


a & a

Volume 
456-BR8
Issue 06
Gregor 2007

\$3.99 €5.61



Official Magazine of the RTRAMSOM

A person wearing an orange t-shirt and dark jeans is shown from the chest up. They have a white fabric sling draped over their shoulders, and their right arm is wrapped in white medical bandages. A medical professional in a white lab coat is visible on the left, adjusting the sling. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

I rode in a car.

Last year, cars killed 166,857 people.

HORSES™
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**Volume 456-BR8 Issue 06,
Gregor 2007**

Axes & Alleys is published by the Royal Tractor Repair and Maintenance Society of Outer Mongolia.

118 Egin River Road, Suite 900.
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People's Republic of Mongolia.

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Axes & Alleys

Featuring Inaccurate Mathematics!

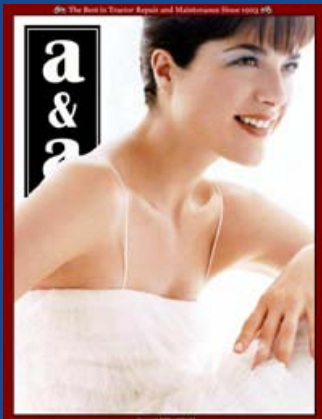


By executive order of President Armstrong, Twilight Savings Time has been changed. This year it comes early and lasts longer, and will do so from now on. We suggest you throw a Twilight Savings Time Changeover Celebration Party on Gregor 32nd. Invite your friends and serve time-themed foods like guacamole, salted herring, or borscht. On the Jupiday immediately preceding the Marsday of the switchover bring a blunt object to work. Anything like a whiffle bat, a rock, or a rolling pin will do. This is because everyone's workplace has that one incredibly annoying person who goes around reminding everyone to "Leap Forward!" They're all cheery and cracking jokes about losing an hour of sleep. Yeah, that's really funny. If you forget to bring your blunt object, remember, you can just roll up this magazine and slap 'em in the nose. That'll show 'em.

XOXO

Delores R. Grunion

The Gregor Cover Girl: Selma Blair



**Selma Blair
was born in
the wonderful
city of
Southfield,
Michigan
and later attended
Kalamazoo College.**

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

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like a job in either your production department or your chemical reclamation department. I am strong, smart, handsome, and virile. You may think these last two traits don't really help all that much when it comes to reclaiming spent chemicals or producing a magazine, but I'll let you in on a little secret: you're probably not as handsome or virile as I am, so how would you know?

Ralph Fiennes
Franklin, TN

Dear *Axes & Alleys*,

Could you please print my letter asking my girlfriend to marry me? It was the most romantic thing I could think of. I hope she says yes.

Freddie McSwirley
Boston, MA

Dear Editors,

I loved your article on the number seventeen (*Seventeen: A Brief History*, Volume 456-BR8, Issue 02)! The best part was the bit with all the flags at the bottom, including that of my own homeland of Esperia. I've missed it so much since I moved to the United States, and it's so rare that you see Esperian things in this country. Longa vivi *Axes & Alleys*.

Shovelilo Teni
Detroit, MI

Axes & Alleys,

The recent influx of Esperian terrorists to this nation is incredibly disturbing. It is my understanding that your publication is quite popular amongst them. Please be a true patriot and tell these readers of yours to go home.

Allison "The Admiral" Pfeffer
Bremen, Germany

Hey Editors,

What's with Illinois, porn and astrology?

Eliza Rohr
Chicago, IL

Dear *Axes & Alleys*,

Did you know a really good way to use your magazine is as kindling for the fire used in the final step of making buckskin leather? It may seem highly unbelievable, but it's true. I usually buy two copies, one for reading and one for putting in the bottom of the fire pit before I start the smoking process. It makes a nice, amber or yellow-brown patina on the skin, makes it incredibly pliable, and best of all is that perfuming agent you use in your dyes. No one knows my secret ingredient, so I'm selling an awful lot of moccasins, coats, and chaps. Thanks you guys!

Mark Frauenfelder
Los Angeles, CA

Dear *Axes & Alleys*,

We deeply regret the incident of last summer. Our inaction caused you and your neighbors outrageous inconvenience and serious discomfort during some of the hottest months of the year. The tepid response we first gave to the issue, as well as our disinformation campaign, did nothing to relieve you of the darkness, heat, and odoriferous conditions you experienced in your apartment for nine days. We are terribly sorry, and if there's anything we can do to make it up to you, please let us know.

Kevin Burke
Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer,
Consolidated Edison
New York, NY

Dear *Axes & Alleys*,

Why have there been at most two references to Showtime Networks' *The L Word* in your magazine? That's hardly enough. You've mentioned Leisha Halley, of course, and I can't but think that your article devoted to fire safety (*Fire Safety Tips for the Home*, Volume 456-BR7, Issue 18) was an allegory for the death of Dana in the third season. That's it, though. No references to important main characters like Shane or Bette, no mention of backgrounders like Lara (she's a hottie), or that transgender Max. I expect more *The L Word* references and fewer references to things like *Blake's 7* or the 12th season of *The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson*. I've certainly had enough of your theological diatribes.

Ilene Chaiken
West Hollywood, CA

Dear *Axes & Alleys*,

Why is it that the serious, professional architects always make fun on my designs for my the skyscraper I want to build. It's called "The Chicago" and is a million miles high and bright orange in color. They always tell me that there's no material with the tensile strength to enable the construction of a million mile tall skyscraper. That's so unfair.

Michael Forks
Thaddigan, PA

Dear Sirs,

In your article "Alamo or Bust" your historians say that David "Davey" Crocket died at the Alamo, killed in battle by Mexican solidiers. What a crock. Everyone who has studied geometry knows that such a death would be impossible. No, it seems much more likely that he was killed by two alligators named Clem and Morris. Morris ate the top half, but didn't eat the hat. Alligators don't eat hats.

Laura Burbank,
Talisman, GA



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Enjoy adhesive paper.

Democracy in Action!

