

News From Around the Bend



Issue 108



NEWS FROM AROUND THE BEND

ERRATA, EPHEMERA, ET CETERA.

ISSUE #108
DECEMBER 2023

A periodical brought to you periodically by
The Northcraft Entertainment Organization

Cover: George Nissen, American gymnast and inventor of the modern trampoline. (With friend.)

Publisher/Editor for Life
ACOUSTIC ROSS

Known & Suspected Contributors To Your Delinquency This Month

MARK ALLENDER
SHAWN BRETT
GINNY GREENAWALT
JENNIFER HAZEN
The JOHNSONS

The KNARRS
The MASONS
NIKKI RENOIT
GLORIA SHADE
The YUNGKURTHS

send links & clippings
to ross@nfatb.com

This Month's Cartoons

Liana Finck for The New Yorker (p. 4)
Drew Dernavich for The New Yorker (p. 5)
Bizarro (bizarro.com) by **Dan Piraro** (p. 8)
Sarah's Scribbles by **Sarah Andersen** (p. 9)
Navied Mahdavian for The New Yorker (p. 12 top)
Slick Satan (slicksatan.com) (p. 12 bottom)

Argyle Sweater by **Scott Hilburn** (p. 13)
Pia Guerra for The New Yorker (p. 14)
Mick Stevens for The New Yorker (p. 15)

We've been unable to find the source of the Akron cartoon on page 10, let us know if YOU know!

NOTES FROM THE SKEPTIC TANK

SEASON'S CRETINS!

Hey, we appear to have made it through another year!¹ We're back just in time for the lingering embers of a long year. And as we do in these year-end issues² we've filled the place with a variety of our trademark Season's Cretins.

One good source of cretins is the annual Ig Nobel awards, given every September to ten recipients whose work, often of a dubious or seemingly unhelpful variety, has "first made people laugh, and then made them think."³

Prawo Jazdy was a notorious Polish criminal sought for a time by the Garda Síochána (the Irish Republic's national police). After trying to find this miscreant ticketed for 50+ speeding & parking violations all over Ireland, the Gardaí checked an online dictionary, and discovered "Prawo Jazdy" ...means "driving license." It was printed at the top of Polish driving licenses. All of them.

The Gardaí won the 2009 Ig Nobel award for Literature, but refused to attend the ceremony⁴ so it was accepted on their behalf by a Polish citizen who had received a traffic violation in Ireland.

Enjoy the new issue (you don't even need a license to read it!), Happy New Year to all who celebrate, and we'll see you soon.



– RmG³, NFATB CEO, December 24, 2023 –

¹ A few months shy of TWO years, if you're counting from our last published issue (February 2022). If you've been here ANY length of time you can't possibly be surprised anymore by long hiatuses. Hiatii. Whatever.

² and, let's be realistic, every OTHER issue too

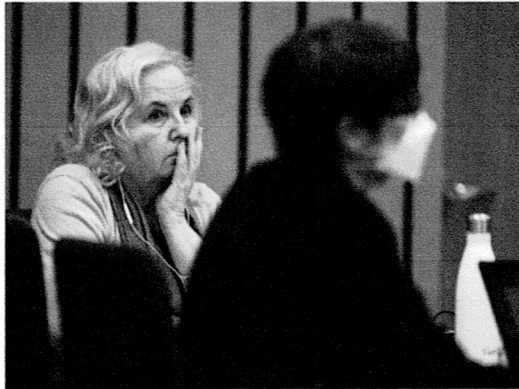
³ I'm not saying anyone should nominate NFATB for one, but I'm not NOT saying it

⁴ "brak poczucia humoru" is Polish for "lack of sense of humor," in case you were wondering

'How to Murder Your Husband' writer found guilty of murdering her husband

May 26, 2022 · 8:02 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Romance writer Nancy Crampton Brophy, left, accused of killing her husband, Dan Brophy, in June 2018, watches proceedings in court in Portland, Ore., Monday, April 4, 2022.

Dave Killen/AP



KEN GRIFFEY JR., 1994

Seattle Mariners centerfielder, on the effect an upcoming baseball strike would have on the stellar seasons he and Chicago White Sox first baseman Frank Thomas were enjoying: "We picked a bad year to have a good year."

I have a mind to join a club
and beat you over the head with it.

GROUCHO MARX

Did your tortilla chips get a little stale?
Toss them in the oven for ten minutes
at 375 degrees. They'll come out just
like new!

And By "You Have Aggressive Cancer," We Just Meant "Merry Christmas"

Ed Mazza, AP, 12/31/2022

Thousands of patients at a British medical clinic received some horrific news just before Christmas 2022, when they were told via text that they had aggressive lung cancer.

From the forwarded letters at
CMP, has asked for
you do a DS1500 for the above
patient. Diagnosis - Aggressive
lung cancer with metastases.
Thanks
no-reply.text@nhs.net

But the messages from the Askern Medical Practice in Doncaster, England, turned out to be a mistake.

"Please accept our sincere apologies for the previous text message sent," the clinic said in a follow-up, according to NPR. "This has been sent in error. Our message to you should have read We wish you a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

The BBC said it took up to an hour for patients to receive the correction. Patient Sarah Hargreaves told the broadcaster she had been waiting for biopsy results when she received the message and "felt sick to my teeth and broke down."

Patient Chris Reed told The Sun that his partner burst into tears upon hearing the news. He called the clinic, but couldn't get through — and then went in person. "They went from, 'You've got lung cancer' to 'Merry Christmas' in about an hour," he told the newspaper. "Unbelievable."

Patient Vicky Southgate said on Facebook that she was "shaking and close to tears" after getting the message, according to The Independent. And patient Carl Chegwin told NPR he would not be returning to the practice. "That kind of thing breaks people and drives people to despair," he was quoted as saying.

The clinic has not publicly commented on the matter after sending out the correction message.



Down East Humor At Its Best

David Sharp, AP 3/9/2023

(Augusta ME) A Maine vegan whose custom license plate contains the word "tofu" is one of the motorists caught in a state crackdown on vulgar tags.

Car owners across the United States can pay an extra fee to customize license plates, sparking creativity and personality but causing headaches for state officials who have to decide what's acceptable.

Maine had for several years allowed people to put just about any combination of letters and numbers on their vehicle plates, including words and phrases that other states would ban. But the state decided to change course and this year recalled 274 plates it deemed inappropriate.

