

Book returned 78 years late

Polish police thought they were lucky to have both a picture of a bank robber and an eyewitness. However, the photo shows the robber in a ski mask that shows only his brown eyes. To make matters worse, they released the name of their only witness, who had to be placed in protective custody. "We haven't excelled ourselves this time," understated a spokesman.

Lowell Turpin, 40, was arrested in Anderson County, Tenn., after he became excessively jealous when he spotted a picture of a stranger on his live-in girlfriend's Facebook page. Enraged and demanding the identity of the man,

Turpin punched her in the face and smashed her computer. According to the subsequent police report, it was a campaign photo of Mitt Romney.

President Obama praised America's racial diversity. "He pointed out he's half-Kenyan and half-Irish," noted Argus Hamilton. "That means the odds are that if Barack Obama ever enters a drinking marathon, he'll win it in two hours and five minutes."

It's A Strange World GENE HAUTA



A man in South Florida died after winning a roach-eating contest at Ben Siegel Reptile Store in Deerfield Beach. Edward Archbold, 32, entered the contest, hoping to win a female ivory ball python. After eating "dozens" of worms and roaches, Archbold fell ill and vomited before collapsing in front of the store. He was later pronounced dead at hospital. None of the other contestants got sick, and according to the store, all roaches and worms were raised in a safe and secure environment (whatever that means!). The staff says the prize python belongs now to Archbold's estate.

I'm not sure why anyone would want a snake for a pet and, as someone who has had few pets, I have to admit I have never grasped the emotional attachment to any animal (I know, I'm less than human...), certainly not to the lengths of a 47-year-old South African. He missed his deceased dog so badly that he had taken to wearing the dog's leash around his neck in remembrance. However, he must have forgotten about the leash which, when the man was bending over, got caught in a car's axle as it drove away. The man died of strangulation.

In Chicago, a library book was returned 78 years after it was checked out. "As soon as the returnee pays the fine," stated Brad Dickson, "our economic problems are over." Dickson added, "Talk about nerve. The guy asked to check it out again because he hasn't had time to read it."

When Megan Duskey, 23, who was dressed as the comic book hero Silver Spectre at the time, fell four floors to her death at Chicago's Palmer House Hilton hotel, it was a tragedy. The fact that she was trying to slide down a stair railing added an element of foolish risk. The fact that her parents have now filed a \$500,000 lawsuit against Hilton and the sponsors of the Halloween theme party is just sad, and another unfortunate example of the litigious society we live in.

Greyston Garcia, 26, was cleared of murder charges under Florida's "stand your ground" defence. I'm not sure but that must have something to do with self-defence and protecting your own possessions. Anyway, Garcia, who had chased the man who had stolen his radio for over a block before stabbing him to death, was accidentally killed by random gang gunfire in Miami.

Family Guy's Seth McFarlane has been named as host of the Oscars in March. Apparently, according to Argus Hamilton, McFarlane got drunk and missed getting on a Sept. 11 flight that crashed into the World Trade Center. "The link between alcohol and creativity is well-established and this is why -- it saves lives."

This is probably a pretty good clue that you've had too much to drink. A man crawled into his car in Oslo, Norway, to sleep off his partying and woke up in Gothenburg, Sweden. That's where two female car thieves woke him up and ordered him out of his car.

Calling for back-up, a British policeman put his colleagues on alert as he went to investigate a suspicious bright light. He had to admit a serious blunder when he discovered it was the moon.

US airlines collected a record \$1.7 billion in baggage fees in the first half of the year. Jim Barach thinks the airlines are using the second half of the year to actually try to find some of those bags.

Beyonce told Anderson Cooper she loves changing diapers and that it's a "beautiful" experience. "This," says Dickson, "is when you know someone has been a parent for about 8 minutes."

Until next time... keep reading between the lines...



Magician John Kaplan was at St. Henry's Sr. School Sunday to perform a pair of 'AbracaDAZZLE' shows as a fundraiser for St. Henry's Jr. School Community Council. Kaplan has been touring Canadian cities since 1980 and has found a number of ways to help groups maximize fundraising potential.

Kaplan puts f-u-n in fundraiser

John Kaplan is a magician and while he may have nothing up his sleeve, he certainly knows what goes into a good fundraiser.

Doing a two-show stand Sunday at St. Henry's Sr. School to raise funds for St. Henry's Jr. School Community Council, Kaplan says all he ever wanted to do was magic.

"I've been interested since age nine. Harry Houdini and Doug Henning were both big influences on me," says Kaplan.

"He (Henning) totally rekindled the interest in magic in Canada, at least for me he did."

The Calgary magician was fortunate because he followed his childhood ambition right into his career and he came upon the idea of tying fundraising into his shows rather haphazardly.

"I got asked in the 80s in Calgary if I could do a fundraising show and it

dawned on me there is a market," explains Kaplan who has played in over 500 Canadian cities over his 30-plus years of touring.

After a strong success in his first fundraiser, his second attempt was a bit of a flop and it spurred him to figure out a plan to help groups looking to make some cash through his AbracaDazzle shows.

"I realized it was up to me to provide groups with the fundraising tools they need to be successful," Kaplan says prior to his second show in Melville Sunday.

"I developed 'piggyback' fundraisers so groups could use other promotions over and above the show to maximize the earning potential," says Kaplan who provides groups with three dozen extra ways to make sure the shows are successful fundraisers.

Kaplan's two Melville shows were well attended

and he says the most important aspect of putting on a good magic show is for there to be some mystery.

"The show has been entertaining. It has to be fun

or emotionally impacting and there has to be an element of mystery. Magic reminds us there are a lot of questions we can't answer."



Audience participation is a must at an 'AbracaDAZZLE' show and here magician John Kaplan does a card-trick illusion with Melville's Lori Rathgeber.



Kaplan and audience member Dana Klapak go through a trick with a Canadian flavor where the props included a toque, a hockey stick a flag and maple syrup.



Audience member Jenna Kresowaty (under blanket) gets levitated by magician John Kaplan as part of Sunday's second 'AbracaDAZZLE' show.