.

Control the legislature and anyone who doesn't agree with you, well where can they go?

It doesn't take much of a stretch of the imagination to envision George Orwell's, "Big Brother," Pat Robertson smiling down upon so many happy, docile and compliant lambs.

- Len Heller

Palm Desert

Social Security's future: One-stop data sheet

You can help people understand the Social Security problem. Publish a comprehensive article describing what will likely happen under one or a combination of scenarios presented for dealing with Social Security retirement benefits that allegedly will fall 25 percent to 30 percent after 2042. Some consequences if we do nothing:

The Desert Sun (Palm Springs, California) May 22, 2005 Sunday

1. By 2018, payroll taxes collected fall below benefits paid requiring Treasury to finance redemption of Trust Fund IOUs;

2. By 2042, unless general tax revenue is used to make up difference in receipts, benefits decline for all by up to 30 percent. Some options to correct this include:

Raise payroll tax rates

Raise the cap of \$90,000 increasing taxes on upper income workers by 12.4 percent

Increase age to 68-69 to qualify

Adopt a means test to limit benefits for retiree with investment income over a certain level

Let young workers opt to set up vested personal investment account in exchange for lower benefits at retirement.

The Social Security Act was passed as a modest "pay go" income transfer from workers to seniors no longer employed to avert poverty. It is not a funded annuity. It provides an un-vested safety net payment only. The problem is economic, not political.

- Bud Brewer

La Quinta

Gun control: Lawmakers are wrong

I don't understand the thinking behind Sacramento legislators wanting to put serial numbers on each bullet. These serial numbers are not about crime, it's about the Second Amendment.

What about these guns that don't spit out a cartage after firing? There are some states that tried blueprinting the barrel of a weapon; those states have spent millions of dollars blueprinting and not solved one crime.

California has one of the most strict gun control laws in the nation, and look at the crime rate. Any state that has the right-to-carry law, has less crime per population, than states that don't.

The Legislature is trying to make it more expensive to buy bullets. Do they never think that some of these bad people might think maybe to go to Arizona or Nevada to buy a supply of bullets, or someone selling nonserial numbers bullets, like they do with black market cigarettes?

If a person has to pay \$7.50 for a box of 22 ammunition, or \$2 in Arizona - a saving of about 300 percent - which do you think they will choose?

- William Johnson

Thousand Palms

**LOAD-DATE:** May 23, 2005

**INDEX 100**

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Copyright 2005 Great Falls Tribune (Great Falls, MT)  
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Great Falls Tribune (Montana)

May 22, 2005 Sunday

**SECTION:** BUSINESS; Pg. 12B

**LENGTH:** 1307 words

**HEADLINE:** Sizing up Sletten

**BYLINE:** James E. Larcombe

**BODY:**

ESOP, Southwest boom keys to company's future

By JAMES E. LARCOMBE Tribune Business Editor

The Sletten Companies, the Great-Falls based construction concern, recently laid the final bricks in one of its longest-running projects.

It's not a bridge, prison, school or performing arts center. It's an employee stock ownership plan that puts the company ownership in the hands of 150 people, all of them company employees.

"It creates business owners at every level of your company," said Erik Sletten, president and chief executive officer of the roughly 400-employee company. "It's created people that are much more fiscally responsible in all aspects of their work. It's really a win-win situation."

Sletten officials say the transformation to full employee ownership has helped position the company for future growth. With headquarters in Great Falls, the Sletten Companies also have a major presence in Las Vegas and Phoenix and do projects across the western United States.

In the last calendar year, Sletten had construction revenue of about \$155 million, down a bit from recent record years.

"Our annual average usually runs between \$160 (million) and \$180 million per year," said Bob Nommenson, Sletten's secretary/treasurer.

According to Engineering News and Record, an industry publication, Sletten is the 295th largest construction company in the United States, based on revenue. Bozeman-based Barnard Construction, 237th on the ENR list released earlier this month, is the only other Montana company on the national list.

While the final step toward employee ownership received little public fanfare, an employee newsletter described the change as "the start of new era at Sletten."

Becoming a company completely owned by its employees is also the fulfillment of a process started decades ago by Bob Sletten, now the company chairman, and Bob Robertson, a former top official.

"I thought that it was probably one of the few ways we could perpetuate the company, which had such concentrated ownership," Bob Sletten said. "We had to get a broader base of shareholders so the loss of one person wouldn't devastate the company."

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Great Falls Tribune (Montana) May 22, 2005 Sunday

Sletten Construction was started by John and Hedvig Sletten in 1928. John Sletten died in 1949, when Bob was 16. Owen Murphy, a company official, took the reins and became the majority shareholder.

When Robertson and Bob Sletten joined the company in the mid-1950s, Murphy agreed to sell them some shares, and they continued to acquire them. They also began offering stock to selected employees.

Concerns about succession and advice from leaders at Pacific Steel and Recycling and what are now the Davidson Companies sparked the formation of a formal employee stock ownership plan in the early 1980s.

"We've always operated on the philosophy of employee ownership," said Bob Sletten.

The ESOP program went dormant for a period before being revived in the early 1990s, with a renewed commitment to the concept and a mission to buy stock from Sletten and Robertson.

A few months back, the ESOP bought the remaining 32 percent of Sletten shares held by others.

"Basically, it was executive management folks who had a chunk of stock," said Erik Sletten, the company CEO. "Now, it's completely in the ESOP."

While a third-generation of the Sletten family occupies the boss' seat, committees of employees meet to establish policies and nominate leaders. Aside from Erik Sletten, other top executives include Robertson, a senior vice president; Ron McCullough and Marty Becker, both executive vice presidents; and Nommenson, the secretary/treasurer.

"We are working towards having more of an open-book management," said Erik Sletten. "Hopefully, we've found a pretty good recipe."

The company contributes 12 percent of an employee's salary to the ESOP program each year. The contributions are not taxed until withdrawals are made.

Such programs are intended to encourage loyalty and longevity, and help give even rank-and-file workers a sense of ownership, said Ray Wahlert, president and chief executive of Pacific Steel and Recycling.

The Great Falls-based company started an ESOP plan in 1978 and became fully employee-owned about five years ago. The Sletten program is similar to the one used at Pacific.

Wahlert said Pacific employees across the region have been energized by the ESOP.

"They just take a much deeper interest in the company," he said.

The Davidson Companies, another regional operation based in Great Falls, also is fully employee-owned, although its ownership is structured differently than Sletten or Pacific.

An ESOP plan, which includes all of the 840 or so Davidson employees, owns about 35 percent of the company. A total of about 350 individuals, all of them employees, own the remainder of the shares, mostly acquired via stock options or direct purchase.

Employee ownership does more than boost worker morale and retention, says Ian Davidson, the Davidson Companies chairman, who served on the Sletten board when it first dipped its toe in the ESOP waters.

"It reflects the values of the company, with everybody working together," he said.

Acquiring shares is also a "great retirement tool for people," he added.

Indeed at Sletten, company officials say a number of long-term employees have retired recently with ESOP accounts worth \$400,000 or more.

Along with employee retention, the Sletten stock ownership plan also helps recruit employees, especially in the Phoenix and Las Vegas areas, where growth makes finding good workers more of a challenge.

"You want to have true stakeholders in your projects," said Erik Sletten.

And the company has plenty of projects in booming areas in the Southwest. The company opened offices in Las Vegas and Phoenix in the 1960s as part of a plan to diversify and avoid winter work slowdowns up north. The company also has offices in Boise, Idaho, and Cody, Wyo.

Great Falls Tribune (Montana) May 22, 2005 Sunday

These days, projects outside of Montana account for as much as 75 percent of Sletten's business. A \$135 million prison project in Las Vegas is the largest on the company roster. Others in the Las Vegas area include a \$24 million psychiatric hospital, an airport expansion project and a big auto storage facility.

"Las Vegas is going great guns right now," said Erik Sletten, who splits his time between offices in Great Falls and Las Vegas.

One big-name project in Vegas: the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy, a charter school for underprivileged students funded by a foundation set up by the professional tennis player. Sletten built elementary and middle school buildings in recent years. Work in on a high school building is under way.

Over the years, Sletten has built more than 100 schools in the Las Vegas area.

The company also has a solid backlog of work in or near Phoenix, has a number of projects in Wyoming and just completed a large performing arts center at Idaho State University in Pocatello.

With predictions of double-digit growth in Las Vegas and Phoenix over the next 15 years, much of the company's financial future is in the Southwest.

What does that mean for the headquarters in slower-paced Great Falls? In its nearly 80 years, the company has had a hand in expanding or building all the bridges carrying people across the Missouri River and built a number of community landmarks.

In recent years, it has landed big expansion projects at Benefis Healthcare. Bob Sletten and his wife, Pat, recently joined with company's employees to donate \$1.3 million to help build a regional cancer center at the hospital. The center will carry the Sletten name and reflects the company's plans to maintain its headquarters in Great Falls.

"A lot of our heritage is here in Great Falls," Erik Sletten said. "We are proud to be a Montana company. We have no plans to be any other place."

**GRAPHIC:** Above, ionworkers wrangle a section of the Tower of Life framework for the Sletten Regional Cancer Institute in Great Falls. TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY STUART S. WHITE; Left Sletten executives, from left, Bob Sletten, Erik Sletten, Bob Robertson, Bob Nommensen, Wade Robertson and Marty Becker at the cancer center site near Benefis East. Jay Nelson, of Cascade Electric, shapes a section of electrical conduit before installing it in the Sletten Regional Cancer Institute.

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Copyright 2005 McClatchy Newspapers Inc.  
The Herald (Rock Hill, S.C.)

May 22, 2005 Sunday FINAL EDITION

**SECTION:** LIFESTYLES; Pg. 1C

**LENGTH:** 464 words

**HEADLINE:** Charting a course to No. 30

**BYLINE:** Lauren Hoyt

**BODY:**

Thirty always seemed really old and lame to my early 20s mind.

I envisioned myself at 30 as a tame suburbanite. Thirty was when I'd have a family, I'd have years of working under my belt and be at the top of my professional game. I'd be meeker, more reserved, more adult.

Phff.

At 29, just months away from the day I turn 30, I can't imagine lightning's going to strike any time soon to find me married, an editor or quiet.

Turns out 30 isn't as lame, or old, as my early 20-something mind once imagined. I still stay out late, think only about me and am still working my way up in the professional world.

I think that's because what 30 is today is not what 30 was even 10 years ago, when I had been envisioning it. Today, women are more career-oriented and self-indulgent, and they are marrying later and are having babies later.

I used to think I or any other smart, sane, halfway decent-looking girl would be washed up if she wasn't married by 30. How unrealistic was that? While that may have been a logical deadline for a 21-year-old mind, reality may be off by five years or more.

That's because we have higher standards for ourselves, now that we are better educated and have more opportunities. We want to pursue our careers, have our fun and if need be, rely on science to help us have babies later in our lives.

Trippin' on 30

Thirty is the first birthday I've really approached with much introspection. That's because the impending reality of being 30 is radically different than the perception.

At nearly 30, I still feel fresh out of college. I feel like I've just gotten steady on my adult legs. I certainly don't feel like the married folks who have managerial positions and children.

Sure, I can tell a difference between 20 and 30. I'm more mature - well, kind of - and more secure in who I am and how I carry myself. I don't care so much what others think of me being me. I'm more interested in living a full life than simply filling my life with stuff.

But I still don't have a full set of matching silverware. I still drive the car I can afford, not the one I want to be driving. I still call Mommy first when things go wrong.

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PG-00218

The Herald (Rock Hill, S.C.) May 22, 2005 Sunday

Since it's going to take time for me to adjust to being 30, I intend to celebrate all year. I'll take trips to California and Vegas. I'll excuse any late night out as being deserved during this, my about-to-turn-30 year. I will remind everyone up until the big day, July 28, that I'm going to be a real adult.

For my birthday, I won't settle for homemade cake. I want friends flying in from all over. I want an over-the-top event with people I love assuring me that while I may be older and wiser, I'm definitely not duller.

Lauren Hoyt 329-4079

lhoyt@heraldonline.com

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The Miami Herald

May 22, 2005 Sunday FILA EDITION

**SECTION:** M; Pg. 1

**LENGTH:** 1728 words

**HEADLINE:** Kicking it, Havana Night Club-Style: Show's cast members find familiar faces in Vegas, Miami

**BODY:**

Lydia Martin

You're at Larios on the Beach, breaking it down with a trio from Havana Night Club, the Vegas show featuring a full cast of Cuban defectors.

An amphibious boat-bus thing loaded with pink tourists rolls up Ocean Drive and a tour guide on a microphone blares something about how they're in front of Gloria Estefan's Cuban restaurant. Dreisy Figueroa, a solo dancer with the show, looks up from her palomilla steak and starts bouncing in her seat when a waiter tells her the thing actually hits the water.

"I want to go! Can we go?"

Ariel Machado, the show's manager, only smiles. When you're a tourist attraction yourself, you don't have time for such things. Ariel, Dreisy and Dennis Bain, another dancer, were in Miami recently for back-to-back press interviews, drumming up interest for a second round of Havana Night Club at the University of Miami's Convocation Center Thursday and Friday.

There was a sold-out performance in March, creating a traffic jam of Benzes and BMWs outside UM. Meaning the Cuban establishment showed up in force. They are the politically unwavering anti-Castro types who distrust any performer from Cuba unless they are sanctioned by, say, the Cuban American National Foundation or Gloria Estefan herself.

And the 50-plus performers of Havana Night Club were. And so the staunch Cuban crowd, which sadly does little discerning beyond who's on what side of the revolutionary coin when it comes to the arts (although the answer is not always easy to come by anyway), was moved to tears by a show that boasts plenty of technical expertise, but often feels Vegas schmaltzy and lacks that most Cuban of ingredients, the one thing every third-rate tourist show out of Havana has by the buckets: sandunga. Call it soul, salt, hip-liquefying flavor, but the sandunga seems airbrushed out of a show that's all about smoke and dancers flying through the air on pulleys and every other version of cliched razzmatazz.

Still, when the show came that first time, it moved nostalgic Cuban fans who had not allowed themselves a performance that fresh from the island in ages, because a performance that fresh from the island is typically considered politically unkosher. But some folks who got a little closer to the production, and to director and producer Nicole Durr, called ND by her cast, walked away scratching their heads.

Getting access to ND and the performers was nearly impossible, blocked, even, by burly guards who cased a press conference at UM. Their trip to Miami in March kept them all in a strange lockdown that made some in Miami wonder if the performers hadn't stepped out of the frying pan and into the fryer in terms of having their movements and expression controlled.

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PC-00220

Sources at the Cuban American National Foundation, who expected a little more access themselves, whispered about the possibility that ND and company were afraid of Miami, afraid that the Cuban community would still consider them suspicious.

And if that's what the production was thinking, you'd have to say they didn't have a clue about how facile Miami politics can be. The Havana Night Club troupe did the one thing Miami Cubans get behind, though truth be told, a laughable number of actual Cuban agents have done it to get to hang out in Miami: They outright defected.

But ask Dreisy, Dennis and Ariel, and they'll tell you they were indeed apprehensive about how they would be received in Miami.

"When you're an artist from Cuba, the people in Miami insist that you have to come here and immediately start saying bad things about Castro," says Dennis, 25. "We left family behind. It's not that easy."

"Over there, you can't say anything good about the United States. And over here, you can't say anything good about Cuba. Or you get in trouble," says Dreisy, also 25. "What I wish people in Miami would understand is that we just aren't interested in politics. We're performers. We don't think we should have to yell 'Abajo Fidel' (down with Fidel) in the middle of our show. Yes, Fidel is destroying Cuba. Who among the people who live there doesn't know that? But don't ask me anything beyond that."

This group is pretty much golden, so why are they being so defensive?

"Because we know it has happened in the past to others," says Ariel. "Just because you were born in a country and have to follow its rules because you are there, doesn't mean you back the government. You have to follow the rules under Bush, but that doesn't mean that you support or even voted for Bush. Here, you vote somebody out in four or eight years, or you simply leave for another country if you want. In Cuba, you don't have those options, so if you were born within the system, you do the best you can and when you find the way out, you go. And if you weren't born in that system and didn't have to grow up in it, I don't think you have the right to judge us for doing whatever it is we had to do to survive within it."

#### QUIET RUMORINGS

There have been some quiet rumors about the nature of their defection: about whether or not the cast of 50-something all equally felt the pull to break from their homeland for good (if some are homesick and sorry, nobody knows because the production controls which cast members speak to the media); about whether it can really be true that for the six years the show was based in Havana and traveled the world, Castro's government received not a single penny of the proceeds.

Some have even whispered that maybe the defection was more a PR stunt than anything else, or a convenient way for a Vegas stage to lock in a Cuban troupe that was subject to ongoing visa scrutiny from the United States. The U.S. initially denied visas, but after pressure from the Cuban American National Foundation and others, agreed to let the troupe in for a stint at the Stardust Resort and Casino.

Members of the troupe said that once they got here, defecting was their only option because the Cuban government objected to the trip to Vegas in the first place and that while the government relented, they were worried that once they returned to Cuba, they would not be allowed to leave again for subsequent runs in Vegas. ND, the show's creator, had already been detained in Cuba and thrown out with a warning to never return.

#### GROWTH A SURPRISE

"It may seem strange, but we were all independent of the government," says Ariel. "There were never any arrangements to give part of our earnings to the government. Mostly, they ignored us. They never thought we would get so big. And they were fine with us traveling to Europe and Asia, but I guess 50 performers in the United States was something that felt dangerous to Cuba, which is why they wouldn't let us come here."

Says Dennis: "We would have preferred to be able to travel back and forth. Who wouldn't? Who wouldn't want to be able to go back home to see their family and friends. But we had no option except defecting. ND was already kicked out of Cuba. If we wanted to keep performing, we had to leave."

Dreisy: "Are some of us very sad to have left our families and friends and the place where we grew up? Yes, but we came to be free to do our art. Because we weren't free in Cuba. So we remember that when we feel the lowest and we move on."

Over a hefty lunch -- a platter of croquettes, tostones stuffed with shrimp, pork chunks and tamales followed by stewed lamb, grilled seafood, palomilla with rice and beans and tamal en cazuela, all washed down with mamey and guanabana milkshakes and chased with beer and wine -- the trio finally begins to open up.

It makes sense that they would be distrusting. After all, on both sides of the Florida Straits, we are generations of Cubans who have been taught to doubt one another. But eventually, they stop eyeing you suspiciously and maybe you stop eyeing them the same way.

And you're left with the fact that what Cubans do have in common is the sense of loss.

"When we did the last show in Miami and we looked down and saw all those people crying, I just wanted to cry myself. For everything. For my people back on the island and for these people here in Miami who miss their culture," says Dreisy.

#### HUGS AND TEARS

"In Las Vegas, we get a lot of Cubans in the audience who come from Miami and from all over to see us," says Dennis. "They meet you out back to hug you and cry and they remind you of your own family back in Cuba. You start to wonder how your mother and father are doing right now, if they're thinking about you, if they have the things they need. So many thoughts attack you at once."

But the afternoon sun softens, the ocean breeze does its thing and the sandungakicks in. The jokes start flying about the stuff that's not so funny, which is central to Cuban survival.

"I'd like to see Fidel in Las Vegas," says Dennis, polishing off his white wine. "All of those lights, le da algo, he'd have a fit."

Dreisy can't finish her palomilla after everything else she's eaten, and she contemplates a doggy bag.

"Take it," says Dennis, the sadness about the life he just left behind seeping in. "You already have some pizza back in the room from the last meal where you ordered too much. Tomorrow you'll arrive in Las Vegas like you just got off the bus from Oriente."

"You know," he says to you because you're Cuban-American and he figures you don't know from Cuban scarcity, "when one of my relatives came to Havana from Oriente, from the country, we all waited excitedly because chances were they were bringing food. We didn't always have a lot of food in Havana."

A busboy who seems like a recent Cuban arrival himself joins in.

"Should I bring the palomilla back from the kitchen so you can take it? Nah, by now somebody hungry is eating it back there," the busboy says and laughs. "Well, at least in Cuba they would be."

Ariel doesn't want to let things end on this note.

So he offers something a little more sobering:

"For ND and everybody else with the show who didn't defect, as passionate as they are, in the end it won't matter whether or not this show survives. They will go on. But there are more than 50 defectors who left everything. Parents, children, partners. Whole lives. We can't fail. Because we gambled everything we were and everything we had to come here and do this show."

Higher stakes than even Vegas is used to.

**LOAD-DATE:** May 22, 2005

**INDEX 103**

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Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company  
The New York Times

May 22, 2005 Sunday  
Late Edition - Final

**SECTION:** Section 7; Column 2; Book Review Desk; Pg. 1

**LENGTH:** 2868 words

**HEADLINE:** Nascar Nation

**BYLINE:** By Jonathan Miles.

Jonathan Miles is a contributing editor for Men's Journal.

**BODY:**

**SUNDAY MONEY**

Speed! Lust! Madness! Death!

A Hot Lap Around America  
With Nascar.

By Jeff MacGregor.

Photographs by  
Olya Evanitsky.

370 pp. HarperCollins  
Publishers. \$25.95.

**FULL THROTTLE**

The Life and Fast Times  
of Nascar Legend

Curtis Turner.

By Robert Edelstein.

Illustrated. 334 pp.  
The Overlook Press. \$24.95.

For a certain segment of the population, Nascar's raid on American culture -- its logo festoons everything from cellphones to honey jars to post office walls to panties; race coverage, it can seem, has bumped everything else off television; and, most piercingly, Nascar dads now get to pick our presidents -- triggers the kind of fearful trembling the citizens of Gaul felt as the Huns came thundering over the hills. To these people, stock-car racing represents all that's unsavory about red-state America: fossil-fuel bingeing; lust for violence; racial segregation; run-away Republicanism; anti-intellectualism (how much brain matter is required to go fast and turn left, ad infinitum?); the corn-pone memes of God and guns and guts; crass corporatization; Toby Keith anthems; and, of course, exquisitely bad fashion sense. What's more, they simply don't get it. What's the appeal of watching . . . traffic? It's as if "Hee Haw" reruns were dominating prime time, and the Republic was slapping its collective knee at Grandpa Jones's "What's for supper?" routine. With Nascar's recent purchase of a swath of real estate on Staten Island, where it intends to plop down an 80,000-seat racetrack and retail center for the untapped New York City market, the onslaught seems poised on the brink of full-out conquest. Cover your ears, blue America. The Huns are revving their engines.

N/R 103

PC-00223

Whether any of that distaste and criticism is justifiable is -- like the pros and cons of requiring engine restrictor plates to control speeds at Daytona Speedway -- open to debate. What's beyond debate, however, is Nascar's surging ascendancy in American sports, and thus, by extension, American culture. By Nascar's estimate, stock-car racing now counts 75 million fans -- more than a quarter of the United States population -- and, to put that in broader context, more than the entire populations of Britain, France and Iran. (It's also, coincidentally, the number of anthrax vaccine doses that President Bush ordered a few months ago.) Nascar's TV deals alone are worth \$2.8 billion, its licensed-product sales worth another \$2 billion annually. Since 1947, when an entrepreneurial racer named Bill France concluded there was money to be made by aligning all the loosely run, disjointed dirt-track races scattered across the South, Nascar -- the acronym for the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing -- has witnessed exponential growth, enough for journalists to regularly hail stock-car racing as "the fastest-growing sport in America." (Others, more ebulliently, have called it the fastest-growing sport in American history, which could indeed be accurate. Or not: baseball was billed as the national pastime just 17 years after its supposed invention.) What was once a fringe sport, even in the South (you saw plenty of overalls in the old dirt-track grandstands, but no seersucker), has, in the course of 50-some years, upended the American sporting scene. The "wild new thing" that Tom Wolfe uncovered in his famous 1965 article for *Esquire*, "The Last American Hero Is Junior Johnson. Yes!" has left nearly every other spectator sport choking on its exhaust.

But why? its detractors ask. No other sport is so captivating to so many yet so utterly uncaptivating to so many others. If the latter aren't repulsed by the deep-fried spectacle of a Nascar event, with its schizo mix of beery loutishness and Promise Keeper piety, then they're bored stiff by the racing itself. Stock-car racing is, it's true, a competitive variation on commuter traffic: it involves a bunch of sedans ferociously trying to get to the front of the line, making it no different, fundamentally, from Friday afternoons on the West Side Highway. This is what irks the detractors -- the only thing worse than being in traffic, they contend, is watching it -- yet, paradoxically, makes up a major chunk of its appeal. The cars the drivers pilot -- modified Chevy Monte Carlos, Ford Tauruses, Pontiac Grand Prix -- are not so different from the cars Nascar fans use daily to pick up their groceries, shuttle their kids and get themselves to work. Driving an automobile, as Wolfe wrote, doesn't "require size, strength and all that," and driving one competitively demands only "a taste for speed, and the guts" -- qualities that every American might wishfully presume to possess. It's often said that Nascar fans identify with their heroes much more intensely than fans of other sports. Partly, this is because those fans understand, with sharp precision, what their heroes do. Every time they drive to the 7-Eleven to pick up a pack of smokes, they do the same thing.

Almost every other sport, on the other hand, is based upon abstraction (the sole exceptions, if you trust Ernest Hemingway's formulation, being mountaineering, bullfighting and motor racing). Putting a ball into a hole, whether in golf or basketball or soccer, is not an intrinsic act, and while you can spin football-as-war metaphors until the bartender cuts you off, carrying a leather ball across a line is an abstract concept, too. In these sports, which Hemingway derided as "merely games," nothing is truly at stake. The consequence of the ball missing the hole, or a batter missing the ball, is purely mathematical. Admittedly, it's math that can incite riots, but math nonetheless. In stock-car racing, however, there is no abstraction. A critical mistake on the racetrack can do more than spell defeat -- it can kill you. Nascar's foes sometimes scorn its fans as Ballardian ghouls, packing the stands in the hopes of seeing someone in a wreck, and there's a kernel of truth to this: crashes are exciting. Nothing rivets the human animal -- or any animal -- like the threat of death. Yet the manner of death that haunts Nascar (32 drivers have died in crashes since it was founded) has a profound and intimate resonance in the lives of its fans. Rural Americans -- still Nascar's base audience, despite its forays into the burbs and urbs -- are far more familiar with roadway carnage than their city counterparts are. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, rural crashes account for 60 percent of traffic fatalities, though rural roads get just 39 percent of the total miles traveled in the United States, and only 21 percent of the population lives in rural areas. If Nascar fans see their lives mirrored down on the track -- the swift back-road driving, the jostling for position on the Interstate, the liberating sensation of a rumbling V-8 engine -- then they also see their potential deaths. The echoes of a ball swishing through a net seem puny in comparison.

WITH such visceral themes, outsize characters and giant national interest, you might expect Nascar to have attracted a glut of literary attention. You would be wrong. Wolfe lighted the torch with his *Esquire* piece, but in the 40 years since . . . well, poor Wolfe has been holding that torch aloft for a long time. It's not that Nascar lit is wanting for quantity -- the shelves of your local mall bookstore all but bulge with titles like "Chicken Soup for the Nascar Soul," "Nascar for Dummies," "Nascar Cooks With Tabasco Brand Pepper Sauce" and a wide, gaudy array of record and statistic compendiums. But, with rare, small-press exceptions, the Nascar canon is made up of books aimed at hard-core fans: driver bios with all the depth of slapdash celebrity profiles; reverential track histories; jargon-filled "insider" accounts; and service-y guidebooks. Perhaps this is owing to the perceived reading habits of Nascar fans, acidly implied in Steve Rushin's description of them, in his *Sports Illustrated* column, as "tattooed, shirtless, sewer-mouthed drunks;

and their husbands." Or maybe the knotty complexities of the cars -- the fractional shadings of gear ratios and tire pressures and suspension adjustments -- along with the aw-shucks plain-spokenness of their drivers, have steered away all but the most motorheaded of writers. Whatever the reason, a sport "set suddenly and squarely at the confluence of popular culture and politics and commerce and mythology," as Jeff MacGregor puts it in "Sunday Money," has seen itself largely ignored by writers outside the automotive press.

"Sunday Money," which chronicles a frenzied year on the Nascar circuit, is MacGregor's attempt to grab the torch from Wolfe (his subtitle -- "Speed! Lust! Madness! Death!" -- clues you in early). In that regard, he triumphs. If Wolfe had expanded his profile of the early Nascar star Junior Johnson into a book, it would read a lot like "Sunday Money." Even Wolfe's stylistic trademarks are all present and accounted for: the printed sound effects ("lubdubludubludub"), the hyperdetail (MacGregor devotes some 340 words to describing someone's hair color), the Benzedrine prose ("hottest show on the continent, the Great Inescapable, the 200-mile-an-hour platinum-plated V-8-powered Stars and Stripes hero machine") and the strenuous grasping at Big Themes (racing, he writes, "has to do with the life-and-death stakes . . . and with the haunted history of the South and its cult of personality and our yearning for simplicity and our insatiable craving for celebrity and our ache for fable and our need to live vicariously in the glamour and accomplishment of others and our persistent American itch to create heroes"). Call it mimicry, if you will, but say it with a smile, because MacGregor's rollicking energy and manic smarts more than balance out the weight of Wolfe's influence.

"Sunday Money" is, for my money, the first (and maybe only) book that nonfans or casual fans or just the mildly curious should crack in order to understand the "noise and speed and glory and death" that is Nascar. (Staten Islanders, take note.) In 2002, inspired by the outpouring of grief that greeted the death of Dale Earnhardt Sr. at Daytona one year earlier, MacGregor, a writer for Sports Illustrated, and his wife, the photographer Olya Evanitsky, bought a motor home and drove 47,649 miles in search of Nascar's grease-stained soul. They followed the 36-week racing circuit from Daytona to Bristol to Talladega to Indianapolis to Phoenix and to every paved oval in between, exploring the raucous infields and hivelike garages while sizing up the fans, drivers, owners and crewmen alike. MacGregor is neither fan nor antifan -- he views Nascar through the semi-jaundiced, media-savvy lens of a New York writer, though without undue snark -- but he's never dispassionate about what he calls, unequivocally, America's new national pastime. As for that other national pastime, the one with gloves and bats and balls? That one, he writes, has "crawled up under the house to die."

YET the two national pastimes, Nascar and baseball, do share turf in one regard: they're both steeped, to differing degrees, in nostalgia. The original Nascar drivers, like baseball's earliest players, were part-time heroes, men who worked roughneck jobs during the week -- Junior Johnson was a chicken farmer -- and raced on the weekends, partly for the money and partly for the rawboned thrills. If they had sons, the sons also raced, when they got old enough. When conflicts arose, as they inevitably do in any traffic situation, the drivers hashed them out on the track. ("You'd drive 30 minutes and fight 30 minutes," one old-timer recalled.) Aside from being heroes, many of the drivers were bona fide outlaws: Junior Johnson did 11 months of hard time for his moonshine running, and his fellow shine-runner Bob Flock once contended with other racers and police cars when lawmen staked out an Atlanta speedway and, in medias res, pursued him on the racetrack. To magnify the challenge, the early drivers might race with a live monkey in the cockpit, as Flock's brother Tim did in the 50's, or race while drunk, as Curtis Turner used to do throughout his long and bumpy career. If Nascar's newer fans don't necessarily want to spin the clock back to what are commonly called "the Rebel days," they're glad those days are back there, like ropy farm muscle buried beneath layers of corporate flab.

Turner, a handsome, whiskey-scented, baritone-voiced Virginian who blazed a dirt trail to stardom during Nascar's early years, was the antithesis of the modern-day racing idol. If he wasn't racing drunk, sometimes decked in a silk suit, then he was racing with a splitting hangover. He was fond of passing a mint julep-filled jug back and forth to other drivers, through the racecar window, while he was racing. The first thing he did, when dragging himself out of his car in the victory lane, was light up a Camel. He invited reporters to Led Zeppelin-worthy parties -- pre-race and post-race -- where a bevy of waitresses or a police car might end up in a motel pool, or, if the affair was held in Turner's self-designed "party room," he might demonstrate how a fluorescent light could magically remove the few strips of clothing on the decorative images of beauty queens on the walls. "You see a person, when they open the bottle, they throw the cap away? Well that's Curtis Turner's life, right there," a contemporary of Turner's told Robert Edelstein, a motor-sports writer for TV Guide. His impeccable biography of Turner (who died in a plane crash in 1970), "Full Throttle," kicks up blissful dirt on Nascar's juiced-up early days. Turner's track record was dazzling -- he "won more than 350 races, driving on any surface he could find," Edelstein writes, eventually earning the title of "the Babe Ruth of Stock-Car Racing" -- but his off-track record, especially in light of Nascar's efforts to remake their drivers as gassed-up Mouseketeers, was downright dizzying. (Allow me to lament here the great missed opportunity of magazine journalism: Hunter S.

Thompson on Curtis Turner.) "I've never seen in my life Curtis do anything halfway," Edelstein quotes one ex-racer. "He partied like a wild man and he drove like a wild man."

It's impossible to imagine Curtis Turner racing today in Nascar's Nextel Cup series. (For the record, old-time Nascar had troubles with him, too, ultimately banning him from the sport in 1961 for attempting to start a drivers' union.) Today drivers are expected to play the roles, as MacGregor writes, of "a salesman and a matinee idol and a motivational speaker and a casino greeter and a role model and a stand-up comic and a humble, right-thinking crusader for the American Way," a few of which Turner might manage -- do post-race seductions count as motivational speaking? -- but another few of which might prove, if I may understate, a stretch.

In both books, a sense of something lost -- the Turner-era wildness, more or less, with all its corn-liquor fumes and hog-wallow anarchy -- permeates the text. "The sport has . . . made incredible strides in the intentional pursuit of cleaning up an image sullied by its moonshining past," Edelstein writes. "While Nascar's status as 'the fastest-growing sport in America' seems ingrained enough to be trademarked, and heroes such as Jeff Gordon represent a kinder, gentler, all-American age of stock-car racing, there's no way the sport could have thrived" without the dark excitement that unhinged characters like Turner brought to it. As MacGregor laments: "What happens on the track on Sundays is becoming a footnote to the marketing of what happens on the track on Sundays. The race itself is almost an afterthought, especially on television, where it's becoming a long-form infomercial, a delivery system for a syndicate of national sponsor brands." This isn't wearily hip record-store-clerk attitude at work -- neither author is sniffily advocating Nascar's "early stuff" -- but rather front-line commentary about a sport (and, in this case, an international franchise) on the cusp of both national conquest and identity crisis. It's not merely that Nascar has cleaned up its act in the last few decades. That was inevitable, since the South got "New" and went from producing Faulkner characters to Grisham's gingerbread men. Rather, it's that Nascar has broadened its appeal by diluting its appeal, shirking its red-state trappings -- hell, it even let Toyotas race last year -- in an orchestrated effort to entice the purplish middle. As it prepares to invade New York City -- along with other Nascar-foreign terrain like Mexico and Canada -- Nascar finds itself at an Elvis-comes-out-of-the-Army moment, in which it must choose between what MacGregor calls its "red-dirt past" and its "gold-lame future." Elvis, after all, began his career as a danger-dripping Southerner, a loud and fast-living redneck who was scorned as much as he was idolized. Then he went national, made "Clambake," absconded to Vegas, got bloated and died on the toilet. Perhaps there's a lesson there for Nascar. At the very least: watch what you eat.

URL: <http://www.nytimes.com>

**GRAPHIC:** Photos: (Photograph by Steve Helber/Associated Press)

Dale Earnhardt Jr. after a qualifying run for the EA Sports 500 in Talladega, Ala., last year. (Dave Martin/Associated Press)

The start of the Daytona 500 in Daytona Beach, Fla., on Feb. 17, 2002. (Photograph by David Graham/Associated Press)

**LOAD-DATE:** May 22, 2005

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Philadelphia Inquirer

May 22, 2005 Sunday ADVANCE EDITION

**SECTION:** FEATURES TRAVEL; BRIEF; Pg. N02

**LENGTH:** 991 words

**HEADLINE:** Gaming Traveler / The World Series of Poker is hot, thanks to televised tournaments

**BYLINE:** By Bill Ordine; For The Inquirer

**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 Atlantic City, Connecticut, Las Vegas and casinos elsewhere, 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, who was born in Lower Bucks County and spent his childhood in Somers Point, N.J., won his two preliminary events in four days, a No-Limit Hold 'em championship that earned him \$300,000 and a tournament called H.O.R.S.E., 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.

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With tens of thousands of 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.

"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 seat in the World Series. 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.

Originally a no-frills, no-nonsense meeting of poker pros, the World Series is being handled by Harrah's - which is acquiring Caesars Palace and other properties that flew the Caesars Entertainment flag - as an opportunity to lure players and spectators to the Rio and its other Las Vegas properties. Penn and Teller, the irreverent magic duo, will help open the tournament with some legerdemain; poker pros will conduct seminars on each starting day of the main event, and as many as 70 vendors will be selling chips, tables, poker memorabilia, instructional material, and even poker apparel.

Tournament organizers still haven't figured out a sure-fire way to make the tournament spectator-friendly. Mostly, fans will mill around the 200 tables set up in the Rio's convention center to watch personal favorites, and the final table, whether at the Rio or Binion's, will likely be surrounded by some modest bleachers and TV monitors showing close-ups of the cards.

But poker has turned out to be one game where the leap from spectating to competing is what fuels its popularity.

"You can't watch football and go out and play with professional football players. You can't watch baseball and go out and play with professional baseball players," young card phenom Fischman said. "But in poker, you can watch it and go out and play with the pros. That alone is what makes it such a great game." Well, at least enormously seductive, for now.

Gaming Traveler / On This Page

Next week: The Bookshelf

June 5: Senior Traveler

June 12: Online Traveler

More information on the World Series of Poker at [www.worldseriesofpoker.com](http://www.worldseriesofpoker.com)

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Copyright 2005 Plain Dealer Publishing Co.  
Plain Dealer (Cleveland)

May 22, 2005 Sunday  
Final Edition; All Editions

**SECTION:** SUNDAY MAG; Pg. 5

**LENGTH:** 222 words

**HEADLINE:** It's Show Time

**BYLINE:** Christopher Evans, Plain Dealer

**BODY:**

OUR TOWN

The crowd that collected along the chain-link fence by the finish line was tense and expectant. It was opening day at Thistledown racetrack.

The ponies were pounding the turf, churning up chunks of clay, as they entered the final furlong. The magic moment - when all the research, all the number crunching and all the mojo that leads to the perfect trifecta is revealed as bona fide or bogus - thundered closer and closer.

There was little small talk. A man and a woman discussed a deceased handicapper.

"You were good friends with him?" the woman asked.

"We went to Vegas together 11 times," the man answered.

"That's good friends," the woman agreed.

As the horses crossed the finish line, mouths foaming, muscles pumping, crumpled betting slips and curses followed in their wake.

Then a woman in a ruffled blouse, slacks and gold hoop earrings began to laugh and bounce up and down.

"It was the time of day!" she shouted, holding up her betting slip as if it were evidence of a higher power. "I looked at the clock. It was 2:56. I said, 'Give me 256.' "

Amazingly, those were the numbers of the horses that finished first, second and third. At 3:13, the happy winner was cashing in her ticket for a crisp stack of Jacks.

And the other bettors were preparing for the next race, poring over their programs - and checking the time on their watches.

**GRAPHIC:** Illustration Brandon Bennett

**LOAD-DATE:** May 28, 2005

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Copyright 2005 The Times-Picayune Publishing Company  
Times-Picayune (New Orleans)

May 22, 2005 Sunday

**SECTION:** SPORTS; NBA notes; Pg. 9

**LENGTH:** 850 words

**HEADLINE:** IMPERFECT TIMING

**BYLINE:** Jimmy Smith

**BODY:**

A potential lockout of players by NBA owners would, of course, be a nightmare for the league, its employees and the fans.

But it would be particularly problematic for the Hornets, who need a trouble-free offseason in the worst way.

With the NBA lottery just two days away, and the possibility New Orleans could land the first pick in the June 28 draft, a lockout could be devastating.

There's a chance that if there is some negative labor action, the Las Vegas Summer League, in which the Hornets are scheduled to participate, would be canceled.

A report this week in the Las Vegas Review Herald said a lockout could force cancellation of the league, scheduled from July 6-15 in which 16 NBA teams are scheduled to take part.

"I'm trying to stay optimistic," said agent Warren LeGarie, who represents several NBA coaches and front-office types. "I'm hoping that cooler heads will prevail. But the news out of New York was not good for us.

"It would be a shame, because there's a lot of momentum and enthusiasm about Las Vegas. We've gone the extra mile to make it a fun event. We've got 16 teams ready to compete. There's the talk of the (2007) All-Star Game coming to Vegas."

An offseason of turmoil could adversely affect not only the Hornets' on-court rebuilding, but the team's off-court marketing restructuring as well.

Around the Southwest

**HORNETS:** Forward P.J. Brown will pick up some postseason hardware next week in St. Louis. Brown is one of several professional athletes being presented at the Citizenship Through Sports Alliance Award's June 4 banquet. Brown, well-known for his charitable work, will be honored along with Olympic gymnastics gold medalist Paul Hamm, St. Louis Rams receiver Torry Holt, and former Seattle Mariners designated hitter Edgar Martinez, among others.

Each year, the group honors athletes representing the major professional sports leagues, the Olympic committee and the NCAA for high ethical standards in sports combined with citizenship, sportsmanship and community service. . . Rookie J.R. Smith will be featured on Spike TV as part of a series called "NBA Rookies," which premieres June 10.

**ROCKETS:** Houston coach Jeff Van Gundy said before the start of the season that he wasn't interested in, nor did he deserve, a contract extension. He got one anyway this week. Van Gundy had two years remaining on his original four-year contract, but owner Les Alexander put two more years on the end this week, extending Van Gundy through the 2007-08 season.

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"I thought the season went extremely well," Alexander told The Houston Chronicle. "And I think it's been proven good coaches in the NBA are hard to find. Jeff has proven to be a very good coach. If I could secure him for one more year, I thought it was in the Rockets' best interests. I wanted to secure a very good coach." The Rockets won 51 games after a 6-11 start. "I am very appreciative to Mr. Alexander for displaying this type of faith and confidence in the job we are doing here," Van Gundy said in a statement. "When I arrived in Houston nearly two years ago, the goal was to return this team back to championship form. While we're not there yet, I think we have made some significant progress over the course of the last two seasons, and it's nice to know that our owner feels the same way."

**MAVERICKS:** The Mavs were quite pleased with Dirk Nowitzki's selection to the All-NBA team, the first time any Dallas player has been so honored. "I don't think there's anybody in the league that works as hard as Dirk, morning, noon and night," Coach Avery Johnson told The Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

"I'm always trying to get him to rest his body. I don't think he understands that yet. Hard work pays off."

Around the league

LeGarie, the agent for Nuggets GM Kiki Vandeweghe, told The Denver Post he will deliver a proposal for a contract extension to team owners soon. This week, the Nuggets denied the Cavaliers permission to interview Vandeweghe for their GM vacancy. Vandeweghe is under contract with the Nuggets until Aug. 1, 2006. "There have been no contract talks," LeGarie told the Post. "At some point, I think we submit what his value is to the organization. It has to be accepted or modified." LeGarie said nothing is imminent. Nuggets owner Stan Kroenke declined to comment. . . . Florida Today reported Friday that former Hornets assistant coach Brian Hill and Flip Saunders are the likely finalists for the head coaching job with the Orlando Magic. Both have interviewed with General Manager John Weisbrod, as has Eric Musselman. All three are expected to have additional interviews with team owner Rich DeVos and president Bob Vander Weide. Hill, a fan favorite who many feel was unjustly fired after the departure of Shaquille O'Neal, who led the Magic to the NBA Finals in 1995, is the winningest coach in team history. Interim coach Chris Jent was informed Thursday he is no longer a candidate. Hill, an assistant with the New Jersey Nets, was a finalist for the Hornets' head coaching position that went to Tim Floyd.

.....  
Jimmy Smith can be reached at [jsmith@timespicayune.com](mailto:jsmith@timespicayune.com) or (504) 826-3814.

**GRAPHIC: AP PHOTO**

Rockets coach Jeff Van Gundy received a two-year contract extension last week, saying, 'I think we have made some significant progress over the course of the last two seasons, and it's nice to know that our owner feels the same way.'

[1608811]

**AP PHOTO**

All-NBA forward Dirk Nowitzki's work ethic impresses Coach Avery Johnson. 'I don't think there's anybody in the league that works as hard as Dirk, morning, noon and night,' Johnson says. [1615032]The Hornets would be hurt more than most teams by a labor stoppage this year

**LOAD-DATE:** May 22, 2005

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Copyright 2005 The Washington Post  
The Washington Post

May 22, 2005 Sunday  
Final Edition

**SECTION:** Magazine; W17 , Rough Draft

**LENGTH:** 773 words

**HEADLINE:** Trade Secrets;  
There are some things you just can't teach

**BYLINE:** Joel Achenbach

**BODY:**

I taught a seminar on "Intermediate Journalism" at a local university this past semester. Like many colleges, the school brings in outsiders as "adjunct professors," meaning "professors who are paid cat food money." Being on campus brought back memories of my adolescence, since that's the last time I made \$2.50 an hour.

Naturally for that kind of money I could not teach the students everything I know. That would require a Cornell West kind of salary. Occasionally the students would ask a really pointed question about journalism, like "Is it okay to make up facts to make your story snazzier?" and I'd just shake my head and say, "That'll really cost you."

So much they didn't learn! I never taught them how to write in the kind of objective, even-handed manner that keeps all biases and personal opinions discreetly laced through every sentence. I declined to demonstrate how the strategic use of such phrases as "he asserted" and "he claimed" and "he sputtered" can signal to readers that the quoted person is lying. I never told them how to manipulate an expense account to make a debauched night in Vegas disappear into the category labeled "Tolls."

I never taught them that they can always get on the front page with stories about dogs, or the weather, or celebrities, or attractive individuals dying of diseases no one has ever heard of. I never taught them that every reporter I know prays for a story with a headline like "Tornado Puts Lassie Out of Her Misery."

I didn't teach them the classic New York Times feature-writing technique of bringing a small backwoods American hamlet to life -- the accents, the odors, the loamy mouth-feel of the soil, the electric sizzle of the mosquito zappers, the way the locals slowly bat their eyelids three times before speaking, etc. -- despite doing all the reporting by phone.

I feel most guilty about not teaching them the art of being unfindable. Every afternoon at every newspaper in America, the editors will emerge from a story conference with the kind of malodorous story ideas that even H. L. Mencken couldn't turn into readable copy. You want to be fully vanished at these moments. If not, you have to decline the assignment graciously, saying, for example, that the editor's idea for a four-part series on people who look like their lunch is brilliant, but you personally couldn't do the story because of your deep-seated anguish at being called pizza-face in high school. Whatever! Ideally your editors will decide that asking you to do any work whatsoever will cause psychic damage. You want them to think, "We can't ask him to do this story -- he'll shatter."