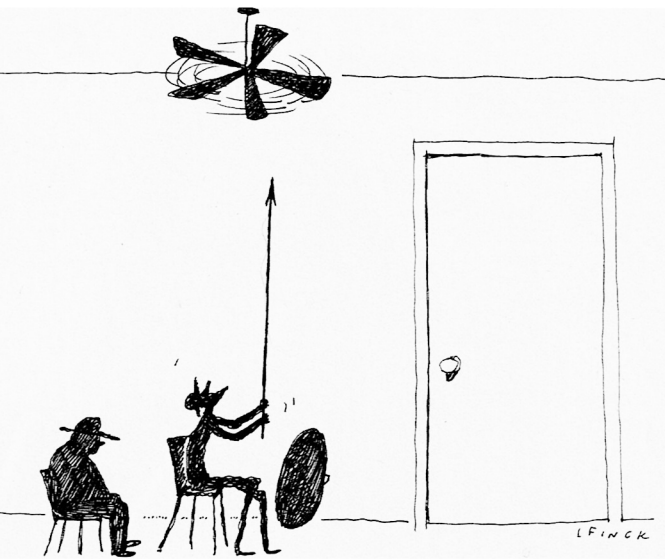
Some people are fighting back. So far the state has rejected all of the appeals, including one brought by the vegan whose license plate referenced tofu.

The state concluded the license plate "LUVTOFU" could've been seen as a reference to sex instead of admiration for bean curd. The motorist insisted there was no mistaking his intent because the back of his car had several tofu-related stickers.

Heather Libby and her best friend grudgingly gave up their matching license plates that contained a word for a female dog.

When the state effectively ended the review process for so-called vanity license plates in 2015, some residents filled their plates with all manner of profanities, including F-bombs, either spelled out or abbreviated.

Residents in a state known for being laconic and even-tempered soon were sporting uncensored plates pairing the F-word with "snow," "haters," and "ALS," — the incurable neurodegenerative disease.



The Australian company Wombaroo creates powdered milk formulas for exotic baby animals. Its list of products ranges from lion milk to kangaroo milk to panda milk.

\$3.70

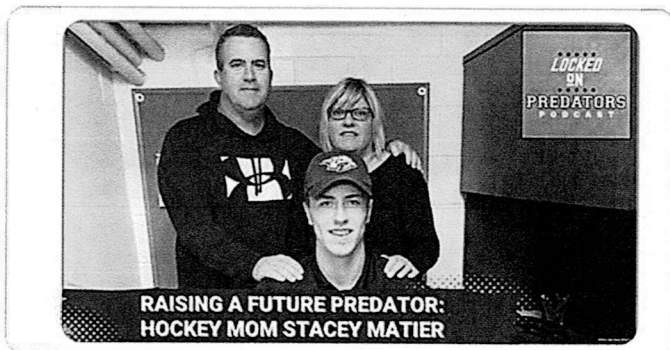
Average amount of money that the Tooth Fairy leaves kids per tooth, according to a survey of parents by Delta Dental Plans Association



Because most dead bodies will be onscreen for less than 10 seconds, film and television producers often use a freeze frame to ensure a still corpse.

 **Gourmet Spud**
@gourmetspud

"We mean the Nashville kind, everyone! The Nashville kind!"



There is a thin line between genius and insanity. I have erased this line.

OSCAR LEVANT

ANDRE AGASSI, 1990

tennis player, assessing his career so far:
"I've only scratched
the iceberg."

Cheese Heist Cheeses Off Big Cheeses

Claire Moses with Daniel Victor, New York Times, 4/8/2022

Thieves have long found cheese as lucrative as many people find it delicious, and a sophisticated heist in the Netherlands has dairy farmers there on high alert.

Gerda van Dorp, a Dutch cheese farmer in the southern town of Fijnaart, woke up on March 29 to a mostly empty cheese storage room. Overnight, thieves had taken 161 wheels of cheese, weighing 3500 pounds, that had taken months to make and mature. The value: about \$23,000.

Cheese from similar robberies in 2016 was later located in Eastern Europe, said Theo Dekker, the chairman of an interest group for Dutch dairy farmers. The incident has left some farmers on edge. No one has been arrested in the case, the police said, and an investigation is ongoing.

The thieves also stole her trailer and two wheelbarrows from the farm, the police said, presumably to transport the cheese to a bus or a truck. (A wheel of cheese is roughly 10 kilos, or 22 pounds.) The police said they recovered the trailer and the wheelbarrows nearby.

Selling the cheese inside the Netherlands might be difficult. Every wheel of cheese has its own serial number, and farms add their logos to it as well to indicate where it was made — and to make the products easily traced.

"Thankfully this doesn't happen often, but we're worried about how professional this has become," Mr. Dekker, who is a dairy farmer himself, said. "These people come at night and take everything with brute force. It's almost like organized crime."

Dutch newspaper NRC estimated that during a rash of similar thefts in 2015, close to 19,000 pounds of cheese had been stolen. The problem isn't limited to the Netherlands. Italy's precious Parmesan cheese is a frequent target, including a daring nighttime heist of 25,000 pounds in 2018. In the US, someone made off with more than 20,000 pounds of cheese from a farm in Wisconsin, valued at more than \$46,000, when an unmarked trailer was stolen from a parking lot.

*We don't see things as they are,
we see them as we are.*

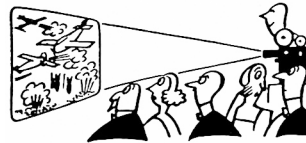
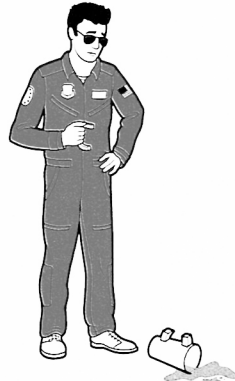
--Anais Nin
American novelist and diarist

Questionable Judgment

Tucson, Arizona, firefighters were called on Oct. 15 to a mobile home park after a resident there tried to remove spiderwebs from beneath his trailer using a propane torch, but ended up setting his home on fire. KVOA-TV reported that the unnamed man's elderly mother, who also lived there, suffered minor injuries while being carried out of the mobile home with the help of neighbors.

\$1,280

Replacement cost for a
single U.S. Air Force mug
that can heat water in flight
but breaks easily



Tammie Hedges of Goldsboro, North Carolina, founded the nonprofit Crazy's Claws N Paws in 2013 to help low-income families with vet bills and pet supplies, so it was natural for her to take in 27 animals displaced by Hurricane Florence in September. Hedges treated many of the animals, found in the streets or surrendered by fleeing residents, with antibiotics and painkillers for fleas, cuts and other ailments. For that, The Washington Post reported, she was arrested on Sept. 21 for practicing veterinary medicine without a license, after an official from Wayne County Animal Services visited the warehouse where the animals were housed. Kathie Davidson, a volunteer with Claws N Paws, said: "If she hadn't done what she did, then they'll be charging her with animal neglect and cruelty. What was she supposed to do?" Hedges was released on bond, and the charges were later dropped.

**It is in the very fundamentals of evil that one
always condemns it when they see it, but
rationalizes it when they do it.**

JACK L. CHALKER, AUTHOR



"I was hoping to be rescued by a Marvel superhero."