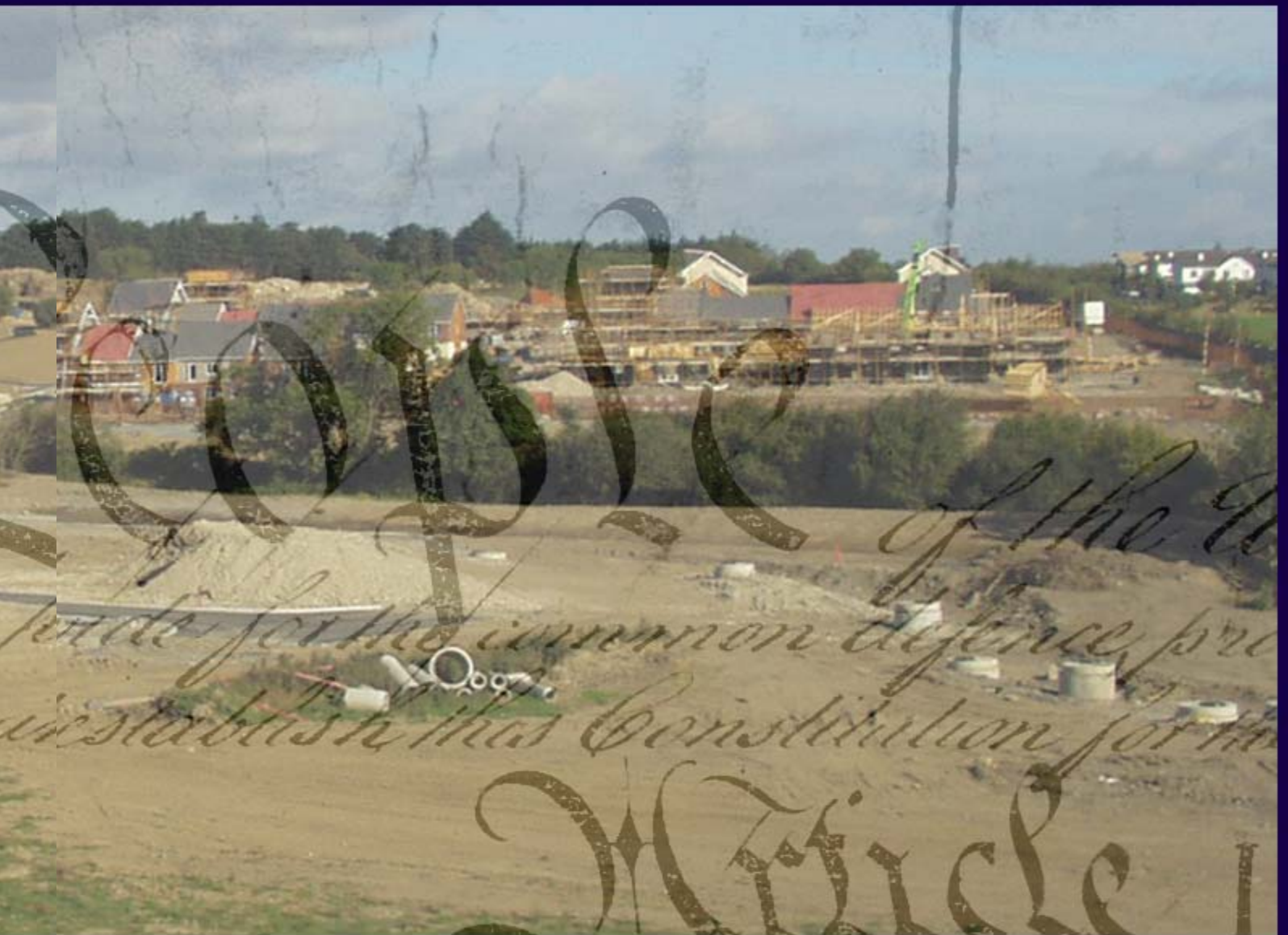
Evanston, EL City Council to Address North St. Zoning Issues.

Evanston, EL- In a form letter sent to residents and business owners, the City Council formally announced its plan to hold a meeting to address citizens' concerns over the proposed re-zoning plan for the area of North Street between West Main and Route 202. While the area in question has remained rural and undeveloped for decades, two large tracts of land have been sold to developers who hope to build a new housing subdivision and to the BestMart company who has plans to build a new BestMart Super Center near the intersection of North and Route 202.

Currently, the area is zoned Light Commercial and Residential, but some community groups have protested, citing geological surveys suggesting that new developments could create runoff, possibly flooding Uchee and Neary Creeks during downpours.

Residents of the nearby Pine Woods and River Run sub-divisions have formed a lobby group, though they have yet to make any official statement about the City Council's proposed meeting. Resident Maria O'Malley issued a statement on her blog, in which she stated ten major issues she had with the new rezoning plan, including increased automobile traffic and increased taxes to pay for new road maintenance. Other residents have stated that if the area is rezoned as Medium Commercial, it may affect their property values.

Prince County City Planner Raymond Jones, a twelve year veteran of Evanston civil service, had this to say. "Evanston is growing and development can have both downsides and benefits. Of course we're going to listen to all sides on this issue and make a decision that will work for residents as well as for commercial interests.



I look forward to a productive meeting.” According to inside sources, speakers at the meeting may include Deputy Planner Elaine Meyers, Council Chairperson Willard Thomas, Residents Association President Marlene Kaplan-Hughes, and perhaps even Chamber of Commerce President Michael Mattingly, Jr. Plans for the meeting include the reading of the minutes, a pledge of allegiance to the flag, as well as a question-and-answer time which will allow private citizens to voice specific concerns or opinions.

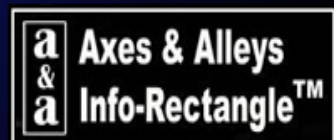
Whichever course the Planning Office and the Council choose, all agree that this is an excellent example of community involvement in civic affairs and that perhaps such an amicable relationship will enable Evanston, and all of Prince County, Elizabethia, to grow and prosper in the coming years.

Statement by Maria O'Malley on pinewoodsmom.blogzone.net

“Some issues I have with the proposed re-zoning plan:

1. Increased traffic at the West Main/Route 202 interchange.
2. Taxes increasing to pay for the development.
3. Strangers moving into the area.
4. BestMart's waste management outsourced to Parsifal County companies.
5. Light pollution from the new sub-divisions' driving ranges.
6. Property values in nearby areas decreasing.
7. Protection of the Bebe McGruder Historic Home located on the site.
8. Lack of a plan to conserve the environment of the Prince County Azalea.
9. Radiation from the proposed cellular tower installation.
10. I just don't want it.

If the City Council can't solve each of these ten problems, I might organize a letter-writing campaign against the project.”



