

# **News From Around the Bend**



**Issue 98**



## **NEWS FROM AROUND THE BEND**

ERRATA, EPHEMERA, ET CETERA.

**ISSUE #98**  
**JANUARY 2017**

*A periodical brought to you periodically  
(sometimes, as in this case, extremely so) by*  
**The Northcraft Entertainment Organization**

Cover: Abe Lincoln's awkward, high-waisted teenage years.

Publisher/Editor for Life  
**ACOUSTIC ROSS**

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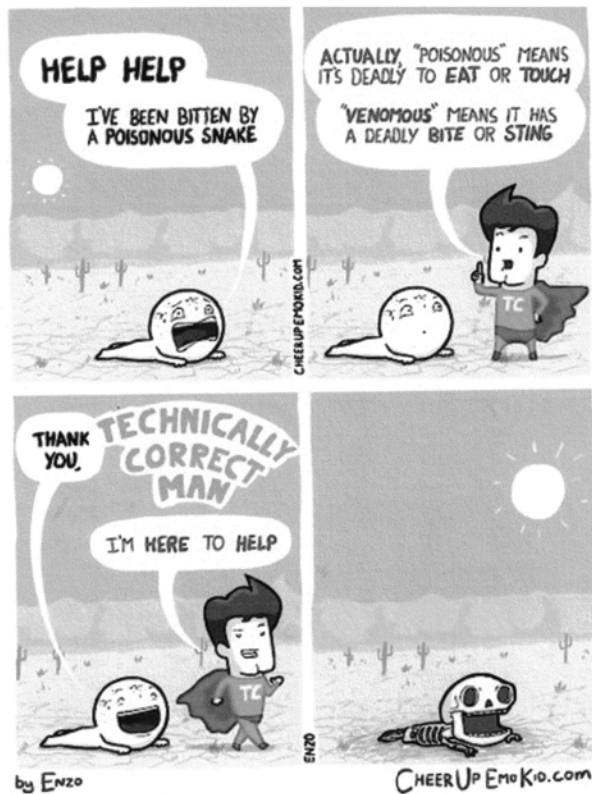
*We have done our best to update names, as 26 years of publication is a very long time and names change.*

*Several of these wonderful folks are no longer with us.*

*We thank them for their friendship of the NFATB, and wish them well in the next world.*

*Thank you thank you thank you to all those listed here, anyone who has supported this odd little zine in any way over these last 26 years, and anyone else who has picked up a copy of this thing anytime anywhere anyhow.*

*We wouldn't have been here without you.*



While police were questioning Vernon (Bud) Tolmie, 36, in connection with a bank robbery in Murfreesboro, Tenn., the suspect pulled the plastic liner out of a wastebasket and put it over his head in what authorities described as a desperate but futile suicide attempt.

Here, fresh from the Internet via the New York Times:

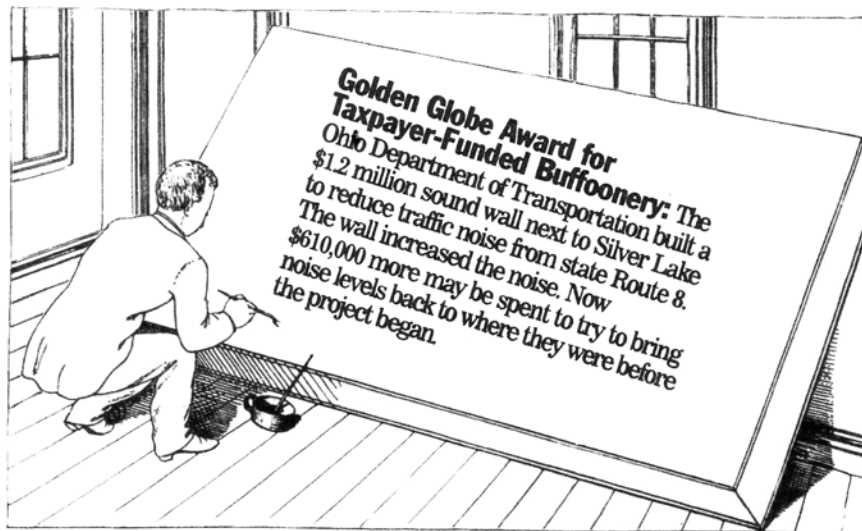
# “SIGNS YOU MIGHT LIVE NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE”

- You think barbecue is a verb meaning “to cook outside.”
- You think Heinz ketchup is spicy.
- You don’t have any problems correctly pronouncing Worcestershire sauce.
- Instead of referring to two or more people as “y’all,” you call them “you guys,” even if both of them are women.
- You don’t think Howard Stern has an accent.
- You have never planned your summer vacation around a gun-and-knife show.
- The last time you smiled was when you prevented someone from getting from an on-ramp onto the highway.
- You don’t have any hats in your closet that advertise feed stores.
- You can’t spit out the car window without pulling over to the side of the road and stopping.
- You don’t know anyone with two first names (i.e. Joe Bob, Billy Bob, Kay Bob, Bob Bob).
- None of your fur coats are homemade.

■ A Chinese immigrant in Illinois has been forced to change his name after suffering snickers and abuse. “Before I came to United States, no problems,” said Andy Kwok, known until recently as Fuk King Kwok. “But in translation to English, it sounds like ... the word ... you know. Sometimes language is not so convenient and sometimes I’m embarrassed, you know?” Kwok says he was first alerted to the problem by a clerk at the Department of Motor Vehicles.



Zhang Chunyu, a 46-year-old Chinese taxi driver, was found to have four kidneys and four ureters after visiting a doctor and complaining of stomach aches. Zhang said he never felt ill and was shocked of the discovery.



• Chris Master, owner of County Outhouses, returned to pick up the portable toilets he had provided for the 65th Annual Columbia County Volunteer Firemen’s Association parade in upstate New York. After loading the Port-o-lets on his trailer, Master drove home, parking the trailer in a nearby yard. Soon, however, Master and his wife heard shouts for help coming from the loaded trailer. According to *The Chatham Courier*, Master “found one bedraggled, a bit tipsy young woman trying to fight her way out of the blue box that had held her captive.”



“Don’t get me wrong, Bob, it’s a swell package design, but are the paper sticks really the key feature here?”

(Colorado Springs, CO) -- A high school teacher says a trick with a condom could be what cost him his job.

Trevin Bensko-Wicks did the trick at a pep rally at Liberty High School in Colorado Springs. The popular English and drama teacher stood in front of the students, stuffed a lubricated condom in his nose and pulled it through his mouth.

Based on applause from the audience, he won the "Stupid Teacher Trick" contest.

That was two weeks ago. Last night, the school board voted unanimously not to renew the rookie teacher's contract for next year. School district officials say they don't comment on personnel matters.

—Mary Durante, the inheritor of a house in Newark, NJ, found 133 neatly stacked boxes upon her first visit to the attic, each with the remains of a cat wrapped in newspapers that dated back to 1945. She was startled by the discovery but said she knew the house once belonged to the late Newark Star-Ledger pet columnist, William H. Hendrix.



