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Issue 11
Maine 2007

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**Volume 456-BR8 Issue 11,
Maine 2008**

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Axes & Alleys

We did what we could!



Dear Readers,

What you are reading now is not the original month of Maine issue. No, unfortunately the editorial staff spent a wild evening out at the local watering hole and by the end of the evening we were so trashed that we accidentally left the galley proof at the bar. We thought about calling the next day to see if it were still there, or if someone had turned it in to the lost and found, but we couldn't do that because we were too embarrassed about what DJ Trickyfingers did to the dartboard. They'll probably have to buy a new dartboard.

Instead, we just threw this new version of the issue together at the last moment before the deadline. It's not as good as the issue should have been, but it's okay because we all had a really great time that night.

xxx 000

Delores R. Grunion
Editor-in-Chief

The Maine Cover Girl: Aimee Echo

Aimee Echo, of theSTART and the unfortunately-named Human Waste Project, is a Los Angeles-based person who has noted the politeness of the A&A Editorial staff.



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

Dear *Axes & Alleys*,

It has come to my attention that a number of businesses are touting "green" not as an adjective to describe physical appearance, but as an adjective to describe the level to which said product affects the environment. This makes no sense. Plants are green because of chlorophyll. But the environment is made up of more than plants. 70% of the Earth's surface is blue, and of the remaining 30% only a portion is green. There are white glaciers, brown deserts and mountains and gray rocks. Even many plants are mostly brown, such as the amber, not green, waves of grain. Perhaps the Green Party should change its name to the Gabbgaw Party, since it really represents green, amber, brown, blue, gray and white. This would provide a more honest view of environmental issues. Thus we would not call hybrid gas-electric cars green or say that they are "less green" than solar cars. We would instead say that a solar car was more gabbgaw than a gasoline powered car. We could even go a step further and quantify gabbgaw. I, for one, would love to see a car ad and know that this year's model features 23% more gabbgaw. It makes sense to me.
Vice President Alfonso "Al" Gore, NL.
Nashville, TN

Dear A&A,

It would be a lot of fun to take a boat ride one day. If I could take a boat ride with any five people living or dead my choices would be Geoffrey Chaucer, Horatio Nelson, Jesus, Amanda Marble and Moon Unit Zappa.
Tricia McGulley
Harper's Ferry, WV

To the Editors,

I really don't understand this religion called Zoroastrianism. According to an online encyclopedia I read, it's a popular religion in the Middle Eastern areas. Sure, Zorro was an interesting character, I guess, but I don't think that any amount of swashbuckling swordplay would defeat Angra Mainu and Azhi Dahaka the Dragon King.
Ikpot Thompson
Montreal, Canada

Dear *Axes & Alleys*,

I once telephoned David Lowery from a pay phone in the South. I can't divulge how I came across his number, but I didn't reach him anyway. No, instead I got on the other end of the line his estranged wife. We proceeded to have a six minute conversation about what a jerk he was and also how their apartment had a leaky bath tub. I suggested she use some caulk to fix that up.
Batty Mountbaten
Blimey, NY

Editors, *Axes & Alleys*,

Do you think you could make your magazine in the shape of a trapezoid? I think it would be easier to hold.
Jimmy "Five Fingers" Jackson
Pistol Grip, NH

Dear *Axes & Alleys*,

I really don't like Sticker Page. Every time I try to cut a sticker out for my own use, I end up ruining yet another laptop screen. I never even get a chance to staple the pages together.
Tom Today
New York, NY

Axes & Alleys,

I have a few suggestions for your magazine. First, I think you should include a section for letters from your readers. Next I think you should report on a big news topic. Maybe something of global import. After that you might want to include a regular report on something technological or scientific. I always like those. A classifieds section would be great so that readers could conduct commerce with one another. Having a page that could be printed out for stickers would be fun for the children and mentally infirm. I would absolutely love a travelogue column and perhaps an advice column written by an historical figure. Various and sundry other articles could be included, too. Ooh! You could even have a front and back cover. I don't read your magazine, but I thought these would be some pretty awesome suggestions. Let me know.
James Whitmore, Jr.
Sunnydale, CA

Dear *Axes & Alleys*,

I am writing to complain about your *Axes & Alleys* brand fluegelhorn valve oil. No one told me it was flammable.
Kerry Absalom
Pinter, WY

Editors,

The Treader Family is deeply disappointed in your discontinuation of the scratch and sniff issue. We recently relocated to the Czech Republic and were enjoying this new way to experience the magazine. The new burn and sniff edition is not a satisfactory replacement.
The Treader Family
Prague, Czech Republic

Dear *Axes & Alleys*,

When are you going to publish that chicken paprikash recipe I sent in back in August of 1968?
Wolfgang Puck
Amsterdam, Austria, UK.

