

Carrier's tip: Giving truly is blessed

Carla Habib of Newburgh, Ind., is a newspaper carrier with a big route, a big heart and, now, a big lump in her throat.

When she asked the 650 customers on her Evansville Courier route to donate to a relief fund for victims of the April 19 bombing in Oklahoma City, rather than tipping her at Christmas, she hardly anticipated the size of the response:

Two customers have sent checks for \$100 each. Several others have given \$50 apiece, and others have donated \$10 or \$20. As of Tuesday, the total was \$1,135.

"A lot of them sent notes thanking me for making it easier for them to give," Habib, 35, said. "And they said they were touched by me giving up my Christmas tip."

She said her customers' response has helped her through some private grief. Both her father and her grandmother have died since the bombing.

Fab Four 'reunion' recordings to debut

The first two new Beatles recordings in 25 years will premiere in November, as part of a five-hour ABC special on the band's history. ABC Entertainment President Ted Harbert and Apple Corps Ltd. head Wednesday.

Free As a Bird and Real Love, two unreleased songs John Lennon wrote, sang and played, will have instrumentation, voices and arrangements by Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr added. The new Beatles songs will be released by Apple Records.

The three surviving Beatles will tell their own stories in interviews, and the two-night special will incorporate an archive of interviews on audio and video tape led by Lennon, slain in 1980.

BIDDYBALL

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black rubber ball (it's the air bladder from a Japanese soccer ball and only one company in the world makes it) at a bunch of other business and professional people who should have better things to do in the middle of the day themselves, but don't.

Local lawyer Scott Barratt has played Biddyball since an auto accident scuttled his racquetball career in 1986. He plays five times a week.

"I always plan my day so I'm there at 1 o'clock," Barratt said. Dr. Francis "Fox" McAree joined the fun about 1946, and he's still erupting out of the water like a Sea World porpoise as he reaches to smack the ball back onto the other side of the net.

He's seen a lot of famous people play Biddyball — race car driver Roger Ward, Gov. Roger D. Branigan and others — over the years. There were lesser lights, too.

"Back in the '60s, we had a guy play with us for five or six years," recalled McAree. "His name was Jack and we called him Jack the Elf because he wasn't very good. I don't think anyone knew his last name."

It isn't a snap

McAree says Biddyball has three things going for it: You form friendships with people you might never otherwise meet; it's actually a fun sport to play; and all that revolting adolescent behavior pro-

People

IL DUCE'S WHEELS



Simon Kidston of Coys Auctioneers inspects a 1935 Alfa Romeo 6C 2300 once owned by Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and slated to be auctioned today in London. The car, which Mussolini kept until 1939, is expected to bring 120,000 to 150,000 pounds (\$190,000 to \$240,000).

Selena biography's 2-for-1/dos por uno

For publishers of a quickie biography of Selena, the Tejano singer gunned down in March outside her motel, the goal was to produce a book that would appeal to fans all along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Their solution was Selena! It's a 119-page "instant" book by Clint Richmond. Hold it one way and read it in English. Flip it over and upside down and read a Spanish translation by Shawn Fields. In the middle are eight pages of "dramatic photographs/dramatic photographs" of the 23-year-old singer crooning in front of huge crowds, modeling a bustier and lying in her coffin.

The captions are bilingual as well. But Selena! isn't the first such dual-language book. In the early 1980s, Bantam Books used the format for Fernando, an unauthorized biography of Fernando Valenzuela, then a rookie pitching phenomenon for the Los Angeles

Jodgers. The book sold well. Selena! already is in its third printing and has been selling especially fast in Texas, where she lived. It will top The New York Times best-seller list for nonfiction paperback May 21, knocking Betty J. Eadie's Embraced by the Light to No. 2.

Furry Bailey 'strayed' into politico's heart

For two months, Bailey was Tennessee's top dog, but now Gov. Don Sundquist decided he won't come between a boy and his pup.

Still, returning the dog was "a very emotional thing," Sundquist said. "You bond with a dog. Every time I came back the dog was there and ran and jumped on me. Every time I went in my office he went in and sat in a chair." Jarrett Sellers, 10, hadn't seen the 2-year-old, golden-haired mutt for a couple of months when a neighbor called and said he was on television with the governor, in a feature on the state's "first dog."

Sundquist met Bailey when a waitress told the governor about a "stray" she'd been feeding. Neither knew that he belonged to the Sellers family, who lived near the

restaurant but had trouble keeping their pet home.

