

TEMPTATION TIME

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A Tree Grows In Your Driveway

Manipulated by a microscope

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WSBJ.com

A long-winded series of community board meetings held at the Acne Center in Lodi, NJ, last night resulted in new provisions for the so-called "Human Sacrifice" bill expected to reach the president's desk for signature next week. Under terms of the bill a small rain forest in the driveway of 32-12 40th Street in Astoria, Queens, will be digitized and passed through computerized translation software several dozen times, from one language to another. If the job goes as planned the rain forest will first be translated from its native Swahili into Arabic, then from Arabic to Latin. After that languages will be chosen at random. This process should render the rain forest incomprehensible. ❖

Human Sacrifice In Your Pajamas

A small plague of rock concerts briefly invaded boxes of cereal produced at a Long Island manufacturing facility last week. Supervisors at the Jolly Bootstrap
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Everything You Say Is Magically Tight

From offhand comments to public speeches

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Instead of relenting to my demands you should furnish vacant bathrooms with rubbish turned to slush in a powerful, solar powered blender. Temptation will not confuse you, nor will soiled napkins cause you to slip and fall. ❖

Interest in Nectar-Based Light Bulbs Grows

Just as no one in central Montana expected gravy to pour from the mouths of local television news reporters,



Montanans were also surprised to find light bulbs growing from fruit trees at local orchards.

Jessica Drew, manager of the Home Base orchard in Fort Benton, commented on the phenomenon: "We expected to harvest raw sewage and office supplies

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plant in Glen Cove briefly suspended production of their signature "Polyps Pops" cereal after Quality Analysts discovered Joan Jett and the Blackhearts performing "I Love Rock & Roll" in an otherwise empty box. Subsequent boxes of "Polyps Pops", also devoid of cereal, were found to contain a pickup band comprising all 45 U.S. presidents; an unidentified group of high school musicians singing Hank Williams' "Jambalaya"; and several dozen classical pianists performing an arrangement of Rossini's "William Tell Overture".

Kimberly Poundstone, supervisor on duty at the time of the bands' discovery, praised the work of the Jolly Bootstrap's line workers and analysts. "The quick action of our workers stopped these rock concerts from increasing in number, prevented them from reaching grocery store shelves, and from occupying kitchen cabinets and pantries across the country."

When asked to produce an example of a rock concert in a cereal box Ms. Poundstone deferred to Samuel Driggs, a Glen Cove resident with no known connection to the Jolly Bootstrap company. Mr. Driggs, when questioned, was found dismembered and petrified at the base of a tree in a nearby park. ❖

Meanness Appreciated

It took many years for society to dissect and define the meanness that floats among different species. First identified and captured by national security advisors during the Carter administration the substance remained in a heated container awaiting further analysis. Not until the Clinton years did a coalition of truck drivers and gymnasts (cronies from the former president's high school years) combine their skills to, under the auspices of the U.S. State Department, create a detailed definition and chemical formula for meanness. The coalition defined it as a symptom, not a diagnosis in itself, adding that birthday parties and weddings had as much meanness in them as the most popular high school cheerleader or foul-mouthed Jesuit priest. ❖

Failure of the 6-Digit Number

Americans have, since the early 1980s, enjoyed the successful deployment of numbers containing as many as five digits. Single-, double- triple-, quadruple- and quintuple-numbered digits from 1 to 99,999 flow through our discourse as easily as the air we breathe.

It came as a disappointment and surprise, then, to find that 6-digit numbers failed to get a foothold in the flow of numeric conversations and documentation daily life produces. Hailed as the next frontier in communication the 6-digit figure has proven unwieldy in virtually all respects, from not fitting into peoples' pants pockets to causing allergies and even sickness among people with preëxisting conditions. Authorities at the Delaware Water Gap National recreation Area have confirmed their investigations into at least two fatalities possibly caused by 6-digit numbers.

Officials at the National Numbering Committee, which began planning 6-digit numbers in 1998, say that citizens should be more aware of proper formatting. The two Delaware Water gap fatalities, which occurred at Buttermilk Falls late last year, may have been caused by one of the victims using "60,0000" when they should have used "600,000". Critics say it should not be possible for accidental misplacement of a comma to cause such problems.

Still, usage of 6-digit numbers continues, even as Americans noodle around proper formatting and other unknown dangers in the specification. Authorities did not respond to questions about proper usage of non-numeric punctuation like exclamation points or question marks. Possible connections between adding a question mark to the end of a 6-digit number and a series of brush fires in northern New Jersey have drawn the interest of Democratic presidential candidates, who blame Republicans for intentionally misformatting numbers to ignite the fires in an effort to win votes. ❖

Letter: When Can We Return What We Stole From the Melon Patch?