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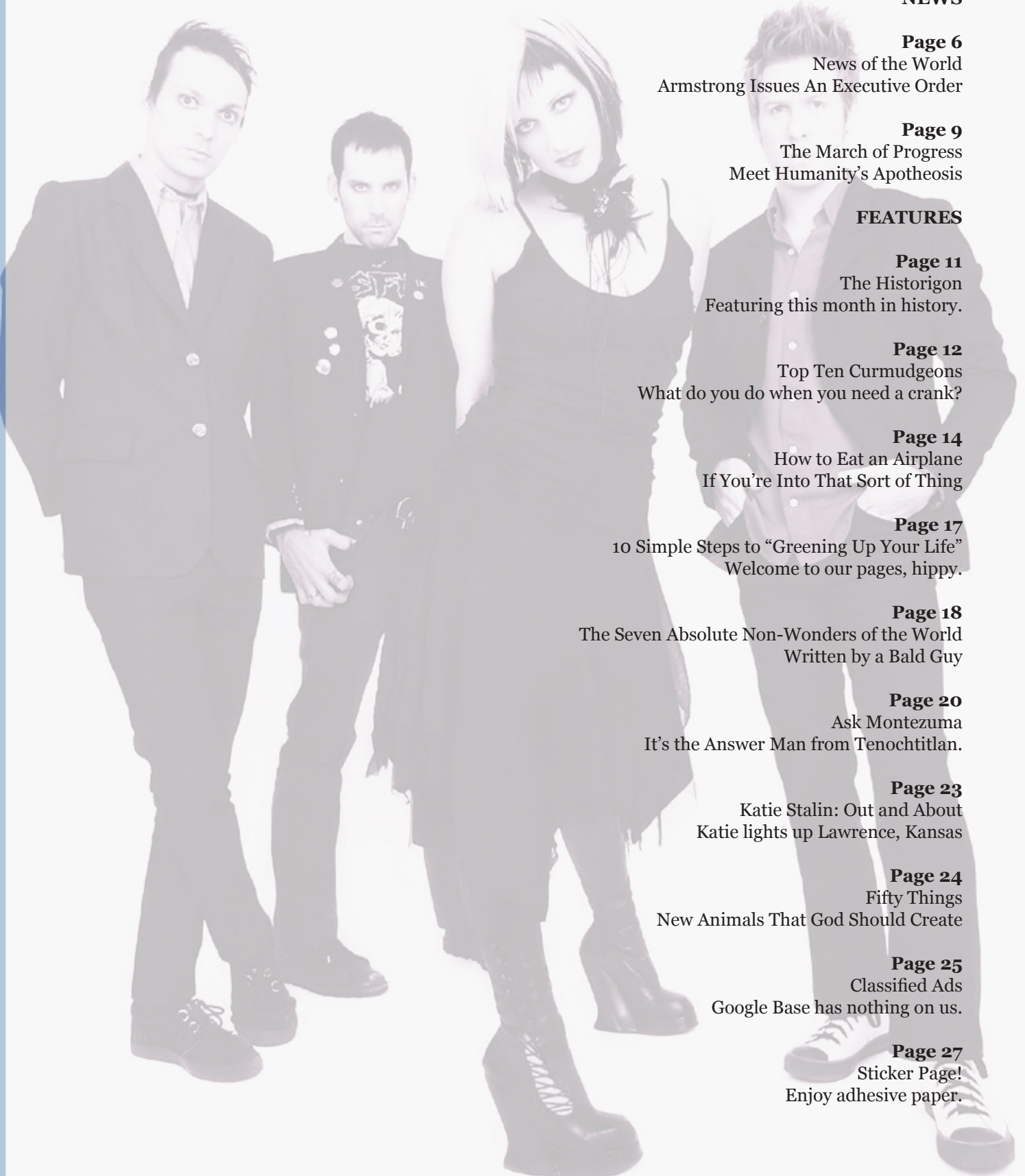
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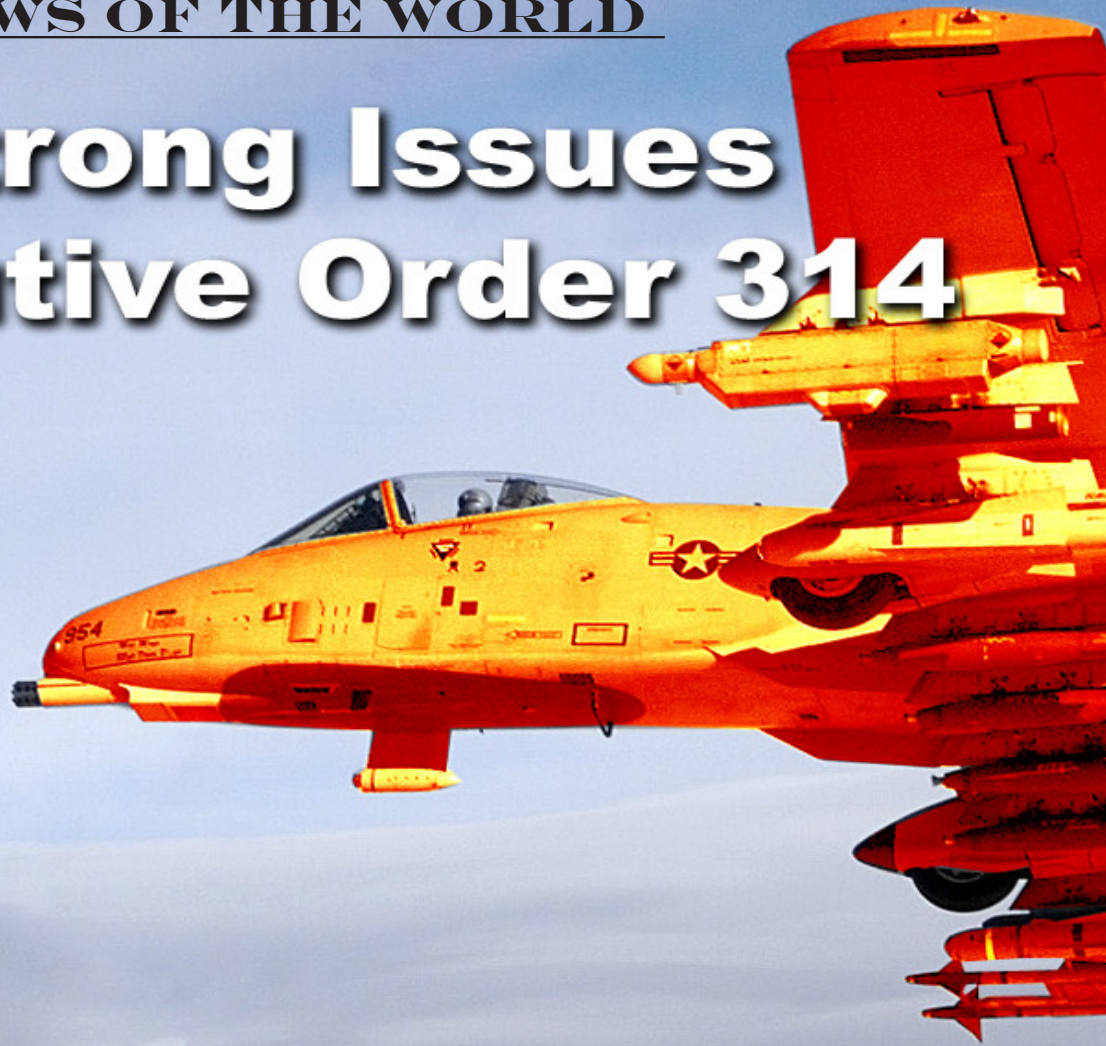
Classified Ads
Google Base has nothing on us.

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Sticker Page!
Enjoy adhesive paper.



Armstrong Issues Executive Order 314



Washington D.C.- Beltway insiders are scrambling for information in the wake of President Dick Armstrong's announcement of Executive Order 314. In a speech before a joint session of Congress last Tuesday, the President declared:

"There are a myriad of dangers and incontinences still threatening our great nation. In order to make things better, I am hereby implementing Executive Order 314, which will greatly help us rectify this situation we face and steer us to a more positive outcome in regards to these things I've already mentioned."

When asked about the particulars of the order, Whitehouse Press Secretary Delores Spigot stated only that "...details are irrelevant. You're not looking at the big picture. C'mon, people."

While many have speculated on the precise nature of the Executive Order, the text of which has yet to be declassified, a recently-leaked

ominous video shows Secret Service personnel loading hundreds of croquet sets into unmarked vans. Some, such as web sleuth Mac Garvey of the www.macattac.com site, have claimed EO314 may be related to reports of bright orange A-10 Warthogs seen circling Omaha and Sheboygan. Other conspiratorial bloggers have claimed to have seen mustachioed men in monks' robes purchasing large quantities of beach balls and blackberry passion-colored lipstick at BestMart locations from Maine to Walla Walla.

Bamco spokesman Chet Hartely said, in a recent press conference "Bamco Inc., the world's largest manufacturer of inflatable summer products has stepped up production of everyone's favorite beach-time accessory, but we are still having trouble meeting demand due to the recent high volume purchases made by the mysterious mustachioed monk-men."

When questioned about the strange



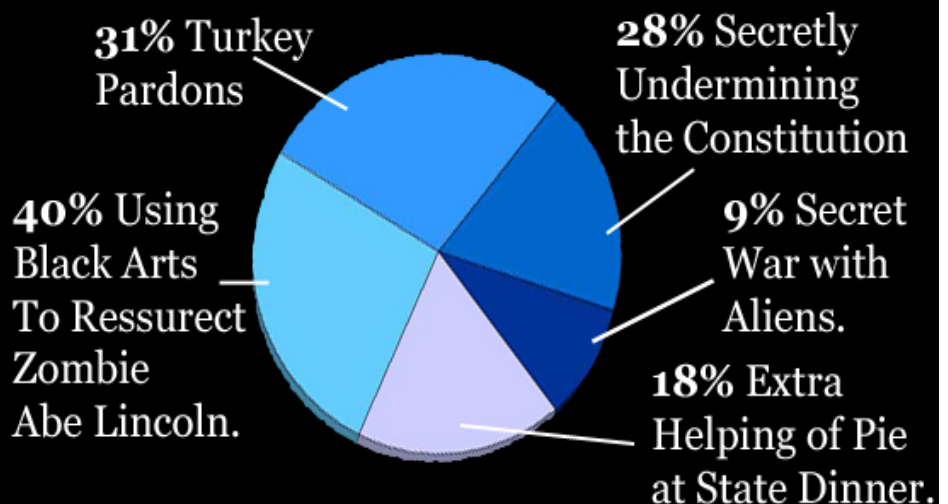
President Vows to “Make Things Better”

occurrences and their possible connection to Executive Order 314, Armstrong told the assembled press corps members:

“We are helping to make America better. That is all you need to know, isn’t it? You like America, don’t you? You want America to be better, not worse, am I right here? Trust me, the Order has nothing to do with any of that, especially not the new twelve-sided purple stop signs.”

