



LODI ROTARY



SERVICE Above Self

# STRIPPINGS

MAY 18, 2006

## WELCOME AL FRUMKIN

ROTARY YEAR  
2005-2006

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Al Frumkin is the speaker today and what a speaker he is! For those of you who have been here when the Frumkin Tornado (actually a Corvette) passed through Lodi, the speaker needs no introduction, for the rest of you, you are in luck, the man is a legend in his own mind. Which brings up the meeting last week: [Cliff Dochterman](#), RIPP, was here courtesy of the magic of television tape, which, incidentally, didn't diminish the impact of his mastery of the spoken word one iota. The man is a great humorist and he proved for the thousandth time you don't hafta be a grouch to be a great Rotarian.

Cliff talked about the ten points one must observe to be a great club president. The most important one was to never get your thumb between the gavel and the bell when you are calling a belliose meeting to order. The other nine were covered ad nauseum at the PETS conference so he just stuck to the more obvious ones, and since I won't go out of my way to hurt people's feelings, let me just say [Virgil Suess](#) was probably the only Lodi Rotary Club President who did everything he was supposed to and he got special recognition from the High Mugwumpery in Chicago for it.

Some of the items Cliff covered were so basic as to be soporific, but ennui ain't an issue when Cliff holds forth no matter what the subject.

The same holds true in spades when Al Frumkin takes the stage. He knows Rotary really well and he can make the passing of that information a ton of fun. To know him is to love him like a brother.

Cont. page 2

What fascinates me is the need we all seem to have to want people think as we do about most anything. Rotary is like that, and religion is particularly characteristic that way. A lot of the time with some religions, the concept is “I am right and you are wrong”. As time passes I am learning nobody really knows anything for absolutely sure and that is what makes the Da Vinci Code discussion so interesting. The quickest way to get me to stop listening to an individual is when that person prefaces what they are going to tell me with: “God wants you to...”

I have an idea what He wants me to do but I haven't the foggiest notion what he wants you to do.

Well, just one thing: He wants you to come to the evening meeting 6:00 P.M. on May 25<sup>th</sup> at Jackson Hall where the Uptown-Lowdown Jazz Band will play you some of the VERY best Dixieland jazz you have ever heard.

There are some interesting things about music that have been studied and proved true: Cows practically dry up when they are forced to listen to acid rock, progressive jazz and rap. The milk flows profusely when Mozart's and some of his colleagues' music is piped into the barns. People have been shown to respond favorably from practically every standpoint when the music is the kind that soothes the savage breast.

(“Music has charms to soothe the savage breast  
To soften rocks, or bend a knotted oak.”

[William Congreve](#), *The Mourning Bride*, Act 1 Scene 1  
English dramatist (1670 - 1729) )

But then, as you can see, this has been known for several hundred years and fought for the exact same period of time. Takes us back to Einstein again when he said, “Great spirits have often encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds.”

**Just see the Uptown** Lowdown Jazz Band as the great spirits they really are and pick up on your contemporary (dip-stick) music later.