

May 25 Live@Five!

LIVE@FIVE
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Could Outbreak Have Been Prevented? . . .

Check out your old immunization records, young Canadians, because there's something in the air and it ain't the sweet smell of summer. A mumps outbreak that bounced from the U.S. Midwest to Nova Scotia is spreading west. The outbreak cycle dates back to the fall of 2005 when dozens of Dalhousie University students came down with a strain of mumps believed to have originated in the U.S. a year earlier.

The number of cases in Nova Scotia climbed to 302 today. The Public Health Agency of Canada is reporting 45 cases in New Brunswick, two in P.E.I., 11 in Ontario and one in Alberta. Health officials in British Columbia have reported three cases.

Young adults between 15 and 37 are most at risk because - get this - their age group never got a second booster shot in grade school! A single shot was common at the time, but two doses did not become standard until the mid-1990s!

While the highly-contagious disease puts you out of commission for nine days, mumps aren't usually that serious. But complications can cause meningitis, hearing loss, even sterility. Why more action is not being taken to protect young Canadians from this preventable disease remains a mystery to me. And an outrage.

No. 55 . . .

A Canadian foot soldier was killed and another wounded in Afghanistan today. The soldiers encountered a homemade road-side bomb about 35 kilometres west of Kandahar. The soldiers were participating in Operation Hanover, a major operation to clear out the Taliban. The wounded soldier is expected to recover. No names have been released.

All Thumbs . . .

The B.C. building boom and the construction labour shortage are being blamed for a dramatic increase in job-site injuries, WorkSafe B.C. reports. Serious-injury rates have jumped by 36 per cent, and WorkSafe B.C. has announced plans for mandatory safety training for new hires and plans to deploy a dozen new safety inspectors to monitor residential construction. Injured young workers sitting in Lower Mainland emergency rooms for the past 73 hours seemed less than thrilled by the news.

Don't Wave at Helicopters . . .

While it's human nature to wave at passing boats and

low-flying helicopters, one Roman philanderer should have resisted the urge. The man took his mistress to the beach today and made the mistake of waving at a TV crew filming an Italian bike race from the air. The camera zoomed in and the couple ended up on national TV. Spotting the man, his brother-in-law - thinking his sister was with him on the beach - called his sibling on her cellphone to tell her she was on TV. Alas, sis was at home, most definitely not working on her tan. Lesson learned: Don't wave at helicopters.

Bears, Bears, Everywheres . . .

Bear sightings - and trappings and shootings - are on the rise this year. Residents in Coquitlam, with one of the highest bear-sighting rates in B.C., think they know why. They say their garbage and recycling isn't being picked up on time, or being strewn about the road by the city's contracted sanitation engineers. According to one radio report, residents have been complaining for six months about the garbage problem. It's pretty simple - no food, no bears, no killing bears.

Secret Brain Lab in Burnaby . . .

A little-known mathematics think tank in Burnaby was handed \$1.1 million from the federal government today. The Mathematics of Information Technology and Complex Systems institute was given the money to help "Canada's top mathematicians" solve problems like the spread of avian flu and SARS and terrorist threats through mathematical modeling. \$1.1 million? That's a lot of Jolt and pizza.

Threadbare Security Blanket . . .

Despite ongoing criticism that \$175 million is not enough to secure the 2010 Olympics, outgoing VPD Chief Jamie Graham says not to worry, if the federal funding proves inadequate, police officials can simply ask the feds for more.

"If it's not [enough], we go back with a detailed business plan of why we need more money in specific areas," says Graham. "So far, I don't see an issue, but if something comes up and we need more funding, we'll be back at the table."

I dunno, this stupendous ploy did not work when Chief Graham - a notorious scoff-budget - wanted a few extra beat cops from City Hall!

In other Olympic security news, the Anti-Poverty Committee - which trashed the premier's Vancouver offices earlier this week - is calling on all reprobates

and scoundrels to bone up on their William Godwin and join the APC for a six-month anarchy fest leading up to the Games. Chief Graham, I'd make that call to the feds yesterday.

The New Star of the Dog World . . .

Man, I'd take asthma and 20 kilos of dog hair over this creepy canine. The star of this year's World Dog Show in Mexico City looks like a bald bat.

The hairless Xoloitzcuintles (Xolos for short) are reportedly stealing the show in their native Mexico. The sleek, hairless dogs - which sell for up to \$3,000 and change - apparently date back to the Aztecs. You ask me, they should have sacrificed the lot.

