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# MATE



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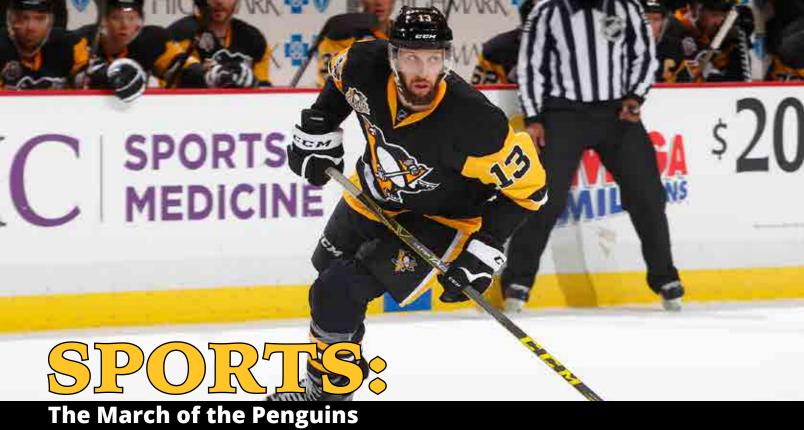
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by Stacy Kauffman, Sports Editor, Nightwire Magazine Photos ©2017 Pittsburgh Penguins/Justin Aller.

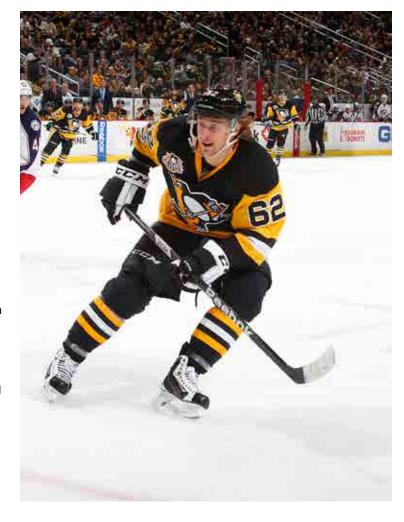
Stop me if you've heard this before. It's March. The Penguins are poised for the home stretch. Sidney Crosby is on a tear.

Just the same old same old from the NHL's reigning champs.

With 22 games to go and a trade deadline about to hit, the team is shaping up for the playoffs, their eleventh consecutive postseason appearance.

At this point last year, the Penguins had racked up 70 pts and finished on a 17-5 run to secure the second seed behind Washington. Once again, they are chasing the Capitals for the Metropolitan Division title, but this season they are within striking distance at 86 points and a game in hand, five points behind Alex Ovechkin's squad. Winning the toughest division in the league would be a notch in their belts, but it doesn't pave the way to the Stanley Cup Finals. Just ask Ovi. As a matter of fact, the Penguins won their last two championships as second place finishers in their division. Getting into the postseason is what matters. Then the fun begins.

Of course, the Penguins hope to have a couple of important pieces back on the ice. Specifically on the blueline with both











Trevor Daley and Olli Maatta sidelined for about six weeks after knee and hand surgeries, respectively. Such is life in the NHL. Last year, defenseman Ben Lovejoy missed most of March and Evgeni Malkin was out 16 games in March and April. Injuries test a team's depth and the Penguins have plenty of it behind their stars.

Defensemen aren't as deep as the forwards however, so
General Manager Jim Rutherford acquired veteran Ron Hainsey
from his former team, Carolina. Sure, Wilkes-Barre can plug
holes from time to time with guys like Steve Oleksy, Cameron
Gaunce and Chad Ruhwedel, but for the stretch run, having
an experienced stay-at-home NHL defenseman is invaluable.
Especially one that has nearly 900 games under his belt, but has
not played a single one in the postseason. The Penguins think
a winning environment could fuel a fresh start for Hainsey, who
will also help the struggling penalty kill. The Pens rank 21st in the
league and the Hurricanes were the NHL's top PK unit.

The key to a formidable defense in the playoffs will be Kris Letang's health and the consistency of Justin Schultz. Schultz is





third in the league in plus/minus with +31 and has emerged as an offensive threat with 39 points in 57 games played. The Pens have done well without Letang this year, a record of 13-2-4 so far when their top defenseman isn't on the ice, but they had Daley to pick up some of the slack then. Without him, Letang's absence would be much more impactful.

The strength of the team is certainly their forwards. And the strength of the forwards is certainly Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin. But like last year when Bryan Rust, Tom Kuhnhackl and Conor Sheary were called up and contributed right away, there is some young blood that can bring exciting play to the ice. Keep an eye on Jake Guentzel, the 22 year-old versatile forward that has spent time on the wing of Evgeni Malkin and Sidney Crosby this season and has 14 pts in 23 games. He is quick and his hockey IQ is through the roof. With Rust out for a significant amount of time, he will continue to have a bigger role. Conor Sheary should return to the lineup this month and if Guentzel produces the way he has been, Scott Wilson or Eric Fehr could find themselves in the press box. Too many quality

players and not enough playing time is a good problem to have.

You never know when the injury bug will claim another victim.

With all of that said, Captain Sidney Crosby remains the critical component to the success of his ship. With the league lead in goals and trailing only Edmonton's Connor McDavid in points, Crosby continues to make everyone around him better. If the Penguins are to win their third Stanley Cup in nine years, number 87 will lead them there.

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

# El Campesino – Authentic Mexican Food

# - 5 Great Locations

Authentic Mexican food, ElCampesino definitely has it! ElCampesino Restaurants are family owned, operated and they have been in business for over 20 years in the Pittsburgh area. There is no place better if you want authentic Mexican food. ElCampesino Restaurants food is prepared fresh daily in their kitchens. ElCampesino has five convenient locations: North Hills, Robinson, Monroeville, McMurray, Altoona plus a new locations coming soon.. Check back next month for more information on their newest location!

The North Hills location was recently remodeled and boasts new seating and décor, you must check it out! The North Hills ElCampesino Restaurant is located on McKnight road across from Red Lobster and in the adjoining plaza with Pep Boys. This location offers plenty of free parking and easy access from I279 and downtown. All locations offer the best "Happy Hour" in the Greater Pittsburgh Area and plenty of free parking. Their margaritas, voted the Best in Pittsburgh come in three sizes made with their own authentic margarita drink mix on premise daily using only fresh squeezed juices, which makes their margarita's the best in "the burgh!" Plus they have a well-stocked bar boasting a wide selection of tequilas, spirts, wines, specialty drinks, draft and bottle beers to choose from along with your favorite soft drinks.

Their menu offers a wide variety of choices, definitely something for everyone, plus all food is made to order using old world authentic family recipes, never frozen or processed. So, if you are hungry for authentic Mexican food, then you need to dine at ElCampesino. Their friendly courteous staff will take great care of you. All locations are open daily for lunch and dinner.









North Hills: 4771 Mcknight Road - Pittsburgh, PA 15237 - Phone: (412) 366-8730

Robinson: 460 Home Dr, Pittsburgh, PA 15275. Phone: (412) 787-2225

Monroeville: Jonnet Plaza 4097 William Penn Highway - Monroeville, PA 15146 Phone: (412) 373-1772 McMurray: Water Dawn Center 4172 Washington Road - McMurray, PA 15317 Phone: (724) 941-6438

Altoona: 206 East Plank Road - Altoona, PA 16602 - Phone: (814) 944-3121

Open Daily Monday thru Thursday: 11am - 10pm: Friday & Saturday: 11am - 10:30pm: Sunday: 12pm - 9pm

# Pittsburgh Cultural Trust -Music: Jim Caruso's Cast Party, Cabaret at Theater Square

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust announces a new show has been added to the 2016-2017 TRUST Cabaret Series performance schedule. Jim Caruso's Cast Party – "An Extreme Open Mic" with Billy Stritch at the Piano will perform on Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at 7:30 p.m., at the Cabaret at Theater Square, 655 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222. The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust gratefully acknowledges the Benter Foundation for its generous support of this special event.

Tickets to this event go on sale to the public, at 9:00 a.m., on Friday, March 3, 2017. For ticket information, visit www. TrustArts.org, call 412-456-6666 or in person at Theater Square Box Office, 655 Penn Avenue.

TRUST Cabaret Series performances begin at 7:30pm. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., Cabaret at Theater Square, 655 Penn Avenue. Table and hi-top seating for single tickets: \$55; Theater seating for single tickets: \$45. Full tables are also available. Accessible services are available. For subscription information call (412) 456-1390. Groups of 10+ call (412) 471-6930.

Jim Caruso's Cast Party – "An Extreme Open Mic" celebrates local musical and variety talent. This marks the first appearance in Pittsburgh's Cultural District for the Manhattan mainstay, hosted by Caruso and musical director Billy Stritch. Jim Caruso's Cast Party is a wildly popular open mic night that has been bringing a sprinkling of Broadway glitz and urbane wit to the legendary Birdland in New York City every Monday night for the past fifteen years. It's a cool cabaret night-out and a hilariously impromptu variety show. Showbiz superstars hit the stage alongside up-and-comers, serving up jaw-dropping music and general razzle-dazzle. The buoyant, sharp and charming Caruso guides the entire affair like an uber-fan, musical genius Billy Stritch holds court at the ivories, and the audience is invited to participate in the festivities! The Wall Street Journal raved, "The gold standard of open mic nights."

# Pittsburgh: Open Mic Participant Sign Up

In Pittsburgh, interested open mic participants can learn more about the event and sign up to secure a spot by visiting www. TrustArts.org/Caruso

Over the years, happy Caruso's Cast Party audiences have been entertained by the likes of Liza Minnelli, Natalie Cole, Martin Short, Carol Channing, Hugh Jackman, Donny Osmond, Chita Rivera, Michael Feinstein, Shirley Bassey, Jon Bon Jovi, Tony Bennett, Paul Shaffer, Ricki Lake, Melissa Manchester, Larry

Gatlin and Dame Edna!

