

NEWSCLIPS

The ultimate compliment has been granted Burlington's illustrious mayor. Tuning into WQCR-FM's morning show last week, listeners heard the debut of "Leave It To Bernie."

In the first episode the "Bern" confronts the roots of capitalism when his "worker-owned" lemonade stand is threatened. "Gilbert" (any relation to Bill?) wants to run two lemonade stands—one of which is directly across the street from Bernie's. It's going to be a monopoly—"He's cornering the market on Maple Street," Bernie whines to June.

The production and writing are slick, complete with canned laughter and applause. Credit goes to WQCR's morning man **Louie Manno** and News Director **Jim Condon**, to sixties sitcom fans who birthed the show.

"We were sitting around listening to *TV's Greatest Hits*. Some people listen to Billy Joel, but not us," says Manno. "Anyway, the theme song for 'Leave It To Beaver,' came on and I cried out, 'Leave It To Bernie.' Then Jim said, 'Write that down.'" The rest is history.

Last week's episode continued with Ward's advice that Bernie use a "gimmick" to compete with Gilbert. "Competition is great. It's time you found out how the system operates," says Ward, in his stern but chummy voice.

Bernie isn't convinced: But golly, Dad. Gimmicks are products of the "Madison Avenue hype that has turned our nation into a land of morons."

"Now I was never a great fan of 'Leave It To Beaver,'" says the mayor. "Nor have I heard this show. Is it funny?" **Bernard Sanders** claims he's

What a surprise to see Nicaragua President **Daniel Ortega** chatting on Tuesday morning's "Phil Donahue Show." Ortega has always gotten bad press, but since he curtailed civil liberties in Nicaragua last week, he's taken a real beating by the media. It was an unusual treat to see him casually defending himself on national TV.

"This is great," a friend said while watching the show. "My mother watches this. Maybe she'll learn a few things." Another friend noted how odd it was to see Ortega jogging through Central Park with his bodyguards, rather than cruising New York in a bullet-proof, silver limo.

Not so surprising is Mayor Sanders' visit with Ortega on Friday, October 25 in New York City. Ortega's visiting the city to take part in the United Nation's 40th anniversary celebration.

Unfortunately, the US embassy in Managua put off giving an official answer to Ortega's request for a visa. According to the Nicaraguan embassy, the visa delay made it hard for Ortega to make travel plans. Evidently, he had wanted to take Sanders up on his offer to catch the foliage in Vermont.

Instead, Sanders will attend a *De Cara al Pueblo*, an event similar to a town meeting, held in the Stephen Wise Synagogue, according to the Nicaraguan Embassy. But it sounds more like a press conference-style meeting where Ortega will answer questions from a colorful collection of US citizens.

Speaking of Nicaragua, Sanders becomes grim. "I can't predict the future, but I believe that in a few years Ortega and all the fighters for freedom in



Winners of this year's Battle of the Bands: The Trees, Sean Hutton (guitar and vocals), Chris Eagan (drums), Bill Rogers (guitar and vocals) and Gregg October (bass and vocals).

not flattered, but he doesn't mind the lampooning either—"as long as it's done tastefully and not with malice or viciously."

Manno won't disclose the names of the actors and actresses. But whoever plays the Bern deserves all the local fame he's destined to receive; the impersonation is first-rate. It's easy to detect the voice of Jim Condon, however, as he plays every baby-boomer's ideal dad.

Tune into the morning show on any weekday at 7:20 to catch next week's episode when Bernie tries to mail order some X-Ray specs. Bernie wants to peer into the depths of corporate America, while Eddie Haskell thinks in terms of getting a better look at the English teacher (hopefully not sweet Miss Landers!).

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that country will be dead.... The US will have its way and a Pinochet-type government will be in power again.... Eventually no one will care about Nicaragua anymore."

At the "town meeting," Sanders hopes to ask Ortega what US citizens can do to get our president to sit down with Nicaragua's in order "to reach a peaceful solution." He also plans to ask Ortega why it was necessary to order the martial law.

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For the "low-income, unemployed, or under-employed Burlington area artist" (are there any other kind in Vermont?), it's time to get your Community Arts Grant application in. The deadline for the \$500 maximum grant is No-

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vember 6. Beware, the Arts Council absolutely will not push back the date this time, according to Grants Coordinator **Pat Lilienthal**.

The proposals need to be community-oriented, says Lilienthal. Five hundred dollars doesn't do much to address artist poverty, but hopefully the grant will help some artists break out of their studios and inertia. "It'll give the artist the opportunity to try something they wouldn't ordinarily do. In some cases it can really help with their self-esteem and get them out and going again," says Lilienthal. The last seminar on grant proposal writing is scheduled for Thursday, October 31 at the Mayor's Art's Council office in City Hall at 4:30 p.m.

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An important meeting is coming up for the Ward 3 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA). The assembly's got \$10,000 to play with, courtesy of the Community Development Block Grant budget. Unfortunately, \$15,585 of worthy proposals have been submitted. Ideas include putting a fence behind Convent Square to protect children from falling into the Intervale; playground equipment for the Lawrence-Barnes school; enclosing the bus shelter at Burlington High School; and a request for \$2,000 to plan a Senior Citizen Center in the Old North End fire station.

The most imaginative proposal comes from **Doug Viehmann**, who wants to hold a "Connector Gateway Competition." He figures that where the beltline enters the Old North End, there should be a gate marking this historic part of Burlington. He also hopes that it will slow down traffic, making it a safer neighborhood. Ideas, anyone?

There are 12 proposals in all, and Ward 3 residents are asked to come to the next meeting and vote for their favorite ideas. The meeting will be at the Sara Holbrook Center, Wednesday, November 6 at 7 p.m. For more information call **David Weinstein** at the Community Economic Development Office, 658-9300, extension 197.

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Check your child's car seat. If it's manufactured by the Collier Keyworth Company in Gardner, Massachusetts and is either the "Round Tripper" or the "Safe and Sound" model, then don't use it. Over 8,000 of these are being recalled because of defective buckles, according to **Essie Tellstone**, coordinator of Child Passenger Safety with the Vermont Department of Health.

If you have one of these seats, call the Child Passenger Safety Program at 863-7330 or 1-800-642-3233 (toll free).

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For those of you with stacks of papers crowding the kitchen, recycling is still possible in Burlington. Burlington Waste and Metal is accepting newspapers (no magazines, please) Monday, Wednesday and Friday, between 7:30 and 11:30 a.m. The recycling center is located at the foot of Maple Street in a blue building, adjacent to the old Vermont Railway office.

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Congratulations to **The Trees**, winner of this year's Battle of the Bands. A special thanks to the Mayor's Youth Office and **Kathy Lawrence** for encouraging the most powerful contributions youths offer society—music and great stage clothes.

■ *Gail E. Hudson*