

News From Around the Bend





NEWS FROM AROUND THE BEND

ERRATA, EPHEMERA, ET CETERA.

ISSUE #100
MAY 2017

A periodical brought to you periodically by
The Northcraft Entertainment Organization

Cover: Still killing fashion after all these years.

Publisher/Editor for Life
ACOUSTIC ROSS

Known & Suspected Contributors To Your Delinquency This Month

MARK ALLENDER
SHAWN BRETT
EMORY BRYAN
JENNIFER COLLINS

KEVIN DAUGHERTY
BERT FURIOLI
The **GREENAWALT** Family
GLEN HETHERINGTON

The **JOHNSON** Family
The **KNARR** Family
The **MASON** Family
MIKE MUIZNIEKS

GLORIA SHADE
LORI STONE
The **YUNGKURTH** Family
JOHN ZACCARDELLI

NOTES FROM THE SKEPTIC TANK

Make something idiot-proof, and the world will just build a better idiot.

A hundred issues? *Really?*

I guess when you consider that it took us 26 years and change to get there, it doesn't seem like so many.

NFATB has never been particularly *monthly*. A quick scan of the official record shows that since our debut in 1991, six different calendar years have seen us eke out just 5 or fewer issues. *

A couple years ago, cleaning out the clipping & supply closet and reminiscing, I thought it might be nice to dismount the Hiatus Horse and do at least three more issues, to reach a nice round 100.

So the Hiatus Horse *itself* went on hiatus, and a few months ago, issue 98 was born: the first issue in over a decade. Then came issue 99, our 26th anniversary issue, and the official launch of the all-new newsfromaroundthebend.com.

Now we arrive at number 3 of 3 – the third of those Three More Issues – Issue 100. With our first-ever color cover, and an interior full of the usual errata, ephemera, et cetera.

We've completed what we set out to do.

Thing is... we haven't run out of clippings yet.

And we haven't run out of supplies yet.

And the world... it just keeps building better idiots.

So I'm thinking... why stop now?



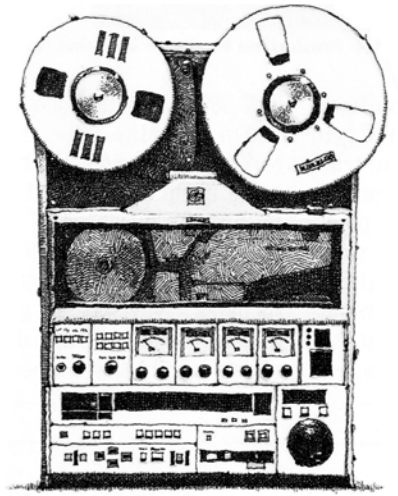
– RmG3, NFATB CEO, May 11, 2017 –

* Not counting the 10 years of complete silence between issues 97 & 98. Also: the last time we even managed to put out four issues the same year? 2004. In 2017: we're at three so far, and it's not even June yet.

In Hong Kong in December, Mr. Lam Chung-kan, 37, pleaded guilty to stealing a bottle of a co-worker's breast milk at work and drinking it — but only to help with “stress” in his job as a computer technician. Undermining the health-improvement explanation was a photo Lam sent the woman, showing himself in an aroused state.

In celebration of one of the greatest beer pairings of all, author Dave Barry once said:

“Without question, the greatest invention in the history of mankind is beer. Oh, I grant you that the wheel was also a fine invention, but the wheel does not go nearly as well with pizza.”



* Australian paramedics were forced to stand by and watch trains run over the body of a woman who committed suicide. Railroad officials refused to stop the trains and allow the paramedics to remove the body because ... it was morning rush hour. State Transport Minister Brian Langton apologized for the incident.

I put a period at the end of a text again, and now my daughters are planning to have me euthanized.
@SCULLYMIKE (MIKE SCULLY)

NOVEMBER 20, 1995

Cooperstown, N.Y., officials recently rejected a minor league baseball franchise on the grounds that the city is “really not a baseball town, per se.”



Kings of the pack rats were two eccentric brothers who packed their Manhattan brownstone with 120 tons of collectibles—from floor-to-ceiling stacks of newspapers to fourteen pianos.

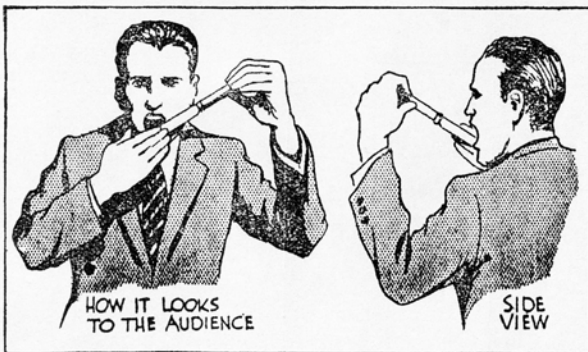
The reclusive brothers—Homer and Langley Collyer—were reported missing in 1947. Police tried to search their Fifth Avenue house, but the junk was piled so high and thick the cops had to break in through a window. Inside they found Langley had been killed when a ten-foot stack of newspapers fell on top of him. Homer, who was paralyzed by a stroke, died in his chair, unable to move without his brother's help.



2nd Generation Golden Doodles puppies, 2 males & 1 female, up to date w/shorts & worming. \$475. 330-275-5391

TRICKS of MAGIC EXPLAINED by Will L. Lindhorst

TRICK OF SWALLOWING A KNIFE IS DESCRIBED



Take an ordinary table knife or a ruler and stand in front of the audience. Open the mouth wide and place right hand over lower portion, as though to keep the mouth open. Then with the left hand shove the knife down the right sleeve and immediately withdraw it. With the mouth partly hidden by the right hand, it appears to the onlookers that the knife is actually being swallowed.

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Jan. 3, 2017:
First new NFATB page assembled since November 2006

NUDE WEDDING

(Taipei, Taiwan) -- The bride wore white -- and not much of it. A stripper-turned-politician has married a businessman in what was billed as Taiwan's first nude wedding. But the bride didn't quite bare all. She wore pasties, panties and a wedding veil. Her husband wore a tribal costume of a skirt and scarf. The newlyweds not only exchanged vows, they also exchanged underwear. The new bride says she may run for parliament again, after two unsuccessful attempts. She figures her so-called wedding in the Garden of Eden could help her with Taiwan's voters.

Tug of War was an Olympic sport until 1920.

