

## EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 82

April 25, 2013

By John Hoffmann

**CITY ALDERMEN TO INTERVIEW CITY ADMINISTRATOR CANDIDATES ON SUNDAY AND MONDAY** Town and Country Aldermen will meet in closed session on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning to hold interviews for the city's next city administrator. The interview list will include inside candidates already working for the city and outside people. We believe some people on the list may be with the police department and once a city administrator is hired to replace City Administrator/Police Chief John Copeland the police chief position will be filled.

Normally the mayor chooses department heads with the approval of the Board of



Aldermen. This approach will combine both functions. However by having long winded Alderman Fred Meyland-Smith involved with the selection any time savings by combining the process into one will likely be lost when Fred starts asking five minute long questions.

**CITY TO ADD MORE TO DEFICIT:** At the Monday April 22 Board of Aldermen meeting not only did the Alderpersons approve the **\$3.6-million addition** to the budget that was already **\$2,427,890 million in the red**, but they also first read a bill to add another **\$7,000 on top of that**. The \$6,000,000 is to go to road construction projects on subdivision streets.

Public Works director Craig Wilde expects the \$6,027,890 to be totally spent by the end of November.

The \$7,000 will give us a \$6,034,890 deficit for 2013.

Finance director Betty Cotner said she needed the additional \$7,000 because of “Bank Fees.” She told alderpersons that due to the low interest rates, banks have increased the fees they charge and this has affected the city. She estimated that the reserve will continue to drop at a rate of \$500,000 a year through 2017 unless there is an event that requires more emergency spending. The reserve will have been cut in half over a 8-year period, dropping from \$18,670,000 in 2012 to an estimated \$9,100,000 in 2017.

**BENIGAS IS WORRIED ABOUT A PINK FLOYD PERFORMANCE...HE IS A**

**DECADE TOO LATE:** The lights for a soccer field located in the middle of the Principia high school campus were approved but not before some discussion. It was not about the lights, but the possible addition of PA system.

The school promised not to add a PA system to the soccer field. Alderman Jon Benigas then made an amendment to the ordinance banning all “enhance sound systems or devices.” That brought a “wait just a minute” when it was pointed out that would ban someone at a soccer camp from using a hand held megaphone.

Benigas then smiled and said he just wanted to be sure there was not a Pink Floyd concert on the field where the band brought their own sound system.



The original five members of Pink Floyd from a 1968 photo

Since Pink Floyd broke up in 1995 and came back for one reunion concert in 2005, 40-percent of the band has died. Mr. Benigas should not be worried about them making an appearance at Principia.

**BENIGAS DOES LOOK AFTER THE LITTLE GUY:** An ordinance was introduced and first read allowing the city to use TrafficPayment.com for violators to pay traffic tickets. Finance Director Betty Cotner said the agreement would not cost the city any money. Benigas then very correctly asked how much it would cost traffic violators to use the system to pay a fine. No one knew! He might not be up on Pink Floyd but Benigas was the only person on the dais or on the city staff actually thinking about the little guy.

**DALTON SWORN IN FOR OTHER FOUR YEARS:** Last Monday's meeting saw the Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist/Snatcher of Widow's Property and Business by Eminent Domain for an Underfunded Nightclub District Jon Dalton get sworn in for another four years. Geez...can't someone introduce a term limit ordinance to make sure we don't have this guy for 16 years?

The highlight of the swearing in was what a marvelous job the new city clerk Ashley McNamara did. This kid has a real stage presence.



Mayor John (right) looking up after writing during a 30-minute presentation on street projects by Public Works Director Craig Wilde. City Administrator/Police Chief John Copeland enjoying a beverage at his last regular Board of Aldermen meeting.

**END OF A YEAR:** Monday also marked the end of the first year of the two-year terms for alderpersons Chuck Lenz and Gussie Crawford . I know they wanted to keep a low profile and get along for their first year, but that year is up. I hope on whatever the issue is they both don't hold back for the next year.

**TIM WELBY DOES GREAT JOB FILLING IN FOR MAYOR...HE DIDN'T MENTION THE CITY'S \$6,000,000 DEFICIT AND WHEN IT WAS BROUGHT UP HE DENIED IT!** Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist/Snatcher of Widow's Property and Business Jon Dalton has been famous of attending neighborhood subdivision meetings and telling voters what a wonderful financial condition the city is in...EVEN IF THE CITY HAS A VERY LARGE DEFICIT BUDGET.

