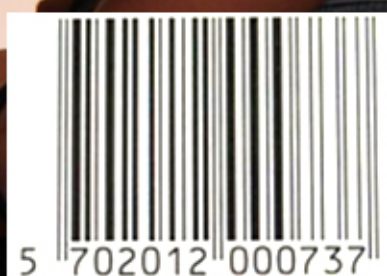


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**Volume
456-BR8
Issue 02
Justinuary
2006**

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**Official
Magazine
of the
RTRAMSOM**

The Letter N



**New-Neat-Now-Near-North-Nice-No-Nod
Night-Nap-Not-Nor-Next-Neopaleolithic
Everyone Loves N Words!**

**Volume 456-BR8 Issue 02,
Justinuary 2006**

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Axes & Alleys

Our Last Best Hope for Peace!



Last issue we bid a fond adieu to several writers who have passed out of our lives or passed on with their own. While we know the vast majority of our readers care not a whit about the people who make the magazine, we are quite aware of the importance of our articles, columns and features to them. Many of you have noted certain of these disappearing from our pages. Instead of introducing you to the exciting and, dare we say, new entrants upon these pages, we will show you a little of how the publishing of a magazine works by listing a few rejected candidates for inclusion in these pages.

The Snowman Report

Bob King, agriculture specialist of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County, would write a monthly report on snowman infestations across America, control and extermination, as well as hobbyist breeding tips. As this feature would be largely seasonal, we rejected it out of hand.

Butane 12 Step Program

A resource for those addicted to the storage of butane, collection of butane products, and physical abuse against butane. While the concept did have widespread appeal, we were searching for new columns with staying power and this one would necessarily last only one year.

Yo-Yo Instructional Video Transcripts

Transcripts of various instructional yo-yo videos provided in partnership with www.yo-yo.org. Initially we felt this was a great concept and did attempt to insert such a feature in the last issue. Unfortunately it was unwieldy, took up over twelve pages, and featured not a single scantily-clad woman.

We hope you appreciate this peek into the backroom dealings and thought processes of *Axes & Alleys*. Also, we hope you appreciate the fact that we did not subject you to the above, quality-lowering concepts and their brethren in future issues of the magazine.

The Justinuary Cover Girl: Irene Baras

Irene Baras has a strong ability to express herself through memoir and written narration. When she isn't beating up bad guys or scanning bar codes, Irene writes for the Hotel Journal of McGill University.



WRITTEN
CORRESPONDENCES
FROM GOOD
NATURED GENTLE-
MEN WHO HAVE READ
OUR PREVIOUS IN-
STALLMENTS AND
WISH TO COMMENT ON
SOME ASPECTS
THEREOF

Dear A&A,

Your advertisement for the Mohorovicic Discontinuity (Caliguly 2006) would also be great for a t-shirt. Unfortunately the molten rock contained within the Earth is called magma, not lava. This really bugs me.

Sabine

Corpus Christi, TX

Dear Editors,

I take issue with Sticker Page in your Clauduary issue (Sticker Page, Clauduary 2006). At the very top of the page you feature a sticker which says "I Dig Dugout Dug." Dugout Dug is a thoroughly despicable human being. He is unable to wash or clothe himself and his only claim to fame before your infamous lionizing of him on Sticker Page was being kicked out of the Rocklynde, Montsylvania Lentil Soakers AAA baseball team dugout before every game.

Melvin Merkson

Rocklynde, MV

To the *Axes & Alleys* editors, in regards to *Not Even Wrong* review, Springtober 2006:

Thanks for sending this, although I think you guys should lighten up...

You have been smart enough to notice what lots of reviewers didn't, that the book wasn't especially written for a popular audience, but that significant parts of it were really written mainly for other physicists and mathematicians, although this is cleverly hidden through the avoidance of equations. My publishers also didn't much notice this, although they perhaps just have unshakeable

faith in the public's willingness to buy something they won't be able to understand.

Anyway, so far I've been extremely pleased and surprised at how much attention the book has gotten and how well it has been selling. It really was intended originally for a university press and much more limited distribution. String theorists put a stop to that, now they're not very happy with the fact that the book's point of view is reaching a rather wide audience.

Anyway, best wishes!

Dr. Peter Woit

New York, NY

Dear *Axes & Alleys*,

I am incensed by the latest rash of bestiality reports in the media. Persons engaging in interspecies rape with pit bulls, pomeranians, schnauzers, basset hounds, doberman pinschers, chihuahuas, bluetick coonhounds, corgis, pekingese, otterhounds, and spitzes is just disgusting. Humans should only rape size-appropriate canines such as Irish wolfhounds, borzois, St. Bernards, Rhodesian ridgebacks, and mongrels more than two feet tall. I am constantly amazed at the true depths of depravity to which society plummets; more so the incomprehension of size differences.

Mike Gamble

Sordid Rakehook, WD

Dear *Axes & Alleys*,

Your classified ads are not actually classified at all. They are randomly arranged. Please fix this or I will cancel my subscription. Also, when are you gonna publish some more Rango and Lem comics? It's not like they're that hard or produce, so c'mon lets see the boy and the alien and lets see some actual classifieds some time.

Jennifer Martasko

Seaford, NY

To the Editors,

How come all the ladies on your covers are famous celebrities like actors, singers or models? Why not put an ordinary girl on your cover? Maybe someone who's just a college student or check out girl at the supermarket? Ordinary, normal girls are hot. It'd be cool to see one on your cover.

Paul David Hewson

Dublin, Ireland

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The Sticker Page
Enjoy adhesive paper

LANDSLIDE!



Pylon, PL- Platha State Union Steward-Premier Alexander Botchy appeared triumphant as he stood in the parking lot of the Platha State Union Building in Downtown Pylon. Flanked by recently appointed Governor Alexander Osten and Communications Commandant Dmetri Treskeshuvya-Schodtiv, and surrounded by distinguished and heavily-armed members of the Platha State Union Precautionary Brigade, Steward-Premier Botchy led a hastily assembled crowd in a hearty rendition of the unofficial State Anthem, *Hell on Wheels*, before announcing the official election results.

While reporters and citizens not approved by members of the Political Conclave were barred from documenting or recording the announcement, my translator from the Ministry of Historical Document Distribution provided a transcript and press release stating:

The People of Platha have once again wisely chosen to allow the Platha State Union to govern them. This is a day of great victory for Platha and a day of humiliating defeat for the Enemy Party, who received not one vote. What a wondrous and historic day for the institution of democracy and for the people of Platha.

