

# would you believe . . . . .

There's nothing unusual about inmates trying to break OUT of prison. But here's one who tried to break IN.

Guards at California's infamous San Quentin prison this week arrested a man for illegally entering the prison grounds. The man, Antonio Balderama of Yuba City, said he broke into San Quentin to spread the word of God among the inmates. Balderama, who previously did time at San Quentin, apparently climbed over the prison fences in the middle of the night. He was discovered during the morning head count, when the guards found, much to their puzzlement, that they had one prisoner too many. (Newsprint)

More than 20 persons in a small Egyptian village have died from pesticide poisoning, while at least 50 others have been hospitalized for treatment.

An Egyptian Health official said this week that the deaths occurred about 30 miles from Cairo, where groves had been sprayed with toxic pesticides. He did not identify the type or source of the spray. The entire village of Bassatin Al-Ismailia has been placed under medical surveillance, since it has not yet been determined if the poisoning was caused by direct spraying or contaminated food and drink. (Newsprint)

In news that is sure to cause mixed reactions in many people, it appears that the Army has discovered that women GI's make very good soldiers indeed.

Crusty old General William Westmoreland, former Army chief of staff (US), has stated categorically, "I don't believe women can carry a pack, live in a foxhole or go a week without a bath."

General Westmoreland is wrong. Tests have shown that women perform every military job open to them as well as or better than the men. Although women do not have the brute strength men have, they have found ways to overcome the disadvantage and get the job done.

Women are more agile and more flexible than men, making them good at quick physical maneuvers. They have better balance and are more buoyant. And last but certainly not least, tests show that the average female soldier is smarter than the average male soldier.

There is a serious possibility that in the future, women will be assigned combat duty. (Newsprint Credit: Knight News Service)

Sharon Pederson of Seattle, Washington approached the Old Line Life Insurance Company of America awhile back to obtain a life insurance policy against the loss of her services as a homemaker. To her dismay, she was refused. Old Line denied her application because, in the words of a company memo, "she was only a housewife."

Angered as well as dismayed, Pederson took Old Line to court. She found that King County Superior Court Judge George Reville agreed with her contention that the insurance company was guilty of sex discrimination and violation of state law. He ordered the firm to award her a \$200,000 (dollar) policy and to pay part of the costs she incurred in hauling them into court. (Earth News)

The pedestrian in Tehran, Iran, is a hunted animal in a car-crazed city, with danger lurking on every side.

The first obstacle he must face is the jubes, Tehran's open gutters. Since there may or may not be a little bridge at the corner, pedestrians have to leap across. Sometimes they don't make it.

Once on the street, the intrepid traveler is faced with the challenge of getting across it. Everyone seems to ignore traffic lights, so the pedestrian must dart into the first hole in the traffic in the nearest lane. He then waits between the lanes for another hole, which is repeated until the broad boulevard is traversed -- or until he's knocked down by a vehicle that came too close.

Not even on the sidewalk is safety assured. For when the traffic gets really bad, motorists leave the streets and compete with the pedestrians, who resort to a kind of broken-field running. Their chances have dimmed recently, since construction men working on Tehran's biggest thoroughfare have pitched their tents on the sidewalks, happily cooking their tea over small stoves as chaos zooms all around them. (Newsprint Credit: Joe Alex Morris, Jr., in the Los Angeles Times)

Researchers have discovered a surprising increase in the number of teenage mothers. What's surprising, is that the increase in teen births comes at a time when contraceptives are widely available and the birthrate for all other age groups is dropping dramatically.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, the number of infants born to American girls between the ages of 15 and 17 has increased about 2 percent over the past ten years, while births of all women of childbearing age decreased by 27 percent during the same period.

Blame for the increase has been laid on the belief that many more young girls are having sexual intercourse. And although there has been a dramatic increase in the use of birth control methods over the last five years, many teens don't start using contraceptives until after their first pregnancy. (Earth News)

Lighting up may not be good for your health -- in more ways than one.

According to Dr. Richard Lanzara of University Hospital, Ann Arbor, in one month alone, two patients with severe third-degree burns from exploding butane lighters were treated at the University of Michigan Burn Unit.

The victims, both women, were lighting cigarettes when the lighters exploded, burning their neck, abdomen, arms and thighs.

Dr. Lanzara is conducting a study of cases involving butane lighter explosions, and wants information from persons who have had lighters explode in their faces even if the explosion didn't cause enough damage to require medical help.

The throwaway lighters also cause waste and litter. (Earth News)

Law enforcement officers get a lot of unusual calls over their squad car radios. But the police in Milwaukie, Oregon think they got one that tops them all, when they were told to be on the look-out for a "well-ventilated vehicle."

