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Official Magazine of the RTRAMSOM



**Volume
456-BR7
Issue 19
Maine 2006**

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Axes & Alleys: The Spigot of Information!

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Maine 2006
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- Death to the Agouti -

Axes & Alleys, and its parent and affiliate companies, have weathered an endless stream of criticism over our unapologetically anti-agouti stance. As former *Axes & Alleys* Editor-in-Chief Sam P. Pogrot stated in our Vespril 1937 issue:

You can say with certainty that this filthy, giant South American rat being has done not one thing to alleviate this Great Depression which has sunk our once-great Nation into dust and desolation. What has the agouti done to help the farmer? Not one thing. Not one thing. Let us then go out and shoot these things with our rifles. That will teach them to destroy America.

Rightfully we have blamed agoutis for failing to defeat Hitler. We have blamed agoutis for doing nothing to end Communism. And we have blamed agoutis for not raising a finger to save John F. Kennedy from an assassin's bullet. To those who doubt the subversive nature of agoutis, I now offer this one question; have the agoutis denied these charges? No, they have not. And now, in this current war and in this time of danger and peril, once again agoutis are doing nothing to help America. If capturing, torturing and skinning alive agoutis is a crime, then *Axes & Alleys* is proud to still be guilty.



In the wonderful 1998 film *Can't Hardly Wait*, the lovely, talented and rather tall Jenna Elfman portrayed a stripper...an angel stripper. She also has blonde hair and a great attitude.

Editor's Note: As we went to press we learned that Jenna is in fact another crazy Scientology weirdo. She is still hot, though.

WRITTEN
CORRESPONDENCES
FROM GOOD NATURED GENTLEMEN
WHO HAVE READ
OUR PREVIOUS INSTALLMENTS AND
WISH TO COMMENT
ON SOME ASPECTS
THEREOF.

Dear *Axes & Alleys*,

I am highly offended by your breast size discussion (Volume 456-BR7 Issue 17). In Samuel Radget's biography you describe Grand Flemish, Accadia as "beautiful." Well, I live in nearby Lesser Flemish and I can tell you that town is trash. They only have six gas stations. Next time you might try taking a look at Lesser Flemish. We have over 14 gas stations.

Simon R. Fullerene
Lesser Flemish, AC

Dear A&A Sales Department,

I cannot get in touch with the companies who provide either of the recent monkey products advertised in your magazine. I have contacted them at the information provided on their web sites numerous times, but have received no response. The idea is that I would like to pitch my own invention: The Prosimian Pancreatic Surgeon.

Pal Wolverton
Wolverton, Ontario

Dear *Axes & Alleys*,

When I think of you, I hear a little Marvin Gaye. Sometimes It's Barry White. I love you *Axes & Alleys*.

Walter Cronkite
New York, NY

Dear Editors,

Recently, I recieved the special Hungarian edition of Volume 456-BR7, Issue 12, was scented with lavender. My version did not contain the lavender scent, but rather sandlewood. Perhaps you sent the South American edition by mistake.

Jan Hanovov
Budapest, Hungary

Dear A&A,

Bicycle Monkey is amazing, thanks again. My life hasn't been this efficient and productive since Vietnam. Way to go and keep on tractoring!

Stephanie McKeon
Brooklyn, NY

Dear *Axes & Alleys*,

Your magazine sure publishes a lot of material, but would you say that you publish *everything*? Would you really believe that a single magazine could publish everything there is? Everything from the number of hairs on a yak to pharaoh's phone number? No, that would be an insult to your intelligence. Of course this magazine has never published everything there is. So you must admit that somewhere in that information that you *haven't* published there must be, somewhere, proof that God exists. So if you don't publish this that means you've omitted something. What does that make you? Yes, an omitter.

Ray Comfort
Farnsworth, Australia

To the Editors of *Axes & Alleys*,

Why is it that you never write about thixotropes? These fluids, which move into a solid state when agitated are really exciting. Why not write a series of articles about various interesting things about thixotropes, like how ketchup is tasty. Ketchup is a thixotrope.

Please Johnson
Birmingham, AL

Dear *Axes and Alleys*,

I really liked your article about sea bass in last month's issue. Though it may not have been your magazine, it may have been the specialty magazine *Sea Bass Magazine*. Either way, good work.

Lucy Primate
Halitosis, NH

To *Axes & Alleys*,

I would like to faithfully request that you create a cover image of Amy Acker for an upcoming issue. Amy is one of the brightest, most talented actresses in the United States and abroad and is deserving of so halcyon a place on the cover of the foremost publication of March 2006. While her recent guest work on the hit show *AKA* hasn't been the best, you should still throw her a bone.

Amy Acker
Los Angeles, California
www.amyackeronline.com



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NEWS OF THE WORLD



Aboard the research vessel *Prettyboy* no one seems particularly worried. There are abundant sandwiches and coffee, several decks of cards and a Chinese knock-off video game console. There are also abundant hypotheses; many hypotheses have been tossed about since last Tuesday and there will certainly be many more to come. There were already twelve at breakfast and two while the crew was busy playing bocce ball.

"We're not ruling out a vortex of some sort," stated perky, young graduate student Lucy Wormwood, "or even a Tectonic Incident." Ham and cheese wielding Associate Professor of Geography Daniel Gearbox was quick to add "Those hypotheses are only about physical phenomena. It's possible that the Red Chinese, or even the Japanese or Mexicans have some sort of super-weapon at their disposal. Someone..."

"or some thing" interrupted Lucy, who then defiantly added two packets of artificial sweetener to her coffee. "Some *thing*" she repeated, carefully putting extra emphasis on the 'thing' element. Then she made a sort of spooky expression before sipping her java.

Nuclear psychic Joanna Stephens tosses the cut-off crusts from her newly-minted PB & J while saying that it "could be an interaction of the weak extrasensory force with a supercorporeal attenuated

anomaly. This happened before a couple of times." But no one pays Joanna any mind.

"There are a lot of hypotheses out there now, and a lot of speculation" added Jam Jacobson, a hat-wearing cartographer who had tagged along. Alone of the scientific crew, he sips a bloody mary beverage and eats gold fish. It's always afternoon for Jam.

"Not to mention speculations and guesses," pointed out Daniel. Before Daniel can cast his fishing line out again, the crew is startled by a sea gull winging its way south with a pair of underpants in its mouth.

"I, for one, would not rule out conjecture at this stage" added Lucy as she pointed her fingers at Jam and Daniel as if to suggest that she knew something they did not.

