



Lily, clones invade Europe



Officials across Europe reported Lily infestations over several months of late 2023. This coincided with one of the Lily's semester abroad in Madrid.

That Lily, 20, shared a Madrid apartment with three other UCLA Lilys, the goal being to ensure that their Spanish competence would be minimally affected by their residence in the Spanish capital.

Having covered her biochem requirements during a summer term in Westwood, Lily took Introduction to Spanish Clubbing and Paella Eating for Beginners between 14 trips over her four-month academic sojourn.

She and boyfriend Byron's

relationship survived the extended separation despite only being able to FaceTime constantly.

Lily continues to avidly not figure skate, which has contributed to an annoying lack of bruises, sprains, and misdiagnosed fractures. What to do with the 28 pounds of skating medals still hanging in Maya's bedroom annex (formerly Lily's bedroom) remains a topic to be discussed.

**REMEMBER
THE NEEDIEST**

Not-identified tree jealous of identified tree



Maya cake-lobbies for cat



**The Front Range Diet™
is not cheugy in the least.**

Maya solves U.S. gun-violence problem



Denver East High School senior Maya – more specifically, a mug she crafted over the summer in the Neff garage/makeshift ceramics studio – has put an end to America's gun-violence epidemic.

The mug, created through Mugs Against Gun Violence, a nonprofit Maya launched to fuel a donation drive to benefit Everytown for Gun Safety (and, possibly, boost college-admissions odds), was gratified.

"My ending gun violence just goes to show that, even in the face of such nefarious forces as the NRA, the actions of one mug can make a difference," the mug said.

Michael Bloomberg, who has poured tens of millions

of dollars into Everytown for Gun Safety, congratulated the light-green custom ceramic item. He then muttered, "And I spent what?"

When not saving lives via mugs, Maya, 18, has been applying to colleges, playing club and high school soccer, and hanging out with boyfriend Jack.



The second mug from the left, third row, ended U.S. gun violence

Home Santa-bombed, no injuries reported

Unknown assailants Santa-bombed the Neff home in Denver in mid-December. While there were no injuries, the bombing led to a jarring dose of holiday spirit outside the typically cheerless facade.



Crystal Lake Fashion Show a success



Held annually on a vacant boat hoist, the Show's participants sport the latest fashions recently retrieved from the depths of Crystal Lake.

Todd one-ups LeBron



Todd achieved the dream of playing a competitive game alongside his offspring before basketball great LeBron James did, albeit in a coed D-league indoor match in which Maya outscored her father.

Grandma Kay joins puzzle gang

Taking her puzzling to the next level, Grandma Kay has joined The Die Cuts, a puzzle gang. Omerta has prevented her from sharing much detail, but she now keeps a formidable blade handy as an unmistakable warning to would-be puzzle-piece purloiners from rival hobbyist gangs.



Editor Todd Neff
Editorial Assistant Lily Neff
Key Grip Maya Neff

Todd orders mail-order gal

Todd's romantic adventures trended exotic this year with his importation of Katherina Douglasova. They became acquainted on Mammoth-Mamas.ru, which features women who work in museums dedicated to items exposed by melting Siberian permafrost.



Katherina, thrilled at her first exposure to fresh fruit, insisted on carrying it herself.

Unable to find work in permafrost, Katherina has been helping out at Todd's work (as before, happily writing for UCHealth and Feed Media, primarily) by pressing the "enter" key ("ВВОД" in Russian) as he types.

YOUR AD HERE



Katherina, in a fetching pose.

Katherina is a regular attendee of Todd's indoor soccer games when he is not out with yet another quad strain. She remains perplexed by the presence of field turf rather than ice in the modified hockey rink in which his Fresh Baked team plays.



As Katherina learns to drive, her confusing the brake and accelerator pedals has brought terrifying comic relief.

The Front Range Diet™
Conceived entirely
by generative AI

Bacon available online

To mark the Hay Bacon's 24th and final issue, the publisher has posted the complete oeuvre online at toddniff.com/beacon.

TRAVEL REPORT

Lily's Madrid-based travel put us all to shame. She and roommates visited Greece, Italy, Portugal, Germany, Switzerland, Amsterdam, Prague, Paris, London, Barcelona, and Switzerland, among other destinations.

In May, Todd and Kate visited Hamburg and southern Germany, where she met the Pflanzes (of HH, HD, and LU) and the entire Rahnenhof gang.



At a soccer game in Hoffenheim

Todd and Maya got to dip their toes in the waters off the Central Coast during a Cal Poly visit. Todd, Kate, Maya, and Jack spent time in MI with Todd's folks, the Rubadeaus, and, up in Beulah, the Duggans, who again kindly hosted.

Thanksgiving had Kate, her teens Ben and Theo, and mom Elaine down in AZ. Elaine celebrated her 85th birthday overlooking the Sonoran Desert.

Ranchstock, Grand Lake, Fruita, camping with the Fords et al, and Todd's UM Soccer alumni weekend in Ann Arbor rounded things out.



Camping (in the rain)


Maya
Lily
Todd