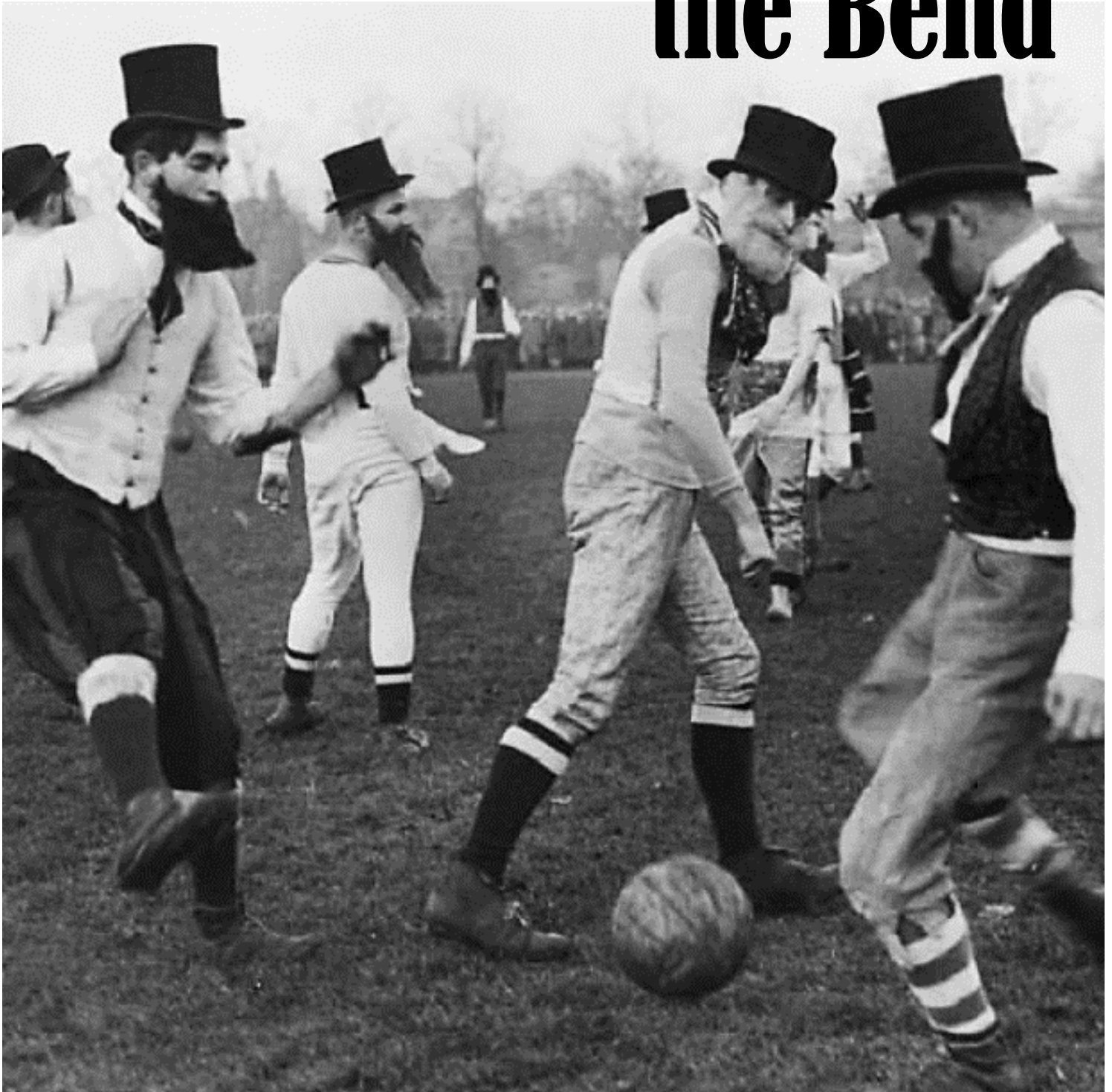


News From Around the Bend



28th Anniversary Issue



NEWS FROM AROUND THE BEND

ERRATA, EPHEMERA, ET CETERA.

ISSUE #103

28th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

FEBRUARY 2019

A periodical brought to you quite periodically by

The Northcraft Entertainment Organization

Cover: Dressed as Victorian gentlemen, complete with top hats and beards, students from Caius College and Oxford play 'Foot-the-Ball' on Parker's Piece, Cambridge, December 1946.

Publisher/Editor for Life

ACOUSTIC ROSS

Known & Suspected Contributors To Your Delinquency This Month

**SHAWN BRETT
GINNY GREENAWALT
GLEN HETHERINGTON**

**The JOHNSON Family
The KNARR Family
The MARXEN Family**

**The MASON Family
GLORIA SHADE
The YUNGKURTH Family**

This Month's Cartoons

**Bizarro by Dan Piraro
Tom Gauld for New Scientist**

**Drew Dernavich, Carolita Johnson, Paul Noth,
Todd St. John, & Julia Suits for The New Yorker**

NOTES FROM THE SKEPTIC TANK

Hey, at least you didn't have to wait 10 years again this time.

– old German proverb

We are back. We are well. We have evidence the defibrillator works correctly when the heart to which it's connected suddenly decides to nearly quadruple its BPM.* We contain two stents now, and are nearing the end of a second round of Cardiac Rehab physical therapy. We are also using the royal *We* for no particular reason, so we will cut (as they say) that out.

Yep, 2018 sucked on many levels, and let's face it, 2019 probably will too.

But before that happens, we're back again, like cicadas or the DMV or some other thing that takes its sweet time to get around to doing what it does. And we brought a bumper crop of the usual stuff, the way we do when we do that thing we does.

Wait... I was doing the we thing again, wasn't I? Sorry, hard to stop.

So far, 2019 isn't terrible – granted, as I write, it's near the end of just its second day – in fact, so far I've written the correct year on like EIGHT. DIFFERENT. THINGS. today, so that's a pretty great start.

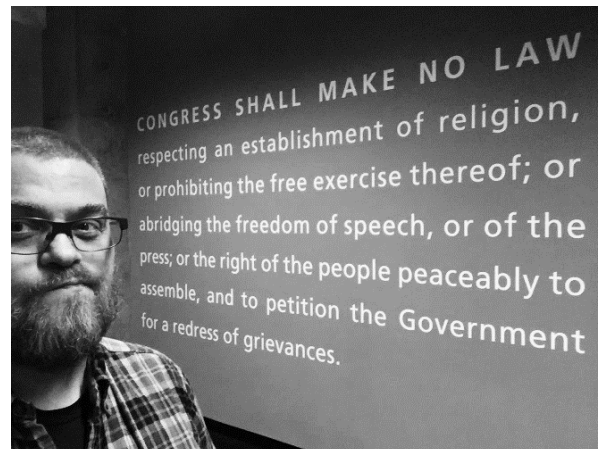
And you? Well, you're reading a brand-new issue of the NFATB, our 28th Anniversary Issue in fact, which is coming out a little *ahead* of the NFATB's February birthday – the first anniversary issue to do that since 2004.

So things are looking at least *slightly* up for us both, at least?

And we can celebrate that, yes?

