

News From Around the Bend



Issue 101



NEWS FROM AROUND THE BEND

ERRATA, EPHEMERA, ET CETERA.

ISSUE #101

JULY 2017

A periodical brought to you periodically by
The Northcraft Entertainment Organization

Cover: Robert S. Van Fleet, Nov. 20, 1965. Science building burns; football game continues. America.

Publisher/Editor for Life

ACOUSTIC ROSS

Known & Suspected Contributors To Your Delinquency This Month

**SHAWN BRETT
BLAKE CATES
JENNIFER COLLINS
GINNY GREENAWALT**

**GLEN HETHERINGTON
The JOHNSON Family
The KNARR Family
The MASONS**

**MIKE MUIZNIEKS
GLORIA SHADE
The YUNGKURTH Family**

This Month's Cartoons

**Bizarro by Dan Piraro
The Far Side by Gary Larson
Red Meat by Max Cannon**

**Tom Bachtell, Chris Cater, Paul Noth,
& Drew Panckeri for The New Yorker**

NOTES FROM THE SKEPTIC TANK

**"When you prevent me from doing anything I want to do, that is persecution;
When I prevent you from doing anything you want to do, that is law, order and morals."**

– George Bernard Shaw

Fourth new issue so far in 2017 – the last year we knocked out so many was 2004.

We were never supposed to get to 101 issues. Number 97 was the last for a decade, then I just wanted to hit 100. But here we are again.

Twenty-five-plus years ago – in May of 1992 – Issue #13 ("Volume 2 Issue 4," according to the cover) was supposed to be the last one.

I was graduating from Kent State on May 16. As a result, I'd be losing my job of 3 years – a great TV production gig only available to students – also on May 16. That spring, I joined my sister Susie in a community theater production of "Little Shop of Horrors," playing bass in the pit band. Closing night? Yes, you guessed it: May 16.

Issue 13 had all the earmarks of a final issue, including vague & specific comments throughout that it would indeed be the final issue. There was a comment in there about how my life was calling and, for once, I was going to call back.

Thing is, life didn't actually return *my* calls for another few months.

On May 17, back in my old room at my parents' house, I started my summer – with no pit band, no school, no job, no offers. A month later, that situation hadn't changed, despite the piles of resumes going out, and other than a few shifts delivering flowers as a sub for my Dad, there wasn't much on my plate.

Nearly all my time was free time. So in June, there I was with X-acto, rubber cement, & clippings, and soon Issue 14 existed. July, August, more of the same – 1992 would be our busiest publishing year ever: 10 issues and a holiday card.

My musical hero Tom Lehrer once famously called the second song in his set "my first encore."

That in mind, I invite you to enjoy Issue 101: Our 88th Encore Issue since that 'final' one 25 years ago.



Woman Calls Cops Worried Semen In Thermos Might Explode

NEW PORT RICHEY, Fla. (AP) – A Florida woman trying to get pregnant via artificial insemination called police because she feared the thermos she was using to store sperm and dry ice might explode.

Felicia Nevins sought the Pasco County Sheriff's Office help after she forgot to remove a rubber O-ring from the container.

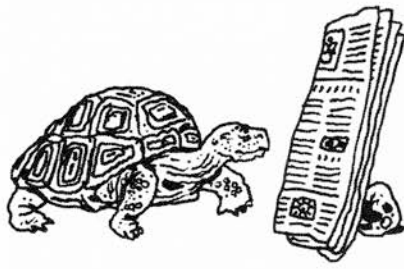
The next thing Nevins knew, the incident was all over social media. That's because the sheriff's office posted details on Facebook.

Nevins told the Tampa Bay Times she was upset because the post was not removed. Nevins was not identified by name but she said she was mortified that enough information was posted for her to be identified.

The sheriff's office defended its action, saying it was important to provide the type of safety information contained in the post.

FLORIST ASKS GIRLS TO DROP STRAPLESS GOWNS

— Southwest (Chicago) News-Herald.



JASON POLAN

There are more than 40 words in Gaelic relating to seaweed.



Ashrita Furman hopped to a world record by bouncing a mile on a pogo stick at an Argentine military base in Antarctica the other day.

The 17-minute, 45-second feat was his 62nd recognized by the Guinness Book of Records. Among them: squat jumps in an hour (1,649), continuous yodeling (27 hours) and balancing 57 glasses on his chin for 11 seconds.

Said Furman, 46: "Breaking Guinness records brings me ever closer to my inner truth."

The sleep of reason begets monsters.

--Francisco Goya
Spanish painter and engraver

Note to self: N

Applying for college aid gets tougher

U.S. shuts down online program

Pretty sure that's spelled "toughor."

Octogenarian To Revive Burlesque Act

[REUTERS] – An octogenarian former New Jersey deputy mayor - who once thrilled audiences as burlesque star Hope Diamond - plans to sparkle again in the role at a charity event - though, at her age, she plans to keep her clothes on.

Three years after being released from prison following a bribery conviction, former Jersey City Deputy Mayor Leona Beldini is headed back to the stage to raise funds for the Kennedy Dancers, a non-profit dance company.

Now a grandmother, Beldini intends to dazzle crowds when she revives her burlesque persona Hope Diamond at the Jersey City dance company's 40th anniversary gala.

But she will not be stripping. "It's a little late for that, I'm afraid," Beldini, 82, said.



PAUL NOTH

"Your heart rate's good, but it shouldn't be beating under the floor like that."

Excerpts from a discount book catalog. I'm not sure that I agree with you 100% on your categorization work there, Lou.

