

“IRRESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM” IS SUCH A RELATIVE TERM

Sick schoolkids slaughtered “for own good”

SWEETWATER, IA (AP)—International media attention is suddenly focused on the American Midwest, where an epidemic of hand, foot and mouth disease is sweeping elementary schools and requiring the mass slaughter of rural seven- and eight-year olds.

The sudden outbreak can be traced to the rural District of Sweetwater in central Iowa. “One by one, children were missing school, complaining of flu-like symptoms,” recalls second grade teacher Mrs. Irene Knobloch. “Then the blisters appeared, and we knew we were dealing with hand, foot and mouth. That’s when we called in the government.”

The disease, commonly caused by coxsackievirus A-16, is characterized by the painful blisters or sores that break out inside the victim’s mouth and on the soles of his or her hands and feet, lasting for up to a week. Survivors have nicknamed it “second-grade syphilis.” According to Sweetwater Elementary School nurse Audrey Lewis, “The virus is spread when germs from the feces of the infected person reach the mouth of an uninfected person.”

“Like AIDS,” commented a concerned Mrs. Knobloch.

Accurate diagnosis of the illness requires expensive and time-consuming tests—tests that Sweetwater school officials say they don’t have time to consider. “We can’t wait to see if today’s sniffles will turn into tomorrow’s hand, foot and mouth. We have to act fast,” says Lewis. “I have a lot of skinned knees to clean.”

We’re putting the students out of their misery, really,” claims Joseph Bullwood, Superintendent of Sweetwater School District. “Hand, foot and mouth is extremely unpleasant and nasty. Did you hear what Nurse Lewis said about the feces? Besides, studies have shown that even when the students are allowed to recover, they’re generally less productive.”

“This is just an experimental move,” Nurse Lewis told reporters. “If we succeed in stopping the spread of the disease, we may apply the slaughter method to other pernicious childhood ailments, including pinkeye and head lice.”

Mrs. Knobloch nodded grimly. “That’ll teach them to keep their hands to themselves.”



“Slaughtering second-graders is the hardest part of my job,” says school nurse Audrey Lewis. AFP

Girl on other side of fire door having problems with boyfriend

By Lee Rosenfeld
Staff Reporter

Late Wednesday night, sources at the *Daily sNews* revealed that the girl who lives on the other side of the paper-thin fire door in this reporter’s bedroom is experiencing considerable difficulties in her romantic relationship. The girl, who lives on the fourth floor of entryway K in Branford College, has been dating “Ted” for several months, frequently engaging in noisy sexual play on weeknights while listening to *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill* on endless repeat. But Wednesday night (or, more accurately, Thursday morning) during a routine two A.M. telephone conversation, their seemingly idyllic relationship took a turn for the worse.

The girl on the other side of this reporter’s fire door has never sounded quite so hysterical as she did Wednesday night, sobbing into the phone well after “quiet hours” in Branford College were supposedly in effect. “Sometimes I feel like I just don’t know you,” she wailed loudly, in a voice that could penetrate any tightly-clamped pillow. “Do my needs even matter?” The response of her boyfriend,

Ted, could not be determined, but based on previous evidence, this reporter has deduced that he is a pre-med who never has any time to spend with his girlfriend anymore. The girl on the other side of the fire door has been known to call him “Teddy Bear” in happier circumstances, but on Wednesday she addressed him alternately as “You Heartless Asshole” and “You Scum-Sucking Pig.”

The girl on the other side of this reporter’s fire door was unavailable for comment, but after hanging up the phone she wept noisily until at least four in the morning, in spite of the fact that this reporter had a midterm the following day at nine. The *YDS* will print updates on the situation as they become available, or until the girl on the other side of this reporter’s fire door learns to take the phone into the common room—whichever comes first.

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Tentative Midwest peace agreement reached

JEFFERSON CITY (AP)—A marathon negotiating session ended today with a joint announcement by Illinois Governor George Ryan and Missouri Governor Bob Holden of a permanent cessation of hostilities. If the agreement holds together, and there is every sign that it will, the landmark truce will mark the end of a contentious period between the two states, returning peace to the battered Midwest region.

