

Willy the Warthog

One of the most disastrous school talks of all time was given by American Lawrence Bilbo, whose lecture on 'Why We Shouldn't be Cruel to Animals' culminated in him being shot in the buttock by a belligerent caretaker. An ardent animal rights campaigner, Mr Bilbo, 36, travelled the length and breadth of America giving talks to schoolchildren on animal welfare. "I used to dress up as Willy the Warthog," explained the caring conservationist. "I had a furry brown costume, and tusks, and little trotters that I wore over my shoes like galoshes. It gave the whole lecture a bit of topicality and the children loved it." On the day in question, Mr Bilbo had arrived to give a talk at a school in Cruger, Mississippi, secreting himself in the toilet and donning his Willy the Warthog costume before scampering into the corridor with a loud snort, ready to address the school's 200 children. Unfortunately, he was spotted by short-sighted caretaker Albert Miggins, who, convinced he was actually 'a lion or something', fetched his shotgun and pursued a terrified Mr Bilbo into the school playground, where he shot him in the backside. The lacerated lecturer has since discarded his warthog costume in favour of a bright-orange three-piece suit. "It's safer that way," he explained.