

GRAPEVINE



Best berries

Congrats to Acton's Gerry Byrne whose delectable spreads placed first in two categories at the Royal Winter Fair. Byrne's strawberry jam - made with berries from Andrews Scenic Acres - and his single fruit jam - raspberry jam made with berries from MacMillan's - earned him top honours from the judges.

Byrne, a teacher in Mississauga, won't know why his entries won until next month when he receives the judge's comments and his ribbons, in the mail. Byrne also picked up a second place finish for his zucchini relish.

Acton 4-H members, brother and sister, Gregory and Heather Aitken, also were winners at the Royal. Greg's barley entry earned him first place and Heather's barley entry placed second.

Moonlight Madness

Great deals, Christmas carols and lots of lights will greet shoppers tomorrow (Friday) night in downtown Acton as the Acton BIA (Business Improvement Area) sponsors Moonlight Madness from 6 to 10 p.m.

One lucky person will receive a \$250 shopping spree - the draw will be made at 10 p.m., - and everyone is invited to a community carol sing and festival of lights at the Main and Mill Street parkette.

Bountiful bazaar

Homemade food, crafts and great deals are promised for Saturday's Christian Reformed Church on Saturday, an annual event featuring a white elephant table, grab barrel and meat croquets - tasty bundles of coated meat.

Money raised from the event, \$1,200 last year, is earmarked for church programs and projects including in past years a new organ, kitchen equipment and ceiling frieze.

Organizers say the best deals will be the crafts, bake table and soup and croquet lunch. Doors open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

School sale

If the Santa Claus parade on Saturday gets you in the mood for a little Christmas shopping, check out the sixth annual craft sale at Acton High School, featuring over 100 juried vendors selling a huge array of handmade crafts and gifts.

The event will also feature raffles, a bake table, lunch and refreshments. Proceeds go to pay for school equipment and the athletic teams.

Ladies only, please

Still in the mood to shop, ladies? Check out Acton Home Hardware on Tuesday (Nov. 20) for a ladies shopping night with great deals, food and craft demonstrations and decorating tips and gift wrapping.

"We wanted to attract more ladies in our store to realize everything that we have," co-owner Val Manes said, adding, "we're still hearing so many

people saying, "Oh, is this new?" when they see the gourmet section.

Every woman - and no men will be allowed in the store from 7 to 9 p.m. - will receive a little gift bag filled with goodies, and there will be four demonstrations, including a Christmas craft and a chocolate fondue.

Ace athlete

Kudos to Acton's Emily Boycott, 18, who will compete in rhythmic gymnastics at the Canadian Special Olympics next summer after great performances at the national qualifier last month in Oakville.

