

## Traveling Tortoise Trouble

Cumming, GA (AP) An Emerald Alert issued last month by the ASPCA for Tortellini, an elephantine 155 lb. inmate of the Darwinian Tortuga Institute in Cumming, yielded rapid results from a young local resident. Following a bed check, it became apparent that Tortellini, a.k.a. 'Michelangelo', had used a plastic spoon smuggled into his cell to dig through a wall and escape. Authorities believe he was en route to the local airport with the intention of slipping unnoticed on board a plane bound for the Galapagos.

"We were contacted by Katie Geissert indicating where Mikey was hiding out", said Agent Dino 'Doc' Dolittle, "but in light of Katie's borderline seditious activities last year with that short-lived Occupy Miss Simmond's Class movement, we were skeptical of her to say the least."

Found casually snacking in a field across from the 7 year old's home just a stone's throw away from nearby Matt Elementary, Katie said that the runaway reptile wasn't immediately obvious. "He kinda blended in with the bushes and at first I thought it was a deer, jumping and leaping so gracefully," the taller than average second grader explained, "so I pointed him out to my brother Christian, but then he noticed it didn't have antlers, and told me it was a turtle."

## Redditor's Remarkable Record



Jeff displays his Guinness World Records certificate.

London, England (UPI) Officials at the Guinness World Records global headquarters recently were able to confirm and certify the incredibly stunning achievement of Jeff 'The Wizard of Draws' Bucchino, whose herculean efforts were instrumental in shattering the world record for the Largest Secret Santa gift exchange.

"We were flabbergasted and astounded at his remarkable feat," exclaimed Guinness representative John 'Acme' Smith, "so in

honor of that impressive accomplishment, we take exceptional pride in celebrating and commemorating this magnificent deed by presenting him one of our really swell certificates with a shiny silver embossed sticker, suitable for framing."

While the specific exchange information is generally kept under wraps, a quick Google search turned up strong evidence that Jeff sent his lucky recipient a marvelous hoodie personalized with a fabulous custom cartoon. In turn, Jeff received the Pulitzer Prize winning and phenomenal bestselling book, "Guns, Germs and Steel" authored by Jared Diamond. When contacted by phone for comment, Jeff's Secret Santa match replied, "I'm speechless."

## Diminutive Digital Dilemma

Washington, D.C. (Reuters) The Mine Safety and Health Administration is looking into reports that governmental safety regulations and measures are routinely ignored by devotees of Minecraft, a creative 'sandbox' computer game that encourages construction and the exploration of a near limitless digital world, often by tunneling underground.

"One of the most irresponsible offenders that has come to our attention is 9 year old Christian Geissert", fumed a visibly irked MSHA spokesman Cliff 'Sandy' Gravel, "and while he may be just an inquisitive and precocious third grader, this administration has long-standing directives that stipulate exactly how mining is to be conducted, and we cannot and will not tolerate any deviation."

It's rumored that Christian has burrowed beneath the surface to the furthest depths allowable in the world, amassing huge amounts of coal, iron, gold and diamond resources along the way, while using no bracing or cribbing as required by the MSHA. "We never thought that a virtual world would fall under the umbrella

of statutes designed for the tangible, physical environment," lamented Christian's parents, "and we've tried to get Christian to help explain the predicament to these clueless government drones, but all he does is look at us with those enormous puppy-dog eyes and say 'It's sedimentary, my dear Watson'. What the heck does that mean?"

## Battle of the Breakfasts

Minneapolis, MN (AP) At a hasty and informal press conference held today, Buck 'Wheaties' Wheat, corporate spokesman for Betty Crocker, Inc. and manufacturer of Bisquick, has finally confirmed the long-suspected rumor that Christian and Katie Geissert do indeed prefer Papa's Pure Paradise Pancakes served every Sunday morning, instead of Dad's. Mr. Wheat stressed that the Bisquick brand was not a factor in the outcome: "Our extensive double-blind research, including surveys, polls and analysis conducted over the last year has led us to conclude without a doubt that David Geissert's pancakes, even while made with our delicious product, are demonstrably inferior."

"Dad makes us just plain pancakes," laughed David's daughter Katie, wiggling with barely contained excitement, "and we appreciate that, especially after his shoulder surgery this summer, but Papa makes 'em with peanut butter and chocolate chips, fresh strawberries and pineapple, blueberries, bananas, whipped cream and sprinkles, marshmallows and honey. But he won't let us use syrup. He say's that stuff is nothing but sugar."

## Cooking Commentator Confusion

Cumming, GA (UPI) Producers of the popular Food Network TV show Iron Chef are vehemently denying rumors that April Geissert has just been signed to replace Alton Brown as host and commentator for the 2013 season.

"Alton is not ready to hang up his toque just yet," asserted executive producer Nelson 'Laff' Trak, "just because April's job responsibilities have recently expanded to include that Publix Aprons cooking gig and she's somehow learned to boil water, doesn't mean she can step in and push aside Mr. Brown."

Repeated attempts to reach Mr. Brown for comment were unsuccessful.

## Miraculous Marriage Milestone

Bangor, ME (Reuters) Today at their division headquarters in Bangor, the Holy Eclectic Liberty Project (H.E.L.P.-ME) issued a press release congratulating Candance Bucchino on her 35th wedding anniversary.

"We are keenly aware of the extraordinary difficulties in sustaining a marriage for three and a half decades," declared division spokesman Arnold 'Tiger' Woods, "and we thought it appropriate to observe this splendid milestone."

Married at the tender age of 19 in 1977, Candance fondly reminisced back to that day: "Who would have thought then that we would have over 35 years of monotony, er, monogamy and wedded bliss."

Reportedly when the news reached Rome, Pope Benedict XVI was overheard to remark, "In this day and age, it's a miracle. That man's a god-damn saint."

Candance's husband was unable to be reached for comment as his current whereabouts are uncertain.



Jeff and Candance Bucchino at the altar on April 2, 1977.

Merry Christmas from  
Jeff, Candy & Sara