Home & Garden



1873873 **SHIT NEW YORK: Snapshots of the City That Never Sleeps—Caught Napping.** By Patrick Dalton. Discover the dingiest, darkest, most hilarious side of the Big Apple in his collection of real, street-side photographs. From abandoned mattresses that double as love letters to bathroom signs that insist on NO

TURDS, these images will make you cringe and roar with laughter in equal measure. Fully illus. in color. Portico. Import. Pub. at \$14.95 \$4.95

★ 4525663 **SIMON & SCHUSTER MEGA CROSSWORD PUZZLE BOOK #15.** Ed. by John M. Samson. Provides 300 of the most challenging, fresh, and original puzzles that offer hours of stimulation for solvers of every level. Contains easy to use perforated pages. Solutions provided. 300 pages. Touchstone. 8 1/2 x 11. Paperbound. Pub. at \$14.99 \$9.95

★ 7650159 **SIMON & SCHUSTER MEGA CROSSWORD PUZZLE BOOK #14.** Ed. by John M. Samson. Provides 300 of the most challenging, fresh, and original puzzles that offer hours of stimulation for solvers of every level. Contains easy to use perforated pages. Solutions provided. 300 pages. Touchstone. 8 1/2 x 11. Paperbound. Pub. at \$14.99 \$9.95

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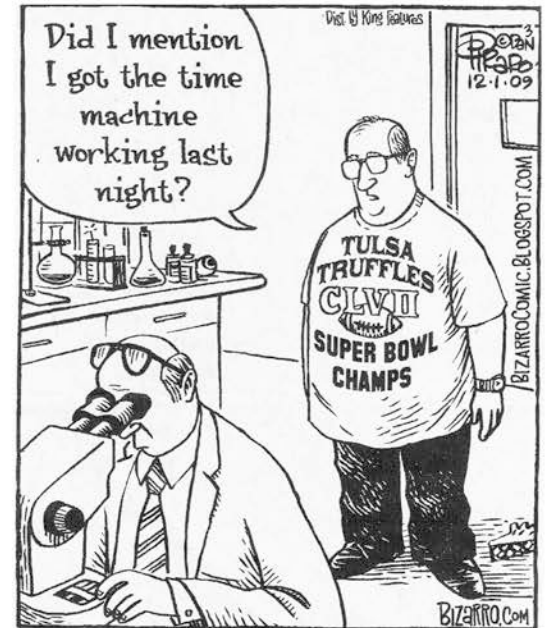
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"Any idiot can face a crisis. It is the day-to-day living that wears you out."
Anton Chekhov, quoted in Time Out New York



The Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph offers: "For sale—1984 Corvette. Beautiful 'hello-officer' red. Insurance forces sale."

Help-wanted ad in the Seattle Times: "Bookkeeping—for rapidly growing herb farm. Full thyme."

Garage-sale ad in Fort Worth Star Telegram: "Leaf blower, gas grill, toys, linens, 2 B&W TVs, 14-year-old kid with mouth."

In the Dublin, Ohio, News: "Part-time help in vegetable garden for farm market. Must be able to see lightning, hear thunder and find your way to work. The ability to determine a dead tomato plant from a live one is a plus."

DRINK TO YOUR HEALTH

Beer was a common staple of the European diet during the Middle Ages for a few reasons. One, most beer contains the nutrients needed for human survival, but scientific studies from around the world since then have shown that beer has a slew of other health benefits. These benefits include reducing the risk of kidney stones, lowering the risk of heart disease, aiding in post-workout recovery, boosting the immune system, and strengthening your bones. Cheers, healthy boozers.

BANGOR, Maine (AP) – In a misstep that would seem to run counter to her business model, a woman who offers a semi-nude cleaning service was arrested for stealing underwear.

Police in Bangor, Maine, say the woman is the owner-operator of a business called Topless Cleaning. She was caught shoplifting undergarments from a local business.

Bangor Police Sgt. Tim Cotton left a lengthy, humorous post about the arrest on the police department's Facebook page. He says the woman "had stolen garments that would fully cover, support, and contain much of what her business title promised her customers."

Cotton also says potential patrons should "keep their hands to themselves, leave other people's things alone, and be kind to one another."

German Shepard Puppies
ACA registered, vet checked, up to date on shot & worme r, family raised, \$650 ea.
330-439-8356

GOLDEN RETRIEVER
AKC, english cream puppies, shots & dewormed, vet checked, 8 wks, ready to go \$800
330-601-4179

LABRADOODLE FEM
2 yrs old, very friendly dog, makes a nice pet
330-641-5955

NEW Foundland Puppies, AKC. Gentle Giants! Brown, parents has wonderful health history. 419-273-2673 or 419-767-0365

MARCH 6, 1995

Twenty-six cheerleaders at Stratford High in Goose Creek, S.C., took part in an intrasquad shoplifting contest while they were in Florida for a cheerleading competition.

WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING?

We know what the people at Evans Funeral Chapel mean, but geez.

One of the greatest gifts you'll ever give your family may be your funeral.



It's something no one likes to think about. But sooner or later, we all have to face it. Including you. And when it happens, the loved ones you leave behind will have to face a lot of decisions about your funeral. Everything from your favorite flowers to friends that should be noti-

"Things are more like they are now than they ever were before."

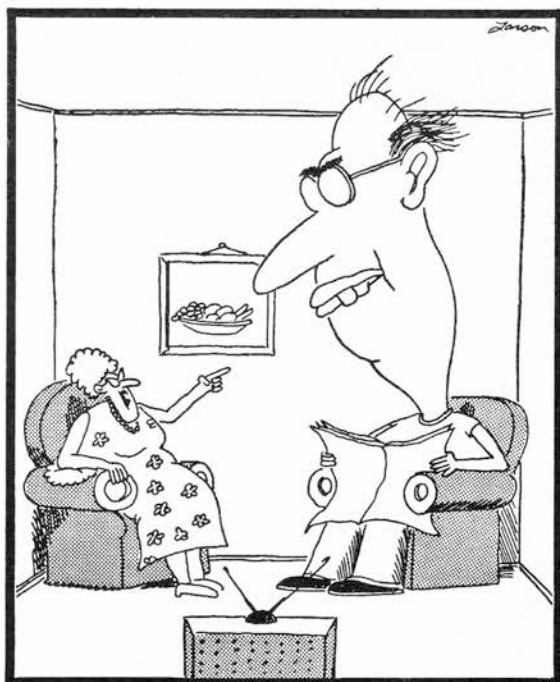
—Former U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower

"Whoever drinks beer, he is quick to sleep; whoever sleeps long, does not sin; whoever does not sin, enters Heaven! Thus, let us drink beer!"



Elon Musk and the Los Angeles Mayor, Eric Garcetti, have both spoken about the possibility of bringing a Boring tunnel network to the city after holding promising talks. The Mayor said in an interview on ABC 7 that Boring tunnels could make it possible to have an express line between LAX airport and Union Station.

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• An English-language driver's manual in Italy gives this advice on dealing with pedestrians: "When a passenger on the hoof hove in sight, tootle the horn, trumpet him, melodiously at first. If she still obstacle you passage, tootle him with vigor and vim, expressing by words of mouth in warning."

And a tourist guide to the island of Capri offers this introduction: "We hope this little book will be really insinuating, in the proper sense of the word. It weighs nothing and has no pretences, and we hope it will be kept in the handbag of elegant ladies and in the wallet of their husbands, on the desk of the important business man or in the cigarette case of the young snob."