FACT Tug of War was an Olympic sport from 1900 to 1920, when Great Britain was the last team to win the gold medal in the event. Other sports that are no longer in the Games include: Croquet (1900), Cricket (1900), Golf (1900–1904), Jeu de Paume (1908), Motor Boating (1908), Rugby (1900–1924), Polo (1900–1936), and Lacrosse (1900–1948).

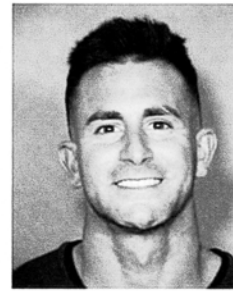
WEIRDO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

In April in Muskogee, Okla., religious patriot/prophet Willie Ray Lampley, 65, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for a scheme to blow up buildings (in his words, "drop four or five buildings"). Lampley had targeted gay bars, abortion clinics and "civil rights centers" for demolition because he was certain of an imminent foreign invasion and thought the explosions somehow would forestall it.



"About your cat, Mr. Schrödinger—I have good news and bad news."

Cartoon by Benjamin Schwartz for the New Yorker



Man arrested for having sex on ferris wheel killed in carjacking
wfaa.com

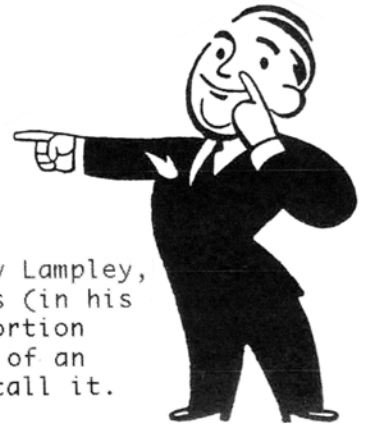
**Wait... so the ferris wheel got carjacked...
then this guy had sex on it, then he got arrested?**

Forecasters call for weather on Monday

Spotted on the bulletin board of a Manhattan music rehearsal studio:

"Songwriter without songs seeks songwriter with songs to kill and appropriate identity. Willing to travel."

— New York Times

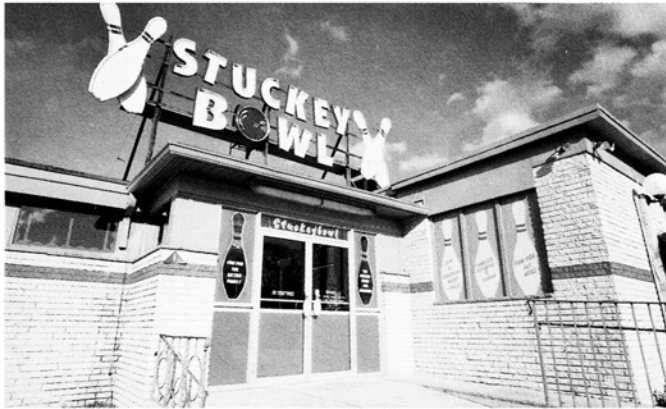


USE THAT BEER: SHAMPOO

Yes, you can love that beer so much you want to bathe in it—and for those with a few old bottles lying around, you can even pour one on your head for a few added benefits. The proteins in beer can calm frizzy hair and add a little extra smoothness, gloss, and oomph. Cosmetics companies like LUSH even use stout beer in their shampoos as a natural solution for dry, thirsty hair. So pour one out . . . in the shower.

**"Not to be used for red,
merlot, and *never* for rosé."**

12 WHITE WINE Glasses, \$25,
(412)835-2750



**"The police are not here to create disorder,
they're here to preserve disorder"**

*-Former Chicago mayor Daley during the
infamous 1968 convention*

SPAM TRUE OR FALSE

- Legend holds that during World War II, Spam was dropped from planes to neutralize hostile populations in enemy territory. FALSE.
- People on the U.S. territory of Guam eat more Spam than any other people on the planet, mostly because Guam suffers frequent typhoons that leave residents without power for weeks. TRUE.
- Spam is made of leftover pig parts that nobody wants, such as lips. FALSE. (Spam is actually made of pork shoulder with ham, salt, water, sugar, and a preservative called sodium nitrite.)

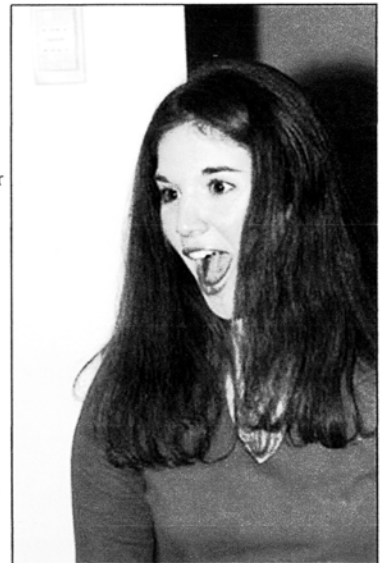
Student excited dad got head job

By **Brent Briggeman**
Kansan sportswriter

Samantha Mangino opted for independence when she chose a college two years ago.

With her family still living in Manhattan, but her father recently hired as an assistant coach at Oklahoma, the logical choices were Kansas State and Oklahoma. But Mangino wanted to get away from familiarity.

"I wanted to be on my own and get the whole college experience," said Mangino, a sophomore at Kansas and a student assistant in the Athletics Department media relations office. "Now I get the best of both worlds."



**If this is ANYTHING but an empty bag,
I'm posting my disappointment on the web.**

FORGOTTEN ENGLISH



To keep a sharp look out; to be shrewdly attentive. The expression comes in this way: when a man is ploughing, and reaches the corners of his land, he must be careful in turning his team and plough or he will not break up the land thoroughly at the corners.

—Sylvia Clapin's *Dictionary of Americanisms*, 1902



This item appeared in Florida's *Tampa Tribune*:

"North Bay, Ontario—Two kick-boxing opponents were hospitalized after tumbling out a third-story window and landing on a passing pedestrian."

How to tell if what you're reading is real

And what can you do about fake news? Remember that many people read no farther than the headline and first few paragraphs before they share. Read the entire story and reduce it analytically. Is it constructed to play on common fears? Are facts properly connected to prove the headline? Were there interviews with credible people that show an attempt to be accurate and complete? Were documents cited, or even posted with the story as supporting evidence?

Examine the source. Websites producing stories critical of only one side seldom have an interest in fairness, balance and accuracy. They know their audience wants to believe what they're saying and they take advantage of that dynamic. Websites dedicated to a political position are prone to repeat each other. So, if a web search of a questionable headline produces multiple results on many sites, all of which lean one direction, question the reliability.

While you may distrust mainstream media, the absence of primary mainstream news sources from the search results should be a red flag. Here is a last check: Two organizations that examine political statements for truthfulness are Snopes.com and Factcheck.org.

