

News From Around the Bend



'Brönnhilde'

Issue 104



NEWS FROM AROUND THE BEND

ERRATA, EPHEMERA, ET CETERA.

ISSUE #104

APRIL 2020

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The Northcraft Entertainment Organization

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Publisher/Editor for Life
ACOUSTIC ROSS

Known & Suspected Contributors to Your Delinquency This Month

**SHAWN BRETT
GINNY GREENAWALT
GLEN HETHERINGTON
The JOHNSONS**

**The KNARRS
The MASONS
GLORIA SHADE
THE YUNGKURTHS**

send links & clippings
to ross@nfatb.com

This Month's Cartoons

Paul Noth & Pablo Amargo for The New Yorker (p. 3)
Wrong Hands (wronghands.com) by John Atkinson (p. 4 & 8)

David Sipress for The New Yorker (p. 5)

XKCD (xkcd.com) by Randall Munroe (p. 6)

War and Peas (warandpeas.com) by Elizabeth Pich & Jonathan Kunz (p. 7)

Harry Bliss for The New Yorker (p. 9)

Tom Chitty for The New Yorker (p. 10)

Joe Dator for The New Yorker (p. 11)

Tom Gauld for New Scientist (p. 12)

Kristian Hammerstad for The New Yorker (p. 13)

Brooke Barker for Reader's Digest (p. 14)

Bizarro (bizarro.com) by Dan Piraro (p. 15)

NOTES FROM THE SKEPTIC TANK

Last year we said, "Things can't go on like this," and they didn't, they got worse. – Will Rogers, way before 2020

I'm scheduled to turn 50 in a few months.

I've phrased it that way since coming to terms with a certain cardiac condition of mine, but the phrasing is a good reminder: there are plans, there are expectations, and there are *The Things That Actually Happen*, and these three things don't often agree.

It's a weird world we're in right now. It's not the safest place to be. Many of us are sheltering in place, or doing our best approximation, and some of us are forced to be out in this weird world every day. I'm fortunate that I'm not, but I know there are many, many who are not so fortunate, and I worry about them. I worry about you. I worry about all of us.

This is one of the stranger times in which I've put an issue together. The first issue after 9/11 was... unusual. Oh, the October 2001 issue was full of the usual *errata*, *ephemera*, *et cetera*, but as it moved toward its conclusion, the elephant in the room gradually required more and more of everyone's attention.

That issue was the then-standard 14 pages in length, the first 10 being mostly what you'd normally expect in these pages. Page 11 was my own meditation, an essay about what had just happened, how the world was changing, and why there was still a need, to my mind, to find a way to laugh. To relax. To take a break from the weight of it all. Page 12 was a full-page picture of the now-famous flag hanging from the wreckage at Ground Zero in those early days. Pages 13 & 14 were comprised of a single sheet of black paper.

I'm not sure I got the tone right in 2001. I'm not sure I'm getting it right in 2020 either. But I'm not doing a black page in this issue, and I'm not doing a lot of reflection, outside this space. There is fear. There is panic. There is suffering. There is pain. There is darkness. But – still in great quantities – there is light. There is hope. There is help. There is humanity. There is a kind of... *isolated togetherness*.

And there are still humans doing very, very dumb things. Let's have a much-needed laugh as we read about them, shall we?

Stay safe, stay healthy, and let's plan to meet back here again next time. Or, at least, let's put it on the schedule, OK?



– RmG³, NFATB CEO, April 20, 2020 –



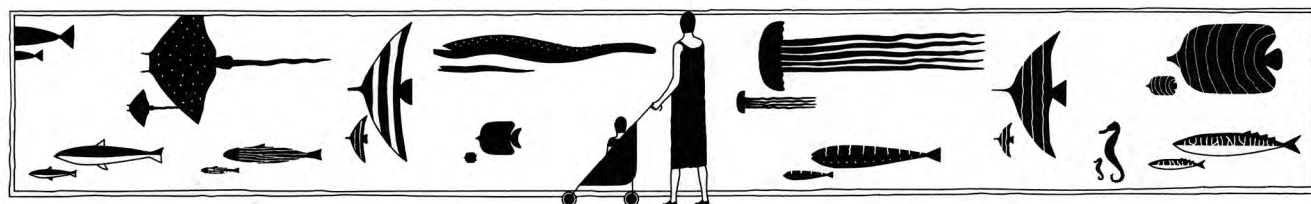
"We're doing everything we can to make him comfortable, short of dressing up as male doctors."

Go to heaven for the climate,
hell for the company.

MARK TWAIN

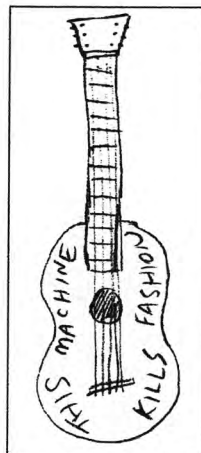
OBSCURE BEER LAWS

- It is against state law in Texas to take more than three sips of beer while standing.
- Nebraska state law requires that bars cook soup at the time any beer is sold.
- In Colorado, it's illegal to drink while on horseback.



DRESS WHITES were called for on the day I received my second lieutenant bars. At the ceremony, a Marine captain pinned the brass bars onto my uniform, and then we saluted. As we sat down, he whispered, "Lieutenant Dow, I'm giving you your first order. Next time you wear those dress whites, don't wear blue polka-dot underpants."

CAPT. ROBERT LAFAYETTE DOW,
Lake Charles, Louisiana



Thanks, Google Translate. Super helpful.

← All reviews



Sergio Pelayo
Local Guide · 34 reviews

(Original)

Excelente lugar para senar

★★★★★ 6 days ago

(Translated by Google) Excellent place to senar

All Cats Dream of Being Mountain Lions

Washington, DC (Hilary Hanson, Huffington Post) – The mountain lion residents feared turned out to be... just a long Cookie.

Georgetown resident Giulia di Marzo posted footage on a neighborhood blog showing an animal she wrote looked "a lot like a mountain lion." In the video, a large cat is seen climbing a fence before jumping out of the frame. "Has anyone seen this animal before?" she added. "Or does anyone have a pet that looks awfully like a mountain lion around here? Worried about my small, fat house cat."

Several local media outlets ran with the story, fueling speculation that the video's star was indeed a cougar. Local wildlife experts were skeptical, however. "Luckily, the mountain lion is not one of the many wildlife species that call the District home," D.C. Department of Energy and Environment Director Tommy Wills told DCist. He added that mountain lions don't have striped tails like the one seen on the cat in the video.

But the mystery of the huge cat's identity now appears to be solved. Local woman Sarah Wasson has come forward and told NBC 4 that the cat in the video is her own pet, Cookie. "He's utterly docile," she said. "He's small. He's a domestic cat and we've had him for six and a half years." That said, Cookie's size may still be a matter of perspective. His veterinarian, Lee Morgan, told the station that Cookie was a long cat who "takes up most of the table" when he comes in for a visit.



