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Do you plan to attend Angels games this season?

- Yes, my company has season tickets.
- No, my company used to have season tickets.
- Yes, on occasion.
- No, I'm not a fan.

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Posted date: 4/13/2009

Beard's Off, Now He Seeks Tax Cut; Recalling O'Neill

By Rick Reiff

ORANGE COUNTY BUSINESS JOURNAL STAFF

John Campbell has shaved off the "mourning beard" he'd been growing since the Democrat landslide Nov. 4. Not that the Republican congressman from Irvine is done mourning—he decries a lack of bipartisanship among politicians in dealing with the recession. But Campbell—a CPA, member of both the House Budget and Financial Services Committees and a free thinker on the financial crisis—is a go-to guy for Fox, CNBC and other media. "I've been doing a lot of television, and getting a lot of feedback from viewers, constituents, 'What's that (beard) about?'" Unlike many other House conservatives, Campbell voted for the bank bailout, has opined against Chapter 11 bankruptcy for GM and gets along well with Barney Frank; but he also opposed the Obama stimulus package. Campbell used to own several car dealerships (Saab, Saturn, Ford, Nissan, Mazda) but predicts, "In six months, all but one dealership I started will be out of business." He's pushing a bill (he says the idea came from a constituent) for a capital-gains-tax holiday to stimulate investment: Homes, stocks, bonds, businesses and other assets purchased during a period of six months or so would never be subject to the tax. The bill has "some traction," but there's been no comment from the president. Meanwhile, Campbell said on "Inside OC" that he opposes the Schwarzenegger-backed propositions on the May ballot; he says they perpetuate the unions' stranglehold on the state budget. He would take "seriously" a challenge in 2010 from Democratic Irvine Councilwoman Beth Krom, despite his district's GOP tilt: "She has a name, a title and a support base." And Campbell says he's not only recovered from the intestinal surgery he had in February at Mayo Clinic, but feels "120% better"...



WEEKLY EDITION
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Former Daily Pilot chiefs Tom Johnson and Bill Lobdell have retained lawyer Michael C. Carroll (another writer) to solicit venture capital for their planned Web-print news hybrid. The working name is Newport-Mesa Daily Voice, which echoes the popular Voice of San Diego, a Web-only nonprofit. The buzz continues for Lobdell's book, "Losing My Religion" ...

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Richard J. O'Neill was scion of a ranching legacy, a catalyst of Orange County's development, philanthropist and a power in California Democratic politics. But friend Michael Ray recalls that when strangers would ask O'Neill what he did, O'Neill would typically reply that he owned a restaurant, and if pressed, would say a Mexican restaurant (El Adobe in San Juan Capistrano): "I asked him why he just did not tell them the truth, that he was a big landowner and all that." O'Neill said that might be intimidating, but everyone enjoyed talking about food and restaurants. "So there he was, on Forbes' list of 400 richest people, selecting a topic about which other people would feel comfortable and involved as a peer. And then Richard would drive away in an ancient VW bug. And it was genuine—zero artifice."



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