And finally, remember that your trust is at stake. Sharing bad information damages your credibility.

SOURCES: *The Akron Beacon Journal, the Annenberg School of Journalism, Bliss Institute at the University of Akron and Solutions Journalism Network*

Plough Monday

The following item from the January 15, 1848, issue of the *Northampton Herald* recorded the decline of a once distinctive local custom in which oddly costumed farmhands dragged a plow from house to house in search of drink money: "The ancient practice of 'plough-boys' decked with ribands and daubed with paint, visiting the neighbouring towns to collect pence for a holiday, is fast falling into desuetude. On Monday last, a few visited us, serving to remind us of the recurrence of the day, but they were unaccompanied by the paraphernalia of exhibition which attracted attention and excited interest in our boyish days. We were afraid the poor fellows obtained little beyond the hootings and peltings of a mischief-loving youthful mob."

© JEFFREY KACIRK



He's no Houdini

WHILE on his way to a convention for escapologists, Steve Legg had to call a motoring organisation for help when he locked himself out of his car in Chichester, Sussex.

FREDDIE PATEK, 1971

Kansas City Royals 5' 4" infielder, on how it feels to be the shortest player in the major leagues:

"A heckuva lot better than being the shortest player in the minor leagues."



"Today's flight is overbooked. Is there someone who would accept a free travel voucher in return for teaching us how to correctly book a flight?"

Cartoon by Drew Dernavich for the New Yorker

(La Coruna, Spain) -- A Spanish woman has been rescued after spending 40 years in a covered hole.

Social workers in La Coruna found the 44-year-old woman this week while attending to her aging mother. They say the family had kept her in the hole since she was four.

Press reports say the social workers found the woman after they heard a "strange howl" coming from a laundry room, adjacent to the house.

Doctors say the woman was regularly fed and apparently was not abused. A social worker says the family fed and visited the woman, but did nothing to get her to leave the hole.

The woman is reported to be in relatively good health.

ROSS Reruns

TELEVISUAL FAKES

Remember the time when you could trust everything the TV told you? No, nor do we...

"My camera never lies," sang Bucks Fizz. It's a shame that the same cannot be said of those who operate the things or appear in front of them. With the increasing number of dodgy documentaries and comedy spoofs viewers feel that they've become adept at spotting televisual nonsense, but this was not always the case.

One of the earliest TV hoaxes was perpetrated by the extremely respectable combination of Richard Dimbleby and the BBC. The 1957 April Fool's Day edition of *Panorama* focused on the Swiss spaghetti harvest. Dimbleby detailed the harvesting process, the demise of the spaghetti weevil and backed up the tall tale shots of spaghetti trees. He was so convincing that many foolish viewers rang the BBC to enquire about how they could grow their own spaghetti.

Proving your viewers to be idiots is not the best way to endear yourself to them, though, so the Beeb largely steered clear of such stunts until an ill-advised attempt to spice up Halloween in 1992. The presenting credits for *Ghostwatch* were a Who's Who of the BBC's elite at the time, with Michael Parkinson, Mike Smith and Sarah Greene lined up to present a 'live' broadcast from a haunted house. Viewers settled down expecting to see the usual inbred bozos dodging flying tea cups, but instead saw a programme that seemed to be going horribly wrong.

The residents summoned up the spirit of a man named Pipes, as well as some ghost cats which could be heard in the background. An expert in all things spooky seemed to freak out at this point, afraid that the concentrated psychic energies of the viewing nation had summoned up something uncontrollable. Before the credits rolled a burbling Parkinson had become possessed by Pipes and both the BBC and the police were fielding calls from unthinking, yet very frightened viewers.

BBC. WWW.KINGLAWLER.COM



The spaghetti incident (right); the BBC's *Ghostwatch* causes mass panic (below); Kaufman's finest hour (below right)



Perhaps the most audacious piece of TV nonsense was the hoax cooked up by American comic, Andy Kaufman, and professional wrestler, Jerry Lawler. Kaufman was famous for wrestling women as part of his act but had never grappled with a man until Lawler stepped into the ring to challenge him. Lawler hospitalised Kaufman and later



thumped him out of his chair on *Late Night with David Letterman*. Kaufman responded by throwing scalding coffee at Lawler and offering a reward to any wrestler who would hospitalise the Southern Heavyweight champion. The 'feud' went on for over a year and kept both parties in the limelight throughout. **IAIN AITCH**

CONSTABULARY NOTES FROM ALL OVER

From the Bedford (Ohio) Times-Register.

A 34-year-old Libby Road woman reported someone broke into her apartment and stole numerous items. Police said a screen on her kitchen window had been pushed in to gain access into the apartment. Taken from the apartment were three gold rings, a gold and ruby ring, one gold anniversary band, two video cameras, a suede jacket, a pearl necklace, \$825 cash and a boa constrictor.



Uh-duh.

In May a \$4 million study by University of Buffalo Research Institute on Addictions revealed that employees are much more likely to call in sick if they have drunk alcohol the night before.

ACCORDING to its cornerstone, Faith Methodist Church in Grand Island, Neb., was founded in 1876, which is why plans were in the works for a 125th anniversary celebration. But something went awry. "The only problem is the cornerstone is wrong," the Rev. Richard Karohl said. "We're four years older than we thought we were." The actual age was determined after researching the church's archives, he said. A church's 129th birthday may not seem like a momentous occasion, but plans for a celebration were already in the works, so Mr. Karohl and the congregation decided the show must go on. "If you wanted to, you could say we're celebrating our 125th anniversary four years late," he said. On the other hand, as editorialists are wont to say, you could say they're celebrating their 130th anniversary a year early.

Stumping for worker's comp: In January, a New York state administrative law judge ruled after four hearings in three years that Krystyna Maliszewska, 51, of Brooklyn was not eligible for worker compensation because she had not provided the proper "medical evidence" that her leg had been amputated (even though voluminous hospital records were in her file). Maliszewska attended each hearing and could have shown her artificial leg and the stump that ends at her right knee but was never asked even to speak. (After a February *New York Daily News* story, the state quickly reopened the case.)

