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April 2017

NIGHTWIRE



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SPORTS:

Pirates

by Stacy Kauffman, Sports Editor, Nightwire Magazine
Photos ©2017 Pittsburgh Pirates

Roberto Clemente, Willie Stargell, Bill Mazeroski and Honus Wagner. The guardians of past Pirate greatness are ready to open the gates on the 2017 season as they dot the perimeter of PNC Park in all their bronzed glory. But what will happen under their watchful eyes? How do fans see this season shaping up?

Opening Day is a day of optimism and opportunity. A day for hopes and dreams. A day where everyone is in first place. Everyone is also in last place. There's 162 games to decide where you end up and the journey can be as exhilarating as it can be heart wrenching. It's usually a bit of both.

The Pirates and their fans are in a much different place ahead of this season than last. Coming off a 98-win campaign in 2015, the front office took the bargain basement route to building the roster (what a surprise) and it blew up in everyone's face. To the tune of 20 less wins. The Minnesota Twins were the only team in baseball to have a bigger drop off (24). Talk about heart wrenching.

After averaging 93 wins from 2013-15 and making the postseason for three consecutive years, expectations were high in April of 2016. After tumbling back to a losing record and taking early vacation, the vibe around the fan base is more hopeful than expectant. There may be a hint of fear





too. It wasn't that long ago that the Bucs built a streak of 20 consecutive losing seasons. If 2017 doesn't result in a bounce back performance, anxiety over slipping back into the loser legacy will be palpable. Expecting to win more than lose while competing for the playoffs is reasonable. And who knows? Maybe not having the weight of building on 98 wins piled onto the Pirates' shoulders will free them to play without pressing. Especially for the face of the franchise, Andrew McCutchen.

McCutchen is at the center of every season preview and on the tip of every fan's tongue when they're asked about this season. The 2013 NL MVP was the third most valuable player in the majors from 2012-15 according to WAR (Wins Above Replacement), behind only Mike Trout and Clayton Kershaw. And then last year happened. A startling drop off in performance that paralleled his team's fall. Cutch is the key to a resurgent year for the Bucs. Here are some of the others . . .

Starting Rotation: Pitching, pitching and more pitching. As front offices around the league say, you can never have enough. There were questions about the rotation last year when the team relied on Ray Searage and his reclamation prowess a little too much, then Gerrit Cole couldn't stay healthy and Francisco Liriano reverted back to his White Sox days. A guy who was taken out of the rotation actually led the team in wins. Juan Nicasio. With 10.

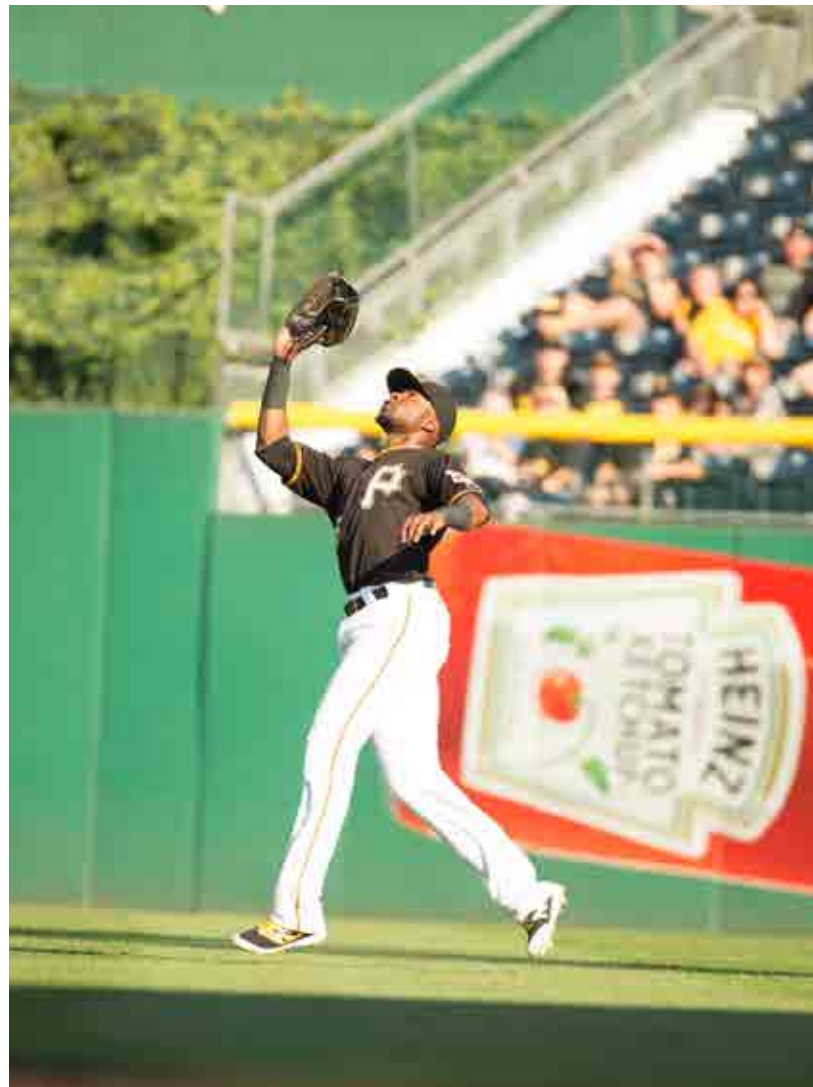
Re-signing Ivan Nova was critical and the Pirates locked him



into the middle of the rotation behind Cole and Jameson Taillon. Then it gets a little fuzzy. Lots of fans are worried about the backend and whether or not Cole can remain on the mound. Not to mention any 'sophomore slump' from Taillon. "The pitching isn't nearly enough to compete," says fan, Matt Miller. With dependence on untested arms like Taillon and Chad Kuhl, plus the unknown fifth starter, uncertainty is certain.

Outfield Production: Blah, blah, blah, McCutchen, blah, blah, blah. Okay, we know he has to rebound. But what about Gregory Polanco putting together a full season? How will he work out in left field? Will Starling Marte hit more than nine homeruns? "There are too many question marks," says Jud Verno. "Far too many for my liking." Many fans feel the same way. And that doesn't just apply to the outfield, which is considered a strength on this team. What about power? What about lineup depth?

The Bench: With Jung Ho Kang's legal troubles keeping him out of the country and the losses of Sean Rodriguez and Matt Joyce in free agency, the team is down 52 dingers. Over a third of their long ball production is gone from 2016. That wasn't addressed at all. Sure they added utility man, Phil Gosselin, who has a whopping six homers in his 216 major league games. It doesn't seem likely that the big bat of Jose Osuna will be kept around, but he could provide some pop off the bench if he does. Adam Frazier gives the team some position flexibility and Alen Hanson can steal a base when needed. But who will be called upon when





there are two outs in the ninth with a runner on and they're down a run? Who will be this year's Joyce? We'll soon find out.

Fangraphs projects the Pirates to have a winning season, if just barely at 82-80, with better pitching and run differentials than last year. And the actual fans? Some are looking forward

to lower expectations. "It feels like how we felt going into the 2013 season," says Charlie Wolfson. "A massive failure the year before, but there are pieces there. It could be fun."

Let's Go Buccs!



Stacy Kauffman, Sports Feature Writer for Nightwire Magazine can be heard weekends on CBS Sports Radio 93.7 The Fan, and has appeared on numerous sports media outlets including Fox Sports Pittsburgh, CBS and ESPN Radio. She can be reached on Twitter @SportsnWhatnot or at sportsnwhatnot@gmail.com



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Award winning burger, Applewood bacon
American cheese, fried egg topped over two slices of
French toast
Served with a side of PA bourbon barrel maple syrup

Traditional Breakfast - \$10

Two Eggs your way
Choice of bacon, sausage or turkey sausage
Potato shreds, White or Wheat toast

Cinnamon French Toast - \$10

Cinnamon French toast stuffed with mascarpone filling
Served with Bourbon barrel aged maple syrup

32 OZ Big Azz Bloody Mary - \$15

Homemade bloody Mary choice of
Absolute or Absolute pepper, topped with a burger slider
Chicken tender – grilled cheese – waffle fries
And garnished to perfection

Brisket Hash - \$12

Potato shreds, sautéed bell peppers and onions,
Smoked brisket, topped with a fried egg

Chicken and Waffles - \$12

Fried chicken over a Belgium waffle, topped with Colby
cheese Served with bourbon barrel aged maple syrup
And sausage gravy

Season Belgian Waffle - \$10

Red velvet waffle with sweet cream cheese, bourbon
barrel Aged maple syrup

Brisket Benny - \$10

Toasted biscuit over shredded potatoes topped with sliced
Brisket, fried eggs, smothered in Hollandaise sauce

Breakfast Sandwich - \$7.50

Texas toast, lettuce, tomato, Applewood smoked bacon,
Fried egg, Frank's mayo and American cheese

Southern Style Biscuits and Gravy - \$10

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With sausage grave and potato shreds
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Pittsburgh Cultural Trust - 3rd Annual Teaching Art Symposium

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, in collaboration with the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council and the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, welcomes teaching artists to the third annual Teaching Artist Symposium. The Teaching Artist Symposium will take place on Saturday, April 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Trust Arts Education Center, 805 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. This day-long professional development opportunity focuses on the needs of teaching artists working throughout the greater Pittsburgh region. Artists provide a crucial piece of education and development, teaching and inspiring communities, schools and students. The Teaching Artist Symposium offers the space and time to reflect, share, learn from and support fellow teaching artists.