Presidential Executive Orders

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THE MARCH OF PROGRESS

“We have fulfilled the dream of countless generations”

Biologists Create An Amazing Discovery Heralding the Dawn of a New Age of Advancement

Zurich, Switzerland, EU- Centuries of speculation and hope have finally led to triumph for one dedicated team of bio-physicists at the ECIC. Despite the difficulties involved in the project, the team has proven that sometimes man can achieve the impossible. That's right, man can overcome his own conceptions of what is and what is not possible.

Head researcher Lurig Goa said “Mankind's victory in the war against God and Nature is now complete. We can create anything! Truly man, through hubristic meddling in the natural order of the universe, has become the new God. This is Zeke the Yodeling Mule, our apotheosis.”

Unveiled to overwhelming smatterings of applause, Zeke the Yodeling Mule stood atop a mule-sized platform at the Centre Scientifique and proceeded to yodel in a resounding, mule-like manner. While no one has yet to perfect an actual yodeling mule, Zeke, the first successfully yodeling mule was described by yodeling expert Uf Tarmiksen as “competent.”

Zeke the Yodeling Mule will be taken on a 347 day tour of the European Union, followed by an extensive tour of South America. The latter will culminate in a goodwill concert along the Panama Canal where Zeke the Yodeling Mule will yodel indigenous love songs to all assembled.

Whether Zeke the Yodeling Mule will help to usher in a new, more enlightening period of world-wide peace, understanding and glory has yet to be seen, but Dr. Goa was hopeful and stated “There is no problem we cannot solve, nothing we cannot create, nothing we cannot rule over; truly we are now as gods.”



*Jeepers Creepers...
Where'd you get those peepers?*

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The Axes & Alleys HISTORIGON

This Month in History:

2006 AD- Looking back on his impeachment, William Jefferson Clinton is still amazed at how skillfully he managed to gain the moral high ground and play the victim after besmirching his office and lying under oath.

1991 AD- Colonel Donald Birdfeather steals a beret off a dead Iraqi Crimson Guard soldier as a gift for his young nephew.

1973 AD- The Bronx is briefly named officially as The Aquahung in a nod to liberal guilt until a crowd of The Bronxians hurl various expletive-laden insults at Mayor John V. Lindsay.

1954 AD- Joseph McCarthy correctly identifies Joseph Stalin as a member of the Communist Party.

1924 AD- Jay Gatsby and Nick Carraway enjoy a couple of illegal martinis on the lawn.

1902 AD- To the chagrin of his taxidermist, Teddy Roosevelt shoots a rhinoceros.

1888 AD- Thomas Alva Edison invents a deodorant flap for T-shirts, but then accidentally leaves the schematics on his seat after leaving the train and the advancement is lost to mankind, seemingly forever.

1776 AD- Benjamin Franklin invents the big-boned stove.

1655 AD- Aborigines begin building Ayers Rock.

1487 AD- In what would later become a world-wide romantic tradition, Aztec warrior Xoxoxo signs a love letter to his wife.

1225 AD- The Abbasid Dynasity of Caliphs is briefly interrupted when Jimmy the Leper, formerly of England, somehow wanders into the inner sanctum of the Caliphate and puts on the exalted one's hat.

1138 AD- Pepin of Nice invents the fake animal the zykylox (a horse with the head of a dog, native to Lydia) so that he can finish up the last page of his Bestiary and head down to the tavern for a grog.

805 AD- On his death bed Te Tsung wishes he could have written better poetry for his imperial decrees.

732 AD- Abdul Rahman Al Ghafiqi leads some of the chefs of his clan across the Pyrenees in search of interesting cream sauces.

424 AD- After careful thought, St. Augustine of Hippo surmises that farting probably is a sin.

300 AD- The last lion in Armenia forgets to turn off the faucet before leaving.

122 AD- Overseers at the construction of Hadrian's wall realize that something fishy is going on when after two months only fifteen stones have been laid.

3 AD- Menneas, after being raised to the title of Archon of Athens, comes to the realization that with the Romans running everything, his job is kind of pointless. He spends a lot of time drinking.

18 BC- Poor Onjo becomes a Korean king very much by accident.

100 BC- Thirsty Scythians in search of a good place to rest apologize for overrunning Parthia.

221 BC- Po Liu Chang, after being told "we are all China now" thinks to himself "the hell I am. Poc gai!"

321 BC- Alexander the Great and his "friend" retire for the night, but no one says anything about it.

485 BC- Gelo, the tyrant of Gela, decides to name Sicily Geland after himself, too.

540 BC- Anaximenes spends several days smashing pomegranates against his left temple.

986 BC- Solomon says to hell with the bitchy women and cuts the baby in half anyway.

3985 BC- Ushtuk creates two new signs, allowing merchants to differentiate between milk cows and beef cows.

7333 BC- Pantik the Proto-Tatar watches as the Black Sea floods the Aegean Sea. He laughs a little.

8550 BC- The domesticated bat dies out in Malaysia.

133000 BC- Calculus invented for the first time by anonymous tribesperson in what is now Zimbabwe.



Top Ten Titans of Curmudgeonry

Andy Rooney

Called a humorist by “the free encyclopaedia anyone can edit,” Andy Rooney is the modern epitome of curmudgeon. For decades now, Andy Rooney has made a career over complaining that things aren’t as good as they used to be. You see, apparently back in the day the music had fewer Negroes in it, women wore skirts, and everything was full of puppies and rainbows, candy tasted better, gas was cheaper, and telephones were attached to walls for Christ’s sake. Sure, movie popcorn may have tasted better back in the old days, but I’ll take slightly less flavour-full popcorn over say, spending my days in an iron lung because of polio. Nothing you say or do will keep Rooney from spouting his nostalgic babble each week, because if we ever got rid of Andy Rooney someone new would just come along to complain about how good things were back when Andy Rooney was around.

George Carlin

Believe it or not, there was a time when George Carlin was actually edgy. Of course, this was also back in a time when the adjective edgy actually meant someone was subversive. And despite his stint as Mr. Conductor, Carlin really was subversive and funny and irreverent. Unfortunately, over his five decades in comedy Carlin has slowly graduated from observer of overt ridiculousness to white-haired and cranky curmudgeon. And not a particularly fanciful one, either. Edginess and subversion, unfortunately, come with an expiration date. Guys in their seventies complaining about how everyone wears backpacks these days have traded in their street cred for curmudgeonhood.