In 1996, *Might* magazine exclusively covered the tragic death of Adam Rich, who played Nicholas on the '77-81 series *Eight Is Enough* (below, left),

ADAM RICH, EIGHT IS ENOUGH

when its cover story detailed the slaying of the then 27-year-old outside a club in L.A. (below, right). As the very much alive Rich describes the article (which had his

full cooperation), it was "a spoof on dead celebrities and how they are exploited." The trouble with any pitch-perfect parody is that some people don't get the joke. *Hard Copy* called *Might*, anxious for help in contacting the actor's family. Several of Rich's friends were

so upset that Rich asked *Might* to issue a press release revealing the hoax. "Personally, I believe that if you can't laugh at yourself, you've missed the biggest goddamn joke in your life," Rich said in the release. "Thanks for caring, and lighten the f--- up." Rich the adult has been plagued by legal troubles and substance abuse, but now he wants to breathe life back into his acting career. —M.L.



It's closed? You're telling me Fad... was only around for a limited time?

(Johnstown, NY) -- A man who claimed an intruder cut off his penis actually clipped it himself to discourage a man who was attracted to him.

Earl Zea, 34, cut off his own penis with pruning shears so that a man, whose name was not released, would find another target for his affection, Fulton County District Attorney Polly Hoyer said.

Zea, who drove himself to a nearby hospital, told police an intruder maimed him while he slept in his living room Saturday night. Police became suspicious after noticing blood stains in the bathroom and not the living room, however.

Zea admitted Wednesday he made up the story, but will only be charged with falsely reporting an incident.

"It's not against the law to remove your own penis," Ms. Hoyer said.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: KATHY HUTCHINGS/OUTCHINS PHOTO; INKLEIGH; NO GREY; STEVE SCHNEIDER/OUTCHINS PHOTO

Patent NO.: ZL200930052479.5
TYPE: G-BUS-60

GUANGZHOU
JIANSHIYUAN

Hand
TICKLER



Primary lens: 50mm diameter lens
Magnifying times of the primary lens: 2.5X magnification
Diameter of the primary lens: 50mm
Size of accessory lens: 21mm diameter lens
Magnifying times of the accessory lens: 4.5X magnification
Diameter of the accessory lens: 12mm

Circle handle be made of up and down lid, have resolved. Same kind product's handle due to shortcoming of become shape once thick rub ber with water and figure.

Characteristics:

Circle handle be make of up and down lid, have resolved. Same kind product's handle due to shortcoming of become shape once thick rub ber with water and figure.

Selling point:

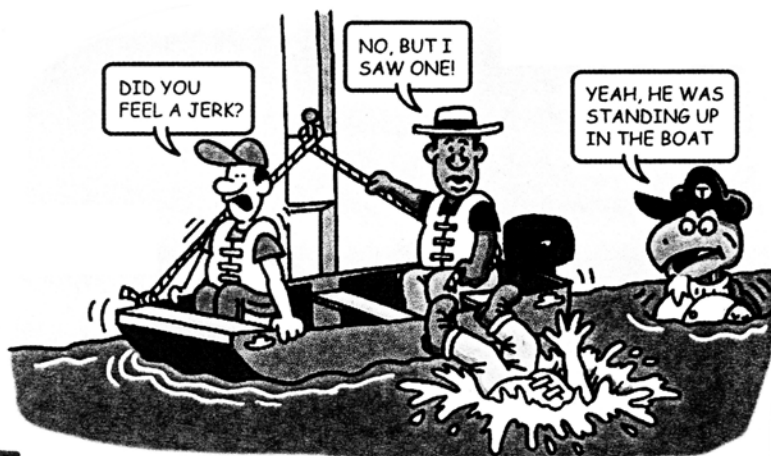
Simple product, beautiful, and be out of value.

Lost in translation

We trust the magnifying glass is more enlightening than its description.

WRITING IS LIKE PROSTITUTION...

First you do it for the love of it,
then you do it for a few friends,
and finally you do it for money. - Moliere



Turbulent water is created during lockage.

Passengers should remain seated in your boat.

NAKED TICKLER STRIKES AGAIN

Police are on the lookout for the naked tickler.

Investigators in New Smyrna Beach, Fla., said they believe one man could be responsible for a series of bizarre break-ins in which a naked man enters victims' rooms while they are sleeping and tries to tickle their feet.

The naked tickler struck again in New Smyrna Beach

last weekend.

Investigators have been working on five similar, unsolved cases since 2001. Most of the victims are women over age 60, said police Cmdr. Wade Kirby.

Kirby said no arrests have yet been made because they don't have a lot to go on.

New Smyrna Beach is 44 miles northeast of Orlando.



Jasper Fiorenza, 24, was arrested in St. Petersburg, Florida, in November and charged with breaking into a home in the middle of the night. The female resident said she awoke to see Fiorenza and screamed, but that the man nonetheless delayed his getaway in order to pet the woman's cat lounging on her bed.

• Bratt Jones, an 18-year-old St. Louis man, was charged with first-degree murder after shooting his friend, who had thrown three hot dogs on the floor.

Jones had prepared the trio of weenies and was about to eat them when the victim entered the kitchen and shouted "Snatches!" to announce the start of a game in which the winner could do whatever he wanted with the other person's food. Before Jones could counter with "No Snatches!" and thereby rescue his snack, the victim threw the food on the floor and ran upstairs, just before Jones shot him three times with a rifle.

—St. Louis Post-Dispatch

29, fought a courageous battle. She has went home to join her grandparents, Basil and Grace

ARE YOU A PARENT? Then you'll understand these tweets:

- My 14-year-old made fun of me this morning because I had to go to work while he had a snow day. So I changed the Wi-Fi password.
- My kids wanted to know what it's like to be a mom, so I woke them up at 2 a.m. to let them know my sock came off.
- **Daughter:** You're invading my personal space.
- Mother:** You came out of my personal space.
- Not sure if I should be more concerned about the son who locked me out of my bedroom today or the one who showed me how to pick the lock.

Source: boredpanda.com

Attorney: So, you were unconscious, and they pulled you from the bucket. What happened then?

Witness: Mr. Stewart gave me artificial insemination—you know, mouth-to-mouth.

actual comments taken from court records

**Tell us
where
it Hz.**

I always put the apostrophe in
ain't to make certain I'm using
proper improper English.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

-- According to a March Associated Press story, Multimedia Entertainment Inc., producer of the "Jerry Springer" show, recently filed a lawsuit against four Toronto, Ontario, comedians who had fooled the show's staff and posed as a couple and their baby sitter (and her boyfriend) on a show themed around men who sleep with their children's baby sitter. Multimedia says such hoaxes threaten the integrity of daytime talk shows like Springer's.