Pigeon Poops, Proves Point

Chicago (AP) – A pigeon apparently didn't think much of a lawmaker's ideas to address a messy situation at a Chicago Transit Authority stop known by some as "pigeon poop station." WBBM-TV reports that one of the birds did its business on the head of Democratic state Rep. Jaime Andrade as he was discussing the problem with a reporter outside of the Irving Park Blue Line station.

During the interview, Andrade rubbed the top of his head and said, "I think they just got me." They did. The sidewalks outside the station are covered in bird waste and feathers. Andrade has been trying to fix the problem. One of his ideas is to ask the CTA to install a hose line for power washing when it constructs new escalators at the stop.



JUNE 17, 1996

Until the country's sports minister objected, France's synchronized swimming team planned an Olympic program that evoked the Holocaust—featuring goose-stepping swimmers and a reenactment of the deaths of Jews in concentration camps, set to music from *Schindler's List*.

Constabulary Notes from All Over

From the (Coupeville, Wash.) *Whidbey Examiner*.

MARSHAL RESPONDS TO ANIMAL CONCERNS

8:54 a.m., a caller on South Main Street reported the neighbor opened his door and yelled for his cat. He did this as well the day before.

Homeschool Lesson Plan Helps Teacher Too

While many parents are still getting the hang of managing a home-schooling curriculum during the COVID-19 school shutdown, one mom in England seems to have it well in hand.

She's created a daily home-schooling schedule for her children for the next few weeks (shown at right), including six one-hour lessons and an afterschool club. Her curriculum puts particular focus on the *home* part of home-schooling.

Classes include lessons in assembling and operating the vacuum cleaner, cleaning the toilet, tidying the bedroom, and doing the dishes.

She's planned all the way to the afterschool events, also being cancelled, and has alternative activities planned.

Other parents on Facebook have been quick to praise her lesson plan.

My home schooling plan
9am, home economics- how to make me coffee
10am , mechanical engineering, how to assemble & operate a shark Hoover
11am , PE, run outside putting recycle& rubbish out
1pm- chemistry- how to bleach the loo
2pm- geography- lesson, in where floor items that they tossed there belong! tidy up put away ready for use another day!
3pm- science, how fairy liquid removes grease from pans
5pm afterschool club, go to your room on your ipad and be quiet 🤫



DIGITS

On Nov. 14, Credit Suisse issued its 2017 Global Wealth report, which analyzes data on prosperity and poverty across the world in this millennium. Here are some of its findings.

170%

Percentage increase in the number of millionaires in the world since 2000

5

Multiple by which people worth \$50 million or more (known as "ultra-high net worth individuals") increased in the same time period

50.1%

Amount of global household wealth currently owned by the world's richest 1%

Entrepreneur Miki Argawal, 38, of Brooklyn, New York, was a hit at this year's Burning Man gathering in Nevada, where she pumped breast milk and offered it to fellow attendees to help with hangovers or use in lattes. She even tried some herself, saying it tasted a bit like coconut milk. She estimated that 30 to 40 people tried her milk. "The fact that any part of that could be seen as taboo ... it's time that conversation changes," Argawal said.

Spoiler alert: Tolstoy edition

Anna Karenina



life is bleak

The Death of Ivan Ilyich



life is bleak

War and Peace



life is bleak

© 2017 Miki Argawal, Whidbey Islands • www.mikiargawal.com

What a Crock!

As it negotiated a roundabout in Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland, a dump truck filled with manure lost its balance on May 21 and tipped over, spilling its load onto a Peugeot 208 with the driver inside. A witness said he "couldn't believe anyone got out alive," but the male driver was able to crawl through the pile of excrement and was unhurt, if stinky, Metro News reported. The car, however, "was crushed," according to a Police Scotland spokesman.

Healthcare

RESIDENT ASSISTANTS
Full & part-time
1st, 2nd and 3rd shifts
(The main responsibility
of a resident assistant
is to assist residents.)
Help residents with
daily living, which might
include using the toilet,
bathing and washing,
dressing, cooking, serv-
ing food and collecting
food trays. We are
looking for friendly.

IF JOHN LENNON was right that life is what happens when you're making other plans, parenthood is what happens when everything is flipped over and spilling everywhere and you can't find a towel or a sponge or your "inside" voice.

KELLY CORRIGAN,
writer, in her book *Lift*



SIPRESS

"My desire to be well-informed is currently at odds with my desire to remain sane."

Thai Leader Uses Cardboard Cutout to Deflect Reporters' Questions



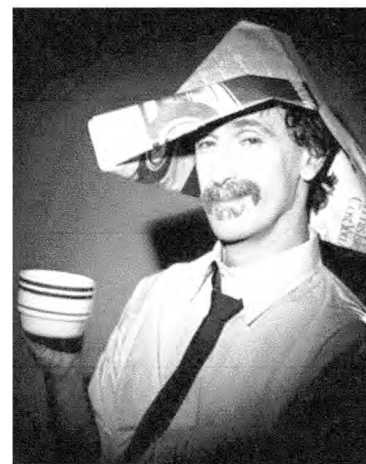
Bangkok (AP) — One Monday, Thailand's prime minister evaded journalists' questions by bringing out a life-sized cardboard cutout of himself and telling the reporters to quiz it instead of him. Prayuth Chan-ocha then turned on his heel and walked off, leaving the mock-up behind, to bemused looks and awkward laughter from the Government House press pack.

The prime minister had briefly spoken to the media after attending an event promoting upcoming Children's Day, but deployed his dodging tactic before anyone could ask him about a number of pressing political issues. "If you want to ask any questions on politics or conflict," he said, "ask this guy."

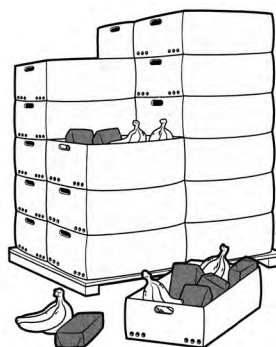
It isn't the first time Prayuth — a general who seized power in a bloodless coup in 2014 — has dumbfounded the media. In the past he has fondled the ear of a sound technician for several minutes during an impromptu news conference, flung a banana peel at cameramen, and threatened, with gruff humor, to execute any journalist who criticized his government. When it took power, his government, packed with military leaders, enjoyed considerable public support for ending a prolonged period of often-violent street politics. But as the junta's rule has stretched on, criticism of its often-repressive policies and lack of transparency has grown markedly.

Either He'll Listen, or He'll... Do Something Else

Goodyear, AZ (AP) — An Arizona woman is facing charges after police say she fired shots at her husband while he sat on the toilet to make him "listen." KNXV-TV reports 69-year-old Linda Jean Fahn was arrested following a frantic call from her husband. He told Goodyear police Fahn barged in while he was using the restroom and fired two shots above his head. According to a police report, Fahn said, "I shot two bullets at the wall above his head to make him listen to me." The shots were fired about seven inches above the man's head as he was slouched on the toilet. Fahn has been charged with aggravated assault.



I opened the door, fully expecting this hotel room to be a blank, empty space devoid of all furnishings. (And, if I'm honest, I was kinda disappointed to find it wasn't.)



\$17,820,000

Estimated value of 540 packages of cocaine found by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in 45 boxes of bananas donated to a prison

Fiddling While... Wait, WHAT?