Either way, it seems there are no easy answers to this puzzling enigma. As our ship slid through the waters that now stood on the former site of Inchon, I could not help but try and come up with a few conjectures of my own. Despite all the research and investigation, not one real clue has been found to shed one lumen of light on this mystery. Perhaps it will take years before we find out why or how the entire Korean peninsula disappeared without a trace. Plate tectonics anomalies, super-weapons, or even some *thing* notwithstanding, one thing we do know is that the world will miss Korea and its 60 million people.

SEEN ANY KOREAS AROUND?

**No one knows where Korea went,
but it's always fun to try and figure out.
Here are some of the leading theories:**

Tectonic Incident

This is the term that less-than-eminant geologists use to describe a situation where a giant rift suddenly occurs and swallows up a region, like Korea, then closes. While it could explain the disappearance of Korea, the world's seismographs should have recorded something abnormal, which they did not last Tuesday.

Super-Weapon

Possibly China or Japan used a kind of maser to obliterate Korea without a trace. It's unlikely that Sinonipponesia would attempt to destroy a subject state. Even more unlikely is the idea that the Bad Guys may have destroyed Korea, especially since all the BG particle weapons were captured in the Battle of Katmandu.

Trans-Dimensional Rift

For years scifi authors have described a phenomena whereby a hole in space-time may lead to another dimension. Perhaps a vortex opened up and Korea was taken to a different plane of existence. It should be noted, however, that the Many-Worlds Hypothesis is stupid.

Inviso-Shield

The toothpaste Schnitzeldent has recently gained 100% market penetration in Korea. Famous for creating an invisible shield to protect the teeth, Schnitzeldent use may have caused all light to refract around Korea, rendering the entire peninsula invisible. Perhaps if something bad happens, all the Koreans will cease smiling, rendering Schnitzeldent's "invisible shield" powerless.

Aliens

Were aliens involved? No one knows, or perhaps the government is covering it up. Author R. Don Rutherd has speculated that Koreans descend from an alien race that colonized Earth in the 1720s. Perhaps the aliens returned to take their children back home. Of course, Mr. Rutherd's theory seems to ignore the fact that Korea existed before the year 1723 and that Koreans are genetically identical to all other humans.

Vacation

The likeliest explanation so far is that the Koreans and their Peninsula have merely gone on holiday and should return shortly.

Did You Try Looking?

It is possible, however unlikely, that Korea has simply been misplaced. Some recommend actually looking, via expeditions or even satellite reconnaissance. It's a long shot, but it just might work.



THE MARCH OF PROGRESS

FDA Approves Filaxal®

**School, Church, and even Televised Golf
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With the introduction of Filaxal®, pharmaceutical giant NuLife hopes to cure boredom once and for all. Studies have shown that an estimated 98% of Americans suffer from Intermittent Deficient Excitement Syndrome (IDES). It is estimated that IDES greatly lowers quality of life and can be induced by such activities as work, school or Sunday afternoons. During IDES attacks people simply lose interest in life and their surroundings. Traditional, old-fashioned homeopathic treatments like board or video games, puzzles, television, eating, reading, sodomy or television can have little to no positive effect on IDES patients' overall wellness outcomes.

Filaxal® is able to utilize the unique chemical molecule tetrahydrocannabinol ($C_{21}H_{30}O_2$) to “trick” the brain’s chemical receptors, allowing a sense of therapeutic entertainment to be experineced during even the most horridly mundane of activities. Cleaning out the garage or even visiting the grandparents can be made enjoyable with a single dose of Filaxal®. The NuLife Company spokesperson Albert stated in a faxed communiqué that “...Filaxal® is entertainment, Filaxal® is fun, Filaxal® will cure boredom forever.” Hopefully that will be the case. With the drug trials completed, Filaxal® is due to hit the U.S. consumer market just in time for summer break.

A composite image of the dwarf planets Pluto and Eris against a black background. Pluto, in the foreground, is a blue-grey sphere with a complex surface of dark and light patches and a prominent bright spot at its north pole. Eris, in the background, is a smaller, pale yellowish-white sphere with a smoother surface and some faint linear features. The word "PLUTO" is superimposed in large white letters across the middle of the image.

PLUTO

The Dubiously Named
“Planet.”

Hey, It's Closer Than Quaoar.

AN AXES & ALLEYS

MENAGERIE OF MINI-BIOGRAPHIES



Louis Tolwind Meyerson (1898 – 1967) - Louie Legs to his friends, Meyerson was only the second man to become a naturalized citizen of Canolia and the first man to weatherproof the interior of a home. This was a necessity as a result of Louie Legs' inveterate pursuit of indoor cloud-seeding experiments. Also as a result he created his only useful contribution to society: 100% fire proofing, which protected his house from numerous lightning strikes.



Josh Rhodes (1982 -) – Rhodes is the son of Joe Rhodes, Jr. and Melanie Rhodes of Peoria, Illinois. He currently lives in a home owned by his parents only two blocks from the house of his childhood. He received his G.E.D. in 2004 and hopes to be attending a community college by the end of next year. Skateboarding is his would-be hobby. He is the last descendant of Adam, having been made sterile at some point in his mid-teens. One day he hopes to be highly-paid.

Q. Eric Johnson (1948 – 2006) – Tall and ruddy, with dark sandy hair and all limbs intact, Q. Eric started his life as a middle class child growing up in suburban Mitchell, Elizabethia. Upon graduation from Muni-Tech College in 1968, he took on what would be the first of many managerial positions with Bangers 'n' Mash, the multinational English-themed fast food chain. A lifelong bachelor, Q. Eric died in his sleep on January 12, 2006.

Anna Peterson (1843) – Anna enjoyed breastfeeding and drooling, yet only occasionally laughed. Her most favored possession was a blue quilted blanket stitched together by her grandmother. She never learned to walk.

Maximus Felix Quintus Lotho (67 – 20 BC) – Quintus became famous for running around the entire circumference of Rome, as well as several cities in Gaul, Armenia and Pontus. He was granted the right to wear shoes within them temple of Jupiter and to ogle the ankles of the Vestal Virgins. His honor was taken away from him later in life, when he continued his practice of running; this time away from a force of outnumbering Parthians. His last words were reportedly “does anyone else smell eggs?”

Chin Pei-Lo (705 – 763) – Pei-Lo was the only comedian to arise between the consolidation of the

Chinese empire and 1740. He brought such innovations to the culture as humor, the punch line, the knock knock joke and possibly invented a bit similar to the traditional Western chicken crossing a road joke. He was fond of costuming and wore overlarge sandals and painted his nose purple, which may have been a forerunner to the Medieval court jester and the modern clown. His attempt at creating the equivalent of the modern, roast-style drubbing of a celebrity ended in his death at the hands of Guo Ziyi.

Andrew Brendon (1965 -) – Amateur playwright and professional dentist. Brendon has drilled over 67,000 teeth, filled 4,459,302 cavities, and performed over six cleanings. Several of his tropies appear in the Dentist Hall of Fame in Deluth.