"This is the beginning of a new chapter here in the Midwest," declared a visibly emotional Governor Ryan, who only weeks ago had vowed to "bring down a hammer of wrath" upon Eastern Missouri. "From this day forward, let this region be known as a land of understanding."

"Words cannot capture my joy at this moment," said a weary but resolute Governor Holden, who has yet to issue an official retraction of his stated intention to personally rape Governor Ryan's wife, Lura Lynn, as well as his triplet daughters. "The human capacity to transcend animosity is a wondrous thing."

After completing their statements, the two men solemnly embraced, to the uproarious applause of a crowd of thousands. Governor Holden then presented a key to the city of Springfield to Governor Ryan. Governor Ryan responded by bestowing an honorary doctorate from the University of Missouri-Rolla to Governor Holden and pledging to cede much of the contested St. Louis region to the neighboring state.

News of the delicate peace was met with cautious optimism across the nation and the world this morning.

"Peace in the Midwest has been a dream for so many of us for as long as I can remember," said Secretary of State Colin Powell just before embarking on a congratulatory visit to the region. "We can only hope that the people of Missouri and Illinois can preserve what has been accomplished, without falling back into the pattern of hate and violence that has recently been associated with the Midwest."



AFP

With a 25-year papacy on his resume, the spry pontiff is optimistic about his prospects in the job market.

Pope John Paul II quietly mailing out résumés

ROME (AP)—As the Catholic church continues to cope with a barrage of criticism for its failure to respond adequately to the problem of sexual abuse that has so tainted its ranks, Pope John Paul II reportedly has begun "sending out feelers" to determine his future job prospects.

Currently the spiritual leader of the Roman Catholic Church, the Pope, né Karol Wojtyła, has expressed optimism that the "fallback" accounting degree he received in 1975 will allow for a smooth and satisfying transition to a new career.

"I said to myself the other day, 'John Paul II, you're 82 years old. Isn't it time you started devoting yourself to something meaningful?'" the Pope explained last week. "I've been Pope since 1978. That was the year that *Animal House* came out. The John Belushi character was me, basically. I had no direction, no motivation, nothing. But my uncle knew a guy, so I ended up with this Pope thing. It's been good, mostly. Did

you know that I can be infallible whenever I want to?" He paused to autograph a copy of his bestseller, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, for an admirer, then continued, "Lately things haven't exactly been rosy, and I'm starting to think that this isn't the right field for me. I just added 'Pope: 1978-2002' to my resume the other day. I figure that'll give me an edge."

If his job hunt is successful, John Paul II will be the first pope to end his term in a manner other than dying. However, the current economic climate leaves his chances in doubt.

"We're really having trouble placing anyone right now," explained Carlo Azeglio, a manager at a temp agency near the Vatican. "I just couldn't say whether his Holiness would be able to find what he's looking for at the moment. I'd really have to see his references before I could make any kind of evaluation."

Minghella to direct remake of Van Sant's *Psycho*

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—In a Paramount press release this week, award-winning director Anthony Minghella (*The Talented Mr. Ripley*, *The English Patient*) announced his intent to direct a tribute to Gus Van Sant's 1998 remake of the 1960 horror classic, *Psycho*. The new *Psycho*, according to Minghella, will be "a shot-by-shot recreation of Van Sant's shot-by-shot recreation of Hitchcock's classic movie."

"So much has changed in Hollywood since 1998," Minghella told reporters.

"We're in a whole new century now! It's time to re-examine this classic film—Van Sant's, I mean."

The movie, slated to begin shooting next month, will reportedly star Keanu Reeves and Reese Witherspoon. "Our schedule depends on how soon we can build the new sets," Minghella said. "They have to clear a third lot next to the other two *Psycho* houses. But we're all ready to start—after all, the script is already written!"

