

Soroptimist Fundraiser

A Murder in the Columbia River Gorge

An interactive murder mystery dinner-play was created for the Soroptimist International Club of Hood River as their major fundraiser for the year.

The murder took place at the Columbia River Gorge Hotel, while guests who had purchased tickets for the evening's mystery play, were having dinner.

Included in the document which follows, is a reprint of the local newspaper's coverage of the event, along with some of the materials guests received prior to the event.

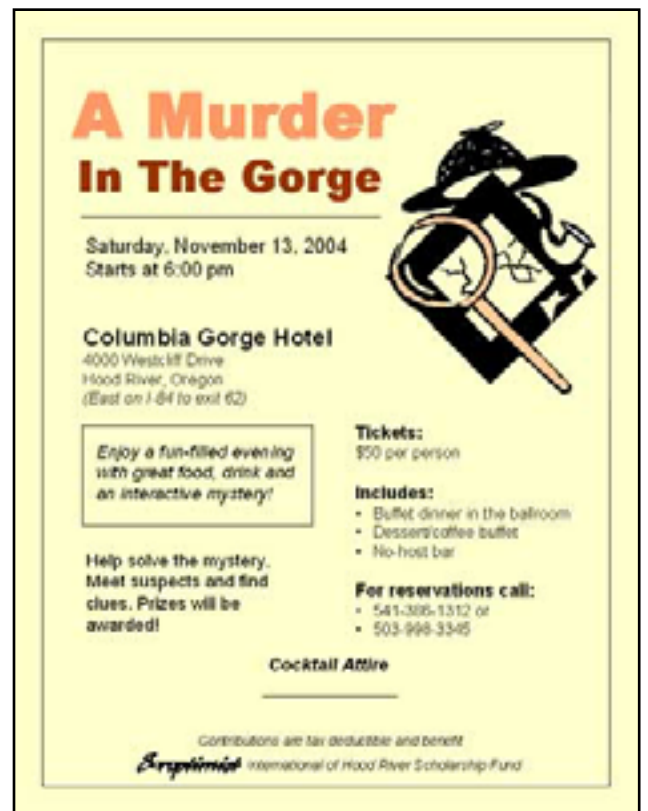
Materials received by guests were designed to help them prepare for the evening, and to give them a head start on being able to solve the question of who the killer would be.

The play's scenario dealt with a range of issues that would resonate with local residents, and was, essentially, a good-natured spoof on a number of businesses which Gorge residents could relate to.

Twelve of the guests were the actual "actors" in the play, whose job it was to give the other guests clues as to who the killer might be.

A fun evening was had by all, and the Soroptimist International Club of Hood River exceeded its fund-raising goal for the year.

Read on to learn more ...



**A Murder
In The Gorge**

Saturday, November 13, 2004
Starts at 6:00 pm

Columbia Gorge Hotel
4000 West Hill Drive
Hood River, Oregon
(East on I-84 to exit 62)

Enjoy a fun-filled evening
with great food, drink and
an interactive mystery!

Help solve the mystery.
Meet suspects and find
clues. Prizes will be
awarded!

Tickets:
\$50 per person

Includes:

- Buffet dinner in the ballroom
- Dessert/coffee buffet
- No-host bar

For reservations call:

- 541-386-1312 or
- 503-998-3345

Cocktail Attire

Contributions are tax deductible and benefit
Soroptimist International of Hood River Scholarship Fund

THE SUSPICIOUS MISS VENTURE

A 'murder' is all in fun at Soroptimist fundraiser

By RAELENN RICARTE

News staff writer

A record number of amateur detectives worked together on Saturday evening to solve a "murder" case over dinner and cocktails.

Vicki Venture, also known as Raye Hukari, was arrested at the Columbia Gorge Hotel about 9 p.m. in front of 107 would-be sleuths. She was charged with killing George Genius, alias



MARK SCHMIDT toasts an evening filled with merriment and mayhem — and the occasional murder.

Lonny Smith, by undisclosed means earlier that same evening. Fifteen of the detectives were thrilled that their suspicions about Venture had been verified by police. They named her the top choice among 11 potential suspects after sorting through a complex web of clues.

Venture had drawn the attention of many diners after disappearing for a lengthy period of time — only to return shortly before Genius' body was found. Plus, she appeared to have the greatest motive since his death allowed her to retain about \$100 million in assets.

Venture, the founder of V&V Venture Capital, had reportedly been angry with Genius for backing away from a merger between two technology companies. Venture told police that Genius had balked after talking her into financially supporting an alliance between the national firm Everyone On-Line and locally owned Gorge On-Line, Inc. Genius was the executive vice-president and founder of GOL, the first independent network service provider in the Mid-Columbia.