Kalivny Artatoff, Grand Duke of Mostravnica (1657 – 1710) – Artatoff was the first and only Grand Duke of Motravnica. His peerage was created by circumstance when the area around him was left depopulated by war. As the only person within 5000 square miles, Artatoff took upon himself the title of Grand Duke. His position was solidified when a passing Count, hungry, tired and exasperated by Artatoff's protestations of nobility, finally acknowledged him as Grand Duke in order to procure a small block of cheese and some hard bread.



Genie Wilson (1992 -) – Genie is the vice-president of her middle school's student council, assistant editor of the school newspaper, editor of the *Tapestry* literary magazine, junior varsity co-captain of the cheerleading squad, and third in her class. Last summer over 60 people signed her annual. Her Top Five recording artists are Queens of the Stone Age, Velvet Revolver, All American Rejects, Manda and the Marbles and Stone Temple Pilots. While initially trailing in lunch-time opinion polls, Genie was able to score a major student council victory with her popular "Vote for Genie" campaign. Her pets include a puppy named Louis and a cat called Tabbitha.



Margaret P. Raparjee (1912 – 1997) – Raparjee was the inventor of a device using a sonic method to nullify the mating vocalizations of house cats. A native of Mumbai, Raparjee wed Rikatarni Bhavghatanasmawalan Raparjee in 1924. Rikatarni died in a ladder accident in 1930 and Margaret mourned his loss. In order to calm herself, she began raising cats. At one time she owned over 500 and had mechanized her estate to take care of the small felines. She eventually became so irritated by the animals' annoying mating habits that she created the wondrous device in use to this day. Her grave is regularly visited by one her sons who brings flowers.

Melvin James Calpurnia Pickle (1779 – 1830) – Pickle was a traveling hog salesman in the upper Ohio River Valley and wished to compete with the ever-popular Johnny Appleseed. Unfortunately, his wares were not as easily transported as seeds, could not be made into liquor and required much more upkeep than an apple tree. Additionally, he was unable to come up with a successfully marketable nickname to help spread his reputation. It is assumed he died of heart disease resulting from his obesity, directly caused by his habit of finishing off his pork products before they spoiled. His brother Henry Pickle (known as Henry Hogmeat), was much more successful with the pigs willed to him by his brother.

Thlikno the Pygmy (c. 1870 – 1906) – How Thlikno arrived in the New World is unknown. However, the failure of Talpert's Mexican Wonder Circus can be laid directly at Thlikno's feet. Talpert, the world's foremost circular enclosure with tented covering entertainment failure, promoted Thlikno as the world's smallest man. Talpert did not take into account that his target audience, rural laborers in the southern Mexican states, were only a few inches taller than Thlikno and thus were not impressed. The pygmy was also the only exhibit in the circus. Thlikno was killed in a riot of patrons who wanted their money back and Talpert decided to call it quits.

Lucy Knighted-Thoroughbred (1976-) At age seven Lucy broke the Guinness world record for holding a séance on a trampoline. She communicated with the spirit of Mark Twain (Samuel Longhorn Clemens) for over sixty two hours while jumping on a trampoline in the Indianapolis civics center. Later in life she got a degree in Art History from the University of Georgia in Athens and now works as a gallery events coordinator in Cleveland, Ohio. Her husband Jeff and daughter Clementine often accompany her on camping trips and other excursions.

William Tyndale (1494-1536) –Born in North Nibley, in England, Tyndale was the first to translate the Scriptures into the English language. Author of many religious works, including *Enchiridion Militis Christiani*, Tyndale was eventually murdered by vengeful Catholics.

Mary Fenchurch (1823-1899) -A contemporary of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Fenchurch would have been a more pivotal player in the early feminist movement and the Seneca Falls Convention if she hadn't been such a drunk.

God (forever-forever) –God, also known as Elohim, Allah and Aurha Mazda, is creator of the universe. He always is and always will be.

AN AXES & ALLEYS RADIO-LINGUISTICS SPECIAL



The N.A.T.O Alphabet Reborn For a New Generation

For many years the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and its various military forces, have utilized a system whereby they substitute a common word for a letter of the alphabet in radio-graphic communication. This is meant to ease communication. But, I find that their word choices are a bit random and I don't at all approve. Therefore, I would like NATO to adopt a new NATO, or phonetic alphabet. After all, we can't have NATO forces supporting the drinking of whiskey, a known intoxicant.

Letter	NATO Alphabet	Neo-NATO Alphabet
A	Alpha	Analgesic
B	Brava	Bunion
C	Charlie	Cornucopia
D	Delta	Dingus
E	Echo	Earwig
F	Foxtrot	Fustule
G	Golf	Goiter
H	Hotel	Hrothgar
I	India	Interferon
J	Juliet	Jujube
K	Kilo	Kotex
L	Lima	Loin
M	Mike	Monkey
N	November	Negro
O	Oscar	Ornithopter
P	Papa	Penis
Q	Quebec	Quixotic
R	Romeo	Ringworm
S	Sierra	Scab
T	Tango	Tijuana
U	Uniform	Ungabungabungabunga
V	Victor	Vagina
W	Whisky	Whisky
X	X-Ray	Xerxes II
Y	Yankee	Yummy
Z	Zulu	Zoroaster
*	Thorn	Thumb
ò	Chad	Chamberpot
È	Shamrock	Shazam!

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Headache

Irritability

General Discomfort

MY BRUNCH WITH DIRK BENEDICT



Dirk Benedict came over on Sunday, mid-afternoon. He didn't take haste in coming, for our time together is leisurely. In answering his knock, I opened the door to find that dashing man upon my verandah. Standing tall and full of life, he sent vibrations near and far.

With bloody maries already at hand I invited him to sit. Oh did we wile away the time, sipping at our cocktails; discussing Aristophanes and macroeconomics. Dirk Benedict, I say, is a masterful economist. with command of theory, practical experience and a rapacious imagination. Later we happily switched to sangria.

I gently bade him enter now, for a fine repast I had awaiting. His eyes were twinkling as he dug right in. His mane is cherubic when he's eating rye toast and fried ham, and almost laughing at his eggs benedict. Dirk Benedict enjoys that jape, no matter how many times it's done.

The second-most exciting part of the day was the two hours we spent conducting laboratory experiments and litmi tests on diverse substances. We found the pH of meringue and also of toad secretions. Then we cobbled together from spare parts about the manor a function able Sterling Engine. It hummed and along with it did Dirk Benedict hum, that man who takes pride in his work.