As a result of this new election the Platha State Union retained an overwhelming majority of 100% in the four-member Council of Control, the eight member House of Progress Determination, the twelve-member State Senate and the eighteen-member People's Committee for Authorization.

Currently, the ballots and elections are under the control of the three members of the Committee for Leadership, a sub-committee of State Union's Council for Perpetuation of Progress. In their next session, the Supreme Court of the United States agreed to hear the cases *American Freedom Party vs. Platha State Union* and *Free America Party vs. Alexander Reich*. In both cases plaintiffs claimed the Platha State Union has engaged in unfair and illegal election practices. Officially sanctioned ballots in Platha only carry candidates from the Platha State Union or the Evil Enemy Party, a strange fact since the Evil Enemy Party appears to have no members and has never put up a candidate for any office.

Further, issue and candidate advertising during the election cycle is restricted to segments approved by PTV, a television and radio station owned by the Platha State Union. PTV is the only broadcast medium available within state bounds, enforced by signal jamming equipment located on the periphery of the state. The titles of some such advertising include "Platha State Union and the Glory of Beets," "Ideology and You: The Platha State Union," and "The Evil Enemy Party Destroys Commerce, Souls, and Babies in the Service of the Great Capitalist Menace Next Door Bent on Control of the Proletariat for Its Own Nefarious Devices." Neighboring state governors have complained about many of the broadcasts, which demonize and dehumanize their citizens.

Platha State Union Sweeps Midterm Platha State Senate Elections

Platha Governor Alexander Osten



Appointed: December 5th, 2006

Party: Platha State Union

Preceeded By: Governor Alexandra Ploe

Former Positions: Commander-General for PZ2;
People's Commissar for Progress and Control over
Crustacean; Political Officer First-Class, Sixth Regiment
HQ, Governor's Private Guard; Over-Observer Citizen's
Watch; Team Captain PZ2 Governor's Junior Rangers.

Favorite Food: Frozen beets.

**Axes & Alleys
Info-Rectangle™**

Others have charged that Platha has denied the right to vote to many of its citizens through the practice of having only a single State-wide polling precinct open for fifteen minutes per year. An additional lawsuit is planned by the ACLU to challenge the Committee for Leadership's decision to satisfy these complaints by installing the state-wide precinct within a dirigible instructed to land randomly throughout the state over the course of ten hours.

Despite the difficulties Plathans might face in choosing their representatives in the state's quadricameral legislature, the ordinary people I was allowed to speak with: a high-tech computer man, an award winning author and novelist, and a conductor of a fast, efficient new train network; read from cards about how much they believe in Platha's flourishing democracy.

"We believe in democracy, and nothing is brings freedom than tireless work of Platha State Union" read one young woman. "Never would I choose to leaving such a land of prosperity, freedom and accomplishment. I vote for progress provided by fair and just wisdom of Platha State Union."

KNOW EXACTLY WHO'S TO BLAME



Now is the time for Pointing Fingers

THE MARCH OF PROGRESS



Monrovia, MV – Researchers at Magic Muffin's Research Campus have been working diligently in the service of muffin sortation. For the past year, Dr. Edward Jacobs and his team spent the majority of their time working to train various creatures in muffin separation in an effort to make the manufacturing and shipping processes more efficient. Surprisingly, they have found very little success with snakes.

"Snakes have been used for some time in microchip manufacturing," says Jacobs, "but their sortational aptitude there does not seem to translate to muffins or virtually any other consumer package good." During the course of our interview with Dr. Jacobs, we passed through the test subject living quarters where we saw many dogs, old world monkeys, several ungulates and, surprisingly, a sloth.

"The sloth is actually fairly good with blueberry and poppy seed," said Dr. Kelly Jacobs, Edward Jacobs' daughter and assistant. She later told us that the sloth was "just a bit slow," but she did not want to hurt his feelings by saying so in front of him. Dr. Jacobs' (the elder) prize animal is a schnauzer named Murray, who has received high grades in all the major muffin sorting axes including chocolate, chocolate chip, double-fudge chocolate, and bran. Dr. Jacobs (the younger) also sees promise in Hoody, a four year old Thompson's gazelle who has proven quite skillful in some preliminary cupcake tests.

"Dad gave me some research time on my own and I wanted to see if maybe Hoody didn't have some abilities outside of the corn muffin-oat muffin continuum," explains Jacobs. She points out that the major differences between cupcakes and muffins are frosting and size. Larger cupcakes are often mistaken for muffins, so the research team often includes a few in the muffin testing.

Javier McClintock, Vice President of Human and Animal Resources, says that once the results of the testing are reported in February, Magic Muffin will make a determination about which animals to put on the factory floor. Should the report be favorable, a test program will begin in their extra-national production facility located in international waters to avoid legal entanglements and taxation. "After that," says McClintock, "we plan to roll out schnauzer and gazelle sortation teams in all of our muffin production facilities by quarter 3 of 2007."

The Axes & Alleys HISTORIGON

This Month in History:

2001 AD: Arizona state senator Arnold Schumaker (L) sends polaroids of expensive toys to underprivileged children in his district.

1943 AD: Airman Eric Jones paints a picture of a pretty dame on the nose of a B-17 Flying Fortress.

1986 AD: A live-action manger scene burns down in Czechoslovakia, killing all participants.

1983 AD: The first successful artificial appendix is inserted into Gary Clarkson.

1969 AD: While exploring the surface of the Moon, astronaut Alan Bean finds a rock that resembles his primary school teacher Mrs. Belcher.

1964 AD: Italy changes government.

1832 AD: Future president Martin Van Buren, after celebrating his birthday, vomits in a spittoon.

17913AD: Marie Antoinette, in the few seconds of life afforded her head after its separation from the body, wonders if heaven will have delicious cakes.

1653 AD: A group of Spanish settlers decide to play a game of pins using Olmec head statues and some old canoes.

1588 AD: Pedro the Navigator informs his captain that the seas ahead appear stormy. Captain Menendez assures him that God will protect the Armada from storms. Later both their corpses wash up near Brighton.

1402 AD: Kim Il-Sung, after inventing a time machine, arrives and promptly invents water skiing.

1301 AD: Geoffe the Slopper of Stuttgart looks up and sees a comet.

1282 AD: Friar Marcus makes a mistake while illuminating a manuscript, suggesting to future generations that he liked rutabagas very much.