Socrates

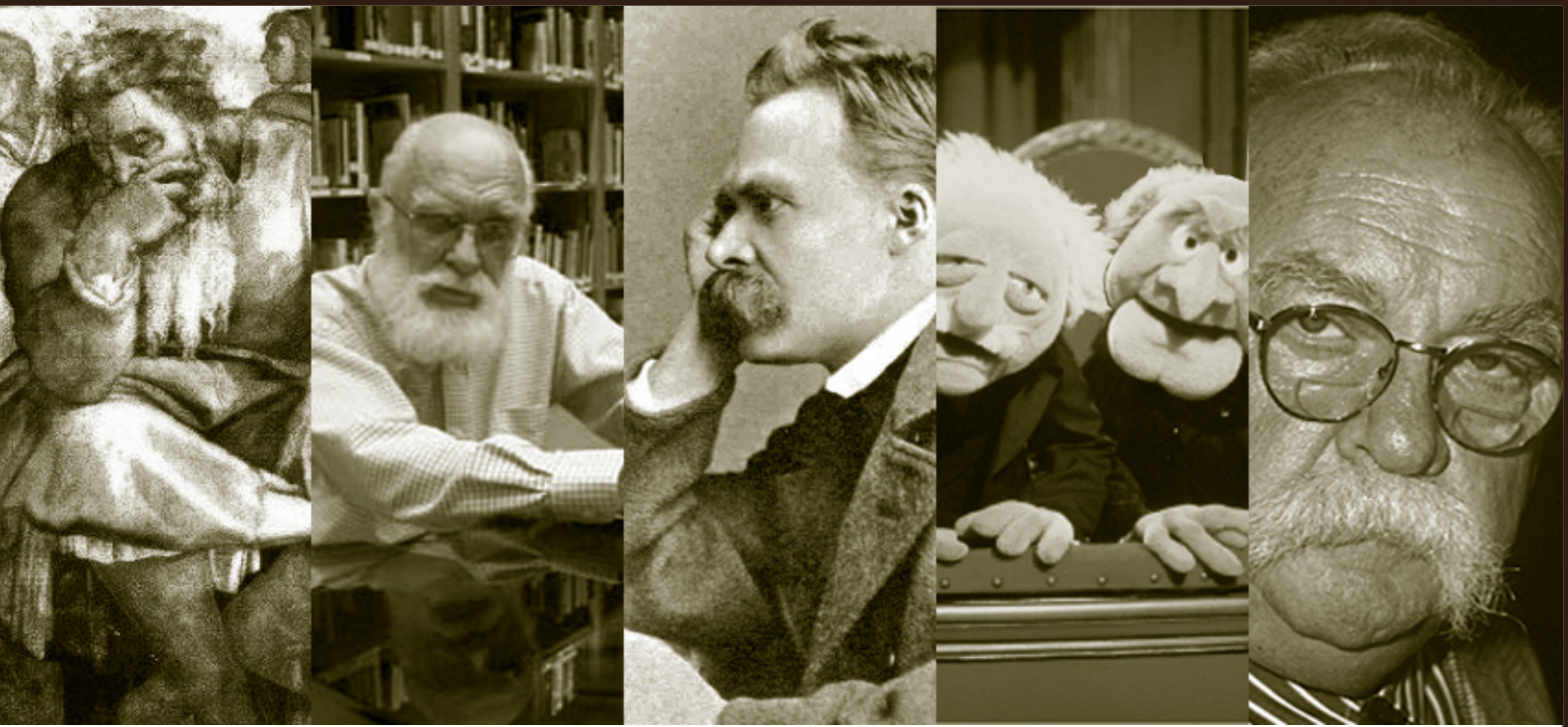
History’s first recorded curmudgeon, Socrates shows up everyone ever with how things used to be. You know why? Because he didn’t complain about how things used to be. He complained about how things were and pissed off everyone doing so. And he was good at it. So good that they killed him. Okay, you know how two year olds are really annoying with their questions once they learn to talk? Imagine a sixty-year old guy with nothing to lose behaving like that. That was Socrates. Religion as practiced by the populace was a sham. Virtue was an illusion of ignorance. Integrity was something only the dead possessed, and barely even then. We’d kill ourselves too if we were that good. The only direction to go would be down.

Frederick Nietzsche

Nothing was ever good enough for Frederick Nietzsche. So, he spent his lonely, unhappy life writing down his ideas about how everything wasn’t good enough. In fact, he even believed himself to be a superman, despite being a useless, over-educated, pathetic drunk. Apparently, all the people who actually had jobs just weren’t super enough, not like ol’ Fred. Well, maybe having a nice moustache is all the license you need to complain about everyone and everything.

Oliver Cromwell

There’s basically one plot that they recycle for every Christmas movie; some heartless, greedy fiend is going to hatch a plan and only the plucky heroes can help Santa save Christmas. Well you don’t see any of them running to the rescue of the Commonwealth where Oliver Cromwell actually did ban Christmas for eleven years in the 17th Century. How’s that for curmudgeon? Not only did Cromwell ban Christmas, but he outlawed theatre, gambling, bear baiting, and basically everything else fun. The only thing he did allow was work and church. That’s a curmudgeon for you. But, if nothing else the period of the Protectorate at least proves once and for all that there is no Santa Claus.



Samuel

Right after his friend God (subject of his own article), Samuel comes traipsing into the curmudgeon charts. Samuel was so much of a grump that he would go out each year on a circuit throughout the land to tell people just how bad they'd been and that they needed to repent. For Samuel, things were always better back when the people didn't worship Baal. Of course, with God whispering in his ear we can't completely blame Samuel for his behaviour. But still, anointing the king (twice!) and then telling everyone how much better judges are than kings is just this side of gauche. Even when dead, Samuel raises a ruckus at being bothered, as if he had much else to do.

William Jennings Bryan

Combine liberal leanings, the sternness of Scottish religion, and a capably analytical brain which conveniently ignores painful facts, and you've got the makings of a lot of crank. And, basically, that was most of why Bryan was a curmudgeonly man, even by 19th Century standards. Bryan is famous for two fits of pique: The Cross of Gold and The Scopes Trial. In the first Bryan brought out one of the most curmudgeonly examples of over-exaggeration in the history of spoken American English when he said "You shall not press down upon the brow of labour this crown of thorns, you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold." Jeez W.J., it's only the value of the dollar, not sister Betty's virtue. In the Scopes Trial Bryan took to court to help in the prosecution of a science teacher for teaching science. Now, we're not going to get all science preachy here, but come on W.J., that's like prosecuting a chimpanzee for having opposable thumbs.

James Randi

Old, bearded and crusty James Randi claims to run an "educational foundation," but in reality he just spends his days pointing out how everyone else isn't as smart as he is. And he tries to tell jokes. Except, he's exactly like that old guy at every family reunion, who tries to tell over-memorized jokes and still messes them up anyway. Of course, only he gets the jokes away, but that doesn't matter either because if you don't laugh, he just coughs and then points how you're not as smart or clever as he is. It doesn't matter if he has an asteroid named after him, he's still just an old guy who complains about people and that makes him a curmudgeon by any definition.

Those Two Guys in the Balcony from *The Muppet Show*.

Statler and Waldorf (otherwise known as "Those two guys in the balcony from *The Muppet Show*") just really didn't like anything, did they? All those felt-covered puppets were working hard to get the show together and these two never did anything but complain. Kermit was always stressing out and just trying to entertain the nice people and these two old, useless guys were just picking at every little problem or joke or gag, without contributing anything. They just lived the true curmudgeon's life; sitting there, doing nothing but complaining. If only a tomato would miss Fozzie and hit them instead.

Wilford Brimley

Little hasn't already been said about the man rounding out our top ten curmudgeon list. He says diabetes funny, he's an activist *for* cockfighting, and he made a lot of commercials about oat meal. Any old guy who's out there, using their gruff, unpleasant demeanour to help sell oat meal is definitely a curmudgeon. In fact, you can, as a rule of thumb, be sure that any person who tries to talk to you about oatmeal and diabetes is a curmudgeon. For curmudgeons, oatmeal and diabetes are like sex, drugs and rock n' roll. They can't get enough of them.