The problem with suppressing the best stuff when I teach is that the students are savvy consumers. They know how much their parents are paying to send them to school. Each class comes out to something like \$754 an hour. When I spend the entire seminar idly reminiscing about my thrilling career (hanging with JFK, the years in 'Nam, how I broke the Watergate story, etc.), they seem to want something better.

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PC-00232

The hideous pay notwithstanding, there are intangible rewards to teaching. The students call you "Professor." At first it's a novelty, and you kind of laugh about it, but then you get used to it and discover that you've taken to stroking your chin a lot, and using words like "hegemony" and "eschatology." For one class I insisted that the students speak only in words that ended in "ism." For a while I wore a tweed jacket, but eventually switched to a simple, unpretentious toga. By the end of the semester the "Professor" title started to seem ridiculous, though, and I told the students to just call me "Commander."

We also talked a lot about their futures. Many of them want to be novelists and screenwriters and rock music critics, and then, after the age of 25, do something really cool. To a remarkable degree, no one in the younger generation ever says, "I'd like to grind away for years as a cog in the corporate journalism machinery, gradually coming to grips with my mediocrity and finding solace only in the incremental swelling of my 401(k)." I just never hear that.

The truth is, you can't teach someone to write. You learn by doing it. You put the hands on the keyboard and go. You don't need a professor -- you just need to keep typing. My students did hear one excellent rule, something the late Wallace Stegner taught his students years ago: That a writer shouldn't simply try to write a masterpiece, but should try to become the kind of person from whom a masterpiece is possible. That advice is priceless.

Read Joel Achenbach weekdays at [washingtonpost.com/achenblog](http://washingtonpost.com/achenblog).

LOAD-DATE: May 22, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Sun Media Corporation  
Winnipeg Sun (Manitoba)

May 22, 2005 Sunday  
FINAL EDITION

**SECTION:** NEWS; Pg. A2

**LENGTH:** 294 words

**HEADLINE:** SUN BETS ON VEGAS AND PIZZA;  
PHONE NUMBER WINS

**BYLINE:** BY STAFF

**BODY:**

They say whatever happens in Las Vegas stays in Las Vegas.

But how many of us ever get a chance to step up to the table?

The Winnipeg Sun wants to tip the odds in favour of one lucky reader by offering a week-long trip for two to Sin City.

"And in order to win, all you need is a phone number," said Carlyne Braid, promotions manager at The Sun.

Together with Pizza Hotline, The Sun will run a series of numbers in each issue, starting today and ending the following Saturday for the first series.

Build their own

Readers have to use the numbers published to try to build their own phone number, Braid said.

For instance, if the first digit of your phone number is among the series of numbers published on Sunday, you can continue to play the next day, when you'd look for the second digit in your phone number.

Once you've collected all seven digits, you're qualified to win the trip to Vegas, including round-trip airfare for two, plus six days and five nights accommodation at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino.

The contest continues for four weeks, giving readers four different chances to win.

"Who doesn't love Vegas?" Braid said. "It's the hotbed of activity, excitement and nightlife."

To enter to win, just fill out the ballot printed each Sunday and drop it off at any Pizza Hotline location, or mail it to The Sun's Your Hotline to Winning contest: c/o The Winnipeg Sun, 1700 Church Ave., Winnipeg, Man., R2X 3A2.

Even if you can't complete your phone number, you can still fill out the same ballot and be eligible to win a secondary prize of a pizza party for 10, courtesy of -- you guessed it -- Pizza Hotline.

Deadline for the grand prize entry is Wednesday, June 22 at noon, while the first deadline for the weekly pizza party prize will be this Wednesday at noon.

**GRAPHIC:** photo by Marcel Cretain The Sun's promotions director Carlyne Braid with a pizza-toting Laurie Mustard.

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PC-00234

LOAD-DATE: May 22, 2005

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Copyright 2005 American Broadcasting Companies, Inc.  
ABC News Transcripts

SHOW: GOOD MORNING AMERICA (07:00 AM ET) - ABC

May 21, 2005 Saturday

LENGTH: 494 words

HEADLINE: THE NEWS YOU MISSED

BODY:

BILL WEIR, ABC NEWS

(Off Camera) Well, attendance has been waning at St. Phillips Anglican's church in Winnipeg, Canada. So they're trying something new to attract parishioners. Professional wrestling. After Sunday services the congregation moves ringside down in the church basement to cheer the ongoing struggle between good and evil. Here's the rest of this week's "News You Missed."

graphics: the news you missed

BILL WEIR

(Voice Over) No church needed for Freddie Montel (PH) And Lynette Mason this week.

BILL WEIR

(Voice Over) The Illinois couple got hitched in the place they fell in love, Wal-Mart.

INTERVIEWER, MALE

What are they hitting you with?

LYNETTE MASON, WAL-MART BRIDE

Bird seed. Oh, right down my shirt.

FREDDIE MONTEL, WAL-MART GROOM

They saved them for the birds.

BILL WEIR

(Voice Over) At the other end of the cost-cutting spectrum, this London restaurant offers a \$200 bowl of soup. But well worth it if you really like shark fin and real gold sprinkles.

INTERVIEWER, FEMALE

Do you think it's worth 108 pounds?

CUSTOMER, MALE

No.

BILL WEIR

N/R 109

PC-00236

(Voice Over) Save room for dessert if you're headed to Vegas. Sin city celebrated its 100th birthday in gluttonous style with a 130,000 pound cake. Everybody got a slice, show girls, tourists, farm animals.

BILL WEIR

(Off Camera) Obviously plenty of sweets. But, you know, it's about time society addressed the "not enough hot dogs, too many buns" conundrum. Well, this week the Vienna Beef Company and the Alpha Baking Company signed a monumental treaty, finally agreeing to sell their products in equal packets of eight.

BILL WEIR

(Voice Over) Which may or may not have caused this reaction in Lithuania where locals spent the day joyously riding their bicycles into a river. It's worth remembering that under Communist rule this sort of thing was forbidden. One more reason to let freedom ring. Yeah, freedom. We'll be right back.

commercial break

graphics: tomorrow

graphics: pregnant graduate

KATE SNOW, ABC NEWS

(Voice Over) Coming up tomorrow on "Good Morning America," the pregnant teenager and the Catholic high school that tried to keep her from graduation. Was there a double standard at work?

graphics: desperate housewives

KATE SNOW

(Voice Over) And a sneak peek at the sizzling season finale of "Desperate Housewives." You won't believe what happens next on Wisteria Lane.

BILL WEIR

(Off Camera) What are we going to do with our lives after the season ends?

KATE SNOW

(Off Camera) I know. I've got my popcorn all ready for tomorrow night.

BILL WEIR

(Off Camera) Very good.

KATE SNOW

(Off Camera) Mary, you're welcome to come over.

MARYSOL CASTRO, ABC NEWS

(Off Camera) You know I love "Desperate Housewives."

BILL WEIR

(Off Camera) What are we, spit?

KATE SNOW

(Off Camera) You can come too.

MARYSOL CASTRO

(Off Camera) Oil paintings.

BILL WEIR

(Off Camera) We'll see you tomorrow.

commercial break

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**LOAD-DATE:** May 23, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Copley News Service  
Copley News Service

May 21, 2005 Saturday

**SECTION:** CALIFORNIA ONLY

**LENGTH:** 1012 words

**HEADLINE:** FBI spy fed plot, defense contends; Cross examination stretches five hours

**BYLINE:** Kelly Thornton Copley News Service

**DATELINE:** SAN DIEGO

**BODY:**

A defense attorney grilled FBI spy Tony Montagna Friday during a five-hour cross examination, trying to show the jury in the City Hall corruption trial that Montagna was the driving force behind a case that otherwise would have fizzled.

Michael Pancer, representing City Councilman Ralph Inzunza, attempted to demonstrate that Montagna, with coaching from the FBI, orchestrated the scheme that resulted in the indictments of Inzunza, two other councilmen, Michael Zucchet and the late Charles Lewis, strip club owner Michael Galardi, Cheetahs manager John D'Intino and a Las Vegas lobbyist, Lance Malone.

The government said they traded money for efforts to repeal the city's law banning touching between strippers and customers.

The case would have been over if the councilmen hadn't been duped by Montagna into believing police hated the no-touching law because they'd rather be fighting more serious crime, Pancer said.

He said Montagna kept the ruse going by claiming he had contacts in the vice unit who would agree to appear before the City Council and ask for a repeal of the law.

"You knew that if there were no vice officers willing to go before the council there would be no reason to pursue no-touch because no councilman would support it?" Pancer asked. "You knew that unless you offered them police support ... no council member would get rid of no-touch?"

Montagna replied, "No sir."

Under questioning, Montagna acknowledged he had introduced Detective Russ Bristol, who pretended to be on the take, and an imaginary vice supervisor into the case.

After that, Galardi paid Bristol for advance warning of vice inspections at Cheetahs, and Galardi considered paying the pair \$50,000 to appear before the council and lobby against the no-touch law.

Pancer tried to show that Montagna, who worked as Galardi's director of security, tried to accelerate the case by pressuring Galardi, Malone and D'Intino to pay his vice connections the \$50,000 to appear before the city council.

According to transcripts cited by Pancer, Montagna told Galardi and Malone on March 19, 2002:

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"The guys are getting kind of anxious to know when they're going to come forward because you know Mike offered them that money and they kind of want it. He offered them like half up front so they wanted to know if it was in the range of them, you know, doing it."

Pancer then asked Montagna in court: "You're telling Mike Galardi that your officers are getting anxious, you're putting some pressure on them to get something done?"

Montagna: "I'm just asking him when it's going to be done."

Pancer: "You're not just asking. You're saying they're anxious."

Montagna: "The officers just want to know when they're going to come forward."

Pancer: "They want to know when they're going to get their money."

Montagna: "Yes."

Pancer tried to portray his client, Inzunza, as a politician who was duped by Montagna into believing that San Diego police genuinely did not support the no-touch law.

Pancer asked Montagna about what he suggested were elaborate efforts to set up a call between Inzunza and Bristol and to keep Inzunza from speaking to anyone else in the vice department.

"If he makes that call (to the wrong cop) he might find out Russ Bristol wasn't for real?" Pancer said.

Montagna: "No, he won't be able to help us anymore if he gets found out" by other people in the vice unit.

Pancer: "You're telling this jury you weren't afraid of Ralph Inzunza making this call and learning vice's true position on no-touch; that's not what this was about?"

Montagna: "No."

Pancer showed the jury a transcript in which Montagna says: "Let's have him (Bristol) call Ralph right now."

Pancer asked Montagna: "You are pushing this process to have it move along quickly?"

Montagna: "No."

On another subject, Pancer asked Montagna about a recorded conversation played by the government last week in which D'Intino says to Montagna on Aug. 5, 2001: "We raised \$25,000 and all they're reporting is \$4,500."

Pancer asked Montagna if that statement applied to a parallel case in Las Vegas, and not this case. Montagna said he didn't know who was talking about what because of two overlapping conversations.

The San Diego Union-Tribune reported in its Aug. 11, 2001, editions that Inzunza and Lewis each had reported on financial disclosure forms receiving \$4,500 from Galardi and Las Vegas area contributors.

Pancer tried to show that D'Intino resisted the idea of bribing the police officer, but was pushed by Montagna. During a conversation between D'Intino and Montagna on Nov. 7, 2000, D'Intino says:

"Yeah, but I would never, if he just wants to do it for favors and he wants to go to Vegas and stuff like that, but as far as giving the guy a bribe or something it would be ... a can of worms. I've seen it backfire on too many people over the years, especially in California. I would advise you not to get too involved with him."

That stance would later change. Galardi paid Bristol \$2,000 a month for the warnings about upcoming vice visits to Cheetahs in San Diego.

It appeared that Pancer became frustrated when Montagna repeatedly asked for clarification on questions. There were some tense exchanges, with Pancer asking at one point, "You know what documents are, pieces of paper?"

Pancer also noted that Montagna spent about 65 hours with a prosecutor preparing for his testimony. Pancer was trying to demonstrate that Montagna was coached by the prosecution.

Pancer questioned Montagna about how many aliases he has used (five), how many years he failed to file income tax returns (eight), and who ultimately prepared and filed the returns (the FBI and IRS).

"Have you been told you are going to be prosecuted for filing income tax returns late?" Pancer asked. Montagna replied no.

"Do you think you are getting special treatment?" Montagna: "No."

Pancer then said, "You believe the FBI and the IRS prepare other people's tax returns?" Montagna: "I know I got a very stiff fine."

**LOAD-DATE:** May 21, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Daily Town Talk (Alexandria, LA)  
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Daily Town Talk (Alexandria, Louisiana)

May 21, 2005 Saturday

**SECTION:** SPORTS; Pg. 4B

**LENGTH:** 394 words

**HEADLINE:** Brady continues to upgrade Tigers' schedule

**BYLINE:** Glenn Guilbeau, gguilbeau@gannett.com

**BODY:**

By Glenn Guilbeau

Louisiana Gannett News

BATON ROUGE -- The LSU men's basketball team may play its most ambitious schedule in coach John Brady's tenure this coming season with trips to Connecticut and West Virginia and a tournament in Las Vegas that could pit the Tigers against Cincinnati.

"We're always trying to upgrade the schedule, and we're really excited about this chance," Brady told the Times-Picayune.

LSU, which was 20-10 last season but lost in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, may be more battle tested in the 2005-06 season. The Tigers play 2004 national champion Connecticut on Jan. 7, 2006, in Hartford, Conn., in a CBS game. UConn plays its home games 30 minutes away in Storrs, Conn., but the Huskies will return the game in the 2006-07 season to the Maravich Center on the LSU campus.

"Getting the return game on campus was important to me," said Brady, who has refused to play big-name opponents in the Louisiana Superdome as former coach Dale Brown often did.

The LSU women's team will also play UConn, which won three straight national championships before the past season, on Jan. 16, 2006.

LSU, which lost to elite eight West Virginia and beat Ohio State last season in the Maravich Center, returns those games this season on Nov. 26 at Morgantown, W. Va., and on Dec. 31 at Columbus, Ohio.

The Tigers will play two games in the Las Vegas Holiday Classic just before Christmas after playing two home games related to that exempt tournament in the Maravich Center. Three of LSU's four round-robin games in the Vegas tournament will not count toward the maximum of 27 regular-season games.

Winning or losing LSU's pre-Vegas tournament games will decide who it plays in Vegas. Other teams in the Vegas field are Cincinnati, Dayton and Boston College.

Other non-conference games on LSU's schedule are still in the works. The Tigers will likely play Houston at home. Brady is trying to schedule Tulane and some other state schools. He continues to talk with Texas about a series beginning in the 2006-07 season.

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LSU athletic director Skip Bertman spearheaded an upgrade in LSU's basketball scheduling in recent years. The Tigers' 2001-02 and 2002-03 home schedules included games against Campbell, Mercer, Towson State, Delaware State, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and Prairie View A&M that were unpopular with their fans.

**LOAD-DATE:** May 22, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Telegraph Group Limited  
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH(LONDON)

May 21, 2005, Saturday

**SECTION:** Travel Pg. 001

**LENGTH:** 2733 words

**HEADLINE:** LOVING LAS VEGAS As it celebrates its 100th birthday, the gambling capital of the world is still a winner - and a favourite destination for the British. Michael Kerr joins them at the tables and shows

**BYLINE:** By MICHAEL KERR

**BODY:**

Outside David Millman's office, pen-chewing children made notes about the men and women who had founded their city and the railway that had enabled them to do it. Inside, Mr Millman, one of the curators of the Nevada State Museum, tried to convince me that the children's parents were starting to take a similarly keen interest in local history. It was hard to believe.

The city, after all, is Las Vegas, where history is something they tend to blow up. This is "the implosion capital of the world". Between 1993 and 2001, they reduced seven giant resort hotels to dust in front of the cameras to make way for the new new thing. A sense of history? In Vegas? Come on!

But Mr Millman had a point. I couldn't turn on the television or radio in my hotel room, or open a local paper, without being reminded of the Rat Pack and the San Pedro Railroad, of Howard Hughes and Elvis Presley. Most of all, I was reminded that May 15 was the occasion for the baking of the world's biggest birthday cake, for Vegas is 100 years old.

It all started (if you ignore a few Palaeo-Indian cave dwellers and Mormon pioneers) with William Clark, a US senator who was thin as a rake and sharp as a cavalry sabre. "If you took away the whiskers and the scandal," they used to say, "there would be nothing left of him." Clark was building a railroad from Salt Lake City to Los Angeles. The Las Vegas Valley was a natural stopover and watering point, and therefore a place where he could make a killing.

On May 15, 1905, he began an auction of lots on his "Las Vegas Townsite". Two thousand hagglers and spectators gathered in the desert heat. So began the biggest American city to be founded in the 20th century, and what has become the fastest-growing city in the United States.

It was slower at the outset. No sooner had the settlers settled than the Depression descended. Las Vegas could have shrivelled up and blown away like tumbleweed. Fortunately, the government decided to build the Hoover Dam down the road. The dam brought jobs, publicity and, most important, water. Quickie divorce laws and the legalisation of gambling did the rest.

I walked the streets that Clark laid out, for they are still the framework of downtown: Fremont, Carson, Bridger, Bonneville ... But downtown is no longer Las Vegas. With the exception of Fremont Street and its "Experience", a spectacular nightly sound-and-light show, all the action now is on the Strip, the road that used to lead to downtown and which over the past 50 years has supplanted it.

It's at the airport, at the southern end of the Strip, that most tourists arrive, and it's in the giant hotels of the Strip that most of them stay. It's on the Strip, too, where Steve Wynn, current king of the hotel trade, has sited his latest property, the doubly aptly named Wynn Las Vegas.

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The \$2.7 billion hotel, shaped like a giant chocolate hip flask and monogrammed with its creator's name, had yet to open during my stay in the city, and gawpers weren't encouraged. At the Mirage and Treasure Island, two of his previous ventures, Wynn put on free shows for the passers-by - an erupting volcano at one, a pirate battle at the other. Here, he had built a hill so no one could look in, and a hotel behind it that presented to the Strip a face as blank as a poker player's.

Now we know what he was hiding. There have been endless stories since opening night about the fixtures and fittings, the golf course and the Ferrari-Maserati dealership. But perhaps the most telling comment came from a security guard: "The best thing about it is that the casino is away from everything else. You don't have to be bothered with it when you go to dinner."

That arrangement is an acknowledgment of a striking change in the way Las Vegas does business: the smartest hotels are now earning more from the combined receipts of rooms, shows, restaurants and conventions than they are from gambling.

Of course Las Vegas has never been just about gambling; it's about play-acting. Alan Feldman, senior vice-president of public affairs for Mirage Resorts, has done it himself. "When I was 22," he says, "I brought a girlfriend to Las Vegas from Los Angeles and we got all dressed up and went to the Desert Inn. As God is my witness, I was James Bond! Those one-dollar chips were a hundred thousand dollars - and that was Doctor No across the table. I think that happens to millions of people here."

I toyed with the James Bond fantasy. I was also quite taken with the Gram Parsons fantasy, as outlined by the "cosmic country rocker" in the song Las Vegas:

Spend all night with the dealer

Trying to get ahead

Spend all day at the Holiday Inn

Trying to get out of bed.

There were only three problems: I'm useless at poker and roulette, Daily Telegraph expenses don't run to being James Bond, and time didn't allow for the narcotics and narcolepsy of a Gram Parsons. Besides, I wanted to see whether my guidebook was right - whether Vegas was the sort of place where I could have the time of my life without betting a nickel.

It was my first visit, and I was ready to be affronted. People had told me I would hate Vegas for its vulgarity, its brash self-confidence. I loved it for its inferiority complex. This is a city in the desert, whose visitors are a captive audience, and yet it still feels the need to shout at them at every corner. Look at me! Look at me! At the same time, it's trying to convince them, with its themed hotels, that they are somewhere else - in Paris, in Venice, in medieval England. Now and again, blinking in the fierce sun, you do lose your bearings. Then you stumble past the Statue of Liberty into the fug of a casino and you know exactly where you are. These days, Vegas is one of the few cities in the US where you're still allowed to smoke yourself to death.

The most popular free tourist attraction is the fountains at the Bellagio, a hotel that takes its name, though not its scale, from a village in Italy. In a five-minute production with musical accompaniment, 1,200 fountains whip streams of water across a lake and blast them 200ft in the air. In Steven Soderbergh's remake of the Rat Pack caper Ocean's 11, it's at the fountains that Danny Ocean and his band of thieves gather for brotherly backslapping after cleaning out the vault of the Bellagio. There they stand, these hard-case conmen and robbers, in front of a few jets of water, transfixed like kids at their first Disney matinee. As if ...

By coincidence, I found myself at the fountains at the moment a show began. The sound system blasted out Lord of the Dance. The fountains suited action to music. I couldn't stop grinning.

The Bellagio does very nicely out of Ocean's 11. In another scene, Tess, played by Julia Roberts, is surprised by her lovable thief of an ex-husband (George Clooney as Danny Ocean) while waiting to share a meal in a restaurant in the hotel with her nasty new lover (Andy Garcia as Terry Benedict). None of them gets a chance to eat anything, which is a shame as Picasso is one of the best restaurants in town. It's also one of the best decorated. This being Las Vegas, it doesn't have Picasso prints on the walls; it has originals. I sat beneath Still life with fruit dish and yellow vase, 1963-65, noting, as the light-fingered Danny Ocean doubtless had, that there was a camera trained on it from the ceiling.

On an island in the centre of the room, floral displays competed with the paintings for artistry. Beyond, through the window, were the fountains. As I nibbled on an amuse-bouche - a tiny potato pancake topped with crme fraiche and caviar - I mused on a very Vegas experience. I was eating food cooked by a Spanish-born chef, in an Italian-themed hotel in the United States, just across the road from the Eiffel Tower.

If Picasso is restaurant as art gallery, Aureole - in the Mandalay Bay - is restaurant as theatre. At its centre is a four-storey wine tower of steel and glass soaring to a sky-lit ceiling. On my way in, I took the flight of steps that goes down and round it, trying to guess how many bottles it contains. Sixty thousand was the matre d's answer. Too many for a conventional wine list. So Aureole puts its wines on a tablet, like an outsized personal organiser, where, with a few taps of a stylus, you can search by colour, region, grape or bottle size. Then (the food aside) comes the best bit. The sommelier passes your order to a black-clad "wine angel" and, having clipped a cable to her belt, she hoists herself aloft, with a spin and a wave or two on the way, and returns to earth with your bottle in hand.

How do you train as a wine angel? Maybe at Cirque du Soleil. This French-Canadian company, not content with saving the art of the circus, has been injecting a few surprises into Las Vegas nightlife. It seemed a risky strategy 10 years ago. The city was the province of pop has-beens and kitsch tiger tamers (and is still the sort of place where Barry Manilow and Celine Dion are billed as singers). But Mystre, the company's first show in Vegas, was a sell-out within 10 days and is still running. It's one of four Cirque shows in the city, which together are seen by 10,000 people a night, each paying between \$60 and \$150 for a ticket. "We have contributed to this city's cultural and artistic growth," Guy Lalibert, the company's founder, has said. "We have proved that people can be sophisticated."

Sophisticated enough, anyway, to understand that O, the title of the show I saw, is a pun on the medium on which the performance is conducted. The central element of the set is a pool built into the stage, containing more than 1.5 million gallons of water and adjustable from a puddle to 25 feet deep. One moment it's land, the next it's lake; one moment the cast are dancers, the next high divers. There are nods along the way to Noah and the Flood, to the rains that replenish the circle of African life and, in an image of flapping frogmen left high and dry, perhaps to Las Vegas's dangerous wastefulness with its water supply.

Does it mean anything? Who cares? From curtain up - a visual treat in itself - it's a terrific spectacle. And if the prices seem steep, well, there are some unusual running costs: all the costumes have to be replaced every couple of months because the chlorine eats away at the Lycra.

There's no such problem with Midnight Fantasy at the Luxor, a show in which - judging by the posters - there are scarcely any costumes at all. I stayed at the Luxor because readers in last year's Telegraph Travel Awards voted it their favourite foreign resort hotel.

If camels could talk (which they do at the Luxor) they might say it was the first pyramid built in a desert for more than 6,000 years. It's an Indiana Jones adventure without the dust and danger, and with shops full of tat in place of storerooms full of treasure. It is, if anything, a little too convincing.

One of the stops on my culturally-rich Vegas tour was to have been the Guggenheim Hermitage Museum. But when I wandered up there, I discovered that the main event was The Quest for Immortality: Treasures of Ancient Egypt. I felt I'd seen them all already.

Another outing I had planned was a hike into Red Rock Canyon, 35 minutes from town, which I had been promised was Western desert and canyon scenery at its best. Unfortunately, the company that made that promise cancelled the trip a few hours before I was due to depart. Vegas, it was clear, had its own intentions for me. I should give in and head for the casino.

Back in the Luxor, I hid myself in my room for an hour to give full, unembarrassed attention to an idiot's guide to gaming. My best hope seemed to be blackjack - a more guttural version of the pontoon with which I'd once deprived my fellow sixth formers of their lunch money.

Down I went emboldened to the casino and, having circled the floor for no more than another two hours or so, pulled up a stool at a table. My fellow player had only just sat down. He was a young guy from Texas. A very young guy, the dealer decided, and demanded his ID. How embarrassing, I thought - which was when the dealer pointed out that the chips I had put in were only half the required stake.

After that, it was a doddle. I was Bond, I was Parsons, and I was a winner. I walked away from the table with 25 per cent more than I'd brought to it. "Good one," said the dealer.

I was still smiling two days later when I got home. The smile lasted until I looked at my online bank statement. For some strange reason, after one withdrawal I had made with a cash card, the bank in Vegas had made another for 10 times as much. The house always wins.

Michael Kerr travelled with Thomas Cook Signature (08701 111111, [www.thomascook.com](http://www.thomascook.com)), which offers three nights in the Luxor in June from pounds 726 per person sharing (or from pounds 579 in November), including return flight with United Airlines.

Recommended reading: 'The Unofficial Guide to Las Vegas 2005' (Wiley, pounds 12.99); 'Sun, Sin & Suburbia: An Essential History of Modern Las Vegas' by Geoff Schumacher (Stephens Press, Las Vegas - available through online bookshops).

Further information: for a free guide to the city, see [www.visitlasvegas.co.uk](http://www.visitlasvegas.co.uk) or telephone 0870 523 8832.

Las Vegas, in the words of its mayor, Oscar Goodman, "doesn't do anything on a small scale". Last weekend it marked its centennial with the cutting of the world's biggest birthday cake: 100ft long by 32ft wide and weighing 130,000 lbs. The last crumbs may have been mopped up by now, but the celebrations continue, with many of the city's annual events taking on a centennial theme. These are some of the highlights:

June 3-5 Centennial Cruise. An annual classic car show with free concerts, this year with a centennial theme. Fremont Street.

June 18 Reggae in the Desert 2005, featuring Toots and the Maytals, Don Carlos (formerly of Black Uhuru), the Toasters and Tippa Irie. Clark County Government Centre Amphitheatre. Details: [www.reggaeinthedesert.com](http://www.reggaeinthedesert.com).

June 24 Black Music Month Expo. A celebration of 100 years of music in honour of Ray Charles. Texas Station Casino, North Las Vegas. Details: [www.blacksinvegas.com](http://www.blacksinvegas.com).

July 2 The Red Hot Chili Peppers, supported by Weezer, give a free open-air concert at the Las Vegas Convention Centre. Details: [www.vegasrocks100.com](http://www.vegasrocks100.com).

September 15 Making a Living in Las Vegas. A 24-hour show at the Nevada State Museum that promises to be a comprehensive exhibit of casino "work culture".

October 13-14 Vegas Valley Book Festival, this year showcasing writers who have captured the spirit of the city.

November 10-12 Aviation Nation Air Show. The principal air show of the USAF and one of the biggest in the United States, staged at Nellis Base, outside Las Vegas. Demonstrations by the air force's Thunderbirds, races, parades and exhibits from a First World War biplane to the F/A-22, America's 21st-century fighter. Details: [www.worldofwings.com](http://www.worldofwings.com).

For a full programme of events, see [www.lasvegas2005.org](http://www.lasvegas2005.org). Elton John: The Red Piano The Colosseum, Caesars Palace. Elton delivers his greatest hits while David LaChapelle, his director and designer, bombards the senses with risqu video montages and short films. For The Bitch Is Back, there's Pamela Anderson as a pole-dancing stripper. 2005 shows: July 26-31; Oct 4-9, 11-16, 18-23. Details: [www.caesars.com/caesars/lasvegas/](http://www.caesars.com/caesars/lasvegas/).

Manilow Music and Passion The Hilton Theatre, Las Vegas Hilton. All Barry's favourites - Mandy, I Write The Songs, Copacabana ... Next shows: June 1-4, July 27-30, Aug 3-13. Details: [www.manilow.com](http://www.manilow.com).

Celine Dion: A New Day The Colosseum, Caesars Palace. A major theatrical production in which Celine (right) is joined by a cast of 59 performers, musicians and vocalists. Performances 200 evenings a year, Weds-Sun. Details: [www.celinedion.com/anewday](http://www.celinedion.com/anewday).

K MGM Grand. A Cirque du Soleil show inspired by the ancient Egyptian "ka," an invisible spiritual double that accompanies every human in this life and into the next. Details: [www.cirquedusoleil.com/cirquedusoleil/ka](http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/cirquedusoleil/ka).

The Blue Man Group Luxor Hotel & Casino. Three bald men with faces painted blue offer a multi-sensory experience that combines theatre, percussive music, art, science and vaudeville into a form of entertainment like nothing else. Nightly shows. Details: [www.luxor.com/entertainment](http://www.luxor.com/entertainment)

**LOAD-DATE:** May 21, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Reno Gazette-Journal  
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Reno Gazette-Journal (Nevada)

May 21, 2005 Saturday Final Edition

**SECTION:** BUSINESS; Pg. 7D

**LENGTH:** 289 words

**HEADLINE:** Biz Poll

**BODY:**

Question: Are Northern Nevada employers diversifying their work forces enough?

- o Yes, major progress has been made.
- o Yes, but more needs to be done.
- o Some have, but many more haven't.
- o To an extent, but mostly in lower-level jobs.
- o No; too few employers have diversified.

Vote: RGJ.com/business.

E-mail your views: Business@RGJ.com.

Results: Saturday Business section.

Last week, we asked readers what Reno being the only market in Nevada to record a drop in March gaming revenue shows. More than 40 percent cited many reasons:

- o How bad the industry is doing: 8.33 percent.
- o The need to revamp downtown: 25 percent.
- o The importance of bowling tournaments: 4.17 percent.
- o The effect of tribal casinos: 20.83 percent.
- o All the above: 41.67 percent.

Here are the views of one reader:

I don't think the folks that gamble at the Indian casinos are the same clientele that go to Reno/Tahoe/Vegas.

For our age group (baby boomers), Reno has always had some of the best entertainment around. This is what originally took us to Reno over 35 years ago. We still spend most of our entertainment money in Reno.

However, none of the Reno hotels are of the quality you see in Vegas or even Lake Tahoe.

Perhaps it really is time for the owners of all the local hotels to take a good look at themselves. Even though we like the Atlantis and the Nugget in Sparks, neither are world class let alone on a par with Vegas.

N/R 113

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The Peppermill is over-priced and we just don't like the Sienna very much. The food and service at the Eldorado and the Silver Legacy has gone way down hill over the last few years.

Thought the Rum Bullions bar at the Legacy we find enjoyable!

- Andre Bertauche, Reno and Healdsburg, Calif.

**LOAD-DATE:** May 24, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Spokane Spokesman-Review  
Spokesman Review (Spokane, WA)

May 21, 2005 Saturday  
Idaho Edition

**SECTION:** E; Pg. 1

**LENGTH:** 607 words

**HEADLINE:** Life List is another aspect of midlife crisis

**BYLINE:** Jim Kershner The Spokesman-Review

**BODY:**

After reaching what I like to optimistically call "middle-age" - which, unless I plan on living to 104, is more like "two-thirds-age" - the Life List increasingly weighs on the mind.

The Life List is that list we keep in our heads, the list of things we want to see or do before we run out of, well, life.

I've been pondering this subject after a friend of mine came back from South America.

"I looked up in the night sky and there it was - the Southern Cross," he said. "I thought, there's another thing I can mark off my list."

Seeing the Southern Cross is also on my Life List, although I have yet to bag it. The farthest south I have ever been is Florida. This bizarre and exotic land is, surprisingly, in our exact same hemisphere.

(Note to the astronomy-impaired: The Southern Cross is a four-star constellation visible only from the Southern Hemisphere).

(Note to the geography-impaired: The Southern Hemisphere is that part of the Earth that lies south of the equator, or, to put it in layman's terms, the butt portion of the Earth as opposed to the shank portion.)

The Life List has also been on my mind since my wife, Carol, and I crossed a big one off our lists earlier this month. We went to the Grand Canyon, which was No. 1 on our Life Lists, not because it's the grandest sight on Earth, although it certainly comes close. It was No. 1 because as we moved into our 50s, it was becoming increasingly absurd that we hadn't set eyes on the biggest landmark in the West. We have both lived in the West all of our lives and have crisscrossed just about every part of it. Yet, somehow, we had missed the Big Ditch.

When we finally stood there at the brink, we gave ourselves high-fives. Discreet high-fives, of course. We're not total nerds.

Two days later we crossed another goal off our lists. We saw four California condors, the largest birds in North America (they have 9-foot wingspans, or to put it another way, if you glue two turkeys together, you get one condor). I can't say they were actually on our Life Lists, since we assumed they were more or less extinct. But once we saw one roosting on a canyon rock, we both agreed that we had always wanted to see one even if we didn't know it.

So with the Grand Canyon and condors in the bag, we spent the rest of the trip trying to figure out what had moved to the top of our Life Lists. The more we pondered it, the more things we came up with:

\* See Alaska.

N/R 114

PC-00250

- \* Catch a steelhead.
- \* Hike the Alps.
- \* Cross Atlantic on the QE II.
- \* Play golf in Scotland.
- \* Achieve world peace.
- \* Follow spring from the Florida Keys to Maine.
- \* Learn boogie-woogie piano.
- \* See baseball game at Fenway Park.
- \* Tour Hong Kong.
- \* Read all 10 volumes of Will and Ariel Durant's "Story of Civilization."
- \* Traverse Australia (and see Southern Cross while at it).

Those should hold us for a while.

By the way, you might say we accomplished one other goal on this trip. Las Vegas is No. 1 on our Reverse Life List, our list of places we strive NEVER to see. We successfully avoided Vegas one more time, even though we were only about 50 miles away as the condor flies.

Of course, we can't definitively cross Las Vegas off our Reverse Life List. This is the problem with the Reverse Life List: You can't cross things off until you're no longer alive. Until then, there's always the danger that you'll succumb to temptation and find yourself pumping quarters into the slots at the MGM Grand.

Fortunately, as I mentioned before, we're well past the midpoint of our quest. We're two-thirds of the way to our quest of never seeing Vegas. See? Being past mid-life has its advantages.

TYPE: Commentary, Column

LOAD-DATE: May 24, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Tower Media, Inc.  
The Daily News of Los Angeles

May 20, 2005 Friday  
SAC EDITION

**SECTION:** NEWS; Pg. SC1

**LENGTH:** 470 words

**HEADLINE:** 'CSI' HALTING LOCAL SOUNDSTAGE WORK

**BYLINE:** By Eugene Tong Staff Writer

**BODY:**

VALENCIA - This sprawling suburb is taking a bow after a five-year run playing glamorous Las Vegas on one of television's top-rated crime dramas.

"CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" is moving its production base from Santa Clarita Studios in Valencia to the Universal Studios lot in Universal City. The CBS program, which stars William Petersen and Marg Helgenberger as members of a team of forensic investigators cracking crimes in Sin City, has been produced here since it first aired in 2000.

"We still expect to see them shooting on location, but they won't be based in a studio here any more, which is very much a disappointment for us," Jason Crawford, the city's film administrator, said Thursday.

The show wrapped its 2005 season earlier this month, and crews are busy moving props and equipment out of the Valencia soundstage before production resumes midsummer. It was not immediately known why the show pulled up stakes and headed south, but Crawford believes it was a business decision.

"It just became something that they decided to do," he said. "It had nothing to do with leaving Santa Clarita per se as opposed to going to a big studio lot."

The departure of "CSI" comes just months after "JAG," another local television mainstay, ended its 10-year run. The CBS military-legal drama has been shot at a local soundstage since 1997. In all, television work contributed about \$17 million to city coffers in the 2003-04 fiscal year.

There also are intangible benefits. The set often hosts visiting high school classes, and series star Petersen has lent his name and face for local charity events.

"For us, it's been fantastic," Crawford said. "For years, we have the No. 1 TV show based here in Santa Clarita."

The show began production in 1999, shooting at Mann Biomedical Park in Valencia during the first season before moving to Santa Clarita Studios for season 2. Local landmarks, including the Valencia Town Center and College of the Canyons, have made regular appearances.

"The Hyatt (Valencia) has stood in for a casino maybe a dozen times," Crawford said. "They shot at a bunch of different houses in Newhall as the residential outskirts of Vegas."

Despite the departure, the show likely will continue to use the city for location shoots, Crawford said. Meantime, local officials are busy recruiting new shows.

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"We're stuck right now in this transition period," Crawford said. "TV always goes on hiatus at this time, and we're always left wondering what's going to come back. ... We know we'll have something; we just don't know what it is yet."

"CSI" finished second in the Nielsen Prime-time ratings with 26.5 million viewers in the week of May 9-15. Only Fox's talent competition "American Idol" surpassed it with 26.6 million viewers.

Eugene Tong, (661) 257-5253

eugene.tong@dailynews.com

**LOAD-DATE:** May 20, 2005

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The Desert Sun (Palm Springs, California)

May 20, 2005 Friday

**SECTION:** A-SECTION; Pg. 1A

**LENGTH:** 1426 words

**HEADLINE:** Delegates trawling for retail giants

**BYLINE:** Lou Hirsh

**BODY:**

Cities send teams to Vegas for shopping centers convention

By Lou Hirsh

The Desert Sun

The answer to the dreams of many shoppers lies in the well-stocked aisles of a Nordstrom, a Barnes & Noble or a Pier 1 Imports.

And the fulfillment of those dreams is dancing in the eyes of a large group of a different kind of shopper - those hoping to lure those kinds of stores to the Coachella Valley.

With 53 people a day moving into the valley and many more second-home buyers, the rich potential for retailers seems obvious.

And this weekend, valley city and business leaders will be in Las Vegas, seeking out new stores and restaurants looking to cash in on the influx.

More than 30 city government leaders, along with commercial developers and real estate brokers from throughout the valley, will be attending the International Council of Shopping Centers' annual spring convention. It is being held May 22-25 in Las Vegas and, with an expected turnout of 40,000, is deemed the largest retail conference of its kind.

"They could use more fun stores like Neiman-Marcus," said Cathedral City resident Halle Fetty, as she mulled the kinds of businesses she'd like to see make their arrival in the ever-expanding Coachella Valley. "I love their catalogues, too."

"How about Sonic?" chimed in her husband, George, noting that he once drove all the way to Calexico to get a taste of his favorite carhop-style burger joint.

"My wife would really go nuts if we got a Nordstrom," said Peter Richardson of Palm Springs. "We could use some more classy stores around here, and it would definitely draw people from all over the valley."

The region already is host to an explosive shopping and dining scene, especially in the middle and east valley. But pockets remain where big box retailers and trendy boutiques could fit the growing need.

Local leaders will be pitching the valley to shopping center operators and global retailers. Nearly every major retail company, restaurant chain and shopping center builder will have a presence there, and the ICSC estimates that 25 percent of all shopping center leases are signed or conceived at the spring conference.

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The Desert Sun (Palm Springs, California) May 20, 2005 Friday

"You get three days and just one shot to impress some of these companies," said Malibu developer Richard Weintraub, who has several Indio projects in the works, including a renovation of the former Indio Fashion Mall. "We're competing against cities all over the United States."

Weintraub will join a contingent of Indio officials - the largest among valley cities, with at least 17 people registered - at the conference.

#### Touting growth

Rudy Acosta, Indio's redevelopment and economic director, said more than 260 retail company and shopping center representatives visited the city's booth at last year's event. This year, the city's booth is strategically located adjacent to that of Marriott Corp. and several prominent shopping center developers.

This year, Indio officials will be meeting with representatives of several growth-oriented companies like home improvement chains Home Depot and Lowe's.

"It's not that we expect them to build a new store here in the next two or three years," Acosta said. "But we want them to know who we are, and to keep us on their radar screens."

Attendee Sherry Johnson, executive director of the Indio Chamber of Commerce, said the conference offers prime exposure to the development community, noting the city was able to attract Weintraub himself at a past ICSC gathering.

What's more, Johnson said Indio has an opportunity to sell a convincing growth story. It is the valley's largest city and its fastest-growing, yet many major retailers that have set up shop in the valley have yet to do so in Indio.

"For a city our size, we're very under-retailed," Johnson said, adding the city is also looking to showcase itself to hotel and restaurant companies.

Weintraub, who said an anchor retailer for the fashion mall could be announced in the next two weeks, is also developing land north of Interstate 10, with hopes of luring big-box retailers like Target or Wal-Mart.

At the convention, he said the Indio group will be aiming for the kinds of retailers that could fit in at either development spot, such as electronics sellers and clothing stores.

"Indio has more rooftops, and the most new rooftops coming in around here, and right now almost none of the major companies are set up here," Weintraub said. "This is a chance for most of them to be the first one in there."

The Palm Springs delegation to the conference has an even more specific agenda. It will be meeting with many of the retailers recommended last year by the Buxton Co., a Texas-based retail consultant that drew up a list of 20 potential retailers that the city could realistically pursue for new business based on its demographics.

#### Making a list

John Raymond, the city's community development director, will be among those going to Las Vegas. He said the city is not divulging the full retail matchmaker list because correspondence is already in progress with some of the companies.

But he said Thursday the list includes clothing stores Wet Seal, Anne Taylor, Avenue and Victoria's Secret; the Barnes and Noble bookstore chain; Bath & Body Works; Pier 1 Imports; and Marshalls.

Officials say the biggest priority is finding compatible tenants for a retail revitalization of Palm Springs' flagging downtown area. The city is also seeking tenants for the budding big-box corridor taking shape along Ramon Road, where a Wal-Mart Supercenter is under construction.

"The conference is a chance for us to see how we're being perceived by the retail community, and to make our case with them as to what we have to offer," said Palm Springs Mayor Ron Oden, who will also attend.

The right sales pitch is crucial, said Steve Lyle, a broker with Coldwell Banker Commercial Lyle and Associates, now based in Palm Desert. A veteran of several ICSC events, Lyle will be accompanying the Palm Springs delegation and is also helping pitch projects with Rancho Mirage and La Quinta developers.

It was at an ICSC gathering just over a decade ago that Lyle said he convinced Starbucks officials to open their first coffeehouse in the valley in 1994 - at Tahquitz Canyon Way and Palm Canyon Drive in downtown Palm Springs.

The Desert Sun (Palm Springs, California) May 20, 2005 Friday

"It's an extremely influential convention," Lyle recalled this week. "Before I showed one of their managers my aerial map that I had brought along, they were extremely skeptical that a Starbucks would work in a desert city."

There are now 19 Starbucks stores in the valley, with two more planned for Coachella and one in Desert Hot Springs.

This year, Lyle himself will be holding talks with a gourmet grocer, a bookstore chain, a hotel chain and a company that makes special-events amphitheaters. He said he was not ready to release details, but at least one of those projects could materialize in a deal for a valley location in the coming months.

#### Filling in the holes

In Palm Desert, business support manager Ruth Ann Moore said most of that city's major retail centers - 14 out of 15 - are currently 95 percent to 100 percent occupied. The one exception is the plaza on Country Club Drive that Albertson's vacated in 2003, and where other vacancies have since opened.

City officials and center managers are currently working to fill slots there.

At the convention, Moore said she will be assisting local firms scouting tenants for spots in and near that center. The city is also on the lookout for businesses in two new budding retail corridors - Monterey Avenue and Cook Street, where major retail centers are under construction.

"It's not always about getting a new retailer into the area," said Moore. "Sometimes it might be someone who already has one or two locations here in the valley, and they might be looking for a third location."

Glance: What's the ICSC?

Last year about 36,000 people attended the spring convention of the International Council of Shopping Centers.

Organizers expect about 40,000 attendees at the gathering in Las Vegas May 22-25. It is the 13th biggest convention of any kind in the United States and the largest gathering of shopping center professionals.

City leaders, developers and real estate brokers from throughout the Coachella Valley will be attending the gathering, deemed a key event for marketing, trend-spotting and deal-making.

The ICSC estimates that 25 percent of all shopping center leases are signed or conceived at the spring conference.

Source: International Council of Shopping Centers

**LOAD-DATE:** May 21, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Detroit Free Press  
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Detroit Free Press

May 20, 2005 Friday 1 EDITION

**LENGTH:** 1153 words

**HEADLINE:** Late check: Mayor ignores principle

**BODY:**

After watching Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick write the check for what he says he owes the city taxpayers, it reminded me of a story of a bank robber who gets caught coming out of the bank with the bank's money still in his hands. He tells the police that he didn't steal the money from the bank at all. He was just in the process of returning the money to the bank when the police stopped him from doing so ("Kilpatrick says gloves are off and race is on: He pays Detroit for \$9,000 he charged on city credit card," May 18).

Exactly what example and what lesson is the mayor demonstrating to the city workers and taxpayers? Is it that you're never guilty of anything, even when you get caught red-handed? All you have to do is pay (some of) it back and then everything's OK?

**Eric Heckmann**Detroit

Embarrassment

Mayor Kilpatrick is quickly becoming an embarrassment to the City of Detroit and African Americans everywhere. Never have I felt so bad for Detroit, while at the same time being so happy to no longer pay taxes or reside there.

**Bruce C. Ford II**Redford

Accountability

Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick just doesn't seem to get it. Just like with the now-infamous Navigator story, his deliberate withholding of information has gotten him into trouble again. The mayor seems to think that he has no accountability to anyone for anything. He continues to refuse to provide details to the charges he has rung up on his City of Detroit credit card. That is, of course, until he knows it's about to hit the papers. The charges could very well be legitimate, as he claims. These could very well be honest efforts to entertain the type of people that could bring good things to the city, as he claims.

However, the way he and the city respond to these Freedom of Information Act requests seems to scream with the appearance of impropriety.

**John Kazmar**Brownstown Township

Sorry excuses

As a Macomb County government employee, I am angry and appalled at Mayor Kilpatrick's racist comments: "We don't need to wait for massa to tell us to get some water. If my employees want water, they're going to get water" ("Locally speaking," May 18).

Well, this local government employee, like anyone else in my department, pays for her own bottled water. It is not a "perk" given to us by our employers, at the expense of the taxpayers.

N/R 117

PC-00257

I am so tired of hearing Kwame Kilpatrick's unbelievable and lame excuses for his actions.

