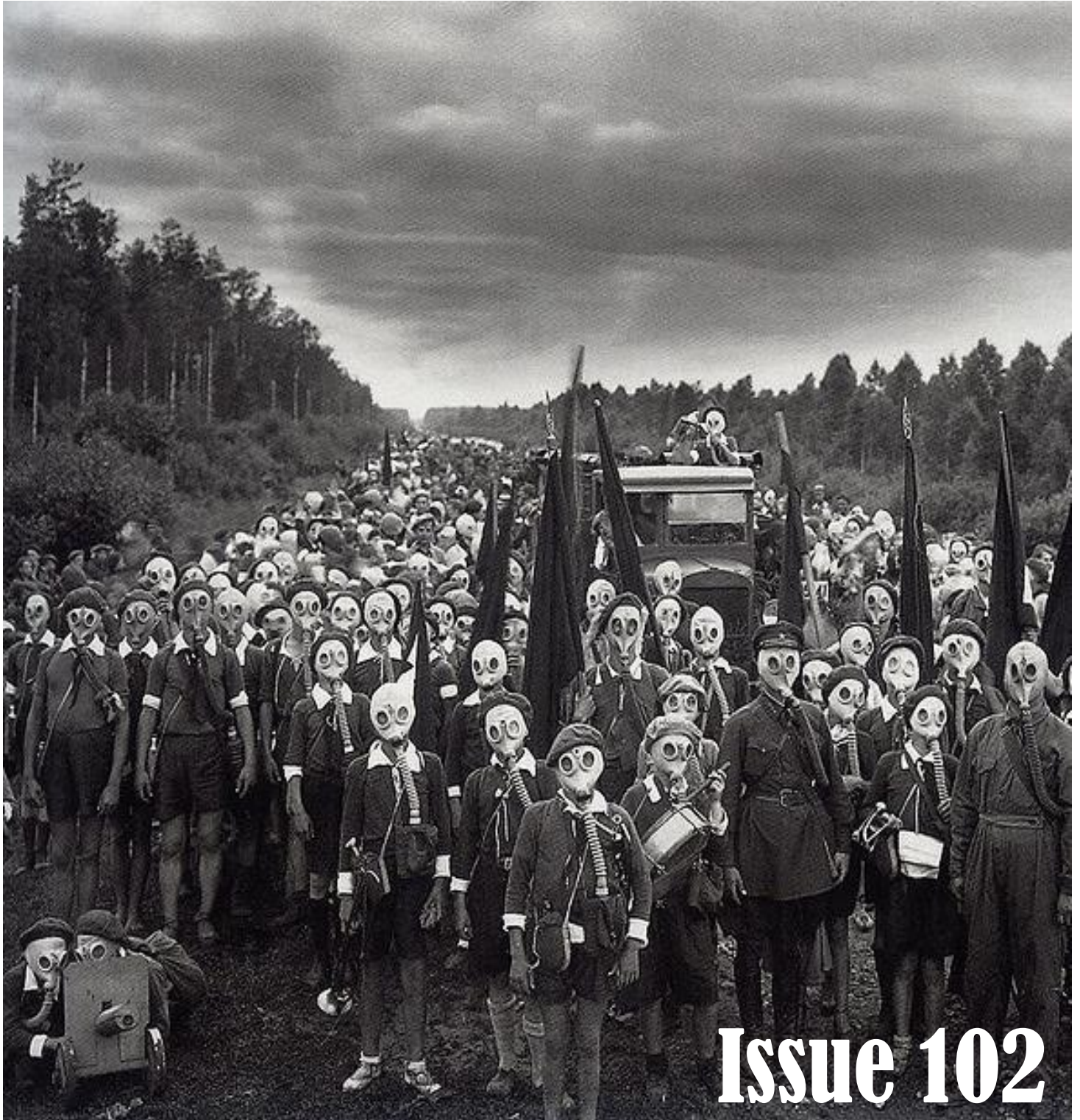


News From Around the Bend



Issue 102



NEWS FROM AROUND THE BEND

ERRATA, EPHEMERA, ET CETERA.

ISSUE #102
DECEMBER 2017

A periodical brought to you periodically by
The Northcraft Entertainment Organization

Cover: People get ready.

Publisher/Editor for Life
ACOUSTIC ROSS

Known & Suspected Contributors To Your Delinquency This Month

SHAWN BRETT
JENNIFER COLLINS
GINNY GREENAWALT

GLEN HETHERINGTON
The JOHNSON Family
The KNARR Family

The MASONS
GLORIA SHADE
The YUNGKURTH Family

This Month's Cartoons

Between the Lines by John Klossner (p. 3)
Tom Gauld for New Scientist (p. 4)
Kyle Baker (p. 5)
Bizarro by Dan Piraro (p. 6)
Wrong Hands by John Atkinson (p. 7)
xkcd by Randall Munroe (p. 10)
FoxTrot by Bill Amend (p. 12)

Michael Maslin (p. 13)
Paul Noth (p. 14)
Harry Bliss (p. 15 top)
& Tom Bachtell (p. 15 bottom)
for The New Yorker

NOTES FROM THE SKEPTIC TANK



SEASON'S CRETINS



to YOU & YOURS from US & OURS at NFATB HQ



For years, we sent out a non-denominational winter holiday card, chock full of short news stories of stupid people doing stupid things, always with the inside tagline SEASON'S CRETINS.

We haven't made one of those cards in a long time. And lately it feels like Cretin Season lasts all year. And it's always opening day. But we get through it, one day at a time.

And we've finally made it: the end of 2017 is FINALLY here, and not a minute too soon.

For our part here at NFATB HQ, we managed to knock out *FIVE ISSUES* this year.

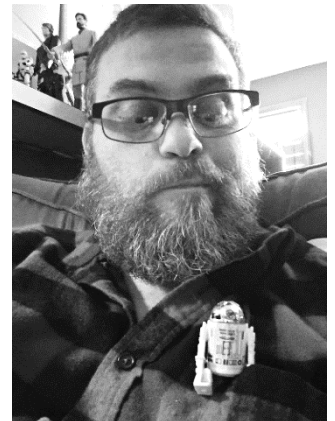
Not too shabby when the last year in which we knocked out *ANY* was way back in 2006.

And the last year in which we knocked out *FIVE* was wayer back in 2003.

So here we find ourselves again, digging through the archives and surfing the corners of the web for the news and nonsense we've all come to expect. I think we found a good batch this time.

NFATB has been here since 1991, and it seems likely we'll be around a while longer. Thanks for being here, for however long *you've* been here. We'll see you here again in 2018.

Now get out there and be a lot more Ralphie, and a lot less Scut Farkas. We have enough of that guy already.





According to data from the National Institute of Mental Health, some 38 percent of girls ages 13 through 17, and 26 percent of boys, have an anxiety disorder.

- We may be witnessing a new trend in concealed .25 caliber weaponry.

In Texas, the *El Paso Times* published this police press release: "At 2:45 A.M. a transvestite in full battle gear, Marvin 'Jovana' Rodriguez, 27, from Juarez, was arrested at 100 W. San Antonio (on a charge of) burglary of auto. Rodriguez was taken to the Central station where officers noticed him squirming around incessantly. Police investigated why Rodriguez could not sit still and found a .25 caliber pistol in his rectum."

A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW,
Everybody's Political What's What

SEARCH, GREAT FOR beginners, \$25. (724)746-5052, leave message.
FOUND! YOUNG B/W Mixed Breed Male, Near SF Schools. (724)693-2573
STEP II 4X8 solid plastic pool

Waste not

Sir, Thank you very much for the helpful article about hoarding (*Times* 2, Aug 20). I've put it with the others.
JOHN SCRIVENS
Lorton, Cumbria

In 1834, Harvard students rebelled against a teacher's demand that they memorize their Latin textbook by breaking the windows of his apartment and destroying his furniture. Students later burned the college president in effigy and set off a rudimentary explosive in the chapel.