(SkyNews) – A woman has undergone brain surgery while playing the violin to ensure surgeons did not damage the part which controls the fine movement of her hands. Dagmar Turner, a 53-year-old management consultant and passionate violinist from the Isle of Wight, had a tumour removed at King's College Hospital. She was worried she may lose her music skills, so she suggested she be allowed to play the violin during the operation. Professor Keyoumars Ashkan, a consultant neurosurgeon at the hospital, came up with the plan to reduce the risk.

Surgeons mapped her brain, opened the skull and then got her to play the violin as the tumour was removed. Footage shows her picking up the instrument during the surgery and playing scales with her eyes shut. "This was the first time I've had a patient play an instrument," he said.

Turner thanked the surgeons afterwards for preserving her 40-year love for the instrument. "The violin is my passion," she said. "I've been playing since I was 10 years old. The thought of losing my ability to play was heartbreaking."

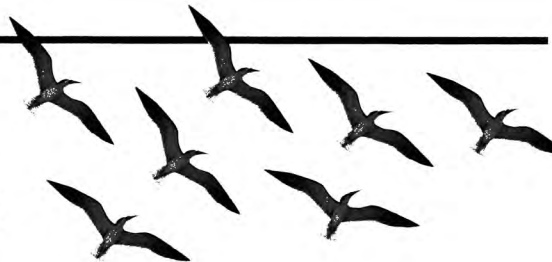
OCTOBER 12, 1998

Two Hightstown (N.J.) High cheerleaders were kicked off the squad and suspended for five days for giving laxative-laced cupcakes to their Hamilton High counterparts during a football game.

ANIMALS

Boozy beasts

A British animal-welfare charity has treated dozens of "disoriented" seagulls that may have been scavenging alcohol from a brewery. Here, other high-spirited creatures. —Billy Perrigo



BLOTTO BEAR

In 2004, a black bear passed out at a Washington State campground after breaking into campers' coolers and drinking 36 cans of beer. Park agents found him and chased him up a tree, where he slept off his hangover.

BUZZED BADGER

A German motorist reported a dead badger to police in 2009—only to realize the animal was in a drunken stupor after eating overripe cherries from a nearby tree. Officers chased it away with a broom.

HAMMERED HEDGEHOGS

Two hedgehogs were rescued by police in June after sipping from a broken bottle of the Dutch drink advocaat left in a German playground. They were taken to a zoo to recover from their night out.

GREEN FUNERALS

By one estimate, a traditional 10-acre cemetery contains enough buried wood to build 40 homes and enough embalming fluid to fill a swimming pool. Eco-friendly "conservation burials," on the rise in developed countries, feature biodegradable coffins and formaldehyde-free embalming.



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT:
THE RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH
MEANS THE GOVERNMENT CAN'T
ARREST YOU FOR WHAT YOU SAY.



IT DOESN'T MEAN
THAT ANYONE ELSE
HAS TO LISTEN TO
YOUR BULLSHIT,
OR HOST YOU WHILE
YOU SHARE IT.



THE 1ST AMENDMENT
DOESN'T SHIELD
YOU FROM CRITICISM
OR CONSEQUENCES.



IF YOU'RE YELLED AT, BOYCOTTED,
HAVE YOUR SHOW CANCELED, OR
GET BANNED FROM AN INTERNET
COMMUNITY, YOUR FREE SPEECH
RIGHTS AREN'T BEING VIOLATED.



IT'S JUST THAT THE
PEOPLE LISTENING
THINK YOU'RE AN
ASSHOLE,



AND THEY'RE
SHOWING YOU
THE DOOR.

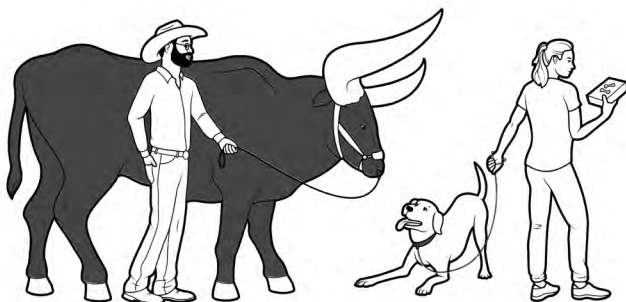


"I can't remember where I heard this, but someone once said that defending a position by citing free speech is sort of the ultimate concession: you're saying that the most compelling thing you can say for your position is that it's not literally illegal to express."

— Randall Munroe, XKCD.com

1,600

Approximate weight, in pounds, of an African Watusi steer named Oliver, brought by his owner to a Petco in Texas to test the store's policy welcoming pets on leashes (Oliver was welcomed)



To recreate the Rome of the Napoleonic era for the Metropolitan Opera's "Tosca," artisans used 77 rolls of gold leaf to gild Sant'Andrea della Valle, the dazzling Baroque church where the first act is set.

Got a Word file with a bunch of images or gifs in it?

Cool Thing #1 You can create a zipped version by simply changing the file extension from .docx to .zip.

Cool Thing #2 When you unzip the file, you'll get folders containing various XML files and all the images, gifs, movies - all separated into individual files.

Cool Thing #3 It works for Excel (.xlsx) and Powerpoint (.pptx) files too!

Blasts from the past

The U.K.'s TV licensing body revealed Nov. 8 that there are around 7,000 households in Britain still watching television in black and white. Here, other odd anachronisms. —George Steer

JANUARY 24, 1994

To prove she was tougher than the Houston Oilers and their brawling assistant coach Buddy Ryan, Chiefs fan Chris Russett challenged anyone at her engagement party to trade punches. Lee Walters took the dare and knocked her back with a punch to the cheek. She then broke his nose. Walters is her fiancé.

FAXING FEVER

In Japan, the fax machine remains popular. In 2011, according to the government's Cabinet Office, nearly 100% of the nation's offices and 45% of private homes had a fax machine.



TOP TAPES

According to the data-analytics firm Nielsen, sales of cassette tapes in the U.S. have more than quadrupled over the past seven years. Roughly 174,000 were sold in 2017, making up 0.1% of total album sales.

FAIL-SAFE FOWL

In 2011, the People's Liberation Army in China revealed it still retains an army of 600 courier pigeons. In case of a breakdown in digital communication, the bird reserves would deliver vital messages.

Actual Announcements from Church Bulletins:

Tuesday at 4pm there will be an ice cream social. All ladies giving milk will please come early.

Thursday at 5pm there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All ladies wishing to be Little Mothers will meet the Pastor in his study.

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.



CHANGED

The names of 15 candidates in the Thai elections, to match those of former Prime Ministers, in a blatant attempt to boost recognition.

BABY IS INTELLIGENT, PROVING HER FORMER HUSBAND IS NOT HIS FATHER, MOTHER SAYS IN COURT

Some shade from the Albuquerque (NM) Journal, July 10, 1931

Slight Problem with Ontario's New License Plates: You Can't Read Them

(Laurel Wamsley, NPR) — Ontario's newly-designed license plates just hit a speed bump.