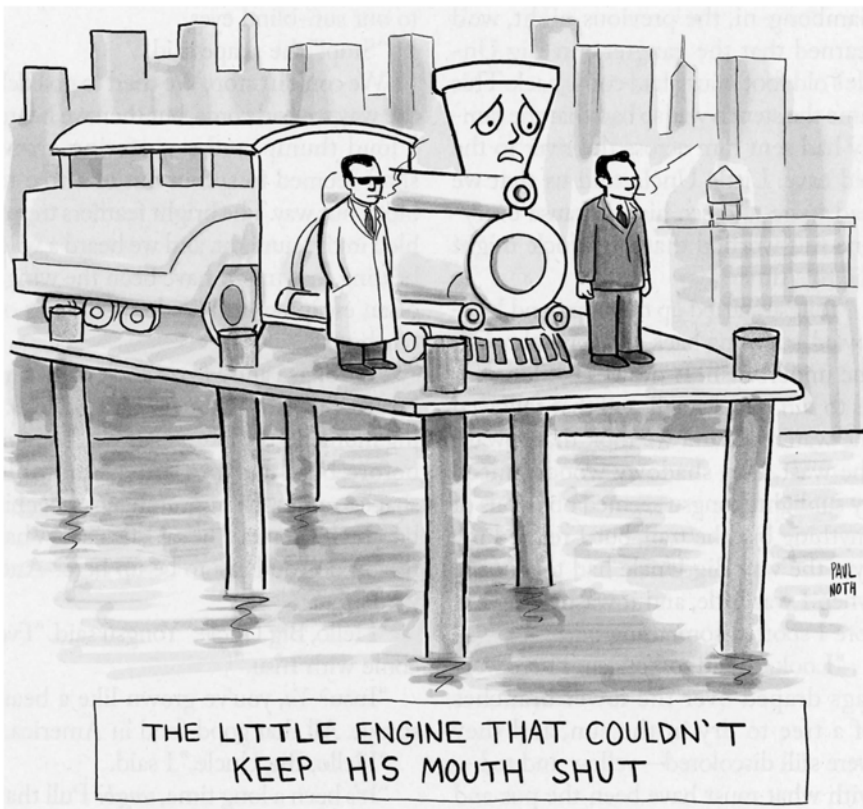
Yes. We can. And we should. And we shall.

Dang it, I'm doing it again. OK, fine, we will shut up now. See you soonish.



- RmG3, NFATB CEO, January 2, 2019 -

** I hit 261 BPM that day, a new personal best!*



Armed and Naked

In Texas, game wardens came across an arresting sight in Gregg County last November: an unnamed Upshur County man hunting in the nude along a state highway. The Houston Chronicle reported that the hunter, who is a well-known nudist and activist in the area, contested his arrest on charges including hunting without a license, but one look in court at the warden's body cam footage undermined his case. The man then dropped his appeals and settled the citations. [Houston Chronicle, 11/22/2017]

JOHN MCKAY, 1980

Tampa Bay Buccaneers coach, asked what he thought of his team's execution following a 34-27 loss to Cleveland:
"I think it's a good idea."

Pilots were warned of "low sealings" at Wiley Post-Will Rogers Memorial Airport in Utqiagvik, Alaska, on Oct. 23 because of an obstruction on the runway: a 450-pound bearded seal. Meadow Bailey of the Alaska Department of Transportation told KTVA-TV that the city, also known as Barrow, was hit by heavy storms that day, and airport staff discovered the seal while clearing the runway. However, staff are not authorized to handle marine animals, so North Slope Animal Control stepped in, using a sled to remove the seal. Bailey said animals such as musk ox, caribou and polar bears are common on the runway, but the seal was a first.

Actual Announcements from Church Bulletins:

For those of you that have children and don't know it we have a nursery downstairs.

The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Allen Belzer, the sin of Rev. and Mrs. Belzer.

This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.

Even though atoms were first conceived and named by ancient Greeks, the first proof of atoms came from 26-year-old Albert Einstein in 1905.

The "33" on the Rolling Rock bottle has long been considered a part of the design, but the number's origins are still debated. Some claim the number refers to the year prohibition was repealed (1933), others say it refers to the founding year of the Pittsburgh Steelers (also 1933). Other theories include that "33" counts the number of steps from the brewmaster's office in the original Latrobe brewery to the brewing floor, or possibly it is the number of words in the beer's original (and current) pledge of quality. We'll think about it over a pint.

Not Quite the Ride Kid Anticipated

(Santa Clara Pueblo, NM) – A 3-year-old girl who wanted to go for a ride clung to the rear of her father's truck for nearly 12 miles as the vehicle reached speeds of up to 85 mph.

Chelsea Tafoya wasn't hurt in the incident.

Her father, Lincoln Tafoya, said he was taking his four other children to Pojoaque Elementary School and didn't know Chelsea had jumped onto the back. "I know we drove 10 to 12 miles before we were stopped," he said.

Tafoya credited a passing motorist, Connie Romero, with saving Chelsea's life by flagging down his Ford Expedition about 20 miles north of Santa Fe. "I am very, very grateful to the lady who stopped us," he said. "It's a miracle. God must have been watching over her."

Romero was on her way to work when she spied Chelsea hanging onto the latch handle and windshield wiper, with her feet planted on a ridge above the license plate. "I was saying, 'Please, God, don't let this kid fall,'" she said.

She honked and flashed her car's lights, but the truck didn't stop. Romero called state police on a cell phone and sped past Tafoya's vehicle on Route 502 until he finally stopped.

"I was in shock when I saw my daughter come around," Tafoya said. "She was scared to death and cold." He said Chelsea told him she'd wanted to go for a ride and "was having fun until we hit the main road."

Man Finds Naked Loophole In Corporate Slogan



Plaistow, New Hampshire (Elyse Wanshel for HuffPost) – Downward-facing no.

A man at a Planet Fitness in New Hampshire took off all his clothes and began doing yoga in the buff, police said.

Eric Stagno, 34, was charged with indecent exposure, lewdness and disorderly conduct at a Plaistow location of the popular gym chain, the New Hampshire Union Leader reports. He was later released on bail for an arraignment on the misdemeanor charges.

"The story we got from witnesses was that the guy walked in, stripped down right there in front, left the clothes and belongings at the front desk, walked back and forth across the gym a couple of times and then settled in over at the yoga mats," police Capt. Brett Morgan told the paper.

When officers arrived, they said they found Stagno in his birthday suit in a "yoga-type position."

"The only comment he made was that he thought it was a judgment-free zone, apparently referencing their slogan," Morgan said.

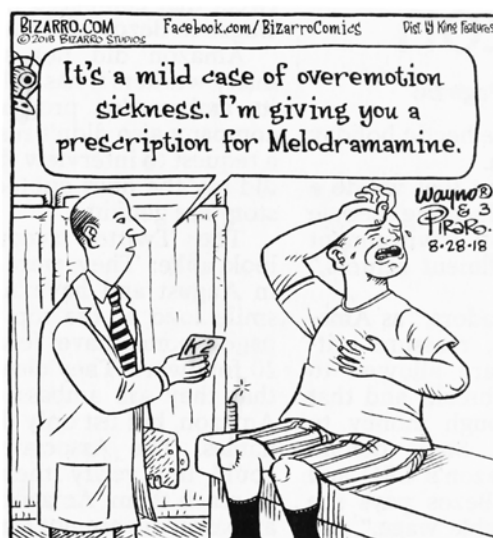
Morgan told the Boston Globe that although the gym was pretty packed with patrons, Stagno kept to himself and seemed unaware that he was upsetting others. He was arrested without incident.