This year on January 1, 2013 the city started with a \$2,400,000 deficit budget. In April the board of Aldermen increased the deficit another \$3,600,000 at the suggestion of a special task force appointed by Mayor Jon Dalton. Of course prior to April Dalton was telling subdivision groups that he had a balanced budget, claiming the general fund was the whole budget. However the entire budget was \$2.4million in the red. Now they are dipping into the reserves more and taking \$3.6-million from the general fund reserve and moving it to the road fund.

At the Thornhill Estates subdivision meeting, Dalton was missing and Alderdope Welby filled in. One resident asked about the return of the branch chipping project. Tim and the other Ward-2 alderman, Chuck Lenz gave several excuses why there was no branch chipping. Neither one of them brought up the fact that the city now has a \$6,000,000 budget deficit.

I proceed to tell everyone about the very large deficit and asked the resident if he would prefer cutting police services or repairing roads in favor of branch chipping, as there was a \$6-million city deficit.

Welby spoke up and said, "I beg to differ with you!" He went on to explain that the city will be using \$3.6 million for special road projects...as if that isn't real money.

"Tim, the city started the year with a \$2.4-million deficit and is adding another \$3.6-million. In my math that adds up to a \$6,000,000 deficit," I said and then left.

Our city leaders have to fess up and admit the overall budget is now \$6-million in the red and 32-percent of our reserve fund will be gone. To do otherwise is being totally dishonest with the residents.

**APPARENTLY TIM CANNOT READ A BUDGET:** Here is the 2013 budget that Tim voted for and was approved in November of 2012. Please note the number in the parenthesis. It is \$2,427,890. That is the amount that is approved but which there is no revenue for. In other words it will come out of the reserve.

**CITY OF TOWN AND COUNTRY  
2013 BUDGET REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES**

FUND DESCRIPTION	2013 Beginning Fund Balance	Revenues	Expenditures	Transfers In (Out)	Change in Fund Balance	2013 Ending Fund Balance
General Fund	15,108,411	9,304,680	9,290,660		14,020	15,122,431
Road Fund	1,233,954	2,455,900	3,396,480		(940,580)	293,394
Capital Improvements Fund	895,048	1,022,100	2,594,160	1,000,000	(572,060)	322,986
Parks & Stormwater Fund	1,385,244	1,267,000	1,173,810	(1,000,000)	(906,810)	478,434
Safety & Training Fund	47,502	41,020	63,500		(22,480)	25,022
<b>TOTALS ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$ 18,670,157</b>	<b>\$ 14,090,700</b>	<b>\$ 16,518,590</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (2,427,890)</b>	<b>\$ 16,242,267</b>

**MORE NONSENSE FROM TIM:** Also at the neighborhood meeting Tim said how the new Raintree Pre-School and Kindergarten hoped to be open by August. The Raintree Learning website optimistically has that it will be moving to the new school in fall of 2013, apparently Welby has not been down to their new property lately. Considering it is almost May and there is no construction, no new storm water sewer system, new road, new parking lots, new landscaping or any actual work being done, but a collapsed street does remain, I'm not sure what Mr. Welby was smoking before this neighborhood meeting, but there will not be anything at the Raintree preschool site in August unless the 3-year-olds know how to operate construction equipment.

An over optimistic Ilya Eydelman of Raintree hopes the building will be done by the end of October. I think he will not be changing the zip code of the school until 2014.



Here is the property this week, including the collapsed portion of street.



This is the rear view of the school which Tim Welby apparently thinks can be built in 3-months.

**SUBDIVISION IS APPROVED, BUT DEFINITION OF FLAG LOT IS UP FOR GRABS:**

The approval to cut the Eschuenbrenner property on Mason Road into two lots was passed on Monday night, but then Fred Meyland-Smith had to lengthen things by trying to stop any citizen revolt over a possible flag lot.



The 40 acres of the property is being divided. However the purchaser of the first lot will have a 150-foot section abutting Mason Road which will go straight back to where the majority of the other 20 acres is located and where he plans to build a single family home. It is a flag lot. However, Meyland-Smith wanted to be sure that everyone knew it did not meet the Town and Country definition of “flag lot” since there are now illegal.