The theme of this year's Teaching Artist Symposium is "Arts as Catalyst for Change." The day will be divided in two parts, with the morning encompassing a selection of master classes, and the afternoon being composed of response-based workshops, all contributing to the idea of using arts to incite and motivate change. Through lively and hands-on learning, participants will:

- Investigate a critical question, concern or need of the teaching artist community
- Explore the educational possibilities of specific art forms
- Involve a variety of viewpoints and include ample time for reflection
- After a continental breakfast, the morning will be comprised of the following master classes:
- Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction with Deanne Burkett
- Art, Students, and Social Activism with Derek Reese
- Infographics for Artists with Maggie Negrete
- Community-Based Arts with Amber Coppings and James Brown



After lunch, teaching artists will be taken on a tour of the John & Vivian Hewitt Collection of African American Art at the August Wilson Center. The Hewitt Collection will become the basis for the afternoon's performing arts workshops in dance, music and theatre led by Celeta Hickman, Anqwenique Wingfield and Aaron Crutchfield.

The Teaching Artist Symposium is open to anyone who works in arts education, with sessions tailored to all levels of experiences and abilities. A teaching artist is a practicing professional artist with the complementary skills and sensibilities of an educator, who engages people in learning experience in, through and about the arts. The Symposium is not only a great opportunity to expand teaching and artistic practice, but also a chance to renew old friendships, make new connections, and discover how to best impact the community. More information and registration can be found at www.TrustArts.org.



**The Teaching Artist Symposium will
take place on Saturday, April 29 from
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Trust Arts
Education Center, 805 Liberty Avenue,
Pittsburgh, PA 15222.**

Pittsburgh Public Theater Presents Death of A Salesman

Directed by Mary B. Robinson, Zach Grenier stars as Willy Loman in Arthur Miller's masterpiece about aging and the American Dream.

Pittsburgh Public Theater welcomes acclaimed actor Zach Grenier (seven seasons on TV's "The Good Wife," 33 Variations on Broadway with Jane Fonda, the movie Fight Club, among many others) to play Willy Loman in Arthur Miller's Death of a Salesman. Directed by Mary B. Robinson (Freud's Last Session at The Public), Death of a Salesman runs April 20 – May 21, 2017 at the O'Reilly Theater, Pittsburgh Public Theater's home in the heart of Downtown's Cultural District. For tickets call 412.316.1600 or visit ppt.org. Death of a Salesman is Presented by PNC.

The play begins in the Brooklyn home of 63-year-old traveling salesman Willy Loman (Zach Grenier) and his devoted wife, Linda (Kathleen McNenny). Visiting are their adult sons Biff (Alex Mickiewicz) and Happy (Maxwell Eddy). Willy should be on the road, but he becomes disoriented while driving and has to return. As Willy tries to face that his career is ending and his sons are not prospering, he slips into memories of the past, when the family's fortunes seemed unlimited. In a highly theatrical staging, these golden delusions become part of the play's action and the boys are seen as teens again. When the Loman's neighbor Charley (Randy Kovitz) stops by to play cards, Willy's hallucination of his dead brother, Ben (Tuck Milligan), is seen by the audience.

As the play progresses, Biff and Happy set in motion a scheme to launch a business and Willy begs his boss, Howard (Joseph Domencic), for a local sales territory. Scenes continue to switch between the Loman's glory days and their current hardships. Additional cast members include Tressa Glover, Daina Michelle Griffith, Shaun Cameron Hall, Kristiann Josephs, and Andrew Miller.

Since its premiere on Broadway in 1949, Death of a Salesman has been recognized as a masterpiece. Arthur Miller received both a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award for his profoundly emotional drama, considered to be a tragedy of the common man. Willy Loman believed in the American Dream, that his hard work and confidence would be rewarded. The story's power and continued relevance lie in its incisive look at what happens when that dream fails to materialize.

The design team for Death of a Salesman is James Noone (Scenic), Tilly Grimes (Costumes), Dennis Parichy (Lighting), and

Zach Moore (Sound). Casting is by McCorkle Casting. Randy Kovitz is the Fight Consultant, Fred Noel is the Production Stage Manager, and Phill Madore is the Assistant Stage Manager.



Pittsburgh Public Theater Presents Death of a Salesman April 20 – May 21, 2017

Performance Schedule

- Tuesdays at 7 pm.
- Wednesdays thru Saturdays at 8 pm (except May 3).
- Saturdays at 2 pm (except April 22 & 29) plus 2 pm on Thursday, May 18.
- Sundays at 2 & 7 pm (except May 21 when the final show is at 2 pm).
- Opening Night is Friday, April 28.

Ticket prices: \$30 – \$66. Tickets for students and age 26 and younger are \$15.75.

Discounts for groups of 10+ are available by contacting Casey Helm at 412.316.8200 ext. 704 or chelm@ppt.org.

Ticket prices are subject to change. For tickets call 412.316.1600, go to ppt.org, or visit the O'Reilly Theater Box Office.

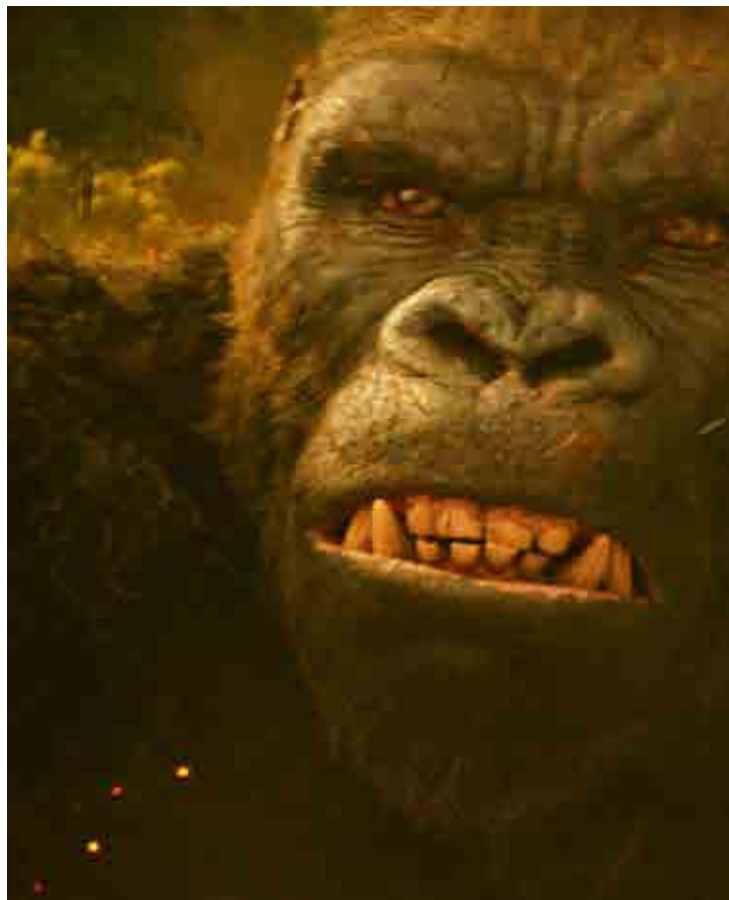
Movie Reviews

NIGHTWIRE - FILM REVIEWS by FIORE

KONG: SKULL ISLAND

KONG: SKULL ISLAND is a great monster movie. It's filled with a quality cast, action, monsters and a fair amount of humor. It deviates drastically from the Kong we all know and love. Gone are the classical references to BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, and Kong's trip to civilization, where he meets his eventual end. In much the same way as GODZILLA, KONG: SKULL ISLAND establishes Kong as a defender of the Earth, which should make for an interesting story line when the two collide in 2020.

Thanks to satellite imaging, a new island is discovered in the South Pacific. Since it's the 1970's, American scientist Bill Randa (John Goodman), convinces the government to sponsor an expedition to the island before the Russians arrive there. As scientists go, Randa is a bit of a loon, believing the Earth belongs to a collection of giant monsters who live in 'hollow Earth'. This concept, which borrows from Tolkien's LORD OF THE RINGS,



actually bears a closer resemblance to Edgar Rice Burroughs legendary PELUCIDAR.

Armed with taxpayer money, Randa collects a motley crew of misfits for the expedition. They include two burned out Vietnam war vets, Preston Packard (Samuel L. Jackson) and James Conrad (Tom Hiddleston). Tossed into the mix to provide a female role and an activist anti-war agenda is Mason Weaver (Brie Larson).

Truth be told, I've always had a problem with Kong. When the bottom line is reached, he's just a big monkey. In fact, outside of the water ox, he's the lamest creature on Skull Island.

I'll readily admit my bias toward Kong. This new version takes all the elements that made the creature noble in the original, and discards them. This new tale features a great soundtrack filled with classic rock tunes and a climactic battle between Kong and the Skull Lizard that will rival anything on Smackdown Live, including the use of foreign objects. It also sets up the rest of the films in the planned MonsterVerse quite nicely. The problem is, when all is said and done, Kong is just a big monkey.

LIFE

Years ago, technically I should say decades, a schlock-b sci-fi

film found a following and became a cult classic. It was *IT: TERROR FROM BEYOND SPACE*. It was a regular on Chilly Billy's Chiller Theatre. It was about a trip to Mars that ends in disaster. A research space crew returns to Earth, unaware a Martian creature is a stowaway on their ship. The creature systematically eliminates the crew members, as they desperately attempt to kill the creature before they land on Earth. *LIFE* is basically the same story, but with better SFX and a bigger budget.

For *LIFE*, it's best to explore the technicians first. Seamus McGarvey is Director of Photography. His work in *LIFE* is exemplary, as many of his visuals highlight the film's tension. There is one sequence of the crew fighting the creature in an air tunnel, that is a bit confusing, mainly due to the zero gravity elements; but, overall, the visuals are great.

Nigel Phelps is Production Designer and responsible for bringing the monster, "Calvin", to life (pun intended). He worked on Brad Pitt's *WORLD WAR Z*, the *TRANSFORMER* movie series and *THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR*, with Jet Li, which featured abdominal snowmen, dragons and harpies in addition to mummies. He also served as Art Director for Tim Burton's *BATMAN*.

Jon Ekstrand pens an epic score. The end credit theme is worth sitting through until the end. It is the sixth time Ekstrand collaborated with Director Daniel Espinosa, but it is his most ambitious work to date.



