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Where the Money Goes
in Pines of Carolina Girl Scout Council



COOKIE MONEY—Where the money from the sales of Girl Scout cookies is shown by this chart. Hoke County Girl Scouts and Brownies are taking orders for cookies till February 8. The cookies will be delivered between March 8 and 22.

Pierced Duck, Menacing Cobra, Playboy Bird Made 1981 An Antic Year In Animal Kingdom

Those field mice infected with bubonic plague that threatened President Reagan on his California ranch and the stranded shark that got roped by Vice President Bush on a Maine beach were not the only wild creatures that made news in 1981.

An assortment of animals that Noah would be proud of crept into headlines around the world by causing trouble for some humans, helping others, and by just struggling to survive -- sometimes unsuccessfully -- in a world dominated by humans, the National Wildlife Federation found in its annual survey of animal antics during the past year.

Medflies on the West Coast, gypsy moths in the East, a duck with an arrow through her breast, a baboon that turned in a false fire alarm, and a deadly snake that pulled duty as a night watchman were among non-human newsmakers.

Donna the Duck was the victim, and then heroine, of one of the most bizarre wildlife stories. The tiny mallard became a national celebrity when she appeared at a Las Vegas, Nev., country club with an arrow through her breast. After two weeks of trying, veterinarians finally caught her, removed the arrow, and released her. At last report Donna was continuing her charmed life on a pond in the middle of the club's golf course.

Nipper, a ferret, made news -- and ferreted out some news -- by lending a hand, or paw, to the British Broadcasting Corporation. The tiny weasel-like creature pulled TV cables through a twisted underground duct connecting Buckingham Palace to commentators outside and thus enabled BBC to broadcast to the entire planet a part of the commotion surrounding the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana.

Not all animals were so helpful, the NWF survey found. Alexis, a baboon, brought six fire trucks

racing to the scene when she grabbed the lever on a fire alarm box next to her quarters in a Baltimore research lab. Trouble is, there was no fire. Jonathan, a horse in Del Mar, Cal., turned in two false alarms before his owner stopped the horsing around by fencing off an alarm box.

All kinds of critters tangled with electricity. An owl knocked out a power system in Klamath Falls, Ore., when it landed on a hot line with a snake in its beak. The snake caught fire and 5,200 homes went dark. In a prison at Dallas, Tex., a hungry four-foot king snake, looking for prey, knocked out three generators for three hours. In Washington, D.C., it was an errant squirrel that caused a blackout on Thanksgiving Day.

Another invention of man, the drainpipe, nearly cost the life of a black and white cat named Squeaky in Reston, Va. Instead he cost his owner \$1,500 when it took two crews of plumbers two days to dig Squeaky out of an underground trap into which the drainpipe -- and his curiosity -- had led him. On the other hand, a 45-pound alligator got out of his outdoor pen at the Denver Zoo without any help from humans. The 'gator, inevitably named Albert, was captured 28 days later in a park pond.

A mess of reptiles made news when a Georgia dealer in protected wildlife handed over a bag containing a dozen eastern indigo snakes in exchange for \$1,200. His customer turned out to be a federal agent who had videotaped the "snakescam" transaction. Other reptiles illegally traded and seized by the feds included Indian pythons, Gila monsters and a Jamaican boa.

It was in London that a "very venomous" cobra was placed inside a showcase containing the world's third largest star sapphire to discourage theft of the rare gem from Sir Lanka. Other animals that did people's work included two dolphins named Lady and Molly whose services were sought by a Florida ship salvager to locate silver bars in the wreckage of two Spanish galleons that sank off Key West in 1622.

Several species of wildlife made news for their roles in scientific research. At Athens, Ohio, biology researchers transferred the genes of rabbits to mice and then to their offspring -- a breakthrough in genetic engineering that could lead to the transfer of traits from one species to another. In an Oak Ridge, Tenn., laboratory, crickets gave scientists some clues to dangerous side effects of contaminants in synthetic fuels by sprouting extra eyes and heads.