The order came just the other day after two strongly-built men entered the police station carrying the doors to a blue car. They explained their unusual cargo, saying they had a run-in with a speeding driver who nearly missed hitting about eight children playing in a residential street. The fathers said they attempted to catch the speeder by following him to a nearby shopping center. There each father grabbed a door. But the speeder stepped on the accelerator and the car sped away leaving each father holding a door in his hands. (NDS)

The Civil Service Commission has announced that it will no longer reject job applicants or dismiss federal employees who have used marijuana or heroin. In what is seen as a major policy reversal, the Civil Service Commissioners said last week that use of drugs classified as dangerous or habit-forming is no longer grounds for hiring or firing most federal employees.

In the past, drug abuse was often used to dismiss employees or bar applicants from jobs in federal agencies. The new policy came in response to a recent federal court decision, which found that discrimination against homosexuals, drug users and ex-convicts was unconstitutional. Officials say their new policy does not condone drug use, but rather places each case on an individual basis. (Earth News)

CNIB in Fredericton, through Project Vision Possible, is attempting to heighten public awareness of blindness, its causes and prevention. We have trained staff members who are willing to speak on the services of CNIB, coping with blindness, prevention of blindness and the Eye Bank of Canada. If you are interested in learning more about this vital area of health care, please phone Louis Best at 455-7282 or 455-7181 to arrange a speaking engagement.

will it be another cold winter? T.D. Lingo of the adventure trails research and development laboratories on laughing coyote mountain in Colorado is waiting till Halloween for his prediction.

Lingo swears that every Halloween, the bears come out to kinnikinnick berries, and thereby hangs a tale. kinnikinnick berries produce both carbohydrate within the berry and a natural yeast on the outside of the berry. Lingo says that when the two combine in the bear's stomach, the bear gets quite drunk, to the interest of all around.

If the berry's yeast and carbohydrate production is low, the bear makes a sedate drink, and there will be a mild winter. But if those berries are high in both the carbohydrates and yeast -- watch out! The bear, drunk as a skunk after gorging on kinnikinnick, clambers up a tall and skinny aspen tree. There he (or she) clings, yowling at the moon and swinging in arcs till the tree breaks. And that means it'll be a cold, cold winter. So says T.D. Lingo, at least. (Newsprint)

If your thing is making or receiving obscene phone calls, there's now a club just for you.

Columnist Bob Greene wrote in last week's Chicago Sun-Times that a woman called and said she had joined an obscene-phone-call club. She explained that you call a certain toll-free number and leave your own phone number. Then your number is given out to other people who call, and before long -- voila! Your very own obscene phone calls start to slither in.

Bob Greene said he thought she was kidding, but dialed the number and found that it's all true. Women get to leave their numbers for free. Men, who it is presumed will make the promised obscene calls, must pay \$19 (dollars) a year to get the women's numbers.

Greene reports that apparently, business is thriving. He says he had to call the toll-free number for most of an entire day before he got anything other than a busy signal. (Earth News)

The Mayor of Murphysboro, Illinois is determined that drinkers in his city's saloons will never be bothered by seeing snakes -- or any other animals, for that matter. Patrons are now prohibited from taking their pets along to their friendly neighborhood tavern because of the city's new "Boa constrictor" ordinance.

Mayor Michael Bowers said he had the ordinance drawn up after a few calls from some irate drinkers. It seems that a couple had taken their pet eight-foot boa constrictor into Murphy's Tavern.

Bowers said it was a well-trained snake that would crawl across the table, into its owner's bosom and out her sleeve. He said it would give her a kiss on demand, and then curl up on the Budweiser sign to get warm.

Bowers added, "I'm not sure whether the customers were disturbed over what they saw or what they thought they might see after several drinks." Only seeing eye dogs are exempt from the new ordinance. (Earth News)

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## Events

HC-13

West Gym

2

ournament, A.U.C.  
Co-ed, West Gym  
Ballroom

Tournament  
allop (PUB), STUD  
C-13 (After Godiva's

Contest  
ing Contest Judging  
ournament - Buchanan

Ballroom

lian Coaster Derby -  
Hill  
er Rally  
Hall

## Week

very far away.  
ere isn't too much to report  
Softball scores. The Bears lost  
e once to the Nurses (it was  
e tho') and to Computer  
nce (not so close). EE4 and CE4  
't report their scores so it's  
to assume they lost too.

remember if your group,  
ciation, or team would like to  
heralded in this rag all you  
to do is slip me a note in  
n 306 of Head Hall. Have a  
week!

nesday, Nov. 2: **WHATEVER  
PENED TO N.B. AGRICUL-  
?; T. Demma, Exec. Director,  
Federation of Agriculture.  
nchbag lectures are held in  
Fredericton Public Library, 12  
eton Street; From 12:35 p.m.  
25 p.m. All lectures are open  
he public, free of charge.  
its are invited to bring their  
: the library provides  
e.**