An orbiting space station is due to receive a capsule module returning from an eight-month sample gathering expedition on Mars. Among the samples, the scientists find life; a single cell, constructed like the cells on Earth. This one, however, begins to show extremely aggressive behavior and soon begins to grow at a rapid pace.

The scientists on the space station are: Jake Gyllenhaal; Ryan Reynolds; Rebecca Ferguson; Olga Dihovichnaya; Hiroyuki Sanada; and Ariyon Bakare.

LIFE takes about 22 minutes to set up the premise and characters. During that time, the movie drags; however, if you make it through the warm-up. The rest is a thrill ride.

LIFE was not given a press screening. This is usually done when the studio has little faith in the film's box office clout. On this one, they were wrong. See it on the big screen. It's worth the price of admission.

THE QUIET HOUR

Until I watched *THE QUIET HOUR*, I thought M. Night Shyamalan was the only director to make a movie about alien space invaders, and never show the aliens. The original version of *SIGNS*, with Mel Gibson and Joaquim Phoenix, had no encounters between protagonists and aliens. Test preview audiences complained, and to satisfy studio executives, Shyamalan inserted a scene featuring a stunt man in a demented

frog costume to heightened the film's tension. All other scenes of the invasion were detailed through radio news reports. Now, Director and Writer Stephanie Joalland does Shyamalan one better. She has no aliens in her film at all, and uses the invasion of Earth only as a subplot to her tale.

THE QUIET HOUR opens with Earth already conquered. The only thing we see of the aliens are large cone-shaped ships hovering over the land. The invaders have come to mine all the ores and minerals from the planet. They have effectively eliminated most of mankind. Only small clumps of survivors remain. For two hours during the day, the alien mining and patrol ships return to the cones for refueling. It is during this time, the humans who are left can safely move around.

Sarah Connelly, played by Dakota Blue Richards, is managing well, given the circumstances. She maintains a small garden for food, powers her home with solar panels and cares for her brother Tom, played by Jack McMullen, who is blind. Her world becomes complicated when Jude, played by Karl Davies, shows up unexpectedly. He is pursued by a motley crew of survivalists played by Brigitte Millar, James Browne, Zeb Moore and Liam O'Brian. The intruders are more this ragtag group of liars, than beings from space.

THE QUIET HOUR was made in Ireland, and as with most Irish films, it tends to move at a very slow pace. It was only the hope of seeing some aliens that kept me watching. Alas, there were none

Director of Photography David Knight, shoots THE QUIET HOUR with a grainy filter and gloomy lighting scheme. The overall look



is one of despair. Editor Michael Freedman does an excellent job keeping the film under ninety minutes, but even his skills can't help move the story along.

All told, THE QUIET HOUR is worth a look if you enjoy movies where the alien invasion is merely a subplot, and man's inhumanity toward his fellow man is the central theme. Personally, I would have like aliens.

THE VOID

THE VOID is, without question, one of the strangest, and weirdness films I've seen in quite some time. It's gross. It's sacrilegious. And, it's a lot of fun to watch, if you have a severe sense for the macabre.

Let's begin by saying Directors and Writers Jeremy Gillespie and Steven Kostanski have a huge bro-mance with John Carpenter. The creatures and scenes borrow heavily from the look of John Carpenter's THE THING and THE MOUTH OF MADNESS. When the action shifts to the hospital, the film looks like HALLOWEEN II and PRINCE OF DARKNESS. There is nothing wrong with this; in fact, it is a good thing. You can never err by imitating one of the true masters of horror.

The film begins as a routine night for Officer Carter, played by





Aaron Poole, when suddenly, a bloodied drifter stumbles in front of his car. Carter's attempts to save the man by taking him to the closest hospital, unveils a cult of devil worshipers determined to take over the town and transport it to another, evil dimension.

Ah, but this is not your typical devil worship. These cultists worship a New Age Satan. Gone are the cloven hoofs and horns. This devil is symbolized by a black triangle which leads to a void that causes humans to mutate into grotesque creatures with savage intent. And, while Carter and his band of survivors

hack and dismember the creatures, they continue to mutate and transform into more hideous incarnations. It's really pretty gross.

In addition to Poole, *THE VOID* features Kathleen Munroe, Ellen Wong, Kenneth Walsh, Daniel Fathers and Grace Munro. The whole spin of a new, more powerful Satan, born of the New Age Philosophy is pretty cool. It brings horror out of the Biblical context and shoves it in the grill of Millennials. Everything in the story of *THE VOID* is just wrong, and that's what makes it so fun to watch.



Dogfish Head Craft Brewery - Beer to Drink Music To

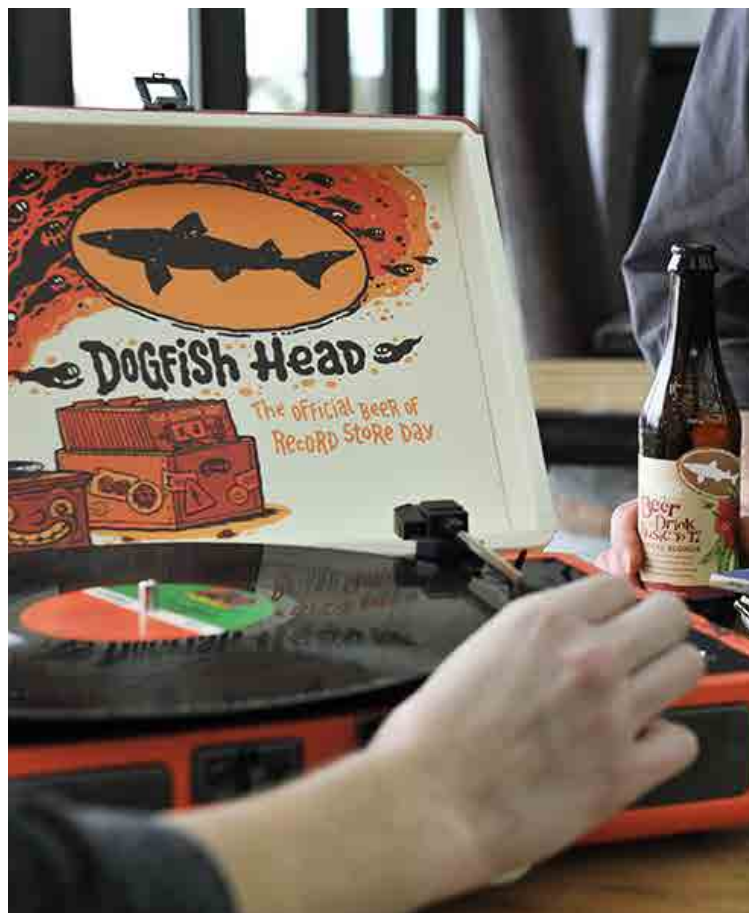
by Brian Meyer

The topic of pairing beer with everything from dinners, to desserts, to breakfast foods, to even Girl Scout Cookies has been exhaustively explored by both experts and novices throughout history. One ideal pairing that is often overlooked is so basic, so integral to beer itself, that it's surprising it doesn't get more notice or respect. The tragic oversight is none other than the pairing of beer with music.

Before you roll your eyes, there's a connection between music and beer that goes far beyond sitting on the grass at an amphitheater and listening to your favorite band with a beer in your hand. Ask any brewer and they'll tell you that they need the perfect soundtrack to brew beer to the best of their abilities. Sure, most of us like to listen to music while we work, but for brewers it's something more.

Music sets a tone and sets an atmosphere that simply can't be initiated without it. It's this idea of music being an integral part of beer that got Sam Calagione and Dogfish Head Brewery to partner up with Record Store Day across the country. Dogfish Head is known for brewing "Analog Beer for the Digital World" and as such their support of Record Store Day seems to be a near perfect fit.

Record Store Day



Record Store Day is all about getting people away from chain stores, online shopping, and downloading music and getting them into small, locally owned and run record stores. What was once the center of the music world has become in danger of being lost forever thanks to our diet of digital media. By taking part in Record Store Day you can help to keep small, independent shops in business and get some amazing music in the process.

Knowing what Record Store Day is all about, it's easy to see the parallels between independent record stores and craft breweries. Both rely on quality over quantity, both have a dedicated and passionate staff, and both believe in the power of small business.

Record Store Day is the perfect event to partner with craft beer, and for the brewery known for "analog beer" it's a match that is almost too perfect to be true.

Music to Drink Beer To

With a name that sounds like you may have had a few beers or listened to a few records a little louder than recommended, Dogfish Head's annual Beer to Drink Music To might sound funny, but each year this one-off brew is designed to pair perfectly with its partner

record, aptly titled Music to Drink Beer To.

There was a time when there was no such thing as a playlist or shuffle mode, and in this age of record needles and liner art, an album had to not only have a few great songs on it, but the entire record had to be planned out and carefully crafted so that each track worked with the one before and after it, and that together each track came together to make something larger than the sum of its parts.