Consuming an entire aircraft is a difficult task that requires patience, hard-work and perseverance. It's safe to say that eating an airplane isn't exactly easy. The old saying still holds true: Preparation is the difference between eating a whole airplane and eating only half an airplane. To help prepare you for your spectacular feat of wonder, we've created this handy guide.

*First determine what type of airplane you want to eat. Champions might be able to handle a Boeing 747 or a C-5 Galaxy, but for your first airplane it's best to not go for anything larger than a Piper Cub or a Cessna.

*Once you've found a suitable airplane, you'll need to disassemble it. Remember, it doesn't count as eating an airplane if you only eat never-assembled aircraft components. They had to have once been assembled and in flying condition or you're not really eating an airplane, are you?

*Sort the pieces by material type; rubber, glass, aluminium, wood or fiberglass. Mixed components like gauges go in their own separate pile.

*There are two schools of thought on how to begin eating an entire airplane; you can start with the easy stuff like tires, seatbelts and cushions, or you can start with the difficult metal and fiberglass. While experts do differ, for a first timer it's probably best to get the tough stuff over with first so that the rest is an easy down-hill coast to the finish line.

*Consuming metal isn't too difficult once you've completed the difficult task of grinding it all down into a fine powder. Simply add four or five tablespoons of ground metal into your favorite sauce, yogurt, or omelet. You should probably add no more than a couple of teaspoons in your coffee or soda though. Either way, you'd be surprised how much airplane you can get through in a week .

*Unshreddable items like seatbelts or cushion stuffing can be puréed in a blender. Add some ice cream, milk and chocolate syrup for a smooth, refreshing treat.

*Save a tire for last. Invite some friends over and bake the tire with onions, carrots and little potatoes (450 degrees for three hours). As your friends enjoy a fine meal, you can go for the big finish by eating that one last tire with a knife and fork by candlelight. Watch out for those steel belts though, they're worse than catfish bones.

*It should take about three to five years to get through a Cessna. Be sure to get checked out regularly for signs of metal poisoning and intestinal lacerations.

Once your task is complete, don't shy away from the limelight. You've earned the press attention and the adulation of friends and loved ones. C'mon, you've actually eaten an entire airplane and how many people can say that!

*Don't give up. Winners never quit and quitters never eat airplanes.

*As of this printing only eight people have ever eaten an entire airplane. Mellissa Hodges (A-10 Warthog), Kaitlin Fuller (C-5 Galaxy, Boeing 747, DC-3, B-29 Superfortress), Maureen Ridgely-Smyth (Cessna Skyhawk SP), Ellen Ridgely-Smyth (Learjet 23), Erin Ventuch (MiG 23, F35 Joint Strike Fighter), Catherine Fulcher (Spitfire), Aimee Echo (Sr-71 Blackbird, F117A Nighthawk, X87 Aurora), Molly Pepridge (Piper J3).

AIRPLANES YOU CAN EAT



B24 Liberator



Flyer 1



White Knight

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Spy on your neighbors!
Infiltrate the girls' locker room!
Play tricks on your friends!
Have endless fun!



**Now Available
Without a
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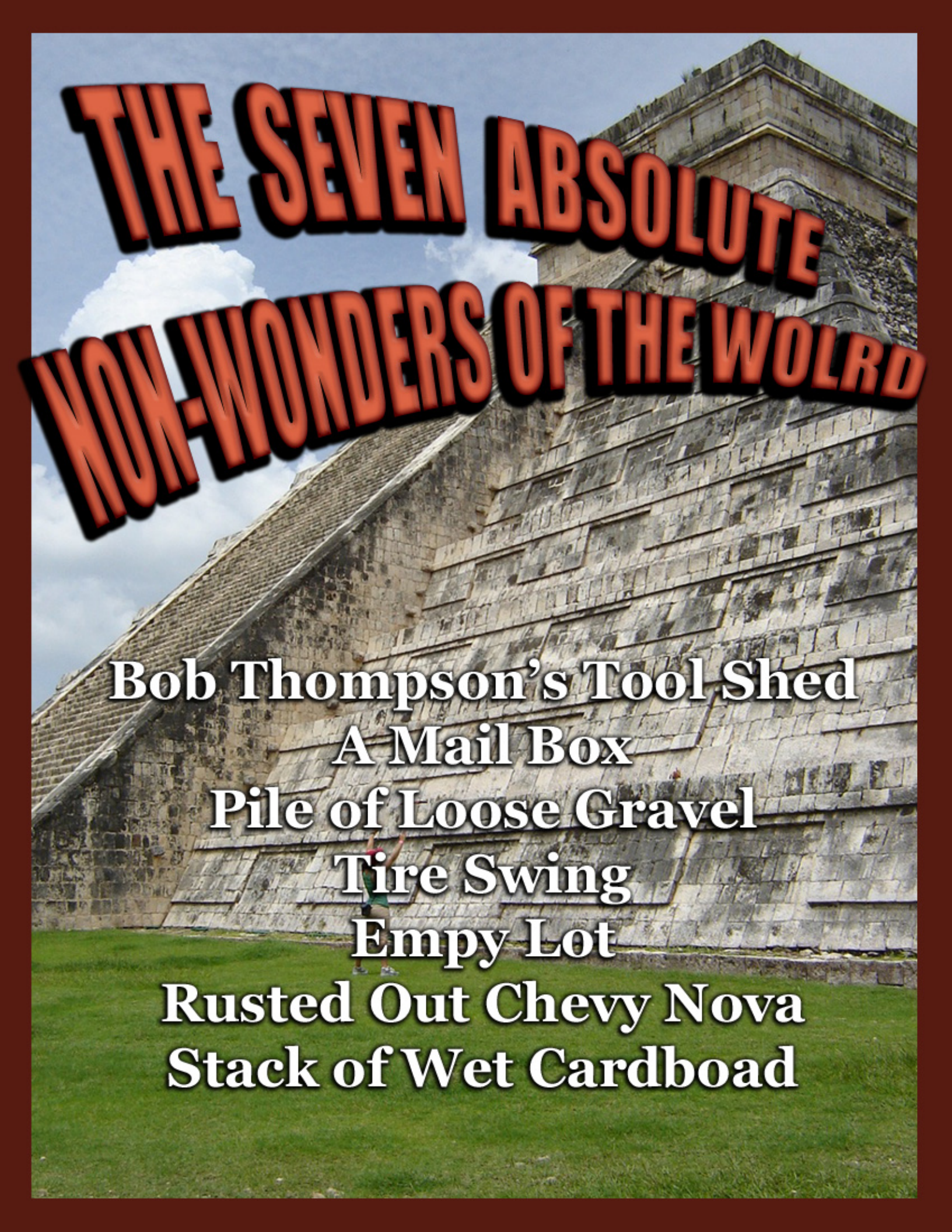


WARNING: Invisibility will render you blind as light cannot reflect off the retina.