## The jigsaw puzzle was invented to teach geography.

“The easiest kind of relationship for me is with ten thousand people. The hardest is with one.”

Joan Baez (1941- )

## Travel agents have heard it all

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

TONI STROUD

Travel agents are remarkable. Their job requires them to be price negotiators, strategic planners, salespeople, educators, mind readers and mother hens, all in strong measure. They deal with some of the world's most awkward clients: people who need a vacation. They've heard it all, and you won't believe some of the tales they can tell.

In fact, Liberty Travel, which claims an association of some 200 travel agencies in the Northeast, decided to celebrate its 50th anniversary (and no doubt gain some media attention) by having its agents divulge some of their stranger encounters with clients. Such as:

■ The one about the couple who called to make reservations for a trip to Las Vegas — and insisted on staying in an ocean-

view room.

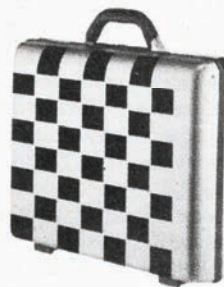
■ The agent who explained that a visa is needed to travel to Brazil — and the client who refused to use anything but his MasterCard for the trip.

■ The client who returned from Orlando and stormed into the travel agent's office — angry that the agent hadn't told her she would need a valid driver's license to rent a car there. It seems the client's license had been revoked years earlier.

■ The group of college students who wanted only one-way airplane tickets to Hawaii — because

they planned to rent a car and drive back.

■ The agent who told the client that the airline permitted only two checked bags per person — and the client who returned from the trip to report that people were flying with all types of bags, not just ones with a checkered pattern. □



push on, continue, keep on, carry on, forge ahead; put one's shoulder to the wheel, endeavor, keep the ball rolling; persevere, persist, strive, struggle on, not give up, never say die, be undeterred, be undaunted.

In 1767, John Spilsbury, a teacher in England and formerly the apprentice to the Royal

Geographer, made the first jigsaw puzzle. He glued a map of England and Wales to a board and used a fine saw to cut along the borders in hopes of creating a tool to teach his students geography. For the next 20 years, only geographical jigsaw puzzles like Spilsbury's were made. Interlocking pieces did not come into being until the invention of power tools, more than a century later.

Classified ad in *Entrepreneur* magazine: "Publicize your business absolutely free. Send \$6."

### STAPLES

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## NUDIST RESORTS SAY MEMBERSHIP SAGS

Faced with declining membership and aging residents, nudist resorts across the country are struggling with how to attract a younger generation. The American Association for Nude Recreation, which represents more than 250 clubs and resorts in the United States and Canada, says more than 90 percent of its 50,000 members are over 35, and many of those are past 50 or even 60. Nudists are reaching out to local colleges, hosting dances, marketing online, reducing costs and even organizing strip-poker tournaments.

■ Firefighters in Minnesota let a man's house burn to the ground because he hadn't paid a \$25 annual "fire fee." Called to the mobile home of Carl Berg, 50, the firemen subdued the flames long enough for Berg and his family to escape. But then, noticing the lack of a "fire number" on the structure, they allowed it to burn. "You either buy it or you don't have it," explained Don Billig of the Rural Fire Protection Association.



## Mouse makes off with man's dentures

WATERVILLE, Maine (AP) — Never underestimate a mouse's determination.

There's a mouse in Bill Exner's house that he says he has captured three times. Each time, the mouse escaped, and the last time the rodent made off with his lower dentures.

Exner, 68, said he and his wife, Shirley, scoured his bedroom after the dentures disappeared from his night stand.

"We moved the bed, moved the dressers and the night stand and tore the closet apart," he said. "I said, 'I knew that little stinker stole my teeth' — I just knew it."

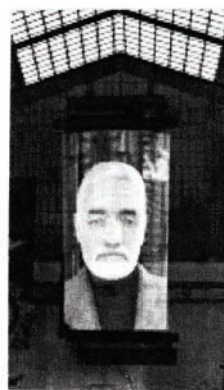
They found a small opening in a wall where they suspected the mouse was coming and going, and their daughter's fiancé, Eric Holt, stepped in to help.

"He brought a crowbar and hammer and he sawed off a section of wood and pulled up the molding and everything," Exner said. "It was quite a job."

They retrieved the dentures, and Holt suggested his future father-in-law boil them in peroxide and whatever else he could find to disinfect them.

The mouse apparently isn't done. It frequently comes out and stares at Exner, his wife said.

"He's taunting him — I swear he's taunting him," Shirley Exner said.



Imagination is more important than knowledge.

--Albert Einstein  
German-Swiss physicist

## SUMMIT COUNTY HALL OF FAME

The Summit County Sports Hall of Fame will induct nine new members Tuesday at Tangier restaurant. Tick-



a senior  
1978.  
He wa

Straight from the bizarre crime file, a 19-year-old man named Bud Weisser recently was charged with trespassing at the Budweiser brewery in St. Louis.



## Where There's a Will

• Police officer T.R. Taylor of Suffolk, Va., was chasing a speeder on Route 58 when his engine cut off, "freezing the power steering and brakes. The police car drifted across the highway, and the front right tire stuck in the mud on the shoulder."

Then the car's hot catalytic converter ignited some dry grass. Taylor jumped out of the car. But as the fire grew, he remembered that his car's radar unit was one of the only three in town. He jumped back into the burning car, refusing to get out even as would-be rescuers tried to save him from the spreading flames. After the radar was safe, he went back into the car six more times to retrieve things.

"One time I saw my baby's picture on the dash and I picked it up, and just as I did the dashboard erupted in flames," said Taylor.

By the time Taylor gave up trying to rescue things and fire fighters got the flames under control, the car was totally destroyed.

According to the *Ledger Star* of Hampton Roads, Va., "All the belongings Taylor could save were piled on the other side of the road. Another police officer tied a rope on Taylor's burned car and began towing it out of the mud. The rope broke. The car drifted across the highway and straight into Taylor's pile of belongings."

Green

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# Fantastic Freaks

*The carny kings and queens who prove that being normal is for squares*



## 1. Joseph Merrick, 'The Elephant Man'

Joseph was made famous by David Lynch's 1980 film *The Elephant Man* in which he was erroneously named as John Merrick. Michael Jackson tried and failed to buy his remains which are still kept by the Royal London Hospital.

## 2. John Eckhardt, 'The Half-Boy'

Johnny Eck was the half-man made famous in Todd Browning's 1932 film *Freaks*. Johnny was born in 1911 with nothing below his rib cage: he got around by walking on his hands. Get yourself a Johnny doll at <http://www.angelfire.com/tx/johnnyeck>



## 3. Eng and Chang Bunker, 'Siamese Twins'

The original conjoined twins. Born in Siam in 1811, the twins were joined at the chest by a small band of flesh. They began touring as teenagers and became so famous that the phrase 'Siamese Twins' was coined for them. They both married and had 22 children between them. They died within two hours of each other in 1874.