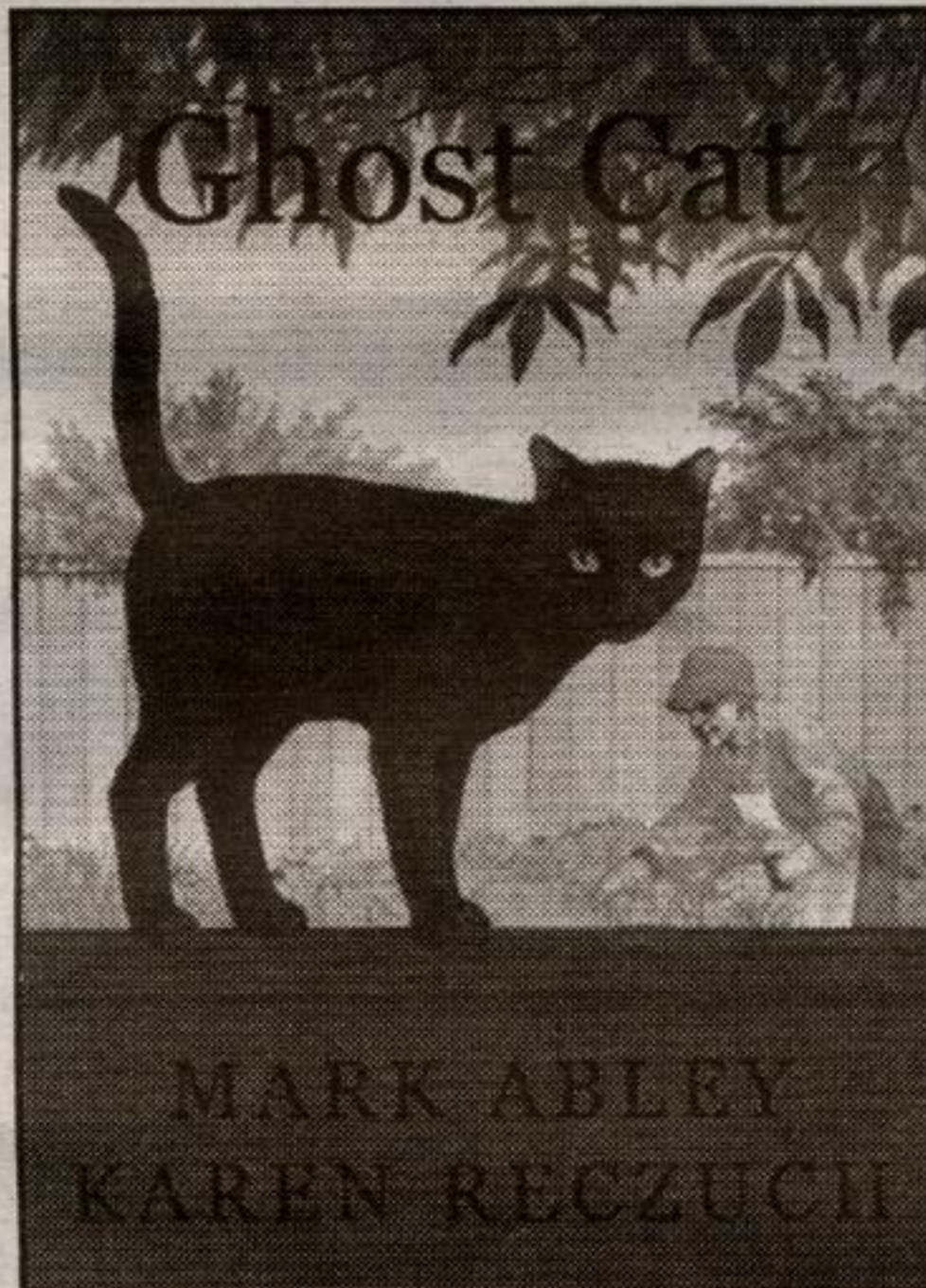
Boycott, a member of the Oakville Butterflies, captured gold medals in the ball, rope and hoop and overall, as well as a silver in ribbons, at the provincial meet.

Boycott will be one of eight athletes, four of them from the Oakville club, who will compete at the nationals this summer in Saskatchewan.

CVC award

Kudos to the north Halton environmental group P.O.W.E.R. (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) which received an Award of Distinction from Credit Valley Conservation.

P.O.W.E.R. was recognized for its projects in the Niagara Escarpment, Sixteen Mile Creek and Fairy Lake, which involved students in restoration, tree planting, environmental education activities and school yard naturalization.



Illustrator's invitation

Ever wondered how an artist illustrates a book?

Award-winning Acton illustrator, Karen Reczuch, will reveal the process on Saturday during the launch of her latest book, *The Ghost Cat*, during an open house from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at her studio in the William's Mill in Glen Williams.

Reczuch recently relocated her studio in the artisans' complex, and her open house is part of a larger celebration that will include a miniature painting show, demonstrations, a fashion walk-about and refreshments.

Vivid memories...

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man asked my mother for her name and she responded.

"Your mother's name," he said. Again she answered.

"Your mother's maiden name," he asked, and she blanched and said with infinite reluctance, "Grynspan."

My heart did strange things as I recognized that the name was the same as the young man who had killed vom Rath. The interrogator didn't though.

"How do you spell that?" he asked. And she did.

