

The Celebrating 50 years Birthday BLEAT

Shocking details REVEALED! Prof. Shellans caught in the buff...Page A15



THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2007

Thousands mark birthday boy's 50th

BY SCOOP VAN DER SHELL
Editor

From Sunflower to Buckeye, thousands of celebrants across Arizona began taking to the streets this afternoon with cheap beer in hand to begin a week-long celebration marking the 50th birthday of Mike Shellans.

Waving signs and singing, the crowds began lining Central Avenue around noon, at times creating a traffic hazard for motorists, and a carnival-like atmosphere for participants. "I haven't had this much fun since the last immigration rally," noted one drunken spectator.

A parade of backhoes, led by high school chum Paul Harr, was also held last night along 18th Avenue between Osborn and Thomas. Harr had arranged the event, he said, to commemorate "a very special night" he and Shellans shared while attending West High School, although he declined to elaborate.

Meanwhile, several individuals began circulating a petition calling on Gov. Napolitano to adopt a proclamation declaring July 26 a state holiday.

"Hey, if we can get a day set aside to honor Martin Luther King Jr., we ought to be able to get a day for Mike Shellans," friend Doug

Robinson said. Many citizens have signed the petition so far, including Adam Compeau, Tommy Miles, Steve Dahlgren, and John Wise.

Billionaire celebrity Donald Trump has supposedly also thrown his support behind the



The honoree dons a festive party hat.

petition, saying, "It's the least I can do to honor someone who has given so much of himself for so long, and who asks so little in return."

Outside the state, several international celebrations to honor the milestone birthday turned ugly, prompting some world leaders to call for calm.

"It's nice to see people are excited about this

guy making half a century, but we need to use our best strategery to celebrate in an orderly fashion," President Bush said from his ranch in Crawford, Texas. Mr. Bush will be enjoying an extended vacation at his ranch for the remainder of his presidency.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert reported two Israeli soldiers kidnapped by Lebanese Hizballah six days ago were released unharmed today in honor of Shellans.

"There is no doubt we have Michael Shellans to thank for this miracle," the Prime Minister said.

The kidnapers acknowledged the special birthday had indeed influenced their decision to release their captives. In a video tape issued to Al Jazeera Television, a Hizballah soldier read aloud the following statement: "We cannot continue to imprison our Jewish brothers on such a wondrous day, when there is so much to rejoice.

"Professor Shellans and his important birthday have inspired us to take this step which may, perhaps, lead some day to peace in the Middle East. We wish you a Happy birthday, Mike."

The soldier then detonated a "party bomb" strapped to his chest, which was filled with colorful streamers - rather than explosives.



A celebrant in downtown Phoenix encourages others to show Mike some love.

Trombone draws record sale price

BY STONEY STONEDWELL
Staff Writer

Online auction giant eBay reported a record-setting sale today of a trombone purportedly once played by Mike Shellans. The instrument fetched a whopping price of \$7.3 million and went to a buyer in Malaysia. Until today, the most expensive item sold on eBay had been a private business jet priced at \$4.9 million.

During a vicious bidding war, the trombone came to be dubbed "The Shellans Braxe," (short for Brass Axe), by many of the 117 parties fighting for the prize. The buyer, who wished to remain anonymous, issued a brief statement after claiming victory. "Yeah, man, the price was steep. But if it was really played by Mike, you know - The Man, The Myth, The Legend - Well, that's all that matters to me."

eBay officials declined comment when asked to verify if the instrument had once, in fact, been played by Shellans.

BeTalls under consideration by Letterman

BY BINDY ADAMS
Entertainment Correspondent

An anonymous insider at The David Letterman Show reports The BeTalls band is being considered to replace the show's long-time group, which has been led by Paul Shaffer since the program's beginning.

"Dave's been unhappy with them for some time," the source reported. "They never rehearse and they sound like crap. Dave heard The BeTalls and he's been talking about them ever since."

Shaffer has been David Letterman's musical director and annoying sidekick for some 25 years.