## 4. Pinheads

Microcephaly, an abnormally small head, can be caused by a pregnant

woman's exposure to strong X-rays, German measles or through an inherited disorder. Sideshows exhibited microcephalics as 'Pinheads'. The two most famous were Zip and Pip. Zip worked in sideshows for over 67 years. This disorder has now almost disappeared, thanks to genetic testing.

## 5. Grady Stiles Jr., 'Lobster Boy'

Grady Stiles was in the fourth generation of his family to suffer from ectrodactyly, an inherited disease which caused his fingers and toes to become fused together forming two lobster-like claws. A drunken thug, he was found guilty of murdering his daughter's fiancé, the Human Blockhead. Lobster Boy escaped jail, however, because the prison had no facilities for wheel-chairs.



## 6. General Tom Thumb

The world's most famous midget. Rarer than a dwarf, a midget is perfectly proportioned. Born in 1832 weighing nine pounds, Tom Thumb stayed the same weight until he was five when he stood just 25 inches high. When fully mature, he was still only 3ft 4in high. Phineas T Barnum exhibited Tom Thumb across America and England. Queen Victoria was said to be 'amused' by his appearance and he counted King Louis of France amongst his friends.



## 7. Julia Pastrana, 'The Bearded Lady'

Julia Pastrana was so hairy that she was billed, by her husband and manager Lent, as 'The Ugliest Woman in the World'. Her daughter was said to be so repulsive that Julia died of shock shortly after her birth. Lent then had his dead wife mummified and continued to exhibit her.

## 8. Randian, 'The Human Caterpillar'

Born without arms or legs, Prince Randian was introduced to his audience as the 'human caterpillar who crawls on his belly like a reptile'. He amazed crowds by rolling and lighting a cigarette using only his lips.



## 9. Lionel the Lion

Steven Bibrowsky, AKA Lionel the Lion, was covered in long, mane-like hair. His act, involving snarling and growling like a lion, was accompanied by a fanciful description of his jungle upbringing and escape to the circus.

## 10. Melvin Burkhardt, 'The Blockhead'

Melvin invented this self-made-freak phenomenon. Blockheads drive spikes, nails, icepicks, skewers and drills into their nasal passage. Burkhardt worked at Coney Island's sideshow until his recent death.

• George Rogers, former running back for the New Orleans Saints who won the Heisman Trophy in 1980, was asked if he'd set any goals for himself the next season: "Yes," he replied. "I want to rush for 1,000 yards or 1,500 yards, whichever comes first."



■ An Indiana middle school student was threatened with expulsion after he handed in a Swiss Army penknife he had brought to school by mistake. Elliot Voge, 14, realized he was carrying the knife in his pocket when he arrived at school, and went directly to the principal's office and turned it in. Nevertheless, Principal Jimmy Meadows suspended Voge for 10 days and recommended his expulsion. Conceding that Voge is a "model student" who made an innocent error, Meadows said that the possession of weapons is a "serious matter" that cannot be overlooked.

# "Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored."

Aldous Huxley (1894-1963)



## Worst Luck

From *The Dallas Morning News*

You can't drive in Australia while you're talking on the phone. And it apparently doesn't matter what you're driving.

A coachman in Melbourne was pulled over by police and fined \$135 for using his mobile phone while clip-clopping along in a horse-drawn carriage.

"I was only going 4 miles an hour," griped Dean Crichton, a 17-year veteran of the buggy business, who was driving a group of American tourists when he was stopped. He also was forced to take an alcohol breath test, which he says made him look bad.

"They treated me like a real criminal in front of all these tourists—sirens blowing, lights blazing—all for something so stupid," he said.

# S

I shot the serif.

## KILLING AFFAIR

ST. PAUL (10-31) - A 35-year-old woman had an unusual shopping list: a chain saw, knife, .22-caliber rifle, bullets, a video on how to use the weapon and a pizza. Kathryn Bourgoin then went home and shot her husband, fed her kids pizza, and then crawled into bed with her dead husband. At about 12:15 a.m. she was unsuccessful in her attempt to commit suicide using the same weapon. She was charged with second degree murder in the death of her husband Steven Bourgoin, 34. Police found the rifle, knife and videotape in the house, and the chain saw was found in the car. Apparently, the woman was angry about an affair.



(Oakland, California) -- The Teamsters are objecting to the use of nonunion workers to clear some brush.

These aren't normal workers. They're 500 goats.

Mills' College in Oakland, California, employs two Teamsters to clear away brush. So Teamsters Local 70 secretary Chuck Mack sent the school a tongue-in-cheek letter about using the herd.

The letter gave three options: agree not to enter into any future goat contracts without discussing the matter with the union; compensate the union for lost wages at ten dollars an hour per goat; or insist the goats become union members.

Mack says the college has the responsibility to discuss such plans with the union. But he says the letter was humorous. Just trying to get the school's goat, so to speak.

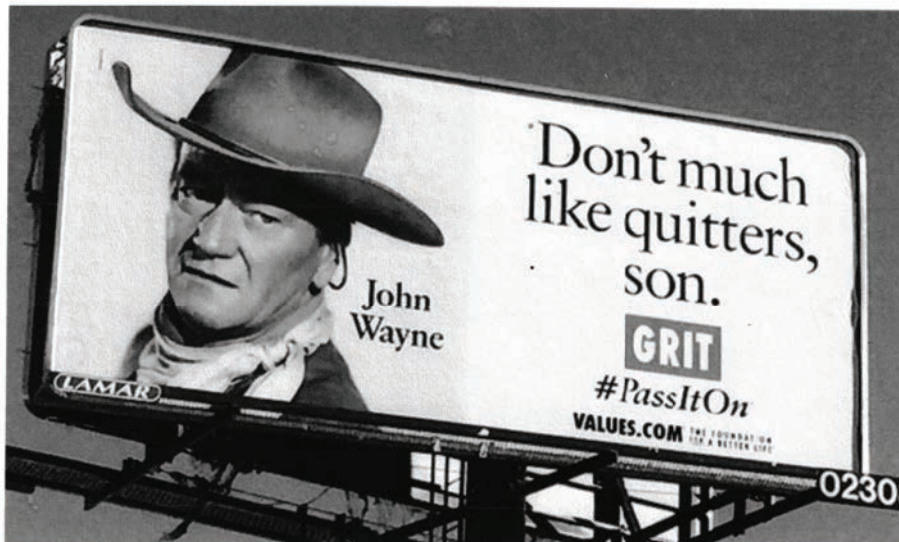
## Close, but no six-pack

Stupid things said by minors when caught trying to buy booze without proper ID, as compiled by the Century Council, an anti-underage-drinking group founded by American distillers:

- "My wallet fell into the casket just before it closed."
- "I don't carry ID. I'm a priest."
- "I'm adopted, and they put the wrong date on my license."
- "I'm allergic to plastic; can't carry it on me."
- "It was taken when my plane was hijacked."
- And, finally, the all-purpose classic "My dog ate it."

