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Jon Sparks: Who mixed anthrax, Faulkner and Reagan?



Several movie fans with long memories are recalling the 1947 movie Stallion Road in which Ronald Reagan fought anthrax and won. Reagan played a young veterinarian whose serum protected sheep and horses from a threatening anthrax epidemic. The screenplay for the movie was written by Stephen Longstreet, who wrote the novel on which it was based, but Longstreet was called in on the project only after a screenplay by William Faulkner was turned down. The rejected work was "a Faulknerian tour of his own despairs, passions and storytelling," Longstreet later recalled. "Today it could be made as a New Wave film."

Lip service

Meredith Vieira of The View told The San Francisco Chronicle that Barbara Walters "taught us all how to smile," the all being Vieira, Lisa Ling and Joy Behar. The secret, said Walters, is to keep one's mouth open. "Now we all look like little birds waiting for food," Vieira said.

Don't bug me

An Indian court allowed two Russians to leave the country more than two months after they had been arrested for illegally collecting insects in the Himalayan state of Sikkim, their lawyers said. Reuters reports that the entomologists were arrested early in August in the forest area of Yuksome and accused of illegally collecting around 2,000 butterflies, moths and beetles.

Osama is OK here

"I look at him like a brother. There's a million Marcuses in the United States. Where [the owners] come from, there's a million Osamas."

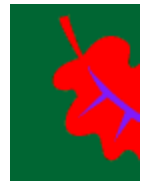
- Marcus Burton, a customer of Osama Foods in Chicago. Osama Farhan has owned the small market for eight years, and his customers have no problem with him keeping the store's moniker. Reported in the Chicago Tribune.

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If all the cars in Memphis were placed end to end, someone would try to pass them.

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- Features Editor:
Peggy McKenzie, 901-529-2341
- Arts & Entertainment Editor: Jon Sparks, 901-529-2794
- Deputy features editors:
 - Television, Food, Travel: Carmen Ihle Hall, 529-2766
 - Daily Appeal: Stephanie Jones, 529-2397
 - Home & Garden, Health & Fitness, Family: Peggy Reisser Winburne, 529-2372
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October 19, 2001

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