Residents in southern Humboldt County, California, will vote in May on a proposed property tax increase to fund a community hospital in Garberville to serve a web of small towns in the scenic, sparsely populated region, and thanks to a county judge's March ruling, the issue will be explained more colorfully. Opponent Scotty McClure was initially rebuffed by the registrar when he tried to distribute, as taxpayer-funded "special elections material," contempt for "Measure W" by including the phrase "(insert fart smell here)" in the description. The registrar decried the damage to election "integrity" by such "vulgarity," but Judge Timothy Cissna said state law gives him jurisdiction only over "false" or "misleading" electioneering language.

(Zahra Mulrov for The Mirror)

Cannibalism may be generally frowned upon these days, but it was only last century that human blood was used as medicine in parts of Europe.

Now, eating our fellow humans is considered the sort of nightmare scenario you'd associate with a huge disaster eradicating all other sources of food.

Which is just as well because, the ethics aside, it's REALLY bad for you. In fact, cannibalism can kill.

Until about 50 years ago in Papua New Guinea, cannibalism was still widely practised, with members of the Fore tribe eating their deceased family members, the indy100 reports.

The unpleasant side-effect of this consumption of human tissues was to develop Kuru, also known as the "laughing disease."

Kuru is a very rare, incurable neurodegenerative disorder caused by a twisted protein in human flesh - prions, which survive heat and being cooked.

Prions wreak devastation by killing nerve cells in the brain, rendering it like a sponge, full of holes.

Kuru means "to shiver" or "trembling in fear" owing to its symptoms.

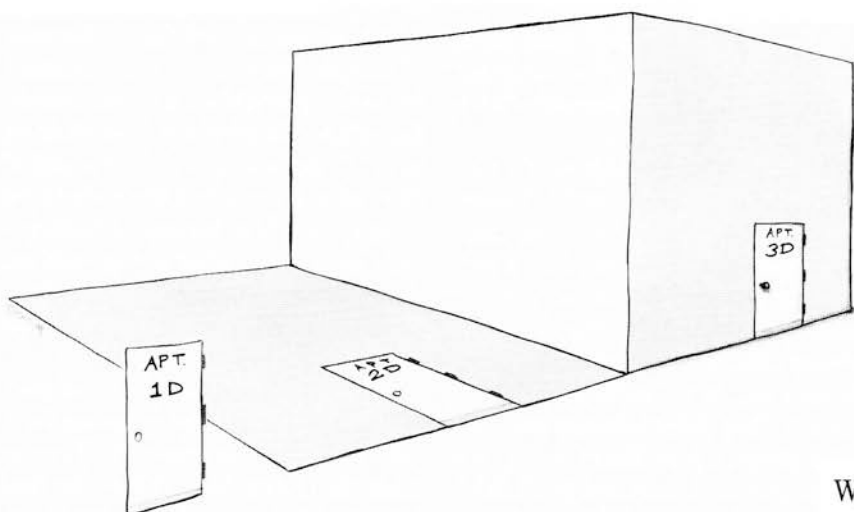
Set a good example for those around you and make good decisions! Until next time...

REMEMBER SAFETY IS EVERYONES RESPONSIBILITY!

(Capital letters, however, are not *spellcheck's* responsibility.)



I'm thinking maybe wait until Sunday to go to the festival.



• When other methods of controlling the burgeoning pigeon population of McAlester, Okla., failed, city officials sent 16 firefighters armed with shotguns into the streets to take care of the problem.

Blasting away for an hour and forty-five minutes, the firemen reportedly dispatched about 400 to 500 birds. In the process, however, they expended at least 1,600 shotgun rounds.

"I wish we could have gotten a lot more pigeons," said a fire department spokesman.

—*Oklahoman & Times*



Wyoming (*NPR Morning Edition*) – There's a real art to coming up with a good excuse, and this one is masterful. A college student was arrested after trying to leave a Walmart with nearly \$1900 in merchandise, including three flat-screen TVs. Investigators say they later found all kinds of stolen items in her dorm room. The young woman told the police she was working on a term paper about kleptomania. They didn't buy it. And because she didn't either, she now faces three felony charges.

I'll See You In Court

THE SPORTS world doesn't have a Bill of Rights to guarantee the right to bear tote bags and protect against cruel and unusual punishment at the hands of mascots. But you wouldn't know that by looking at the court dockets, which have been loaded of late with suits filed by litigious fans, players and dinosaur. Herewith, SPORTS ILLUSTRATED's favorite silly suits.

• In 1999 an Ottawa Senators season-ticket holder filed a \$27.5 million suit against holdout Alexei Yashin on the grounds that the value of tickets diminished when the captain held out for more money. It was thrown out of court.

• When he was traded to the Redskins in 2004, Clinton Portis offered new teammate Ifeanyi Ohaleté \$40,000—in three installments—for the right to wear Ohaleté's number 26. After Ohaleté got

cut, Portis stopped the payments. They settled: Ohaleté got a total of \$38,000.

• A male fan who was denied a red nylon tote bag during a 2005 Mother's Day promotion at Angel Stadium sued the team for sex and age discrimination. The class-action suit argued that male fans and women under the age of 18 were entitled to \$4,000 in damages since only women 18 and over received the bags—which were worth \$1.45 each. The court ruled for the Angels, but the next year on Mother's Day the team gave totes to all fans.

• Had the case made it to trial, it would have been the trial of the century. Or at least the furriest trial of the century. In 1994 the Famous Chicken added a skit to his routine in which he acted out many a parent's fantasy—by pummeling Barney. The dinosaur's creators sued the Chicken for \$100,000 for each offense. Said a Barney flack, "[S]ome of those children become visibly upset when they see Barney beaten up." Barney took another beating when the case was thrown out and his handlers had to pay nearly \$180,000 in court costs.

—Mitch Getz



JEROME JAMES, 2003

Seattle SuperSonics center, on coach Nate McMillan's charge that he was selfish:

"I don't have the first clue who he is talking about, because all I worry about is Jerome."

Dog rescued after car's plunge into river finds new home

By Eliza Fawcett
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



happen for a reason, and this is obviously the best home for this guy."

Good to know the car's plunge found a home.

Frozen Dead Guy Days

[REUTERS] - Every March the cryogenically frozen corpse of a Norwegian man breathes fresh life into sleepy Nederland, Colorado, where throngs of fun-lovers fill the streets for "Frozen Dead Guy Days," a festival in honor of the town's most famous resident.