• Fire fighters and sheriff's officers joined the search for Roy Lockman, 84, of Spartanburg, S.C., when his wife reported he had been missing for nine hours and her calls to friends and relatives had failed to locate him. Lockman was found 12 hours later hanging upside down in a neighbor's apple tree. He had climbed to the top of the tree and lost his balance, wedging his right ankle in some tree branches in the process. He remained in this position throughout the night. According to Mrs. Lockman, her husband's head was "swollen real bad" and his right ankle was also "hurt pretty bad."

—(N.C.) State



"What celebrity should we use for the new anti-quitting campaign?"

"Maybe a drinker and 6-pack-a-day smoker who died from cancer?"

"PERFECT!"

## NON SEQUITUR



leseanthomas

## CREATIVE PROCESS

1. This is awesome
2. This is tricky
3. This is shit
4. I am shit
5. This might be ok
6. This is awesome

**ASPIRING ARTISTS:** Keep going until you reach step 6. Then repeat.

## Tomb it may concern

A longtime member of the Vermont Old Cemeteries Association tells the New York Times that these are all real gravestone epitaphs from burial grounds there:

Here Lies John Yeast.  
Pardon Me for Not Rising.

Here lies my four husbands all in a row.  
And here let them keep without making a bother  
While I look around to find me another.

Here lies an atheist,  
all dressed up and no place to go.

Here lies the father of 29.  
He would have had more  
but he didn't have time.

First a cough carried me off.  
Then a coffin they carried me off in.

## NO CLASS CREDIT FOR HOOTERS GIRL

Savannah (GA) school officials say a 17-year-old high school senior working at a Hooters won't get class credit for her job because the restaurant, known for its waitresses in tight T-shirts and hot pants. Laura Williams wanted her hostess job, for which she wears long pants and a collared shirt, to count as part of a work-study program that lets students leave school early so they can work for vocational course credit.

Williams plans to keep the job and give up the credit. She and her father had asked the school board to overrule the school superintendent's decision that Hooters is an inappropriate workplace for the Effingham County High School program. All five members of the county school board voted down the restaurant. "I know we live in a world of Britney Spears, but I don't see us giving school credit in that atmosphere," said school board member Vera Jones.

"It doesn't matter what decision they make," Williams said Thursday. "I plan on staying there. It's just a fun place to work." Williams' father, Larry Williams, said he's considering a lawsuit against the school system.

Aaron Sharp, manager of the Savannah Hooters, has said the school superintendent overreacted. He said his restaurant strives for a family atmosphere that includes balloons for children and a kids' menu. Vocational education programs at the high school allow students to leave the campus early each day to work at retail, administrative, service and other jobs. Students earn credits for the courses based on their supervisors' evaluations of their work ethic and performance.

## Ross still marching to same fast beat



## Suing for Label

A venerable educational amusement is a so-called "Time A Test." The person administering the test cautions everyone to read everything carefully before doing anything. Those being tested are also told that time is of the essence but that there should be plenty of time to complete the test in the 15 minutes allowed.

The top of the test sheet again admonishes the test taker to "Read everything carefully before doing anything." Then come the numbered tasks:

1. Print your name in the upper right corner.
2. Divide 237,964,102 by 1738.
3. Draw one face of a tetrahedron.
4. Name the first three U.S. Presidents.

The test goes on with similar items. One might be, "If you

A Hartford, Connecticut, couple, unable to pay their mortgage, insisted that God told them they didn't have to pay the debt and hence told the courts that they "have clear and free possession." It didn't work.

## RED MEAT

gabriel's spit trap

from the secret files of  
max cannon



have done everything correctly to this point, shout 'I have!'" And then comes the last item:

25. Now that you have finished reading everything, go back and do only number 1.

What does this have to do with videography? It's useful to fully consider a task before embarking on it.

About a quarter-century ago, a television production assistant was asked to re-label the contents of a tape library. New labels were prepared. The tapes were brought to one area. All the old labels were removed.

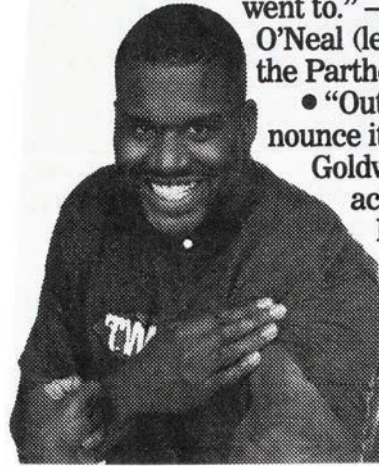
Again, all the old labels were removed. All the old labels were removed before any of the new labels were put on.

To this day, no one at that production organization is completely sure of what's recorded on each of those tapes.

Oops.

—MARK SCHUBIN

• "I can't really remember the names of the clubs we went to." — Basketball star Shaquille O'Neal (left), when asked if he visited the Parthenon while in Greece.



• Police responded to a downtown caller who said he'd purchased drugs on credit and the drug dealer was threatening to shoot him if he didn't pay the following day.

• "Out here, young man, we pronounce it Ohio." — Producer Sam Goldwyn, after a newly signed actor told him he was from Idaho.

• "Somewhere near Africa." — Singer-actor Barbra Streisand, describing where Rangoon is.

• "Oh, dear. Who was she?" — Actress Joan Crawford, upon being told that the Japanese had destroyed Pearl Harbor.

**CSI: MEDINA:** In February, a blockbuster case was solved in Medina Township. The news report read: "After hearing strange noises, a Huffman Road resident called police. Officers checked the house and found only a coughing dog." The dog was ordered to cover its mouth.

**CSI: MEDINA, PART II:** A horrifying report of "domestic violence" in Medina Township made its way into print. "Officers were called to Reeves Lane after a mother called to complain that her son refuses to work, keeps her up at night cooking and spilled salt on the carpet."

**CSI: MEDINA, PART III:** "Officers were called to East Normandy Park Drive for a report of a loud party. It turns out a resident was hosting a baby shower." Guess we all know how rowdy those baby showers can be.

**CSI: MEDINA, PART IV:** During an October "domestic dispute," police "were called to a West Friendship Street residence after a resident complained that his granddaughter would not let him look at her cellphone. The man told officers that he pays the phone bill, so the device belongs to him." Officers sent both of them to timeout.

# A Little on The Side



YES, TO SOME they are the embodiment of the phrase *too much information*. Yet where would we be without sideline reporters, microphone-wielding wanderers like Andrea Kremer, Chris Myers and Bonnie Bernstein? The answer: exactly where we are right now, 32 years after Jim Lampley (above) and Don Tollefson invented the job during ABC's telecast of a UCLA-Tennessee game in 1974—but without the Great Moments in Sideline Reporting that follow.

**1986 Susan Warnick**, reporting from the course during the Boston Marathon for local station WCVB, notes that two-time winner Joan Benoit Samuelson isn't among the leaders. She's right: Benoit Samuelson, who didn't enter, is at the finish line—working as a commentator for WCVB.

