

The Daily Dirge



Serious journalism for a world beset with woe. | Friday, October 13, 2006

Beloved Giant Stingray Stolen

The New York City Aquarium reported yesterday that one of its cherished attractions, the giant short-tail stingray known affectionately as "Mr. McPancake," has been stolen from his tank.

Authorities are baffled as to how this crime was undertaken, as Mr. McPancake was a member of a family of rays noted for their size, and was last measured to have a body-span of approximately 12 feet.

"The logistics of moving a ray that size out of its tank without setting off security is nigh inconceivable," commented aquarium caretaker Bruce Mills.

Police believe that the "ray-napping" was some sort of prank, and guess that it may have been perpetrated in relation to the death of Crocodile Hunter Steve Irwin, whose death in a stingray related accident back in September has already been noted to provoke negative public

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demonstrations against sting-rays



One of the children who will not be seeing Mr. McPancake anymore

elsewhere. "The real shame is that generally stingrays are docile and non threat-

ening creatures," said marine biologist Wendy Carmine, "The public just isn't recognizing that reality anymore. This is why tragedies like this are happening."

Experts say that unless Mr. McPancake was been transported quickly to a saltwater tank of comparable size to the one he was held in prior to his capture, they can hold out little hope for the creature's survival.

N. Korea Performs Nuclear Tests

North Korea announced it carried out an underground nuclear test, eliciting immediate response from country leaders worldwide.

World leaders at times at odds with the United States, became allies against the North Korean nuclear test.

While the president called it a threat to international peace and security, the North Korean ambassador beamed.

Pak Gil Yon says, "I'm very much

proud of our scientists and researchers who have conducted such a very, very successful nuclear underground test."

The underground blast sent shockwaves measuring between 3.6 and 4.2 on seismographs. That was met by a wave of outrage from world powers.

It only took thirty minutes for all fifteen members of the Security Council to condemn the test.

Some fear a nuclear armed North Korea would dramatically alter the balance of power in the Asia-Pacific region. It is a balance few believe the US will ever allow to tip in favor of North Korea.

Strange Suspect in Bronx Arson/Murder Case

The Police have announced that they have a primary suspect in the Bronx arson case in the unlikely person of Christine Darkwater, a Dominican nun known for running several soup



Christine Darkwater

kitchens in the area. A witness claims to have seen a woman matching her description at

the scene of one of the sites before the time of the attack.

Darkwater, while generally regarded

by her community as a gentle and caring woman, has a history of mental illness related hospitalizations which may help to establish potential motivations for the spree.

When police sought to question her at her residence on Thursday, they found that she had vacated the area. Acquaintances and relatives claim not to have had contact with her for over a week.

“Darkwater is a very disturbed young woman,” said inspector Bret Edgerton, who is currently assigned to the case, “Even if she isn't involved directly in this, she may be a danger to herself or others if she remains at large.”

Investigators are currently welcoming any information regarding her or her whereabouts.

Yankees Pitcher dies in Upper East Side Plane Crash

A single-engine plane carrying the Yankees pitcher Cory Lidle smashed into a 42-story building on the Upper East Side yesterday, killing Mr. Lidle and his flight instructor, the authorities said.

Fourteen firefighters and four people in the building were injured, officials said, including a woman who had been in an apartment hit squarely by the plane and escaped the inferno, suffering burns.

The plane, owned by Mr. Lidle, was a Cirrus SR20, a four-seat propeller plane that is popular for its performance and sleek looks. It has a fixed landing gear reminiscent of a stunt plane. With two sets of controls, officials said, either Mr. Lidle or his instructor could have

been flying it.

It slammed into the center of a 501-foot building on East 72nd Street several hundred yards from the East River. New Yorkers with memories of the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center watched smoke drifting toward the sky as firefighters clambered into another high-rise, and the North American Aerospace Defense Command scrambled military jets. Some worried that they had witnessed another terrorist attack, but officials quickly dismissed that notion.

Mr. Lidle, 34, a pilot for less than a year who was traded to the Yankees in the summer, had talked enthusiastically about flying to his home in California this week.

Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You careful planing has finally paid off. It's time to let loose and relax.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Sometimes removing your foot from your mouth is a painful maneuver. You're about to become well-acquainted with it unfortunately.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Lock your doors tonight.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

If you get too fixated on results, you could lose all sense of joy and inspiration. Stop being so practical.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Life will be wonderful this week. Perhaps you will find a large bag of money.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Sometimes the best of intentions can

go awry. Be prepared to offer a sincere apology.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Don't let yourself get stuck in a rut. Try to show the world a different aspect of yourself today and embrace the change.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Is someone close to you feeling upset? Look to yourself and ask if you've been as understanding as you could be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Now is a good time to reconnect with those you've fallen out of contact with. Give your friends and family a call.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Even though you don't seem to be getting anywhere, your hard work will eventually pay off this week. Hang in there.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Sometimes being blunt is the only way to get through to someone.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Change isn't necessarily a good thing. Look before you leap into any new endeavors.