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Bester Labs Perfects THE METAL RING WITH PLATES

Metal Rings Without Plates Now Obsolete!

In what is being hailed as a revolutionary breakthrough, technicians at Toledo's Bester Labs were able to successfully attach plates to a metal ring. Also made of metal, the plates have now rendered plate-less metal rings completely obsolete. This is a major step forward in metal ring technology, an advance unequalled since metal rings were first developed in the early 1930s.

For decades, many in the metal ring industry had considered the addition of plates to be science fiction hokum, a belief which was dispelled in 1998 when metal ring technician Amanda Brock published a mathematical proof that plates would be possible, under certain, difficult to achieve conditions. Though many continued to debate the veracity of Brock's claims, a few advanced labs began testing to determine if plates could be successfully added to metal rings.

After nine years, and fifteen billion dollars, Bester Labs managed to fulfill the dream of countless generations by adding plates to metal rings for the first time. "This signals the dawn of a new age," said Assistant Ring Technician Tommy Branson. "With pluck, determination, and a few billion dollars, anything is possible, even plates on metal rings."

The prototype metal ring with plates, dubbed EVX-17, will be on display at the Toledo Hall of Science until January.

The Axes & Alleys HISTORIGON

This Month in History:

2006 AD- Only one month after being commissioned, NCV-738 *U.S.S. William Henry Harrison* sinks to the bottom of the Atlantic.

2002 AD- Respect for the environment reaches an all-time high of .067% of the population.

2000 AD- Thanks to the continued success of comedy, humorism is finally declared dead.

1998 AD- In order to advance his post-*The Wonder Years* career, Josh "Paul Pfeiffer" Saviano, reinvents himself as shock rocker Marlene Berkowitz.

1993 AD- A peanut allergy causing virus is perfected by the Walnut Council.

1973 AD- Sloppy Whitehouse janitor Earl Shecky is added to Nixon's enemy list.

1950 AD- Timothy Dawson, father of three, comes home after a long day at the office and lights up his pipe.

1918 AD- After tripping up in No Man's Land, First Lieutenant Miles Raspail Thompson curses Joseph Glidden and his so-called "barbed-style wires."

1896 AD- After his horse dies miles from home in the freezing cold, junk man David Rosen of Detroit cuts her open and sleeps inside the carcass to keep warm. Years later a young filmmaker reads of this and includes it in one of his films.

1776 AD- Tired and worn-out after a night of composing, Thomas Jefferson pens a silly little piece of writing that he calls "The Declaration of Indigestion."

1666 AD- As it is "The Year of the Beast," John Fish sits in his wood bin, fingers in his ears, waiting for Armageddon.

1492 AD- Spaniards arrive in North America to replace the ancient horse population which had died out thousands of years earlier.

1330 AD- Shortly before the birth of future Shogun Ashikaga Yoshiakira, those near his mother hear screams of pain.

1184 AD- After falling for the same trick eighty-six consecutive times, French Crusaders follow an apparently fleeing Muslim army into a narrow mountain pass, just in case it might actually work this time.

1041 AD- Samuel Aba becomes king of Hungary, beginning over 900 years of the world not caring what happens in Hungary.

863 AD- Gradu the Barber, in the first written account of the city of Smolensk, states that "it's a one donkey town."

770 AD- Halfer the Blacksmith decides to start making horse shoes out of iron so he doesn't have to see that annoying Lord Grefter and his snotty six-year old son so often.

622 AD- Following in the foot steps of other religions of peace such as Judaism and Christianity, Muslims found their religion on the invasion and destruction of other lands and people.

504 AD- The Mitriani, a long-lived alien race with a small population, land on a largish coral outcropping in the Pacific. Finding little in the way of intelligent life, they decide to have their equivalent of a can of soda before leaving. 1400 years later, Americans decide they really like Kwajalein Atoll.

258 AD- Shortly before being declared emperor, Sun Xiu is frustrated by a commoner who can't seem to carry a wooden pole through the gates of Hulin. Sun sticks a finger in his eye and lets out a yell, thus creating the action which was named for him: the shoe.

112 AD- Dugongs invent spear technology and launch an invasion of what would become southern Malaysia. The invasion fails under mysterious circumstances.

240 BC- Ctesibius of Alexandria invents a sub-orbital, pneumatic rocket, but accidentally pushes the improperly-labeled self-destruct lever, destroying the rocket and his engineering notes. At the same time as the explosion, Ctesibius invents the interface concept of labels.

535 BC- Lao Tzu is the first philosopher to come up with the idea that everything, including one's memories of the past, was created within the past five minutes. An intelligent friend slaps Lao across the face, ending the promulgation of this line of thought for hundreds of years.

760 BC- Shortly before his death Alara, the king who united Nubia, looks over the sand and dust of his kingdom and starts to wonder why he would do such a thing.

1001 BC- Local inhabitants, burdened by the fossils their people had collected while migrating throughout Africa, begin throwing them into Olduvai Gorge.

1457 BC- Kiltumesh takes a break from the Battle of Megiddo to urinate and use a branch to relieve himself of the irritating itch on his back.

1729 BC- Humming to himself while working on some pottery, Terah doesn't notice Abraham, Lot, their families and their friends leaving for Canaan.

6000 BC- Neanderthals found the Minoan Civilization.

A dense collage of numerous small photographs showing various protest scenes. Protesters are seen holding signs, banners, and flags. The signs contain various messages related to the Israel-Palestine conflict, such as 'FREE PALESTINE', 'END THE OCCUPATION', 'NO JUSTICE NO PEACE', and 'ISRAELI GUILTY'. Some photos show individuals speaking into megaphones. The background of the entire image is a collage of these protest photos.

Protesting is for losers

Voting is for losers

Getting involved?

Yep. That's for losers too.

Think about it.

All those taxes you pay?

All those laws you obey?

When was the last time

Society gave a rat's ass about you?

www.realism.co.org

We don't care about the world because the world doesn't care about us.



Historians spend years, sometimes decades, sifting through primary documents in their attempts to uncover the reasoning behind events in the past; both grand and trite. They'll offer a host of explanations, descriptions, and analyses to explain why a war started, or how a people disappeared. They're wasting their time. It all comes down to land. Just patches of dirt; patches of dirt with flora and fauna, and if you're lucky, some iron ore.

To begin our exploration, let me tell you about the early history of a people, a well-documented history, which while it may be a little faulty in the details, still seems to get the larger view correct according to archaeological and historic study. Let's talk about the Hebrews.

