

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

DISTRIBUTED BY UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

California money "management"

The Los Angeles Unified School District pays almost \$10 million a year to about 160 teachers and staff who are forbidden to do any work — those subject to discipline but whose cumbersome "due process" and appeals take years to carry out. One teacher, Matthew Kim, fired by the school board in

2002 for allegedly sexually harassing students and colleagues, still receives his \$68,000 a year, including benefits, and (by union contract interpretation) cannot be called on to perform clerical or other non-"professional" duties during the appeals, according to a May *Los Angeles Times* report. ■

Government in action

► Because of what an April *Boston Globe* report called "a decades-old interpretation of the state's militia laws," state government employees who are also members of the Massachusetts National Guard and who go on active duty are paid much more money if deployed at home than in Iraq or Afghanistan. State law requires those Guardsmen on domestic duty to be paid both for their state job and their military duty while Guardsmen in the war zones collect only the higher of the two salaries.

► The Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service issued rules recently requiring the use of long poles to test high-up fire alarms because letting the firefighters use stepladders might lead to injuries.

► The South Kesteven District Council decided in May to no longer hoist the oversized Flag of St. George outside Bourne Town Hall on St. George's Day — because of the "risk" involved in using an 8-foot ladder on a plinth above a spoked gate. ■

Small-town government "people skills"

E-mails from Smithfield (Pa.) Township Supervisor Christine Griffin, published in May in the *Pocono Record*, confirmed the long-time complaints of critics about her lack of diplomacy. In one official e-mail, Griffin wrote: "Don't you dare waste my time with your (exple-

tive), you lying cheating son of a (expletive), sneaky back door (expletive) nut (expletive) sucker." In another: "(N)o cement boots for me! Nice try though, a real drama rama! Reminder: I am the quintessential professional! (D)ecorum and common sense are my bylaws!" ■

The evolution of democracy

► Kim Schroeder, running for vice president of the Milwaukee (Wis.) Teachers Education Association in May, promised a five-point program, with the first four being vows to make the union more aggressive toward the school board. His fifth point, he said, was "to make sure that there is ... beer and wine available for our monthly Leaders' Meetings." (He lost.)

► Josko Risa finished second in the election for mayor of Prozolac, Croatia (pop. 4,500), and was in a run-off on May 31 because of (or despite) his campaign pledge of (roughly translated) "All for Me, Nothing for You" (or, "It is definitely going to be better for me, but will be the same for you"). (Run-off results from Croatia were not widely reported.) ■

More post-traumatic stress

Peter Singer, the author of a new book on battlefield robotics, told LiveScience.com in May he had seen soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan grow so attached to their bomb-disposal robots that, in one case, the soldier risked 160 feet of enemy machine gun fire to

retrieve his little buddy. In another case, a soldier brought his robot in for repairs with tears in his eyes over the "injury" to his beloved "Scooby-Doo." Several units, he said, had given their robots promotions, Purple Hearts and even a military funeral. ■

Fine points of the law

Richard Balsavage, 28, pleaded guilty in Berks County, Pa., in 2005 to taking pornographic photos of a toddler and was sentenced to nine to 23 months in jail, which he served, but while still on probation, he continued to possess child pornography and was re-sentenced by a different judge, to 3 ½ to seven years in prison. Balsavage then asked that judge for a re-sentencing, pointing out that he had not been given a fair opportunity to

express remorse in court, and the judge relented. Balsavage then made a sorrowful apology, but it went for naught because the judge had subsequently learned that during therapy sessions, Balsavage had confessed to a history of abuse of young children. If Balsavage had not demanded re-sentencing, he might have been out in 3 ½ years, but his new term was set at 24 ½ to 49 years. ■

People different from us

In the Kings Creek area north of Lenoir, N.C., according to sheriff's deputies, two feuding families created a ruckus in May after a dog killed a neighbor's cat. When the cat's owner found out, he shot the dog dead. When the dog's owner found

out, he shot the cat's owner and the man's young daughter. Deputies were called, and when they arrived, the dog's owner shot both of them, but one got off a return shot, fatally wounding the dog's owner (and completing the chain). ■

Their last words

► "A million dollars is a lot of money to pay for a whore" were the last words of multimillionaire French banker Edouard Stern, according to his girlfriend, Cecile Brossard, who took offense (and was convicted of killing him in June in Geneva, Switzerland).

► "Shoot me, shoot me," you "ain't got the —" were the last words (according to a police report) of Scott Riley, 25, who was arguing with the gun-wielding Joseph Jimenez, 24, about their game of Beer Pong in Bridgeport, Pa., in May ■

SCANLON
VALUE LOT

WHOLESALE TO THE PUBLIC

TIRED OF NEGOTIATING THE LOWEST PRICE?

SAME LOW PRICE TO EVERYONE!

TRADE-INS ACCEPTED. HURRY THESE VEHICLES
DON'T LAST LONG HERE AT THESE PRICES!

239-433-2847

'04 HONDA
ACCORD EX

WAS \$15,990

SCANLON WHOLESALE PRICE

NOW \$11,467

'06 PONTIAC
VIBE

WAS \$12,999

SCANLON WHOLESALE PRICE

NOW \$7,990

COMPARE OUR LOW PRICES TO KELLEY BLUE BOOK!

	KELLEY BLUE BOOK PRICE	SCANLON WHOLESALE PRICE
'05 Dodge Neon SXT, Great Economy.....	\$8,050	\$6,990
'98 Acura Integra WAS	\$9,990	\$6,990
'05 Suzuki Forenza	\$9,170	\$7,990
'03 Chrysler Sebring, Limited, Convertible.....	\$9,590	\$8,380
'02 Lincoln Town Car, Signature Series, Loaded...	\$10,040	\$8,990
'08 Chevy Cobalt LT	\$12,525	\$9,990
'07 Mazda 3, Like New!	\$14,060	\$12,850
'08 Mazda 6, A Must See!	\$15,070	\$12,850
'06 Jeep Liberty, Great SUV!	WAS \$15,999	\$12,999
'05 Toyota Rav4, Don't Miss This One!.....	\$15,540	\$13,975
'08 Chrysler Sebring, Convertible..... WAS	\$18,999	\$14,990
'08 Toyota Camry, 8K Miles	\$19,785	\$16,999

We Buy Cars, Trucks, Vans & SUVs! Hurry for Best Selection!

SCANLON
VALUE LOT
WHOLESALE TO THE PUBLIC

All prices plus tag, tax and dealer fee.
"WHERE YOU GET A DEAL YOU'LL FEEL GOOD ABOUT"
239-433-2847 • WWW.SCANLON-ACURA.COM
14101 S. TAMiami TRAIL, FORT MYERS
1/2 Mile South of the Bell Tower on the East side of US 41
SALE HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 9-8 • SATURDAY 9-5 • SUNDAY 12-4