Twice he had planning director Sharon Rothmel explain that all new lots must have at least 150 feet of property meeting the road. She added that this lot has exactly 150 feet against Mason Road. While it sure looks like a flag lot, technically in Town and Country it isn't.

**FOLLOW THE LIES IN TOWN AND STYLE:** I have closely read the Talk of the Towns column by Bill Beggs, Jr. that appears in the Town and Style Magazine, ever since he lifted a column I wrote for Patch.com, changed a few words and then ran it under his byline. I complained to the editor and she eventually admitted that perhaps Mr. Beggs should have credited me or not run the information he stole.

His “column” involves no real reporting. He pretty much lifts items from other media sources. For sometime Town and Style was using the logo of Rock Hill for tidbits from Richmond Heights. I guess all “RH” logos mean the same thing for them.



Wrong way Bill Beggs, Jr.

In the April 17 issue of Town and Style Beggs, under the “Ballwin” caption wrote a long paragraph about the new Schnucks store in Ballwin at Kehrs Mill Road and Clarkson Road. First he sounded like a paid apologist for the Schnucks stores over the company’s recent pathetic lack of concern for long time customers and their credit. He then wrote how the new store is 40,000 square feet “(half the size of the Des Peres flagship, also brand new at 80,000 square feet.)”

When did they add the extra 6,000 square feet? This is typical of Mr. Beggs’ work...don’t let facts get in the way of your story. That store in Des Peres has been 74,000 sq ft since it opened and that was the big laugh when Dierbergs opened a store down the street at 75,000 sq feet.

This is the first two paragraphs from a Schnucks Press Release that is online:

Date : August 31, 2009

### **New Flagship Schnucks Opens to Des Peres Customers on Sept. 15**

*Store Manager says, “It’s an experience in food!”*

DES PERES, Mo. – After 46 years of serving customers in its present location, **Schnucks Des Peres** will close at 9 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 14, and reopen at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at its new location, **12332 Manchester Road** (next to West County Mall). The relocation of this landmark facility marks the beginning of a new era for the family-owned grocery company.

At 74,000 square feet, this combination food and pharmacy store is like no other Schnucks store. Schnucks Chairman and CEO **Scott Schnuck** explained, “We promised our Des Peres community something special and that’s just what we will deliver. Des Peres will be a flagship store in our company because of the atypical offerings it will include.”

**SUSPECT FINALLY CHARGED IN SMITTY’S ASSAULT:** 52-year-old Jayne Baning, of Manchester, who knocked down and then sliced open the face of Smitty’s waitress and bartender Nancy Seaman has finally been charged with felony assault.



On January 29 when Seaman refused to serve an intoxicated Baning any more drinks, Baning hit Seaman with a broken cocktail

glass's stem cutting open her face and requiring 81 stitches to close the wound. Baning also pulled Seaman by the hair down to the floor and attempted to stab her with the broken glass before a cook intervened.

Chesterfield Police arrested Baning that night, but released her on a ticket to appear in city court on an ordinance violation. Meanwhile Seaman suffered lifetime injuries.

After protests from myself and others including Congresswoman Ann Wagner, a regular at Smitty's over the years, the police withdrew the ordinance violation charge and the case was assigned to a detective, who applied for warrants against Baning on March 15. The County Prosecutor's Office finally on April 19 charged Baning with felony 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Assault. There is a \$10,000 "cash only" bond requirement. She was arrested by the Manchester Police after the warrant was issued and taken to the County Jail.

Meanwhile Seaman, who had extensive plastic surgery on her face in the first week of April, has been told she will need more plastic surgery due to the severity of the wound. She also has vision and neurological problems, plus may also have to have root canals in connection with the wound. She is still off of work.

**IN A SIMILAR CASE JUNIOR COLLEGE POLICE DROP BALL:** It appears as if a plucky 19-year-old co-ed from Chesterfield forced the campus police at the St. Louis Community College Meramec Campus to put things in high gear. .

Blythe Grupe was jumped from behind at the sink in a women's bathroom by a male student. She screamed as she was being choked and an instructor rushed in. The suspect was caught by campus cops in the building. However, like Chesterfield cops they let him go this time pending warrant application. They should have held the suspect, 18-year-old Jevon Mallory from St. John, at the county Jail on a 24-hour hold while they obtained warrants.