Walking out into the orchard, we strolled between the apricot blossoms. His laugh is strong and hearty, coming

from the shadow of his baseball cap. What elegance he displayed in discussing grafting! How often he could point to a sapling and expound upon its possibilities!

The most wondrous Dirk Benedict moment of the day was the minutes spent at my baby grand piano. Dirk Benedict displayed his talents, with *Für Elise* and *The Moonlight Sonata*. For that last he did not need an orchestra! His tenor timbre filled in all the accompanying symphonic parts with soft "das" and powerful "dums" and a "tinkle, tinkle, tinkle" of the string section. One could imagine Beethoven doing much the same thing, as both men, so similar in stature. His favorite part is when I sit at the stool to tickle the ivories while his wonderful pipes belt out such old favorites as "Rock of Ages" and "Nearer My God to Thee."

The man does love a fine cigar, we shared Petróns on the verandah again and sipped armagnac in our chairs. Dirk Benedict opened my eyes to whole new worlds through theoretical physics. I had no idea! The worlds and universes, time and space, that brain of his ran on and on. He is a wistful man indeed, with eyes like spectacles.

Finally, though, Dirk Benedict had to leave and so I gave goodbye in joyful melancholy. From the fine, fine brunch, to the orchard stroll, we'd had a loving time together. Hoping hopes he returns quite soon, to share my humble manse with me. This is why I always say, Dirk Benedict is cool.

AXES & ALLEYS

ESSAY QUESTIONS

All essays should be 500-1000 words, double spaced 12 point Times New Roman font. You will be graded for clarity, accuracy, communication, knowledge of the texts and style, grammar and spelling. Please send all essays to:

Axes & Alleys
Special Essay Submission
c/o President Armstrong
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Select One of the Following Questions for Your Essay:

1. Compare and contrast the role of police in a post-modern urban society with the texture of shag carpeting.
2. Does the Galaxy, as described by Douglas Adams in the *Hitchhiker's Trilogy* function in a way that is more or less democratic than the 17th Century Viceroyalty of Panama? What part did warfare and piracy play in the development of both societies?
3. In what ways is the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis consistent with ship building techniques of the Medieval period and in which ways does it differ? Bonus credit for a detailed comparison to the nails used in English fishing boats of the period.
4. If calligraphy involves a great deal of skill and practice, why is it still so hard to read? Define user interface as it relates to the calligraphy of the 18th Century.
5. Compare the parallel development of blimp technology, mayonnaise and the recent evolutionary developments of beetles (if any).
6. What was the influence of the Cold War on the politics of the area around the Piazza Santo Spirita in Florence, Italy in the second week of May, 1964?
7. Several important people have noted that the character of Boo Radley is never shown onscreen during the *Back to the Future Trilogy*. What are some of the reasons that the authors would have left him out of the films? In what ways can the *Back to the Future* series be seen as sequels to the book *To Kill a Mockingbird*?
8. Contrast the cuteness factor (h23A) of the lowland chinchilla with the overbearing power of a thermonuclear explosion without falling into the classic Dremel Dixon Conundrum.
9. Discuss the prevalence of anthropomorphic animals and objects in children's stories, programs and films. In what ways does this relate to the common animistic religions of indigenous populations?
10. In what ways can the film *Kelly's Heroes* be seen as an allegory? What would Don Rickles' character "Crapgame" represent? Compare and contrast this with the role of the beast Orgolio from Edmund Spencer's *The Fairy Queen*. Is it just a coincidence that Spencer's work rhymes with the restaurant Dairy Queen?

All essays are due by 9:15 A.M. (Zulu Time) 8 November 2006

Elizabethia Museum of Old Things

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of
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Pieces of Old Buildings
Broken Statues from Awhile Ago
Stuff an Archaeologist Once Found
and
Human Remains in Glass Cases



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POETRY FROM H.G. PETERSON



“While I Was Flying a Kite on the Beach”

by

H.G. Peterson

(for President Roosevelt)

Across this Earth there are a great many culture and nations
From the richest country to those with lowest station
There are colonies, territories and even satellite states
But they all have in common, this of all their traits;

From Russia to Bulgaria to the Mongolian lands
And down to Mississippi and the Hawaiian sands
All the different lands have one thing in common
They all have comely women, with curvy little bottoms

But you see, it's extraordinary beauty that I'm seekin'
And none can match the beauty of the lovely Puerto Rican
Her hair is long and raven-esque, her speech invigorating
Often to the thought of her, I am masturbating

With that dark skin and those lovely nipples shaded violet
And her tight, wet organs which are ready like an eyelet
I often dream of spending nights with curvy island mamas
Who are from Puerto Rico, which is right near the Bahamas

Her legs stuck in the air, she would moan all through the night
In wild Spanish words she would invoke the saints in her delight
All the balmy summer nights we would spend together
Adorned in fetish clothing made of imitation leather

Damn I love to fantasize about those Puerto Ricans
They are much sexier than all Kansas's Topekans

I AM A GOOD GRAVEDIGGER

BY JAMESON PIFFLE



Jameson Piffle is a member of Local 106 of the National Union of Funeralary Artists and Blacksmiths in LeBratt, Accadia. He has been a gravedigger for six months. Previously he served as steward's mate on the Lake Pencil express ferry.

Some people like to say they're pretty good at things. Well, I'm not. Pretty good basically says you're almost good. I'm not almost good at grave digging. I am a good gravedigger. Yes, I am a really good grave digger.

One of the most important parts of digging a grave is to get the depth right. A lot of novice grave technicians are blinded by that old wive's tale about the grave being six feet deep. A proper grave hole is six feet, five inches deep. Even experienced gravers get the depth wrong. But not me. Always six feet, five inches on the dot. I use a tape measure.

There are guys who skimp on the corners. You would think this wasn't a big deal because the coffin's going to go in and they're going to fill in the dirt, so who cares about corners. You would be wrong in every way. A proper, cheerful-looking grave needs some sharp corners. That's why I use a drafting T. It's only a couple of extra minutes and the widows do so appreciate the effort.

Tarps are probably the most important maintenance precaution needed in the task of grave digging. Without a good tarp, all the work you put into good corners and just the right depth gets ruined by passing rain or even dew in the morning. Professionals prefer blue tarps,

but some amateurs have been making advances in patterned tarps. I still prefer the blue, though. You can't go wrong with a blue tarp. Make sure to weigh down the corners with some old bricks or chipped grave stones.

Now sometimes if you're working a double shift, the Cemetery Captain might ask you to help fill in a hole here and there. Sometimes it's busy, sometimes there's just no one else around to help out. A lot of grave diggers turn up their noses at this kind of work because we're grave diggers, not grave fillers. They're a whole other union. But, I think you have to do what needs to get done, and if there's filling needed and I'm around, I'll be a grave filler for a couple of minutes.