10 Simple Steps to “Greening-Up” Your Life



1. You can reduce your carbon foot print by bicycling to work. Then again, bicycles are made of aluminium that has to be strip-mined. Instead construct your own bicycle out of recycled cardboard and old compost.
2. Leaving the water running while shaving or brushing your teeth can waste over 2,800 gallons of water every year. So save water by avoiding grooming like other dirty eco-nut hippies.
3. Produce has to be trucked across country just to get to your local grocery store. Why not cut down on all that fossil fuel pollution by growing your own vegetables? If you don't have the time, just enslave some migrant workers. Don't worry, they're here illegally and are afraid to go to the police. So really you'll have carte blanche in how treat them.
4. Always make sure you buy recycled products. If you can't find recycled products, you can make your own just by rereading yesterday's newspaper or rewiping with previously used toilet paper.
5. Solar panels can reduce your electricity and heating costs by over 83.3%. For the average American household that's \$200.00 extra dollars a month you can spend on cocaine.
6. Speaking of Colombia, you can save some land from agricultural degradation by using dirt instead of coffee grounds to make your coffee. Most Americans make coffee that tastes like dirt anyway, so it cuts out the pretense, saves on transport costs, and you don't have to worry about that "fair trade" baloney.
7. You know how putting a brick in your toilet tank will help you save water? Give it a shot with your car by putting a brick in your gas tank.
8. You can save electricity by only listening to music recorded prior to 1965. After that producers started making everything really loud, thus not only getting rid of some wonderful dynamic contrast, but also using up more energy when played in a stereo.
9. Install a small turbine generator above your shower's drain and you could generate enough power through draining water to keep that MP3 player of yours going for minutes.
10. Commit suicide and make sure that your will stipulates that you'd like to be composted. Nothing says love like eating vegetables nourished by someone for whom you cared. Nothing could be greener, either.

The background of the image is a photograph of a massive, ancient stone pyramid, likely Mayan or Aztec, with a steep, stepped face. A small figure of a person stands at the base of the pyramid to provide a sense of scale. The sky is blue with some white clouds.

THE SEVEN ABSOLUTE NON-WONDERS OF THE WORLD

Bob Thompson's Tool Shed
A Mail Box

Pile of Loose Gravel

Tire Swing

Empy Lot

Rusted Out Chevy Nova
Stack of Wet Cardboard

Bob Thompson's Tool Shed (Tuscaloosa, AL)

Constructed of solid plywood and 2" x 4"s, Bob Thompson's tool shed is ignored by all those in Blackwarrior County and throughout the state of Alabama. Not only is Bob's shed poorly constructed, it's also full of mold, mildew and the occasional raccoon. The back wall is rotting and it smells really bad. Besides, he doesn't even keep many tools in there anymore. After he threw out his back, he hasn't done much yard work. Don't be fooled, the bag of rotting leaves in the corner isn't a nascent compost pile, he just forgot about it last month.

A Mail Box (The Bronx, NY)

There are many millions of mailboxes across the United States, but on the corner of West Reservoir Oval in the Bronx stands a pinnacle of non-wonder. Covered in graffiti, and often used as a urinal by the homeless and itinerant, this mailbox truly is a blight. Claimed as a tagging area by both "Rasor" and "Ginx," it's best to not put your mail in this box.

A Pile of Loose Gravel (Cairo, Egypt)

Over two meters in height and weighing almost a ton, this pile of gravel stands outside a hotel construction site in Cairo. No, it's not just gravel; it's also loose dirt, soda cans, cigarette butts, candy wrappers and other trash. It belongs to Mr. Mohammed Saddeg, a day-laborer on the site. If you dig too deep into the pile, you might find a scorpion, so be careful.

Tire Swing (Kent, UK)

Though the British would likely call it a "tyre" swing, people on both sides of the pond can admit that the swing is really not wondrous as at all. For one thing, it's always full of old, gray rank rain water and secondly, the steel belts stick out due to wear and can poke a child or even rip his or her clothing. Sometimes there are insects.

Empty Lot (Augusta, GA)

It is full of weeds and features not one, but two, old rusty shopping carts. A victim of heavy erosion, the lot mostly just features dirt surrounded by a poorly constructed chain link fence. Actually the fence is kind of pointless as a barrier, since it features a prominent eight foot hole. There are also several 2 x 4s lying next to a mud puddle. One weed has a flower, but it's a brown, dried out flower.

Rusted Out Chevy Nova (Rome, Italy)

Legend has it that the Chevy Nova once belonged to a Mr. Luciano Travetti, who abandoned it after realizing that the tow-away fee would be equal to 200,000 lire. After he purchased a new car in 1982, Travetti merely left the old car parked on the street where it accumulated not only rust, but also nearly two hundred and thirty different parking citations.

Stack of Wet Cardboard (Shanghai, Peoples' Republic of China)

Behind the factory that manufactures Robotron™ action figures and playsets, stands a pile of cardboard more than twenty three feet high. Soaked my many summer rainstorms, the cardboard has become structurally weakened and has begun to smell. As the local truck from the Peoples' Refuse Collection Army has yet to come by, the stack continues to grow and a'molder.



ASK MONTEZUMA IT'S THE ANSWER MAN FROM TENOCHTITLAN



Montezuma II is a taurus and enjoys the companionship of scorpios. His bowling team came in third in the league last year and he hopes to make it to the intramural city championship this year. He currently works part-time for Milton Bradley's customer service department.

Dear Montezuma,
My friend Howard tells me that through adversity there is redemption. I'm not so sure, see, because once I missed the bus and all I got was being late to work. What do you think?

Adam Dutkiewicz
Boston, MA

Your friend Howard is incorrect. If you take Route 15 through Adversity, AL, you'll only get to Pandaemonium, KY. Since Route 15 is the only thoroughfare in Adversity, it's quite clear to any observer that Redemption cannot be reached through Adversity. You can, however, find Redemption by taking the Cardinal Sin Roundabout to the Deathbed Conversion Thoroughway.

Montezuma,
You know how it rains sometimes? Well, I always get wet when that happens. It's really frustrating because I have to put everything under the radiator to dry off in the winter or hang it in front of the fan in the summer. Got any tips for me?

Lionel Luthor
Smallville, KS

Mr. Luthor, I have a great tip. What you need to do is keep the rain off of your body. To do this, I suggest mounting a car battery to a harness which itself is attached to two large fans mounted on your shoulders. When it starts raining, flip the switch on the battery and the large fans will spin quickly, blowing the rain out of your way. Simple and cost-effective. Just make sure you water proof the battery. A friend of mine didn't do that and now we keep him in a tin on the mantel.

Dear Mr. Zuma,
My girlfriend and I recently went to Molokai, part of the Hawaiian Islands. It's beautiful there, with very few inhabitants, only some small hotels, and some wonderful fish ponds. One day, while out on a hike through those same ponds, we decided to engage in the physical act of love. While I was performing oral sex on her as foreplay to coitus, I noticed that the fish kept looking at us. More specifically, me. I felt as if they were watching my every move. How can I keep fish from looking at me while I'm giving the gift of oral?

Dinesh D'souza
Stanford, CA

I don't know how many times I have to repeat myself, but this is not an advice column for ichthyo-opthamologists. We are neither concerned with the ability of fish to see, nor what they might be looking at. You may wish to contact any of the multitude of advice columns written by fish on fishy subjects.

Dear Montezuma,
I don't understand the user interface choices that software designers make sometimes. For instance, in both Mac OS and Windows, newly-opened programs or windows will automatically try to come to the front. What if I'm doing that "multi-tasking" I'm always encouraged to do? Then that window is getting in the way when I don't need it. Or, what about the other way, when in Mac OS the icon for my browser will bounce after I've downloaded something to open in another program. Why? It never requires me to do anything other than click the bouncing icon to make it stop bouncing. It's nerve wracking, to say the least.

X. Alexander Roustabout
Blemish, WY

I would rather enjoy an interface which required the use of three dimensional spectacles. To have a new window look like the inside of a box would be interesting, especially if I could reach right in and grab things with a virtual hand. Also, it would be quite nifty if the inside of my computer looked as if it were constructed of towers of light and lattices of shadow. Oh! And if information was going along, it looked like a little laser blast. Perhaps simple operations could be depicted onscreen by complicated and elaborate animated graphics and movies. There would even be a start up screen where my special computer name danced about in flaming letters over a page of digital skulls. This would be enjoyable. I might even place a picture of a jolly clown as my desk top wall paper (or desktop wallpaper as some call it).