Italian mafia boss caught after Google Maps sighting in Spain
BBC News, 5 January 2022

An Italian mafia boss who has been on the run for decades has been arrested after he was spotted on Google Maps.

Gioacchino Gammino, 61, was found in Galapagar, Spain, where he was living under the name Manuel.

A Google Street View shot showing a man resembling Gammino standing in front of a grocery shop was key to tracking the fugitive, investigators say.

Gammino escaped a Rome prison in 2002 and was sentenced to life in jail the following year for murder. He was a member of a Sicilian mafia group known as Stidda and was one of Italy's most wanted gangsters.

Sicilian police believed Gammino was in Spain, but it was the photo of him talking to a man outside El Huerto de Manu, or Manu's Garden, that triggered an immediate investigation.

His identity was confirmed when police found a Facebook page of a now-closed restaurant, Cocina de Manu, which was located nearby. It had posted photos of Gammino wearing chef's clothes and he was identified by a scar on his chin.

The restaurant had Sicilian dishes on the menu.

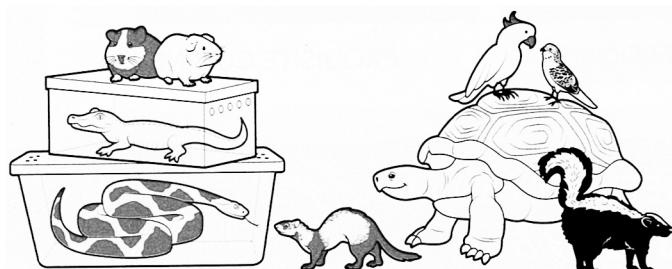


A Google Street View shot shows a man resembling Gammino, right, standing in front of a grocery shop

How's That Again? Department

From the *Gunnison Country* (Colo.) *Times*.

North District officers delivered an emergency message to a hunting party near McClure Pass.



245

Number of exotic animals—including snakes, skunks and tortoises—seized from a Pennsylvania home on Oct. 18

■ The mayor of Kent, Wash., has apologized for disciplining an assistant police chief for expressing Nazi sympathies by giving him two weeks of paid leave. Assistant Chief Derek Kammerzell has displayed Nazi insignia, made Holocaust jokes, and altered his office nameplate to read "Obergruppenfuhrer." After a public outcry, Mayor Dana Ralph said that Kammerzell "will not be coming back to work."



Rami [te/ter] @tercera.technologist

What's it called when you're introverted but have taken on numerous leadership and outgoing roles your whole life?



Murderbot

@soundlikerhetorical

Replying to @tercera.technologist

Introvirtuous: I'm here to help. But I'd rather not be.

In 2022, the Swinomish Tribe built the U.S.'s first modern 'clam garden,' reviving an ancient practice. It's believed that a clam garden — a traditional Indigenous way of boosting shellfish production — hadn't been built in the United States for close to 200 years. A few dozen people in work gloves and rubber boots gathered on that small island about 50 miles north of Seattle during one of the lowest tides of the year, and rock by rock, brought the practice back.

Cats Being Cats, Example #457

Lee Moran, HuffPost

Curiosity got the better of one cat in northwest England — who broke into a prison. But the poor puss, called Padfoot, ended up having to be rescued after stranding himself on a 25-foot-high razor-wire fence some 164-feet inside the security perimeter of Haverigg Prison in Millom, Cumbria.

Welfare workers for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals rescued the 8-month-old feline on Dec. 21, 2019 after inmates and staff spotted him in the perilous position.

"This was one great escape!" said Martyn Fletcher, an inspector for the RSPCA. "I have no idea how he managed to get so far inside the prison and so high up the fence, maybe he considered himself a bit of a feline felon," he added in a statement sent to HuffPost.

"The poor cat was very scared and reluctant to be rescued," he added. "It took a lot of patience, some ladders and a reach and rescue pole to be able to bring him to safety."

The cat suffered minor cuts to his paws from his escapade and, because he was not microchipped, Fletcher decided to temporarily take him in. Padfoot, named after Sirius Black's moniker in "Harry Potter," was reunited with his owner Angela Driver Swales on Christmas Eve after she heard about his adventure from neighbors. She now plans to microchip him.

At Least They Were Already in the Neighborhood

Flowery Branch, GA; AP, 1/31/2023

The smoke was coming from inside the fire station.

Firefighters in suburban Atlanta returned from a call to find their own breakfast was in flames.

The Times of Gainesville reports that a Hall County fire crew accidentally left the stove on when they left the station to respond to a house fire. Other firefighters returned to the Flowery Branch station to find smoke and a small fire.

Fire officials say the stove's fire suppression system put out the blaze while firefighters tried to grab a fire extinguisher. The stove was lightly damaged, while no one was injured.

CALDWELL JONES, 1987

Portland Trail Blazers center, when asked to name his favorite seafood: "Saltwater taffy."

Every winter, we here at NFATB – known fans of puns – are always excited to see the new batch of snowplow names from around the world. Here are some recent faves.

Selected Ohio Turnpike contest winners, 2021-23:

Snow More Mr. Ice Guy
O-H Snow You Didn't
CTRL-SALT-DELETE
Plow Chick A Plow Wow
Ohio Thaw Enforcement
We're Off to See the Blizzard
Don't Flurry Be Happy
I've Got Friends In Snow Places
Hang On Scoopy

Assorted past & present names from Scotland, where they're known as gritters:

Ready, Spready, Go!
Sled Zeppelin
For Your Ice Only
I Want to Break Freeze
Basil Salty
Walter The Salter
BRINE FREEEEZE
Sweet Child O'Brine
Gritney Spears
Spready Mercury
Skid Vicious
Robert Brrrns



"Snowey Tribbiani"



"Freeze Witherspoon"



"Sleetwood Mac"

Zoom meetings are just modern seances



"There's someone who wants to join us."
"Elizabeth, are you there?"
"We can't hear you."
"Can you hear us?"

ECONOMICS PRIZE

To the Bangkok Metropolitan Police for offering to pay police officers extra cash if they refused to take bribes.

Anger Management

Frustration with the cable company boiled over in Ridgewood, New Jersey, on May 7, when a dispute between an Optimum employee and a woman left the cable worker stranded on high. While the employee was in an elevated bucket working on lines, northjersey.com reported, a 59-year-old woman turned off the truck and "took utility property" before walking away, making it impossible for the worker to lower the bucket. Ridgeview police charged the woman with harassment, false imprisonment, disorderly conduct and criminal trespassing.

Dymund Ellis, 19, was charged with stabbing and killing her roommate, Jace Trevon Ernst, 25, in North Las Vegas, Nevada, after a May 4 argument. According to North Las Vegas Police, Ellis became upset after Ernst repeatedly talked while she tried to watch a TV show, telling him to "shut up." When he responded with an expletive, she went to the kitchen for a knife, reported Fox News. Police said Ellis had threatened Ernst with a knife about 10 times in the last couple of months, but he had been able to get the knife away from her. Ellis told an officer that "she has anger problems and she just got extremely upset tonight."