"We'll try to keep a leash on him a little better," said young Jarrett's mother, Deanna.

AIDS epidemic kills comic book character

Even superheroes aren't immune to AIDS. Shadowhawk, one of a growing number of black superheroes, dies of it in issue No. 18, which hit sales racks this week.

Unlike Superman, who died in 1992 but was brought back the next year, Shadowhawk will stay dead, said Randy Chaitner, spokesman for artist Jim Valentino and his Shadowline studio in San Juan Capistrano, Calif.

"The AIDS thing is very serious, and he didn't want it to be shaken off," Chaitner said of Valentino. "When you get AIDS, you don't get cured overnight. When you get AIDS, you die."

A year older

- Actor-comedian Foster Brooks is 83.
- Actor Denver Pyle is 75.
- Comedian Mort Sahl is 68.

TRASH TALK

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Harkness lived through a racial version of it in the early 1960s. He remembers University of Houston fans yelling out "nigger" and "coon" at him when Loyola's team played there.

"It made me play even harder, because I felt I had something to prove," said Harkness, now community relations director for United Way of Central Indiana.

"They're in the playoffs, so they Pacers are already playing as hard as they can, but trash talk makes the teams dig down a little deeper, and pull out a little more effort," said Harkness.

WIBC (1070) radio's call-in question Wednesday was "Did Reggie Miller go too far with his trash talk following Sunday's win?"

Some 65 percent of the 200 or so callers voted "yes," and 35 percent said "no," according to Kent Sterling, executive producer at the station.

Coaches have long used "proving the naysayers wrong" as a powerful motivator for their teams.

"A typical coach tactic is to read to his team the newspaper columnist who says they can't win," Hale said. "Coaches will say something like, 'They're saying you

'FAST CARS'

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can't do it. What are you going to do about that?'"

Trash talk also comes from unbelievable pressure, Harkness said.

NBA players have thousands of fans watching their every move. Salaries and contracts hinge on a short series of good or bad games. Journalists beg for interviews, and marketing gurus want them to help sell tickets by making appearances.

Anyone living under this pressure would have to let steam off sometimes, Harkness said.

"The players are interviewed literally a few seconds after the game is over," he said. "Reggie was probably still running on adrenaline when he said that. It's no wonder they sometimes talk trash."

"Back in my day, we had time to take our showers and relax before the press interviews. We had time to think about what we wanted to say."

This pressure notwithstanding, Hale believes that trash talk is detrimental to the game.

"Trash talk focuses attention on the hype and the egos of the players, rather than the players' talent and skill," Hale said. "And there's no question young people hear the trash talk on TV and imitate it."

"I may be a bit old-fashioned, but I say, let the performance stand for itself."

ry about trying to build the most competitive car when it fails to compete," said director and cinematographer Bob Burns, explaining he and producer/partner Sam Low's original intent.

"When Bobby failed to qualify in 1993, Sam and I looked at each other and said, '[Expletive deleted]' There goes our company.' We had just spent \$300,000 filming the prelude to this scene."

But the filmmakers rethought the project and sought out additional interviews in which Emerson Fittipaldi, the 1993 "500" winner, and Raha's teammate Willy T. Ribbs memorably talk about what it's like to race. ("You feel like Godzilla" when the car is perfect, Ribbs says.)

Although the additional filming pushed the show's cost to \$500,000, Burns said Fast Cars is much better for it: "A valiant and tragic loss is great drama." Even the show's hero — wearing a "Support Public Broadcasting, WFYI" button on his black shirt — thought so.

"Racing is so misunderstood, and given so little time in the media to be understood," he said. "This is a great start. From the greatest failure, lessons are learned and success comes out of it."

And in this case, a TV show.

vides a nice psychological release from hectic days.

The game is not as easy as it looks. The shorter players usually are teamed in the shallower part of the pool, but everybody stands in the water. You can't really run for the ball, but you can dive for it — the water always cushions you as you flop or fall on your back.

The combatants wear swim trunks of their own choosing during contests today, but until four or five years ago, they did battle in the buff.

You didn't need a score card to know who the players were, and you didn't need binoculars, either.

It was Naked Biddyball then, and definitely not co-ed. (Even today, women play the game very infrequently.)