Their origin and actions are detailed in The Testament. Not the Old Testament. After all, they wrote the thing and so we'll ignore those "New Testament" shenanigans. To them it was just The Testament; a testament of their activities. After a quick reword of the Sumerian creation myth, it starts when Abraham is spirited out of his home city of Ur, a city of alleged idolaters. What brought him out of Ur? That's right, the promise that God was going to give him some really special land. Abraham was really into dirt, and after dividing up the dirt with his cousin Lot, he settled down and started the Hebrews.

Abraham wasn't so bad on his own, but those progeny sure were. Throughout The Testament we're shown the same, short dialog over and over again.

"You see those people over there?"

"Well, yeah?"

"Go kill them and take their land."

Which of course the Israelites (as they're known by this point) were quite happy to do. Whether the people were Ammonite or Canaanite, they each suffered the same destructive fate. Abraham's great-grandson, Simeon, was particularly ingenious. When his sister Dinah was raped by inhabitants of Shechem, Simeon and his brothers forced them to convert to Judaism and circumcise themselves to make up for it. As if that would do anything for poor Dinah.

And the next day, while the Sichemites were lolling around in pain from their bloody genitals, Simeon and his brothers, in a show of filial strength, marched into town, killed all the men, enslaved all the women and children, and took the land. That's right. In order to get some land they made some other men slice off parts of their penises, then killed them all when, lo and behold, slicing off part of their penises really hurt. All over a parcel of land smaller than Manhattan.

Of course, the Hebrews cum Israelites weren't the only people interested in land. You've got your various Empires throughout history, too, and most people would put their expansion down to trading and taxes, or the like. But how do you get more trading and more taxes? Well, you kind of amble over to the people in another place, kill them, and take their land. Farmland was especially coveted, but Empires were also perfectly happy to just get some dirt, even if they couldn't grow anything on it. Really it was just about getting land, useful or not. Everyone wanted land and would do anything or kill anyone to get it.

One of the most interesting ways to get land in history was devised by the Assyrians and improved upon greatly by the Mongols. Basically, you show up, threaten the most bloody murder imaginable, do that when people resist, and take their land. Then you hang around for a generation or two and get assimilated because, frankly, your own culture just isn't that impressive. A bunch of guys who drink horse blood and fermented mare's milk don't have much on China or the Abbasids.

In order to get that land, the Mongols did some pretty interesting things, including killing every living thing from people to birds in a city and stacking their skulls in pyramids. It was supposed to be some sort of example to the next city they tried to attack, but really, when tens of thousands of smelly guys with bows and swords show up, it's almost a given that you're going to let them pass on. Of course the Mongols still had their obsession with skulls. During The Crusades, they put a ring of skulls around an entire city. You might think they wanted money, but they weren't going to get that without land. So, of course, all the little birdies and kitties had to suffer for that.

The Crusades were an especially interesting case, because they weren't just fighting over regular dirt, they were fighting over holy dirt. Of course, the Crusades were an incredible failure, but that failure was fortuitous because it cut off the Europeans' route to the Asian lands which were full of spices. As they had to subsist on gruel and oatmeal, the Europeans were really interested in spices; after all, gruel was pretty darn bland. So, after a while, the Europeans tried to sail across the Atlantic to spice-laden Asia, but instead bumped right into America.

When the Europeans discovered America, they basically had a continental orgasm; it was free land and tonnes of it. Sure, they had to kill some natives to get it, but that wasn't too big a deal since the Europeans were rather well practiced in the fine art of killing people and taking their land. Everyone got into the game: the Spanish, the French, the English, and even the Dutch.

Speaking of the Dutch you've probably heard the story that the Dutch purchased Manhattan from a local tribe for the equivalent in beads of \$26. That story gets it about as much as smashing your thumb with a hammer when you're trying to nail something. The Dutch actually purchased Manhattan from several local tribes for various prices. Wouldn't look too bad if the Dutch had, y'know, paid attention to the fact that a much more powerful nation had its sights set on North America (England of of course). In essence, the Dutch made

complete fools of themselves to get 33 square miles of land. Which they lost. Nice going Nederlanders!

Of course the English had their own interesting ways of getting land. For instance, just showing up. If no one happened to be around at the time, well, it must just belong to England. That wasn't enough for them though. When you need some forest, mountains, and rivers, you of course take some blankets from people infected with a really nasty disease and give them to a group of people proven to be not resistant to the disease. In some cases, the English did this for bits of land no bigger than a couple of acres because, well, there were beavers on those acres and those damn French traders might get there first.

The modern era isn't fraught with such examples though, mostly because we've all just learned not to take blankets from strangers. But you'd be wrong to think that just because we've developed modern life, people have stopped trying to get land. There's only one example in modern history that rests on something other than land, and that's World War I, which rests entirely on stupidity, but ended up being a major land grab anyway.

Its aftermath, what I like to call World War II, rests almost entirely on the subject of getting land. Germany, the country which started the ill-fated endeavour because they couldn't compare the number of factories they had relative to the United States, expressly stated this in their policy of *Lebensraum*. The Germans didn't want a living room with nice sofas and such, they wanted room to expand their population. Because their citizens couldn't put on a rubber, Germany invaded Czechoslovakia. Then Poland. At that point, why not try on Russia for size.

