

Lansing Spoof Journal

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B.W.L. Sings Brighter Tune

By Blu A. Fuse
Lansing Spoof Journal

Just in time for the holidays, our local power company has announced a way to brighten the season.

Lansing's B.W.L. (Been Without Lights) will produce a Broadway-caliber musical, based on last winter's ice storm that kept thousands of customers in the dark for more than a week.

"We think our musical, 'Turn on the Dark,' is a light-hearted look back on last year's holiday season. Having no power really brought people closer together -- for warmth, if for no other reason," said spokesperson Hava Noclew. "Plus, we think the play will remind

customers to look on the bright side. Think of all the money they saved by not using any electricity for 10 days!"

To make the musical as realistic as possible, it will be shown in complete darkness in an unheated auditorium in south Lansing.

Musical highlights include a riff on a holiday classic, tentatively called "O Crashing Tree." Another musical number is "Have an Ice Day." There's even a rap song entitled "I Can't See my Frozen Hand in Front of my Face."

The musical builds to a crescendo with a poignant ballad called "When?" A sample of the lyrics:

When will we get our power back?



A scene from the B.W.L. musical, "Turn on the Dark."

*"We don't know."
Will it be by spring?
"We hope so."
And what's your boss
doing while we're sitting in*

*the dark?
"He's riding a limousine
through Central Park."
The B.W.L. said that in
order to make attending*

*"Turn on the Dark" as
convenient as possible, it
is simply building ticket
prices into the utility's
next rate hike.*

NEWS BRIEF



It's all his fault

President O'Drama is being blamed for failing to prevent the alien Zorgs from invading the planet Ravbo-3, which is about 500 million light years from Earth.

"Another example of O'Drama's weak foreign policy," sniffed Pea Party activist I.B. Bonkers. Asked for proof that the president's inaction failed to prevent an alien invasion so far from our planet, Bonkers replied: "Of course it's true. I saw it on Phox News last night."

Bonkers and other Pea Partiers also blame the president for earthquakes, zombies and Justin Bieber.



SOCK IT TO ME!

This year, Old Newsboys adds socks to the "wish list" for kids needing shoes and boots. **Your donation can help!**



AWOL students? Lock 'em up

By **Jon E. Beegood**
Lansing Spoo Journal

Officials in the MISS U Athletic Department have a plan to keep students in Sparty Stadium for entire football games: bars that lock students in their seats, like the devices used on amusement park rides.

At a recent press conference, Athletic Director Mark Holiest acknowledged that officials considered enclosing the entire student section in a 10-foot-high chain-link

fence, but ultimately rejected the idea.

"That wouldn't really keep them in their seats," Holiest said. "Plus, they could just climb the fence and leave ... and just think of the field day the TV cameras would have with that."

Instead, MISS U will go with the kind of retractable bars used on roller coasters to keep people from falling - or jumping - out of their seats. The bars will be locked all at once, electronically, after the first quarter; that will give

latecomers the chance to get into their seats before Holiest throws the switch. The bars will then be unlocked after the final play of the game.

Asked about the possibility that students might have to use the bathroom facilities during the game, Holiest said, "Come on, these are adults ... well, practically adults. There's no reason they can't hold it for five hours to support the team. Maybe the new system will discourage them from drinking so much beer before the game."

Holiest and others were "disappointed and embarrassed" during the Nebraska game when TV cameras showed significant sections of student seating abandoned before the game ended.

Speaking from his enclosed luxury box at Sparty Stadium, Holiest said he couldn't understand why students would leave the cold, wind-driven rain at the stadium and run off to cozy local bars where they could watch the rest of the game and drink beer.

It's settled: Potholes leaving Michigan

By **Luke Adat**
Lansing Spoo Journal

Homesteaders have settled in at the bottom of a large pothole in south Lansing, with plans to secede from Michigan and create a separate state called Potholia.

"This pothole is big enough to be declared a state. For that matter, it's deep enough to be a national park," said Potholia resident Datus Downunder.