BRAD MILLER, 2003
Indiana Pacers center, on his team's struggles:
"It's not going to be peaches and gravy all the time."

BETWEEN THE LINES

By John Klossner



This was printed in the Barberton Herald's police log. Seriously.

"A woman called police from Michigan and said her 55-year-old son was assaulted last night.

"During an investigation, the 55-year-old said there was a female at his house for sex last night and he could not perform so she pushed her vagina into his face and it was uncomfortable."

Here is a marvelous James Bond type of invention from Britain's World War II SOE (Special Operations Executive): the deadly chianti bottle.

This device was intended to end up on the table of an unlucky Nazi officer. It was made of thick celluloid that gave the appearance of green glass, complete with authentic labels and raffia cover. It was filled with a plastic explosive, according to the SOE top-secret special device catalog that is now declassified by the British.

No comment on whether it was actually used.

German Beats His Own World Record for Carrying Beer Steins

by Himani Sarkar, Reuters

photo: Michael Dalder, Reuters

In Bavaria, which is also home to Oktoberfest, the world's biggest beer festival, Oliver Struempfel cradled 31 beer-filled tankards stacked up in two tiers, walked 40 meters, then set them down.

But two tipped over at the last minute, so the record is 29 jugs - more than 69 kg (152 lb) of beer and glass.

"I first did 27, because I wanted to be sure and then at the end I said, 'Let's add another one and get over 30,'" Struempfel said. "Unfortunately, it didn't quite work, but having managed to put 29 down... I think it's amazing."

To prepare for Sunday's attempt, Struempfel said, he has trained at the gym three to four times a week since February. "When I think about it, it's 200 hours for about 40 seconds of walking," he said after the feat.

He had set the previous world record of 25 jugs in 2014, Munich daily *Merkur* said.



If the Name Fits...

(Barbara Goldberg, Reuters) — When reporters descended on upstate New York to ask about a stunning prison break in 2015, state police spokesman Major Charles Guess took their questions.

A dog named Trigger stepped on his owner's 12-gauge shotgun during an Indiana waterfowl hunt just months later and shot her in the foot.

Sometimes the name fits the news story. Correspondent Julie Weed writes about legal marijuana for Forbes. A 2017 front-page New York Times story on obesity was edited by Hilary Stout. And former U.S. Representative Anthony Weiner was sentenced to prison for sending explicitly sexual pictures of a certain body part to an underage girl.

This phenomenon has secured its own line of scientific research, called nominative determinism. It even has a name of its own: aptonym.

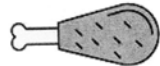
In some cases, it may be rooted in the tradition of a profession determining a family name, such as Baker, Smith or Taylor.

Other times, it is a coincidence. But it nearly always raises an eyebrow or even a smile from those realizing the unusual pairing.

Recent news stories have mentioned Jack Dagger, the U.S. director of the International Knifethrowers Hall of Fame. Then there is Detective Martin Speechley, the ever-quotable spokesman for the NYPD.

Sometimes the odd connections can be horrifying. When a gunman at a community college in Roseburg, Oregon, killed nine people, including a woman in a wheelchair, her service dog named Bullet survived.

But strange synergies also can signal hope. Josh Outman pitches for Mexico's AAA Minor League Pericos de Puebla, but was once with the New York Yankees, Oakland Athletics and other U.S. Major League Baseball teams. Perhaps a streak of no-hitters could get him back to the big leagues.



BEER IN BOOKS

*"Beer's intellectual.
What a shame
so many idiots
drink it."*

—RAY BRADBURY, *THE OCTOBER COUNTRY*

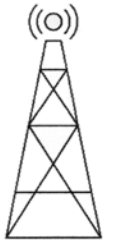
Flight 666 Safely Arrives in HEL for the Very Last Time

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP): The Helsinki airport says Flight 666 has arrived safely in HEL — the airport code for the Finnish capital — for the last time.



The Finnair flight took off from Copenhagen, Denmark, in the 13th hour of Friday October 13th, headed for Helsinki Vantaa airport.

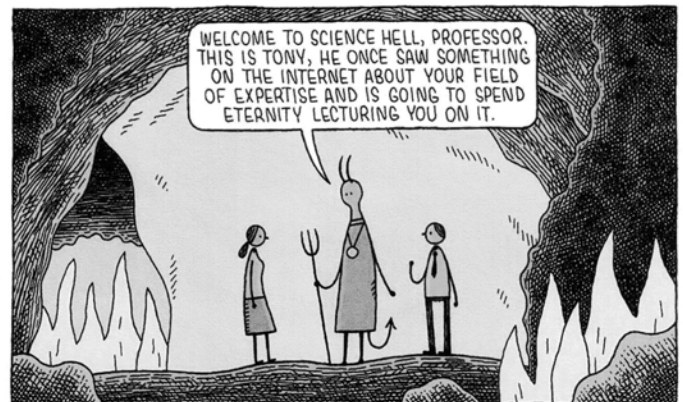
Finavia, which operates Finland's 21 airports, says the flight landed eight minutes ahead of schedule at 3:47 p.m. local.



The flight started 11 years ago and has fallen on Friday the 13th 21 times with no reported ill effects. Still, Finnair decided to retire the flight number, so after its final flight, Flight AY666 became AY954.

NewScientist

TOM GAULD



• Dr. Lucas of West Palm Beach, Fla., decided not to call the authorities when he found a pipe bomb inside a rusted-out hole in a used car he was attempting to repair. Lucas's son had given him the Ford Ranchero four weeks earlier, and Lucas did not want to "make a scene." After removing the pipe bomb and examining it, Lucas returned it to the car and continued working on the vehicle with an electric sander. "I figured, well, it hasn't gone off yet, so there's no hurry," Lucas said.

After driving around in the car for two days, Lucas and his wife, Helen, finally reported the bomb to the police at the urging of their daughter-in-law. The Palm Beach County bomb squad deputies evacuated the neighborhood, spent 45 minutes tying ropes to the bomb, and then carefully drew it into an explosion-proof tank 50 feet away. According to one of the bomb squad deputies, "There was a blasting cap inside. It was dangerous." Lucas was quoted as saying, "It sort of bothers me now."

—(Bergen County) *Record*

Actual Announcements from Church Bulletins:

Next Sunday a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of a new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will come forward and do so.

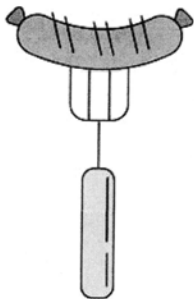
The ladies of the church will cast off clothing of every kind. They can be seen in the church basement Saturday.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Witch hunting declined in the 1800s, becoming a distant-enough memory by the end of the century that pantomime "witch hunts" were performed to entertain the queen of England.

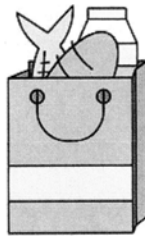
“To fall in love with yourself is the first secret of happiness. Then if you’re not a good mixer you can always fall back on your own company.”

Robert Morley (1908–)



WHEN BASEBALL MET HOT DOGS

It seems impossible to digest, but before 1893, most big-league parks were dogless. Back then, baseball was a highbrow diversion meant for gentlemen. That changed when Chris von der Ahe, the plucky owner of the St. Louis Browns, built an amusement park around his stadium. He used cheap tickets to lure the masses and hawked beer and German snacks at the games, which, some historians believe, included frankfurters. In no time, ballpark franks became a fan favorite, and today, Americans scarf down more than 20 million hot dogs at games each year.



