

Lansing Spoofof Journal

December 7, 2017

Peddling Fake News since 1924 | Price: Any Donation

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE GRUMP

BY IMA BUH-LEAVER

President Grump today signed an executive order that ensures all future total eclipses will be orchestrated by the White House.

"All those past eclipses have been a lousy deal for us," Grump said. "We haven't made a dime off them. That's going to

change. From now on, solar eclipses will bring jobs and money back to this country. And Mars will pay for it! Buh-lieve me."

Grump was coy when reporters asked how he managed to orchestrate a celestial event that is seemingly out of human control. "Let's just say I talked to the guy

in charge, and we struck a deal."

While details are sketchy, some White House insiders say Grump wants solar eclipses "re-branded" for maximum impact. One idea: Super-impose Grump's photo over the sun. "It will be the greatest eclipse in history! Buh-lieve me,"

Grump tweeted.

Grump also plans to hold several total eclipses a year in the United States. "Maybe once a month. We'll see. It would be great to have eclipses all over the country. Maybe not Puerto Rico so much because, you know, it's not really a state." ■

The Old Newsboys have been providing shoes & boots to deserving children since 1924. **Your donation can help!**

— LANSINGOLDNEWSBOYS.ORG —



ANGRY MAYOR, a popular IPA, loses its fizz

BY YEW BETCHA

With the city's outgoing leader, Barge Burnarrow, leaving office after 12 years, a new emergency has emerged: What to call Angry Mayor beer.

The Local Brewing Co. announced a contest to rename the popular IPA after state Rep. Andy Snore won election to replace the man known as the Angry Mayor. Snore beat Judi Brown Snark, a Silver Medal Olympian and Councilwoman at-medium (formerly at-large), in the Nov. 7 election.

"Since we may no longer have a spoiling-for-a-fight leader, we needed to come up with a backup business plan," said LBC brewmaster Head Hopper.

Several citizen watchdogs protested.

"Snore's not angry now but that could change," said Loretta Takeaway. "Just wait until he deals with all the brief and efficient City Council meetings."

Through an online poll, voters over 21 may vote for their favorites:

- Milquetoast pale ale
- Mr. Clean
- Not angry just mildly irked
- Oops we sold City Hall
- Killer potholes
- Big gulp pension costs



INTRODUCING THE 'SPARTY TAX'

The revenue wars are raging in East Lansing. After the city announced plans to impose an income tax on residents — including MSU students — the university retaliated.

MSU says it has legal control over — not just images of the Spartan mascot — but all things green and white. "We have a sliding scale of tax levies based on what folks in East Lansing wear and what they own," a spokesman said. "For instance: Wear a Sparty hat and you'll be billed \$5 a year."

The taxes go up from there. A well-manicured and fertilized lawn will be taxed \$300 during the "Green Season" and \$200-plus during the "White Season" — depending on snowfall amounts.

Not to be outdone in these Tax Wars, East Lansing officials plan to charge students a "sidewalk toll."

"All those feet, they create a lot of wear and tear on our sidewalks," said East Lansing Mayor Marco Pastures. "It's only fair to charge students a user fee."

While the fury on both sides of Grand River Avenue isn't likely to die down soon, the city and the university have agreed on one revenue-raising scheme: A \$25 fine for anyone wearing University of Michigan apparel, on the grounds that it's "inciting arrogance." ■

Mayor + dozer = crime

BY MCHUGH

In an emergency session, the Lansing City Council has passed a controversial ordinance. Effective immediately, it simply says: "It shall be a felony for a mayor to operate a bulldozer."

The issue began with word that outgoing mayor Splurge Dinero had finished a five-day waiting period required to obtain a bulldozer license. Lately, he's been seen practicing.

Dinero has confided to friends that he'll make sure Lansing has a casino be-

fore he leaves office. A colleague — who says he's "at least 2% Native American, maybe more" — will manage it, with several folding tables for bingo and three-card monte.

The only problem involves clearing a location, which is why Dinero has the bulldozer. He has said possibilities include knocking down City Hall, the Lugnuts' stadium ("it's already zoned for recreation"), the Dodge Mansion ("it's really old") or the lion house at Potter Park Zoo.

