

# a & a

**Volume  
456-BR8  
Issue 07  
Fabuly 2007**

**\$3.99 503,411.02**



**Official Magazine  
of the RTRAMSOM**



**My biggest weakness is that I'm too much of a perfectionist, I work too hard and do too good of a job. I like to think outside the box, shift paradigms, and be a productive over-achiever. You know?**



# ***DON'T BE AN IDIOT***

**CyberTrone brand Grade #4 Idiot Control Straps.**

The best choice for controlling grade #4 idiots using straps.

CYBERTRONE



**Volume 456-BR8 Issue 07,  
Fabuly 2007**

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

118 Egin River Road, Suite 900.  
Tsagaan-Uul, Hovsgol V68-9912.  
People's Republic of Mongolia.

**Executive Department**

Publisher  
Sir Lionel Buxton Humbridge

Editor in Chief  
Delores R. Grunion

Administration  
Star McGurney  
Angus Lopez

Legal Council  
Garment Jones  
Law Offices of Humphrey and Skizzini

**Production Department**

Photography  
Bernard Roosten

Copy Editing and Layout  
Buckminster Foley  
I.M. Paye  
Frank Lloyd Reight  
Frank Geary

Graphics and Illustrations  
George Herbert Walker Bush (no relation)

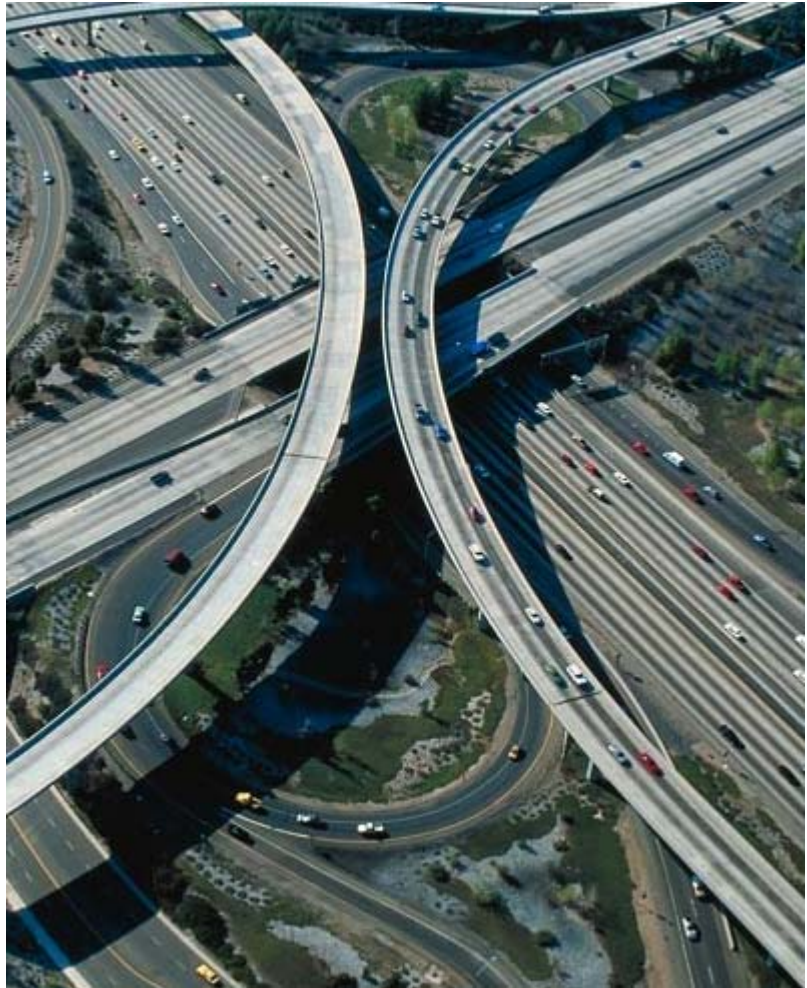
Research  
Delores P. Grunion

**Creative Department**

Hogrid Amanden (deceased)  
Charles Finneus Buchhampton  
Alouicious P. Stoa wobblers  
DJ Trickyfingers  
Miss Lucy Sturgeon  
Yuengling Lager

# *Axes & Alleys*

**Printed with 100% Boar-free Inks**



Here at *Axes & Alleys* we receive many letters asking us what we think of transportation. It's about time we answered and let the world know that we do, in fact, think of transportation. Be it by donkey cart or supertankers, things can be moved from one place to another via the method of transport. Why, even this magazine was transported from our production plant to your local store, thanks, in great part, to transportation. So, truck or train, ship or plane, wagon or duck with small satchels strapped to it, transportation happens and so we're devoting this issue to all things involving transportation. Do enjoy.

xxx 000

Delores R. Grunion  
Editor-in-Chief

**The  
Fabuly  
Cover Girl:  
Alyson Hannigan**



**Alyson  
Hannigan  
played Evil  
Willow and  
Regular Willow on  
the critically  
acclaimed televisual  
program "How I  
Met Your Mother."**

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

Dear *Axes & Alleys*,

While I normally applaud Montezuma's thoroughly researched and highly informative answers, last month's issue was way off target. While it is true that Roxie Epoxy is not a robot, it should be noted that her stage body is animatronic and controlled remotely by offstage puppeteers. Half a truth is not the truth. Please keep a closer eye on Monty from now on.

Sincerely,

Dr. Fig Lugnut

California College of Imagineering

Department of Ecomagination

San Bernardino, CA

Dear Sirs and Madames,

Huzzah to *Axes & Alleys* and its editors for their continual refusal to run ads sponsored by the barrow industry. For far too long, too many magazines have knuckled under pressure from the AWBA; running adds for wheelbarrows and articles that prominently feature barrows of all sorts. Even children can see wheelbarrows. What about the children? I'm glad *Axes & Alleys* told the AWBA to take a hike.

Dr. Allison Cameron

Jeparsia, NJ

To the Editors,

Why did you have to run that article about ghosts? Thanks to you, now no one believes in ghosts anymore and no one is willing to buy my ghost protection pills. Can't I earn a living? Please recant your statements.

James Randy

Fort Lauderdale, FL

To Editor Delores Grunion,

Saltwater is an excellent solution.

Tim Fitztorrent

Bishop's Landing, NY

Dear *Axes & Alleys*,

Each month I eagerly await the release of the new issue so that I can pore over the classifieds and yet each month I am continually disappointed. Where are the ads by those making available cute Indian punk girls? Real Indians, from India, not American Indians, mind you. I hear that in Orange County you can't throw a peach without hitting an Indian punk girl. So what's up with that, huh?

Carl Leonard

Gator Rapids, Utah

To the Editors,

Why can't there be more suffering in this world? If each person gave just a little each day, we could make this rotten world really unbearable.

Erin Smedly

Slug on the Bun, Chetfordshire, UK

Dear Sirs,

After sending numerous letters, I am appalled that your garden hose is still draped over my fence, its leaking no doubt caused by a loose nozzle on your side. This continual leaking may lead to rot on the lee side of my property. This is utterly unacceptable. So again I ask you to remove the garden hose before I am forced to write a letter to the Council.

Arthur Retrograde

Katharinetowne, WD

Dear *Axes & Alleys*,

I have attempted to send letters to my friend Kevin for the past three months. After hearing nothing in reply, I double-checked the address I was sending the letters to and discovered that it was actually your publication's main office mailbox. Please change your address so that Kevin will receive my letters.