The annual three-day festival is the brainchild of a local businesswoman who came up with the whimsical idea 16 years ago as a way to attract visitors to Nederland, where the man's body has laid in repose in a shed since 1993. From a modest crowd of about 1000 the first year, the festival now draws about 20,000 visitors, many of them dressing in Halloween costumes as they revel in such quirky events as a polar plunge, a frozen salmon toss, musical acts and a costume ball.

This year's festivities began with a parade of a dozen hearses, followed by a "coffin race" through the streets of the Rocky Mountain town, where temperatures hovered just above the freezing mark.

The annual bash honors Bredo Morstoel, who died and was cryogenically frozen in his native Norway in 1989 with the hope that low temperatures will allow him to be resuscitated sometime in the future. After a four-year stint at a California facility, his grandson moved him in 1993 to his property outside of Nederland, 17 miles west of Boulder. Morstoel's grandson no longer lives in Nederland and the family has no connection to the celebrations other than paying for his upkeep.

Once the festival ends, 59-year-old Brad Wickham will resume his job as Morstoel's caretaker, every two weeks hauling 1000 pounds of dry ice - carbon dioxide in solid form - to the sarcophagus and packing it around the corpse.

"There are a lot of scientists studying cryogenics, but I'm just a guy with a truck and a strong back," he said.

344
MILLION



1977
Peak vinyl
sales

0.9
MILLION

2006
Sales hit
bottom

16.9
MILLION

2015
Comeback
continues

Record Recovery

Number of new vinyl albums sold in the U.S.



Soupy Sales asked kids to take money from their parents' wallets and send it to him.

True. On the evening of New Year's Day, 1965, Soupy Sales was ad-libbing to fill a minute on his nation-

ally broadcast kids show when he tossed out an impulsive idea to his youthful viewership: "Last night was New Year's Eve, and I bet Mommy and Daddy are real tired tonight, so tip-toe into their bedroom and get Dad's wallet or Mommy's purse and take out the little green pieces of paper that have the guys with beards on them and send them to me here at Channel 5 in New York, and I'll send you a

postcard from Puerto Rico." The stunt resulted in \$80,000 being sent to the station, although Sales claimed it was mostly Monopoly money.

Channel 5 executives suspended him on the charge that he was encouraging kids to steal. "It was the best thing that ever happened to me," says Sales, who was back on the air in two weeks. "It made me a star." Sales, still working in comedy clubs at age 72, believes the incident has other historic significance. "I think it's where [TV evangelist] Jim Bakker got his idea," he jokes.



PAUL
NOTH

"I can't believe he brought her."

Putting the 'P' in Pilsner

[REUTERS] – A Danish brewery is drawing on 50,000 liters of urine collected from the largest music festival in Northern Europe in producing a novelty beer aimed at the more adventurous drinker.

The beer named "Pisner" – a word-play combining pilsner with local slang for urine – contains no human waste, but is produced from fields of malting barley fertilized with human urine rather than traditional animal manure or factory-made plant nutrients.

"When the news that we had started brewing the Pisner came out, a lot of people thought we were filtering the urine to put it directly in the beer and we had a good laugh about that," said Henrik Vang, Chief Executive of brewer Norrebro Bryghus.

Using human waste as fertilizer on such a scale is a novelty, said Denmark's Agriculture and Food Council, which came up with the idea for what could be the ultimate sustainable hipster beer and has already named the concept "beercycling."

NOVEMBER 3, 1997

According to a *Boating* magazine survey, a married boat owner is more likely to carry a wallet photograph of his boat than of his spouse or children.

Things That Were Apparently Funny in 1932, Judging by "The Crankcase Issue #1," a Pennzoil-sponsored Artifact I Found at a Resale Shop in Akron

SALLY'S SALLIES



Some people are born great, some achieve greatness and others just grate on you.

YOU HOLD THE POWER TO STOP RAPE IN YOUR HAND. *Slogan to be printed on 200 urinal screens as part of a novel anti-rape campaign at Ohio State University*



Call from your horse AND go back in time to the glory days of Southwestern Bell!



News of the Weird has written several times (as technology progressed) about Matt McMullen's "RealDoll" franchise — the San Marcos, California, engineer's richly detailed flexible silicone mannequins that currently sell for \$5,500 and up (more with premium custom features). Even before the recent success of the very humanish, artificially intelligent (AI) android "hosts" on TV's "Westworld," McMullen revealed that his first AI doll, "Harmony," will soon be available with a choice of 12 "personalities," including "intellectualism" and "wit," to mimic an emotional bond to add to the sexual. A recent University of London conference previewed a near future when fake women routinely provide uncomplicated relationships for lonely (or disturbed) men. (Recently, in Barcelona, Spain, a brothel opened offering four "realdolls" "disinfected after each customer" — though still recommending condoms.)

Masked 'Newsbreakers' disrupt two TV broadcasts

Alan Morrell
Staff writer

(January 7, 2005) — If you thought you saw a man in an "invisible suit" in the background of TV news broadcasts Thursday, you weren't mistaken.

A member of a group calling itself Newsbreakers got into live shots broadcast by WROC (Channel 8) and WHEC (Channel 10) during the noon news Thursday. Reporters from those stations were outside Highland Hospital, reporting live about an electrical failure at the hospital, when the man got into their camera shots.

The man, dressed in a tan bodysuit with the words "Invisible Suit" across the chest, jumped and danced around in the background. WROC cut away from the shot. The man also made it into the end of the WHEC news clip.

Executives at both stations said bystanders frequently try to get on camera during live shots, but Thursday's incident was different.

"It's something we face all the time," said Adam Bradshaw, WHEC news director. "But this is clearly a case where they fully intended to disrupt our live shot and, for us, rather unsuccessfully. That's not the best way to get your message across. You turn the audience off."

A world-class braggart governs in bombast.



Sometimes the Dragon Wins

We must never forget that art is not a form of propaganda; it is a form of truth.

--John F. Kennedy

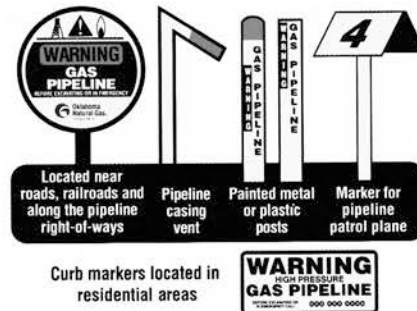
American politician/ President

Note to self...