BIZARRE HISTORY

**Wears a uniform,
is mad as a hatter,
has official dogs,
spends all his
time abroad... yes,
he's royal all right**



4. The Emperor of America

He was British, and he ruled the USA. Well, sort of

"HE THOUGHT he was the king of America," sang Elvis Costello on, er, *King Of America*. Did he mean the British man who, after George III lost the colonies,

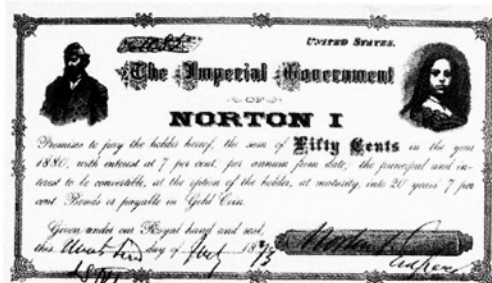
became the only Emperor of the USA? Joshua Norton, born in London in 1819, ruled America from 1859 to 1880 simply by proclaiming: 'I, Joshua Norton...

declare and proclaim myself the Emperor of these United States'.

Norton came to America in 1849 and made a fortune dealing in food in San Francisco. In 1854 he lost both his money and his mind, and disappeared. Back four years later, he sent his proclamation of Emperor-hood to the *San Francisco Bulletin*. It was the day after US senator David Broderick had been shot dead by California Supreme Court Justice David Terry in a duel, so the editor ran the decree as a bit of light relief.

Norton took his job seriously. He issued his own bank notes, made decrees, gave orders to official bodies, and reprimanded them when he was ignored. He became a familiar figure on the city streets, in his ill-fitting uniform, followed by his official dogs, Bummer and Lazarus. When he was arrested on the grounds that he was a lunatic, there was uproar. The police chief ordered his release, and from then on San Francisco policemen saluted him. He even marched at the head of their annual parade.

Norton was ahead of his time, demanding that money be invested in airship research and that a bridge should be built between San Francisco and Oakland. When one



One of Norton's notes. If you can't make dosh any other way...

**He was arrested on
the grounds that he
was a lunatic**

was, 50 years after his death, it was dedicated to him. When a demonstration against Chinese immigrants threatened to turn nasty, Norton stood up in front of them and began to recite The Lord's Prayer. The demonstrators retreated in shame.

On 8 January 1880, during his daily tour of the city, Norton died suddenly of a heart attack. The city went into mourning. He was given a majestic funeral, paid for by wealthy citizens, and around 20,000 people turned out to see him buried. He left no heirs.



Emperor Norton: gone and mostly forgotten

I SPENT MORE than two hours in the beauty shop getting my hair permed, cut, and styled. Relieved to be done, I went up to the receptionist to pay. "Good afternoon!" she said cheerfully. "And who's your appointment with today?" Source: gcfl.net

Nancy Cherrington of Geneva, Fla., was arrested at an Orange County sheriff's roadblock for "wearing a mask or hood in public" when the professional clown refused to take off her red plastic nose for officers at the roadblock.

Cherrington is known as "Stinko the Clown."

—Gainesville Sun



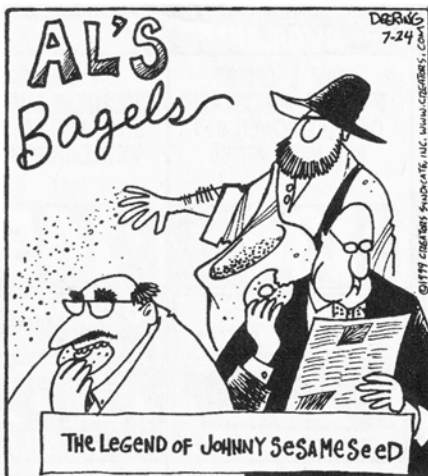
-- Two men and a woman were arrested in Bentonville, Ark., in December and charged with kidnapping Jason Stanley for a ransom from his stepfather of either \$200,000 or 50 pounds of marijuana. During his four days of captivity, Stanley, 6 feet and 155 pounds, was bound in plastic tape and stored completely within a soft-sided, zippered suitcase that the three toted around with them in their car. He finally convinced the kidnappers he would help them commit crimes if only they would unpack him; once free, he broke away and notified police.

Patriot games

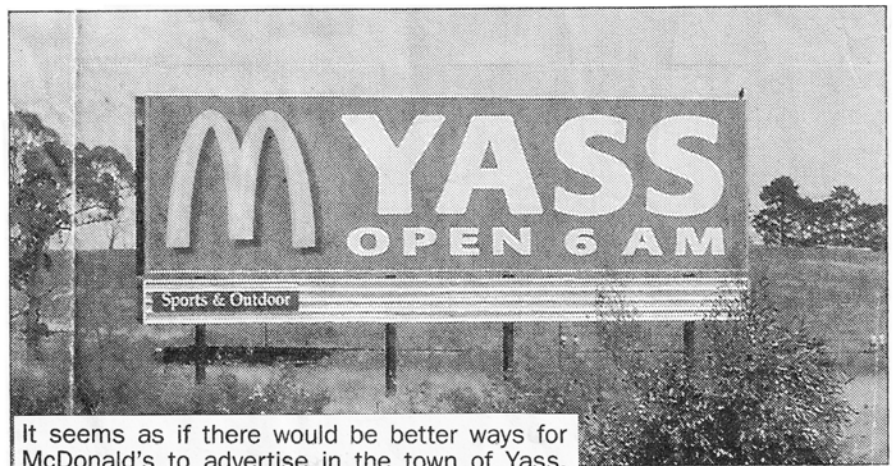
1 PatriotMedia, a cable company, sent a New Jersey reader an "I Love America" gift package for Independence Day, with a flag decal, a recipe for apple crisp, and other holiday items. But something struck him about the Patriot Crayons that were included.

2 A watermelon waved this flag sticker, even though it arrived from south of the border.

3 And how about the Great American Toy (a stuffed animal) that bore this tag? It was made halfway around the world.



Strange Brew



It seems as if there would be better ways for McDonald's to advertise in the town of Yass, Australia.

Patrick Kong of Sydney, Australia

THE JOLLY ROGER

By Frank Spaeth

When symbolizing death, we use the bones that rot the slowest.

The governor of Martinique looked fearfully at the pirate ship lurking off the coast. Two black flags flew from its mast—both custom “Jolly Rogers” designed by the ship’s captain, Bartholomew “Black Bart” Roberts. One flag depicted Black Bart toasting with Death. The other showed him standing atop two skulls. There were three letters under each skull—ABH, which stood for “A Barbadian’s Head,” and AMH, for “A Martinican’s Head.” It was obviously a bad omen: On that clear day in 1720, Black Bart captured Martinique’s governor and hanged him.

