



April 2003

# Port City Lions Club Monthly News

Web Page <http://galions.org/18b/portcity/>

A Publication of the Port City Lions Club  
Post Office Box 13772, Savannah, Georgia 31416-0772

**President**  
Jack Striecher  
Telephone 352-8395  
Email [fotogr@aol.com](mailto:fotogr@aol.com)

**Secretary**  
Linda Larson  
Telephone 925-1267  
Email [northlin1@aol.com](mailto:northlin1@aol.com)

**Newsletter Editor**  
Richard S. Mizell  
Telephone (912) 925-9782  
E-mail [RSMizell@bellsouth.net](mailto:RSMizell@bellsouth.net)

## Elections of Officers

The following nominations were received at the March Business Meeting:

President David Bovee

1st Vice President Jim Peterson

2nd Vice President Mary Ann Barbieri

Secretary Linda Larson

Treasurer Martha Bovee

Tail Twister/Lion Tamer Jon Lichner

Chaplain Chip Lingle

1 year Directors Jerry Ney, Rick Mizell

2 year Directors Jennifer Eisenhart, Jessica Littlejohn

Elections will be held at the April Business Meeting.

## State Convention

The Georgia Lions State Convention will be held in Dalton, Georgia on May 30-June 1. Our District will be staying at the Country Inn and Suites, located at I-75 Exit 333. The hotel is located 1/2 mile from the convention center and is located near many attractions. Hotel room rate is \$75.00 per night. The phone number of the hotel is 706-278-9700.

Hospitality books are \$65.00 each and includes a District Lunch, District Governor's Banquet and a State Brunch. Please contact Lion Linda Larson if you wish to order hospitality books. For more information contact Lion Jack Striecher.



## April Fool's Day Hoaxes of All Time

Since it is April Fool's Day, here are some of the top 100 hoaxes as reported at [www.museumofhoaxes.com](http://www.museumofhoaxes.com).

### #1: The Swiss Spaghetti Harvest

In 1957 the respected BBC news show *Panorama* announced that thanks to a very mild winter and the virtual elimination of the dreaded spaghetti weevil, Swiss farmers were enjoying a bumper spaghetti crop. It accompanied this announcement with footage of Swiss peasants pulling strands of spaghetti down from trees. Huge numbers of viewers were taken in, and many called up wanting to know how they could grow their own spaghetti trees. To this question, the BBC diplomatically replied that they should "place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best."

### #4: The Taco Liberty Bell

In 1996 the Taco Bell Corporation announced that it had bought the Liberty Bell from the federal government and was renaming it the Taco Liberty Bell. Hundreds of outraged citizens called up the National Historic Park in Philadelphia where the bell is housed to express their anger. Their nerves were only calmed when Taco Bell revealed that it was all a joke a few hours later. The best line inspired by the affair came when White House press secretary Mike McCurry was asked about the sale, and he responded that the Lincoln Memorial had also been sold, though to a different corporation,

and would now be known as the Ford Lincoln Mercury Memorial.

### #11: The Eruption of Mount Edgumbe

In 1974 residents of Sitka, Alaska were alarmed when the long-dormant volcano neighboring them, Mount Edgumbe, suddenly began to belch out billows of black smoke. People spilled out of their homes onto the streets to gaze up at the volcano, terrified that it was active again and might

soon erupt. Luckily it turned out that man, not nature, was responsible for the smoke. A local prankster named Porky Bickar had flown hundreds of old tires into the volcano's crater and then lit them on fire, all in a (successful) attempt to fool the city dwellers into believing that the volcano was stirring to life. According to local legend, when Mount St. Helens erupted six years later, a Sitka resident wrote to Bickar to tell him, "This time you've gone too far!"

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

**Anniversary**  
Jerome B. Ney

April 3

**Birthday**  
Joseph Hoffman  
Chip Lingle

April 16  
April 22

### #17: The Left-Handed Whopper

In 1998 Burger King published a full page advertisement in *USA Today* announcing the introduction of a new item to their menu: a "Left-Handed Whopper" specially designed for the 32 million left-handed Americans. According to the advertisement, the new whopper included the same ingredients as the original Whopper (lettuce, tomato, hamburger patty, etc.), but all the condiments were rotated 180 degrees for the benefit of their left-handed customers. The following day Burger King issued a follow-up release revealing that although the Left-Handed Whopper was a hoax, thousands of customers had gone into restaurants to request the new sandwich. Simultaneously, according to the press release, "many others requested their own 'right handed' version."