According to the Planet Fitness website, the chain promises a "Judgment Free Zone," where members "feel comfortable regardless of their fitness level."

"It's not a clothing-free zone," Morgan noted to the Globe.

Quick-thinking paramedics in Dorset, England, saved the life of a man whose fishing outing went south when a dover sole jumped down his throat and blocked his windpipe on Oct. 5. Sam Quilliam, 28, had just caught the 5 1/2-inch-long fish and went to give it a kiss when it wriggled free and lodged in his throat. "I ran round the pier like a headless chicken and then passed out," Quilliam told The Guardian. When first responders arrived, Quilliam was not breathing, but friends were performing CPR. Paramedic Matt Harrison said: "It was clear that we needed to get the fish out or this patient was not going to survive. ... I was able to eventually dislodge the tip of the tail and very carefully, so as not to break the tail off, I tried to remove it — although the fish's barbs and gills were getting stuck on the way back up." Finally, the fish "came out in one piece," Harrison said. Quilliam said his brush with death won't put him off fishing. "Once I am back at work and fit, I will probably get back at it again," he said.

Columbus, Ohio, is within a day's drive of nearly half of the United States population.



Please see **Guns, A8**

Three lines to guns28 goes here and goes here and goes here and goes here. **A8**

"Health food" as a path to dietary salvation has long flourished in America, going back to John Harvey Kellogg's 19th-century sanitarium in Battle Creek, where Americans paid to have yogurt administered to both ends of their alimentary canal.

Rachel Martin on NPR:

A woman in Sweden got a tattoo of her kids' names, Nova and Kevin — except the tattoo artist inserted a random L into her son's name. And instead of Kevin, she ended up with the name Kelvin inked on her arm. Getting it surgically removed was too expensive, so she just left it there. And after a while, she kind of got into the name Kelvin and decided the easiest thing to do, instead of changing the tattoo, she changed her kid's name. Little Kelvin's only 2 years old, so maybe he didn't notice.



FEBRUARY 28, 2000

All Stretched Out Limo Service of Linthicum, Md., has received more than 40 requests to rent the bullet-riddled Lincoln Navigator involved in the Ray Lewis shooting, including one from a couple for Valentine's Day.

Shortly after filing a patent application in 1897 for radio circuitry, Nikola Tesla built and demonstrated a wireless, robotic boat at the old Madison Square Garden in 1898 — the first public demonstration of a remote-controlled drone.

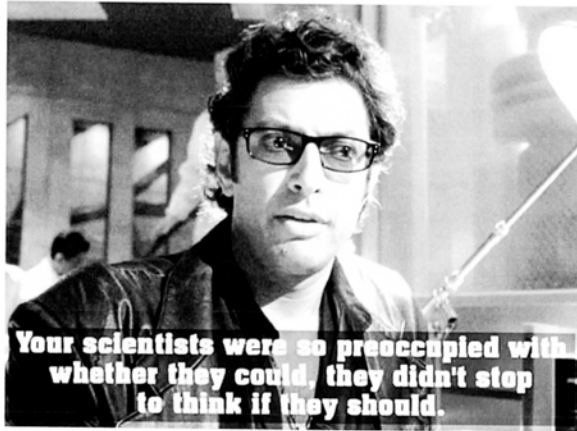
JANUARY 22, 1996

Thirty-five Kansas City football fans last week signed up for Chiefs Grief, a therapy session designed to help people get over the team's Jan. 7 playoff loss to the Indianapolis Colts.

David Blackmon identified himself as a drug dealer when he called the Okaloosa (Florida) County Sheriff's Office on July 16 to report that \$50 in cash and a quarter-ounce of cocaine had been stolen from his car. When officers investigated, they found a baggie with "suspected cocaine," a crack pipe, and a crack rock in the car. Blackmon was charged with possession of cocaine and drug paraphernalia.

Baby Poo Probiotic 'Cocktail' Could Help Fight Disease

(Lucia Binding for Sky News) – Baby poo contains probiotics that could boost gut health and combat a variety of diseases, scientists have said.



A probiotic "cocktail" made from gut bacteria strains found in baby feces, which could improve overall health and help weight loss, was developed at Wake Forest School of Medicine in North Carolina.




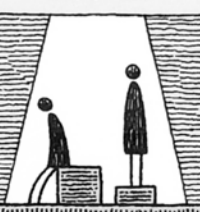
"Babies are usually pretty healthy and clearly do not suffer from age-related diseases, such as diabetes and cancer. And, of course, their poop is readily available," said the study's lead author, Dr. Hariom Yadav.

The healthy probiotic cocktail was created using the dirty diapers of 34 infants. It boosted the short-chain fatty acids in the gut bacteria of mice during experiments — making them more resistant to illnesses that attack the immune system.

The US team said that baby feces may be the key to fighting various diseases.

People who suffer from bloating or poor digestion have often been advised to eat fermented foods containing probiotics, including yogurt and sauerkraut. Probiotics are live bacteria and yeasts, often described as "good" or "friendly" bacteria.

OUR PRODUCTION OF THE TEMPEST IS PRESENTED AT FOUR DIFFICULTY LEVELS

EASY	MODERATE	CHALLENGING	EXTREME
			
FAMOUS HOLLYWOOD ACTORS EXPENSIVE SPECIAL-EFFECTS SHORT VERSION OF THE TEXT	COMPLETE, UNEDITED TEXT CLASSICAL ACTORS ELIZABETHAN MUSIC CANDLELIGHT	REWORKED PLOT AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION MIME PUPPETS NUDITY HIP-HOP	MINIMAL SET SOUNDTRACK OF ABSTRACT NOISE SCRIPT REWRITTEN BY AN ALGORITHM EIGHTEEN HOURS LONG

ELDEN CAMPBELL, 1991

Los Angeles Lakers forward, on if he had earned his degree from Clemson:

"No, but they gave me one anyway."

BEER TAX

Taxes on beer have been around since the days of Egypt's Middle Kingdom (c. 1800 BC). The royal court of the time received a daily payment of more than one hundred jars of beer—and legend has it that the queen celebrated by drinking around five.

Singing Road Draws Sour Notes

Amsterdam (Robert-Jan Bartunek for Reuters) – Take the highway past the Dutch village of Jelsum and the road will play you a tune.

Created by strategically laid "rumble strips" as a way of livening up journeys across the flat landscape, the novelty has worn thin for locals who say the constant droning melody is driving them mad.

The tune is created when car byres drive over the strips — which are usually deployed at the side of major roads to warn drivers they are straying off course. If hit at the correct speed — the 60 kph (40 mph) limit — the road will sing out the anthem of the Friesland region — a northern part of the Netherlands that has a distinct language and culture.

But it is loud and the sound travels, and locals say the musical road had created a never-ending cacophony that keeps them awake at night. "Last Saturday night the taxis were driving from Leeuwarden to Stiens and on the way back, they tried to go across the lines as quickly as possible," said local resident Ria Jansma, "and we had the anthem played all night at high speed."



The ancient Babylonians saw time as a wheel, repeating in cycles. Confucius likened the passage of time to the flow of a river's stream. For the kabbalists, time is an illusion. Isaac Newton conceived of time as a rigid scaffolding erected by God.

Steve Inskeep on NPR:

Give an Ohio woman credit for trying. She faced a drug test — you know, with a urine sample. And according to WTOV TV, she borrowed a urine sample from someone else. That's a crime.

