

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 184 AND CHESTERFIELD 129



By John Hoffmann

July 13, 2015

THORNHILL HOME INVASION SUSPECTS PLEA GUILTY: The home invasion on May 9, 2014 of a house in the 12900 block of Thornhill Dr in the Thornhill Estates subdivision, where the suspects beat the resident (renting the house) and leaving him for dead, while stealing his TV and car is now coming to an end. The house has been torn down and a new one is already under construction.

The victim, 61-year-old Thomas Ruzicka, was renting the house. He was found by relatives two days after the attack clinging to life. At the time Town and Country police thought Ruzicka would die and the Major Case Squad was called in. Ruzicka suffered brain damage which he will never recover from. Ruzicka was a convicted felon himself on probation in state and Federal courts from stealing from his employees' pension and tax withholding accounts.



Daniel Martin, 21, of Bel Ridge pled guilty on June 8, 2015 and was sentenced on July 9 by Circuit Court Judge Michael Jamison. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison, meaning he will likely be out of jail long before his 30th birthday.

Martin was charged with a number of crimes which he was sentenced on, but the sentences run concurrent and not consecutive, meaning they will not be added on top of each other. Here is the breakdown.

1st Degree Assault	10 years
Armed Criminal Action	3 years
Burglary	15 years
Auto Theft	7 years
Stealing Over \$500	7 years

Malik Lindsay also of North St. Louis County was just days shy of his 17th birthday at the time he joined Martin and another suspect in the felony trip to Town and Country. He was certified to stand trial as an adult by the Juvenile Court. Lindsay pled guilty on July 9 and will be sentenced on September 17, 2015.

An early break in the case came when Martin was seen on video at a North County gas station filling up the stolen car.

A third suspect was identified by detectives but not enough evidence was obtained for prosecutors to file charges. He is currently in jail on unrelated burglary charges according to T&C Police Chief Pat Kranz.



Daniel Martin



Malik Lindsay

When the final sentence is handed down we normally obtain a copy of the police report. However this being a Major Case Squad investigation the report will include hundreds of

pages of dead end leads and detailed minutia. We will try and get a copy of the summary or synopsis of the report to share in September.

LARGE CROWD SWAYS BOARD OF ALDERMEN TO VOTE AGAINST TIM HORTON'S AT CLAYTON AND BALLAS. What appeared to be ready to pass six weeks ago with both Ward-1 alderpersons indicating support, went down in flames on Monday night as the aldermanic chamber was overfilled NIMBYs from Ward 1 fearful of a family restaurant where a gas station used to sit. The vote was 5-2 against Canadian donuts.



Voting against Tim Horton's and voting against the landowner trying to put something on a vacant lot were:

- Skip Mange Ward-1
- Lynn Wright Ward 1
- Tiffany Fraustchi Ward-2
- Fred Meyland-Smith Ward 3
- Jon Benigas Ward 4

Voting for Tim Horton's were Gussie Crawford and Linda Rallo.

I have a bad feeling that Fraustchi switched from being in favor of this to opposed simply because it appeared as if it would not pass and she wanted to get along.

Next Monday Fraustchi is before the Board of Adjustment regarding a proposed fence on her property. It would be something if someone came up with signs to put along Mason Road that read: NO MORE OVERSIZED FENCES!

The Board of Aldermen has made sure that doctors, nurses, x-ray techs and many more going to 6 am shifts at Missouri Baptist and Mercy hospitals not to mention cops trying to either stay awake to the end of shift or get awake for the start of a 6 am shift will be deprived of coffee and a doughnut or muffin while an empty lot will remain on the corner of Ballas and Clayton Roads. Those possible customers are already driving on Ballas and Clayton every day. The only difference would have been with Tim Horton's they would have stopped and generated some sales tax revenue for the city.

It also means local residents will not have a place to take the kids for an order of mac and cheese while they have a dinner salad and soup. Yep, a family restaurant was kept out of Town and Country, while grossly overpriced Italian restaurants remain. As the city continues to roll out deficit budgets year after year I don't think that empty lot will generate the same amount of sales tax revenue as Tom Horton's. When property taxes return it will be interesting to hear how much screaming is coming from Ward-1.



JUNE CRIME AND POLICE ACTIVITY IN TOWN AND COUNTRY:

The following activity was reported by the police department during the month of **JUNE**:

Officer responded to a total of **1851** calls for service and wrote a total of **229** reports, Including:

89 Vehicle Crashes

44 Criminal Reports

15 Driving While Intoxicated arrests (**0** Felony, **1** Misd, **14** Ord)

35 Misc Arrests (Traffic charges, Fugitive charges, Failure to Appear charges, etc)

372 Traffic citations issued (**216** speeding)

2015 Police Activity Town and Country YTD Jan-June

480 Vehicle Crashes

339 Criminal Reports

97 Driving While Intoxicated arrests (4 Felony, 4 Misd, 89 Ord)

245 Misc Arrests (Traffic charges, Fugitive charges, Failure to Appear charges, etc)

2,717 total traffic citations issued

2,004 speeding citations

HISTORY ACCORDING TO SKIP MANGE WITHOUT THE FACTS: For some reason the city has been giving Alderman Skip Mange a page in the newsletter for the history of Town and Country. Skip is also president of the Town and Country Historical Society. For whatever reason Skip's versions of the history often don't relate to the facts, but he presents it in such an authoritarian way that most people believe what he says.



