



Human Interest

Central Talent Book

Wednesday, December 2, 2009



Swedish 'milkman' loses breastfeeding battle

SWEDEN -- Ragnar Bengtsson, 26, has failed in his high profile bid to pump forth milk from his breasts. But there is some consolation for the self-styled "Milkman", who is winging his way to the United States this week for an appearance on The Tyra Banks Show. Bengtsson's milk race began

with a bang in early September as he set about pumping his breasts on a three-hourly basis. The unorthodox sight of a young dad with a machine pressed to his nipples became part of daily life at Stockholm University, as the economics student endeavoured to do his bit for gender equality. If men could breastfeed their babies, the argument went, then women could rejoin the workplace more quickly, safe in the knowledge that their newborns were receiving the proper nourishment from their proud dads. But ultimately, the experiment failed, with Bengtsson unable to live up to the name of his blog: 'The Milkman - One Drop at a Time'. On Tuesday at 9pm, he returns to the TV8 studio and the Aschberg show where it all began for a final look back at a trial considered intriguing and brave by some, but sickening and unnatural by many others. "We never expected the enormous reaction we got; a lot of people were almost blinded with disgust," said Magnus Talib, a member of the Aschberg editorial team that has followed the day-to-day progress of the Milkman. News of the would-be breastfeeding dad spread quickly, with media outlets from 40-50 countries taking up the tale. Having reported on the experiment right from the outset, The Local has received countless requests from foreign media for contact details for Bengtsson, most recently from The Tyra Banks Show. As always, the inquiry was passed on to the producers of Aschberg, who in turn informed Bengtsson that he would be flown to meet talk show hostess Tyra Banks later this week. "Ragnar just said, 'oh cool'. Personally I would have crapped myself," said Talib of the prospect of being flown to the United States to appear on one of the world's most popular talk shows. Bengtsson, who was unavailable for comment on Tuesday, was reportedly also pleased to finally be able to put his pump back on the shelf. "All he got was sore breasts," said Talib.

Overweight Consumers Find Relief in "Big John"

LOS ANGELES -- Michael Schmitt is big. Big enough to make the simplest tasks an adventure. Like going to the bathroom. "I'm 6-foot-7 and I weight about 350 pounds right now," Schmitt said. "I have broken toilet seats in the past." And Schmitt is not alone. For years, big and overweight people have had to lower their backsides gingerly, careful to keep the toilet seat in one piece. Now, a Los Angeles company is offering the solution: Plus-sized toilet seats. "As we say, your butt's not too big, your seat's too small," said Scott Kramer, owner of Big John Toilet Seat & Support. Kramer and his partner, John Weisman, make toilet seats for the plus-sized. They're



larger, stronger and more durable than your standard seat. "We realized that the seat hasn't changed in over a hundred years, and we thought, frankly, it was time," Weisman said. Since manufacturing started on the Big John seat five years ago, revenues have skyrocketed. This year, they're up 60 percent. Customers have ordered toilet seats on their web site, bigjohntoiletseat.com, from around the world. "It's exceeded our expectations," Kramer said. Maybe that shouldn't be surprising, though. According to statistics from the CDC, they should



have plenty of customers: 34 percent of Americans over the age 20 are obese, and 67% are overweight. And many of them can use some much-needed bathroom relief. "This thing is like a Cadillac," Schmitt said. "It changed my life. It's great." ([Video Link Here](#))

Bacon Gets Its Just Desserts

Mmmm. Smell that? It's the scent of bacon mania. There are bacon blogs, bacon cookbooks, bacon-scented air fresheners, bacon tweets and a book entitled Bacon, A Love Story. "Bacon Butties" has more than 500,000 fans on Facebook. "Bacon mania"

even has its own Wikipedia entry. Bacon has wound its way into desserts. It is now vogue to match savory bacon with sweet dishes. There are bacon cookies, brownies and cupcakes; bacon cakes, pies and bread pudding; bacon ice cream, milkshakes and truffles; bacon chocolate bars, jellybeans and, yes, bacon baklava. Below is a recipe for **Chocolate-Bacon-Peanut Bark**.

Makes 10 to 12 servings, depending on the size of the pieces

8 strips bacon

16 ounces semisweet chocolate (chunks or chips are fine)

1 cup unsalted peanuts

In a large skillet over medium heat, cook the bacon, turning several times, until browned and done, 6 to 8 minutes. Transfer to a paper towel-lined plate to drain. Chop finely. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. Add chocolate to a double boiler. If you don't have one, fill a pan with a couple of inches of water. Place a glass bowl over the pan, making sure the bottom of the bowl does not touch the water underneath. Once the water begins to boil, add the chocolate chips. Using a spatula, stir continuously, until smooth and creamy. Stir in the bacon and peanuts. Pour onto the prepared baking sheet and spread to 3/8-inch thickness. Refrigerate for a minimum of 1 hour. The bark should be hard and chilled. Place bark on a cutting board and cut into pieces — any size or shape you'd like. Serve at about room temperature.

Jesus Christ called for jury duty

BIRMINGHAM, AL -- Jesus Christ was called for jury duty this week in Jefferson County. Court officials were skeptical at first when on Monday a potential juror submitted a name change form with "Jesus Christ" on it. But the 59-year-old Birmingham woman, who previously went by Dorothy Lola Killingworth, assured the presiding judge that was her name. "It raised eyebrows, so I asked her if that were truly her name," Circuit Court Judge Scott Vowell said. "She assured me that it was. She had her name changed in the Probate Court, and she presented her driver's license." Christ was sent to Judge Clyde Jones's courtroom for a criminal case. She was excused because she was disruptive, court officials said. Instead of answering questions, she was asking them, a court employee in Jones's office said. Efforts to reach Christ today were unsuccessful. Court administrator Sandra Turner said she and others in the jury assembly room were somewhat shocked at first when the woman insisted Christ was her name. And when her name was called, several potential jurors laughed out loud. Unlike some Jefferson County residents, Christ did not try to get out of jury duty, Turner said. "She was perfectly happy to

serve," said Turner.

Car In Store

PHOENIX -- It was "déjà vu all over again" for the owner of Regal Dry Cleaners in Phoenix after a car came barreling through the front window over the weekend. It's the third time that has happened in three years. Owner David Reddish just barely escaped getting hit when a car driven by a 22-year-old woman smashed into the store and stopped just inches from the front counter. Reddish says thankfully neither he nor the driver was hurt. He says the woman told him her foot slipped off of the brake. Redding even laughed a bit when he said the woman dropped off her laundry. But the damage is no laughing matter. It's estimated at more than ten-thousand dollars. Reddish says the first car barreled in in October of 2007. He said it happened again in October 2008. After that accident they installed some small barriers, but they didn't keep the car from coming through this time. Reddish says now they will put in bigger concrete posts to keep the drive-thru customers out. ([Video Link Here](#))

Central Talent Booking