1202 AD: While sacking Constantinople, Martin of Tours finds a vase that he thinks his wife might like.

605 AD: Chinese Emperor Yang-ti orders the construction of a massive canal to link major rivers with the capital of Luoyang. Later that night he sneezes five times in a row, beating his previous record of three consecutive sneezes.

21 AD: Sauren the Parthian uses several captured Roman helmets to impress some girls. That night he sires Artabana.

738 AD: The Nanzhao kingdom sets up a strict code of state-mandated, individually-unique hair styles for its citizens.

439 AD: Axum resident Derdana asks if maybe they can't have a few less stele around as they block out the fine Ethiopian sunshine. An unhappy neighbour later mixes goat dung in with Derdana's stew.

423 AD: A young Attila, later known as The Hun, gives his brother Bleda one of the first known wedgies after Bleda, in an amazing turn of cultural precocity tries wearing underpants.

135 AD: Bill S. Preston, Esq. and Ted "Theodore" Logan arrive at Simon Bar Kokhba's hideout near the Dead Sea. They describe the situation as "totally un-station."

74 BC: Trandovix the Gaul wanders to present-day Gibraltar in search of a good tankard.

712 BC: Numa Pompilius notices a member of his court has slipped an association of drinkers into his proposal for the creation of guilds in Rome.

905 BC: Otonga and his friend eat a pig.

1003 BC: The Olmecs create giant stone heads in mockery of disgraced citizens for use in playing a Meso-American version of pins.

3281 BC: Adresh of Chaldea trades seventy loaves, two goats and an Abyssinian slave man to Ushot of Uruk for seven ounces of silver and two mares.

6.701 BC: Erath the Scout finds a village where they teach him the secret of pottery.

32.801 BC: After spending seven months in the freezing cold, Uguski and his clan begin to regret following that mammoth herd across what would one day be called the Bering Land Bridge.

91,002 BC: While examining the community's Large Bone with Notches in It, Ogoff laments that things were better back in the old days.

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A MUSICAL REVUE REVIEW

Serena-Maneesh, Dirty On Purpose, Bardo Lake, and Woven Hand

Greenpoint, Brooklyn – At the behest of a friend, I headed out to the Warsaw in the Polish National home to check out Serena-Maneesh. They were the last act of the night, consisting of Emil Nikolaisen (vocals, guitar), Eivind Schou (violin), Tommy Akerholdt (drums), Ann Sung-an Lee (vocals, keyboard), Sondre Tristan Midttun (guitar), and a new bass player whose name I never caught.

Unfortunately the sound guys never pulled it together for them. Emil's vocals were indiscernible through the combination of fat, round rhythms and noise interludes laced throughout each song. Those interludes adversely affected what could have been a powerful set. Co-billed band Dirty On Purpose said during their set that Serena-Maneesh would "melt your face off," and they were correct. I kept finding myself getting into a Sigur Rós with testicles groove, only to have the heated sloughing of my visage interrupted by pointedly pointless, aleatoric guitar and synth glissandos. At times I found myself washed over by these escapades, asking that they end the damned song already.

A problem shared by most bands on the bill was not announcing the names of any songs, and this became problematic with Serena-Maneesh as I rocked my bottom off to their second, third, fourth, fifth and last song. The second had definite echoes of Credence Clearwater Revival, the third totally melted my face, the fourth should go on any sex mix, while the fifth and seventh songs got me in a mid-career Björk mood.

Especially impressive were the rhythm men. Bass and drums laid down tight, incontrovertible lines which increasingly drew my attention throughout the show. That and, even as a heterosexual male, New Bass Player was the

evocation of rail-thin, modern hotness. While playing beautifully, he worked the crowd admirably. I'm surprised no woman in the audience was overcome with faintness. While I had mixed responses to Serena-Maneesh, there's definite growth potential and I look forward to more from them as they mature.

A pleasant surprise was Brooklyn quartet Dirty On Purpose, who preceded Serena-Maneesh. Members DJ Bourdreau, Joe Jurewicz, George Wilson, and Doug Marvin were joined in their performance by Ann Brewster (from Sea Ray) on cello and a young slip of a girl named Holly on backup vocals. While certainly of interest to a much-castigated and moody trendnik set, Dirty On Purpose is a fun, heavily-melodic act worth seeing.

I'm happy that the Dirty boys have a nice give-and-take between the genders in their live set, and will be adding them to my listening repertoire of bands such as Yellowish, Elysian Fields, and Stars. The song they're promoting heavily on the internet right now is "No Radio" and the live version is far beyond the recorded one. Covers are usually a crowd favourite, but their fast-paced, lazy-vocals rendition of Real Life's "Send Me an Angel" didn't seem to send the audience into much of a tizzy. Still, the crowd was bopping its way through the rest of the eight song set.

Nevertheless, their version of "Send Me an Angel" is worth bootlegging, especially Holly's wonderful melisma towards the end of the tune. While Ann Brewster's cello couldn't be heard on this song due to a mix of interfering tones from the bass and a lack of throughput on the PA, she was an integral addition to the other songs in the set, something the rest of the band very much appreciated.

Reviewlets:

Woven Hand

Woven Hand is David Eugene Edwards playing acoustic, electric, mandolin and sampler. A very powerful male voice, his work on this project is unimpressive. Parts of some songs would have a place in television shows such as *Deadwood* or *Jeremiah*, but his reliance on drones made from vocal and string samples and much-too-lengthy stretches of pedal tones make for an uninteresting live performance.

Bardo Pond

Michael Gibbons, John Gibbons, Isobel Sollenberger, Clint Takeda, and Ed Farnsworth give me glimpses of what should be my type of music, but never get there. The noise aesthetic is controversial, but can be enjoyable. This was not such an instance. Singer Isobel has an attractive voice, but needs to get her diaphragm in gear to provide the power her Morrison-like vocals hint at. Some moments of great rhythm, guitar passages reminiscent of Meat Puppets, but keyboards which mainly sound like seagulls on barge day and prolonged sonic laziness made me pray that this Keith Jarrett show without the musicality would end soon.

For More Information on These Musical Acts, Feel Free to Research Them on Your Local Interconnected Network of Computers. See the Uniform Resource Locator Codes Below.