And what made it worse for the suspect is that the substitute sample tested positive for drugs. You know the old saying, friends don't let friends drive drunk. We need a new saying — friends don't let friends take their tainted samples.

Something to Sing About

The Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts in Switzerland has a new course of study for scholars to pursue: a bachelor's or master's in yodeling. Beginning in the 2018-19 academic year, students will be able to major in the traditional form of singing, which was used by Swiss herdsman to communicate with each other in the mountains. The BBC reported that prize-winning yodeler Nadja Rass will lead the courses, which will also include musical theory and history. "We have long dreamed of offering yodeling at the university," gushed Michael Kaufmann, head of the school's music department. [BBC, 1/30/18]

■ One Apple engineer is using his own ingenuity to help Santa Cruz's homeless population. Ron Powers spends his evenings and weekends driving around in his mobile Laundromat, a van that he outfitted with two washers and two dryers, offering to do strangers' laundry for free. For many



Powers and his clean machine

people on the streets, Powers' "Loads of Love" initiative is a blessing. Homeless individuals, he says, often throw away socks and other clothes when they get dirty because they can't afford to pay for laundry and buy food. "I want to restore dignity to people," says Powers. "I want to improve health."

JANUARY 18, 1999

After his Gators defeated Syracuse 31-10 in the Orange Bowl, Florida coach Steve Spurrier awarded himself a game ball.

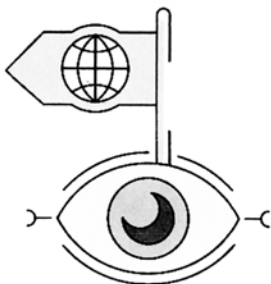
In Tokyo, women who have qualms about living alone may soon have a new security option. "Man on the Curtain" is a prototype smartphone app that connects to a projector and throws a moving shadow of a man onto a closed window curtain. The shadow man can be doing any of several different activities, such as boxing, karate, vacuuming, playing guitar or getting dressed. Keiichi Nakamura, advertising manager of Leopalace21 Corp., an apartment management company where the idea originated, told Reuters that eventually his company would like to "commercialize it once we add variety, such as releasing a new video every day."

■ When Cathleen Cavin first brought her daughter's kitten, Ozzy, home from a Petaluma, Calif., animal shelter in 2014, she felt guilty about separating the cat from his brother. One day, she promised, she'd reunite the siblings. Two years later, Cavin met Brian Herrera on a dating site. The pair hit it off, she went to his home—and was shocked to find that his cat, Butter, was a dead ringer for Ozzy. A check of shelter records revealed that, indeed, the pets were long-lost brothers. "It's total destiny," says Cavin, who's moving in with Herrera next month. "Yeah, it's fate."



As the 2018 Winter Olympics got underway, and athletes from Russia were forced to compete under the Olympic flag and be designated as "Olympic Athletes from Russia" (OAR) as punishment for systemic doping at the 2014 Games in Sochi, Russian bobsledder Nadezhda Sergeeva proudly wore a T-shirt that read "I Don't Do Doping." But on Feb. 23, Sergeeva became the second Russian athlete to fail a doping test. (Russian curler Alexander Krushelnitsky also failed a drug test earlier in the Games.) Sergeeva was a vocal critic of the Olympic policy toward Russian athletes, telling Yahoo Sports, "If we are here, and we are clean, we should be able to walk under our flag."

Bill Chappell, NPR.org —



It wasn't old age, or disease: A "bluish foreign body" that was found in an English woman's eye turned out to be a mass of contact lenses, surprising medical staff who were preparing the woman, 65, for routine cataract surgery. They report pulling 27 lenses from the woman's eye.

"She was quite shocked," specialist trainee ophthalmologist Rupal Morjaria tells Britain's Optometry Today.

Morjaria says she and her colleagues were startled to find 17 contact lenses clumped together as they were injecting anesthesia into the woman's eye at Solihull Hospital, southeast of Birmingham. They then recovered another 10 lenses. Part of their surprise, she said, was because the patient hadn't complained of any irritation.

"When she was seen two weeks after I removed the lenses she said her eyes felt a lot more comfortable," Morjaria tells Optometry Today. "She thought her previous discomfort was just part of old age and dry eye."

The woman had not complained about problems other than cataracts, according to the report Morjaria and others published in the British Medical Journal. The patient had been wearing monthly disposable contact lenses for some 35 years, she said.

Morjaria said she hopes the episode, which occurred last winter, raises awareness for patients who wear contacts but might go long periods without getting an eye exam — perhaps because they order them online rather than in person. The incident should also raise issues for optometrists, she said, noting that the mass of contact lenses hadn't triggered an obvious infection.

Their BMJ article prompted one physician to remark in the comment section. "It does make one wonder about the appropriateness and completeness of the examination of the referring clinician!"

As a lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union, Ruth Bader Ginsburg won five of the six cases she argued before the Supreme Court.

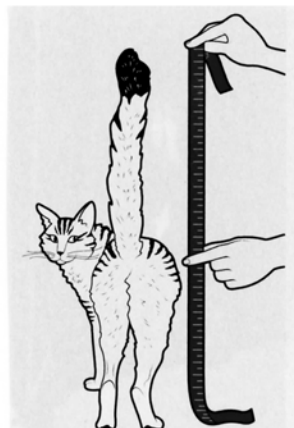
WELCOME TO THE FUTURE

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

- An "itching powder" was invented that was designed to be sprinkled on uniforms sent to the laundry to make enemy soldiers' lives uncomfortable.
- Agents were taught how to make themselves appear ill to get off of work for air drops or to avoid helping the enemy war effort. Taking dried corn cockle seed and mixing it with coffee brings on diarrhea. Gargling a solution of mustard and swallowing a pinch of gunpowder gives a realistic impression of a throat infection.

Tobias Nickels & Jennifer Jones

A HUGE congratulations to Jennifer Jones, the only daughter of Donald & Janice Jones, on her engagement to Tobias Nickels of Livonia. They fell in love in an untraditional way, but true loves always prevails. The ceremony will be held on Saturday, Oct 7th at the Wendy Correctional Facility in Alden NY, where Tobias is currently incarcerated.



**1 ft.
5.5 in.**

Length of the tail of a gray Maine coon cat from Ferndale, Mich., named Cygnus, setting a world record for **longest tail on a domestic cat**, according to the new edition of the Guinness World Records book



Poop Train Finally Makes Movement

(Erik Ortiz for NBC News, April 2018) – Alabama's "poop train" is no longer raising a stink.

The mayor of the tiny town of Parrish posted on Facebook that train cars carrying human waste from New York City were finally emptied and cleared, and "should be removed soon." The cars were sitting idle for more than two months after a neighboring county went to court to block the train's passage.

The town of 982 residents northwest of Birmingham gained notoriety – and became the butt of several jokes – after complaining that the smell from the train was making the outdoors unbearable, sending the odor of excrement wafting whichever way the wind was blowing.

Before the train cars were emptied, about 10 million pounds of human waste were on the train that came from waste management facilities in New York. The train was supposed to go through Jefferson County, but the town of West Jefferson obtained an injunction, arguing in court earlier this year that the loading and unloading of containers violated its zoning laws.

But Parrish has no such rules that would prevent the waste from being stored before it's unloaded at Big Sky Environmental, a private landfill about 20 miles away. The landfill has been accepting "biosolids" from New York since 2017. But New York said it would stop sending shipments there – at least for now.