Rosie O'Donnell Axed . . .

Rosie O'Donnell will not be back on The View, ABC announced today, two days after she and co-host Elisabeth Hasselbeck got into a protracted political cat fight live on the daytime gab show. The spin is that Rosie requested an "early leave" from the show, but fans who saw her freak on Hasselbeck - whom Rosie foe Donald Trump even describes as "one of the dumbest people on television" - know a girl can only take so much vapid clap trap before cracking. Check out this meltdown.

Quote of the Day . . .

"We need to figure out what to do to make this go away. Clearly, someone's got the jones to get us." - David Clode, UVic's director of student services, after the B.C. Liquor Control Branch closed the campus pub down this week for the second time in a month. Felicita's, run by the student society, was previously slapped with a \$10,000 fine for over serving, in most cases, straight from a beer jug.

Nip and Tuck . . .

Women in Britain, reportedly influenced by adult entertainment stars, are flocking to cosmetic surgeons in droves to undergo surgery to their vaginas. A report in the British Medical Journal states that pornography is fueling the trend, which has seen the so-called "designer vagina" surgeries double over a five year period.

. . . Red Canna, 1923

The webmaster faithfully maintaining the late artist Georgia O'Keeffe's official site remains mighty "chuffed" by the trend.

Fall-out Shelter Time . . .

North Korea test-fired a bunch of missiles toward the Sea of Japan today. China launched a new class of war submarines and boasted of increasingly accurate air-to-ground missiles. Iran, in turn, was continuing to enrich uranium this afternoon in its push to create

an atom bomb. And finally, Alan, Wayne, Merrill, Jay, Donny, Marie and Jimmy Osmond announced this morning that they will reunite for a summer TV special. Yup, it's officially bunker time!

CELEB GOSS

. . . Lindsay Lohan was reportedly rejected as the new face of Louis Vuitton because execs considered her "too American" for the handbag house. While Lindsay's been relegated to B-list labels like Miu Miu and Jill Stuart, guess who scored the LV gig? Live@Five's other girlfriend, Scarlett Johansson!

I ask you, at any price, who could resist?

Lohan's reaction to the rejection? Well, she reportedly scrawled a string of nasties about Scarlett on the bathroom wall at the NYC bar, Dark Room. Meee-ow!

. . . It's raining babies in sunny Hollywood.

Metallica drummer Lars Ulrich and girlfriend Connie Nieslen announced today that they welcomed wee Bryce Thadeus Ulrich-Nielsen into the world Monday. Enter Sandman Jr.!

. . . Jessica Simpson was reportedly out of her element at an exclusive yacht party in Cannes. The misguided all-American "spent the whole night following Leonardo DiCaprio around like a lost puppy," a source tells the New York Post. "He just seemed freaked out and kind of ignored her." Actually, Leo, you are supposed to make yourself look as big as possible and roar in that kind of situation.

. . . Big faker Paula "The Drama" Abdul did not break her nose after all, as I told you earlier this week. She didn't trip over her Chihuahua Tulip. No, turns out she had a hissy fit with a mirror and a shard of glass struck her face. Not the fairest, not even close.

. . . Jessica Biel has taken up with Justin Timberlake. Which makes me too pukish to even discuss.

. . . And a juicy one from the National Enquirer: Reps for Britney Spears and Ryan Phillippe are trying to douse the rag's claim that the two "hooked up" in a bathroom at L.A. hot spot Les Deux last week. Like Britney Spears had had the time! All those lyrics to memorize?! Come on.

. . . And Sanjaya conspiracists were severely punked this week. That was indeed Sanjaya on that YouTube video pretending to be an art school student pretending to be Sanjaya. All part of FunnyOrDie.com's ongoing monkey wrenching of the celebrity world. There is no Bill Vendall from the Rhode Island School of Design.

SEND YOUR DIGITAL POLICE CONCERT PIX TO liveatfive@png.canwest.com!

TONIGHT'S HOT TICKETS

The Black Angels . . .

Austin, TX buzz-band The Black Angels unleashes a night of psychedelically-induced rock 'n' roll at Richard's On Richards (1036 Richards St.) tonight. The Velvet Underground for a new generation of droning rhythm lovers. Doors at 8 p.m. Tix are \$11.

Patrick Wolf . . .

Britain's answer to Rufus Wainwright, South London singer-songwriter Patrick Wolf - the natty dude plays 16 instruments! - promises a night of moody, pop-flave music at the Media Club (695 Cambie St.) tonight. Doors at 6:30 p.m. Tix are \$15 at Zulu and Ticketmaster.