Sernea-Maneesh
www.serena-maneesh.com

Dirty on Purpose
www.dirtyonpurpose.com

Bardo Pond
www.threelobed.com/bardo


Woven Hand
www.wovenhand.net



SEVENTEEN

A Brief History

Seventeen is perhaps an easy number to ignore. Stuck forever between eighteen and sixteen, seventeen is often overlooked, even by numerologists. Seventeen may not be as popular as one, eight, a million or three, but the number we call seventeen has a rich history and a deep impact upon our society, perhaps greater even than that of fifty-two.

The seventeenth number ever discovered, seventeen is known in France as *dix-sept*. Like many other prime numbers, seventeen is divisible only by itself and one, though in base-six math seventeen is represented by "25," which, in base-ten, is not a prime number. The originators of mathematics, the Sumerians, were the first to develop seventeen, which they called *sebešer* and represented in cuneiform as the symbol . It would take over three millennia before it would transform into the Roman "XVII." After the development of Islamic culture, XVII was replaced by the standard Arabic numeral 17.

Throughout history, kings, popes, emperors and the heads of major corporations have used the number seventeen. Even celebrities such as Madonna, Howard Hughes and Bruce Vilanche have, in the course of counting, utilized the number seventeen. Important works such as The Bible feature many chapters known by the numerical designation "Seventeen." The foundation of American government, a document called The Constitution, even features a section called "The Seventeenth Amendment." It is the seventeenth of the many amendments to this important and historic document.



Of course, seventeen is not just a stuffy number consigned to old, musty documents. Indeed seventeen is still a vital and important number that continues to permeate the popular culture of modern society. There is a glossy, quiz and makeup tip filled magazine which carries the name *Seventeen* on its masthead. Ohio powerpop band Manda and the Marbles released, in 2005, a song titled "Seventeen." First-ranked NASCAR™ driver Matt Kenseth's DeWalt logo-covered car bears the number seventeen and basketball star John Havlicek proudly wore a Boston basket ball team shirt on which was embroidered the number seventeen.

Of all the 1,207 numbers that exist today, seventeen is perhaps one of the most underrated and yet one of the most intriguing and important. Like twelve or seventy-eight, seventeen is one of the numbers that people enjoy. Seventeen is cool.





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Rabbi Yeshua Naziri

“The Talmud of the Christ”

There is a tendency in the Christian world to view Yeshua Nazarite as the first New Age hippie; a long-haired, sandal-wearing likeable guy who strolled about Palestine spreading love and good feelings. While there is a grain of truth to this sentiment, Yeshua Nazarite was more than a friendly guy. Indeed he did spread love amongst the unlovable, peace amongst those foreign to it. However, he was also a scholar, a man learned in the Law and a religious Jew. Yeshua's teachings did not appear via some process of parthenogenesis, but rather his ideas find their foundation in the Torah interpreted for use by ordinary people in a dangerous world.

The Rabbi as the spiritual leader in the Jewish community slowly evolved in response to the destruction of the Temple and the Diaspora. In the Middle Ages, Jews found themselves without a homeland, caught between Muslims and Christians, spread throughout the known world without a Temple or homeland to link them together. The Levite priesthood disintegrated, and Jewish thinkers such as Maimonides helped to popularize the Rabbinical method as a way to help unify and strengthen the Jewish community in a time of darkness.

Rabbinical thought has antecedents much earlier, but in a time when the priesthood dominated religious practice, the Rabbis were scribes and teachers, though rarely community leaders. While respected members of the community, their role was not truly divine. Unlike the Levites, their place was not set out in the Torah. In the time of the birth of the Roman Empire, Yeshua Nazarite was born into a Jewish community where scholars and priests co-existed, where the Rabbi's role in the community was still evolving.

It is difficult to pin down the exact date of Yeshua's birth, though reasonable to assume he lived from around 11 B.C. to 25 A.D. This was a time of great change in the Mediterranean world. A century of civil war had just ended and in the transition the Greek Kingdom in Egypt lost its independence, the Roman Republic was swept away and the world became ruled by the Roman Empire. Its Emperor, Caesar Augustus, became the God of the Known World. To the Romans, Alexander's once mighty empire was nothing more than a pot of gold to be taxed and pillaged into oblivion. Not even the restored Temple in Jerusalem escaped the greedy Roman vultures.

Rome's greatest enemy, the undefeatable Parthian Empire, stood at the border of Syria, forcing Rome to turn Palestine into a

military outpost. Jerusalem became a supply depot and base for the Legions on their way to the Parthian frontier. Though the Jewish nation had lived through slavery in Egypt, captivity in Babylon and countless wars and invasions, they had always survived. During the Roman occupation they longed once again for a hero to save them. Rome, however, was the mightiest enemy the Jews had ever faced. It would take more than another Moses or Gideon or Samson to defeat them. To defeat the Romans and reestablish the glorious kingdom of David required none other than the long prophesied Messiah. Or so it seemed.

Hope was given wings when Yayan Baptizer, a man from the wilderness, son of the priest Zacharias, a man of courage and great elocution, began to travel Judea preaching the word of God. Of course, in a time of chaos prophets, wild-men and preachers were abundant. Like many of them, Yayan denounced the excesses of the Romans and their tax system. He spoke against the corrupt and opportunistic Herod the Great, the Roman-appointed ruler of Galilee who had recently been given civil authority over the High Levite priests. Popular though he might have been, Yayan Baptizer was nothing more than a rabble-rouser, one of many capitalizing on resentment of the Romans and the Jewish leaders seen as their lapdogs. One of Yayan's closest supporters was his cousin, a laborer from Nazareth who was to not only give voice to the people's frustrations, but also provide practical solutions for life in an oppressive and confusing new world.

In the tens of centuries that passed between the time of Moses and the time of Yeshua, the Mediterranean World had been transformed in ways that no prophet foresaw. The great power-base of Egypt and Mesopotamia was usurped by the restless tribes of the north and west. Alexander relegated the Persian super-power to provincial status and then did the same to mighty Egypt. The Macedonians had not only conquered the world, they had doubled its size. The mists were lifted and strange new lands appeared on the horizon from the barbaric tribal groups of Europa to the magnificently rich and exotic lands of India, to the mysterious Seres and Phyrini¹. The Romans, once a barbarian tribe, took control of the Italian peninsula, established themselves in Iberia and North Africa and absorbed the remnants of Alexander's Empire. Expanding their dominion of the world, the Romans brought their civilization to Gaul, Germania and even to Albion and Hibernia², then seen as beyond the edge of the world.



