



Mother of Arsonist Nun Found Dead

Allison Darkwater, age 57, was found dead at her home in Scranton Pennsylvania on Tuesday this past. Police are hesitant to comment on the circumstances of Darkwater's death, but have indicated that foul play is suspected. Investigators are looking any links this may have to the recent string of arsons/murders that have been attributed to Christine, who was arrested by law enforcement last week.

"I've just never seen anything quite like this," said investigator Tom McLaughlin.

Allision Darkwater, a retied nurse, was the single mother of Christine, who had maintained warm relations with her daughter after her decision to join the monastic order. She was apparently the young nun's only close relative, after her father, Julian Darkwater disappeared under mysterious circumstances back in 1992.

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Police are now looking for any other parties who may have and a connection to Christine and the September arsons.

Democrats Take House and Senate

The Democrats picked up the seat they needed to capture the Senate when the Republican incumbent in Virginia, George Allen, conceded to Jim Webb, his Democratic challenger, completing a broad realignment of power in Washington. Including two independents who align themselves with the Democrats, Democrats will have a 51-to-49 advantage in the new Senate.

Within moments of Mr. Allen's announcement, Democrats rallied outside the Capitol to celebrate their victory, cheering and chanting, while their leaders began planning how to proceed after a dozen years in which their only taste of power in Congress was when they controlled the Senate for a period in 2001 and 2002.

"The election's over," said Senator Harry Reid of Nevada, who will be the new majority leader. "It's time for a change."

As Washington was digesting the changed balance of power, there was a sign that the 2008 contest for the presidency had already begun. Tom Vilsack, the Democratic governor of Iowa, announced he was running for president, the first high-profile

entrant in an expected parade of presidential hopefuls who will enter the race in coming months.

Senate Democrats celebrated their triumph at a rally on Capitol Hill on Thursday afternoon.

Donald Rumsfeld Resigns

US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is standing down, President George W Bush has announced.

Rumsfeld's resignation comes after bruising losses for Republicans in mid-term elections. The Democrats won control of the House of Representatives in the polls for the first time in 12 years.

Bush said that both he and Rumsfeld had agreed the time was right for new leadership at the Pentagon.

Former CIA Director Robert Gates has been nominated to replace Rumsfeld.

He described Rumsfeld as a "patriot who served his country with honor and distinction", as well as "a trusted adviser and a friend".

Asked by a journalist if Vice-President Dick Cheney would be with him for the rest of his term, ending in January 2009, Bush said "yes he will".

Bizarre Vigilantes Strike New York Streets

Increasing reports are coming in of an unknown man known only as “Lucusta” who has been, with and without other accomplices, attempting to stop robberies, rapes, and other types of violent crime independent of the law.

At least two robberies, and one attempted rape have been halted by this individual, leaving witnesses confused as to what they had just seen.

What did they see? Reports of “Lucusta” all apparently agree that the man is said to appear before his victims “glowing with radiant light”, something police suspect is accomplished through various high-tech Special FX costuming effects.

“I think we have a guy with a superhero complex, on our hands,” commented Detective Arnold Kenneth.

The NYPD maintains that while “Lucusta's” actions are probably well intentioned, they are exceedingly dangerous in addition to being illegal and that they do not condone them.

Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Wear plaid for good luck today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Try a new type of international food this week and feed some geese. Your lucky number is 33.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Everyone seems to be piling on unreasonable demands. Don't be frightened to take a stand.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Let your creative energy flow today.

Don't be hesitant to experiment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

They're a good chance that a romantic opportunity will strike in the next few months. Don't let it catch you off guard.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Some people are born to suffer. Don't worry, your day in the sun will come soon enough.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You have the advantage of a large support network right now. Don't become too attached to it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You seem to have a new lease on life these days. Cherish it and avoid public transportation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Life is great. Buy a puppy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) A friend will come to you shortly with an urgent request. Don't fail to take them seriously,

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Keep up the hard work, you're in for a promotion.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

You've hurt someone's feelings and it's time to mend some fences. Be ready to swallow your pride.