I had hope for Detroit, where I resided for 21 years, when Kilpatrick was elected as mayor. Seeing his blatant lack of respect for this once vibrant city, I hope that the people of Detroit deny him the chance to continue to be an embarrassment to Detroit and to us who still consider ourselves Detroiters.

**Pat Mocer**Mt. Clemens

Tears? You're kidding

I would be wiping the tears my eyes, too, if I knew that for three and a half years my administration has been caught up in lies, intrigue and mismanagement. I, too, would've had to put a face on in front of the people and try to wash away my misgivings in office with a bunch of bull.

But what's really crazy is how "Dad" Kilpatrick ran with the Nazi concept. No one in his or her right mind should've accepted his rantings. I personally felt that he tried to insult my intelligence with his remarks.

"Mama" Kilpatrick took the cake. She really had her face on. I couldn't help but think she should get an award for best supporting actress in this drama: "Don't let too many people talk about y'all's boy." If this is the case, we as voters better realize we better not send a boy to do a man's job.

Is Mayor Kilpatrick sure he wants to take those gloves off?

**Edward D. Conley**Detroit

Before the Super Bowl

Kwame Kilpatrick has been totally incompetent over his tenure and one needs only look at the preparations for the Super Bowl to see this.

Where are the hotel rooms? Where is the real cleanup and where is the leadership?

It would have served Detroit right if the NFL pulled the Super Bowl until some later time when the city and the region can properly accommodate it. Detroit has not lived up to its obligations in so many ways and the entire leadership is to blame.

Detroit wonders why it is such an international joke, but one need only look at the actions of those elected to serve Detroit to find answers.

**Jon Leszczynski**Warren

It's not a movie ...

Every time I read about Mayor Kilpatrick, I think it must be the filming of a sequel: "Ferris Bueller Becomes Mayor of Detroit." Sigh.

Nope, it's a real-life, overgrown teenager playing mayor, only using real money.

**Laura Polando**Oxford

Voters hold the key

Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick wishes to campaign for re-election citing "we're not stopping this progress because somebody said something about me." Saying is one thing; doing is another.

It's really simple: Is the city better off than it was four years ago? If Detroiters re-elect Kilpatrick despite the turmoil and allegations, they get what they deserve.

**Tony Sword**Northville

In it for himself

Does Kilpatrick think the people are so stupid they cannot see through his lies? This man wrote a check for \$9,000, and all is well. I don't think he can add; he could be short, if all that is found is true. This man is only going to help himself -- and his group of thugs he calls guards.

Detroit will be a ghost town and the ghost will not even live here.

**Jane Scully Bloomfield Hills**

**Questionable behavior**

One would hope that our leaders have a sense of integrity -- and are able to differentiate between right and wrong.

The level of arrogance -- the sense of being above the law -- is clearly shown by the mayor's staff releasing credit card statements that have the truly questionable charges crossed out. What's even more troubling is that the person who released it thinks that it would be accepted as such. Unfortunately, it seems to be a mindset, that this administration feels a sense of entitlement to flaunt inappropriate behavior and that it will be accepted by the taxpaying citizens of Detroit.

Thanks to Auditor General Joseph Harris a clean copy of credit card charges has been provided. One of the most incredible is the \$5,450-a-night luxury suite in a Vegas hotel where Kilpatrick put up his family.

Reimbursing the city after a citywide exposure sets an example to our youth to get away with anything they can, until they are caught.

In the business world, behavior such as this might lead to job termination.

**Janet Mok-Makris Troy**

**Wake up, Detroit**

Sing along, because this has become nothing more than rhymes and story lines. No truth has come from this administration in many years. We are sitting here just waiting for another verse. I can't vote for this mayor living outside "his" city, but I can sure stop spending "my" money downtown. Please, wake up, Detroit.

**Dan Somers Madison Heights**

**LOAD-DATE:** May 20, 2005

**INDEX 118**

May 20, 2005 Friday FINAL EDITION

**SECTION:** C; Pg. 7C

**LENGTH:** 680 words

**HEADLINE:** Thompson makes strong impression in Cards' bullpen

**BYLINE:** Todd Dewey

**BODY:**

Brad Thompson was resting in his hotel room in Omaha, Neb., when he got the call. His manager with Triple-A Memphis summoned him to the hotel restaurant to discuss a dispute over the bill. 'He told me the waitress said I stiffed her on the bill, but I said 'that's not true,' said Thompson, a former Cimarron-Memorial High School standout. 'He said 'I paid for it so you have to pay me, but don't worry about it. You can afford it now. You're going to the big leagues.'

After a sleepless night, the baby-faced 23-year-old right-hander hopped a flight to St. Louis to join the Cardinals on May 5.

Thompson made his major league debut May 8 against San Diego, giving up a run on two hits in three innings to earn a save. He's 0-0 with a 1.29 ERA in four appearances overall.

Relying on a sinker -- his best pitch -- a slider and a change-up, Thompson has given up one run on four hits and a walk in seven innings, with four strikeouts.

'It's pretty exciting. It's a whole new world up here,' he said. 'Everything's better, from all the fans you get to the stadiums, the meals, the hotels.

'It's a great place to be and it's somewhere I'd like to stay for a while.'

Thompson, who was mired in Class A two years ago and was thrilled just to be in Double A last season, acknowledges he didn't expect to reach the big leagues so soon.

'My goal was to hopefully become a September call-up at the end of the year when they expand the rosters,' he said.

'When I got the call to go this early, it came out of nowhere. It was totally unexpected.'

Surprisingly, the 6-foot-1-inch, 195-pounder pitched sparingly in high school.

'I think that was something good for me. It saved my arm quite a bit,' Thompson said.

He went 11-2 his sophomore year at Dixie State College, the only school to offer him a scholarship, and he was a 16th-round draft pick of the Cardinals in 2002.

Thompson made a dominant debut with the Double-A Tennessee Smokies last year, setting a Southern League record with 49 consecutive scoreless innings. His streak was 57 2/3 innings going back to 2003, a modern minor league mark.

'I was lucky last year to even make that Double-A team, and to have that start there put my name on the map,' he said.

Thompson made nine relief appearances, going 2-1 with a 3.29 ERA, for Memphis this season before getting called up.

He made a strong impression with the Cardinals in just his third outing when he escaped a first-and-third, no-out jam in a 7-6 win over the Mets.

He gave up a go-ahead hit, but then caught Jose Reyes stealing second -- after faking a throw to third -- and retired Miguel Cairo and Carlos Beltran to limit the damage.

'That's another check mark in the column for him,' Cardinals manager Tony LaRussa told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

'He was sent into a very scary situation, and he handled it with real composure.

'I've seen veteran pitchers be spooked in that situation, and he was not. That was a big plus for him.'

Bruce Manno, the Cardinals' director of player development, said Thompson has exceeded expectations.

N/R 118

PC-00260

Las Vegas Review-Journal (Nevada) May 20, 2005 Friday

'He's been very effective and he has a chance to be a real good big league pitcher,' Manno said. 'He has a good sinker and he can get ground balls in key situations.'

Fellow reliever Ray King raved about Thompson to mlb.com.

'Brad's got unbelievable stuff, and he's not afraid,' he said. 'He's got a nasty sinker and great change-up. I think he's opened some eyes, and knock on wood, I hope he's here the rest of the year.'

Thompson said he just wants to stay consistent.

'The main thing is I'm throwing my sinker down in the zone and getting ground balls,' he said. 'That pitch has been working for me all the way up and it will be in my arsenal for a long time.'

Ironically, Thompson has tried to model himself after another pitcher from Las Vegas, 300-game winner Greg Maddux.

'He's a guy I've always looked up to, especially being from Vegas,' Thompson said. 'He's a big control guy, changing speeds and making the ball move, and that's what I try to do.'

**LOAD-DATE:** May 23, 2005

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Copyright 2005 MediaNews Group, Inc.  
Pasadena Star-News (Pasadena, CA)

May 20, 2005 Friday

**SECTION:** LARRY WILSON

**LENGTH:** 536 words

**HEADLINE:** Zing go the strings

**BODY:**

YOU WILL catch me out hearing serious classical music these days only slightly less often than you will catch me slamming at the Whisky A Go Go. Not so often on either front, actually, but when I went in the rock direction, let me see ... 39 years ago, I fell pretty hard from grace.

There was a brief time, though, courtesy of the Pasadena schools' fine music program and my mother's desire to broaden the old horizons, when I was fourth chair in the Noyes Elementary and then Eliot Junior High cello section. The best you could say for my playing was that, because it is much harder to make the most richly toned instrument in the world sound actively bad, I was not squeaky, the way I would have been if it were the violin.

Mediocre as I was, I did have a shining moment. Because parents knew parents, I was Pasadena cellist Nathaniel Rosen's first student. At 17, he was already a master student of Piatagorsky at USC, studying with one of the greatest cellists in the world. I don't think Nicky actually told me to just throw in the towel, but I did pretty quickly anyway.

And now he is himself one of the greatest cellists, a traveling soloist playing around the world. When Gretl and Arnie Mulder asked us to come hear him sitting in with the Camerata Pacifica chamber music ensemble at the Huntington Library the other night, of course we said yes.

Go, I tell you, if you ever get the chance go to hear the Camerata. If I perhaps had a notion that chamber music was stately, deadly stuff, it has been dispelled. In the first place, at the Huntington, or in upcoming concerts at Zipper Hall downtown, you're much closer to the action than in a symphony hall. You'll see the sweat fly, the bows' horsehair fray, the way the players tell each other so much with their eyes too fast, too slow, stop making me wince, and, simply, stop!

Of their final piece, Elgar's Piano Quintet in A Minor, Sierra Madre's and KUSC's Jim Svedja quotes Elgar in the program notes as writing, in the awful aftermath of World War I in 1919, "It is strange music, and I like it but it's ghostly stuff."

It was rip-roaringly well- played, and I never once thought of closing my eyes for just a little snooze, which for me is high classical praise.

The Camerata is back in September with violinist Anne Akiko Myers in Santa Barbara, San Marino and at the Zipper. Check it out: [www.cameratapacifica.com](http://www.cameratapacifica.com).

Yes, I still have a cello. If you'd like to hear some Christmas carols, ring me up. For the record: I wouldn't, as you wouldn't for sure, open a recent e-mail whose subject was NUDE PHOTOS OF LARRY WILSON ON E-BAY and so I missed a note from

Dixon Ridgway saying he was actually Pasadena schools singles tennis champ in '71 instead of '72. Given the anti-French hysteria, Vegas hotelier

N/R 119

PC-00262

**Steve Wynn** gave up his cherished dream of naming his new billion-dollar baby *La Reve*. *Instead and what else? it's the Wynn. Love it, babe. Star-News? Old fashioned. Politically incorrect. You are now reading the Wilson.*

*Larry Wilson is editor of the Pasadena Star-News. His column appears Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. Write him at [larry.wilson@sgvn.com](mailto:larry.wilson@sgvn.com).*

**LOAD-DATE:** May 20, 2005

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Copyright 2005 McClatchy Newspapers, Inc.  
Sacramento Bee

May 20, 2005, Friday METRO FINAL EDITION

**SECTION:** SCENE; Pg. E3; IN THE HOT SEAT

**LENGTH:** 540 words

**HEADLINE:** Randi Calabro

**BODY:**

We talk to the people you'll be talking about tomorrow

Randi Calabro, 37, knows when to play 'em. And she's mastered the cards of No-Limit Texas Hold 'em.

The Natomas resident started playing poker only five months ago, but she won her first major tournament, called the Ladies Invitational Poker Series or LIPS, earlier this month at Lake Tahoe. She beat out 112 women, including respected player Kathy Liebert, and took home \$7,283.

She also garnered the chance to win \$1 million next month at the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas.

We talked to her recently about her new game, what she plans to buy with her winnings, and what she brings with her to the table.

Q: Why poker?

A: I learned how to play poker by watching it on TV when it became a huge craze; celebrities were doing it and it was all over the networks. I became intrigued by the whole thing. Then my husband and I went skiing in Tahoe and I thought I'd try it. I was surprised I won a couple hundred (dollars).

Q: Is that when you became hooked?

A: That first time in Tahoe was a lot of fun, especially because I beat all men. But after that, I really didn't play for a while until I realized there were local poker rooms. I stopped at the Lucky Derby Casino and beat two men at the last table and won \$1,900. That's when I realized I loved the rush of it all.

Q: How does it feel to be playing in a male-dominated game?

A: I'm originally from New York, so I'm not very easily intimidated. I have a very strong work ethic and most jobs I've worked at were in a "men's world," so playing poker against men is kind of liberating. I just know what I want and I go and get it.

Q: Now that you've won several thousand dollars and you have a seat in Las Vegas, are you going to quit your day job?

A: For the last two months, I've been unemployed. My husband, Chad, said that poker could be just what is meant to be for me.

Q: What's the first thing you'll buy if you win the \$1 million jackpot in Vegas?

A: I would help my parents out. My parents are from Florida and they still work at their old age. They don't know how to relax. So I'll do anything to make them more comfortable.

Q: Any rituals or lucky items you bring with you to games?

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A: My husband and I have a cocker spaniel named Pebbles. So I have a cocker spaniel Teenie Beanie Baby that I bring with me to games since I can't bring Pebbles. It's become somewhat of my trademark now.

Q: Do you wear sunglasses or have you mastered the "poker face"?

A: I do wear sunglasses now. I never did before because I've been told that I look like a statue when I play. My husband suggested that I should wear sunglasses anyway. I bought these purple Versaces and wore them the entire time at LIPS and never took them off. So, I'll be wearing those from now on.

Q: You take the game seriously, but how do you know when to throw in your cards?

A: I know when to get up when I'm winning. I see when other people are winning but don't set a limit for themselves. Don't continue to play with your mortgage payment. It's important to know when to stop and walk away. It's important to tell yourself, "Hey, you're up - get up and go home."

-Stephanie Jucar Reach her at [sjucar@sacbee.com](mailto:sjucar@sacbee.com)

**GRAPHIC:** Sacramento Bee / Carl Costas Randi Calabro, who took up playing poker just five months ago, won the World Series of Poker's Ladies Invitational Poker Series recently in Lake Tahoe.

**LOAD-DATE:** May 21, 2005

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Springfield News-Leader (Missouri)

May 20, 2005 Friday

**SECTION:** BUSINESS; Pg. 6B

**LENGTH:** 441 words

**HEADLINE:** O&S trucker gets national award, tractor

**BYLINE:** Juliana Goodwin, News-Leader

**BODY:**

Juliana Goodwin, News-Leader

When Jerry Johnson heard the news, he pulled over on the side of the road and cried.

After 4.5 million miles without an accident, the O&S contractor has won the industry's highest honor: Truckload Carriers Association Independent Contractor of the Year for 2004.

"It's the Oscars among truck drivers," said John Fay, director of marketing for International Truck and Engine Corp., which donates a tractor -- this one valued at \$115,000 -- to each recipient.

The big rig was parked outside Springfield-based O&S on Thursday, as employees turned out en masse to celebrate, and Johnson's 4-year-old grandson played in the new truck and peeked out the window.

Under a candy-striped tent nearby, chilled apple cider was poured into plastic champagne glasses.

Drivers, family and friends gabbed and congratulated the 59-year-old. More than 100 people filled their plates from the smorgasbord. With a large knife, Johnson sliced into a cake the size of a small table as people snapped his picture.

"It's been a great day," he said.

Chris Burruss, president of the Truckload Carriers Association in Alexandria, Va., said the award was created 18 years ago to recognize drivers in general, and then to spotlight the best of the best.

"Drivers are key to this industry. Trucks don't drive, goods don't get delivered, people don't eat without them," Burruss said.

The national award goes to a company driver and a contractor each year.

Johnson, a West Plains native, is the first O&S driver to receive the honor. He began driving in 1963, after graduating from high school.

"That's what I always wanted to do," he said. "I like to meet people, talk, visit. It's different every day. There's no clocking in and out."

Johnson has been with O&S for 17 years. He won fourth place in the same division in 2003. He has been accident-free the past 24 years and has a 100 percent on-time rate with no cargo claims on his record.

Johnson learned about the award in March and received the official presentation in Las Vegas. O&S flew 10 family members to Vegas for the ceremony.

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That's when Johnson was presented with a truck, and told he could design and special order one if he preferred.

"They order it any way they want it -- color, tank, transmission, tires," Fay said.

Most order it.

He took possession of the tractor yesterday, and as soon as it passes inspections and gets "road ready," it will be on the highway.

Over the driver's window of Johnson's truck, it reads "The Lord is my Shepherd."

"It's what he's had on all his trucks," wife Patty Johnson said. "It's just a whole lot bigger now."

**GRAPHIC:** Jerry Johnson won the trucking industry's highest honor: Independent Contractor of the Year for 2004. O&s Trucking; Copyright 2005 Springfield News-Leader

**LOAD-DATE:** May 21, 2005

**INDEX 122**

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Copyright 2005 Sun-Sentinel Company  
Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, FL)

May 20, 2005 Friday Broward Metro Edition

**SECTION:** EDITORIAL; Pg. 22A

**LENGTH:** 242 words

**HEADLINE:** LEGISLATORS HOLDING SLOTS RULES HOSTAGE

**BYLINE:** Stan Wertheimer Hollywood

**BODY:**

With respect to the delay in implementing constitutional Amendment No. 4 (Slot Machines): The Florida Supreme Court ruled a year ago that the slot amendment was legal, including that it have "...an effective date no later than July 1st (2005).."

The schools in all of Florida needed additional tax sources yesterday. Our children are waiting for a better education, while the "adults" hold slot implementation hostage. Broward countians who are waiting for better-paying jobs (both full- and part-time) are being held hostage waiting for implementation. Construction jobs, a tourist amenity and the economic effect that gaming produces are all in limbo.

When the tourist or local goes to "Broward's" gaming venues, he or she will enjoy concerts, nightclubs, bars, boxing events, all taxed at 6 percent and not affecting local businesses, as the gaming patron would have been spending that money in Biloxi, the Bahamas, or the two- or three-day junket to Vegas (7.5 percent Nevada tax).

Disney does not want tourists to spend a day or two in Broward. Family tourism is fine, except Six Flags-Atlantis lasted five years, brand-new Parrot Jungle is in the red and the Graves Museum just closed.

Not implementing the slots amendment does not stop locals and tourists from playing slots (it never did), but it does stop additional tourism, jobs, education revenues and more importantly, it has stopped our trust in a democratic voting system.

**TYPE:** LETTER

**LOAD-DATE:** May 20, 2005

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PC-00268

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The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

May 20, 2005 Friday  
Final Edition

**SECTION:** ARTS & LIFE; Pg. D1

**LENGTH:** 159 words

**HEADLINE:** Fresh Sheet

**BYLINE:** Vancouver Sun

**BODY:**

**MOTLEY, INDEED**

Motley Crue is about to sign to do a 40-week gig at the Aladdin/Planet Hollywood casino in Las Vegas.

The boys will get \$10 million US each. A Vegas news paper reports frontman Vince Neil saying the showroom will be rebuilt to accommodate flying motorcycles and to provide water poles for strippers.

**ROCK 'N' ROLL LIFE**

Ron Wood told Guitar World magazine about a Rolling Stones gig 20 years or so ago: "We were doing drugs in the dressing room. Suddenly the tour manager stuck his head around the door and said: 'The police are here!' We all panicked and threw our drugs in the toilet. Then Sting, Andy Summers and Stewart Copeland walked in."

**WRITE IF YOU GET WORK**

Just a couple weeks after saying she would take a career break to be a good mother to her son, Liz Hurley had something amazing happen: Her phone rang, and it was a job offer! So much for maternal duty. She promptly signed to play opposite Lucy Liu in an action comedy, *The Cleaner*.

**GRAPHIC:**

Colour Photo: (Nikki Sixx);

Colour Photo: (Liz Hurley);

Colour Photo: Michel Euler, Associated Press; Mary-Kate (right) and Ashley Olsen arrive Thursday for a charity event in Mougins near Cannes, southern France.

**LOAD-DATE:** May 20, 2005

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PC-00269

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backstage.com

May 19, 2005

**SECTION:** NEWS; Las vegas

**LENGTH:** 1054 words

**HEADLINE:** Performance Anxiety

**SOURCE:** Online

**BODY:**

It's common to read in national publications that Las Vegas is a cultural wasteland. Tell an "outsider" that you're into theatre, and you'll likely hear something like, "They have theatre in Vegas!?"

Myron Martin is hoping to help change that, though his proposed solution is controversial. Some even argue the man is delusional. But as the 47-year-old president of the Las Vegas Performing Arts Center Foundation, he's already pretty close to realizing at least the first part of his vision: a performing arts building located miles away from the Strip on a 61-acre parcel of now-vacant land. He thinks the project will bring a buzz to the local theatre scene, allow first-run touring shows a home, help revitalize downtown, and bring about more opportunities for young actors.

The project has its share of critics. The con argument goes something like this: if Vegas has not supported the performing arts in the past, what makes Martin think it will now suddenly support an approximately \$150,000,000 center, with three big theaters sitting on over-priced real estate in an area of town no one wants to go to?

Martin is aware of the naysayers. And he admits, "Ten years ago, I might have felt the same way. I'm not sure Vegas could have supported this thing. But I think things are different now."

Local officials apparently agree. The state legislature and the Clark County Commission have initiated a 2 percent tax on rental cars for tourists to get the ball rolling. The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation has donated \$50,000,000 -- the largest single philanthropic donation in the history of Nevada, according to Martin. The expectation is that the building will be up and running within four years.

"The problem with Vegas," Martin says, "is that it was a tourist destination that became known as the entertainment capital of the world even though it didn't offer much for the souls of the folks who lived here. It didn't offer the opportunities that people in other communities had available to be enriched and inspired by. When I came here about 12 years ago, I was the executive director of the Liberace Foundation and people used to tease me that the Liberace Museum was the biggest cultural institution in town."

But Martin saw a change. As Vegas' population soared, its appetite for culture increased. He notes that the Las Vegas Philharmonic has seen a doubling in ticket sales. As the former director of the University of Nevada Las Vegas' Performing Arts Center program, he saw audiences filling houses for the likes of "New York" talent Betty Buckley and Linda Eder. He's seen the numbers of local community theatres quadruple and the quality of the work improve.

"We're no longer a culturally small town. Yet, we're the largest community in North America without a performing arts center. We don't even get the first-run touring shows."

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Martin thinks part of the problem may be that too many locals were looking to the casino industry to solve the problem.

"Casino hotels are in business to make a profit. I think we're wrong to think that hotels would be interested in anything that doesn't help them achieve that. People ask me how far do I think this theatre-thing on the Strip will go [writer's note: productions such as "Mamma Mia!" have been big hits, and Martin is co-producing an upcoming open-ended run of "Hairspray" at the Luxor]. I tell them, I can't imagine Shakespeare in the lounge with a two-drink minimum. I can't picture Albee in the Flamingo. I don't think it's the responsibility of the hotel to provide this. It's not their mission. There was talk of 'The Lion King' having a sit-down run in Vegas [prior to Los Angeles], but Disney absolutely would not allow 'The Lion King' to sit down in a casino."

That's why Martin feels that Vegas theater needs to "get away" from the Strip.

He's also been adamant that the PAC not be totally tax-funded.

"Our approach from the very beginning is that this needs to be a public/private partnership. By having community leaders and people who care donate to this, it allows people to buy into what this is; it makes them feel more connected to what we're doing."

What will locals be getting for their money?

A main theatre (Martin is careful not to call it a "concert hall") with about 2500 "stunningly beautiful" seats which would host touring shows for weeks at a time, as well as major local events; a second playhouse, with anywhere from 550 to over 900 seats, which Martin is hoping might serve as a base for the development of pre-Broadway productions (he says some producers have expressed an interest) or a home for local community theatres; a third room with flexible tiered-seating (about 600-max) that might be used for television shows, award events, as well as plays; and a couple of rehearsal halls.

Although Martin envisions the PAC hosting several local community theater groups, the partnerships won't come cheap.

"We have to be realistic. It's prime acreage at the very center of Las Vegas. Our operating costs are not free. Chances are our rents will cost more than what the theaters have been used to. But we are trying to devise a plan that will insure that our arts partners will be getting the best possible rate. This is a difficult conversation to be having right now because we don't have the final numbers."

Martin does think the center will have a major influence on the opportunities available locally not just for audiences but for performers.

"The PAC is not going to be the singular answer to every company's needs. You know the saying, 'A rising tide lifts all boats'? I think we'll create the rising tide which will get people interested in theater in many different ways. Local arts groups will be made stronger. I think the standards will become higher, and it will only be natural that some community theaters will float to the top and be known as the best. This means there will be greater opportunities for young actors to learn."

Although Martin is confident the PAC will be a success, he says he's ready to "regroup, rethink, retool" if things don't workout as planned.

"I'm convinced the model we're following right now is the right one for our community. But any business, especially an artistic one, must be prepared to continually refine and make things better."

**LOAD-DATE:** May 20, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Midland Independent Newspapers plc  
Birmingham Post

May 19, 2005, Thursday

**SECTION:** First Edition; NEWS; Pg. 9

**LENGTH:** 189 words

**HEADLINE:** 'THE RIDDLER' DIES, 72

**BODY:**

Actor Frank Gorshin, the impressionist with 100 faces best known for his Emmy-nominated role as The Riddler on the old Batman television series, has died. He was 72.

Gorshin's wife of 48 years, Christina, was at his side when he died on Tuesday at Providence Saint Joseph Medical Centre in California, his agent and long-time friend, Fred Wostbrock, said today.

'He put up a valiant fight with lung cancer, emphysema and pneumonia,' Mrs Gorshin said in a statement.

Despite dozens of television and movie credits, Gorshin will be forever remembered for his role as The Riddler, Adam West's villainous foil in the question mark-pocked green suit and bowler hat on Batman from 1966-69. 'It really was a catalyst for me,' Gorshin recalled in a 2002 interview. 'I was nobody. I had done some guest shots here and there. But after I did that, I became a headliner in Vegas, so I can't put it down.'

Gorshin earned another Emmy nominations one for a guest shot on Star Trek.

In 2002, Gorshin portrayed George Burns on Broadway in the one-man show Say Goodnight Gracie. He used little make-up and no prosthetics

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PC-00272

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Copyright 2005 The Denver Post  
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The Denver Post

May 19, 2005 Thursday  
FINAL EDITION

**SECTION:** Pg. F-01

**LENGTH:** 683 words

**HEADLINE:** No "Pulp CSI," but Tarantino electrifies season closer

**BYLINE:** Joanne Ostrow Denver Post TV Critic

**BODY:**

Filmmaker Quentin Tarantino directed and conjured the story line for tonight's season finale of "CSI," but don't expect "Kill Bill" or "Pulp Fiction" in miniature.

Tarantino has adapted his quirkiness to the series' conventions.

Fans of the director's off-center works will appreciate this creepy joy ride, laden with emotional close-ups. But it's loyal "CSI" fans who will be most satisfied.

The finale's hallmark is emotional violence. Fearful anticipation of an especially violent installment can be put to rest; claustrophobia is the ruling sensation. Tarantino trades gruesome to work with Grissom (William Petersen) and contents himself with a few explosions.

But the director conveys that unnerving claustrophobia in such a way that viewers will sweat and squirm.

Titled "Grave Danger," the finale starts with scrutiny of a mound of bloody entrails and ends with - no spoilers here - a bizarre, edge-of-your-seat climax that will have viewers feeling antsy.

At two hours (7-9 p.m. on Channel 4), the finale doesn't feel bloated. And while true to the "CSI" style, the episode contains less than the usual amount of zooming inside body parts and traveling alongside micro-molecules. A little of that quick-cut, zoom-to-interior animation goes a long way.

As always, story and character matter more than atmospherics. Tarantino knew and appreciated the "CSI" characters well before undertaking the gig.

Tarantino, a fan of the series, had casually mentioned his interest in directing an episode and was wooed by the producers for months. The deal came together when the filmmaker made an unplanned visit to Las Vegas and met cast and crew.

The result is an extremely tense season-ender in which CSI team member Nick Stokes (George Eads) is kidnapped and buried alive. (Fans of "Kill Bill Vol. 2" know that Tarantino has a way with such scenes.)

The story opens with what seems a stereotypical "CSI" moment: An anonymous 911 caller has reported finding body parts in a Vegas alley. Entrails!

Before the ick-factor can feel either routine or repellant, however, the plot quickly turns to envelop one of CSI's own. Big-jawed Nick (who regular viewers will be surprised to learn is known to his parents as Poncho) is abducted.

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There is a ransom note of sorts, but department policy forbids negotiating with terrorists. Apropos of Vegas, chance figures prominently in the case. A coin toss determines the victim.

Luckily for Nick, he has got a Bob Neuwirth country song in his head that references poker in Vegas. Neuwirth toured with Bob Dylan, wrote songs for

Janis Joplin, and recently served as music director for the "Down From the Mountain" tour inspired by the film, "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" Still, with tonight's CBS exposure he probably will be heard by more people than in his entire musical career.

Meanwhile Grissom and the rest of the CSI team might be able to use the family casino connection of Catherine Willows (Marg Helgenberger) to come up with ransom money.

Computer geeks who understand live webcast terminology will feel at home in the techno-subplot. Myrmecologists (scientists who study ants) also will have a leg up. The rest of us can trust we're in good hands with a wild and wacky storyteller.

Tarantino also is a winking storyteller with time for nuttiness in the midst of a crime thriller.

A bit of stunt casting in the finale probably has as much to do with Tarantino's quirky style as it does with the May sweeps. Even television's No. 1 series feels compelled to resort to cameos for extra ratings effect: Frank Gorshin (who died Tuesday) and Tony Curtis lend a Vegas vibe, and bit of '50s nostalgia in a goofy parenthetical scene. Hanging in a cocktail lounge, they're trading barbs amid the action.

Watching Gorshin do impressions while the clock ticks on efforts to locate Nick, you wonder if Tarantino is laughing behind the camera and at whom.

For the CBS powerhouse that spawned clones set in Miami and New York, this series finale confirms that the intense original is still capable of surprises.

TV critic Joanne Ostrow can be reached at 303-820-1830 or [jostrow@denverpost.com](mailto:jostrow@denverpost.com).

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May 19, 2005 Thursday  
FINAL EDITION

**SECTION:** DENVER & THE WEST; Pg. B-07

**LENGTH:** 773 words

**HEADLINE:** The rules of real estate

**BYLINE:** Susan Barnes-Gelt Denver Post Columnist

**BODY:**

The three rules of smart real estate investment never change. The guiding trilogy is immutable: location, location and location. In other words, attributes relating primarily to location - access, visibility, proximity to population plus prominence in a connected network and flexible entitlements - translate to increased land value.

In today's metropolitan economy, there is no better, sure-thing piece of valuable real estate than a big parcel of land, zoned for intense, mixed-use development located next to a transit station.

Many of Colorado's oldest and biggest fortunes were created by smart real estate investment. As early as 1868, Territorial Gov. John Evans joined Walter Cheesman and David Moffat in buying every other section of land adjacent to the Union Pacific rail spur to Cheyenne. Fortunes have been made from land holdings adjacent to major publicly financed infrastructure.

First it was the railroads, then parks and lakes and mountain views, then major highway intersections, and then airports. Now, it's a \$4.7 billion comprehensive, multimodal transportation system added to the successful southwest transit line and the soon-to-open Southeast Corridor of the T-REX highway and transit expansion. In the first half of the 21st century, transit-advantaged real estate has become metro Denver's hottest investment.

Just like any other smart investment, making money on a big parcel of perfectly located real estate requires more than dumb luck. Patient money, thoughtful planning, deep pockets and visionary ownership play a big role. After all, it's not like playing the slots in Vegas - you don't just get lucky.

It was no surprise, then, when an old Denver family, the Bansbachs, spent some money planning their 50-acre site on the west side of Interstate 25 and Belleview Avenue - the exact spot where the Regional Transportation District envisioned a major transit station. No doubt they wanted to ensure their zoning and entitlements would provide maximum flexibility for development - present and future - and that their master plan allowed for the density and intensity of development that a major transit hub would support.

Smart, sophisticated people with plenty of real estate experience typically hire a land planner, an attorney and a political lobbyist to ensure a good outcome. They might be particularly motivated to do this if they feared political uncertainty due to an impending major turnover in the legislative body with the power to rezone and regulate their property. In fact, the acreage that was owned by the family for decades had been a golf course - not a bad interim use for a future real estate play.

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So the family, wise in the ways of real estate, did just that. They spent \$174,000 for land planning, legal advice and lobbying to benefit their large, transit-advantaged site. They were successful in obtaining the entitlements they wanted: high intensity, transit friendly, mixed-use zoning.

Of course, by adding tens of millions of dollars to the value of their holdings, their real estate taxes went from \$51,000 to \$214,000 a year. On the other hand, the light-rail line will be open next year and the immediate opportunity to develop the southern portion of their property into high-density, high-priced condominiums and apartments appears to be now.

Given this history and apparent enthusiasm for redevelopment, it's hard to understand why the Bansbachs unleashed their hired guns to lobby the Denver City Council to let them add agricultural use to their already valuable, transit-advantaged property, located adjacent to a light-rail station that opens next year. That's right. The lawyers and lobbyist are trying to persuade the City Council that corn or wheat or alfalfa is a good use for the land. Could it be because their annual real estate taxes would shrink to \$4,200?

Confused? There's more:

The Bansbachs' lawyers, in an ongoing condemnation lawsuit with RTD over land needed for the light-rail station, are also trying to persuade the courts that high-intensity zoning and a transit station don't add value. Instead, they insist, the zoning, the transit station and the light rail actually harms the value of their holdings.

That's right. They want taxpayers - via the Regional Transportation District - to compensate them for the costs of planning, lobbying and lawyering for the increased value of their land.

Here's another predictable rule of real estate investing: Pigs get fat; hogs get slaughtered.

Susan Barnes-Gelt (bs13@qwest.net) served eight years on the Denver City Council and was an aide to former Denver Mayor Federico Peña. Her column appears on alternate Thursdays.

**LOAD-DATE:** May 19, 2005

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Copyright 2005 The News and Observer  
The News & Observer (Raleigh, North Carolina)

May 19, 2005 Thursday  
Final Edition

**SECTION:** LIFE; Pg. E1

**LENGTH:** 707 words

**HEADLINE:** 'Morning Train' singer stops here;  
Sheena Easton will star in N.C. Theatre musical

**BYLINE:** Orla Swift, Staff Writer

**BODY:**

Almost a quarter century after Sheena Easton's cheerful "Morning Train (Nine to Five)" commandeered the pop charts, the song still sticks in the brain like cotton candy in a carpet. Or at least N.C. Theatre producer William Jones hopes it does.

Jones has just cast the Scottish songstress as the narrator for its July production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Easton is the latest in a string of household names the theater has nabbed to spice up its marquee, from film star Lou Diamond Phillips to metal rocker Sebastian Bach.

Easton, 46, made her Broadway debut as Dulcinea in the revival of "Man of La Mancha" in 1992, and she also played tough girl Rizzo in the mid-90s revival of "Grease." These days, she's a fixture in Vegas, performing six nights a week at the Aladdin Resort & Casino.

In a phone interview from Vegas, Easton said she has been approached umpteen times to be the "Joseph" narrator, a role well suited to her soprano range. But her schedule has never allowed it until now.

Easton said she's eager to be part of a large cast instead of going solo.

"Even though I'm up there surrounded by musicians, I'm the boss. I'm driving the bus. It's pretty much all me," she said of her solo concerts. "That sounds fabulous if you dive into your little sort of self-centered world. But it can cut out your creativity. You have to go and work outside of yourself, work as a team. I love the concept of being part of a team and feeding off of everybody else's energy. That makes stuff new again."

"Joseph" was the first collaboration between Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, who also co-wrote "Jesus Christ, Superstar" and "Evita." It tells the story of a favored son in Canaan whose jealous brothers cast him out. Joseph gains fame in Egypt for his dream interpretation skills.

Broadway actor Ray Walker, who understudied Donny Osmond as the touring "Joseph," will play the title role. Casey Hushion will direct.

Easton's '80s pop hits also include "For Your Eyes Only," "We've Got Tonight" (with Kenny Rogers) and "The Lover in Me." She also played the wife of Don Johnson's character in television's "Miami Vice." And she is part of PAX TV's "Young Blades."

Children know Easton, too, though they may be unaware of it. She was the voice of the Irish setter Sasha in the animated film "All Dogs Go to Heaven 2" and the television series "All Dogs Go to Heaven," and she has done voices for various characters in Disney's animated "Gargoyles" series.

N/R 128

PC-00277

Jones said Easton's name just popped into his mind one day. He surfed the Web for her performing schedule and saw a window just where he needed one: late June into July. Within hours, he had her booked.

"I was like, 'Ooh! Maybe this is like kismet or something,' " Jones said. "The office erupted when I told them that we'd got her. Everybody started singing, 'My baby takes the morning train.' And now everybody in the office has their Sheena Easton CDs that they brought in from home. It's pretty cool."

###

###

Details

WHAT

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," starring Sheena Easton.

WHEN

July 8-17.

WHERE

Memorial Auditorium, BTI Center, Raleigh.

COST

\$20-\$65.

CONTACT

831-6950, [www.nctheatre.com](http://www.nctheatre.com).

###

###

Gutsy kids needed

N.C. Theatre needs 50 children ages 6 to 12 of all ethnicities to join Sheena Easton on stage in the ensemble of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." To test the youngsters' mettle, the theater has set up an "American Idol"-style open audition at Raleigh's North Hills Mall at 11 a.m. June 4. But fear not: No grumpy Simon Cowell will be among the judges.

The auditions will be in the common area near the movie theater. Sign-ups begin at 10 a.m. and end at noon. There is no charge to audition or watch.

The children's roles are not demanding, so rehearsals will be few, and generally at nights and on weekends beginning June 25. The children must also attend technical rehearsals two days before the show opens.

Children should bring sheet music for a song in their key, a photograph and a performance resume (if applicable). Kids Chorus members don't get a salary but will receive a free T-shirt and two tickets to a "Joseph" performance. Adult auditions for the show are June 3. For details, call 831-6941 or e-mail [cbaxter@nctheatre.com](mailto:cbaxter@nctheatre.com).

**GRAPHIC:** Sheena Easton had hits in the '80s.

**LOAD-DATE:** May 19, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Post-Standard  
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The Post-Standard (Syracuse, New York)

May 19, 2005 Thursday  
FINAL EDITION

**SECTION:** CNY; Pg. E2

**LENGTH:** 258 words

**HEADLINE:** CELEBRATING TREATMENT IN STYLE

**BYLINE:** By James T. Mulder Staff writer

**BODY:**

Nancy St. Onge was in the mood to celebrate earlier this month after completing a year-long experimental breast cancer drug treatment.

So she went to California with her daughter and sister to attend a taping of the Ellen DeGeneres television show. "It was just a good excuse to be together and celebrate that this was over for me," St. Onge said.

The celebration, however, turned out even better than expected.

Her daughter, Ginny St. Onge, of Atlanta, came up with the idea for the trip after obtaining tickets over the Internet. Her sister, Ginger Joyce, is a surgeon who lives near Sacramento, Calif. The two supported St. Onge during her bout with cancer that included a mastectomy, chemotherapy and reconstructive surgery.

Before the May 5 taping, they were told to bring overnight bags packed with swimwear and evening wear. That's because one member of the audience was going to be selected to go on a free, two-night getaway to Las Vegas. When it came time to pick the winner, DeGeneres announced she was sending the entire 190-member audience on four buses. The show aired May 6 on WSTM-TV (Channel 3).

They stayed at Caesars Palace, dined at Wolfgang Puck's Spago restaurant and took in a Celine Dion show. DeGeneres also showered them with gifts, including a \$750 diamond necklace, a digital camera and a printer.

"Being together with two of my biggest support people was going to be exciting, and then for the three of us to be able to go to Vegas was really amazing," St. Onge said.

Contact James T. Mulder at 470-2245 or [jmulder@syracuse.com](mailto:jmulder@syracuse.com)

**LOAD-DATE:** May 20, 2005

N/R 129

PC-00279

**INDEX 130**

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Copyright 2005 The Blade  
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Toledo Blade (Ohio)

May 19, 2005 Thursday  
City Final Edition

**SECTION:** PEACH WEEKENDER; Pg. E6

**LENGTH:** 515 words

**HEADLINE:** Diverse interests keep Cassidy busy

**BYLINE:** DAVID YONKE BLADE STAFF WRITER

**BODY:**

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2005.

David Cassidy said he's never grown tired of singing his bubble-gum hits from the 1970s for a couple of reasons: One, he likes the songs and, two, he doesn't sing them all the time.

The former teenage star of The Partridge Family television show, who will be in concert Saturday in Tiffin, has been keeping busy lately but not just as a nostalgia act.

Cassidy, who turned 55 last month, is heavily into horse racing, hoping one of his thoroughbreds will be ready in the not-too-distant-future to compete in the Kentucky Derby.

"I have been riding horses since I was 9 years old," Cassidy said last week from his South Florida home. "I've been a horse lover my entire life and have been a pretty successful breeder and owner. It really is my passion."

Cassidy also has starred in a number of musicals including Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and Blood Brothers on Broadway and EFX at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

He co-created and produced a Vegas show called The Rat Pack Is Back, which he said he is now getting ready for the stage in London and, he hopes, Broadway.

And Cassidy has continued to write songs and record new material long after mothballing his crushed red velvet Keith Partridge stage outfit while cutting back on his touring and Vegas performances.

"I'm trying to keep a balance," he said. "For nine straight years I was doing eight to 10 shows a week, 50 weeks a year. Believe me, I love the work and I love what I do, but your body gets to a point where the work is so physical, it just wears you down."

He said he's grateful to have been able to work in diverse areas of entertainment, which has kept life interesting for him.

"I've been busy as an actor, writer, director, songwriter, entertainer. ... When I do my own show, every show I do is different. There's no set patter. Every night is like a first night and I never get bored with it. It's not like a lot of recording acts where that's all you've been doing for 35 or 40 years.

"Tom Jones is a great example," Cassidy said. "He's a great entertainer, but he doesn't do anything but that. How many times can you do, 'What's New, Pussycat?' It's a great song, but he's probably sung it half a million times. How he does that, I don't know."

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PC-00280

Cassidy said his role in The Partridge Family, whose debut season of 1970 has just been released on DVD, was a character he played and not a mirror of his offstage self.

While he was singing pop ditties like "I Woke Up in Love This Morning" and "I Think I Love You," his favorite music of the era included Jimi Hendrix, whom he saw perform in concert five times, Eric Clapton and Cream, B.B. King, and Marvin Gaye.

"Keith Partridge was very different from me. I was an actor. I read the lines, talked the talk, and sang the songs that were designed for the character. My own musical tastes had nothing to do with it," Cassidy said.

David Cassidy will be in concert at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Ritz Theatre, 30 South Washington St., Tiffin. Tickets are \$29 to \$69 from the box office, 419-448-8544.

Contact David Yonke at:

[dyonke@theblade.com](mailto:dyonke@theblade.com)

or 419-724-6154.

**GRAPHIC:** Cassidy

**LOAD-DATE:** May 26, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Western Morning News  
Western Morning News (Plymouth)

May 19, 2005

**SECTION:** Features; General; Columnist; Pg. 18

**LENGTH:** 393 words

**HEADLINE:** Home movies show the wonder of Elvis

**BODY:**

The Presley women - wife Priscilla and only child Lisa Marie - worked hard to make this a moving and uplifting tribute to the King - but nothing could hide the fact that Elvis's death at the age of just 42 was such a waste. For the first time ever, we saw home movies of Elvis and his family and pictures from their photo albums. And what we saw was an extremely handsome, athletic, funny, romantic and charming young man.

It's hard from the perspective of nearly three decades since his death in 1977, to remember just how big Elvis was. It's also hard to remember, when our last memories were of this bloated caricature in a rhinestone suit, what a god he was.

This documentary, which had a lot of co-operation from the Presley family which carefully guards The King's image, was extremely well made. It interwove personal footage with archive film and throughout the programme his music punctuated the commentary and interviews in an accurate way.

For example, when Priscilla is talking to her sister about the intimate fan mail Elvis received, we had him performing Suspicious Minds - "We can't go on together, with suspicious minds" - immediately followed by news of their divorce.

And Priscilla talks of the time when, after their divorce, Elvis dedicates a song to her at one of his Vegas shows: "I guess I'll never know the reason why/You love me like you do/That's the wonder... The wonder of you." But clever documentaries can come and go and what is at the heart of Elvis by the Presleys is the pictures of Elvis - at home, on the beach, with his extended family, playing sports, goofing around and so much in love with his two girls.

Life at Graceland was unique. There was no sense of time. People got up when they wanted, went to bed when they wanted and partied when they wanted to. Wherever he went, Elvis was followed by his pals, nicknamed the Memphis Mob. As he was carrying his new bride over the threshold "they were coming in the back door," laughs Priscilla, but you get the feeling the lack of privacy was part of the reason behind their break-up.

Lisa Marie may have been only nine when he died, but her memories of her dad are crystal clear as a parent and as a performer: "He was my dad. He was electrifying." It was a carefully controlled but nonetheless really moving peep into Presley life.

**LOAD-DATE:** May 20, 2005

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PC-00282

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Copyright 2005 Albuquerque Journal  
Albuquerque Journal (New Mexico)

May 18, 2005 Wednesday

**SECTION:** FINAL; Pg. D1

**LENGTH:** 591 words

**HEADLINE:** 'Topes End Homestand With Win

**BYLINE:** Randy Harrison Journal Staff Writer

**BODY:**

Albuquerque KO's Teen Pitching Phenom in 2nd

To four batters, he was a man among boys. To four more, a boy among men.

In sum, reviews were mixed after the much-ballyhooed appearance Tuesday of Tacoma teen-age pitching phenom Felix Hernandez at Isotopes Park.

"My impression? I'd heard about this guy's fastball and I never saw it. I saw more offspeed than fastballs," said Albuquerque manager Dean Treanor.

His Isotopes struck for five second-inning runs to defeat Hernandez and the Rainiers 5-2 before 5,791 in attendance.

Another opinion: "He might have had the best stuff we'll see all year," said 'topes outfielder Mike Colangelo, who singled in the decisive second -- on a slider.

Left-hander Matt Blank (3-3) worked five scoreless innings as the Isotopes finished the four-game steakhouse sweep -- the team gets a steak dinner in reward -- and beat the player some publications call baseball's best pitching prospect.

Blank is mainly a reliever, but lately a spot starter since Ariel Prieto went on the disabled list. Blank allowed five hits and got 11 outs on grounders.

"I've always been a guy who can come in in short situations or start and give you five, six innings," Blank said.

Added Treanor, "I can't tell you just how valuable that is. For him to go out and do that today shows that value."

Meanwhile, Hernandez (5-3), a 19-year-old from Venezuela who signed as a free agent when he was 16, came in with a 2.30 ERA and a 26-8 career record as a professional.

To begin, the right-hander struck out Mark Little, Joe Dillon and Matt Padgett on three pitches each. That's the top three 'topes regulars by batting average. And Derek Wathan's topper to second came on a 96 mph fastball.