Grupe, a Marquette High School grad, went on the offensive when she learned the suspect had not been charged and she contacted media sources. She was on the 6 and 10 o'clock newscasts at several TV stations.

Meanwhile Campus Police Chief, Paul Banta, a retired Des Peres Public Safety (fire & police) command staff officer, went on the defensive sounding rather lame in giving his explanation why Mallory was released without being charged.



Meramec Campus Cops didn't know what to do with felony assault suspect Jevon Mallory, so they let him go. The victim started a media firestorm that got him arrested.

### **FOLLOW THE MONEY:**

I don't know if you read the Post-Dispatch article by Mark Schlinkmann, how St. Charles Republican state representative Kathie Conway has introduced a bill that would that would slap stiff penalties on cities and counties that had smoking bans. Sales taxes collected from restaurants and bars under a smoking ban would be diverted from cities and counties providing basic services and be given to school districts. Luckily Rep. Conway's bill isn't calling for high schools to have "smoking areas" for students 18 or over who want to light up on campus.

Let's follow the money and see who is giving someone crazy enough to introduce this bill campaign contributions. Here is a list of people or organizations giving \$250 or more to Conway over the last 18 months. In black bold type are companies associated with cigarette or liquor sales or casinos. Highlighted in red are elected officials, labor groups affiliated with fire departments and EMS, plus health care organizations that are supposed to be concerned with the health and welfare of people.



State Rep Kathie Conway.

03/28/13	\$250	Perman and Winton Consulting Group Jefferson City, MO
<b>03/28/13</b>	<b>\$150*</b>	<b>Missouri Beverage PAC Jefferson City</b>
03/28/13	\$250	Missouri Freedom (Trial Lawyers) Jefferson City
03/28/13	\$350	ASA Midwest PAC St. Louis CO MO Construction contractors
10/11/12	\$350	Century TEL Monroe, LA
10/11/12	\$500	Ann Wagner for Congress Manchester, MO
10/11/12	\$500	Citizen for Tim Jones Eureka, Mo
10/15/12	\$350	Ameren Missouri PAC Jefferson City
10/15/12	\$500	Citizens for Diehl <b>Town and Country, MO</b>
10/15/12	\$350	Missouri Healthcare Assoc PAC Jefferson City
<b>10/17/12</b>	<b>\$250</b>	<b>Ameristar Casino of Kansas City</b>
<b>10/17/12</b>	<b>\$250</b>	<b>Ameristar casino of St. Charles</b>
<b>10/17/12</b>	<b>\$250</b>	<b>Casey General Stores Ankeny, IA</b>
10/17/12	\$350	Monsanto Co Creve Coeur, MO
10/17/12	\$350	Stinson, Morrison, Heckler, LLP Clayton, MO
10/17/12	\$250	MO Dental PAC Jefferson City, MO
10/24/12	\$325	HEAL PAC Creve Coeur, MO
10/24/12	\$250	Missourians for Mike Cierport Lee's Summit MO
10/25/12	\$250	Fire Service Alliance PAC Jefferson City
10/25/12	\$250	Realtor's PAC Columbia MO
<b>09/29/12</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>Anheuser Busch Companies St. Louis</b>
09/28/12	\$250	Steven Shull Lake St. Louis MO
09/25/12	\$300	Assoc of Industries of MO PAC Jefferson City MO
09/25/12	\$325	Charter Communications <b>Town and Country MO</b>
09/25/12	\$400	Professional Firefighters PAC St. Peters MO
09/25/12	\$500	Missouri Medical PAC Jefferson City
09/22/12	\$350	Free Government Requires Active Citizens (Republican PAC)
09/22/12	\$250	General Motors Washington DC 20001
09/22/12	\$500	CHC of MO (Coventry Health Care) <b>Town and Country, MO</b>
09/22/12	\$500	FEAPAC of Missouri Overland Park, KS (Future Educators Assoc)
09/22/12	\$250	MOLEGG Jefferson City MO
09/22/12	\$250	Realtors PAC Jefferson City