Courtney Cabletoes

Dutkiewicz, Humbria, Slovakiland

Dear Editors,

In your article on foods with angry-sounding names, you left out the perfect example: Toaster Tots. Toaster Tots are a wonderful and handy food with a bloodcurdling nom de guerre. Easily portable, all they require is that you set your toaster to a standard #6 setting, pop them in, and depress the slide on the toaster. They're Toaster Tots!

Tom Shapney Gafter, Vice President

The Toaster Tots Corporation

Bensonhurst, NY

*Axes & Alleys*,

I lost my copy of Volume 456-BR6, Issue 18. Could you please send me page nine? I have enclosed a self-addressed stamped envelope as well as a special pair of Page Nine handling gloves (size M). I look forward to reading page nine again. It's my favorite.

Bondy Brumpster

Branch, KL

Dear *Axes & Alleys*,

I am upset that you don't do more to protect the planet. For instance, you exist, so of course resources are taken up putting out the magazine. Couldn't you help the planet more by shutting down?

Alissa White-Gluz

Montreal, Quebec

Hey Editors,

My friend was making a joke the other day and crawled in an oven. He told me to do it, too, but I thought that as a Gypsy homosexual this was a bad idea. Anyways, I thought you'd probably applaud my decision.

Emyil Prskin

Contrary, AL

# THE TABLE OF CONTENTS

## NEWS

### **Page 6**

News of the World

Information from around the world!

### **Page 8**

The March of Progress

Behold, the Picturenary.

## FEATURES

### **Page 11**

The Historigon

Featuring this month in history.

### **Page 12**

Enema of the State of Utah

Blink 182 and Mormonism have little in common.

### **Page 14**

An Open Letter

Could there be a simple answer to the energy crisis?

### **Page 18**

Why Art?

An essay by some fellow who doesn't seem to like paintings.

### **Page 20**

Ask Montezuma

It's the Answer Man from Tenochtitlan.

### **Page 23**

Katie Stalin: Out and About

This time she visits Florida; the land of flowers.

### **Page 24**

Fifty Things

How come you never see this stuff in a supermarket?

### **Page 25**

Classified Ads

Suck it, eBay.

### **Page 27**

Sticker Page!

Enjoy adhesive paper.



## NEWS OF THE WORLD

# Events from Around Our World (Earth).

**London, England-** P.M. Tony Blair announced that, upon retiring from politics, he is going to focus on selling off his warehouse full of 18,003 wax replicas of the Great Wall of China, and stated that he would sweeten the offer by throwing in a free tea cozy.

**Berlin, Germany-** Federal government officials announced the allocation of 280 million euros to the national defense budget, though some opposition members opposed the spending of over half the allotment on *Das kriegershosen*, the now-infamous German armored trousers.

**Nurby Province, Angina-** The crop-duster strike has continued into its third week, as farmers walked away from the bargaining table over the issue of a proposed contractual wing allotment.

**Marseilles, France-** the Botot company released its new dental product, Nano Floss, which contains billions of nanites for easier dental hygiene. Test subjects are also reported to have responded more readily to Botot product advertisement.

**Rome, Italy-** Breaking their own record by over seven hours, the Italians have succeeded in having three governments fail in a single day.

**Casablanca, Morocco-** Mohamed bin Alamad has officially announced that his store will offer special discounts as part of a sales promotion.

**Al Fashir, Sudan-** The European Union began L'Operation Porc-épic, a triphibious assault intended to bring about and end to the country's multiple humanitarian crises and attempt to clean up the mess created by many of its member states' colonial pasts.

**Epidamnus, Illyria-** Thousands of protesters marched through the provincial capital of Epidamnus to protest the country's moratorium on shoelaces, which was initiated after a severe shortage of those little plastic caps that go on the ends.

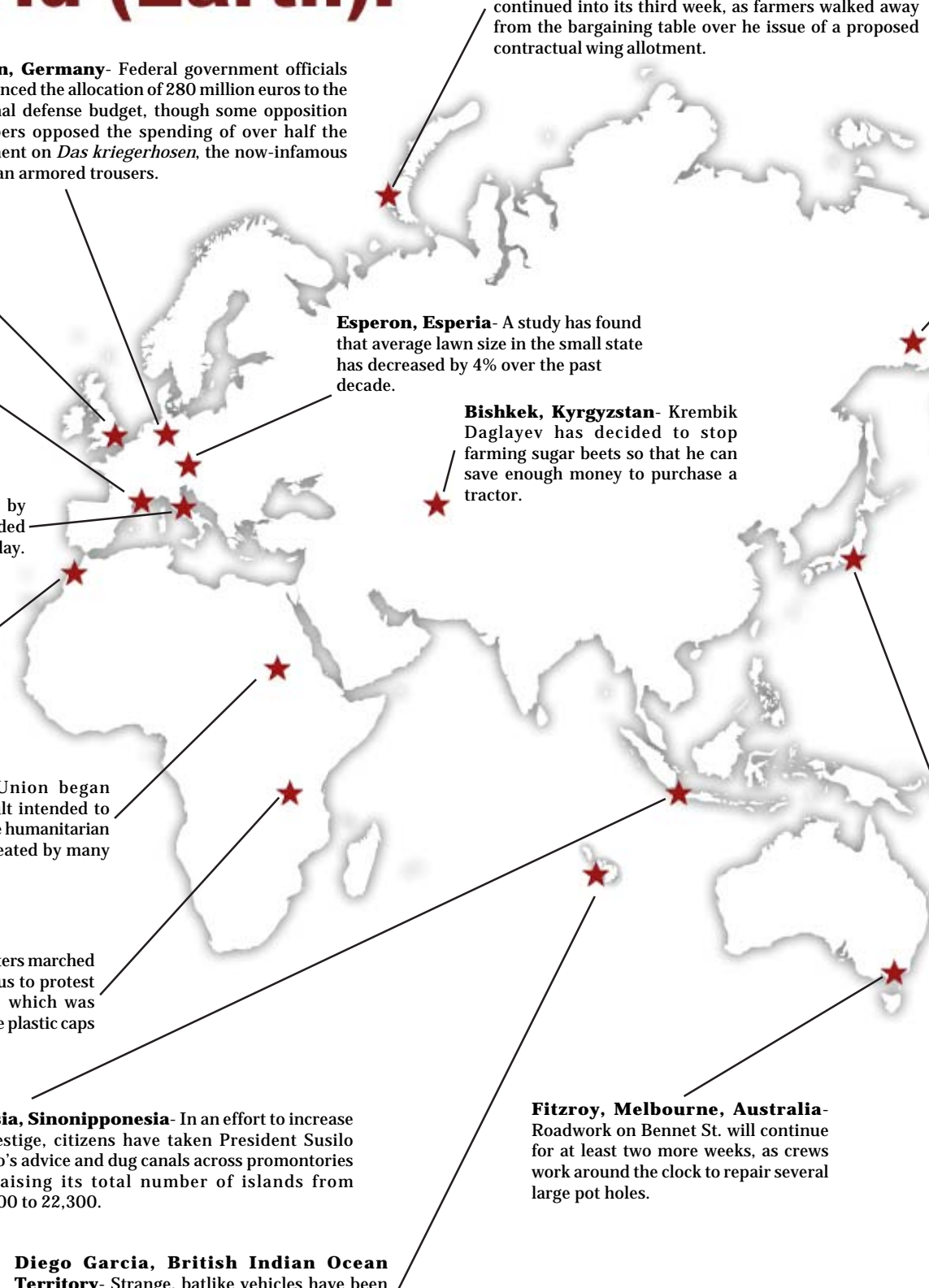
**Jakarta, Indonesia, Sinonipponesia-** In an effort to increase their country's prestige, citizens have taken President Susilo Bambang Ydhoyono's advice and dug canals across promontories in the country, raising its total number of islands from approximately 17,500 to 22,300.

**Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory-** Strange, batlike vehicles have been seen flying over the island. This is the 6000<sup>th</sup> such incident since the United States began basing B2 stealth bombers on the island.

**Esperon, Esperia-** A study has found that average lawn size in the small state has decreased by 4% over the past decade.

**Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan-** Krembik Daglayev has decided to stop farming sugar beets so that he can save enough money to purchase a tractor.

**Fitzroy, Melbourne, Australia-** Roadwork on Bennet St. will continue for at least two more weeks, as crews work around the clock to repair several large pot holes.



**Fyrine IV**- A member of a species later known as "mock turtle" by fighter pilot Willis Davidge, is struck by a meteorite.

**Camp Kalisotta, Kalisotta, USA**- The last United States Army Air Corps air base closes down. Camp Kalisotta, which spent over 60 years manufacturing balsa wood models for use in table top maps, was closed due to advances in technology and the creation of the United States Air Force.

**Washington D.C., USA**- President Armstrong wowed the White House press corps when he outlined his new energy policy while riding a unicycle.

**Ashville, North Carolina, USA**- Incidents of the use of "Ashvegas, North Kakalaka," the local colloquial term for the area, have decreased 25%.

**Fetterburg, Accadia, USA**- Hours after concrete was poured for the new sidewalk on the south side of Lading St. between the 200 block and the 300 block, neighbourhood children vandalized the unset pavement with various ribald phrases. Many contained misspellings.

**St. Thaddeus, VI**- After last month's "Lobby Incident," officials have banned the importation of woven baskets.

**Sao Paolo, Brazil**- The Sao Paolo city council enacted public decency legislation outlawing the wearing of bikinis and offering a 7 Real bonus to those choosing to wear micro-bikinis.  
**(Star Not Available at This Time)**

**Outer Antabia**- Ethnic tensions between the Oato and the ruling Minanese have boiled over after ping pong star Ut Myo was caught cheating at a recent exhibition match.

**Bogotá, Colombia**- The popular restaurant Umberto's has added a new menu item which one diner described as a "kind of double taco."

**Luganville, Espiritu Santu, Vanuatu**- The Value Added Tax was increased to 13% after a restructuring of the department handling import collections duties which combined that department with the country's internal revenue services. An extra \$477 per year in income is expected.

**Tokyo, Japan, Sinonipponesia**- The Kyasho Concern has unveiled its next generation of androids. The robots can not only recognize facial expressions, but can also climb stairs, sort boxes, catch Frisbees and imitate Johnny Carson.



## THE MARCH OF PROGRESS

# The Picturenary

Every library contains a dictionary, as do many homes and bookshops. And why not? It's a useful thing, a dictionary, for it lists and defines every last word in the English language. Should you want to know what a word means, how to pronounce it, its category or origin, you need only consult a dictionary. But what about pictures?

Finding information on pictures has always been a difficult task, made perhaps more difficult by the lack of suitable reference materials. This week that all changed as the Movable Type Printing Company announced the publication of the first eight volumes of the long-awaited Picturenary.

Once completed, the multi-volume work will show, with accompanying information and learned commentary, every picture in existence; including photographs, drawings, mosaics, etchings and napkin doodles.

While sought after by several large reference collections, pre-release sales of the Picturenary have been far below expectations. In response to the slow sales, Movable Type Printing announced that they would speed up production; releasing three volumes per year, instead of the two planned.

The currently available eight volumes contain some 43,000 pictures, all of them of aardvarks, the city of Aachen or men named Aaron. By 2012, the Picturenary should move forward into pictures of abacuses and Abbasids. . Photographs of the letter A will be saved for a special series of volumes featuring pictures of words and a series of special volumes have been set aside for abstract art which will include multitudinous interpretations of the work.

Picturenary editor Horvald Tomlinsson was taken aback when asked about the recursive problem of the Picturenary. That is, that for each image shown, a new copy of the image is created requiring another entry in the Picturenary. Tomlinsson responded that perhaps a blue-ribbon panel could study the subject, or the internet could help.

As part of the announcement, Movable Type Printing has requested that all people in the world send in copies of their snap-shots and vacation pictures, especially if they are named Abbey or have recently visited an abbey.







Nothing is fresher than the spring flowers  
of a majestic mountain valley.

**ALL-WEATHER TUFF™**  
**THE BEST-SELLING SPRAYPAINT THAT'S**  
**SCENTED FOR YOUR HUFFING PLEASURE.**

**GOLD-BRAND**



# The Axes & Alleys HISTORIGON

## This Month in History:

2006 AD: Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe, plans to spend \$4 million to build a museum dedicated to his underpants, but later decides to build a museum about everything Robert Mugabe instead.

2000 AD: After months of research, a successful formula is developed, allowing WowÒ detergent to leave colours 20% brighter.

1971 AD: The first video game, Immobile Square, is released to mixed reviews.

1944 AD: Scientists at Los Alamos National Laboratory are disappointed to discover that radiation exposure causes only crippling illness, ending the US Army's Super-Soldier project.

1904 AD: Albert Einstein devises a clever way of moving up from 3<sup>rd</sup> Class patent clerk to 2<sup>nd</sup> Class patent clerk, thus getting a modest increase in salary.

1809 AD: Washtub technology is advanced by Hubert Smyles of Tennessee, who attaches a primitive splash guard to his tub.

1798 AD: Carthage, NY founded by Hannibal Johnson.

1783 AD: Captain Cook discovers the aptly-named June 3<sup>rd</sup> Island.

1353 AD: Noted Muslim traveler Ibn Battuta publishes what is regarded as a prototype for this very column, *The Allah is Great Prism of Past Events*.

1010 AD: Never one to be upstaged by Canute, King Edfald of Mercia orders his archers to shoot up at the Moon for a while.

814 AD: In a dispute over iconoclasm Nicephorus, Patriarch of Constantinople, excommunicates Emperor Leo V the Armenian. Leo responds by smashing an icon of Saint Basil the Great over Nicephorus' head.

708 AD: Duke Drogo of Champagne dies after being knocked unconscious in one of the region's first attempts at carbonating its famous wine. Innovation in this area is stifled for another 800 years as a result.

538 AD: Justinian issues the Edict of Sardinia, declaring that the Empire should slowly collapse over the next thousand years.

14 AD: Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus, Caesar Augustus to his friends, realizes during a severe bout of diarrhea that he should probably have his grandson Agrippa murdered.

100 BC: Due to an accidental mistranslation, the author of 1 and 2 Maccabees unknowingly ascribes the exploits of the extremely lost Celtic clan MacCabe to a local Judean family.