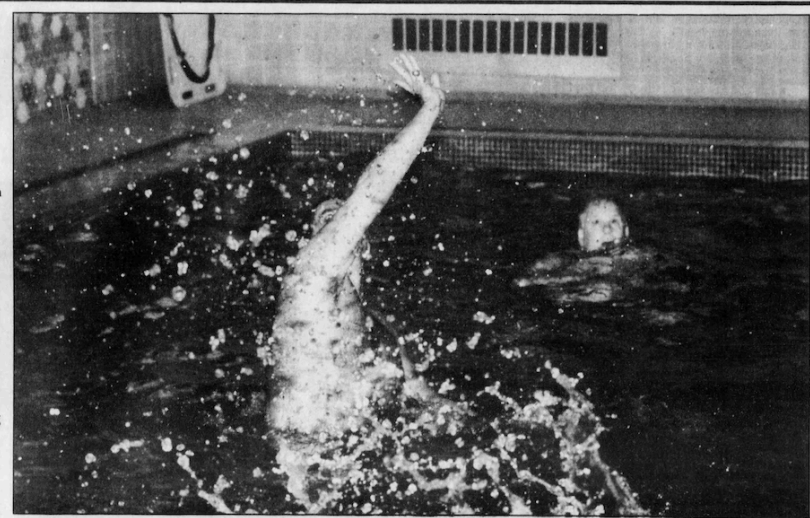
Skip Schnable, athletic club aquatics director, says some men resisted donning swimsuits; these were required after the Athletic Club board of directors decided to open the pool at all times to women. (One codger allegedly said he wouldn't mind at all if women watched him play nude, according to Schnable.)

Alan Potasnik remembers when nudity was the norm.

"There was not a second thought given to that. It was a tradition that went back to the 1920s. Now, they have to put on a suit."

"In fact, there was one case where two players met in court and they really didn't recognize each other. We'd often say, 'I didn't recognize you without your uniform on.' Well, the uniform was being nude."

While Biddyball is not particularly dangerous, there have been injuries, usually jammed fingers and banged heads. True to the spirit of the game, combatants who throw in the towel (or, rather,



SPLASHY PLAY: Alan Potasnik slaps the ball back as Bob Loser, "BoBo" to fellow Biddyball players, watches.

Lots of men's swimming holes were sons stuns in the old days, of course. The stated reason always was "hygiene."

While Biddyball is not particularly dangerous, there have been injuries, usually jammed fingers and banged heads. True to the spirit of the game, combatants who throw in the towel (or, rather,

leave the pool and go for a towel after suffering an injury) are roundly jeered, even by their own teammates.

And one player did have a heart attack in the heat of battle.

No one will say if the game continued, or if they had to stop and call an ambulance.

BARRY

Continued from Page 1

ble they get. If you doubt this, go to any sporting event. I am writing this the day after attending a National Basketball Association playoff game between the Miami Heat and the Atlanta Toad Excrements (not that I am biased).

The crowd was mostly guys in their 40s and older — husbands and fathers with restless, demanding South Florida jobs such as stockbroker, doctor, lawyer, narcotics kingpin, etc. I am certain that these guys think of themselves as mature, rational, more logical than females, and less likely to be governed by their feelings. They would tell you that they are a little embarrassed by

ever, hated anybody, including Hitler, as much as they hate Rony Seikaly at this moment. Hitler was a bad person, yes, but he did not miss important free throws.

These men want to kill Rony Seikaly. They want to see him dismembered and have his eyeballs eaten by rats right there on the court. They want him to . . .

Wait a minute! Rony has grabbed an offensive rebound! He's putting the ball back up! It's going to go . . . YES! SCORE! WAY TO GO, RONY! YES! HIGH FIVE! MY MAN RONY!! The middle-aged guys love Rony Seikaly. They want to kiss him on the lips. They want to fly to Sweden and undergo major surgery so they can have Rony's children. They cannot believe they are so fortunate as to be on the same planet as such a

magnificent human. He is a giant. He is a god. He is . . .

He is not guarding his man/fins man is blowing right past him for an easy layup! YOU SUCK, SEIKALY! YOU SUCK!! YOU . . .

The Barry line

- Dave not only writes about "guy things," he talks about them, too. Want to listen in? Just call our infoline service at (317) 624-4636 and enter one of these four-digit codes to hear Dave's recorded comments on:
- 3371 Guys' role in history.
- 3372 Tips for women.
- 3373 Guys' domestic side.
- 3374 Guys in action.
- 3375 The aging guy.

You see my point. Guys, even as they get older, remain deeply concerned about basic guy issues.

These are the core values that have been preserved by guys throughout the millennia. But what about the future? Is the next generation ready to step up and carry on the guy tradition, with all its responsibilities? This question prompted me to initiate a heart-to-heart conversation with my son.