**1996** Before the civil trial stemming from charges he killed his wife, **O.J. Simpson** (left) dismisses claims that he owns the Bruno Magli loafers that left prints at the crime scene by saying he'd never wear those "ugly-ass shoes." Oh, but he would: Plaintiffs later introduce photos of him working a 1993 game for NBC wearing the kicks in question.



**1999** Before Game 2 of the World Series, NBC's resident bulldog, **Jim Gray**, the sideline reporter's sideline reporter, grills Pete Rose about his gambling. What follows is a loud public outcry—against Gray, who is vilified for putting Rose on the spot and is snubbed on camera by Yankee Chad Curtis (right) after he hits a walk-off homer in Game 3.



**2001** TNT's Charles Barkley, upon seeing **Craig Sager's** decidedly unconservative suit, says, "I don't have anything against black people, white people or any kind of people, but when you start letting pimps interview people, that's where I draw the line."

**2003** Joe Namath during a December Jets game responds to a question from ESPN's **Suzy Kolber** about the team's struggles, saying: "I want to kiss you." Namath later apologizes, saying he was "full of some Christmas cheer, certainly too much."



**2003** **Lisa Guerrero** (left) gets her *Monday Night Football* career off to a rocky start by asking the Redskins' Patrick Ramsey about facing "ex-teammate" Laveranues Coles. Ramsey is flummoxed: Coles is his current teammate—and has just caught five of his passes.

**2003** Actress **Nicole Richie** (right), asked by Fox Sports Net's **Bill MacDonald** at a Lakers game to name her favorite player, seems oblivious to the fact that L.A.'s star is fighting a rape charge. "Kobe," she replies. "I want him to have sex with me."

**2005** Nebraska coach Bill Callahan is doused with Gatorade after a win over Colorado. ABC's **Suzy Schuster** asks him, "Was that one of the most gratifying dumps you've had?"



One of these things is not like the others...

## The California Pacific Exposition of 1935 in San Diego featured a "Nudist Colony" exhibit.

Called "Zoro Gardens," the exhibit featured 50 nudists from "nature cults" all over the world.

The colony was presided over by a King Adolf and Queen Zorine. Spectators paid 25 cents to view the colony. Despite protests from a number of church groups, the exhibit was a hit and stayed open for the entire two-year run of the Exposition.



"I don't think I'm getting more cynical, I've just got more evidence to back up my cynicism. Where in the past I might have only guessed that people were horrible, today I can prove it."

-Frank Zappa

When Adlai Stevenson ran for the White House, an admirer told the senator he had the support of all thinking voters.

"That's not enough," Stevenson complained. "I'm going to need a majority."

**I WON'T TEACH A MAN WHO HAS NO DESIRE TO LEARN, NOR WILL I EXPLAIN ANYTHING TO A MAN WHO HAS NO DESIRE TO SEEK HIS OWN EXPLANATION. — CONFUCIUS**

A thief who stole a car from the owner of a repair shop in Gothenburg, Sweden, brought it to the same shop for service two days later, police said.

# Memo we suspect stations posted

**To:** All ActionEyewitness TVNews Personnel  
**From:** News director  
**Subj:** Snow coverage

**Folks:** Just wanted to offer a few reminders about how our TV station covers snowfall:

1. We mobilize "full team coverage" whenever snow is predicted, is falling or has fallen. We also do it if snow might fall. Or if it happens to be January, February or March.

2. Backdrop graphics: Before it snows, the sign on screen should read: "Snow on the Way?" If we get 1 to 2 inches, it's "Snow Emergency!" Three to 7 inches: "Killer Storm!" Anything more, we run with "Avalanches, Cannibalism Feared."

3. Anchors: Use dramatic verbs, even for minimal snow totals. Bad: "The region received a dusting today." Better: "Snow paralyzed/pummeled/blasted/buried the area today." Better still: "Armageddon."

4. Reporting locales: The overpass. The city salt hut. The big-box hardware store. The

supermarket. (Remember: Any market in which three shoppers are buying milk, bread or toilet paper simultaneously constitutes "panic buying.")

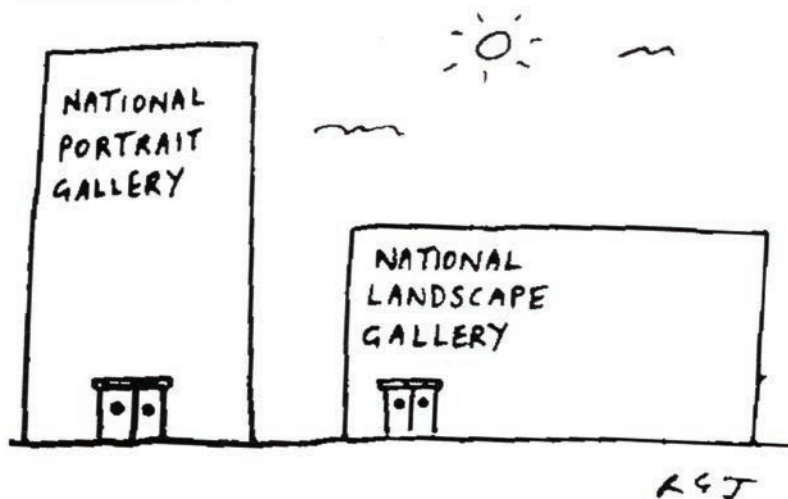
5. Interview subjects: Anyone out walking or driving in snow. (Required question: "You're walking/driving ... in THIS weather?") Cute kids home from school. The first guy to buy a shovel at Home Depot.

6. Best winter-weather footage, in terms of ratings: a) Car/bus failing to climb icy hill; b) more impressive snowfall somewhere else; c) two cars skidding into each other (will accept video of this occurring ANYWHERE in the United States).

7. Advice to weather forecasters: "Snow" is a terribly overused word. Instead, use weathery-sounding words such as "precip" or "wintry mix." When in doubt, fall back on "the white stuff."

8. As soon as the snow stops, go with new graphic: "Winter Wonderland!" And never admit we got the forecast wrong. Bundle up!

— Paul Farhi,  
*The Washington Post*



• A shopper at Tops Supermarket in Henrietta, N.Y., told deputies she noticed a blue station wagon with Virginia plates and an open rear door parked next to her car.

"As she passed the car," reported the *Henrietta Post*, "she saw a young man, about 5 feet 10 inches, 175 pounds, with brown hair, lying in the back seat naked."

"He was wearing a pair of women's sneakers and had about 20 other pairs of women's sneakers tied to his body and a single sneaker in his mouth. He appeared to have his hands tied behind his back. The woman took the sneaker out of his mouth, and he said, 'I see you like L.A. Gear sneakers also. I have a problem.'"

"The woman called 911. The problem is being investigated."

When cops raided a cockfighting operation near Gadsden, Ala., they found not only a restaurant and 250-seat theater for patrons, but two air-conditioned trailers in which the roosters hung out before their matches, one of which featured piped-in country music.



## Quotes from actual medical reports, as dictated by actual physicians:

By the time he was admitted, his rapid heart had stopped, and he was feeling better.

Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.

She has had no rigors or shaking chills, but her husband states she was very hot in bed last night.