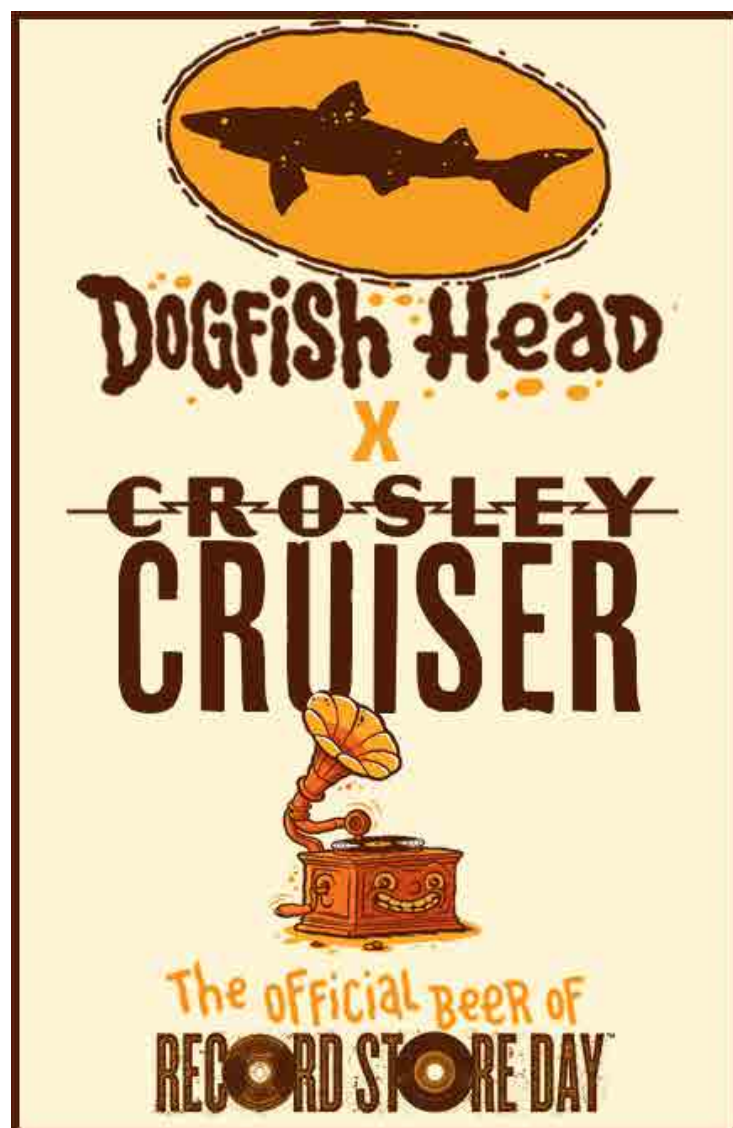
Craft beer is surprisingly similar in this way. It's the harmony of the hops, malt, and other ingredients that come together to make a beer far better than any individual ingredient could ever hope to be. Much like a record, you can't take a beer apart piecemeal and only drink the parts you like. It's all or nothing, so it all better be good.

Beer to Drink Music To

For Record Store Day 2017 Dogfish Head brewed a tropical blonde ale that comes in at 6.8% ABV and a respectable 30 IBU. This spring seasonal is brewed with hibiscus flowers and kiwi juice to give the beer a floral, tropical, and fruity aroma and flavor that pairs perfectly with the blonde ale style.

Poured into a glass, this year's offering has a slight reddish hue with a bright white head. The aroma is dominated by a tropical, almost juicy body with a hint of maltiness in the background. The taste is similar to this, but starts off with a little more floral character thanks to the hibiscus. Citrus from the hops and fruitiness from the kiwi intertwine to give a well-rounded flavor that's wrapped up with a dry, somewhat astringent finish.

With a label that screams tropical, this year's Beer to Drink Music





To is a stunningly refreshing, flavorful beer that's perfect for the spring and early summer months.

The Crosley Cruiser

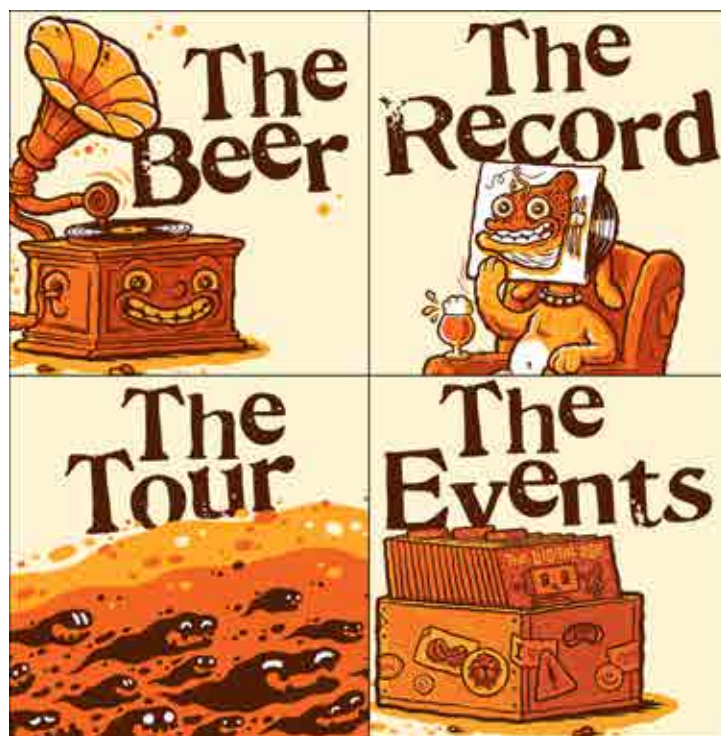
Those of you hip to records today know what a Crosley Cruiser is, but for those that don't, a Crosley Cruiser is a portable turntable that just about screams nostalgia, bringing with it visions of kids on a bedroom floor listening to the latest records, keeping the volume just loud enough to enjoy but not loud enough for mom and dad to hear.

For Dogfish Head, the Crosley Cruiser is a mobile museum with a photo booth, a history of the record industry, and of course Dogfish Head beer and a Crosley player. Coming along for the tour is a real portable Crosley Cruiser record player that's being given away as well as copies of the latest record.

The tour culminates with Record Store Day on Saturday, April 22nd, but the fun doesn't stop there. Both Dogfish Head and the countless independent record shops around the country hope to win more people over to the analog side and get them excited about local, independent offerings.

With the record in stores soon and the beer out now, there's

no better time to kick back with an amazing tropical blonde ale and listen to music that's not just in a playlist, but music that was thought out and planned through so that, just like the beer, it is enjoyable from the first note to the last sip.



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Travel: Havana, Cuba... Exploring Opportunities

By Joyce Campisi

Mark Lucero, CEO of Vodka Brands Corp recently travelled to Havana with top Pennsylvania LCB officials, who went to Cuba to explore the possibility of exporting and distributing Havana Rum in Pennsylvania. Mark Lucero, Vodka Brands Corp met with top officials in Cuba and had discussions on the possibilities of importing and distributing Blue Diamond Vodka in Cuba. The meetings went extremely well and both the PLCB and Vodka Brands are extremely optimistic that Havana Rum will be imported to PA and Blue Diamond Vodka and Diamond Girl Brand will be ultimately exported and distributed in Cuba.

Vodka Brands Corp currently has three vodka labels, White Diamond a mid-priced, very smooth premium vodka, Blue Diamond a higher end ultra-smooth vodka and soon to be introduced Diamond Girl Specialty Brand Vodka their newest addition to their vodka brands. Vodka Brands Corp currently trades under the stock market symbol VDKB.

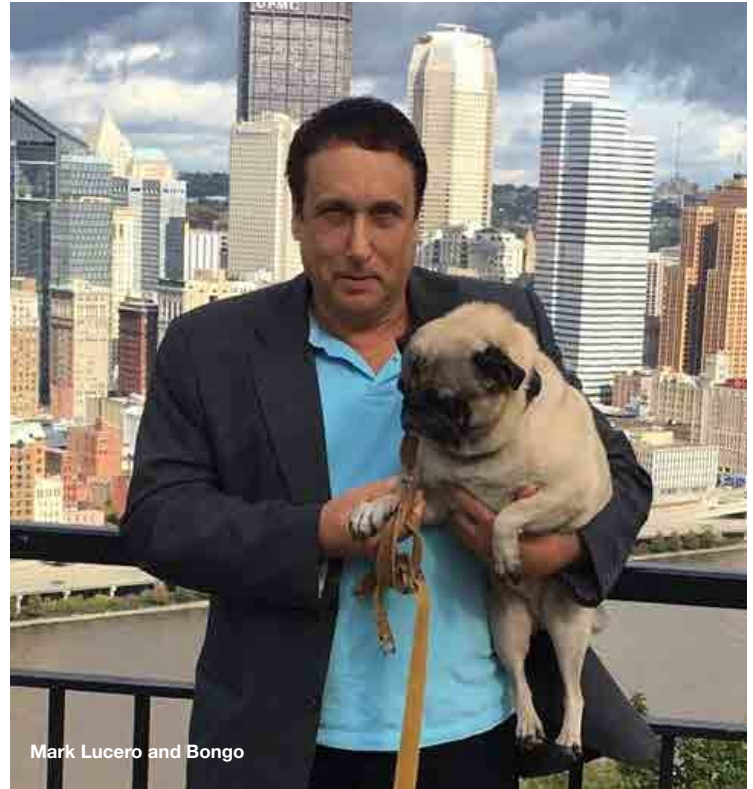
Cuba is a Caribbean island nation under communist rule. It has sugar-white beaches and is dotted with tobacco fields, which play a part in the production of the country's legendary cigars, the Monte Cristo. The capital, Havana, is lined with pastel houses, 1950s-era cars and Spanish-colonial architecture in the 16th-century core, Old Havana. Salsa music plays in the dance clubs and cabaret shows are performed at the famed Tropicana.

Mark was extremely impressed by the pre-1959 cars which are mostly being used as taxis. These colorful well maintained classic cars are truly reminiscent of the 50's.

Even though travel to Cuba for Americans is restricted, that doesn't make it impossible to visit. For many years some intrepid Americans were traveling to Cuba anyway. Initially there were three ways to accomplish this.

Special License: You could register for a special license with the US Government if the reason for your travel fit a certain category. These include family visits, professional reasons, journalism, religious or cultural programs, and humanitarian projects.

People To People Tours: Organized tours that involve some sort



of educational experience with local Cuban people. It's never been defined officially, but basically your trip can't just involve sitting on the beach. Travelers would talk with a school, volunteer for a community project, or collaborate with artists. A kind of legal loophole that tour companies use to sell tours in Cuba.

Foreign Gateway Cities: The other option was to travel to Cuba "illegally" through a foreign gateway city. This means flying yourself to Canada or Mexico first, then traveling to Cuba on your own from one of those countries. Because for the rest of the world, Cuba has been a popular travel destination for many years. It's only us Americans who haven't been able to visit Cuba!