Here is part of what Skip wrote in the newsletter:

Skip's version: "In 1958 the Village Hall and Fire Station was completed on Clayton Road just west of Ballas Road in a small building. A few years later a mobile trailer was added behind the building for the police department"

Reality...The Truth: In 1958 this was anything but a small building. Besides a two fire truck bay, there were sleeping quarters, bath and shower area, TV room, large kitchen, two offices off the engine bay and a large meeting room on the west side of the building for the Village Board meetings and monthly court.

More Reality: No trailer was added "a few years later." The phrase "a few" gives the impression of "three." In fact the trailer to the rear of the building was added in 1983. The trailer was added after a six year court battle finally approved the annexation of a large amount of land to the west of the city limits. Fire Service and EMS was contracted out to the Manchester Fire Protection District and the police operations were moved to the double wide trailer. So in reality "a few years" in Skip talk is actually a quarter of a century or 25 years.

Skip's Version Skip had a photo of an ambulance and fire truck outside of the Ballas and Clayton firehouse. The photo implied Town and Country provided ambulance service.

Reality Town and Country never provided direct ambulance service. T&C like many suburban police departments operated a police station wagon with a stretcher, where officers would scoop and dash to a hospital. This was outlawed by the Missouri Legislature in 1973. From 1973 to 1983 Town and Country had a contract with a private ambulance service. The ambulance in the photo is from the Manchester Fire Protection District and was after the 1983 court ruling approving the annexation and the contract with the Fire District to provide fire and EMS service.

REAL ESTATE: PLANS FOR REPORTED LARGEST HOUSE IN TOWN AND COUNTRY VIOLATE CODE:



Nick B. and Jamie Botonis want to build the largest home in Town and Country. The lot is six acres. The couple wants to move the house closer to Clayton Road and cut down trees so more people can see it. The plans for the 18,375 square foot home with just six bedrooms, but an eight-car garage, show the top of the house is 45.5 feet high. The maximum height for a house in Town and Country is 40-feet in height.

The Botonis application after being in front of the Architectural Review Board on Monday will also have to be approved by the Board of Adjustment at 6pm on Monday

July 20. Members of the Board of Adjustment usually require an overwhelming and or unique reasons to receive a variance. Just wanting to have the biggest house in Town and Country might not be good enough.

At the ARB meeting one of the members mentioned how ambitious the plans are, including a dance floor and café. This cause Mrs. Botonis to make the inappropriate comment, "If this is passing you are all invited."

Besides tearing down the existing house, the architect for the project admitted a number of the trees would be removed, saying they were old and problems. Really if he is allowed to cut down all the trees he wants to at will without good cause, Town and Country needs to turn in its "Tree City USA" designation and be declared ineligible to ever receive one again.



It passed without much discussion.



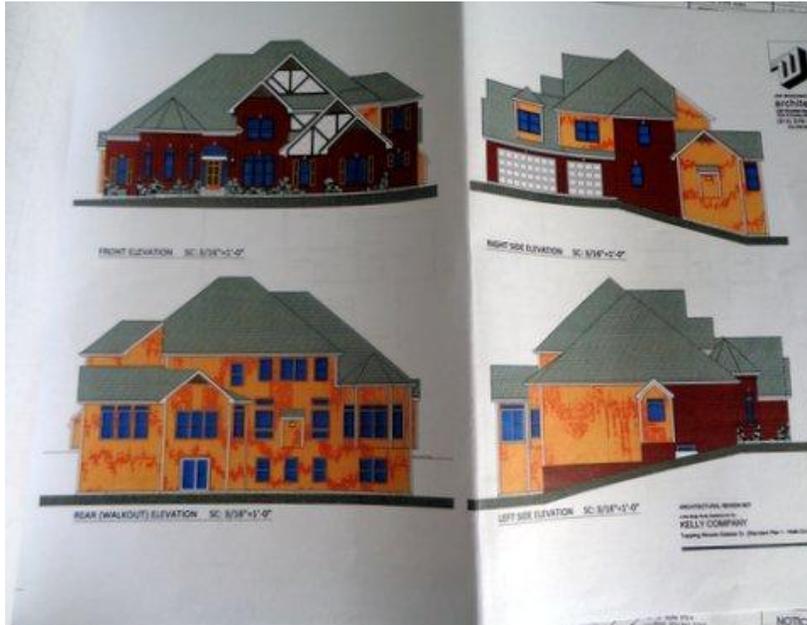
Mr. and Mrs. Botonis leaving the ARM meeting.