Recently, Caruso and Stritch have taken the Party on the road, celebrating extraordinary local talent in London, San Francisco, Chicago, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Dallas, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Austin, and on the high seas. Cast Party was also part of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Songbook Series, celebrating the Golden Age of Hollywood with an all-star cast. For more information, visit: www.CastPartyNYC.com

#### **TRUST Cabaret Series**

The TRUST Cabaret Series, now in its 5th season (2016-2017), is presented by the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust and provides a unique and intimate opportunity for audiences to experience the finest cabaret acts in the entertainment industry. The series provides audiences with a rare opportunity to experience the finest cabaret artists and their outstanding musical accompanists at the intimate Cabaret at Theater Square, 655 Penn Avenue, in downtown Pittsburgh's Cultural District. The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust gratefully acknowledges the Benter Foundation and Richard E. Rauh for their generous support of the TRUST Cabaret Series, which is arranged in cooperation with rj productions.

The 2016-2017 Trust Cabaret season maintains a high standard of quality and showcases a diverse lineup of bright stars including Tony award winners and the singing voices of some of Disney's most iconic characters. The 2016-2017 TRUST Cabaret Series upcoming performance schedule includes: Judy Kuhn on Monday, March 13, 2017; Lea Salonga on Monday, April 3, 2017 and Jim Caruso's Cast Party-"An Extreme Open Mic" with Billy Stritch at the Piano on Wednesday, April 19, 2017.

2016-2017 TRUST CABARET SERIES

JIM CARUSO'S CAST PARTY 
"AN EXTREME OPEN MIC"

WITH BILLY STRITCH AT THE PIANO

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017

# Pittsburgh Public Theater Presents Daddy Long Legs

Directed by Ted Pappas and making its Pittsburgh premiere, this beguiling new musical has a literate Cinderella story at its heart.

Pittsburgh Public Theater is thrilled to present the Pittsburgh premiere of Paul Gordon and John Caird's delightful musical, Daddy Long Legs. Directed by Ted Pappas, The Public's Producing Artistic Director, Daddy Long Legs runs March 9 – April 9, 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. Nadine Bognar is the Production Sponsor.

In Daddy Longs Legs, Jerusha Abbott (Danielle Bowen) is the oldest orphan in the John Grier Home. Her life changes when a wealthy benefactor, Jervis Pendleton (Allan Snyder), sends her to college. His one request is that she write him a monthly letter. These letters, sung by both characters, detail her coming of age and falling in love. New to Pittsburgh, Danielle Bowen has performed from Connecticut to California in musicals such as The Wizard of Oz. Now a Pittsburgh resident, Allan Snyder recently appeared in Les Misérables on Broadway and The Fantasticks Off-Broadway.

Although Daddy Long Legs is set in the early 20th century, the music is contemporary with beautifully simple, affecting melodies. Songs include "The Secret of Happiness" and "My Manhattan." Musical Director F. Wade Russo (last year's Guys & Dolls) will be at the piano with Elise Henkelman on cello and Ken Karsh on guitar.

The design team for Daddy Long Legs is Michael Schweikardt (Scenic), Gabriel Berry (Costumes), Phil Monat (Lighting), and Zach Moore (Sound). Casting is by Cindi Rush Casting and the Production Stage Manager is Pamela Brusoski.

Daddy Long Legs is based on the 1912 novel by Jean Webster, which was turned into the 1955 Fred Astaire-Leslie Caron movie. John Caird (Les Misérables) adapted the book for the stage with music and lyrics by Paul Gordon (musical adaptations of Sense and Sensibility and Emma). Together they wrote the Broadway musical Jane Eyre.



Danielle Bowen

# Pittsburgh Public Theater Presents Daddy Long Legs March 9 - April 9, 2017

#### **Performance Schedule**

- Tuesdays at 7 pm.
- Wednesdays thru Saturdays at 8 pm (except March 22).
- Saturdays at 2 pm (except March 11 & 18) plus 2 pm on Thursday, April 6.
- Sundays at 2 & 7 pm (except April 9 when the final show is at 2 pm).
- Press Night is Thursday, March 16. Opening Night is Friday, March 17.
- Ticket prices: \$25 \$62. 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** 

#### A CURE FOR WELLNESS

A CURE FOR WELLNESS, the latest thriller from Gore Verbinski, had the potential to be a unique, weird and haunting thriller, but it misses its mark. We can blame Editors Pete Beaudreau and Lance Pereira; again, proving my point that more than one editor ruins the production. The film logs in at two and a half hours; a one hour transgression against good movie making. The second act is longer than the film should be in its entirety. During this extra time, the picture comes to several conclusions, and then inexplicably, continues its storyline down a different path. The affect is disconcerting.

Perhaps I'm being too harsh. Perhaps the fault does not lie with Beaudreau and Pereira. They may only have been following orders. Perhaps we should blame Screenwriter Justin Haythe for not orchestrating the thriller with more restraint; or Verbinski for not corralling his henchmen.

Whatever the reason, by the time the third act begins, A CURE FOR WELLNESS has worked itself into a cinematic corner. Desperate for an all-inclusive conclusion, Verbinski purloins conclusions from other notable flicks to glue his cracks. The ending features: an unmasking from THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA; a Dwight Frye inspired storming and burning of the castle, as in FRANKENSTEIN; a twist on the ending of THE PORTRAIT OF DORIAN GRAY; a hint to SHUTTER ISLAND; and even a nod to INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS. If all those combined conclusions can't successfully end your film,



something has gone terribly wrong.

A CURE FOR WELLNESS attempts to deliver shocks to viewers through scenes of intense violence. For example: there is a scene reminiscent of Jeff Goldblum's bathroom visit in David Croneberg's version of THE FLY; and there is a dental scene straight from Dustin Hoffman's THE MARATHON MAN; and though it is a bit of a stretch, the eels vaguely remind me of the space worms in SQUIRM.

Drawing from all these previous works, A CURE FOR WELLNESS should work better. The real hindrance is the second act. This movie is simply too long, with no good reason. It severely hurts the entire endeavor.

#### **GOLD**

GOLD is a good movie that sabotages its own presentation. It's an interesting look into events that rocked the mining investment field during the 1980's. The story is intriguing and compelling. The presentation, however, suffers the slings and arrows of outrageous Hollywood production mores.

GOLD has a storied history, which may account for its presentation problems. The film was first proposed in 2011 as a type of modern THE TREASURE OF SIERRA MADRE, the Humphrey Bogart classic. Michael Mann was set to helm the project, with Christian Bale and Michelle Williams to star. A little over a year later, Mann left the project to work on other films and was replaced by Spike Lee. From there, the project went south. It is rumored Bale did not like Lee's direction nor attitude and left the film. That opened the door for McConaughey. More folk agreed Lee wasn't right for this project, and he was replaced by Stephen Gaghan. After filming began, Gaghan became disillusioned with Williams, and though production was underway, she was replaced by Howard. Howard fits nicely into this role, and it is speculated the part of Kay underwent serious rewrites from Williams to Howard. While many films undergo changes in personnel, this one appears to be based on the film's personality. Kudos to Jo Boldin and Avy Kaufman for selecting the final cast, especially for the addition of Ramirez.

Daniel Pemberton provides a solid score and the photography of Robert Elswit is sublime. Like too many movies, GOLD is too long. At least 30 minutes could be eliminated making the story less melancholic in the second act. Once again, a team is to blame. Douglas Crise and Rick Grayson are used as a team to



edit GOLD. I'll say again, while incorporating more than one editor helps create more jobs on a production, it ultimately destroys the film's image. The ending of GOLD is worthwhile, but it is rather a struggle to sit long enough to arrive there.

To tell the story, Screenwriters Patrick Massett and John Zinman unveil the plot in chronological sequence. While sensible, there are too many scenes which only serve to accentuate elements detailed in previous scenes.

A better, more concentrated effort on the script, and the film's editing, would have made for a stronger cinema experience.

# **JOHN WICK CHAPTER 2**

Back in 2014, Keanu Reeves starred as a mob hitman in JOHN



WICK. The film made my best of the year list and became an instant classic. JOHN WICK CHAPTER 2 is every bit as good as the first. So, we have JOHN WICK being epic; and JOHN WICK CHAPTER 2 being epic. Do you sense a pattern?

Reeves is back as the monotone one-man killing machine.
Reprising their respective roles from the first film are Ian
McShane, John Leguizamo, Bridget Moynahan and Lance
Reddick. New to this chapter are Common, Laurence
Fishburne, Riccardo Scamarcio, Ruby Rose and Franco Nero. It
is amusing when Fishburne and Reeves first appear on screen
together. Fishburne says: "I met Mr. Wick many years ago."
And you truly expect him to add, "didn't we Neo?" and offer him
either a blue or red pill. Sweet.

JOHN WICK CHAPTER 2 offers excellent action cinematography from Dan Lausten. There are especially fine street level shoots during both the car chase and fight scenes. Evan Schiff keeps the film rolling; there is literally no time to catch your breath as each minute is either exploding with action, or serving as a tense interlude. This confirms my mantra of one editor per film. Schiff had a non-stop vision, and executes it with aplomb.

What makes a movie like JOHN WICK CHAPTER 2 appealing is its emersion in actual fighting techniques. Reeves, and his antagonists, utilize a blend of traditional marital arts moves, mixed with Gracie Jujitsu take-downs. The weapons are all utilized in proper tactical fashion. There are no completely unbelievable stunts, as in Vin Diesel's recent XXX: THE RETURN OF XANDER CAGE.