The patient has been depressed ever since she began seeing me in 1983.

The patient is tearful and crying constantly. She also appears to be depressed.

Discharge status: alive but without permission.

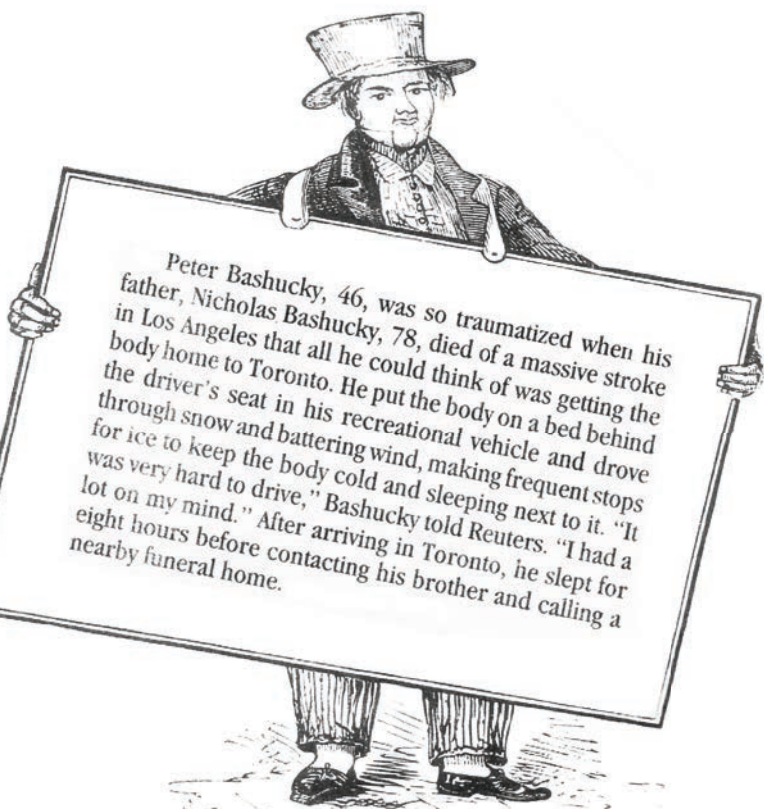
The patient refused an autopsy.

The patient expired on the floor uneventfully.

Patient has left his white blood cells at another hospital.

From the "Police Blotter" column of the *Valparaiso, Ind., Post-Tribune*:

"Virginia Poor, a resident of the Elmwood Trailer Park, reported someone ransacked her bedroom, urinated on the wall and dresser, and left behind one extra egg in the refrigerator."



# To Santa Claus

- The Republic-Monitor - Dec. 21, 1995 - Section D

Dear Santa,  
I want a gameboy, T.V., a big indor soccer ball, a beter world, I want amey bake, and a dog.

Robbie Narrow

Dear Santa,  
I want a wild and wack painter, Bride Surprise, Casper the movie, Game of ask Zandar, adn Doodle Bear.

love, Stacey Manche

Dear Santa,  
I would like a collector barbie a doll and the book Little House on the Roky Ridg and a little kittn a cappge pach kid and a computer game for my computer and for the family computer and clothes and a Pooh stuffed anamil and to have a very good Christmas and good food a roof over my head and a very, very, very, very good Christmas and nice friends. And I think thats all. Love a good girl,

Kristen Clifton

P.S. I think thats all!!!

Dear Santa,  
I would like please some pretty folders and a shit case and a pretty cute books and some walkey talkey's and a computer and ad pretty outfit for school I am not saying I don't have clothes to wear and I want a bottle of lipstick and I want my two front teeth. My brother want a pair of house shoes and my sister wants some barbies and my mom want a lot of stuff like love and Andrew the big guy want some football feet. Ok got it all. bye-bye.

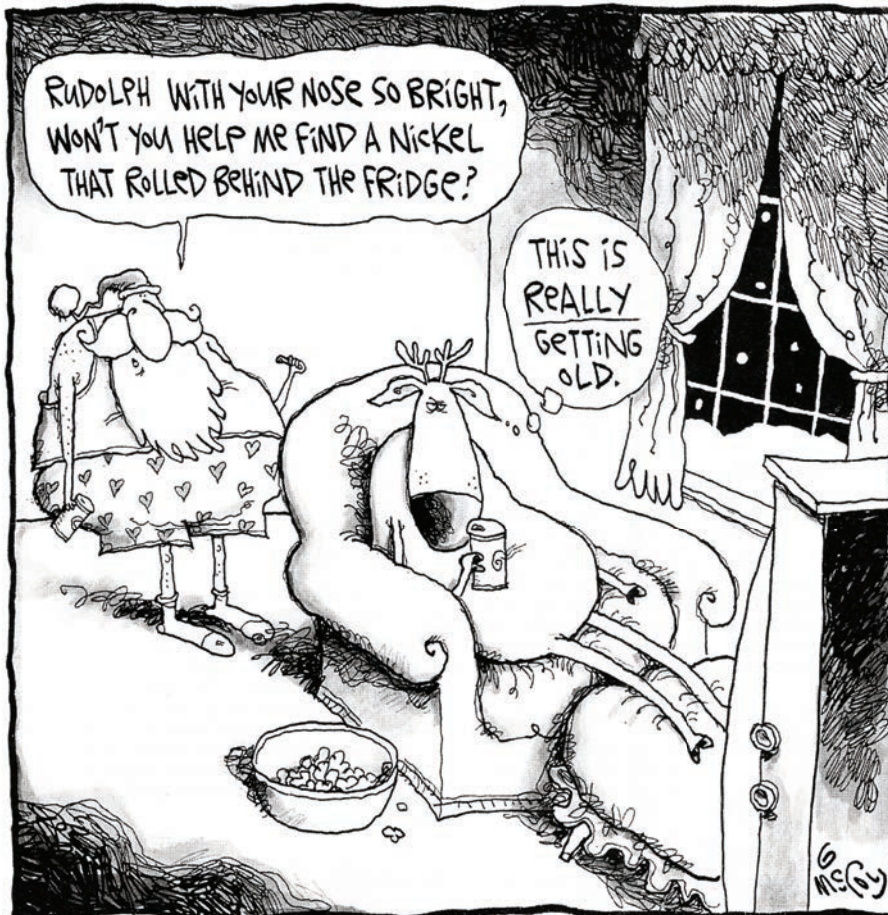
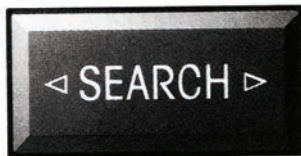
Jessica

Dear Santa,  
I world like some nice things for Chrismas like a talk boy or girl and a prusse wishing star and blash art and baby so real babie and Kelly high sipper.