456 BC: Athenian student Daramenaxos suggests adding a new element: Mud. Others explain that mud is just a combination of the known elements Earth and Water.

600 BC: An insane traveler from Africa arrives in Greece mumbling fantastic stories about talking animals doing nasty things to each other. Aesop writes them down and cleans them up a bit.

1258 BC: An accidental confluence of sea turtles in the Caribbean, if viewed from the air, spells out the first three items on the menu of McClatchy's Fried House in Plenary, AL c. 1958 AD. If viewed from the shore it spells nothing.

2944 BC: Yup, the Chinese record another comet appearing in the sky.

6000 BC: New Guinean highlander Rut discovers an exciting new recipe for taro dip. Later at the dinner party everyone is wowed.

8122 BC: The forebears of Jericho figure out how to make fake rocks and then stack them to create leaky homes and a wall. The latter falls down at a rather inopportune time about 2500 years later.

11,001 BC: Humans arrive in what will become Argentina, but are too tired to leave.

16,000 BC: Thanks to the warming of the Earth and the end of the most recent Ice Age, Liffdon is pleased to find his hovel is now a hundred paces closer to the water supply.

853, 000 BC: Nugar and Fipo discover that badger tastes much better than aardvark.



## **WHY MORMONISM IS NOT THE LEAST BIT LIKE BLINK-182. AT ALL.**

Professors Robert Burg and Dr. David Louzecky of the University of Wisconsin, Sheboygan, published a paper in this month's *History* entitled "Enema of the State of Utah" in which they purport to lay bare the deep connections between The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and the now-defunct pop-punk band Blink-182. This preposterous position is indefensible and ridiculous.

In their introduction, the "professors" state that "the connections between the Restoration movement in 19<sup>th</sup> Century America and the late-90s emergence of the pop-punk phenomenon are obvious." If any such connections were so obvious Dr. Louzecky (who obviously penned this scabrous portion of the paper), why didn't anyone point this out earlier?

They go on to outline the various groups struggling for existence during the Restoration and compare this state of affairs with that record labels faced in the 1990s in attempting to "increase sales by meeting the perceived or manufactured demand for pop-punk music by offering up dozens of such instrumental groups to consumers."

One might as well compare any group of things struggling for supremacy to any other. If

we're to play so loose with logic, the pop-punk era also bears a striking, whiz bang similarity American politics immediately preceding the Civil War, the struggle for control of the Muslim world in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century, and the Warring States period of Chinese history. In that case MxPx must be pretty damn similar to the Wei, right? Wrong.

In order to bolster these specious claims, Burg and Louzecky point out that Blink-182 and Mormonism were the "sole major successes of either movement." This is patently false. Mormonism is only arguably a member of the Restoration movement as its initial history involves little time spent in the influential East of the United States and the promulgation of a completely new testament, something virtually unheard of amongst other Restoration congregations.

By contrast, Blink-182 was almost immediately at the forefront of the pop-punk in the late-90s, inciting the release of other acts such as Good Charlotte and Sum 41, but followed in the footsteps of groundbreakers Green Day and The Offspring. Some would even produce lacklustre punk pioneers The Ramones at starting end of pop-punk history.



In response to a referee's critique similar to this one, Professor Burg points out that Mormonism also had hangers on in the form of the Churches of Christ and the Disciples of Christ as well as antecedents in the Anabaptists. This immediately disproves the previous point as both churches exist today with memberships near three million worldwide. While the Anabaptists no longer exist, neither do The Ramones. I'm still outraged that such sloppy research and thinking made its way through the initial review process of a major publication.

Taking this preposterousness further, the good "professors" compare the physical appearance of Blink-182 drummer Travis Barker to that of Latter Day Saint second-stringer Brigham Young. Take a look for yourself in the accompanying pictures.

Clearly they're both unattractive, though with a quite-surprising glint of intelligence in their eyes. However, the similarity ends there. For instance, Brigham Young wears clothes. Travis Barker can't even be bothered to wear a belt.

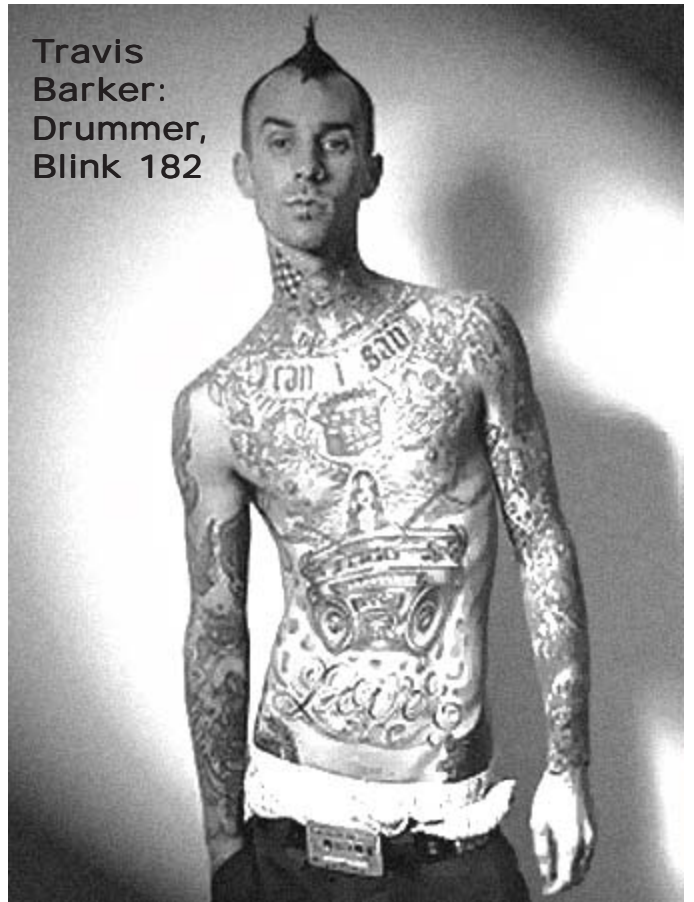
Of course, the pair have left their most disgusting and mendacious pronouncement buried in an unassuming paragraph at the end of the paper on production values and land acquisition inspired by God. It is well-known that one of the tenets of the Latter Day Saints was the revelation of the *Book of Mormon* to Joseph Smith by the Angel Moroni.

In what is clearly a fiction created by Burg, it is unconvincingly shown that the angel and *Enema of the State* producer Jerry Finn share "remarkable and definite similarities." These similarities include the fact that Moroni was a "record producer" because he came up with golden tablets inscribed with writing. How far can you stretch the truth, really?