Something special I like to do when no one is looking is spruce up the flowers on the graves. I don't do this because I'm embarrassed, but because the Florists Local gets pretty darned upset if they catch you doing their job. I always think, though, that a nice cheerful grave needs some cheerful foliage, so I try to do my part.

And there you have it. I've met all three points for being a good grave digger, plus two points of things grave diggers don't normally do. I am a good grave digger.

THE STICKER PAGE

Just print these out on adhesive paper and then stick them on objects.

This is a
Sticker!

THE

WARNING: UNICYCLES ARE COOL

socrates
sucks

you're not
a spider!

Real Women
Menstruate

Death to Astronomers

God Hates You



Please do not include part 4A
in this module. Including part
4A will result in malfunction or
danger. Part 4B could be
acceptable, but we're honestly
not sure what happens when
you include it.

No
Longer
Roman



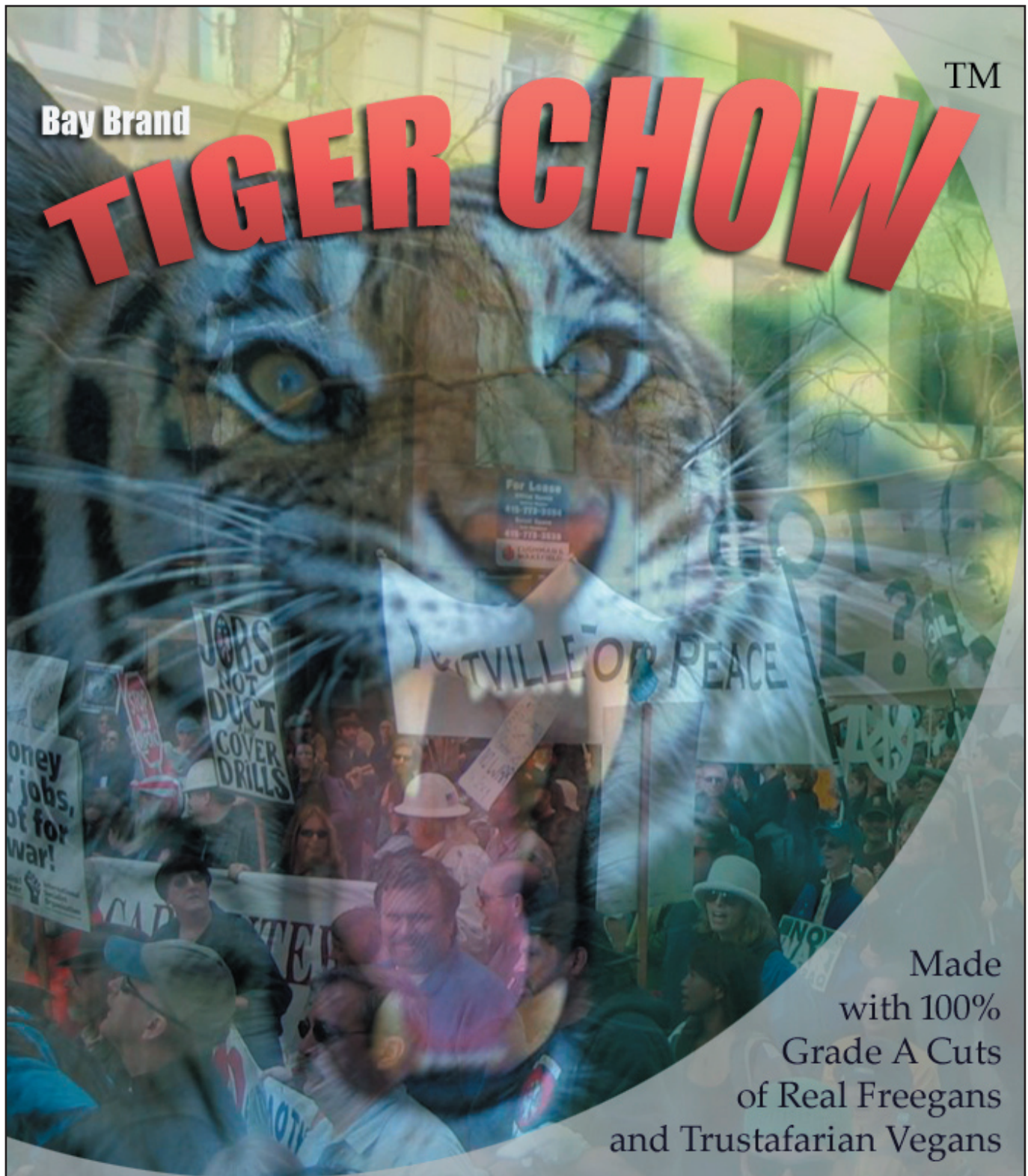
Pol Pot



Bay Brand

TM

TIGER CHOW

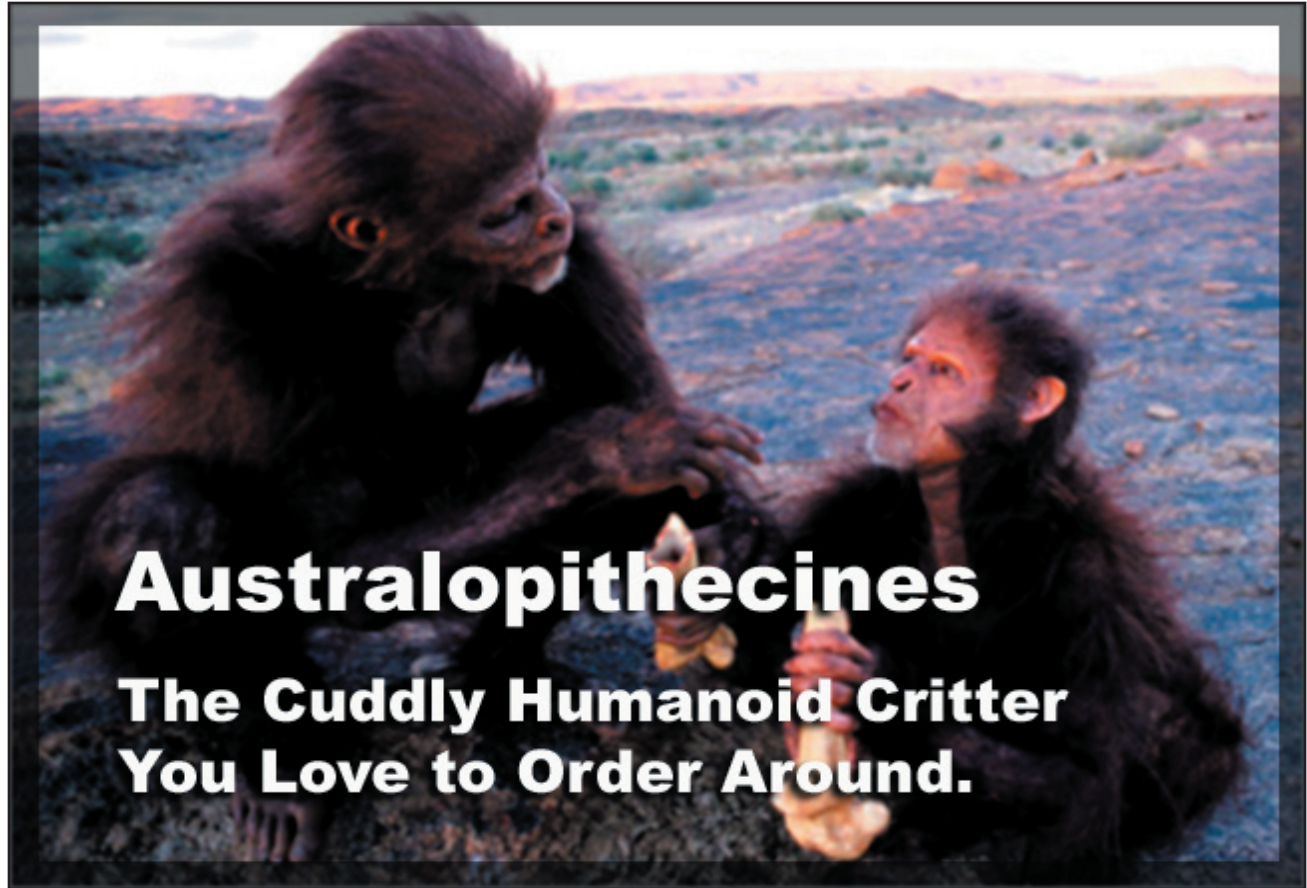


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THE PET SPOT

WITH MIKE MELROSE



A lot of people want a pet that is fun, cute and playful, but doesn't come with a lot of hassle. If you're looking for a pet like that you might consider the australopithecine, (*australopithecus afarensis*) which is a four foot tall, upright walking, ape-style animal.

I have two Aussies at home: one's a short-haired male named "Icecream," and the other is a common brown-haired female named "Mittens." Both are rambunctious and love to explore. With care, both have become important parts of my family and my menagerie.

Like cats, these Aussies tend to keep to themselves and are very low maintenance, but will show affection and sometimes play with your children. Instances of child consumption are rare, but make sure your children are supervised.

They do eat a lot, so keep plenty of fresh fruits, vegetables and grains available for them and be sure to supplement their diet with special Australopithecipellets™, available at most pet shops. Aussies live about thirty years, so make sure they're the right pet for you.

Below are some tips on keeping your Aussie healthy and happy:

1. Aussies like to wander around, so it's best not to keep them locked up all day. You should take your Aussie for a walk at least once a day, but it's okay to keep them in an enclosure during the night.
2. Televisions are a big no-no with Aussies. They usually react violently to the moving images and sounds, so it's best to not own a television if you plan on owning an Aussie.
3. Being herbivorous animals, Aussies tend to produce

voluminous amounts of excrement. You should designate an area in your home for them to defecate in. The bathroom is a poor location, however, because Aussies fear tile.

4. If you have children going through puberty or recently post-pubescent, it's a good idea to keep them separate from your australopithecine. While the resultant offspring are very cute, they are probably not the grandchildren you imagined.

5. Aussies are both afraid of and attracted to tomatoes. A game they particularly enjoy is to hide the tomato. When they find them, pelt them with a second tomato and watch them scurry away screaming. They are screams of fun.

6. Aussie's will happily eat human food, especially for some reason deviled ham. When training your Aussies you might use deviled ham, Vienna sausages, SPAM or eggplant as a treat. Aussies also enjoy deviled eggs, devils food cake and other foods named after the fallen angel Satan.

7. Aussies do enjoy being petted, especially, for some reason, in the pelvic area. Avoid petting your Aussie.

