

‘THE HULK’ IS MEANER AND GREENER
SCREENS | E1



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

FRIDAY | JUNE 13, 2008 | FOUNDED BY JOSEPH PULITZER IN 1878 | STLtoday.com | 75¢

TOP NEWS

BUSH PAYS VISIT TO ITALY

President George W. Bush's talk with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi yields little in contributions for the war in Afghanistan.

WORLD | A7

LOCAL NEWS

GRAFTON OPEN

Cities up river begin to brace for flood waters, but Grafton is welcoming tourists this weekend.

METRO | C1

POLLUTION PLAN

Area residents tell EPA officials what they think of the agency's plan to reduce the amount of lead in the air.

METRO | C1

HIGH-TECH METERS

Utilities worldwide want advanced meter reading capability, and Ladue-based Esco Technologies hopes to take advantage.

BUSINESS | B1

CARDS FALL 6-2

Ken Griffey Jr. draws a bases-loaded walk for the go-ahead run as Cincinnati snaps Cards' four-game winning streak.

SPORTS | D1

ELSEWHERE

SCOUT TROUPERS

Youths at the Iowa Boy Scout camp hit by a tornado lived up to their motto, "Be Prepared."

NATION | A2

HOSPITAL SPIES

Hospitals and health clinics are hiring fake patients to go undercover to grade the health care experience being offered.

NATION | A2

TIGER'S OPENER

Tiger Woods shoots a 1-over-par 72 in the first round of the U.S. Open in his return from knee surgery and trails leaders Kevin Streelman and Justin Hicks by 4 shots.

SPORTS | D1

ONLINE



GAME GUY BLOG

Are video games good for you? Read about the growing evidence in our Game Guy blog.

STLtoday.com/gameguy

It isn't easy being green



STLtoday.com/birdsnest

Kingdom under siege

DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY

By focusing on domestic market, Anheuser-Busch became the nation's dominant brewer.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

By being conservative with its acquisitions, A-B left itself vulnerable to a takeover.



The Anheuser-Busch brewery is as much a symbol of St. Louis as the Gateway Arch that overlooks downtown. David Carson | Post-Dispatch

Amid worries of takeover, only local brew can soothe

By Adam Jadhav
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

ST. LOUIS • The tiny Silverleaf Lounge has a few tables, about a dozen bar stools and enough Budweiser signs to light up a frat house. By midafternoon Thursday, most of the seats around the rail were filled by guys with plenty of stories to tell: retired military men, firefighters, cops.

But they weren't trading war stories. No, talk of Anheuser-Busch and a possible foreign takeover was the topic du jour — or perhaps du beer.

"If I had a vote, I'd say, 'No. Hell, no!'" proclaimed bar owner Ronald Damery, 65, after

PLEASE SEE **CUSTOMERS** | A9



Ron Wood quaffs a Budweiser on Thursday afternoon at his favorite tavern, the Silverleaf Lounge at 3442 Hereford Street in St. Louis, where owner Ronald Damery has always served Anheuser-Busch products. J.B. Forbes | Post-Dispatch

Beer giant's vulnerability marks a reversal of fortune

By Jeremiah McWilliams
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

A marble and metal statue of an eagle looms in the lobby of Anheuser-Busch's St. Louis headquarters. The bird's wings are outstretched, its stare imperious, talons sunk deep into a fish plucked from the waves.

For years, the piece would have been a fitting metaphor for Anheuser-Busch's reign over the beer industry.

But the dominance of the King of Beers has slipped. Anheuser-Busch now finds itself on the wrong end of the hunt.

The country's biggest brewer is the quarry in a \$47 billion-plus takeover bid from an

PLEASE SEE **A-B** | A8

The history of A-B and InBev

An interactive timeline for Anheuser-Busch and InBev and the latest updates on the beer battle.

STLtoday.com/business

Is the offer a good deal?

If it succeeds, what should the combined company be called? Add your thoughts in Talk of the Day.

STLtoday.com/talk

Can InBev be stopped?

To stave off InBev, A-B execs must show brewer is undervalued at \$65 a share bid, David Nicklaus writes.

Business | B1

InBev 'committed' to St. Louis

St. Louis frets over the potential loss of Anheuser-Busch. Not to worry, says global brewer InBev.

Business | B1

ANALYSIS

Court extends detainees' rights

Ruling 'blows a hole' in legal premise for Guantanamo Bay and 'its reason for being.'

By William Glaberson
NEW YORK TIMES

The Guantanamo Bay detention center will not close today or any day soon.

But the Supreme Court's decision Thursday stripped away the legal premise for the remote prison camp that officials opened six years ago in the be-

lief that American law would not reach across the Caribbean to a U.S. naval station in Cuba.

"To the extent that Guantanamo exists to hold detainees beyond the reach of U.S. courts, this blows a hole in its reason for being," said Matthew Waxman, a former detainee affairs official at the Defense Department.

And without that, much will change. The decision granted detainees the

PLEASE SEE **DETAINEES** | A5

RIGHT CHOICE? • High court decision on legal rights of detainees sparks debate. A5

‘Total power over ... everything’

2 sentenced after being accused of virtually enslaving pair.

By Robert Patrick
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

ST. LOUIS • For two decades, Robert Leitzel wondered what happened to his sister and her husband. The mentally disabled couple had moved from Kansas to Missouri with former landlords, and seemed to disappear.