Historically, the Jews viewed Jerusalem as the center of the Earth, between the Egyptians and Mesopotamia. The rise of the Greco-Roman civilization irrevocably destroyed this world-view. By 100 B.C. the center of the world had shifted by fourteen hundred miles to a city on the Tiber. The world in which Yeshua lived would have been alien to Moses; a world ruled by northern barbarians of whose very existence even an educated Egyptian of 1400 B.C. would have been ignorant. Not one prophet had told of the rise of the west. Not one had warned of the ferocity of Rome and the relegation of Jerusalem to the humble status of a minor, back-water province of a great western Empire. The prophets of Judaism had, perhaps, let their people down. The world changed, but the Torah and the Mitzvah had not. But, perhaps they could be reinterpreted for a new generation facing a new challenge.

The teachings of Yeshua Nazarite were based in the Torah, but explored new uses and adaptations of Mosaic Law. Whereas many religious leaders of the time viewed the Law as an unbendable and unbreakable set of statutes designed to ensure a standard of morality separate from common pagan religious communities, Yeshua Nazarite used the Law as a basis for creating a stronger, more pleasant community. Therein lay one of the chief causes of Yeshua's subsequent execution. At once Yeshua challenged the religious leaders and championed the frustrations of the people with those leaders. At the same time he failed to offer the people what they most desired: a military victory over the oppression of Rome. When religious leaders pushed for Yeshua's execution the people chose not to save a man who proved only a Rabbinical reformer. Instead they saved a bandit known for murdering Roman soldiers.

Though later Christian theologians interpreted Yeshua's message in the context of the sacrificial redemption of humanity, there is a much more mundane and human aspect to the Rabbi's teaching. While there are numerous stories attributing miracles and healing powers to Yeshua, there are more stories telling of his numerous debates and discussions of the Torah. It seems there is a valid interpretation of Yeshua's message that concerns neither conjuring nor magic tricks, but rather a courageous redefinition of the Mitzvah centering their application on human compassion and love rather than on rigid religious dogma.

A well-known story of Yeshua's reinterpretation of the Mitzvah comes from the Gospel of John:

Now very early in the morning, he came again into the temple, and all the people came to him. He sat down, and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman taken in adultery. Having set her in the midst, they told him, "Teacher, we found this woman in adultery, in the very act. Now in our law, Moses commanded us to stone such. What then do you say about her?" They said this testing him, that they might have something to accuse him of. But Jesus stooped down, and wrote on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he looked up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw the first stone at her." Again he stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground. They, when they heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning from the oldest, even to the last. Jesus was left alone with the woman where she was, in the middle. Jesus, standing up, saw her and said, "Woman, where are your accusers? Did no one condemn you?" She said, "No one, Lord." Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way. From now on, sin no more."³

The ultimate question that must be asked of the above passage is: does Yeshua's answer violate the Mitzvah? To answer, one must of course investigate the Torah. The commandments laid down by YHVH for his people clearly state that a sinner must be castigated⁴, that a sexually active unmarried woman must not be allowed within the community⁵, that such a woman must be punished⁶. In one sense it does seem as though Yeshua's choice clearly violates the Mitzvah, but in another sense he confirms the Law while reinterpreting the notion of whose role it is to enforce the statutes laid down by Moses.

Indeed, Yeshua condemns the woman's actions, labeling them as sin. He states that punishment should be inflicted upon her. But his reinterpretation denies that mere and fallible humanity is capable of judging, much less punishing her. It should be noted that the religious leaders were not intent on stoning the woman to death, merely on proving a forensic point. Stoning and execution for minor sins was, at that point in history, rarely if ever enforced, nor did the religious authorities have jurisdiction which allowed them to do so.



The question must be asked: how can one maintain the Law while seemingly contradicting it? Yeshua did this by controversially denying the religious authorities their right to act as judges of the community. In Yeshua's view judgment for sin can only be meted out by YHVH, most likely in the afterlife. In several ways this view was intended to offer hope to those oppressed by an alien government. It ensured unity in an already divided people by denying the power of one member of the community to pass judgment on another and it affirmed the idea that while people were powerless and broken in this world in the world to come after death they would be given fair treatment by a judge infinitely wiser than any human.

More importantly, Yeshua was a man who was willing to stand up for the oppressed in a time of tribulation. His unwillingness to condemn a woman, a probable prostitute, illustrates the notion that all people have worth; no doubt a comforting idea to a people with all their worth stripped from them by conquerors. Through his actions and statements Yeshua proclaims the idea that all people are equal. While religious leaders may attack a sexually promiscuous woman, they are still her equal. Like her they have sinned and violated the Law.

Yeshua taught that the Law was not rigid. While perhaps initially set in stone, it need not perpetuate in such a form. For a lost and powerless people in a chaotic world, Yeshua reinterpreted the Law to stress the survival and strength of the community over rigid adherence to doctrine. In one of his best-remembered sermons he states:

Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Indeed, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place.⁷

Perhaps Yeshua thought that in reinterpreting the Law in a way that allowed the Jews to survive the oppression of Rome, the Law would be fulfilled; it would serve a purpose greater than that of a mere moral code. It would give the Jewish people what they needed to survive an enemy more dangerous than even the greatest of prophets could have foreseen.

For a time the people flocked to Yeshua, hoping perhaps that he could be the Messiah promised the Jewish people, that he could free them from the tyranny of their enemies. Instead, Yeshua was caught in the middle of the chaotic world into which he had tried to bring peace; his reinterpretation of the Law angering religious leaders and his refusal to lead a military revolt against Roman occupation alienating him from his supporters. He was betrayed by his own confidants, tried by the religious leaders, and handed over to the Romans for execution.

Despite their difficulties and hardships, the Jews survived and their culture endured. They would outlive greater foes than the Romans. It is an unfortunate irony of history that Yeshua's teachings were perpetuated by alien peoples, even by the Romans, when his goal was perhaps the unification, survival and continuity of his own Jewish community. Sadder is the fact that instead of strengthening his people Yeshua's teachings would, in the aftermath of his martyrdom, divide them. A greater irony still: those who centuries later claimed themselves his followers would let the Law fall by the wayside as they used his name to oppress the very people he sought to protect, to uplift and to defend.

