

'Doomsday' film nears completion

CHICAGO — The star of the movie hopes it never will be shown on television: It's a government film telling you what to do in the event of a nuclear holocaust.

The doomsday film — a series of five video tapes — is earmarked for training purposes, and Civil Defense spokesman Gleason Seaman said they will be telecast only if there is an impending nuclear attack against the United States.

Chicago physicist Leonard Reiffel is being paid about \$50,000 for the script, artwork and narration

for the five videotapes about what Americans should do during a nuclear onslaught, an official of the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency said.

"I hope the tapes are never used for anything other than training," Reiffel said. "No human being would want to be the star of the largest and last television show in history — no sane human being."

"These are being produced for use in a severe crisis and are only to be used in that time," another official said. "But there is no significance to it being done now. It's a very leisurely thing, part of our

routine and that's very important for you to understand."

The 15-minute tapes will deal with such things as how to improvise shelters against radiation bombardment, what to expect in a nuclear attack and how to monitor and recognize signs of radiation exposure.

The filming is being done at the agency's staff college in Battle Creek, Mich. So far three tapes have been shot, an agency official at the college said. Final filming is scheduled to be completed later this month.

Overall costs of the project are unknown, because no breakdown has been made on studio videotaping expenses. He was not sure if final distribution plans have been formed.

Reiffel said the film content is largely common sense and people acquainted with nuclear weapons would know much of the information in the tapes.

"My personal opinion is that it can do nothing good, not miracles," he said. "But after all, we live — and I'm not saying that's all the films save — make a difference."

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Beer-brewing class tempts serious students to take sip

United Press International
DAVIS, Calif. — Michael Lewis may be the only professor at the University of California at Davis whose class attracts students eager for homework assignments.

Lewis, professor of food science and technology, teaches a unique course entitled "Malting and Brewing Technology." In other words, his students brew beer — not for consumption but for scientific analysis.

But eager though his students may be for a thirst-quenching sample of their schoolwork, they have to settle for academic satisfaction.

Lewis, a Welsh descendant of a long line of brewers and pub owners, said the class is far from a sud-swigging den of tipsy students.

"It's not a drinking or beer-swilling class," he said. "There's no fooling around." He said only seniors with "strong scientific backgrounds — serious scholars" — are allowed to enroll.

Lewis said many of his students find employment in the brewing and malting industries.

"I was tempted to take a sip of the beer," admitted Monica Osa, a fermentation science major. "Everybody's tempted."

"But we're not here to make tasty beer; we're here to analyze its physical characteristics. Everybody thinks it's a lot of fun; nothing is further from the truth. It's not an easy class.

"Everybody thinks we do all our beer swilling at school instead of after, but that's not true."

Osa said the class made her more conscious of a beer's characteristics when she sips a glass of the golden refreshment.

"The class made us more aware when we drink beer," she said. "The way it smells, what color it is. Before I kind of guzzled it down."

Under the supervision of Lewis, students test the beer they brew, as well as commercial beer for color, bitterness and raw materials.

It takes from six weeks to more than four months to brew beer. Beer is usually aged for one to three months at the Davis laboratory.

While Lewis deals with the refined techniques of brewing, he has a few recommendations for the beer-drinking public.

"Each beer is right for an occasion," said Lewis. "If you're thirsty after mowing the lawn on a hot day, a light beer is ideal. It will relieve the dryness without weighing you down."

A heavier beer, one that is darker and higher in alcoholic content, would be suitable for "sitting around when you can concentrate on what

your mouth is doing," he said.

Lewis said the fermentation laboratory at the university is such facility on a college campus as the Western Hemisphere.

Class enrollment has increased steadily to its present number of about 70 students. Lewis said university officials have supported the program, which also has backing from the brewing industry.

While wine is thought of as an upper class beverage, he said, beer is viewed as the working man's beverage for the less affluent.

"But that's not necessarily an image," Lewis said.

In the past, beer has had a inferior image because it was less expensive than wine, he said. Muhleman, a research scientist, said "the working class beer," Muhleman said.

But Muhleman thinks beer is being respected among consumers.

"More people, and that includes the affluent, are drinking beer," he said. "They're becoming more conscious of quality, being more active, they're getting more out of their beer."

Raccoon Man evicts 'masked sleepers'

United Press International
WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — For a solid month, Barbara Blanchfield had to live with six masked intruders who refused to leave. She finally had to call Raccoon Man to evict them.

Holed up in the Blanchfield home was a chattering family of chimney sleepers. Raccoons. Five babies and the mother.