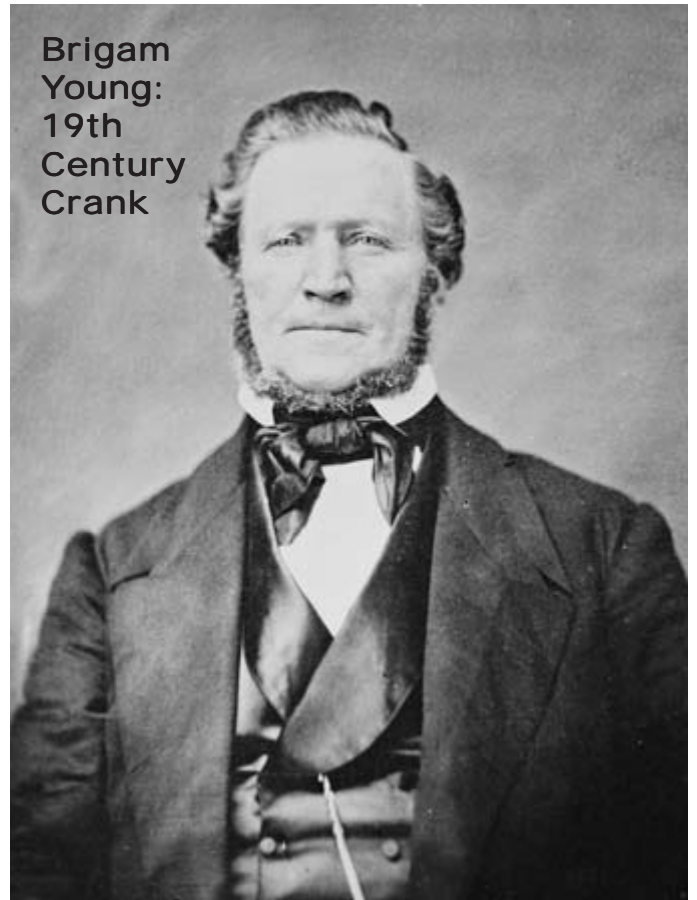
You can find out by reading "Enema of the State of Utah," which has already and unfortunately sparked discussion nationwide. Water cooler talk, local television news broadcasts, even editorials in free, weekly rags are expounding on the paper. One would hope such discussion casts a cold eye on the claims of Burg and Louzecky. Even the motivations of the two men are suspect, as I leave you with this statement from a KKBC-Kalisotta Public Radio interview with Louzecky.

"Hopefully the paper's publication will bring in some big donors so we can get one of those nice, self-serve pop fountains in the Café."

Travis  
Barker:  
Drummer,  
Blink 182



Brigam  
Young:  
19th  
Century  
Crank



**AN OPEN LETTER**  
**TO REPRESENTATIVE CARLINE MALONEY,**  
**SENATOR HILLARY CLINTON AND**  
**SENATOR CHUCK SCHUMER**

To Whom it May Concern,

I am one of your constituents in Astoria, NY and am writing to you today to seek your assistance in obtaining a Letter of Marque. Congress is, of course, authorized to issue such documents to private citizens under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

As you are no doubt aware, rising oil prices are a major economic problem in America today. Not only do consumers pay more at the pump, but manufacturing and transportation costs have increased as well, driving up the cost of goods and services even for those who, like me, choose not to drive automobiles.

With a Letter of Marque, it would be possible for me to equip several Privateers which could operate in international waters and sea lanes. As modern supertankers have only a small crew, their capture would be relatively easy. The oil shipments would be delivered to major U.S. ports and the oil distributed inexpensively to refineries who would then pass the savings on to consumers. Oil prices would drop and that would help the economy.

Venezuelan and Middle Eastern tankers would make easy prey and the attitudes of Presidents Hugo Chavez, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Bashar Al-Assad, and Omar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir already represent a situation of undeclared hostilities between their nations and ours. The United States and its people would greatly benefit from this captured oil. In the latter's case, decreased oil revenues would harm Sudan's ability to continue instigating a humanitarian crisis, gaining you even more votes from your constituents.

Petroleum is a non-renewable resource and some fear that we are approaching a "peak-oil" crisis where demand outstrips supply. Geologists and oil companies are constantly looking for new sources of oil, and Privateers would enable the U.S. to access an entirely new, inexpensive source of oil: foreign supertankers. There is no resulting fear of rising oil prices from an OPEC embargo because my Privateers would be capturing oil from the same countries for free.

This would not cause any diplomatic issues, as all my Privateers would fly an independent, skull-and-crossbones flag and no effort would be spared to ensure that the foreign tanker crews would be unharmed and repatriated as quickly as possible. Captured tankers would be given to Norway and other friendly oil-producing nations in exchange for price breaks on the purchase of oil.

With Congressional authorization and a duly issued Letter of Marque, I assure you that my Privateers would prove a great aid to the United States' economy. As gasoline prices are expected to rise above the four dollar mark this summer, how could you possibly say no to Privateers?

Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Scott Birdseye and Jeremy Rosen  
Astoria, NY





# **An Axes & Alleys Political Action Campaign Form Letter.**

## **Pay Attention, Congress!**

**Urgent Action Needed Now!**

**Dear Congress-Person,**

**I am tired of paying too much for gasoline and angry that rising fuel prices drive up the manufacturing and transportation costs of the goods I purchase.**

**My wallet and/or pocketbook can't take a beating like this any longer!**

**Therefore, I urge you to grant Letters of Marque to American sailors, such as Captains Birdseye and Rosen, so that they can attack and seize foreign oil tankers on the high seas. Please do this soon!**

**Privateers will strengthen our economy and allow hardworking families to put food on the table and to pay for healthcare for their children.**

**If you do not grant Letters of Marque to American Privateer Captains, then I will be forced to vote for the challenger in the next election.**

**The people must be heard and Congress must act NOW to protect America's economy.**

**Sincerely and Patriotically,**

\_\_\_\_\_ (date: \_\_\_\_\_ )

**Name**

**Address**

**Address**

**City**

**State**

**Zip Code**

**District**

# Patriotic Pete's

Is your best choice for top-of-the-line  
Pre-Owned, Decommissioned  
Destroyers and Other fine  
Capital ships!



**Ask about 0% Financing on:**

**Destroyers, Cruisers, PT Boats, Submarines  
and Langley Class Carriers.**

No Money Down for Privateers  
when you present your Letter of Marque.

**Pier 12, Bestoria Docks, Now Open on Mondays!**





PHILIPS  
MADE IN ST. BELTVA

# THE DARK BULB

Uses 100% Less Electricity than a Standard Light Bulb

Another brilliant  
innovation from  
Colonel Electric.





**In our country, there is a pervasive notion that art is not only a significant aspect of our culture, but that the fine arts exalt us, lift us up and inspire us. Our tax dollars support some art, based on the notion that the existence of artwork enriches all of society. In the same vein, many schools and universities have required art history and art appreciation courses. This leads to one question; if art really is part of our collective culture, why do we need professionals to explain it to us, why is art not more popular?**

**Another option is that art is not really a part of our culture at all, rather that it is kept on life-support by a small, but influential, group of artists, collectors and educators and the reason art remains only a small niche field of interest is largely economic. It's not that people don't "get" art, rather the economic circumstances make art inaccessible. Most people have developed no interest in art and the truth is that they have no reason to; it's simply not a part of their daily lives.**

**The same cadre of influential people, some with the good of society in mind, some with an eye on lining their own pockets, have sequestered art in places people aren't likely to go while at the same time ensconcing faddish works of abstraction in the few places people go more often.**

**The Romans, for instance, placed art, lots of it, in the daily loci of every citizen's life: the bath house and the Forum. The work of the great European painters was, for centuries, to be found available to the public in the one location where they could save their souls: a church.**



Unlike the grocery store or work, few people have as a daily stop on their schedule the Museum of Modern Art. Meanwhile, what public art one might see near government buildings visited every couple of months is the abstract, red metal works of Alexander Calder. This is not to limit what meaning there is to be found in his works, but they hardly provide the connection of a Rodin or a Rousseau.

