

The World We Live In

DALLAS (Reuters) – An out-of-court settlement was reached last week in the case of a North Texas surgery patient who woke up from a bladder operation to find doctors had amputated his penis. I bet those doctors sure felt silly! Apparently, they saw tissue during the surgery indicating that the patient's bladder cancer had spread to the urethra, and they felt removing the penis would provide the best chance for his survival. The patient's attorney countered this by aptly pointing out that his client "was not informed that he was going to wake up and not have a penis."

MILFORD, NY (Reuters) – A well-meaning but, let's be honest, totally misguided husband-and-wife entrepreneur team is making great strides to introduce carbonated milk at school cafeterias around the country. Mary Ann Clark, a registered nurse with an incredibly wholesome name, came up with her incredibly wholesome idea after being "pained" for years by schoolchildren's rejection of wholesome milk in favor of unwholesome, evil soda. So, in 1996, she and biochemist husband George set about to solve the problem by adding carbonation to milk, apparently unaware that it is the high sugar content of soda that attracts children, not dissolved CO₂. Not swayed by these sobering facts, however, the Clarks have mastered the formula and are selling their "Refreshing Power Milk" across the country. It has the nutritional value of skim milk and comes in such inexplicable flavors as Brazilian chocolate.

ENCINO, CA (Reuters) – In other news from the world of really strange marketing ideas, local dentist Roger Freeman has been selling, quite successfully, a line of neckties featuring

magnified pictures of various diseases from microscope slides. Patterns depicting tuberculosis, herpes, HIV, chlymydia, Ebola, and various other pathogens have been selling briskly, presumably to crazy people. "The syphilis tie is gorgeous," commented Freeman. "The plague tie is pretty, but it's sold out."

GRINNELL, IA (Associated Press) – A really, really thoughtless armored car crew, whose stupidity is rivaled only by their capacity to get themselves fired, let the car's entire load fly out



with the wind on Interstate 80, causing what spectators described as a "cash blizzard." While cars stopped on both sides of the highway to avoid crashing and (duh) to snap up some of the cash, the crew drove happily on for several miles before realizing at a rest stop that they had left the door of their armored car open and all the money had flown out.

WHEELING, IL (Associated Press) – A local woman pleaded guilty to misdemeanor battery after attacking a male stripper who failed to meet expectations at her daughter's bachelorette party. Aw, moms are so great. Her guilty plea even convinced

prosecutors to drop similar charges against the bride-to-be and one of the bridesmaids. The 28-year-old man suffered serious injuries after being punched, kicked, and hit over the head with a bottle after attendees became angry that he showed up late and turned out to be a stand-in for the requested dancer.

ST. LOUIS (Associated Press) – Poor Missouri. In addition to being, on the whole, kind of lame, it is now being terrorized by marauding hordes of brutal, heartless...carp. Two nonnative species have been leaping out of Missouri rivers right into boats, causing serious injuries and damage to watercraft. Much like *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* or *Gigli*, the fish were originally introduced to control algae and waste in aquaculture ponds, but soon shook off the manacles of human control and escaped into the rivers, showing arrogant man once and for all that his supposed dominance of nature is indeed a fragile illusion. For instance, they knocked some cavity fillings out of a field biologist. One can only hope that some great hero can rid the Missouri rivers of the carp menace, allowing small Missouri children to sleep in peace once again. ☹



Watch out!

–Photo Courtesy AP