The 100 inhabitants of the road crater say they have given up on state lawmakers, who have repeatedly failed to approve funds to rebuild Michigan's crumbling roads. "At least by creating our own state, Potholia will have the means of funding repairs. Maybe in a few years, we will actually be



Residents living in a south Lansing pothole have declared they will secede from Michigan.

living above sea level," said Downunder.

Potholians plan to start out modestly as they dig themselves out of their homestead hole. "We'll throw in broken shock absorbers, battered tires and bent wheel rims to start filling up the hole. Don't worry, there are

plenty of those out there," Downunder said.

A spokesman for the Michigan Legislature called the Potholia secession idea "crazy."

"We can't have everybody living in Michigan's 10 billion potholes creating their own states. It would be unmanageable. It would

lead to dysfunctional, do-nothing government."

Like we never saw that before ...

Anyway, the people of Potholia have already chosen a state motto: "If you seek a pleasant peninsula, LOOK OUT YOUR CAR IS ABOUT TO DRIVE OFF THE ... !"



Students r more better edukated

By **Huggy**
Lansing Spoo Journal

Michigan education officials have defended their new "core standards" for high school students.

"We are not dumbing-down," a spokesman explained. "We are merely modernizing. These standards will prepare students for a Twitter/Facebook world." They include:

- All essays must be done in 144 characters or less.
- Spellings have changed. "UR" is correct;

"you are" is archaic. "4" means "for," "2" means "to," "WTF" means whatever someone wants it to.

- Catsup is now a vegetable; "like, you know" is now an adverb.

- "Ain't" is acceptable; "whom" is not. A student should use "whom" as often as he uses "verily."

- In book reviews, students won't be required to analyze. A simple "like" or "dislike" will suffice.

- Evolution and climate change are merely theories. So is the spelling of Schenectady.

Surprise! Politicians flunk truth test

By Hug Mike
Lansing Spoo Journal

In the aftermath of the most sharply fought elections in Michigan history, candidates have begun apologizing. For instance:

- Sen.-elect Gary Petri said his ads were wrong in saying that Terri Lynn Landlocked had smothered

several endangered species. “My staff erred,” he said, “due to a misunderstanding over the words ‘figuratively’ and ‘literally.’”

- Landlocked admitted she was wrong in saying Petri “has been seen eating children.” She should have said “eating with children,” who turned out to be on a school trip.

- Also, Republicans admitted in retrospect that Democrats did not deliberately import Ebola to the U.S. And Democrats said it was inappropriate to Photoshop a picture of Landlocked with Lucifer, the Prince of Darkness; they said they only did that because they couldn’t find any pictures of the Koch brothers.

— Gotta see it —



Zombies are now part of the U.S. Senate in new reality show.

By Huge Fan
Lansing Spoo Journal

TONIGHT’S MUST-SEE: “The Gleeeful Dead,” 8 p.m., Fox.

An all-zombie night on Fox starts with this sequel to “The Red Band Society.” Dead teens form a glee club; opening numbers include “Walk On” and “When a Man Chomps a Woman.”

TONIGHT’S MIGHT-SEE: “Deliverance II” (2013), 8-10 p.m., Showtime.

Suburban canoeists find themselves trapped in a frightening, backwoods world. To their horror, they learn that everyone there has a reality show.

Other choices include:

“So You Think You Can Walk,” 9 p.m., ABC.

This competition show is confined to people younger than 1 or older than 95. That’s deliberate, a spokesman said: “Those are the only age groups that haven’t figured out how to bypass our commercials.”

“Senate of the Living Dead,” 9 p.m., Fox.

The zombie marathon continues with this show, starring Mitch McConnell and Harry Reid.



Meridian is repurposing an old fire house into a haunted house.

Firefighters = Ghostbusters

By Dusk Runner
Lansing Spoo Journal

MERIDIAN TWP – Out-of-the-box thinking by Meridian Township officials just might help bury some ghoulish legal bills.