Shauni

Dear Santa,  
This is what for Christmas a computer, a cat, a pocohants doll, Barbie and baby Kelly doll, Baby Buggy, My own phone line, Books, Barbie Liveing room, Barbie mini van, Barbie hot tub, Bay watch Rescue boat, Barbie bed and bath, Peek-A-Boo Doll stroller, C.D. player one C.D that is Pocohants, My sister to come home, Big scrable

Lindsey Koenig



## Cracking down on insurance violators

On the night of June 8, 1998, near MLK Jr. Drive and Harlan Road, Officer Whittaker L. Howell abused his authority as a police officer when he improperly stopped and detained a motorist, screamed abusively at him, pointed his 9 mm handgun at him and ordered him to lie face-down on the road, where Howell kept him spread-eagled at gunpoint for several minutes. Howell then, "in an attempt to legitimize (his) improper detention and mistreatment of (the motorist) continued to harass him when (he) issued the motorist a traffic ticket for No Proof of Insurance."

Disciplinary action: Suspended without pay for four days.

On July 12, 1998, while in his APD uniform in a Quik Trip parking lot on Sidney Marcus Boulevard, Officer Whittaker L. Howell (see above) was discourteous to the occupants of a truck that had been traveling behind him when he angrily walked up to their truck in a threatening manner and "abusively yelled at them remarks along the line of 'stay the hell off my ass!'"

Disciplinary action: Two days suspension.

# New policy needed with road names

OK, so who decided that West Market Street should suddenly turn into Medina Road at the intersection with Cleveland-Massillon Road?

And what's the deal with state Route 91? Talk about senseless!

Route 91 is born in Eastlake as S.O.M. Center Road.

As you travel south and approach Twinsburg, it turns into Darrow Road.

When it gets to Hudson, it turns into Main Street.



BOB DYER

As it leaves Hudson and approaches Stow, it turns back into Darrow Road.

As it leaves Stow and passes through Munroe Falls, it becomes Main Street again.

Just south of Munroe Falls, it turns into Darrow Road again.

As it approaches Tallmadge, it turns into North Avenue, then swings around the circle and turns into South Avenue.

In Goodyear Heights, it turns - yet again - into Darrow Road.

As it swings west of Mogadore, it becomes Canton Road.

And when it gets to Lake Township, it's Cleveland Avenue.

I'm thinking we need a new policy: one road, one name.

Well, if you hadn't declawed me, I wouldn't have *had* to learn to use the chainsaw.



Overheard by a New York Times operative between two 40-something men at a party in Manhattan:

Man No. 1: "Freud was no more a Freudian than Marx was a Marxist."

Man No. 2, after a long pause: "Where's the bar?"

□ □ □

Rosie Lee Hill reckoned she'd been cheated after paying \$72 to a man at Pensacola, Florida. "What he's given me is just cheap counterfeit," she complained to police. They found she was wrong. Now she's been charged with illegal possession of crack cocaine.

□ □ □

**We All Make Mistakes.** Regrettheerror.com noted an Australian newspaper's correcting news of 30,000 pigs floating down a river. The man quoted actually said "30 sows and pigs."



## Heart Attack Warning Signs

Some heart attacks are sudden and intense, but most of them start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. Here are signs that can mean a heart attack is happening:

- **Chest discomfort.** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.
- **Discomfort in other areas of the upper body.** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
- **Shortness of breath.** This feeling often comes along with chest discomfort. But it can also occur without chest discomfort.
- **Other signs** may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

If you or someone you're with has one or more of these signs, call 9-1-1 immediately. Get to the hospital right away.

If you're the one having symptoms, and you can't access the emergency medical services (EMS), have someone drive you to the hospital right away. Don't drive yourself, unless you have absolutely no other option.

For more information, contact your nearest American Heart Association office or call 1-800-AHA-USA1 (1-800-242-8721) or online at [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org).

**THIS IS YOUR LIFE.**  
DO WHAT YOU LOVE, AND DO IT OFTEN.  
IF YOU DON'T LIKE SOMETHING, CHANGE IT.  
IF YOU DON'T LIKE YOUR JOB, QUIT.  
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME, STOP WATCHING TV.  
IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE, STOP;  
THEY WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU WHEN YOU START DOING THINGS YOU LOVE.  
STOP OVER ANALYZING, ALL EMOTIONS ARE BEAUTIFUL.  
LIFE IS SIMPLE. EVERY LAST BITE. WHEN YOU EAT, APPRECIATE  
OPEN YOUR MIND, ARMS, AND HEART TO NEW THINGS

(Roseville, Minnesota) -- Hired help isn't unusual for a wealthy family -- but it might be in this case.

Minnesota authorities say Gerald Dick, his wife and two grown children used a personal shoplifter to acquire some of life's finer things.

They say they made a list of the items they wanted. Then they hired a convicted thief to steal the items -- ranging from Baccarat crystal to Armani suits. The thief was paid a fraction of the retail cost.

The family was busted after the thief was arrested and helped arrange a sting. Roughly 42-thousand dollars worth of goods was recovered.

Gerald Dick is a dentist; his daughter is a lawyer, and a son, James Dick, played briefly for the Minnesota Vikings in 1987.



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(Chapel Hill, North Carolina) -- A University of North Carolina law student admits his law school future isn't looking very bright.

He's in trouble for smoking marijuana in class.

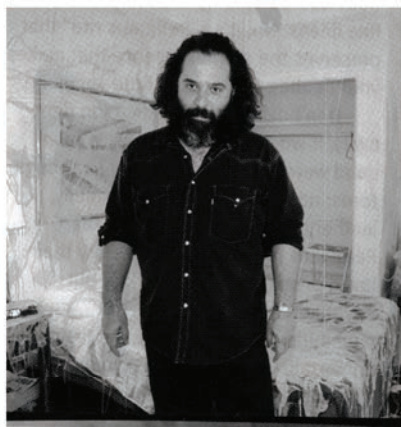
The Durham "Herald-Sun" says Barry Berman lit up his pipe during a constitutional law class at the Chapel Hill school. Witnesses say he smoked it for 20 minutes, and was reloading the pipe when the law school dean walked in. She had been notified of Berman's behavior by other students.

The dean removed him from the class and called police, who charged Berman with drug possession. He could face disciplinary measures ranging from drug probation to expulsion.

**You fought the good fight. You were in it right up to the beginning.**

*Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior*

-- In April, the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled that truck driver Elmer O. Dulen was injured "on the job" and thus was due worker-compensation benefits. In 1993, probably- faulty railroad equipment caused Dulen's truck to be hit by a train, injuring Dulen and killing his female co-driver. However, a witness at the scene quoted Dulen as saying that he and his co-driver were having sex at the time of the crash. (Dulen denied he said that, but acknowledged that his pants were pulled down a ways and that the co-driver was wearing only a T-shirt.)



Art and Kraft

## Cheese Whiz

Installation art is sooo cheesy these days. New York City artist Cosimo Cavallaro recently melted 1,000 pounds of Swiss cheese, mixed it with alcohol for better consistency and flung it all over Room 114 at Manhattan's Washington Jefferson Hotel. Even hotel-demolition expert Johnny Depp doesn't trash rooms with Gouda.

