

Dressup charged with Casey's death

PUPPET MASTICATED

by VERY POIGNANT
Scum Staff Writer

TV personality Ernie Coombs, who was known to children as Mr. Dressup on the long-running CBC show, was arrested yesterday on charges of child abuse and man-

slaughter.

Coombs gave himself up after a six-month investigation into the death of "Casey". The hand puppet was found dead of exposure in a treehouse in Coombs' backyard.

Investigators said Casey had been dead at least a week when his half-

frozen, dog-eared corpse was found by neighbours.

"It was gross," said Captain Kangaroo, who lives down the street. "It was half-eaten by that stupid mutt, Finegan."

The half-starved, half-crazed dog puppet was put down by the SPCA. "They didn't call it Finegan's wake for nothing," said an SPCA official who wished not to be identified.

The relationship between Casey and Mr. Dressup was never explained, although it had been rumoured that Coombs abducted the puppet at a shopping mall in Don Mills, Ontario. Coombs' long-time friend and

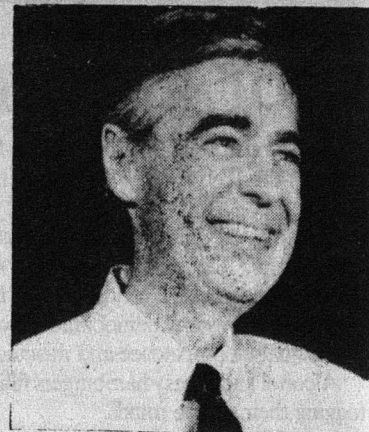
'confidante', Mr. Rogers, said in an interview Monday that he believes Coombs is innocent.

"I just can't believe this," said Rogers. "He loved little boys."

When reached at his suburban castle for comment, the Friendly Giant cranked up his drawbridge and told reporters to "Fuck off".

A resident of Coombs' neighbourhood, Aunt Bird, last week announced she will set up a fund in Casey's name.

Bird, a prominent West Edmonton Mall socialite, said the fund will benefit abused puppets everywhere. Donations can be made in cash only c/o The Editor, Edmonton Scum.



MR. ROGERS
Sez 'friend' liked kids

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ATROCITY CONTINUES

Gumbo's massacred its one hundred thousandth hamburger yesterday and outgoing SU president Mike Nickel is promising a hunger strike to protest. "They could have listened to me and put an A and W in but noooo..." sputtered the angry little fellow. "I see this as my last chance to serve the students and I'm going to do it even if it kills me."

Incoming SU president Dave Oginski has promised a referendum on the issue in six months ("if it hasn't died yet") and said if it would make everyone happy, he might lobby the university to get a McDonald's put in Quad, but that he wasn't promising anything.

NEW DIPLOMATIC SPORT

Servant slapping has become all the rage in embassies around the world after Sondra Gottlieb, wife of Canadian Ambassador to the United States Allan Gottlieb, initiated the sport at a party several weeks ago.

PRE-DIGESTED NEWS

Gottlieb pioneered the effect with simple openhanded forehead slap to the face, which was judged on the basis of impact, noise, welt and hysterical media reaction.

The sport has been expanded into several different categories, besides the openhanded forehead: the backhand, the double fore and/or backhand, speed-slapping and freestyle.

"They'll all get bored with it oh so very soon", said one well-known Washington socialite, and predicted punches, kicks and tag-team events to keep the diplomatic juices flowing at the expense of their hapless servants.

JUST KIDDING

Ronald Reagan had plans to send swarms of B-52's over Libya dropping water-filled balloons.

"President Reagan figured a lot of the problems he's having with 'Mo' (Libyan

leader Moammar Khadafy) were just simple misunderstandings and that a corny practical joke might loosen things up," explained White House spokesman Larry Speakes.

For additional guffaws, Reagan was going to send Khadafy a package with a pistol that would shoot a cloth that read "Bang! Just kidding Mo" and 'whoopie rugs' for use at prayer times.

However, Speakes said that was before the President's decision Monday to "nuke them into the sand."

ROLE REVERSAL

The Engineering Students Society will be hiring famous female impersonator Divine to strip at their '87 skit nite.

"Well, we're getting tired of being called sexist pigs, so we figured if we had a guy who just dressed like a girl stripping then nobody would get mad at us or anything," said ESS President Ritz Crackers.

"I figured out the aggravation factor on my HP 41C calculator," cried the excited engineer, as he caressed the sleek device's custom chrome racing stripes. "It should work perfectly!"

"I have no problem with it," said the 300 lb. Divine in a telephone interview, "they're paying me well, and besides, I get a lot of fan mail from engineers telling me they have my poster over their beds so it should be a thrill for me!"

When asked for comment, other faculties just laughed and laughed.

UPSET WITH BOOK PRICES? TELL US ABOUT IT

The Students' Union is preparing a submission to the University Board of Governors regarding the high cost of books and supplies. In order to make a strong and realistic presentation on your behalf, we need your response to the following questions. Please fill out as completely as possible:

Faculty _____ Year _____

Other: (explain)

How much did you spend on books and required supplies in the: First Term? _____
Second Term? _____

Were more texts required than were necessary or useful in any one of your classes?

Yes

No

Do you feel this amount is: reasonable?
unreasonable?

If yes, explain. (Use another sheet if necessary).

Were you able to find used texts? yes
no

If not, was this because:

- Only new texts were assigned
- Texts were assigned too late to find any
- Too much trouble to look for them
- Looked, but couldn't find any

Please tell us of any experiences or opinions that would contribute to this issue. Suggest ways you think the University Bookstore could reduce the cost of books.

Please deposit this form and any other additional comments into the "Entertainment Survey" boxes provided at the Gateway stops, OR return this form to:

Book Price Survey Room 259 SUB

These may be dropped off or mailed for free via campus mail at any department office.

No radios for drunk jock

(U of A) — The word has come down from the top!

No more radios in the weightroom on the University of Alberta campus.

There were too many complaints from the older, but more powerful patrons of the facility, and this month the rules were changed.

The occasional young athlete still brings a radio or cassette player, but this is coon taken care of by a few regulars with more muscles than brains.

Says one muscle-bound man: "We don't like...um..." and another: "What?"

Meanwhile it looks like those who like tunes in the weightroom will have to wait until the brawny bunch graduates.

Next decade, maybe?