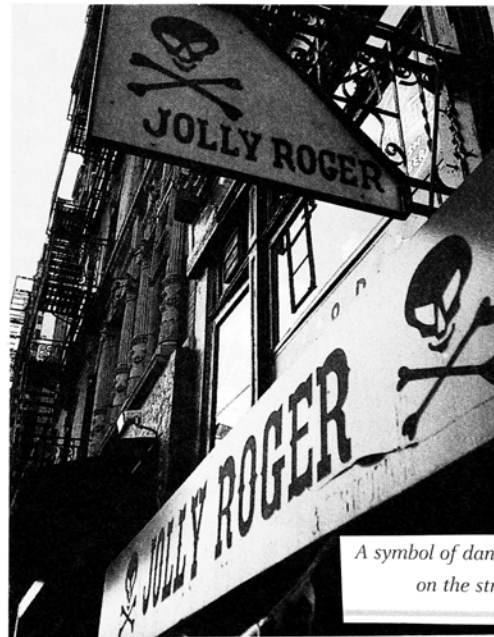
The Jolly Roger wasn’t piracy’s original flag. Prior to the 1690s, most pirate ships flew solid-red flags—a warning of no mercy in battle. It was called the *Jolie Rouge* (pretty red) by French buccaneers. English pirates loosely translated *Jolie Rouge* to “Jolly Roger”—*roger* being slang at that time for *rogue*. The red flag was actually feared more than the Jolly Roger.

It isn’t clear who flew the original Jolly Roger. Some historians suggest that the classic black-and-white skull-and-crossbones flag first waved from French pirate Emanuel Wynne’s ship in 1700 as he terrorized the Caribbean. In any case, after 1700, it was used almost exclusively by pirate ships, and many captains even designed their own. Eventually, “Jolly Roger” stood for any black flag with a white emblem associated with piracy.

The image of a skull and two bones crossed underneath (believed to be human thighbones) was around long before it became part of the Jolly Roger. In the 1600s, armies in Europe used it as their insignia, which was also called Death’s head. This long-standing symbol of death is even present on a 1,000-year-old Mayan temple in Mexico and once adorned gravestones in medieval Europe, where the Black Plague ran rampant, killing one third of Europe’s population. Rotting corpses would often lie in piles for weeks. Skulls and thighbones—which preserved the longest—were an everyday sight.

The idea for the flag’s black background may have come from medical ships filled with plague victims. They would fly solid-black flags to signal other vessels to stay away. Pirate ships first used the Jolly Roger to deceive unsuspecting ships. It didn’t take long, however, for others to learn the pirates’ tricks, and the Jolly Roger soon became a symbol of danger.

Piracy flourished well into the 1800s. It wasn’t until the Treaty of Paris, signed in 1856, that piracy began to decline. This treaty banned letters of marque, documents issued by governments to privateers authorizing them to attack and capture ships of enemy nations. Lacking a protectorate, most decided to give up their livelihood and pull the Jolly Rogers from their ships.



A symbol of danger now advertises a bar on the streets of New York.

“The best way to keep your word is not to give it.”

Napoleon Bonaparte (1769–1821)

In the *Toronto Star*: “Marijuana Issue Sent to a Joint Committee.”

BIZARRO



• From a Smithsonian magazine article about toy marketing: “Barbie herself must at all times appear chaste. To make sure, designers avail themselves of an instrument known as the Barbie Exposure Gauge, which keeps tabs on her bust and bottom. This is a headless Barbie doll with blue ink covering its anatomically incorrect chest and a blue line running across its derriere. ‘If any blue is exposed when Barbie sits down, or when you look down her blouse, or when she undergoes the twist test’—Clark grabs Barbie in both hands and twists her like a pepper mill—‘then that costume is unacceptable.’”

Funny-Named Towns

FOUR years ago, Barry Stoller, of Kent, Washington, was so angry about the failure of a laxative that he wrote this letter to the Sandoz Pharmaceutical Company: "Dear Ex-Lax, I took the pills at bedtime but it did not have any effect by 8 am morning, or 8 pm that day. I would appreciate a refund of \$1.99." *The New York Times* reports that family members were not surprised that Stoller would seek such a small refund, remarking later that he was so cheap he taught his cat to use the toilet to avoid buying kitty litter. The company sent a refund, but by mistake put his postcode on the part of the cheque where the amount should have appeared. So the cheque was for 98002. On September 28, 1993, police say, he went to a bank and cashed the check. Then he disappeared. It took Sandoz accountants until late October

1993 to figure out that the company had paid more than \$1.99. Police issued a warrant against Stoller for theft. Last week Stoller, now aged 40, was arrested in Seattle while allegedly trying to steal two packs of cigarettes from a supermarket. He awaits trial. "When they brought him in, he was very dishevelled ... He seemed down and out, like he'd been living on the streets," King County Police spokeswoman Joanne Elledge said. Stoller has not revealed what he did with the \$98,002.



- In North Dakota, it is against state law to serve beer and pretzels simultaneously in any bar or restaurant.
- It's illegal to sit on the curb of any street in St. Louis while drinking beer from a bucket.
- It's illegal in Australia to crush a beer can between your breasts.

THINNING THE HERD: A 46-year-old motorcyclist, speeding, yelling obscenities and shaking his fist alongside an 18-wheeler that had made a left turn of questionable etiquette on a Corpus Christi, Texas, street, lost control of the cycle, fell off, and was fatally dragged underneath the truck (October).

Weekend Specials

RI., APR. 13TH SAT., APR. 14TH

APPETIZER

Spicy Tortellini

SOUP DU JOUR

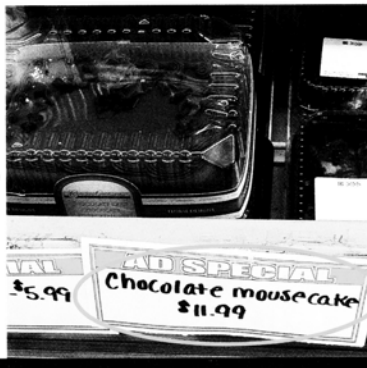
Cream Of Crap

ENTREES

Chicken Provecalc

Black & Bleu Delmonico

DRINK FEATURE



I have fallen in love with American names," wrote the Yankee poet Stephen Vincent Benét. Well, Stevie, you'd have just been wild about the town names of the South.

Slapout. Eclectic. Cut and Shoot. All of us Southerners know them. We love these names. We laugh and embrace them fondly like the eccentric uncle who sings "My Old Kentucky Home" while gargling sweet tea. Bugtussle. Boring. Uncertain. These towns' names have music, bursting with that singular combo of Southern charm and weirdness.