But Hernandez was gone after five batters in the second. Josh Willingham's and Colangelo's singles preceded a walk. Then Drew Niles' grounder up the middle took a sharp detour skyward at Hernandez's left ankle. It drove in the first 'topes run.

After a trainer inspected Hernandez's ankle, Tacoma manager Dan Rohn pulled Hernandez from the game, though his hurler walked off the field without an apparent struggle.

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PC-00283

Tacoma reliever Chris Buglovsky let all three inherited runners score and gave up Wathan's two-run double to center to make it 5-0.

There wasn't much Isotopes offense thereafter. Dillon's 12-game hitting streak ended as did the team's 12-game streak of at least one homer.

But four relievers held Tacoma at bay, except for solo homers by Jose Lopez in the seventh and ninth innings.

Lopez, a regular in Seattle the last two months of 2004, is on a rehab assignment from a hand injury.

Albuquerque finished the homestand 7-5. At 21-19, it is two games over .500 for the first time since May 1.

"We've got momentum on our side," said Colangelo. "I think our hitters are starting to take better approaches, like against Hernandez today. Drew had a great at-bat. The last seven or eight games, our hitters are starting to come through."

NOTES: Tuesday was a getaway game, but not the team you'd think was getting away. Tacoma couldn't find satisfactory flight accommodations in the evening to Nashville, so the Rainiers stayed another night.

As many as 10 Isotopes, meanwhile, hopped a Tuesday night flight to Las Vegas because, well, it's Vegas. The team plays a four-game set there beginning Thursday.

... The Isotopes are 8-0 all-time against Tacoma at Isotopes Park. The two teams don't play again this year.

... The Isotopes return home May 27 against Omaha.

Tuesday

Albuquerque 5

Tacoma 2

Up next

Thursday: Albuquerque at Las Vegas, 8:05 p.m. Radio: KNML-AM (610)

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: Color BLANK: Pitches five scoreless innings

LOAD-DATE: May 19, 2005

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The Associated Press

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Associated Press

May 18, 2005, Wednesday, BC cycle

**SECTION:** State and Regional

**LENGTH:** 446 words

**HEADLINE:** D.C. officials to promote new retail

**BYLINE:** By DERRILL HOLLY, Associated Press Writer

**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

**BODY:**

After six years of pitching national retailers on the profit potential of the nation's capital, city officials said Wednesday the message is getting through. They also expressed confidence that new names will be appearing on marquees in shopping areas once blighted by riots and decades of economic decline.

"In 2004, more than 70 retailers opened doors or signed leases in D.C.," said District of Columbia Mayor Anthony A. Williams. Since taking office in 1999, Williams has spent at least two days a year manning an exhibit booth or hosting receptions at a Las Vegas convention, solely to tout D.C. as a viable location for big name retail.

Target, Bed Bath and Beyond, Home Depot, H&M, Whole Foods Market, Costco, Trader Joe's and Best Buy are among the retailers who have committed to opening outlets in the district as a result of the marketing efforts at the International Council of Shopping Centers trade show.

"There's room in the city for big boxes, and I support them," said Williams. Over a 60 hour span beginning Sunday, Williams and other city leaders will have 57 meetings in Vegas with retailers, brokers and developers.

"The suburbs are largely overbuilt in many communities, so they (retailers) are looking inward to the inner-city now," said Michael Stevens, chief executive officer of the Washington, D.C. Marketing Center. There are about 249,000 households within the 61 square-mile city.

The average annual household income of district residents is \$74,221, compared to a median income of \$73,732 for the national-capital region. Sales tax revenues in the city rose from \$617 million in fiscal year 2001 to \$828 million in 2004. Officials project a 16 percent increase this fiscal year as retail sales top \$6.5 billion.

Officials are aggressively promoting new retail along Barracks Row, H Street, 14th and U streets, and in Adams Morgan - shopping districts which suffered as the city's population declined in the 1970s and 1980s. While parking in many neighborhoods remains a problem, many of the district's underutilized commercial corridors are convenient to the Metrorail system. Some of the neighborhoods also have been designated as "enterprise zones" qualifying for local and federal redevelopment assistance.

N/R 133

PC-00285

The Associated Press May 18, 2005, Wednesday, BC cycle

The city wants to make those neighborhoods more than just thoroughfares to pass through, but places where people can not only live but shop, said Stanley Jackson, deputy mayor for planning and economic development.

On the Net:

D.C. Marketing Center: <http://www.dcmarketingcenter.org>

D.C. Government: <http://www.dc.gov>

International Council Shopping Centers: <http://www.icsc.org/>

**LOAD-DATE:** May 19, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Midland Independent Newspapers plc  
Birmingham Evening Mail

May 18, 2005, Wednesday

**SECTION:** First Edition; **FEATURES:** Pg. 19

**LENGTH:** 380 words

**HEADLINE:** TV MAIL: CLOSE TO THE KING

**BYLINE:** BY GRAHAM YOUNG MAIL TV EDITOR

**BODY:**

ELVIS by the Presleys (Central, 9pm) is a one-off documentary special about the King, as told by those who knew him best.

He was born on January 8, 1935, in Tupelo and moved to Memphis with his parents in 1948. In 1954, That's All Right was his first single for Sun Records and he then started recording for RCA in 1956, receiving his first gold record for Heartbreak Hotel.

From being the leading force of rock and roll during the 50s to starring in 31 films and becoming an icon still capable of topping the charts nearly three decades after his death on August 16, 1977, Elvis has done it all.

He's the only star to have been inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll, Country and Gospel halls of fame and his latest impersonator won this year's Stars in Their Eyes final, too.

But every artist needs people around them and this fascinating hour-long special looks at his life and times through the eyes of Priscilla Beaulieu Presley and Lisa Marie Presley.

There's also some previously unseen footage from the Presleys' family home movies and pictures from their photo album, all dressed up with some legendary archive performances.

Priscilla and Lisa Marie talk intimately about their life with one of the world's most famous men - from the moment they first met, through the highs and lows of living with a husband and father who was The King of Rock 'n' Roll. Lisa Marie, Elvis's only daughter, says: 'He was my dad, he was electrifying.'

'But there was no time. No one lived on time. We got up when we wanted to, went to bed when we wanted to, partied when we wanted to and went to Vegas on the spur of the moment.'

And Priscilla, who will be on Friday Night with Jonathan Ross (Friday, BBC1, 10.35pm), recalls how she told Elvis their marriage was over.

'This was the moment I feared,' she recalls.

'I said 'I have something to tell you'. I just remember him sitting there in disbelief.

'I don't think he believed what I was saying. The first thing he said was, 'Is it someone else?'

The documentary also features interviews with Elvis's first cousin, Patsy Presley Geranen, and Priscilla's parents, Ann and Paul Beaulieu.

I 101 Best Kept Hollywood Secrets (Channel 5, 11.20pm) features the moment Elvis met President Richard Nixon

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PC-00287

LOAD-DATE: May 19, 2005

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CABLEFAX DAILY

May 18, 2005

**SECTION:** Vol. 16, No. 96

**LENGTH:** 237 words

**HEADLINE:** Programming

**BODY:**

NBA teamed with Spike TV to present an original six-episode series "NBA Rookies," premiering June 10, 9 pm ET. -- HDnet will televise the 3rd annual Visual Effects Society Awards tomorrow, 9 pm ET. -- MTV will repurpose broadcast sib UPN's "Britney and Kevin: Chaotic" beginning May 26, 10pm and continuing Thurs nights through June 23. -- Great American Country secured exclusive rights to broadcast encore presentations of the 40th Academy of Country Music Awards that aired live from Vegas last night on CBS. GAC will run the 1st encore presentation June 7, 8pm, with additional dates in Sept and Oct. -- Fuel TV signed a 3-yr deal with the Assoc of Surfing Professionals for exclusive US and select intl rights to carry the Men's World Tour and Women's ASP World Championship Tour. -- Black Family Channel has "A Conversation with Dr Bill Cosby", Mon, 9pm ET. -- Court TV's "Catherine Crier Live" (5pm) is devoting its entire slate this week to discussion of the controversy surrounding the judicial nominations by the president. -- HDNet carries the Visual Effects Society Awards tomorrow night @ 9ET. -- Oxygen renewed for 2 seasons "Oprah After the Show" and "The Ellen DeGeneres Show;" new will be talker "The Tyra Banks Show" (fall) and "Mo'Nique's Fat Chance," starring the large but lovely actress as she looks for other full-figured beauties (summer '05).

**LOAD-DATE:** May 18, 2005

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PC-00289

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Copyright 2005 Madison Newspapers, Inc.  
The Capital Times (Madison, Wisconsin)

May 18, 2005 Wednesday  
ALL EDITION

**SECTION:** FRONT; THE TALK; Pg. 2A

**LENGTH:** 757 words

**HEADLINE:** MASSEY HAS TWO CDS UPCOMING

**BYLINE:** Doug Moe

**BODY:**

TUESDAY MORNING, local keyboardist Mike Massey chuckled and said, "Don't call me venerable."

The thing is, the 46-year-old Massey, an East High grad, has playing music in Madison for more than 25 years now. He was a member of some highly regarded local bands like Chaser and Boys in White. The former was flown to New York City by Atlantic Records to cut a demo and the latter played on "Star Search."

While in the end the brass ring eluded them, Massey kept playing music, and he now has two new CDs on the radar. One, a solo effort titled "Be Careful How You Say Pianist," will be launched with a release party June 3 at The Slipper Club. The other is a pop collaboration with some of his former band mates that is due in August.

In a profession where personal and professional burnout is all too common, Massey has endured - though it was close. There was a time when Massey had a perpetual thirst, but he managed to quit the brandy before it gutted him.

"Twelve years in October," Massey was saying Tuesday of his sobriety. He has a lot to be sober for - especially his wife, Robin Valley-Massey, and their two daughters, 9-year-old Emily, and Anna, who is 6.

It was when Emily was a toddler that Massey, enjoying his role as stay-at-home dad, wrote the songs that comprise "Be Careful How You Say Pianist." This was 1997-98 and Massey recorded them at home, mixed them at Randy Green's recording studio in Cottage Grove, and put them on a back burner until this past Christmas, when he played the songs for friends whose opinions he respected and they encouraged him to release them. "They had really held up," Massey said.

The Slipper Club launch starts at 6:30 p.m. June 3 and you can learn more about Massey and his music at [www.mikemassey.biz](http://www.mikemassey.biz). ...

\*

MADISON SCULPTOR Rose Van Vranken celebrated her 88th birthday over the weekend and did it in style by touring some art museums in Chicago with her daughter - and by placing two new sculptures in prominent exhibits.

Van Vranken, whose art career began in 1929 when as a 12-year-old she did a bust of Charles Lindbergh, recently completed busts of former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and acclaimed author Alexander Solzhenitsyn. The Solzhenitsyn, she told me Monday, is headed for the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas in Austin. The center, which recently acquired the papers of Norman Mailer, is known for its literary holdings.

N/R 136

PC-00290

The Capital Times (Madison, Wisconsin) May 18, 2005 Wednesday

Van Vranken, who is married to retired UW surgeon Robert Hickey, did the Albright bust for the national office of the American Association of University Women in Washington, D.C. Van Vranken, who was raised in Southern California, has had her work exhibited throughout the world. ...

Madison's Ben Sidran did the soundtrack for the acclaimed documentary "Hoop Dreams," brought out this week on DVD by the esteemed Criterion Collection. Sidran is a friend of one of the producers, Peter Gilbert, and pulled off the daunting challenge of scoring a three-hour documentary by creating a mix of hip-hop and jazz that reflects the alternating tempo of the movie itself. The DVD contains commentary by the director, producers and the young men featured chasing their basketball dream, but there is no real "update" on what has happened to those young men, Arthur Agee and William Gates, since the movie was released in 1994. The reason for that is intriguing. Both the New York Times and Chicago Tribune have reported that when the filmmakers caught up with Agee and Gates, they decided any short update would be unsatisfactory, and are now embarked on a full-length follow-up documentary. ...

The return of the venerable - I like the word, I don't care what Mike Massey says - Jonathan W. Little to the Madison radio airwaves comes Thursday with the first installment of "Lunch With Little," a new hourlong feature on "timeless rock" station 93.1 The Lake. The daily show will allow Little to tell backstage stories from his long career in radio and music promotion - along with playing the music that generated those stories. ...

\*

**MOE KNOWS:** Former Capital Times staff writer Joe Schoenmann won a prestigious gold medal from the City and Regional Magazine Association for his Las Vegas Life profile of Rick Soranno, an infamous "escort service" operator in Vegas. The profile ran in the October 2004 issue of the magazine and opened with this lead: "The Devil has a Polaroid of God in his closet." By coincidence, Schoenmann's magazine hosted the convention this year and he received his award at a ceremony Monday night in Las Vegas.

**NOTES:** Heard something Moe should know? Call 252-6446, write PO Box 8060, Madison, WI 53708, or e-mail dmoe@madison.com.

**GRAPHIC:** Mike Massey

**LOAD-DATE:** May 19, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Daily News, L.P.  
Daily News (New York)

May 18, 2005 Wednesday  
SPORTS FINAL EDITION

**SECTION:** TELEVISION; Pg. 82

**LENGTH:** 334 words

**HEADLINE:** BRITNEY'S 'CHAOTIC' STINKER

**BYLINE:** BY AMY DiLUNA DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

**BODY:**

Can you handle Britney's truth?

That's what Spears wants to know, in the opening sequence of "Britney and Kevin: Chaotic," the home-video reality series - shot by the pop princess and her now-husband, backup dancer Kevin Federline - that made its debut last night on UPN.

The answer? We'd rather not.

Britney and Kevin's truth is a little nauseating, you see, what with America's Sweethearts whipping the camera about and zooming it up their own noses.

Perhaps the first half of Episode One was meant to show how boring Brit's life was before K-Fed arrived. Things had to heat up, right?

Wrong. In the time it took me to scarf a bag of Cheetos, in homage to the couples' favorite snack food, I had already given this clunker an orange-stained thumbs down.

The show opened with footage Britney shot while still single, having recently recovered from an annulled marriage in Vegas. Brit's camera work dragged on for what seemed like ages, documenting such banalities as the ceiling of her bus and conversations with her idiotic entourage about their favorite sex positions. (At least when Madonna made "Truth or Dare," it was kind of sexy.)

The thing is, we can handle Britney's truth. We just don't want to. In the middle of her short-lived Onyx Hotel tour (and 30 minutes into the show), Britney met backup dancer Kevin. If this project - which would have benefited from the MTV treatment - was meant to paint the happy couple in an endearing light, it, like, totally didn't work, y'all. Britney and her surly future husband appeared to be dumber than we ever imagined.

After knowing each other for only five or six days, they traveled together from Los Angeles to London. In a hotel there, she dropped such ladylike bombs as "Let's don't go, let's just [expletive] all day" to Kevin; "I'm quick. I'm wham, bam, thank-you ma'am" to her assistant, and "I've had sex three times today" to her makeup artist.

Then came footage of Kevin in the shower. Lucky guy. We were just left feeling dirty.

adiluna@nydailynews.com

**GRAPHIC:** UPN Britney, up close.

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PC-00292

LOAD-DATE: May 18, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Detroit Free Press  
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Detroit Free Press

May 18, 2005 Wednesday 2 EDITION

**LENGTH:** 881 words

**HEADLINE:** Kilpatrick says gloves are off and race is on;  
He pays Detroit for \$9,000 he charged on city credit card

**BYLINE:** BY M.L. ELRICK, JIM SCHAEFER and MARISOL BELLO; FREE PRESS STAFF WRITERS

**BODY:**

Battered by news reports about his use of a city-issued credit card and a series of scandals that have clouded his political future, a defiant Kwame Kilpatrick said Tuesday he would fight the media and his critics to win a second term as mayor of Detroit.

Kilpatrick would not discuss a check for nearly \$9,000 he wrote to the city Tuesday in the wake of a Free Press story about expenses his administration deleted from credit card records. The newspaper obtained the documents after a two-year wait and a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit.

Instead, in front of hundreds of supporters, Kilpatrick wiped away tears as his parents defended his performance over the past 3 1/2 years during a rally announcing the mayor's re-election bid.

His father, Bernard Kilpatrick, likened the unfounded rumor that his son held a wild party at the city-owned Manoogian Mansion in 2002 to the Nazis' blaming of the Jews for Germany's problems.

"They had a big lie in Europe. A guy by the name of Goering said that the Jews was responsible for all the misery that the Germans was having. One lie! And that lie caught on," he said. "And before it was all over, 6 million of them died. Off of one big lie."

Hermann Goering was a Nazi politician.

The mayor's mother, U.S. Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, D-Detroit, urged Detroiters to rally around her son.

"Don't lay down, stand up. Don't be quiet, speak up," she said. "Don't let too many people talk about y'all's boy."

The mayor, standing on a dais surrounded by rows of tasteful new brick-and-siding homes on the city's near west side, took a few moments to compose himself and said: "I ain't cried since I was 10 years old."

But his tone quickly changed.

"We're not stopping this progress because somebody said something about me," he said, referring to media reports about his administration's conduct. "We're not stopping this progress because the news media are fixated on Kwame Kilpatrick."

The mayor blamed cuts in federal and state aid for contributing to a budget crisis that threatens to force the city into receivership. He said he also inherited a city with a police department in chaos.

In an apparent shot at former Mayor Dennis Archer, who is expected to endorse Kilpatrick rival and his former deputy Freman Hendrix later this month, Kilpatrick said: "Nothing was done over the past 8 years to correct that situation. Nothing was done. I'm not being defensive. But the gloves are off now."

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Archer served as mayor from 1994 to 2002.

"It's time for some offense," said Kilpatrick, a former college football player. The crowd cheered. "As an offensive tackle, I can't wait to hit someone."

Among his accomplishments he listed improving fire department apparatus, getting grass cut in city parks and resurfacing 350 miles of city roads.

Still, talk of the mayor's use of the city's MasterCard dominated the airwaves Tuesday. And City Council members said they are frustrated by the administration.

Last week, the council voted unanimously to discontinue all unnecessary travel and use of city-issued credit cards. The move was aimed directly at Kilpatrick, the only Detroit official with a city credit card.

Auditor General Joseph Harris said Tuesday that given all the missing receipts and questionable charges on the card, the mayor might have to reimburse the city for about \$50,000. Harris said the mayor shouldn't have to pay back those trips that were a part of legitimate city business.

"He's the top dog and nobody is going to challenge him," Harris said. "But he has to be accountable."

Earlier Tuesday, Kilpatrick reimbursed the city for some expenses he put on his city credit card during his first 33 months in office, keeping a promise from a day earlier.

In a news release, the mayor said he cut a check for \$8,978.41, but did not specify what expenses the reimbursement covered.

The amount he paid back did not cover the \$11,644.84 put on the city's credit card for hotel expenses during the 2002 Super Bowl in New Orleans.

Chief of Staff Christine Beatty had told the Free Press the city is contesting charges for at least two rooms that she said were billed in error. She said they were occupied by people she did not know.

The Free Press reported Tuesday that Kilpatrick's administration withheld information about certain expenses when it released city credit card records to the newspaper.

The newspaper obtained unedited versions of the same documents from Harris.

Among the documents Kilpatrick withheld from the newspaper were a receipt showing the city paid for his family baby-sitter's stay in a Las Vegas hotel, nearly \$4,000 in chauffeur service over four days in Washington, D.C., an \$836 New Orleans hotel charge for his sister, Ayanna Kilpatrick, and a \$5,450-a-night luxury suite in a Vegas hotel, where Kilpatrick put up his family.

Kilpatrick reimbursed some of those charges on April 12, the day the city agreed to release credit card records to the newspaper.

The city argued that omissions are legal under the Freedom of Information Act because the charges were either reimbursed or disputed. Free Press lawyers contend the omissions are not proper.

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**LOAD-DATE:** May 18, 2005

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SHOW: THE O'REILLY FACTOR 8:37 PM EST

May 18, 2005 Wednesday

**TRANSCRIPT:** 051805cb.256

**SECTION:** NEWS; Domestic

**LENGTH:** 1638 words

**HEADLINE:** Does "Star Wars" Have Political Message?

**BYLINE:** Bill O'Reilly

**GUESTS:** Belinda Luscombe, Richard Roeper

**BODY:**

O'REILLY: Thanks for staying with us. I'm Bill O'Reilly.

In the second "Impact Segment" tonight, the sixth, "Star Wars" movie, "Revenge of the Sith," opens this evening. Here's my mini review: brilliant special effects, terrible acting, good action, decent plot, only one woman in the whole film. Lots of wookies and clones and other tinmen. I predict the film will break all box office records. It will be a phenomenon.

Writer, director, George Lucas, is a genius, no question about that. But he's also a Marin County liberal who sprinkles in some dopey political stuff. But in my opinion, it was so insignificant, I hardly even noticed.

But our pal, Michael Medved, who's traveling today, was offended by some of that political stuff. He saw it as anti-Bush. But unless the president was wearing a dark side helmet, I missed it.

Joining us now from Chicago, film critic Richard Roeper, and here in the studio, Belinda Luscombe, an arts editor for TIME magazine.

Belinda, we begin with you. Am I going wrong here on my assessment of this movie?

BELINDA LUSCOMBE, ARTS EDITOR, TIME MAGAZINE: No, I think you're about right. I don't know if the acting is that bad. The dialogue is pretty good, but it's not his strong suit, Lucas.

O'REILLY: Yes. I mean, with all due respect to Natalie Portman, they needed a few more extra takes with her.

But I was just mesmerized by the whole thing. Now, I did see some political nonsense with the evil senator trying to overthrow the democracy and impose the Third Reich, you know. Everybody would have seen that, correct?

LUSCOMBE: Yes. I don't know if it's political nonsense, but certainly, that's George Lucas' point of view.

O'REILLY: The reason I say it's political nonsense is because it was so heavy handed.

LUSCOMBE: Well, this is an epic, you know, and it's a movie. And you know, we don't do subtlety in movies so well anymore.

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O'REILLY: Now when I saw it, Belinda, there were 400 guys and three women in the theater. OK? It's a guy thing, is it not?

LUSCOMBE: It's a guy thing. There are plenty of women like me who saw Princess Leia in the early days as sort of a figure to emulate.

O'REILLY: Yes.

LUSCOMBE: And in some ways, Amidala is, too. And there are a few females...

O'REILLY: Did you like it?

LUSCOMBE: I did like the movie, yes. I'm a fan.

O'REILLY: All right. Would you recommend it to women to go to see it?

LUSCOMBE: Sure.

O'REILLY: Because there's only one woman in the movie. I want to make it...

LUSCOMBE: There's some female Jedis. You just can't really tell.

O'REILLY: You can't really tell?

LUSCOMBE: Yes.

O'REILLY: You see, Belinda, here's my attitude. If I can't tell it's a woman, it doesn't count.

All right, Richard, you gave it, what, a thumbs up? You and Ebert are thumbing this thing up there? Is that what you're doing?

RICHARD ROEPER, MOVIE CRITIC: We're not just thumbing it. Yes, we did give it two thumbs up, though. You're killing me here with this one woman thing. There was also only one woman in that line of nerds outside the theater for the last three weeks waiting to see this movie.

O'REILLY: That's true. It's a guy thing. It's a guy thing.

ROEPER: It's a boy thing. It's a teenage boy thing. I mean, teenage boys are the ones who made the first "Star Wars" film the huge worldwide phenomenon that it became. And it's really -- they're the ones who are at work here.

It's a good film. I would agree with everything you're saying. Something interesting about George Lucas as a director. You know how some directors get great performances out of mediocre actors? He gets mediocrity out of good actors.

O'REILLY: Right.

ROEPER: Natalie Portman's a good actor.

O'REILLY: I think everybody knows that he doesn't care what they do. He just wants to get back in the editing room and do this amazing technical stuff.

ROEPER: Yes.

O'REILLY: And I've never quite seen anything as good, technically, as that movie. And you've got to go see it in the theater. You can't see it at home.

ROEPER: The special effects are cutting edge.

O'REILLY: Stunning.

ROEPER: And in fact, so much of it is animated that there's talk that this film could actually be eligible for a best -- Academy Award of Best Animated Film, because more than half of it is computer generated, animated stuff, which is seamless.

O'REILLY: Now, Richard, you know -- you know Michael Medved. He's a smart guy. I mean, he gets a little out there sometimes, politically. But he told The New York Post that, you know, there was this anti-Bush stuff in there. Did you see any of it?

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ROEPER: Well, Michael Medved is a smart guy. I think he'd find anti- Bush stuff in "Shrek 2," if he looked.

O'REILLY: There was. Didn't you -- didn't you see "Shred 2." She had -- he had a T-shirt. Didn't you see that? That said, "I like Kerry." You didn't see that? I saw it.

ROEPER: You know, I'm with you. I found this movie -- and you know, there's always been boring, over the top, heavy handed political stuff in the "Star Wars" movies. It's always been the boring stuff.

"Phantom Menace" in 1999, you know, that had political stuff in it. I think it's a real stretch to say -- you know, George Lucas wrote this movie, the entire arc of the six movie series, he wrote this in the early '70s. So if he was writing about George Bush, he was writing about George Bush the National Guardsman.

O'REILLY: Yes, but as you know, you can update material.

ROEPER: Yes.

O'REILLY: Come on. He doesn't like Bush. I ran into him, Belinda, in Vegas. I was outside Caesar's Palace.

LUSCOMBE: He's shorter than you think, right? Yes.

O'REILLY: And he came out and he -- I met him before, and I tell you, if he had one of those little Jedi swords, he would have cut my heart out. All right?

ROEPER: I think we know where he stands politically.

O'REILLY: As I said, I mean, the evil senator wants to take the republic and turn it into the Third Reich, but who cares when you've got these great neat spaceships all over the place?

ROEPER: But Bill, you just described it. If he's the evil senator working from within, and really it's a large civil war that's in place here, what does that have to do with George Bush as the president of the United States and his policies? If George Lucas wanted to make a commentary on that, he wanted to slip in something, I think he would have drawn a straighter line.

LUSCOMBE: I think he did slip in something. I think clearly, it's not necessarily anti-Bush; it's anti-totalitarian, which a lot of people say is the same thing.

O'REILLY: Especially at TIME magazine, where you work, right, Belinda?

All right.

LUSCOMBE: When they -- when he gets his face -- when Palpatine gets his face all damaged and they're -- they hand over complete control to him.

O'REILLY: Right.

LUSCOMBE: Padme says, "And this is the sound of democracy dying." This is how democracy dies to the sound of thunderous applause.

O'REILLY: Right.

LUSCOMBE: And you can tell that that is something that -- it doesn't advance the plot in a way most dialogue will.

O'REILLY: You're always going to get that from Lucas. But look, if he wants to -- if he wants to say that, that's fine. I don't care.

Richard, do you agree with me that this is going to be the highest grossing film of all time?

ROEPER: All time? I don't know, Bill. I don't know if it's going to hit "Titanic" numbers. That was a movie that just weekend after weekend kept doing it. It's going to have a huge opening. It's going to make \$100 million over the next five days. But will it sustain itself?

O'REILLY: You know why? The stoned slackers are going to see this 10 times.

LUSCOMBE: No, I think...

O'REILLY: No, they are. Anybody on any kind of substance, they're going to run into this thing 15 times.

ROEPER: What are you trying to tell us?

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LUSCOMBE: To beat "Titanic," you've got to get the girls in.

O'REILLY: You've got to what?

LUSCOMBE: That's -- you've got to get the girls in.

O'REILLY: No, I know.

LUSCOMBE: To go back to a movie 15 times.

O'REILLY: Here's my calculation. I think the stoned slackers are going to go see it 10 times each. Because this thing is so amazing with the colors and everything's flying around.

And I don't know if the girls are going to go see this. What do you think, Richard? Think the ladies are going to go see it?

ROEPER: You know, I think a lot of girls like video games and they do like action films, not as much as the boys. But no, I think that's going to be the reason why it's going to be a top 10 of all time, but not No. 1. Because you're not going to get the girls who went to see "Titanic" five and six times.

O'REILLY: Yes. All my ladies working here who are working for us are going, no, they're not going.

LUSCOMBE: The problem with the stoned slackers here, of course, is that they've got to find \$100 to go see a movie 10 times.

O'REILLY: Trust me, the stoned slackers, they may be -- and their leisure time, but a lot of these guys are whizzes at what they do. They've got money. They wouldn't be stoned all the time if they didn't have money, Belinda. Come on. They need money to get stoned.

LUSCOMBE: You've got to take it out of the cache (ph). Yes, I know.

O'REILLY: I'll tell you, you've got to -- you know, watching these people on the lines there, oh, boy.

All right. So thumbs up from you. You liked it, Belinda?

LUSCOMBE: Absolutely. I liked it.

O'REILLY: Richard liked it. Ebert, did he like it? Did he stay awake through the whole thing?

ROEPER: Yes, he stayed awake through the whole thing.

O'REILLY: All right.

ROEPER: And I'm going to tell him you said that, too.

O'REILLY: Yes, well, he's getting old. You tell him I said that, too.

ROEPER: I will.

O'REILLY: Belinda, thank you, Richard. And once again, I liked the movie. I thought it was very entertaining. And I'm not a "Star Wars" fan. I can't tell a wookie from a libertarian. I have no idea.

Coming next, ABC News investigates Jesus. Wow! Shouldn't we give the guy a break after all these years? Coming up.

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Copyright 2005 McClatchy Newspapers, Inc.  
Fresno Bee (California)

May 18, 2005, Wednesday FINAL EDITION

**SECTION:** LOCAL NEWS; Pg. B1

**LENGTH:** 477 words

**HEADLINE:** Flooded Yosemite roadways reopen

**BYLINE:** Diana Marcum The Fresno Bee

**DATELINE:** YOSEMITE

**BODY:**

Waters receded from roads in Yosemite Valley on Tuesday, opening routes for people to get in and see swollen rivers and creeks, and ephemeral waterfalls billowing down every open piece of granite.

"It's just glorious. The perfect day to be out and about," said Yosemite spokeswoman Adrienne Freeman.

Campers who had been trapped inside the valley by the floodwaters were free to leave, although many stayed. Traffic backed up periodically at the entrances as others flocked in.

"People hear 'high water' and they know that translates into more spectacular waterfalls. We're really busy," Freeman said.

The Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau in Oakhurst was decidedly less busy than on Monday when it was packed with frustrated tourists unable to get into Yosemite Valley, the most popular destination in the park.

On Monday, 600 people came through the center. On a busy summer day the center usually draws about 150 visitors, said Executive Director Dan Carter.

"While it may have been overwhelming at times, we feel really good today," Carter said. "We had people asking 'How far to Vegas?' 'How long a drive to Monterey?' They were debating whether they should stay a day and take a chance on the park opening up. We were able to give them options of things to do in the area, and today they got into the park. We didn't see a great exodus of visitors."

Unstable weather had kept visitor numbers to Yosemite low in previous months. But last weekend, when the sun came out and warm temperatures hit, the park had about 15,000 visitors, the highest number of the year so far.

The warm weekend was followed by rain showers. The perfect combination of a high river, a deep snowpack, warm sun, then showers led to flooding, closing roads in and out Monday.

The Merced River was expected to peak at 13 feet Monday night. But it rose to 11.6 feet by 1 p.m and held steady. By 4 a.m. Tuesday it had dropped to 10.1 feet, just an inch above flood level. Roads opened at 7 a.m. Damage was minimal and mostly at the North Pine and Housekeeping campgrounds.

Flooding is common in springtime as snow melts and rivers overflow. But this year the river is higher than normal and the snowpack is deeper. Anyone planning on visiting Yosemite should call (209) 372-0200 or visit [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose) for the latest weather and road conditions.

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This week, weather forecasts for Yosemite are balmy rising to warm. Rangers, hoping for a tragedy-free upcoming weekend, are warning about the dark side of spectacular waterways and summerlike temperatures.

"The river can look really tempting, especially when the sun is hot," said Freeman. "Every year we lose at least one life in the river. And this year the river is really cold and it's really fast and people need to be especially careful."

The reporter can be reached at (559) 441-6375 or [dmarcum@fresnobee.com](mailto:dmarcum@fresnobee.com).

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The Hollywood Reporter

May 18, 2005 Wednesday

**LENGTH:** 572 words

**SOURCE:** Online

**BODY:**

Par pushes on with 'Chappelle' DVD plans

The third season of Comedy Central's hit "Chappelle's Show" might be postponed indefinitely, but Paramount Home Entertainment is proceeding with plans to release the complete second season on DVD on Tuesday -- a week before Season 3 was supposed to debut on TV. Initially, "Chappelle's Show Season Two: Uncensored" had been slated for release in February. The buzz around comedian Dave Chappelle's supposed flight to South Africa to check into a mental-health clinic -- reported by Entertainment Weekly but subsequently denied by Chappelle -- could spur DVD sales of Season 2 to record highs, industry observers say.

'Labyrinth' winds way to Warner Bros.

Warner Bros. Pictures International has acquired distribution rights for Spain and Latin American to Guillermo del Toro's "Pan's Labyrinth," scheduled to begin production in the summer for a 2006 theatrical release, Warners said Tuesday. The Spanish-language horror drama will be produced by Telecinco via its production arm Estudios Picasso, headed by Alvaro Augustin, and new Spanish company OMM, formed by Alfonso Cuaron, del Toro and Frida Torresblanco. Set to star are Sergi Lopez and Maribel Verdu in a story that takes place during Spain's Franco era. The deal reunites the studio with Cuaron, who directed "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban."

It's Vegas, baby, for Greenberg Traurig

The law firm Greenberg Traurig has made a significant foray into the Las Vegas market by incorporating Nevada's largest intellectual property and entertainment law firm, Quirk & Tratos. The move establishes a new office for Greenberg Traurig in Las Vegas with a core group of 13 attorneys. The attorneys have developed a national presence in the area of art law as well as representing such casinos as Wynn Resorts and MGM Mirage.

'Rookies' take it to rim on Spike

Spike TV on Tuesday unveiled details of its upcoming original documentary series with NBA Entertainment titled "NBA Rookies," which focuses on the behind-the-scenes world of various first-year professional basketball players. The six-episode series, which premieres at 9 p.m. June 10 before moving to its regular slot at 11 p.m. Mondays, features Emeka Okafor (Charlotte Bobcats), Dwight Howard (Orlando Magic), Andre Iguodala (Philadelphia 76ers), Jameer Nelson (Orlando Magic), J.R. Smith (New Orleans Hornets) and Devin Harris (Dallas Mavericks). Scott Fishman serves as executive in charge of production for Spike, while Larry Weitzman of NBAE serves as supervising producer and Dion Cocoros serves as producer.

'Chaotic' run gets second life on MTV

MTV said Tuesday that it will air the second run of sister network UPN's new series "Britney and Kevin: Chaotic" at 10 p.m. Thursdays starting May 26. The show, which debuted Tuesday night on UPN, features private home videos of Britney Spears and husband Kevin Federline shot during their courtship, engagement and wedding along with new footage and commentary. MTV and UPN are owned by Viacom. ... Separately, MTV announced a new pro-social

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initiative called think MTV, designed to "inform and empower young people to take action on issues including education, discrimination, the environment, sexual health and global concerns." The initiative will include longform specials, MTV News reports, PSAs and other special programming as well as a special section at MTV.com dedicated to those issues.

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Copyright 2005 DR Partners d/b Las Vegas Review-Journal  
Las Vegas Review-Journal (Nevada)

May 18, 2005 Wednesday FINAL EDITION

**SECTION:** A; Pg. 1A

**LENGTH:** 749 words

**HEADLINE:** Wilson, Chesney big winners at Country Music Awards

**BYLINE:** Doug Elfman

**BODY:**

It wouldn't have been a country music show if someone didn't thank both Jesus and Coors Light in the same breath or two. So, thank God for Rascal Flatts singer Gary LeVox. He squeezed both icons into his acceptance speech for Top Vocal Group at the Academy of Country Music Awards on Tuesday.

Actually, Rascal Flatts' award was announced as Top Vocal 'Gropo' by Rob Schneider, the comedic actor of 'The Hot Chick.' Fans might have been hoping instead to see Oscar-winning actress Renee Zellweger pop up to applaud newlywed Kenny Chesney when he won Entertainer of the Year. She didn't show; Schneider did.

But the event -- a return gig at Mandalay Bay and broadcast at night on CBS-TV -- was a smooth ride with even more country star power than in years past.

And what a difference a year made for Gretchen Wilson. At 2004's show, she sang late in the evening as a debut artist, and the smoothified country fans then seemed puzzled by her great and jumpy performance of the honky tonk hit 'Redneck Woman,' which goes, 'Victoria's Secret, well their stuff's real nice, but I can buy the same damn thing on a Wal-Mart shelf, half-price.'

This year, she sang at the top of the show, earned a standing ovation and won Top Female Vocalist and Top New Artist.

'I never expected this in one short year,' Wilson said, plucking tears from her eyes.

Wilson sang 'Here For The Party.' 'The boys say I clean up good,' it goes. That's for sure. She appeared slimmer and slicker.

Later on, her music-making buddies Big & Rich, who are normally honky tonk gregarious, performed 'Big Time' not in country grunge but in black ties and tuxedos. The song itself sounded pretty enough to have been a sort of impersonation of an old John Denver sweetness.

The half-surprise of the night had to do with black-hatted Tim McGraw. He's become one of country's hugest stars. He did win Single of the Year and Song of the Year for 'Live Like You Were Dying.' But he lost Entertainer of the Year to sex symbol Chesney. And he lost Top Male Vocalist and Album of the Year to sex symbol Keith Urban.

Urban wasn't in Vegas to celebrate. The Australian singer accepted the award via satellite from a tour stop in Belfast. He pointed to his T-shirt. It read, 'Thank God.'

Speaking of more Godliness, McGraw drew huge applause for singing 'Drugs or Jesus.' That song contains this sentence: 'I've tried to hide from the stained glass windows in my mind.' No, really, it does.

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Performances -- by Brooks and Dunn and more than a dozen other acts during the three-hour show -- went off without a hitch, but no one rose to the powerfully heartfelt level of last year's highlight, Loretta Lynn. The closest anyone got to that was Lee Ann Womack.

Womack purred, 'I may hate myself in the mornin', but I'm gonna love you tonight.' Her new disc, 'There's More Where That Came From,' may be the nicest mainstream country CD of the past year. Also, her big hair had more curves in it than Dolly Parton.

Daryl Worley introduced Womack to the stage with lust in his heart: 'She's hotter than Cindy Crawford in a cedar-wood sauna.'

Toby Keith's performance was also good. He wasn't in the arena. He did his singing in a pre-recorded video made in front of U.S. troops at war. He played acoustic guitar and, instead of doing one of his mean songs, sang a great novelty that went, 'Girls, I'm not as good as I once was ... but there was a time back in my prime, I could really lay it down.' Hate may course through Keith's stupid veins, but that was a damn good performance.

There were lots of other little mentionables. Faith Hill performed at the show for the first time in five years. Garth Brooks, the retiree, turned up to announce a Pioneer Award to the memory of 'cowboy-poet' Chris LeDoux, who died this year.

'I've missed you, too,' Brooks said after accepting a half-minute standing ovation from the crowd of 7,435.

Humor was hard to come by. With no host this year (probably a good thing), one of the few good lines came from a songwriter who joked that McGraw signed his right hand and Hill kissed his left cheek, so 'I'm auctioning myself on eBay.'

Otherwise, there was one ridiculous lyric. That award could have gone to Brad Paisley, who sang his single, 'Alcohol.' Alcohol is the protagonist of the song and it claims responsibility for 'helpin' white people dance.' I have a feeling that line would have been funnier coming from Chris Rock. He wasn't there. Is that too obvious to mention?

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NBC News Transcripts

SHOW: Today 7:00 AM EST NBC

May 18, 2005 Wednesday

LENGTH: 1067 words

HEADLINE: Andy Richter discusses role in new movie, "Madagascar"

ANCHORS: MATT LAUER

BODY:

MATT LAUER, co-host:

Comedian Andy Richter continues to lengthen his list of film credits since leaving NBC's "Late Night with Conan O'Brien." This time, he's going out on a limb, playing a hairball named Mort the Lemur that used as bait in the animated feature, "Madagascar."

(Clip of "Madagascar")

LAUER: Now that's acting.

Mr. ANDY RICHTER ("Madagascar"): Yes.

LAUER: Andy Richter, good morning. Nice to see you.

Mr. RICHTER: Hi, yes. I'm usually crying at work so they just kind of ran the tape.

LAUER: I just love the fact that you get to be the cutest character in the whole movie.

Mr. RICHTER: I--yeah. That doesn't happen very often. When I worked with the Olsen twins, it didn't work out that way.

LAUER: When they called you from Dreamworks and said, 'We want you to be a tiny lemur,' did--did they explain anything about the casting thought that went into this?

Mr. RICHTER: No. And I--and I have thought like, I wonder why they picked me to be--to be this? But I--I didn't ask. I don't want to know because I'm afraid it will be--I'll find out that it was a mistake.

LAUER: Yeah, and they'll take your voice out of this thing?

Mr. RICHTER: You know, yeah, that they really, you know, wanted, I don't know, Andy Dick or something.

LAUER: Yeah. Did you know what a lemur was, by the way?

Mr. RICHTER: I did, actually.

LAUER: You did?

Mr. RICHTER: I actually had one sit on my shoulder once when--upstairs at--at the Conan show because we had--and it looked just like that. It was--we had a, you know, one of those animal segments.

LAUER: Right.

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Mr. RICHTER: We had a zoo guy on and--and a lemur escaped and was--was hopping all over the set.

LAUER: And hopped on your head.

Mr. RICHTER: It was up in the lights, you know.

LAUER: Trivia factoid. What Hollywood star woman has a lemur living in her closet? Come on.

Mr. RICHTER: It's got to be somebody crazy. I--I don't know.

LAUER: Show the tape right there. Who has it? Kirstie Alley. Lemur--literally, a lemur living in her walk-in closet.

Mr. RICHTER: Why?

LAUER: I have no idea. I have no idea. I was there. I still don't know. But I just wanted to know if you knew that.

Mr. RICHTER: I don't think I was wrong.

LAUER: All right. Tell--tell me about doing the voice for this character. Did you manipulate your voice, because I sat in the screening and I wasn't sure it was you.

Mr. RICHTER: No. It just--it--it--you know, it's--my wife and my friends and I are always constantly making silly voices, especially now having a kid, you know, make crazy voices. And it was just easy, you know. It's just, hello, you know, it's very high. And the accent. They--I think they asked me for an accent, and you know, which is crazy to get Sasha Baron Cohen, Ali, who is also known as Ali G...

LAUER: Right.

Mr. RICHTER: ...plays the king of the lemurs. He has a completely different accent than mine. And then Cedric the Entertainer plays another lemur and he has no other accent other than Cedric the Entertainer's normal accent, so.

LAUER: Right, exactly. None of these fit together in the puzzle.

Mr. RICHTER: Yes. Madagascar is an island known for its, you know, its very different dialects.

LAUER: You mention kids. I mean, a lot of the actors we've talked about--talked to who have been a part of this movie or other animated movies have said to us that they wanted to do it because it has the chance for having staying power.

Mr. RICHTER: Uh-huh.

LAUER: That it--it--this movie, animated films in particular, might be around in 20 years. They become the "Bambi" or the "Dumbo" of our generation.

Mr. RICHTER: Yeah, right.

LAUER: Did that go into your thought process?

Mr. RICHTER: Well, that's just gravy. I mean, I'll do anything I'm asked to do, pretty much, so you know, yeah, I mean...

LAUER: Yeah. You'll work for--you'll work for food.

Mr. RICHTER: Yeah. I mean, well, you--when they say, 'Do you want to be a part of a gigantic Dreamworks animated movie,' you know, 'OK.' And I--so all of that stuff actually comes later. And my kid, Mort is his favorite character, which I think...

LAUER: Not because his dad does the voice.

Mr. RICHTER: No. He's com--completely nonplussed by everything that I do. He could care less about everything I do. But he just loves Mort. And I don't know if he's really made the connection.

LAUER: But no, as I said, it is the cutest.

Mr. RICHTER: Yeah.

LAUER: And I'm not being--it is the cutest of the characters in the movie.

Mr. RICHTER: Yeah.

LAUER: And--and clearly marketing-wise, you know, you're going to see a lot of these around. You...

Mr. RICHTER: I know. Sequel. Sequel, baby!

LAUER: Yeah, yeah. You want that paycheck.

Mr. RICHTER: Yeah.

LAUER: You just hit the five-year mark, basically away from Conan's show, right?

Mr. RICHTER: Uh-huh.

LAUER: When you left the show, I'm sure you had kind of a five or 10-year plan. Are you in your career right now where--where you'd hoped to be?

Mr. RICHTER: I'd like a two-week plan.

LAUER: Yeah.

Mr. RICHTER: Well, I really--I would have hoped to have been--you know, I live in Los Angeles now, I'm working in television with sitco--you know, doing sitcoms and I--I would have hoped to have had something that would have been on for more than a couple of seasons, which I have...

LAUER: But you know the odds of that and how hard it can be.

Mr. RICHTER: I know, yeah. So I'm still--you know, I have a new pilot coming out. The show I did last year, "Quintuplets," is not coming back, and so I'm doing a pilot for ABC. So it's just, you know...

LAUER: But no regrets?

Mr. RICHTER: No, oh no, none whatsoever because it's--I have a very short attention span and seven years was a long time to do something. And I actually do kind of thrive on the constant change. You know, five years of one thing would be pretty sweet.

LAUER: Yeah, right.

Mr. RICHTER: But you know, I--I don't mind doing different stuff.

LAUER: Syndication is sweet, too.

Mr. RICHTER: Yeah, yeah. Oh, boy.

LAUER: Andy Richter. You play Mort, or at least your voice plays Mort...

Mr. RICHTER: Yeah.

LAUER: ...in "Madagascar." Good to have you here.

Mr. RICHTER: Thanks. Good to see you.

LAUER: Fun playing poker with you in Vegas, too.

Mr. RICHTER: Oh, thank you.

LAUER: And "Madagascar" hits theaters on May 27th.

And up next on TODAY, good weather gadgets that will keep forever young, or people who are in the forever young crowd forever outdoors. Then later, cheap chic. Trendy summer fashions that will not bust your budget. But first, these messages.

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The New York Post

May 18, 2005 Wednesday

**SECTION:** All Editions; Pg. 71

**LENGTH:** 418 words

**HEADLINE:** WBC SPITS BIT ON REF PROBE

**BYLINE:** George Willis

**BODY:**

THE WBC has backed off its threat to form a committee to investigate the performance of referee Tony Weeks in the dramatic fight between Diego Corrales and Jose Luis Castillo on May 7 in Las Vegas.

Gary Shaw, Corrales' promoter, yesterday said he spoke with the World Boxing Council and was told the outcome of the fight will stand. "I had a meeting with them and they are not going to form a committee or go any further," Shaw said during a luncheon in Manhattan, sponsored by Showtime to honor Corrales.