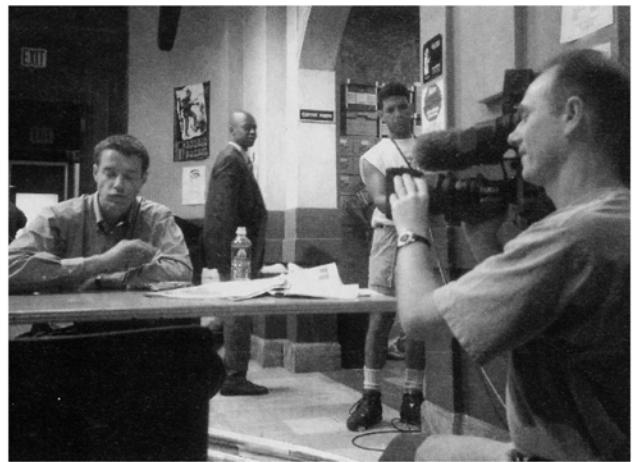
BREAKING NEWS: Fatbergs Everywhere

BALTIMORE (AP) — A "fatberg" that may have taken beyond half a century to grow below Baltimore has been removed.

News outlets report the city's Public Works department used a camera, pressure washer and truck-mounted industrial vacuum to clear the mass of curdled grease, wet wipes and other waste. Workers resorted to the strategy after they'd begun scraping pieces off last month.

The notorious glob was found clogging up to 85 percent of a 24-inch (61-centimeter) pipe near Penn Station. It's blamed for causing more than 1 million gallons (3 million liters) of sewage to overflow into the Jones Fall stream. It's the culmination of objects caked along a pipe's walls that shouldn't go down drains.

Pat Boyle with Public Works says, "We can't treat our toilets like our trash cans."



BREAKING NEWS UPDATE: Seriously, Everywhere

LONDON (Reuters): One of the biggest "fatbergs" ever seen in Britain — a ball of fat as long as 3 soccer pitches — has been found blocking a Victorian-era, east London sewer.

"It's a total monster and taking a lot of manpower and machinery to remove," said Thames Water's head of waste networks, Matt Rimmer. "It's one of the largest we've ever seen."

The rock-solid mass of wet wipes, nappies, fat and oil weighs as much as 10 double-decker buses.

Work in Whitechapel to remove the blockage involves an eight-strong crew using jet hoses to break up the mass before sucking it out with a tanker.

"It's basically like trying to break up concrete," said Rimmer. "It's frustrating as these situations are totally avoidable and caused by fat, oil and grease being washed down sinks and wipes flushed down the loo."

"Bin it, don't block it" was the message, he added.

Four years ago a similar, smaller fatberg was found in a sewer in Kingston, southwest of London.



"You misspelled 'constant criticism'."

Myth No. 4

Humans use only 10 percent of their brains

The facts: This media darling has been around for at least a century. Fortunately, it's just not true. MRI imaging clearly demonstrates—with fancy colors, no less—that humans put most of their cerebral cortex to good use, even while dozing.

Myth No. 5

Eating a poppy-seed bagel mimics opium use

The facts: Purveyors of this urban leg-end call on a popular *Seinfeld* episode for support. It turns out there's truth behind the comedy: Tests suggest ingesting just two poppy seed bagels may produce a positive result for opiates on a drug screen.



Myth No. 6

A penny dropped from the top of a tall building could kill a pedestrian

The facts: A penny isn't the most aerodynamic of weapons. A combination of its shape and wind friction means that, tossed even from the 1,250-foot Empire State Building, it would travel fast enough merely to sting an unlucky pedestrian.

Myth No. 7

Adults don't grow new brain cells

The facts: Much of a human's crucial brain development happens during childhood, but it isn't all downhill from there. Studies have shown that neurons continue to grow and change well into the adult years.

Myth No. 8

Chicken soup can cure the common cold

The facts: "Cure" is a strong word, but science suggests moms around the world are still right in forcing spoonfuls of chicken soup down their kids' throats. Studies have found that the broth actually contains anti-inflammatory properties that help reduce congestion.



OCTOBER 20, 1997

Mississippi State noseguard Eric Dotson missed Saturday's game because of injuries he sustained in a fight with a teammate over who was first in line to have his ankles taped.

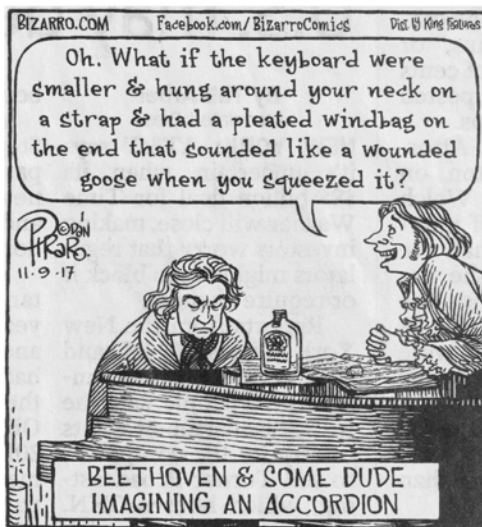
FEBRUARY 1, 1999

Two birds were expelled from last week's Swedish national pigeon-racing championships after they tested positive for cortisone, a banned substance.



Bubble Wrap® was the result of a failed attempt at making plastic wallpaper.

FACT In 1957, in a garage in Hawthorne, New Jersey, two engineers named Marc Chavannes and Al Fielding tried to create a plastic wallpaper with a paper backing. The product was a flop, but when they realized their invention made excellent cushioning material, they invested \$9,000 to launch the Sealed Air Corporation in 1960. Today, Sealed Air's annual revenues from Bubble Wrap® exceed \$3 billion.



Compelling Explanations

Saginaw, Michigan, defense lawyer Ed Czaprynski had beaten a felony DUI arrest in December, but was sentenced to probation on a lesser charge in the incident, and among his restrictions was a prohibition on drinking alcohol — which Czaprynski acknowledged in March that he has since violated at least twice. However, at that hearing (which could have meant jail time for the violations), Czaprynski used the opportunity to beg the judge to remove the restriction altogether, arguing that he can't be "effective" as a lawyer unless he is able to have a drink now and then. (At press time, the judge was still undecided.)

-- In March, Judge Philip Mangones in Keene, N.H., declared unconstitutional a drug-producing search of the dormitory rooms of two Keene State College students. The students consented to the search, and more than six ounces of marijuana was found, but the judge said that the men were too stoned to know what they were doing when they consented.

Not Fatbergs, More Like Goldbergs and Silverbergs

(John Revill, ed. Alison Williams, Reuters) - While London's sewers can get clogged with fatbergs made up of grease and diapers, it seems Switzerland's waste system is flecked with silver and gold.

Researchers last year detected 3 tons of silver and 43 kg of gold in effluent and sludge from waste water treatment plants - amounting to around 3 million Swiss francs (\$3.1 million).

But before people start hunting in their drains for jewelry, the government study said the tiny particles were likely to be mostly from the watchmaking, pharmaceuticals and chemical industries, which use the metals in their products and processes.

"You hear stories about an angry man or woman throwing jewelry down the toilet, but we didn't find any rings, unfortunately," report author Bas Vriens said. "The levels of gold or silver were very small, in the micrograms, or even nanograms, but when you add them up it's pretty substantial."

Researchers are now studying if it is worthwhile to extract the metals that end up in sewage sludge before usually being burnt, but so far it has not found to be cost effective.

Higher levels of gold were found in the western Swiss region of Jura, believed to be linked to watchmakers that use the precious metal to decorate their expensive timepieces. There was also a higher concentration in the southern canton of Ticino due to the gold refineries in the area. This was the only region where it might make sense to recover the metals, Vriens said.

Other trace elements including rare metals such as gadolinium - used in medical imaging - were also found by the scientists from the government's institute of aquatic science and technology (EAWAG). Their discovery is the latest example of wealthy Switzerland finding riches in unusual places.