Almost immediately, people compared the plate design unfavorably to a box of Q-tips. The plates had a new slogan — “A Place to Grow” — which drew the ire of some critics, who preferred the previous “Yours to Discover,” which the plates had sported since 1982. And there was the palette: observers noticed the new plates had the same blue color scheme as Doug Ford's Progressive Conservative Party.

But the real problems began once the plates went into use. A Twitter user who describes himself as a police sergeant in Kingston, Ontario, posted a photo with the complaint: “Did anyone consult with police before designing and manufacturing the new Ontario licence plates? They're virtually unreadable at night.”

It appears the new plate design is struggling with its most important job: clarity.



Toronto videojournalist Andrew Collins noticed that the new plates are “totally unreadable from a distance at night.” He tweeted this (unretouched) still from a dashcam video.



Steve Russell/Toronto Star via Getty Images

“It's crazy, right? It's unbelievable,” says Toronto videojournalist Andrew Collins. “If citizens can't read them and call in impaired drivers and traffic complaints, a police officer is certainly not going to be able to read them in a chase situation,” he posits.

Journalists at Toronto's CTV network wanted to see whether they could re-create the problem, so they shined a light on the new and old plates while slowly moving away. In their video, the old plate remains plainly legible, while the letters on the new one quickly disappear into a blaze of white.

Unsurprisingly, police chiefs in the province are concerned. “Some officers are surprised and have been taking photos,” Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police spokesman Joe Couto told the Ottawa Citizen. “It shows very clearly that, especially at night, there may be some visibility issues.” He said some police departments reported that their handheld scanners weren't able to read the new plates.

In an emailed statement, Ontario's government says it “consulted with key stakeholders to test the readability, reflectivity and functionality of the new high definition plate design. Ontario's new high definition licence plates were tested using advanced plate reader technology under multiple visibility conditions, and plates were successfully read under those conditions.” But it acknowledged that “some Ontarians are reporting concerns with readability to the naked-eye under certain light conditions,” and says it is looking into the issue.

Detroit (AP) – Leave it to the internet to interpret Garth Brooks wearing a Barry Sanders jersey during a concert in Detroit as a political endorsement of a certain liberal presidential candidate.

The more than 70,000 fans who attended the country music star's Feb. 22 show at Ford Field understood it for what it was: a tribute to one of greatest NFL running backs and Detroit Lions players ever. Brooks told the audience that he donned Sanders' No. 20 jersey to pay homage to him since they both went to Oklahoma State University.



After the show, Brooks posted a photo on social media of himself wearing the jersey, which has "Sanders" and "20" emblazoned on the back. That's where the trouble started.

Annoyed fans ripped Brooks in the comment sections under the photo, believing he was endorsing Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and the self-proclaimed democratic socialist's 2020 presidential campaign. "I had no idea you were a big freaking liberal socialist! I've listened to your songs for the last time!" one person wrote. Another wrote, "If this is for Bernie Sanders, I'm done with you. I thought you were a true American that loves our country." Others pointed out the apparent confusion over Brooks' post or made fun of those who read too much into it. "How much did KFC pay you to wear this?" a commenter wrote, referring to another famous Sanders: Colonel.

There's no indication of who Brooks supports politically, though he performed at former Democratic President Barack Obama's 2009 inauguration. Barry Sanders – the Hall of Fame running back – took it all in stride, tweeting his fellow OSU alum, "Hey @garthbrooks, want to be my VP? #Number20For2020." Brooks responded in jest, "I would run any race with you! #Number20for2020 HA!!!"

For the first time since the 1960s, living with parents is the most common household arrangement for the 18-to-34-year-old age group.

The Most Lewd-Sounding Town Name in Each State



Love to promote things in my hone and kitcher!

Thank You for purchasing
Eco-Friendly Multipurpose Reusable Produce/Storage Bag



Package includes
1. 7 Reusable bags.
2. Free Pouch bag.



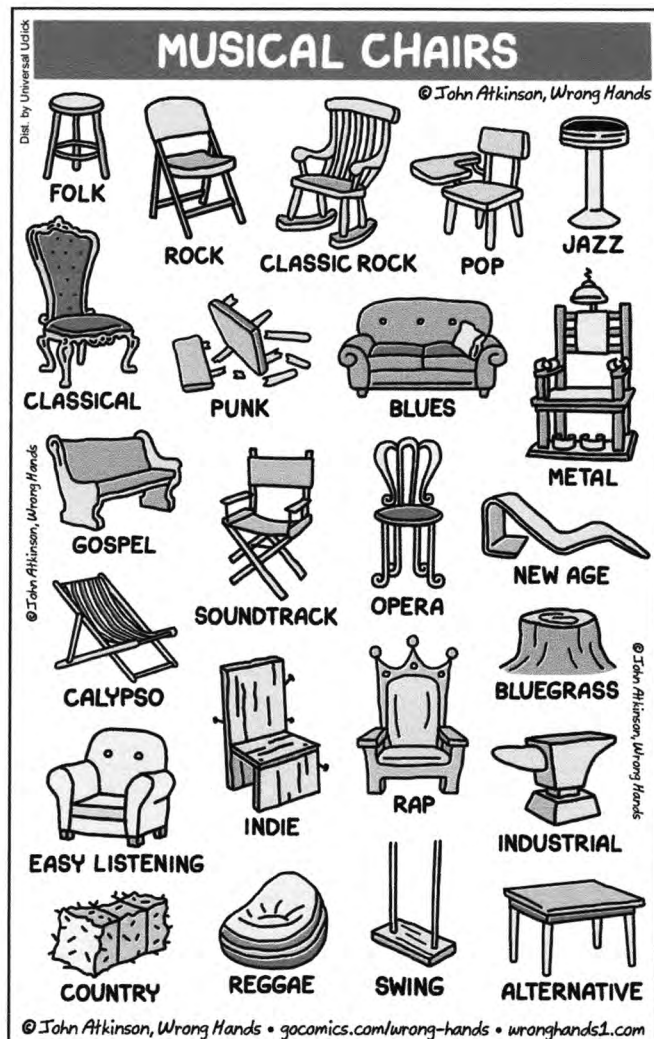
Promoting Healthy and Beautiful Lifestyle in Hone and Kitcher
Made in China

I'm Not Including Any Photos On This One But I'm Also Not Taking Out Any of the Puns

Australia (David Moye, Huffington Post) – A cattle breeding farm in Gippsland, Australia, is in a load of hurt after 100 cylinders of prized bull semen went up in smoke in a fire. The blaze at Yarram Herd Services, which offers artificial insemination and breeding advice to farmers, caused 100 cryogenic cylinders containing the bull sperm to explode and splatter the burning building, according to Daily Mail Australia.

The fire was a "huge blow" for the business, Yarram Herd Services spokesperson Aaron Thomas told the Australian Broadcasting Company. "The actual cylinders are worth between \$500 and \$1000 per unit, but the semen inside them varies in price," Thomas said "We're coming into the AI season so there would have been substantial amounts of semen inside the tanks that we've lost, which was owned by our local farmers, and it can range in value from \$5 per straw to \$95 per straw."

Putting out the fire was a unique challenge because "the lids of the cryogenic cylinders were just popping off the top and projectiles were being thrown from the building," Chris Loeschekohl, a fire commander, told the Metro. Firefighters faced so many sticking points that they fought the blaze for more than two hours before bringing it under control.