8. If you're away most of the day, it might be good to leave some stones around to entertain your Aussies during the day. They'll busy themselves flecking the stones into crude tools and will be happy and content while you're not around.

9. Unlike dogs, Aussies are not big on chewing, so don't bother offering them gum.

10. Most important of all, never look an Aussie in the eye.

Taking care of an Aussie is easy and fun for the whole family (except children). Follow these steps (and remember not to touch or show any affection) and your Aussie experience will be decades of fun and enjoyment for you and your family.

ASK MONTEZUMA

ANSWERS FROM THE GREAT BEYOND!



Montezuma II recently wed pop singer Anne Riboflavin. Their first child, Autumn, is scheduled to be born this summer. He enjoys bridge, checkers, fasting and colouring books.

Dear Montezuma,
First of all, I am a normal fellow who has had many healthy long-term relationships. But for some reason every woman I've ever dated, hooked up with or even made out with at a party has been named Michelle Thompson. What is up with this strange thing?
Michael Thompson
Thompson, GA

Mike, have you considered your local Council Law 36257 which states "All female children born within the city limits shall be lastly named in accordance with the name of this fair city (Thompson) and shall be firstly named with an Anglicized version of the greatest of Archangels, Michael"? Well, you would be good not to consider it as this law was repealed in 1935. However, the tradition still remains rampant amongst the populace and you are more likely to engage in physical activity with a woman within the confines of Thompson who is named Michelle Thompson than anywhere else on the planet earth other than Angkor Wat.

Dear Montezuma,
How do trees work?
Fiona "Gator" Stevens
Hambone Council, FL

Trees have a very poor work ethic. They will hardly lift a finger to perform any task and noticeably lack even fingers to lift for tasks. They will not move from their designated living places due to an inherent laziness present in all arboreal life forms. The major domos of the physics world have found that trees do not even follow the rigid laws of work as described by history's greatest physicists. No, you will not find a single erg expended by the variform faunal inhabitants of this planet. It is well known that the

greatest witticism told by the honourable William Shakespeare was that of the woods marching in the night. Ha ha ha, I laugh, whenever I read this passage. What a scamp that Will was.

Dear Montezuma,
After his death George Washington was named General of the Armies of the United States, the rough equivalent of a seven star general. Pershing, of First World War fame was, after his retirement, named General of the Army of the United States, a possible six star general. Do these ranks really mean anything at all since they do not involve actual commands? Do these ceremonial ranks really count, I mean, does the Army have established pay scales for six and seven star generals?
Raymond Glastonberry
Winston-Salem, NC

I receive this question from time to time, Raymond, and have always refused to answer it. You see, I find your kind contemptible. Sitting in your comfortable lounging apparatus, deigning to direct the target of war with your lack of experience, proposing to win this or that historical battle with the benefit of hindsight. You sicken me, you sicken all those who have bought a ticket to a real battle and you sicken the common man with your boorishly intellectual ideals and logical disconnects from the reality of having a gun pointed at your face. You, all of you, think yourselves so handsome, so genteel, but we of the public and the veterans have your real number.