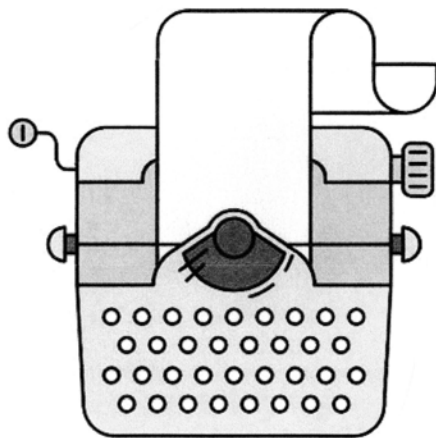
An investigation was launched after toilets at a Geneva bank and three restaurants were blocked by about \$100,000 in high-denomination banknotes - a bit different from the huge fat mass that blocked an east London sewer.

The Swiss metal concentrations complied with regulations and were removed before humans drank the water again, the study said. "It wouldn't make sense for people to boil their tap water to recover gold or silver because it has already been filtered out before it re-enters the drinking water supply," Vriens said.



JANUARY 23, 1995

A man in Troy, N.Y., has received a U.S. patent for a table- or wall-mounted mechanical arm designed to give a sports fan watching a game alone on television a high five after an exciting play.



AND HERE'S, UM, AFRICA!

Something seems wrong with this "write-on map" advertised in a SkyMall catalog as "accurately detailed." "Capitals, countries, major cities, political boundaries, time zones, ocean depths, and more" may indeed be shown, but since the catalog photo was flopped, east is west and west is east.

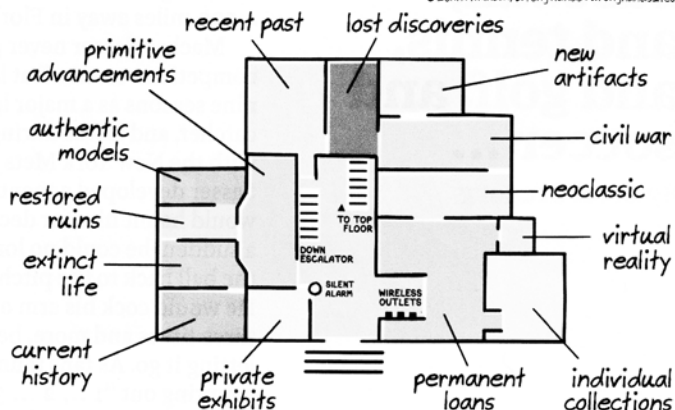


A PATRIOTIC DRINKING SONG

In 1815, Francis Scott Key penned the words to a poem that would one day become the national anthem. But far from a classic ballad created to reflect the values and traditions of his home country, Key borrowed the tune of an old drinking song about sex and beer. Seriously. The words of "To Anacreon in Heaven," a 1700s pagan drinking song, is where Key found the tune for his patriotic anthem.

At the oxymoron museum

© John Atkinson, Wrong Hands • wronghands1.com



PETE CARRIL, 1995

Princeton coach, on why he wouldn't move Steve Goodrich from center to forward:

"He has the shooting range. What he doesn't have is the making range."

HOW TO WASH THE CAT

1. Thoroughly clean the toilet.
2. Lift both lids and add shampoo.
3. Find and soothe cat as you carry him to the bathroom.
4. In one swift move, place cat in toilet, close both lids and stand on top so cat cannot escape.
5. The cat will self agitate and produce ample suds. (Ignore ruckus from inside toilet, the cat is enjoying this).
6. Flush 3 or 4 times, this provides power rinse which is quite effective.
7. Have someone open outside door, stand as far from toilet as possible and quickly lift both lids.
8. Clean cat will rocket out of the toilet and outdoors, where he will air dry.

-- Sincerely, the Dog



Oklahoma prisons selling inmates cold case playing cards

Story & photos: Ken Miller (AP)

Oklahoma authorities are hoping to solve killings and other cold cases by selling playing cards that feature the cases to prisoners.

The first in a planned series of decks is already on sale for \$1.42 at six of the state's lockups, and a second deck is already being planned.

The cards are reminiscent of those distributed to U.S. troops during the Iraq War that featured members of Saddam Hussein's government, except these feature unsolved cases from 1978 through 2013.

"We recognize that virtually every single case that is unresolved, there is information that rests within at least one individual, if not more than one individual," he said. "It's our belief that ... much of this information I speak of rests within individuals who are incarcerated," said Stan Florence, the director of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation.

Florence said other states, including Florida, Colorado, Connecticut and South Carolina, have similar programs that have led to the solving of about 40 unsolved homicides. Joe Allbaugh, the state Department of Corrections director, said each deck costs \$1.09 to produce, and the profits will be used to new decks featuring other unsolved cases. Eventually, they'll be the only cards inmates can buy.

"There are individuals, believe it or not, who share information, even though they're incarcerated," Allbaugh said of inmates who provide information about unsolved crimes.

Maria Wilson, whose mother Marie Dighton's 2008 killing in her Buffalo Valley home remains unsolved, praised the playing cards program. Wilson, of Guthrie, said it's impossible to fully move on, despite the years that have passed. "I hear that all the time, 'well, we'll get justice, you know, when they meet their Maker.' Well, I want justice this side of heaven," she said.

Take care of yourself. Everything's gone nuts but it doesn't have to take you with it. Remember the drill - put your own oxygen mask on first before you try to help others, please. Hold on tight. This is not the thing that's going to kill us.

Warren Ellis, in his Orbital Operations newsletter, 20 Aug 2017

“People will buy anything that’s one to a customer.”

Sinclair Lewis (1885–1951)

It isn't what they say about you, it's what they whisper.

--Errol Flynn
Australian actor

On this date in 1382, an earthquake rocked England, prompting John Stow to write nearly two hundred years later in his *Summarie of Englyshe Chronicles* (1561): "There was a great earthquake in England at nine of the clock, fearing the hearts of many; but in Kent it was most vehement, where it sunk some churches and threw them down to the earth." A traditional English rhyme attempts to forecast the future, based on the timing of a quake:

There are things an earthquakes brings,
At nine of the bell they sickness foretell,
At five and seven they betoken rain;
At four the sky is cleared thereby,
At six and eight comes wind again.

Unfortunately, Stow failed to mention whether sickness did indeed follow.



MIKE CARDEW/Beacon Journal/
Ohio.com file photo

.....
A scene of modern Britain played out on a rail replacement bus service in Newport yesterday. A woman wearing a niqab was chatting to her son in another language. After five minutes, a man suddenly snapped: "If you're in the UK, you should speak English." At this, another passenger turned round and explained: "We're in Wales. And she's speaking Welsh."
.....

KNOW YOUR FOREIGN DRINKING PHRASES

Heading to Oktoberfest? Want to impress a cute foreigner at the bar? Far from home and need to communicate the basics? Memorize the following, and give yourself a pat on the back (or belly) later.

1. *Toriaezu nama.*
(Japanese for "Draft beer for now.")
2. *La même chose, s'il vous plait.*
(French for "Another round, please!")
3. *¿Cuándo cierran?*
(Spanish for "When is closing time?")
4. *Wo kann ich mich übergeben?*
(German for "Where can I puke?")
5. *Il dopo sbornia.* (Italian for "I'm hungover.")

Strange Story About Group of Naked People in Car Crash...

NISKU, Alberta (AP) – Police in Western Canada say they're searching for the naked truth after a bizarre collision on a rural road. Royal Canadian Mounted Police Cpl. Laurel Scott says officers responded to the report of a car colliding with a truck in Nisku, south of Edmonton, Alberta. When they arrived, they found that five people in the car were naked. Scott said the five were arrested. She said she's not sure of the charges, though police consider it a "purposeful collision." She called the incident "very bizarre" and said, "We are trying to sort through all the different information we have so we can figure out from start to finish what this incident is all about." Police said they believe drugs or alcohol may have been a factor.

...Takes Turn for the Stranger a Few Days Later

(Chris Purdy, The Canadian Press) – Charges are now pending against three adults following a bizarre collision involving several naked people in Nisku. The people charged in a bizarre naked kidnapping that ended in a car crash may have unknowingly drunk some hallucinogenic tea over breakfast, says a relative.