Dear Montezuma,
What's a fog hat?
Jeremy Rosen
Astoria, NY

A fog hat, dear Jeremy, has a three-foot bill, ear flaps, and a large torch mounted on the back. The bill is wide and shunts the obnoxious condensate out of the way while the torch lights the way forward. The flaps are usually for decoration, though some companies do manufacture them to act as secondary scoops similar to the bill. They're traditionally only available in blue with white paisleys, but some companies will soon offer them in teal.

Montezuma,
I like Jazz, but without all the swinging, interesting moods, and enjoyability. What should I do?
Louis Secunda
New York, New South Wales, Australia

Dr. Secunda, you should probably listen to jazz music as played by an entirely French or Norwegian ensemble. It tends to be shoe-gazingly introspective and without most or all of the emotive qualities an American ensemble can produce. Many have described jazz as played by Europeans as "bland."

Dear Monty,
Why is Battleship such a stupid game? I mean, all you have to do is look over the edge of your opponent's case and you can see exactly where all the ships are. It's called a satellite. Join the modern era Milton Bradley.
Gustav Klimt
Roanoke, VA

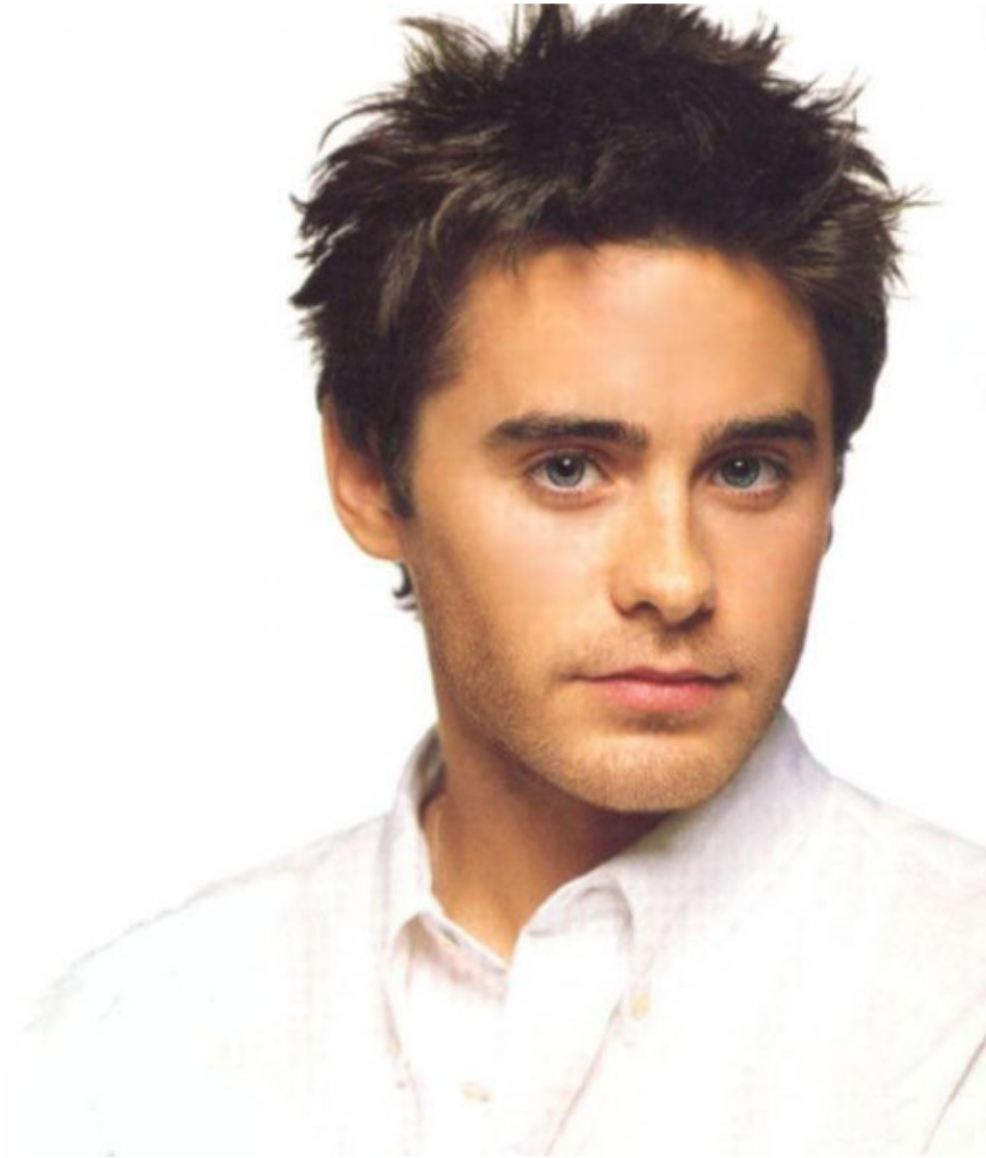
Dear Mr. Klimt, for over 150 years, MILTON BRADLEY has produced, sold and marketed a broad line of popular games, puzzles, and activities, well beloved by families across the world. Some of the classics include: THE GAME OF LIFE (1960), CHUTES AND LADDERS (1943), CANDY LAND (1949), TWISTER (1966), YAHTZEE (1956), BIG BEN Puzzles (1941), and SCRABBLE Brand Crossword Game (1938). As a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hasbro, Inc., we thank you for your kind interest.



Montezuma's Helpful Hints for the Home

Now that winter is in full swing and the short, cold days are here, you might discover a problem with mold. Yes, with radiators pumping out so much humidity and so little ventilation in homes, quite often a mold problem erupts during the winter months. The first thing you should try to do is reason with the mold. Turn on an overhead light, sit a chair next to the mold and have a frank discussion with it. Let it know how you feel about it invading your space, disfiguring your walls, closet, or other area, and tell it that you're worried about contracting a fungal infection in your lungs should it not move out soon. Most of the time mold will respond to reason. If it does not, your next option is to try fire.

Jordan Catalano



He will be at that party tonight

Tino Said So



Katie Stalin

Out and About



Lawrence, Kansas I am a huge basketball fan. Okay, it's more that I'm a fan of huge basketball players, but I'll sit through a game for them anyway. That's why I came to Lawrence after all. James Naismith, the old fogey who invented basketball is buried here. He had this totally awesome brain hemorrhage and then died. Apparently the University of Kansas police don't like it when you sneak into the Pioneer Cemetery and hold a candle-lit picnic with Naismith's ghost at three in the morning. They also don't seem to like being doused with Everclear and set on fire, if the screaming I heard while running away is to be believed.

I got lost in the Bowersock Dam a couple of hours later. I'd stopped off for some nachos at Lawrence's own El Mezcal, but they were closed because it was 4:30. I broke the lock and made my own though. Anyway, I headed over to the dam, and let me tell you: not impressive. Did you know it takes only 53 bags of trash to gum up the whole spill system?

I mean, they make a big deal about having had the first corrugated paper plant west of the Mississippi, but who really gives a crap about corrugated paper and who had a plant for it first? That's the kind of stuff that bores you to tears on first grade field trips. Sometimes I think those field trips to the county museum and the river walk influenced the way I behave on trips, but most of the time it's just how stupid people are. They're also real happy they had the first "sanitary sewer" in Lawrence. Yeah dudes, pipes for poop!

Later that weekend I did get to help the Lawrence Police Department. Well, sort of. See, I was sunbathing topless in the park near my motel and this hunky dude came over to talk to me. I sort of got him to unzip his pants to show me the tattoo of Shoki the Demon Slayer he said he had, but then all these cops showed up and I had to get out of there.