"Robert," I said, "I need to talk to you about a matter of importance to the future of humanity."

"Not now," he said. "Me and Trey are setting golf balls on fire."

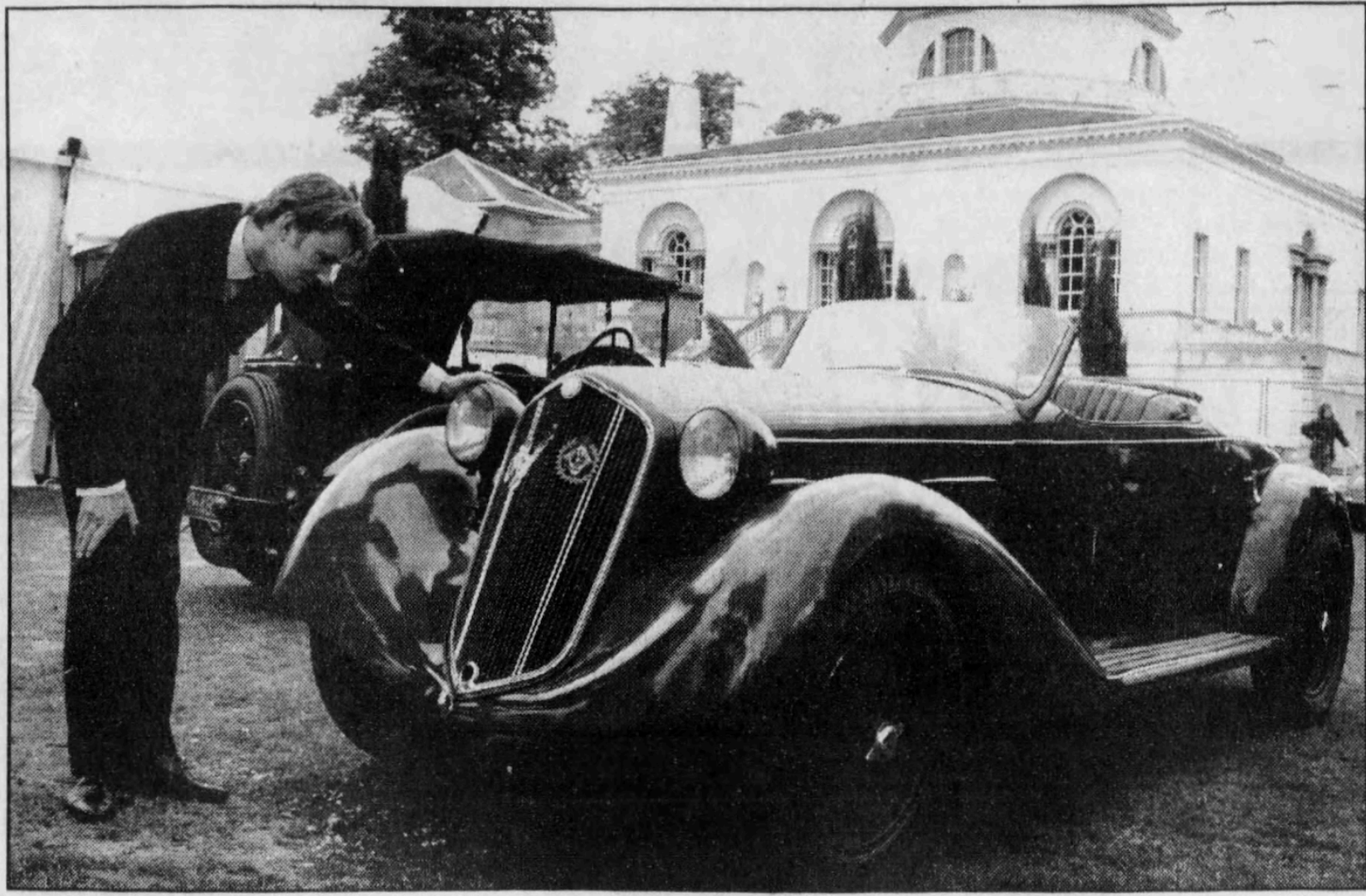
So the future of guys looks bright.

Because let's face it, the human race needs guys. I realize that sometimes we can be annoying to you non-guys, but just try to imag-

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Compiled from wire reports by Ellen McKinney

IL DUCE'S WHEELS



Associated Press

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Selena biography's

Dodgers. The book sold well.

restaurant but had trouble keep-