When Venture was named the murderer, she immediately confessed. However, she appeared to have no remorse for her actions. She originally gave a resounding "yes" when a reporter at the scene asked if Genius was her

first murder. But then she added the troubling statement, "at least the first one I've been caught at."

Before she was transported to jail, Venture gave this bitter advice for other would-be killers, "Think twice, you'll probably wish you'd done it sooner."

With the homicide successfully solved, members of Hood River's Soroptimist Club could finally relax. The women's group had hosted their first murder mystery dinner with an original script written by member Pat Case. The event provided three hours of entertainment for the roomful of guests, including 38 visitors from the Portland-metro area.

"I was very, very impressed with the evening. I thought it was a wonderful event and I'm excited about doing it again next year," said Hood River County Commissioner-elect Maui Meyer, who attended with his wife, Jan.

The Soroptimists plan to direct proceeds from the fundraiser toward activities and individuals that contribute to the local community. In addition to the sellout crowd, the dinner was strongly supported by area businesses who donated prizes. A range of gift certificates were awarded to winning detectives or auctioned to the highest bidder.

"After 24 hours of rest, we are considering doing it again. People have been making very posi-



Photos by Rae

JUDY MCGRADY, left, briefs Hood River County Commissioner-elect Maui Meyer and his wife investigative procedures.

tive comments all over town and the hotel staff went out of their way to make it a festive evening," said Judy McGrady, one of the or-

ganizers, in a follow-up interview. The troupe of actors for the event also included: Tom Penchoen, Barbara and Gary Young,

Dick Schmuck, Bob Rat McCarty, Maureen Rega Ison Fitts, and Bill an Bohn.

Confirmation of Your Attendance

Please Read This Packet.

The Game Starts Now!

This is to confirm your attendance at the Alliance Gala, where alliance plans between Gorge-On-Line, Inc, and Everyone On-Line, Inc. (EOL), will be announced.

The celebration will take place at the Columbia Gorge Hotel in Hood River, Oregon on November 13th, starting at 6:00 pm.

A copy of a recent news article describing the circumstances surrounding the Gala is attached for your review.

Attendees will include executives and shareholders from both companies along with close friends and community partners. A list of “Special Guests” and a short bio on each is included in this packet. A description of your role is also included.

Please take time to review the materials so you can make the most of your time at the event.

This is a special occasion so we suggest you dress up. Then again, it’s Hood River, so feel free to do whatever the heck you want—costumes, junk jewelry, fine jewelry, evening gowns . . . whatever.

We’re looking forward to your attendance and active participation.

Please be sure to bring this confirmation packet with you to the Gala.

Best Regards and Good Luck,

Mike Mammoth
Chief Executive Officer
Everyone-On-Line

Bubba Bright
Chief Technology Officer
Gorge-On-Line



A Murder In The Gorge

Sponsored by: *Scroptimist* International of Hood River

Important Note: The story you are about to read is fictional, and all of the characters you will be introduced to in this packet are also fictional. Any resemblance to events or persons you may know is purely coincidental. But bear in mind, the story and characters you will learn about in this packet have everything to do with the murder mystery . . . that starts now.

Columbia Gorge Daily News

Gorge On-Line Allies with Internet Giant EOL

Hood River, OR — Internet provider Gorge On-Line, Inc. of Hood River, Oregon, recently announced its intention to develop a working alliance with Everyone On-Line, Inc. (EOL), the worldwide leader in on-line service offerings. According to a company spokesperson, terms of the alliance are currently being worked out and decisions about what and who it will affect will be announced at a celebration to take place in Hood River on November 13, 2004.

The celebration will be held at the historic and prestigious Columbia Gorge Hotel. Throngs of people are expected, all seeking answers to the question of precisely who will be better off—or worse off—by the alliance. Hotel president Halla Graves is cautiously optimistic. She says: “We’re happy to host the event, but we think there could be trouble. No one knows what will be announced. We hope it’s all good, but we want to be prepared for the worst. You know how things are these days.”

On a more positive note, Bubba Bright, founder and CEO of Gorge On-Line says: “The alliance with EOL will give us additional capabilities that would be difficult for us to develop on our own. Even more exciting, it will mean more job opportunities for people living in The Gorge.”

Gorge On-Line was the first independent network services provider in the Columbia River Gorge Region. It began operations in Hood River in 1992 with a wish and a prayer and with the dedicated commitment of the two founding fathers to connect every home and every business in The Gorge with the worldwide web. Today it serves users throughout The Gorge on both the Oregon and Washington sides, and is the largest provider of Internet and network services in that Region.