In the latter case, Dinero promised, "we would make an earnest effort to keep the lions from roaming free." ■

Music to our ears?

BY PLAYDA SONG

A new wrinkle has developed in the long-delayed construction of a sound wall along U.S.127. The Michigan Department of Crumbling Roads says it is looking at an alternative to the wall, which was supposed to act as a sound barrier between

the highway and residential neighborhoods.

The alternative? Sound. Lots and lots of sound. “We figure it’s cheaper and faster just to mount some big loudspeakers, and let residents tune into whatever music fits their mood,” said spokesman Maka Nosense. “So one neighborhood could opt for easy listening while one

street over, they could groove on heavy metal. It’s such an easy solution, we’re surprised no one thought of this before.”

The spokesman added that if residents reject the “Music Wall” plan, they can just sit back and wait for the sound wall to be finished. “We expect the wall project will be wrapped up in January—of 2032.” ■



Cool plans for Big Mac Walk

Due to traffic jams, security concerns and bureaucratic thumb-sucking, the Big Mac Bridge Authority is making more changes to the annual Labor Day Bridge Walk.

Beginning in 2018, the bridge walk will not take place on Labor Day. Instead, the walk will take place in mid-January, probably between midnight and 2 a.m.

“We think there will be less vehicular traffic at that time,” said Big Mac spokesman Paydee Toll. “For that mat-

ter, we think there will be less pedestrian traffic at that time. Ideally, there will be a huge blizzard and high winds, so all cars and trucks will be prevented from crossing. That way, the bridge walkers will have the entire five-mile span to themselves. All three of them.”

For those not inclined to do the bridge walk, the bridge authority plans to host several virtual walks where patrons can sit in a theater with their popcorn, put on 3-D glasses and experience the thrill of walking the Big Mac. Kinda sorta. ■

EAST LANSING: It’s back to the future

BY HUGE MICHAELS

Plans for East Lansing’s “Park District” project indicate a futuristic approach.

An architect’s rendering includes special features for each apart-

ment – a heliport, a virtual-reality room and a recharging station for rocket packs. Also, the complex has a separate recreation den for robots.

“It won’t really seem too advanced,” a spokesman explained. “Past experience tells us that this will take a long time – a

looong time – to happen. By the time it’s ready, this will feel contemporary.”

The Park District project has been hit by a long string of delays. Deep in the city archives, researchers have discovered the first proposal; it included hitching posts, spittoons and a commu-

nity room designated for “poker players and painted ladies.”

Since then, various plans have been launched and withdrawn. “I’m sure this will be the one,” the spokesman said. “It will happen ... but maybe not right away.” ■

Build the wall — Here!

BY MY CUES

Lansing developers have become frontrunners in the effort to design and build a border wall.

The plan was jointly submitted by the Eyed and Jillepsie firms. “It was simple, really,” a spokesman said. “We asked what would be most likely to appeal to President Grump.”

In their plan, the wall will consist entirely of condos and apartments, upscale in style and in price. The apartments will go for \$1,199 a month or

\$47.34 a month, depending on whether they face north or south.

Grump was open to new proposals after his previous ones had been rejected. At one point, he suggested simply buying an existing wall and moving it to the border. Possibilities included the Great Wall of China (“We’re buying everything else from them, anyway”) or the Berlin Wall.

He had also suggested confiscating the wall of Jackson Prison. “The nation is way bigger than a state, I think. We should be able to take something if we want it.” ■