Estonia's "singing revolution" involved mass demonstrations of choral singing before the nation declared independence in 1991.

Sample Headline About Placeholder Text Error

Luke Matthews, The Mirror UK

A woman whose bathroom went viral after her niece shared a snap of her decorating fail has vowed to leave it untouched, to commemorate its fame.

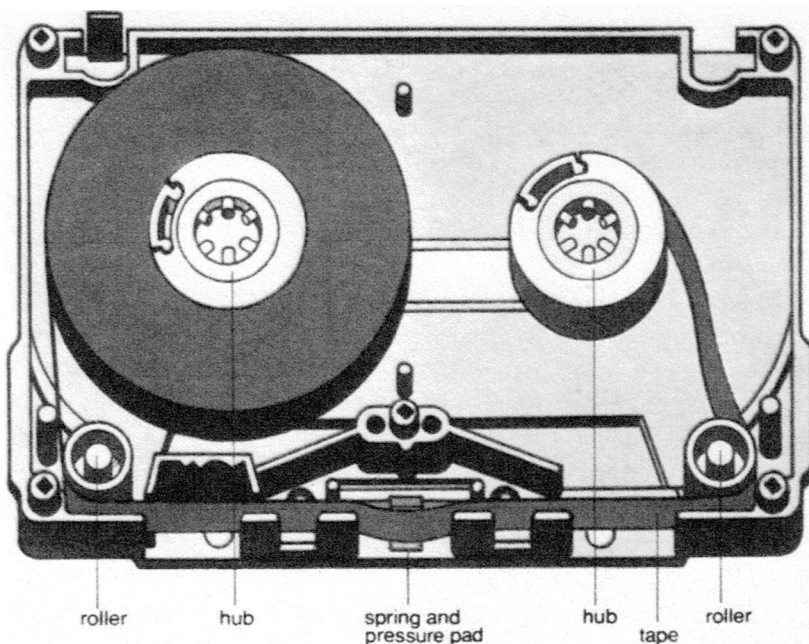
Yaimerie, 18, was visiting the Dominican Republic and had arranged to stay with her aunt while she was there. When she wandered into the aunt's bathroom she quickly noticed the mistake made by her aunt, who doesn't speak English.

The white tiled walls were broken up by a banner running around the middle consisting of a star fish leaning up against a pile of folded towels. In the top left corner of the tiles, which ran all the way around the bathroom, it says 'Sample text...'

Yaimerie took a photo and uploaded it social media with the caption: "...I land in Dominican Republic earlier and I go to use my aunt's bathroom, this is their tile I'm screa." [sic] She admitted that she was so excited to share her discovery that she didn't check her grammar, leaving the tweet 'all over the place'.

It didn't seem to matter, however, as it gained more than 82,000 likes online. One Twitter follower commented "I feel like buying Shutterstock stock image wallpaper now." Another said: "Somewhere out there is a white girl with 'sample text' tattooed on their body in Chinese."

Yaimerie explained the funny fail behind the 'sample text' mix up to her aunt, who took it well and now refers to the room as the 'famous bathroom'. "She's definitely going to leave the tiles like that, it's more funny than embarrassing and not that big of a deal."



■ In 2004, a NASA probe was re-returning to Earth after collecting solar particles. As it reentered the upper atmosphere, rapid deceleration was supposed to trigger the deployment of two parachutes, allowing the probe to gently float back to terra firma. Instead, the capsule slammed into the Utah desert after the parachutes failed to open. It turned out the deceleration sensors had been installed upside down.

PRODUCT SYMBOL KEY:

- NOTE CARDS
- ENVELOPES
- STAMPS
- SEALS
- CANCELLATION CARDS
- POSTCARDS

You don't really know true fear until you're headed to work to teach at a middle school after you tried cutting your own bangs.

@SMITHSARA79

What ails us

A lot of people joke about the high percentage of time TV drug commercials devote to possible side effects. But until now, I didn't know anyone who sat down and compiled a comprehensive list.

Enter the Rev. Michael B. Smith, who bills himself as "Your Friendly Local Priest in Beautiful Downtown Kenmore."

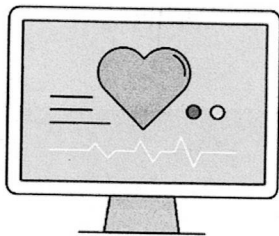
The Rev. has put together the definitive list, which will save all of us a lot of time. He says prescription drug side-effects "may include, but are not limited to:

"Redness, Swelling, Discoloration, Flaking, Dandruff, Bleeding, Pustules, Boils, Acne, Rash, Seediness, Bloat, Excessive Hair Growth in Nose, Ears and Crotch, Baldness, Deafness, Astigmatism, Paralysis, Flatulence, Cough, Whooping Belch, Projectile Vomiting, Explosive Diarrhea, Jock Itch, Scalp Itch, Hives, Bugs, Astounding Ugliness, Constipation, Spontaneous Laughter, Second Left-Hand Growth at Base of the Neck, Dizziness, Vertigo, Thyroid Tickle, Liver Luminescence, Sticky Fingers, Atrophy of the Toes, Ear Infection, Foot Fungus, Sinus Infection, Moaning, Savage Jacaranda, Hair Growth on Palms of the Hands and/or Tongue, High Blood Pressure, Low Blood Pressure, Cooties, Seizures, Spasms, Sour Taste, Braided Eyebrows, Blondness, Wagon-Lits, Bats, Oozing Snot & Green Boogers, Sneezing, Coughing, Asthma, Dementia, Bronchitis, Wisps, Green or Purple or Opalescent Sputum & Stool, Ear Wax Buildup, Mildew, Hemorrhaging from Eyes, Nose, Throat, Ears, Anus, Bladder and Hair Follicles, Tinnitus, Crappiness, Pendulous Ear Lobes, Tropical Depression, Scrofula,

Gnat Infestation, Heebie-jeebies, Toadstool Growth on the Back, Beriberi, Photian Schism, High White Blood Cell Count, Low Red Blood Cell Count, Cancer in Rats and Lemurs, Injection Site Pain, Hallucinations, Sleepwalking, Suicidal Thoughts or Actions or Artwork or Tax & Cuisine Preparation, Night Sweats, Calypso addiction, Inter-Testamental Bifurcation, Bad Breath, Allergy to Navel Lint, Fascinating Armpits, Blue Emu, Growth of Second or Third Row of Teeth, Algae Blooms, Testosterone or Estrogen Fog, Halleenkia, Bonsai Culture, Shamokin Obsession, Dust Bunnies, Scabs, High Surf, Blackout Drinking, Dry Humor, Compulsive Retail Therapy, Vegetarianism High Couture, Leguizamo, Baltic States, Blushing, Semi-Pelagianism, Shyness, Acute Rasbajniadupacosis, Latifundia Dynamics, Ovaltine Craving, Bodega Trolling, and Sustained Yelling and Screaming Where Meatballs Persist."