Corrales won the WBC and WBO lightweight titles with a sensational 10th round knockout over Castillo after being downed twice himself in the same round. A few days later, citing, "many protests from most of the press in Mexico and Latin America, as well as the Federal Boxing Commission," the WBC said it was forming a committee to investigate Weeks.

A replay of the 10th round viewed by The Post showed that an estimated 35 seconds passed between the second knockdown and the time the fight was resumed. During that span, Weeks administered a nine-count, deducted a point from Corrales for spitting out the mouthpiece and pulled Corrales to his corner to get the mouthpiece rinsed and reinserted. Another 35 seconds later, Corrales knocked Castillo senseless on the ropes.

Shaw insisted there was no violation of the current rules, but said he would favor the creation of harsher penalties for fighters who spit out their mouthpieces to buy extra time during knockdowns, a tactic that is sure to increase. As the rules stand, it's up to the referee's discretion whether to deduct a point.

"I think spitting out a mouthpiece should be an automatic two-point deduction," Shaw said. "And I believe that [referees] don't have to put water on a mouthpieces. The reason why they put water on the mouthpiece is that we used to put resin on the mat. We don't use resin anymore.

"Another change could be when the referee starts a fight, he could have extra mouthpieces in his pocket," Shaw added. There are a lot of things they could do. I'm not opposed to that. But Diego Corrales didn't break the rules."

Meanwhile, the New Jersey-based Shaw enjoyed a memorable two weeks in Vegas. A week after Corrales beat Castillo, another one of his fighters, Winky Wright, defeated Felix "Tito" Trinidad.

"To have one fight that will go down in history as a legendary fight and another fight where my fighter beat a legend is remarkable," Shaw said. "As a promoter, I'll never have a finer two weeks in my life."

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Philadelphia Daily News

May 18, 2005 Wednesday 4STAR EDITION

**SECTION:** FEATURES; Pg. 35

**LENGTH:** 573 words

**HEADLINE:** Dan Gross / Brenner to wed Babilonia

**BODY:**

CONGRATS to West Philly native funnyman **David Brenner**, who got engaged Friday to Olympic figure skater **Tai Babilonia**.

The couple have been dating for a year and a half, since they met while Brenner dined in L.A. with comedian **Richard Lewis**.

Brenner popped the question in New York, though he'd already given her a ring, with a 1 1/2-carat diamond, from the 1920s.

As for wedding plans, Brenner jokes, "We wanted to marry in Baghdad, but there's so much noise and aggression there right now that we're going to wait."

Brenner, 69, lives in Las Vegas, where he performs at the Hilton.

Babilonia, 44, lives in L.A. and still skates, but also designs jewelry. She's written books, one with skating partner **Randy Gardner**.

Brenner's son **Cole**, 21, is about to graduate from the University of the Arts. Pop says Cole plans to move to Vegas to live with the comedian and his other sons, **Slade**, who is 10 today, and **Wyatt**, who'll turn 7 later this month.

**Pimpin' ain't easy**

Reformed pimp extraordinaire **Bishop Don "Magic" Juansounded** as though he was trying to recruit women to his stable on a recent afternoon in Old City. He'd have better luck trying there on a Friday night.

Magic stood outside the Snow White Diner (2nd & Market) while his friend rapper **Daz Dillinger** was getting takeout inside.

Subject of a 1994 biography called "From Pimp Stick to Pulpit - It's Magic," he was decked out in a lime-green suit with gold rings and glasses, and told every woman who walked by he could make her a star. He had no takers.

A passer-by stopped and chatted up the former flesh peddler, who gave him some sage advice: "Follow Jesus, young player, and everything else will fall into place."

**Book beat**

Temple professor **Allen Hornblum's** new book, "Confessions of a Second Story Man: **Junior Kripplebauer** and the K&A Gang," was plugged in the new Playboy. See? People really do read it for the articles.

The book, from Temple University Press, isn't due out until early June, but Hornblum says copies are in the hands of Hollywood hitters such as **Vince Vaughn**, **Ed Norton** and **Tobey Maguire**. He hopes film rights are optioned.

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PC-00310

Former Daily NewsCyberia columnist **Ed Weiner's** new humor book, "You Are So20th Century..." is out now from Probasco Haus Press. Weiner co-owns the publishing company with his wife, **Virginia Restemeyer**. The book is available at probascohauspress.com.

Fuzz to be dunked at fund-raiser

Busty babes and cops alike will sit above a dunk tank Saturday at a benefit for the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #5 at Finnigan's Wake (3rd & Spring Garden).

Sitting squarely in the latter category is Inspector **Bill Colarulo**, who's among police brass who have volunteered for the "Dunk Your Boss" portion of the fund-raiser. The block party runs from 3 to 7 p.m. and features several bands, food and beer.

A few years back Q102's **Diego Ramos** was nearly arrested by Philly cops for an on-air stunt. He'll be out Saturday for the cause along with fellow host **Chio**.

Must be 21 to attend. Tix are \$20 in advance at the FOP Lodge (1336 Spring Garden) or by calling 215-629-3600. \$25 at the door.

Money raised goes to the FOP's Survivor's Fund, which benefits the families of fallen officers.

If you have something you'd like to share with Dan, call 215-854-5963, or e-mail [grossd@phillynews](mailto:grossd@phillynews)

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Philadelphia Daily News

May 18, 2005, Wednesday

**SECTION:** SPORTS

**KR-ACC-NO:** K6883

**LENGTH:** 918 words

**HEADLINE:** Hopkins disappointed but not shocked by Trinidad's defeat

**BYLINE:** By Bernard Fernandez

**BODY:**

PHILADELPHIA \_ From the comfort of his Newark, Del., estate, Bernard "The Executioner" Hopkins watched impassively as millions of dollars flew out the window like an escaped parakeet.

The undisputed middleweight champion says that, from an economic standpoint, he couldn't help but be disappointed that Felix "Tito" Trinidad (42-2, 35 KOs) was so thoroughly dominated in Saturday's HBO Pay-Per-View matchup with Winky Wright (49-3, 25 KOs) at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. But he was hardly shocked.

"Tito is a dead man," Hopkins said of the potential eight-figure payday he lost, probably forever, when the scorecards \_ Wright won 34 of 36 rounds on the judges' tallies \_ were read. "Nobody's going to pay big bucks to see me do to Trinidad what Winky already did to him.

"What else can Trinidad do now but retire? His balance is gone. It seemed like he could barely stand up. He's got the herky-jerkies.

"It does nothing for my legacy now to beat up Trinidad again. Tito, Papa Trinidad (Don Felix, manager and trainer) and (promoter) Don King didn't do their homework. Winky Wright has always been a spoiler, and he's hungry. For years, he's been screwed over, just like Vernon Forrest was. This was his big chance. He wasn't about to blow it."

So, does Wright slide onto Hopkins' dance card in place of Trinidad?

"Probably not," said Hopkins, 40, who has vowed to retire by his 41st birthday, Jan. 15. "I'd rather not fight Winky. There's no money there.

"Oh, I might make \$4 million or \$5 million for fighting Winky. But if I had fought Trinidad again, I might have gotten \$15 million after asking for \$20 million."

"So I guess I'm down to two fights now."

Hopkins first will meet Jermain Taylor (23-0, 17 KOs) on July 16 in Las Vegas. Then he said he would like to "call it quits" by fighting the winner of the June 18 light-heavyweight rematch between Glen Johnson (42-9-2, 28 KOs) and Antonio Tarver (22-3, 18 KOs).

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PC-00312

Philadelphia Daily News May 18, 2005, Wednesday

Hopkins (46-2-1, 32 KOs) says Team Trinidad made a mistake by not proceeding to an immediate rematch with him following his Sept. 29, 2001, 12th-round stoppage of the Puerto Rican superstar. They compounded that error upon Trinidad's return from retirement by taking bouts with Ricardo Mayorga, which he won, and Wright.

"I softened up Trinidad real good for Winky or anybody else that can box a little bit," Hopkins said. "I opened the floodgates. It's like when guys started standing up to Mike Tyson. The intimidation factor was gone. Same thing here. Nobody's scared of Trinidad now."

#### YOU MAKE THE CALL:

Like those maddening "sweeps" periods during which all the good television shows seemingly are scheduled at the same time, local fight fans must make a choice tonight.

#### Blue Horizon? Or The Lagoon?

Each card has its selling points. ESPN2 returns to the Blue Horizon for the first time since Sept. 21, 2001, and its marquee bouts feature an aging standout who is a bit on the slide, and a rising attraction seeking to break through to the next level.

The 10-round main event pits 37-year-old former WBC featherweight champion Kevin Kelley (55-6-2, 37 KOs) against Jose Reyes (17-1, 6 KOs), which follows a 10-round lead-in of heavyweights Eddie Chambers (22-0, 13 KOs) and Ross Puritty (30-18-3, 27 KOs).

It will be the national television debut for Chambers, 23, the Pittsburgh native who moved to the Philadelphia area a couple of years ago to further his ring career.

"If I beat somebody like Puritty, who's been around, I can become a player in the heavyweight division," Chambers reasoned.

Kelley, the "Flushing Flash," figures he still has more flash than flush and is eager to prove his detractors wrong.

"People think that, because I do some TV commentating, I am or should be retired," said Kelley, who is campaigning at junior lightweight. "But I'm still a fighter, and a good one."

The Lagoon's eight-round main event features junior middleweight Anthony "The Messenger" Thompson (17-1, 13 KOs), the North Philadelphian who chose this gig, against Jerome Ellis (3-2-1, 3 KOs), instead of an undercard slot on the May 7 Diego Corrales-Jose Luis Castillo card at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas.

Also appearing at The Lagoon is highly regarded heavyweight prospect Chazz Witherspoon (4-0, 3 KOs), who takes on Cornell Bradbury (1-5-1, 1 KO) in a four-rounder.

"I'd always rather fight at home," said Thompson, who finally has broken into the world ratings, at No. 15 by the WBA. "I've had most of my fights in Vegas. I'm a little homesick. I'm kind of Vegased out right now."

#### 'THE HATCHET' CUTS OUT:

You would have gotten long odds on Charles "The Hatchet" Brewer ever becoming a world champion after he lost twice to Robert Thomas in 1991.

But Brewer persevered, captured the IBF super middleweight title in 1997 and defended it three times before being dethroned by Sven Ottke. The North Philadelphia native has been world-rated by at least one sanctioning body almost continuously since then.

But Brewer (40-11, 28 KOs) could see the handwriting on the wall after he recently went to Denmark and was stopped in 10 rounds by Lolenga Mack. A computer programmer who is better positioned than most for life after boxing, Brewer, 35, has announced his retirement from the ring to enjoy his family, which includes Charles Jr., 10, Jasmine, 6, and now baby son Mekhi, 2 months.

Best of luck to a class act.

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**JOURNAL-CODE:** PD

**LOAD-DATE:** May 18, 2005

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Reno Gazette-Journal (Nevada)

May 18, 2005 Wednesday Final Edition

**SECTION:** SPORTS; Pg. 1B

**LENGTH:** 915 words

**HEADLINE:** South dominates state

**BYLINE:** Dan Hinxman, dhinxman@rgj.com

**BODY:**

#### 4A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Las Vegas area schools take top three positions

By Dan Hinxman

Fallon High's Scott Smith finished his round of golf at the NIAA Class 4A state tournament two groups ahead of Green Valley's Adam Tebbs, the only player still on the course who had a shot at beating his posted two-round score of 5-over-par 249 (78-71).

He chose to hang out at the scorer's tent and chat with teammates instead of watching Tebbs finish. So when Tebbs, who shot a first-round best 74 in 40-mph winds Monday, came in, Smith asked him what he shot.

"Seventy-four," Tebbs said, and the two shook hands and congratulated each other.

Tebbs sank a 4-foot par putt on the 18th hole, a putt he knew he needed to avoid a playoff, at Red Hawk's Lakes Course on Tuesday to beat Smith by one stroke, taking the individual title and helping the Gators take a runaway team victory.

"I'm a little disappointed," said Smith, who averaged a team-best 71.4 this season. "I had it to 3 under after 14. I've got some work to do on closing out a round."

Smith, who finished bogey-bogey, and Tebbs, who bogeyed 16 and 17, will likely battle again. Both are juniors.

In fact, Tebbs is one of five non-seniors on Green Valley's six-man roster, so it isn't a stretch to think the Gators will contend for another title next year. Their second-round total of 368 (scores of 70, 73, 74, 74 and 77) helped them pull away from Palo Verde and win by 28 strokes, 776-804.

The two teams were separated by just four strokes (408-412) after Monday's round.

"I'm excited for the kids," said Green Valley coach Greg Murphy, whose team tied for the seventh-best score in state tournament history. "They're a great bunch. They have a team-first attitude, and it took the whole team to get it done."

Bonanza finished one stroke back of Palo Verde, giving Las Vegas-area schools the top three spots in this six-team event. It was also the sixth straight state title for a Las Vegas-area school. The two Northern 4A qualifiers, region champion Fallon and runner-up Reno, finished fifth and fourth respectively at 839 and 820.

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PC-00315

Tatsuro Oshimoto of Sierra Vista finished third at 151 (76-75), beating Bishop Manogue's Luke Scott (77-74) in the third scorecard tiebreaker. They were still tied after the first tiebreaker (score over the final nine holes) and the second (six holes). Over the final three holes, Oshimoto carded a 13 to Scott's 15.

Three players finished tied for fifth at 152, with Coronado's Chris Baden (80-72) getting the nod on the tiebreaker. Bonanza's Aaron Slonim (78-74) and Reno's Jared Becher (77-75) tied for sixth.

Team scores improved by an average of nearly 33 strokes Tuesday because the weather was mild (highs in the upper 60s, winds around 10 mph). Murphy said he had never seen high school golfers play in such horrendous conditions as they experienced Monday, which also featured the occasional cloudburst.

And that made Tebbs' round Monday even more impressive. He wasn't all that thrilled with his 74 on Tuesday, but a 74 on Monday was outstanding and gave him a two-shot lead over Oshimoto.

"I was 3 over after three," said Tebbs, the Sunrise Region champion a year ago, referring to Tuesday's round, which included an eagle on the par-5 10th. "I just had to grind it out."

Tebbs, who said he was able to relax a bit when he was told that the Gators had the team title wrapped up while he was waiting to hit his tee shot on 17, said he asked Murphy on the 18th tee what he needed to win the individual title.

"Some people don't want to know," he said. "I wanted to know."

Told he needed par, he put his tee shot in the fairway, his second shot from 156 yards onto the green, and then two-putted from about 45 feet.

Reno needed a near miracle to catch Green Valley after Monday's round. The Huskies were in fourth place at 422, 14 strokes behind.

"I'm proud of our kids' comeback today," said Reno coach Shane Foster, whose team improved 24 strokes. "They put up some good numbers."

"Those Vegas schools are really solid. To be competitive, you have to have five guys in the 70s."

Becher, who plans to walk on the Nevada golf team next fall, was consistently in the 70s for Reno all year. He has had a handful of top-five finishes at region and state the last few years, including third at state as a sophomore.

"I wanted to win this thing," he said. "But I'm proud of my consistency this year."

**VIRGIN VALLEY LEADS STATE 3A TOURNAMENT** at Dayton Valley Country Club: Jacobi Grillo shot a 74 to lead Virgin Valley to a 13-stroke lead after the first round.

The Bulldogs had five golfers shoot between 74 and 82 to post a 392. Truckee is at 405, followed by Boulder City (422), Lowry (425) and Dayton (429).

Fernley freshman Brandon Dalton shot a 3-under-par 72 to post the best round. Sparks' Greg Wenzel was at 73.

Four Truckee golfers - Greg Shove, Ian Casey, Nathan Wrenn and Kaya Lampe - each shot 80. Dayton got a 76 from Trent Wood and a 77 from Kevin Goles. Forrest Schumacher led Lowry with an 80.

The final round is set to begin at 8 a.m. today, with the leaders expected to tee off around 9:10.

#### TEAM RESULTS

1. Green Valley, 408 + 368 = 776
2. Palo Verde, 412 + 392 = 804
3. Bonanza, 420 + 385 = 805
4. Reno, 422 + 398 = 820
5. Fallon, 437 + 402 = 839
6. Coronado, 442 + 399 = 841

#### INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

1. Tebbs (GV), 74-74 - 148

2. Smith (Fa), 78-71 - 149
3. Oshimoto (SV), 76-75 - 151
4. Scott (BM), 77-74 - 151
5. Baden (Co), 80-72 - 152

**LOAD-DATE:** May 19, 2005

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San Antonio Express-News

May 18, 2005 Wednesday  
METRO Edition

**SECTION:** SPORTS; Pg. 8C

**LENGTH:** 450 words

**HEADLINE:** Allen's magic missing after half

**BYLINE:** Mike Finger, EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

**BODY:**

Ray Allen knew what to expect. He hadn't been inside the SBC Center for Game 5 of a conference semifinal series before, but he felt like he'd already lived the experience.

Last May, the Seattle SuperSonics guard was in a Las Vegas hotel room when Derek Fisher achieved immortality in 0.4 of a second. It was then that he realized just how transcendent such moments could be.

"We jumped up and screamed like Derek Fisher was our best buddy," Allen said of the then-Lakers guard. "I can only imagine of the 1,000 or so rooms in that hotel, how many people did the same thing. And all the other hotels in Vegas. And every other city in Nevada. Then every other city in the country. And then you go over to Europe. That's how big it is."

With that in mind, Allen tried to do a Fisher impersonation Tuesday night. The only difference was Fisher never had to fight through a double-team.

Hounded by the Spurs at every turn, Allen didn't have much of a chance to make his own Game 5 magic in the Spurs' 103-90 victory. He finished with 19 points -- 15 in the second quarter -- but shot only 1 of 8 in the second half.

After being overrun by the Sonics' pick-and-roll in two games in Seattle, the Spurs defended screens more aggressively on Tuesday, sometimes bringing two players to stop Allen from getting an open look. Allen said the strategy worked.

"I couldn't get around the corner," Allen said. "I had smaller gaps."

That wasn't only a problem for Allen.

Luke Ridnour was held to 12 points on 4 of 11 shooting after busting out for 20 points in Game 4. Damien Wilkins, Antonio Daniels and Jerome James also made fewer than half their shots.

And the Sonics said their offensive woes weren't simply the result of the Spurs' defensive adjustments.

"We didn't come out with the type of aggressiveness we needed," Wilkins said.

"We settled for some shots we shouldn't have," James said. "The pick-and-rolls had been killing these guys."

James, as he has throughout the series, wasn't afraid to be even more blunt with his analysis.

He ripped into an officiating crew that whistled the Sonics for 31 fouls and the Spurs for 28.

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PC-00318

San Antonio Express-News May 18, 2005 Wednesday

"We weren't allowed to be physical," James said. "I think I breathed on a couple of guys and got fouls."

Regardless of what put Seattle in its 3-2 series hole, the Sonics now must figure out a way to beat the Spurs two games in a row -- including a potential Game 7 in San Antonio -- to stay alive.

Allen, while refusing to make predictions, said he's as confident in his team as he was before the Sonics reeled off back-to-back victories in Games 3 and 4.

"But we just made it tough on ourselves," Allen said. "We've got to win in this building. There's no way around it."

mfinger@express-news.net

**GRAPHIC:** 1. Seattle's Ray Allen drives past the Spurs' Bruce Bowen in Tuesday's second quarter, during which he scored 15 of his 19 points. **PHOTO:** JERRY LARA/STAFF

**LOAD-DATE:** May 19, 2005

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Copyright 2005 The Chronicle Publishing Co.  
The San Francisco Chronicle

MAY 18, 2005, WEDNESDAY, FINAL EDITION

**SECTION:** SPORTS; Pg. D1; RAY RATTO

**LENGTH:** 747 words

**HEADLINE:** Is Vegas worth MLB's gamble?

**BYLINE:** Ray Ratto

**BODY:**

The last time Bud Selig and his assorted associate wizards used a city as a hammer to make another city throw oodles of money at the local baseball team, we got the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

You know the Devil Rays. Undertalented. Underfunded. Underinteresting. Underattended. Undertaker bait.

But here the boys are again, this time playing the "Get a New Stadium or Get a New Town" card on the people of Miami and the surrounding environs. The Florida Marlins have wanted a new yard from the day they were invented, they've exhausted civility and fulminations, now they're going right to extortion.

The hammer?

Las Vegas.

You know Las Vegas. The town Selig used to say was not suitable for a baseball franchise. The town that midwived television poker into a ratings juggernaut. The town built on gambling and other morally casual pursuits that is now exactly the right place for a baseball team.

For that matter, maybe even the 2007 NBA All-Star Game.

Yes, that Las Vegas. The town full of pros without a single major pro sports franchise is now on everyone's short list. The town that was punished for its main industry is now the most desirable town in America for its main industry.

As this affects the Marlins, you need be only peripherally concerned. MLB wants Miami and Dade County to come up with a new funding plan for a ballpark by June 9, or else.

Or else?

Or else Las Vegas, and its hyperkinetic Mayor Oscar Goodman, its enormous financial resources, its abundant land, its compliant electorate and its generous tax laws.

Gambling? Pffffft. All the better.

This new cheery amorality is not new at all. Baseball has done this often in its history, with Milwaukee, Baltimore, Southern California, Denver and Tampa, Fla., more times than anyone in baseball wants to admit, given the way the Devil Rays have turned out.

But Vegas is different. Not because of its gambling industry, but because baseball used to worry about its gambling industry, and now it doesn't, because Vegas is a better way to shake down Miami than Portland, Ore., or Vancouver, B.C., or Santo Domingo, D.R.

If not Miami, then Washington, or Minnesota. Or yes, Oakland.

N/R 149

PC-00320

The San Francisco Chronicle MAY 18, 2005, WEDNESDAY,

That's where you A's fans come in.

If Miami and Dade County vote to lose their collective mind and give Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria a \$400 million stadium, Selig is coming for a new target. Flushed with temporary success over crushing Montreal and squeezing Miami, he will head straight here with the same strategies in mind.

One strategy is to get Oakland and its hilariously delusional mayor to put up money it doesn't have for a stadium it doesn't know where to locate.

The other is to give Oakland and its ludicrously confused mayor the same ultimatum, hope Oakland can't do anything about it, and then present the A's to Las Vegas.

The problem with these two scenarios? Baseball has done a fairly miserable job of finding red-hot new markets that stand the test of time. Take the last four expansion sites, all of them hailed at the time as gold mines by Selig and his assorted associate wizards.

Tampa, as we have seen, is a horror show top to bottom. Arizona's economic structure comes straight from Global Crossing. Colorado, once a powerhouse, is now drawing 20,000 routinely. Florida is being arm-twisted to Nevada.

Washington? A hot ticket this moment, but even the most devoted Nationals fan worries that D.C. is just a transfer point for, yes, Las Vegas. Washington's history with baseball is spotty at best. Even with the good weekend crowds, the Nats draw somewhere in the mid-20,000s on weeknights, a sure sign that the honeymoon is going to end hard.

Basketball has it easier by simply waving the All-Star Game at Vegas. It's flirting without the promise of marriage, because Vegas already has an NBA-size building, and the All-Star Game is a one-shot. No franchises need be moved, but a few might cast covetous eyes if their deals go south.

Maybe Atlanta. Maybe New Orleans. Maybe Orlando. Maybe even Portland. You never can tell when a market will get sick of the people running its basketball team.

That's the value of Vegas. Vegas is, and we are sure the good people of Las Vegas will forgive us for putting it this way, the new Tampa. It may be the shiniest city in the world, it may have provided the next staple of cable TV programming, but it is still Tampa.

The business end of an extortionist's gun. E-mail Ray Ratto at [rratto@sfchronicle.com](mailto:rratto@sfchronicle.com).

**GRAPHIC:** PHOTO, Bud Selig has a history of strong-arming cities into giving teams new stadiums.

**LOAD-DATE:** May 18, 2005

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The San Francisco Chronicle

MAY 18, 2005, WEDNESDAY, FINAL EDITION

**SECTION:** NEWS; Pg. A1

**LENGTH:** 1186 words

**HEADLINE:** Worker gave his finger to settle \$50 debt;

Mother says laborer who provided digit unaware of alleged plot against Wendy's

**SOURCE:** Chronicle Staff Writers

**BYLINE:** Alan Gathright, Meredith May

**DATELINE:** Las Vegas

**BODY:**

The Las Vegas man whose severed fingertip ended up in a cup of Wendy's chili gave his mangled digit to a co-worker to settle a \$50 debt -- but had no idea it would be used in an alleged scheme to swindle the fast-food chain, the man's mother said Tuesday.

San Jose police have refused to name the man whose finger they believe ended up in the chili. But the man's mother, reached by The Chronicle on Tuesday, said the finger belonged to her 36-year-old son, Brian Paul Rossiter of Las Vegas.

"My son is the victim in this," Rossiter's mother, Brenda Shouey, said in a telephone interview from her Pennsylvania home. "I believe he got caught in something, and he didn't understand what was going on."

Rossiter lost part of his finger when his gloved hand was caught in a mechanical truck lift in December at a Las Vegas paving firm where he worked with James Plascencia, the husband of Anna Ayala, the woman accused of planting the fingertip in her cup of Wendy's chili.

Ayala claims she bit into a 1 1/2-inch human fingertip on March 22 while eating chili at the fast-food restaurant in San Jose. She was arrested a month later on felony charges of attempted grand theft for allegedly trying to shake down Wendy's International Inc. for a financial settlement in a scheme police say caused the fast-food chain to lose more than \$2.5 million in sales. Her husband was arrested this month on unrelated charges of failing to pay child support in a previous relationship.

San Jose police announced last week that they had scientifically confirmed that the finger Ayala claimed to have chomped into was obtained from an associate of Plascencia, but they have refused to identify him because he is cooperating in the investigation.

Shouey said her son was desperate for cash when he gave his finger away.

"He had a money problem. He owed \$50 to this character, James," Shouey said.

The mother accused Plascencia of preying upon her injured son, who she said was strapped for money because he was unable to work after the accident and his disability checks were lost in the mail when he moved. She said Rossiter was laid up for weeks after reconstructive surgery on his mangled hand.

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The San Francisco Chronicle MAY 18, 2005, WEDNESDAY,

While the finger-chili caper has made headlines even in her rural West Pennsylvania town, Shouey said she learned of her son's involvement only Monday night when he alarmed her by calling to say: "Mom, do you know what's happened?"

"The last time he said something like that to me was 9/11," Shouey said.

Rossiter hadn't even told his father, James Rossiter, who lives in Florida and is divorced.

"Oh, my God!" the father said when contacted by The Chronicle, saying he never imagined that his son's severed digit was the Wendy's finger.

He said he knew his son had suffered a finger injury but had not been in touch with him in the months after the accident.

"That is pretty wild," he added.

The man's mother declined to give details of how the finger was preserved, the nature of her son's debt, or whether Rossiter was told why Plascencia allegedly wanted the finger. She said her son is keeping a low profile after undergoing intense police questioning in the case.

"My son is a happy-go-lucky guy. He thought it was cute to show" the severed finger, Shouey said. "It's like a man thing. If a woman had her finger severed, she would never show it to anyone. But he would show it to the girls in the office if they asked."

While Ayala and Plascencia have been arrested, Shouey said her son appears to have convinced police that he had nothing to do with the alleged finger hoax.

"He originally thought that he was going to be in big trouble," Shouey said. But after taking lie-detector tests and being quizzed by investigators for four hours at a stretch, "it appears from what he's interpreted that the police believe him," the mother added.

Ayala, 39, was arrested April 21 at her Las Vegas home on suspicion of attempted grand theft for allegedly costing Wendy's millions of dollars in a plot to shake down the company with a tainted-food claim. She remains in jail in Santa Clara County and has a court hearing today at which her attorney is expected to seek reduction of her \$500,000 bail.

Wendy officials have said bad publicity over her claim cost the chain millions in lost sales.

Plascencia, 43, was arrested May 4 at his Lamb Asphalt Maintenance job site, the same day investigators got a tip about a man who might have lost a finger in an industrial accident. The tip was received on a hot line run by Wendy's, which had offered a \$100,000 reward for information on how the finger got in its chili.

Lamb's president, Mike Casey, has said he called the tip in that day after he put together the arrest of Ayala's husband at the firm and the fellow employee who lost his finger there three months earlier.

Office supervisors at the Lamb paving firm chuckled at the media attention on Tuesday, each raising both hands to show all 10 digits to reporters.

Plascencia is awaiting extradition to California from Las Vegas, where he is jailed on felony charges of failing to pay child support and of committing identity theft by assuming the name and Social Security number of his young son, allegedly to avoid having his wages garnisheed for child support in a previous relationship.

Police have said Plascencia is likely to face charges in the Wendy's case and will not rule out further arrests.

Without identifying Rossiter, San Jose police spokesman Enrique Garcia reaffirmed Tuesday that the man who lost the finger "is being cooperative with us and assisting us in the investigation."

However, Garcia said, once police turn in their reports to the Santa Clara County district attorney, it will be up to prosecutors to decide whether to charge anyone else.

At the Las Vegas trailer park where Rossiter lived until February, residents who knew he'd lost the finger were surprised to learn it had wound up in the bizarre chili saga.

"I know he smashed his hand in one of the construction vehicles," Dan Gelzaines said. "He showed it to me. It looked like this," Gelzaines said, lifting his hand to show an index finger missing its tip from his own carpentry accident.

The San Francisco Chronicle MAY 18, 2005, WEDNESDAY,

While at first saying it was really strange to learn his old neighbor's lost finger is that finger, Gelzaines added: "But nothing really surprises me anymore."

Gelzaines said he thinks Ayala's husband should be held accountable if he did indeed use Rossiter's finger in an attempted scam.

Rossiter left the Kensington Community trailer park, which is across the street from Nellis Air Force Base, after the friend he was living with was evicted for having vicious dogs that mauled a neighbor's pooch.

"I've been listening to this story on the news. I'm surprised someone would go to that extreme to get money," said trailer park manager Terri Richey, who also hadn't heard of Rossiter's link to the Wendy's tale. "But people are funny. They'll do anything. This is Vegas, after all." E-mail the writers at [agathright@sfchronicle.com](mailto:agathright@sfchronicle.com) and [mmay@sfchronicle.com](mailto:mmay@sfchronicle.com).

**GRAPHIC: PHOTO (4), (1) James Plascencia, (2) Anna Ayala, (3) Brian Paul Rossiter, whose finger wound up in a cup of chili, lived in this now-abandoned trailer at the Kensington Community park., (4) Employees of Lamb Asphalt Maintenance leave the work yard in North Las Vegas. Rossiter lost his finger while working for Lamb. / Photos by Michael Maloney / The Chronicle**

**LOAD-DATE: May 18, 2005**

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Copyright 2005 The New Mexican  
The Santa Fe New Mexican (New Mexico)

May 18, 2005 Wednesday

**SECTION:** TASTE; Pg. C-1

**LENGTH:** 688 words

**HEADLINE:** 'REAL FOOD' BRINGS COMPOUND'S CHEF HIGHEST AMERICAN CULINARY HONOR

**BYLINE:** PATRICIA WEST-BARKER, PHOTO BY JANE PHILLIPS

**BODY:**

Mark Kiffin, chef/owner of The Compound restaurant on Canyon Road, on May 2 was named Best Chef in America for the Southwest region by the James Beard Foundation.

James Beard Foundation Awards recognize excellence and achievement in the culinary profession, and are considered the "Oscars" of their field -- the highest honor the American food and beverage industry can confer.

What is particularly gratifying, Kiffin said, is that both nominees and winners are selected by their peers.

This was the second year Kiffin was nominated for the award. The average chef is nominated at least three times before winning, Kiffin said, and last year's winner -- Luciano Pellegrini of Valentino at The Venetian in Las Vegas, Nev. -- had six nominations under his belt before the winner's medal was draped around his neck.

Tesuque resident and award-winning cookbook author Cheryl Alters Jamison was one of two Southwest members of the Beard Foundation's restaurant awards organizational committee. The regional competition for chef of the year is tough, she said, and getting tougher every year as more and more high-end, high-concept restaurants enter the region -- especially in Vegas.

"But Mark has impressed many folks in the food world with his skill and hard work in revitalizing The Compound," she said.

"I let out a loud whoop when the winner of the Southwest region was announced," she said. "I know it was inappropriate, but it was heartfelt," she added.

Kiffin, a 1982 graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, earned his kitchen whites in a number of restaurants that helped define Southwestern cuisine -- Stephan Pyles' Star Concepts in Dallas, Texas, and Mark Miller's Coyote Cafe in Santa Fe among them. Kiffin co-wrote three cookbooks with Miller and helped develop a number of the products in the Coyote Cucina line.

Kiffin and Miller are the only two New Mexican chefs to be nominated for -- and to win -- the Beard Foundation's "best chef" award.

Kiffin bought The Compound and relaunched it in May 2000 after former owner Victor Sagheer closed the restaurant after more than 30 years of signature "white glove" service.

Kiffin may be "best chef in the Southwest," but you won't find any tamales at The Compound. The restaurant features a French-Mediterranean based cuisine that is inspired, Kiffin said, by ingredients -- now considered indigenous to the region -- that the Spanish introduced to the Southwest hundreds of years ago.

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You won't find any fussy fusion dishes or trendy foams at The Compound, either. Kiffin's philosophy is that food he serves has to be "real" -- quality ingredients, carefully prepared.

"Everybody has access to the same raw materials," he said, "things like carrots and tomatoes." It's what you do with them, with your hands and your heart, he said, that makes a cuisine individual and special.

The Compound's menu, which changes four times a year, features a balance between seasonal items and signature dishes such as tuna tartare topped with osetra caviar and preserved lemon; grilled beef tenderloin with cepe-O'Brien potatoes and fois gras hollandaise; and New Mexico rack of lamb with sautéed spring greens, crispy artichokes and sweet onions.

While he was in New York, Kiffin said, he was pleased to note that many of the ingredients highlighted on The Compound's new spring menu were also on the menus at two Manhattan hotspots -- Thomas Keller's Per Se and Danny Meyer's Gramercy Tavern.

When he took the stage at the New York Marriott Marquis to accept his award, Kiffin acknowledged his mentors, his staff and his family.

"I'd like to dedicate this award to my little girl, Phoebe," he said. "She goes to bed a lot of nights without her dad being there -- hopefully having sweet dreams because her dad is working very hard to achieve his dreams.

"I love my team," Kiffin said. "I love my family. I love my work ... I really do love the work."

The Compound is at 653 Canyon Road. Lunch is served Monday through Friday, noon to 2 p.m. Starting May 28, The Compound will be serving lunch on Saturdays. Dinner is served nightly from 6 p.m. For reservations or more information, call 982-4353.

**GRAPHIC:** 1. Chef Mark Kiffin, owner of The Compound, was named best chef in the Southwest by the James Beard Foundation in New York City.

**LOAD-DATE:** May 24, 2005

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Copyright 2005 The Seattle Times Company  
The Seattle Times

May 18, 2005 Wednesday  
Fourth Edition

**SECTION:** ROP ZONE; Northwest Life; Pg. F2

**LENGTH:** 401 words

**HEADLINE:** Reveling in the love of his crowd;  
Lenny Kravitz - CONCERT REVIEW

**BYLINE:** Patrick Macdonald, Seattle Times music critic

**BODY:**

With Nikka Costa, Monday night at the Paramount Theatre, Seattle

Nobody enjoys being a rock star as much as Lenny Kravitz. He looks and dresses the part, plays the role with relish, and revels in the adoration and applause.

There were even built-in "love me" moments in his sold-out show Monday at the Paramount, where he would just stand there, arms upraised, and bask in the worship of his fans. His ego was as much a part of the show as his music.

If ever there was a rock star destined for Vegas, it's Kravitz. His show is big and glitzy, a celebration of feel-good music that gets the blood pumping and feet dancing. None of his songs are going to challenge anybody to think or feel. He's just there to entertain. And he knows all the tricks, from the ever-louder call-and-response with the audience, to the singalongs, to the effusive declarations of his love, especially for "the ladies."

His two-hour, 16-song set featured extended versions of many of his biggest hits, including "Let Love Rule," "It Ain't Over Till It's Over," "American Woman," "Fly Away" and the big finish, "Are You Gonna Go My Way," followed by the moment many had been waiting for: when he ripped off his black tank top, revealing his six-pack abs, nipples pierced in gold, and big "outie" bellybutton. The crowd loved it.

He also featured three songs from his newest album, "Baptism," opening the show with the self-praising "Minister of Rock 'n' Roll," which featured Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews and the rest of the three-piece horn section added for the tour. The romantic "Lady" made use of the three soulful background singers, also added to his usual four-piece rock band. "Where Are We Runnin'?" was lively and bluesy.

Kravitz is a fine rock guitarist, as he demonstrated on "Always On The Run" and other songs, but he let guitarist Craig Ross (in a cool white suit and hat) take many of the leads. Bikini-clad drummer Cindy Blackman got a long solo during "Lady."

The show opened with some burnin', churnin' funk from sexy Nikka Costa and her five-piece band. A powerful, bluesy belter in the tradition of Janis Joplin, Costa is a throwback to the '60s and '70s, but she does it with verve and style. What she wore, however, may be what most remember, with dangerous cleavage in front and a plumber's crack in back, which she constantly shook at the audience.

Patrick MacDonald: 206-464-2312 or pmacdonald@seattletimes.com

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**GRAPHIC:** photo; Knight Ridder Newspapers : Destined for the glitz of Vegas? Lenny cranks it up in Pasadena, Calif., last May. (0396054524)

**LOAD-DATE:** May 19, 2005

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The Tennessean (Nashville, Tennessee)

May 18, 2005 Wednesday 1st Edition

**SECTION:** MAIN NEWS; Pg. 12A

**LENGTH:** 1636 words

**HEADLINE:** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**BODY:**

War in Iraq, military  
recruitment closely tied

To the Editor:

Your editorial, "Recruiting for failure," May 16, rightly commends the Army for suspending recruiting drives this Friday to retrain our recruiters on getting recruits ethically.

\*\*\*

Clearly, this is a necessary move, given the recent spate of unethical practices by Army recruiters. However, the greater recruiting challenges facing the Army are largely beyond its means to overcome.

If the situation in Iraq improves to the point where U.S. forces can be withdrawn, that would be good news for recruiters and potential recruits. Conversely, if it deteriorates, recruiters for the regular Army, as well as the Army National Guard and Army Reserve, will face even greater challenges.

Moreover, the American public's perceptions of success or failure in Iraq will weigh heavily on whether public support for our military waxes or wanes.

As we learned the hard way in the Vietnam War, loss of public support for an unpopular war can lead all too quickly to loss of support for those forces who are sworn to wage it.

It took decades for the Army and the nation to recover from the ravages of the Vietnam War. Neither the Army nor the nation needs a repeat of that sad episode in American history.

Thomas B. Vaughn  
McMinnville 37110

Creationism has highly credible elements

To the Editor:

Tim Lund's letter, "Creationism is fine if it is taught in church," May 17, asserts that evolution is a fact, not a theory. He states that the only thing needed to prove evolution is to look at recent news about the development of new strains of antibiotic resistant bacteria.

There is no doubt that species do adapt to their environments to make their lives easier and to ensure their survival; but the incontrovertible fact in all this is that the bacteria remain bacteria, fruit flies remain fruit flies, etc. The truth is that evolution cannot be proven and will always remain a theory.

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Creationism is just as impossible to prove, but certain elements of it are just as credible as any part of evolution theory and could be fairly presented in a school classroom without turning it into an old-time "camp meeting."

Robert Borders

Brentwood 37027

Police need to be more involved in community

To the Editor:

We are faced daily with all types of crime, and under the circumstances, our law enforcement personnel perform above and beyond the call of duty.

The issue of racial profiling has graced the covers of the newspaper, but in all fairness to law enforcement personnel, people should first understand the concept of profiling. The general term is "inductive profiling," which is the process where statistical data is used from specific criminal behavior.

Example: If you have 80% of cars being stolen in a certain part of Nashville by little green men who are between the ages of 20-35, wear glasses and drive a Yugo, then the profile for serial car thieves in that area is going to be little green men who are between the ages of 20-35, wear glasses and drive Yugos. This same process is used when trying to apprehend criminals in some jurisdictions, particularly large populated areas where it is necessary to use statistical analysis to figure out ways to fight crime.

This is not to say that blacks and people of color are committing most of the crimes, but in certain areas, particularly the inner city, the crime rate numbers reflect the racial make-up of that area disproportionately.

The most effective way to fight profiling is to have a more proactive involvement in the community and maintain a positive dialog with your local law enforcement department.

Robert Fitzgerald

Nashville 37211

Mayor Purcell may tax

city out of relevancy

To the Editor:

It appears that Mayor Bill Purcell is warming up his white stallion to ride in and "save" us from an onerous property tax increase of \$2.50. He will flash his spurs and demand that the citizens not be saddled with such an increase. ("Purcell: Budget requests too much," May 13)

His deputies in the council will then, reluctantly, pass a "bare bones" increase of \$1 or so and the whole posse will wait for the cheers of the people because we have been rescued.

I hope that sanity will prevail in the form of an informed argument against only a \$1 increase. There are many examples of cities taxing themselves out of relevancy, and Nashville should not be the next one.

Jim Hitt

Goodlettsville 37070

Theory can't explain

greed, wickedness

To the Editor:

As an educator I would certainly find it difficult to teach "intelligent design" to my students, because I don't believe any intelligent being, at least one smart enough with the capacity to conceive of the intricacies of life, would engineer a species so consumed with greed, destruction and wickedness.

To admit the human race was exclusively designed is to acknowledge that human emotions - emotions that drive individuals to commit genocide and destroy a natural world that maintains life - were premeditated and intended.

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Imagine how confusing this line of thinking would be to a child. I can already see their perplexed hands being raised, all of them wanting to know why.

Introducing "intelligent design" into our classrooms unleashes a new realm of questions nobody, especially the fanatics in Kansas' educational system, ever has the means of ascertaining. I would much rather teach that reprehensible human behavior is a harsh extension of our competition in Darwin's struggle for life in which we all participate, and that humans alone possess the competence to rise above less complex organisms to achieve peace and harmony with all sentient beings.

If humans, as we know us to be, were designed with immaculate blueprints, we would all live in a world where each one of us worked toward the betterment of mankind and its relationship with the natural world.

Robbie Clark

Nashville 37211

White House reporting has led to many deaths

To the Editor:

Now let me get this straight: Newsweek ran a story about the desecration of a Koran. It turns out that the story was not properly sourced, even though it had been seen and approved by a Pentagon official.

The story provoked protests in which police forces in Muslim countries killed about 20 people. Newsweek is now roundly condemned by the Bush administration, which laments the tragic "loss of life" due to the story. ('Newsweek' retracts Koran story," May 17)

But that same administration launched a war against Iraq on the basis of intelligence that was "not properly sourced." Indeed, we now know that this intelligence was entirely fabricated: There were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, none at all. This "poor reporting" by the Bush administration has now killed more than 1,600 Americans and up to 100,000 innocent Iraqi civilians.

It has destroyed the credibility and moral authority of the United States in the eyes of the world. It has, the Pentagon itself admits, increased terrorism. It has robbed our own people of more than \$300 billion so far, much of it given away in no-bid contracts to Bush cronies. Yet we hear no retractions for this "poor reporting," no apologies for the consequences of these outright lies.

The whitened sepulchres of the White House should look to their own blood-stained hypocrisy before condemning others.

Chris Floyd

Watertown 37184

Koran story should

have been buried

To the Editor:

Regarding the false Newsweek magazine article about interrogators desecrating the Koran at Guantanamo, even if the article had been true, Newsweek, out of a sense of patriotism and for the cause of world peace, should have buried the story, especially considering the well-known sensitivity of the Islamic world.

The leftist press has caused not only loss of life by its zeal to "get" President Bush but caused irreparable damage to the reputation of the United States.

Ronny Tipps

Waverly 37185

Shredding notes

smacks of cover-up

To the Editor:

The Tennessean (Nashville, Tennessee) May 18, 2005 Wednesday 1st Edition

Shredding notes from an investigation of any form of personal or sexual harassment is politics and cover-up at its worst. ("State lawyer who shredded notes taught staff not to," May 17) Lawyers would expose that for what it is, and the public deserves to know the truth.

I'm not out to suggest anything was terribly wrong, but after all my years in human resources management, I documented every investigation and labeled sensitive information "for your eyes only," securing it for top management, and in some cases, our legal staff.

For an employee at the level of Kae Carpenter to shred information gathered in a harassment meeting, and then state she teaches employees to only use her training as a guideline is ridiculous.

This is cover up, and I hope that someone nails it as such. Small wonder the public has no faith or confidence in our political leaders.

Frank Gregg

Gallatin 37066

Music awards show

sells out to network TV

To the Editor:

The current executive director of the Academy of Country Music (ACM), Bob Romeo ("ACM finds itself after 40 years, move to Vegas," May 16), needs to brush up on his organization's history.

It's true that the ACM formed in Los Angeles because there was a feeling out West (read California) that pickers and singers there were not getting their just deserts from Nashville and the Country Music Association (CMA).

The ACM kept that stance by mainly nominating and picking their own for their annual awards show - until 1972 when network television by the name of ABC came knocking. The CMA had been with NBC since 1968 and went live with their awards show the next year.

Romeo says you can barely tell the two organizations and shows apart now. No wonder. The ACM sold out its uniqueness to the demands of network television long ago.

Bryce Martin

Spring Hill 37174

**LOAD-DATE:** May 20, 2005

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The Tennessean (Nashville, Tennessee)

May 18, 2005 Wednesday 1st Edition

**SECTION:** MAIN NEWS; Pg. 1A

**LENGTH:** 808 words

**HEADLINE:** Big award caps Chesney's big week

**BYLINE:** PETER COOPER

**BODY:**

First wedding, then entertainer of year; Wilson tops McBride to win female vocalist

By PETER COOPER

Staff Writer

LAS VEGAS - After a first year as a major label artist that included more than 3 million album sales and status as the major story of country music's 2004, Gretchen Wilson's victory as best new artist at the 40th Academy of Country Music Awards was practically a given.

Her win as top female vocalist, though, was the closest this ACM show came to a shocker. Martina McBride's clear, powerful voice had led her to that crown for the past three years, and McBride was a favorite in a category that also included Sara Evans, Lee Ann Womack and Terri Clark.

Wilson wept onstage as she thanked her fans and her record label. Backstage, she said, "I was completely floored. I thought there was a possibility for new artist and for video. I never expected female vocalist. I hope I didn't sound like a blithering idiot up there.

"It's funny what happens emotionally. It really takes you back to being a little kid. Everything rushes back through your mind. You feel really strong, even though you feel the weakest you've ever felt in your life."

The night's biggest award went to multiplatinum newlywed Kenny Chesney, who sold more concert tickets in 2004 than any performer except Prince and who was awarded the entertainer of the year trophy. The win marks Chesney as a "Merle Haggard Award" winner, the Academy's new designation for those who win best new artist, best male or female vocalist (or group or duo) and entertainer of the year.

Chesney's acceptance speech didn't include any shout-outs to new wife Renee Zellweger, who did not appear on camera during the show.