Leitzel's persistence — and a misdelivered letter — unraveled a bizarre story of relatives forced to live in squalor in Macon, Mo., enslaved by threats and beatings as they handed their dis-

ability checks over to onetime friends who had become virtual captors.

The last chapter was written Thursday in federal court in St. Louis, where Donald Hicks, 70, and his wife, Mary Hicks, 53 were sentenced on a single felony charge of misusing Social Security funds.

It was eight months in prison for Donald, and six months of house arrest for Mary, who both must repay \$66,284 and serve three years on supervised

PLEASE SEE **SENTENCINGS** | A6



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SENSE OF THE CITY

Visitors to our Talk of the Day blog on STLtoday.com had plenty to say about the InBev bid for Anheuser-Busch:

- “Are we seriously going to watch a foreign nation take over a staple U.S. company?”
- “I can see the billboards being replaced now: Budweiser: Belgium’s Lager”
- “I think this is a massive blow to St. Louis and hope it falls through somehow. But I just don’t see how.”
- “I’d like to think the A-B board and stockholders will feel a wave of patriotism and say no to the deal. Then I remind myself that we live in an economy not a society. Goodbye, Bud.”
- “Sign the petitions at savebudweiser.com and saveab.com, and write your congressman. If we don’t make a stand now, we won’t have anything left.”
- “I suggest that A-B and its financial advisers should come up with a counteroffer to buy Inbev.”
- “Let’s not get all weepy eyed over this. It’s a beer company, not the White House. It’s just a place that makes booze, not some ancient national forest.”

CUSTOMERS | FROM A1

‘Old man Busch would turn over in his grave’

Some thought and a few tugs on his Bud Light. “Course, I don’t have a vote.”

“What you think doesn’t mean a dang thing,” shot back Ron Wood, 61, a salty ex-Marine clutching a Budweiser.

Both men laughed. Then they sighed.

As they sat on beat-up stools in the smoky south city bar, the Budweiser faithful such as Damery and Wood seemed sadly resigned in the wake of the news that the King of Beers may have its throne usurped by Belgian giant InBev.

“Maybe a horse will be too expensive for the new guys,” Wood said. “(Does) that mean the Clydesdales will be gone?”

Wood has been reading the newspaper, and he has some predictions about InBev. He’s heard the Belgian company wants to trim fat, but he thinks that’s code for two things: laying off workers and finishing off A-B’s traditions.

Then again, think about the other St. Louis corporations that have come and gone or merged, said Damery. TWA is done for. Ralston Purina got bought out by European corporation Nestle. McDonnell Douglas merged with Boeing. The Pulitzer family sold the Post-Dispatch to Iowa-based Lee Enterprises.

Corporate mergers, reshuffling and the occasional international buyout are simply part of the new commercial landscape, Damery concluded.

“We used to own half the world,” agreed Mike Crisafulli, 50, a firefighter captain whose fiancée says she will never drink an A-B product again if the company is foreign-owned.

“It’s sad but true. It’s just inevitable, I guess,” Damery said. “Even if no jobs are lost, some of it’s just a point of pride.”

Witness the fact that the Silverleaf carries mostly A-B products: Bud, Bud Light, Bud Select, Michelob Light and Mich Ultra Light and Bud Light Lime. And low-carb Miller Lite in cans — “but that’s just for the diabetics,” Damery said.

“A-B is such an important thing to St. Louis and the surrounding areas,” Wood chimed in. “A-B is everywhere. What’s opening day baseball without Budweiser? What’s the Rose Bowl without the Clydesdales?”

Those concerns echoed in barrooms elsewhere.

“Old man Busch would turn over in his grave,” said Larnell Abby, 58, an armored truck driver, as he sat with a mug of Bud Light at Sadie’s Cocktail Lounge in Jennings. A neon Budweiser bowtie sign flickered outside. Abby had just gotten off work and wanted a cold one.

“I don’t care if they say they’ll keep it the same,” said Ted Williams, 75, the bartender who handed Abby his next round. “A buyout means change. That’s why they want it. To change it.”

Down in Soulard at Crabby’s Cream, almost in the shadow of the A-B brewing complex, bartender John Borrowman, 54, said his fear is that InBev will shutter the historic brewery despite any promises to the contrary. What happens then to a beer town if the iconic brewer is no more?

“People think of St. Louis, they think of the Arch, the Cardinals and the brewery, right?” Borrowman asked a customer as they both stared at a TV tuned to CNBC, looking for A-B’s stock price on the ticker. “Every once in a while, someone comes in and asks if we’ve got Miller Lite or Corona or something. I always say, ‘Look down the street. You think we have anything else?’ ”

“We’re just a Bud town,” said Rick Hastings, 42, a construction worker.

Borrowman and Hastings both reminisced about their first visit to Grant’s Farm, the Busch family estate. They remembered their first brewery tour as teenagers. Neither could recall the first time they actually had a Budweiser.

They worry about the economics of the whole thing. What happens to the employees? Corporate mergers are supposed to be good for stockholders, noted Borrowman, who was a computer programmer for A.G. Edwards and retired a few years before it was bought out by Wachovia. “It’s all about the stock value.”

“What about the regular guy,” Hastings said, “trying to pay bills and keep gas in his truck?”

And then some silence. Borrowman cracked open a couple of more beers. Bud Light, for the record.

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