THE MATRIX is not the only film given homage in JOHN WICK CHAPTER 2. During the climax, Wick pursues a mob boss into a room of mirrors. It's a play on Bruce Lee's classic conclusion in ENTER THE DRAGON. This time, however, the mirror room is more modern, with opening glass doors and a changing light display. It's a nice twist to an old standard.

You can't go wrong with this one. Definitely worth the price of admission, and then some. It's only February, but already JOHN WICK CHAPTER 2 goes down as one of the year's best.

#### LOGAN

LOGAN is billed as the final Wolverine flick, as Hugh Jackman is a bit too long in the tooth to continue jumping around like a crazed animal.

The year is 2029 and all the mutants have been eliminated; all except for Wolverine and Professor X, Charles Xavier, again played by Patrick Stewart. Here is the first of LOGAN's many inconsistencies. The last we saw of Charles, he was disassembled into atoms by a psychotic Jean Grey, who had



manifested as Phoenix. There is no explanation and viewers, as well as fan boys, are supposed to ignore previous plotlines and just accept this scenario as a given. That is shoddy scriptwriting, at best.

Wolverine is in hiding with Professor X in Mexico; though he periodically crosses the border to serve as a chauffeur to make some mullah. Logan keeps Charles in a drug induced haze because the good professor, the most powerful mind in the world, is suffering from dementia. Occasionally, his mental outbursts lay waste to towns and cities. To compound the tragedy, Logan is dying. The adamantium fused to his skeleton is now poisoning him, making it difficult to utilize his talons and his healing ability. Stewart looks, and acts like an old coot for his role, while Jackman is a shell of his former self. He lost considerable bulk compared to his previous outings as Wolverine. Logan wants to buy a boat so the two has been superheroes can live the rest of their days out in the middle of the ocean.

For antagonists, naturally, it's the greedy, corrupt military complex under the Transigen moniker. Richard Grant plays Zander Rice, the mad scientist trying to make home-made mutants; and Boyd Holbrook is Donald Pierce who is the muscle for Transigen.

The fulcrum for the tale is Laura, a mutant child who has escaped the lab and is seeking asylum in Canada. She is played by Dafne Keen. There is no explanation why our neighbors in the Great White North are suddenly a sanctuary country for mutants. Laura was grown in a lab, and you'll never guess whose DNA they used to format her. Obviously, she seeks Logan for assistance in her trek. Keen acts like so many irritating child characters in

film today. She is a brat and by the third reel, you're hoping someone will have the decency to kill her.

LOGAN features heroes, who are not heroic. Superheroes in old age may not be pretty, but there should be some consistency with the personas they've established. For example: How is it Professor X cannot control his mind from wiping out an entire casino, yet he can control a herd of horses?

LOGAN is strictly for the fanboys who like to see their heroes humiliated. The movie is morbid and morose and not assembled well enough to make those qualities viable. Jackman is gone; with luck, I'll be able to soon say the same about the entire X-Men franchise. It has not been worthwhile since Singer's third film.

Read my complete review, including more background on Wolverine and the X-Men on the Outtakes with Fiore blog: http://outtakeswithfiore.blogspot.com.

# THE GREAT WALL

THE GREAT WALL is great; one of the best monster movies I've seen in years. It has a rousing score, beautiful cinematography, better bow and arrow sequences than Steven Amell can perform in ARROW, the first ever grenades, the first aerial bombers and expert SFX on the monsters. You can't ask for more than that.

During the Song Dynasty, a group of mercenaries led by William Garin (Matt Damon) meander their way into China to purloin gun powder. Unfortunately, their quest is snarled when they are attacked by Toaties, an alien species which emerges from hibernation every sixty years to feed. The monster awakening to feed draws from JEEPERS CREEPERS, but this isn't just one



monster. A military garrison of the Imperial Court called The Nameless Order, snags the mercenaries as spies, but then relies on their fighting prowess when it is discovered they have found a way to kill the Toaties. The first Toatie attack occurs within the film's opening reel, and from that point, THE GREAT WALL never slows. Thank Mary Jo Markey and Craig Wood for proving to be the exception to the rule that more than one editor ruins the film.

Matt Damon is generally a harbinger of lame movies. He stars in films fraught with liberal, socialist concepts. Outside of THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU, this is the only film I've enjoyed him in. Some time ago, Chuck Norris, who was embarking on his acting career, asked Steve McQueen for advice. McQueen told Norris: "... say as little as you can and just fight." Norris, to this day, claims it was the best advice he ever received. It made him a star and an icon. Damon takes that same advice in THE GREAT WALL. He has very little dialogue, and what he does say is curt, and non-political, thankfully.

Pedro Pascal and Willem Dafoe help complete the mercenary group. Pascal is solid as Damon's friend and ally, and the plucky comic relief.

Andy Lau, who is one of China's top box office stars, plays Wang, the Strategist and War Counselor for the Nameless Order. He is one of two Chinese characters who can speak English, and therefore, carries the dialogue. Jing Tian plays Commander Lin Mae, and the love interest for Garin. Lu Han is Peng Yong, a young warrior who becomes Garin's mentor

THE GREAT WALL is fun and definitely worth the price of admission. This is Director Yimou Zhang's first venture into American cinema. I trust it will not be his last. I was fortunate to see the film in 3D, and the technique enhances the presentation. Many arrows, hatchets and body parts fly off the screen. Don't miss this one; you're going to have a good time.

But, there is much more to this film than the action. To read about all the Hollywood drama behind this movie, check out the Outtakes with Fiore blog: http://outtakeswithfiore.blogspot.com

# **SPLIT**

First, let me preface this review by saying I enjoy the films of M. Night Shyamalan. I think he uses misdirection better than any other director; which is ironic since his latest film, SPLIT, offers the least misdirection of all his works. Shyamalan isn't as prolific as John Woo, Robert Rodriguez, Tim Burton or John Carpenter, but even those notable directors have released a few dog and pony shows during their careers

That said, as I sit here sipping my coffee after watching SPLIT last night, I can tell you SPLIT is a solid thriller and can rank just



behind some of Shyamalan's best. The film offers a few chills, a few thrills, a slight lean toward the supernatural and a powerful performance by James McAvoy.

This entire film centers on McAvoy. After wallowing in those insipid X-MEN movies for far too long, McAvoy had to be ecstatic when presented with this role. He was not the first choice. Originally, Joaquim Phoenix was slated to star. The sudden change for top billing went largely unheralded, but my sources say Phoenix wasn't able to pull off the characters in early screen tests. Whatever the reason, McAvoy shines and his performance provides cohesiveness when the film falters.

SPLIT begins with the conclusion of a high school birthday party. Claire and Marcia, best friends, are the last to leave. Also reluctant to have the party end is outsider Casey. Casey was invited because Claire did not want her to be the only person not receiving an invitation. As things turn, the girls' very survival will depend on the traits Casey develops in her solitude.

While leaving the party, they are hijacked and kidnapped by Kevin, who is not just Kevin, but 23 other people lurking in a mind on the dark side of the moon. McAvoy is Kevin, and all his alter egos. Haley Lu Richardson is Claire, Jessica Sula is Marcia and Anya Taylor-Joy is Casey. Also in the cast is Becky Buckley as Dr. Karen Fletcher, Kevin's psychiatrist.

As with most of Shyamalan's scripts, this one contains too many subplots. It is essential we learn of the relationship between Casey and her father, and her interest in hunting. The added subplot of her uncle is a bit much and has relevance more as a social commentary, allowing for a cheesy escape segment.

So, as you read questionable reviews by my condescending colleagues in the two-letter cities, know that I found SPLIT quite enjoyable. Let it simmer for a while after viewing, and I think you will, also.

# Dark Brews for St. Paddy's Day and Beyond

by Britan Mayer

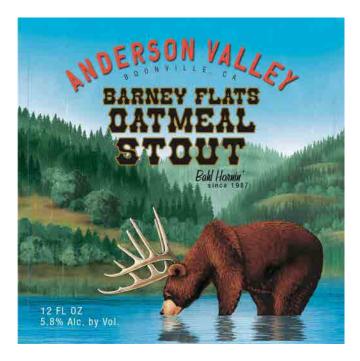
March brings with it not only the hope for an early end to winter, but one of our favorite holidays, too. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated around the world as a way to relax and have some fun, and while we can't condone any green beer, we can suggest a few dark beers to carry you through St. Paddy's Day and beyond because good beer knows no season, and dark beers are perfect year-round.

Anderson Valley Brewing Co. Barney Flats Oatmeal Stout Oatmeal stouts are kind of like having breakfast in a bottle, in a good way. Brewed with both malted barley and oat, these beers feature a heavier body than you'll find with other stouts while keeping bitterness in check. Anderson Valley brews their Barney Flats Oatmeal Stout with two varietals of hops and six different malts to give this beer a depth of character that's hard to find elsewhere. Aromas of bread, espresso, and dried cherries hide just below the surface, and when paired with the roasty, toffee flavors, this beer will seem less like a heavy stout and more like a dream.

# Bells Brewing Co. Kalamazoo Stout

What sounds like a crazy name for a beer is actually a reference to the birthplace of Bell's Brewery: Kalamazoo, Michigan. Bell's Kalamazoo Stout is a 6% ABV full-bodied stout that features a blend of aromas including bread, toffee, and a hint of coffee paired with tastes of dark chocolate and fresh-roast coffee. Unlike some other stouts in this list, Kalamazoo Stout features a very prominent hop profile, giving it both hop flavor and bitterness.