Faced with a frightening six-figure tab after a legal challenge from residents opposed to the location for a new fire station, a township staffer conjured up a brilliant idea – turn the old Central Fire Station into a haunted house for Halloween.

“We didn’t have a ghost

of a chance of paying that bill without an extra hand,” township manager Frank N. Stein said.

“Then someone remembered how scary the old fire station was inside, and the decision was a no-brainer!”

The transformation didn’t take long, as the interior of the old station was already a terrifying mess, with water damage and mold creating horrifying odors. Add able firefighters willing to jump out of dark corners, and voila! Instant haunted

station.

Always ready for a scare – especially one which doesn’t involve sitting through a township board meeting – area kids and their families trooped through the haunted station in large numbers. Witnesses told township staff that families exclaimed over the haunted station’s stunning realism.

Until the property is redeveloped, Stein said he hopes to make the haunted station a holiday tradition.

NEWS BRIEF

What’s the problem?

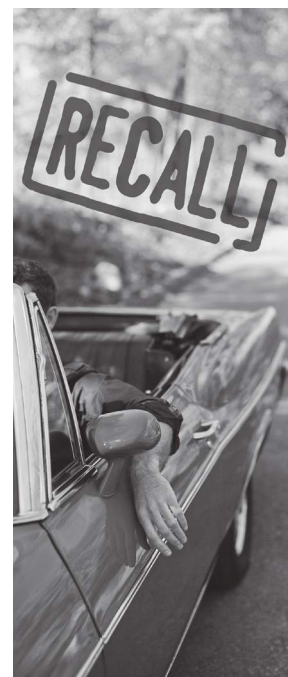
Every automaker in the world is recalling every vehicle ever made in the past 100 years for what is technically described as “a problem.”

“We don’t want to panic the car-driving public,” said an anonymous, secretive spokesperson of unknown gender status speaking on deep background on behalf of every auto company that has existed since 1910.

“There’s just a slight

problem we think we should fix. We just want our 1.5 billion customers to know that we will fix ‘the problem’ before it gets really serious or, worse, affects car sales.”

Government and car industry officials will only say that ‘the problem’ is related to the “mechanized drivey-thingy” part of the automobile, which makes the car go, stop and maybe keeps the radio on. Customers can bring their cars in for free repairs, depending on when the parts are available, which is another story altogether.





Tie-grrrs star "Miggy" searches the beard of a teammate for a ball that was hit into it late in a game. It led to a 15-minute delay. The ball was never found.

Let's play seven, Detroit says

By N.O. Relief
Lansing Spoofo Journal

With baseball officials asking for teams to find ways to cut down the growing length of games, Detroit came up with the first solution.

The team recommended cutting games to seven innings, like some high school and college games.

"That way fans can see their favorite highly-paid star starters pitch complete games and there

would be no need for a bullpen and all those relief pitchers and pitching changes," the team official said. "Just think of the money that can be saved."

"And the bullpen itself can be used as fan experience seating area that is right on top of the action."

But baseball officials smelled a rat and came up with their own solution, ruling that Detroit opponents will start the eighth and ninth innings

with their first two runners on base, thus avoiding the automatic walk, hit batters or base hits that would be coming anyway.

"That's OK, that's great," said one much-maligned Detroit reliever. "It just sets up the triple play."

Meanwhile, seismologists said that immediate tremor felt around the state after the comment was simply an enormous groan from the fanbase.

For sale: Them. Him. You.

By Huge Michaels
Lansing Spoofo Journal

Key funding issues for Lugwrench Field have been resolved, a spokesman said.

The city had already agreed to sell the lawn space, beyond the outfield fence, for an apartment project. In the new steps:

- The two dugouts will be sold as condos. The players will move to benches nearby. "They'll be asked to hold down the noise," the spokesman said. "It's important to be good neighbors in a residential area."

- The use of naming

rights will be accelerated.