1. Seres and Phyrini most likely refer to the kingdoms of Han China and the kingdoms of South East Asia respectively.

2. Britain and Ireland.

3. John 8:2-11.

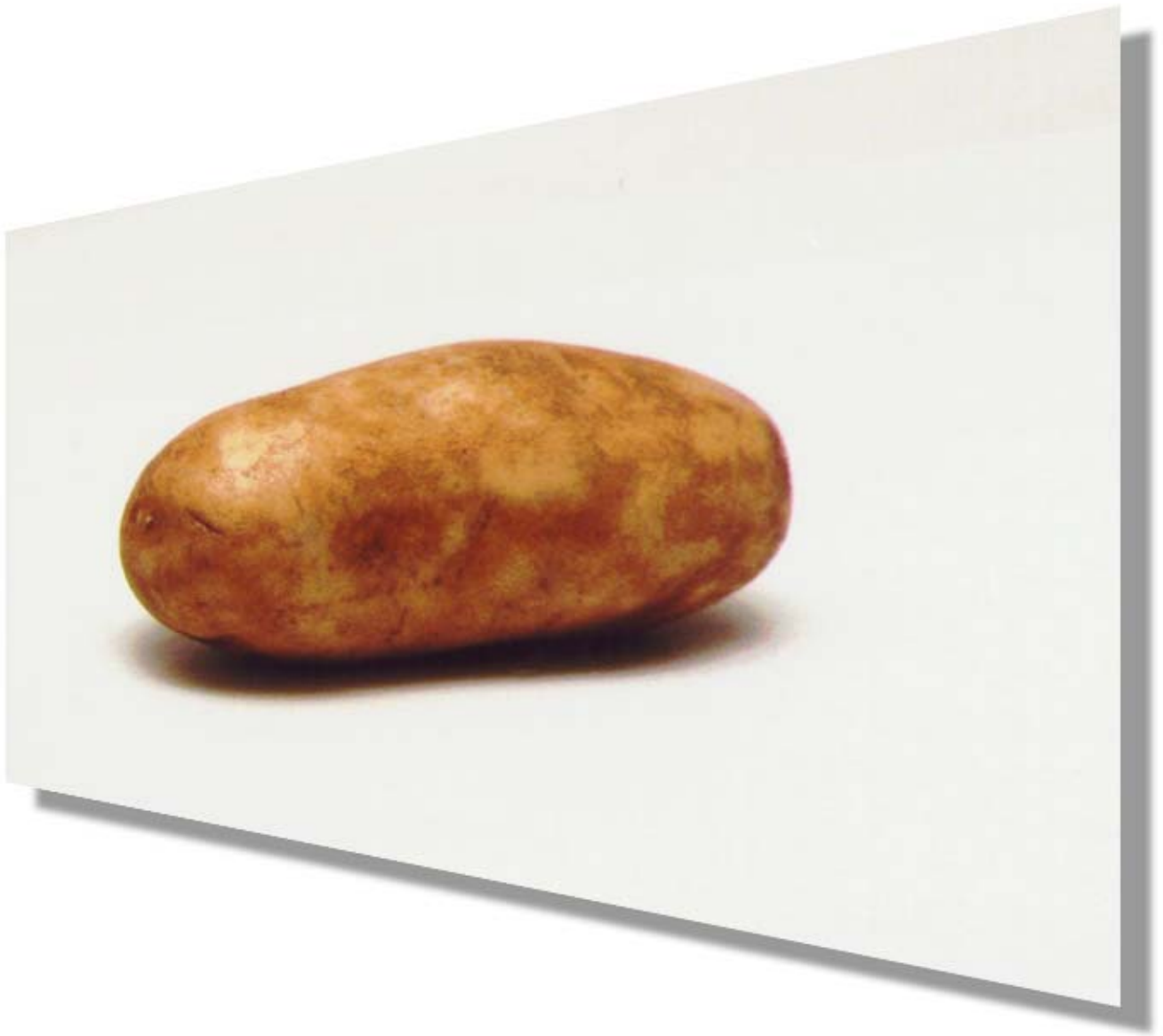
4. Leviticus 19:17.

5. Deuteronomy 23:18

6. Numbers 5:30

7. Matthew 5:17-18.

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ASK MONTEZUMA

ANSWERS FROM THE LAND OF

THE FEATHERED SNAKES!



Besides being Aztec Emperor, Montezuma also appeared as the star of the classic radio program *Lucky Strike's Amazing Adventure Quarter Hour Program*. In his spare time he inspects Nok sculptures and rides the world's only two-wheeled unicycle.

Dear Montezuma,
Since *Axes & Alleys* has now opened one of those nifty Café Press stores to sell t-shirts, mugs, thongs and F-22 Raptors, perhaps this should go on a t-shirt:

"Ask Montezuma what this shirt means."

Tim Wright
Elizabethville, PA

Tim, I believe that to be an excellent idea, but it's missing something. Perhaps the wonderful picture of me should be included between "Ask Montezuma" and "what this shirt means." One of those handy ellipsis punctuation marks would serve well after the "Ask Montezuma" portion. I will recommend this to my editors at the next meeting.

Montezuma,
During my tour in Southeast Asia last year, I met a Hmong sniper in Laos. His rep said he was a crack shot with a lot of kills under his belt, but he said something curious to me when I met him. He said "I shoot. They run." Now, if he's so good, why wouldn't his targets just be dead?

Moses Abercrombie
Katharinetowne, WD

Hmong snipers are a special breed, Moses. You see, their religious leaders place certain blessings upon ammunition below 50 calibre. When the target is acquired and shot, the blessings cause them to run to the nearest body of water and drown themselves, even when they are dead. It makes no sense to me either why they don't use magical fairy ping pong paddles to destroy their enemies like the rest of the Good Guy special forces do.

Dear Montezuma,
A friend of mine just asked me to prove to him that I'm not a robot. I'm a bit puzzled as to how to do this. Do you know how?

Eva Green
London, UK

One of the easiest ways to prove one is not a robot is by doing simple arithmetic. Try adding seven and four and see what your friend does.

Hi Montezuma,
I just bought a new computer, but I am having some trouble listening to my music. My grandson purchased the thing for me and it is cute as a button. Specifically, I wanted a disc drive so that I could play my LPs, but they don't seem to fit.

Mildred Burch
Aiken, SC

Mrs. Burch, did you specify to your grandson that you wanted to play 33s or 45s? You most likely have a disc drive compatible with 45s and not 33s. Your grandson should have purchased a computer for you with a drive of the right size. As he has no doubt seen your record collection, I assume he was

simply being lazy. Withholding the next batch of cookies should punish him enough in the meantime. If you take a picture of your computer with your digital Polaroid camera, one of my office assistants should be able to help you decide what type of external disc drives are compatible.