Advanced Notice: Sci-Fi Geek Fest . . .

Take heart, fans of science fiction, you will be vindicated! Saturday night, Vancouver speculative fiction author Spider Robinson hosts a remarkable evening of prognostication with a troupe of astrophysicists and robotic engineers at the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre. Where Real Science Meets Science Fiction, a free event, begins at 7:30.

Also on Stage Tonight:

- Vancouver roots-music star Gary Comeau does his thang at the Yale (1300 Granville) tonight.
- Hot blooded reggae rocker Manu Chao lights up the Commodore Ballroom tonight.
- The Croatian Cultural Centre (3250 Commercial) opens its doors - rather bravely - for an all-ages hardcore punk fiesta with Outbreak, Hour of the Wolf, Wake Up Call, A Crow's Glory and Cascabella. Info 604-707-0811

Local singer-songwriter Mike Carew performs at a release party for his 19th self-produced album, Rare, with guests Goes to Eleven at the WISE Hall (1882 Adanac). Info 604-685-5867.

PAUL CHAPMAN'S SPORTS CORNER

If the Vancouver Giants beat Plymouth tonight they land in the Memorial Cup final on Sunday against hated Medicine Hat.

The Coliseum will be jumping if that happens, as the Giants have done a great job building a tradition in an NHL-first market.

After making the Memorial Cup last year, seems some of the players are feeling spoiled for choice.

"We have guys who think this should happen all the

time. Guys like Mitch Czibere and Jon Blum," says Giants coach Don Hay. "That's good. That builds tradition. That helps you next year when the new players come to the team."

The Canucks should take note, their support relative to their lack of playoff success is astonishing.

Women drivers . . .

The hype around Danica Patrick has been huge, but she's yet to win a race. No matter, she'll still be a huge focus at the Indy 500 this weekend.

It sounds like it's all starting to get to Patrick though, as the questions all seem to be the same.

"I don't set guidelines based on being a girl," Patrick said. "That's not what's important, and that's not what's going to make you the best driver."

On a positive note, experts point out that she's done extremely well at Indy in the past, because the track really suits her style.

"This is a place where experience pays off," Patrick said. "But you've also got to be lucky. You've got to catch the right breaks on cautions and pitting. As the years go on, you get more impatient. You just want to go out there and run up front, and as a result you're going to win races."

Hot seat . . .

Life is tenuous in Yankee land. But not for manager Joe Torre, moreso for general manager Brian Cashman.

Cashman was given increased duties when he got a new contract after the 2005 season by itchy owner Brian Cashman.

"He's on a big hook," a feisty Steinbrenner told The Associated Press. "He wanted sole authority. He got it. Now he's got to deliver."

Remembering 1994 . . .

U.S. hockey legend Brian Leetch, who was a huge part of the Rangers ending their 54-year Stanley Cup drought when they beat Vancouver in 1994, announced his retirement today. Strange, it seems like he retired three years ago.

Homer's dream . . .

Innovation is the name of the game in sports marketing these days, and you know there's no way to a baseball fan's heart like the way through his stomach.

The L.A. Dodgers have a new promotion out, \$20 gets you a ticket to a special section in the outfield that's an all-you-can-eat seat. Yep. No beer, or ice

cream included, but with your ticket you get as many
Dodger dogs, nachos, peanuts, popcorn and pop as
you can stomach.

TONIGHT'S SPORTS GAMES

HOCKEY

Memorial Cup

At Vancouver

Semifinal

Vancouver vs. Plymouth, 5 p.m., Pacific Coliseum,
Sportsnet

BASEBALL

American League

Cleveland at Detroit, 4:05 p.m.

Oakland at Baltimore, 4:05 p.m.

L.A. Angels at N.Y. Yankees, 4:05 p.m.

Boston at Texas, 5:05 p.m.

Toronto at Minnesota, 5:10 p.m.

Seattle at Kansas City, 5:10 p.m.

Tampa Bay at Chicago White Sox, 5:11 p.m.

National League

N.Y. Mets at Florida, 4:05 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 4:10 p.m.

Philadelphia at Atlanta, 4:35 p.m.

Washington at St. Louis, 5:10 p.m.

Houston at Arizona, 6:40 p.m.

Milwaukee at San Diego, 7:05 p.m.

Colorado at San Francisco, 7:15 p.m.

Chicago Cubs at L.A. Dodgers, 7:40 p.m.

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