



## HUMAN INTEREST

Thursday, January 21, 2010

### Package that forced closure of Lafayette's Peak to Peak contained Kermit the Frog



Colorado -- Peak to Peak Charter School in Lafayette was closed Wednesday morning after a large duffel bag containing a Kermit the Frog -- which appeared to have blood stains on it -- was found on the west side of the campus. An employee of the school called police at about 7:15 a.m. after discovering the suspicious package in Peak to Peak's otherwise-empty parking lot, according to Lafayette police Cmdr. Mark Battersby. Police secured a perimeter around the school, and

students and staff members who had already arrived at Peak to Peak were locked down in a building on the east side of the campus while investigators checked the duffel. Using a robot equipped with movable arms and a camera, members of Boulder County's bomb squad were able to examine the items that were inside the duffel bag-- including the Kermit the Frog doll -- at a safe distance. An officer then made a final inspection of the abandoned items in person to make sure everything was "absolutely safe," Battersby said. The school was cleared just before 10 a.m., but Peak to Peak remained closed for the day since many of the students did not make it to the campus before police blocked access.

### Amy Fisher stripping for Haiti



New York -- While some philanthropists are stripping their wallets to donate for victims of the Haiti earthquake, Amy Fisher is just stripping. The media-savvy Long Island Lolita -- who's getting naked at Scene Restaurant & Lounge in Commack, LI, today, tomorrow and Saturday -- promises to donate a portion of her earnings toward the relief effort. Fisher, a mother of three, launched her own porn site last year and embarked on a tour as a stripper for hire across the country. Thankfully, she's not taking her act to Port-au-Prince.

## Shiny-shoed businessman helps woman stranded at O'Hare



Chicago -- Stranded at O'Hare without her luggage after airline blunders and bad weather made her miss two flights to her Winnipeg home, the frail Canadian grandmother faced an even grimmer night in an airport lounge. That's when a shiny-shoed Chicago businessman rode to her rescue like a Good Samaritan in a Frank Capra holiday movie. Dean Germeyer, 43, took Clark home to his wife, fed her, took her on a guided tour of the city, put her up in a classy downtown hotel and arranged for a car to take her to the airport in the morning. "It devastated me that a human being could be so kind to a stranger," a grateful Clark said Tuesday. "It makes

me bawl just thinking about it." Clark's nightmare journey home from a visit with her daughter in Texas began in the morning of Dec. 30, when a careless porter pushed her to the wrong gate at Dallas/Fort Worth airport. Suffering from a bad hip and unable to move her wheelchair, she missed her flight and was placed on a weather-delayed connecting flight to Chicago instead. Germeyer, who was on the same flight, attracted Clark's attention with his unusually shiny shoes. "I've admired men with well-shined shoes since I was a child — they know how to look after themselves," she said. She told Germeyer that as a 12-year-old she'd accidentally tipped off a shiny-shoed undercover mountie to her uncle's illegal moonshine operation. The pair struck up a fast friendship on the plane and Germeyer offered to help Clark make her connecting flight once they landed. "She's a very sharp, entertaining lady," Germeyer said. ([Read Rest of Story](#))

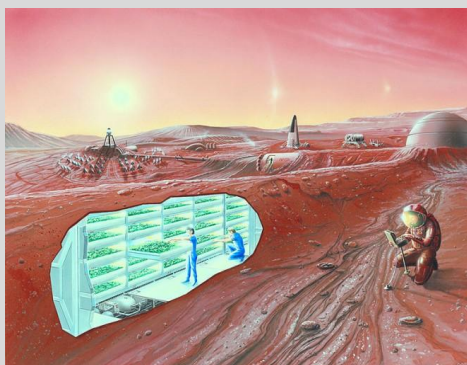
## Alleged Burglar Cuts Hair, Fries Chicken



An eastern Pennsylvania man is charged with breaking into a house where he cut his hair and fried chicken before being discovered. Jose N. DeGracia is charged with breaking into the home in Easton, about 50 miles north of Philadelphia. According to court documents, the homeowner returned home Sunday to discover him watching TV and cooking chicken. Authorities say DeGracia threw a rock through a front door window to get inside and appeared to have cut his hair and taken a shower and rummaged through the house before being he was discovered. DeGracia faces burglary, criminal trespass and other charges.

He is being held on \$15,000 bail.

## Stereo Speakers Can Levitate Dust for Mars Colonists



Using the vibration from a stereo speaker to levitate dust off surfaces may one day help keep colonies up and running on Mars and the Moon. Blasting a high-pitched noise from a tweeter into a pipe that focuses the sound waves can create enough pressure to lift troublesome alien dust from equipment, suits or vehicles, according to a study published January in the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America. Dust is one of the biggest obstacles for long-term lunar and Martian space colonies. On the moon, there's no atmosphere and no water, so the dust particles don't get moved around, worn down and rounded like they do on Earth. Consequently, dust kicked up by

rovers and astronauts is “very abrasive and sharp, like freshly broken glass,” said University of Colorado Boulder physicist Zoltan Sternovsky, who was not involved in the study. Electrostatic charging from solar winds and UV radiation on the moon makes this sharp dust cling to everything, including astronaut suits where it can work its way through the glove air locks. It also sticks to the solar panels that power rovers and other instruments. [\(Video\)](#)

### **Cruise L.A. Gang Turf For \$65 (With A Signed Waiver)**



LOS ANGELES — The tour organizer received assurances, he says, from four gangs that they would not harass the bus when it passed through their turf. Paying customers must sign releases warning of potential danger. And after careful consideration, it was decided not to have residents shoot water guns at the bus and sell “I Got Shot in South Central” T-shirts. Borrowing a bit from the Hollywood star tours, the grit of the streets and a dash of hype, LA Gang Tours is making its debut on Saturday,

a 12-stop, two-hour journey through what its organizer calls “the history and origin of high-profile gang areas and the top crime-scene locations” of South Los Angeles. By Friday afternoon, the 56-seat coach was nearly sold out. On the right, Los Angeles’s biggest jail, “the unofficial home to 20,000 gang members in L.A.,” as the tour Web site puts it. Over there, the police station that in 1965 served as the National Guard’s command post in the Watts riots. Visit the large swath of concrete riverbed taken over by graffiti taggers, and later, drop in at a graffiti workshop where, for the right price, a souvenir T-shirt or painting can be yours. [\(LA Gang Tours Website\)](#)

**Central Talent Booking**