Not all lab critters enjoyed their assigned roles, the NWF report showed. In an experiment reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association, a ferret injected with a respiratory virus got even with the experimenter when the scientist bent over to check the animal for watery eyes and other symptoms. The ferret sneezed and the researcher caught the virus. A California brain surgeon sued the University of Oklahoma and others for \$2.75 million, claiming he was "permanently disabled" when a chimpanzee named Washoe bit off the middle finger of his right hand during a visit to the University's Institute for Primate Studies.

In Montgomery County, Md., a medical researcher was fined \$3,015 for failing to provide adequate care for six monkeys in his lab. But in Ann Arbor, Mich., another medic operated on a 3 1/2-pound Boston terrier named Sweetie Pie and removed half a pound of metal, including 80 cents in coins, from her stomach.

The National Zoo in Washington, D.C., imported a male panda named Chia-Chia all the way from London to mate with its famed but shy female, Ling-Ling. All that happened was that Ling-Ling got beat up. But in Green County, Wis., a judge had to sign a court order to restrain a bull owned by Glen Schmid from mating. Schmid's bull, his neighbors charged, jumped their fence and "immaturely impregnated" eight of their heifers. And in Miami the pink falmingos that ornament the infield at the Hialeah race track mated successfully for the first time in nine years.

An amorous bird thought to be extinct made news by reappearing in the mountains of New Guinea. Ornithologist Jared Diamond first heard a birdcall that sounded like

"someone shoveling gravel," then spied a bird that more than a dozen expeditions had failed to find since the turn of the century -- a yellow-fronted gardener bowerbird.

Courting a female perched nearby, the rare bird had built a four-foot-high bower of sticks and fronds in the shape of a maypole around a sapling. Stacked in the bower were three piles of brightly-colored fruit. To express his ardor, the orange-crested male held a bright blue fruit in his bill, pointing it toward the female.

The 20-minute wooing ended sadly for the bower builder. The female, apparently unimpressed, flew away. A Yale biologist called the bowerbird's behavior "without parallel in the animal world." But Dr. Diamond saw some parallels between the exotic birds and domestic playboys with expensive pads and vans.

"The males with the dullest plumage build the fanciest bowers," he said. "It's like the dull young man with a fancy sports car..."

"Things That Matter"

by Lucien Coleman

REMEMBERING TWO ASSASSINATED PRESIDENTS
On November 22, 1963, an assassin in Dallas aimed a cheap Italian carbine at the President of the United States and fired three shots that changed the trajectory of history.

In the days following the fatal shooting of President John F. Kennedy, historians and writers began comparing the circumstances of his death with similar tragedies. This surfaced an amazing series of parallels between the careers and deaths of Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln was elected President in 1860. Kennedy in 1960. Each, in his own way an outspoken proponent of civil rights, Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation in 1863; Kennedy proposed his Civil Rights Law in 1963.

Both Lincoln and Kennedy were shot in the head on a Friday in the presence of their wives by a Southern-born assassin.

Both were succeeded by a Southern Democratic Vice-President named Johnson. Andrew Johnson, Lincoln's successor, was born in 1808. Lyndon B. Johnson, who followed Kennedy, was born in 1908.

Lincoln's murderer, John Wilkes Booth, was born in 1839. Lee Harvey Oswald, who was accused of murder of Kennedy, was born in 1939. Both of these men were murdered before they could be brought to trial.

President Lincoln had a secretary named Kennedy. President Kennedy had a secretary named Lincoln. Lincoln's secretary had advised him against going to Ford's Theater, where he was shot. Kennedy's secretary had advised him not to go to Dallas.

Most would agree that these parallels are purely coincidental. But, for anyone who is inclined to be the least bit superstitious, they are numerous enough to provide plenty of food for thought.

TIMES OF THE SIGNS

I don't know about you, but I'm getting a little tired of having my life regulated by signs.

Last night my wife and I went out to do a little shopping. When we walked into this store, the first thing that greeted our eyes was the sign on the door: "NO FOOD OR DRINKS ALLOWED INSIDE THE STORE." Well, that was okay. I wasn't hungry or thirsty, anyway. But, then, there was this other sign hanging on a handrail -- a handrail, of all things -- "DO NOT TOUCH." Now, I ask you, what are you supposed to do with a handrail if you aren't allowed to handle it?