When asked for comment, Mr. Shaffer's representative, Benny "The Bagel" Blintzberg, added fuel to the rumor by saying, "If Mr. Letterman chooses to bring in fresh blood, that's certainly his prerogative. I have no doubt Paul will get a hefty severance. He'll come out on top."

See **BETALLS**, Page A3

Inside:



Talk show queen Oprah Winfrey has invited Mike Shellans and Nan van der Steur to appear on tomorrow's show as part of her ground-breaking special, **Zero Kids: The Key to A Perfect Marriage**.

Together with physician and author Dr. Mehmet Oz, Oprah began researching this topic over ten years ago, and the two will reveal scientific proof that couples who remain childless by choice lead happier, healthier lives. "This is HUGE," said Oprah, "and so is my ass," she added. "I can't wait to have MY FRIENDS MIKE AND NAN ON MY SHOW!!!!"

In a related story, Steadman Graham has refused yet another plea by Winfrey to marry See **PERFECT MARRIAGE**, Page A4

Can professor's saliva heal?

BY DR. ART MOLLUSK
Medical Correspondent

Medical researchers have released a three-year study of a Phoenix man, revealing his saliva has bona fide healing properties. The man, Mike Shellans, is a professor at ASU and stay at home husband.

"This is truly a medical breakthrough," said Dr. Veruca Salt, a researcher with Harvard University. "We'll continue to monitor Mr. Shellans's body regularly to see if his saliva changes with his advancing age, as well as according to what he eats and drinks."

"This is absolutely fascinating," added Dr. William Billica, once Shellans's personal physician and now a holistic shaman living in a tree somewhere in Colorado.

Shellans said he is glad doctors are able to make some use of his bodily fluid.

"I've got spit to spare, but apparently for the doctors it was a miracle. This is exciting," Shellans told reporters at a press conference outside his home yesterday.

Surrounded by neighbors and with his wife and their wire fox terrier by his side, Shellans said he never dreamed his saliva would some day offer relief to people suffering with everything from bug bites and scratches, to pimples and dandruff.

Reactions from Warner-Lambert, the maker of the first aid antibiotic ointment Neosporin, have been guarded, indicating the company is likely concerned the Shellans "miracle spit" will hurt their drug sales.

"This is of grave concern to us," one high-ranking company official said yesterday.

Shellans discovered the healing properties of his saliva purely by accident. Prone to minor skin injuries and always the target of voracious insects whenever he spent time outside, Shellans found that immediately applying his spit to any boo-boo reduced swelling and redness upon contact.

His product, See **SPIT**, Page A8

Extreme discipline earns high marks

BY ABBY VAN HELSING
(aka Jean Sylvania)

DEAR CRABBY: I write in response to "Young Dad in North Carolina" (July 8), who asked you if it was OK to discipline his 4-year-old son by hanging his treasured stuffed toy, Lion Baby, by the neck.

Your response was appropriate: I agree that the more harshly (and strangely) we discipline our kids, the tougher their little skins will become, making them better able to cope with this big, nasty world.

However, you should have encouraged that dad to come up with even more twisted ways to discipline the boy. The father is obviously too soft on the little tyke and unless that kid is really made to really tow the line, I fear the child could grow up to be a druggie or - worse yet - a musician

DEAR WACK JOB: I am so relieved you agreed with me. I stay up nights fearing my advice, no matter the situation, could possibly be wrong. Thanks so much for validating me, and for confirming that I am indeed omnipotent.

DEAR CRABBY: I have fallen in love with a man and want to marry him. The trouble is, my sister went to high school with him and thinks he's horrible. I am somewhat torn because I value my sister's opinion, yet she has no great track record when it comes to guys, having had a tawdry affair with a married man. All-knowing Crabby, what ever shall I do?

DEAR CONFLICTED: Your sister sounds like a real piece of work. Tell her to shut her stinkin' pie hole and mind her own beeswax.

I predict that if you marry the man, you will experience laughter and love all of your days together. You will share wondrous, joyous times, including many anniversaries and milestone birthdays. Your sister, See **DEAR CRABBY**, Page A2



Dear Crabby

- MOMMIE WACK JOB

- CONFLICTED SIS