# **Dogfish Head Beer for Breakfast**

Who says you can't have a beer for breakfast? Dogfish Head decided to take the idea of the breakfast stout to the next level with their Beer For Breakfast Stout. Originally released in 2014, this beer features a little of everything that makes breakfast great, including Guatemalan Antigua cold press coffee, maple syrup, and Rapa Scrapple. Add to this Applewood-smoked barley, flaked oats, molasses, milk sugars, brown sugar, and roasted chicory and what you have is a 7.4% ABV beer that's calling for you to make breakfast any time of the day.

# Erie Brewing Co. Skipper's Stout

There's more to the relationship between coffee and beer beyond having coffee the morning after you had beer. When you combine the roasty bitterness of a stout with the intense flavors found in coffee, you're left with the best of both worlds. Erie Brewing releases their Skipper's Stout each year as a beer that's not like your typical coffee stout by keeping the bitterness low and the subtle flavors in charge.

Brewed with three varietals of coffee as well as crème brûlée, Skipper's Stout comes in at 7.2% ABV and a nice low 14 IBU. While this is a winter seasonal, you should still be able to find some hanging around, just waiting to find a good home.

# Lancaster Brewing Co. Milk Stout

Milk Stouts are named as such thanks to the addition of milk sugar (lactose) during the brewing process. This gives the beer a



fuller body while adding some light sweetness to the beer that otherwise wouldn't be possible. Lancaster Brewing's Milk Stout has the distinction of being America's original craft milk stout, having been brewed by Lancaster since 1995. This 5% ABV beer features notes of coffee, milk chocolate, and roasted malt, all of which pair perfectly with the added milk sugar.

# North Country Brewing Co. Buck Snort Stout

Not all stouts have to be low in bitterness, and a prime example of this is North Country Brewing's Buck Snort Stout. This West Coast-Style Stout comes in at 7% ABV and relies on its hop profile for most of the greatness found in this beer. Unlike many stouts, this beer features a prominent hop profile instead of the more common coffee, chocolate, and roasted malt character. While there is some roasty malt flavor on the finish, this beer is all about the hops for sure.

# Oskar Blues Brewing Co. Old Chub Scotch Ale

Scottish Ales are an interesting breed of beer. They're dark, yet rarely do these beers feature the flavors you typically associate

with dark beers. Old Chub comes in at 8% ABV and like many other Scottish Ales, features prominent aromas and flavors of toasted barley paired with a lightly smoked malt. Together, this gives Old Chub a sweet character that's backed up with some alcohol and a slight hint of smoke to make it a truly unique experience.

# Otter Creek Brewing Co. Couch Surfer Oatmeal Stout

One of the newest entries into the year-round lineup at Otter Creek Brewing, Couch Surfer is a dark and delicious stout that has notes of chocolate and coffee as well as a thicker mouthfeel thanks to the oats used in the brewing process. This laid-back stout isn't one of the big and heavy ones you'd expect in the dead of winter, but instead is velvety-smooth and roasty thanks to the roasted malts used. Couch Surfer is perfect for the middle of summer or a cold winter night, as long as there's an open seat on the couch that is.

# Saugatuck Brewing Co. Neapolitan Milk Stout

Who doesn't love Neapolitan ice cream? The chocolate, strawberry, and vanilla stripes are a mainstay in the world of ice cream, and for good reason. By themselves these flavors are great, but when combined they're far more than the sum of their parts. Saugatuck Brewing took this idea to heart when they created their Neapolitan Milk Stout. This 6% ABV beer features a mild bitterness at 37 IBUs, but the real surprise here is how close this beer is to tasting like the ice cream we've all grown to love. It's like a Neapolitan Sundae in a bottle and thankfully it's available year round.



# **Smuttynose Brewing Co. Robust Porter**

Holding the title of Smuttynose Brewing's most award-winning beer is none other than their Robust Porter. This year-round beer comes in at 6.2% ABV and a hefty 60 IBUs, which means it's a hophead's dream while keeping us dark beer-loving fans happy in the process. While this style of beer may have originated on the docks of London's shipyards, today Smuttynose's version respects the original while adding some extra hop character to make this beer a truly unique beer.

# **Troegs Independent Brewing Troegenator**

What happens when monks need sustenance but don't want to break their fasting? Simple, they brew a beer that is, for the most part, liquid bread and is known as a doppelbock, or double bock. This original beer, known as "Salvator," or "Savior," is still brewed today to be higher in alcohol and full of flavor. Following this long-standing tradition, most double bocks have names that end in "ator" and Tröegs' Troegenator is no exception.

Troegenator comes in at a hefty 8.2% ABV and a nice 25 IBU. Tröegs version of the double bock is thick and almost chewy with stand-out flavors and aromas of caramel, chocolate, and dried stone fruit.

If you'd rather enjoy Troegenator with food instead of enjoying this "liquid bread" as the monks did, you'll find that root vegetables, raw shellfish, bitter greens, nuts, smoked meat, and even vanilla ice cream pair extremely well with this "savior" of the beer world.

# Weyerbacher Brewing Co. Tiny

Wrapping up our list of dark beers for St. Paddy's day and beyond is Tiny from Weyerbacher Brewing Co. Tiny is anything but small, coming in at a whopping 11.8% ABV. This imperial stout features big flavors of chocolate and roasted barley as well as a balance of Belgian yeast flavor. With a surprising lack of bitter astringency that can accompany beers like this, Tiny is easier to drink than you'd expect, making this Belgian-style imperial stout a great year-round beer.







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# **Smelling the Roses of Rosemary**

By Suzanne Ferrara



Once you arrive at the quaint town of Rosemary Beach, Florida, there will be no need to turn on your car's ignition until the unfortunate time you have to depart.

This pedestrian-friendly community is chock-full of stunning European and West Indies architecture, plus gardens, shops, greenways and community pools, and it's all mere steps from the stunning Gulf of Mexico.

In fact, walking and biking are the two most popular forms of transportation in Rosemary Beach, and you don't have to worry about someone taking off with your bike. It's almost like stepping back in time to simpler days, days when a town bell tolled every hour on the hour, and allowed people to enjoy the passing of the day without having to look at their watches. All of this happens, 365 days a year, at Rosemary Beach.

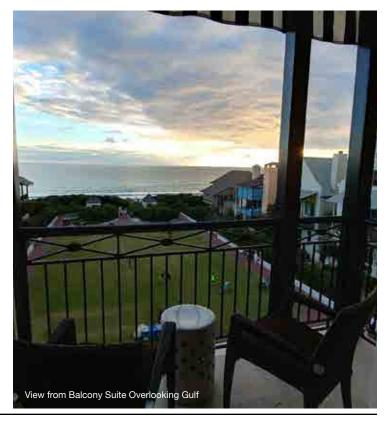
You will long for nothing at Rosemary Beach, and will surely be removed from the day-to-day life you left behind. A must experience is a stay at The Pearl Hotel, named among the prestigious Preferred Hotels & Resorts of 2016. The Pearl is fronted by a greenway and the sugar-white sands of the gulf, and stands as the empress of Rosemary Beach. The Swiss/Spanish-inspired architecture, black-and-white-striped awnings and terraces offer visitors an inspiring and tranquil atmosphere amidst your luxury accommodations. (Tip: request a balcony room facing the gulf or one overlooking the pool).

The Pearl, which is managed by St. Joe Club and Resorts, offers a

stunning spa, restaurant, grill, rooftop lounge and adults-only pool.

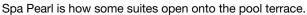
Once you walk through its doors, you know you're in a luxury retreat where little details and touches matter; upon check-in, you will be offered a welcome libation of refreshing, sparkling wine.

Once your luggage is brought to your beautifully-appointed suite, head straight to Spa Pearl (schedule an appointment in time for





your arrival). The service and pampering at Spa Pearl is second to none, and you will certainly be transported to a tranquil state. (Tip: Two of their most popular massages are the Pearl Perfection which incorporates both deep tissue, and Swedish techniques and the Swedish massage). A plethora of facial treatments and other treatment services are offered at the spa, along with couples' and in-room massages. Another unmatched architectural feature of the



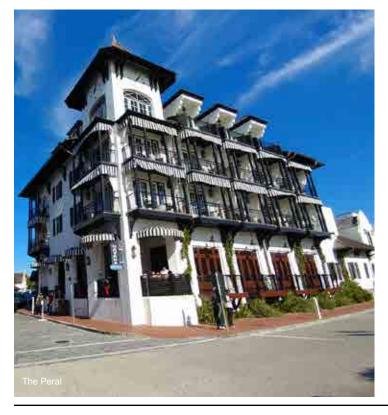
For ultimate relaxation amid mother nature's stunning setting, sit back and relax in one of the hotel's beach chairs while you gaze out at the turquoise waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Lemonade is a complimentary refreshment on the beach, and there are full-service beach chair set-ups; plus, kayaks and canoes are free to guests, and the hotel offers discounted YOLO Board rentals at WaterColor.

After sunset, head to the rooftop lounge and sip hand-crafted cocktails while you sit in love seats that face illuminated fire pits. This is one of the most romantic spots at the Pearl, and on certain nights there's live music.

Be sure to take advantage of the complimentary bikes available to guests and then enjoy the quaint community on two wheels. In addition to the adults-only pool at The Pearl, your stay includes access to the four different community pools, tennis courts and the fitness center.

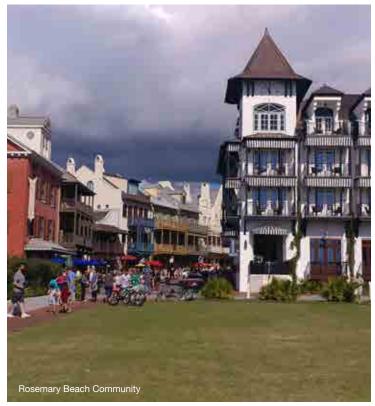
The Sugar Shak is just a few steps from the hotel and is a dream come true for kids of all ages. You can find hundreds of brands of candy ranging from those from yesteryear to today's trendy sweets. You can easily spend a half-hour in this store looking at the wall-to-wall merchandise, and in addition to a wide selection of candy, they serve ice cream and shakes to satisfy your sweet tooth.

