



HUMAN INTEREST

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Support builds for gay Ga. teen over prom date



Cochran, GA -- Support continues to grow for Derrick Martin, a Cochran, Ga., teen who was kicked out of his home this week after a crush of media attention when he gained approval from his high school to bring his boyfriend to the prom. Martin (photo left) is receiving offers from across the country to help him financially, provide security and a limo for the prom and words of encouragement through two Facebook pages that have been created in recent days. The first page, We support Derrick Martin taking his boyfriend to the prom, jumped from more than 400 fans on Wednesday to nearly 2,600 by Thursday

morning. A second page, Support Derrick Martin, had 427 members on Thursday. Supporters also established a PayPal account for Martin to collect donations. The honor student, who is living with a friend since his parents ousted him from their home, says he's "really tired" in a Facebook posting made through PFLAG of Macon. McMillen is an 18-year-old senior in Itawamba County, Miss., who challenged her school system's decision to cancel its prom rather than allow her to bring a same-sex date. On Tuesday, a federal judge ruled that the school board violated her rights by canceling the prom, but stopped short of forcing the district to reinstate its April 2 prom. Martin's prom is set for April 17 in the cafeteria of Bleckley County High School. The public focus on him and the upcoming prom hasn't deterred him or boyfriend Richard Goodman (photo right), an 18-year-old who attends Tift County High School about 85 miles south of Cochran. ([Video](#)) ([Pay Pal Donations](#))

Robbers hold up Taco Bell for food

CHARLOTTE, NC - Three men demanded food, not money, during an armed robbery at a fast food restaurant in south Charlotte late Monday night. The robbery happened around 11:17 p.m. at the Taco Bell located along the 5500 block of South Boulevard. According to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, three black males in a white vehicle pulled up at the drive-thru window. One of the people inside the vehicle pointed a handgun at the clerk and demanded food. The robbers were given fried apple pies and they drove away. No one was injured during the robbery. ([Video](#))



Real-Life Tarzan Shares Home With Big Cats

Loxahatchee, FL -- There is no welcome mat at the front door, but the sign on the electronic front gate offers a greeting just as clear: "Trespassers will be eaten." Driving past the slowly withdrawing gate, even invited guests can feel some unease. And the tension only increases upon first sight of the yard. A gravestone is flanked by tusks protruding from the ground. Sculptures of menacing beasts are mixed with nudes of the human form, all

showing the wear of wind and rain. It's an atmosphere of a carnival halted by grief. Somehow the place is both wondrous and a monument to the dead. One isn't sure initially who, or what, is buried here. Inside, stone hallways give way to a most unusual household. Guests are kept behind bars for their own safety. And yet, in a scene as tender as it is bizarre, a young tiger named Lepa is enjoying her afternoon bottle on the kitchen counter. "I've had her since she was 18 days old and weighed 4 pounds. She's my baby," explains the tiger's caregiver, Melanie. Part "Wild Kingdom," part "Addams Family," it is a home of startling domestic eccentricity where a tiger can be the apple of her human parents' eye. The home and the big cats that inhabit it belong to Steve Sipek, a former actor who once played the title role in a pair of Spanish language versions of Tarzan movies in the early 1970s. ([Full Story & Video](#))

French man hacks Obama's Twitter account



France -- A man has been arrested for hacking into the Twitter account of President Obama, French police announced today. The 25-year-old man, who went by the handle Hackercroll, also stole the password for the Twitter account belonging to Britney Spears, as well as other celebrities. "This individual spread information about a dozen American personalities, notably Barack Obama, on specialist blogs," Adeline Champagnat, head of the French office against online fraud, told Reuters. Champagnat did not elaborate on what the hacker had done with Obama's Twitter account information, saying only that it would have been more problematic if the President had posted "sensitive" information. According

to police, Hackercroll seemed especially interested in the private lives of the celebrities whose accounts he hacked. The French suspect appears to have acted alone, and seems untrained in the ways of password swiping and hacking.

Load of baked goods dumped along Ind. River



MUNCIE, Ind.—Need some dough? Police say someone has dumped hundreds of breads, bagels and buns along a river in Muncie, Ind. Sanitation workers spotted the mess on the central Indiana city's east side. City police Sgt. Bruce Qualls recognized the baked goods as the product of Panera Bread. The chain cafe has a location on the city's north side. Qualls says restaurant managers assured him they would look into what happened. The unsold baked goods are usually given each day to charitable organizations. Panera

Bread spokeswoman Linn Parrish says managers didn't immediately know how the bread got to the

river bank.