RCMP have released few details about what happened in the community of Nisku, just south of Edmonton. Three adults have been charged with kidnapping and resisting arrest. No one was hurt, but the case has made headlines around the world.

The relative said he wants everyone to know the accused are not bad people. They just had some trippy tea. "It's absolutely crazy," said the man, who cannot be named due to a court publication ban protecting the identity of youths involved in the case. "It's a scary thought thinking, 'Oh, let's try this tea that we purchased.' And then all sit down thinking they're just going to have a nice morning and end up in that circumstance."

He told The Canadian Press that his two daughters, who are 13 and 15, and his ex-wife were having breakfast with two friends – a man and his wife. The man had recently travelled overseas and brought back some tea from India. The relative did not know the name of the tea. That kicked off the "whole crazy spell," he said.

Mounties have said a man, woman and baby were forced against their will from a home in Leduc County into a BMW. Inside the car were five naked people. While the car was being driven, the abducted man, who was in the trunk, managed to escape. The woman and her baby then managed to get away.

The trio were picked up by a passerby, but his work truck was rammed from behind by the car. When officers arrived, they pulled out the five naked people. The adults, who are 27, 30 and 35, were arrested, but the teens were not charged. The relative said he laughed about the case when he heard it on the news, then was shocked to learn that his straight-laced daughters were involved. "I was just like: what the heck?"

He visited his youngest girl in hospital, who had been taken with some of the other suspects for treatment. They don't remember what happened, the man said. "Whatever potency that stuff had obviously is making it so it's just a big blur," he said, adding blood tests were also taken at the hospital. "Nothing came back like illicit drugs, so they figure it may have been some type of herbal drug or something."

He said the three people who were forced from their homes – a man, his daughter and her 6-week-old baby – are also family friends and aren't holding any grudges. They probably opened their door that morning trying to help, he suggested.

He also believes the car rammed the truck because the tea made those inside think the family had been abducted by the truck driver, not the other way around. "They were under the impression that they were saving that guy and the woman and the little girl."

This is the greatest country in America.

Ex-Houston Oiler and Florida State coach Bill Peterson

Just a Quick Visit

HUGO, Okla. (AP) October 14, 2017 – An Oklahoma sheriff says two inmates briefly escaped to visit their girlfriends and smoke marijuana – then walked back to the jail.

Choctaw County Sheriff Terry Park tells The Oklahoman that inmates Harley Davidson and Rakeem Lennox waited for jail staff to leave the area near their room about 10:30pm on October 11. He says the men then entered the booking room to steal a laundry room door key and fled.

The sheriff says they returned to the county jail on foot after midnight and could face additional charges. He says both men were in jail for drug possession.



• ‘When you breathe, you inspire. When you do not breathe, you expire’

DEAR ANN: I really enjoyed those mangled excuse notes from parents to teachers. Some were so funny, I laughed out loud. I'm enclosing an article from Popular Science magazine that revealed some hilarious test answers given by students in science classes. Ann, these were not contrived. They are real. I hope you will print them and give your readers a good laugh. — Tom in Sacramento



Dear Tom: I don't for one minute doubt the validity of those responses. However, you didn't say how old these students are. If they are older than 13, I fear for our country. Here are the responses:

To collect fumes of sulfur, hold a deacon over a flame in a test tube.

When you smell an odorless gas, it is probably carbon monoxide.

Water is composed of two gins, oxygen and hydrogen. Oxygen is pure gin. Hydrogen is gin and water.

Nitrogen is not found in Ireland because it is not found in a free state.

When you breathe, you inspire. When you do not breathe, you expire.

Three kinds of blood vessels are arteries, vanes and caterpillars.

Before giving a blood transfusion, find out if the blood is affirmative or negative.

The moon is a planet just like Earth, only it is even dead.

The pistol of a flower is its only protection against insects.

A permanent set of teeth con-

sists of eight canines, eight cuspids, two molars and eight cuspidors.

A fossil is an extinct animal. The older it is, the more extinct it is.

For fainting: Rub the person's chest, or, if it's a lady, rub her arm above the hand. Or put her head between the knees of the nearest medical doctor.

Equator: a menagerie lion running around Earth through Africa.

Germinate: to become a naturalized German.

Rhubarb: a kind of celery gone bloodshot.

The skeleton is what is left after the insides have been taken out and the outsides have been taken off. The purpose of the skeleton is so that there is something to hitch the meat to.

To remove dust from the eye, pull the eye down over the nose.

To prevent contraception, wear a condominium.

The body consists of three parts — the brainium, the borax and the abominable cavity. The brainium contains the brain. The borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abominable cavity contains the bowls, of which there are five — A, E, I, O and U.

Creature from the Black...um, Laundry Hamper

(Michael Holden, ed. Stephen Addison; Reuters) – It was seven inches long, two inches wide, pink, stripy and the English family who discovered it hiding under a bed thought it could be a dangerous lizard.

But after the terrified family called an animal welfare charity to apprehend the “creature” at their home in Coventry, central England, it was revealed that it was something far less sinister – a dirty sock.

Animal Collection Officer Vic Hurr, from the RSPCA charity, said she had warily approached the “lizard” after being alerted to its presence.

“It was protruding from the edge of the bed and it wasn't moving at all,” Hurr said. “As it wasn't very light, I got out my torch to see better and that's when I realized it wasn't a lizard at all.”

Hurr said she had left the family with some guidance, and a warning. “I advised the young girl whose bedroom it was to tidy her room and to take care of her socks, but not before reminding her that another one will turn up soon as they are usually in pairs,” she said.



IT WAS SCARY WHEN THE GRAPHIC DESIGNERS SEIZED CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY, BUT IT TURNED OUT THEY JUST WANTED TO FIX SOME THINGS ABOUT THE STATE BORDERS THAT HAD ALWAYS BOTHERED THEM.

To be an artist means never to avert one's eyes.

--Akira Kurosawa
Japanese film director



Remember that the progress of the world depends on your knowing better than your elders.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW,
A Treatise on Parents and Children

The Chinese technology company Baidu turned an app that started as a visual dictionary into a site that uses facial recognition to find missing people. In one case, it helped a family find a child kidnapped 27 years earlier.

Police Discover Speeding Driver Nearly Naked and Covered in Vaseline

Arrest report notes driver's area of car was "extremely greasy."

(David Moye, Huffington Post) – An Oklahoma man is greasing the wheels of justice with lots of Vaseline.

When John Wayne Kellerman was pulled over on October 15, he could have easily given officers the slip. That's because the 54-year-old was mostly covered in Vaseline on his hands, and his upper and lower body parts, according to The Smoking Gun.

Deputy Darryl Beebe of the Garfield County Sheriff's Department made the discovery after he pulled over Kellerman for doing 57 in a 45mph zone.

When Beebe walked up to the car, he said Kellerman was nearly naked, except for a bikini thong. He also noticed a pornographic magazine was on the passenger seat, according to the Enid News and Eagle newspaper. A nearly empty jar of Vaseline was located next to the man in the vehicle, Beebe noted.

A sergeant arrived at the scene of the traffic stop to do a vehicle inventory, according to the Enid News and Eagle. The officer noted that the driver's side of the car was "extremely greasy."

According to a police report obtained by The Smoking Gun, Kellerman seemed extremely nervous and his hands were shaking. He handed Beebe an ID card and offered the officer a rag to wipe off the Vaseline.

The officer refused the offer. During questioning, Kellerman allegedly admitted masturbating behind the wheel before Beebe pulled him over.

Beebe checked Kellerman's license and discovered he was driving on a revoked license. In fact, the license hadn't been valid since 1985. Kellerman has spent most of the past 27 years in state prison on a variety of charges, including domestic assault, car theft, burglary and narcotics possession.

AS ANY SOUTHERNER knows, there's nothing like a backhanded compliment from a proper southern lady. Here are some favorites from the Alabama-based website al.com. Y'all feel free to borrow them:

- "I just love how you don't care what people think. That takes a special person."
- "I bet those shoes are comfortable."