Every once in a while, the Washington Post runs a contest in which readers are asked to supply alternate definitions for common words.

Here are some keepers:

- **Coffee** – A person who is coughed upon.
- **Flabbergasted** – Appalled over how much weight you have gained.
- **Abdicate** – To give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
- **Esplanade** – To attempt an explanation while drunk.
- **Willy-nilly** – Impotent.
- **Lymph** – To walk with a fisp.
- **Gargoyle** – An olive-flavored mouthwash.
- **Flatulence** – The emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.
- **Balderdash** – A rapidly receding hairline.
- **Testicle** – A humorous question on an exam.
- **Rectitude** – The formal, dignified demeanor assumed by a proctologist immediately before he examines you.
- **Oyster** – A person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddish expressions.



The electronic music artist Maryanne Amacher discovered that certain combinations of frequencies could, at high volume, cause the ear to produce and amplify tones of its own.

Reviving a Composer's Ghostly Sounds
ARTS & LEISURE, PAGE 14

BIG PINE KEY, Fla. (AP) – Authorities say a Louisiana woman living illegally in a vacant home in Florida answered the door naked when a sheriff's deputy stopped by to investigate.

Monroe County Sheriff's spokeswoman Becky Herrin says a real estate agent called to report that someone was staying at the home on Big Pine Key without the owner's permission.

Deputy Richard Wang looked in the window and saw 36-year-old Feliciamae Farrington naked. He knocked on the door and she answered, still naked. Farrington refused to get dressed and investigators say she fought with Wang as he tried to take her into custody. The struggle continued when other deputies arrived. Farrington has been charged with trespassing, battery on a law enforcement officer and resisting arrest.

It's not too late for Spring classes

Spring semester

STUDENT STUDENT STUDENT

TRIVIA SCHOOL & YOUTH QUIZ

1. How many quarters are in \$20?

○ 30 ○ 80
○ 60 ○ 90

2. What President does not appear on U.S. paper money?

○ Ben Franklin
○ Abraham Lincoln
○ John F. Kennedy
○ George Washington

Discipline... Isn't

Our Karate Program Teaches Children To Try Their Best In School, To Be Respectful To Others And To Have Confidence In Themselves...

Great Job! Great Job! Great Job! Great Job! Great Job!

Your a STAR! Your a STAR! Your a STAR! Your a STAR! Your a STAR!

Studies prove that children thrive academically when they are in an innovative and creative environment!

Reeding, rytin', and 'rithmatic

With the start of school, kids should focus on learning. These ads won't help.

Affordable • Quality

SUCCESS STARTS HERE

Sinclair is the best choice I've made. It was a great stepping stone to a four-year college. All my credits transferred. Most important, it was affordable. What you get for the price is outstanding. My success did start at Sinclair.

Sinclair Community College

Courses to fit your schedule—Dayton campus, reg

How to keep a jumbo shrimp dry

We thought sanitary pads had a lock on confusing sizes—how about an ultrathin super maxi?—but now an umbrella has entered the competition. If you're wondering how much protection an "oversized super mini" provides, check the photo.

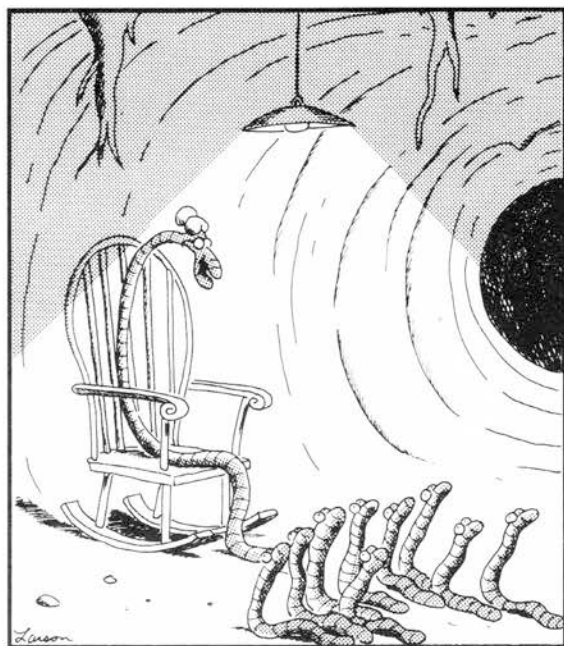


Never Mind: Would-be Robber Apologizes to Clerk

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP) — Police in South Carolina are seeking a man who apologized after attempting to rob a convenience store.

The Sun News reports that Horry County police say they responded June 18 to a Circle K in Little River after the unidentified man walked inside and demanded money while holding a knife.

A police report says a night clerk told them the man entered the store around 1 am and approached the counter. Police say the "unfazed" clerk didn't give the man money and told him to leave. The man realized his efforts were going nowhere and apologized, put the knife back in his pocket and left.



"That story again? ... Well, one stormy night, when the whole family was asleep, your grandfather quietly rose from his bed, took an ax, and made alllllll you little grandkids."

In New York, close to three-quarters of pretrial detainees in the city's jail system are there because they could not afford bail at arraignment.

Tourism Execs Seek 'Backup' Cocktail-mixing Toe

The theft of a famed cocktail ingredient, a mummified human toe, has spurred the northern Canadian territory of Yukon to launch a tongue-in-cheek campaign for an "insurance" toe, in case the digit gets stolen again.

In Yukon's Dawson City, drinking a cocktail with a pickled toe is a time-honored tradition that more than 100,000 visitors have undertaken, according to the municipality.

The toe was stolen from a local hotel on June 18, sparking national headlines. It came back by mail four days later along with an apology letter, according to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The Travel Yukon government tourism organization asked on Twitter for pictures of toes in the "Toenation Contest," which will grant the winner a free trip to the remote, sparsely populated territory, a neighbor of Alaska.

"Our toe was returned, but we can always use backups!" Travel Yukon tweeted. "Donate yours for a Yukon trip. Will your toe make the cut?"

According to Dawson City, a local man created the drink after finding a jar with the amputated frost-bitten toe of a rum-runner from the 1920s.

"Be sure to remember the most important rule: 'You can drink it fast, you can drink it slow, but your lips have gotta touch the toe,'" according to the city's website.

RCMP said a male suspect in the theft case called police after officers identified him. The man allegedly left his identification at the hotel, after downing the cocktail, according to the Yukon News. The toe came back with the apology letter, signed "a drunken fool," according to the newspaper.