New US Rules: As of January 16th, 2015 Americans no longer need to apply for specific licenses if they fit one of the 12 special categories.





- Family visits
- Official business or the US government, foreign government and certain intergovernmental organizations
- Journalistic activity
- Professional research
- Educational activities
- Religious activities
- Public performances, clinics, workshops, athletic and other competitions and exhibitions
- Support for the Cuban people
- Humanitarian projects
- Activities of private foundations or research or educational institutes
- Exportation, importation or transmission of information or informational materials
- Certain export transactions

What does this mean? It simplifies the process for Americans that meet those special requirements to visit Cuba. But it also creates a grey-area. If you no longer have to pre-apply for a license, can you say your trip is for journalism when it's really not? Will anyone even check to make sure you actually match one of the 12 categories? If you don't fit one of the categories, will anyone enforce the rules when you return to the United States? From our experience & listening to other travelers, the answer is no.

While it's still technically illegal for Americans to travel to Cuba for tourism only, it seems in practice, no one really enforces these travel restrictions anymore since more and more airlines are offering flights from the US to Cuba.



LIONFIRE FESTIVAL..... MAY 27 & 28 - COOPER'S LAKE



A new event on the block that promises to light up your Memorial Day weekend, LionFire Festival: a music and fire arts festival. Scheduled for May 27-28 in Butler County, PA at Cooper's Lake Campground, the family-friendly festival boasts thrilling entertainment like a fireworks competition with 10 total firework displays, live music by 6 rising regional acts, performances by trained fire artists, a kids zone and more!

The LionFire competition features three divisions: Consumer, Club, and Professional. The Consumer division is a head-to-head battle between fireworks producers that sell product to the general public for use. The parameters? They are given five minutes to shoot Class C fireworks that would put your average backyard display to shame. But why go to LionFire Festival to see a consumer-level fireworks show? Keep reading. This is just the warm up.

For the Club and Professional divisions, the name of the game is pyromusicals. Or in other words, a pyrotechnic display that is choreographed to music. Designed to have a storyline with

high and low points, dramatic color that brings back emotions of childlike wonder, and synchronize perfectly with the beat of a carefully-chosen soundtrack, these shows are truly breathtaking. The Club and Professional divisions are given 15 minutes to deliver their best performance in hopes of winning the LionFire title. And with the bragging rights on the line, these competitors are ready to bring the heat!

The displays will be critiqued on several categories, such as, the design, use of color, music selection, and synchronization. A panel of judges, known as THE JURY, will be given voting cards to critique each display. Their ballots will account for 75% of each competitor's final score. The audience can even rank their favorite displays through the event's social media channels, which will make up the remaining 25% of the score. On Sunday night, an exciting closing ceremony awarding the winners of each division.

With a name like LionFire, doesn't it make sense to add a few flames? Art After Dark Entertainment (Lexington, KY) is doing just that! They are a performance troupe of trained fire artists

that specialize in fire eating, breathing, and dancing. Multiple 15-minute shows will occur between music acts and fireworks displays, with one jaw-dropping fire feat after another.

This festival is just as passionate about providing great music as it is great fireworks. Covering a range of genres, the LionFire stage will be graced by up-and-coming bands of the region that consistently deliver a crisp, clean sound. For Saturday, May 27th that means the pioneers of swagger rock Lovebettie, the 16-year old award-winning country/pop sensation Gabby Barrett, and the electro-brass-funk machine Beauty Slap. The lineup on Sunday, May 28th includes the recently-voted "Best Band in the Land" by Pittsburgh Magazine 28 North, emerging female country artist (and granddaughter of a certain musical icon, Willie Nelson) Raelyn Nelson Band, and the Brooklyn-based six-man, one-woman band that blends bluegrass, country, rockabilly, and a sucker punch of punk The Defibulators.

LionFire Festival promises to be an epic 2-day event full of music, fireworks, and flame. So tell your friends, family, neighbors, cousins, brothers and everybody else you know because this event is sure to thrill! Bring the kids and let them play in the Kids Zone, browse vendor booths, sit back relax and enjoy the music, along with the sights and sounds of fireworks and fire displays. Gates open on Saturday and Sunday at 5pm. Get your tickets now you will definitely not want to miss this event. Tickets and more information can be found at www.LionFireFestival.com.





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Pick your chocolate

then turn to page 42 No cheating

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following, which would you choose?

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HERSHEY'S
ALMOND JOY
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ENERGY BAR
CHOCOLATE COATED RAISINS

OK - Now that you've made your choice, this is what research
says about YOU! STOP - - NO you can't change your mind So
think carefully what your choice will be!!!

Now turn to page for what the experts have to say about you!

Here are four reasons why you should think before you speak

Have you ever spoken and wished that you could immediately
take the words back...or that you could crawl into a hole?

Here are the Testimonials of a few people who did....

FIRST TESTIMONY:

I walked into a hair salon with my husband and three kids in tow
and asked loudly, "How much do you charge for a shampoo and
a blow job?" I turned around and walked back out and never
went back. My husband didn't say a word... he knew better.

SECOND TESTIMONY:

I was at the golf store comparing different kinds of golf balls. I
was unhappy with the women's type I had been using. After
browsing for several minutes, I was approached by one of the
good-looking gentlemen who worked at the store. He asked if he
could help me. Without thinking, I looked at him and said, "I think
I like playing with men's balls."

THIRD TESTIMONY:

My sister and I were at the mall and passed by a store that sold
a variety of candy and nuts. As we were looking at the display
case, the boy behind the counter asked if we needed any help. I
replied, "No, I'm just looking at your nuts." My sister started to
laugh hysterically. The boy grinned, and I turned beet-red and
walked away. To this day, my sister has never let me forget.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST TESTIMONY:

This had most of the state of Michigan laughing for 2 days and

a very embarrassed female news anchor who will, in the future, likely think before she speaks. What happens when you predict snow but don't get any! We had a female news anchor that, the day after it was supposed to have snowed and didn't, turned to the weatherman and asked:

"So Bob, where's that 8 inches you promised me last night?"

Not only did HE have to leave the set, but half the crew did too they were laughing so hard!

15 Things You Probably Never Knew or Thought About

1. At least 5 people in this world love you so much they would die for you.
2. At least 15 people in this world love you in some way.
3. The only reason anyone would ever hate you is because they want to be just like you.
4. A smile from you can bring happiness to anyone, even if they don't like you.
5. Every night, SOMEONE thinks about you before they go to sleep.
6. 6. You mean the world to someone.
7. 7. If not for you, someone may not be living.
8. 8. You are special and unique.
9. 9. Someone that you don't even know exists loves you.

10. 10. When you make the biggest mistake ever, something good comes from it.
11. 11. When you think the world has turned its back on you, take a look: you most likely turned your back on the world.
12. 12. When you think you have no chance of getting what you want, you probably won't get it, but if you believe in yourself, probably, sooner or later, you will get it.
13. 13. Always remember the compliments you received. Forget about the rude remarks.
14. 14. Always tell someone how you feel about them; you will feel much better when they know.
15. 15. If you have a great friend, take the time to let them know that they are great.

A Minute: They say it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but then an entire life to forget them.

Take the time .. to live and love.

New Rules for 2017

New Rule: Stop giving me that pop-up ad for classmates.com!

There's a reason you don't talk to people for 25 years. Because you don't particularly like them! Besides, I already know what the captain of the football team is doing these days: mowing my lawn.



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New Rule: Don't eat anything that's served to you out a window unless you're a seagull. People are acting all shocked that a human finger was found in a bowl of Wendy's chili. Hey, it cost less than a dollar. What did you expect it to contain? Trout?

New Rule: Stop saying that teenage boys who have sex with their hot, blonde teachers are permanently damaged. I have a better description for these kids: lucky bastards.

New Rule : If you need to shave and you still collect baseball cards, you're a dope. If you're a kid, the cards are keepsakes of your idols. If you're a grown man, they're pictures of men.

New Rule: Ladies, leave your eyebrows alone. Here's how much men care about your eyebrows: do you have two of them? Okay, we're done.

New Rule: There's no such thing as flavored water. There's a whole aisle of this crap at the supermarket, water, but without that watery taste. Sorry, but flavored water is called a soft drink. You want flavored water? Pour some scotch over ice and let it melt. That's your flavored water.

New Rule: Stop messing with old people. Target is introducing a redesigned pill bottle that's square, with a bigger label. And the top is now the bottom. And by the time grandpa figures out how to open it, his butt will be in the morgue. Congratulations, Target, you just solved the Social Security crisis.

New Rule: The more complicated the Starbucks order, the bigger the a-hole. If you walk into a Starbucks and order a "decaf grande half-soy, half-low fat, iced vanilla, double-shot, gingerbread cappuccino, extra dry, light ice, with one Sweet-n'-Low and one NutraSweet," ooh, you're a huge idiot.

New Rule: I'm not the cashier! By the time I look up from sliding my card, entering my PIN number, pressing "Enter," verifying the amount, deciding, no, I don't want cash back, and pressing "Enter" again, the kid who is supposed to be ringing me up is standing there eating my Almond Joy.

New Rule: Just because your tattoo has Chinese characters in it doesn't make you spiritual. It's right above the crack of your butt. And it translates to "beef with broccoli." The last time you did anything spiritual, you were praying to God you weren't pregnant. You're not spiritual. You're just high.

New Rule: I don't need a bigger mega M&M. If I'm extra hungry for M&Ms, I'll go nuts and eat two.

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New Rule: If you're going to insist on making movies based on crappy, old television shows, then you have to give everyone in the Cineplex a remote so we can see what's playing on the other screens. Let's remember the reason something was a television show in the first place is that the idea wasn't good enough to be a movie.

New Rule: No more gift registries. You know, it used to be just for weddings. Now it's for babies and new homes and graduations from rehab. Picking out the stuff you want and having other people buy it for you isn't gift giving, it's the new version of looting.