Textual representations of laughter go back at least to Chaucer, who fancied the onomatopoeic “haha” to convey merriment in his writing. (Shakespeare preferred a more staccato “ha, ha, he.”)

Hot Sauce Addiction May Lead to Conviction

Yuma, AZ (AP) – An Arizona man is facing charges after police say he waved a gun at a fast-food drive-thru window and demanded hot sauce. Police say Abel Lerma pulled a gun on an employee at a Filiberto’s Mexican Food restaurant and demanded hot sauce, which is given free with every food purchase. Lerma and the driver of the car were later arrested. Lerma posted a \$50,000 bond and was released under the supervision of pretrial services, then was arrested again and charged with aggravated DUI and endangerment for having a child under the age of 15 in the car. Lerma’s court-appointed attorney, John Serrano, says he is working on hearings for both cases to be held together.

Good Dog. Very Good Dog.

Ayden, NC (AP) – A dog is being credited with saving a family of three from a fire which destroyed their North Carolina home. Firefighters in Ayden told local media outlets that the home was engulfed in flames when they arrived. First responders from Ayden and Winterville were called to the home just before 5am. Kadasia Roach said her dog started barking, waking her mother and stepfather. She said he then yelled for everyone to leave the house. Wood said the home didn’t have a smoke alarm. He said the cause of the fire isn’t known, but it appears to be accidental and the house will be considered a total loss.

Yes, It’s Amazing. Now Knock It Off

Albuquerque, NM (AP) – An Albuquerque resident says new bells and the constant playing of “Amazing Grace” by a Latino Catholic church have created a living hell for her. KOB-TV in Albuquerque reports Bernadette Hall-Cuaron says she can no longer stand the regular ding-dongs coming from Our Lady of Guadalupe Church’s new electronic bell system. Hall-Cuaron says the bells ring about 20 to 25 times a day and its keeping people from church because the sounds are so annoying. She says bong songs make it hard for her to sleep. Pastor Rev. Joe Vigil says he’s responded to the complaints by lowering the volume and moved the bells from 6am to 8am.



“He replied all.”

Librarians’ Plea: Do Not Use Tacos As Bookmarks

(David Moye, Huffington Post) – Here’s some food for thought: Tacos make lousy bookmarks – especially for library books. But that seemingly obvious bit of knowledge didn’t stop a photo of, yes, a taco in a library book from going viral.

Amanda Monson, a librarian with the LaPorte County Library in Indiana, tweeted out a pic that may have whet the appetites of taco lovers while turning the stomachs of bookworms. Monson said the taco pic came from “an actual book found in the book drop at my library in Indiana a few years back.”

A Twitter user identified the book with the taco as “Nonsense Songs and Stories,” illustrated by Edward Lear. Monson told the outlet the book was donated to the library, but it wasn’t put on shelves. “The staff took a photo of it and threw the book away,” Monson said.

This isn’t the first inappropriate bookmark Monson has seen since she started working as a librarian seven years ago. Other bizarre bookmarks include uncashed paychecks, credit cards, \$50 or \$100 bills and panty liners. “You can ask any public librarian, and they will have stories about the weird things that get left in books and returned to us,” she said.

SCOTLAND

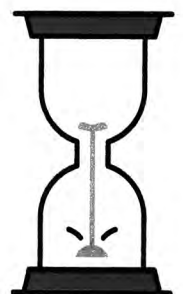
Sewer was blocked by large Pooh



A Winnie the Pooh teddy bear was found dumped in a manhole in East Kilbride, South Lanarkshire

GLOBAL SAND SHORTAGES

Sand, used in concrete and glass and as a barrier against rising seas, is one of the world’s most overexploited natural resources. Shortages have already given rise to piracy that destroys islands.



Man Uses USPS to Change Address... of UPS

(Laurel Wamsley for NPR) — As federal crimes go, this one seems to have been ridiculously easy to pull off.

Dushaun Henderson-Spruce submitted a U.S. Postal Service change of address form on Oct. 26, 2017, according to court documents. He requested changing a corporation's mailing address from an address in Atlanta to the address of his apartment on Chicago's North Side.

The post office duly updated the address, and Henderson-Spruce allegedly began receiving the company's mail — including checks. It went on for months. Prosecutors say he deposited some \$58,000 in checks improperly forwarded to his address. The corporation isn't named in the court documents, but the Chicago Tribune reports that it's the shipping company UPS.

In a statement to NPR, UPS said it "was notified that some U.S. mail, intended for UPS employees at the company's headquarters address, was redirected by an unauthorized change of address by a third party. The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) corrected the issue and the USPS Postal Inspector is investigating the incident."

For nearly three months, mail addressed to UPS's corporate headquarters was forwarded to Henderson-Spruce's apartment. He received so much mail that the mail carrier had to leave it in a USPS tub outside his door, the Tribune reports. The mail carrier told investigators that "voluminous" amounts of company mail were delivered to Henderson-Spruce, sometimes handed to him directly.

The mail contained personal identifying information of employees, as well as business checks and invoices, according to the affidavit. He was also sent American Express corporate credit cards. Henderson-Spruce allegedly deposited into his bank account some 10 checks addressed to the company, totaling approximately \$58,000.

This went on until Jan. 16, when UPS security flagged the situation to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. On Jan. 25, postal inspectors searched Henderson-Spruce's apartment in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood and found about 3,000 pieces of mail addressed to the company in Atlanta, court documents say. He reportedly told investigators that he had worked part-time at a company facility in 2012 or so.

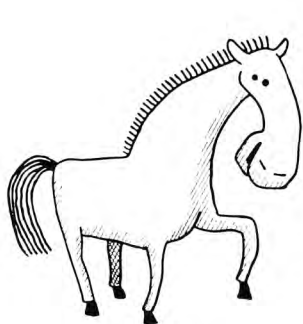
The Tribune spoke briefly with Henderson-Spruce outside his apartment building and reported that he "hinted that he'd received the UPS mail as a result of a mix-up that was not his fault and that his identity may have been stolen, but he declined to elaborate." Henderson-Spruce now faces federal charges of mail theft, which carries a maximum sentence of five years, and mail fraud, which can be up to 20.

While this case is eye-popping — no one at the post office thought it weird that a guy was getting thousands of pieces of a company's mail forwarded to his apartment? — there have been many reports of regular people having their mailing addresses changed without their knowledge.

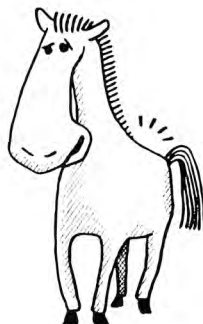
KPIX, a CBS affiliate in San Francisco, reported in November that it had filed Freedom of Information Act requests with multiple branches of the Postal Service. It learned that the Postal Inspection Service had received 17,077 complaints "relating to fraudulent address changes" in the past year and that the USPS had received "approximately 46,058 inquiries from customers concerning the validity of the change-of-address order" since January 2016.