AIR SUPPLY, COMPLIMENTS OF AMAZOMBIE

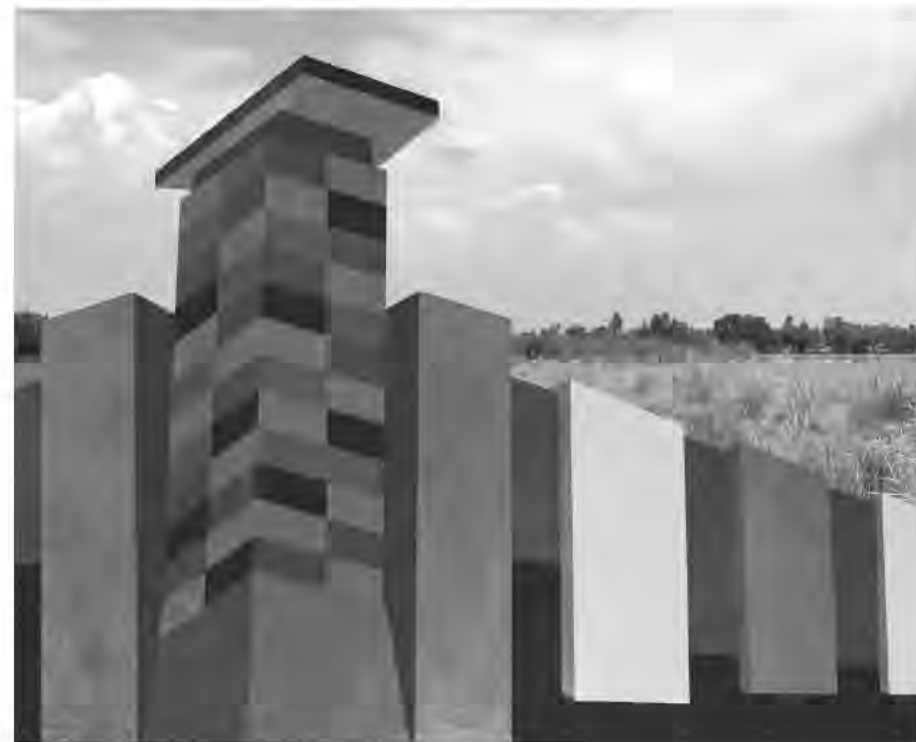
Retailing megagiant Amazombie announced today it has purchased rights to 97% of America’s air. Amazombie quickly assured the American people they will get the air they need, when they need it — for a price.

“We have a new army

of drones that will deliver air non-stop, 24-7 to all parts of the United States. If you’re living anywhere in the states, rest assured that the air will be there on time.”

Delivery services range from \$49 a month for the basic package, up to \$99 a month for scent-

ed air such as Sea Breeze and Mountain Wind. “Given how important air is to people, we think this is a bargain,” the spokesman said. He noted that air delivery to U.S. territories might take a bit longer “because, you know, they’re not really states.” ■



What’s in a name? Not much

New names may be popping up on area maps if community marketing plans take hold. Various cities and towns hope to give their images a boost by renaming themselves.

Thus, Lansing will become La-La Lansing. DeWitt wants to transform it-

self into DuhWhat?

Haslett hopes to become Hasletgo, though others hope Hasbeen will prevail.

A real fight is brewing in Okemos. Affluent elements in the community want it renamed OKmost. But opponents want to deflect any element of

snobbism, and prefer the name OKmess.

Marketing experts applaud the name changes, because they deflect public attention from messier issues like potholes and public pensions. ■



FUNYAN: 'BACK HOME WHERE I BELONG'

BY JOCK BABBLING

He spent an uncomfortable year in Ann Arrogance, but Pall Funyan is back where he belongs — in a trophy case in the Doubly Adorable Football Building.

The Funyan statue, worshipped by Smartones and way too heavy for most Whinerines to lift, will live in Beast Lan-

sing for the eighth time in 10 years, covering the tenures of three head coaches at Missagain.

"I want to thank Jolt Bocci for making the plays to bring me home and Crisp Fry for carrying me around the field, even if that ride began with a sloppy kiss," Funyan said after a 14-10 Statement win in the Big Outhouse. "The rain felt great for everyone in green. The amazed-and-blue were all wet anyway."

Smartones coach Moana Damptonio couldn't understand why anyone was stunned, given his program's success over its fat-and-sassy sibling.

"I don't mean to sound Hart-less, but our guys never doubted that they'd win," Damptonio said. "This time, we led all the way, just so no one would confuse it with a perfect finish two years ago."

The winners got a touchdown run

and a scoring pass from Brain Atwork-here and forced the favored Whinerines into five turnovers, including three interceptions of beleaguered John Oh'Damn.

