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Nëws thãt's trüe!

PITTSBURGH (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette): Ms. Courtney Mann, a tax preparer, single mother, and head of the Philadelphia chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of White People, was rebuffed after attempting to join a Ku Klux Klan-sponsored march in Pittsburgh in April 1997. Although she had been involved in the NAAWP for over four years, the Klan turned her down, not surprisingly, because of race: she's black. Said the Grand Dragon incredulously: "She wanted to stay at my house [during rally weekend]. She's all confused, man. I don't think she knows she's black." In reply, Ms. Mann retorted: "It's interesting that he said that, because I don't think he knows he's not a dragon."

JIDDA, SAUDI ARABIA (AP): The opening of the New Haven Ikea made waves in the Yale community, as Elis now have convenient access to Klippan sofas and bookcases Billy to replace the cardboard boxes that comprise their normal dorm room furnishings. But apparently Saudi Arabians like low-cost Scandinavian furniture even more than Yalies, and will kill to get it: at an opening of an outpost of the retail giant in Jidda a murderous mob of 8,000 vying for a limited promotional discount stampeded three people to death and injured seventeen more. It appears the peaceful Swedes have a dark side...

LONDON (Edmonton Journal): It turns out insurance salespeople *are* all the same. In 1998, Charles Cornell won his lawsuit at the High Court based on charges that his personality had become ill-suited to insurance following an automobile accident. The accident gave him a head injury, after which time his sales plummeted and his insurance businesses failed. Doctors concluded that the injury had left Cornell with a "gentler, more amiable" personality, which he was able to prove was unsuitable to selling insurance.

DAYTON, WASH. (Seattle Times): Robert Shields, 77, has written what is likely the longest personal diary ever. The manuscript takes up 81 cardboard boxes and contains nearly 38 million words—but only spans 24 years of his life. And you thought Yalies had verbal diarrhea.

FLORIDA (Sarasota Herald-Tribune): Commissioners in two counties passed ordinances in 1999 that prohibit public nudity by restricting the amount of skin women can reveal. Women must now cover at least 25 percent of the area of their breasts and at least 33 percent of the buttocks. Commissioners have added highly detailed instructions as to the points from which each coverage must be measured. Frat boys throughout Florida and crew members for Girls Gone Wild united quickly thereafter to appeal the ordinances in state court.

RALEIGH (Raleigh News & Observer): Isn't it annoying when you're trying to make a clean getaway but you can't because there are people having sex in your car? Michael Guilbault thinks so: in 1997 he pleaded guilty to robbing a Raleigh convenience store after a seriously botched getaway. Guilbault and his accomplice had planned to flee the store and meet their friends Heather Beckwith, 18, and Curtis Johnson, 19, at the nearby getaway car. When the robbers arrived at the car, however, they found the doors locked and the couple "in the act," as the trial's prosecutor termed it. The two robbers had to wait until the couple had finished before they could get in the car, but by that time witnesses had noticed them yelling and making a commotion and had called the police. Prosecutors have yet to determine whether the suspects had been yelling because they needed to flee the scene fast, or because they had both wanted to nail the girl themselves. ☹