Previous deals had determined that this will be the Whiffy-Lube Field and the scoreboard will be named for Dicker and Dealer; the stadium, inexplicably, will be named Bob.

Now several other names have also been sold and announcers will be required to use the full titles. "At first, we feared that might be cumbersome," the spokesman (currently named Ron Henson, pending a sale) said. "However, we tested it on a practice broadcast and it works fine."

A transcript from

that broadcast: "It's a line drive, all the way to the Mayor Shifty Acres Wall. Castillo rounds Big Burgers First Base and heads for 5th/4th/3rd Bank Second. He's going for more; the relay ... he's out! Castillo is tagged out at Acme Mortuary Services Third Base."

The use of naming rights has been crucial in creating fresh sports opportunities, Henson (pending) said. He cited the fact that the University of Michigan football team is happy this year to be heading to the Nogaine Hair Loss Bowl, near Newark.



The one saving grace of a Lyins player being injured during a celebration dance is that he wasn't the first pro player to do it and won't be the last.

It's all called being a Lyin

By Noel Surprise
Lansing Spoofo Journal

The Detroit Lyins injury list continues to grow, burdened by players sidelined by bizarre circumstances.

With one star defensive player out for the

season to overzealous sack dancing and another out from injuries related from trying to keep his dog from going to the bathroom on the carpet, even more medical issues have arisen.

It was found out today that Lyins kickers suf-

fered from shank disorder, hookkick, or uprightitis, limiting their abiity to make field goals.

But the team said there is nothing to fear.

"It's all part of being a Lyin," one team official said. "If it ain't one thing, it's another."

There's no place like the Big House

By B. Itter Rivals
Lansing Spooof Journal

Officials said today that a young and confused Wolverines football fan merely had a bad dream about how she and three fellow fans followed a Maize and Blue brick road to see if a wonderful Wizard could save the floundering football program.

"It was so scary," said the woman, who said her name was Dorothy. "We were terrorized the whole trip by a witch or warlock in a Scarlett and Gray sweater vest. It painted 'Surrender Dorothy' in the sky with a broomstick. Then, upon arriving in Emerald City, we found it had been named Sparty City and everything was now actually Spartan green. I should have been

smarter. Emerald City doesn't actually scream Go Blue. Duh! And the Maize and Blue brick road turned green halfway there. At first we thought it was moss, but it was so neat it looked like it been done by a turf management school.

"I guess there was coup a while back and the old wizards are no longer in charge. I said to someone in Sparty City, 'Geez, we used to own this place.' They just snickered and said 'Not anymore, Little Sister.'

"To top it off, my little dog had picked up this tent stake along the way and so I pulled it out his mouth and threw it on ground. Boy, did that anger the people in Sparty City. They politely escorted us out and would only say 'Pride comes before the fall.' I thought

Summer came before the Fall, but ... whatever."

Dorothy said her three friends did leave with symbols of courage, love and intelligence, and she was offered a hot air balloon ride to Kansas.

"At first I said, 'What? Why the heck would I want to go to Kansas?' But I took the free ride and then rented a car and drove the rest of the way back."

Now safely back in time and at home, Dorothy, while clutching her little dog Blue, was welcomed by her Auntie Block M, Uncle Henry and familiar faces Bo, Mo and Lloyd as everything visually returned to a comforting black and white of past generations.

"Dear, you must have gotten knocked on the head during a storm delay



Memo to Dorothy: Follow the Maize Brick Road!

at one of those games," said her aunt. "The spread offense you talk about, no defense, quarterback issues, it was all just a bad dream. Never happened, because, dear, not only do we live in the great state of Michigan, we live in a great state of denial as well. So we've brought you back in time to better times. Oh, and

by the way, you can just call me Auntie M. I mean, everyone knows what the M stands for, because we're Michi ...!"

Dorothy went on to tell about her trip, but no one really believed her. However, the disappointing journey was a beneficial experience.