"It wasn't our night," Missagain coach Gym Hypeball said. "We wanted to hang onto Funyan. But we probably would've fumbled him, too. The good news is that we should play better in two weeks at State Penn." ■

Smiles to go before Smartones reach April

BY JOCK BABBLING

When Smiles Bridgework was done chewing on a stunning decision to play a second season of college basketball, he took his announcement to "The Smartone" statue and made a lot of "experts" look dumb.

Bridgework didn't listen when so many told him, "As soon as you can, of course, you'll go to the prose. It's poetic justice."

Instead, he told 23rd-year head coach Team Sizzle, "I really like it here. And I have unfinished business. Plus, if I finish my sophomore year, I'll have 60 more credits than a lot of UNCAA Tarnishers, last year's Fine Formula Champs."

Sizzle's team is the No. 2 choice behind Dunk Universal in Lost Wages to snip the nets in San Antoniosmith next April. With 11 players who could've started



in championship seasons, it should be the program's best chance to win it all in several years — especially if Middle Tenniscourt has a down year.

"I really enjoy this team," Sizzle said. "Smiles is a blue-collar superstar. And we have enough depth to try to win the Big Temp with

our starters and to make the Tournament with our second five. If our assistant coaches don't screw up, I like our chances."

As always, Bridgework credits his teammates for everything except good weather and teaching him how to jump. And he won't back away from anticipated challenges by Minisodas, North-

southeastwestern and Purdon't.

"I know I could've gone to Whiskbroom and been 'The Bridgework of Madison County,'" he said. "But everyone gets along so well here. My Tum-mates are great. And I see eye-to-eye with Coach Sizzle... especially when he's standing on a step-stool." ■



Farewell, Spartan Stadium

BY OSKAR WHYOLD

At a press conference today Pharrow Health Systems president Dennis Dove made two big announcements to a throng of nurses, technicians and phlebotomists.

"First of all, I am thrilled to announce the renaming of Moo-You University's Spartan Stadium to Pharrow Health Care Field," Dove said. "As you know, there has long been a deep relationship between Pharrow and Moo-You — we both have the same colors and a lot of beds."

The other big announcement: "Frankly, we were running out of things to buy." ■

HORRORSCOPES

BY JUST A TADOFF

h

ARIES

Remember, the best is yet to come. At least you better hope so. Because right now, the sum total of your life's accomplishments makes bed bugs look like megastars.

o

TAURUS

Do you ever wonder why they named an astrology sign after a Ford sedan? Taurus ... It doesn't make sense. You should investigate.

R

GEMINI

The best part of your day happens early, when you manage not to spill your double latte on yourself but on your boss. Fortunately, your boss is an understanding person and will only dock you three days pay instead of the usual seven.

®

CANCER

When serious-looking men come to your door today and shout "FBI!", just be reasonable. Tell them you'd like to cooperate, but right now you're immersed in a video game and can't be bothered. No doubt they will slip a card under your door with a phone number to call at your convenience.

☺

LEO

Do you ever wonder why they named an astrology sign after a movie star? Weird. You should investigate.

Я

VIRGO

Every time you get involved in a relationship, a disruptive force intervenes. It's time to break the cycle. The next time you see a

beautiful woman, walk up to her and say: "This is a pre-emptive break-up. There's no way this will work." And then walk away.

\$

LIBRA

People think the worst of you. Now that we've come to know you, we understand why.

¢

SCORPIO

Congratulations! You are now the 3,420th person to be indicted for ties to Russian election interference! That means by the time they get around to your trial, the 2020 election will be underway and Russian hacking begins all over again. So, basically you're off the hook.

∅

SAGITTARIUS

If you insist on biting your nails in public, would you mind using hand sanitizer?

Ⓟ

CAPRICORN

Whenever you feel down or alienated, repeat this uplifting mantra: "The sun is always brightest where it shines."

♊

AQUARIUS

Don't settle for second best. Hold out for the finer things in life, like an extra slab of bacon on that triple-pounder deep-fried four-cheese Domsday Burger. With fries.

