

Tumwater businesses carry on with billboard banter
The Olympian
March 17, 1988

In times of grief, a sign of support from friends doth soothe the pain.

With that in mind, two Tumwater businesses this week have used their reader boards to offer words of comfort to each other.

“Hello Western Meat. How’s Your Side of the Street?” Migel Restaurant’s readerboard inquired Monday.

Western Meat owner Dennis Mydlar said the question was prompted by the previous week’s front-page news that Western Meat had been fleeced of an estimated \$40,000 worth of meat by what police called a sophisticated con artist ring.

Mydlar used his readerboard to respond to Migel’s show of concern.

“Not well, but Sunday’s brunch was great,” the sign read. Mydlar had been to Migel’s for brunch the previous day.

On Tuesday, Migel’s readerboard just across Capitol Boulevard read: “Hello Western Meat. Keep on Trucking. We’re Behind You.”

Western Meat’s reply: “Trucking’s What Got Us Into This Mess, but Thanks for the Support.”

The trucking reference relates to the robbery, Mydlar said. The meat apparently was stolen from a truck after it had been sent to a supposed buying in Tacoma.

On Tuesday, Migel’s readerboard read: “It’s looking up from here on both sides of the street.” Mydlar said the message is a reference to the fact both companies have weathered bad news of late: A Migel’s worker in January contracted hepatitis, prompting 3,000 people who had dined at the restaurant to receive gamma globulin shots to prevent hepatitis symptoms.

Mydlar responded with encouragement of his own: “And it’s a Great Day for a Round of Golf, a Margarita and a Barbeque.”

The business readerboards normally are used to advertise prices or pass on community news, Mydlar said. He said he’s unsure how long the signs’ dialogue will continue.