Dining at the Pearl's Havana Beach is sure to please even the most discerning of palates. Executive Chef Zach Garza and Chef de Cuisine James Neale create sumptuous farm-to-table dishes.



(Tip: Be sure to try the Beef Short Rib and the Marcona Crusted Grouper). Top it all off with the Apple Cinnamon Bread Pudding with white chocolate bourbon sauce or the Smoked Smores with house-made graham cookies and fluff-spiced chocolate sauce. Be sure to make brunch at Havana Beach; your taste buds will long for nothing. (Tip: Start off with their tasty and nutritionally-packed Green or Red Smoothies).

Dining options are endless in Rosemary. Right across the street from The Pearl is Cowgirl Kitchen, a very popular local eatery that serves mouth-watering dishes and cocktails. This is where you will hear Andrea a waitress here genuinely greet customers with "Welcome to Paradise", after which you'll want to start off with the massive Nachos as an appetizer and followed by Cowgirl's 100%, made-from-scratch pizzas, including the dough, which is a huge crowd pleaser. (Tip: The Whole Hog is one of their best-selling pizzas, and the Grouper and blackened Shrimp Quesadilla are also winners). They serve breakfast, lunch and dinner, but be sure to put your name down early because there will be a wait during peak times.









Speaking of crowd pleasers, Chef Kevin Korman is eager to satisfy guests at the Roselie Dining and Seafood Bar, which is located just a few blocks from The Pearl at Inlet Beach. Roselie is aptly named as a tribute to his daughters, by combining their names – Rosalyn and Eleanor. The eatery is a dream come true for Chef Korman and his wife Angela. (Be sure to ask Chef Korman about how he surprised his beautiful wife, Angela, who is also his right-hand at the restaurant, with a surprise wedding).

The upscale dining experience is comfortable, and Chef Korman offers an inventive approach to modern American cuisine with local sourced ingredients. He exudes passion for his craft and has a story about every dish and ingredient. (Tip: Korman's scrumptious version of Snapper and Royal Red Shrimp are a must try). The restaurant's Seafood Bar offers unexpected flavors through a variety of marinated Gulf seafood items and ceviche.

For an intimate unforgettable experience, be sure to make a reservation for the Chef's table experience where you will be captivated by Chef Korman's passion for his creations. He will talk you through eight-to- ten courses which he'll prepare right in front of you. This personal gathering is second-to-none, not only because it's one of Korman's favorite offerings, but also because his unapparelled creations are truly innovative and delicious. (Tip: Be sure to order the wine pairing with this experience).

For more information go to: the pearlrb.com and rosemary beach. com



# THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW BUT PROBABLY DON'T

- 1 . Money isn't made out of paper, it's made out of cotton..
- 2. The Declaration of Independence was written on hemp (marijuana) paper.
- 3. The dot over the letter i is called a "tittle".
- 4. A raisin dropped in a glass of fresh champagne will bounce up and down continuously from the bottom of the glass to the top.
- 5. Susan Lucci is the daughter of Phyllis Diller.
  That's incredible!!!!!!
- 6. 40% of McDonald's profits come from the sales of Happy Meals!
- 7. 315 entries in Webster's 1996 Dictionary were misspelled.
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- 8. The 'spot' on 7UP comes from its inventor, who had red eyes. He was albino.
- 9. On average, 12 newborns will be given to the wrong parents, daily.
- 10. Warren Beatty and Shirley MacLaine are brother and sister.
- 11. Chocolate affects a dog's heart and nervous system; a few ounces will kill a small sized dog.
- 12. Orcas (killer whales) kill sharks by torpedoing up into the shark's stomach from underneath, causing the shark to explode.
- 13. Most lipstick contains fish scales (eeww).
- 14. Donald Duck comics were banned from Finland because he doesn't wear pants.
- 15. Ketchup was sold in the 1830's as medicine.
- 16. Upper and lower case letters are named 'upper' And 'lower' because in the time when all original print had to be set in individual letters, the upper case' letters were stored in the case on top of the case that stored the smaller, 'lower case' letters.
- 17. Leonardo DA Vinci could write with one hand and draw with the other at the same time, hence, multi-tasking was invented.
- 18. Because metal was scarce, the Oscars given out during World War II were made of wood.
- 19. There are no clocks in Las Vegas gambling casinos.
- 20. The name Wendy was made up for the book Peter Pan; There was never a recorded Wendy before!
- 21. There are no words in the dictionary that rhyme With: orange, purple, and silver!
- 22. Leonardo DaVinci invented scissors. Also, it took him 10 years to paint Mona Lisa's lips.

- 23. A tiny amount of liquor on a scorpion will make It instantly go mad and sting itself to death. Someone actually was bored enough to find this out,, and I thought I was bored.....
- 24. The mask used by Michael Myers in the original "Halloween" was a Captain Kirk's mask painted white.
- 25. If you have three quarters, four dimes, and four pennies, you have \$1.19 You also have the largest amount of money in coins without being able to make change for a dollar (good to know.)
- 26. By raising your legs slowly and lying on your back, you can't sink in quicksand (and you thought this list was completely useless.)
- 27. The phrase "rule of thumb" is derived from an old English law, which stated that you couldn't beat your wife With anything wider than your thumb.
- 28. The first product Motorola started to develop was a record player for automobiles. At that time, the most known player on the market was the Victrola, so they called themselves Motorola.
- 29. Celery has negative calories! It takes more calories to eat a piece of celery than the celery has in it to begin with. It's the same with apples!
- 30. Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying!
- 31. The glue on Israeli postage stamps is certified kosher..
- 32. Guinness Book of Records holds the record for being the book most often stolen from Public Libraries.
- 33. Astronauts are not allowed to eat beans before they go into space because passing wind in a space suit damages it.

# **Elderly Humor:**

Two elderly residents, a man and a woman, were sitting alone in the lobby of their nursing home one evening.

The old man looked over and said to the old lady, "I know just what you're wanting, and for \$5 I'll have sex with you right over there in that rocking chair." The old lady looked surprised but didn't say a word. The old man continued, "For \$10 I'll do it with you on that nice soft sofa over there, but for \$20 I'll take you back to my room, light some candles, and give you the most romantic evening you've ever had in your life." The old lady still says nothing but after a couple of minutes, starts digging down in her purse. She pulls out a wrinkled \$20 and holds it up. "So you want the nice romantic evening in my room," says the old man. "Get serious!" she said, "Four times in the rocker."

# **MORE SENIOR HUMOR:**

It was entertainment night at the Senior Center and the Amazing Claude was topping the bill. People came from miles around to see the famed hypnotist do his stuff. As Claude went to the front of the meeting room, he announced, "Unlike most hypnotists who invite two or three people up here to be put into a trance, I intend to hypnotize each and every member of the audience." The excitement was almost electric as Claude withdrew a beautiful antique pocket watch from his coat. "I want you



each to keep your eye on this antique watch. It's a very special watch. It's been in my family for six generations. "He began to swing the watch gently back and forth while quietly chanting. "Watch the watch, watch the watch, watch the watch. "The crowd became mesmerized as the watch swayed back and forth, light gleaming off its polished surface. Hundreds of pairs of eyes followed the swaying watch, until, suddenly, it slipped from the Hypnotist's fingers and fell to the floor, breaking into a hundred pieces. "SHIT," said the Hypnotist. It took three days to clean up the Senior Center.

# **PUNS OLD AND NEW:**

The ability to make and understand PUNS is the highest level of language development. Here are the 10 first place winners in the International Pun Contest:

- 1. A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, "I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger."
- 2. Two fish swim into a concrete wall. The one turns to the other and says, "Dam!"

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- 3. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.
- 4. Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, "I've lost my electron." The other says, "Are you sure?" The first replies "Yes, I'm positive."
- 5. Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcend dental medication.
- 6. A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked as they moved off. "Because," he said, "I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer."
- 7. A woman has twins and gives them up for adoption.
  One of them goes to a family in Egypt and is named
  "Ahmal." The other goes to a family in Spain; they name
  him "Juan." Years later, Juan sends a picture of himself to
  his birth mother. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her
  husband that she wishes she also had a picture of Ahmal.
  Her husband responds, "They're twins! If you've seen Juan,
  you've seen Ahmal."
- 8. A group of friars were behind on their belfry payments, so they opened up a small florist shop to raise funds. Since everyone liked to buy flowers from the men of God, a rival florist across town thought the competition was unfair. He asked the good fathers to close down, but they would not. He went back and begged the friars to close. They ignored him. So, the rival florist hired Hugh MacTaggart, the roughest and most vicious thug in town to "persuade" them to close. Hugh beat up the friars and trashed their store, saying he'd be back if they didn't close up shop. Terrified, they did so, thereby proving that only Hugh can prevent florist friars.
- 9. Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and, with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him a super calloused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.
- 10. And finally, there was the person who sent ten different

puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

# 

A biker was riding along a California beach when suddenly the sky clouded above his head and, in a booming voice, the Lord said, "Because you have tried to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish" The biker pulled over and said, "Build a bridge to Hawaii so I can ride over anytime I want." The Lord said, "Your request is materialistic, think of the enormous challenges for that kind of undertaking. The supports required to reach the bottom of the Pacific! The concrete and steel it would take! It will nearly exhaust several natural resources. I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of something that would honor and glorify me." The biker thought about it for a long time. Finally he said," Lord, I wish that I could understand my wife. I want to know how she feels inside, what she's thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says nothing's wrong, and how I can make a woman truly happy." The Lord replied, "You want two lanes or four on that bridge?"