"At the time that the package was opened, the toe was believed to be in good condition," RCMP said. "Charges are not expected to be laid in this matter."

(Reporting by Ethan Lou in Calgary, Alberta)

AUCTION

Saturday, June 7, 1958 1 P.M.

45 ELLICOTT AVENUE, BATAVIA

To settle the estate of the late Nina Mason Booth, the following will be offered for sale:

Krakauer piano and bench, Universal gas range, Frigidaire, dining table and 6 chairs, 2 davenports, contour lounge TV chair, wing chair and ottoman, several upholstered chairs, nest of tables, Mahogany single bed and double bed with innerspring mattresses and box springs, 100-piece single bed and Franciscoan ware (Apple pattern), wood box, plate silver, Electrolux cleaner, Seth Thomas Electric clock, Singer electric sewing machine, Walnut marble

IT'S NOT EASY TO FOLLOW STATE ORDERS. STATE MEDIA IN TAJIKISTAN WILL NOW HAVE TO INTRODUCE PRESIDENT EMOMALI RAHMON BY HIS FULL TITLE :
"THE FOUNDER OF PEACE AND NATIONAL UNITY, LEADER OF THE NATION, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN, HIS EXCELLENCY EMOMALI RAHMON."



"Please hurry—I don't know how long my cat can keep him subdued."

Some marvelous James Bond type of inventions from Britain's World War II SOE (Special Operations Executive):

- An exploding pencil with a detonator that could be set to go off anywhere from ten minutes to a month. Acid was put into the pencil to eat through a piece of wire of a certain thickness (that is how the timer was controlled). When the wire broke, a spring released and detonated the bomb.
- Fake plaster vegetables created to conceal ammunition and bombs. They used swedes (rutabagas) and parsnips in Europe, and pawpaws and pineapples in the Far East.



Things That Were Apparently Funny in 1932, Judging by "The Grankcase Issue #1," a Pennzoil-sponsored Artifact I Found at a Resale Shop in Akron



NATURAL WONDER

"Is the fishin' good, sir?"
 "Not very. But why do you ask?"
 "Well, you see, there hasn't been a drop of water in this creek all summer until the rain last night, and I just wondered."

-- A judge in Shelburne, Nova Scotia, jailed Frank Edward Gould, 48, in November for 45 days on a DUI charge. A police officer spotted Gould's truck weaving on the highway, and as Gould pulled into a gas station, the officer drove in behind him. According to the officer, Gould got out, became disoriented, walked back to the patrol car, leaned in and told the officer, "Fill 'er up."

-- From the Police Report, Wauwatosa (Wis.) News-Times, Oct. 26, 1995: "A man who was found in a women's restroom at Mayfair Mall was issued a citation for disorderly conduct Oct. 17. The man admitted to police that he had entered the restroom because he thought it would be a good place to meet women."

Popular Myths That Won't Go Away (LiveScience.com, as reported in *The Week*)

Myth No. 1

A chicken can live without its head

The facts: True, and not just for a few minutes. A chicken can stagger around without its noggin because the brain stem, often left partially intact after a beheading, controls most of its reflexes. One robust fellow lived a full 18 months.

Myth No. 2

Water drains backward in the Southern Hemisphere due to the Earth's rotation

The facts: Not only is the Earth's rotation too weak to affect the direction of water flowing in a drain, tests you can easily perform in a few washrooms will show that water whirlpools both ways depending on the sink's structure, not the hemisphere.



Myth No. 3

There is no gravity in space

The facts: Blame the term "zero-gravity" for this common misconception. Gravity is everywhere, even in space. Astronauts look weightless because they are in continuous freefall toward the Earth, staying aloft because of their horizontal motion. The effect of gravity diminishes with distance, but it never truly goes away. Oh, and while we're at it, it's also untrue that space is a vacuum. There are all kinds of atoms out there, albeit sometimes far apart.

4. Carlo Gesualdo

MARK CALCAVECCHIA, 2003

professional golfer, on the value of watching the leader board while he's playing:

"I like to know whether I don't need to do anything stupid or whether I need to try to do something stupid."



JOHN AMAECHI, 2003

Houston Rockets backup center, on not having played a single minute all season:

"That's part of the challenge of being a professional athlete."

GEOFF COX on the composer who was also good at dismembering relatives

A PAINTING HANGS in the Capuchin convent of Santa Maria della Grazie, in the village of Gesualdo, 80 miles east of Naples. At first sight, an unremarkable example of the late 16th-century judgement allegory, thronging with saints: The Virgin Mary; a sad-eyed Magdalene with her tub of perfumed ointment; the archangel Michael; Saint Francis and several others, all beseeching a bare-chested Redeemer, his raised right hand offering hope of salvation.

The sinner, a thin-faced nobleman kneels, extravagantly-ruffed and flanked by a Cardinal who also petitions the Almighty. Two adult figures and a winged child are borne aloft, perhaps plucked from the purgatorial flames that consume the lower third of the altarpiece.

Butchered bodies

THE CHAPEL AND its contents were commissioned as an act of expiation by Carlo Gesualdo, third Prince of Venosa: writer of exquisite, sorrowful madrigals and devotional pieces of strange, dark discord and beauty; the most extreme musical mannerist of the late Renaissance; and scion of one of Sicily's most venerable families.

A composer whose works have been both exalted – by Stravinsky and others – and denigrated as "harsh, crude... shocking and extremely disgusting", it is his dark, *El Greco* features which address the grave Christ, seeking absolution for some terrible sin.

On the night of October 16, 1590, the bloody bodies of two illustrious Neapolitans, Don Fabrizio Carafa, Duke of Andria, and the noted beauty, Signora Donna Maria d'Avalos, were discovered in the bedchamber of the imposing Palazzo di San Severo in Naples, residence of Carlo Gesualdo. Both had been butchered with extraordinary violence: limbs and torsos riven by multiple stab wounds. In several instances, the weapon appeared to have passed clean through flesh and bone, scoring deep gouges into the hardwood floorboards.

Curiously, the Duke's corpse, head battered and slashed nearly in two, was dressed only in a woman's tasselled nightgown. The bodies were examined by magistrates, cleaned and handed over to relatives. Depositions were taken from two household servants. The statements of both valet and maid left no doubt as to the assassin's identity: their master, Don Carlo, in the company of three others, had murdered his wife and her lover.