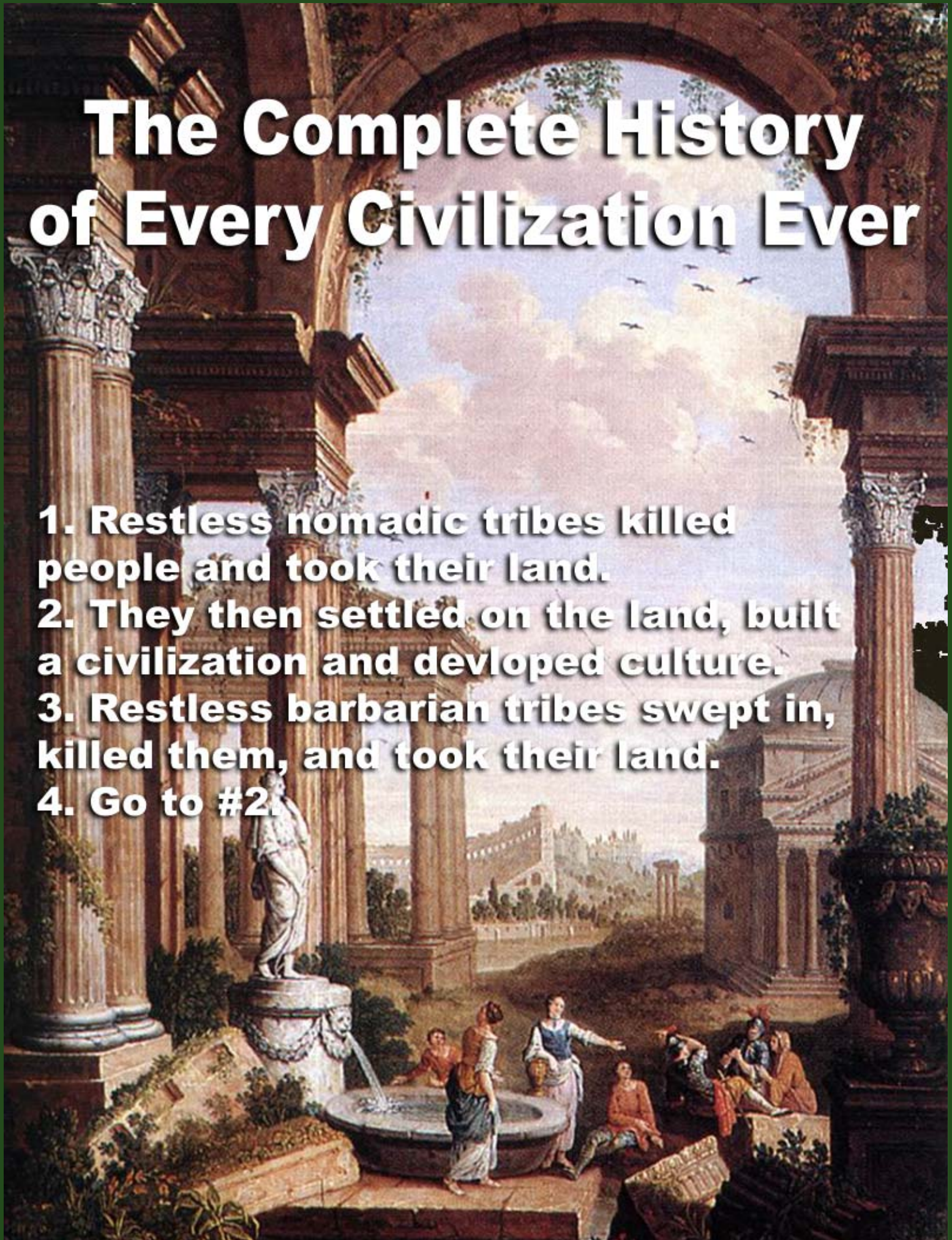
And of course let us not forget cleaning out the land they already had. Germany built death factories so they could cleanse what was already in their possession of the undesirable: Jews, Gypsies, Homosexuals, Retards, and assorted others. Then they built an economy on that so they could sell lampshades made of human skin and soap made from human fat. That's German efficiency: take the land and make stuff out of the people you kill. The early Hebrews could have learned something from that if they had a time machine and their descendants weren't being slaughtered by the millions. Hey, Abraham, they will number more than the stars, but they're all going to get killed in really nasty ways.

These are just a few examples, but most of human history follows the same pattern. Whether it be *Homo Sapiens* killing off *Homo Neanderthalensis*, Hebrews taking a sliver of land by the sea, Normans snuffing out Britons, Maori shooting the hell out of the Chatham islanders, or Nazi Germany putting Europe to the flame, it all comes down to land. You might hear various things about Vietnam, or "no blood for oil," but none of those things happen without the lust for land from one party or another. It all comes down to dirt, and the to the people who live on that dirt and the resources thriving on or buried under that dirt.

So the next time you read a history book, keep in mind that it's all just an effort to grab land. When it all comes down to it, people are a lot like earthworms; we're both just obsessed with dirt.

The Complete History of Every Civilization Ever

- 1. Restless nomadic tribes killed people and took their land.**
- 2. They then settled on the land, built a civilization and developed culture.**
- 3. Restless barbarian tribes swept in, killed them, and took their land.**
- 4. Go to #2.**





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AXES & ALLEYS PRESENTS



Helpful Vacation Tips

1. Be sure to take off work during your vacation. Nothing spoils a trip to Hawaii like having to commute six thousand miles back to work every day.
2. Before travelling abroad, first check with the U.S. State Department to make sure the country you're travelling to actually exists. Remember, the Byzantine Empire hasn't existed for 500 years, so you can't actually go there anymore.
3. Mousetrap is an incredibly popular game the world over. Remember to bring it with you and you'll be sure to make friends wherever you go, especially Laos.
4. In the Arctic, the sun doesn't set for months at a time. It's never night time, so you don't have to sleep and can save a lot of money since you don't need a hotel room or a bed. Bartenders are also never sure when it's happy hour.
5. While airplanes do have an excellent safety record, they still occasionally crash. Keep in mind that there hasn't been a Zeppelin crash in over eight decades. The record for manned kites and ironclads is even better.
6. To save money travelling overseas, just swim. A healthy adult should be able to make it across the Atlantic in only a month or two. Don't forget your goggles.
7. Most foreign countries have their own currencies. But sometimes U.S. arcade tokens can be used in foreign skeeball games.
8. When abroad, you may need a knob converter to open foreign doors.
9. A handy phrase to remember is "I'm an American and your laws don't apply to me."
10. Never leave home without your spelunking trowel. Ever.
11. Time can drag on a long flight, so have some reading material on hand; like Churchill's 20 volume history of WWII, or a brochure about Rock City. Either will do.
12. You might be tempted to get some local culture while abroad, but don't be suckered into seeing local music. It usually involves weird instruments and costumes, not guitars.