# **Mammograms**

Many women are afraid of their first mammogram, but there is no need to worry. By taking a few minutes each day for a week preceding the exam and doing the following exercises, you will be totally prepared for the test and best of all, you can do these simple exercises right in and around your home.

# **EXERCISE ONE:**

Open your refrigerator door and insert one breast in door. Shut thedoor as hard as possible and lean on the door for good measure. Hold that position for five seconds. Repeat again in case the first time wasn't effective enough.

# **EXERCISE TWO:**

Visit your garage at 3AM when the temperature of the cement floor is just perfect. Take off all your clothes and lie comfortably on the floor with one breast wedged under the rear tire of the car. Ask a friend to slowly back the car up until your breast is sufficiently





flattened and chilled. Turn over and repeat with the other breast.

#### **EXERCISE THREE:**

Freeze two metal bookends overnight. Strip to the waist. Invite a stranger into the room. Press the bookends against one of your breasts. Smash the bookends together as hard as you can. Set up an appointment with the stranger to meet next year and do it again.

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# A Friend Is Like A Good Bra...

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Never Lets You Down or Leaves You Hanging

And Is Always Close To Your Heart!

# **WINTER BLONDE**

As a trucker stops for a red light, a blonde catches up. She jumps out of her car, runs up to his truck, and knocks on the door. The trucker lowers the window, and she says "Hi,



my name is Heather and you are losing some of your load." The trucker ignores her and proceeds down the street. When the truck stops for another red light, the girl catches up again. She jumps out of her car, runs up and knocks on The door. Again, the trucker lowers the window. As if they've never spoken, the blonde says brightly, "Hi, my name is Heather, and you are losing some of your load!" Shaking his head, the trucker ignores her again and continues down the street. At the third red light, the same thing happens again. All out of breath, the blonde gets out of her car, runs up, knocks on the truck door. The trucker rolls down the window. Again she says "Hi, my name is Heather, and you are losing some of your load! " When the light turns green the trucker revs up and races to the next light. When he stops this time, he hurriedly gets out of the truck, and runs back to the blonde. He knocks on her window, and after she lowers it, he says... "Hi, my name is Kevin. It's winter in Pittsburgh and I'm driving the SALT TRUCK!"

# **DEAD MAN WALKING:**

The Lamaze class was in full swing. The instructor was teaching the women how to breathe properly, and was telling the men how to give the necessary assurances to their partners at this stage of the pregnancy.

She said: "Ladies, remember that exercise is GOOD for you. Walking is especially beneficial. It strengthens the pelvic muscles and will make delivery that much easier!" She looked at the men in the room. "And gentlemen, remember. You're in this together. It wouldn't hurt you to go walking with your partner."The room suddenly got very quiet as the men absorbed this information. Then a man at the back of the room slowly raised his hand. Yes?" answered the teacher.

The room was full of pregnant women, with their partners.

"I was just wondering," the man said. "Is it all right if she carries a golf bag while we walk?"

# **The Three Little Pigs**

Three Little Pigs went out to dinner one night. The waiter came and took their drink order. "I would like a Sprite," said the first little piggy. "I would like a Coke," said the second little piggy. "I want beer, lots and lots of beer," said the third little piggy. The drinks were brought out and the waiter took their orders for dinner. "I want a nice big steak," said the first piggy. "I would like the salad plate," said the second piggy. "I want beer, lots and lots of beer," said the

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third little piggy. The meals were brought out and a while later the waiter approached the table and asked if the piggy's would like any dessert. "I want a banana split," said the first piggy. "I want a cheesecake," said the second piggy. "I want beer, lots and lots of beer," exclaimed the third little piggy. "Pardon me for asking," said the waiter to the third little piggy," But why have you only ordered beer all evening?" You're gonna LOVE this.... The third piggy says - "Well, somebody has to go 'Wee, wee, wee, all the way home!

# **NAVAJO WOMAN:**

For all of us who are married, were married, wish you were married, or wish you weren't married, this is something to smile about the next time you see a bottle of wine:

Sally was driving home from one of her business trips in Northern Arizona when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of the road. As the trip was a long and quiet one, she stopped the car and asked the Navajo woman if she would like a ride. With a silent nod of thanks, the woman got into the car. Resuming the journey, Sally tried in vain to make a bit of small talk with the Navajo woman. The old woman just sat silently, looking intently at everything she saw, studying every little detail, until she noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Sally. "What in bag?" asked the old woman



Sally looked down at the brown bag and said, "It's a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband." The Navajo woman was silent for another moment or two. Then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder, she said: "Good trade....."

# **APPLYING FOR SOCIAL SECURITY:**

After retiring, I went to the social security office to apply for Social Security. The woman behind the counter asked me for my driver's license to verify my age. I looked in my pockets and realized I had left my wallet at home. I told the woman that I was very sorry but I seemed to have left my wallet at Home "I will have to go home and come back later." The woman says, "Unbutton your shirt." So I opened my shirt revealing my curly silver hair. She says, "That silver hair on your chest is proof enough for me" and she processed my Social Security application. When I got home, I told my wife about my experience at the social security office. She said, "You should have dropped your pants. You might have gotten disability too."

# Unique and Useful Tips! Reheat Pizza

Heat up leftover pizza in a non-stick skillet on top of the stove, set heat to med-low and heat till warm. This keeps the crust crispy. No soggy micro pizza. I saw this on the cooking channel and it really works.

# **Easy Deviled Eggs**

Put cooked egg yolks in a zip lock bag. Seal, mash till they are all broken up. Add remainder of ingredients, reseal, keep mashing it up mixing thoroughly, cut the corner tip of the baggy, squeeze mixture into egg. Just throw bag away when done easy clean up.

# **Expanding Frosting**

When you buy a container of cake frosting from the store, whip it with your mixer for a few minutes. You can double it in size. You get to frost more cake/cupcakes with the same amount. You also eat less sugar/calories per serving.

# **Reheating Refrigerated Bread**

To warm biscuits, pancakes, or muffins that were refrigerated, place them in a microwave with a cup of water. The increased moisture will keep the food moist and help it reheat faster.



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#### **Newspaper Weeds Away**

Start putting in your plants; work the nutrients in your soil. Wet newspapers put layers around the plants overlapping as you go cover with mulch and forget about weeds. Weeds will get through some gardening plastic they will not get through wet newspapers.

#### **Broken Glass**

Use a dry cotton ball to pick up little broken glass pieces of glass- the fibers catch ones you can't see!

# **No More Mosquitoes**

Place a dryer sheet in your pocket. It will keep the mosquitoes away.

# **Squirrel Away!**

To keep squirrels from eating your plants sprinkle your plants with cayenne pepper. The cayenne pepper doesn't hurt the plant and the squirrels won't come near it.

#### Flexible Vacuum

To get something out of a heat register or under the

fridge add an empty paper towel roll or empty gif wrap roll to your vacuum hose. It can be bent or flattened to get in narrow openings.

# **Reducing Static Cling**

Pin a small safety pin to the seam of your slip and you will not have a clingy skirt or dress. Same thing works with slacks that cling when wearing panty hose. Place pin in seam of slacks and - voila - static is gone.

# **Measuring Cups**

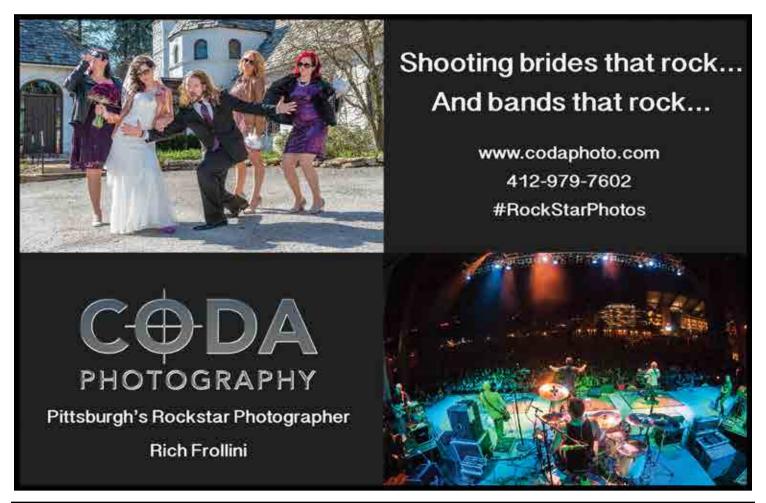
Before you pour sticky substances into a measuring cup, fill it with hot water. Dump out the hot water, but don't dry the cup. Next, add your ingredient, such as peanut butter, and watch how easily it comes right out.

# Foggy Windshield?

Hate foggy windshields? Buy a chalkboard eraser and keep it in the glove box of your car. When the windows fog, rub with the eraser! Works better than a cloth!

# **Reopening Envelope**

If you seal an envelope and then realize you forgot to



include something inside, just place your sealed envelope in the freezer for an hour or two. Voila! It unseals easily.

#### Conditioner

Use your hair conditioner to shave your legs. It's a lot cheaper than shaving cream and leaves your legs really smooth. It's also a great way to use up the conditioner you bought but didn't like when you tried it in your hair...

# **Goodbye Fruit Flies**

To get rid of pesky fruit flies, take a small glass fill it 1/2" with Apple Cider Vinegar and 2 drops of dishwashing liquid, mix well. You will find those flies drawn to the cup and gone forever!