Rev. Mike, you have given me a headache.

Column by Bob Dyer
(Akron Beacon Journal)



LAWYERS

Lawyers may have gone to graduate school, but their rigorous education hasn't stopped them from asking these bizarre questions of witnesses in court.

How many times have you committed suicide?

Was it you or your brother who was killed?

Do you have any children or anything of that kind?

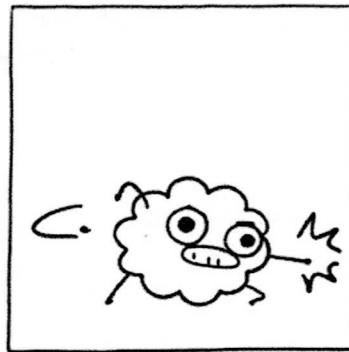
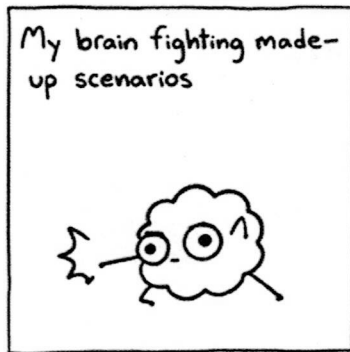
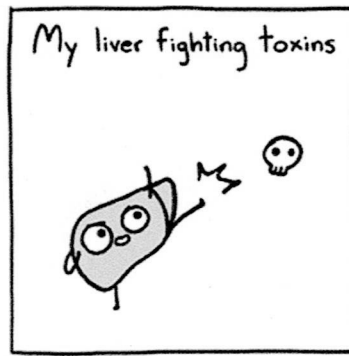
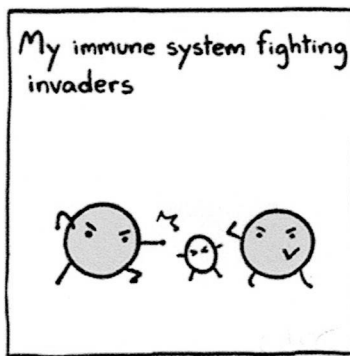
Without saying anything, tell the jury what you did next.

Was that the same nose you broke as a child?

Were you alone or by yourself?

Now, Doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

Source: *The Dumb Book*
(Reader's Digest Books)



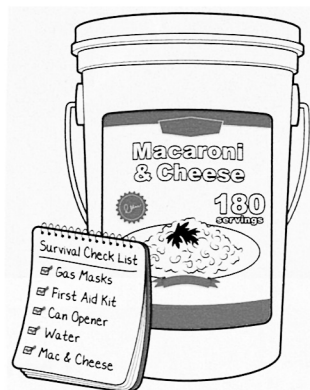
© Sarah Andersen



from yesterdaystrails.wordpress.com:

This one stop shop for gas, pain, hangovers & compassionate feelings was provided by a Union 76 gas station in Las Vegas, Nevada in June 1961.

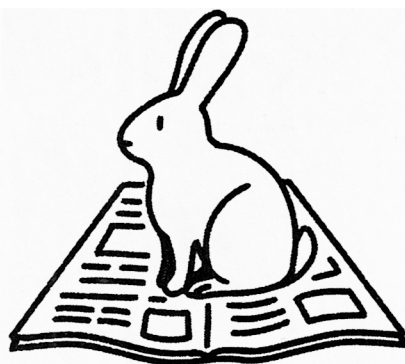
The sign & station sat on the Las Vegas strip for almost four decades with the sign undergoing numerous changes until 1996 when the gas station was torn down.



**26 lb.,
10 oz.**

**Weight of a bucket
of macaroni and cheese
with a 20-year shelf life
that quickly sold out on
Costco's website**

■ Snap, formerly known as Snapchat, is suing to trademark the word "spectacles." The U.S. Patent & Trademark Office has rejected Snap's application to trademark the name of its digital glasses, noting that "spectacles" is a common term for eyewear. Snap, however, argues that "'spectacles' is an old-fashioned term," and that it's "not commonly understood to mean eyeglasses."



JANNE IIVONEN

NOT ONLY THAT, HE ATE MY HOMEWORK TOO

Jamie Lynch, CNN, 5/16/2023

A driver in Colorado tried to avoid a DUI arrest by swapping seats with his dog after being pulled over, police said.

The man was stopped by police around 11:30 p.m. for allegedly driving 52 mph in a 30-mph zone, the Springfield Police Department said in a post on Facebook.

"The driver attempted to switch places with his dog who was in the passenger seat, as the SPD officer approached and watched the entire process," the post said. "The male party then exited the passenger side of the vehicle and claimed he was not driving."

The man appeared intoxicated, and when asked by an officer if he'd been drinking, he ran away, the post said. He was apprehended about 20 yards from the vehicle, police said.

The man was taken to a hospital where he was medically cleared, then booked into the Baca County Jail on charges including driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, speeding and resisting arrest, police said.

The dog was handed over to a friend of the driver while he was in jail, the post said.

"The dog does not face any charges and was let go with just a warning."

Bizarre? Absurd? Pointless? I'M LISTENING.

(source: oddee.com)

Chindogu is the Japanese art of inventing bizarre and absurd gadgets that aim to solve everyday problems in unconventional ways. The term was coined by Japanese inventor and author Kenji Kawakami, who wanted to create tools that were practical, yet humorous and satirical at the same time.

The term "Chindogu" literally means "priceless tool" or "valuable tool," but the irony lies in the fact that most Chindogu inventions are almost entirely useless. These inventions are not meant to be taken seriously or to solve real-life problems, but rather to spark creativity and bring a smile to people's faces.

Chindogu inventions come in all shapes and sizes, and are known for their bizarre and impractical nature. Here are some examples of Chindogu inventions that demonstrate their quirky and unconventional approach to problem-solving:

The Solar-Powered Torch: a flashlight that runs on solar energy, but only works during the day. The invention may seem useless in practice, but it serves as a humorous and satirical take on the concept of renewable energy.

The Umbrella Tie: a tie that doubles as a tie and an umbrella. It keeps your head dry, but looks ridiculous to wear, making it more of a comedic prop than a functional accessory.

The Butter Stick: shaped like a glue stick, but containing butter. While it makes spreading butter on toast easier, it's probably not very hygienic to use.

The Baby Mop: a onesie for babies, with mop-like fibers attached to the bottom. As the baby crawls around the house, the fibers clean the floor. While the concept may seem practical, the baby mop is more of a humorous commentary on the idea of multitasking and finding efficient ways to clean.