Experts say some cities send their waste to Alabama and other Southern states due to low landfill fees and lax zoning laws. New York City has set a goal of sending "zero waste" to landfills by 2030, according to its long-term strategy "One New York: The Plan for a Strong and Just City."

Environmental advocates have decried the way larger cities dump their waste in poorer communities that lack the political clout to stop it. In Alabama, residents of Parrish said they felt blindsided by the sudden horrid smells that enveloped their town since late January.

But while the issue of poop in Parrish appears to be flushed out for now, the mayor said that other communities are in need of relief as well.

"While what happened in Parrish was, to our understanding, an unprecedented event, there are still (sic) small towns like Parrish fighting this situation on a smaller scale," the mayor wrote. "I will say this over and over... this material does not need to be in a populated area... period."

Actual Announcements from Church Bulletins:

The preacher will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing "Break Forth With Joy."

During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the privilege of hearing a good sermon when A.B. Doe supplied our pulpit.

ZENITH
ELECTRONICS
CORP.

MODEL NO./NO. MODELE
SB1923WC

1.5A MAXIMUM
120V 60HZ 104 WATTS

SERVICE NO./NO. DE SERVICE
SB1923WC

SERIAL NO./NO. DE SERIE
691-83040545

MANUFACTURED: JANUARY, 1986
FABRIQUE EN: JANVIER, 1986
10

Sign me up

Beacon Journal editor Bruce Wings recently received an email that made him want to drop everything (sarcasm alert) and talk to a guy from Los Angeles who wrote this:

"What are your thoughts on scheduling a call to discuss Rootstrap? Would love to chat about how I've taken the position of In-House Influencer and what this means for the future of business marketing."

"I think this topic is extremely relevant to your audience at Akron Beacon Journal and could be really valuable."

"I'd love to share more information on my experience and think my story would really resonate with your audience. When do you have 15 minutes to hop on a call?"

Wings somehow refrained from writing back, "Hop on this."

I probably wouldn't have been able to resist. That's why Wings is running the place and I'm not.

I would have fired back as soon as I read the first line of the email:

"Dear *FNAME*"

I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

Top ten

Royal nicknames

So many monarchs, so many Roman numerals... so how do you tell John XXII from John XXIII? By making fun of John XXIII's hairy legs, that's how.

1. Boleslaw The Curly

Prince of Poland 1146-1173. His reign was blighted by old ladies telling him he had 'a lovely head of hair'.

2. Abdul The Damned



Damned Abdul:
He's behind you!

on him from behind.

Sultan of Turkey 1876-1909. Mad Abdul was so fearful of assassination that he hid hundreds of pistols around his palace, and shot several ministers and harem girls who came up

3. Lulach The Fatuous

Succeeded his stepfather, Macbeth, as King of the Scots, 1057-1058. Proved too thick to last for very long on the Stone of Scone.

4. The Universal Spider

Popular nickname for the exceptionally devious Louis XI, King of France, 1461-1483.

5. Malcolm The Maiden

King of Scots 1153-1165. He was thus named after taking a vow of chastity. Concerned for the succession, his mother force-fed him virgins until he eventually cracked.

6. Erik Bloodaxe

Viking King of York twice between 950 and 954. He was always kind to his mother too.

7. Eric The Memorable

King of Denmark 1134-1137. Awarded himself the title after defeating his Uncle Niels at the Battle of Fotevik in 1134. Arrogant twat.

8. Charles The Straightforward

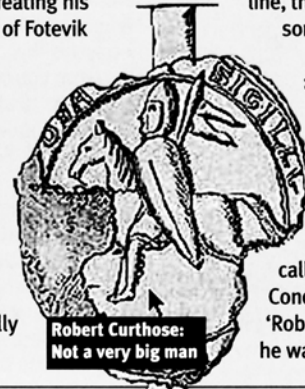
King of the West Franks, 893-923. He was the son of Louis the Stammerer, so his subjects were probably just relieved to have a monarch they could finally understand.



Isabella the Mad: Can you tell?

9. Isabella The Mad

More than usually deranged Queen of Spain, 1833-1868. Given the strain of insanity inherent in the Bourbon royal line, that's really saying something. Shocking.



Robert Curthose:
Not a very big man

10. ROBERT CURTHOSE

Duke of Normandy, 1087-1133. 'Curthose' is only marginally more polite than calling William the Conqueror's eldest son 'Robert Shortarse'. Which he was.

Attention Hypochondriacs: New Thing To Worry About!

(Vanessa Romo for NPR) — Kendra Jackson was one of those people who always had a tissue pressed up against her face. "Everywhere I went I always had a box of Puffs, always stuffed in my pocket," Jackson told KETV in Omaha, Neb.

There was the constant drip, drip, drip of her runny nose, and for years, she sniffed, coughed and sneezed constantly. She also suffered from a headache most days. "[It was] like a waterfall, continuously, and then it would run to the back of my throat," Jackson said. Even worse, the drip interfered with her sleep. "I was like a zombie," she added.

So she sought medical help, explaining to doctors that the symptoms all started a couple of years after a serious 2013 car accident, during which she remembers slamming her head against the dashboard. Doctors listened and most offered the same prosaic diagnosis: Jackson had plain old allergies.

But she knew there was more to it, and after seeing an ear, nose and throat specialist with Nebraska Medicine in Omaha, she was vindicated. If you can call it that.

Jackson was diagnosed with cerebrospinal fluid leak.

As in, brain fluid had been leaking through a hole in her skull into her nose. All day, every day. For three years.

She was losing approximately half a pint per day of the fluid that is supposed to surround the brain and spinal cord, doctors told her. If left untreated, the leak could have led to serious infections, including meningitis, vision changes and hearing loss.

There was a time when brain surgery would have been the only method available to stop such a leak, but Nebraska Medicine rhinologist Christie Barnes told KETV there are less invasive alternatives available today that begin with a camera up a patient's nose. Barnes said "that she and her team used some of Jackson's own fatty tissue to plug up the leak source — a very small hole between her skull and nostrils."

About a week after the procedure, Jackson said it had already made a huge difference in her life. "I don't have to carry around the tissue anymore, and I'm getting some sleep," she said, laughing.



Profound "Shower Thoughts" from Reddit

Everyone thinks they are original and unique until they have to create a username.

Chicken nuggets and hot dogs are actually really advanced food. They take the parts of the animal that would normally be thrown out and turn them into good tasting meals.

Wiping feces off any other part of our body with just paper without washing would be disgusting.

LEGO is one of the only companies that can release an almost infinite amount of new products, without actually creating any new products.

GoFundMe is turning into the internet version of panhandling.

We'll really appreciate self driving cars once they can drive themselves home if they're stolen.

During thunderstorms, humans are a service animal to dogs.

No one has seen you look worse than the gas station closest to your house.

For every documentary with a guy that climbs Mount Everest, there is a guy that climbs Mount Everest carrying a camera.

Dancers say 5, 6, 7, 8 because musicians took 1, 2, 3, 4.

You don't realize how strong your bite is until your finger gets in way of your food.

When cousins from both sides of the families meet it's like a special crossover episode in your life.

An all-electric Volkswagen Beetle is also a lightning bug.

60 dollars is a lot to spend but little to make.

Volleyball is just a more intense version of don't let the balloon touch the floor.