09/22/12 \$570 Redmon for State Rep Monticello, MO  
 09/22/12 \$300 Isle of Capri Casinos Creve Coeur, MO  
 09/22/12 \$300 American Family Ins PAC St. Joseph MO  
 09/18/12 \$250 St. Charles Associations of Realtors  
 09/18/12 \$500 MHA-PAC Jefferson City MO (Missouri Hospital Association)  
 09/18/12 \$250 Xcaliber (cigarette maker) MO PAC  
 09/18/12 \$300 Property & Casualty Assoc of American Des Moines, IA  
 09/06/12 \$325 Home Builders Assoc Chesterfield MO  
 07/25/12 \$500 Friends of Todd Richardson Popular Bluff, MO  
 07/15/12 \$500 Anheuser Busch Companies St. Louis MO  
 06/27/12 \$250 Realtors PAC Columbia MO  
 06/26/12 \$250 Missouri Dental PAC Jefferson City MO  
 06/20/12 \$350 AGC of St. Louis PAC (Assoc General Contractors)  
 05/31/12 \$325 Home Building Industry PAC  
 05/25/12 \$350 Charter Communications Town and Country MO  
 02/03/12 \$325 HEAL PAC Ballwin, MO  
 12/31/11 \$500 Right Choice Managed Care Cincinnati OH  
 12/30/11 \$500 Ameristar Casino Kansas City MO  
 12/30/11 \$500 Ameristar Casino St. Charles MO  
 12/22/11 \$500 RAJ Jefferson City MO  
 10/20/11 \$500 Citizen for Tim Jones Eureka MO  
 10/17/11 \$350 Charter Communications Town and Country MO  
 10/07/11 \$300 Professional Firefighters PAC St. Peters, MO  
 10/03/11 \$300 MAPAC Jefferson City, MO  
 10/03/11 \$500 MHA PAC Jefferson City, MO  
 10/03/11 \$500 Group Health Plan Town and Country MO  
 10/03/11 \$500 Redmon for State Rep Monticello, MO  
 10/03/11 \$1,500 Missouri Health Care Assoc Jefferson City MO  
 10/02/11 \$300 RGA Reinsurance Co Chesterfield, MO

**FIRST MITT ROMNEY TELLS ME I'M ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST NOTABLE REPUBLICANS...NOW THEY WANT MONEY FOR THE VIRGINIA GOVERNOR'S RACE:** Yes, I received the October 5, 2012 from Mitt, telling me what a great Republican I am and asking for up to \$50,000.

On April 24, I received an email asking me to contribute to the campaign fund of Ken Cuccinelli who is the Republican candidate running for governor in Virginia. I have claimed I'm an Independent since I lived in the heavily Democratic State of Maryland in 1993. I would like to find a Republican I could enjoy voting for and not one who want to

repeal child labor laws, smoking bans or talk about rape being a form of birth control. However, I don't see moving to Virginia as an option.

## **FOOD AND MUSIC:**

If you remember a couple of months ago I wrote how my wife and I caught the Anita Rosamond experience at the Brazikat, a new eatery across the street from the Ritz Carlton in Clayton. I wrote how one of our two meals was uneatable and the other was average. Anita as usual however had the place jumping.