The Postal Service encourages customers to retrieve their mail on a daily basis or monitor it online. "Any suspicious activity, or non-receipt of mail over a couple days should be reported to their local post office, or to our federal law enforcement arm, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service."

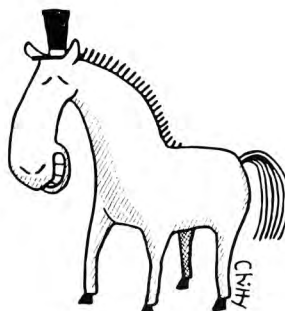
A HORSE BY ANY OTHER NAME



ATHLETIC
COW



BORING
CAMEL



POSH
DONKEY

Some of the world's most destructive earthquakes — China in 2008, Haiti in 2010 and Japan in 2011, among them — occurred in areas that seismic hazard maps had deemed relatively safe.

Studies have found that writing in a journal is associated with better sleep, a stronger immune system, more self-confidence and a higher I.Q.

Some scientists claim that hydrogen, because it is so plentiful, is the basic building block of the universe. [...] I say there is more stupidity than hydrogen, and that is the basic building block of the universe.

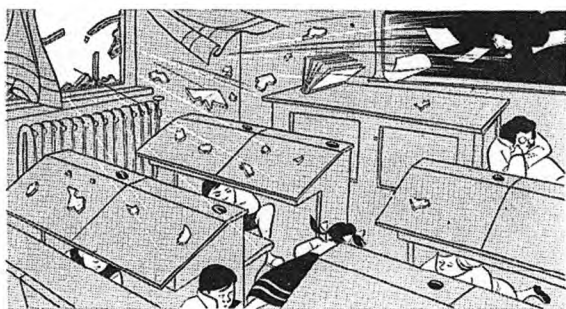
FRANK ZAPPA

'NO LAUGHING MATTER.'

THE CITY OF SAVANNAH, GA.,

in a Facebook post, after a vandal stuck googly eyes on its statue of Revolutionary War General Nathanael Greene





BUT SOMETIMES--AND THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT--
THE BOMB MIGHT EXPLODE AND THE BRIGHT FLASH
COME... *WITHOUT ANY WARNING!*

**A government that robs Peter to pay Paul
can always depend on the support of Paul.**
GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

Silvano Gallus won an Ig Nobel for his research that found yes, pizza is good for you. Well, maybe just pizza that's made and consumed in Italy. "We found that pizza consumption in Italy was protective for many chronic diseases that are known to be influenced by diet: digestive tract cancers and infarction," Gallus, head of the Laboratory of Lifestyle Epidemiology at the Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri in Milan, Italy said in an email. He noted that many pizza ingredients are associated with the Mediterranean diet, which has known health benefits.



"I'd like to see what we can do about fixing your aspect ratio."

That's No Lady in Distress, It's My Parrot

(Emily Rokke for Oddee.com) – We all know that some parrots can talk, and we love them for that. But sometimes they do unexpected things, such as order snacks for themselves off of Amazon. And alert neighbors to an emergency situation, it seems.

In Florida, police responded to a call reporting a woman who was screaming out in distress. But it wasn't a woman in need of help, or a woman at all, but her very vocal pet parrot. "Our deputies in Lake Worth Beach came to the help of someone screaming for help," the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said via Facebook. "Hilarity ensued."

According to witnesses, Rambo the parrot was sitting near the home's entrance while singing and talking to himself. The parrot begun screaming, "Let me out. Let me out! Ohhh! Ohhh! Ohhh!" – in such a lifelike fashion that a neighbor called the police, believing a woman was in fact in trouble.

"I was changing the brakes on my wife's car and had my 40-year-old parrot, Rambo, on his outside perch where he sings and talks. Sometime later four police officers showed up saying a neighbor called because she heard a woman screaming for help," the owner said. "I promptly introduced the officers to Rambo and we all had a good laugh. Afterwards, I also introduced Rambo to the neighbor who called in the screaming. She too had a good laugh," the owner said. "Sometimes Rambo yells 'help, help, let me out.' Something I taught him when I was a kid and Rambo lived in a cage."

All beaches in Texas are considered highways.

■ They call Zhang Hexian "Kung Fu Grandma." A social media sensation in China, the diminutive 93-year-old from the eastern Zhejiang province has been practicing the martial art since age 4. At the time, her country "was at war," Zhang explains, "so it was a good way to learn self-defense." She



Zhang and her students

has since mastered a form of kung fu that encompasses 15 styles, each with 36 moves, and now teaches the skill to others in her village. Zhang, who boasts that she's never been to a hospital, credits kung fu with keeping her healthy. "To have good body," she says, "you need to exercise and keep a positive attitude."

Tact is the ability to describe others as they see themselves.

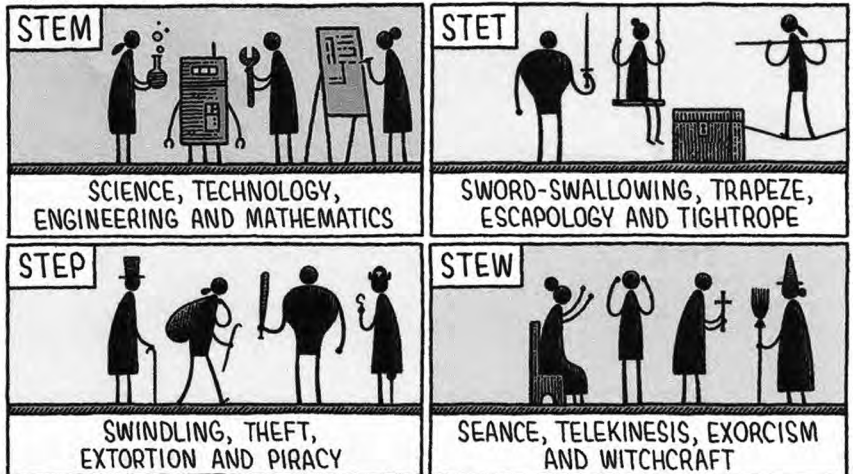
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

MARCH 22, 1999

The babycenter.com website offers a Sports Conflict Catcher to help prospective parents plan pregnancies so childbirth won't conflict with major sports events.

Half the fun of travel is the esthetic of lostness.
RAY BRADBURY

KNOW YOUR ACRONYMS



Physical Activity and Your Heart

- To improve overall cardiovascular health, we suggest at least 150 minutes per week of moderate exercise or 75 minutes per week of vigorous exercise (or a combination of moderate and vigorous activity).
- Thirty minutes a day, five times a week is an easy goal to remember. You will also experience benefits even if you divide your time into two or three segments of 10 to 15 minutes per day.
- For people who would benefit from lowering their blood pressure or cholesterol, we recommend 40 minutes of aerobic exercise of moderate to vigorous intensity three to four times a week to lower the risk of heart attack and stroke.