On my way out of town today I stole a few Naismith Street signs, but otherwise Lawrence just wasn't much fun. Next up: NEW YORK!!!



FIFTY NEW ANIMALS THAT GOD SHOULD CREATE

1. Flying crabs.
2. Sheep with non-itchy wool.
3. Talking meercats, since meercats always look like they're about to say something interesting.
4. Dogs that stay puppies forever.
5. Tigons and Ligers that can actually reproduce.
6. Rubber-toothed sharks for surfer safety.
7. Chihuahuas that don't shake so damn much.
8. Butterflies with patriotic flag designs on their wings.
9. Moths that can tell the difference between a light bulb and the Moon.
10. Cuddly snakes.
11. Cats that can do, like, at least one trick or something.
12. Bishop birds, for the cardinals to oversee.
13. A bird dog that doesn't just find dead birds but is actually like a flying dog with a beak.
14. Bioluminescent elephants.
15. Land whales.
16. Turtles with hinges, so you could open up the shell and see how they work.
17. Gigapedes.
18. Abyssal fish that aren't quite so nightmarish.
19. Dolphins who don't give a damn about lost mariners.
20. Something that's full of tasty lobster meat but doesn't look so much like a giant sci-fi alien bug.
21. Hippos that don't kill quite so many people.
22. Parrots that can say interesting things rather than just continually demanding crackers.
23. Squirrels that hand out small containers of relish.
24. Something, anything that actually wears underpants.
25. Rabbits than can play Parcheesi well.
26. Spaceborne orangutans with giant foil wings which produce nutritious energy through simian-compatible chlorophyll.
27. A carnivorous chinchilla which is just as cute as a regular chinchilla, but over 700 times as deadly.
28. Small lizards with built-in rocket/jetpacks.
29. Humans with spines fully-adapted to upright walking.
30. Deer whose eyes shine blinding light at over 100,000 lumens.
31. A species of clam which exhibits astounding sexual differences between its 13 different genders.
32. A wolverine shaped like a VHS tape which feeds on human hands.
33. The sinless manatee.
34. Hyperlinked marmosets.
35. Bees that buzz a major third apart.
36. Penguins in primary colours.
37. Bed bugs that form beds.
38. Hook-length worms that don't produce mucous.
39. Shrimp which eat plastic bags.
40. Moles what build their hills out of bottle caps.
41. Proper human shemales.
42. Scallops exactly one millimeter thick.
43. Manta rays which grow human skin.
44. Lemon-flavoured bison.
45. Stick insects that die and dry out to create brushes.
46. Giraffes divisible by *i*.
47. Diatoms which die and leave skeletons usable as nuts for bolts.
48. Purple pigs.
49. Multi-cellular amoeba.
50. Pigeons that double as radio transmitters.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

Left-handed widget for use in 3" metric thing-a-ma-bobber. Doodad attachment not included. Mr. Joe Blow, 21 Showdown Plaza, Ingrid, WV 24751.

FOR SALE

Pickled glue guns (4) in vat of brine. \$73.00 or best offer. Chad McDiormott, Box 10943.

FOR SALE

Nickleback. Not the band, but actually the reverse side of a nickel which I delicately bisected with a jeweler's saw. Two and a half cents. If you don't have half-cent coins, it's not a problem. I'll make you some with my jeweler's saw. Leonor Soot, 107 Puppet Street, Bicycle Canyon, NY 10087.

FOR SALE

Collection of ten plastic novelty flying discs, each with the name of one of the mythical Sumerian kings. Written in Helvetica font. No substitutions. Eliot G. Godfrey, 9 Sutchter St., #4 (ring top bell), New York, NY 10013.

FOR SALE

Fifth primary color. Doesn't quite work with other four primary

colors. Only visible in ultra-violet light. B. Queen, El Hivo Apartments #3, West Petunio, Nova Scotia

FOR SALE

Maniac. House-trained. Comes with own knives, mask and troubled back story. \$86.52. World-wide delivery. No refunds. Keeble Barista, 4019-601-23-213, ext. 4058.

FOR SALE

Mint condition, in the package, Robotron™ action figures from the second run (1984-1986). Complete set includes Major Courageous®, Contractor®, Destrukto-smahser®, Enigmaticon®, Grapplor® Indicticator®, Captain Underlord®, Cosmo-Ninja®, Count Dragonator®, Eviltron®, Zoomlord®, Robopanther®, Xylon®, Electrofist®, General Death®, and the Celestial Sphere® playset. \$1.00 each. Chafer Hardelmere, Box 312.

FOR SALE

Explanation of transit systems in major metropoli. Paris, Tokyo, New York & others. For \$30.00 I will come to your house and explain transit systems using three

different visual aids. Scott Baio, Box 273.

FOR SALE

Lithograph of John Stamos. Stamos depicted watering spider plant. \$340.00. G.L. Gompers, Box 21.

FOR SALE

One thousand, two hundred and eight Polaroid™ photographs of the Shroud of Turin. Free Urdu translation copy of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* included. Gordon Brown, 10 Downing St., London, SW1A 2AA.

FOR SALE

Tacos. There are three tacos that I have, each with seasoned meat, lettuce and cheese in a tortilla shell. \$.75 per taco, free wrapping included. R. Starr, 7 Champion St., Verdun, EL.

WANTED

Popping device for errant balloons. Mine keep escaping and I feel bad that they might be stolen by other helium balloon enthusiasts. Will pay at least \$5, but would also be willing to trade unpasteurized milk. Jim Jensen, c/o Jensen's Balloon Enthusiasms, 45 Main St. Brooklyn, NY 11201

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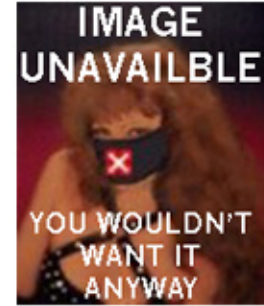
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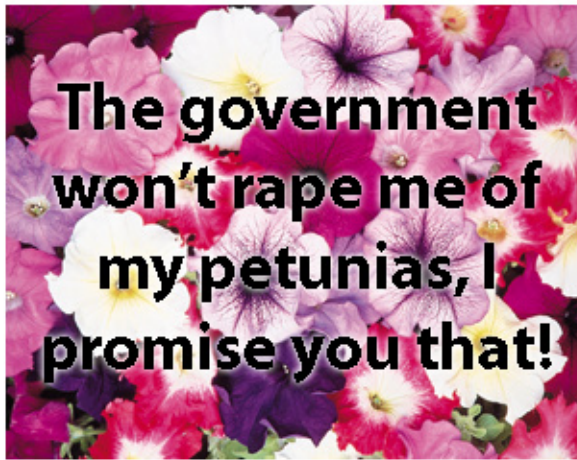
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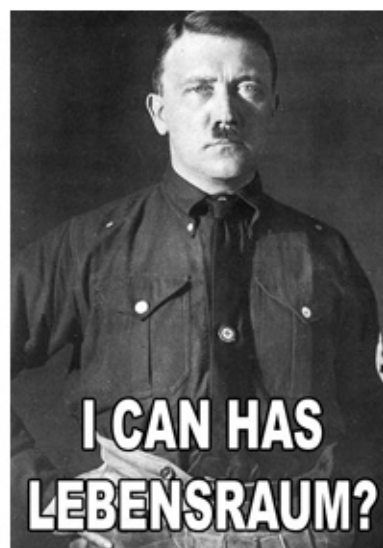
BRIAN KRAKOW REALLY HURT ME



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My Puppets are Waiting



Shhh. God is Asleep.
Please Don't Wake Him.



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do it in
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