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Where the sun don't shine

By Bites

Who's the media whore? Some journalists, as Bites has learned in recent years, are susceptible to bribery. None more so than your local **TV weatherman**. With a crisp \$20 bill, one could easily influence how a weatherperson decides to spin the next cold front or heat wave. A moderately priced bottle of **California zinfandel** could sway a storm-watcher to nudge the forecasted temperature up a notch or two.

Sensing this truth of nature, an online travel company called CheapSeats.com recently decided to offer free three-day vacations to meteorologists in foul-weather places. Among those offered the all-expenses-paid rendezvous with warmer weather is Sacramento's own **Elissa Lynn**, chief meteorologist over at **KXTV News10**--according to the travel company's press statement.

So, Bites needs to know--before showing up to work in only a **Speedo and Hawaiian shirt** tomorrow--whether Emmy-winning weatherwoman Lynn is on the take.

Stacy Owen, News10's news director, said no one at the station had received a formal offer from CheapSeats.com, and even if they had, "we wouldn't accept anything like that." She said the offer looks like a simple publicity stunt on the company's part.

"They're just trying to attract attention to themselves," Owen said.

Well, then, that makes Bites the **media whore**. And we didn't even get a free plane ticket in exchange for this plug.

Really, really big: Not only is Sacramento's daily news rag a muckraking, trailblazing, truth-seeking crusader of ink and paper, but it also displays a downright **Shakespearean** propensity for wordplay.

Last week, **The Sacramento Bee** dropped a g-bomb into its venerable pages.

Lifestyle writer **Lisa Heyamoto**, writing about Old Sacramento's **Lomo Argentine Grill**, used the word "**ginormous**" to describe a back-patio seating area.

It's a slang word **high-school cheerleaders** and Saturday-morning cartoon characters use when neither enormous nor gigantic will quite do the trick. The editors over on Q Street probably think they're treading the **razor's edge of hipness** by escorting a word like that into the paper. Bites knows the Bee has been trying awfully hard to attract the all-important 18-24 group. But really, this sort of gimmick just leaves Bites confuzzled.

Fight song: There aren't any good protest songs anymore. Oh, there's the ubiquitous "Hey hey, ho, ho, [fill in the blank] has got to go," which is a big reason Bites avoids demonstrations of any sort.

So, Bites was happy to hear about an Ochsian little ditty called "**The PG&E song**," or "**Write the check and shut up**." It was actually cooked up by Bay Area artist Carol Denney in 2001, around the time PG&E declared bankruptcy. Check out the (very abridged) last verse, which Bites thinks sounds eerily familiar: "Go on and buy up our wires and our lines / We got you right where the sun never shines / You think you owe 'cause we've messed with your minds / ... and you'll pay 'til you're down to your last little dimes / Cause you're used to it, aren't you, shut up." You can hear the whole song at www.caroldenney.com/pgesong.htm.

We're, um, activists. Yeah, that's it: Speaking of messing with people's minds, the **Sacramento Municipal Utility District** (SMUD) Board of Directors is trying a little political judo on **PG&E** this week. On Thursday, the board will vote on whether to put the question of annexing the urban parts of Yolo County on the ballot this November. It's a gutsy move, since PG&E has staked its survival in Yolo on trying to convince Sacramento ratepayers that they have nothing to gain from letting Yolo into the fold.

But Bites was a little perplexed by a Bee story last week, penned by veteran county reporter **Robert Davila**. The piece referred to **Jeff Raimundo** as a spokesperson for the **Citizens for Responsible and Affordable Energy**, a faux citizens group wholly owned by PG&E. Raimundo's a nice guy and all, but he's not an activist. He's a paid political consultant working for PG&E, something the article failed to point out. Bites knows not everyone can have the writing gifts of certain Bee restaurant reviewers, but come on, Bob.