959 Revere Drive a more modest home: Almost 15,000 less in square footage than the Botonis's house, the new home planned for 959 Revere Drive belonging to Mike and Sue Bozich would only be 3,667 square feet, with just four bedrooms and only a three car garage. Revere Drive is off Amersham and the the I-64 South Outer Road.

The plans were approved by the ARB.



12832 Topping Woods Estates: This one is just 3,557 square feet. This was also approved by the ARB.



12372 South Outer 40 Road: New lots were recently carved out at the corner of Amersham and the South 40 Outer Road for those people stupid enough to live not only next to a busy street but where you can also enjoy the sounds of I-64 and the lights from the CBC football field. (The city refuses to enforce the "Only 28 Times in a Year the Lights Can be Used" zoning requirement.)

The house is only 2,801 square feet. That's almost too small for T&C. We are not sure if the objects above the house in the rendering are supposed to be birds or flying moustaches.



Next week we will have four more proposed house with plans filed with the city.

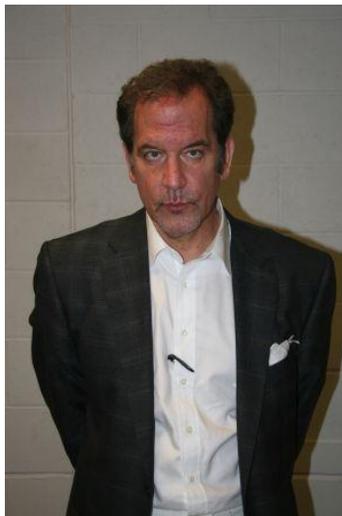
UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 129



July 13, 2015

CHESTERFIELD MAN CHARGED WITH 7TH DWI: On April 13, 2015 at 10:20pm Ballwin Police arrested 74-year-old Joseph Carbone of 15740 Plymton Lane in Chesterfield for his seventh DWI. The St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's office issued a felony warrant on June 19, charging Carbone with Chronic DWI and Driving with a Revoked License.

Carbone is being represented by another well known St. Louis area drunk driver, attorney Scott Rosenblum. Carbone was released from jail after paying 10% (\$5,000) of his \$50,000 bond.



Carbone after his recent arrest in Ballwin His attorney after his DWI arrest in Brentwood

Five of the past DWI charges against Carbone have been filed by the Chesterfield Police including the most recent prior to the Ballwin arrest. In that case Carbone was arrested on 06/17/2009 for Felony DWI. He pled guilty on 06/08/2012. Judge Carolyn

Whittington sentenced him to seven years in prison. However Whittington allowed Carbone to serve 60 days and then go on a five-year probation term.

The probation would have expired June 8, 2017. HOWEVER, Whittington played the bleeding heart card and gave Carbone an early release from probation 2 1/2 years early on 02/01/2015. If Carbone had remained on probation, this arrest would have been a violation and the people of West County would be somewhat safer as he would be in prison for at least a couple of years on his 7-year sentence.

Here are the five Chesterfield DWI cases against Carbone. We have requested reports on these cases and it will be at least a month before we receive them. We plan to feature them in our December installments of Drunks and Thieves, where we review local arrests and prosecutions.

Joseph A. CARBONE arrested 06/17/09 DWI Felony Aggravated Offender . Sentenced to serve 7 years in prison. Actually served 60 days and was then removed from probation 30 months early.

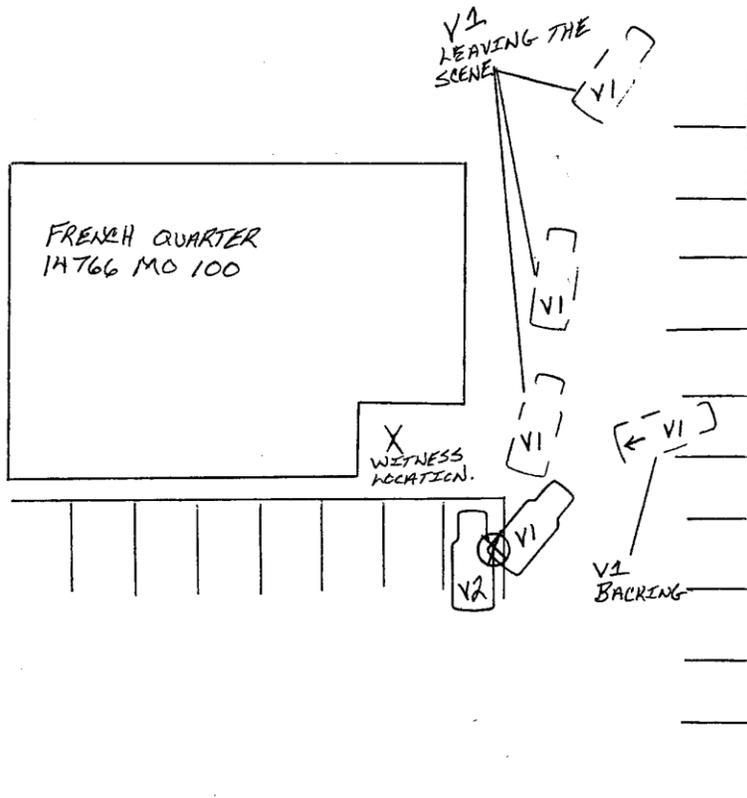
Joseph A. CARBONE arrested on 04/24/2002 DWI Persistent Offender. Sentenced to serve 3 years in Prison, but only served six months.