Dear Montezuma,
How do they cream the corn in creamed corn? How is it possible to cream corn after it's already in the can?
Charlotte Banray
Bestoria, MV

Have you considered, Charlotte, that perhaps the term creamed does not actually apply to the corn itself? All creamed corn is found in cans. All cans contain a processed product of one form or another. It is the corn's location in a can which presupposes to give the corn its moniker. HOWEVER, you'll say, there are other kinds of corn contained in cans. To this I say merely that the cans have been mislabeled.

Dear Montezuma,
What's up with these groups of people who play music? They name themselves stuff like "Bill Haley and the Comets," "The Spin Doctors," or "Liz Phair and the Pharos." Can't these people get real jobs like ordinary people? I, for instance, have a real job as a machinist down at the plant.
Soren Kirkegaard IV
Tungsten, EL

One way to get stains out of a carpet is to replace the carpet. While, existentially, this does not actually remove the stain from the carpet, it does replace the carpet with a reasonable facsimile indistinguishable from the original. Another way is to carefully cut out

the stained area and mend it with a new piece of carpet. While difficult, it makes for a great story to tell to visiting guests. You can challenge them to find the bit of carpet that was replaced and if you did your job right, they'll never be the wiser.

Dearest Montezuma,
My heart is broken. The television networks have cancelled my favorite show about a terrorist with a heart of gold who comes to love his neighborhood populated by vampires and gays and no longer wishes to destroy them in a fiery conflagration. It's a rapacious situational comedy with all the hallmarks of a classic. What can I do to improve my chances at a job interview?
Neville Farrelly
Phoenix, AZ

Nevy, jobs are interesting. They involve so much time and energy on one's part, so that happiness and continued living can, well, continue. However, many people find themselves consumed with their job, staying late and thinking about it often while outside of the office. One way to break out of this malodorous cycle is to make inappropriate jokes at work. Fart jokes, semen jokes and racist jokes will often serve to place the workplace on an even keel with the personal space. Leaving small bodily excretions about the office may also help to denude the job of any additional significance it may have.

Hey Montezuma,
Please hope me.
Carrie Branagh
Augusta, GA

It's fun to watch frogs attack, but there is something a little odd about the arguments resulting from frog attacks. Toads never suggest that frogs' wider claim ("this kind of thing has happened before") is wrong. There's something weird about toads wrapping themselves in the Constitution and being so obviously on the verge of singing "God Bless America" without even once pointing out that, yes, toads have just committed some appalling crimes, and that, yes, they have done so in the past. The obvious obscenity of toads is not that they have dry skin, it's that they think they can use the general gauzy romanticizing of amphibians to somehow excuse this latest atrocity. "Well, if frogs committed crimes, it clearly can't be such a big deal, can it?" I suppose I think the more rhetorically effective point for frogs to make would have been ironic rather than outraged: "So, toads, tell us—now that you know you were instancing a case of frog crimes, do you still want to suggest that when crimes happen we should just say "frogs are hell" and move on?"

Dear Montezuma,
Why do mom and dad seem to hate me? I always clean my room, do my other chores and am respectful of them. I just don't get it.
Lucy Pogstaff
New York, NY

Lucy, your parents are not only imperfect, but they are failures. Jonas Pogstaff, from my research, has failed in his algae farming business at least three times. Judging by that performance, I am surprised you are even able to pen a query to this column. Margaret Pogstaff, on the other hand, has been place

*in the first precinct's drunk tank on numerous occasions, several during what can only be assumed to have been your gestation within her womb. The damage done from this is quite evidenced by your inability to capitalize the nouns associated with your parents. I would not be surprised if you were unable to grasp, learn from, and apply the teaching of the Chicago Manual of Style. Your letter did not even include any return address above the body. The M*A*S*H* theme song may state that suicide is painless, but I hope that for the betterment of society you take a more painful way out. I would suggest bank robbery, capture by serial killer or overindulgence of tomato sauce.*

Send questions to:
Montezuma
c/o The Albigenian Daily Register
Two Rivers, Debuque, North Umlerland, Southern
Algeria

Answers will appear within two weeks of receipt.

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10 MRV Payload Capacity
8000 Mile Range
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A photograph of a large adult elephant and its baby in an enclosure. The adult elephant is on the right, with its head and trunk visible. The baby elephant is standing in the center, surrounded by a large pile of dry hay. The background shows a concrete wall and metal bars.

baby elephants

where grown up elephants come from

FIFTY IDEAS FOR MAKING INSECTS BETTER

1. Tiny hats.
2. Instead of yellow and black on bees, why not stylish mocha and taupe?
3. Ants get the ability to read Sanskrit.
4. Goliath beetles are replaced by new nine-inch Super Goliath Beetles.
5. Install an on/off switch for katydids.
6. Constant molting now mandatory.
7. Instead of pain, bee stings bring on hallucinations of drinking grape soda.
8. Walking sticks are allowed to stroll on Tuesdays.
9. Advertising space is sold on the wings of butterflies.
10. Dragonflies really breathe fire.
11. Lightning bugs glow in different colors for Christmas.
12. Dung beetles are made tastier.
13. Mosquitoes are required to ask permission before sucking your blood.
14. Allow ticks and daddies-long-leg into Class Insecta.
15. Praying mantises may actually petition God to cure the sick.
16. Instead of plain, old mounds, fire ants must make nests that meet the high aesthetic standards of Frank Gehry or I.M. Pei.
17. An expansion of the termite diet to include plastic, newspaper and other litter, thus cleaning up the streets of our fair city.
18. Let 'em all breathe out of their noses like normal people.
19. Locusts can only destroy bad tasting crops like squash or Brussels sprouts.
20. Crickets must know how to play more than one tune on their legs.
21. Given piezoelectric properties for use in computers.
22. Peppered moths get royalties every time their pictures are used in the evolution chapter of biology text books.
23. Butterflies are allowed to stick just a few entomologists on spikes.
24. Chitin exoskeletons replaced with candy coating.
25. Just normal fruit flies from now on. No more mutants.
26. Issue a court order demanding the closing of all circulatory systems.
27. The ability to link up and run on model railroad tracks.
28. Cicada killers are only cicada rougher-uppers.
29. Imperviousness to hard vacuum and radiation.
30. House flies fly in designated patterns.
31. Earwigs make themselves useful by becoming clothing fasteners.
32. Silverfish only dine on outgrown or no-longer-needed clothing and must always finish their meals.
33. Cockroaches stop being lazy and help pick up around the house.
34. Army ants will form a well-regulated militia.
35. A single carpenter ant will be crucified to redeem all of insect kind.
36. Cicadas exit the ground in an *orderly* fashion and follow the designated swarming routes.
37. Lady bugs grant reasonable requests for realistic things, like chocolate.
38. Damsel flies continuously enact chivalrous stories with the help of new hero bugs for small children and the elderly.
39. Uncatchable, catnip flavored cockroaches are standard.
40. Fleas able to actually jump to the top of the Empire State Building from the ground.
41. Water bugs bring life-saving moisture to drought-ravaged African nations.
42. Caterpillars have to figure out something interesting to do other than pupate.
43. Less mindless moving.
44. Nearby insects form up on any chess board to act as playing pieces and respond to verbal commands.
45. A benevolent insectoid hive mind tasked to look after and protect humanity from danger.
46. Jet engines.
47. Their own island.
48. Defecate gold.
49. Less creepy, more huggable.
50. A return to the monstrous size of yesteryear.