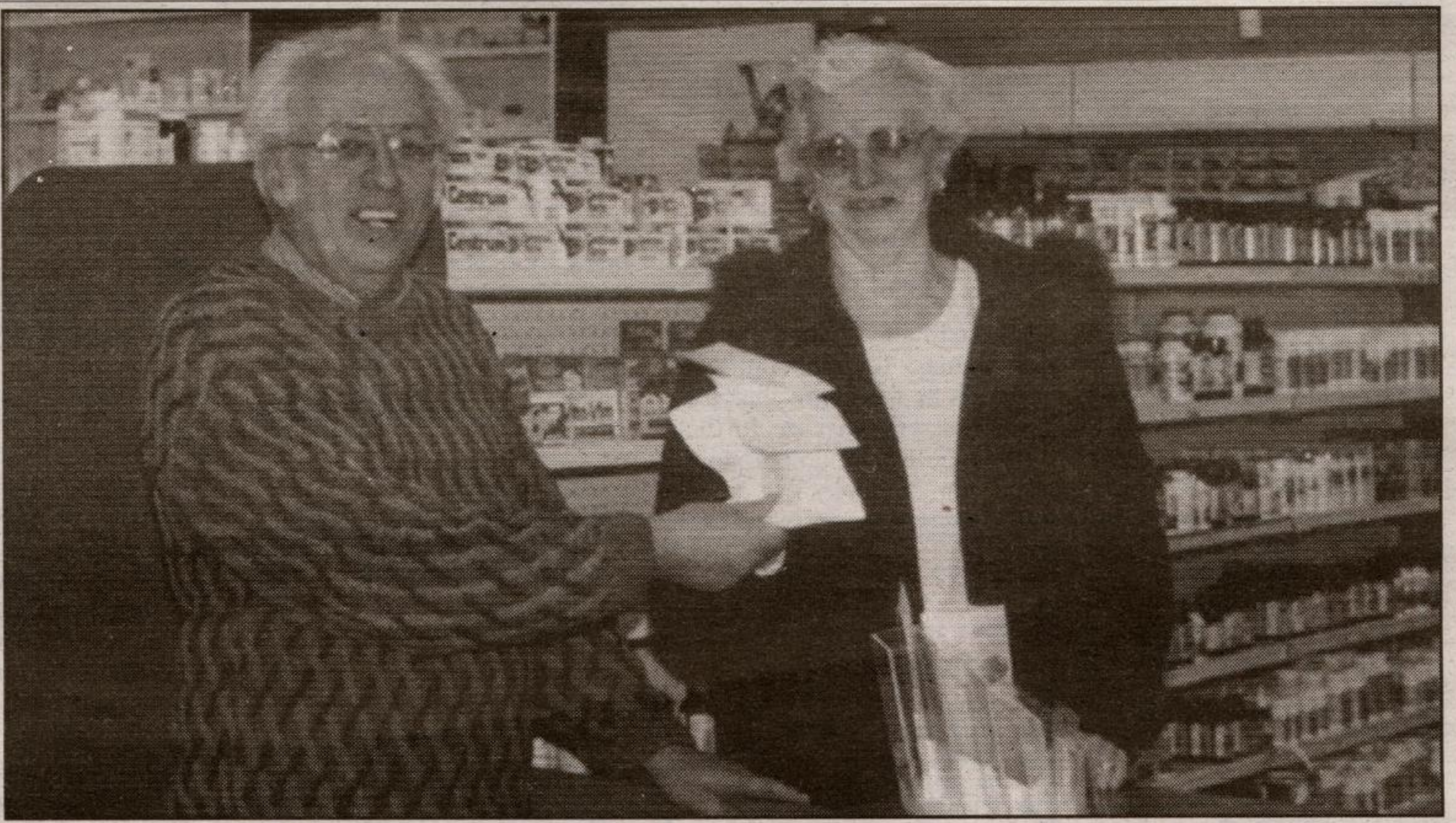
The interview was over and we went home.

Three months later we were aboard the SS Ausonia, en route to Canada. We arrived in Toronto on February 14, 1939.

And every November of every year since then I find myself thinking out loud,

"Dear God, thank you for taking me from Kristallnacht to Valentine's Day."

Retired journalist Jack Granek worked for the *Toronto Telegram* and *The Toronto Star* and has friends in Acton.



FIRST AND LAST: When Bill Yundt opened Acton Pharmacy over 35 years ago at the corner of Mill and Main Sts., the first customer was Acton resident Erma Nessel. Fittingly, 35 years later the final customer Bill served at his drug store, before it passed into the hands of Pharma-Plus in September of this year, was the same Erma Nessel, shown with Bill above. "I was pregnant at the time and as big as a house," Erma recalled. "And my mother sent me over to pick up a prescription. Bill and I have been friends ever since." Bill was the longest established business owner in downtown Acton when he sold to Pharma-Plus. He is still filling prescriptions until the new owners make other arrangements.

All around the town

While it might be stretching things a tad to say Acton is blooming, it's been busy around here lately. Here are a few of the things that caught my interest.

First, I would like to congratulate our Legion on an excellent Remembrance Day ceremony. The weather was perfect, the proceedings dignified and appropriately sombre. I thought there were more people attending this year. That was great to see, and I know our Veterans really appreciate the support. While everyone was silent, with the flag at half-mast, a solitary bird landed in the tree next to the band and broke into song.

