



## Lily reverses California exodus



### Lily and friends, oblivious to UCLA's shellacking by Oregon on Oct. 23

A global pandemic and a hairline calcaneus fracture combined to thwart Lily's designs on Disney on Ice, with which she could have skated to the "Frozen" song in various Midwestern venues. Instead, she went to UCLA.

There, she and friends from Kappa Kappa Gamma often go wading in fountains.



When not wading in fountains, Lily is majoring in chemistry. Her father, who was wont to confuse Avagadro for a guacamole ingredient, attributes Lily's aptitude for this field to genetic contributions of former Hay Bacon co-editor Carol.

Newfangled lollipops "taste like cardboard," Maya says



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While Lily, 18, is not yet fluent in Californese, she has learned to apply the terms "Yer" and "baller" in appropriate contexts.

Not that UCLA doesn't have its downsides. "It takes some adjustment to get used to the mild weather, vibrant social scene, and proximity to beaches," she said.

In order to go to UCLA, students sometimes graduate from high school first. Lily decided to go that route.



Coronavirus-themed grad sign, above, and family, below. Or vice-versa.

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Friendly anthropomorphic cactus resents being described as "prickly"



## CAROL RESIGNS, TAKES LETTERS

Carol has left her position as Holiday Beacon co-editor and other-co-editor spouse, taking with her the letters "o," "l," "i," "d," and "e" as part of a generally amicable separation agreement.

What she will do with "olide" remains unknown, though it appears the terms "I dole" and "De oil" are front-runners, however vague they may be. Speculation is she'll exploit them on a suitably cryptic vanity plate.

Hay Bacon staffers have learned that she has taken up temporary residence at IMT Lowry, the apartment complex she and Todd moved into after arriving in Denver 21 years ago (then called AMLI, another deeply evocative name). When things settle down, she will be pursuing climate-resilient housing opportunities.



Carol considers a climate-resilient housing opportunity.

Todd will be staying in the house, mainly because he knows how to semi-safely operate a weed whacker and is the designated dogsh\*t picker-upper.

## Carol confirms dinosaurs to be warm-blooded

While volunteering as a temperature-taker during the Commerce City Salud clinic's coronavirus vaccination drive in March, Carol put an end to the controversy surrounding the warm-or-cold-bloodedness of ancient "terrible lizards." She in fact found one triceratops to be a little too warm-blooded, and this precluded his admission to the clinic for vaccination.

## Lily fails in attempt to convert Nathan Chen to pairs skating

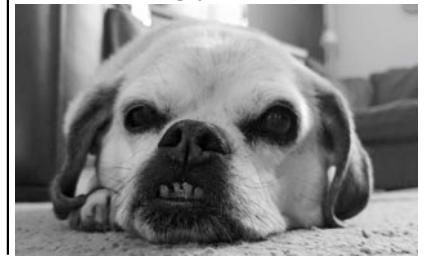


Nathan Chen gently rebuffed Lily's overtures for him to abandon men's singles and give pairs skating with her a go.

"While I appreciate your interest, I...I'm a three-time world champion and America's best hope for figure skating gold in Beijing," he gently explained.

As a consolation, Chen agreed to appear in an Xfinity Rewards TV spot that would run incessantly during Olympics coverage and "The Office" on Freeform. (More at <https://bit.ly/3rGdaGF>.)

## Oscar, 14, prefers "hot" to "devastatingly handsome"



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## Maya wows with sharpshooting ability



Maya's sophomore year at Denver East High School has been vastly more high-school-like than her freshman year, primarily because she has spent her days in the actual high school.

She continues to play soccer on both the East JV team and her longtime team, CRYSC05G, which may be a meaningful name in hexadecimal.

Despite her unorthodox style, Maya seems to be a gifted sharpshooter.

"She may have held the gun against the wrong shoulder and been using her weaker eye, but what matters is the kill," said a range official who preferred to remain anonymous.

Maya, 16, now has her driver's license and has taken primary custody of the 2015 Ford C-Max previously known as "The LilyMobile."

She got her first job this summer manning the Lowry Swim Club snack bar.



Maya's father chaperoned CRYSC05G at a tournament in Las Vegas. Unfortunately, a clerical error led to their being flighted into a poker tournament. Their soccer training did not translate, and the girls were ousted early by a field hockey team from Billings.

### REMEMBER THE NEEDIEST



Maya in her role as a "snackie"

## In memorium

Donald Louis Eirich, better known around here as "Grandpa Don," passed away on Oct. 30 at age 84. Pictured in June 2003 with Lily, Don was a wonderful grandfather and rock-solid father-in-law to Hay Bacon staff. We miss him dearly.



## Todd embraces new tasks

While the year started out fairly routinely for Todd, the latter months of 2021 added such activities as YouTubing (see [grammargeezers.com](http://grammargeezers.com)), ghostwriting (this involves writing about ghosts), cooking, doing the laundry, determining mutually equitable asset splits, and watching Carol's personal items disappear from the house.

He has continued to play soccer, and remained injury free except for that one cracked rib and the nagging posterior tibial tendonitis he is currently rehabbing. He did play in a couple of small-sided matches during the University of Michigan soccer team's alumni festivities. These were capped with a tailgate and a "Maize-out" game at the Big House, which that night hosted the world's largest single gathering of drunk people.



Todd, right, drunk with old pal and teammate Steve Burns

Despite having written dozens of coronavirus articles for *UHealth Today*, he has yet to contract it. Or maybe he has.

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### Bacon available online

To mark the Hay Bacon's 22nd and final issue, the publisher has posted the complete oeuvre online at [toddniff.com/beacon](http://toddniff.com/beacon).

## TRAVEL REPORT

The Neffs got out quite a bit in 2021, perhaps recklessly so given the coronavirus pandemic.

Most notably, they threaded the post-Alpha, pre-Delta needle in late July and early August, flying to Greece to meet their old friends the Pflanzes and the Machas (in English, the Plants and the Makes).



Less exotically, the Neffs spent spring break with the Eirichs in Galveston, Texas, and Todd and the girls visited the Duggans in Beulah, Mich.; his folks in Arizona; and the Rabbit Ears Motel in Steamboat Springs for some early season skiing and coronavirus spreading (Lily tested positive upon her return just before Christmas).

In June the family visited the Park City Neffs to celebrate Drew's and Lily's high school graduation and Grandpa Doug's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. There, Maya practiced her marksmanship in a water fight with her cousins.



Maya, cousins exacerbate U.S. gun-violence epidemic

