

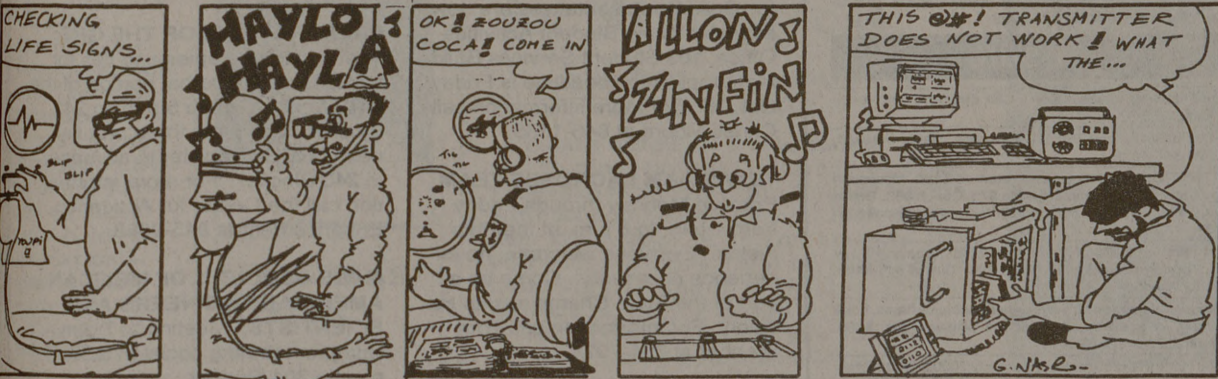
(the story so far...)

by thomas deeny



The Food Chain

by george



KoZY "K"

By Clay Welch



Shops stock Columbus Halloween costumes

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Business is anything but flat for costume shops stocked with Christopher Columbus gear for Halloween.

"We are going absolutely crazy right now with Christopher Columbus," said Ken Fox of Magic Makers Cosiumes in Huntington.

"That carries over to your fancy parties for people to be King Ferdinand, Queen Isabella and Columbus. We anticipated that and got ready for it."

Schools and organizations around Williamsport, Pa., have been renting Columbus-period costumes for weeks during this 500th anniversary of the explorer's voyage, said Barbara Drawbaugh of Watkins Costumes.

"We don't normally rent a lot of Columbus stuff," Drawbaugh said.

At Stages costumes in Wheeling, a mere \$35 will rent a drab costume portraying Columbus as he might have appeared when he set foot in the New World.

"But that's not what they want. They want this glorified shiny gold, king-like Columbus because they want to look good rather than be authentic," said owner Dan Fincham.

In Columbus, Ga., anything related to the 15th century is hot for Halloween.

Lottery winner shares \$14 million with boss

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LANSING, Mich. — When Rita Downing borrowed money from her boss to buy a lottery ticket, she promised she would split the loot 50-50 if she won. Much to the surprise of both of them, her promise came true.

Downing, 36, said she learned her ticket won a \$14 million Michigan lottery jackpot on Friday.

"I threw the newspaper out Friday morning and then I thought, 'Better check the Michigan Lottery numbers,'" she said. "When I saw the numbers, I thought to myself, 'Nah, maybe we matched four numbers.'"

"So, I asked my husband to double-check them. I couldn't believe it."

Downing, who lives in Goshen, Ind., about 20 miles south of the Michigan state line, knew what she had to do.

Her boss, Larry Schlach, president of Superior Rigging & Erecting Inc., said Downing called him Friday on his car phone to tell him the news.

"She was screaming, 'We won! we won!'" said Schlach, 43. "I said, 'Won what?' She screamed, 'The Michigan Lotto jackpot! I didn't believe her, but then her husband got on the phone and said, 'You really did win.' I'm still in shock."



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