Dear Montezuma,

How many times can I ride the Mindbender at Six Flags Over Georgia before my circadian rhythms are disrupted and I find it difficult to sleep more than four hours at a time?

Lucy Scoggins
Marietta, GA

Seven, Lucy. Seven.

Dear Montezuma,

I'm a train pilot in the mid-West and I had a question about ground-traffic control. Well, you see, they're supposed to be there to make sure two trains don't enter the same groundspace and set up beacons at the train stations to make sure we don't lose our way. But, these guys are really snotty about everything. What's the best way to get rid of my protruding nose hairs?

Wayne Garmish
Mid-West, USA

WG, I believe you'll find it as interesting as I do to note that you were the pilot on my train thirteen years ago when I took a scenic tour of Accadia. You are an excellent pilot. There was very little turbulence and you arrived at the station with nary a bump. I also appreciated your humorous tour leader persona as you pointed out various trees and bushes by name as we sped by. As if we were travelling slow enough to see them! Keep up the good work.

Montezuma,

Can I use no-stick spray on stickers?

Jeremy London
Cantilever, VT

Jeremy, this is an interesting question I get from time to time, but never quite have the time to answer. It's a difficult explanation due to the mechanics involved. You see, no-stick spray generally works by phasing the gluon (a subatomic particle) into and out of existence through a forced

conversion from matter to energy and back again. Stickers, on the other hand, rely upon hydrogen bonds in order to adhere to surfaces. As you can see, one will clearly not affect the other and thus you cannot negate the tacky nature of your stickers with no-stick spray. Some form of plasma might work, though.

Dear Montezuma,

I don't get the point of iambic pentameter. People like Shakespeare, Keats and Donne seemed to use it a lot, and I've heard their work spoken aloud. This pentameter thing just sounds silly. Is there some other type of meter and syllabic structure used in poetry?

Marty Gill
Plainview, OT

Unfortunately Marty, poetry can only be written in iambic pentameter.

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AN EDITORIALISMO

BY LEFGURT JENKINS



Mr. Jenkins affixes tax stamps to cigarette boxes for New York State. In his spare time he enjoys affixing tax stamps to cigarette boxes for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

I cannot stand it when I hear comparisons of car horns to rhinoceros horns. The differences are so obvious, it boggles my mind how I constantly have to hear how similar they are. It's just such a stupid assertion. Really, it doesn't even merit refutation, but I'd like to set the record straight once and for all.

Take a look at each horn. One is attached to a large, lumbering, cranky creature living in Africa and certain zoos. The other you cannot even see. It is stuck inside a car somewhere. You only know it is there because some ornery dandy lays on it. If you are still not convinced by their appearances, how about their construction? Heck, the rhinoceros horn is not even constructed. According to scientists, the rhinoceros horn is made of a substance related to hair. The car horn is manufactured and installed in factories from Detroit to Japan. It is made of metal and electrical components. They are different because they serve different purposes; a car horn is supposed to make noise whereas the rhinoceros horn is used for fending off enemies or something. I am not really sure what it is for but it definitely does not make noise.

One of the most idiotic comparisons I have heard is that since people drive cars on Cape Horn, and Cape Horn looks something like a rhinoceros horn, they are similar.

Hardly. Cape Horn is much thinner in appearance than the horn belonging to a rhinoceros. Furthermore, there is no logical way someone driving a car equipped with a horn on Cape Horn makes the car horn similar to a rhinoceros horn. It is just illogical, you know.

Do not even get me going on the fact that both Africa (where the rhinoceros lives) and South America (where the car horn lives) have capes. The only current connection either cape has is that they are bounded by the Atlantic Ocean, which certainly has a car horn relevance quotient of nil.

Sometimes you hear about footage from nature shows where a Range Rover honks its horn at a rhinoceros in the road as proof of some equivalence. This is not proof of rhinoceros horn-car horn similarity, in fact it proves the opposite because if you pay attention you will notice that when the car horn honks the rhinoceros horn never responds. Never.

Next time you hear a fool going on about how much alike the car's horn and the rhinoceros' horn are, remember the points I brought up above. You should not need them, though. Simply roll up a newspaper and smack the stupid dog across the nose and inform him that he is a "bad dog." If your dog is like my dog, always going on about car horns and rhinoceros horns, I think that will help you keep your dog in check. Now, every time that dog starts up about horns, I grab a newspaper. He has learned his lesson; he slinks away with his tail between his legs and the debate is over. Over.

FIFTY THINGS

YOU CAN DO WITH ONE DOLLAR

1. Leave it in your coat pocket as a nice surprise for next winter.
2. Exchange it for twenty nickels. Neatly stack them into four stacks of five nickels each.
3. Watch one-seventh of a matinee.
4. Fold it so that George Washington turns into a mushroom. Use it as a visual aid to explain Hiroshima.
5. Bet it on the cock that looks like he'll win the fight.
6. Purchase lozenges for the sick.
7. Donate it to your alma mater. See if they'll name a window sill after you.
8. Give a penny each to 100 different shepherds.
9. Offer Ted a dollar to pick up the sticks in the front yard.
10. Attempt to bribe your congress-person.
11. Practice origami.
12. Lie and tell your friends it's two dollars.
13. Use the counterfeit detection pen on it when you get one at your supermarket cashier job.
14. Lick it. Tell people you like the taste of money.
15. Bury it. Then create a complicated, cryptic map to your mini-treasure.
16. Draw an eyepatch on Washington. When your friends tell you it's illegal to deface government property, explain to them how the Federal Reserve Banks are an independent body.
17. Offer it to a kid, see if he'll get in your van.
18. Write a short story on the front. End it with "to be continued..." so the next person who gets it can share in the fun.
19. Put it in a pyramid so the sides will get sharper.
20. Fold it into a triangle for paper football. Goal!
21. Look at the pyramid-eye thing on the back and spin your own conspiracy theories.
22. Spend a few hours and practice forging the Secretary of the Treasury's signature.
23. Try to find the secret spider on that web back-ground.
24. Tip Angel, the best stripper down at Babydolls.
25. Offer it in exchange for something a merchant has valued at one dollar.
26. Use a blender to shred it into small pieces. Then, snort the pieces to get high off of all the cocaine with which it's come into contact.
27. Pretend to be a rich guy by rolling cigarettes with it.
28. Go to the bank and try to get 50 two-cent coins.
29. Trade it in for 62 cents Crime Cash.
30. Buy a hooker for the night. A really cheap hooker.
31. Fold it up for use as a handy implement to get food out from between your teeth.
32. Use it as inspiration for your hit Blues song, "My Lonely Dollar Bill."
33. Copyright it and sue everyone using dollar bills.
34. Play Blue Fiber/Red Fiber. Have each person choose a color and count those fibers on the face of the bill. Whoever has more of their color wins.
35. Travel back in time to the 1920s and get yourself 90 pennywhistles.
36. Add crumbled dollar bill to your corn flakes for that great linen taste.
37. Use it to destabilize the economy of Namibia.
38. Take it out to a popular mall on Black Friday, attempt to buy an expensive product, then cry in front of news cameras about the effects of inflation.
39. Coat a corner in butane and use it to get the stickiness out of key pads on your saxophone.
40. Roll it up and swat bees.
41. Use it to separate hair in which you wish to put highlights.
42. Put a down payment on a marble statue of yourself.
43. Offer it to a club DJ to play your favorite song.
44. Study it if you get bored while defecating.
45. Buy one of those tequila worm lollipops you've always wanted.
46. Pull the security strip out of it to add to your collection of security strips.
47. Buy five pounds of New Jersey beach sand as the start to your new outdoor bar.
48. Drop it on the street to distract a mugger.
49. Point to it as a symbol of the evils of capitalism for random strangers.
50. Offer it to your teenager as their allowance. When they scoff at it, tell them to get a damn job.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