What really bugs me is the hypocritical sign just inside the entrance of most discount stores: "FOR YOUR SHOPPING CONVENIENCE, PLEASE CHECK ALL BAGS AND PARCELS AT THE SERVICE DESK." Convenience, my eye! How stupid do they think I am? Why don't they just come right out and say they're afraid of shoplifting?

It's getting so you can't go anywhere nowadays without being reminded that you are an unauthorized person. "UNAUTHORIZED VEHICLES WILL BE TOWED AWAY AT OWNER'S EXPENSE." "AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY." The more I see these signs plastered all over parking lots and doorways, the more I wonder what you have to do to get authorized. Being an unauthorized person all the time can give you an inferiority complex.

We're literally surrounded by signs telling us what we can't do: "KEEP OFF THE GRASS." "DO

NOT ENTER." "NO TURNS." "NO STOPPING." "NO PETS." "NO CHILDREN." "KEEP OUT." "NO TRESPASSING." "NO RUNNING." "NO STANDING." "DO NOT SIT ON FURNITURE." "DO NOT HANDLE." "SILENCE." It gets to be very vexing.

Occasionally, though, all this sign-posting is good for a chuckle or two. In our community is a theological seminary where many students park their cars along neighborhood streets during class. After having his driveway blocked a few times, a local resident put up the sign, "THOU SHALT NOT PARK HERE." At the same school, the one parking spot on campus which nobody -- but nobody -- ever violated was the one that belonged to the President. That is, until some construction workers came along. After the President had been crowded out of his parking place by pickup trucks a few times, a new sign appeared: "DON'T EVEN THINK OF PARKING HERE."

I couldn't help but smile at a sign I saw on a street in London, England, one day. It said, simply: "MAKE NO NUISANCE." I wondered how many people turned away from that sign not knowing what they weren't supposed to make.

My all-time favorite, though, was the hand-lettered sign posted by a church custodian after unsuccessful attempts to keep people from messing around with the electrical switches, sometimes blacking out whole areas of the building. The sign read: "IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING, DON'T DO NOTHING."

OUR DOMESTICATED KILLER

It started out to be a pleasant family drive on a Sunday afternoon. The mother was enjoying a birthday. It also turned out to be her last day.

Without warning another car burst through an intersection and slammed into the family's car. The driver of the other car was unlicensed, uninsured, and drunk. Especially drunk. While two of the occupants of the other car lay dying in their own blood, a person who was working to save their lives heard the drunken driver, sitting in his car, yell repeatedly, "Somebody get me a ---- drink."

The man was arrested the next day and charged with two counts of manslaughter, wanton endangerment, and failure to maintain insurance. His prior conviction included driving while intoxicated, drunkenness in a public place, carrying a concealed weapon, and two counts of operating a motor vehicle without a license. Yet, he was out of jail on bond before his victims were in their graves.

A month earlier, 13-year-old Cari Lightner of Fair Oaks, Calif., had been killed by a drunken driver as she walked to church. The impact threw her body 120 feet. The driver, who had been arrested four times on drunken-driving charges, drove away. Two days before killing Cari, he had been released on bail after being arrested on drunken-driving and hit-and-run charges.

The same question keeps haunting me. Why do drunken drivers get away with murder? And I mean that quite literally. Drunk drivers repeatedly get away with murder. Half of all fatal highway accidents take the lives of 25,000 people in traffic accidents every year. And 750,000 more Americans are maimed or seriously injured each year in accidents involving alcohol. The General Accounting Office estimates that the annual toll is \$5 billion in lost wages, medical costs, insurance costs and property damage.

But, at long last, a number of congressmen in Washington are sponsoring legislation designed to get drunks off the road. They deserve all the support we can give them. A drunk behind the wheel of a car deserves no sympathy from anyone. He, or she, is a potential killer. The sooner we face up to that obvious truth, the safer we'll all be.

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