It was a magical moment, make of it what you will. It was, to me, a song of hope and triumph. Those men did not die in vain. We should thank them every time we pass the Cenotaph.

Many people mentioned to me that they received their firearm registration forms. Registration, supposedly a one-time exercise (yeah - sure), is free. Through this fee of zero dollars, the zero brains implementing this zero effective program tell us they will self-finance the more than \$500 million we have spent so far. Now this makes zero sense to me. But then, I didn't vote for those guys, so it's no wonder I can't grasp their economics. Perhaps someone will write in and explain it to me.

A reader gave me a copy of the registration form. As usual, with government documents, it's a bit of a hoot. For example, all different types of guns - bolt action, lever action, pump and semi-automatic are illustrated. Under each illustration is an explanation. Under lever action it says, "The breech mechanism is cycled by a lever usually found below the receiver or frame." Usually? I'm no expert but I'll wager the only gun ever designed with the lever on the top or side was designed by the government. Question: if someone owns a gun and doesn't know what a lever action is, should we be explaining it or grabbing the gun? I don't want to be picky but...

The new IGA store is quickly coming along. It's planned to open by the end of the month. Congratulations to the Manes family, and their staff, who I am sure are working brutal hours. It's great to see this development finally

The Way I See It

with Mike O'Leary



taking place.

The trailers are open for new home sales in the Acton East development. Sources tell me they have sold 20 homes so far. Occupancy should take place late next summer. Our business community has needed this expansion for years. Hopefully, when all the houses are built, our retailers will get a badly needed shot in the arm. I don't think we will grow that large that we lose our small town atmosphere. At least, I hope not.

I wrote a few weeks ago about the excellent care I received from the VON while recuperating at home. This was arranged by the Halton Community Care Access Centre (CCAC). I also wrote that the CCAC was in budget trouble with the provincial government. Last week the government introduced legislation giving the health ministry control over all the CCACs in the province. The Tories can abolish existing boards and replace them with hand-picked appointees. This, my friends, needs watching. If the Tories stack these boards with cronies or hacks this critical service could be in jeopardy. I say this for two reasons.

First, in most cases, big government is incapable of running a two-car funeral. Second, when in doubt, refer to rule number one.

The Halton CCAC, as I understand it, got into financial difficulties because they gave their nurses more money. They had to because (a) nurses deserved a raise, (b) hospital nurses (employed by the health ministry) were paid at a higher rate and CCACs were losing nurses at an alarming rate. So their choice was pay the nurses and go over budget or save budget dollars but have no staff to deliver services. This is undoubtedly a simplistic explanation but it demonstrates the "damned if you do, damned if you don't" situation CCACs found themselves in.

This government, whom I thought already had enough hot potatoes to juggle, just reached into the oven and snatched up another one. Stay tuned, this issue is important to all of us.

As I was dragging my 30 bags of leaves out to the curb, I remembered reading that next year we will no longer be allowed to use plastic leaf bags. With a nod to the ecology gods, council has decreed that only Kraft paper bags or reusable containers will be allowed next year. Supposedly, this will save the town tens of thousands of dollars in disposal costs as well as being more environmentally friendly. All sounds good so far - right?

The problem with a treed lot is that you have all that time to think while gathering up nature's beauty. Aren't we being screwed here? What happens to the savings? Will our taxes go down by an equivalent amount? Kraft paper bags are more expensive so those costs go up for us, also. If we leave our leaves out and it rains, as it does at this time of year, will Kraft paper bags be in any shape for pick-up?

Please, let's forget about this reusable container stuff. With the leaves I have, I'd need 30 standardized garbage cans. I already recycle many leaves. Every one I dig into the Bride's gardens is one less to bag.

I was under the impression that today's plastic bags were biodegradable, although it doesn't say that on the box. I'm starting to get paranoid every time governments say they are "going to save us money" or "it's environmentally friendly." In both cases I'm coming to the conclusion those are code words for "Smile - you're going to get nailed again." If governments keep doing stuff that's good for us and saves us money, we're all going to be bankrupt.

Lastly, I note that Latvian pro-Communist agitator Alina Lebedeva (age 16), who smucked Prince Charles with a carnation to protest the West's involvement in the war on terrorism, is under arrest. She could be sentenced to up to 15 years. But, because of her age, will probably get probation.

Sure, the Communists have such a remarkable humanitarian record that we need to return to that system. Ask any Ukrainian. What caught my eye was that it's reported the Prince was unhurt, but startled.

I don't think so. After waking up with Camilla-two-names beside him - nothing could possibly startle him. D'accord?