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Sansone gala aims at raising awareness about depression

PARTY TIME: Three "other" tenors, Enrico Rotoli, Graham Lister and Enrico Nenci, are slated to be the entertainment at the already sold-out Peggy Sansone Special Angel Foundation Gala on Friday night at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. More than 800 friends, relatives and business associates of Tony Sansone Jr. have contributed up to \$150 each to help the foundation encourage public awareness of the causes and treatment of depression. Margaret "Peggy" Sansone, wife of Tony Jr., the prominent real estate developer, was found in May 2001 in the basement of her house in Kirkwood. Her death was ruled a suicide.

LUNCH TIME: An untimely passing last week frees the columnist to reveal the font of friendships and vacation adventures of a certain rumpiled St. Louis county executive. It was, of course, Buzz himself who would happily self-report in from the lake or from Europe or from anywhere in between the sorts of silly things he did. Buzz refused to stand on ceremony, and took only three things seriously: his family, his friendships and his word. Everything else was fair game for the wryest wag ever to be elected by an unsuspecting public. St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay alluded to these

traits Friday afternoon at St. Louis' Annual Business Appreciation Luncheon at the Renaissance Grand hotel. The much more serious Slay had ordered the event's program revised at the last minute to include a short video tribute to his county counterpart. Special

events consultant **Laura Godwin** of Vector Communications worked around the clock to pull the piece together, recruiting emergency scripting help

from ex-TV newswoman **Jeff Rainford**.

Nosing around the ballroom, the columnist learned that Historic Restoration Inc. is about to gobble up two more buildings in the Cupples Station complex, for condos in one and rentals in another. Enterprising **Steve Roberts** said that he and his brother **Michael** hope to develop a three-story and a five-story condo structure on two lots they own in the Central West End — one at 4900 Washington Avenue, the other in the rear of Balaban's parking lot. As to the casino business, Steve adamantly denied they have any interest, despite reports. "We are not crazy," Steve exclaimed.

LIFE MOVES ON: Amy and Amrit Gill, and Stephanie and Vince Currao celebrated new arrivals last



BILL GREENBLATT / UPI

Rodney Crim (left), Laura Godwin and Andrew Trivers at the mayor's Business Celebration Luncheon on Friday at the Renaissance Grand ballroom.

week: a girl for the Gills, a boy for the Curraos. Babies, moms and pops are all doing well... Ex-Cleveland Browns running back **Jim Brown** met Tuesday with **Gary Kempker**, director of Missouri's Department of Corrections, and other officials so that Brown's program of gang intervention, Amer-I-Can, may be introduced there. From Jeff City, Brown, with his colleague, **Jane Higgins**, returned to St. Louis for a pouring at the Radisson Hotel in Clayton to meet with Rev. **Earl Nance** and other friends... Reps from P.F. Chang's China Bistro have been here inquiring about sites for its Pei Wei Asian Diners. Pei Wei are moderately-priced eateries offering an Asian menu, featuring such dishes as pad thai and Vietnamese chicken salad rolls... **Tony Trupiano** and family have lured former restaurateur **Peppe Profeta** as exec chef for their Bella Luna, which has bowed in the Kirkwood space previously occupied by Joseph's Italian Cafe... **Marc Branca** of Studio Branca Salon in Creve Coeur has expanded the shop to include a shampoo bar, a "total aromatherapy journey" with a 14-foot water wall and a 20-foot stainless steel color bar and nail station... **Michael Shanahan** has gifted Trinity Catholic High School with more than \$130,000. Mike and his wife,

Mary Ann, will be honored at Trinity's first Ambassador Hall of Fame Dinner next Friday in the atrium of Christian Hospital Northeast. For more info, call 314-741-1333, ext 223.

MOLD TOLD: The World's Largest Brewery owns a lot of other things, including Kingsmill Resort, a Florida vacation spot popular with sun-seeking St. Louisans. But, according to press reports last week, Kingsmill's 200 units have been shuttered for the winter while its operators remove a black-mold infestation from its \$300-to \$1,000-a-night suites. Managers blamed Hurricane Isabel for knocking out mold-fighting dehumidifiers while the resort was boarded up against the wind and waves.

CHEM LESSON: Hometown Solutia Inc. is catching some media heat in Charleston, W.Va. An economics prof told the Charleston Gazette that Solutia's worldwide pricing policies, which are currently the subject of a shareholders lawsuit and a pair of investigations, could have contributed to the shuttering of a chemical plant in nearby Nitro, W.Va. A feisty Solutia flack, **Liesl Livingston**, was quoted dismissing the lawsuit as "without merit, ... filed for the benefit of plaintiffs' lawyers."

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Black professionals blazed a trail through segregated halls of local media

"I know you. I've seen you on television!"

principal's office before the program started. After meeting the

voice, I was reminded of the days of big Afros, bell-bottom

In 1962, Diane White became the first African-American full-