

Old MacSpiderman Had a Farm...

By Brennan Blomgren

I like researching weird stuff. Given the fact that I am weird myself, this really isn't terribly surprising. I love writing about stuff for fun, and for the Sword. I also like indulging my imagination, making things up that are even more bizarre than what the world can make. I usually succeed, but sometimes I like to challenge the world to beat my mind in the weird-war.

So, in honor of this decision, I decided to sit down and do some actual work for a change. I thought that, before making something up, I'd give reality a chance to compete with my twisted, warped, and deranged brain. I proceeded to do some extensive and dedicated research, as I have learned how to do during my long and productive stay at Concordia University.



Before I continue, I have an announcement to the world: I give up. I thought I was a twisted, warped, and strange person, but you world, have proved that your reality is still a billion times more insane.

Apparently there's this company in Canada called Nexia Biotechnologies. Because of some madness (probably born from an overabundance of moose), they decided that it would be great if they could somehow farm spider silk. Spider silk is apparently one of the strongest substances on the planet, even though it snaps whenever I happen to walk into a web. It's also pretty much impossible to make artificially because, I dunno, maybe spiders murder anyone who tries while they sleep. My main question is: Why would we want



to synthesize this stuff in the first place? To make spider-silk shirts?

Simply making giant

spider farms is hard, due to their territorial nature, the debilitating nightmares inflicted on the farmers, the horrible flesh-eating poison, etc. Due to the difficulty these mad Canadian scientists decided to GENETICALLY SPLICE SPIDERS WITH GOATS. Go figure. This sounds like the plot of some horrible horror movie called "Attack of the Spidergoats." Now, some of you may be asking how exactly this solves the spider silk harvesting problem. Simple! Scientists planned this so that, instead of milk, these goats would produce spider silk. That's right - these abominations would be shooting spider webs out of their nipples. This is apparently so much more simple and safer than just collecting cobwebs. I wish I could make stuff like that up - I'd have a more lucrative horror-writing career than Stephen King.

Of course, being as paranoid as I am, I cannot help but notice several key facts. Spiders are among the most effective and devious hunters in the animal kingdom, but are also tiny and don't have much of an appetite. Goats, on the other hand, are larger, eat everything, and are commonly associated to Satan. This seems to be the perfect way to create a diabolic predator that can climb anywhere, run faster than a human being, spin giant man traps out of its nipple webs, and eat everything from bedsheets to raw human flesh. This, surely, will have no negative consequences whatsoever. There is time to stop this madness, right?

Maybe if we lived in a continent where scientists were sane. However, the fact that this is even an issue pretty much proves that to be wrong. So naturally, they already exist. Their names are Peter and Webster. Enjoy your nightmares.

NEWS BRIEFS

Andy Wyss attempts military coup of SWORD News Briefs

Andy Wyss, former *Sword* editor and creator of the paper's News Briefs, returned to CSP on November 5th with a legion of devoted followers at his back. Arrested at the end of last year for making all of the News Briefs up, he broke out of jail on November 3rd before raising a large army. His purpose was to seize control of the Op Ed section and regain control of the News Briefs section from current editor, Brennan Blomgren

After a long struggle, the attempted coup ended with a dramatic sword battle atop the RLC clock tower between Wyss and Blomgren. As the clock struck midnight, Blomgren disarmed the traitorous writer and kicked Wyss off the edge of the tower, after which he mysteriously vanished and has not been seen since. "The people of Concordia can sleep safe now that this madman has been defeated," said Blomgren after the battle.

World NOOZ: Hu Jinato Awarded Nobel Peace Prize

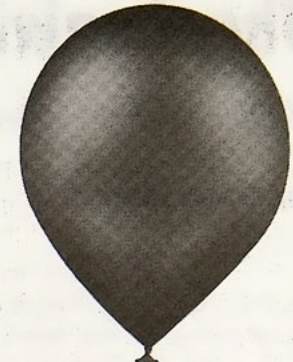
In a stunning decision, Chinese Leader Hu Jinato was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday thanks to his rigorous and so-far unyielding stance on refraining for the moment to take over the entire world.

"Jinato has an immensely powerful military force, a terrifying economy, and a nation that has some of the most impressive production capability of any other in the world," said a knowledgeable representative. "Furthermore, China is nuclear capable, and has been making aggressive overtures for some time. Many of us expected that he'd have taken the world over by now. But he hasn't!"

Jinato himself was just as surprised as anyone else for the announcement. "I never thought that I'd be awarded a prize simply because I haven't invaded anyone! Maybe I should delay my invasion another year to see if it will happen again!"

"Just kidding," Jinato said shortly after. "I don't want to delay any longer than I already have. Ha ha!"

What's up with that Balloon Boy?



By Levi Gribbon

In the news recently there has been a lot of coverage on the "balloon boy." Apparently a six year old kid climbed into a make-shift balloon and floated away. The parents freaked out, and there were military helicopters, grounded flights, and a big hassle. Then the balloon landed and the kid was not in it. He was later found in the family's garage attic. It has since then been revealed that it was all a hoax.

Why has this been such a big deal in the news? It is really quite stupid. I knew it was going to be a stupid ordeal when I heard the kid's name is Falcon. Seriously, who names a kid Falcon?

In the beginning of this news story when the kid was thought to be in the balloon, it was quite confusing as to why it was even a big deal. It wasn't really a big news story. A little kid is up in a balloon. Okay, whatever. Put that on page twelve or something. At this point it would have been a news story if the little kid was in the balloon and then fell out from twenty stories up. "Little boy tragically falls to death from homemade balloon." That would have been news worthy. To be brutally honest, when everyone thought he was in the balloon I was kind of hoping that he would fall out. A kid who gets in a balloon and floats off deserves to fall to the ground so that his stupid genes will not get passed on. Even better, I won't have to listen to the stupid story anymore.

The news networks should not have focused on this story as much as they did regardless if the boy was in the balloon or not. It is nothing more than a fluff piece. News networks focusing on stories like this to the point where it is all I hear about is why I fail my news quizzes in Journalism class. When I get asked what's going on in Iran I say, "I dunno. I didn't hear about that in the news. They were talking about some freak kid in a balloon."

People do ridiculous things to have any sort of fame. It is asinine. People should only be famous for actually doing something, like being a musician or professional athlete. Because we need to read about those guys and see their twitter feeds. After all they are so important.

I have always hated news stories like this. Perhaps it is because they have no affect on me at all. It is one of those stories that people will forget about in a week or two, and everybody will be talking about something else. I just really do not care, and get really sick of hearing about them. I have yet to write about something, and nobody is talking about anything else.