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Breaking schmooze: Bowled over at Tropicana

By Deb Peterson
Of the Post-Dispatch
10/10/2004



Deborah Peterson

HEY, NICK: The Nick@Nite Road Crew will be visiting the Bonne Terre Mine in Bonne Terre, Mo., on Monday to film a segment for the show, which is expected to air on Oct. 22. The episode will feature the five-level mine, which has more than 24 diving trails with historic elements such as buildings, ore carts and locomotives. It is billed as America's largest inland diving spot and featured in this month's Men's Journal magazine as one of "52 Great American Weekends." The mine is owned and operated by **Doug and Cathy Goergens**, proprietors of St. Louis' West End Diving. The Goergenses also operate the Maya Palms Resort on the Caribbean in Mahahual, Mexico, near Belize. Info:

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KNOCKIN' EM DOWN: Do-gooders -- and bowlers -- at

St. Louis At Work
FEATURED JOBS

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the **Marshall Faulk** and **Torry Holt** fund-raiser at Tropicana Lanes on Monday night were treated to a surprise appearance by our town's noted bowler, **Nelly**. The rapper's team squared off in the alley finals against a team from Delmar Gardens and went down in flames. After watching 14-year-old **Jesse Grossberg**, son of Delmar Gardens topper **Gabe Grossberg**, bowl his fourth strike in a row, Nelly asked the packed house what time curfew was in Clayton. On hand for the pin show: Attorneys **Scott Rosenblum**, **Joel Schwartz** and **John Rogers**; **Marshall Faulk** and his agent, **Rocky Arceneaux**; **Torry Holt**, **Orlando Pace**, **Isaac Bruce**, **Marc Bulger**, **Steven Jackson**, **Adam Archuleta**, **Tommy Polley**, **Aeneas Williams**, **Adam Timmerman**, **Andy McCollum**, **Chris Dishman**, **Cam Cleeland**, **Grant Williams**, comedian **Joe Torry**, **Art Weiss** and **Millie Cain**.

Deb's Sunday column:

UN-DEB-ATE-ABLE: With St. Louis in a tizzy over the second presidential debate Friday night, it was no wonder that some of our town's best and brightest were spotted mingling with the nation's leaders at the Washington University athletic center. It was also a time to put aside partisan political differences and to bask in the national glow that the debate and the hometown baseball team had brought to town.

Favorite son **Rep. Richard Gephardt** was surrounded nearly everywhere he went by U.S. senators and lawmakers, reporters and former staffers, all wanting to wish him well. A high point of his popularity was evidenced after the debate when ABC newsman and debate moderator **Charles Gibson** said to Gephardt in a private moment: "It should have been you up there - things would have been different."

During the debate, Gephardt sat with U.S. Sens. **Hillary Clinton** and **Dick Durbin**; U.S. Reps. **Ed Markey** and **William Lacy Clay Jr.**; former HUD Secretary **Henry Cisneros**; former Secretary of State **Madeleine Albright**; and former U.S. ambassador to the U.N. **Richard Holbrooke** in the packed Democratic spin room watching the proceedings - just like most Americans - on TV. Spotted later in the media filing room were former U.S. Sen. **Jean Carnahan**; **Karen Hughes**, outspoken consultant to the Bush-Cheney re-election team; political mastermind **Karl Rove**; **Mark Racicot**, former chairman of the Republican National Committee; **Terry McAuliffe**, chairman of the Democratic National Committee; GOP pollster **Matthew Dowd**; New York Gov. **George Pataki**; and conservative commentator **Sean Hannity**.

Locals on the scene included **Steve Lambright**; **Mark Bobak**; **Steve Stogel** and his wife, **Melinda Allen Stogel**; **Bob Clark**; **May Scheve Reardon**; **Todd Epstein** and his wife, **Sue McCollum**; and **Michael Brasher**, 16, a junior at John Burroughs. Brasher wowed onlookers with his political know-how and nearly immediate identification of **Andy Card**, White House chief of staff. After the debate, local GOP honcho **Sam Fox** jumped up from his seat to say: "It's over, Bush won!"

A HEAD SCRATCHER: Despite widespread reports

that **Hannity** would not be in St. Louis on Friday because he didn't want to fly in on a private jet, he was here after all. A conservative student group at Wash U. complained that Hannity turned down their donor jet offer and a first-class ticket on a commercial jet, after agreeing to come into town on their behalf. But Hannity was broadcasting his show Friday afternoon from the KTFK (97.1 FM) studios at Union Station. **John Beck**, senior vice president for Emmis Communications stations in St. Louis, said Hannity was in for the presidential debate. Hannity said he had wanted to speak here for free to help the students, and that early on he had explained to them his flight requirements. He prefers commercial flights but said the commercial ticket the students offered him would have made it impossible for him to speak when they had planned.

Hannity flew in Friday on American Airlines. He's particular about what he flies because a charter flight he used regularly crashed about a year ago - two days before he was scheduled to be on the plane.

FOREVER YOUNG: St. Andrew's Resources for Seniors will celebrate "25 Ageless, Remarkable St. Louisans," at 6 p.m. Nov. 14 in the Khorassan Ballroom of the Chase Park Plaza Hotel. The celebration refers to the honorees as "St. Louis' most dynamic people whose influence, contributions and vitality enhance our lives and community." Among them are: **Mae Duggan, Dr. Shi Chun Fu, Lee Liberman, Lucy Lopata, Ed Macauley, Brother Mel Meyer, Mike Roarty, Norma Stern, Clif and Nance St. James and Josephine Throdahl. Virginia Trent** is chairing the event, **Sanford and Priscilla McDonnell** are honorary chairs, **Michael and Rosemary Wick** and **Margaret Blanke Grigg** are co-chairs. Info: 314-726-0111.

BACK TO THE SCHMOOZE: Late-night KMOX talker **John Carney** will be kept on at the station, despite his arrest on charges of drunken driving, leaving the scene of an accident and failing to have proof of insurance in his vehicle. The station suspended Carney on Sept. 27, with the station's vice president and general manager, **Tom Langmyer**, saying Carney would be off the air indefinitely, pending further investigation. The charges against Carney are still pending. He is being represented by **Paul D'Agrosa** of the firm of Wolff and D'Agrosa. Details about Carney's return were unavailable Friday.

DEB-U-DOS: Our town's **Jeremy Davenport** will debut Oct. 19 in the prestigious Oak Room at the Algonquin Hotel in New York City. The 34-year-old trumpeteer and vocalist is a U. City High grad who performs regularly at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in New Orleans. Davenport's mother and father are **Diane and Roger Davenport**. Mom is a music teacher and dad plays trombone in the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. Davenport was a merit scholar at the Manhattan School of Music and studied privately with the Symphony's **Susan Slaughter** and with **Wynton Marsalis, Raymond Mase** and **Ellis Marsalis**. He also has performed on four world tours with **Harry Connick Jr.**'s band.

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