# **Get Rid of Ants**

Put small piles of cornmeal where you see ants. They eat it, take it "home," & can't digest it so it kills them. It may take a week or so, esp. if it rains, but it works & you don't have the worry about pets or small children being harmed!

# Take baby powder to the beach

Keep a small bottle of baby powder in your beach bag. When your ready to leave the beach sprinkle yourself and kids with the powder and the sand will slide right off your skin.

# **WORLD PEACE:**

Shortly after the Pope had apologized to the Jewish people for the treatment of Jews by the Catholic Church over the years, Ariel Sharon, the Prime Minister of Israel, sent a proposal to the College of Cardinals for a friendly game of golf to be played between the two leaders, or their representatives, to demonstrate the friendship and ecumenical spirit shared by the Catholics and the Jews. The Pope then met with the College of Cardinals to discuss the proposal. "Your Holiness," said one of the Cardinals, "Mr. Sharon wants to challenge you to a game of golf to show that you are old and unable to compete. I am afraid that this would tarnish our image in the world." The Pope thought about this, and since he had





never held a golf club in his life asked, "Don't we have a Cardinal to represent me?" "None who plays golf very well," a Cardinal replied. "But," he added, "There is a man named Jack Nicklaus, an American golfer, who is a devout Catholic. We can arrange to make him a Cardinal, and then ask him to play Sharon as your personal representative. In addition to showing our spirit of cooperation, we will also win the match."Everyone agreed that this was a great idea. The call was made. Of course, Nicklaus was honored, and he agreed to play as a representative of the Pope. The day after the match, Nicklaus reported to the Vatican to inform the Pope of the result."This is Cardinal Nicklaus. I have some good news and some bad news, Your Holiness," said the golfer. "Tell me the good news, Cardinal Nicklaus," said the Pope. "Well, Your Holiness, I don't like to brag, but even though I have played some terrific rounds of golf in my life, this was the best I have ever played, by far. I must have been inspired from above. My drives were long and true, my irons were accurate and purposeful, and my putting was perfect. With all due respect, my play was truly miraculous.""How can there be bad news?" the Pope asked."I lost by three strokes to Rabbi Woods."

# **MORE DARWIN AWARDS:**

Yes, it's that magical time of the year again when the Darwin Awards are bestowed, honoring the least evolved among us. Here then, are the glorious winners:

10. When a man attempted to siphon gasoline from a motor home parked on a Seattle street, he got much more than he bargained for. Police arrived at the scene to find a very sick man curled up next to a motor home near spilled sewage. A police spokesman said that the man admitted to trying to steal gasoline & plugged his siphon hose into the motor home's sewage tank by mistake. The owner of the vehicle declined to press charges, saying that it was the best laugh he'd ever had.

9. The Ann Arbor News crime column reported that a man walked into a Burger King in Ypsilanti, Michigan, at 5 A.M., flashed a gun, & demanded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order. When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast. The man, frustrated, walked away.

A 5-STAR STUPIDITY AWARD WINNER



- 8. As a female shopper exited a New York convenience store, a man grabbed her purse & ran. The clerk called 911 immediately, & the woman was able to give them a detailed description of the snatcher. Within minutes, the police apprehended the snatcher. They put him in the car & drove back to the store. The thief was then taken out of the car & told to stand there for a positive ID. To which he replied, "Yes, officer, that's her. That's the lady I stole the purse from."
- 7. Seems an Arkansas guy wanted some beer pretty badly. He decided that he'd just throw a cinderblock through a liquor store window, grab some booze, & run. So he lifted the cinderblock & heaved it over his head at the window. The cinderblock bounced back & hit the would-be thief on the head, knocking him unconscious. The liquor store window was made of Plexiglas. The whole event was caught on videotape.
- 6. A man walked into a Louisiana Circle-K, put a \$20 bill on the counter, & asked for change. When the clerk opened the cash drawer, the man pulled a gun & asked for all the cash in the register, which the clerk promptly provided. The man took the cash from the clerk and fled, leaving the \$20 bill

- on the counter. The total amount of cash he got from the drawer...\$15. (If someone points a gun at you & gives you money, is a crime committed?)
- 5. An American teenager was in the hospital recovering from serious head wounds received from an oncoming train. When asked how he received the injuries, the lad told police that he was simply trying to see how close he could get his head to a moving train before he was hit.
- 4. After stopping for drinks at an illegal bar, a Zimbabwean bus driver found that the 20 mental patients he was supposed to be transporting from Harare to Bulawayo had escaped. Not wanting to admit his incompetence, the driver went to a nearby bus stop & offered everyone waiting there a free ride. He then delivered the passengers to the mental hospital, telling the staff that the patients were very excitable & prone to bizarre fantasies. The deception wasn't discovered for 3 days.
- 3. A man who shoveled snow for an hour to clear a space for his car during a blizzard in Chicago returned with his vehicle to find a woman had taken the space. Understandably, he shot her.



- 5. "Thank you for flying Delta Express. We hope you enjoyed giving us the business as much as we enjoyed taking you for a ride."
- 6. As the plane landed and was coming to a stop at Greater Pittsburgh International Airport Ronald Reagan, a lone voice came over the loudspeaker: "Whoa, big fella. WHOA!"
- 7. After a particularly rough landing during thunderstorms in Memphis, a flight attendant on a Northwest flight announced, "Please take care when opening the overhead compartments because, after a landing like that, sure as hell everything has shifted."
- 8. From a Southwest Airlines employee: "Welcome aboard Southwest Flight 245 to Tampa . To operate your seat belt, insert the metal tab into the buckle, and pull tight.. It works just like every other seat belt; and, if you don't know how to operate one, you probably shouldn't be out in public unsupervised."
- 9. "In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the

- mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child traveling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are traveling with more than one small child, pick your favorite."
- 10. "Weather at our destination is 50 degrees with some broken clouds, but we'll try to have them fixed before we arrive. Thank you, and remember, nobody loves you, or your money, more than Southwest Airlines."
- 11. "Your seat cushions can be used for flotation; and, in the event of an emergency water landing, please paddle to shore and take them with our compliments."
- 12. "As you exit the plane, make sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses."
- 13. And from the pilot during his welcome message: "Delta Airlines is pleased to have some of the best flight attendants in the industry. Unfortunately, none of them are on this flight!"



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the warmer
weather
ahead!!

14. Heard on Southwest Airlines just after a very hard landing in Salt Lake City the flight attendant came on the intercom and said, "That was quite a bump, and I know what y'all are thinking. I'm here to tell you it wasn't the airline's fault, it wasn't the pilot's fault, it wasn't the flight attendant's fault, it was the asphalt."

15. Overheard on an American Airlines flight into Amarillo, Texas, on a particularly windy and bumpy day: During the final approach, the Captain was really having to fight it. After an extremely hard landing, the Flight Attendant said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Amarillo . Please remain in your seats with your seat belts fastened while the Captain taxis what's left of our airplane to the gate!"

16. Another flight attendant's comment on a less than perfect landing: "We ask you to please remain seated as Captain Kangaroo bounces us to the terminal."

17. An airline pilot wrote that on this particular flight he had hammered his ship into the runway really hard. The airline had a policy which required the first officer to stand at the

door while the Passengers exited, smile, and give them a "Thanks for flying our airline." He said that, in light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment. Finally everyone had gotten off except for a little old lady walking with a cane. She said, "Sir, do you mind if I ask you a question?" "Why, no, Ma'am," said the pilot. "What is it?" The little old lady said, "Did we land, or were we shot down?"

18. After a real crusher of a landing in Phoenix, the attendant came on with, "Ladies and Gentlemen, please remain in your seats until Capt. Crash and the Crew have brought the aircraft to a screeching halt against the gate. And, once the tire smoke has cleared and the warning bells are silenced, we'll open the door and you can pick your way through the wreckage to the terminal."

19. Part of a flight attendant's arrival announcement: "We'd like to thank you folks for flying with us today. And, the next time you get the insane urge to go blasting through the skies in a pressurized metal tube, we hope you'll think of flying American."

20. Heard on a Southwest Airline flight. "Ladies and gentlemen, if you wish to smoke, the smoking section on this airplane is on the wing and if you can light 'em, you can smoke 'em."

21. A plane was taking off from Kennedy Airport. After it reached a comfortable cruising altitude, the captain made an announcement over the intercom, "Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. Welcome to Flight No. 293, nonstop from New York to Los Angeles . The weather ahead is good and, therefore, we should have a smooth and uneventful flight. Now sit back and relax.. OH, MY GOD!" Silence followed, and after a few minutes, the captain came back on the intercom and said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, I am so sorry if I scared you earlier. While I was talking to you, the flight attendant accidentally spilled a cup of hot coffee in my lap. You should see the front of my pants!" A passenger in Coach yelled, "That's nothing. You should see the back of mine."

#### **Good Pilot Philosophies:**

The difference between a duck and a co-pilot? The duck can fly.

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A check ride ought to be like a skirt--short enough to be interesting, but long enough to cover everything.

Speed is life. Altitude is life insurance.

It only takes two things to fly: airspeed, and money.

The three most dangerous things in aviation: A Doctor or Dentist in a Cessna Two captains in a DC-9.

A flight attendant with a chipped tooth.

Aircraft Identification:
If it's ugly, it's British.
If it's weird, it's French.
If it's ugly and weird, it's Russian.

Without ammunition, the USAF would be just another very expensive flying club.

The similarity between air traffic controllers and pilots? If a pilot screws up, the pilot dies. If ATC screws up, the pilot dies.

It's better to break ground and head into the wind than to break wind and head into the ground.

The difference between flight attendants and jet engines is that the engines usually quit whining when they get to the gate.

New FAA motto: "We're not happy, till you're not happy."