Third victim

THE CRIME captured the public's imagination, and was remembered in verse and rumour. Some held that a third victim – Donna Maria's second child, in whose infant features the cuckolded Prince had discerned those of his hated rival – had been discovered, his cruel fate hushed up to avoid further scandal. While his wife's adultery spared Don Carlo the charge of murder, the rumoured involvement of third parties was frowned upon.

Gesualdo fled, first to his country retreat and then, in 1594, to Ferrara, a cultural paradise presided over by grand musical patron Duke Afonso II. The Duke's cousin, Donna Leonora d'Este, became Don Carlo's second wife in an unhappy marriage contracted later that year. While in Ferrara, Don Carlo published the first four of six books of madrigals and devoted himself to music, hunting and, no doubt, the "excess" of which Leonora accused him in her petition for divorce.

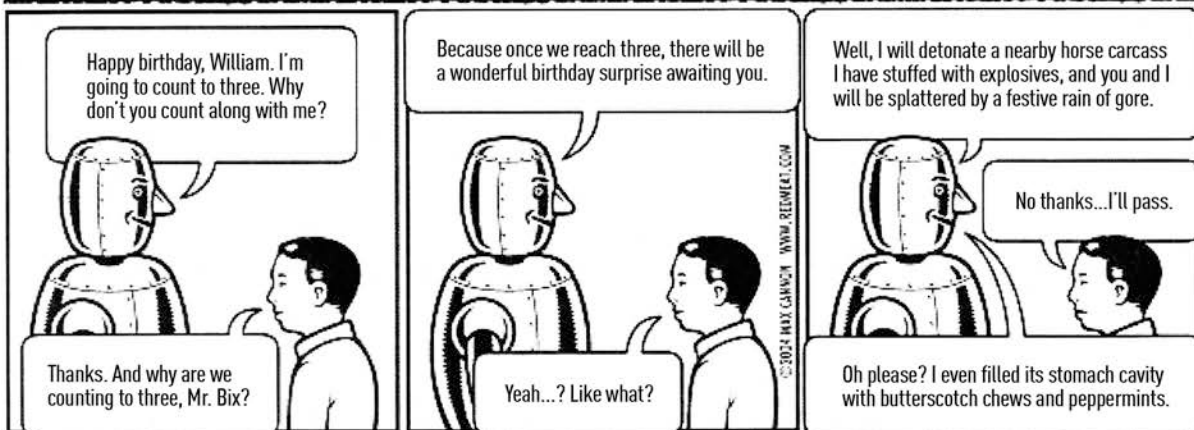
Don Carlo spent the last 15 years of his life at Gesualdo. Riven by guilt and – according to contemporary accounts – "a vast horde of demons which gave him no peace... unless 12 young men... beat him violently three times a day", he brooded, continuing work on his beautiful, dissonant *Responsaries for Holy Week*, which were published in 1611.

He died of unrecorded causes in 1613, aged 53, and was buried in Naples. His tomb was lost to an earthquake in 1688.

RED MEAT

lucifer's screwdriver

from the secret files of
MAX cannon



AUGUST 3, 1998

Houghton Mifflin's recently released American history textbook for fifth-graders, *Build Our Nation*, covers the Depression and the presidency of Franklin Roosevelt in 33 lines, while devoting two pages to Cal Ripken Jr.

• "You can pitch a gem and lose, but you can't lose when you win."

– Eric Show, San Diego pitcher. A second later he added, "Wait, don't quote me on that. I sound like Yogi Berra."

Cut out all these exclamation points. An exclamation point is like laughing at your own joke.

F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

To complete a trick called a cab double cork 1080, a snowboarder must perform three full 360-degree rotations and two inverted flips, simultaneously.

Paying for pancakes

"Bring Mom in for Mother's Day," said a flyer from The Original Pancake House of Laguna Hills, Calif. OK, but if you did, you paid full price. Tiny type revealed that neither coupon was good on Mother's Day.

Bring Mom in for Mother's Day

THE Original PANCAKE HOUSE

Not valid with any other coupon
Not valid on Mother's Day or
Expires 5-24-01

**Buy One 1/2 OFF*
Get One**

*Buy One Breakfast or Lunch Entree at Regular Price and Receive a Second Entree of Equal or lesser Value 1/2 OFF
*Valid Monday - Thursday Only.
Beverages & Side Dishes Not Included.
Not Valid with any other coupon or offer.
Not valid on Mother's Day or Memorial Day.
Expires 5-24-01

\$2.00 OFF*

Our Famous Dutch Baby Pancakes

*Valid Monday - Thursday Only.
Dine-in Only. Not valid with any other coupon or offer.
Not valid on Mother's Day or Memorial Day.
Expires 5-24-01

Try Our Famous Apple Pancakes.

Open 7 days A Week:
7 am-2 pm Mon-Sat • 7 am-3 pm Sunday

Pancakes, Omelettes, Waffles, Crepes and more...
All batters made from scratch DAILY using only the freshest ingredients

Not valid on Mother's Day or
Expires 5-24-01

2000 Moulton Parkway
Corner of Oso & Moulton
73 South - Exit Moulton

"It's like an alcatraz around my neck"

-Boston mayor Menino on the shortage of city parking spaces

Bald Thief Steals Rogaine; Story Writes Self

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) — Police in suburban Detroit can skip barbershops as they search for a man who stole a hair growth product.

The suspect is bald.

Dearborn police have security video of a bald man who is suspected of stealing Rogaine from a Walgreens store on June 22. Investigators say the man put seven boxes in a bag and dashed. He was wearing a shirt that said, "Air Force Dad."

Police say the bald man could strike again because it takes many months of consistent use to grow hair.



CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) -- Perhaps Bat Day is not such a bad idea after all.

The minor league Charleston RiverDogs, a day after announcing one of baseball's strangest promotions -- a free vasectomy in honor of Father's Day -- reversed course and canceled the event Friday.

"We found that clearly people didn't like the idea. We are sensitive to our fans' wants," said General Manager Mark Schuster.

One of those fans, Bishop David Thompson, a season-ticket holder who is head of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston, called the team to complain.

"It's just bad taste," said Monsignor Sam R. Miglarese, the diocese's vicar general. "It trivializes fatherhood."

Thursday night and most of Friday, however, team officials, including owner Mike Veeck, were enthusiastic about the promotion.

"Some men find it very useful," said Carol Killough, the marketing vice president who dreamed up the idea.

Anyone 21 or older, male or female, at the June 13 game against the Charleston, W.Va., Alley Cats would have been able to register for the drawing. One lucky guy was to have received the operation.

"I heard they were going to have some way out promotions," RiverDogs fan Stan Collins said. "This is about as way out as it gets."