Both Jasper Johns and Roy Lichtenstein were successful Post-War American artists but neither one is directly part of our collective culture. Most Americans have not heard of them, would not be able to recognize their work, don't see their work on a daily basis and certainly don't have one of their paintings hanging in the living room.

Of course, those are some fairly large assumptions. While it is impossible to have a nation-wide referendum on Roy Lichtenstein, we can say that, using a Google® brand search-engine, the painter actually gets fewer results than a common misspelling of the band Nickelback, but ten times more results than Spiderman spelled with two Ns.

Spiderman and Nickelback are a different matter than art. Movies and albums can be mass-produced and mass-production lowers costs and prices. In contrast, art is not mass produced; the closest it comes are with the print editions, the largest of which may only include five-hundred to a thousand examples. Even with such numbers, the prices still do not but flirt with affordability. A DVD will cost you twenty dollars and an album no more than twenty, but even a mass-produced signed print will run you at least five hundred. That is, if you're looking for such a print in the first place.

Most Americans can't afford to have a piece of art in their homes. Prints may start out at about five hundred dollars, but original works by little-known, but successful artists start at around fifty thousand. As the U.S. Census Bureau reports that median household income in the U.S. is forty-three thousand, most Americans would be forced to choose between a house or a Frank Stella original. Since you need a wall on which to hang a Frank Stella, consumers would tend to pick the house over the painting.

That leads us to the issue of reproductions. For the price of an album, you could have a poster of Gustav Klimt's *The Kiss* on your wall. It seems a good deal since Ronald Lauder paid a hundred and thirty five million for the original. But, a poster is not a painting. Then again, a DVD of *Star Wars* is not the original celluloid print of the film.

Unlike a painting, a film is not just visual; it involves sound, music, literature and performance, so while the size of the image or its resolution may be reduced, watching a film on DVD still allows a great appreciation of the other elements; the story, the literature, the characters and the sound are still the same, even though the picture may be smaller. An artwork is purely visual and when the visual element is thus diminished the entire work and the experience of viewing are also diminished.

It is entirely different for a book or an album.

Original releases may be prized for their rarity, but the work loses nothing in its reproduction. One can experience the same emotions when reading any copy of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. When purchasing a book or an album, one is buying the work itself, and not a reproduction. Anyone with twelve spare dollars can own *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, not a diminished reproduction, but the music itself. Anyone with six dollars can own *The DaVinci Code*, a non-abridged, non-expurgated, non-diminished version. The only way that one can own a non-diminished version of Van Gogh's *Sunflowers*, is to have thirty or forty million dollars to spend.

Members of the general public, those who do not have several million, or even a hundred thousand spare dollars, can still view art in its original form by going to a museum. For many though, they may only go to a major museum once or twice in their lives; major museums tend to only be found in large cities, and this leads to the idea that again, only for a minority is art accessible.

Even on a visit to a museum it is impossible to see everything available. As the Metropolitan Museum of Art has over two million works, it would take a person fifteen non-stop months to give each piece a twenty-second view. On a visit, a few pieces may be recognized from books, or ads or school texts, but for the non art expert a few glances at each work in the shuffle from room to room will make little difference in their lives.

People do not seem opposed to art, generally. Many homes have paintings hanging in them, even if they are only cheaply-produced hotel style paintings. But art does not make a direct impact on our culture because we have no way to share it with others and culture, by definition, has to be shared. Anyone can listen to *Pet Sounds*, read *Jurassic Park*, or watch *Casablanca*, but only the highly rich can afford to view a real Picasso every day.

Thus, all the people in the set of anyone, including the rich, can share in discussion or conversation about a book, a movie or a song, but not everyone can talk with their co-workers about their favorite Niki de Saint Phalle sculpture. Art is expensive and because of this it is not popular and due to this lack of popularity it makes little impact on our real culture.

While some artists, such as Christo and Jeanne-Claude have attempted to make their work widely accessible, many artists seem content to profit off of a hungry, wealthy niche market without making a large cultural impact. Perhaps that is why Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* could rouse a nation to war yet Pablo Picasso's *Guernica* utterly failed in preventing horrors far greater than the Spanish Civil War. That is not to say that it was somehow Picasso's responsibility to prevent the Second World War. But when one witnesses the powerful and wide-reaching impact of books, films or songs, it's disconcerting to see that another such medium, art, can not only fail to deliver that impact, but that its creators and patrons seem so content to continue their existence in a sheltered cocoon while they adamantly claim to deliver a cultural impact which has yet to be felt.

# **ASK MONTEZUMA** **IT'S THE ANSWER MAN** **FROM TENOCHTITLAN**



**Montezuma is a village in Mercer County, Ohio, United States. The population was 191 at the 2000 census.**

Dear Montezuma,  
I have trouble remembering how to spell collannder. Can you help?  
Maria Debarkes  
New York, NY

*c-a-u-l-i-f-l-o-w-e-r*

Hiya Moctezuma,  
(See, I used Moctezuma because I know my Azteca.) I have only three days to live. Should I count those days from sunrise to sunrise, or from civil twilight to civil twilight?  
Kris Kristofferson.  
Nashville, TN

*It's wonderful to receive celebrity requests for advice, Kris. I'd like to take this opportunity to agree with you in your activism against chaining pregnant women to heavy objects and throwing them in the water to drown,*

*as depicted in your recent song "In The News." It takes an incredibly brave man to stand up and speak out against the obvious evils in the world. Chains should never be wasted in such a fashion.*

Dear Montezuma,  
I'm confused. My mother and I went out to the local bar to pick up some guys. She ordered a Cape Cod from the bar tender and got what looked like a vodka and cranberry juice. When I asked her what was in it, she said vodka and cranberry juice. Why call it a Cape Cod?  
Tresa Green  
Westbury, UK

*TG, you certainly are confused. Young women are not supposed to go out with their mothers to pick up some guys. Humans are, for the most part, a monogamous species. You should each have been going out to pick up a guy.*

Montezuma,  
I am absolutely, personally rabid about the use of the words luck and miracle. While both are used idiomatically throughout the English language, I particularly despise the English language, preferring to converse in Esperanto. I'm trying to rid my vocabulary of the former, but since I am a skeptic of some note, I of course must use miracle quite often. Is there some way I could avoid this?  
Phil Plait  
Rhonert Park, CA

*Oh dear Philly, I have also encountered this problem. I have used the word luck in print on no fewer than three occasions. What a travesty! A close friend, a neurosurgeon, suggested an experimental method by which the exact location of the word luck in the brain was located and destroyed, however many of the test subjects have subsequently been unable to recall the words for inconsequential, love, and have subsequently lost their sense of humor. Being a funny person myself, I certainly did not wish to subject myself to such a procedure. The easiest method I have discovered is to endeavor to speak less.*

Dear Montezuma,  
When Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C. references the Lima Turkey-Trot, what is he talking about?  
Thomas Kuhn  
Cambridge, MA

*The Lima Turkey-Trot was a dance developed by H. Roman Lipinski in Cincinnati, OH. It built cumulatively on the Dragon Run, Pensacola Possum Pouch, Clamastidance, and Chattanooga Whore Hustle. Some*



*prominent features included an extended, arms akimbo twirling, a third degree semi-geese step, and a complicated buttocks bob-nasal flange maneuver. The Lima Turkey-Trot fell out of popularity around 1959, when it was replaced by the Goiter Throb and related dances.*

Dear Montezuma,

I've been a platinum blonde for many years now, but I'm thinking of a change. Do you think red hair would look good on me? If so, would it enhance my journalism to have red hair and a lighter shade of lipstick?

