



Man Killed in Vigilante Attack

The coroner reports that Phillip White (34) died immediately of heart failure after an electrical discharge disrupted the relatively young man's pacemaker, which had been inserted to correct a rare type of genetic heart disorder three years earlier.

This electrical discharge is believed to have resulted from some form of high-powered taser or stun gun device being wielded by the enigmatic figure "Lucusta", a man who has disrupted several allegedly criminal proceeding by use of non-lethal force in the past, much to the chagrin of police officers.

This is the first fatality that has been linked to the Lucusta incidents. Previously two robberies, and one attempted rape had been stopped by this individual, although nobody was seriously injured in either case.

Reports of Lucusta all apparently agree that the man in question is

said to be "glowing with 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 who has been assigned to the case commented, "This guy seems to be the result of a few too many comics books and loose screws. I hope these incidents will cease, if not at least slow, now that somebody's gotten hurt."

"Not that I don't hope we just catch the guy."

Police are not yet commenting on the circumstances of White's activities on the night of his death. He is survived by his mother, grandfather, wife and three children.

Harlem Nightclub Reports Police Harassment

Workers at a Harlem leather bar known as *Daemon's* have been accusing police officials of carrying out an un-called-for and intrusive watch over the clubs patrons.

For at least three weeks, officers in marked and unmarked vehicles have been watching the bar's location en masse. Authorities report that this was on "solid" information that a wide reaching and dangerous criminal organization, possibly a terrorist cell, was operating out of

the establishment.

"We have found, however, that this information was faulty, and we apologize, although reports of 'harassment' are being greatly exaggerated", claims NYPD officer Tim Garret.

Bar patrons report, however, that they feel threatened, and that police have been accosting and openly mocking transsexuals and homosexuals who frequent the club, especially. One woman reports that she was threatened with imminent arrest based on the fact her car was double-parked.

An inquiry is being made into the officers alleged to have been involved in the incident.

Blood Shortage Hits City

The New York Blood Center predicts that it will continue to experience a severe blood shortage in December, in light of the shortage that hit in November, unanticipated due to faulty record keeping.

The Center estimates that 4.5 million Americans require a blood transfusion annually, and that one out of three people will require a transfusion at some point in their life. Frequent recipients include cancer patients, accident victims, newborns, transplant patients, women giving birth and surgery patients, as well as patients experiencing a wide range of blood diseases.

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To meet its needs, the Center says it requires over 2,000 blood donations a day. While 60 percent of Americans are eligible to donate, only five percent reportedly do. In New York and New Jersey, the Center claims, only two percent of eligible persons donate.

The Center specifically asks for a higher percentage of donors of African, Asian and Hispanic descent to increase the number of "precise match" transfusions.

Anyone who wants to learn of donation locations in their area or learn about hosting a blood drive in their home or workplace can call the New York Blood Center at 1-800-933-BLOOD, or log onto to <http://www.nybloodcenter.org>.

Teens Increasingly Seek Over-the-Counter Highs

Abuse of common cough medications by teens has grown spectacularly in recent years, according to San Francisco researchers, who found a 15-fold increase in calls to poison control centers since 1999 for teens made sick by overdosing on household drugs that can cause hallucinogenic highs.

The ingredient sought in the over-the-counter medications is dextromethorphan, or DXM, which comes in a wide variety of pills and syrups that researchers say are promoted by Web sites telling users how to take them recreationally.

In the teenage subculture of DXM abuse, the most common drug of choice is Coricidin HBP Cough & Cold tablets, which were implicated in two-thirds of the 1,382 calls to the California Poison Control System

reviewed in the study.

Kids call it CCC, Triple-C, or Skittles, because the red pills resemble the fruit-flavored candy of the same name. They've dubbed the hallucinatory experience "Skittling" or "robo-tripping" -- an allusion to another common cough medicine, Robitussin, which contains it.

"Many teenagers already know about it, but their parents may not know about it," said Ilene Anderson, a professor at the UCSF School of Pharmacy and senior toxicologist for the California Poison Control System.

"It's extremely easy to fool your parents, because this is not a white powder found in a baggy. It's a product found in the medicine cabinet of almost any home."

Taken in sufficient quantities, the drug can cause hallucinations similar to those who abuse the illegal drug PCP or the prescription anesthetic ketamine.

Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Some things are best left buried. Avoid bringing up old feuds this week and play it safe.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Take yourself out for Chinese food and rent some movies. If you have a significant other, make it a date

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Sometimes you may feel like a tug-of-war is taking place between people with you as the rope. Don't snap.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Your life will take an unexpected turn this week. Maybe it will involve your death in a dirigible or some

other sort of gas-filled flying device. Maybe it won't.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

It's on bitch!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) There's something she's not talking about. Coax it out of her. If there's no "she" in your life, watch out for one.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) It's no fun to be the only kid on the swings. Smash things up a bit in your social group and redefine the rules.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You're in deep. Maybe it's too deep.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) For once, take life seriously. Get your puppy neutered, start your taxes super-early, perhaps even balance your budget.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You've lost somebody who was close to you. Take time to reconnect to people in general. Also, take up a new hobby. Like ice-fishing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Beware the tuna salad. Stick with green for good luck. Your lucky number is 67.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Don't be overhasty to judge this week. Try to take things in stride for now. Let out your anger by beating a pillow or small child.