

Lead Story

In April in Low Moor, Iowa, the body of a sixteen-year-old boy whose parents suspected he had run away to join the circus more than four years earlier, was found hanged in their farm house basement; the body had not been discovered sooner because of the severe clutter.

In Vienna, Austria, since December, the bodies of three people have been found in their apartments by officials. Mail in the apartments suggested that one man died in 1989, and that two sisters had died in 1990. And in Roubaix, France, the body of Eloi Herbaux, fifty-five, was found in March by health officials investigating the smell from his apartment, apparently ten months after he had passed away. The body was on the sofa in front of a television set that was still on.

Inexplicable

In Monmouth, Ill., Clifford West told a judge in April that his wife, Cora, could come back to live with him, and cook for him, while she's out on bail awaiting her trial for trying to kill him by poisoning his food.

Uh-Oh

In January, a Dallas recording company mistakenly sent the wrong compact discs to about three dozen of the one thousand radio stations that were to receive religious programming sponsored by the Southern Baptist Radio Commission. Instead, the company had sent the alternative music band Dead Kennedys' album Fresh Fruit for Rotting Vegetables, which includes the song "I Kill Children."

In March, Cleveland, Ohio, judge Terrence O'Donnell found Dr. Demetrius Pawlyszyn not guilty of thirty-nine counts of drug trafficking and writing false prescriptions despite prosecutor's evidence: In a seven month period, Pawlyszyn had prescribed, among other things, more than 60 gallons of narcotic cough syrup, 53,000 Valium and 35,000 Vicodins.

In December in Marianna, Fla., Brandon Hatcher filed a lawsuit against the Pepsi distributor in Dothan, Ala., which services Marianna, after tests revealed that the Mountain Dew he started to drink contained urine. The Panama City News Herald quoted an executive of the distributing company as saying, "There are a variety of reasons why this could happen."

In September, New York City police charged a Wall Street investment banker and an honor's student at Yale Law School with tossing huge chunks of concrete off a forty-five story luxury apartment building. One woman was partially paralyzed after being hit with a seventy-five pound slab. According to police, one of the men said, "We had so much fun throwing that (stuff). This is better than a bank robbery."

Least Competent Person

A twenty-four-year-old salesman from Hialeah, Fla., was killed near Lantana, Fla., in March when his car smashed into a poll in the median strip of Interstate 95 in the middle of the afternoon. Police said the man was traveling at 80 mph at the time and judging by the sales manual that was found open and clutched to his chest, had been busy reading.

The trial of Ismael Rodriguez in Trenton, N. J., in April revealed the practices of the rehabilitation program of the halfway house to which he had been sent after serving time in prison on heroin possession charges. Rodriguez said he wanted to escape from the halfway house because he objected to inmates being forced to don dresses and high heels, a practice that officials say breaks down inmates' self images as tough guys.

Good News

The Associated Press reported in April that the Belle Saloon in Salt Lake City is prospering under its new owners. Last year, bikers in a motorcycle gang called the Barons, whose clubhouse is near the bar, became angry at seeing drug dealing, prostitution, and violent crime taking place at the bar, so they bought it, rehabilitated it, and set the clientele straight.