

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

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### LODGING HOSPITALITY WANTS TO ADD WESTPORT HOLIDAY INN

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deb Peterson</li><li>• St. Louis Post-Dispatch (MO)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• March 30, 2004</li><li>• Section: METRO</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Edition: FIVE STAR LATE LIFT</li><li>• Page B2</li></ul> |
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**BUYING SPREE:** Bob O'Loughlin, prez and CEO of **Lodging Hospitality Management**, is thisclose to buying the 318-room Westport Holiday Inn from the Felcor Co. of Dallas. That would bring to 13 the number of hotels O'Loughlin's firm owns in St. Louis, and eight that it manages nationwide. In the Westport area, he also owns the two Sheraton Hotels and the Best Western Westport Plaza. Also in the area, LHM has developed the Hilton Garden Inns in Chesterfield and WingHaven and the Sheraton in Fairview Heights.

**COSTAS CLOUT:** Bob Costas had a whirlwind weekend in St. Louis. Along with packing the Fox Theatre on Saturday night for his charity event for Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, the affable Renaissance man took John "Don't call me Cougar" Mellencamp to the NCAA tournament games at the Edward Jones Dome on Friday night, and comedian Tom Dreeson to Rigazzi's on the Hill. The fund-raiser brought in about \$550,000 for the Bob Costas Cancer Center. "It was huge," said Allen Allred, chair of the event's planning committee. Mellencamp followers were in from across the country for his performance, which drew about 4,400 people to the Fox. A-B's David Campbell gave the singer/boxing fan a pair of gloves that Oscar De La Hoya wore in a championship fight. Making the scene: Allen and Stephanie Allred, Peggy and Jerry Ritter, Jim and Karen Castelano, Bob and Lisa Merenda, Julian and Eileen Carr, Jim and Rose Brennan, Donna Wilkinson, Peter and Carol Benoist, Jim and Barbara Orsund and Ed and Lynne Higgins.

**A MORE PERFECT UNION:** It was a political love-in Saturday night at the World's Fair Pavilion, with Democratic prez hopeful Sen. John Kerry lavishing praise on his escort, Rep. Dick Gephardt. Gephardt blushed when Kerry told the crowd how the congressman had proposed to his wife, Jane, on the same spot 38 years earlier. But what the audience thought had a really good ring to it was Gephardt as the next veep;

talk was about whether the pavilion would prove to be a starting point for another great partnership. Also at the pavilion: Gary Bess; May Scheve Reardon; Rep. Rick Johnson, D-High Ridge; Sen. Ken Jacob, D-Columbia; Nancy Farmer, state treasurer and U.S. Senate hopeful; former Sen. Jean Carnahan and her daughter Robin Carnahan, Missouri secretary of state candidate; and Gov. Bob Holden and his wife, Lori Hauser Holden. Mayor Francis Slay was waiting back at the Sheraton, site of the campaign fund-raiser.

**WORKING THE ROOM:** State auditor and Democratic primary candidate for governor, Claire McCaskill, grabbed an endorsement Monday from the Laborer's International Union of North America, which has about 14,000 local members in Missouri. The McCaskill campaign also notes that the Riezman Berger law firm hosted a bash for her Friday at the Jones Dome. The venerable firm frequently supports incumbent Democrats but seldom comes out for challengers. Partners Fred Berger and Mark Temkin glad-handed big money supporters in their suite while watching the NCAA games. Seen in the suite: Steve Langhofer; Larry Tinker; Jeff O'Connell; and former presiding judge of the Missouri Court of Appeals Jim Dowd, with his daughter Samantha, a junior at John Burroughs. McCaskill was there with her husband, Joseph Shepard, and their daughter Maddie, a freshman at St. Joseph's Academy.

**HOT TICKET:** The Miriam School hopes to raise about \$30,000 for its scholarship foundation to help offset rising tuition costs, says parent association president Joan Powers-Bialczak. Beginning Monday, school committees' will sell 500 raffle tickets at \$100 a ticket for the chance to win \$20,000 or a Mitsubishi Outlander LS. Info: 314-962-6059.

**SEEING CEDRIC:** Our town's Cedric the Entertainer is scheduled to be featured at 7 p.m. April 11 on the Travel Channel taking viewers on a freewheeling tour of his hometown. The cameras capture Cedric as he throws the first pitch at a Cardinals baseball game, hits the links at his first annual golf tournament and visits a pet charity project, the Mathews-Dickey Boys' and Girls' Club. Along the way, the show features shots of the Arch, the A-B brewery, the Chase Park Plaza and the Fox.

**JAYHAWKER:** Felix's restaurant, 6335 Clayton Avenue in Dogtown, will combine food, art and music when Denver artist John Bukaty kicks off a month-long show of his work beginning Saturday. Bukaty, a former University of Kansas football player, paints on canvas to the music of a band, notably Widespread Panic. At Felix's, Joe Stickley's Blue Print will play while Bukaty paints. The action starts at 10:30 p.m.; the artist will be around earlier to discuss his work.