If you're wondering whether NFATB is a Chindogu invention, we will simply respond by pointing out that an anagram of our editor's name is "Mail Worthless Rectangle."

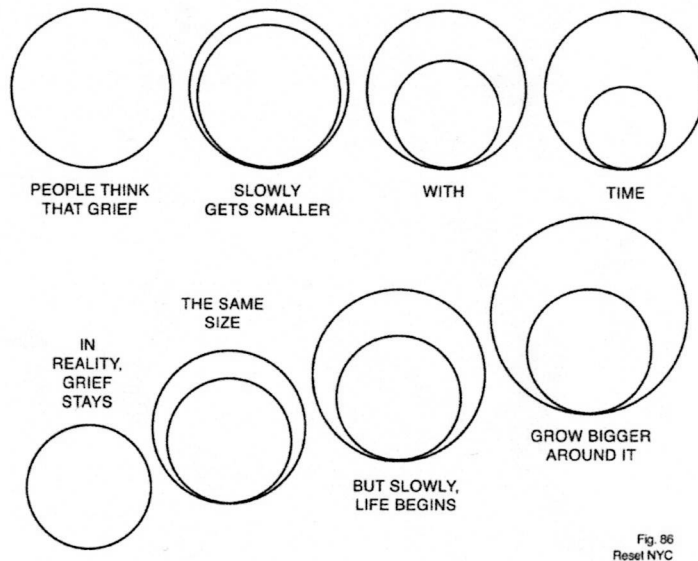


A HOPPY PROPOSAL

Nowadays, a proper engagement includes a ring and some serious planning. But marriage offers were once much easier. In ancient Egypt, if a man offered a lady a sip of his beer, the couple was said to be betrothed. No need for a flash mob or fancy social media blitz. Simpler times, indeed.

'GROWING AROUND GRIEF'

(Lois Tonkin, 1996)



- Officers responded to Hemlock Dr. for a report of a naked male running in the street, screaming. When police arrived, they found the man exactly as reported, and singing Rick Astley's "Never Gonna Give You Up." He appeared to be in a state of excited delirium and was taken to the hospital for medical attention.

Thursday 7/9/20: Total Complaints = 86

- Patrols responded to 10 First Aid Assistance calls.

Hometown Hockey Game Turns Into Free Skate

Reemul Balla, SkyNews, 2/10/2023

What happens when a minor league hockey team goes awol for a home game?

Vermilion County Bobcats failed to show up for a match against Quad City Storm, leaving everyone bemused. Fans had travelled to Danville, Illinois for the weekend game, and Quad City took to the rink.

The national anthem played as usual, and officials were primed with the puck, but after a two-minute delay and another five-minute wait, Vermilion County's coach was nowhere to be seen, there was no athletic trainer and only one player was prepared to take the ice. The game was declared a forfeit.

To give the fans something to remember before their three-hour drive home, the visiting team invited them onto the ice for some entertainment.

Videos emerged on social media showing the Quad's standing on one half of the rink compared to the empty bench, net, and ice on the other side with fans saying how embarrassing the situation was.

It was announced a few days later that the Vermilion County team had 'ceased operations'.

Saturday, May 14, 2022

Oklahoma Sooners get commitment from junior college QB General Booty

By Dave Wilson

Oklahoma got a commitment from junior college quarterback General Booty on Saturday.

Booty, a 6-foot-3, 195-pound sophomore out of Tyler Junior College in Texas, will have three years of eligibility remaining at Oklahoma.



General Booty

@Generalbooty10 · Follow

New Home! #BoomerSooner @OU_Football
@CoachVenables @Coach_Leb

In 2018, Laura Young was in an Austin Goodwill when she found a marble sculpture stashed under a table for \$34.99, which she then bought and brought home. After some Googling, she discovered her sculpture was actually a portrait bust that had been on display in a German museum in the 1920s and '30s. (And presumably worth a bit more than 35 bucks.)

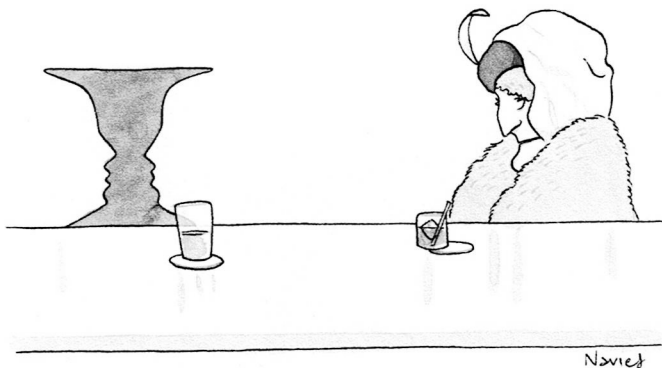
KattsDogma

@KattsDogma

French guy (showing me his yachts):
This is Un. This is Deux. This is Trois.
This is Quatre. This is Six.

Me: Where's the 5th?

FG: Cinq.



"You don't look like your profile picture either."



"One of the things that people don't realize about dad's kind of music is, when you replace a C-sharp with a gunshot, it has to be a C-sharp gunshot or it sounds awful."

Spike Jones, Jr., as quoted by Thomas Pynchon in the liner notes of the SPIKED! anthology

\$204,000

Amount for which a rare 1943 penny—mistakenly minted in bronze instead of zinc-coated steel—sold at auction

■ [We] wish to apologize for our apology to Mark Steyn. In correcting the incorrect statements, we incorrectly published the incorrect correction. *Ottawa Citizen*

I can't understand why people are frightened of new ideas. I'm frightened of the old ones.

JOHN CAGE



A FLORIDA MAN drove his 24-year-old daughter to a job interview. When she came back to the car with a large amount of cash, he figured she'd gotten the job and this was her advance. Not quite. Unbeknownst to the man, he had become his daughter's getaway driver in her fifth—and final—bank heist.

Source: Sun Sentinel

2022's Most Mangled Words

Mark Pratt, AP, 12/7/2022

"Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa explained the significance of the Chicxulub impact crater to actor Domhnall Gleeson over a drink of negroni sbagliato in the Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia," is the kind of sentence that just might tie your tongue up in knots.

It contains five examples from the 2022 list of the most mispronounced words released Wednesday by The Captioning Group, which since 1991 has captioned and subtitled real-time events on television in the U.S. and Canada.

The Captioning Group has compiled the list since 2016 by surveying the words and names most often mangled on live television by newsreaders, politicians, public figures and others. It is commissioned by Babel, the online language learning company based in New York and Berlin.

The list is humorous, but also educational, and highlights how some of the biggest international news events of the year have entered the North American consciousness, said Esteban Touma, a senior content producer and language teacher at Babel.

Don't be intimidated by tough-to-pronounce words, he said. It is an opportunity to learn. After all, even professionals sometimes have problems. "People want to get the right pronunciation but it's hard to do so," he said.