Apartment For Rent

A married businessman meets a beautiful girl and agrees to spend the night with her for \$500. He spends the night with her but before he leaves, he tells her that he does not have any cash with him, but he will have his secretary write a check and mail it to her, calling the payment "RENT FOR APARTMENT." On the way to the office he regrets what he has done, realizing that the whole event was not worth the price. So he has his secretary send a check for \$250 and enclosed the following typed note:

Dear Madam :

Enclosed you will find a check in the amount of \$250 for rent of your apartment. I am not sending the amount agreed upon, because when I rented the apartment, I was under the impression that;

- 1) it had never been occupied;
- 2) that there was plenty of heat; and
- 3) that it was small enough to make me feel cozy and at home.

However, I found out that it had been previously occupied, that there wasn't any heat, and that it was entirely too large.

Upon receipt of the note, the girl immediately returned the check for \$250 with the following note:

Dear Sir,

First of all, I cannot understand how you expect a beautiful apartment to remain unoccupied indefinitely.

As for the heat, there is plenty of it, if you know how to turn it on. Regarding the space, the apartment is indeed of regular size, but if you don't have enough furniture to fill it, please don't blame the landlady.

Send the rent in full or we will be forced to contact your present landlady.

Wifely Hint

When our lawn mower broke and wouldn't run, my wife kept hinting to me that I should get it fixed. But, somehow I always had something else to take care of first -- the

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truck, the car, fishing, always something more important to me. Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point. When I arrived home one day, I found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors. I watched silently for a short time and then went into the house. I was gone only a few minutes. When I came out again, I handed her a toothbrush. "When you finish cutting the grass," I said, "you might as well sweep the sidewalk." The doctors say I will eventually walk again, but I will always have a limp.

SINGLES CLUB IN THE VILLAGES:

Maude and Claude, both 91, lived in The Villages, in Florida. They met at the singles club meeting and discovered over time that they enjoyed each other's company. After several weeks of meeting for coffee, Claude asked Maude out for dinner and, much to his delight, she accepted. They had a lovely evening. They dined at the most romantic restaurant in town. Despite his age, they ended up at his place for an after-dinner drink. Things continued along a natural course and age being no inhibitor, Maude soon joined Claude for a most enjoyable roll in the hay. As they were basking in the glow of the magic moments they'd shared, each was lost for a time in their own thoughts..... Claude was thinking: "If I'd known she was a virgin, I'd have been gentler. Maude was thinking: "If I'd known he could still do it, I'd have taken off my pantyhose."

Nominated as the best short joke of the year:

A three-year-old boy was examining his testicles while taking a bath. "Mommy," he asked, "are these my brains?" She replied, "Not yet dear."

MIDDLE AGE:

A middle aged woman had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she had a near death experience. Seeing God She asked "Is my time up?" God said, "No, you have another 43 years, 2 months and 8 days to live". Upon recovery, the woman decided to stay in the hospital and have a Facelift, liposuction, and a tummy tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair color. Since she had so much more time to live, she figured she might as well make the most of it. After her last operation, she was released from the hospital. While crossing the street on her way Home, she was killed by an ambulance. Arriving in front of God, she demanded, "I thought you said I had another 40 years? Why didn't you pull me from out of the path of the ambulance?" (You'll love this!!!) God replied, "I didn't recognize you."

A WOMAN'S POEM:

He didn't like the casserole
And he didn't like my cake.
He said my biscuits were too hard...

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Not like his mother used to make.
I didn't perk the coffee right
He didn't like the stew,
I didn't mend his socks
The way his mother used to do.
I pondered for an answer
I was looking for a clue.
Then I turned around and smacked the crap out of him...
Like his MOMMA used to do.

LITTLE JOHNNY AND MARGARET MARY:

Little Mary Margaret was not the best student in Catholic School. Usually she slept through the class. One day her teacher, called on her while she was sleeping. "Tell me Mary Margaret, who created the universe?"! When Mary Margaret didn't stir, little Johnny who was her friend sitting behind her, took his pencil and jabbed her in the rear. "God Almighty!" shouted Mary Margaret. The Nun said, "Very good!" and continued teaching her class. A little later, the Nun asked Mary Margaret, "Who is our Lord and Savior?" But Mary didn't stir from her slumber. Once again, Johnny came to her rescue and stuck Mary Margaret in the butt. "Jesus Christ!!!" shouted Mary Margaret. Again, the Nun said, "Very good!" Mary Margaret fell back asleep. The Nun then asked her a third question..."What did Eve say to Adam after she had her twenty-third child?" And once again, Johnny came to the rescue. This time

Mary Margaret jumped up and shouted, If you stick that damn thing in me one more time, I'll break it in half!"The Nun fainted.

WHEN TO GO HOME

A man walks into a bar and asks for a beer. After drinking it, he looks in his shirt pocket and asks for another beer. After drinking that one, he looks in his shirt pocket again and asks for another beer. This happens about another seven times before the bartender asks him, "Why do you keep looking in your pocket?" The man replies, "I have a picture of my wife in there. When she looks good enough, I'll go home."

PREACHER MAN:

Did you hear about the preacher who told his congregation that the bible covered every subject on the face of the earth. They were relieved to know that the good Lord was taking care of every facet of their lives. One woman, troubled, met with the pastor one week claiming she had looked and looked and couldn't find one subject in the Bible. When asked what subject, the woman replied... "PMS" The pastor assured her he knew the Lord had provided, but he would take it upon himself to go through the Bible during the week to find the scripture that covered PMS. The following Sunday the woman eagerly approached him... He said he'd looked and looked and finally, late Saturday night a scripture had popped into his head. Everyone was relieved that the Lord had provided. The woman, anxious to have her fears relieved asked what the scripture regarding PMS said. The Pastor, taking out his Bible, pointed to the verse: ".....and Mary rode Joseph's ass all the way to Bethlehem!"

RELATIVES:

A couple drove several miles down a country road, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument, and neither wanted to concede their position. As they passed a barnyard of mules and pigs, the wife sarcastically asked, "Relatives of yours?" "Yep," the husband replied, "In-laws."

IDIOTS EVERYWHERE: IDIOTS AT WORK.

I was signing the receipt for my credit card purchase when the clerk noticed that I had never signed my name on the back of the credit card. She informed me that she could not complete the transaction unless the card was signed. When I asked why, she explained that it was necessary to compare the signature on the credit card with the signature I just signed on the receipt. So I signed the credit card in front of her. She carefully compared that signature to the one I signed on the receipt. As luck would have it, they matched.

IDIOTS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

I live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbor call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the

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Humor

Deer Crossing sign on our road. The reason: many deer were being hit by cars and he no longer wanted them to cross there.

IDIOTS IN FOOD SERVICE

My daughter went to a local Taco Bell and ordered a taco. She asked the individual behind the counter for "minimal lettuce." He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg.

IDIOT SIGHTINGS Sighting #1:

I was at the airport, checking in at with TSA, when the airport employee asked, "Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?" I said, "If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?" He smiled and nodded knowingly, "That's why we ask."

IDIOT SIGHTINGS #2:

The stoplight on the corner buzzes when it is safe to cross the street. I was crossing with an intellectually challenged co-worker of mine, when she asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals to blind people when the light is red. She Responded, appalled, "What on earth are blind people doing driving?"

IDIOT SIGHTINGS #3:

At a good-bye lunch for three coworkers who is leaving the company due to "downsizing," our manager spoke up and said, "this is fun. We should have lunch like this more often." Not another word was spoken. We just looked at each other like deer staring into the headlights of an approaching truck.

IDIOT SIGHTINGS #4:

I worked with an Individual who plugged her power strip back into itself and for the life of her could not understand why her system would not turn on.

A YANKEE FAN:

A first grade teacher explains to her class that she is a NY Yankees fan. She asks her students to raise their hands if they are Yankee fans too. Not really knowing what a Yankees fan is, but wanting to be liked by their teacher, their hands fly into the air. There is, however, one exception. A little girl named Tracy has not gone along with the crowd. The teacher asks her why she has decided to be different. "Because I'm not a Yankees fan" she retorts. "Then," asks the teacher, "what are you?" "I'm a proud Mets fan" boasts the little girl. The teacher is a little perturbed now, her face slightly red. She asks Tracy why she is a Mets fan. "Well, My Dad and Mom are Mets fans, so I'm a



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Mets fan too" she responds. The teacher is now angry. "That's no reason," she says loudly. "What if your mom was a moron, and your dad was an idiot. What would you be then? Tracy smiles and says, "Then I'd be a Yankees fan."

TONSILECTOMY:

Two kids are in a hospital, lying on stretchers next to each other, outside the operating room. The first kid leans over and asks, "What are you in here for?" The second kid says, "I'm in here to get my tonsils out and I'm a little nervous."

The first kid says, "You've got nothing to worry about. I had that done when I was four. They put you to sleep, and when you wake up they give you lots of Jell-O and ice cream. It's a breeze!" The second kid then asks, "What are you here for?" The first kid says, "A circumcision."

And the second kid says, "Whoa! I had that done when I was born. I couldn't walk for a year!"

APPETITE SUPPRESSANT:

A woman asks her husband, "Would you like some bacon and eggs? A slice of toast and maybe some grapefruit and coffee?" He declines. "Thanks for asking, but I'm not hungry right now. It's this Viagra," he says. "It's really taken the edge

off my appetite." At lunchtime she asked if he would like something. "A bowl of soup, homemade muffins, or a cheese sandwich?" He declines. "The Viagra," he says, "really trashes my desire for food." Come dinnertime, she asks if he wants anything to eat. "Would you like a juicy ribeye steak and scrumptious apple pie? Or maybe a rotisserie chicken or tasty stir fry?" He declines again. "No, still not hungry." "Well," she says, "would you mind letting me up? I'm starving."