Last Officer Standing Steps Down, Then Strips Down

(SkyNews) – A police officer in the US caused a scene at a local board meeting of his department by stripping down to his underwear and walking out into a snowstorm. Richard Lee, who was the only police officer in the town of Croydon in New Hampshire, lost his job when the board closed down the area's branch, giving neighbouring New Hampshire State Police full coverage of the town.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Lee, was asked to immediately turn over his gun, badge and uniform, as well as the keys to his police cruiser. Lee told Valley News that he then went into the office that he shared with town officials, and took off his clothes in front of the board's chairman. He said, "I gave them my uniform shirt. I gave them my turtleneck, I gave them my ballistic vest... I sat down in the chair, took off my boots, took off my pants, put those in the chair, and put my boots back on, and walked out the door."

Without any spare clothes in the office, Lee had to walk for nearly a mile, in a storm, in just his underwear, before his wife could pick him up to take him the rest of the seven-mile journey to his home in neighbouring Newport. He added that he left his gear as he did not want to face the prospect of being arrested. As he stripped off, the chairman told Lee he did not need to do so - but the officer hit back, saying he was only following orders. Lee is said to be discussing what happened with his lawyer. The members of the board did not respond to a request for comment.



Just a few of the 300 newly game-eligible words added to the *Official Scrabble Players Dictionary* for its sixth edition, released Sept. 24:

bizjet

n. a small airplane used for business

capcom

n. a person who assists a space mission

ew

interj. used to express disgust

frowny

adj. showing a frown

judgy

adj. tending to judge others

ok

adj. all right

puggle

n. a kind of dog

sho

n. a former monetary unit of Tibet

yowza

interj. used to express surprise

zen

n. a state of calm attentiveness

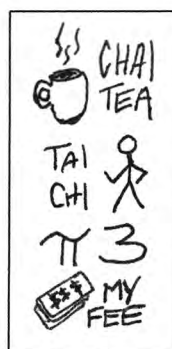
Doctors Say Potatoes in Butt Not Helpful

(Stonie Williams for Oddee.com) – Doctors are starting to worry about websites that say they have ‘cures’ for medical conditions. This time it a cure for Hemorrhoids, also known as piles, that has them worried.

They said many websites are advertising a home remedy to cure hemorrhoids, which involves inserting a frozen potato into... there. Medical professionals are emphasizing that this will NOT help. Dr. Diana Gall said that, “There is no medical evidence that putting frozen potatoes inside the anus can help cure piles, so I would urge caution to anyone thinking of doing it.”

“Piles often go away on their own after a few days,” Dr. Gall said. “You should drink plenty of fluids and maintain a fiber-rich diet and try having regular warm baths to ease itching and pain. Sufferers are sometimes too embarrassed to seek professional help, turning to old wives’ tales instead.”

[For the curious, the old wives’ tale in question reads: *A poultice made from grated potato is astringent and soothing. Insert the frozen potato slice in your anus and leave it inside for 30 seconds. Repeat the process for three to five days. The next three to five days leave the slice inside for 30 seconds more each time. The potatoes have astringent properties and help relieve the pain and itchy sensation which usually happens with this condition, while the ice-cold potato constricts the blood vessels, reduces the swelling and relieves your pain instantly.*]



APRIL 1 TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

Major League

CLEVELAND INDIANS - Signed C Jake Taylor, RP Ricky Vaughn, 3B Roger Dorn, OF Willie Mays Hayes, OF Pedro Cerrano, SP Eddie Harris to one-year contracts. Named Lou Brown manager.

DETROIT TIGERS - SP Billy Chapel announced his retirement.

NEW YORK KNIGHTS - Signed OF Roy Hobbs

NEW YORK METS - Signed 2B Chico Escuela, SP Sidd Finch

TAMPA BAY RAYS - Called up SP Ebby Calvin LaLoosh from Triple-A Durham (IL).

WASHINGTON SENATORS - Signed CF Joe Hardy.

Minor Leagues

VISALIA RAWHIDE - Named Lawrence “Crash” Davis manager.

Family Values

Laurence Mitchell, 53, gets this week's Most Helpful Dad award for graciously driving his 15-year-old son and the son's girlfriend, also 15, to a Port St. Lucie, Florida, park on Sept. 6 so they could “do their thang,” as Mitchell described it. The Smoking Gun reported that when Port St. Lucie police officer Clayton Baldwin approached Mitchell's car around 11:30 p.m., after the park had closed, Mitchell told him the kids “aren't out there stealing, they are just having sex. They could be out there doing worse.” When the teenagers returned from the nearby soccer field, Mitchell's son told the officer they were “just smokin' and f---in'.” Mitchell was charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, a misdemeanor.

Owl Be On Alert

New Gloucester, ME (AP) – Officials at a Maine outdoor center are warning skiers to watch out for an “aggressive dive-bombing” owl that struck a man. Pineland Farms says in a Facebook post the owl cut the man's head when it attacked, and neither skiers nor trail groomers have seen the bird since. Pineland says the owl is protecting a nest near a cross-country ski trail. They believe the bird is either a barred owl or a great horned owl. The center has posted warning signs around the trail. They recommend people wave their arms overhead or wear a hat if they must pass by the area. Pineland says “owls are silent when they strike, so you will not hear it coming.”



Could turkeys be sensing the peril of the season? Police in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, tweeted a warning to the town's residents on Oct. 15 about aggressive wild turkeys, WBZ-TV reported. As proof, an accompanying video showed four turkeys chasing a Bridgewater police cruiser, but police were not as amused as their Twitter followers. “Aggressive turkeys are a problem in town,” the department tweeted. “State law doesn't allow the police or (animal control) to remove them.”



\$#!& Cursing Law Gets % ^ &ing Repealed

(Jordan Pascale, NPR) – In Virginia, letting an F-bomb fly in public could get you slapped with a misdemeanor and up to a \$250 fine. “Profane swearing” has been illegal in the commonwealth since 1792, when the fine was 83 cents. Just what bleepin’ words are banned? Well, the state code doesn’t say. But in February 2020, legislators said to hell with the anti-swearing law: The Virginia Senate voted to repeal it, just weeks after the House did the same.

The current law doesn’t seem to be stopping many people from doing just that, though. Statewide enforcement numbers are hard to pin down, but according to The Washington Post, Arlington County in Northern Virginia only charged three people with cursing over two years. Other communities have been more proactive. The Oceanfront area of Virginia Beach long had no-cursing signs on its boardwalk – you can even buy replica versions at tchotchke gift shops. The signs were put up by the visitor’s bureau to “encourage courteous language” in a family-friendly area, the Virginian-Pilot reported.

The effort to repeal the anti-swearing law appeared to be cursed in previous legislative sessions, failing every year since it was first introduced in 2016. Republican Del. Michael Webert – a cattle farmer from Fauquier County – has sponsored the bill every year. “When you’re working with cows and a 1400-pound animal doesn’t do what you want it to, or steps on your feet, every once in a while something colorful comes out of your mouth,” Webert told The Washington Post in 2017.

So why did the bill finally pass in 2020? Webert tells NPR it’s because of the new makeup of the statehouse after Democrats took over both chambers in November. He also cited bipartisanship. “Every time we brought it, it failed,” Webert says. “And this year, we put it in and then [Democratic Del. Dawn Adams] put it in as well. ... It was a good match.” He says he and his Democratic colleagues agree that the current code violates free speech and is unconstitutional. Opposition to the bill was also bipartisan: Two Democratic and five Republican senators voted against it.