§

PISCES

Those who really know you see behind the facade: That you are actually a warm, caring, loving individual with a heart of gold. Ha! Fooled them!

Nuts to you!

BY I.M. GRATEFUL

In an amazing outreach to dissatisfied customers, Divided Airlines announced today it will offer a free bag of peanuts to any passenger dragged kicking and screaming from a plane.

"It's the least we can do," said a Divided spokeswoman. "I mean that literally. It's the LEAST."

Additionally, Divided will offer those kicking-screaming

passengers a voucher for any free check-in luggage that doesn't exceed the half-ounce weight limit.

And there's more! The airline says each disgruntled passenger, if they sign a pledge not to file a lawsuit, will be sent a heartfelt apology on a postcard, written by a robot. ■



C'RECTIONS

In an attempt to cut costs while maximizing profits, the Lansing Spooof Journal has inadvertently created a few mistakes and thus invited mayhem and panic in the community.

We sincerely regret the following:

■ There really is no army of zombies roaming the streets of Lansing. Rather, a few Zamboni machines were deployed throughout the city to smooth the icy streets to make driving smooth sailing.

■ The Spartan basketball team is not disbanding and moving to Ann Arbor. Rather, the players are forming a disco band and will play on a stage that looks like an arbor.

■ The mind-numbing series of misspellings, grammatical errors and other mistakes characterized generally as "Big Oops!" does not mean we are incompetent or lazy. Rather, it means we are completely distracted by the dire news that Zamboni-driving zombies are roaming our streets.

All kidding aside — thank you!

BY CLAIRE CORR
Old Newsboys President

We have fun putting together the Lansing Spoof Journal each year. But on this page, we set aside the laughter for a serious message.

It begins with a huge “thanks” to you and thousands of other donors who support the Lansing Old Newsboys Association, one of our community’s oldest charitable organizations.

Since 1924, Old Newsboys has raised money to buy shoes and boots for deserving schoolchildren. Last year, we helped buy footwear for more than 7,000 area children. The spoof newspaper you’re reading is the same price it was 93 years ago: “Any donation.”

Sadly, three of our staunchest support-



FOX

ers passed away this year; **Jim Hough**, the legendary “Onlooker” columnist for the Lansing State Journal; **Captain Dick Fox** of the Lansing Police Department; and **Emil Kletke**, Old Newsboys volunteer, known to many as Lansing’s official Santa Claus. We will miss them and the tremendous support they gave to Old Newsboys.

In addition to our annual sale, we receive generous financial support from several businesses and organizations. Our thanks to:



HOUGH

■ **The City of Lansing Human Resources and Community Service Department** for a \$10,000 grant.

■ **Meijer, Inc.** for a \$7,500 donation.

■ **Leo’s Restaurants** golf outing \$5,500.

■ **Auto Owners and Associates** for a \$8,872 donation.

■ **UAW Region 1D**, \$5,000 donation.

■ **Bennie C. Wickens Foundation**, \$5,000.

■ **Payless Shoes** for \$18,000 in discounts.

■ **Lansing Silver Dollar Tribute Reunion** (Rick Becker), \$3,000.

Old Newsboys donors are numerous. Please see the back page of the spoof journal for a list of our generous donors.

We also thank our honorary board members for their ongoing



KLETKE

support: **Jane Aldrich**, retired WLNS-TV anchor; **Teri Bernero**, Lansing School District; **Major Sam Davis**, Ingham County Sheriff’s Department; **Vicki Dozier**, Lansing State Journal; **Suzy Merchant**, head coach, Michigan State University women’s basketball; and **Mary Ellen Sheets**, founder of Two Men and a Truck.

Thanks also to: the **Lansing State Journal**, for assisting with printing costs; the **City of Lansing** for administering the footwear voucher program; and the **Lansing Board of Water & Light** for providing space to distribute copies of the spoof journal to our volunteers.

Here’s wishing everyone Happy Holidays! To learn more about us, please visit our website, lansingoldnewsboys.org.

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The Lansing Spoof Journal is a product of the Old Newsboys Association, which is responsible for its content.

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