

Jay Leno and Erin Brockovich get Oregonized

Bill McDonald hit a milestone last week. He sold his 150th joke to **Jay Leno**. McDonald, who lives in Portland, is serious about being funny. Each day he sends jokes to as many as 100 radio stations around the country . . . and you thought all those drive-time jocks were just genuinely funny, right?

The secret to planting a line in Leno's monologue, McDonald says, is to be there early and often. "It's not that unusual for as many as 12 people around the country to submit the same joke each day. These aren't exactly bolts from heaven."

McDonald, who thinks some of those "Miami relatives" are "a few dancers short of a conga line," has been having much sport of late with Elian. He actually struck gold four nights in a row. "When the kid actually goes back to Cuba," he says, "I'll probably weep." By the way, gold, in the case of Leno, is about \$50 per joke.



**JONATHAN
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While we're in Hollywood . . . Not everyone is working to get a gig on "The Tonight Show." **Erin Brockovich** turned down an appearance the other day. The \$100-million-box-office woman was too busy . . . filming a TV commercial for Oregon.

The folks running the No on Measure 81 campaign asked Brockovich to tape a message opposing the proposal that the Oregon Legislature should be able to limit civil-jury awards.

Unlike **Julia Roberts**, they say, the real Brockovich didn't need a script. She simply boned up on the issue, then let fly.

The art of the deal . . .

Everyone now seems to agree that teaching art to kids was a good idea after all. We just can't agree on actually paying someone to do it. Into this picture steps **Kathy Karbo Felder**, artist, parent, troublemaker.

She has a studio in the Pearl District, where

she notices more and more artists being priced out by rising rents. Which got her to thinking . . .

Schools need artists. Artists need studio space. Some schools have empty classrooms. Why not create "artists-in-residence" in schools who would work with kids in exchange for studio space.

It's been more than two years, she says, since she first presented her proposal to the Portland School District. After much hemming and hawing, she says, back came word that the district doesn't barter. Any school space, she was told, would have to be rented at fair market value. Still, she's not giving up.

"The conversation," she says, "continues. In the meantime, classrooms remain empty, and children are missing out."



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