

NATIONAL POST TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2000

ARTS

B5

Oscars 4 Cheap: Police find 52 missing awards in supermarket trash bins

Police yesterday created the case of the stolen Oscars, recovering 52 of the 55 missing statuettes in time for next week's big show and arresting two disreputable company workers on charges of stealing the awards.

The awards were found in the trash bins behind a "Food 4 Cheap" supermarket in the Kew-Forest district of Los Angeles. Police said two employees, Lawrence Lebeck and Anthony Hart, of the Broadway Regency Co., which handles shipments of the Oscars,

were arrested Saturday night and charged with grand theft. They said the men stole the shipment en route to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences before they could be sold to the Oscars' sole buyers, but the police added that the men made plans to sell the awards, but police added that the men made plans to sell the awards, but police added that the men made plans to sell the awards.

even though he lived in only one room he now had more Oscars than anyone in Hollywood. "I'm going to buy one a day," he said on the possibility of receiving the \$10,000 reward for the Oscars' sole buyers and the arrest and conviction of the thieves. His discovery came exactly one week before the March 26 awards show. Not even a Hollywood screenwriter could have made up the plot of the stolen Oscars. The statuettes were stolen less than two weeks ago at the shipping company's loading dock in Bell, south of Los Angeles. After keeping the theft secret for several days, he

Series to have a trial by a jury of Frasier fans

Battery Park, a mid-season filler, is no Barney Miller

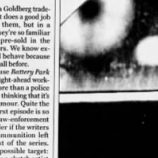


DAN BROWN on television

It's mid-season replacement time. This is the time of year when, February sweeps aside out of the way and May sweeps get to come, the major networks air the programs they think have enough confidence in to make a part of their fall schedules. Some shows that premiere this month or next will take off like a rocket. Others will be canceled before they even get to the air.

In fact, *Battery Park* has more in common with straight-ahead workplace comedies like *3rd City* (another Goldberg creation) and *FRAX* in Cleveland than it does with any of its police precursors. You guessed it — *Battery Park* is one of those shows that revolves around an unassuming Everyman who is frustrated in doing his job by a cast of jocular co-workers.

And who better to play an unassuming Everyman than a Canadian? Justin Lewis is detective Ben Harlin (David Foley must not have been available), who looks — but doesn't act — like he might be the younger brother of Jay T. Tatum. Lewis' main foil is Elizabeth Perkins (she played opposite Tom Hanks in *Big* way back in 1988), the ambitious precinct commander who really wants to be mayor of New York. The supporting players include the usual assortment of deceptives. There's the office doofus, the sceptic, the shrewy guy, the Latino and the

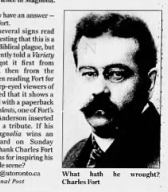
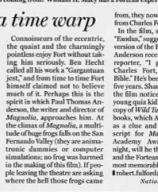


Where the heck are all these frogs coming from? William H. Macy has a Fortean experience in *Magnolia*.

Caught in a time warp

FORT

Commuters of the eccentric, the quaint and the charmingly peculiar enjoy Fort without taking him seriously. Ben Hecht called all his work "Fortean journalism," and from time to time Fort himself claimed not to believe much of it. Perhaps this is the spirit in which Paul Thomas Anderson, the writer and director of *Magnolia*, approaches him. At the climax of *Magnolia*, a multi-tale of four frogs falls on the San Fernando Valley (they are animals, not frogs, as the title suggests), no frog was harmed in the making of this film. (If people leaving the theatre are asking where the hell those frogs came



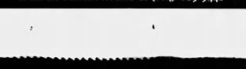
What hath he wrought? Charles Fort

If the start doesn't take your breath away, the scenery will.

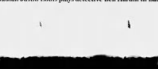


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Canadian Harlin's Lewis plays detective Ben Harlin in *Battery Park*.