### #22: Arm the Homeless

In 1999 the *Phoenix New Times* ran a story announcing the formation of a new charity to benefit the homeless. There was just one catch. Instead of providing the homeless with food and shelter, this charity would provide them with guns and ammunition. It was named 'The Arm the Homeless Coalition.' The story received coverage from 60 Minutes II, the Associated Press, and numerous local radio stations before everyone realized it was a joke. The Phoenix New Times's joke was actually a reprise of a 1993 prank perpetrated by students at Ohio State University.

### #24: Drunk Driving on the Internet

An article by John Dvorak in the April 1994 issue of *PC Computing* magazine described a bill going through Congress that would make it illegal to use the internet while drunk, or to discuss sexual matters over a public network. The bill was supposedly numbered 040194 (i.e. 04/01/94), and the contact person was listed as Lirpa Sloof (April Fools backwards). The article said that the FBI was going to use the bill to tap the phone line of anyone who "uses or abuses alcohol" while accessing the internet. Passage of the bill was felt to be certain because "Who wants to come out and support drunkenness and computer sex?" The article offered this explanation for the origin of the bill: "The moniker 'Information Highway' itself seems to be responsible for SB 040194... I know how silly this sounds, but Congress apparently thinks being drunk on a highway is bad no matter what kind of highway it is." The article generated so many outraged phone calls to Congress that Senator Edward Kennedy's office had to release an official denial of the rumor that he was a sponsor of the bill.

### #30: Space Shuttle Lands in San Diego

In 1993 Dave Rickards, a deejay at KGB-FM in San Diego, announced that the space shuttle Discovery had been diverted from Edwards Air Force Base and would instead soon be landing at Montgomery Field, a small

military airport located in the middle of a residential area just outside of San Diego. Thousands of commuters immediately headed towards the landing site, causing enormous traffic jams that lasted for almost an hour. Police eventually had to be called in to clear the traffic. People arrived at the airport armed with cameras, camcorders, and even folding chairs. Reportedly the crowd swelled to over 1,000 people. Of course, the shuttle never landed. In fact, the Montgomery Field airport would have been far too small for the shuttle to even consider landing there. Moreover, there wasn't even a shuttle in orbit at the time. The police were not amused by the prank. They announced that they would be billing the radio station for the cost of forcing officers to direct the traffic.

### #52: Thomas Edison Invents Food Machine

After Thomas Edison invented the phonograph in 1877, Americans firmly believed that there were no limits to his genius. Therefore, when the New York *Graphic* announced in 1878 that Edison had invented a machine that could transform soil directly into cereal and water directly into wine, thereby ending the problem of world hunger, it found no shortage of willing believers. Newspapers throughout America copied the article, heaping lavish praise on Edison. The conservative Buffalo *Commercial Advertiser* was particularly effusive in its praise, waxing eloquent about Edison's brilliance in a long editorial. The *Graphic* took the liberty of reprinting the *Advertiser's* editorial in full, placing above it a simple, two-word headline: "They Bite!"

### #58: Chewy Vodka Bars

In 1994 Itar-Tass reported that an alcoholic beverage company had invented a new kind of candy sure to be a favorite with the Russian people: chewy Vodka Bars. These bars, designed to compete with Mars and Snickers bars, would come in three flavors—lemon, coconut, and salted cucumber. The same company was also said to be perfecting another new product: instant vodka in tea bags.

### #66: Life Discovered on Jupiter

In 1996 AOL subscribers who logged onto the service were greeted by a news flash announcing that a "Government source reveals signs of life on Jupiter." The claim was backed up by statements from a planetary biologist and an assertion by Ted Leonsis, AOL's president, that his company was in possession of documents proving that the government was hiding the existence of life on the massive planet. The story quickly generated over 1,300 messages on AOL. A spokesman for the company later explained that the hoax had been intended as a tribute to Orson Welles's 1938 Halloween broadcast of the *War of the Worlds*.

## Activities

April 1	7:00 p.m. Business Meeting with Election of Officers.
April 15	7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting.
April 22	7:30 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting.
May 6	7:00 p.m. Business Meeting