■ After you tell her you lost nine pounds: "Well, that's a wonderful start."

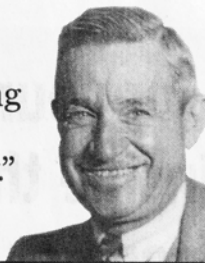
■ After you arrive for a visit: "What'd you do, sugar, drive all the way here with the windows down?"

■ After you've cooked: "That was good. I must have been hungry."

■ "I bought this the other day, but it's too big on me. Do you want it?"

WILL ROGERS SAYS

Well, I see where the Holiday Booze has started in on its Spring Drive. It's getting so Xmas kills more people than it makes happy."
– December 28, 1924



Your talent determines what you can do. Your motivation determines how much you're willing to do. Your attitude determines how well you do it.

- Lou Holtz

Government Overspending at its Cutest



Kristi Lyn Goss may be guilty of fraud, but not of crimes against fashion.

The 44-year-old Goss was previously employed as an administrative assistant to a judge in Garland County, Arkansas. That is, until authorities accused her of fraudulently charging \$200,000 to a Garland County credit card. Goss used the card to purchase a diamond bracelet, tickets to Arkansas Razorbacks football games, sequined throw pillows and pet insurance, according to The Associated Press.

And, of course, an adorable tuxedo for her dog.

Goss was set to stand trial, but opted to plead guilty at a pretrial hearing to six felony counts of fraudulent use of the county's credit card, according to the Hot Springs Sentinel Record.

Arkansas State Police started investigating Goss after an auditor noticed discrepancies on a Garland County credit card.

An audit found that Goss, an administrative assistant to Garland County Judge Rick Davis, had used the county credit card for years for personal purchases and to pay bills. She was fired by the judge after the audit, according to KATV.com.

Goss is potentially facing between three and 20 years for each count, but she's getting a surprising amount of support from Twitter for the way she dressed her pug.

By David Moye, Huffington Post

Liquid Cats, Crocodile Bets and Didgeridoos Win Ig Nobel Science Prizes

The awards highlight research that encourages people to think in unusual ways.

Scott Malone, Reuters



CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (Reuters) - Scientists taking on the deep questions of whether cats are liquid or solid, how holding a crocodile influences gambling and whether playing the didgeridoo can help cure snoring were honored at the 2017 Ig Nobel Prize spoof awards.

The prizes are the brainchild of Marc Abrahams, editor of the *Annals of Improbable Research*, and are intended not to honor the best or worst in science, but rather to highlight research that encourages people to think in unusual ways.

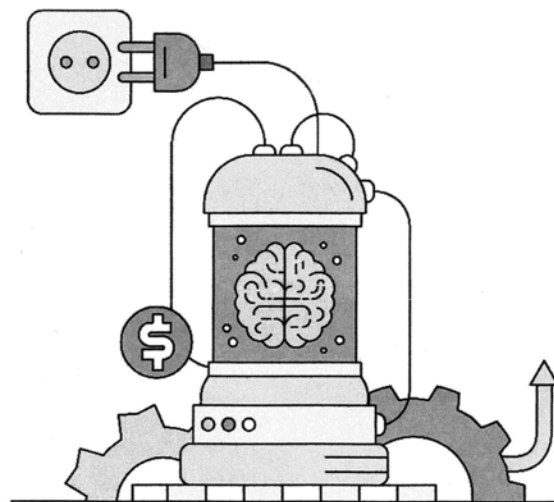
"We hope that this will get people back into the habits they probably had when they were kids of paying attention to odd things and holding out for a moment and deciding whether they are good or bad only after they have a chance to think," Abrahams said in a phone interview.

Some of the honorees tend towards the spurious: French researcher Marc-Antoine Fardin's 2014 study "Can a Cat Be Both a Solid and a Liquid?" was inspired by internet photos of cats tucked into glasses, buckets and sinks. The winner of the Ig Nobel in physics used mathematical formulas to conclude that active young cats and kittens hold their physical shape longer than older, lazier felines.

Other work on the prize list has clearer potential for practical applications.

Economics winners Matthew Rockloff and Nancy Greer conducted an experiment in which problem gamblers and non-problem gamblers handled 1-meter (3.3-foot) long crocodiles before playing a simulated slot machine.

The 2010 study, conducted on 103 people in Queensland, Australia, found that problem gamblers were likely to place higher bets after handling the reptiles, as their brains had misinterpreted the excitement of holding a dangerous animal as a sign they were on a lucky streak.

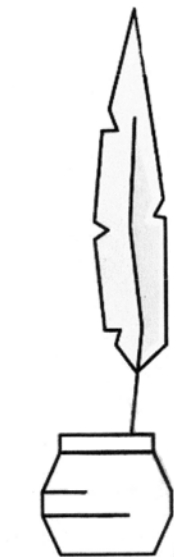


A multi-national team of six researchers won the Peace Prize for the 2005 paper "Didgeridoo Playing as Alternative Treatment for Obstructive Sleep Apnea Syndrome: Randomized Controlled Trial."

The conclusion that the Australian wind instrument might be of some benefit was based not the didgeridoo's droning tone, but rather that the daily practice involved a lot of blowing, and may have strengthened the upper respiratory tract, making breathing easier.

The awards, now in their 27th year, are to be handed out by actual Nobel Prize winners in a ceremony at Harvard University.

"They are unusual approaches to things," Abrahams said. "It would be difficult for some people to decide whether they are important or the opposite. If you had sleep apnea for a long time, the didgeridoo thing would sound quite intriguing."



FoxTrot



by Bill Amend

Be yourself. The world worships the original.

--Ingrid Bergman
Swedish actress

Man hiding from police gets stuck, calls police for help

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Authorities say a Utah man who was hiding from police and fled arrest had to call 911 to be rescued after getting stuck in his hiding spot.

Salt Lake City police say 46-year-old Shane Paul Owen called dispatchers for help, more than six hours after he accidentally locked himself in a church's boiler room.

Officers were looking for Owens the previous day because he is a suspect in a string of burglaries and had warrants out for his arrest.

Police say an officer spotted him and attempted to pull his vehicle over, but Owen fled, got out of his car and ran into the church.

A SWAT team held a standoff at the church until Owens called to be rescued.

NOW THAT'S FORESIGHT

The Mercantile Library of Cincinnati has a 10,000-year lease on its building, currently set to expire in the year 11,845. (Fortunately, it's renewable.)



BREAKING NEWS:

Rich People Ignore Taxes: Receive Actual Consequence

(Camila Domonoske, NPR.org)

A four-floor San Francisco mansion at 26 Presidio Terrace was recently on the market for \$14.5 million; 30 Presidio Terrace, a neighbor in the gated community, last sold for \$9.5 million.

But Presidio Terrace itself? As in, the street? The strip of pavement these tony residents rely on to reach their front doors? The private road the homeowners association has owned for more than a century? That's a bargain. After the homeowners association failed to pay a \$14 tax bill – for three decades – the road went up for auction, the San Francisco Chronicle reports. A San Jose couple snagged it for about \$90,000.

Tina Lam and Michael Cheng made their strategic purchase in 2015. But now, the newspaper writes, “they’re looking to cash in – maybe by charging the residents of those mansions to park on their own private street.” Or, lacking that, opening the spots up to the general public.

Presidio Terrace was originally built as an enclave for white residents, as Curbed San Francisco noted last year. The Virtual Museum of San Francisco quotes an ad from 1906, bemoaning the fact that Japanese and Chinese residents were moving into neighborhoods and saying: “There is only one spot in San Francisco where only Caucasians are permitted to buy or lease real estate or where they may reside. That place is Presidio Terrace.”

In 1948, the Supreme Court blocked such racial covenants from being enforced, though some neighborhoods tried to uphold their racial covenants even after they were illegal. These days, Presidio Terrace is gated and guarded, described as “very private and swank.”