13. Almost every country on the planet has its own species of magpie. Make sure you pack your magpie detector.
14. If you're vacationing in the United States, remember that it has a handy interstate highway system for driving. Their names often start with a letter and end in a number.
15. Finland has no month of October on their calendar, so if you travel there during that month, keep in mind that for them it's actually November.
16. Snakes can be found in many regions, if you're into that sort of thing.
17. Duty free shops in international airports are where you can pick up stuff without paying taxes. Go for high-priced items like jewels or cars. You can try selling stuff there, too, but make sure you stand near the exit.
18. If you really like a place, consider staying there and never coming back. We don't want you anyway.
19. Make a game out of your vacation by seeing how much work you can do away from the office.
20. Challenge yourself by using a large plastic bag as your only luggage. See what you can fit inside.
21. The point of going on vacation is to relax, but foreign countries can often befuddle one with their confusing customs. If you're American, try eating only at popular American fast food chains to calm your nerves.
22. It is often said that what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas. This is not true of Portugal.
23. Hiking can be fun, but you do risk getting lost. If this happens you might be tempted to walk in the same direction to find your way. The world is round, though, so trying something of a spiral pattern would work better.
24. It has often been said that aboriginal peoples know their surroundings better than people living in the developed world. If you get captured, distract your captors by asking them what the plants and animals are called.

ANGRY FOOD

AN ENTHUSIASTICALLY RESEARCHED ESSAY BY

OLIVER CROMWELL



I love angry food. The kind of food with names you could shout out at your enemies before charging into battle. My life is unfortunately bereft of a lot of angry food. The cheap stuff at the store usually doesn't cut it. Now think of yourself on the humid plains of Asia, approaching the enemy line with sweat pouring down the back of your halter and spear clutched in hand. As you meet the enemy and pounce with that spear, a bloodcurdling cry leaps from your lungs.

"Tzatziki!" you yell, as your spear thrusts into the yielding flesh of your opponent. That's an angry food. It wouldn't work if you screamed something like "salad." Unfortunately life is replete with food names inappropriate for blood lust: potato, hamburger, flan, lemon chicken, shallots. Not a one inspires much of anything. I guess you could bellow out "squash," which is something you could do with a shock weapon, but it's still not too threatening.

Something that comes close and never quite makes it is "fritters." Fritters is more of a calm and collected food. It's the kind of thing you'd whisper to a prisoner before torturing him. Grabbing a rusty pair of pliers, you'd lean next to his ear and quietly say "fritters." It would send shivers down their spine.

But, again, could you imagine spurring your howitzer crew on to the sound of "cous cous?" It, like so many other foods, just doesn't fill you with the life that names reminiscent of violent, bloody death can.

The fact that "souvlaki" is an absolutely stellar angry food shouldn't make you think that foods ending in "i" are good angry foods. One look at a list of Italian pastas should disabuse you of that notion fairly quickly. No enemy has yet run at the sound of "rotini."

You want to mix your foods up, though. There are also the grunts and swears spoken while engaging in war. This is where "stroganoff" is perfect. Try saying it in loud, but low tones when your column is grappling with the enemy.

One of the best angry foods, bellying its existence as a dumpling in soup, is xiao long bao. You can just imagine leading a troop of men, coming over a hill only to discover the enemy tens of yards downhill, and shouting the charge "Xiao long bao!" as you and your men fly down the hill towards certain death.

Next time, when you sit down for chicken strips, pizza poppers, "tater skins," or some other milquetoast food, think of how much better it would be if your food's name got you really pissed off. So pissed off you could kill a man. This is the reason that most of my meals consist of bok choy.

Oh no, not another skinflint Hydraulic Engineering Planner!



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ASK MONTEZUMA IT'S THE ANSWER MAN FROM TENOCHTITLAN



Aztec Emperor Montezuma is a member of the Emperor Hall of Fame in Scranton. While he has, in the past, claimed his favorite soup was borscht, he has since changed it to chicken with stars.

Dear Montezuma,
Has anyone ever been the victim of apathy?
Bertrand Russell
Purgatory, The After Life

Bertie, a recent study of global mortality rates over the last 4000 years has found the mortality rate due to apathy quite steady at "0 per 1000 people." Even more staggering are the numbers when you expand the sample size, because at 1,000,000 the rate remains at 0. Comparatively, the mortality rate due to caring is a disastrous "a lot per 1000. (ibid.)."

Hi Montezuma,
I am scared. You see, because of the recent outbreak of viral Yacht Rot, which has already destroyed over 300 yachts, I'm worried about my yacht *The Nothing But The*

Truth So Help Me God. She's a fine boat and I'd like to make sure she doesn't succumb to this nasty virus. Any tips or tricks?

David Sanders Muttonmere IV
Kennebunkport, ME

Tricks you say, DSMIV? I am astounded that someone could send such slanderous invective through the mails. I'll have you know that never once have I resorted to trickery. Certainly there were accusations brought up in the civil suit a few years back, but under the conditions of the settlement of that case (which included this magazine allowing me to publish my column) I cannot speak more on the subject. Now, perhaps I've been hasty in judging your letter. You seem like a nice-enough fellow, so perhaps you simply heard this bit of drivel from another person. Please send their name and the time and location where they told you this to me, as well as a copy to the editors of this publication.

Dear Montezuma,
Which is better: hooded sweatshirts or unhooded sweatshirts?
P. Esther Clemens
Labia County, Dry Michigan

Esther, it would behove you to take a peek at an English grammar book or two. You see, when you are referring to something in the plural, the proper being verb would be "are" in this instance. I find this all the more puzzling due to your proper usage of the colon. The colon is a lovely punctuation mark suitable for denoting a list of things, separating a book's title from its sub-title, or making a formula work across several cells in Excel. Much better than that bastard semi-colon, if you ask me.

Montezuma,
In The Epoxies song "Molded Plastic," lead singer Roxy Epoxie says that she is, among other things, made of molded plastic, that her eyes are "blue electric," and that her circuits are "unwired." Is Roxy Epoxie a robot?
Andy Woggin
Mispelled, OT

Roxy Epoxie is definitely not a robot and I am terribly vexed by the continued queries regarding the robotic status of female rock musicians. In any case, this sounds less like a racist letter full of bigotry and more like a misunderstanding of the concept of metaphor. Many lyricists employ metaphor in order to make a point. So do poets. For instance, in Keats' "Ode on a Grecian Urn" the urn is really a stand-in for sausages, with which Keats' was obsessed. "What little town by river or sea-shore, Or

mountain-built with peaceful citadel, Is emptied of its folk, this pious morn?" You see, sausages are rivers or sea-shores of meat stuffed into citadels of intestines or artificial sausage skins, which are then emptied of their meaty townsfolk by the person consuming the sausage. Keats very much loved sausages. In fact, that love of sausages likely led to his early death from heart disease.

Dear Montezuma,

My friend Kitty Parker likes to eat caterpillars. She's always asking me if I would like one and I usually say no. Caterpillars are cuter than cows, calves, and other mammals people eat, so why should I eat them?