Keith Urban won for best male vocalist and best album, cementing his place as an A-list performer in the country world.

Urban was in Ireland, preparing to play a show with pop-rocker Bryan Adams, when he was informed of his wins. In a telephone interview, he apologized for not being in Vegas for the awards show and joked about his ascendance into the realm of A-list country performers.

"I said I'd be pinching myself, but I'm actually successful enough to be able to pay someone to pinch me now," he joked.

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Urban said the album award held particular significance to him.

"If there's one award I could have picked that I'd love to win, it's album of the year," he said. "In an age of downloading songs, we run the risk of losing the art of albums. I'm grateful for the fact that we get recognized for the body of work instead of just one song."

The Tim McGraw smash Live Like You Were Dying ended its run of awards Tuesday, as it was named song and single of the year. Following McGraw's debut of the song at last year's ACM show, Live Like You Were Dying has won prizes at the ACMs, the CMAs, the Nashville Songwriters Association International Awards, the CMT Music Awards and the Grammy Awards. Writers Tim Nichols and Craig Wiseman were joined by McGraw as they accepted the song of the year award.

"We felt like this was a special song, but we didn't know it'd do what it's done," Nichols said backstage.

"You try to write the best song you can and come from an honest place. That's what was coming out of us that day. We're just so fortunate that people seem to have taken it to heart."

Another hit, Brad Paisley's Whiskey Lullaby duet with Alison Krauss, completed a country music trifecta, adding ACM trophies to its previous CMA and CMT wins. Whiskey Lullaby was named best vocal event and best video. Paisley praised the song's writers - Jon Randall and Country Music Hall of Famer Whisperin' Bill Anderson - as well as the video's director, Rick Schroder. The director used the occasion to plead for more work: "Would somebody please give me another job?" he asked the sold-out crowd.

Rascal Flatts won their third straight vocal group award.

"Being the only group besides Alabama to win three years in a row is an amazing accomplishment," said Flatts singer Gary LeVox, backstage. "We're thrilled to death. It's a great night. It's been a great journey."

Retired superstar Garth Brooks was on-hand to announce Chris LeDoux, the late singing, songwriting cowboy, as the latest winner of the Academy's Pioneer Award for lifetime achievement. LeDoux, who died in March, was an influence on Brooks' rodeo songs and over-the-top stage shows.

The audience gave Brooks a standing ovation, and he responded, "I've missed you, too."

Though some industry insiders had predicted a serious challenge from upstart act Big & Rich, the duo of Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn won the duo prize for the 14th straight year.

In a fan-voted category, Neal McCoy won out as the humanitarian of the year. McCoy is active in supporting the U.S. military and in helping children with life-threatening illnesses through his Texas-based foundation.

**LOAD-DATE:** May 20, 2005

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The Tennessean (Nashville, Tennessee)

May 18, 2005 Wednesday 1st Edition

**SECTION:** MAIN NEWS; Pg. 8A

**LENGTH:** 477 words

**HEADLINE:** ACM AWARDS NOTEBOOK

**BYLINE:** PETER COOPER

**BODY:**

Tennessean music writer Peter Cooper is in Las Vegas covering the 40th annual Academy of Country Music Awards. Here are some dispatches:

'How Do You Get That Pedro?'

When Blaine Larsen of How Do You Get That Lonely fame was asked who he wanted in an upcoming video, his answer came quickly: that Pedro guy from the Napoleon Dynamite movie. Efen Ramirez, the actor who played Pedro, hasn't signed on the dotted line yet, but he has given an oral agreement to do the video.

If you've seen Napoleon Dynamite, you've admired Ramirez's dead-pan facial expressions and subtle humor. If you haven't seen the movie, you're probably not a country star: It's a big hit on tour buses and home DVD players. Keith Urban is a huge fan who calls himself "obsessed" with Napoleon Dynamite.

Quasi-retired

For a retired guy, Garth Brooks is getting pretty active. A few weeks ago, he sang at the Country Music Hall of Fame's Medallion Ceremony in Nashville, and today in Las Vegas he is slated to appear at the Academy of Country Music's 40th Anniversary Celebration (taped for a CBS show in December).

Yesterday, he was with one of his heroes, Country Music Hall of Famer Buck Owens, to announce that 10 statues of country artists will be erected May 25 at Buck's Crystal Palace club in Bakersfield, Calif. The statues are of Buck (of course), Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson, Bob Wills, George Strait, Johnny Cash, George Jones, Elvis Presley, Hank Williams and ... Garth.

"Of all the things I've done ... May 25 is going to be the biggest day, other than the birth of my children," Garth said.

Garth also was filled with praise for Buck.

"He confuses himself with a has-been," Garth said. "But there's a difference between a has-been and a legend."

Quick tours

Many country performers spent time "touring" radio stations while at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino. Acts such as Darryl Worley, Rascal Flatts, Julie Roberts and Bobby Pinson devoted hours to their "radio tours," which meant they sat down for about five minutes a pop with various radio station personnel, all of whom were set up in a big room.

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"I did about 36 stations yesterday, and 20 today," said Pinson, whose new album Man Like Me was released yesterday.

Leno equals fame

Dierks Bentley's parents knew he had "made it" when they found out he was going to be on Jay Leno's Tonight Show. Dierks flew his parents to Los Angeles so they could see him on the show Monday night, then he found bunks for them on his tour bus, which wheeled everybody to Vegas.

Worley goes to Washington

Darryl Worley was in Vegas, fresh from a trip to Washington, where he sang in front of President Bush at a memorial service for fallen peace officers. Worley sang I Miss My Friend, just before Bush's keynote speech. In attendance were 2,000 members of families of 415 officers killed in the line of duty.

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CNN

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May 17, 2005 Tuesday

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**HEADLINE:** Interview With Donald, Melania Trump

**BYLINE:** Larry King

**GUESTS:** Donald Trump, Melania Trump

**HIGHLIGHT:**

Interview with Donald and Melania Trump.

**BODY:**

LARRY KING, HOST: Tonight, Donald Trump and his stunning wife, Melania; their first prime time interview together since their lavish wedding four months ago.

How's it all working out? We'll get into that and a lot more with "The Donald" and "The Melania" next on "Larry King Live."

It's always a great pleasure to welcome Donald Trump to "Larry King Live." This Thursday night, two days away, another "Apprentice" winner with two women finalists.

DONALD TRUMP, HOST, "THE APPRENTICE": Two women, Larry. That's right.

KING: We didn't figure that at the start. Right? We figured this would be...

D. TRUMP: Who would have thought? The women like me much better now so it's great.

KING: This is year what now?

D. TRUMP: Well, we've done now three and we're shooting four. And the ratings continue to be through the roof, as you just saw. And we're really happy about it. It's been a lot of fun.

KING: Martha Stewart's show, you own that, too?

D. TRUMP: With Mark, Mark Burnett, who was on the show with you the last time I did it. And we're going to have a lot of fun. I think Martha's going to do a terrific job. She'll go on some time in the fall as also "The Apprentice." We will take this franchise to new levels. And I think Martha's going to be terrific.

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KING: You write books. You're a mogul. I mean, who doesn't know this? You make appearances. You got \$1 million for an appearance with The Learning Annex.

D. TRUMP: That's true.

KING: And people watched all over the United States. You have a prime location in L.A. And you're building in Vegas now. Right?

D. TRUMP: Right.

KING: What are you first, when you think of yourself? "I am a...

D. TRUMP: Well, first of all and by far, I'm a real estate guy. That's what I love. I'm the largest developer in New York by far. We're doing some really fantastic jobs. I'm doing a 92-story building in Chicago. We're doing a job in Los Angeles, a big golf course along the ocean, 2.5 mile, 300 acres, with 75 mansions over the golf course.

By far, that's what I do.

As you know, I'm opening a new building on Park Avenue and 59th Street in New York. I just finished a tower opposite the United Nations, 90 stories, that sold out and has been a tremendous success.

First and foremost, I'm a real estate person. And that's what I love the most.

KING: It is? If you had to give up something, that would be the last thing you would give up?

D. TRUMP: No, I'm not going to -- that's sort of like giving up your day job.

KING: That's it.

D. TRUMP: That's really what I do. And, I mean, what happened, Larry -- and you understand this. I did your show many years and many times before "The Apprentice." And we have a lot of fun.

(CROSSTALK)

D. TRUMP: But what happened was I did "The Apprentice" and it became a tremendous success. Who would have thought that this was going to happen? But it became a tremendous success.

KING: And it made you famous in Des Moines, where as a real estate developer you were find of known but not famous-famous.

D. TRUMP: I've had all number-one best-selling books, every one of them. There's something very prestigious about a best-selling book, like "The Art of the Deal" and "The Art of the Comeback" and all of the...

KING: You have a new one on golf tips?

D. TRUMP: That's a little book for my friends that are golfers.

KING: It's selling.

D. TRUMP: Yes. It's selling like hot cakes, selling good. Suits and shirts and ties and Macy's -- Terry Lundgren, who is one of the great guys, he's somebody you should have on your show. He's the head of Macy's. He's amazing.

We're doing all of these different things. But always for me it's real estate. But I will tell you this: I have fun, a lot of fun with "The Apprentice." When I did the books -- and now we have a book out. And all the time books are prestigious. But there's sort of nothing like having the big hot show on television.

KING: Of course.

D. TRUMP: You've know that for a while.

KING: Now you're known everywhere. You can't be unknown.

D. TRUMP: I thought I was very well-known before, but this is a different level. This is definitely bigger when you have 21 million and 22 million people watching. When we had the final episode last year of "The Apprentice," we had 41.5 million people watching -- 41.5 million. That's even more than watch your show.

KING: Yes.

D. TRUMP: And now we have the big finale again on Thursday night. So it is going to be fantastic.

KING: You're doing it live?

D. TRUMP: I'm doing it live. I'm trying to study from you.

KING: Does it have to be live, or is it just that's a good idea to do it live, rather than the word get out who wins?

D. TRUMP: Live television is always risky. I mean, you have a huge crowd of people coming. It's going to be at NYU, very big audience.

There's always a risk to live. I think that probably adds to it. You've probably done more live television than any other human being in the world.

KING: Maybe.

D. TRUMP: I can't speak about Russia or Europe, but I would think that you've probably done more than anybody. And you know it's both beautiful but also risky.

The reason we're doing it live is I think those reasons, but also this way nobody can tell me who the winner is. Nobody can say: I know the winner because we put something in the can seven weeks ago and now we go and some newspaper comes up and says, "We know who the winner is."

KING: Do people root for people? Do they write in and say, "Pick this one?"

D. TRUMP: They do. And not only that, we had over a million people apply to the last episode, to be on the last episode of "The Apprentice."

One million people and out of those million people, we get some tremendous candidates. What's happened on number four, which is going to be shown in the fall is that really for the first time I got very much involved in choosing the cast. And I won't say I dislike the cast in number three. But I didn't agree with all of the people that were selected.

And ultimately, I should have to agree because somebody's going to be working for me. And I got involved -- totally involved -- in picking. And actually, I picked in a couple of cases people that are so beautiful that Mark didn't love them. He said it's not realistic that anybody could be that beautiful.

I said, "Mark, let me worry about that. That's not a bad problem."

KING: Is the winner known or will that be live, too?

D. TRUMP: The winner is -- what do you mean by the winner?

KING: With season four.

D. TRUMP: Well, that's going to be live. And we always are going to probably have a live finale. It does make it a little bit more exciting.

But I think season four, which just started shooting, is going to be really amazing also.

We're happy. Tremendous ratings came in the other night for the last episode. I think the finale is going to be a big monster.

KING: Your previous winner appeared with us at my Larry King Cardiac Foundation -- West Point graduate. What a kid he is.

D. TRUMP: Kelly. He's done a great job.

KING: You got him with two jobs.

D. TRUMP: I've got him on a lot of jobs. He sells Trump water. He sells Trump ice.

KING: Trump water?

D. TRUMP: He's involved with Trump Place, the big development on the West Side which is a fantastic development. He's really good and so is Bill Rancic. Those two are really good.

KING: Now, speaking of real estate, I come to New York and there's a major squabble, and you're in the middle taking on Pataki and everybody else. You want to rebuild the Trade Center like the Trade Center only a little bigger?

D. TRUMP: I'm not really taking on Pataki. He's a friend of mine. In fact, he was on last week's episode of "The Apprentice." So, I mean, he's a friend of mine. He's a good guy and he's a good governor. But I disagree with what he's doing on the World Trade Center. I think the World Trade Center should be rebuilt as the World Trade Center, only stronger and one story taller. I hate what they're doing with the World Trade Center site.

KING: Because?

D. TRUMP: It is designed by an egg-head architect, a guy who really -- give me a break. The buildings are terrible. It's not really a building as such. It is 60 stories of building and 40 stories of frame.

They're having a hard time structurally even holding up the frame. You know, the top of that building, they say it is 1,776 ft., which is a nice number because of what it represents, but it is not really a building, per se.

It's just ridiculous. It is just the frame at the top of a building. It doesn't look good. Then the buildings surrounding it are all different angles, they're all conflicting angles and the architecture is terrible.

What I would like to see -- you know the way I look at it? If they build that, the terrorists win. If they build a World Trade Center but stronger and one story taller -- now then you have a problem. Because whether it's Freedom Tower or the World Trade Center, a lot of people say that it's going to be very tough to rent anything in that building.

KING: Might be.

D. TRUMP: I wish Larry Silverstein a lot of luck. It is easy for me to say: Build a World Trade Center. But the fact is a lot of people are saying it's going to be very, very tough. Larry just built a building right next to the site on one of the other buildings that came down. So far there's no tenants.

KING: Why do you say, then, build a big one?

D. TRUMP: Well, it doesn't have to be me that owns it.

(LAUGHTER)

(CROSSTALK)

KING: Didn't they want to do it as a memorial as much as a commercial enterprise?

D. TRUMP: I would say this: You either build the World Trade Center as it was, you do it bigger, better, stronger, more beautiful; or you build a great park, memorial park. I don't think you should build what they call Freedom Tower. Give me a break.

KING: So either one or the other?

D. TRUMP: I think one or the other. You have to really look at the market, though. I think it will be very, very hard to rent that building.

KING: We'll be right back with more from Donald Trump. And his wife is coming soon. Don't go away.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I'm the only person here that's served three times as project manager. (INAUDIBLE) was to me. I have the longest winning streak. I believe it was nine tasks. And I'm here right now.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Well, and Kendra also was the last person to become the project manager. And I stepped up to the plate much sooner than Kendra. She waited for everybody else to become a project manager.

D. TRUMP: But she does have a better record.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: She does, absolutely.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It was my strategy.

D. TRUMP: You think she's better than you?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Absolutely not. Like I said, I have a lot at home, and I came and I'm fighting for this position that I want with you.

D. TRUMP: OK.

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(END VIDEO CLIP)

KING: We're back with Donald Trump. The finale of the third season of "The Apprentice" is live Thursday night on NBC. The two finalists are 26-year-old Kendra and 37-year-old Tana.

Tell me about these women. Are you duly impressed with both?

D. TRUMP: Well, I am. They're both very, very smart, very tough. And one is book smarts and one is street smarts. You know, we did that this year, because we'd have all these Harvard graduates and the Wharton School of Finance and Yale and Princeton. And this time might be -- and this time what we did -- you know, something a little different. We did book smarts versus street smarts. And we took the people from college and we took the people from -- that are very successful but without a big education. And we pitted them together. And interestingly, we have one and one in the final.

So you know, we went through 18 people. And now we have a book smarts and a street smarts.

KING: Do you know now in your head who wins?

D. TRUMP: I usually say no, but I sort of think so. KING: But for me you'll say yes.

D. TRUMP: For you, I'll say that I think so, but a lot is going to depend on the performance in front of 20 million people.

KING: You mean how they do Thursday?

D. TRUMP: Yeah. They're going to be really put to the test on Thursday night. I would say I'm leaning toward one direction.

Now, when I chose Bill Rancic over Kwame, I really didn't know until I went in. I think I have a little bit of a preference this time, but it is going to depend on how they react to the pressure of 20 some odd million people watching them on Thursday night.

KING: Has anything in the history of the show -- I think of Omarosa who appeared with us, terrific guest, by the way -- embarrassed you? Was she an embarrassment?

D. TRUMP: No, I mean, not an embarrassment. She was a great character. Who would have thought that Omarosa was going to be such a great character? She was the villain. Nobody thought of her as a villain. When I first met her, I said, hey, she's a nice woman. You know, I didn't exactly jump through hoops.

KING: Pretty sharp.

D. TRUMP: I looked at her, I said, yeah, she's fine. But who would have thought -- Sam, the same thing. He turned out to be -- who would have thought that Sam was going to be a great character? And the truth is, in your business, which is television, you never know if somebody's going to be great until the lights go on or the cameras go on. You never know.

KING: Does the camera like you or not, you don't know?

D. TRUMP: Well, you never know. I mean, you never know.

KING: What in the three years has disappointed you if anything?

D. TRUMP: Well, I can't say I've had any disappointment with "The Apprentice." I would say some of the candidates have disappointed me. I've had candidates...

KING: You get mad?

D. TRUMP: Well, sometimes you get angry. But I've had candidates that I thought were going to be absolute stars, and they turned out to fizzle. And then I've had candidates that I didn't think -- like an Omarosa, or like a Sam, or like somebody else. I mean, there are a number of -- but I didn't think greatness, and they turned out to be great. So you never really know.

It's like a golfer. You know, some golfer, they hit it (INAUDIBLE), but then all of a sudden the flags go up, and Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson and Ernie Els and these guys are just better when the flag goes up, meaning when the competition starts. And you never know why, but that's the way it is.

And I can't forget my friend Vijay.

KING: Yeah, you know, he's not bad.

D. TRUMP: He's great. He's great.

KING: Was "you're fired" an accident?

D. TRUMP: "You're fired" was not a part of the deal. And when I went into the first board room, the very first one, I'm looking at these people and I had to fire somebody, but we never thought in terms of the expression "you're fired." But we had somebody named David, who was a really nice guy but he did a very poor job at this particular task. And I'm going through the whole thing, and I just said "David, you're fired." And he was shocked. And everybody was shocked.

And it's funny, NBC is about 75 yards away at a different place in Trump Tower, where they have this huge control room. They had to have 400, 5,500 people, you know, with all the cameras and everything else. And they're all in the room, and I heard screaming and shouting and everyone was going crazy. And it was just sort of a great moment of television.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

D. TRUMP: And David, I'm going to ask you to take the down elevator. You're fired.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'm sorry to hear that.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

D. TRUMP: But when I went in, Mark and I were discussing it. Normally, I'd say -- and what I was going to say is, you know, say if it was David, David, it hasn't worked out right, things aren't looking good, you didn't do a good job, so you go away and we'll just keep going. You know, that would have been pretty boring. It could have been that that would have even made the show not...

KING: So it was an instinct.

D. TRUMP: It was just an instinct that took place like at the time of this so-called firing.

KING: And have you said it a lot in your business career?

D. TRUMP: No, I haven't. I've said it quite a bit, but I haven't said it really that much. You really do that if somebody gets caught with their little sticky finger deal, OK? You know, stealing. Or they do a really stupid thing, or a really bad thing, or they make you angry. But usually if I fire somebody who's bad, I'll tell them how great they are. Because I don't want to hurt people's feelings. I'm actually a much nicer person than people think. You know, I'll tell them they're great, they're unbelievable, they have an unbelievable future, and that I'm holding them back by having them in my company, because I don't want to insult them.

KING: So while you're leaning, there is suspense involved Thursday for all the viewers. You don't know who is going to win this?

D. TRUMP: I don't really know, no. There's going to be a lot of pressure on these two women. These two women are going to be in front of 20 some odd million people, and a huge television audience down at NYU -- and so am I, by the way, OK -- and we're going to just do our thing. But there's going to be a lot of pressure.

KING: But the loser will do well, too, won't she?

D. TRUMP: The loser is going to make a lot of money.

KING: Because they get good deals, right?

D. TRUMP: And now, you know, when we first started "The Apprentice," somebody said, when did you know it was going to be successful? And I said probably when we went out -- nobody knew what "The Apprentice" was. We went out, we said Donald Trump is going to hire somebody. We had 215,000 people apply, which was a record in television history; 215,000 people applied to be on "The Apprentice," and the show hadn't even got on the air yet. So that was like our first indication that this whole thing was going to work.

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But then you had people like Mark Cuban do a show and he failed like a dog. And then you had Richard Branson do a show and he failed so badly it was terrible. Of course, I felt very nice about that, actually.

KING: You took off on both of them.

D. TRUMP: Well, you know, they went out and they were very complimentary to me about a month before their shows went on. And then they're saying, great, great, great, Donald, you know, and I thought that was nice. And I thought it was really nice. In fact, I wrote a couple of them -- I think I wrote them both letters saying, good luck.

But then some idiot who worked for one of the networks said, you got to attack Donald. So they said, oh, he's such a bad guy, he doesn't like shaking hands with people. And all this stuff. So when they failed, I was very happy about it.

KING: What about that shaking hands thing?

D. TRUMP: Well, am I right? I shake your hand. What am I going to catch from you? OK, your hand I shake.

KING: But you will -- as soon as it's over, though, you will go and put liquid on it, right?

D. TRUMP: Does anybody have any...

KING: Is it... D. TRUMP: No, no, look.

KING: More germs pass through the hand than anywhere else, correct?

D. TRUMP: Larry, it's so ridiculous. OK? You shake somebody's hand. I have a guy walk in my office the other day. He's obviously suffering, all right? He comes up, Donald, Donald, how are you? Shakes my hand, grabs me, hugs me. I said, how are you doing? He said, oh, I'm so sick, I have a terrible flu. For three days, I'm worried about catching the flu.

But it's true. This is what happens. It's ridiculous.

KING: Of course.

D. TRUMP: And now they do studies and people say, oh, it's -- do I shake hands? Yes. I'll shake hands. I shake hands with people. But it's not something I like -- look, I'm not a huge fan of Japan, but I love their custom. How are you, lots of luck.

KING: We'll be back with more of Donald Trump, and then we meet his wife. And don't forget Thursday night, the final of year three of "The Apprentice," live. We'll be right back.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

D. TRUMP: Sam?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes?

D. TRUMP: I hear you're in charge.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I am in charge, Mr. Trump. I am the coach of this team. How are you doing today?

D. TRUMP: Well, we're going to see, because the men are taking a big beating. You're going to turn it around?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I have already turned it around.

I never knew you were so short.

D. TRUMP: What?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You want to shake my hand?

D. TRUMP: Yeah, I want to shake your hand.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You really do?

D. TRUMP: Give me your hand. How is he doing, fellows? All right?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He's taking charge.

D. TRUMP: You think they maybe made you to the team leader to get rid of you?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That is possible.

D. TRUMP: Well, do you know how that doesn't happen? If you win. Good luck.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you, thank you. Have a good day. That was one of the biggest moments of my life, shaking that man's hand. He is my mentor.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He just shook my hand!

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I know you think you're the best player here and that's great. You obviously do or you wouldn't be here. We all do.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Then why are you accusing me of the loss?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Because I watched you work and you suck, that's why. Period.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You know what, I never conceded until Donald Trump said we lost.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Period. Period.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: OK, walk away like you did all (EXPLETIVE) task, John.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And you know what?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Walk away like you did all task.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No, I walked away and went to work and got (EXPLETIVE) done. Stop pointing the finger and start pulling the thumb. You (EXPLETIVE) up, period. You (EXPLETIVE) up, man.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

KING: We're back with Donald Trump. What about a slot machine parlor in Philadelphia? Why?

D. TRUMP: Well, the mayor and the governor, they're all friends of mine and they want me to do that. You know, we have a great gambling company, a gaming company and they want me to be in Pennsylvania, and Governor Rendell is a terrific guy.

KING: Just slot machines?

D. TRUMP: Well, it's going to be basically slot machines because Pennsylvania just legalized and they're going to have about 67,000 slots.

KING: Envision this is just a place with slots?

D. TRUMP: Yes, mostly slots.

KING: No hotel, no casino, other than slots.

D. TRUMP: Mostly slots. That's what they're going to have.

KING: And you're going to be -- it's going to be Trump slots?

D. TRUMP: Yes, well, they'll do something. I mean, they want me there badly and so we'll see. I mean, I'm looking at that. We look at so many different things. I'm doing so many different things. One of...

KING: Why is Atlantic City down for you?

D. TRUMP: Well, Atlantic City has done very well for me.

KING: But, I read that it's down.

D. TRUMP: No, no -- well, but you're reading sort of -- you have to read through the lines. We cut down \$100 million worth of debt. A year was wiped out and it's just been a really great successful period of four or five months in Atlantic City. Plus, the business in Atlantic City has been phenomenal. So we've really done well in Atlantic City.

KING: Are they going to rebuild that city?

D. TRUMP: Well, Atlantic City is doing well, I mean, overall. Atlantic City -- if you went to Atlantic City now, you wouldn't recognize it.

KING: Yes, I was there a couple of weeks ago. It looks terrific. But I mean, it still needs work.

D. TRUMP: I was one of the first ones to go to Atlantic City. I've made a lot of money in Atlantic City. I've had a lot of fun in Atlantic City. Atlantic City has done really well and a lot of people don't understand Atlantic City. You know, they say, oh, Atlantic City, because the reputation is not nearly as good as the end result.

KING: It is much better.

D. TRUMP: Yes. It's been...

KING: What's the future, in general, of gaming?

D. TRUMP: Well, it's happening in more and more places and it brings lots of problems in terms of crime and lots of different things, but it also brings some tax revenue and a lot of places that have approved it wish they didn't approve it and a lot of governments are talking about trying to rescind it, even.

KING: Even in the water places, like in Mississippi?

D. TRUMP: Well, they're having a lot of problems with gaming, but it also brings in taxes. So it's not an easy thing to get approved. Most places don't have it but it is getting more and more.

KING: Why has Donald Trump not come to Vegas until now?

D. TRUMP: Well, I am in Las Vegas. I'm building a very big building, actually, right opposite Steve Wynn's place. I was...

KING: Why now? I'm didn't go to the other one. I'm going to go, the Wynn Hotel?

D. TRUMP: Yes, it's very nice, and Steve's a terrific guy. I was at his opening with him. I sat with him for three nights in a row and he's just a great guy, and I think he's going to do well, really well.

I think that, you know, I'm the biggest developer in New York by far. I'm building more buildings than anybody else. I'm building the best locations. I'm doing great. I'm doing Chicago. I'm doing California. You can only do so much, and there are times when I wanted to go to Las Vegas, but it didn't work out because I was doing something in New York. You know, you can only do so much.

It's a little bit like my father. My father built in Brooklyn, mostly.

KING: I know.

D. TRUMP: And it was Brooklyn and Queens, and I used to say, why didn't you ever go to Manhattan? Well, it was not his thing, number one. Number two, he was sort of -- understood the Brooklyn market. Well, I came in from Brooklyn to Manhattan, and I understand the Manhattan market. So, all of a sudden you're focused on that kind of stuff and you don't sort of think about Las Vegas.

But over the last couple of years, I've thought about Las Vegas. I have a great friend of mine out there named Phil Roughen and we're doing a job that's going to be absolutely fantastic, 64-story condominium tower. There will be nothing like it in Las Vegas.

KING: With gaming?

D. TRUMP: Without gaming. That will come later. We're doing a tower. It's a condominium tower.

KING: It's a boom area. I mean, people living there.

D. TRUMP: It's fantastic. I mean, I hope it keeps booming.

KING: Were you going to do something with Michael Jackson? Is that true?

D. TRUMP: No. Michael Jackson's people called and they wanted to do something, and you know, it's -- I said, Michael, get out of your trouble, first, which I hope he does. I hope he gets out. You know, one thing about Michael Jackson, he lived in Trump Tower. And I see your show all the time, Michael Jackson -- every night you have Michael

Jackson, blah, blah, blah. OK, you do a lot of Michael Jackson, all right? And you know why you're doing Michael Jackson? Because he's ratings.

KING: People are interested.

D. TRUMP: Otherwise you not going to do Michael Jackson. If, like, if somebody said to me, if I find a cure to a major disease and -- if it doesn't get ratings, it doesn't go on. You know that, OK?

KING: It will get ratings, though.

D. TRUMP: So, Michael Jackson, Michael Jackson, you do a lot of. Well, he lived in Trump Tower. He was a perfect gentlemen. We never had one problem. We didn't have any incidents, and he lived there for years. He didn't have any incidents, any problems, and I know everybody, believe me. At Trump Tower, I know everybody that goes up, and everybody that comes down.

KING: Never had a complaint from...

D. TRUMP: Never a complaint, never a problem. He was a total gentlemen.

KING: You get along with him?

D. TRUMP: Yes, he's a friend of mine. I mean, he's a good guy. You know, he's a little different.

KING: So you feel badly for him, for all this.

D. TRUMP: Well, he's gone through a lot and he's a different guy than he was 10, 15 years ago. You know, I mean, he's gone through a tremendous amount of trouble, and the doctors have caused him a tremendous -- what they've done to the poor guy. I mean, what they've done to him.

KING: But he went, didn't he?

D. TRUMP: He went. They should have said no or something. So -- but Michael's a different guy. You know, 15 years ago I went to Madison Square Garden and I watched Michael Jackson perform and do the moonwalk across the stage. I said, I don't think I've ever seen -- there was no entertainer like him. Today, he's a different guy. I just hope that he's OK.

But, remember, many years, lives in my building, not one ounce of problem. That's all I can say.

KING: It's nice to hear -- it's good because you come forward and say that. We'll take a break, and when we come back, the set will improve immeasurably. Mrs. Trump will join us. Don't go away.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) D. TRUMP: Hey, Isiah.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: How you doing?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'm doing great. Thank you so much.

D. TRUMP: This is Melania.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Hi, how are you?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Hello, how you doing? It is...

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Nice to meet you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: ...so good to see you.

D. TRUMP: Now, this is a winner?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I think you all should make the Donald shoot a free throw.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Oh, the pressure's on. Oh, we got it. We got a sub. We got a sub!

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yeah!

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: We got a pretty cheerleader.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: This, this definitely is going in.

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UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Oh, and we win!

KING: They never break a promise. The setting has improved. Mrs. Trump, Melania Trump, the international cover girl, has now joined us. We've got to discuss the meeting. How did you two meet?

MELANIA TRUMP, DONALD TRUMP'S WIFE: We met in New York in 1998. It was Fashion Week, September 1998.

KING: The famous Fashion Week.

M. TRUMP: The famous Fashion Week in New York.

KING: Were you introduced?

M. TRUMP: Well, no. We were both at the same party. That's how we met. He came to me.

KING: Did you like her right away?

D. TRUMP: I went crazy. I was actually supposed to meet somebody else. There was this great supermodel sitting next to Melania. I was supposed to meet this supermodel. They said: Look, there's so and so. I said: Forget about her. Who is the one on the left? And it was Melania

KING: Did you like him right away?

M. TRUMP: It was a great chemistry and energy. We had a great time. We started to talk. And, you know, something was there right away.

KING: It was a long engagement.

M. TRUMP: It was.

KING: Why?

M. TRUMP: Well, you know, we just had a great time. And we didn't worry about it. And we just to lived life And then one day: Surprise.

KING: How did the proposal take place?

D. TRUMP: Well, we were together five years. We literally have never had an argument; forget about the word "fight." We never even had an argument. We just are very compatible. We get along. And I just said: You know what? It's time. It wasn't a big deal. It was almost like...

KING: That's the way you do it: "You know what: It's time"?

D. TRUMP: I did it a little better than that, without going into too much detail. But it was time. We just have a very good relationship.

KING: Melania, by the way, is on the cover of "Weddings" from "In Style" magazine. You're the wedding cover.

D. TRUMP: And she's on the cover of "Vogue."

M. TRUMP: That came out before the wedding, a few days before.

KING: Did you want that elaborate a wedding?

M. TRUMP: Yes, when I started planning it was a lot of fun. So I loved it. I loved my dress. I had great time in Paris. I went with my great friend (inaudible). He's an amazing man. And we went to Paris for one week to the shows with Anna Winter, the editor of "Vogue".

KING: What was the wedding like?

M. TRUMP: Fantastic. We had a great time.

KING: I had to work.

M. TRUMP: We missed you.

D. TRUMP: You're the only one who wasn't there.

KING: I had to work.

D. TRUMP: That's OK.

M. TRUMP: It was great. I had a great time planning it.

KING: Were you nervous?

M. TRUMP: No, not at all.

KING: Not at all?

M. TRUMP: Not at all. I had a great time. Because we were in the relationship...

KING: You've never been married, right?

M. TRUMP: Never been married before. We were in the relationship for a long time so I knew...

KING: But, still, that's a grand scene.

M. TRUMP: It is. But, you know, we know what kind of relationship we have. And I don't think I should be scared of anything.

KING: What was the honeymoon like when people have lived together for five years?

D. TRUMP: Oh, it was good. We stayed in Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach. Somebody said: Where are you going for your honeymoon? And our attitude was: Why would we leave Palm Beach. We have the most beautiful -- they don't call it Palm Beach for no reason. We have the most beautiful palm trees. So why are we going to leave the gorgeous, beautiful house called Mar-A-Lago and venture out onto some tropical island where things aren't clean?

KING: Where things aren't clean; where people shake hands. Did you feel different when they said "man and wife?"

D. TRUMP: No. I felt that it was just so natural. I didn't feel different. And I wasn't very nervous. And she wasn't very nervous. We just knew what we were getting into. It just was time. I was just sort of very easy.

KING: You feel different?

M. TRUMP: We didn't feel different at all. You know, it was really kind of, you know, sometimes you say like, "oh, a husband, wife," you know, kind of like jokingly.

KING: Do you use the name "Trump? "

M. TRUMP: I use the name "Trump." Yes.

KING: Because you're proud of it. M. TRUMP: I'm proud of it. Yes, I am. I married the man and I'm kind of old-fashioned in that way that you take the name of the husband.

KING: Did your parents like him?

M. TRUMP: Yes, they do.

KING: Do you want to parent? Do you want to be a mother?

M. TRUMP: Yes, we want to have a family. We want to have a baby together.

KING: You have how many children?

D. TRUMP: I have four, four beautiful children, all good children.

KING: Successful.

D. TRUMP: All really good, very successful, all doing well in school. They're all terrific.

KING: How do you feel about fatherhood again?

D. TRUMP: I like it.

KING: How old are you?

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D. TRUMP: 58.

KING: Young.

D. TRUMP: That's young, compared to you right?

KING: I've got a six and a five.

(LAUGHTER)

D. TRUMP: Give me your hand. I'm telling you, there's no problem with shaking this guy's hand.

KING: Three times already.

D. TRUMP: Of course, I'll be washing my hands.

KING: Do you look forward to possibly being a father?

D. TRUMP: I think it's great. Look, Larry, the way I look at it, there's nothing like a good marriage and there's nothing like having children. I have four great children. If you have the money, having children is great.

Now, I know Melania. I'm not going to be doing the diapers. I'm not going to be making the food. I may never even see the kids.

She will be an unbelievable mother. I'll be a good father.

KING: How do you know it?

D. TRUMP: Her? She'll be an amazing mother. I have no doubt about that. She'll be an amazing mother.

KING: Have you been back to Slovenia?

M. TRUMP: I've been to Slovenia two years ago.

KING: Did you go?

D. TRUMP: Yes, I was there about 15 minutes.

(LAUGHTER)

A beautiful country. I landed and said: Hi, Mom; Hi, Dad; bye.

KING: Let's show the ring. Can we get a close-up of the ring? And Donald will tell us, as Don Rickles would say, this ring signals ships. Did you pick it?

D. TRUMP: I picked it. It's from Graff Jewelers who are terrific.

KING: Oprah's jeweler.

D. TRUMP: That's true. And I love Oprah. She's terrific. And they're just -- it was just a nice...

KING: Did you pick it or did you go with him?

M. TRUMP: No, he picked it.

D. TRUMP: I picked it but she and I have very similar tastes. It's amazing. We have just similar tastes.

KING: When we come back, I'm going to ask -- you know, he's such a formidable figure -- if he's a controlling figure.

We'll be right back with the Trumps on this edition of "Larry King Live." And don't forget the finale of "The Apprentice" three -- third year of "The Apprentice" is live Thursday night.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

M. TRUMP: Congratulations. Hi. Nice to see you. How are you?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: This is my first time meeting Melania. Of course, you see picture. But even in person, she's more beautiful. And it was nice to meet Mr. Trump's fiancee.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Everyone, welcome to Graff.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

KING: We're back with the Trumps, Donald and Melania. OK, is he a control freak?

M. TRUMP: I don't think he's a control freak. He's perfectionist.

KING: That's a slight difference.

M. TRUMP: It is, but...

KING: Does he make demands?

M. TRUMP: I don't think so. Maybe he makes demands in his business because he needs to. You know, he's kind of a general. He needs to have people in line. But not at home. We are very equal in the relationship, and that's very important. You know, to marry a man like Donald is -- you need to know who you are, and you need to be very strong and smart and, you know, he needs to know that he could rely on me sometimes. You know, and we share a lot of stuff together. I don't think he's a control freak at all.

KING: Does he bring work home?

M. TRUMP: Yes, sometimes. But he's working all the time, you know, Saturday, Sundays, he's playing golf. He's working all the time.

KING: Does that bother you?

M. TRUMP: No, it's his passion. He loves it. It doesn't bother me. I don't want to change him. I don't want to say, come home and you know, be with me. I don't want to change him. I want to give him space and I think that's very important in the relationship.

KING: Because you used to tell me, the one thing that troubled you about marriage was the feeling that you have to give up some of yourself, that you can't be the workaholic you are because of the demands, the nature of a relationship?

D. TRUMP: Yes, I don't consider myself a workaholic. I work, but it's not work. It's like you. I mean, I love what I do, so it's no longer work. It's not like work.

KING: But it's still time.

D. TRUMP: Work, to me, is going on a two-week vacation. If somebody says, you have to go away to two weeks, you're going to is a Africa on a safari. There's not going to be any phones. You know, get me out of here, right? So, that's to me -- like, that would be work. But what Melania is so good at -- we just have this natural relationship. It's like, my mother and father were married 63 years. I've always heard you have to work at a good relationship. My father didn't work at a good relationship. He went home. He had dinner. He went to bed. He took it easy. He watched television. My mother, the same thing, she cooked him dinner. And it was just one of those thing. It wasn't work, but I always heard you have to work, work, work.

KING: You're not working at this?

D. TRUMP: No, because I work very hard from early in the morning till late in the evening. I don't want to go home and work at a relationship. I mean, that's it. A relationship where you have to work at it, in my opinion, doesn't work. So, maybe I'm wrong.

KING: Do you cook?

M. TRUMP: I cook sometimes when we stay home and very -- something very fast, and, you know -- but we are out most of the time. So I don't really have time to cook.

KING: What is it like to have everything, economically? By that I mean, you go down Fifth Avenue, you look in a window, like something, you know you can buy it. What's that like?

M. TRUMP: Well, it's...

KING: You don't have any financial pressures.

M. TRUMP: Yes, but you don't -- you know, I grew up, you always taking care of the money. You always -- you're not like a big spender and you are saying like, OK, I would buy it even if I don't like it for 100 percent. You know, you really need to love it that you buy it.

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KING: So you're none of this, shop to shop.

M. TRUMP: I'm not just shop to shop.

D. TRUMP: She's never taken advantage of that situation, OK, as many women would have, frankly. I mean, she's not one that sees a beautiful something, and -- on Fifth Avenue or Madison Avenue window and said, I'm going to get it or please get it, for her. She's -- it's not her thing.

M. TRUMP: You know, I made a lot of money myself. So, it's like, I know how it is to work and what money means. So, it's not that I would say, OK, now I will have the latest bag. I want that bag, and then in one month, that bag will be in the closet and it's not even -- it's kind of funny if you have that bag. It's like, not in fashion. I'm not into that.

KING: There's a very nice side of you, a generous, nice side of you, and I'll ask her to tell us about it when you come back. "The Apprentice," Thursday night. Don't go away.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Words can't describe how beautiful it was. Everything you saw was breathtaking, and we got to meet his girlfriend Melania who is amazing as well.

M. TRUMP: Hi. I'm Melania. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Pleasure to meet you.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Nice to meet you.

M. TRUMP: Oh, that's great, of course.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: How do you clean a house like this?

M. TRUMP: Well, you have people to clean it.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You're very, very lucky.

M. TRUMP: Thank you. And he's not lucky?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Oh, no, no, no!

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(END VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I just want to know if the story is true or not. You were traveling to Atlantic City and your limo broke down. Husband and wife pulled up behind, and the husband basically said, I'm going to help him out. He helped out the limousine. And a week later, the husband and wife received the deed to their house paid off. Was that a true story?

D. TRUMP: That's true. It's true.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That is (EXPLETIVE) awesome.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That just goes to show what type of man he is, a great man. He believes in good karma.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Here's to not being the first one fired.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

KING: We're back with the trumps. What don't we know about him?

M. TRUMP: What do we know?

KING: What does the public not know about him?

M. TRUMP: Not know. Um, amazing heart. He likes to help people. He has friends. He's loyal to it. He is -- great sense of humor, great sense of humor, and I think, you know, people look -- know him more, since "The Apprentice," the way he is. He cares about people.

KING: I had a friend..

D. TRUMP: She's doing a very good job tonight, by the way.

KING: Yes, she is. I had a friend tell me that if he had a problem, he would call you. Why don't you let that out more?

D. TRUMP: Well, I think the press doesn't really like hearing that, to be honest with you. I mean, I do a lot of things and I don't like to talk about them. But they'd much rather see me, you know, beating someone up than being nice to somebody. You know, it fits the image better for them. And I think that's fine. It doesn't matter.

But I love to help people. I do. I love helping people. There's nothing better. There's nothing that makes me feel better.

KING: A great reward, isn't it?

D. TRUMP: Yeah. But I don't think that's the image that the press really wants for me. You know, they develop sort of an image for somebody, and that's what they want to go with. And I think that's probably one of the reasons "The Apprentice" did so well. What's interesting about "The Apprentice" is that I fire people. That's what I do. I fire people.

KING: You do a mean thing?

D. TRUMP: I do a mean thing, and everyone thinks I'm so much nicer than before. You know, they used to think that I was really this horrible, flame-throwing, terrible tyrant. Right? Now I go on a television show, where basically what I do is I fire people, and everyone thinks I'm such a nice guy. Which tells you what a bad image I had.

KING: Do you have a favorite for Thursday night?

M. TRUMP: Yes, I have.

KING: I know you know, we're not going to have you say it.

M. TRUMP: Yeah, I couldn't tell.

KING: Do you try to influence him?

M. TRUMP: We talk about it.

KING: Does she have impact with you?

D. TRUMP: Well, the fact is, I have George and Caroline, but I also have George and Caroline, and I have my little Melania. The truth is, she does. She has a person that she thinks is very good on "The Apprentice," number three, the one we're doing on Thursday night, and she's told me that, and I think that's totally fair.

KING: Of course, she's your wife. And does it impact you?

D. TRUMP: It does. And Mark Burnett, generally Mark wants me to do exactly what I want to do. And he's an incredible guy, and a good guy, a really good guy. There's another guy that is...

KING: Great guy. D. TRUMP: ... wonderful. But every once in a while, he'll say something that, you know, I like to listen to people, what they think, especially Mark or Melania or people that I respect.

KING: Where are you from?

M. TRUMP: I'm from Slovenia. I'm from Slovenia, and I grew up there as a teenager. And I left 15 years ago.

KING: To come...

M. TRUMP: To then to Milan, and then Paris, and then I went to New York. I came to New York 10 years ago.

KING: You wanted to be a model?

M. TRUMP: Yes, I was modeling.

KING: That was your goal, to be a model?

M. TRUMP: Yes, I was modeling in Milan and Paris. And then came to New York, and I had a very successful career.

KING: You still want her to model?

D. TRUMP: Well, she's doing an Aflac commercial. And I was very...

KING: The duck?

D. TRUMP: I was very -- Dan Amos, who is the chairman of Aflac, who has done an amazing job.

KING: Amazing.

D. TRUMP: He wanted to do where the duck turns into this beautiful swan, or beautiful duck. And they said, OK, the concept is great. Now we're going to supply you with like 25 women and you can choose the one you want. He said, no, I don't want to look at anybody. I want Trump's wife.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

M. TRUMP: If you are hurt and can't work, Aflac can help pay your bills with cash.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Genius! And her?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Aflac!

(END VIDEO CLIP)

D. TRUMP: It's been a tremendous success.

M. TRUMP: It was great success. I had a great time to shoot it.

KING: Would you then not mind if she did fashion modeling?

D. TRUMP: Well, she can do it. She doesn't want to do too much of it. She was very successful. I don't think she wants to do a lot of modeling. But she's having fun, and she is given a lot of offers, and she turns many of them down, most of them down. She liked doing the Aflac one, because it was so different, and it's such a great commercial.

KING: It is funny. Very funny.

We'll be back with some more moments with Donald and Melania Trump. Don't go away.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

D. TRUMP: The bottom line, of course, is you were the team leader. The team was a mess. The project was no good. And Chris, you're fired. Seven weeks in a row, you are fired. Out, go.

Hey, Chris, two things. Listen to me, come here. Two things. Don't take it so hard. Get over here, get over here. Two things, I want you to promise me. You're going to watch your temper. OK? You got a lot of emotion. Sometimes that gets into temper. Number two, stay away from that damn tobacco. OK? You promise?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes, sir.

D. TRUMP: OK. You got a lot of potential. You're going to be a big success.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you.

D. TRUMP: I have no doubt about it.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

KING: A couple of other quick things I want to cover. Are you going to buy Miss America?

D. TRUMP: Probably not. I have Miss USA. I own the Miss Universe contest. But Miss America has gone down a long way.

KING: So has Miss Universe, hasn't it?

D. TRUMP: No, Miss Universe is doing great. Are you kidding me? We had the highest ratings we've had in years. Miss Universe has been a really great success.

KING: Did you ever enter that?

M. TRUMP: Sorry?

KING: Miss Universe, did you ever enter?

M. TRUMP: No, no, no, no.

D. TRUMP: She would have won. Especially if I owned it.

KING: Over before it started.

ABC has a Trump biopicture coming, called "Trump Unauthorized," scheduled May 24th. You said you'll sue if there are inaccuracies.

D. TRUMP: Correct, yeah, I'll sue. I mean, if it's inaccurate...

KING: Are you worried?

D. TRUMP: I'm not worried. Hey, look, it's going to go on, it's going to go off, nobody is going to remember it. Who cares. But I'm going to -- you know, I let them know, I'm very honored that they're doing it. It's a great honor. You know, they're doing a two-hour movie on me on national network television. And so I'm honored in one way. In another way, I want it to be accurate. So if it's not accurate, I will sue.

KING: You're not trying to stop it, though.

D. TRUMP: I will sue.

KING: You are not trying to stop it?

D. TRUMP: It's pretty tough to stop it.

KING: It's hard.

D. TRUMP: Yeah, it's pretty tough. You know how that is.

KING: Do you know who is playing you?