PEARLS OF WISDOM FROM THE REVEREND WOLFPATTY



**“toH qo’ muSHa’pu’qu’mo’ JoH’a’,
wa’ puqloDDaj nobpu’ ghaH ‘ej ghaHbaq
Harchugh vay’, vaj not Hegh ghaH, ‘ach
yInjub ghajbeH ghaH.” John 3:16, from the
Klingon Language Institute’s translation of
The Bible.**

Now, we’ve all come to accept that the Holy Scripture is the Word of God, that is to say that the authors of The Bible were divinely inspired by God and given the power of the Holy Spirit which enabled them to transcend human fallibility in order to create a Good Book that was, and remains today, the perfect, infallible, testament of God to humanity.

It’s reasonable to assume that God didn’t only intend his Holy Word to be infallible and correct in the ancient Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic. In order to protect the one true Gospel, God would have worked to inspire the translators; those people like Wycliffe and Tyndale who worked to create the vernacular translations that would bring God’s power to people that backwards Alcuin’s Vulgate could never get within a mile of.

So then a question arises; when does God reach out and divinely inspire translators and when does God not really give a good gosh-darn? The translation of

the Holy Scripture into the fictional Star Trek Klingon language poses an interesting question; would God divinely inspire the translators of a non-spoken language so that their version of The Bible could be infallible? Is it worth God’s time to worry about Klingon Bibles when everyone who speaks Klingon already has an available Bible printed in their native language?

Surely God has better things to do; saving children from drowning, curing cancer, helping winning Super Bowl teams, stopping war for starters. But, I suppose the question could be phrased as; if it brings one Trekie to Salvation is the Klingon Bible worth it? I would have to answer yes.

Star Trek presents a future devoid of religion and God. Unlike Babylon 5, with its many Christian, Jewish and Foundationist characters, all the characters in Star Trek are atheists. We never see Data go to Church, nor do we see Kirk or Spock partake of the Sacraments. Perhaps Trekie’s think this atheism is normal. Maybe the Klingon Bible will help them come to Christ. For their sake, I hope it saves them from eternal hellfire. To them I would quote Mark 2:17, “QoyDI’ yeSuS, chaHvaD jatlh: pIvwI’vaD ‘utbe’ Qel. ‘ach ropwI’vaD ‘ut. mutlha’meh quvwI’pu’ vIra’meh jIghoSta’be’. ‘ach yemwI’pu’ vIra’meh jIghoSta’.”

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FOR SALE

First season of "The Wonder Years" on 16mm film strip. Dubbed into Swedish by actors with heavy Urdu accents. A must have for any "Paul" fan. €5.00 each.

POSITION AVAILABLE

President needed to execute laws enacted by legislators. Must be 35 or older, natural born citizen. Knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel and Power Point a must. Car provided. Contact US Govmt. Wash. DC.

WANTED

Ice skates for elephant. Must be Pachyderm Size 11. Wally at Feeble 02-1, ext. 3.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Single marine needed to infiltrate German occupied castle in order to destroy the entire Nazi regime. Rifle with limited ammo provided. Contact Pentagon. US.

FOR SALE

Archipelago. Contains four larger islands, 19 smaller islands. One inlet and a volcano. Tiberius, Box 7483.

FOR LEASE

Novel about a woman on a quest to discover how peanut butter is made. Will the government conspiracy and its assassins kill her before she finds the truth? Lease my novel to find out. Mr. Lance Bot. 748-3833-283. No calls after 3pm, baby is sleeping.

WANTED

Will someone please stop the rain. I don't care what you do - dance, call upon your respected god, pray to Satan...just make it stop for a few hours. The triumphant miracle maker will receive a batch of rice crispy treats, and a three year old Cingular™ phone charger with a bent plug. Launa, Box 23.

FOR SALE

I have developed a machine capable of producing as much energy as it consumes. I will sell it to a venture capitalist for some money. Contact Yalto Ban Botta, Box 432.

FOR SALE

One arrogant asteroid always talking about its carbonaceous chondrites. Prim Freeborn. Box 3.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Gorillas needed to help develop gorilla-navigated air ship across the Black Sea. All applicants must pass drug test and have working knowledge of Black Sea and surrounding areas. Gorillas only, gibbons need not apply. Fax resume to Simian Aeronautics Corps. P.O. Box 121, Clover City, MV.

WANTED

Bullet proof radishes for use in war-time salads. Shrapnal resistant lettuce also, or if you have any armor-piercing tongs, I'll take those too. Elizabeth. Box 211.

FOR RENT

One Bank of Lemuria debit card. Personal PIN not included. Standardize Corvés 2001 Shecky Williams Dr. Mulhanset, AC, 282830.

WANTED

Left marmot testicle. I have an experiment I'd like to try out. Please do not include whole marmot. Billy Lumpkin
bbill@msn.com

SEEKING

Prom date. Must know South American and Caribbean dances such as the tango, lambada, salsa, cha cha, merengue, bachata, beguine, rumba and mambo; expert in country line dancing a plus. Irish need not apply. Becky near the Fountain

FOR SALE

1800 combination tea cozies/razor wire. Free description of marsupials included. Tony Blair
10 Downing Street
London SW1 UK

FOR SALE

The original cross used to crucify that thief from the Bible. You know, the bad one who mocks Jesus? Yeah, it's his cross. Not the Jesus cross, but pretty close. St. Croix of Infinite Mercy Church, Talladega, Alabama.

FOR SALE

Left-pawed mouse with excellent pin-ball skills. Won many tournaments in Colombia and surrounding areas. Avery Bob, Trenchant, NH

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