Leroy Vinnegar

Blister-Exists, NY

Cute you say? Have you ever peered at microscopic photo slides of the creatures? They're astoundingly hideous! Enough to give me nightmares. Great, gnashing, clipping mandibles to rend your flesh. Corpulent body segments eager to lay upon and flatten you. Sickly-glistening protuberances emerging from all portions of the body. And all accompanied by those tiny, beady, multi-faceted eyes. Also they make silk like spiders. No, my friend Leroy, consume them lest ye be consumed first. (Do not consume spiders though. When you see them they're usually just trying to say hello. Wave back kindly and with enthusiasm.)

Dear Montezuma,

I've been in love with Millenarianism for quite some time. I truly enjoy the whole concept of the coming Apocalypse and the possibility of living through it to enjoy the fruits of the Post-Apocalypse. When you consider it, if you're a canned tuna lover, there will be plenty free for the taking.

Anyway, I also like the imagery inherent in Millenarianism. So., to get to the point, since I love Millenarianism so much how would I go about proposing marriage to it?

Danielo Cabrasi

Conclave, MV

Proposing to Millenarianism is difficult, not least because it has been rejecting such offers for nearly 2000 years. Cobbler Johnson of Derbyshire came closest in 1577, but after thinking it over for two weeks, Millenarianism declined the offer. You might try something romantic like sky-writing or doing it at a major league spearball game.

Dear Montezuma,

I am terribly crabby all the time and often this seems to bother people. I think this results from my lifelong dedication of curing people of their delusions. A lot of people don't react well to a dour old man telling them they're being foolish. Is there a way for me to fix this?

James Randi

Fort Lauderdale, FL

Hey there Amazing! I've always wanted to receive a letter from you, but I'll leave the gushing of a fan for a private return letter (hope you enjoy the photographs). First, let me ask, have you attempted to smile? In all of your numerous television appearances you never seem to crack a smile and, in fact, appear quite combative. Slapping a smile on that handsome mug of yours might put people off of getting angry about things. It would certainly cure the dour adjective. Shaving the beard you so hautilly display will reveal more of your handsomeness and will allow your smile to be more easily seen.



Montezuma's Helpful Hints for the Home

Most people enjoy collecting bottles. A recent survey of North America and Europe found that 67% of adults and 22% of children enjoyed collecting bottles, while 12% and 40%, respectively, found collecting bottles to be mildly entertaining. One problem with collecting bottles is storage. Bottles do take up a lot of space. You can save a lot of space by removing the labels from the bottles. Simply soak the bottles in warm, soapy water for an hour or two, then scrape off the remaining bits of label with the edge of a trowel. This will save you 1/100th of an inch or so of diameter for each bottle, allowing for easier storage.

Are you stressed out by this hectic, workaday world?
Tired of getting only sixteen hours of sleep a day?

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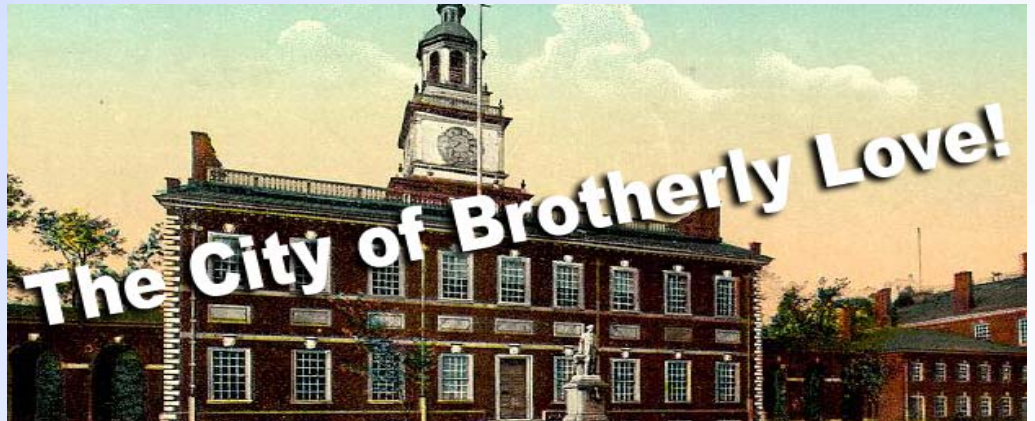
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Katie Stalin

Out and About



If you want to have a ton of fun, then stay away from the bread factory I went to. It's just ovens and big bowls and stuff, and no, no one told me that a bread factory is just a big kitchen. Like, I have a kitchen at home people. I don't need to go see one. Sure, they give you free bread, but it was too hot to eat. Gee, thanks a lot.

It smelled pretty good, I guess, but it was still pretty stupid and there are a few crabby old ladies wearing hair nets. Did you ever notice that hair nets make people look like they've got a big mole in their forehead? Me neither. Until I went to a bread factory. Actually, two of those ladies did have big, ugly, hairy moles on their foreheads. I think the hair nets were just to cover them up.

Luckily, there's lots of other stupid stuff in Philadelphia so I didn't have to spend my whole trip in a bread factory. During my two days in Philadelphia, I learned a lot. For instance, there's this supposed rule that says "You broke it, you bought it." Who even decided that that was gonna be the rule, and since when does it apply to Liberty Hall? See, I went to go see where our Nation (America) was born, so I visited Liberty Hall. Of course, yeah, it's just a bunch of rooms, albeit with some nice wood panelling. But c'mon, I live in a house with rooms. I don't need to pay money to see more rooms.

Then, this tour guide (yeah, like that's a position of authority) tells me that I can't drink in there. And it wasn't even like I had a whole bottle, it was just a carton of cranberry juice mixed with vodka that I was sipping from discretely. Discretely! But no, this jerk, who had probably the gayest moustache I've ever seen, tries to take it from me. And I'm not about to let this douche take my vodka, and then I kicked his ass sort of. Actually, I got in some really nice blows before we fell over and knocked down a bunch of stuff. Yeah, these security and cops showed up, like it was my fault.

And this guy's all like, you broke my bell. Oh, did I break your precious bell? Who cares about a bell? Well, a bunch of people apparently. They said I broke it, but that's just wrong because it already had a big crack in the side. And why do you even need a bell still? My phone can make bell noises, but I don't use that as my ringtone because bells are annoying. Either way, the expense account department at *Axes & Alleys* is gonna be pissed when they get the bill for that bell. Ah well, that's why I'm a field reporter, so I can be out of office. That way they can't yell at me.