Joseph A. CARBONE arrested 07/11/1999 DWI Persistent Officer & Driving While Revoked Sentenced to serve three years in prison, but placed on probation. He then violated his probation and then sentenced to serve three years.

Joseph A. CARBONE arrested 03/16/1997 DWI Persistent Offender. Sentenced to serve 5-years. Actually served 120 days.

Joseph A. CARBONE arrested on 10/16/1995 DWI Prior Offender Sentenced to serve six months in the county jail

THEN THERE WAS THE BALLWIN HIT AND RUN: On February 22, 2007 after Carbone was drinking at the French Quarter on Manchester Road he backed into a parked car. Luckily there was not one but there were two witnesses. If he had been caught the night of the accident this would have been his sixth DWI and would have increased his total to eight by 2015. Judge Whittington apparently ignored this one all together.



Carbone was driving his brother's 1998 Buick. Witnesses got the license number and Carbone paid his bar bill with a credit card. Carbone was a regular at the bar as was the victim.

Four days later Carbone and his brother, Peter, went to the Ballwin Police station where he confessed to backing into the car and then leaving the scene. He said he left the scene because his license was revoked.

He was issued citations for Leaving the Scene of an Accident and Driving with a Revoked License. He hire lawyer, Tim Devereux, a former assistant prosecutor. Devereux's law office was in the same Clayton office building as Ballwin prosecutor G. Richard Fox at 130 Bemiston.

On May 17, 2007 the deal was in. Instead of a 6-point Leaving the Scene of an Accident, which Carbone confessed to and two people witnessed, the charge was dropped to a 2-point Careless Driving offense. There was a \$1,000 fine. Instead of a 12-point Driving on a Revoked License with Carbone confessed to and documents confirmed, it was reduced to a 2-point No Operator's License charge. There was

another \$1,000 fine. So instead of getting 18-points in what was likely another drunk driving incident Carbone bought his way out of 14 points and ended up with just four more points.

Two years later he would pick up his sixth DWI and through the luck of the draw got a lenient judge.

MONARCH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT'S NEW MOTTO: NO CAR LEAVES OUR PARKING LOT WITH AN UNSAFE CHILD SEAT: The Monarch Fire Prevention District has brought four child safety seats for the four fire stations where residents can have their child safety seat properly installed or have your installation double checked. The seats are in the event someone comes to a firehouse with a child in a defective child seat. The district will give them a safe seat.

"We don't want anyone to drive off a fire district parking with a child in an unsafe seat," said Assistant Chief Cary Spiegel.

Of course the fire district doesn't want to over publicize this and have people showing up for "free seats."

The four child seats cost \$78.88 a piece.

OH THE WELLS FARGO WAGON IS A COMIN' down the street

Oh please let it be for me

Oh the Wells Fargo Wagon is comin' down the street

I wish, I wish I knew what it could be



Wells Fargo Archives

The Wells Fargo Wagon came to mind at July 8 meeting of the Monarch Fire Protection District. Included in the bills to be paid was one for a pager and pager service for the nurse handling district worker comp issues.

After the meeting I asked President Robin Harris and Rick Gans what a pager was. Then I remembered that I had pagers when I was a police detective and a police union rep in the 1980s. That caused me to ask if the new pager for the nurse was delivered by the Wells Fargo wagon. I was told by a district command officer that she responds to pages much better than phone calls or texts.

RICK GANS' SCHEDULE IS PROBABLY BETTER FOR PUBLIC ATTENDING MEETINGS, BUT HE SURE ISN'T WINNING ANY FANS WITH FIRE DISTRICT

STAFF: The Monarch meeting times have changed from 5:30 to 7 o'clock. That would mean the public should have an easier time in making the meetings. However at the last two meetings I have attended other than elected officials and staff, only myself and reporter Jim Erickson of WEST Magazine were present.

However with the meetings starting at 7pm to fit into Gans schedule better it means eight staff members have to hang around for two hours at the end of the work day for the meeting to start.



MEDIA WATCH:

TOWN AND STYLE'S BILL BEGGS AGAIN DOES NOT WHERE HE IS:

For sometime we have been chronicling why Town and Style Magazine should replace Bill Beggs, Jr. and his Talk of the Town column. Beggs is suppose to write about goings on in suburbia, however he knows so little about the geography of the area he keeps

putting locations into the wrong towns. A perfect example was a recent piece on Carl's Drive In on Manchester Road. Beggs claims to be a regular customer. Beggs moved the longtime iconic Brentwood business west into Rock Hill.