Just ask Grammy-winning singer Adele, who informed the world in October that her fans have for years been mispronouncing her name. It's not "ah-DELL" but "uh-DALE."

Some other selections from the 2022 list, with phonetic pronunciations provided by Babel:

Chicxulub (CHICK-choo-loob) — The crater in the Gulf of Mexico caused by the asteroid that scientists say likely caused the extinction of the dinosaurs was in the news recently.

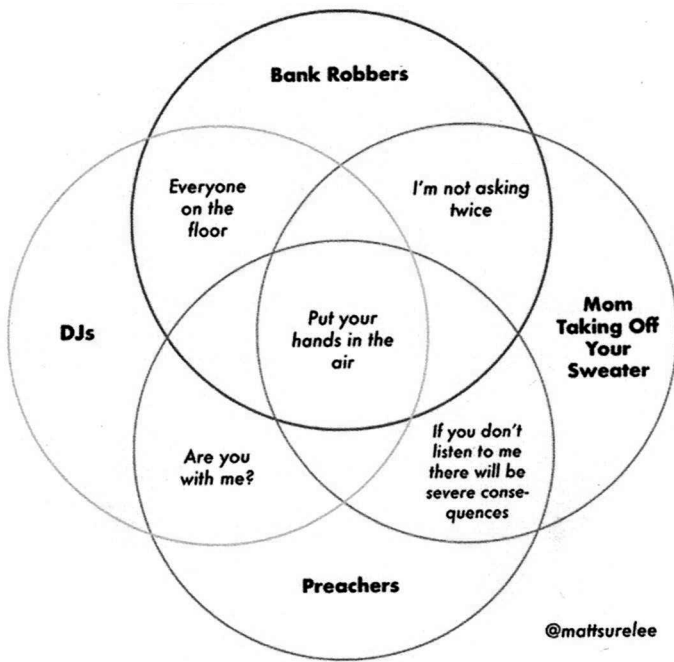
Domhnall Gleeson (DOH-null GLEE-sun) — The Irish actor called out talk show host Stephen Colbert for mispronouncing his first name.

Negroni sbagliato (ne-GRO-nee spah-lee-AH-toh) — The alcoholic beverage was introduced to the world by actor Emma D'Arcy, whose social media mention of the drink received more than 14 million views.

Novak Djokovic (NO-vak JO-kuh-vich) — The Serbian tennis star was in the news in January when he was barred from competing in the Australian Open and deported for failing to comply with the nation's COVID-19 vaccination rules.

Tuanigamanuolepola (Tua) Tagovailoa (TOO-uh-ning-uh-mah-noo-oh-LEH-po-luh TUNG-o-vai-LOH-uh) — The Miami Dolphins quarterback became the center of discussion about NFL concussion protocols after suffering injuries in consecutive games.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: In the early 1990s, when I worked at a southeastern Ohio TV station (hello fellow WTOV alumni!), our weekend sports anchor regularly ran University of Michigan football highlights, primarily so he could say their running back's name - Tim Biakabutuka - on the air. Can confirm: it's fun to say.]



Destiny is what you are supposed to do in life.
Fate is what kicks you in the ass to do it.

HENRY MILLER

THE DAILY EXTRA

Sporting Greats

American Dick Fosbury won a gold medal and set an Olympic record when he high-jumped 7 feet 4¼ inches (2.24 m) at the Olympic Games in Mexico City in 1968. This marked the international debut of his signature jump style, the "Fosbury Flop."

Daylight Come and Me Wanna Go GO GO GO GO

Agnieszka Barteczko & Reuters staff, 6/1/2021

(Warsaw) Supermarket chain Carrefour SA notified local police after employees at one of its Warsaw stores found suspicious parcels in a delivery of bananas, which police later confirmed to be cocaine.

"They immediately notified the police, who quickly secured the batch of goods and started an investigation that is currently underway," Carrefour said in an email to Reuters, adding that it was cooperating with the investigation. Warsaw police said the packages contained over 160 kilograms (352.74 lbs) of cocaine worth 30 million zlotys (\$8.14 million).

"Drugs were discovered at several branches of one of the chain stores," Warsaw police said on Twitter. State run news agency PAP reported that the first packages with cocaine were found in a Carrefour store in the centre of Warsaw and that later the drug was discovered also in other shops in the capital and nearby.

Don't Hate the Snowplow, Hate the Snow

Holly Ramer, AP, 3/10/23

(Concord, NH) A Republican lawmaker was arrested for allegedly screaming and swearing at a snowplow truck operator who recorded the confrontation and later reported him to police.

Rep. Jeffrey Greeson, 51, was charged with disorderly conduct, criminal threatening and simple assault, according to police. He was released on personal recognizance and ordered back to Plymouth District Court. Greeson didn't immediately respond to an email to his Statehouse office seeking comment Friday.

Paul Manson, the road agent in Wentworth, said he had already been plowing for about six hours when he encountered Greeson standing in the middle of the road around 8am. The video, which Manson posted to Facebook, shows Greeson clamoring over a pile of snow up to his knees along the road. The storm dropped nearly a foot of snow before winding down later in the day.

"Here's where my driveway ends, right here. Push it out of the road!" shouted Greeson, who also used a rude hand gesture and expletives. "Your job is to clear the road. Clear the road! Now, get in your truck and do your job!"

"He was upset because I wasn't pushing the snow off the road far enough, and I was putting it all in his driveway, which I'm going to be honest with you, that's what I do," Manson said. "My job is to get the snow off the road. And I feel bad most of the time because I do put snow back in people's driveway, and I really can't help it."

Manson said he realizes it's no fun to shovel out after a snowplow passes. But he said public servants don't deserve to be attacked. "I get to go home when I'm done with my 15-, 16-, 18-hour shifts and do the same thing," Manson said.



Don't think about making art, just get it done. Let everyone else decide if it's good or bad, whether they love it or hate it. While they are deciding, make even more art.

ANDY WARHOL

Odds of Alligator Attack During Manicure Low, But Never Zero

Jeffrey Collins, AP, 5/5/2020

(Columbia, SC) A woman attacked and killed by an alligator along the South Carolina coast was visiting a homeowner to do her nails, and was trying to touch the animal when it grabbed her, authorities said.

Cynthia Covert was visiting the home in Kiawah Island, a gated community southeast of Charleston, to give the homeowner a manicure. The customer told deputies Covert was typically professional in her salon, but was relaxed and excited at the home, talking about her boyfriend's visit from Tennessee, and brought a glass of wine with her.

While working on the woman's porch, Covert saw the alligator and started taking pictures of the alligator. The woman and her husband started screaming for Covert to get away from the alligator, because they saw it grab a deer a few days earlier, deputies said. Covert said "I don't look like a deer" and reached to touch the alligator when the animal attacked, according to the report.