They make finding your way around the South a challenge, an adventure. The plethora of peculiar names (that's Peculiar, Missouri) turns finding a destination into an Abbott and Costello skit. "Well, if you're in Uncertain (TX), hang a left at Accident (MD) until you come to Bowlegs (OK)." Or: "Follow that road to Superior Bottom (WV), where you'll run into Lazy Lake (FL). Travel south from there, and you will see Santa Claus (GA) right before you get to Toad Suck (AR). You can't miss it."

The way Southerners give directions might drive you over the edge—that is, if the directional-based names themselves don't. "You know where that barn used to be before it burned in Center? Now, I'm not talking about that one in Center Hill or Centerton. Actually it's near Central City. Anyhow, go east right there at Due West till you get to where the Wilsons used to live in Middleton. Or was that Middleton? Maybe it was Middletown. Anyway, hang a left where that cow is usually loose in the road."

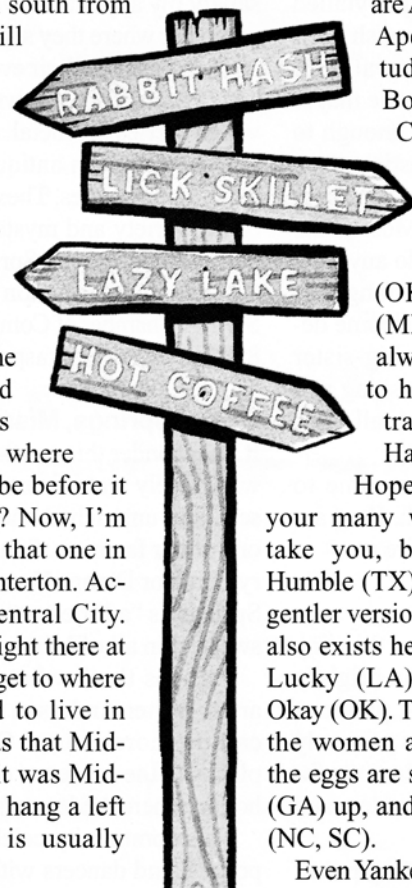
If you haven't already begun quietly weeping into your Rand McNally, take heart. Food is always just down the road a piece—and it, too, is often the name of a town. If you start the day with Hot Coffee (MS), you can move on to Two Egg (FL), followed by Lick Skillet (TN). You're likely to find true grits in Hominy (OK), and Rabbit Hash (KY) heads you into a brunch/wild game direction. Don't forget the Toast (NC) before foraging further in Dixie for consumables.

Southern town names also celebrate sartorial splendor. Start in Argyle (GA) to get on firm footing, then move on to Bell Buckle (TN) and Calico Rock (AR). In the mood for something Victoria's Secretish? Then try Chantilly (VA). If it's warmth you're searching for, go to Coats (NC) or Wool Market (MS).

As you pinball your way through the South, you'll see our true spirit reflected on the roadside signs. They are Allgood (AL), the Apex (NC) of fortitude. You'll find a Bonanza (AR) of Comfort (TX) and Delight (AR). An Eden (MS) of Fair Play (MO), Freedom (OK), and Friendly (MD) folk, who are always Happy (TX) to help you on your travels. You'll find Harmony (NC) and Hope (AR) wherever your many wanderings may take you, be they ever so Humble (TX). A Kinder (LA), gentler version of Liberty (KY) also exists here—Loyal (OK), Lucky (LA), and generally Okay (OK). The South is where the women are Strong (AR), the eggs are served Sunnyside (GA) up, and all are Welcome (NC, SC).

Even Yankee poets. ♦

They left out a personal favorite of mine: the single most appropriate town name in all of Oklahoma: BURNS FLAT.



Art is a jealous mistress.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson
*American philosopher, essayist
and poet*

Note to self: N

Cold Weather Causes Temperature to Drop

- Stillwater (Okla.) News-Press

Hungary's King of Pop, **Imre "Jimmy" Zambo**, was mad at a neighbor's rooster, which woke him early in the morning once too often, reports FHM.

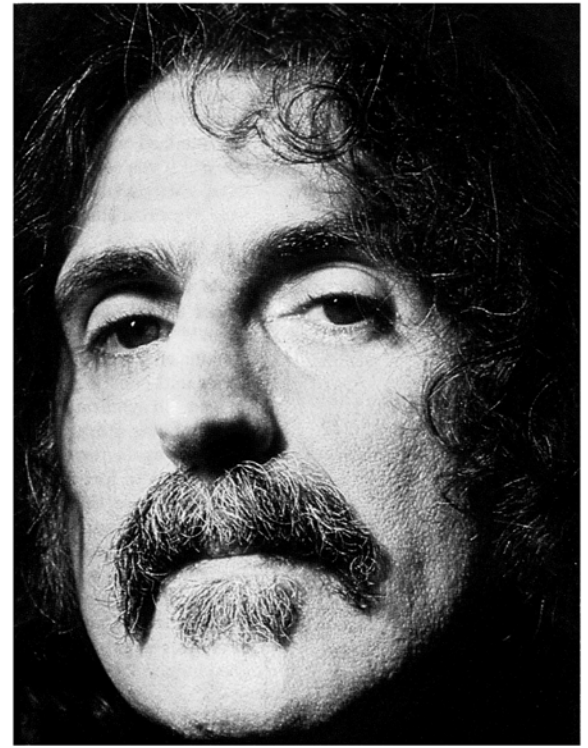
His wife later told the press that the rocker had pulled out an air pistol, fired two shots, then really got serious.

Jimmy unleashed his trusty Beretta, shot at the bird, then took out the clip to calm his wife.

To further prove the safety of the gun, he then put it to his temple and pulled the trigger.

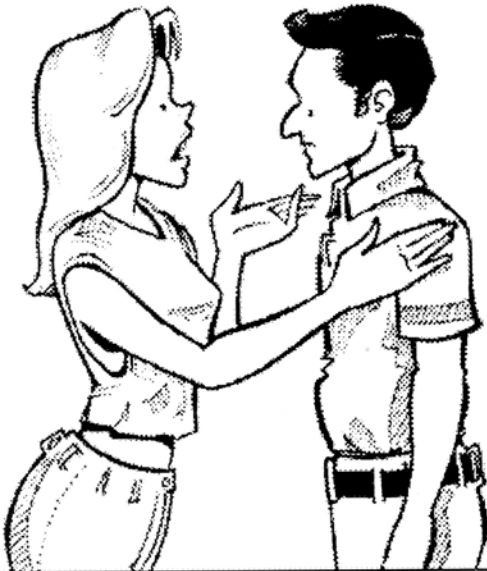
Final score: Rooster 1, Dead Rocker 0.