For five years as a young police officer I used to eat at Carl's three or four times a week. Carl's Drive In and Farrotto's Pizza joint which at the time had three tables were my normal places for nourishment unless I was on the midnight shift. I was such a regular at Carl's that I used to trade Christmas gifts with then owners Carl and Pat Meyers.

Beggs has the piece labeled with a City of Rock Hill Logo, the photo labeled as "Rock Hill." His lead sentence is, "How good is the fare at Carl's in Rock Hill? Just ask me and my family."



I took this photo showing Carl's well east inside of the Brentwood City Limits.

The only way you can taste the fare of Carl's in Rock Hill is to get a go order and drive west into the City of Rock Hill. It has been in the City of Brentwood for over 60 years. The rear parking lot had car hop service in the 50s and early 60s. When Carl and Pat Meyers bought the place they ended the drive in service.

Beggs also wrote about how they would be keeping the recipe for their root beer. Here is the thing. The recipe for the root beer is the IBC recipe. IBC which was a group of beer brewers who during Prohibition produced bottled root beer to keep some of their workers employed. The brand continued after prohibition but at some point in the 60's stop producing root beer. However by the 70s they were back in business.

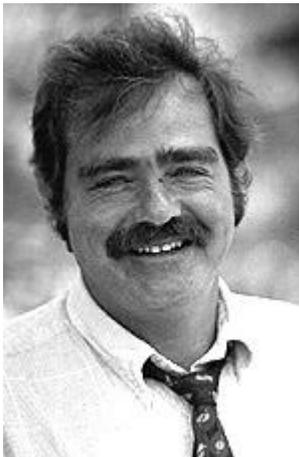
Carl was given the IBC formula and kept making it on the premises. I know this not only because I was a regular customer for a number of years, but also because I wrote a feature article on Carl's for St. Louis Magazine in 1980.

THE END OF AN ERA: I wrote about how the handwriting was on the wall several months ago when the Post-Dispatch reduced Bill McClellan's columns from four to three a week and moved them to places in the paper that were difficult to find.

For 33 years McClellan knocked out news and human interest columns and when he spent too much time in a courtroom at a trial or interviewing someone in prison, he would write a column on his dog. It is not easy writing four columns a week.

This newsletter is the equivalent of four or five newspaper columns and takes me as a hobby more than 40 hours week. When I was covering minor league baseball on the east coast I would write two columns a week for a daily newspaper, one column a week for a weekly paper, one a week for a website and one a month for a magazine. It was fun but not easy especially since I was writing game stories six nights a week. But I only did that six months a year.

So the idea of writing 4,000 words a week for 33 years is impressive. At times Bill was the Mike Royko of St. Louis and could then turn into Mitch Albom and finish the week with a Art Buchwald style piece of satire.



Before

and



After

Last Thursday it was announced that Bill would be taking a retirement at the Post-Dispatch, but would still write one column a week. If Bill was not such a media presence you would have to think the P-D would have given him a forced buyout when the paper was sold by Pulitzer to Lee Media. But Bill has been a reason people still subscribe to the paper. It will be good that we will still be able to read his work 52 times a year.

Lee Enterprises does not appear to think in a long term dollar and cents kind of way. People love to read Bill's column. Mike Royko (65) in Chicago, Herb Caen (81) in San Francisco and Art Buchwald (82) in Washington, DC, all were still writing columns and selling newspapers when they died.

INTERESTING: I thought it was interesting and showed how little freedom the P-D staff has. Joe Holleman is always first in his website column that appears in print on Saturday, with people leaving or coming to local TV newsrooms and radio stations.

But Holleman didn't write a thing about Bill McClellan leaving or a number of other P-D reporters including Virginia Johnson, who broke the latest John Diehl story all taking early retirement. He was forced to let the Riverfront Times come out with the story first followed by Bill on the TV show Donnybrook on Thursday night.

VACATION REPORT AND PICTURES: A number of people have asked me how our three week vacation was. Here is a link to a rather detailed vacation report on Cruise Critic. The short answer is: It was fine and we had a good time.

<http://www.cruisecritic.com/memberreviews/memberreview.cfm?EntryID=507554>

VACATION PHOTOS PART I:



A view from our hotel room is why my wife loves New York and I Hate New York in June, How about you? (But I do still love a Gershwin tune.)



Being a typical contrarian I'm standing under a "No Standing" sign.



Lunenburg, Nova Scotia one of the prettiest town on the coast road south from Halifax.

ICELAND In Reykjavik we did not rent a car, but hired a cab driver/tour guide. We have been to Iceland a number of times. Our instructions were to show us some subdivisions and other places where we were not likely to see tourists or tour buses.



This was a subdivision filled modern contemporary homes.