"I represent a group of now-elderly men who, since the 5th grade, have kept a barrel filled with aged, festering watermelons and cantaloupes. Custody is shared. We transport the barrel from house to house according to a schedule agreed upon decades ago. The tradition has not aged as well as we have. Arguments and missed deliveries of the barrel have caused friendships to fray, and the joke has grown older than all our ages combined. We stole the melons from a patch now covered by a parking lot. We want the barrel of melons gone but consider ourselves lacking any options. Thank you. Francis Barkley." ❖

TRIUMPHS OF THE RICH AND BITTER

Events this week include penance hall for all, recreational use of gaseous halos for children under 13, and a faithful reenactment of Jacob wrestling with the angel as performed by Barney and Betty Hill.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY

PLACE: KITCHEN CABINETS

TIME: ALL DAY

Solitary confinement for misbehaving stuffed animals and boxes of stale candy.

THURSDAY

PLACE: POSTAGE STAMPS

TIME: 5PM

An image of Pinocchio will briefly appear on every Forever Stamp in the continental United States. Forever Stamps located outside the 48 contiguous states will not be affected.

FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY

PLACE: 1100 HEAVENS WAY, LONG ISLAND CITY

TIME: 8AM – 6PM DAILY

A courier company doing business out of a mausoleum at Calvary Cemetery invites the public to an open house. Visitors can see the company's messenger bags, ponchos, smart phones, and other delivery paraphernalia in the sublime surroundings of the corpses of the men who founded the company.

MONDAY

PLACE: ELASTIC NEWNESS

TIME: NONE

No stones will be fired from slingshots on Monday in honor of Jessica Alba.

from our cherry trees this year, but when light bulbs started appearing instead we knew what to do."

Without elaborating on what action was taken Ms. Drew grinned uncomfortably, involuntarily letting a trickle of gravy ooze from her mouth and left naris. As reporters awaited further comment from her the left side of Ms. Drew's body cremated itself with a forest fire of highly ignitable raspberry jam (see Figure 1). Accordingly, per city ordinances of succession, this made her right leg responsible for all ambulatory needs of the city's small but influential group of opera singers.

Half a dozen sopranos and three tenors entered the room. ❖

SHARPENING THE EDGES OF A STUBBORN ROTUNDA

Inspired by one country's staple diet of hallucinogenic tapeworms I decided to paint sugary pieces of candy with a mixture of dirt and detritus shaken out of discarded sheets of carpet. I procured paintbrushes and used paper cups to hold the paint. As my paintbrush neared them the sugary candies changed shape, and moved away, as if repelled by magnetic force. Some drops of paint made it onto the candies but I never met my goal of painting them with a thick coat of filth. ❖

Conservative estimates put the number of mercury poisonings in the United States at more than 5000 times the rest of the world.



Figure 1: Jessica Drew moments after igniting

HOW NOT TO DO BUSINESS WITH A DUNGAREES SALESPERSON

STEP ONE

Strip away the myth from its glue and a decent chance of jumping into a vat of poison presents itself. Simply remedy as many children as you can with placebo talcum powder and other medical hokum and you're good to go.

STEP THREE

By this point you no doubt know how little the people in your life have to say about you. Words, spoken through filters, rarely get taken in the way you expect. That woman trying to sell you dungarees is no different. Be cautious about the suspenders she will offer to throw in for free.

WHAT HAPPENED TO STEP TWO?

Step two took place infinitely, but invisibly. Using a screw driver when a hammer would have made more sense I forced open a can of potato-based paint and drank it to prevent the coronation of a centipede as the greatest painter that ever lived.

Post Office Box 181
New York, NY 10185-0002

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Save Your Saliva for Science

You're within spitting distance of making some extra money

Recent discoveries in reactive properties of human saliva have given rise to a new, potentially billion-dollar industry. Details on how you can cash in with nothing more than a small container of your own saliva can be obtained by request. Simply write to me at **P.O. Box 181, New York, NY 10185-0002**, and be sure to include the word "cuspidor" in your correspondence,

*Scientists consider milk a polylabial liquid,
meaning it contains numerous lips.*

otherwise I will ignore you. I've made millions hocking up spit and phlegm into test tubes and sewers. Now you can, too! ■

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