I found this neat thing outside after the guards threw me out on my ass (literally!). They have these tricycles that float on the water! It's the most amazing thing, ever. You just walk up to the guy, pay him some cash, and ride out onto the river. Of course there's a catch, though. You can't just go around knocking other tricycles over with that handy pole you found in an alley after coming out of Philadelphia's most exclusive night club. Oh no! That's just wrong. And they won't refund your money.

Now, I've gotta go check out the Amazon jungle and see if that's cool. I hear there are some temples, and some naked tribesmen, and a group of folks who don't even have a concept of the past. I bet you can slap them around and get forgiven pretty quick. Sounds exciting though, because it's in South America, right near Mexico where they invented nachos.



THE FIFTY WORST THINGS TO FIND IN YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER'S ROOM

1. A heartfelt letter from Richard M. Nixon congratulating him on faking the moon landing.
2. His script for the puppet show. You know, the ones where the puppets have sex. Yeah, that one.
3. Candid photos of yourself in the shower.
4. An autographed copy of *Mein Kampf*.
5. The original, un-altered cut of the Zapruder film.
6. The world's third largest collection of butt plugs.
7. Costumes for the Renaissance Fair.
8. Costumes for the Furry Convention.
9. A handwritten letter from the Shah of Iran, declaring a Fatwa against your family.
10. S&M porn.
11. S&M porn featuring farm animals and amputees.
12. Marijuana.
13. Heroin.
14. Seventy pounds of nitrogen based fertilizer.
15. A tactical nuclear weapon.
16. A bottle of estrogen and a copy of "Transexualism for Dummies."
17. Walt Disney's frozen corpse.
18. A fifty gallon drum full of human body parts.
19. A fifty gallon drum full of the president's body parts.
20. Life-sized cardboard cutouts of the Golden Girls.
21. A den of rabid raccoons.
22. Saddam Hussein's death rope.
23. The Home Stomach-Stapling kit.
24. A copy of the director's cut of *It's a Wonderful Life*, where, in the end, George Bailey decides to go ahead and kill himself.
25. A hive of killer bees.
26. The collection of his Little Mermaid fan fiction.
27. President Armstrong underoos in their factory-sealed condition.
28. *The Horticulturalist's Guide to Scoring Women with Carnivorous Plants*
29. Lemon-flavoured genital crabs powder.
30. A chimpanzee named Bubbles.
31. The Congolese fetish magazine *Starved, HIV+ and Armed*.
32. His proof about how we really do live in *The Matrix* and so can pretty much kill whomever we wish.
33. His altar to Jerry Lewis, but only as the Nutty Professor.
34. Voodoo dolls for fictional characters.
35. The Toxic Algal Bloom Beach Infection Kit (Extra Strength).
36. Mom's desiccated remains.
37. An Abercrombie & Fitch catalogue.
38. Used tampons arranged in a grid.
39. An authentic, but improperly ventilated Mongolian barbecue.
40. Thousands of broken wishbones.
41. An application for a Claire's franchise.
42. NAMBLA membership card.
43. *Eunuchry Quarterly* (a trade publication)
44. His collection of personal bodily fluids in mason jars, wherein the blood and urine are marked with happy faces, but the semen is marked with sad faces.
45. Erotic gargoyles statuettes.
46. Flyers announcing a free peep show starring you for a \$5 cover.
47. *The Bible*
48. His 50 compact disc collection of Uruguay's greatest hits.
49. Love letters from the octogenarian across the street.
50. Mad scrawls on the walls written in Sharpie™ declaring that the daisies are coming for him.

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Yoga class. I've been teaching for years, but as its popularity has exploded, I'd like to move on to teaching something more obscure such as lathing or forgery. No experience required on behalf of the purchaser. Most students won't know the difference. \$600 or three boxes of dried cherries from Traverse City, MI. Write to Yolanda Vega, care of Rockville Centre Chamber of Commerce, Rockville Centre, Long Island, New York.

FOR SALE

Uxorious marriage. I thought it would be nice to have a husband devoted completely to me, but this is simply ridiculous. Visit Maria Testanova at 32 Via Madrigal, Rome, Italy and make an offer.

WANTED

Pictures of cats in costumes. No vampire cats, please. Will offer 25¢ per photograph. However, if pictures of vampire cats are included, I will bludgeon you with an object of my choice. I am completely serious about this. No vampire cat pictures. grendelfan35@yahoo.fr.

WANTED

False beard made of real human hair. While I'm 14 years old and physically resemble a full-grown man, I still cannot grow facial hair. Anything in brown to dark brown works for me. Will pay cash for creation and delivery. Let me know your prices Bobby. www.myspace.com/bobbymyspacepage.

WANTED

Quartz synthesizing kit. Must include: high pressure chamber, instruction booklet (color only, please), full container of quartz starter solution, cleaning brush, three quartz synthesizing helmets, poly-cotton blend face mask, 18 hour underwear, The Quartz Synthesis Handbook 2006, expurgated version. Please do not include high pressure chambers with 36 mm gas ports. Must be like new. Will pay up to \$57 or trade in like value of services. Please write for a list of offered services. Barry Macormack, 85 Aiken St., Kanak, SC.

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19 year old, 19 stone nymphet seeks muscular dude to hang out with and have fun. Hanging out and having fun are limited to sexual intercourse three times a day with one instance of cunnilingus. One back rub per week required. No need to provide pumice stones for pedicures. I have my own. Jessica Bradley, Box 30936

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Baseball pitching machine safety manuals. Will trade Flyer XL-57, Johansen Mk. III, and 35q Lemonding manuals for Winston-Zedmore Superdeluxe, Overdrive Systems Primary, and 457 Arclite Fantasma manuals. Meet me on the corner of Marbury and Madison Streets, downtown Kentucky.

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My Luddite boyfriend. Recently traded in all of his compact disc collection for reel-to-reel recordings, burned all of our digital video discs and replaced them with animated picture discs of 1920s era blues singers, and will not allow touch tone telephones or cellular telephones in the apartment. He's yours for three hours per day with a one week guarantee at \$12. Call Alicia Abercrombie at 779-726-5355.

Axes and Alleys

was

Conceived, Written and Produced

by

Scott Birdseye

and

Jeremy Rosen



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