Bob Bets from the highly regarded Betterbets Stock Analysts firm says that Gorge On-Line has carved out a highly successful niche in the Pacific Northwest for three reasons. He says: “First, they’re renowned for taking risks in rural communities where larger Internet companies were unable to make a profit. Second, they specialize in serving small to medium size businesses which the larger firms saw as small potatoes. Third, they’ve been pioneers in the use of spam blocking programs that keep junk mail out of their customers’ mailboxes, and they’ve got a heck

of a lot of satisfied customers as a result. And finally, they're about to announce some whiz-bang new technology, that's going to knock the socks off of their competition."

Mike Mammoth, Chairman and CEO of EOL says: "Gorge On-Line shares our enthusiasm for getting everyone on line, and we love them for it. What's more, they work hard, they play hard, and they have the right kind of ethics. They're our kind of company and we want them on our side."

While details have not been announced, speculators say that the alliance will involve the development of a northwest regional service center in Hood River, which will serve clients in Northern California, Oregon, Washington, and parts of Idaho. Bob Bets says: "If that's the case, anyone who owns stock in Gorge On-Line stands to make a bundle."

No one from either EOL or Gorge On-Line will comment on the matter.

In a separate announcement, the Hood River County Sheriff's department said they would be beefing up security at the Columbia Gorge Hotel on the day and evening of the event. A spokesperson for the department says: "We haven't seen this kind of event in Hood River before, and we want to be prepared for anything that could happen."

Special Guest List

Everyone On-Line	Mike Mammoth	Chairman and CEO
	Paula Painter	Executive Vice President, Sales and Marketing
	Ge' Anna Gleeanna	Executive Secretary to the Chairman and CEO
Gorge On-Line	Bubba Bright	CEO and Founder
	George Genius	Executive Vice President and Founder
	Nicki Tecniki	Chief Technologist
Local Community	Perry Ports	Rep., Port of Hood River
	William (Will) Grow	Rep., Hood River Snippers and Growers Assn.
	Carmen Commerce	Rep., HR Chamber of Commerce
Financial Community	Bob Bets	Betterbets Stock Analysts
	Vicki Venture	V & V Venture Capital Group
	Barron Buffet	Barron Buffet Holding Company

Backgrounds of Special Guests

Everyone On-Line	Mike Mammoth	Chairman and CEO
	Mike is the head of the biggest Internet services provider in the world. Unlike some of his peer CEO's who have been brought up on charges for all manner of stock manipulation schemes, he's known for his honesty and integrity. What's more, he holds his management team responsible for working in accordance with the high ethical standards he sets, and he's been known to fire people who he doesn't think measure up.	
	Paula Painter	Executive Vice President, Sales and Marketing
	Paula is the EOL go-getter. She was hired into EOL eight months ago because she has the kind of creativity, energy, and enthusiasm that EOL needs. Though EOL profits are still good, analysts had recently been giving it a bad rap. For the most part, they felt that EOL was getting a little stale and that it needed to develop new technologies, new markets and new ways of doing things. Since Paula's come on board, analyst attitudes are beginning to change.	
Gorge On-Line	Ge'Anna Gleeanna	Executive Secretary to the Chairman and CEO
	Ge'Anna has worked for EOL for twenty five years — since before it was known as EOL, and since before it became an Internet services provider. She's seen lots of change over the years. One of the best changes she thinks ever happened, was when Mike Mammoth was appointed to the job of CEO. At the time, EOL was in turmoil, the company was struggling financially, and employees were leaving by droves. Mike changed all that, and Ge'Anna admires him greatly for what he's been able to do.	
	Bubba Bright	CEO and Founder
	Bubba founded Gorge On-Line twelve years ago when he first came to Hood River. He wanted to windsurf, and what better place to do so than in Hood River, Oregon, the "windsurfing capital of the world." There was only one problem. He didn't have a job and he couldn't find one. He didn't have a silver spoon in his mouth either, so he had to do something fast. Fortunately, he had some brains. He and his best friend, George, also a windsurfer, decided to pool their funds and their skills, and introduce people in Hood River to a new kind of surfing: surfing on the net.	
Gorge On-Line	George Genius	Executive Vice President and Founder
	George is the real brains behind Gorge On-Line. If it weren't for him, there would be no Gorge On-Line. Sure Bubba Bright is bright; but mostly, he's a salesman with a gift for gab. It's not that he's not good at what he does. He is. He could sell you swamp land in Florida or view property at Hanford. But without George Genius, he would have been, well . . . gone with the wind . . . a long time ago.	
	Nicki Tecniki	Chief Technologist
Nicki started working for Gorge On-Line four years ago, right about the time that growth started to take off. More and more customers were attracted by the higher speeds Gorge On-Line could now offer, so more and more revenues were being made. Nicki worked hard for the last four years, mostly on developing new technologies. She never complained. She likes the work she does, and she especially likes to tinker with new stuff. Unlike most of her peers, she'd rather be working than playing. Her friends go to the Mountain to ski; she goes upstairs to work.		