Xeni Jardin  
The Internet

*Xeni, Xeni, Xeni, hair color has much more effect on climate change, so I would consider it from this perspective. You see, your current do is light, and hence more reflective across the electromagnetic spectrum, especially visible and infrared light. Darker hair will absorb more light, making sure that such energy stays within the ecosphere of the planet Earth. Scientists call the Pillatory-Refraction-Reflection Proportion, designated by the Hebrew letter Shin. For instance, average platinum blonde hair has a PRRP of Shin 2. Red hair, by contrast, has a PRRP of Shin 1.7. Please, help the planet and your fellows out by retaining the platinum blonde look.*

Dear Montezuma,

I'm in sixth grade and in math class I always get the multiplicand mixed up with George Washington. Do you have a handy way for me to remember which is which?

Betty Bonaparte  
Belleville, LA

*BB, I didn't tell you this, but you can write on the palm of your hand that George Washington is not a multiplicand. When your teacher isn't looking, take a quick peek at your hand to make sure you know what's what. But, of course, if you should happen to get caught, I'll deny everything when your school administrators try to give me detention.*

Montezuma,

What kind of manifold would I need for a series 3 Leviathan mulch driver?

Calumny Percopints  
Santa Rosa, CA

*A mulch driver manifold would be best.*

Monty,

Dude, I don't get it. Why do they call it Miller Genuine Draft when it comes in a bottle? Isn't draft beer supposed to come out of a spigot or something?

Rebecca Miller  
New York, NY

*Becky, there is so much pressure in each bottle of Miller Genuine Draft (over 800 psi), that when opening the bottle a noticeable draft can be detected. Never forget that often words can have several meanings.*

Dear Montezuma,

I have two coins in my hand that add up to 11 cents. One is not a dime.

Vinnie Magic  
Jorgensen, NJ

*That's nice, Vinnie.*



## Montezuma's Helpful Hints for the Home

### How to Make Your Own Stained Glass Decorations

**Stained glass windows can be found in religious settings such as churches where the light of the sun illuminates figures and designs, bringing to life stories of a religious nature; such as the lives of the saints. St. Christopher is one saint and I recall, from my middle age, a fellow named Danbury who had a St. Christopher statue on the dashboard of his 1934 Desoto Airflow. The last Desoto came off the assembly line in 1961. Automobile assembly lines are often filthy with grease and other materials. Why not rub a quart of grease onto your windows thrice daily? Within a week they should be badly stained.**

# SPIFFY'S LANDMINES

## LET US BLOW YOUR MIND



QUINCE



PEAR



SOYBEAN



ACORN



CUCUMBER



WATERMELON



DURIAN



GREEN BOX



APPLE

## NOW IN NINE GREAT FLAVORS\*

\*APPLE COMING SOON. ONLY AVAILABLE IN QUEBEC.





# Katie Stalin

## *Out and About*



I wanted to get to Sarasota after all that stupid Spring Break stuff and before the Summer tourist season, but I shouldn't have worried. The only way going to Florida could be more boring than visiting Sarasota is if you spent your whole time sitting in a bush. Seriously, the place sucks, so of course there was no Spring Break action to begin with.

First, there's the crappy architecture. I thought this whole architecture thing was retarded until I visited here. It's so bad that I actually noticed. It's a bunch of pink buildings that look like the inside of a cow's stomach. Seriously, the place is like cow vomit. There are also a lot of dumb awnings everywhere, like people are going to move to place that's sunny, and then avoid the sun. I tried to set fire to one of them, but stucco doesn't burn so well. And of course I was forced to kick some old guy in the shins when he came over to yell at me.

That's the other thing. Yeah, it's a cliché and stuff, but Florida is full of old people. I mean, I saw one cute guy and he turned out to be 45 or something and wanted to take me back to his condominium. That's so lame. Like, a well-off, youngish 45 year old can't afford a swank hotel?

Anyway, I ditched him at the Cha Cha Coconuts bar and took a cab over to the Backroom Saloon. Jesus, even the gay bars suck in this town. Just a bunch of old cranky dudes with their "life partners" sitting around drinking bourbon. Seriously, when I go to a gay bar I want tight abs, lots of dancing, and "you go girl" enthusiasm. I don't want cottage cheese thighs in tight shorts with gray pubes hanging out. Yuck.

Well, I'm in Florida, so I figured I should go check out the beaches. They would be nice if it weren't for all the condominiums right next to them and all the old guys in banana slings walking around. Not to mention the spinsters attempting to wear bikinis. I mean, that gave me no chance, 'cause I'm a hot girl just laying out in a one-piece and all these fogeys kept trying to talk to me. One guy wouldn't go away and I had to give him a wedgie with his speedo.

It was pretty surprising that the bright point of my visit was golfing. Really. I mean, it sucks that people take all this nice land and build a bunch of stupid golf courses on them, but I never realized golf was so fun. First of all, they give you a big blunt object and you get to hit this ball with it. Second, it's pretty much okay if you hit other people with that ball as long as you call out "fore" before it hits them. At least it's supposed to be. By the seventh hole, the course staff asked me to leave. I only hit 23 people and I called fore each time! That last caddy totally deserved to get knocked out, too, because he was helping his golfer cheat. And it's not it's that hard to get a golf cart out of a lake. Ever heard of a tow truck?

Last night I sat down with a bottle of Jack, some room-service nachos (pretty good!) and some cable and had myself some good quiet time. Of course I'm here today in the Bradenton Airport nursing a bad hangover, but it's worth it as long as I get the hell out of here.

# FIFTY THINGS YOU DON'T NORMALLY FIND AT THE SUPERMARKET

1. The mummified remains of Allen Ginsburg in aisle 3.
2. Bread and/or pastry shaped like genitalia.
3. An assortment of Mexican cheeses with labels written in Ukrainian.
4. Pickled seal flippers.
5. Hearty Cream of Giant Clam Gazpacho
6. Cabbages engineered to display advertising for themselves.
7. Generic packaging created after 1976.
8. Unsalted saltines labelled simply as "crackers."
9. A third option between baskets and carts.
10. People who understand how to use debit, credit, and subsidised food cards in the convenient machines located at the checkout counter.
11. Quality building materials at low, low prices.
12. A complete scientific lecture hall with audio-visual equipment.
13. Katie Stalin
14. Magazines such as *National Geographic*, *Scientific American*, or *Discovery*.
15. Self-checkout lines without someone to help you check out.
16. Burlap or linen as additional alternatives to paper and plastic.
17. Grapefruit with a tag explaining exactly why they're called grapefruit.
18. Toothpicks made out of tropical wood.
19. Harvested-the-same-day snails.
20. Varmint frankfurters.
21. Heart-of-Palm flavoured grits.
22. Abundant transistors, capacitors, and other electronic parts.
23. Assorted spare buttons.
24. Live piglets for purchase and slaughter.
25. Proper end-cap merchandising.
26. Hormel sausage-flavoured toothpaste.
27. Parrot cutlets.
28. Shopping carts with tracks instead of wheels, for aisles with difficult terrain.
29. 14<sup>th</sup> Century siege weaponry.
30. Mars's lesser-known cousin, the Uranus Bar.
31. Costumed characters licking the floors clean.
32. HO Scale model trains.
33. Longview, the Greenday tribute band.
34. Attractively displayed casts of the dead people from Pompeii.
35. Animatronics cartoon characters leading a poorly arranged sing-along.
36. A series of dioramas showing life in Albany, NY (c. 1948).
37. Prosciutto vending machines that will take crumpled dollar bills.
38. Shrimp-stuffed garden hoses.
39. Film critic Roger Ebert standing at the door, smiling warmly as he hands each customer a crisp, fresh radish.
40. Cream o' Sorghum hot cereal.
41. An aisle where the skulls of all fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence are nicely displayed and clearly labelled.
42. An elephant steak slicer that customers can use for free.
43. The highly unpopular Flemish game hen.
44. Bags of Gummi Adlai Stevensons.
45. A monkey cage next to the lobster tank.
46. A properly functioning tilt-a-whirl.
47. Comfy grass instead of that damn linoleum.
48. Good quality, discount chum.
49. Canned fire.
50. Shopping carts that are big enough to comfortably seat a full sized adult.



# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

## FOR SALE

Jungle sounds. I do excellent monkey noises and can gargle in a way that almost sounds like rain coming down through the canopies of foliage. Others sounds available on request, send \$100.00 for my full catalogue of noises. Beulla, no. 1546.

## FOR LEASE

Elector state of Palatine. Four hamlets, two major cities and full voting control so that you can influence who gets to be Holy Roman Emperor. M. Hohenzollern, Hanover, Germany.

## FOR SALE

Spoon. Made of low-grade aluminium. Lightly used and equipped with jury-rigged electrical tape handle. Good for soups or puddings. L. Uppercat, Vendor, FL, Box 301.

## WANTED

Conversion kit. Must be able to convert 120W AC to gold. Will pay you after I've made a bunch of gold. Miriam Hatchet, Picker's Flats, VA.

## WANTED

Marlborough's plan and full order of battle for the week prior to Blenheim. Also, a working time machine so I can go back to 1704 and give them to Tallard because I'd prefer it if Wittlesbach had been able to secure the Hapsburg throne. Wilma Thrasher, Brighton Beach, NY or UK, either one. 113-1104-1214.

## FOR RENT

Quality buttons. May not be attached to clothing. Lou's Buttons 231 38<sup>th</sup> St. New York, NY 10012

## FOR SALE

My web site dedicated to everything that isn't robots, sex, do-it-yourself, internet fads and copyright. Will sell for \$33,000 or trade for a lifetime supply of black kernel popcorn. Johnny Donothing 45 Alabaster Way Concrete, OT

## WANTED

Two can beer cooler. Must have a picture of a toucan on it, be made of heavy-duty plastic with a brushed metal casing, have indentations on the top in which to place the cans of beer, and include an AM radio in the handle. Also, must have a handle. Will pay up to \$77.

Email me at [h.adams@nytimes.com](mailto:h.adams@nytimes.com)

## FOR SALE

Your choice of two of the following: 33 ounce cup from Save 'n' Such, China, melted pinking shears passed off as art, any two of the uninhabited Solomon Islands, the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the International Telecommunications Manual, half a meerschaum ice cube tray, 31.5 playing cards, a packet of 20 Class B cigarettes, one unframed and unsigned photograph (matte not glossy) of Golda Meir, two desiccated sticky frog toys, Herb the auto mechanic, an entire tub of It's Butter (light flavour), seventeen broken lathes, Ivan IV's garbage receptacle, or your choice of hyperlink on bbc.co.uk. Free gallon of spider laxative included.

Before June 27<sup>th</sup>, write to: Tony Blair 10 Downing St. London, SW1 United Kingdom

## WANTED

Funding. At least fifty million needed for an experimental physics project where we use three brightly-lit spinning poles to dematerialize dust and/or sand for some reason. The poles will spin really, really fast. Contact the Queens Marshland Experimental Physics Laboratory, Queens, NY. Ring top bell.

## FOR SALE

New religion I made up where it turns out that we're all just Pre-Ghosts® and will one day be ghosts and then die again and then we're Double-Ghosts®. Neat, huh? \$50.00. Includes nearly completed holy book manuscript. Call Tobit at 931-416-4.

## FOR RENT

My new algorithm for determining how many cows are present by counting legs.  $L/4 = C$ , where L is the number of legs and C is the number of cows. Works for dogs too! \$.25 for each calculation. Ask about my handy quantum physics metaphors involving ice skating. Melinda Huggankiss. Fort Roxy, Maryland. Upstairs.

## WANTED

New book of the Bible (New Testament) where the Apostle Peter wins a skateboard contest and saves the neighborhood skate park from the greedy developers. Will pay up to \$53.00. Contact Maury Sturgeon, 4, rue Cracy, Paris 70024, EU.

## WANTED

Something like a can opener, but for bottles. Call Scroter Numbly at 212-888-2112

# ***Axes and Alleys***

was

Conceived, Written and Produced

by

**Scott Birdseye**

and

**Jeremy Rosen**



**2007 A.D.**

for more information please consult

**[www.axesandalleys.com](http://www.axesandalleys.com)**



# AXES & ALLEYS' STICKER PAGE

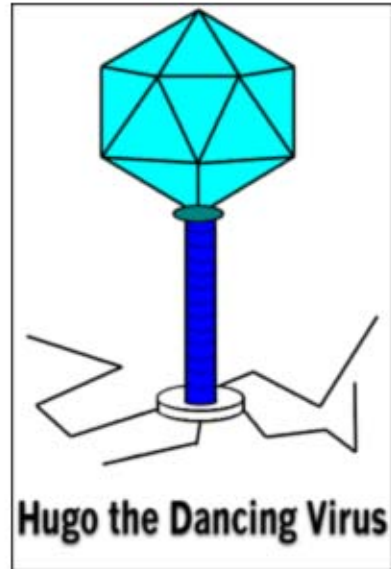
Just print these out on adhesive paper and then stick them on objects.



PEAS

Bad Plumber!

212-456-1414



STICKY

GIVE  
BLOOD!  
(to Steve)



COUSIN JOEY



DRESSES FUNNY

Few. Growths.



There once was  
a man from  
Poughkeepsie...

WARNING  
PORCUPINE IS  
POINTY



Fish are Stupid.



Monkeys #1 and #4 are Dead.

Sit on a  
Chair,  
Suckers!



TASTY GRAVY

Yeah right. A blue-eyed  
Italian with a job?



Fire escapes make me hot.



Pennywhistles  
for  
Progress!

What's long and  
hard and full of  
semen?

A sample kit from  
an invitro  
fertilization clinic.

I could've sworn they had *some* other expert.





# BJRNTO!

## ICELAND'S #1 BREAKFAST CEREAL

THE FLAVORS OF  
ATLANTIC SHRIMP  
SCROD, HADDOCK  
AND SWORDFISH  
IN AMERICA FOR  
THE FIRST TIME!



LOOK IN SELECT BOXES FOR BJRNTO BJÖRN OCEAN TRAWLER ADVENTURE TOYS!



BJRNTO BJÖRN IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF AGROFARM™.