Democratic legislators in Virginia are also working to remove outdated racist and discriminatory laws from the books. State lawmakers also voted to repeal the law against fornication, defined as “voluntary sexual intercourse by an unmarried person.” But they voted to keep the ban on spitting, with one lawmaker calling it “yucky.”

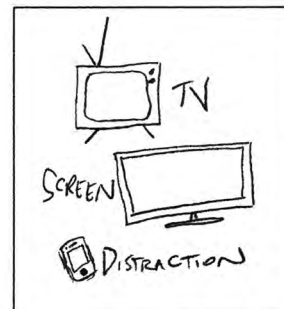
Meanwhile, in Mississippi, it’s still illegal to curse in public, and it could cost you \$100 or 30 days in jail. And according to a Georgia law, using “obscene and vulgar or profane language” is considered disorderly conduct, but only if you’re in the presence of someone under age 14.

‘Missing’ woman mystery solved

A group of tourists spent hours Saturday night looking for a missing woman near Iceland’s Eldgja canyon, only to find her among the search party.

The group was travelling through Iceland on a tour bus and stopped near a volcanic canyon. Soon, there was word of a missing passenger. The woman, who had changed clothes, didn’t recognize the description of herself, and joined in the search.

But the search was called off at about 3 a.m., when it became clear the missing woman was, in fact, accounted for and searching for herself.



LENNY DYKSTRA, 1992

Philadelphia Phillies outfielder, when told that his team had dealt unproductive outfielder Von Hayes to the California Angels: “Great trade! Who did we get?”

**You Know You’re From Copley, Ohio When...
... your Mom sends you this email - and yes,
this is the ENTIRE email – and you’re just as
excited about this news as she is.**

From: Ginny Greenawalt

To: Ross Greenawalt

surprise

Today at 12:38 PM

Schocalog Road has been repaved!

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

THE SECRET LIFE OF ANIMALS



BROOKE BARKER

Cow Sought by Cops Cops Sought by Pun Police

Pembroke Pines, FL (AP) – A cow is on the loose in South Florida. Not considered dangerous, but police have been trying to corral it for weeks. The Pembroke Pines Police Department said the animal has been spotted near Interstate 75 in southern Broward County. Somehow it has eluded capture since late January. The police department put out a tweet: “Wanted: Unknown Cow. Description: Female cow. Brown with a white head. Faster than it looks. Talented fence jumper. Enjoys pools.”

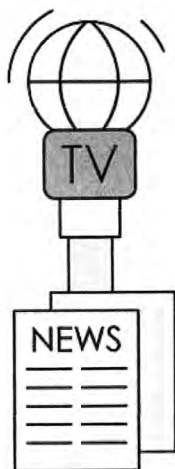
Police spokeswoman Amanda Conwell said officers and wranglers have been unable to catch the animal and have backed off when it gets too close to heavily traveled roads. Police also say the cow is guilty of “MOOving violations, uddering false checks, and fleeing and eluding police.” (These are direct quotes.)

Florida Man Finds Tongues from the 1960's

(Stonie Williams for Oddee.com) – A contractor was doing some work on a home; minding his own business, when he found dozens of jars containing human tongues inside a crawl space. Police were dispatched after receiving a 911 call saying that human remains, dating back to the 1960s, had been found in the crawl space of a house that once belonged to Dr. Ronald A. Baughman, a world-renowned pathologist and former University of Florida professor.

Baughman said that he had obtained the specimens as a part of his research and brought them home with the intention of using them for additional work, according to the New York Post. He stored them in the crawl space because it was a cool area. Chief Inspector Jorge Campos said there were half a dozen, gallon-sized jars containing human tongues. He said that the tongues were used for research on thyroid and neck conditions, and were meant to be brought back to the University. Baughman's ex-wife now owns the home and forgot the jars were there.

University of Florida Spokesperson said: "I don't know what the policies and laws would have been like 50 years ago or whenever it was, but I can tell you that today that's not something that would be permitted. There are very strict federal and state laws as well as university policies that prohibit that. It would be neither appropriate or legal for a faculty member or researcher to bring something like that home."



BIZARRO



Editor's Note: Here's a great example of the Scunthorpe Problem. It's a situation in which a computer, scanning text within a file, spots a string of letters that have an obscene or otherwise unacceptable meaning, and rejects or blocks something innocuous as a result. Left unchecked, computers can't read context or follow cues from multiple languages and cultures, so they end up blocking or changing things they shouldn't. Ask anyone named Cockburn, Libshitz, or Weiner about this. Or sprinter Tyson Gay, whose name was changed on a news website in 2008 to Tyson Homosexual. Or the residents of English towns like Clitheroe, Penistone, and Scunthorpe, the problem's namesake.

Charleston, SC (AP) – A South Carolina woman isn't happy a grocery store censored her honor graduate son's cake, which was supposed to include the Latin phrase "Summa Cum Laude."

Cara Kocsinski told the Washington Post that she ordered a cake online from Publix, intended to read be inscribed "Congrats Jacob! Summa Cum Laude class of 2018."

She says the online message box did not like the word "cum," the Latin word for "with." The computer marked it as a naughty word and substituted three hyphens. Kocsinski said she then filled in a box for special instructions, explaining the Latin word and placed the \$70 order. Another family member picked up the cake, not knowing what it was supposed to say. It came with the hyphens.

She says the store gave her a refund and a gift card when she complained.



Who Knew?

Within a calendar year, the first day of September and December always begin on the same day of the week.

Neatest trick of the week

From the Prineville (Ore.) Central Oregonian.

TWO INJURED IN DEER
ON MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT

The secret of the arts
is to correct nature.

VOLTAIRE

I needed a database backup from a client so I connected to their archaic server.

I start transferring it from their machine to our FTP only to get a warning that it will take a while over their 56k modem.

I kept that going, but to be on the safe side, I also ordered a USB drive and shipped it to them. They put the backup on it and shipped it back to me.

The file transfer was still going when I received the USB in the mail.

(as seen on clientsfromhell.net)

The Taco, she giveth, and she taketh away.

'Taco' saves man's life

PORTSMOUTH (AP) — A man in Ohio is crediting his dog with saving him after the man suffered a bad fall.

WSAZ-TV reports Jimmy Hale fell off a flood wall in Portsmouth last week while walking his dog Taco. Hale ended up passing out after falling 15 feet and didn't wake up until the next day.

Hale says he screamed for help but no one answered. That's when Hale says he heard a lawnmower

and then footsteps.

Portsmouth city worker Mark Puckett says he only noticed Hale because of Taco, who stayed on the wall until someone showed up.

Hale was flown to St. Mary's Medical Center where he was still recovering Wednesday from pelvic and wrist injuries.

Hale was reunited with Taco in the hospital Wednesday and the two had an emotional meeting.

CALIFORNIA

Tacos take man's life

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — A Northern California coroner says a man choked to death while participating in a taco-eating contest at a minor league baseball game.

ings was eating much more quickly than the two other contestants and did not appear to be chewing his food.

He said Hutchings collapsed and hit his face on a table about

The average life span of a toy fad is about eight months from its launch until it's marked down, according to Global Toy News.



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