"I learned so much. First, those 9-3 and 9-4

records and decent bowl invites from not so long ago weren't so bad after all," she said. "But I do know one thing for sure now. I'm never going to leave here ever, ever again. Because I love you all and ..."

"Oh, Auntie M, there's no place like The Big House! There's no place like the Big House!"



Oh-wino State mascot Burpy Bucknut has reason to celebrate — for now.

Bucks don't stop here

By Jock Babbling
Lansing Spooof Journal

Oh-wino State moved closer to another January loss with a 49-37 win over MSU in the Big 10+4 Game of the Year in Spittoon Stadium.

Quarterback Grinand Barrett was too much for the hosts to handle with five touchdowns, the most fun any Bucknut has had without visiting a tattoo parlor.

"It was a perfect payback for last year's title game," said victorious coach Suburban Meijer. "Last December, I cried like a baby with a wet diaper and slept with my autographed photo of Tim Teeball."

For MSU, it was a painful reminder that not all big-game opponents are as pathetic as Michigan, especially when the "No Fly Zone" becomes Capital Irrational Airport.

The loss knocked MSU

from consideration for the first College Football Playoff, a four-team tournament that has been criticized in Abalama and Mississippi for not featuring five SEC programs.

"It's disappointing because the Big 10+4 had a lot of teams that couldn't have beaten Sexton or Lansing Catholic this season," superfan Willie B. Green grumbled. "But we'll be back next season, unlike Dave Brandin"

Brood Museum is Hollywood-bound

By **Salzator Lansing**
Lansing Spoofo Journal

Following its recent appearance in the upcoming “Batman v Superman” flick, the Brood Art Museum has decided to move to Hollywood to pursue an acting career.

“I feel my distinctive features give me a unique edge over other working buildings,” it said. “Pardon the pun.”

In October, the two-

year-old modern art museum was temporarily transformed into the Metropolis Library for a scene that will appear in the film. Although it was only two days’ work, the acting bug bit hard. “I owe it to myself to at least give this acting thing a shot,” the Brood said. “I don’t want to be sitting here 100 years from now wondering, ‘what if?’”

Brood said it’s been

“exasperated” by the lack of respect it’s received since it opened. “People can be really mean,” the Brood said. “I’ve heard it all: ‘It looks like a spaceship crashed.’ ‘It doesn’t fit in with the other buildings.’ ‘It’s ugly.’ How do you think that makes me feel?”

The Brood knows Hollywood can be a fickle town, and it’s already taking into account the challenge of

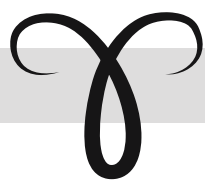
being a non-right-angle building in a right-angle world.

“I don’t want to pigeonhole myself,” the Brood said. “They’re talking about taking (the Broadway musical) ‘The Bridges of Madison County’ on tour next year. Playing one of those covered bridges would really let me really flex my acting muscles. But what I really want to do is direct.”



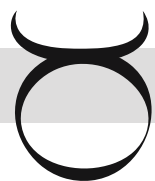
Brood Museum: “I’m ready for my close-up, Mr. DeMille.”

— Horrorscopes —



ARIES

Remember the movie “Groundhog Day”, where Bill Murray relives the same day, over and over? Your life is like that. Remember the movie “Groundhog Day”, where Bill Murray relives the same day, over and over? Your life is like that. Remember the...



TAURUS

Trust your instincts. Go “all in” with your idea to build the world’s first atomic fork.



GEMINI

That old saying -- “You will meet a tall, dark stranger” -- will actually come true today. It may be mildly disappointing that he is a 20-foot android named Borp, programmed to annihilate all life forms.



CANCER

At long last, you’re in a healthy, loving relationship. The only thing that might spoil it is your irrational fear of Gummy Bears.



LEO

Stand in front of a mirror and repeat the mantra: “I’m a dork, and that’s OK.” Try that line in your next job interview. People will be impressed by your daring!