While such "art" may be appropriate for a man whose ambition is to exhibit bales of garbage, you'd think the hotel would be concerned about marauding armies of monster roaches. "Actually, there was no problem with bugs, and the smell wasn't bad—except for the really hot, humid days," says the hotel's *grand fromage* and general manager, Bob Lindenbaum, who gave the artist permission to slime the room for the \$100-a-night rate. Cavallaro switched off the room's AC during the three-week installation so that condensation wouldn't ruin the goo.

Eventually, it just had to go. "Four

**TELEVISION: A MEDIUM. SO CALLED BECAUSE IT IS NEITHER RARE NOR WELL DONE.**

-- ERNIE KOVACS

workers scraped down the whole room. I don't think they'll ever eat cheese again," says Lindenbaum. Room 114 is now fully refurbished with just a photo of the drippy show as a reminder of the former guest's obsession with Swiss dairy products.

So what's next? On his way to his new project—"cheesing" an entire house (inside and out) in Iowa—Cavallaro tells us that covering objects with cheese has helped him work out issues with his father. Whatever.

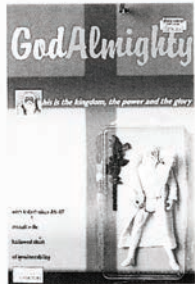
## New Comedy Series Pitch

Pitching a groundbreaking new series to the networks. We'll make the same 16 episodes every season, but with an entirely different cast & crew. Working title: "The Cleveland Browns."



By the power of Jehovah!

# Almighty Morphin' Power Rangers



IN HIS FINAL year show at St Martins College of Art, student Oliver Huxter unveiled this set of religious action figures, complete with ideological weaponry. If they look like your treasured *Star Wars* toys, it's because he made the various body parts by dismembering one and creating his own moulds from it. The idea came from seeing television adverts for the Church of England, which, quite

reasonably, Oliver found bizarre. So he decided to conduct what he calls "a marketing experiment-stroke-gag".

"I was trying to see how far I could push it and basically cause offence," he says. And did he succeed? "No one was offended at all." In a book left for visitors to record their comments, the most ardent display of disaffection was 'Jesus still loves you'. Oliver believes it's due to his sense of religious balance – where he hadn't produced a complete range of figures, 'SOLD OUT' signs were hung.

Having received offers to mass-produce the figures, Oliver is considering his options. He likes the idea of a 'Millennium Mosque' and filling in the gaps in the range, but is worried that a retail version would water down the gag. It would be ironic if they ended up in jumble sales in few years, but the public will have to wait a while before they can play out their own miniature jihads and crusades.



RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE, THE SCIENCE PICTURE LIBRARY

"Everything is dangerous if you look at it with enough paranoia." - NewsRadio

In England attempted suicide was considered a capital offense in the nineteenth century. In 1860 a London man tried to commit suicide and failed. He was convicted in a British court and hung.



When a man wearing a black Ninja warrior suit entered the home of a Denver resident, the man attempted to avoid provoking the intruder by striking up a conversation and offering him a cup of coffee. The Ninja declined all beverages before fleeing.

—Rocky Mountain News

me at the beginning of 2016 vs. me at the end of 2016



A garret; hence, a burlesque phrase for the skull.

—James Halliwell's *Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words*, 1855

## Huntingdon Skull Procession

The strangest and most remarkable municipal custom is that which prevails at Huntingdon. The whole of the freemen of the borough assemble in the market-place on the morning of September 15. The skull of an ox, borne on two poles, is placed at the head of a procession composed of the freemen and their sons, a certain number of them bearing spades and sticks. . . . The procession then moves along the boundary-line of the borough, the skull being dragged along the line as if it were a plough. The boundary-holes are dug afresh, and a boy thrown into each hole and struck with a spade. At a particular point called Blackstone Leys, refreshments are provided and the boys compete for prizes.

—P. H. Ditchfield's *Old English Customs*, 1896

## Good week for:

**Swift justice**, after a mugger who robbed a couple at a South African zoo tried to hide from his pursuers in the tiger enclosure, where he was promptly mauled to death.

# NOTES FROM THE SKEPTIC TANK

**Life does not cease to be funny when people die**

**any more than it ceases to be serious when people laugh.**

– George Bernard Shaw

Once upon a time, in February 1991, in a Kent State dorm room, I started a thing.

*Then:* in November of 2006, that thing reached its 97<sup>th</sup> issue.

*Then:* things went quiet for a decade.

*Then:* in January 2017, things became not so quiet anymore.

Our first 94 issues were paste-ups, assembled on paper with scissors, X-ACTO knife, & rubber cement, printed by photocopy on colored paper stock, snail-mailed all over the world. Inspired by the New Orleans Bookfair in 2004, issues 95-97 were done booklet-style, with front and back covers, assembled digitally. Less cutty/pastey, more typey/typey.

Something was lost in that transition.

So this time around, I prepped certain bits digitally, but assembled everything the old way – complete with scissors, X-ACTO, & rubber cement – then scanned the finished pages, polished and combined them into handy PDF form for distribution. I can't tell you how much fun it was to do this again after ten years away, but Gloria can tell you the look that was on my face the night I started.



Life, as they say, happens. In the decade the NFATB was dormant, Gloria & I got married. Cats passed on, and new cats have joined us. I've changed jobs, twice. I joined a sideshow. I made another album, with more in the works as I type this. I started traveling a lot for work, visiting 34 states and 2 foreign countries so far. I was diagnosed with heart failure, and got an internal defibrillator implanted. I still have both. So far the little box in my chest hasn't had to zap me, which is nice.

In the 10 years we were away, a lot of wonderful folks left this plane of existence. My Dad, Mitch, was such a huge influence on my humor and thus the NFATB that I really can't put it into words. But I know he enjoyed the NFATB and I know he would have been happy to see it return. Don Yungkurth was an army buddy of Dad's, and he and Carol were subscribers and contributors starting all the way back in issue #1. The Yungkurth and Greenawalt families have always been so close that we are essentially relatives. Don and Dad are undoubtedly enjoying fine wine and beer in the heavenly army band now. We miss them here, as we do all the other fine NFATB folks who have left us over the years.

In the fall of 2015, after my diagnosis, I had some time at home and a compelling urge to tidy things up a bit. I spent a few weeks digging through the huge pile of magazines that had piled up, and clippings that had never made it into an issue of this little rag. I saved what seemed too good to lose. And a spark was lit. It took about a year for that spark to truly burn, but it did. You're looking at the results.

Things are happening here at NFATB Central. Somewhen around 2002, there was an ill-fated, soon-abandoned attempt at a web presence. But I am now the proud owner of [newsfromaroundthebend.com](http://newsfromaroundthebend.com). Things will be forthcoming there, including downloadable PDFs of the entire archive.

*News From Around The Bend* started, in part, because I had a pile of clippings and cartoons accumulating in a 10' x 10' dorm room needing an outlet. My Mom was a big reason that pile existed, and has been far and away our top contributor since day 1. And just today, she sent me another batch of clippings.

The pile grows.

We'll be back with another issue soon.

Probably less than 10 years this time.



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