Enter Charles Daniels, a 68-year-old retired oil burner serviceman who has been snaring raccoons at his own expense throughout Connecticut for more than 12 years. He got into it when state lawmakers first considered a call for a raccoon bounty.

"The chicken farmers and corn farmers was up to the legislature kicking up a fuss and wanted a bounty put on them," he recalls. "Some folks figured that if they ever put a bounty on them, well, they just would wipe them right out, so all the game clubs sent representatives up there."

Finally, a bargain was struck. The game clubs agreed to snare raccoons which unwittingly intrude on the premises or good graces of state residents. And the state agreed to forget imposing a bounty.

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection now issues permits to game clubs, which send someone out to pick up the raccoons.

That's usually Daniels. He says he's not surprised raccoons are taking up temporary residence in Connecticut homes.

"Where else are they going to go?" he asks. "There ain't no hollow trees anymore. That's where they make their home."

That and urban sprawl have narrowed the number of places raccoons

can nest, he said. Daniels plucked 238 raccoons from chimneys of West Hartford in 1976 and released them in parks.

Daniels said capture of raccoons can sometimes be a bit tricky.

Since the small animals are like "anything sweet," he says, he baits a cage trap with jelly and chocolate cream.

And then he waits. Sometimes a raccoon will come to the trap, sniff the bait, turn its nose and saunter off, shaking its tail.

If the waiting game doesn't pay off, Daniels puts on his hat and old clothes and wiggles his chimney after them.

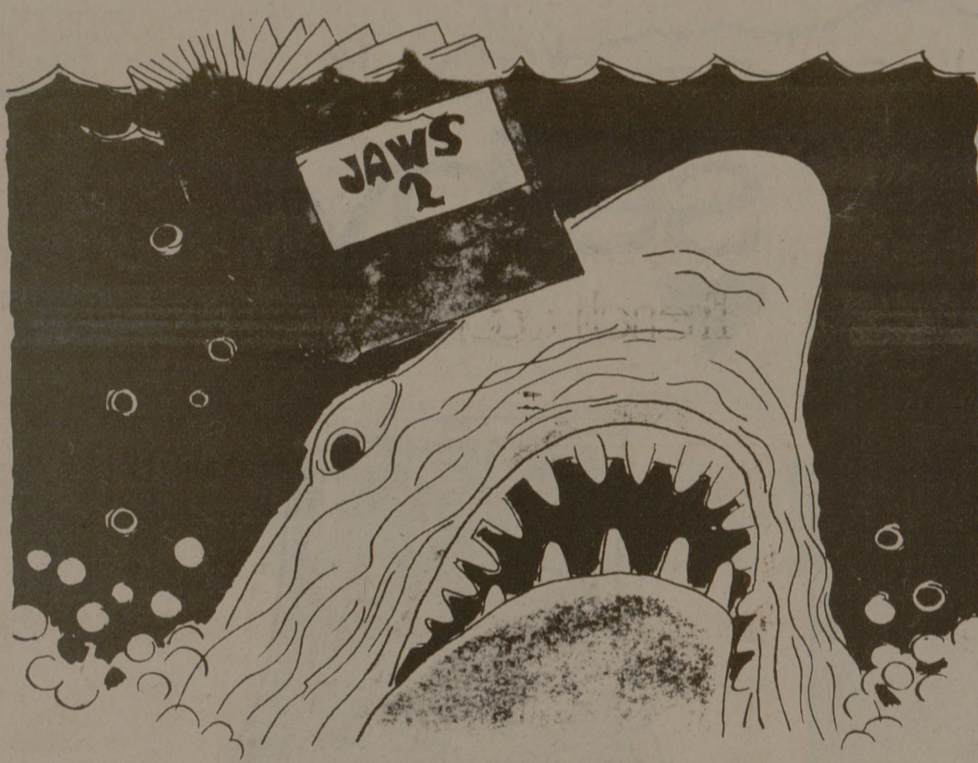
In the case of Mrs. Blanchfield, the situation was complicated because he had to take the babies away from their own. Finally, he plucked 1-pound pups from their nest and placed them in a bucket, leaving the snoring raccoon alone in her sooty den.

"They're not always so docile," Daniels said. "This one wanted to put up an argument."

He stood outside the Blanchfield home, explaining he will release the cubs when they weigh 2 pounds, at about five or six weeks old. They will grow to 25-30 pounds.

While Daniels was talking, the mother raccoon stepped up to the top of the chimney and her forepaws over the edge looked down. She laid back her ears and let out a long, low wailing cry.

"She'll leave now," Daniels said. "She has to stay for."



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