VIRGO

Today is the time for rediscovering old passions that lead to fulfillment. Remember that sweater you started knitting out of dryer lint? Finish it. Then you can start labeling your vast collection of rubber bands.



LIBRA

Though you are obscenely rich, you have the common touch and are perfectly willing to help a complete stranger pay off his \$23,897.25 credit card debt (cashier’s check preferred).



SCORPIO

The number 1024 will play an important role in your life today. There are two possibilities. 1. It is the number that will make you a lottery millionaire. 2. It’s the number of the squad car about to haul you to jail.



SAGITTARIUS

Life is filled with endless possibilities. It’s best to avoid the ones involving a chainsaw and the line “Hey guys! Watch this!”



CAPRICORN

Brace yourself for some bad news: Medical experts have concluded that chocolate-covered bacon does not qualify as health food.



AQUARIUS

You’re in luck! Spending four hours punching a button on a slot machine is considered “a vigorous aerobic workout”, according to Casino MoneyMaker Magazine.



PISCES

Your bid to win the Nobel Peace Prize by tersely muttering “hello” to your despicable neighbor falls a tad short of eligibility requirements.

— by Ima Nutcase



From left: Old Newsboys Treasurer Sean Douglas; Nic Clark, Old Newsboys First Vice President; Paul Starr, founder of I'm a Beerhound.com; Roxanne Landes, REO Town Pub owner; Stephanie Moon, Special Events Manager, Lansing Lugnuts; and Old Newsboys President Luke Canfora.

A round of applause — for you!

By Luke Canfora

Old Newsboys President

If you're reading this, chances are it's because you -- or someone you know -- made a donation to Old Newsboys.

For 91 years, our all-volunteer organization has sold an annual "spooft" newspaper on the streets and in offices across Greater Lansing. The money we collect is used to buy shoes and boots for deserving schoolchildren in our community. This year, we added socks to the kids' "wish list."

None of that would happen without the generosity of people such as yourself. If you hear a loud clapping noise, it's the Old Newsboys giving you a round of applause!

Additionally, we have several organizations to thank, including some that have made Old Newsboys their "go-to" charity.

- **Leo's Restaurants** hosts an annual golf outing each summer to benefit Old Newsboys. This year, Leo's handed us a check for more than \$5,700! That goes di-

rectly into our shoes-boots-socks fund, as do all donations.

- Lansing's first-ever **Beerfest in the Ballpark** was held last spring, where patrons were able to sample beers from the growing ranks of Michigan's craft breweries. Beerfest organizers chose to donate a portion of the proceeds to Old Newsboys, and delivered a check to us for more than \$4,800. Thank you!

Others deserving our thanks:

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

- The **UAW Region 1D** golf outing, resulting in a \$5,000 donation.

- **Auto Owners and Associates** for an \$8,000 donation.

- The **Bennie C. Wickens Foundation** for a \$5,000 donation.

- Discounts on footwear from **Payless Shoe Stores**, amounting to more than a \$10,000 donation.

Thanks also to the **Lansing State Journal**, which has been a faithful Old Newsboys partner since the 1930s. The LSJ assists

our group in getting the **Lansing Spooft Journal** printed and into the hands of our sales volunteers. We are deeply grateful.

And here's a special shout-out to **WLNS-TV Channel 6**, which donated time, people and resources to produce a public service video about Old Newsboys. Those involved in the video were: **Jane Aldrich, Chuck Frybarger, Randy Nolin, Eugene Shanahan and Zeke Tadgerson.** The video is being shown before movies at NCG Cinemas in the Eastwood Towne Center. Thank you, WLNS-TV!

Last year's fundraising efforts garnered more than \$164,000 to benefit more than 6,000 area children. As always, we never put a price on the Lansing Spooft Journal. The front page says it all: Any donation. Just know that your generosity makes a big difference to thousands of mid-Michigan children each holiday season.

To learn more about us, please visit lansingoldnewsboys.org.

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Thank you for your donation!