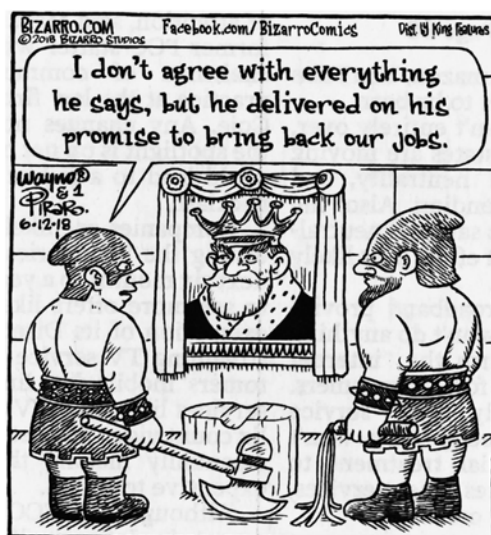
When you enter a room, do you open the door or open the room?



Things went from bad to worse for 30-year-old Isaac Bonsu on March 6 when he was charged in Alexandria, Virginia, with felony hit-and-run involving an unlikely victim. Fairfax County Police pulled Bonsu over for an equipment violation, but he apparently forgot to put it in "park" before exiting the vehicle. Bonsu can be seen on police dashcam video running in front of the car and then being struck by it. Unhurt, Bonsu jumped up and kept running, but police were able to catch him. The Associated Press reported that Bonsu was charged with driving while intoxicated (his third) and possessing marijuana along with the hit-and-run.

On Feb. 9, the Texas 3rd Court of Appeals upheld the four-year prison sentence Ralph Alfred Friesenhahn, 65, of San Antonio received after his fourth DWI conviction in 2016, rejecting arguments from his lawyer, Gina Jones of New Braunfels, that the state's legal limit for alcohol concentration discriminates against alcoholics, who have a higher tolerance for liquor. "You're not being punished for being an alcoholic," Sammy McCrary, chief of the felony division for the Comal County criminal district attorney's office told the Austin American-Statesman. "It's the driving that's the problem."

The first Marvel character to come out as gay, in 1992, was the quarrelsome Canadian mutant Northstar; his 2012 same-sex wedding was also the first in mainstream comics.



One of Quebec City's iconic tourist attractions is its ice hotel, the 45-room Hotel de Glace. But on Jan. 9, the hotel's most dreaded disaster, a fire, broke out in one of the guest rooms, the CBC reported. Manager Jacques Desbois admitted that "when I received the phone call, they had to repeat twice that there was a fire in the ice hotel." Predictably, the flames did not spread and caused little damage to the structure, although smoke spread throughout the hotel and residents were evacuated. "In a room made out of ice and snow there are few clues to look at," Desbois said, although each room has candles, and the hotel is considering the possibility that one of them caused the fire.



Yes, Surely *That* Is The Issue

In 1996, John Howard opened The Redneck Shop, a Ku Klux Klan museum and apparel store, in Laurens, South Carolina.

Asked by a reporter what the reaction was by townspeople, Howard said, "The only people I've had a problem with, who took it as an insult and a racial situation, have been blacks. I didn't know blacks here were so prejudiced."

Shortly after the store opened, a man in a pickup truck rammed the storefront, shutting Howard down for a time.

(photo: Frank Beacham, beachamjournal.com)

GERMANY

WWII bomb report is a dud

A worried resident in Germany alerted police to what he thought was a World War II bomb in his garden. Officers rushed to the scene in Bretten on Thursday — and found a particularly large zucchini. Police said Friday "the object, which really did look very like a bomb" was actually a [16-inch] zucchini. The offending vegetable weighed about 11 pounds. Unexploded war bombs are unearthed frequently.

Penis Park Draws Large Crowd

James Pearson & Heekyong Yang for Reuters; photo by Eric Gaillard

(SINNAM, South Korea) – Even the bright red lighthouse in the tiny South Korean port of Sinnam is shaped like a penis.

The port is home to Haesindang Park, better known as “Penis Park,” a monument to fertility, born from a legend about a virgin and fish. A normally obscure attraction, in 2018 it drew curious crowds of visitors from the nearby Winter Olympics.

There are penis totem poles, penis benches and penis wind chimes. There is even a penis-shaped cannon, with a warning to tourists that it should not be mounted.

“I’ve been all over the world and I’ve never seen anything like this,” said Keith Childs, a Londoner visiting the park along with other people working at the Pyeongchang Olympics, staged about an hour’s drive away.

The legend behind the park has been painstakingly chiselled into a row of stone penises. It tells of a virgin who died in a storm as her boyfriend collected seaweed from a rock in a nearby cove. According to one version of the legend, the village was unable to catch fish after she died until one fisherman urinated into the sea. The fishermen later erected a shrine and a phallus on the cliffs of the village to satisfy the virgin’s spirit.

Confronting and unusual to some eyes, the penis park is less of an oddity in a country with one of the lowest fertility rates in the world. Among the 35-member club of mostly rich nations, the OECD, South Korea has the lowest rate.

The country now has several “penis parks,” so many that Haesindang markets itself as the “only one on the east coast.”



Police in Logansport, Indiana, finally caught up with the thief who had been targeting churches in the area since Jan. 16: Christian J. Alter, 22, of Kewanna, was charged with breaking into five houses of worship and stealing cash, according to the Logansport Pharos-Tribune. Alter was apprehended Jan. 23 just moments before the fifth burglary, at Rehoboth Christian Church, was discovered by police. He was being held in the Cass County Jail. [Pharos-Tribune, 1/24/2018]



Death Wish Coffee — a cold-brewed, canned coffee the company touts as “fiercely caffeinated” (as much as 4 1/2 times more caffeine per fluid ounce than regular coffee), with a skull and crossbones logo — recalled its 11-ounce cans on Sept. 20 because they could possibly contain the deadly toxin botulin. Company founder Mike Brown, 37, said no incidents have been reported, but he is very serious about the safety of his product. “I know our logo and name might not seem like it reflects that,” Brown told The Washington Post. Production has been halted, and customers can request refunds from Death Wish’s website.

The 1904 World’s Fair in St. Louis featured a solar array built by a Portuguese priest so powerful that it fried birds flying 40 feet above.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Londoner explains game of cricket

To the editor:

An Akron resident [and] former colleague of mine sent me the piece in your Sept. 21, 2017, issue, “New cricket field opens in Akron,” announcing the establishment of a cricket pitch in the Chuckery Area of Cascade Valley Metro Park. As I commented to her, this combines two of the key attributes of cricket in Britain: chucking the ball, and rain stopped play.

But your suggestion that “it’s like baseball” is a bit off; yes it involves a bat and a ball, but that’s about it! Here’s an old description of cricket, as explained to a foreigner:

You have two sides, one out in the field and one in. Each man that’s in the side that’s in goes out, and when he’s out he comes in and the next man goes in until he’s out. When they are all out, the side that’s out comes in and the side that’s been in goes out and tries to get those coming in, out. Sometimes

you get men still in and not out. When a man goes out to go in, the men who are out try to get him out, and when he is out he goes in and the next man in goes out and goes in. There are two men called umpires who stay out all the time and they decide when the men who are in are out. When both sides have been in and all the men have been out, and both sides have been out twice after all the men have been in, including those who are not out, that is the end of the game.

Yes, it’s old but it’s a goodie!