I had to laugh when we stopped outside of one of the two prisons in Iceland. There were no tour buses or tourists as requested. However there was a charming seaside village just on the other side of the prison.



But the best stop in Iceland was at **Heimaey**, a town of 4,200 people on an island with only access by ferry boat or aircraft. There we rented a car and were told to just leave at the pier with the key in the ignition that nobody was going to bother it.



Horses and the sea



This is the view at the lone golf club on the island.



Quite a view for 22 hours a day in the summer and no view in the winter with 22 hours of darkness.

MUSIC I: Advanced Piano Lesson! If you ever played the piano or had a child take piano lessons click on the below link to see and hear someone very special give an advanced lesson on an ABC Dick Cavett Show from the 1970s.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ec-FrnaU0rs>

MUSIC II: You really never know who is going to show up at Sasha's on DeMun on Wednesday nights when Jim Manley and Chris Swan are playing. Sometimes it is touring musicians in town for a gig, often locals who want a chance to sit in with Manley. Last week it was three generations at once, when well know trumpeter Tommy Whitelaw, age 82 joined Manley, 60, and 30-something Swan.



Music III On Friday it was Anita Rosamond at Il Bel Lago in Creve Coeur. The big news with Anita is that her Saturday afternoon fans are in luck. After the surprise

appearance at Miller's Crossing after the owner of Talayna's in Chesterfield canceled her gig after she had set up and was about to start. Some fans arranged for to have the gig move 2 miles down Olive to Miller's Crossing. Now the owner of Miller's has booked Anita for two Saturday afternoons. The first is Saturday August 15 and the second is September 19. Both are 2:30 to 5:30.



Music IV On Saturday night we were back at 11631 Olive Blvd. This time it was Trio Monaco, plus Corrie Marks on vocals. We caught the last set of American songbook standards set to jazz. They will be back at Il Bel Lago on Saturday August 22.



Music V On Monday it was Rat Park Monday at the One-19-North with Dean Christopher, Jim Manley and Chris Swan. There was also a surprise guest.



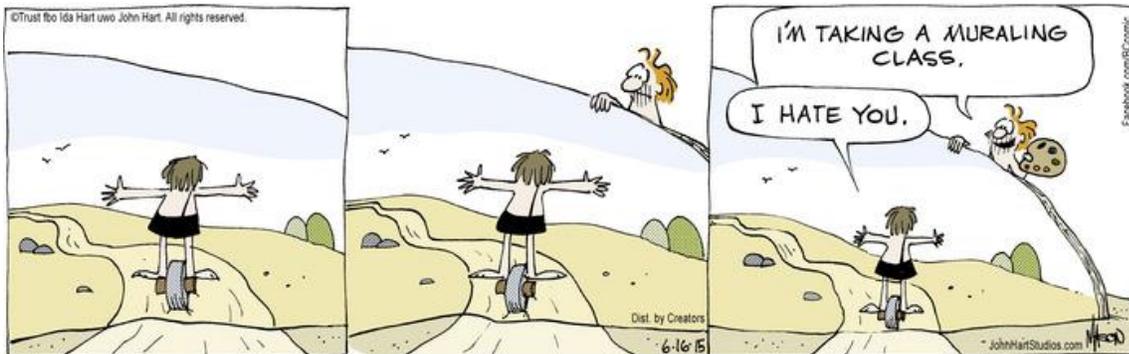
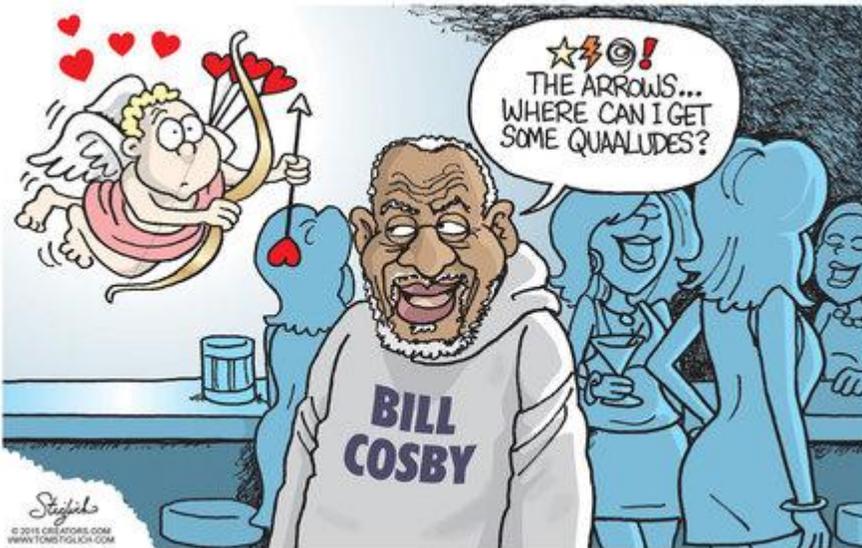
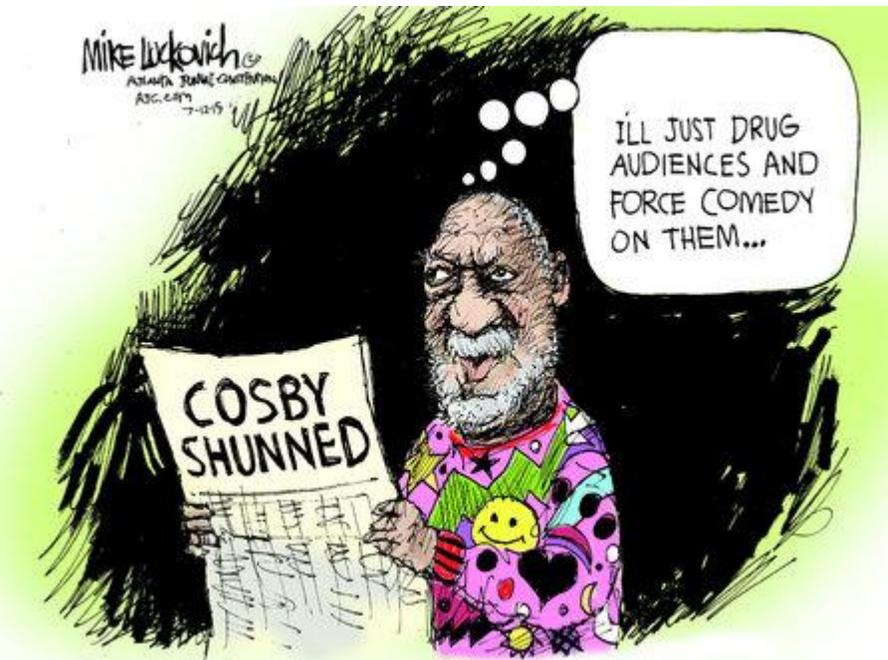
Who is that at a front row table? Why it is Arvel Keithly and his wife.