Math professor scores with sassy “Let’s talk about sets” quip

By Hank Allen
Contributing Reporter

Yale students enrolled in Math 244—Discrete Mathematics I were surprised and delighted by Professor Agnes Lappan’s “feisty” and “totally unexpected” lecture Wednesday morning. One aroused sophomore told the *sNews*, “I thought it would be just another lecture on Stirling numbers and their relationship to infinite sets. I certainly didn’t expect Professor Lappan to start out with such a witty double entendre.” Another student observed, “The simultaneous reference to sex and the classic Salt-N-Pepa chart topper showed comedic depth and cultural knowledge unsurpassed in the math department.”

A third, less impressed student remarked, “I don’t know what the big deal is. I mean, she said ‘Let’s talk about sets,’ and then we talked about them. I don’t think it’s that... Oh. I get it.”



BY PARRISH/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Professor Agnes Lappan is known for her witty math-related innuendo.

Professor Lappan has long been known for her subtle attempts at math-related humor, though her lectures on the “den of sine” and “the ASS proof” didn’t meet with the same success as her newest pun. “I sit in my office thinking of little phrases to startle the class and get them to pay attention,” she told the *sNews*. “Sometimes I have to work for hours, and sometimes it just strikes me out of nowhere. I like to think that’s how Newton worked.”

When asked about her next lecture, she replied, “Oh, let’s just say it might have something to do with S&M... sets and modular forms.”

Report: U.S. lags behind science fiction in futuristic technology

By Polly Fox
Contributing Reporter

A recent study conducted by researchers at Cornell University reveals that the U.S. is falling far short of the level of technological innovation predicted by science fiction literature and cinema.

The report, released earlier this month, describes numerous breakthroughs foretold by movies such as *2001* and *Blade Runner* and books such as *Brave New World* and *Fahrenheit 451*, lamenting the fact that these innovations have not materialized in the slightest.

“It’s a real disappointment,” said report author Dr. Bruce Tommasini, a professor in the Film Studies department. “We’ve been waiting years for the sort of high-tech inventions that the entertainment industry has promised us. We figured that 2001 would be the year that it all come together—from Stanley Kubrick to B-grade sci-fi flicks from the 50s, everyone knew that the future was supposed to have started by now. Yet even with the billions annually spent on technical research, we’ve seen virtually nothing. Scientists seem stuck on the same old problems. ‘We have to cure cancer.’ ‘We have to stop global warming.’ Blah blah blah. What about those pills that contain an entire meal? Are they even being seriously researched?”

Literature Professor and fellow scholar Andrew Greene enumerated further futuristic innovations that have not yet been

developed, including flying cars, robotic police officers, underwater bubble cities, time travel, and leisure trips to the moon.

“George Orwell’s masterpiece *1984* is a nightmarish vision of a society where citizens live in constant fear of torture and death at the hands of the Thought Police and Big Brother,” stated Greene. “Plus, they had these really awesome telescreen thingies that let people look at you in your house if you were watching TV. Eighteen years later, and we’ve still got nada. Hell, not even one global atomic war which would necessitate said police state.”

Dr. Tommasini decried scientists’ “laziness” in not pursuing loftier goals. “Just consider the Segway,” he said, alluding to the recently unveiled “human transporter” from acclaimed engineer Dean Kamen. “The mysterious device known as ‘IT,’ one of the most hyped inventions in years, turned out to be a gay-looking scooter. Whoopdee freaking-doo. Where are the hover boards from *Back to the Future II*? Man, those things were cool.”

Asked to summarize the study’s findings, Professor Greene explained, “You know, if I had a time machine, I’d go back in time and find a bunch of gold and bury it and then dig it up when I came back and then I’d be super rich.”

Greene then took a Boba Fett Electronic Blaster out of his pocket, fired three shots at an imaginary target, and jumped under a fort made of couch cushions.

EMI to release latest Beatles compilation album, *Eleven*

LONDON (AP)—Following the success of their previous ten albums of repackaged Beatles hits, EMI has announced plans to release yet another Fab Four rehash disc, *Eleven*, which scrapes the bottom of the Apple barrel to feature some of the group’s least loved songs.

“A lot of people will tell you that the Beatles never had a bad song—well, that’s almost true, but we think this compilation will change people’s minds,” says Executive Producer Neil Aspinall. “These are the songs an entire generation grew up skipping on their turntables, and now we’re bringing their abnormal mediocrity to a whole new audience.”