University of Kentucky professor Buck Ryan disclosed in December that he had been punished recently (loss of travel funds and a "prestigious" award) by his dean for singing the Beach Boys classic "California Girls" for a lesson comparing American and Chinese cultures — because of the song's "language of a sexual nature." The school's "coordinator" on sexual harassment issues made the ruling, apparently absent student complaints, for Ryan's lyric change of "Well, East Coast girls are hip" to "Well, Shanghai girls are hip."



I came. I saw. I EDITED.

I THINK WE SHOULD SEE OTHER
PEOPLE. AND I THINK YOURS SHOULD
HAVE A DEGREE IN PSYCHIATRY.



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In January, the U.S. Court of Appeals finally pulled the plug on Orange County, California, social workers who had been arguing in court for 16 years that they were not guilty of lying under oath because, after all, they did not understand that lying under oath in court is wrong. The social workers had been sued for improperly removing children from homes and defended their actions by inventing "witnesses" to submit made-up testimony. Their lawyers had been arguing that the social workers' "due process" rights were violated in the lawsuit because in no previous case on record did a judge ever have occasion to explicitly spell out that creating fictional witness statements is not permitted.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

-- Announced in The Wall Street Journal in April as a new managing director of Merrill Lynch's loan syndications group, Mr. Ed Crook.

-- Pleading guilty to a \$30 million fraud in New York City in March was the former owner of two investment companies, Mr. Chuckles Kohli.

-- Jailed in San Rafael, Calif., in February, on the latest of his 18 indecent-exposure convictions, Mr. Ubiquitous Perpetuity God, 68. (Mr. God says he changed his name years ago so that his flashed victims would have "some type of awareness of God.")

STRANGE BREW



A MOOSE on the loose in Alaska has eluded wildlife biologists for several days. "This moose will be pretty easy to recognize," Larry Lewis, a state wildlife technician, told the Anchorage Daily News. That's because the bull is carrying the remains of a metal swing set on its antlers. Large parts of the swing set have fallen off, but biologists believe the moose is still tangled in ropes and chains. Jennifer Wallis of Soldotna said she and her husband watched as the animal carted off one of their children's favorite playthings from their backyard: an 18-foot swing set with seven legs and three swings, a teeter-totter swing and a slide at one end. She said the animal ran in circles, missing the family's camper, boat and house, and dropped the slide off in the yard before tearing off through the woods. Biologists tracked the stressed moose for two days, following a trail of shredded blue plastic and gouged snow, but eventually lost the trail. Wonder if they thought to look for him at the Moose lodge.

BILLY TUBBS, 1979

Oklahoma's basketball coach:

"This year we plan to run and shoot. Next season we hope to run and score."

One of the tidbits he passed along yesterday was that the Pennsylvania Turnpike has fenced off portions of a new 17-mile section of the Mon-Fayette Expressway between I-70 in Fallowfield and Route 51 in Jefferson Hills.

And why are your tax dollars being spent to fence in an unopened stretch of highway?

Because deer have been diving to their deaths from the bridges.

Apparently, the deer have been strolling out onto the pavement as if they were dumb animals, totally ignorant of the rules of the road.

Rule No. 1: Cars kill deer.

But on this stretch of road, there are no cars yet. So Bambi and his ilk are bounding about, thinking they're in deer heaven. (As opposed to being sent on their way to deer heaven.)

The trouble is that they go over to the concrete barriers and jump over them. To their deaths.

Like lemmings, I guess.

Turnpike spokesman Joe Agnelo said one particular trouble spot has been the dual 252-foot-high bridges over Route 88 and Mingo Creek in Union Township, Washington County. Fortunately, there have been no reports of deer falling onto the cars below.

Can you imagine trying to explain that to your insurance agent?

Anyway, the fencing is up, thank goodness, sparing these beautiful creatures from terrifying ends.

On Friday, there will be a morning ribbon-cutting ceremony, followed by the 3 p.m. opening of the toll road to traffic. At which time the deer can start dying normal car-related deaths.

The Turnpike Commission is quite excited about this new piece of pike. This past Sunday, they showed it off a little, opening up the four-lane highway to biking, hiking, roller-blading and free bus tours. About 5,000 people turned out for what was billed as their "Picnic on the Pike."

An event which, I'm sure, did not include venison burgers.

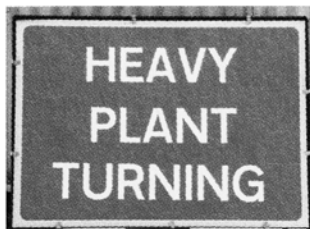
**TRY OUR
NEW
COMBO MEALS
ETHANOL FREE**

Good news

Sometimes those combo meals give you gas.

... the health of Mr. Parnell has lately taken a very serious turn, and fears of his recovery are entertained by his friends.

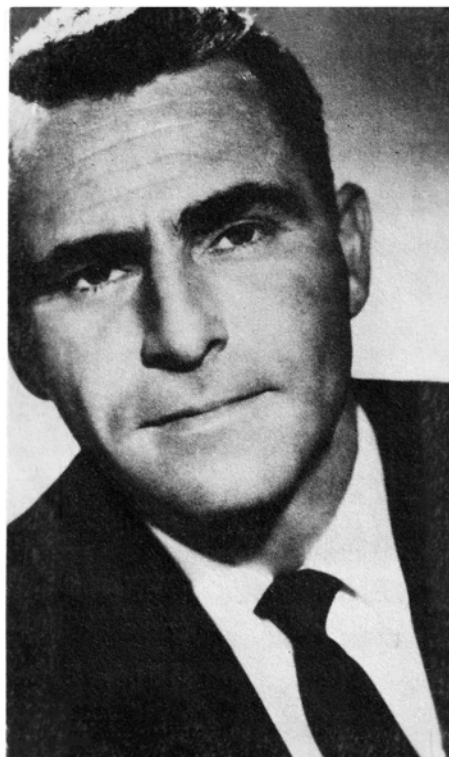
from a Dublin newspaper, 1890



*"Next to music
beer was best."*

—CARSON MCCULLERS,
THE HEART IS A LONELY HUNTER

**GOOD BOOKS
BUILD
CHARACTER**



"An original writer is not one who imitates nobody, but one whom nobody can imitate."
French writer François-René de Chateaubriand, quoted in The New York Times



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