SENIOR CITIZEN'S BUS TRIP:

A senior citizens' group charts a bus from Burlington IA, to Branson MO. As they entered Missouri, an elderly woman comes up to the driver and says, "I've just been molested!" The driver felt that she had fallen asleep and had a dream. So he tells her to go back to her seat, and sit down. A short time later, another old woman comes forward, and claims that she was just molested. The driver thought he had a bus load of old wackos, but who would be molesting those old ladies? About 10 minutes later, a third old lady comes up and says that she'd been molested too. The bus driver decides that he'd had enough and pulls into the first rest area. When he turns the lights on and stands up, he sees an old man on his hands and knees crawling in the aisles. "Hey gramps, what are



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you doing down there?" says the bus driver. "I lost my toupee.? I thought I found it three times, but every time I try to grab it, it runs away!!!"?

HALLMARK CARDS:

1. "Looking back over the years that we've been together, I can't help but wonder: What the hell was I thinking?"
2. "Congratulations on your wedding day! Too bad no one likes your wife."
3. "How could two people as beautiful as you have such an ugly baby?"
4. "I've always wanted someone to hold, someone to love. After having met you, I've changed my mind."
5. "I must admit, you brought Religion into my life. I never believed in Hell until I met you."
6. "As the days go by, I think of how lucky I am that you're not here to ruin it for me."
7. "If I get only one thing for Christmas, I hope it's your sister."
8. "As you grow older, Mom, I think of all the gifts you've given me. Like the need for therapy..."
9. "Thanks for being part of my life!! I never knew what evil was before this!!"
10. "Congratulations on your promotion! Before you go, would you like to take this knife out of my back? You'll probably need it again."
11. "Someday I hope to get married, but not to you."
12. "Happy Birthday! You look great for your age....Almost Lifelike!"
13. "When we were together, you always said you'd die for me. Now that we've broke up, I think it's time you kept your promise!"
14. "I knew the day would come when you would leave me for my best friend. So here's his leash, water bowl and chew toys."
15. "We have been friends for a very long time, what say we call it quits."
16. "I'm so miserable without you, it's almost like you're still here."
17. "Congratulations on your new bundle of joy. Did you ever find out who the father was?"
18. "You are such a good friend that if we were on a sinking ship and there was only one life jacket....I'd miss you heaps and think of you often."

RETIREMENT:

As we all know, when we hit retirement age we come face to face

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with the fact that it may be time to relocate. The big question is: where? Here are some tips.

You can live in Phoenix, Arizona where.....

1. You are willing to park 3 blocks away because you found shade. :-)
2. You can open and drive your car without touching the car door or the steering wheel.
3. You've experienced condensation on your butt from the hot water in the toilet bowl.
4. You would give anything to be able to splash cold water on your face.
5. You can attend any function wearing shorts and a tank top.
6. "Dress Code" is meaningless at high schools and universities. Picture lingerie ads.
7. You can drive for 4 hours in one direction and never leave town.
8. You have over 100 recipes for Mexican food.
9. The 4 seasons are: tolerable, hot, really hot, and ARE YOU KIDDING ME??!!
10. You know that "dry heat" is comparable to what hits you in the face when you open your oven door.

You can Live in California where...

1. You make over \$250,000 and you still can't afford to buy a

house.

2. The high school quarterback calls a time-out to answer his cell phone.
3. The fastest part of your commute is going down your driveway.
4. You know how to eat an artichoke.
5. You drive your rented Mercedes to your neighborhood block party.
6. When someone asks you how far something is, you tell them how long it will take to get there rather than how many miles away it is.

You can Live in New York City where...

1. You say "the city" and expect everyone to know you mean Manhattan.
2. You have never been to the Statue of Liberty or the Empire State Building.
3. You can get into a four-hour argument about how to get from Columbus Circle to Battery Park, but can't find Wisconsin on a map.
4. You think Central Park is "nature,"
5. You believe that being able to swear at people in their own language makes you multi-lingual.
6. You've worn out a car horn.
7. You think eye contact is an act of aggression.

The advertisement for Blackwhale Design features a central graphic of a computer monitor displaying a stylized black whale with red flames emerging from its back. To the left of the monitor is a collage of various design projects, including a 'POOL PARTY' flyer, a 'SCOA' logo, a 'SPAGHETTI WESTERN SALOON' sign, and a 'EAT Drink MARRIED' sign. Above the collage is the Blackwhale Design logo, which is a black whale with red flames. The text 'Graphic Design' is written in a large, bold, red font. Below the collage, the services 'LOGOS | WEB DESIGN | FLYERS | T-SHIRTS' are listed. At the bottom, the website 'www.blackwhaledesign.com' is displayed in a red banner.

You can Live in Maine where...

1. You only have four spices: salt, pepper, ketchup, and Tabasco.
2. Halloween costumes fit over parkas.
3. You have more than one recipe for moose.
4. Sexy lingerie is anything flannel with less than eight buttons.
5. The four seasons are: winter, still winter, almost winter, and construction.

You can Live in the Deep South where...

1. You can rent a movie and buy bait in the same store.
2. "y'all" is singular and "all y'all" is plural.
3. After five years you still hear, "You ain't from 'round here, are Ya?"
4. "He needed killin' " is a valid defense.
5. Everyone has 2 first names: Billy Bob, Jimmy Bob, Mary Sue, Betty Jean, MARY BETH, etc.

You can live in Colorado where...

1. You carry your \$3,000 mountain bike atop your \$500 car.
2. You tell your husband to pick up Granola on his way home and he stops at the day care center.
3. A pass does not involve a football or dating.
4. The top of your head is bald, but you still have a pony tail.
5. You can live in the Midwest where...

6. 1. You've never meet any celebrities, but the mayor knows your name.
7. 2. Your idea of a traffic jam is ten cars waiting to pass a tractor.
8. 3. You have had to switch from "heat" to "A/C" on the same day.
9. 4. You end sentences with a preposition: "Where's my coat at?"
10. 5. When asked how your trip was to any exotic place, you say, "It was different!"

AND You can live in Florida where...

1. You eat dinner at 3:15 in the afternoon.
2. All purchases include a coupon of some kind -- even houses and cars.
3. Everyone can recommend an excellent dermatologist.
4. Road construction never ends anywhere in the state.
5. Cars in front of you are often driven by headless people.

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY:

A man and his wife were celebrating 50 years together Their three kids, all very successful, agreed to a Sunday dinner in their honor. "Happy Anniversary Mom and Dad," gushed son number one... "Sorry I'm running late... had an emergency, you know how it is, didn't have time to get you both a present." "Not to



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worry," said the Dad... "the important thing is that we're all here together today." Son number two arrived and announced, "you and Mom still look great, Dad just flew in from L.A. and didn't have time to get you a present... Sorry." "It's nothing," said the father, "Glad you were able to be here." Just then the daughter arrived, "Hello both of you, Happy Anniversary! I'm sorry, but my boss is sending me out of town and I was really busy packing... so I didn't have time to get you guys anything." Again the father said, "I really don't care, at least the five of us are together today." After they had all finished dessert, the father put down his knife and fork, looked up and said, "Listen up, all three of you, there's something your mother and I have wanted to tell you for a long time. You see, we were very poor. Despite this, we were able to raise each of you and send you to college. All through the years your mother and I knew that we loved each other very much but... we just never found the time to get married." The three kids gasp and said, "You mean we're bastards?" "Yep," said the Dad. "And cheap ones too!"

GOOD DOG:

A man is sitting in an airliner, which is about to takeoff when another man with a Labrador Retriever occupies the empty seats alongside. The Lab is situated in the middle, and the first man is looking quizzically at the dog when the second man explains that they work for the airline. The airline rep said, "Don't mind

Sniffer; he is a sniffing dog, the best there is; I'll show you once we get airborne when I put him to work." The plane takes off and levels out, and the handler says to the first man, "Watch this." He tells the dog, "Sniffer, search." Sniffer jumps down, walks along the aisle, and sits next to a woman for a few seconds. He then returns to his seat and puts one paw on the handler's arm. The handler says "Good boy." The handler turns to the first man and says, "That woman is in possession of marijuana, so I'm making a note of this and her seat number for the police, who will apprehend her on arrival." "Fantastic!" replies the first man. Once again he sends Sniffer to search the aisles. The Lab sniffs about, sits down beside a man for a few seconds, returns to his seat and places two paws on the handler's arm. The handler says, "That man is carrying cocaine, so again I'm making a note of this and the seat number." "I like it!" says the first man. A third time the rep sends Sniffer to search the aisles. Sniffer goes up and down the plane and after a while sits down next to someone. He then comes racing back, jumps up onto his seat, and defecates all over the seat. The first man is really grossed out by this behavior from a supposedly well-trained sniffing dog and asks, "What's going on?" The handler nervously replies, "He just found a bomb!"

BABY BOOMER LYRICS:

Some of the artists of the 60s are revising their hits with new lyrics to accommodate the aging baby boomers.

They include:

Herman's Hermits -- Mrs. Brown, You've Got a Lovely Walker.
The Bee Gees -- How Can You Mend a Broken Hip.
Bobby Darin -- Splish, Splash, I Was Havin' a Flash.
Ringo Starr -- I Get By With a Little Help From Depends.
Roberta Flack -- The First Time Ever I Forgot Your Face.
Johnny Cash -- I Can't See Clearly Now.
Paul Simon -- Fifty Ways to Lose Your Liver
The Commodores -- Once, Twice, Three Times to the Bathroom.
Marvin Gaye -- Heard It Through the Grape Nuts.
Leo Sayer -- You Make Me Feel Like Napping.
The Temptations -- Papa's Got a Kidney Stone.
Abba -- Denture Queen.
Tony Orlando -- Knock 3 Times On The Ceiling If You Hear Me Fall.
Helen Reddy -- I Am Woman, Hear Me Snore.
Willie Nelson -- On the Commode Again

ACTUAL TEST ANSWERS...

If you need a laugh, then read through these Children's Science Exam Answers.