P.S. I should add that you can tell it’s an old joke because it talks only about men, and women are now allowed to play cricket!

David Reed, London, England

A sneaker for every state

If you had to create a shoe to represent your state, what would it look like? That's the question Adidas and the fashion-news site Refinery29 put to several female artists earlier this year. Their canvas: the white version of Adidas' new UltraBOOST X running shoes. The final designs, which drew inspiration from local flags, flora, fauna and even food, were recently sold in an online auction to raise money for Women Win, a charity that promotes female empowerment through sports. Here, a few highlights, all crafted by artist Jen Mussari. —Julia Zorthian

< Waving wheat
adorns the
Oklahoma shoe



< Horses gallop
over North
Dakota's shoe



< Kentucky's
shoe nods to
the Derby rose
garlands



< New Jersey's
shoe features
pepperoni pizza



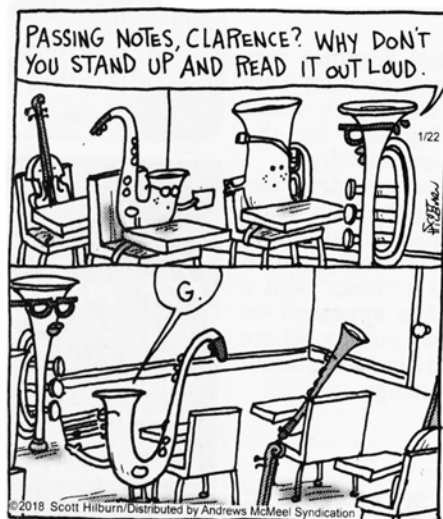
There is a basis for the clever spy devices created for James Bond. During World War II, the British had an organization called SOE (Special Operations Executive) that was a center for such inventions.

One clever idea was to fill dead rats with plastic explosives. These loaded rats were developed by the camouflage department and were intended for placement near power boilers with the intent that workers would throw them into the fire.

It never happened.

Soak your Oreos in half-and-half, and lay them on wax paper in the freezer. In an hour, each one is a mini ice cream sandwich.

ARGYLE SWEATER



Horse riders suffer higher rates of severe brain and body injuries than skiers, automobile racers and rugby and football players combined.

Pretty Sure You Did That Yourself

In the last statement given before his 1996 execution, William George Bonin – also known as the Freeway Killer, who committed the rape, torture and murder of at least 21 boys and young men in a series of killings in 1979 and 1980 in southern California (and suspected in another 15 murders) – said the death penalty "sends the wrong message" to America's youth.

Far from the tree

After real maple syrup came an imitation called "pancake syrup." And now?

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IMITATION PANCAKE SYRUP

Nutrition Facts Serv. size: 1 package. Amount Per Serving: Calories 15, Fat Cal. 0, Total Fat 0g (0% DV), Sodium 50mg (1% DV), Total Carb. 3g (1% DV), Sugars 2g, Protein 0g. Not a significant source of sat. fat, cholesterol, fiber, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, calcium or iron. Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.

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“Imitation pancake syrup,” which must be imitation imitation maple syrup. If you're wondering what makes it extra imitation, the answer is two artificial sweeteners. What else is in the product? Water, high-fructose corn syrup, cellulose gum, flavorings, glucono-delta-lactone, sodium benzoate, potassium sorbate, caramel color, and sodium hexametaphosphate. Bon appetit.

Hungry Rat Destroys ATM Cash

Guwahati, India (Aditya Kalra for Reuters) – When bank technicians in India were summoned to investigate why an ATM had not been working for days, they began to smell a rat. What they found inside the ATM was almost \$18,000 worth of shredded Indian rupee notes – and one dead rodent that had somehow eluded the machine's security camera for its next, and last, meal.

“The ATM was out of order for a few days and when our technicians opened the kiosk we were shocked to find shredded notes and a dead rat,” said Chandan Sharma, State Bank of India branch manager in the town of Tinsukia in the northeastern state of Assam. “We have started an investigation into this rare incident and will take measures to prevent a recurrence.”

Most ATMs in India have a closed-circuit camera installed for enhanced security. But an inspection of the camera footage at the ATM in Tinsukia turned up no rat entering it, Sharma said. Photographs taken by a local reporter showed fragments of gray and purple colored notes of 500- and 2000-rupee denominations.

I think in sounds.

--Maurice Ravel
French composer

NOVEMBER 30, 1998

Before last Saturday's Cal-Stanford game the mascots for both teams—Oski the Bear and the Stanford Tree—were required to take Breathalyzer tests.

Sonny Donnie Smith, 38, of Clackamas, Oregon, was feeling snubbed in September 2016 when both his father and his brother were invited to a family wedding, but Sonny wasn't. As a perfectly reasonable revenge, Sonny made anonymous phone calls to McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas and the Midland International Air and Space Port in Midland, Texas, claiming that his father and brother were terrorists and would be traveling through the airports. An FBI investigation revealed no terrorist threats, and after interviewing the father and brother, they were both released. On Feb. 1, Sonny Smith pleaded guilty to making the calls, according to The Oregonian, and will be sentenced on May 10.

Neil Gaiman on Imposter Syndrome, which we all suffer from.

".... Some years ago, I was lucky enough invited to a gathering of great and good people: artists and scientists, writers and discoverers of things. And I felt that at any moment they would realise that I didn't qualify to be there, among these people who had really done things.

On my second or third night there, I was standing at the back of the hall, while a musical entertainment happened, and I started talking to a very nice, polite, elderly gentleman about several things, including our shared first name. And then he pointed to the hall of people, and said words to the effect of, "I just look at all these people, and I think, what the heck am I doing here? They've made amazing things. I just went where I was sent."

And I said, "Yes. But you were the first man on the moon. I think that counts for something."

And I felt a bit better. Because if Neil Armstrong felt like an imposter, maybe everyone did. Maybe there weren't any grown-ups, only people who had worked hard and also got lucky and were slightly out of their depth, all of us doing the best job we could, which is all we can really hope for."



"Pickles, if you don't get off my lap, we're toast."

The term "devil's advocate" dates back to the 17th century, when the Roman Catholic Church created an office popularly known as the advocatus diaboli — a person tasked with making the case against the canonization of new saints.

Congress failed to pass nearly 200 federal anti-lynching bills during the first half of the 20th century and spurned requests for action from seven presidents.

Big at this year's American International Toy Fair were a board game called Plunge It!, which tests players' dexterity in sucking up faux manure, and Poopeezy, a line of squishy toys tucked in plastic toilet paper rolls.

Parisians Peeved Over Public Peeing

PARIS (Jack Hunter for Reuters) — A new set of eco-friendly but completely exposed urinals deployed on the streets of Paris are provoking uproar from locals.

One of the bright red "urinoirs" installed on the Ile Saint-Louis, not far from Notre Dame cathedral and overlooking tourist boats passing on the Seine, has caused particular indignation.

Locals have written to the town hall to demand its removal and are planning a petition. "There's no need to put something so immodest and ugly in such an historic spot," said Paola Pellizzari, 68, owner of a Venetian art store. "It's beside the most beautiful townhouse on the island, the Hotel de Lauzun, where [19th-century French poet] Baudelaire lived."

She feared the urinal, installed around 20 meters (22 yards) from a primary school, "incites exhibitionism."