D. TRUMP: An actor who is -- he's quite a bit shorter than me, but he's a handsome guy, so I'm OK. I hope the women are all short.

(CROSSTALK)

M. TRUMP: It's not -- nobody plays me. It's his past life.

KING: Oh.

D. TRUMP: It's prior to.

M. TRUMP: Yes, it's before me. And it's like the story, his life was, you know, open book, so everybody sees...

KING: You know all his exes?

M. TRUMP: Yes.

KING: Get along with them? M. TRUMP: I don't see them much. I don't -- you know, we don't see them in our social life.

KING: They were at the wedding, though?

D. TRUMP: No, no, that was a misconception. They weren't invited to the wedding. And they're wonderful -- you know, Ivana is wonderful and Marla is wonderful.

KING: I thought I read they were at the wedding.

D. TRUMP: And actually, Melania doesn't know Ivana. Maybe -- I don't think she's ever met her. But does not know. And does know Marla, and she has a great relationship with Marla. But she doesn't know Ivana.

KING: And you root for them to be happy?

D. TRUMP: Absolutely. I want them to be happy. Absolutely. They're the mother of my children -- the mothers of my children. So I want them to be happy. And I have a good relationship with both of them.

KING: You worry about women and him -- being attracted to him?

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M. TRUMP: No, I don't worry about that at all. I know who I am. And if a man doesn't want to be with me or I don't want to be with a man...

KING: Goodbye and good luck.

M. TRUMP: That's right.

KING: Do you worry about her with men?

D. TRUMP: No, I know her. That's the rock.

KING: Thank you both very much.

M. TRUMP: Thank you.

D. TRUMP: Thank you.

KING: Good luck Thursday night. May the best woman win.

D. TRUMP: That's true.

KING: Or may your choice win, which probably is the best.

Melania and Donald Trump. "The Apprentice," the windup of the third season is Thursday night on NBC. And it's live. And we thank them both very much.

And we'll see you tomorrow night with Tim Russert.

And we now turn the podium over to Aaron Brown and "NEWSNIGHT" -- Aaron.

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May 17, 2005 Tuesday

**SECTION:** Sports

**LENGTH:** 731 words

**HEADLINE:** Poker champ's rags-to-riches saga

**BYLINE:** CEDRIC GOLDEN

**DATELINE:** AUSTIN, Texas

**BODY:**

The chips were clattering on the fine felt tables of Fado's Irish Pub on Monday night when I went in to meet professional poker's newest phenom.

Chris Moneymaker (yep, that's his real name), the Internet generation's first World Series of Poker champion, was in town to play against and offer poker tips to a few dozen wannabe world champions, all eager to take their best shot at the 29-year-old, rags-to-riches card player.

I sat down at the table and a host handed me \$1,000 in chips. Don't get excited, this was just for show and for all I know, he could have handed me a stack of Doritos. But the game was spirited, with Moneymaker dealing the first few hands in between signing autographs and posing for photos.

I've been playing cards for 25 years, but I was about as sure of myself as the barber who styles Scotty Nguyen's mullet. But since it was free, I figured, what the heck?

Moneymaker was in Austin to promote his new book, in which he details how winning the 2003 World Series of Poker changed his life and how he's handled the accompanying fame.

Part of that is dealing with locals who want to take him on at the table.

"I get that a lot, especially on the road," he said. "People invite me to their private home games. Everybody thinks they can play and they want to challenge you."

Before Moneymaker and 2004 World Series of Poker champ Greg "Fossilman" Raymer came onto the scene, established parlor vets like Johnny Chan, Sam Farha and Dan Harrington dominated the game for the past two decades (I still call it a game, although I know some call it a sport). However, cyberspace has created a generation of newcomers.

Young players like Moneymaker \_ who started out playing nickel-dime-quarter dealer's choice games like 7-27, Acey-Deucey and Chase the Queen in the 1990s \_ graduated to the unlimited gaming choices made possible by the internet.

Moneymaker credits the 1998 movie "Rounders," starring Matt Damon as a law student/poker player who takes down the local hold 'em king, with inspiring him to believe he could win outside his weekly game.

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Moneymaker, who had a \$55,000 salary as a 27-year-old accountant in the Nashville, Tenn., area, turned a \$39 pokerstars.net win and another online tournament victory over 59 players into a \$10,000 buy-in for the 2003 World Series of Poker in Las Vegas.

With help from friends and family, he scraped together about \$4,500 to cover the food and hotel expenses that come with staying in Vegas for the month-long event. He was one of 839 names on a bracket as long as Fremont Street, site of Binion's Horseshoe, the home of the 2003 tourney.

After an improbable journey through the bracket, including a takedown of the legendary Chan followed by a "king high" bluff against Farha, Moneymaker \_ wearing sunglasses and a baseball cap to shield his face from the eyes of the more experienced players \_ hit a full house on the final draw to eliminate Farha in the finals and earn \$2.5 million.

He stayed another nine months at Deloitte & Touche, but his continued success in poker and the long hours playing online made it difficult to keep a 9 to 5 job, so he quit. His new lifestyle did not mix well with his home life either, and he and his wife, Kelly, the parents of a young daughter, divorced this year.

"It was hard because she didn't marry a poker player, but everything's good now," he said. "It was a tough adjustment."

Moneymaker hasn't won an offline tourney since the 2003 World Series of Poker, but he did collect a \$200,000 second-place prize in a San Jose, Calif., event last year. Among his off-the-table projects are a pair of poker videogames for Sony PlayStation and X-Box, his own line of poker chips and a movie deal about his life that is in the discussion phase. And there's the 2005 WSOP in June.

Taking on us pugs on Monday, Moneymaker did not play while wearing his trademark sunglasses \_ he said the shades come out only when he goes up against the big boys \_ and he actually won only a couple of hands before moving to another table.

For my part, I only went up against him twice and he folded both times. I did flop a set of treys to win a \$700 pot and then went all in a couple of hands later to win with a nut straight. Bring on Teddy KGB.

Cedric Golden writes for the Austin American-Statesman. E-mail: [cgolden@statesman.com](mailto:cgolden@statesman.com)

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The Denver Post

May 17, 2005 Tuesday  
FINAL EDITION

**SECTION:** Pg. F-02

**LENGTH:** 509 words

**HEADLINE:** You can sell Don's Tavern, but not its soul

**BYLINE:** Bill Husted Denver Post Staff Columnist

**BODY:**

Don's Club Tavern, a.k.a. Don's Mixed Drinks, at 723 E. Sixth Ave., is

this close to being sold to the Little Pub Company. But it's not going to change much. Long live Don's.

Mark Berzins is boss at Little Pub, which owns the Irish Hound, The Elm, Spot Bar & Grill, Three Dog Tavern and a host of other neighborhood joints around town. He says they plan to close the deal June 2. Not that you'll notice. Don's will not become a trendy Irish pub.

"I've been strolling into Don's for the occasional stiff cocktail for many, many years," says Berzins, who lives just a few blocks away. "We're not going to change a thing. Our intention is to keep it the same beautiful divey joint that it is. It's a classic, legendary neighborhood joint. I would feel wrong going in there swinging hammers."

Listen to the music

As I wrote here last month, Elway's plans to offer live music in its back courtyard five Wednesdays this summer. Check it out at [elways.com](http://elways.com).

Wendy Woo kicks it off 5-7 p.m. June 15, then it's Robert Johnson on June 22; 17th Avenue Allstars on June 29; Nelson Rangell on July 6; Pan Jumbies on July 13.

Why not run the series all summer long?

"Quite frankly, we don't know how it will go," says Elway's GM Tom Moxcey. "This is our first year; we just want to try it out and see if it's something people enjoy."

Bet on it.

Bolder

Sunday's N.Y. Times spends a page on Boulder, when to go, where to stay, where to eat, what to do.

The best advice: Visit Boulder over Memorial Day weekend and stay at the beautiful new St. Julien Hotel & Spa. For \$265, two people spend the night, one gets a hot-rock massage, they both get brunch or a pasta carb feast before the BolderBOULDER 10k race May 30.

It is a great weekend in the republic. "Emptied of the University of Colorado's students, the town is at its least populated," says The Times. "And thanks to the road-race frenzy, so are the 200 miles of well-groomed, accessible open-space trails."

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PG-00358

City spirit

Last weekend's makeover of Mayor John Hickenlooper was postponed until this summer ... It's Christian Anschutz, not Christopher, as I wrote here Sunday ... Sigh: Heeb magazine editor Josh Neuman at Buckhorn Exchange noshing on rattlesnake, elk and buffalo ... The opening of Emogène Patisserie and Café has been delayed until Wednesday ... Barbara Davis comes back to town Oct. 1 to be honored by the Children's Diabetes Foundation's High Hopes Tribute Dinner; Bob Newhart will entertain ... Spy Bar & Lounge at Denver Pavilions (next door to Beyond nightclub) opens with a VIP party Friday and to the great unwashed Saturday, 7 p.m.-2 a.m. The hook? Silhouette dancing (a hit in Vegas), plasma TVs and 12 video cameras that "spy" on people in the lounge ... Denver bold names head to the Brown Palace Wednesday night to hear about Cliff Young's Vintner's Club, his exclusive private residence club in Burgundy, France ... Sez who: "Never face facts." Marlo Thomas

Bill Husted's column appears Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Husted also appears on Fox 31 News. You can reach him at 303-820-1486 or at [bhusted@denverpost.com](mailto:bhusted@denverpost.com).

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Las Vegas Review-Journal (Nevada)

May 17, 2005 Tuesday FINAL EDITION

**SECTION:** B; Pg. 1B

**LENGTH:** 1019 words

**HEADLINE:** Fan fury at ticket dispersal

**BYLINE:** J.M. KALIL and DOUG ELFMAN

**BODY:**

Upon learning how free tickets to a Red Hot Chili Peppers concert would be distributed Monday, the crowd waiting in line for hours outside one Smith's grocery store unleashed a barrage of verbal outrage worthy of a parental warning sticker.

'I can't believe this (expletive)!' one man screamed.

'I've been here since midnight. This is (expletive),' a woman yelled.

'(Expletive) (expletive) (expletive)!' another woman shrieked.

Only 52 of the 184 people who lined up Monday at Smith's at Rancho Drive and Craig Road scored part of the second batch of free tickets to the July 2 'Vegas Rocks 100' outdoor concert featuring the Chili Peppers and alternative rockers Weezer.

Monday's release of additional tickets was aimed at making amends for a Web-based distribution system that led in April to most of the initial 50,000 free tickets going to out-of-towners, many of whom immediately put them up for sale on eBay for as much as \$92 each.

With only 5,000 free tickets being released valleywide Monday for the concert celebrating Las Vegas' centennial, fans knew there again would be more demand than supply.

But many still seethed at a distribution method that led to the last seven people in line at the Craig and Rancho Smith's getting tickets while others who had been waiting for hours ahead of them went home empty-handed.

'This just didn't make any sense,' said Marc Silverman, 39, an electrician who was near the front of the line and on the cusp of getting four free passes when Ticketmaster ran out at 12:16 p.m.

Instead of handing out tickets on a first-come, first-serve basis, Ticketmaster employed a policy under which everyone in line was handed a single raffle ticket.

The first person in line received a ticket ending with 001, with the numbers increasing the farther people were back in line, with the last person receiving a ticket ending in 184.

A Smith's employee then randomly drew the number 177 out of a bag holding all the numbers. The person holding ticket 177 was then sent to the front of the line, followed by the people holding tickets 178 through 184. Then behind them were the people holding tickets 001, 002 and so on.

Tickets only lasted through the person holding the ticket ending in 046, Byron Goetting.

'I only got two,' said Goetting, 22, who waited in line more than three hours. 'It sucks, but it's better than none.'

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'The Centennial concert has generated tremendous response from music fans since it was first announced, and today's local retail ticket center distribution was no exception,' Phil Misiura, general manager for Ticketmaster Las Vegas, said in an e-mail. 'With a show like this coming to town, consumer demand is huge. Ticketmaster distributed several thousand tickets to local residents in a matter of minutes.'

Some of the people hurling expletives at Smith's employees complained that they weren't informed about the distribution process until 9 a.m., after many had already been waiting in line for hours.

'I had to get my mom to watch my kids so I could be out here,' Karen Brill said. Brill, a 42-year-old who was the first person in line camped out all night in a lounge with a radio and cooler by her side. 'I never would've done that if they would've posted something saying how they were going to do this.'

Things were calmer at the Tower-Wow music store on Sahara Avenue. But it was still a tender situation. Mike Ponder, 35, and a buddy were first in line until the lottery-type deal dropped them back.

'There were people in front of us who got here after us that were in danger, because there was gonna be a riot' if the late-comers beat them out for tickets, he said. But they scored tickets. 'So it's all good.'

One of the guys in front of them was Rob Goald, who said Monday's ticket-athon was a piece of cake compared to the old days, when he waited overnight for tickets to The Who. Goald underscored the point that Monday's giveaway was a rarity in Vegas: It was one of the few times when many locals couldn't use their social connections to get free tickets to a concert.

'This is, like, a citywide event. Unless you're connected to one of the politicians in town, you're in line,' Goald said. 'I bet friends of Mayor Goodman got tickets, right?'

Kori Case, a 26-year-old dental hygiene student, didn't mind the lottery-ticket system: She got tickets. As a longtime Chili Pepper fan, she's hoping the band puts on a good visual show, like when they used to wear socks on their penises and nothing else.

'I don't think that's gonna happen at this show,' she said. 'I wouldn't mind it. That would be fine with me. I'm hoping they come out with something crazy. I would be surprised if they didn't.'

She praised the mayor for orchestrating an official event that stars a band with heroin recovery in its history and hard-core rock in its blood. 'Oscar Mayer,' she said before correcting his name to Oscar Goodman, knows how to deliver entertainment that's not softies Celine Dion and Elton John.

At the back of the line, four high school friends waited in vain.

'We ditched school, and we're still late,' a boy named Kris said, wiping bangs out of his eyes. 'This line's not moving.'

'We don't have anything better to do,' his tall friend Josh said. 'I'm currently missing a test.'

Their friend Lacey, a Weezer fan, wished, 'That'd be cool to order pizza and: 'Could you deliver it to the sidewalk?'

Then, word came that tickets were gone. About 100 people sauntered off. The four teens walked to Kris' parents Mercedes and prepared to meander away.

'We suck at life,' Kris said.

#### CONTESTS, EBAY OFFER CHANCES FOR TICKETS

Those still without tickets for the July 2 Red Hot Chili Peppers/Weezer concert in a parking lot at Paradise Road and Convention Center Drive still have chances to score a pair.

KLAS-TV, Channel 8 and KVVU-TV, Channel 5, as well as KXTE, 107.5-FM, KOMP, 92.3-FM and KMXB, 94.1-FM, are planning on-air giveaways. Then there's always eBay.

As of late Monday afternoon, 56 people were offering one to four tickets for sale, most wanting at least \$50 a piece.

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May 17, 2005 Tuesday FINAL EDITION

**SECTION:** E; Pg. 1E

**LENGTH:** 29 words

**HEADLINE:** Vegas hosts annual recognition show

**BYLINE:** Doug Elfman

**BODY:**

What: Academy of Country Music Awards 40th Anniversary Concert  
When: 7 p.m. Wednesday  
Where: Mandalay Bay Events Center  
Tickets: \$52.50-\$105 (632-7580)

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Copyright 2005 DR Partners d/b Las Vegas Review-Journal  
Las Vegas Review-Journal (Nevada)

May 17, 2005 Tuesday FINAL EDITION

**SECTION:** E; Pg. 7E

**LENGTH:** 207 words

**HEADLINE:** CineVegas adds stars, high-profile films

**BYLINE:** Review-Journal

**BODY:**

High-profile opening- and closing-night premieres, plus tributes to Nicolas Cage, Christopher Walken and Ann-Margret highlight the 2005 CineVegas Film Festival, which celebrates '100 Years of Las Vegas, 100 Years of Film' June 10-18 at the Palms.

With almost a dozen world and U.S. premieres, the seventh annual CineVegas also features advance screenings of high-profile releases, new independent films, underground attractions and homegrown Nevada titles, including four retro Vegas films chosen by fans: 'Viva Las Vegas,' 'Leaving Las Vegas,' 'Showgirls' and 2001's 'Ocean's Eleven.'

Other festival honorees include directors George A. Romero (whose latest zombie opus, 'Land of the Dead,' closes the festival) and Wim Wenders, along with actors Walken, Samantha Morton and Rhonda Fleming.

CineVegas' opening-night attraction, 'Hustle & Flow,' stars Terrence Howard ('Crash') as a Memphis street hustler trying to become a successful rapper.

The festival also spotlights several Vegas-themed features, among them 'The Aristocrats' -- a Sundance Film Festival documentary hit executive-produced by Penn Jillette.

More CineVegas information is available by telephone at 992-7979 or online at <http://www.cinevegas.com>.

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Las Vegas Review-Journal (Nevada)

May 17, 2005 Tuesday FINAL EDITION

**SECTION:** C; Pg. 7C

**LENGTH:** 394 words

**HEADLINE:** PREP STATE VOLLEYBALL: Bengals, Wildcats field top teams for semifinals

**BYLINE:** Damon Seiters

**BODY:**

Palo Verde's boys volleyball team is coming off a loss to Bonanza in last week's Sunset Regional championship match.

Now the Panthers get to play the only team to beat Bonanza this season.

Palo Verde (17-3) takes on Sunrise champion Las Vegas (20-1) in the Class 4A state semifinals tonight at 7 at Coronado. Bonanza (20-1) plays Sunrise runner-up Silverado (15-6) in the first semifinal at 5 p.m. Wednesday's championship match is scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

'Vegas is a great defensive team,' Palo Verde coach Angie Vetter said. 'Their fundamentals are very sound, and they'll keep coming at you and before you know it, you've lost the match.'

'We're going to have to pass and play defense just as well if we're going to have a chance.'

Palo Verde's offense is led by Sunset Region Most Valuable Player Joe Kauliakamoa, but Vetter said her team is more than just the dynamic sophomore.

'We have a pretty well-rounded offense,' Vetter said. 'Everyone likes to talk about Joe, but I feel like we have a very balanced team. We just need to make sure we're using that (today) instead of using just one big hitter.'

Silverado coach Eric Drum said he hopes his team will be relaxed coming into the tournament.

'We feel like we've really accomplished a lot this season just by getting this far,' Drum said. 'I'm kind of expecting my boys to come in loose with nothing to lose.'

Silverado meets a Bonanza team that will have a significant height advantage. The Bengals have six players of 6 feet 3 inches or taller. Shawn Close is Silverado's tallest player at 6-3.

'They're all trees, they all jump really well, they have a good setter, and it's a very fast offense,' Drum said of the Bengals. 'They run a lot of low sets.'

The Bengals dropped just one game in the regional, and head coach Bon Bertolani said his team is starting to play at a higher level.

'I think they're playing pretty well,' Bertolani said. 'They're starting to limit some of their mistakes. We're just now starting to peak.'

Though Bonanza and Palo Verde might be the best offensive teams in the tournament, Drum thinks Las Vegas' defense will be the difference. The Wildcats also are experienced, with five senior starters.

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'I still think defense wins championships, and Vegas does a lot of the little things really well,' Drum said. 'And their offense is good, too.'

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The Macon Telegraph

May 17, 2005 Tuesday HO EDITION

**SECTION:** D; Pg. 1

**LENGTH:** 1156 words

**HEADLINE:** Macon poker scene rife with chips and quips

**BYLINE:** By Joe Kovac Jr.; Telegraph Staff Writer

**BODY:**

The stakes were high the other night at Billy's Clubhouse, a neighborhood bar where they're so into poker that the establishment's logo - a foaming pitcher of beer - is printed on the playing cards.

A young man in a Polo cap had just sweetened the pot, tossing \$50 in chips onto the felt. His raise didn't go over too well.

"Hey, I just gave you beer," groaned Colby Kersey, 21, a self-described poker nut and insurance-claims rep.

But the chips were imaginary money, penny-ante stuff compared to what the fellow in the Polo cap was sweating.

"I'm not supposed to be in Macon right now," he said. "But if my girlfriend catches me playing poker, I'm in trouble. ... She reads the paper every day to see if I'm in the (dang) wanted ads."

"OK, CrimeStoppers Junior," Kersey said, seeing and re-raising the raise, coolly sliding all of his chips into the fray.

Kersey's opponent did likewise and then he asked Kersey, "Is your heart beating?"

"I don't have a heart," Kersey dead-panned.

Kersey, sporting a camo baseball cap and hunched over a table where there were two hands and three ashtrays in play, flipped over an ace to match the one showing on the board. Kersey's unidentified foe revealed another matching ace and they ended up splitting a make-believe \$500 pot. "Good hand, Colby."

Such is the nature of modern-day poker, where good times and good company more often than not trump big bankrolls. Chummy rounds of cards are becoming the bingo of the new millenium.

In its low and no-stakes forms, poker has hit Everywhere, America, like a weekend in Vegas. It is at once glitzy, seedy and, even in Podunk, there's no telling what might happen.

Increasingly, cable - and now network - television coverage of professional poker tournaments is transforming the game from a smoky backroom affair to where, anymore, you're just as likely to find folks playing in Aunt Edna's front parlor. The game's most popular version, Texas Hold 'Em, has taken hold in casinos, both in gambling Meccas and online, and it is the favorite at local pub-and-grub venues where for-fun tournaments can be found almost nightly across the midstate.

Kersey, who has been playing since he was 17 ("I'm not a fanatic. I try not to play more than eight times a week"), said, "It's a game that a lot of people play but they didn't advertise it. Now that it's on ESPN, it's a sport."

"A sport," another player added, "where fat people have a chance."

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Poker combines the cunning of buying a new car, the shrewdness of selling a used one and pressure-cooks that wile into a series of transactions that boil over every few minutes.

Kersey has heard of local games "where I can play on payday and that's it." The minimum buy-ins run 2 grand.

Late last week at Billy's, 24-year-old Justin Powers, a between-jobs "nightlife socialite" who has dabbled in computers, said the local bar games are "usually friendly unless you get a bunch of strangers around you. ... Sometimes they might get (ticked) off when you beat them."

"Then," Kersey chimed in, "they go play darts and pretend like your face is the dartboard."

Part of poker's allure is the fact that the action is for the most part rapid, and any player can win a given hand. A solid player - through crafty bets and over-the-top bluffs - can influence the outcome. But if another player has the goods and holds onto his hand, no amount of posturing can alter the inevitable: You've either got the right cards or you don't.

Unlike other get-together activities - golf, pool, bowling and, yes, darts come to mind - where hand-eye coordination and the wildcard of physics hover over chance, poker is a lot like chess. Smarts are rewarded. They're poker currency. It's just that in poker, luck can still reign.

Powers, who the other night was in a blue T-shirt with "My Mommy Says I'm Special" on it, has been playing for about a decade. Wearing a backward cap with mirrored sunglasses propped on his forehead, Powers had the made-for-TV-poker look down cold.

"It's a little frustrating when you get beaten by an 8-9 and you've got pocket aces and they catch a straight," he explained. "That's just the nature of the game. No hand is guaranteed to win. And we're playing for free, or for, you know, five or 10 dollars. If you get beat, you're not broke. You didn't just lose a chance at five million dollars."

Five or so nights a week, Powers plays in area bars and eateries where the prizes range from gift certificates for meals to the occasional all-expense-paid trip to Biloxi. Powers recently won entry into an Atlanta qualifier for a \$10,000 seat at the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas. He was a middle-of-the-pack finisher in a field of 250. "It was a little intimidating," he said.

Which is what poker is all about. Powers likes the game's urgency, the hand-after-hand rush it affords.

"It's adrenaline," he said. "You get a hand, you'll raise. Your heart starts beating fast, you can feel your body temperature rising. You know if you flop four aces you're basically gonna win the hand, but your adrenaline still starts pumping. ... You don't have to have great skill to do it. Like they say on TV, 'It takes a minute to learn but a lifetime to master.'"

At Billy's, where the decor is NASCAR meets Applebee's, the crowd is as likely to punch up the Allman Brothers on the jukebox as it is Elton John.

Owner Jody DeBona said, "We have police officers that play, lawyers that play, real-estate agents that play, unemployed people that play. And a lot of car salesmen that play."

Over time he has noticed that there are certain types who don't fare well. "People that have had too much to drink usually lose pretty quickly."

As do ones who run up against hands like the one a player named Chris Carvin unleashed the other night at Billy's.

"Look," he said, "four kings!"

Having offed an opponent, the bar-owner's wife no less, Carvin was so proud of his four kings that he resorted to pun: "I'm not (joking) around with this hand!"

Carvin, 48, said, "Poker is the craze of the nation right now. The Internet made it big. Everybody likes to gamble and it doesn't cost anything. ... Besides, the lottery's a little more difficult to win at."

Across the table, Dee Swinney, one of the few women playing, said it isn't uncommon for guys to offer her unsolicited advice.

"They think you don't know how to play," she said. "Dealing with the cockiness of it is always amazing."

But Swinney, 33, a bartender, seemed to have embraced the ambience of lounge-scene poker.

On an overhead television, the NBA playoffs droned unnoticed.

The dartboards were warming up.

Some guy was explaining how "guys gamble. You've got to show everyone you're the best."

What more could a girl ask for?

"Tiny Dancer," after all, was on the jukebox.

"And," Swinney said, "you get to use your brain."

To contact Joe Kovac Jr., call 744-4397 or e-mail [jkovac@macontel.com](mailto:jkovac@macontel.com)

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The Miami Herald

May 17, 2005 Tuesday F1 EDITION

**SECTION:** B; Pg. 3

**LENGTH:** 717 words

**HEADLINE:** June deadline for ballpark;  
Major League Baseball wants a financing blueprint for a new ballpark in place by June 9, something Miami-Dade leaders say is a near-impossibility.;  
FLORIDA MARLINS / STADIUM

**BYLINE:** BY MICHAEL VASQUEZ, NOAKI SCHWARTZ AND BARRY JACKSON; mrvasquez@herald.com

**BODY:**

Hoping to jump-start slow-moving negotiations, Major League Baseball has issued an ultimatum to Miami-Dade political leaders: Finish a financing plan with the Florida Marlins for a new \$420 million stadium by June 9, or else.

Or else . . . what, exactly?

Baseball execs aren't saying.

But for now, they are not raising the touchy subject of shipping the team elsewhere.

A letter to city and county leaders from MLB's chief operating officer has also raised the question of whether all sides even agree on how much money they need.

During the recent state legislative session, Miami-Dade County and Miami officials -- along with the team -- lobbied unsuccessfully for a sales tax break worth \$30 million in up-front money, which they said would complete a patchwork funding package.

But the MLB letter that mentions the June 9 deadline talks about a \$45 million stadium funding gap.

Why the different numbers?

"That's a good question," Miami City Manager Joe Arriola said. He didn't have an immediate answer. "We just got the letter today."

County Manager George Burgess said the Marlins now anticipate land for the site near the Orange Bowl will cost \$15 million more than planned. Arriola, however, questioned how that could be when no land for the stadium has been purchased.

**FUNDING GAP IN LETTER**

Major League Baseball President Robert DuPuy, who wrote the letter, declined to explain why he set the funding gap at \$45 million. He did say, however, that the Marlins had not requested permission to talk to other cities about a possible relocation.

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Asked if the Marlins might begin discussions with such baseball-hungry cities as Las Vegas after June 9, DuPuy said: "We will deal with the June 9 date when it comes. I had to put a date in there ... in fairness, the city, county and team have been very responsive in the past."

Several local politicians -- who reacted with anger and disappointment six months ago when Marlins ownership was hob-nobbing in Vegas -- shrugged off this latest deadline.

The team itself has issued numerous similar deadlines in the past, which came and went.

Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez said he wasn't particularly worried about meeting the June 9 date, though he did find parts of DuPuy's letter to be "pretty demanding."

"I continue to be supportive of a stadium and I think it's going to take everyone working together," Alvarez said.

To build the proposed \$420 million, 38,000-seat stadium with a retractable roof Miami-Dade County had pledged \$138 million -- \$30 million from tourist taxes, \$48 million from sports franchise taxes and \$60 million from tourist taxes formerly allotted to the Miami Arena.

The Marlins have pledged \$192 million and the city of Miami has said it will chip in \$28 million, plus land near the stadium. Parking revenues are expected to generate \$32 million.

#### POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

DuPuy's letter suggested three possible solutions for finding additional stadium cash, one of which -- holding a referendum to raise more public money -- struck some at Miami City Hall as preposterous.

"Puh-leaze," Arriola said, repeating the word twice more for emphasis.

"That's not even a consideration right now."

Two other solutions suggested in the letter won't come easy either: increasing contributions from the city, county, and team, or achieving the long-sought goal of convincing the state to add millions of dollars.

With the annual legislative session concluded, the Marlins' only hope for state help this year depends on Gov. Jeb Bush calling a special session and including stadium funding on the to-do list.

Bush on Monday didn't rule out calling a special session, but said the Marlins must win support in the state Senate -- a long shot -- to have a chance. If the state did chip in, it wouldn't be by June 9, Bush added.

#### ANOTHER OPTION

One other option for closing the gap -- one not mentioned in MLB's letter -- would be to build a cheaper stadium. Some Miami city leaders are suggesting that planners cut costs by removing the proposed retractable-roof, which the Marlins have said is necessary to attract crowds during rainy Miami summers.

Herald staff writers Gary Fineout and Tere Figueras Negrete contributed to this report.

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May 17, 2005 Tuesday  
Late Edition - Final

**SECTION:** Section E; Column 4; The Arts/Cultural Desk; BOOKS OF THE TIMES; Pg. 1

**LENGTH:** 1392 words

**HEADLINE:** Sinatra Their Way: Lots of High Jinks

**BYLINE:** By MICHIKO KAKUTANI

**BODY:**

Sinatra The Life

By Anthony Summers and Robbyn Swan

Illustrated. 576 pages. Alfred A. Knopf. \$26.95

The first thing you remember, of course, is the voice -- at one time, the most famous voice in the world, the voice that bridged decades from World War II to the waning years of the 20th century, the voice that conjured romance and loneliness, bright dreams and misplaced hopes, the voice that millions danced to, made love to and listened to on jukeboxes and radios and hi-fi sets.

It was a voice, Bruce Springsteen would later say, filled with "bad attitude, life, beauty, excitement, a nasty sense of freedom, sex and a sad knowledge of the ways of the world."

The second thing you remember is the attitude: the booze and broads and brawls, the hat worn at a rakish angle, the jacket flung over one shoulder, the Camels and Jack Daniel's, the late nights in small saloons and even later nights in Vegas. He was the guy who radiated Bogart's tough-guy cynicism and Fitzgerald's wistful romanticism. He was the hipster and the dreamer, the swinger and the existentialist, the ring-a-ding-ding showman and the melancholy singer of the blues -- the first of the great American heartthrobs who made girls swoon and the first big-league avatar of the new celebrity age.

When it snowed, one writer observed, "girls fought over his footprints, which some took home and stored in refrigerators."

Pete Hamill once declared that it would take "some combination of Balzac and Raymond Chandler" to capture the complexities of Frank Sinatra's life and work. It's a challenge, the reader might have assumed, that would have been taken up by some enterprising biographer interested in telling this very American story -- a story that not only stars an artist of myriad complexities but also embodies immigrant dreams and Gatsbyesque ambitions, the rise of 20th-century American popular culture and the nervous relationship between entertainment and politics and the underworld.

Mr. Hamill, Gay Talese and John Lahr among others have written memorable articles and monographs on Sinatra and his music, but when it comes to full-scale biographies the Chairman of the Board has not had his Balzac or his Chandler.

Instead, he's had a series of lurid gossip and fact compilers: Earl Wilson, Kitty Kelley and now Anthony Summers and Robbyn Swan, whose tacky new book spends more time talking about the Mafia, the Kennedys and Marilyn Monroe than it does discussing Sinatra's music or movies.

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PC-00371

The New York Times May 17, 2005 Tuesday

The authors of "Sinatra" evince no real appreciation of the singer's work -- the very thing that makes a biography of him worth writing or reading in the first place. They shed no light on the autobiographical sources of his artistry, save for making the most obvious connections between the heartbreak he sustained over his doomed romance with Ava Gardner and the heartbreak in the songs he recorded shortly thereafter for Capitol.

They make little effort to locate the emotional roots of the loneliness and solitude that thread their way through his ballads. And they do nothing to illuminate the contradictions of this man, who assumed such a swaggering persona in real life and yet revealed in his songs such an aching tenderness and vulnerability.

As for the actual craft of Sinatra's singing, there are only dribbles (in the form of recycled quotes from music critics and former associates) that hint at how he perfected his vocabulary of phrasing, how he learned to tell a story with each song, how he mastered the new technology of the day to create his intimate yet urgent art, how he learned to reinvent himself over the years as both his voice and world around him changed.

Obsessively focused on the headline-making high jinks in the singer's life, "Sinatra" (which is presumptuously subtitled "The Life") is a tawdry symptom of our gossip-centric culture -- a culture that thrives on reality television, unverified Internet rumors and supermarket tabloid snarkiness. It is also a quintessential example of pathography -- that meanspirited, voyeuristic genre of biography that Joyce Carol Oates once observed dwells on "dysfunction and disaster, illnesses and pratfalls, failed marriages and failed careers, alcoholism and breakdowns and outrageous conduct."

Indeed, "Sinatra" is a leering, bloated and utterly disposable volume. It draws much of its personal material from earlier books like "His Way" by Ms. Kelley and "Mr. S.," a dishy 2003 memoir by George Jacobs, Sinatra's former valet, and William Stadiem. And to make matters worse, it is thickly padded with innuendo, hearsay and speculation. The authors do little to verify many of their sources' allegations, and they seem happy to quote anyone who has anything to say about the singer's womanizing, drinking, violent temper or alleged mob connections.

They quote one of Marilyn Monroe's former maids who says her employer talked of marrying Sinatra, and a tourist who says that Sinatra appeared to treat Judith Campbell Exner (the mistress he reportedly shared with John F. Kennedy and Sam Giancana) in a dismissive fashion during a trip to Hawaii.

Early in the book, Mr. Summers (the author of an earlier gossip-filled book titled "Goddess: The Secret Lives of Marilyn Monroe") and Ms. Swan identify "three traits in Frank's character: promiscuity, rage over press coverage of his private life, and a propensity to make violent threats," and these traits quickly become leitmotifs in these pages. The authors also describe the singer as "emotionally unstable" and dwell in melodramatic, vulturelike detail on what they refer to as four suicide "gestures."

The central focus of this book, however, remains Sinatra's alleged mob connections. "Organized crime" is mentioned on page 5 of the book (even before an account of the singer's birth and childhood), and the authors assert that "Frank's involvement with criminals was woven into the fabric of his life and career by 1948" and that "the Mafia had a continuing interest in every aspect of his life and career."

The authors quote sources who say that a Hoboken mafioso named Angelo (Gyp) De Carlo helped the young Sinatra get his start, and they suggest that "Mafia fish bigger than De Carlo" soon "took an interest" in his career. They also quote sources who suggest that Sinatra was able to get out of a costly contract with Tommy Dorsey (which would have given the bandleader a third of the singer's "all future earnings over \$100 a week" for "the next 10 years") only after mobsters threatened Dorsey with a gun -- a story other biographers have questioned.

In addition, Mr. Summers and Ms. Swan suggest that Sinatra won the role of Maggio in "From Here to Eternity" -- a role that helped turn his career around after a precipitous slump in the early 1950's -- with more than a little help from mob connected friends, and that Harry Cohn, head of Columbia Pictures, was in fact "coerced into giving the part to Frank." They do not quote many of the numerous denials of this "Godfather"-esque scenario cited in, say, Ms. Kelley's book.

In focusing so relentlessly on the possible role that the mob played in Sinatra's career, Mr. Summers and Ms. Swan play down the singularity of his talent, and they elbow the magic of his music to the sidelines. In fact, readers interested in Sinatra's art would do well to turn, instead, to earlier books like "The Frank Sinatra Reader" (a lively compendium of essays by writers like Gay Talese, Gene Lees, Murray Kempton and Mikal Gilmore) edited by Steven Petkov and Leonard Mustazza; Will Friedwald's "Sinatra! The Song is You" (a serious examination of his musicianship, that draws upon dozens of interviews with his collaborators); or Mr. Hamill's "Why Sinatra Matters" (a succinct consideration of his life and work).

Even better, readers might crank up the stereo or turn on their iPods, and listen once more to "In the Wee Small Hours," "Songs for Swingin' Lovers" or "Only the Lonely" -- albums that remind the listener that whatever the excesses and sometime ugliness of his life, the singer could persuasively say, "When I sing, I believe I'm honest." Or, as Bob Dylan, quoted in the epigraph to this dreadful book, once said of Francis Albert Sinatra, "Right from the beginning, he was there with the truth of things in his voice."

**URL:** <http://www.nytimes.com>

**GRAPHIC:** Photo: Anthony Summers and Robbyn Swan, authors of "Sinatra." (Photo by Eamonn O'Brien/Knopf)(pg. E6)

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May 16, 2005 Monday, FINAL EDITION

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**HEADLINE:** TOGETHER

**BODY:**

MAY 21, 1955

Charles and Mary Lou Comer

Anchorage residents Charles and Mary Lou Comer will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary May 21 with family members in Anchorage.

Hosts will be their daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and Pat Bills of Anchorage, and son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Kathy Comer of Willow. Special guests will include Ian and Kristy Losby and children, Emily, Sean and Garrett; Shawna Pantoja and children, Alyssa and Ashlyn; Derrick and Kelli Melton and children, Michael and Summer.

The Comers were married May 21, 1955, in Princeton, Ind. They were stationed with the Air Force at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.; Clark Air Base, Philippines; Chanute AFB, Ill.; Fort Belvoir, Va.; Goodfellow AFB, San Angelo, Texas; Danang Air Base in Vietnam; Kelly AFB, Texas; and San Vito Air Station, Italy. They came to Elmendorf Air Force Base in August 1970 and retired from there in 1974.

Mary Lou worked for First National Bank Anchorage for 23 years. Charles was a pilot for Era Aviation and Crowley Maritime Corp.

The Comers are members of Anchorage Baptist Temple. They have three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

JAN. 8, 2005

Nicole and Joel Ringler

Palmer residents Nicole Mues and Joel Ringler were married Jan. 8 in Anchorage.

Nicole is the daughter of Suzanne and Dr. John Mues of Anchorage. She is a 1996 graduate of Service High School. Nicole earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Montana State University and an associate's degree in diagnostic ultrasound from Bellevue Community College. She is a sonographer with the Alaska Heart Institute.

Joel is the son of Jane and Michael Ringler of Palmer. He is a 1991 graduate of Chugiak High School. Joel earned an associate's degree in aviation technology. He attended Pacific Coast Horseshoeing school and is a certified journeyman farrier.

The couple met when Joel came to work at Alaska Equine and Small Animal Hospital, where Nicole was working in 2000. They share an interest in horses and fishing, and Joel is an avid hunter.

The ceremony and reception were at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art. Jack Smith officiated. Bridesmaids were Meagan Thwaites, Sarah Grunwaldt, Katie Baltus and Maite Bilbao, with Elizabeth Brown as the

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flower girl. Groomsmen were Chad Ringler, John-Edd Brown, Eric Wallingford and William Momblow, with Gabriel Momblow as ring-bearer. The couple honeymooned in Belize.

JAN. 15, 2005

Lindsay and Shawn Smalley

Lindsay Cathryn Holland and Shawn Lee Smalley were married Jan. 15 at the Stratosphere in Las Vegas.

Lindsay is the daughter of Beth Simpson and Steve Holland and Susan Luey of Anchorage. She is a 2001 graduate of Atheneum School and a psychology major at the University of Alaska Anchorage. She works as a licensed assistant at Dynamic Properties.

Shawn is the son of Dan Smalley of Anchorage and Kim Pettit of Sheridan, Ore. He works at Commercial Contractors. He has a son, Christopher.

The couple enjoy snowmachining, camping and fishing.

MAY 28, 2005

Kacy Mullen and Aaron Gingrich

Kacy Mullen and Aaron Gingrich will marry May 28 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Collinsville, Ill. A dinner and dance reception will follow.

Kacy is the daughter of Jim and Marcine Mullen of Anchorage. She graduated from Dimond High School in 2001 and from Valparaiso University in Indiana this month with a bachelor's degree in psychology. She will work as a research assistant at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas and plans to earn a doctorate in clinical psychology.

Aaron is the son of Kevin and Dr. Tina Gingrich of Illinois. He graduated from Metro East Lutheran High School in 2001. Aaron graduated from Valparaiso University this month with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and biology. He will begin medical school in the fall at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and plans to specialize in pediatric surgery.

The couple met during their first week at Valparaiso. Aaron surprised Kacy by proposing July 30 in Indianapolis. They are planning a beach honeymoon on the Hawaiian island of Kauai.

MAY 28, 2005

Cami Weeks and Daniel Dixon

Cami Lynn Weeks and Daniel Joseph Dixon will marry May 28 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Anchorage Alaska Temple.

Cami is the daughter of Ruthann and Dennis Weeks of Howe, Idaho. She is a 1998 graduate of West Jefferson High School in Terreton, Idaho, and earned an associate's degree from Ricks College in Rexburg, Idaho. Cami also earned a bachelor's degree in dietetics from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, and a dietetic internship certificate from the University of Alaska Anchorage. She is a clinical dietitian at Alaska Regional Hospital. Cami also served a full-time Latter-day Saints mission in Campinas, Brazil, from 2000 to 2002. She enjoys dancing, running, horseback riding and skiing.

Daniel is the son of James Dixon of Houston, Texas, and Sara Jane Wagner of Acworth, Ga. He is a 1991 graduate of Mayfield High School in Las Cruces, N.M., and attended New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. Daniel served a full-time Latter-day Saints mission in Anchorage from 2002 to 2004. He is a teller at Credit Union One. His interests include theology, political theory and running.

The couple met during a church activity.

JAN. 22, 2005

Cristy and Ken Jensen

Cristy Wylie and Ken Jensen were married Jan. 22 in Anchorage.

Cristy is the daughter of Sue and Tony Wylie of Anchorage. She is a 1998 graduate of East High School and earned a bachelor's degree in exercise and sports science from Oregon State University in Corvallis. Cristy is a substitute teacher for the Anchorage School District and plans to become an elementary school teacher. She enjoys softball.

Ken is the son of Rita and Wayne Jensen of Anchorage. He attended East High School and works as an outside salesman for Hughes Supply Co. in Anchorage. He has a daughter, Kelsey Jensen, and enjoys softball and riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

Cristy and Ken play softball together on a slow-pitch team. They also enjoy fishing. They met through friends.

The snowflake-themed ceremony was at Muldoon Road Baptist Church. Rod Hill officiated. Kelsey Jensen was maid of honor, and Jim Jensen was best man. Bridesmaids were Jennie Nicholas, Anne Young, Maite Bilbao, Bianca Fletcher and Holly Simanton. Groomsmen were Mitch Soland, Scott Clevenger, Jeremy Wylie, Paul Schoenborn and Chris Miller. Nick Jensen was ring-bearer, and Ashlynn Noethlich was flower girl. The ring-bearer pulled the flower girl down the aisle in a wagon.

The reception was at the Hotel Captain Cook. The couple honeymooned in Nassau, Bahamas.

JUNE 11, 2005

Amber Feeney and Daniel Kurka

Amber Marie Feeney and Daniel D. Kurka will marry June 11 at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel.

Amber is the daughter of Robin and Michael Feeney of Anchorage. She is a 2003 graduate of Stellar Secondary School and is studying music and voice at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Dan is the son of Donna Kurka of Eagle River and Walter Kurka of Homer. He is a 1999 graduate of Nikolaevsk High School in Anchor Point and attends UAA, where he is studying criminology. Dan is a mill worker for Spenard Builders Supply in Anchorage. He enjoys horses, country music and woodworking. Dan plans to join the Anchorage Police Department.

The couple met while Amber was working as a teller at Wells Fargo. The proposal took place May 30, 2004, on the stairs of Daniel's apartment.

MARCH 23, 2005

Laurie Montano and Tim Alderson

Laurie Montano and Tim Alderson were married March 23 at Napili Point on the island of Maui in Hawaii.

Laurie is the daughter of Dr. William and Eileen Montano of Fairbanks. She is a 1986 graduate of West Valley High School in Fairbanks. Laurie earned a bachelor's degree in general business from Arizona State University in Tempe and a medical degree from Albany Medical College in New York. She completed a combined residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at Vanderbilt University Hospital in Nashville, Tenn. Laurie is in private practice at Alaska Internal Medicine and Pediatrics in Anchorage. Her interests are swimming, bicycling, hiking and participating on the Trionic Women triathlon team.

Tim is the son of Clay Alderson of Tagish, Yukon, and Elizabeth White of Roanoke, Texas. He is a 1993 graduate of Skagway High School and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Sterling College in Kansas. Tim is a professional representative in sales and marketing for Merck and Co. Inc. in Anchorage. He enjoys hiking, bicycling and camping. Tim is a collegiate and high school basketball official and member of the Anchorage Sports Officials Association board of directors.

The couple met through mutual friends in Anchorage.

The traditional Hawaiian ceremony took place on the grass under an arch of tropical flowers overlooking the ocean and included a lei exchange. More than 40 family members and friends attended. Curt Dodd was best man, and Lisa Bishop was matron of honor. Flower girls were Sally Hatfield, Kessnia Hatfield, Liera Bishop and Alyssa Montano. Aleksey Bishop was ring-bearer. The poolside reception was at the Napili Kai resort and included traditional Hawaiian foods. The couple honeymooned on Maui, then spent a week at Amelia Island Plantation in Florida. A luau-style reception was held April 16 in Anchorage at Tanglewood Lakes Golf Club. The band H3 performed. Lynn Holmes made the wedding cake.

Laurie and Clay plan to live in Anchorage with their dogs, Lily and Ginger.

JAN. 15, 2005

Shawna and Wayne Wold

Shawna Janelle Yates and Wayne Thomas Wold were married Jan. 15 in Wasilla.

Shawna is the daughter of Cheryl and Robert Yates of Settlers Bay in Wasilla. She is a 1994 graduate of Service High School. Shawna earned a bachelor's degree in recreational therapy from Eastern Washington University in Cheney. She is a recreational therapist for Alaska Psychiatric Institute. Shawna also is a certified personal fitness trainer and former 2002 Miss Alaska lightweight bodybuilding champion. She enjoys the outdoors, boating, water skiing, bicycling, jogging, snowmachining and fitness training.

Wayne is the son of longtime Anchorage residents Julie and Harlan Wold. He is a heavy-equipment operator, assisting with the daily operation and management of his family's Anchorage business, Northern Asphalt. Wayne enjoys the outdoors, golfing, snowmachining, water skiing and boating and recently became involved in skeet shooting.

Both enjoy spending time at their Willow Creek cabin and vacationing in Las Vegas with family. They are NASCAR and Professional Bull Riders fans and attend those events in Vegas.