Local Community	Perry Ports	Representative, Port of Hood River
	Perry is a long-term resident of Hood River, and he's fought hard over the years to attract business to the community. He wants to see real jobs come to Hood River; jobs that can support families. He's long been an advocate of developing the waterfront for this purpose, but he was beginning to think he was fighting a losing battle. He was overjoyed then, to hear about the alliance between Gorge On-Line and EOL. "At last," he told himself: "My dream of a developed waterfront can finally come true! Where else, after all, could the regional center be located?"	
	Will Grow	Representative, Hood River Snippers and Growers Association
	Will has been a grower in Hood River his whole life. He used to love it, but over the years, things changed. First it was insecticides, then the cost of labor, then restrictions on worker housing. Finally it was foreign competition. And there's no end in sight. It's nearly impossible to make a living these days. Recently, Will came to believe that the only way things could be different is if the Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) zoning laws got changed. If they did, farmers could at least get into the real estate business. Of course, everyone knew it would be impossible to change the zoning.	
Financial Community	Carmen Commerce	Representative, HR Chamber of Commerce
	Like many of her friends who live in the area, Carmen works only because she needs something to occupy her time. She chose to get involved in the Chamber because she wanted to keep her finger on the pulse of commerce. Her whole family was involved in commerce back East, and she seems to have inherited their interest in it. Of course, she's never told anyone exactly what kind of commerce they were involved in; she didn't want their unsavory lifestyles to affect how she was accepted in the community. If anyone knew that her father did for the mob, well . . .	
	Bob Bets	Betterbets Stock Analysts
	Bob has gained quite a nice reputation for himself over the years, advising people on what kind of stock deals to get involved with, and what kind to run from. He specializes in Internet and technology stocks, and while everyone else was losing their shirts during the bubble, somehow, miraculously, he helped his clients make millions.	
Financial Community	Vicki Venture	V&V Venture Capital Group
	Vicki and her husband Vick founded V&V Venture Capital twenty five years ago. High tech start-ups were just starting to start up, and several of their friends wanted to start a company of their own. Vicki and Vick helped them get off the ground. Their investors made millions, and now they're one of the most highly regarded venture capital firms in the world. Shakers and movers on Wall Street know they have an uncanny knack for identifying good companies to invest in, and for finding investors to invest in them. Even Bob Bets says: "I'll place my bets wherever they place theirs."	
	Barron Buffet	Barron Buffet Holding Company
Barron Buffet is the second richest man in the world. He got that way by making wise investments. But, unlike most investors, Barron seldom, if ever, takes risks. He's known as one of the most conservative investors of our time. He focuses on two kinds of investments: Very big companies and very small companies. In both cases, he looks for companies that are well-established, that have well-defined products, good revenues and well-run operations.		

Sample Role

The 12 main characters each had a role that they played throughout the evening.

Mike Mammoth

Chairman and CEO
Everyone On-Line

You're the head of the biggest Internet services provider in the world. Unlike some of your peer CEO's who have been brought up on charges for all manner of stock manipulation schemes, you're known for your honesty and integrity. What's more, you hold your management team responsible for working in accordance with the high ethical standards you set, and you've been known to fire people who you don't think measure up.

You've also tried to create a culture of caring throughout the giant organization you oversee. You encourage support of a wide range of community relations initiatives, and you have a special interest in helping disadvantaged youths.

The bottom line is that people respect you immensely for what you stand for.

You're interested in buying Gorge On-Line not just because you think it can make some money for you. More than this, you're interested in leaving a personal legacy. You see, you were born in The Dalles. Your father was born there, and his father was born there. You still have family there, but given your hectic schedule, you hardly ever see them. In any case, you want to help people in the area get back on their feet. They've been through so many economic downturns over the years; you figure its time to cut them a break. You want your contribution to be the new regional center. You expect it will create at least 500 new jobs, and by helping create new jobs, you'll be doing your fair share.

Despite everything you've got going for you, you live a lonely life. Your wife, who has her own high-powered career, doesn't really seem to take too much interest in what you do. She's busy with her own thing. Plus, your global responsibilities require that you travel a lot. In fact, you estimate you're on the road about 80% of the time.