The stylishly-packaged album is set to include such lackluster tunes as “It’s Only Love,” “Wild Honey Pie,” “I Wanna Be



Your Man,” “It’s Only a Northern Song,” “Revolution #9” and of course, *Abbey Road*’s endless noise-fest, “I Want You (She’s So Heavy).”

“We didn’t have quite enough to fill an entire album,” admits Apple Publicist Derek Taylor, “So we tossed in a few Gerry and the Pacemakers B-sides. We figured, who’s gonna know?”

Government actively seeking more handicapped to fill Connecticut's vacant parking spaces

HARTFORD (AP)—The Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles issued a statement today calling on all able-bodied handicapped persons to increase their use of designated parking spaces in lots across

the country. Citing “unacceptable vacancy rates,” the DMV is actively seeking to mobilize Connecticut’s disabled, hoping to fill state-wide voids immediately adjacent to the entries of various supermarkets, department stores, and other consumer destinations.

“This sort of thing has been going on for too long,” commented an insider who asked not to be identified. “It’s high time those prime parking areas saw some action. There’s, like, two in front of every store in the nation. Two! And I have to park across the damn street to get my dry cleaning!”

The DMV is considering several strategies to combat the low handicapped turnout. In addition to asking car dealers to offer a special “disability rates” to prospective handicapped buyers, an advertising campaign is currently being developed “to make using the parking spaces an attractive and empowering option,” according to an anonymous marketing analyst. “Our working slogan is, ‘Get out of your wheelchair and into a car! And then

park it!’”

Some officials, however, are skeptical of a high handicapped turnout, even with increased publicity. “There simply aren’t enough disabled Connecticut residents who are responsible for their family’s shopping,” said a DMV spokesman (speaking on condition of anonymity). “If our citizens don’t start maiming themselves in large numbers, we’re going to have to seek out volunteers.”

Commissioner Gary J. DeFilippo firmly denied any plans to increase the ranks of the disabled through voluntary handicapping. “Neither the Connecticut State Government nor the Department of Motor Vehicles in any way encourages citizens to improve their parking situation by rendering themselves handicapped, the criteria for which are listed on our website. Please do not take extreme measures to render your lives immeasurably easier and your walk to Blockbuster significantly shorter.” He winked vigorously, and declined to take further questions.

Dad institutes TIPS program at home

DALLAS (AP)—Inspired by President Bush’s recent proposal to create a nationwide “neighborhood watch” program, American citizen and father Derek Browning has decided to impose his own TIPS program on his Dallas, Texas household.

The success of Browning’s TIPS program (the name stands for “Tattletale Information Passing System”) depends largely on the dedicated participation of his two children, nine-year-old Katy and six-year old Stephen, who will be extensively trained in eavesdropping, diary-reading, and phone-tapping. “We’ll start small, of course,” Browning says. “Katy will tell us if she hears Stephen using cuss words or planning to buy small firearms, and Stephen will tell us if Katy is sneaking cookies between meals. I expect it to really pick up when Katy starts dating, though,” he added conspiratorially. Browning will also encourage his children to spy on their mother, who, according to Browning, “has been working late an awful lot lately.”

The children told the press they were looking forward to taking part in their father’s innovative parenting program. “Mom lets Stephen get away with everything, just ‘cause he’s the baby,” whined Katy. “‘Katy, let your brother use the Legos.’ ‘Katy, don’t ask your brother to store suspicious-looking packages in his carry-on luggage.’ I guess we’ll see who gets sent to bed early *now*.”

Stephen had just one complaint: “Dad put a ninety-five-watt bulb in my nightlight. I told him I can’t sleep unless it’s dark in my room, but he said I have to leave it turned on, or the feed from the surveillance camera will be too dim.”

President Bush applauded the Browning family’s patriotic initiative: “Homeland security starts in the home,” he said earnestly. “If we as a nation are to treat potential terrorists like unruly children, we must begin by treating our unruly children like terrorists.”

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“This peanut-butter pie shouldn’t be driving! It’s not even twelve o’clock yet, and anyway I think my husband is afraid of the water.” – Marlene, 41

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