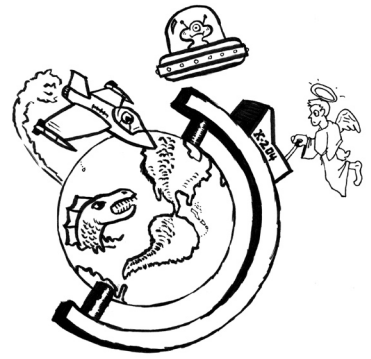


Bogie by the Banana Rat!



WALES (Western Mail)—Rowdy teens had been loitering outside Rod Nedahl’s general store. The police wouldn’t help, so what did this feisty Welshman do? Sic his dog on them? Douse them with freezing water? No, something much worse—Gregorian chant. Vigilante Nedahl realized that the one thing a fast crowd can’t stand is being thought square. And Gregorian chant, a form of medieval modal plainsong, is the squarest. After Nedahl started blasting tapes of the chants from speakers outside his shop every evening, the unruly youth who formerly congregated there decided to move on to less classical pastures. As a local policeman correctly, if entirely inappositely, put it: “youngsters don’t like to listen to Beethoven.”

LONDON (Sunday Times)—Herds of cattle have often been used as apt metaphors for herd-like humans. But British researchers claim to have discovered that cows, like humans, are capable of strong emotion and lusty passion. John Webster, professor of animal husbandry at the University of Bristol, conducted research showing how with-

in a herd certain cows form intense friendships and bear grudges against outsiders. Webster, perhaps inadvertently harming his argument about the ethical standing of barnyard animals, also observed unstoppable lust in the cow population, leading them to repeatedly attempt to mount each other: “Cows look calm, but really they are gay nymphomaniacs,” he said.

JERUSALEM (NY Times)—In a beautiful gesture of religious harmony, leaders of the three major monotheistic religions came together in Jerusalem to validate the common principles underlying their faiths—implacable hatred for filthy homosexuals. Representatives from various branches of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam held a news conference in response to a gay pride parade planned for this summer. “[Unholy sodomites] are creating a deep and terrible sorrow that is unbearable,” said Israel’s chief Sephardic rabbi, Shlomo Amara. His Sufi colleague agreed, saying that it “is very ugly and very nasty to have these people come to Jerusalem.” Ecumenical unity is truly a beautiful thing.

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (AOL News)—Everyone loves “Kids Say the Darndest Things;” everyone loves Cops. So a combination of the two premises is bound to result in instant hilarity. Perhaps the incident was not so hilarious for the anonymous five-year-old girl at Fairmount Park Elementary, cuffed, shackled, and thrown in the back of a police cruiser after being arrested for battery. Apparently the class was doing a counting exercise involving jelly beans, but rather than appreciate the Platonic beauty of numbers, the girl began “acting silly,” prompting the teacher to revoke her bean privileges. The girl then went on a destructive rampage in which she “threw books and boxes, kicked a teacher in the shins, smashed a candy dish, hit an assistant principal in the stomach and drew on the walls.” Like all good crimes sprees, it was too good to the last: the fuzz arrived to take the miscreant downtown. The girl’s words, before they took her downtown: “I don’t want to go to jail.”

GUANTANAMO (Japan Mail)—Much attention has been showered on the prison conditions of “enemy combatants” at Guantanamo’s Camp X-Ray, which may or may not violate the so-called Geneva Conventions—but has anyone stopped to ask how the soldiers on the other side of the barbed wire are faring? Apparently, life at Gitmo is not all its cracked up to be. Recently, military personnel were not even able to have a daily dose of Starbucks coffee, until the mega-retailer opened four kiosks in the isolated base. “Oddly enough, it did lift my morale,” said one corporal. For soldiers bored of drinking coffee and interrogating detainees, plans are also in the works to provide a miniature golf course that will feature as obstacles miniature guard towers and plastic banana rats, one of Gitmo’s ubiquitous pests. ☹