The husband and a neighbor grabbed a rope and threw it to Covert when she surfaced and stood in the pond, having briefly gotten away from the alligator. Covert grabbed the rope and said "I guess I won't do this again," but was suddenly pulled under by the alligator, the police report said. Covert, 58, died of drowning before deputies and firefighters were able to shoot and kill the alligator and use poles to get her out of the pond, authorities said.

A deputy shot the animal when it resurfaced.

Covert was the third person killed by an alligator in South Carolina since 2016, before which, the state had never recorded a person killed by an alligator.



It was dark in the wee hours of June 30 in Jacksonville, Florida, and Cedric Jelks, 38, probably never saw the loaded gun on the driver's seat of his car as he got in, but he certainly felt it after the gun went off, wounding his manhood. When police investigating the report of a gunshot wound arrived at the hospital Jelks was taken to, they added possible firearms charges to his pain after discovering Jelks had a prior conviction for cocaine possession.



Property writes

The owner of an Illinois Chimera's Comics announced plans in February to give the shop to the winner of an essay contest. Here, other unusual writing-prize offers. —Billy Perrigo

FARMING FLOP

In 2015, an Alabama couple decided to hold an essay contest with a \$150 entry fee after failing to sell their goat farm for its \$345,000 asking price. But the contest fell through after not enough people entered.

GOOD INNINGS

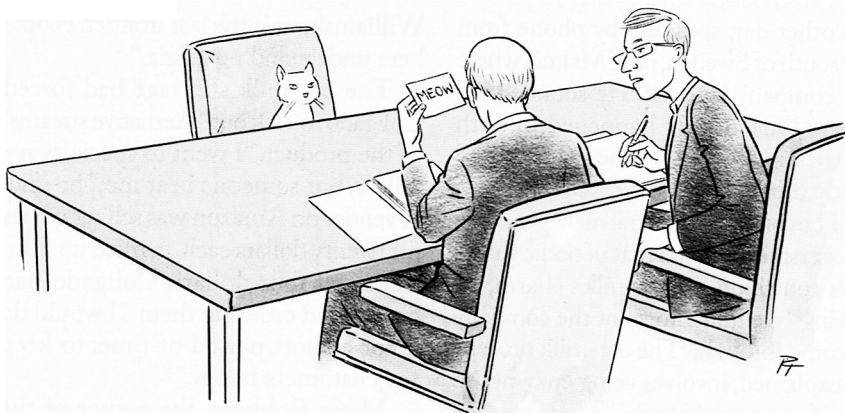
A married couple took home the keys to a Maine inn in 2015 after winning an essay contest held by its previous owner. Other entrants complained the handover was rigged, but law enforcement found no impropriety.

WRITE-OFF

In 2017, a family-run restaurant in Montana was offered as the prize in an essay competition. The owners hoped that 3,333 people would pay \$150 each to enter. In the end, it was canceled; only 30 people wrote in.

LAKE LOTTERY

In January, a Canadian woman said she would use an essay contest to pass on her \$1.7 million lakefront home—provided she receives enough applications, at \$25 each, to cover the home's cost.



"He's not going to give us a better offer than this."

An empty Pringles can makes a perfect container for storing dry spaghetti.

Is it Still a "Freeway" When it's Covered in Cash?

Carlsbad, CA (AP, 11/19/2021) — Drivers scrambled to grab cash after bags of money fell out of an armored truck on a Southern California freeway, authorities said.

The incident occurred shortly before 9:15 a.m. on Interstate 5 in Carlsbad. "One of the doors popped open and bags of cash fell out," California Highway Patrol Sgt. Curtis Martin said. Several bags broke open, spreading money — mainly \$1 and \$20 bills — all over the lanes and bringing the freeway to a chaotic halt, Martin said.

Video posted online showed some people laughing and leaping as they held wads of cash. Two people were arrested at the scene, and Martin warned that any others who are found to have taken the money could face criminal charges. Authorities didn't immediately say how much money was lost. However, at least a dozen people had returned money they collected to the CHP by Friday afternoon, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported.

"People are bringing in a lot," Martin said. "People got a lot of money."

Sometimes scientists change their minds. New developments cause a rethink. If this bothers you, consider how much damage is being done to the world by people for whom new developments do not cause a rethink.

- Terry Pratchett, *The Science of Discworld*



"You never think it's going to happen to you."

Vandalism Suspect Finds Courtroom; Breaks, Enters, Arsons

Santa Maria, CA; AP, 2/22/2023

A 31-year-old man who showed up to a California courthouse to inquire about an upcoming hearing in a vandalism case broke into a courtroom and started a fire, authorities said.

After learning the location of the courtroom, the suspect ignored the guard's order to leave and shattered two glass doors to enter the complex, Parker said. The man then broke a wood door frame and entered the Department 8 courtroom, where he ignited a fire that melted lights in the ceiling, scorched furniture and caused sprinklers to come on, officials said.

Water soaked the courtroom, leaked into an adjacent holding cell, destroyed computers and damaged documents, Parker said. He estimated repairs at the state-owned building could cost a half-million dollars or more and take at least six months to complete.

Eric Spies of Nipomo was arrested and held on \$75,000 bail, the San Luis Obispo Tribune reported. It wasn't immediately known if Spies has an attorney who could speak on his behalf. Details of the prior vandalism case weren't released.

Napping Begets Goatnapping Begets Kidnapper-Nabbing

On Jan. 1, 2020, Sand Springs Police Department posted to Facebook saying: "OK 2020, it only took you 4.5 hours to get weird. Let's slow down on the carjacking-goatnapping calls for the remainder of the year."

Two men had stopped at an adult video store in Carthage, OK. The driver went inside, while the passenger, who had fallen asleep, remained in the truck with his pet goat. Then Brandon Kirby jumped into the truck and took off, allegedly taking meth as he drove through Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

The victim said they woke to a masked man, later identified as Kirby, driving the truck and pointing a gun at them. They told police that Kirby continually pistol-whipped and threatened to shoot them, before eventually letting the victim and the goat go in Sand Springs, OK.

The victim called 911 and reported the stolen truck to OnStar, where representatives were able to slow the truck's speed to 15 mph. Police brought the low-speed chase to an end with stop sticks, pushing the truck into a ditch when Kirby refused to stop even with flat tires.

Kirby jumped out of and ran off, dropping a mask and gun, but was found hiding in some tall grass nearby. He was arrested and charged with kidnapping, pointing firearms, and felony possession of firearms, according to jail records. Kirby, 40, had recently been released from prison, and had a warrant out in Osage County for second-degree burglary.

STEVE LARGENT, 1987

Seattle Seabawks All-Pro wide receiver, when asked which record he will treasure most when he retires: "Probably the Beatles' White Album."



Burberry, Britain's largest luxury brand, was founded in 1854 and supplied trench coats to British Army officers during World War I.



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