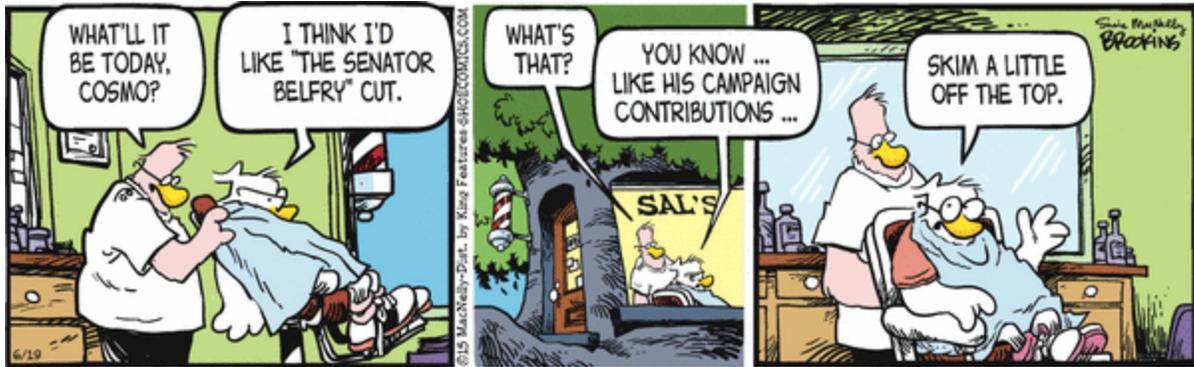


Arvel who proceeded Charley B as the front man for Jim Manley's groups, did two songs. Avel's current group is at the Ritz on Friday, Manley is back at the One-19-North doing jazz with Arthur Toney on Friday.

CARTOONS:



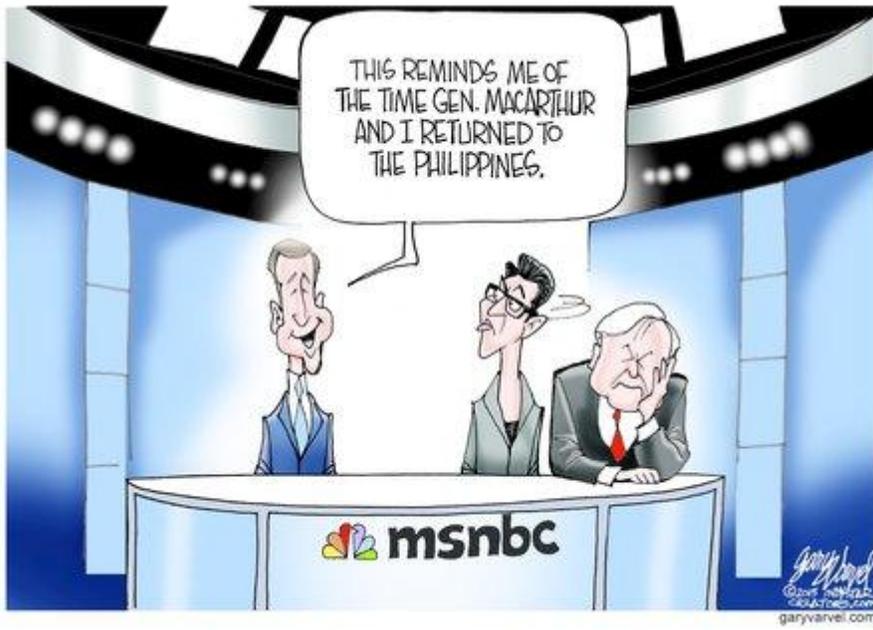
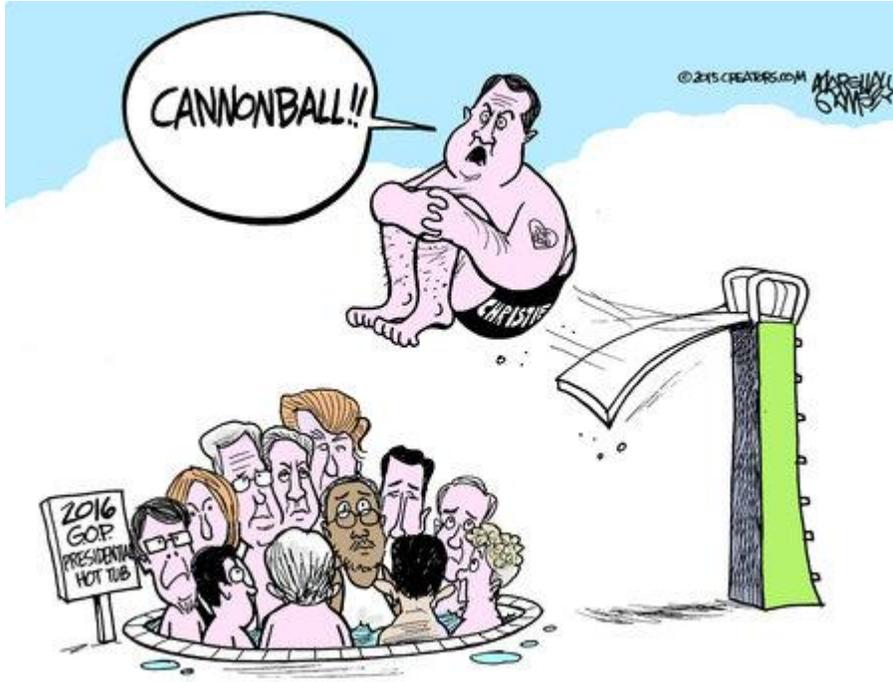


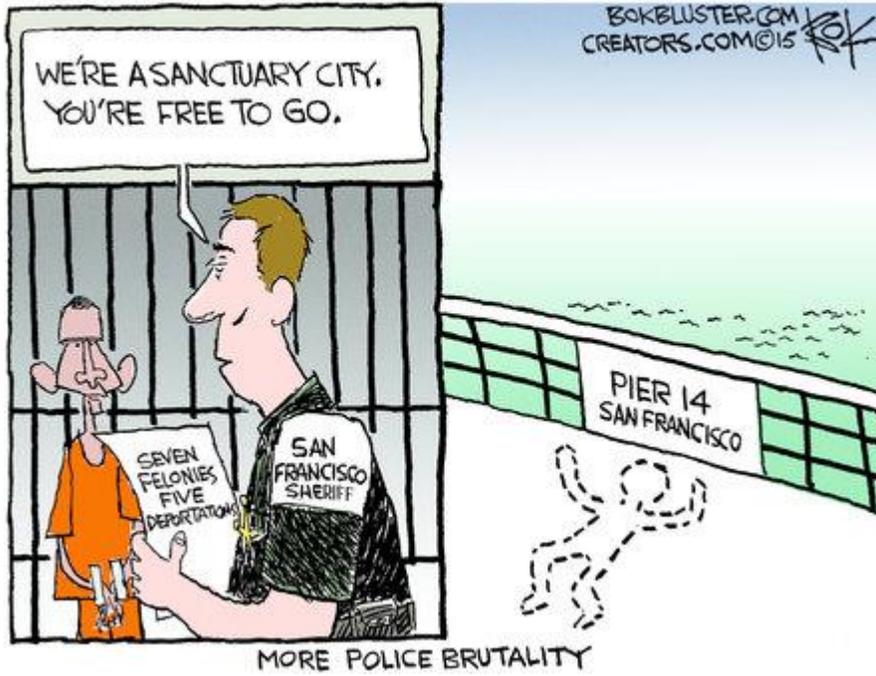




"Morale is way up around here since we had it installed last month."







WHAT DOES that SAY about OUR **BORDER SECURITY** ?



COMIC-CON





"WE RECENTLY LOST ABOUT 200 POUNDS."