Q Name the four seasons.

A: Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

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Q: Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.

A: Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists.

Q: How is dew formed?

A: The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

Q: How can you delay milk from turning sour? (brilliant, love this!)

A: Keep it in the cow.

Q: What causes the tides in the oceans?

A: The tides are a fight between the Earth and the Moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature hates a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins in this fight.

Q: What are steroids?

A: Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs.

Q: What happens to your body as you age?

A: When you get old, so do your bowels and you get

intercontinental.

Q: What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?

A: He says good-bye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.

Q: Name a major disease associated with cigarettes

A: Premature death.

Q: What is artificial insemination?

A: When the farmer does it to the bull instead of the cow.

Q: How are the main parts of the body categorized? (e.g.abdomen)

A: The body is consisted into three parts ? the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels, A, E,I, O and U.

Q: What is the fibula?

A: A small lie.

Q: What does "varicose" mean? (I do love this one...)

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A: Nearby.

Q: Give the meaning of the term
"Caesarean Section"

A: The Caesarean Section is a district in Rome.

Q: What does the word "benign" mean?

A: Benign is what you will be after you be eight

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT:

A 64-year-old accountant left a letter for his wife one Friday evening that read, "Dear wife, I am 64, and by the time you receive this letter I will be at the Grand Hotel with my beautiful and sexy 18-year-old secretary." When he arrived at the hotel, there was a letter waiting for him that read, "Dear husband, I too am 64, and by the time you receive this letter I will be at the Breakwater Hotel with my handsome and virile 18-year-old boy toy. Being an accountant, you will appreciate that 18 goes into 64 many more times than 64 goes into 18."

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE INEXPERIENCED TRAVELER:

Be very suspicious if the advertised price of a Caribbean cruise includes the phrase "Free Ammo"

- There is no legitimate reason for a travel agent to need to know if you have experience in jungle warfare.
- Do not board a cruise ship if passengers are being issued oars.
- Legitimate travel agents do not dress in foreign military uniforms.
- In South America, say no to anyone wanting you to deliver a suitcase of powdered sugar to their grandmother in Miami.
- Consider very carefully visiting a country where the license plate motto is "Die American Pig"

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR BOSS:

When you take a long time, you're slow.
When your boss takes a long time, he's

thorough.

When you don't do it, you're lazy.
When your boss doesn't do it, he's too busy.

When you make a mistake, you're an idiot.
When your boss makes a mistake, he's only human.

When doing something without being told, you're overstepping your authority.
When your boss does the same thing, that's initiative.

When you take a stand, you're being bull-headed.
When your boss does it, he's being firm.

When you overlooked a rule of etiquette, you're being rude.
When your boss skips a few rules, he's being original.

When you please your boss, you're apple polishing.
When your boss pleases his boss, he's being co-operative.

When you're out of the office, you're wandering around.
When your boss is out of the office, he's on business.

When you're on a day off sick, you're always sick.
When your boss is a day off sick, he must be very ill.

When you apply for vacation, you must be going for an interview.
When your boss applies for vacation, it's because he's overworked.

Grandma

A sweet grandmother telephoned Mount Sinai Hospital. She timidly asked, "Is it possible to speak to someone who can tell me how a patient is doing?" The operator said, "I'll be glad to help, Dear. What's the name and room number?"

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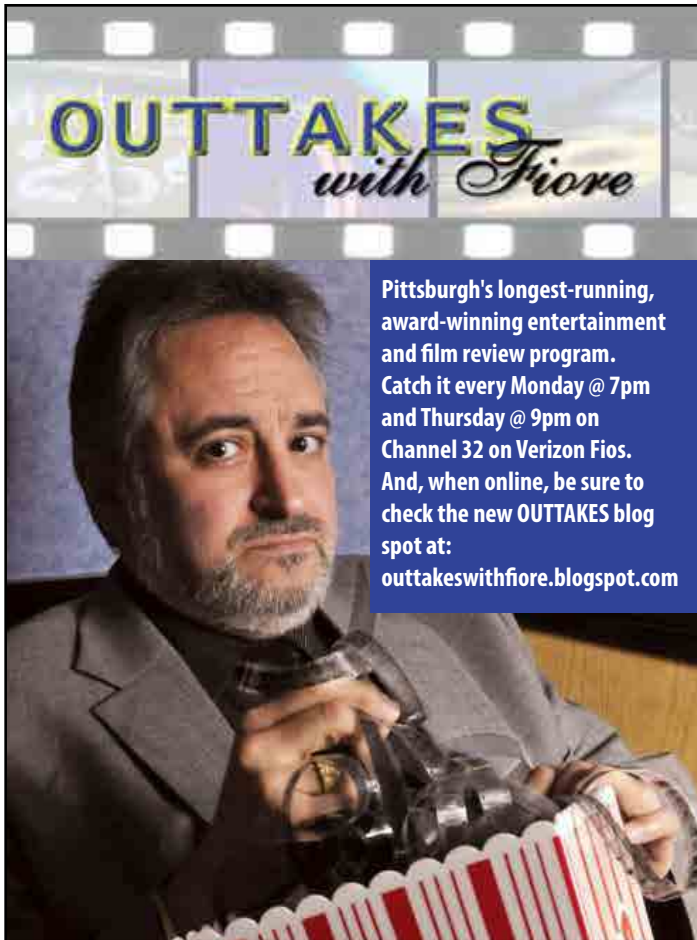
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BEEN AT THE SHELTER FOR A LONG TIME.
SHE IS A TREE WALKING COON HOUND AND
AND IS FIVE YEARS OLD. SHE NEEDS A
HOME WITH NO DOGS OR CHILDREN.
SHE NEEDS A SECOND CHANCE IN LIFE.**



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The grandmother in her weak tremulous voice said, "Holly Finkel, Room 302." The Operator replied, "Let me check. Oh, good news. Her records say that Holly is doing very well. Her blood pressure is fine; her blood work just came back as normal and her physician, Dr. Cohen, has scheduled her to be discharged Tuesday." The Grandmother said, "Thank you. That's wonderful! I was so worried! God bless you for the good news." The operator replied, "You're more than welcome. Is Holly your daughter?" The Grandmother said, "No, I'm Holly Finkel in 302. No one tells me shit."

BEST FRIENDS:

A woman is in bed with her lover, who also is her husband's best friend. They had sex for a long time and afterwards, while they're just laying there, the phone rings. Since it is the woman's house, she picks up the receiver. Her lover looks over at her and listens, only hearing her side of the conversation (she is speaking in a cheery voice)... "Hello? Oh, hi. I'm so glad that you called. Really? That's wonderful. I am so happy for you. That sounds terrific. Great! Thanks. Okay. See you then. Bye-bye." She hangs up the telephone and her lover asks, "Well, who was that?" "Oh," she replies, "that was my husband telling me all about the wonderful time he's having on his fishing trip with you."

IT'S JUST A DOG!!

From time to time, people tell me, "lighten up, it's just a dog," or, "that's a lot of money for just a dog." They don't understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for "just a dog." Some of my proudest moments have come about with "just a dog." Many hours have passed and my only company was "just a dog," but I did not once feel slighted. Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by "just a dog," and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just a dog" gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day. If you, too, think it's "just a dog," then you will probably understand phrases like "just a friend," "just a sunrise," or "just a promise." "Just a dog" brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy. "Just a dog" brings out the compassion and patience that make me a better person. Because of "just a dog" I will rise early, take long walks and look longingly to the future. So for me and folks like me, it's not "just a dog" but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment. "Just a dog" brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day. I hope that someday they can understand that it's not "just a dog" but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a man." So the next time you hear the phrase "just a dog," just smile, because they "just don't understand."

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SENIOR HUMOR

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office.
"Is it true," she wanted to know,
"that the medication you prescribed has
to be taken for the rest of my life?"
"Yes, I'm afraid so," the doctor told her.
There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied,
"I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition
because this prescription is marked 'NO REFILLS.'"

An older Jewish gentleman was on the operating table
awaiting surgery and he insisted that his son,
a renowned surgeon, perform the operation.
As he was about to get the anesthesia
he asked to speak to his son.
"Yes, Dad, what is it?" "Don't be nervous, son;
do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well,
if something happens to me ..
your mother is going to come
and live with you and your wife...."

Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you
stop lying about your age and start bragging about it

The older we get, the fewer things seem
worth waiting in line for

Some people try to turn back their odometers.
Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way.
I've traveled a long way and some of the
roads weren't paved.

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth,
think of Algebra.

You know you are getting old when everything
either dries up or leaks.

I don't know how I got over the hill



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Answers from Page 22

Chocolate Quiz:

BABY RUTH - Sweet, loving, cuddly. You love all warm fuzzy items. A little nutty. Sometimes you need an ice cream cone at the end of the day.

3 MUSKETEERS - You are adventurous, love new ideas, are a champion
Of underdogs and a slayer of dragons. When tempers flare up,
you whip out
Your saber.

BUTTERFINGER - Smooth, sexy, & articulate with your hands, you are an excellent after-dinner speaker and a good teacher.

But don't try to walk and chew gum at the same time.

SNICKERS - Fun-loving, sassy, humorous. Everyone enjoys being around

you, but you are a practical joker, however, you are a friend for life.

HERSHEY'S - Romantic, warm, loving. You care about other people and can be counted on in a pinch. You tend to melt.

ALMOND JOY - Sexy, always ready to give and receive, very energetic,
and really likes to get into life. The opposite sex is always attracted to you.

CLARK BAR - You like sports, whether baseball, football, basketball,
or soccer. If you could, you would like to participate, but enjoy watching
sports. You don't like to give up the remote control.

REESES PEANUT BUTTER CUPS - You are a very fun loving person, who
likes to laugh. You are fun to be with. People like to hang out with you.
You are a very warm hearted person.

ENERGY BAR - Life is passing you by. Get a life! Go eat a plum.

CHOCOLATE COATED RAISINS - You go to the bathroom often.

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