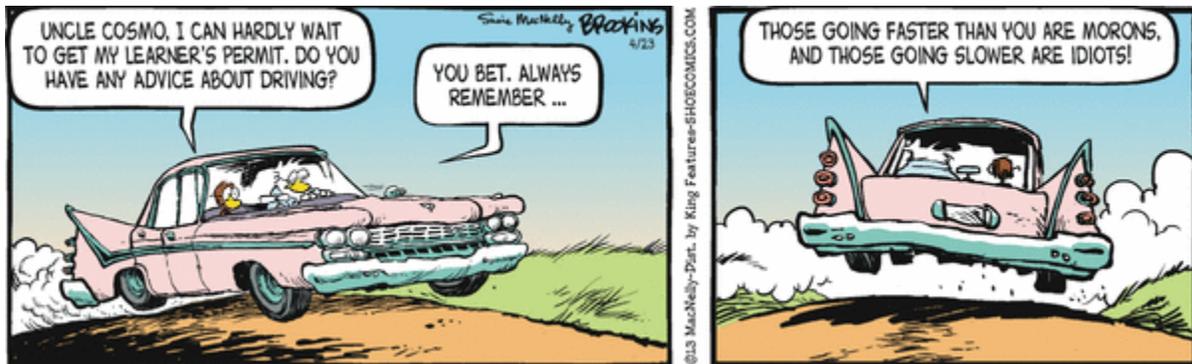
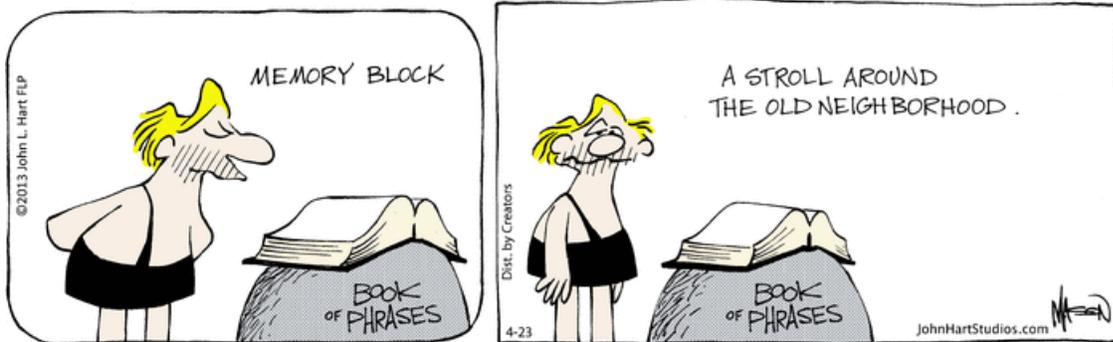
Here is Anita with customers doing a line dance with kicks to New York New York at the Brazikat last February.

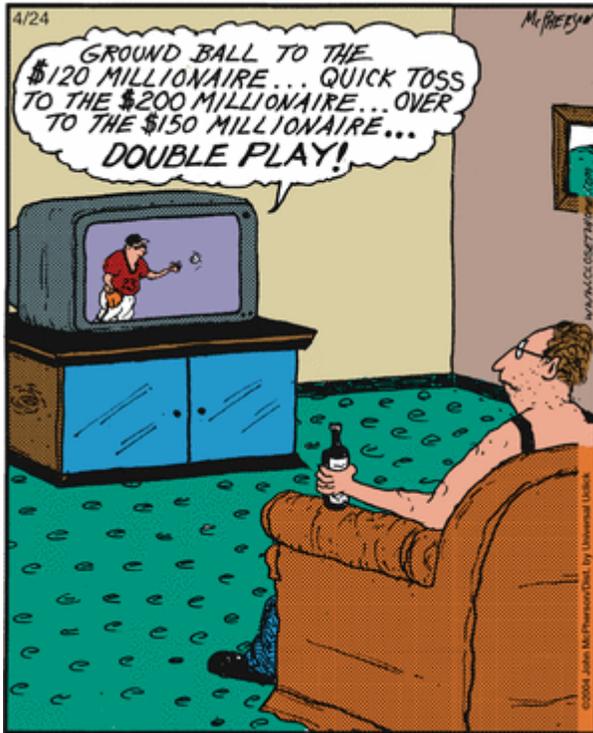
A few days later a review of the Brazikat in the Riverfront Times claimed the place was awful and a fraud to Brazilian cooking. A week later the Post-Dispatch published one of the most negative reviews of a restaurant that we have read in years. It was about the Brazikat.

**There is just one place that can light my face...Gary Indiana, Gary Indiana...Not Louisiana, Paris, France or Rome:** I was clearing off my desk the other night and ran across a Brazikat business card I picked up the night I saw Anita. Before throwing it away something caught my eye. It was the phone number... it has a 219 area code. That is for Northwestern Indiana, with the largest city being crime infested, corrupt and economically just one step ahead of Detroit, GARY INDIANA! Yes, when I think of Brazil, I usually also think of Northwest Indiana. The owner is using his cell phone and doesn't even have a permanent telephone for the joint.

Based on all of this I have to give the Brazikat until Labor Day before it closes. However if you want to try it...I'd suggest going on Saturday May 4 or Friday May 17 from 7:30 to 10:30 when Anita will be back.

**CARTOONS:**





"Brad, your mother and I never got around to saving for your college education. Here are 100 instant lottery tickets that we hope will make it up to you."