Mickey Dolenz' eyebrows. Stolen while he was asleep in the bus station. Yours for \$35.00 or trade. Rebecca at line 201.

FOR SALE

4 supertankers full of shaving cream in aloe variety. 1.2 million tonnes total. Free Indira Gandhi necktie included. Tony Blair, 10 Downing St. London SW1, UK

FOR SALE

Wet cardboard. Two cents, or best offer. Timothy, 10 Ran Way, Indian Falls, MV 202919

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200 TW earthquake machine. Causes earthquakes up to 7.1 on the Richter Scale. Not for evil! \$300,000.75 plus insurance and transport fees. NASA, Houston, TX

FOR SALE

Croatian sex slave named Angela; 5'9", light blue eyes, auburn hair and 3% freckle coverage. 36B with quarter sized, darkish pink areolae. \$30,000. For sale to good home or enterprising lawyer. Call Ms. Elizabeth at #008.

POSITION AVAILABLE

100 volunteers needed for human-grasshopper hybridization experiments. Earn \$7.00 an hour plus a free thorax and all the hemolymph you can stuff in your exoskeleton. Bugman Research Labs, Tripoli, PD. Fax resume/photo to 771-828-2881.

FOR SALE

Photograph of lion. Lion is sitting with quizzical expression. Sketch of lion and my lion poetry also available. Call Todd at 109-332-2272 for price list.

WANTED

Croatian sex slave. 5'6"-5'7" with light green eyes, strawberry blonde hair and 12-14% freckle coverage. Breasts 34C with Susan B. Anthony dollar sized light pinkish areolae. Name beginning with R preferred. Will accept T or I at substantial discount. Mike Bolton, Esq. Box 222.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Author needed to write long, formulaic, mass-market paperbacks. Highly paid, much publicity. Chance for movie to be made bearing no resemblance to book. Call Sarah Tam at Lorimer Press, NY, NY

FOR SALE

The book I wrote. While waging a secret, personal war against a corrupt I.R.A. influenced senator covertly financing a Columbian drug cartel, a plucky lawyer uncovers a centuries-old conspiracy by the Vatican to clone dinosaurs led by a young wizard who's only begun to discover that his fantastic power may spell doom for Shepherd's Point, a small town in Maine. It's called *Innocent Until Proven Deadly*. For sale to a publisher or movie producer. Dan Steele, Hartford, CT.

WANTED

More coffee. I just can't seem to get going this morning. Please fax coffee to 728-0092-20289. Will fax back \$1 per cup. Jim at Intertel Globalcom.

FOR LEASE

Spacious apartment in nice area. Four bedrooms, two full baths. 230,000 square feet. Only \$122/month. Perfect for people who don't need to breathe because the whole space is a vacuum chamber and there's no air. Carbunkle Realty, 337-2832-28333

FOR RENT

Adenosine triphosphate. Call Mit O. Chondria at the corner grocery.

FOR SALE

Doobie Brother. Includes landing gear, vest and sequined bowling apparatus. \$450.00 or better offer. James Wilson, Oncology Department, NJ Teaching College.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Woman, age 18-35 needed to sit opposite me on the train. Must be attractive and/or dressed in interesting clothes. Eye contact a possibility. N train, second to last car, most mornings around 8am. I'm the fellow with glasses.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Three Gorges Dam needed to block off Yangtze River in the People's Republic of China. Top pay, benefits and company car provided. Contact Hu Jintao, Beijing. Room 3.

Axes and Alleys

was

Conceived, Written and Produced

by

Scott Birdseye

and

Jeremy Rosen

with special thanks to cover-girl

Irene Baras



2006 A.D.

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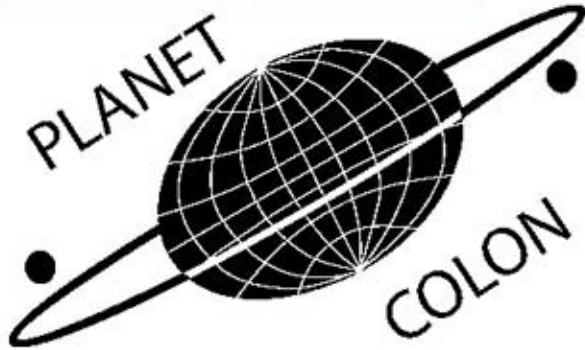
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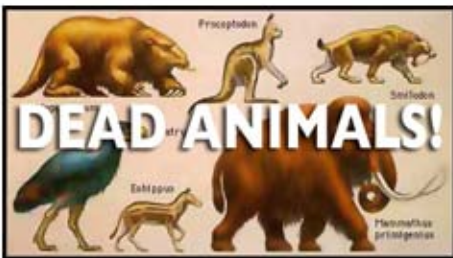
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Please.



**Y'KNOW THAT GIANT TUBE WHAT
BELCHES SMOKE INTO HOLES?**



Yep. That's one of ours.