There's one other thing about you. Hardly anyone knows it, but once, a very long time ago, you did some jail time for aggravated assault. It seems that despite your normally calm demeanor, there are times when you can get enraged—as you did that Friday night when you found out that your girlfriend was two-timing you. But you did your time, and you've worked hard at controlling your anger ever since.

Sample Arrival Packet: Game Rules

First and foremost, have fun!

Beyond that . . .

- Actively look for clues to see if you can solve the murder.
- Improvise your assigned role if you want to.
- Wear your name card to identify your group affiliation (EOL; GOL; Financial; Local)
- Cast your vote at the end of the evening.



A Murder In The Gorge

Share and gather as many clues as you can.

- You have a number of assigned clues that you will need to share with others throughout the evening. These are listed on the “Clues to Share” page in this packet.
- No one in any of the other three groups (EOL; GOL; Finance) have the same clues you have. However, some of the people in your own group (Local) may have some of the same clues you have.
- You can discover who the murderer is only by gathering clues from others. The more you share your clues with others, the more likely others will share their clues with you.
- Clues can come at any time, in any form. So, be sure to stay alert!

Keep track throughout the evening.

- If you want to keep track of your suspicions throughout the evening, you can use the Clue Worksheet included in this packet.
- Only “**Special Guests**” are suspects, so only Special Guests are included on the worksheet.
- Remember that clues raise suspicions. The greater the suspicion raised by the combined set of clues, the more likely the guilt.
- When you do your final assessment, keep in mind that the suspect can be the murderer, **only** if he or she has **all** of the following:
 - Something in his or her background that leads to suspicion
 - A strong motive to kill
 - A weak alibi (or no alibi)
 - Evidence against him or her in the form of a weapon or eye witness

Remember, no one can leave until the murderer is found!

Clues to Share

Please share clues in the order indicated!

Start sharing these clues over cocktails.

1. Carmen Commerce is a relative newcomer to Hood River. She's not a windsurfer, and in fact, doesn't do any sports at all. She likes to go to Curves from time to time, but that's about it.
2. Carmen Commerce came to Hood River because she liked the beauty that's in it and around it, and because she liked the idea of living in a small, still underdeveloped but "upscale" town.
3. Carmen Commerce travels a lot, mostly for pleasure, and makes frequent trips back to New York City where she grew up.
4. Carmen Commerce knew Bob Bets from years ago when they were both still living in New York.
5. Carmen Commerce found out about the Gorge On-Line / EOL deal while on her last trip to New York. She saw her old friend Bob Bets quoted in the New York Times article, so she decided to call him.

Start sharing these clues over dinner.

6. Carmen Commerce found out from her old friend Bob Bets that George Genius has a separate deal going with the V&V Venture Capital Group. (Bob Bets found out because his friend Vicki from V&V stupidly told him!)
7. Bob Bets told Carmen Commerce that he stands to lose a bundle of money if the deal with V&V goes through because he's already sunk oodles of money into the deal with EOL.
8. Carmen Commerce found out that Bob Bets divorced his wife years ago, and that he's looking for someone he can love.
9. Carmen Commerce wants to make a go of it again with Bob Bets (she was madly in love with him years ago until he threw her over for another woman.) Her only concern is that Bob Bets may not be a good bet right now, especially if he stands to lose much money if the V&V deal goes through.

Start sharing these clues during the break.

10. Bob Bets was seen coming out of Carmen's room upstairs just before the party started.

Start sharing these clues during dessert.

You have no clues to share.

Clue Ratings Worksheet

NOTE: Most clues will **begin** to be revealed in the order shown in the chart below. For instance, background information will *begin* to be known during cocktails, the motives will *begin* to be revealed during dinner, and so on. But keep in mind that given the size of the group and the amount of information to be revealed, you might still be hearing about a suspect's background as late as the dessert phase. Consequently, you may find yourself continually updating the ratings you give each of the suspects throughout the course of the evening.

Suspect		Cocktail			Dinner			Break			Dessert		
		← Degree of Suspicion Raised (Strong – Weak – None) →											
		S	W	N	S	W	N	S	W	N	S	W	N
		Background			Motive			Alibi			Evidence		
Everyone On-Line	Mike Mammoth												
	Paula Painter												
	Ge' Anna Gleeanna												
Gorge On-Line	Bubba Bright												
	George Genius												
	Nicki Tecniki												
Local Community	Perry Ports												
	Will Grow												
	Carmen Commerce												
Financial Community	Bob Bets												
	Vicki Venture												
	Barron Buffet												