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Brother Sues Over Cat Bite

Jean Toney had warned people that Randy the cat had a biting problem. Her brother learned that the hard way – for both of them.

He sued her after the Siamese cat bit his hand, causing his fingers to swell up like “plump hot dogs,” as his lawyer put it, and putting him in the hospital for three weeks.

The jury took his side, awarding \$122,400 to the injured sibling, Michael Sabo, 57.

Sabo’s lawyer, Tom Pabst, said the cat leaped into Sabo’s lap in March 2004 and bit his right hand. An infection from the bite put him in the hospital.

Sabo tried to get his sister’s Farm Bureau Insurance homeowner’s policy to cover the cost of the bite, but when the request was refused, Past said his client had no choice but to sue.

Pabst said the insurance company would be expected to pay the jury award for medical bills, lost income and compensation for pain and suffering.

The case has put a strain on Sabo’s relationship with his sister, Pabst said.

Source: Associated Press; Wisconsin Independent Agent, November 2007

Wrong Flowers Generate \$400,000 Lawsuit

The wedding was lovely, except for the flowers. They were the wrong color. So says the bride, Elana Glatt, who was so upset that she sued the florist and alleged breach of contract.

She says Posy Floral Design in Manhattan substituted pastel pink and green hydrangeas for the dark rus and green ones that she had specified for 22 centerpieces.

Not only that, Glatt, a lawyer, alleges that the hydrangeas were wilted and brown and arranged in dusty vases without enough water. The flowers cost \$27,435.14 The lawsuit asks for more than \$400,000 in restitution and damages.

Source: Associated Press; Wisconsin Independent Agent; November 2007



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Tusk Dentistry??

Washington oral surgeon Robert Woo might have pulled off the ultimate practical joke. He stuck fake boar tusks in his assistant's mouth while she was sedated for a procedure, took pictures, and later, after she sued, convinced the state Supreme Court that he deserves \$750,000 for being abandoned by his insurance company.

The court, ruling 5-4, said Fireman's Fund Insurance Co., had a "duty to defend" the oral surgeon when he was sued. Inserting the boar tusks "conceivably fell within the (insurance) policy's broad definition of the practice of dentistry."

Source: Seattle Times, Associated Press; Wisconsin Independent Agent; November 2007

Is Brut Lotion Hazardous?

An 81-year-old Milwaukee man has sued the makers of Brut lotion after it ignited and burned parts of his hands, chest and neck.

Charles B Lewitzke's case was filed in the U. S. District Court in Wisconsin's Eastern District in November, 2007. He is seeking unspecified damages from Helen of Troy, Ltd., an El Paso, Texas, company that owns and markets Brut, and Unilever Home and Personal Care USA of New Jersey, a division of Conopco Inc., which had previously owned the product.

He also is suing Wal-Mart Stores East, which is where he bought two Brut products, a lotion and deodorant spray.

Lewitzke's attorney, Michael Hanrahan, said his client suffered burns on 30 percent of his body and underwent three skin grafts.

He claims in court documents that the Brut products and their packaging were the direct cause of Lewitzke's injuries and were defective because they were "reasonably dangerous."

"Our view is there is no warning that after you apply it, you remain flammable for some period of time," Hanrahan said. "You aren't thinking, 'I'm still flammable.'"

Source: Associated Press; Wisconsin Independent Agent; November 2007