The designer of the "Uritrottoir" — a combination of the French words for urinal and pavement — said it offered an "eco solution to public peeing." The device is essentially a box with an opening in the front and a floral display on top, containing straw which transforms into compost for use in parks and gardens.

But Ile Saint-Louis locals said the receptacle, with no stall around it of any kind, could blight their ultra-chic neighborhood. "It's horrible," said the 50-year-old owner of a nearby art gallery, who declined to give his name. "It's destroying the legacy of the island. Can't people behave?"

Paris authorities have rolled out four of the stand-up loos in spots where public peeing has been a problem, and a fifth is planned. "If we don't do anything, then men are just going to pee in the streets," Local mayor Ariel Weil said. "If it is really bothering people, we will find another location."



"The aftereffects of this near-death experience may include months to years of insufferably life-affirming pronouncements."

Drunk Birds Terrorize Locals

(Amy Held, NPR, October 2018)

Life lately in the tiny northern Minnesota town of Gilbert has resembled a scene out of an Alfred Hitchcock film. Birds, lots of birds, have been "flying into windows, cars and acting confused," according to the city police department, which has been fielding reports from anxious residents.

But these birds aren't out for human blood. They've just had a few too many — a few too many overripe berries, that is.

"Certain berries we have in our area have fermented earlier than usual due to an early frost, which in turn has expedited the fermenting process," Gilbert Police Chief Ty Techar explained in a statement. "It appears that some birds are getting a little more 'tipsy' than normal."

Yes, having a boozy lark is nothing abnormal among the feathered set. "Cedar waxwings and robins are most likely to gorge on fermented blackberries, pyracantha or juniper berries, crabapples or mountain ash fruits," Audubon reports. Oregon State University's Extension Service notes that by October, the birds that have consumed the fruit "may be tipsy, inadvertent victims of alcohol consumption."

But the line between buzzed and fall-down drunk can blur fast.

"Most birds likely just get a bit tipsy, and very few people would be able to pick them out as intoxicated," Meghan Larivee, a government laboratory coordinator in Yukon, Canada, told National Geographic. "However, every now and then, some birds just overdo it." It got so bad in the Yukon city of Whitehorse in 2014 that the government's Animal Health Unit set up "drunk tanks" (modified hamster cages) for some Bohemian waxwings that needed to be cut off from the fermented berries of the rowan tree, National Geographic reports.

"They cannot coordinate their flight movements properly or at all, and they are unable to walk in a coordinated way," Larivee told the magazine.

Police say there is no need to call emergency services to report the inebriated avians — they "should sober up within a short period of time." But unable to remain too buttoned-up about the bleary-eyed birds, Techar did crack a few jokes about when residents should call police, such as if they see:

*Woodstock pushing Snoopy off the doghouse for no apparent reason.
Big Bird operating a motor vehicle in an unsafe manner.
Any other birds after midnight with Taco Bell items.*

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

Myth No. 9

Yawning is 'contagious'

The facts: Empirically, this is tough to deny; perhaps you'll yawn while reading this. The real question is whether there's actually something physiological at work here, and the answer is likely yes: Even chimpanzees mimic each other's yawns.

Myth No. 10

A dog's mouth is cleaner than a human's

The facts: Despite a habit of licking things no human would dare, Fido's mouth is often touted as scientifically more sterile. Truth is, oral bacteria are so species-specific that one can't be considered cleaner than the other, just different.



Myth No. 11

Lightning never strikes the same place twice

The facts: Lightning does favor certain spots, particularly high locations. The Empire State Building is struck about 25 times every year. Ben Franklin grasped the concept long ago and mounted a metal rod atop the roof of his home, then ran a wire to the ground, thereby inventing the lightning rod.

Myth No. 12

Hair and fingernails continue growing after death

The facts: Though hair and fingernails appear to keep growing after death, this is merely a morbid optical illusion at work. In death the human body dehydrates severely, retracting enough skin to expose more nail and hair.

BEER IN THE KITCHEN

Beer can add an extra layer of flavor to any dish, but there are a few guidelines to note before pouring one into the pot.

1. Because of their acidity, beers can make great marinades—especially dark beers, in which you can marinate for longer.
2. Light beers give extra oomph to battered and fried foods.
3. If adding beer to a pot on the stove, do not allow it to boil for too long, or the beer will lose its aroma.
4. And the most important rule of all: Don't cook with a beer you wouldn't drink.

MARCH 8, 1999

Angered by a call during a soccer game in South Africa, a player pulled a knife and charged the referee, who got a gun from the sidelines and shot the player dead.

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.)

Important periods in Greek art history:

600 - 300 BC (most important works 450-400 BC): Classical period

300 - 200 BC: Hellenistic

200 - 50 BC: Roman domination

330 - 1400 AD: Byzantine period

1821 AD - : modern Greece



A Final Word from NFATB Central

She was Mom's sister, our Aunt Liz, but no member of my immediate family ever once called her that. The story goes that when my oldest sister Gail was learning her name, she mashed up the "Liz" and "sister" bits and it came out as "Sizza." Which stuck, and from then on, that was her name, as far as any of us was concerned. Even my Mom, her elder sister by two years, used that name for her, at least when needing a third person version. In this family, nicknames stick.

Sizza – Elizabeth Sprang Marxen to most – passed away in December 2018 after a short illness, and we are all saddened to see her go. A die-hard Cleveland sports fan – and the Sprang family genealogist – utterly devoted to her seven kids, their spouses and their own kids, she was the glue uniting a large clan, and leaves behind a lifetime of wonderful stories and memories. Rest in peace, Sizza.

Like her father, and many more of us in the family, Sizza was a 'clipper.' Her children explain:

For as long as any of us can remember, our mother read the obituaries every day. If one was for someone she knew or might be related to, even distantly, she would tear it out, add the pertinent details to her family tree database, and add the scrap of paper to a pile in one of the cubbies of Aunt Alice's secretary desk. If it was for someone she thought one of us might know, she'd put it in an envelope and send it in the mail with no note, causing us to open it and wonder, "Uh, who is this?" She would reply, "You remember him. His sister graduated five years behind you. The family lived on Hadcock before the house burned down in 1997. Then they moved to Mesa Grande. And his mother worked at the Fazio's in Laurel Square. Of course you remember him!"

The obituary appeared in the Medina Gazette and Ashland Times-Gazette. She would love it if you tore it out and kept it in a desk drawer or mailed it to someone with a note that says, "You remember her, right?"



Goats On Lam in Boise

Boise, Idaho (Gina Cherehus for Reuters) – More than 100 goats burst into a neighborhood in Boise, Idaho, startling residents and captivating spectators on social media as they feasted on lawns, flower bushes and tree leaves.

The herd of goats had been at work clearing some land for the county when scores of the inquisitive animals escaped at about 7am local time and wandered into a West Boise suburb, their owner said.

"They were on a pond that the county had hired us to clear, and it looks like they pushed through some of the wood boards and got out that way," said Matt Gabica, owner of We Rent Goats, a company that provides goats to clear weeds on private and public property. "A bunch of homeowners and a bunch of kids had some excitement."

The herd of about 118 goats was wrangled into a truck by company workers at around 8:30am.

By then the goats had already built up an online following of social media users. One reporter for the local KTVB news channel dubbed it the "#Boise Goat-a-Palooza 2018." One Twitter user said that in 30 years they would be telling their grandchildren about "the great goat invasion of 2018." Another tweeted: "They're maaaaaaad as hell and they're not going to take it anymore."



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