The couple met at Service High School through Wayne's sister and Shawna's best friend, Cheryl. They courted for two years.

The ceremony and reception were at Settlers Bay Lodge. Christopher Canterbury officiated. Personal vows were exchanged. Bridget (Yates) Hamman was matron of honor, and Tommy Smith was best man. Friends and family members attended from Alaska, the Lower 48 and France. The couple honeymooned on the island of Maui in Hawaii.

JUNE 18, 2005

Abigail Curry and Tyrell Tompkins

Abigail Catherine Curry and Tyrell L. Tompkins will marry June 18 at Peters Creek Christian Center.

Abby is the daughter of James and Connie Halvorson of Wasilla and Michael Curry and Teresa Schneider of Chugiak. She is a 2002 graduate of American High School in Lansing, Ill. Abby is an office assistant for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium in Anchorage. She enjoys volleyball and old TV shows.

Tyrell is the son of Tracie and K.B. Tompkins of Willow. He is a 2001 graduate of American High School and is a sales associate for Foot Locker in Wasilla. Tyrell enjoys music and playing live shows as a musician.

Tyrell proposed to Abby on bended knee in fall 2004 during a candlelight dinner in Wasilla. They plan to purchase a home in Birchwood.

JUNE 21, 2005

Charise Hood and Carlos Pleitez

Charise Lynnette Hood and Carlos Fernando Pleitez will marry June 21 at Kincaid Park chalet.

Charise is the daughter of Erma and Richard Hood of Anchorage. She is a 1989 graduate of Dimond High School and obtained vocational training in tourism. Charise is a flight attendant with Alaska Airlines. She enjoys traveling and spending time with family and friends.

Carlos is the son of Antonieta Pleitez of Guatemala and the late Leonardo Pleitez. He is a 1977 graduate of San Pasqual Academy in Escondido, Calif., and earned a degree in health sciences from Walla Walla College in Washington. Carlos is a licensed massage therapist with The Right Touch Massage Services at the Anchorage airport. He enjoys running, mountain biking, reading, traveling and meeting people.

The couple met on an airplane while both were working for Alaska Airlines. The proposal took place April 10 in Las Vegas. Carlos proposed on one knee in front of the Bellagio Hotel during the last fountain performance on the night on his birthday. Their plans include buying a home and starting a family.

JUNE 2005

Erin Thibault and James Quinn

Erin Rae Thibault and James Conan Quinn will marry in June at the home of Erin's parents in Eagle River.

Erin is the daughter of Holly and Ray Thibault of Eagle River. She is a 1998 graduate of Chugiak High School and earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Erin is a graduate student and teaching assistant at the University of Missouri in Columbia. She enjoys reading, working, traveling and the outdoors. Erin plans to obtain a doctoral degree and continue research work and teaching.

James is the son of Barbara Quinn of Naples, Fla. and Gerard Quinn of Richmond, Ky. He is a 1983 graduate of Shelton High School in Connecticut. James studied photography at UAA. He is an environmental control mechanic at Elmendorf Air Force Base hospital. James enjoys fishing, photography and music.

The couple met six years ago while working together at UAA. The proposal took place New Year's Eve at the David Grisman concert at the Bear Tooth Theatrepub.

MARCH 17, 2005

Rachel and Jeffrey Manley

Rachel Ruane and Jeffrey Manley were married March 17 in Las Vegas.

Rachel, a lifelong Alaskan, is a 1982 graduate of Service High School. She earned a degree in business administration from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Rachel, who has worked in the medical field for 21 years, is general manager for Oncology Alaska. She has a daughter, Emily.

Jeff is the son of Yvonne and James Manley of Ypsilanti, Mich. He is a 1981 graduate of Ypsilanti High School and earned a degree in musical performance from Eastern Michigan University. Jeff is a master sergeant in the Air Force Band of the Pacific. He has a daughter, Marina.

A ceremony was at Wee Kirk o' the Heather chapel. Rachel wore a dress provided by her sister, Brigitte Winter. Her sister wore the same dress at her wedding 22 years ago. Elvis impersonator Eddie Powers walked the bride down the aisle as he sang "It's Now or Never." Afterward, the couple and Emily attended a Celine Dion concert.

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Broadcasting and Cable

May 16, 2005

**SECTION:** NEWS; Fast Track; Pg. 33

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**BYLINE:** By Staff

**BODY:**

New MTV Mantra: "We're Not Cable"

Staff

Christina Norman , the new president of MTV , already has a mantra: "MTV is not a cable network."

Norman's mission at the **Viacom** network is to evolve MTV into a programming service on whatever means its audience wants to it, including basic cable, video-on-demand, cellphones, PCs, iPods or anything else that comes along. Her boss and predecessor, **MTV Group** President **Van Toffler** , sees MTV transforming slowly from a TV-centric model to what he clumsily calls "content multiplatform-centric."

MTV executives believe that their young audience will move to new platforms earlier and more aggressively than devotees of other networks. That means it may have the greatest opportunities of any TV network. Simultaneously, MTV may face the greatest losses if its audience moves before the network does.

"We're standing at the crossroads in terms of where the audience is going," Norman says. This is the motive behind the network's push of new broadband service **MTV Overdrive** .

Norman's appointment marks her return to MTV. Before becoming general manager-and later president-of **VH1** in 2002, she was senior VP for marketing, advertising and on-air promotion on MTV, **MTV2** and **MTV.com** . She took over **VH1** following its plunge in ratings after *Behind the Music* faded. She freshened up **VH1**'s staple-nostalgia clips shows-in offerings like *I Love the 90s* and *100 Most Wanted Bodies* .

Replacing her will be **Tom Calderone** , executive VP of music programming and talent for MTV and **MTV2**. Since 1998, that job has put him in charge of packaging music videos and live-music programming, which seems to be in short supply on **VH1**. **Calderone** plans to tweak **VH1** in part by increasing the presence of music.

**Cablevision Sues Over Stadium**

Staff

**Cablevision** filed another suit to block construction of a \$2.2 billion football stadium in Manhattan, this time challenging state-controlled **Empire State Development Corp.** for approving the construction. The stadium would compete with **Cablevision's** nearby **Madison Square Garden** for concerts and other live events. In New York State Supreme Court, **Cablevision** charges that the economic-development agency shouldn't have approved the project

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because the financial plan is inadequate and the latest design is far different from what the agency saw in the first stage of its review last November. Cablevision has also sued the transit agency that owns the stadium site.

## Time Warner, MSG Settle Sports Spat

## Staff

**Time Warner Cable (TWC) and Cablevision's Madison Square Garden Networks** have settled their rate dispute and cut a multiyear carriage agreement to return **MSG Network**, **Fox Sports Net New York** and three other **Fox Sports** digital networks to Time Warner Cable systems in the New York area, effective last week.

TWC systems in the New York City area and upstate New York carried the networks beginning Monday, May 9, in time for the **Mets/Cubs** game to air on Fox Sports Net New York. Details were not disclosed.

MSG Networks and TWC had been engaged in a spat since last summer over the cost of carriage for the regional sports networks. Time Warner pulled the channels from area systems July 31, leaving some 2 million subscribers without Mets games—except for a few on **WPIX** and **Fox Broadcasting's WNYW**, which had the broadcast game-of-the-week contract. MSG Networks and TWC permanently resolved the issue with help from New York State Attorney General **Elliot Spitzer**.

## 'Affair' Adds Stations

## Staff

**Twentieth Television** has cleared *A Current Affair* in 10 additional markets, bringing the half-hour strip's clearances to 54 markets representing 60% of the country. Twentieth is aiming for a full national rollout of the revived syndicated newsmagazine, hosted by **Tim Green**, by January 2006.

Gearing up for a fall launch of *Affair* are **CBS** affiliates **WTKR** Norfolk, Va., and **KVIQ** Eureka, Calif.; **Fox** affiliates **WTNZ** Knoxville, Tenn., **KVRR** Fargo, N.D., **KQDS** Duluth, Minn., and **KCVU** Chico-Redding, Calif.; and **NBC** affiliates **KVOA** Tucson, Ariz., and **KDLT** Sioux Falls, S.D.

## Cox, Newhouse Won't Play On Discovery Spin

## Staff

**Liberty Media** will spin its 50% stake in **Discovery Communications** to shareholders without the participation of fellow Discovery shareholders **Cox** and **Advance Newhouse**. Liberty Chairman **John Malone** acknowledged during an investor meeting that Cox and Newhouse had declined his invitation to contribute their 25% stakes into the soon-to-be created publicly held **Discovery Holdings**. Neither Cox nor Newhouse wants to surrender their veto power over major decisions at discovery, something that would be required if they swap their stakes for stock in the publicly traded Discovery Holdings.

## HBO To Pack Up 'Carnivale'

## Staff

**HBO** will not renew freak-show series *Carnivale* for a third season. The Depression-era, good-vs.-evil drama ran for 24 episodes and ended its second season in March. The final episode wrapped up most loose ends but introduced a cliffhanger that left the door open for possible renewal. The show, created by **Daniel Knauf**, earned strong reviews and a handful of Emmys but did not generate the buzz of the network's other dramas, *The Sopranos* and *Deadwood*.

## Dennis Miller Says So Long to CNBC

## Staff

**Dennis Miller** , host of *Dennis Miller* , became the latest to exit a **CNBC** talk show.

**CNBC** President **Mark Hoffman** says he had bumped *Miller* out of its 9 p.m. ET daily time slot, planning to rerun *Mad Money With Jim Cramer* instead. The final episode airs Friday. *Miller* has been on the network since January 2004, but the audience never grew substantially, averaging just 100,000 total viewers last week.

Miller's exit follows that of **Tina Brown** , who is ending her weekly show, *Topic A With Tina Brown* , which got even weaker ratings.

#### Senator Seeks Softer VNR Rules

Staff

TV stations won't be required to reveal the source of government-produced news packages if the chairman of the **Senate Commerce Committee** gets his way.

Sen. **Ted Stevens** (R-Alaska) is pushing a less restrictive alternative that would require the government to disclose its role in producing the news packages but would not require stations to pass the information along.

During a hearing on video news releases, Stevens said a bill sponsored by Sens. **Frank Lautenberg** (D-N.J.) and **John Kerry** (D-Mass.) infringes on broadcasters' free-speech rights by dictating how they craft news reports. That bill would require government agencies to include disclaimers visible during the entire length of a pre-packaged report that notify viewers they are watching a government-prepared report. Stevens' opposition could all but doom the measure because he controls which bills come to a vote on his panel.

Instead, he wants to make permanent a less intrusive temporary VNR alternative sponsored by Sen. **Robert Byrd** (D-W.Va.), which was put in place earlier this month. That provision simply requires government agencies to disclose their involvement in a disclaimer included in the report. Broadcasters, however, would have no obligation to run the disclaimer when their newscasts air. Byrd's measure expires Sept. 30.

#### Peacock Files Claim Against Pax

Staff

**NBC Universal** filed an arbitration claim last week against **Paxson Communications** , claiming Pax has breached contractual agreements. Last month, Paxson, run by CEO Lowell "Bud" Paxson said it was cutting its entertainment programming and would load up on infomercials, drawing heavy protest from 32%-owner **NBC Universal**.

"Paxson's intention to terminate its network, national and local sales agreements with **NBC Universal**, and its desire to abandon its sales operations and advertiser-supported television network, violates the clear terms of those agreements," **NBC Universal** said in a statement. Having repeatedly expressed its objections with Pax's board of directors and management, **NBC** says, it has "no other option but to file this claim." In February, ailing Paxson axed 50 staffers, mostly from its programming department.

#### Azcarraga Resigns From Univision

Staff

In a sign of increasing friction at **Univision** , major backer and programming supplier **Emilio Azcarraga** resigned as vice chairman of the U.S. Spanish-language broadcaster. Azcarraga is chairman/president of Mexican broadcaster **Grupo Televisa SA** , which supplies the bulk of Univision's prime time programming, including its staple *telenovelas* . Part of the discontent stems from Univision CEO **Jerrold Perench** 's decision to name **Ray Rodriguez** president/COO without Azcarraga's consent. Azcarraga owns about 10% of Univision's stock, and Televisa owns another 10%.

#### CNN Gives Away Streams

Staff

CNN will ditch its \$4.95 monthly charge for its broadband video-streaming service starting June 20 and give it away. Susan Grant, executive VP of CNN News Services, says CNN originally took the video behind a subscription wall in 2002 because the costs associated with serving up video were too high. Today, she says, that has changed. "The cost of bandwidth has dramatically decreased, and we can afford to serve it," she says. "We also have an advertiser market that is excited to support the free video." Among the offerings will be a two-minute newscast called "Now in the News" produced by CNN.com staff. This fall, expect CNN to roll out an adjunct to the free service in the form of a premium pay service.

#### E!'s Summer Slate

##### Staff

E! will premiere five original series and eight specials this summer. June series *Fight for Fame* tracks five aspiring actors trying to get signed by a Hollywood agent, and *Party @ The Palms* showcases revelry at the Vegas hotspot. July's *Kill Reality* follows reality-TV stars working and living together while shooting New Line's upcoming horror flick *The Scorned*. In August, *Cattle Drive* transplants kids of famous people to a ranch, and *The Girls Next Door* chronicles life at the Playboy Mansion.

#### MPAA Sues TV Pirates

##### Staff

Hollywood's legal crackdown on Internet piracy is expanding to illegal TV-show downloads. The Motion Picture Association of America last week filed lawsuits against six popular Web sites responsible for the illegal swapping of TV shows by 100,000 people daily. This is the first time MPAA's ongoing crackdown has targeted TV-oriented sites. Previously, the crackdown focused on sites specializing in movies. MPAA said TV-show piracy increased by 150% in the past year. Each of the six sites relies on BitTorrent technology to greatly accelerate download speeds. "On these sites, anyone in the world can download entire television seasons in a single click," says MPAA President Dan Glickman. The sites being sued are ShunTV, Zonatracker, Btefnet, Scifi-Classics, CDDVDHeaven and Bragginrights.

#### Correction

##### Staff

After 38 years at WLS Chicago, 4 p.m. news anchor Joel Daly retired May 6. In a May 9 story, the veteran was misidentified.

#### Clarification

##### Staff

An article (May 9, page 30) on Grass Valley's introduction of the Turbo, the company's new digital disk recorder should have included comments from independent industry sources. The headline was meant to convey the competitive nature of the digital-disk and VTR market and not Grass Valley's standing in the marketplace.

**LOAD-DATE:** May 18, 2005

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Copyright 2005 The Buffalo News  
Buffalo News (New York)

May 16, 2005 Monday  
FINAL EDITION

**SECTION:** EDITORIAL PAGE; MY VIEW; Pg. A6

**LENGTH:** 523 words

**HEADLINE:** ABILITY TO CELEBRATE LIFE IS ONE OF DAD'S BLESSINGS

**BYLINE:** By Joseph Kosiewska

**BODY:**

One morning recently I got a phone call from my Dad down in New York. He was excited. He was getting ready to leave for the airport on a family trip, along with my sister and two brothers and their spouses and children.

Dad just wanted to let me know that everything was on schedule, and that he would call again when they had arrived at their hotel in Las Vegas.

He was still sorry that unexpected difficulties had made it impossible for me and my wife to join them, but he also could not hide his thrilled anticipation. He was 85 years old and two weeks removed from his last chemo treatment, and he was about to take his first airplane trip.

It was good to hear his voice. Five months earlier, sitting in the lobby waiting room in New York Hospital with the rest of the family, I had wondered whether I would ever hear it again, and whether my last memory of my father would be of him tottering resolutely down the hall to pre-op in his hospital gown and slippers.

I don't know for sure what he was thinking then, but I do know what the rest of us were: that he was an old man with a frail heart, that the operation was going to be five or six hours long and that we had already been through all this a few years earlier with Mom.

Fear once again was tightening its grip on our hearts, and there seemed to be nothing we could do about it. As they say in Vegas, you can win for a little while, but not forever.

The thing about my Dad, though, is that he's never been very good at pessimism. A lot has happened to him during his lifetime, a good deal of it difficult and painful -- growing up poor during the Depression, serving in the Pacific Theater during World War II, finding himself suddenly unemployed in his mid-40s with a mortgage to pay and four kids to put through college. And yet even through the worst of it, Mom's long and inexorable illness, he has always managed to seem incapable of despair.

I'm not talking merely about a stoic's talent for putting a good face on things, but about something a lot deeper, something I don't think many people are genetically equipped with at birth -- the capacity to take genuine pleasure and amusement in the simple fact of existence, no matter how awful the circumstances.

Things may go wrong from time to time. Things are, in fact, always going wrong. But that doesn't mean you give up, or handle what life throws at you simply by complaining about your fate.

And it doesn't mean you can't be ruefully funny yourself. "Look, doc," he told his surgeon after the man had, in great detail, explained exactly what my father's operation would entail, "just don't cut out anything you don't need to, OK?"

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PC-00383

Buffalo News (New York) May 16, 2005 Monday

They say attitude is everything, and sometimes when I think about Dad I wonder if that isn't true. Life still amuses and entertains him. Life is still something he can't stop chuckling over, and looking forward to.

"Have a good time out there," I told him. "And bring us back a bucket of money, OK?"

"If I can, son," he said. "And if I can't, then I'm coming home with a whole lot of Nevada sand."

Or maybe, knowing him, with one of those fine Nevada palm trees.

Joseph Kosiewska lives in Buffalo.

**LOAD-DATE:** May 18, 2005

**INDEX 169**

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Business Week

May 16, 2005

**SECTION:** News: Analysis & Commentary: POWER PLAYS; Pg. 36 Vol. 3933

**LENGTH:** 1358 words

**HEADLINE:** JUST WHAT GM NEEDS;  
A passive investment? Kirk Kerkorian's investment is anything but

**BYLINE:** By David Welch in Detroit, with Ronald Grover in Los Angeles and Emily Thornton in New York

**BODY:**

As if falling sales, weak stock price, and mounting losses didn't give General Motors Corp. enough to worry about. Now Kirk Kerkorian, the billionaire agitator who tried to take over Chrysler Corp. in 1995, has come knocking. Kerkorian said on May 4 that his investment firm, Beverly Hills (Calif.)-based Tracinda Corp., had snatched up 22 million shares in GM, a 4% stake. Moreover, it offered \$31 a share -- a 13% premium over that morning's price -- to buy enough stock to boost Kerkorian's holdings in the struggling auto giant to nearly 9%.

By day's end, GM shares had soared 18% as investors jumped at the chance to ride Kerkorian's often profitable coattails. Given GM's market cap of just \$15.7 billion before the tender offer was announced, most figure Kerkorian aims to gobble up a cheap stake and use his position to compel the auto maker to sell off noncore assets, cut costs, or restructure the bloated auto business far faster than current management appears inclined to do. Many figure his goal may be to force a sale of all or part of the General Motors Acceptance Corp. (GMAC) finance arm, which could potentially bring billions. Such moves, if successful, would go a long way to bolster GM's shares.

#### SHAKING THE TREE

Kerkorian is also undoubtedly eyeing the \$38.3 billion in cash that GM has stockpiled between the auto company and GMAC. If the past is any guide, some of that money could eventually end up in the hands of shareholders through a special dividend or a stock buyback. Ultimately, Kerkorian may push to get one or more of his own people on the board to increase the pressure on GM Chairman and CEO G. Richard Wagoner Jr. to make such moves. But first, says a senior investment banker close to GM, Kerkorian will do everything possible to unlock value: "He's going to shake the tree to see what falls off."

GM would not comment for this story. Terry Christensen, a lawyer for Tracinda, says it is simply making a "passive" investment because GM's shares are so undervalued. "They have great assets, great cash flow, and a lot of cash on hand," he says. "[GM] has major liabilities, but it also has a major bank account to solve some of those problems." Yet Kerkorian, who over the years has held stakes in a range of companies and industries including MGM, Chrysler, and Western Airlines, has made such claims before. Indeed, the dealmaker, now a robust 87, has a history of coming on soft and gentlemanly at first -- and then shaking things up if management doesn't make the moves he wants or succeed in boosting shareholder value.

Consider what happened in the 1990s, when Kerkorian bought a stake in then-ailing Chrysler Corp. The dealmaker agitated for change but did so in a series of quiet conversations with then-CEO Robert Eaton, according to Kerkorian insiders. He even toured the Detroit auto show with the CEO, trying out the flashy new Viper sports car.

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"Kirk considers it dishonorable to be anything but courteous," says a longtime associate. "He treats people like he wants to be treated."

Chrysler managed to reverse its fortunes, but the stock price eventually languished. After failing to convince management to buy back shares or pay out some of its \$6 billion cash hoard as a dividend to boost shares, Kerkorian launched a \$20.5 billion hostile takeover bid. In the end, Kerkorian couldn't raise the money to finance his bid. But by the time Daimler acquired Chrysler in 1998, he had made an estimated paper profit of \$4.8 billion.

Thus many expect Kerkorian to move slowly, spending months quietly pushing management for change. Only if that tactic fails is he likely to publicly demand action. But just because Kerkorian is quiet, it doesn't mean nothing will happen. He could pressure GM to announce clearer plans to fix the car business. GM lost \$1.1 billion in the first quarter due to huge health-care costs for union workers and retirees and a sharp market-share slide. Wall Street analysts say that Wagoner's reluctance to release a detailed repair plan is a weight on the stock. Some are optimistic Kerkorian could push management into deeper cuts with the union. Says UBS Securities analyst Rob Hinchliffe: "It might force management to deal more directly with the union."

Wagoner is already talking to the United Auto Workers about cutting health-care costs and production. But many on Wall Street think GM needs to start downsizing, and fast. Kerkorian could become management's new gadfly, demanding plant closings and other cuts that could boost GM's operating performance, says Joseph S. Phillippi, president of AutoTrends Consulting: "If he could force management to restructure the company, it would pay big dividends."

But that may not be the only -- or even the main -- focus of Kerkorian's second foray into Detroit. GM has \$19.8 billion in cash in its auto business and another \$18.5 billion in GMAC. Merrill Lynch & Co. analyst John A. Casesa says the auto maker could sell its GMAC mortgage and insurance businesses for billions. The same day Kerkorian made his move, GM put its residential mortgage business under a separate holding company, which would make it easier to spin off. Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co., a New York private equity firm, is also looking at the commercial mortgage business, say bankers. KKR declined to comment. Moreover, GM owns 20% each of Suzuki Motor Corp. and Subaru parent Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd., both of Japan.

#### BREAKUP AHEAD?

Could Kerkorian or another investor try to take over GM and cause such a breakup? For now that looks unlikely. Private equity firms have been sniffing around but are mostly interested in picking off what they can from the financing operations. Besides, the costs of fixing GM would be prohibitive, say bankers. It will take tens of billions of dollars to shrink GM's auto-making business to a profitable level. Even if that happens, GM has \$57 billion in unfunded health-care liabilities.

Instead, most expect Kerkorian to grab a big enough stake to make his voice heard, a move that could lead him to try to gain seats on the board. Given Kerkorian's track record, his presence alone may be enough to get GM more focused on restructuring. While that could be disruptive, some execs say Wagoner might actually welcome the threat of someone like Kerkorian as a way to win support for more massive change. Says one GM insider: "Rick could use the cover to make some of the difficult decisions that we need to make." Who knows? Kerkorian could end up lending Wagoner a hand.

#### Kirk's Biggest Moves

##### AIRLINES

The onetime flight instructor begins ferrying gamblers between Los Angeles and Las Vegas in 1947, borrowing \$3 million to create Trans International Airlines. Eventually sells it in 1968, netting \$104 million. Buys Flamingo Hotel in Vegas and 30% stake in Western Airlines. Takes a board seat, forces out the CEO, and unsuccessfully tries to merge with American. In 1976 sells remaining 17% stake back to the company. for a loss.

##### METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

Gains control of the studio in 1969; merges it with United Artists in 1981. When cable and home video make MGM's library of films valuable, sells some assets to Ted Turner in 1986 and the remainder to an Italian financier in 1989.

Business Week May 16, 2005

After buying MGM back in 1996, sells out to a Sony-led group this year. Pockets \$2 billion for his 69% stake on top of \$1.4 billion dividend paid before the deal.

**MGM MIRAGE**

Having bought and sold two Vegas casinos by the early '80s, reenters gambling in 1993 by building MGM Grand Hotel on the Strip. In 2000, MGM Grand buys Mirage Resorts for \$4.4 billion. This year, MGM Mirage snapped up Mandalay Resort Group for \$7.9 billion. His 57% stake is now worth \$5.6 billion.

**CHRYSLER**

After amassing stock and initially backing turnaround plans, launches a hostile bid in 1995 when Chrysler fails to boost the stock. Bid fails, but Kerkorian earns an estimated \$4.8 billion in paper profits by the time of the 1998 merger with Daimler Benz. Later sues Daimler and CEO Jurgen Schrempp for allegedly misrepresenting the deal as a ``merger of equals'' that cost him billions. Loses case in April; is now appealing.

**GRAPHIC:** photograph, Photograph: BACKSEAT DRIVER? Kerkorian could force a restructuring PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM MIHALEK/POLARIS  
photograph, Photograph: BusinessWeek Magazine May 9, 2005 PHOTOGRAPHS BY TIM KELLY/BLACK STAR

**LOAD-DATE:** May 12, 2005

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Charlotte Observer (North Carolina)

May 16, 2005 Monday ONE-THREE EDITION

**SECTION:** MONEYWISE; Pg. 1D

**LENGTH:** 1397 words

**HEADLINE:** OLD GAMES, NEW TWIST;  
NO CASINO REQUIRED: IT'S EASY. IT'S QUICK. IT'S ONLINE. (AND IT'S NOT REALLY LEGAL).

**BYLINE:** BINYAMIN APPELBAUM, STAFF WRITER

**BODY:**

Fuhgedabout green felt tables and cheap drinks, chips you can roll between your fingers and the hard eyes of the liar who is sitting next to you, waiting for your decision.

No, poker now is sitting in the den at 2 a.m., wearing no sunglasses, perhaps not even pants, staring into the low glow of a computer screen and click-clicking to ante up.

And suddenly every other kind of gambling looks about the same. From blackjack to betting on sports, Americans are seizing the chance to gamble online from anywhere at any time.

Almost 20 million Americans visited a gambling Web site in February, according to Nielsen/NetRatings.

As a result, despite concerns about the legitimacy of Web sites based on small Caribbean islands and despite the fact that gambling is, well, against the law, Internet casinos are flourishing.

American gamblers lost an estimated \$4.1 billion online last year, according to Christiansen Capital Advisers LLC. The New York-based firm estimates online losses this year could total \$5.9 billion. By comparison, Americans lost \$72.8 billion at legal gambling in 2003.

"It's quick and easy and it gives you the distinct advantage of not having your legs broken due to lack of payment," said Michael, 32, a Charlotte gambler who has switched from the olden ways to the Internet.

Michael, who asked that we not use his last name, used to call a bookie to place his bets each week during NFL season. Now he visits Sportsbook.com and pays with a Visa credit card.

The Web site, which is run by London-based Sportingbet Plc, collects a fee on each bet. All of this is legal in England, and the company's stock trades on the London Stock Exchange.

Michael's bets, however, violate the policies of his credit card company, which prohibits the use of the card for online gambling. Oh, and he is also violating U.S. and N.C. law.

But Michael has little reason to worry. The consensus in local law enforcement is that no one in North Carolina has been prosecuted for gambling on the Internet.

The state attorney general says it's a decision for district attorneys to make. The Mecklenburg DA's office has no formal opinion on when, if ever, some unlucky gambler might get collared.

\*

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PC-00388

## 'Leap of faith'

For most players, any hesitations about gambling online come instead from concern they could win and not get paid because the site cheats - or they could lose because the site cheats.

"I certainly did take a leap of faith in the beginning," said Brian, 38, an Albemarle resident who has been playing poker and blackjack on the Internet for six years.

Davis found peace of mind in a pair of rapidly forming safety nets - consumer Web sites that track the industry, and companies that guarantee the integrity of online casinos.

PriceWaterhouseCoopers, the global audit and consulting firm, charges online casinos to certify sites as safe for players. The site can then display the company's seal. Several dozen casinos have signed up.

There are also consumer sites, such as PokerPulse.com, where reports of bad experiences sit on message boards like scarlet letters on a gambling site's reputation.

"That kind of disciplining has a surprisingly strong effect," said Koleman Strumpf, an economics professor at the University of North Carolina who follows the industry.

Because casinos make money on each bet, the loss of business that comes with a bad reputation means many sites go out of their way to keep customers happy.

Even so, many players are more cautious online than at a casino with real neon lights.

"I don't wager more than \$100 just in case I don't get paid out," said Pete, 31, a Charlotte resident who plays online poker two or three times a week.

\*

## Credit card runaround

Alongside trust, the other major challenge for players and Web sites is money flow.

Under government pressure, many banks that issue credit cards have banned the use of their cards for Internet gambling. Paypal, the most popular money transfer Web site, bans transfers to online casinos.

Strumpf said these policies caused a brief hiccup in the growth of online gaming. But into the gap have sprung a number of other payment services, such as Neteller.com.

"It's exactly the same thing as Paypal except it's located in Canada," Strumpf said. Users deposit money by credit card or other means, and the money can then be used without restrictions.

Online gambling is legal in Canada and in most other countries. That leaves the United States in the position of being by far the largest market for online gambling and also one of the few places where it is illegal.

Exactly how illegal is hard to tell. The Bush administration has opined that an old law against using the telephone to bet on sports applies to all Internet gambling. Many states, including the Carolinas, have laws that bar Internet gambling. But experts say only one gambler, a North Dakota resident, has been convicted for gambling online.

Mostly the administration has focused enforcement on U.S. companies that do business with the offshore casinos. The government has lately turned the screws on companies that accept advertising.

In April 2004, the federal government seized \$3.25 million from Discovery Communications. The money had been paid to Discovery to run television advertisements on the Travel Channel for Tropical Paradise, a Costa Rica-based poker Web site.

Radio giants Infinity Broadcasting and Clear Channel Communications yanked advertising for online casinos after a government warning. So did Internet giants Google and Yahoo.

The absence of mainstream advertising has affected the online gambling industry in roughly the same way it has affected the online pornography industry. Both are booming.

"I like it because it's very private and no one bothers you," said Bill, 46, a Charlotte resident who plays online blackjack and bets on sports.

\*

## Ain't misbehavin'

Half the gamblers we spoke with believe the government should legalize online gambling. The other half believed gambling online already was legal.

"If it's OK to go to Vegas to do it, what's wrong with doing it online?" said Peter, a 20-something who live in the Charlotte area and plays poker online.

Indeed, online gambling has the potential to be safer than casino gambling, said Keith Whyte, executive director of the National Council on Problem Gambling, which counsels people with gambling problems.

"They have access to almost total information," Whyte said, "so theoretically they could come up with all sorts of creative limitations, public service announcements and responsible gaming practices."

For now, however, online gambling remains a largely freewheeling frontier.

Peter, who asked that we not use his last name, has won more than \$4,000 online over the last two years. He knows he's doing something illegal, but he said he pays taxes on his winnings and views himself as a basically upstanding citizen.

It's just entertainment, he said, no different than going to dinner and a movie. Check that. One small difference.

"When you go to dinner," he said, "you're not getting any of that money back."

\*

Binyamin Appelbaum: (704) 358-5170; bappelbaum@charlotteobserver.com

## Signs of Addiction

The anonymity and unlimited access offered by Internet casinos can be like catnip for problem gamblers, according to the National Council on Problem Gambling. The group estimates 5 percent of calls to its help line last year came from people who primarily gamble online, and the number is growing.

How much gambling is too much? If you answer yes to any of these questions, the NCPG says you could have a problem. The group encourages people who do to call (800) 522-4700 for help:

You have often gambled longer than you had planned.

You have often gambled until your last dollar was gone.

Thoughts of gambling have caused you to lose sleep.

You have used your income or savings to gamble while letting bills go unpaid.

You have made repeated, unsuccessful attempts to stop gambling.

You have broken the law or considered breaking the law to finance your gambling.

You have borrowed money to finance your gambling.

You have felt depressed or suicidal because of your gambling losses.

You have been remorseful after gambling.

You have gambled to get money to meet your financial obligations.

NOTES: Graphic 'Global Losses' not in database; please see microfilm.

GRAPHIC: GRAPHIC:1 PHOTO:2;

1. TODD SUMLIN - STAFF PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: computerized poker-playing dog scene

LOAD-DATE: May 17, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Dayton Newspapers, Inc.  
Dayton Daily News (Ohio)

May 16, 2005 Monday

**SECTION:** SPORTS; Pg. C3

**LENGTH:** 777 words

**HEADLINE:** OSU leader knows his football;  
Buckeyes' AD got his start at Notre Dame

**BYLINE:** Doug Harris chats with Ohio State athletic director Gene Smith

**BODY:**

Ohio State picked a Cleveland native and former Notre Dame football player to be its eighth athletic director. Gene Smith, 49, one of only nine black ADs in Division I-A (117 schools), has been on the job four weeks. He was hired after a five-year stint at Arizona State. Before that, he was AD at Iowa State and Eastern Michigan. Smith has a base salary of \$450,000 and can earn as much as \$175,000 more through incentives. His wife, Sheila, a former Canadian Olympic basketball player, also was hired by OSU in a fund-raising capacity and will earn \$165,000 annually. The son of an electrical contractor and registered nurse, Smith was a freshman on Notre Dame's 1973 national championship team coached by Ara Parseghian. He also was an assistant under Dan Devine when the Irish won another national crown in '77.

\* "I never thought about going to college - never. I was going to work construction with my dad. But my junior year, I became an athlete and four-year schools began to recruit me. My college experience was the greatest four years of my life. I grew as a person, not just as a football player. Were it not for that experience, I wouldn't be sitting here today."

\* Smith said he's always known about OSU's rabid fans. But "probably the biggest reminder was at the spring football game when I was pulling up and it was sleeting. It must have been a couple hours before kickoff, and there was a line (to get in). It was pretty cold - people were in hunting suits. It gave me flashbacks to Notre Dame. I thought, 'This is what it's all about.' "

\* "If a coach intentionally violates an NCAA rule, they should submit their resignation before they see me in the hallway."

\* The OSU wrestling team finished last in the Big Ten this season under 19th-year coach Russ Hellickson. "It needs to get better. Russ and I have had that conversation. We all have our favorite sports, and wrestling is one of my favorites. I could never do it - I tried it for a week and walked away because I wasn't tough enough - but I love the sport and know it extremely well. ... Wrestling is a program that we need to strengthen here, and Russ, I believe, can do that."

\* "I wake up every day at 5 o'clock. My biological clock is set. I got that from my dad."

\* On NCAA investigations of OSU's football and basketball programs: "At some point, we'll get a notice of allegations (from the NCAA). They'll do their investigation and say, 'These things are alleged.' The university will get a window of time to respond, 60 or 90 days. And then you'll go to a hearing at the NCAA infractions committee, and that could be 30 or 60 days after your response. So, I don't anticipate a conclusion until sometime at the end of the year, if we're lucky."

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PC-00391

Dayton Daily News (Ohio) May 16, 2005 Monday

\* On what he remembers about Notre Dame's '73 national title: "New Orleans (laughing). We went down to play in the Sugar Bowl and beat Alabama, 24-23. They allowed us to stay over three extra nights. Boy, do I remember that."

\* "If (Ara Parseghian) walked in this room right now, I'd stand up and salute. He was a guy that had that natural leadership stature and presence. You respected him just for how he treated you."

\* On Rudy, a 1993 movie based on the life of Rudy Ruettiger, who overcame long odds to make the ND football team when Smith was an assistant: "They embellished a little bit. Devine was not that bad of a person. I guess they had to have a villain. And every senior played. So, it wasn't special that Rudy got to play. But he did make the sack. The students did know who he was. It was kind of like when the guy on the end of the bench in basketball gets in, everybody goes nuts. Rudy got in. He was totally out of place. ... Everybody chanted his name, and he did get picked up and carried off the field."

\* Smith met his wife at an athletic directors convention and credits his "recruiting skills" for getting her to leave a job at UNLV and join him at Iowa State. "We were both divorced. She was at a speech I was giving. We ended up meeting at a reception and going out to dinner that night. We dated long distance for two years. Then I took the Iowa State job, and she moved to Ames, Iowa - from Vegas. ... I reflect on that often. How did I make that happen?"

\* On how their nine-year interracial marriage is perceived: "When we went to Iowa, we were scared of that. Here I am a black guy, and I had been working there maybe seven or eight months, and she moves in. But we never saw (racial prejudice). And at Arizona State, it was pretty diversified. And there's more diversity here than I thought. You know it's there in a covert way, but word-wise, there's been nothing yet. ... It speaks a lot to how far we've come."

**GRAPHIC:** JIM WITMER/DAYTON DAILY NEWS Ohio State Athletic Director Gene Smith

**LOAD-DATE:** May 17, 2005

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HFN The Weekly Newspaper for the Home Furnishing Network

May 16, 2005

**SECTION:** Pg. 54 ; ISSN: 1082-0310

**IAC-ACC-NO:** 132539792

**LENGTH:** 92 words

**HEADLINE:** A UNICA EXPERIENCE; Unica Home; Brief Article

**BODY:**

Want to take a break from the trade shows and the Las Vegas Strip? Check out Unica Home for classic modern home furnishings. The owners, Bonnie and Hugh Fogel, transplanted Unica to Vegas several years ago, figuring their Internet customers would get to Las Vegas someday for either business or pleasure. Look for the Krups XP5080 programmable espresso machine, \$ 450; Vipp enamel wastebaskets, \$ 199; and wall clocks by George Nelson, \$ 235 to \$ 800. Unica Home, 7540 S. Industrial Road, Las Vegas, (702) 616-9280.

Caption(s): (photo)

**IAC-CREATE-DATE:** May 23, 2005

**LOAD-DATE:** May 24, 2005

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PC-00393

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Copyright 2005 DR Partners d/b Las Vegas Review-Journal  
Las Vegas Review-Journal (Nevada)

May 16, 2005 Monday FINAL EDITION

**SECTION:** E; Pg. 3E

**LENGTH:** 488 words

**HEADLINE:** Southern Nevadans honored for variety of achievements

**BYLINE:** Monique Frigard

**BODY:**

Several Las Vegans have achieved success in a variety of capacities. Here are some recent highlights:

Clark County Parks & Community Services recently named the winning artist for its annual 'Best of Show' exhibit at Winchester Cultural Center Gallery. Jorge Catoni, an artist who moved to Las Vegas from Chile, received the \$1,000 prize for his mixed media on canvas piece titled 'Motivation.'

Juror Michele Quinn, director of Godt-Cleary Projects, chose his piece from a pool of 21 works by 14 artists in Southern Nevada. The exhibit will be on display through May 24.

The Tylenol and Terri Lynne Lokoff Child Care Foundation honored 51 child-care teachers for their professionalism and commitment to their students at the National Child Care Teacher Awards at Bloomingdale's in King of Prussia, Pa., in April. Mardene Meddock-Wright of Las Vegas, a teacher at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas/Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada Preschool, received a \$1,000 grant, of which \$500 goes to her project 'Say Cheese,' designed to encourage students to make a book about meaningful events in their lives. The other \$500 is given to her as a stipend for her dedication as a teacher. Teachers from 22 states were considered for the honor.

The City of Lights Men's Performing Chorus of Las Vegas placed second in the Southern Nevada, Arizona, Southern Utah Divisional Contest of the Barbershop Harmony Society of the Far Western District in Phoenix in April. The group also won the division's Plateau A Championship, which enables them to compete in the Far Western District Competition in Pasadena, Calif., in October.

Winners of the Contemporary Arts Collective 16th annual Juried Show were announced in April. First place winner Darius Kuzmickas won \$1,000 for his photography exhibit 'Consuming Nevada.' Second place went to Catherine Jean Mesa, who won two plane tickets for her painting 'A Little Bit of Vegas.' Third place and \$300 went to Tom Umholtz, for his painting 'Untitled.' The art was on display at the Contemporary Arts Collective in the downtown arts district throughout April. The show was juried by Edmund Cardoni, executive director at Hallwalls, an alternative art space in Buffalo, N.Y., that is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Andy Warhol Foundation.

Aaron Barnum, 30, of Las Vegas, took the gold medal in the electrical portion of this year's Associated Builders and Contractors National Craft Championship in Orlando, Fla., in February. He is a fourth-year student of ABC Southern Nevada's electrical apprentice program. He works at Bergelectric Corp., where he is an apprentice, and after graduation in June, will be a journeyman.

If you know of a worthy candidate for the Newsmakers column, mail information to: Monique Frigard, Las Vegas Review-Journal, P.O. Box 70, Las Vegas, NV 89125-0070, send faxes to 383-4676.

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**LOAD-DATE:** May 17, 2005

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Copyright 2005 DR Partners d/b Las Vegas Review-Journal  
Las Vegas Review-Journal (Nevada)

May 16, 2005 Monday FINAL EDITION

**SECTION:** E; Pg. 5E

**LENGTH:** 945 words

**HEADLINE:** SHOOTING STARS: Academy of Country Music prepares for two specials

**BYLINE:** Carol Cling

**BODY:**

The Academy of Country Music doubles down this week at Mandalay Bay, staging not one but two CBS specials -- one a live broadcast, the other anything but.

The live show (live to the East Coast, anyway; we Pacific time zone types get the tape-delay telecast at 8 p.m., KLAS-TV, Channel 8) is Tuesday's 40th annual Academy of Country Music Awards.

On Wednesday, the country stars extend their Vegas visit to tape an ACM '40th Anniversary Celebration,' which won't be broadcast until December.

Executive producer R.A. Clark of Dick Clark Productions, which produces both ACM specials for CBS, admits 'it was my crazy idea' to do the two shows back-to-back.

'Logistically for us as a TV production company, and the academy, it's very difficult to get everyone's schedules coordinated,' he comments during a brief break from production duties at Mandalay Bay.

And 'to get them all in one place again for another show' is even more of a challenge, he notes.

That's why, this year, show officials asked participants 'could you hold the next day' for the second show, he explains.

'Most of the staff and crew members are the same,' Clark adds. 'It makes it easier that the systems are in place.'

So is the awards show set, which 'gets remodeled or revamped' for the anniversary concert, 'or at least as much as we could do in 12 hours' between shows, he says.

There'll also be some overlap in the performer department, with Kenny Chesney, Alan Jackson, Reba McEntire, Montgomery Gentry, Rascal Flatts and George Strait among those scheduled to appear both nights.

The anniversary celebration also features Alabama, Brooks & Dunn, Barbara Mandrell, Trisha Yearwood and Merle Haggard, the first artist to win ACM awards as top new vocalist, vocalist and entertainer of the year. (That explains why one of ACM's most prestigious honors, the Merle Haggard Award, is named after him.)

ACM moved its awards show from Los Angeles to Las Vegas three years ago -- and the Nashville crowd immediately responded, Clark recalls.

'Everybody had a lot more fun and there was more stuff to do,' he says. As a result, 'It was more of a vacation' for the performers.

And after three years at Mandalay Bay, the production process has become considerably more streamlined, according to Clark.

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Las Vegas Review-Journal (Nevada) May 16, 2005 Monday

'From our side, it's only been a wonderful experience,' he says, 'and I hope we can come back.'

A CBS prank-show pilot featuring former 'Saturday Night Live' regular Jon Lovitz also visits Vegas this week, combining hidden-camera and game show elements.

'Lovitz Says' is scheduled to shoot Thursday through Saturday, setting up unsuspecting folks in two separate comedic scenarios: a golf lesson gone awry and a blind date with a high roller.

Elsewhere in the realm of reality TV, HGTV's 'Generation Renovation' arrives today for a three-day shoot spotlighting a trio of Southern Nevada residential makeovers.

Two of the homes are in the venerable Scotch 80s and McNeil neighborhoods in central Las Vegas; the third is in Blue Diamond.

'Generation Renovation' focuses on 'dramatic renovations done within the last five years' by 'enthusiastic homeowners' who participated in the renovations and remain 'passionate' about the project, 'which is saying something after living through the whole process,' explains production coordinator Joni Emily of Colorado-based High Noon Productions, which produces the HGTV series.

'We love homes that have some kind of history,' she adds. 'And we're looking for that homeowner who documented the transition.'

Both elements might seem elusive in new-newer-newest Las Vegas, but 'we thought, Vegas being the extreme eye-candy town it is, it would be a neat place to film,' Emily comments.

The half-hour episodes will air during 'Generation Renovation's' second season, in late summer or early fall.

From interiors we shift to exteriors -- and Nevada's rugged rural terrain, which provides the suitably challenging backdrop for 'The Nevada Passage' adventure competition.

The made-for-TV contest begins Thursday at Red Rock Canyon, where 10 teams compete in a rock climb and scramble. Team members, grouped by profession -- from firefighters to financiers, bartenders to lawyers -- represent cities from Anchorage, Alaska, to Winston-Salem, N.C.

After Thursday's Red Rock scramble, competitors head to Lake Mead Friday for a jet-ski trial that begins at Lake Mead Marina and ends at Echo Bay.

'People don't generally think of Nevada as a place for water sports,' notes Chris Chrystal of the Nevada Commission on Tourism, which created 'Nevada Passage.'

Subsequent stages take teams to Northern Nevada, from Ely to Reno, for whitewater rafting, sandboarding, hiking, mountain biking and other endurance tests.

The six-day contest, produced by event organizer TEAM Unlimited of Honolulu, will be featured in an hour-long syndicated show, scheduled for August broadcast, that's expected to reach more than two million viewers, according to Chrystal.

The tourism commission hopes the \$500,000 show will 'project our image as an adventure destination,' she explains, increasing 'public awareness of Nevada's other attributes' beyond casinos and nightlife.

Elsewhere on this week's location calendar: the contemporary Western 'Buckaroo,' scheduled to wrap production this week at Spring Mountain Ranch, and Las Vegas centennial coverage for the Travel Channel and France2 Television.

One project that's not on this week's location calendar, however: the Japanese comedy troupe Yoshimoto Kogyo, which had to cancel planned shoots (Sunday at Sapphire, tonight at downtown's Take 1) due to visa problems, according to Take 1's Gary Sax.

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NBC News Transcripts

SHOW: Today 7:00 AM EST NBC

May 16, 2005 Monday

**LENGTH:** 89 words

**HEADLINE:** Las Vegas celebrates its 100th anniversary Sunday

**ANCHORS:** NATALIE MORALES, MATT LAUER, KATIE COURIC

**BODY:**

NATALIE MORALES, anchor:

And Las Vegas celebrated its 100th anniversary on Sunday in a big way with a record-breaking 130,000 pound birthday cake.

Happy birthday, Vegas. That looks delicious.

Eight-oh-four. Back over to Katie and Matt.

A lot has changed...(unintelligible).

MATT LAUER, co-host:

Afterwards, they had a 33-pound Tums. It was huge.

MORALES: They would need that.

KATIE COURIC, co-host:

Those were some big slices, too, weren't they?

MORALES: Enormous. Yeah, wonder who that's going to.

COURIC: Anyway, thanks, Natalie.

MORALES: Sure.

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