According to a lawsuit filed by the Presidio Terrace Association, the neighborhood's current residents didn't find out about the sale of their private road until May 2017 – more than two years after it happened.

It all started with a \$14 bill. Or, well, a lot of \$14 bills. The homeowners association says in the lawsuit that based on city records, “the property taxes on the Common Area have been less than \$14.00 annually for the past several years.”

The taxes weren't paid for “many years,” the association says, because the city was sending the bills to an address “associated with an accountant who last performed work for the Association in the 1980s.” A warning that the account was in default, owing \$994.77, was sent to the same address. It, too, went unnoticed.

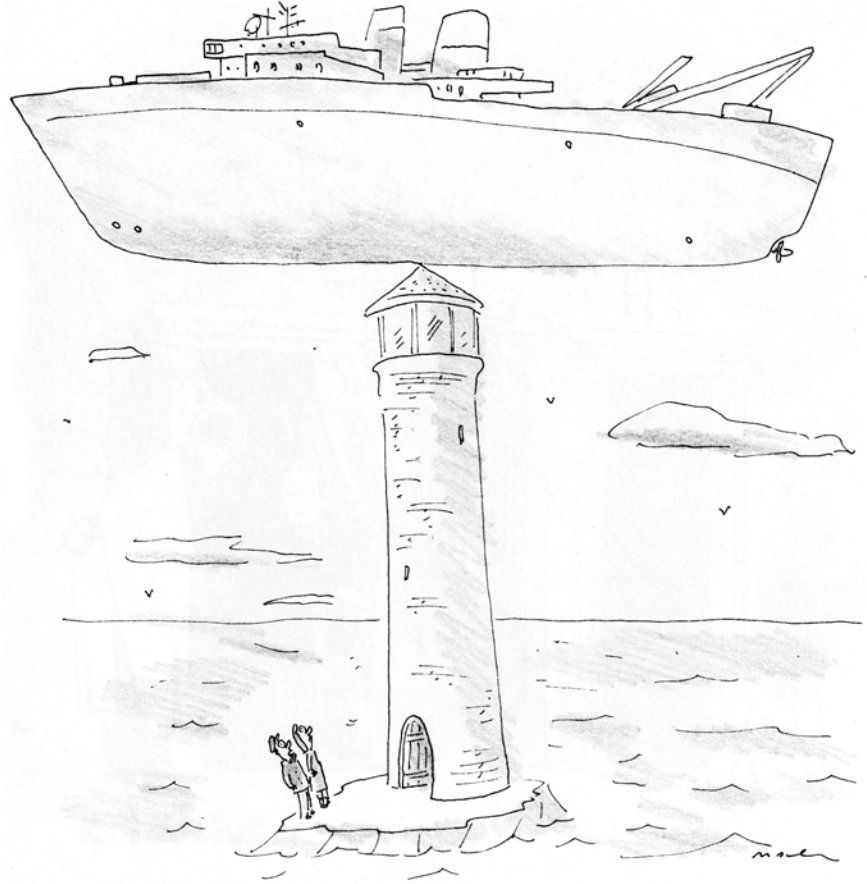
A few months later, the street was auctioned off.

The city should have known the address was wrong, the residents say. They're calling for the sale to be rescinded. The office of the treasurer-tax collector does not seem persuaded by that argument. A spokeswoman told the San Francisco Chronicle there was nothing they could do, and that “ninety-nine percent of property owners in San Francisco know what they need to do, and they pay their taxes on time – and they keep their mailing address up to date.”



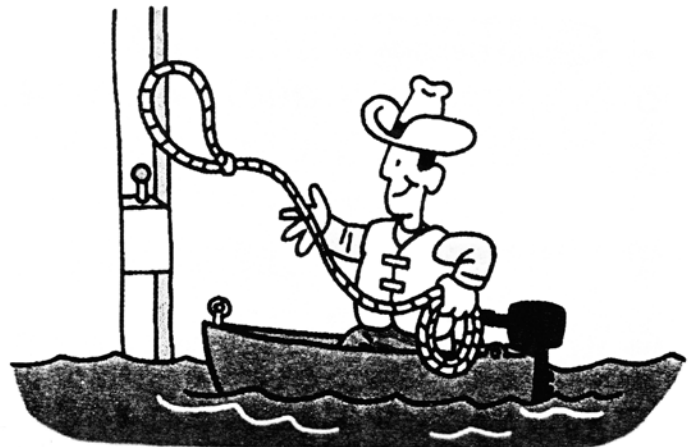
“You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are doomed if you don’t try.”

Beverly Sills (1929–)



“This is why we should leave the light on all night.”

Don't leave motor of craft running during lockage.



Always wear a life jacket on deck.

Crucified man had prior run-in with authorities

by Alexandra Petri, Washington Post (April 12, 2017)

I guess this is how we are writing up the victims of crimes now. I did not realize that when you boarded a plane you gave away the right to have your past remain your past, but a theme of life these days is that only people who have never done anything wrong, or are in some way related to Donald Trump, deserve to go through their lives unmolested.

In accordance with this new house style I am writing up an incident whose anniversary some people are celebrating this week.

The gentleman arrested Thursday and tried before Pontius Pilate had a troubled background.

Born (possibly out of wedlock?) in a stable, this jobless thirty-something of Middle Eastern origin had had previous run-ins with local authorities for disturbing the peace, and had become increasingly associated with the members of a fringe religious group. He spent the majority of his time in the company of sex workers and criminals.

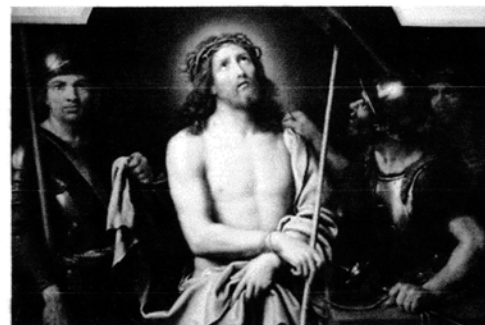
He had had prior run-ins with local authorities — most notably, an incident of vandalism in a community center when he wrecked the tables of several licensed money-lenders and bird-sellers. He had used violent language, too, claiming that he could destroy a gathering place and rebuild it.

At the time of his arrest, he had not held a fixed residence for years. Instead, he led an itinerant lifestyle, staying at the homes of friends and advocating the redistribution of wealth.

He had come to the attention of the authorities more than once for his unauthorized distribution of food, disruptive public behavior, and participation in farcical aquatic ceremonies.

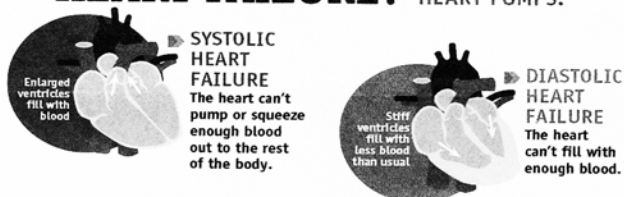
Some say that his brutal punishment at the hands of the state was out of proportion to and unrelated to any of these incidents in his record.

But after all, he was no angel.



What is HEART FAILURE?

► A PROBLEM with HOW YOUR HEART PUMPS.



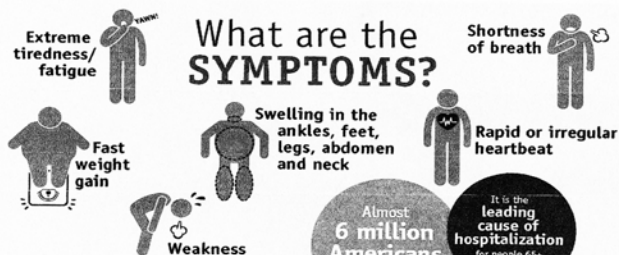
• Eight-year-old Haley Woodfin of Richmond, Va., removed a collector's can of Billy Beer from a display cabinet at home and took it to school. The girl wanted to use the beer, named after former president Carter's late good-ol'-boy brother, in her third grade show-and-tell.