Since buying the Class A RiverDogs this season, Veeck has brought his skewed view of baseball fun to this Southern city. He's had Bill Murray Mask Night (Murray is Veeck's longtime friend) and plans Great Inventor's Night to honor such things as the Chia-Pet.



I saw a guy with a question mark tattoo, which seems like an incredibly permanent commitment to uncertainty.

—@JOSHGONDELMAN



Actual Announcements from Church Bulletins:

Don't let worry kill you – let the church help.

Thursday night: potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

*Failure is the condiment
that gives success its flavor.*

--Truman Capote
American novelist

Note to self...

Internet romance ends with chain saw suicide

TOPSHAM, Maine (AP) -- A Missouri man who came to Maine to pursue a relationship with a woman he had met over the Internet died after cutting his neck with a chain saw on her front lawn to prove his love.

James Dinardi, 44, of Columbia, Mo., died at a hospital Monday. Police said he had moved to the area on June 23.

"The distraught individual had met the individual lady on the Internet, started up a romance," Police Chief Paul J. Lessard said.

But the woman apparently wanted to end the relationship, so Dinardi drove up to her home, pulled a chain saw from the trunk and cut part of his neck off to show her how much he cared for her, Lessard said.

Police withheld the woman's name.



For his 1999 work "Genesis," the artist Eduardo Kac wrote a sentence from the Book of Genesis first in the dots and dashes of Morse code and then in the four-letter alphabet of DNA, creating an artificial gene that was subsequently incorporated into bacteria.



Revolutions don't stop. Once begun, they continue to revolve. There somehow remains, against the will of history, a presumption that they spin around to a state of grace, a better position on the wheel. We fantasise this about politics, and in the digital space, in the creative world and within the engines of commerce. It's rare that we consider the wild machinery of revolution and understand that disruption is a runaway process, and that eventually even the most powerful disrupters will themselves be disrupted. Only those actors crushed in the cogs of the process are remembered as "revolutionaries". Those who meet success become the establishment, and are themselves targeted by the operations of the dreamstate of revolution.

- author Warren Ellis, in his wonderful weekly newsletter Orbital Operations

Sheriff finds capture barely believable

• Rice Krispies bar entices wandering 250-pound, declawed black bear into cruiser. Animal enjoys the ride home so much it takes doughnuts to get him out of the car

BY GEORGE W. DAVIS
Beacon Journal staff writer

PIKE TWP.: Any drunk in Pike Township early Wednesday night probably wouldn't have believed his eyes.

Certainly those who were sober were stunned.

A 250-pound black bear was riding in the back seat of a Stark County sheriff's cruiser — and having the time of his life, Sheriff W. Bruce Umpleby said.

After what apparently was a three-day stroll through southern Stark County, Otis the bear was enticed back into captivity with some food and cajoling by Umpleby, two deputies and the county coroner's two forensic investigators.

"It was a sight to behold from the moment you saw Otis along the roadway until he was back at the barn from which he walked away Sunday night," said Umpleby, still laughing yesterday every time he thought of the declawed 2-year-old bear.

The sheriff said the bear is owned by Michael P. Siers of Wilmot and is kept at a compound with other wild animals off Downing Street in Pike Township. Authorities still aren't sure whether the door was left open or someone unlocked it. Pry marks were found on the door, Umpleby said.

Nothing was heard about the bear's whereabouts until about 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, when motorists and residents said they saw the bear walking along Dueber Avenue Southwest, south of Downing.

Several motorists were trying to detain Otis by feeding him whatever they had with them until deputies arrived.

Umpleby and deputies Terry Curry and Francisco Cuevas were met at the scene by coroner's investigators Rick Walters and Harry Campbell.

Using a Rice Krispies snack bar from Curry's lunch, Campbell lured Otis into the back seat of the cruiser. Umpleby closed the door behind Otis as Campbell scooted out the other side and shut the door in front of the animal.

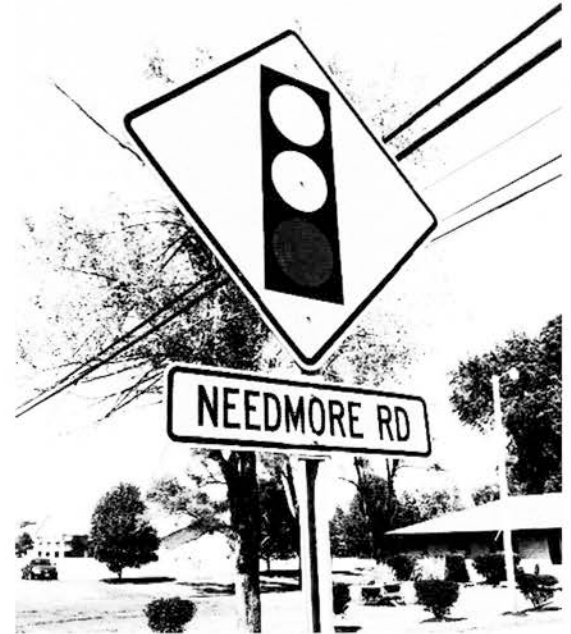
The 1½-mile drive back to his barn was a hoot, Umpleby said. As Cuevas drove, the cruiser swayed from side to side every time the bear shifted on his seat, which is separated from the front seat by a metal divider.

"It was a tight fit, but he liked the ride so well, it took a box of doughnuts to get him out of the cruiser," Umpleby said.

Umpleby warned that while black bears are more docile than brown or grizzly bears, "they are still dangerous and the public should call state wildlife or law-enforcement authorities rather than try to feed or play with them."

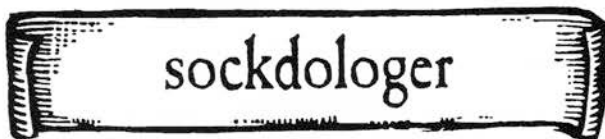
"These animals, although appearing to be quite tame, are still wild animals in the eyes of wildlife officials . . . and they still have big teeth," he said.

The sheriff said that he has no pictures of Otis in or out of the cruiser. "I'd love to have one just because it was so hilarious."



If the General Sherman Tree, one of the primary attractions at Sequoia National Park, were hollowed out and filled with water, it would be enough water for a person to take a bath every day for 27 years.

FORGOTTEN ENGLISH



Anything overwhelming or exceptional, from a repartee to an earthquake.

—John Farmer and W. E. Henley's *Slang and Its Analogs*, 1904

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