School officials, however, considered the unopened collector's item no different from any other alcoholic beverage and suspended the third-grader for three days. Authorities at Skipworth Elementary School said the suspension was consistent with their strict drug- and substance-abuse policy.

Haley also had to undergo counseling.

"In addition to the suspension," reported the Newark, N.J. *Star-Ledger*, "police were notified that the girl was in illegal possession of an alcoholic beverage."

What are the SYMPTOMS?



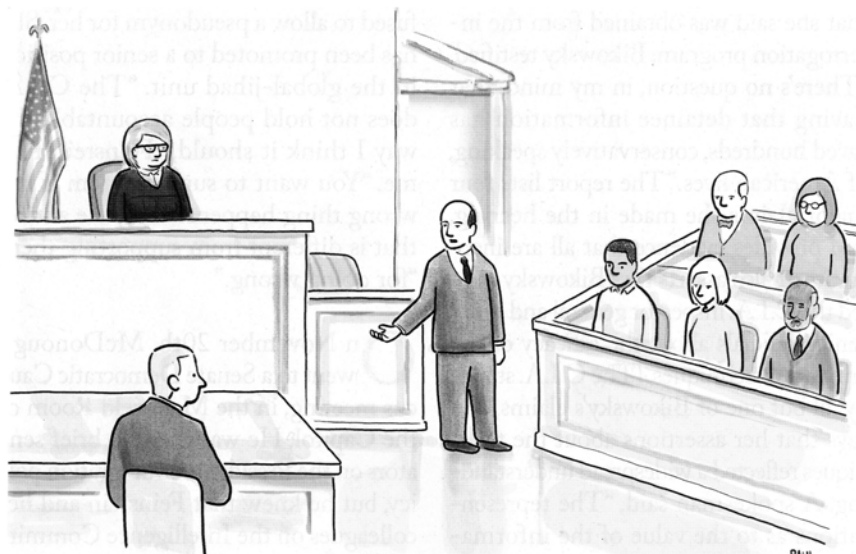
What are the CAUSES?



► For more information, visit CardioSmart.org/HeartFailure

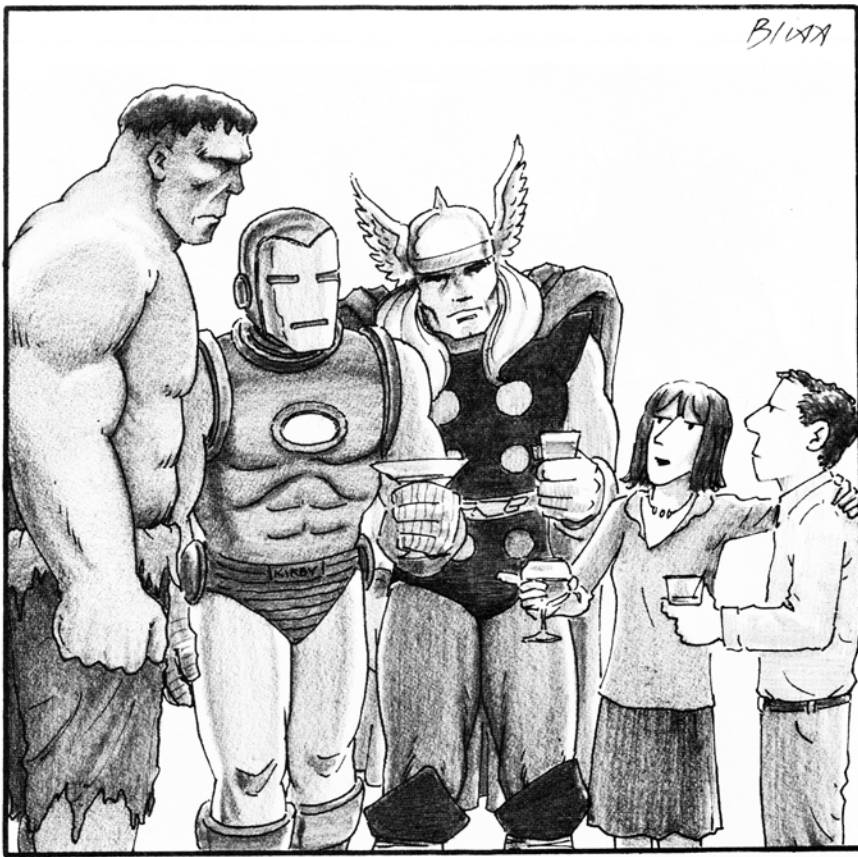
Old men are dangerous: it doesn't matter to them what is going to happen to the world.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW,
Heartbreak House



"Before we send a man to prison, shouldn't we at least be positive that he's not rich?"

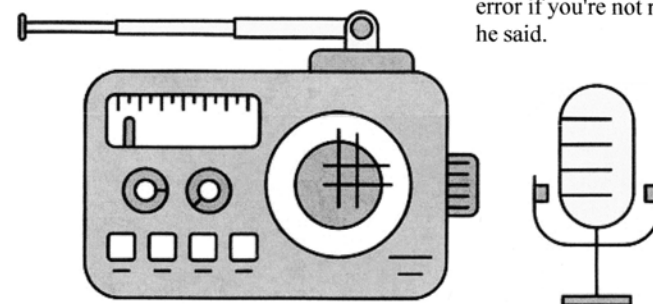
PAUL NOTH



"Incredible Hulk, Invincible Iron Man, Mighty Thor, meet Unremarkable Ed."

WHEE!

"Getting there is as much fun as being there," said this ad for an RV-sharing program. Especially if you drive on the wrong side of a mountain road.



There is the eternal war between those who are in the world for what they can get out of it and those who are in the world to make it a better place for everybody to live in.

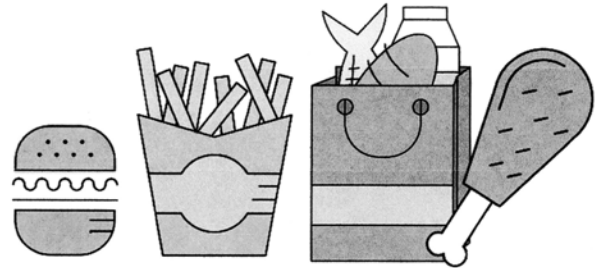
GEORGE BERNARD SHAW, *On the Rocks*

No 'Love' for Granola

CONCORD, Mass. (AP) — A Massachusetts bakery's granola may be made with love, but federal officials say it shouldn't be listed as an ingredient on the package.

Nashoba Brook Bakery, in Concord, was taken to task by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for listing "love" as an ingredient on its Nashoba Granola label. In a letter posted on the FDA website, the agency said federal regulations require that ingredients "must be listed by their common or usual name."

"'Love' is not a common or usual name of an ingredient, and is considered to be intervening material because it is not part of the common or usual name of the ingredient," the FDA wrote.



The agency said in a statement that listing "love" as an ingredient was just one of several violations, including a failure by the company to clean and sanitize its baking equipment and facility properly.

The information about the use of "love" was included but is not among the agency's top concerns, the FDA said.

The bakery's CEO, John Gates, told The Associated Press the bakery will be "fully cooperative" with the FDA. He also said the bakery has a "cleaning contract of \$100,000 per year," along with a pest control contract.

Gates said the company has gotten a positive reaction from people since news of the letter began to circulate. "It taps this feeling that a lot of Americans have that there are ways in which the government can overreach, and it seems kind of silly," Gates said. "Because it's about the word love, it's cathartic... It makes it something that people can smile at."

Bakery co-owner and chief baker Stuart Witt said the company has been open nearly 20 years, and has been selling granola nearly that long. "Love," has been listed on the label from the beginning, he said. "We feel very strongly that love is a big part of what we do," he said, adding that much care is put into baking the company's rustic, European-style sourdough bread.

"Because it's such a long process, there's so much room for error if you're not really caring and putting a lot of love into it," he said.





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