A copilot is a knot head until he spots opposite direction traffic at 12 o'clock, after which he's a goof-off for not seeing it sooner.

If something hasn't broken on your helicopter--it's about to.

I give that landing a 9 . . . on the Richter scale.







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#### **Basic Flying Rules:**

- 1. Try to stay in the middle of the air.
- 2. Do not go near the edges of it.
- 3. The edges of the air can be recognized by the appearance of ground, buildings, sea, trees and interstellar space. It is much more difficult to fly in the edges. Unknown landing signal officer to carrier pilot after his 6th unsuccessful landing attempt: "You've got to land here son. This is where the food is."

#### **GROUCHY:**

Children today are well aware of what goes on in the home I do believe.... A 2nd grader asked her mother the ageold question,"How did I get here?" Her mother told her, "God sent you.""Did God send you, too?" asked the child. "Yes, Dear," the mother replied. "What about Grandma and Grandpa?" the child persisted. "He sent them also" the mother said. "Did he send their parents, too?" asked the child. "Yes, Dear, He did," said the mother patiently. So you're telling me that there has been NO sex in this family for 200 years? No wonder everyone's so grouchy around here."

#### **BUY A DOG!!**

If you want someone who will bring you the paper without first tearing it apart to remove the sports section... then buy a dog.

If you want someone willing to make a fool of himself simply over the joy of seeing you...then buy a dog.

If you want someone who will eat whatever you put in front of him and never says it's not quite as good as his mother made it...then buy a dog.

If you want someone always willing to go out, at any hour, for as long and

wherever you want...then buy a dog.

If you want someone who will never touch the remote, doesn't care about football, and can sit next to you as you watch romantic movies...then buy a dog.

If you want someone who is content to get up on your bed just to warm your feet and whom you can push off if he snores...then buy a dog.

If you want someone who never criticizes what you do, doesn't care if you are pretty or ugly, fat or thin, young or old, who acts as if every word you say is especially worthy of listening to, and loves you unconditionally, perpetually...then buy a dog.

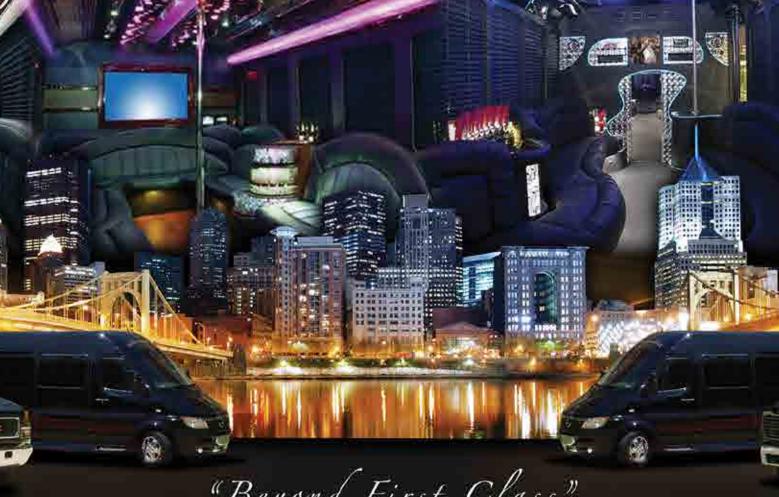
But, on the other hand, if you want someone who will never come when you call, ignores you totally when you come home, leaves hair all over the place, walks all over you, runs around all night and only comes home to eat and sleep, and acts as if your entire existence is solely to ensure his happiness...then buy a cat!

#### **EINSTEIN:**

Few people remember that the Nobel Prize winner married his cousin, Elsa Lowenthal, after his first marriage dissolved in 1919. He stated that he was attracted to Elsa because she was well endowed, and postulated that if you are attracted to women with large breasts, the attraction is stronger if there is a DNA connection. We honor Nobel Prize winner Albert Einstein. March 14th is Einstein's birthday. He would have been 138. Celebrate his birthday by testing your knowledge against these ten facts.

1. His Family Had Grave Worries about Him as a Child

# LIMOUSINE

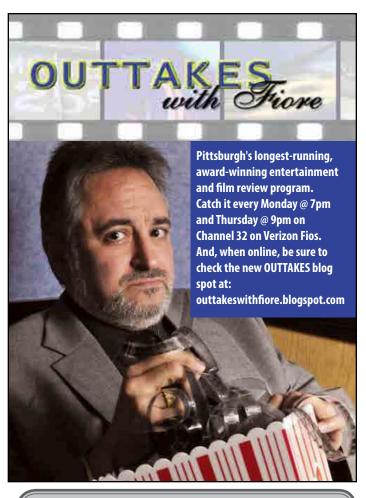


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When Einstein was born on March 14, 1879, his parents were afraid that he was deformed because his head was so large and misshapen. Their physician was not concerned and within a few weeks, Einstein's head was shaped normally. However, his grandmother said, "Much too fat, much too fat!" the first time she saw him.

Later, Einstein's parents thought he might be mentally retarded because he did not speak until he was four years old. He broke his silence one night at dinner saying, "The soup is too hot." When his parents asked why he had not spoken previously, the young Einstein responded, "Because up to now everything was in order." Still, he spoke only haltingly until he was nine years old, practicing sentences in his head or under his breath until he got them right.

2. He Had an Illegitimate Daughter

Before Einstein married his first wife, Mileva, they discovered that she was pregnant. They were too poor to marry and so Mileva returned to her family and gave birth to a girl named Lieserl. Einstein and Mileva kept the child's existence a secret and it is unknown what happened to the girl or if Einstein ever saw her. Most believe that Lieserl either died from scarlet fever or was given up for adoption while still a baby.

3. He Created Strict Rules for His First Wife
Einstein grew apart from his first wife, Mileva, after becoming
a successful academic. After they tried reconciling, Einstein
proposed a "contract" under which they could continue living
together. His conditions were as follows:

A. You will make sure

- 1. that my clothes and laundry are kept in good order;
- 2. that I will receive my three meals regularly in my room;
- 3. that my bedroom and study are kept neat, and especially that my desk is left for my use only.
- B. You will renounce all personal relations with me insofar as they are not completely necessary for social reasons. He further demanded that, "you will stop talking to me if I request it." Mileva accepted his terms, but the two ultimately divorced.
- 4. He Did Not Win the Nobel Prize for His Theory of Relativity Einstein won the 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics "for his services to Theoretical Physics, and especially for his discovery of the law of the photoelectric effect." The Nobel Committee wrote that it was awarding the prize to Einstein "without taking into account the value that will be accorded your relativity and gravitational theories after these are confirmed in the future." While

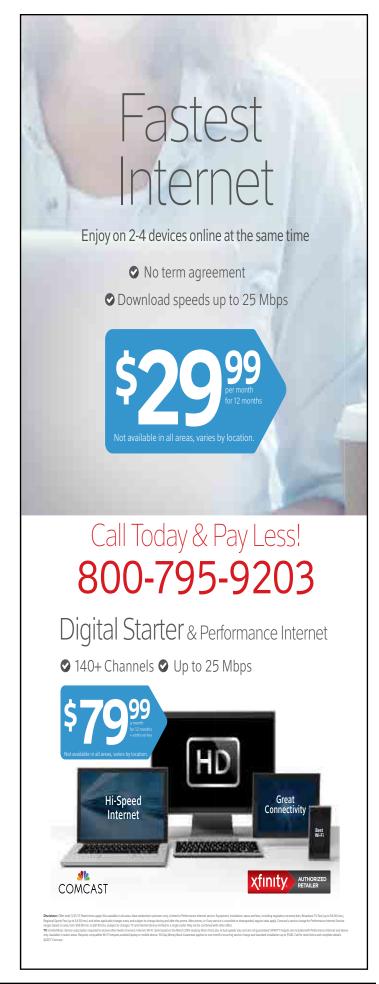
astrophysicist Arthur Eddington had proved the theory of relativity in 1919, the Nobel Committee believed Eddington's work was too unreliable to serve as proof.

- 5. He Never Touched His Nobel Prize Money
  Einstein divorced his first wife, Mileva, on February 14,
  1919. As part of their divorce settlement, Einstein signed
  away all future Nobel Prize money, in the event that he
  should win some. The money was placed in a trust for his
  sons. His wife could use the interest on the money, but had
  no ability to access the capital.
- 6. He Suggested an Alternate Big-Bang Theory
  According to a recently discovered manuscript, Einstein
  proposed an alternate Big-Bang theory in 1931. The
  document was stored in the Albert Einstein Archives in
  Jerusalem and overlooked for decades. While it had been
  available for view online, the manuscript was mistakenly
  described as the first draft for a different paper. The
  document shows Einstein's initial excitement over the BigBang theory, a "rough draft" according to James Peebles of
  Princeton University. However, as Einstein never pursued
  the concept, academics believe that he was merely
  exploring an intriguing idea.

#### 7. He Had a Terrible Memory

Einstein's memory was notoriously poor. He was unable to remember dates and could not remember his own phone number. As a student, one of his teachers claimed that he had a memory like a sieve. Once when he was traveling on a train, the conductor approached to collect his ticket. Einstein began searching his pockets, but the conductor recognized him and said he could ride for free. Einstein responded, "Thank you, but if I don't find my ticket I won't know where to get off the train."

- 8. He Was Offered (and Declined) the Presidency of Israel Shortly after the death of Israel's first president, Chaim Weizmann, David Ben-Gurion asked Einstein to become the second president of Israel. Einstein declined, stating that at 73 years of age he was too old for the job and that he lacked the "natural aptitude and the experience to deal properly with people."
- 9. His Body Was Cremated... Except for His Brain After performing an autopsy on Einstein's body, pathologist Thomas Harvey kept his brain after the rest of the body





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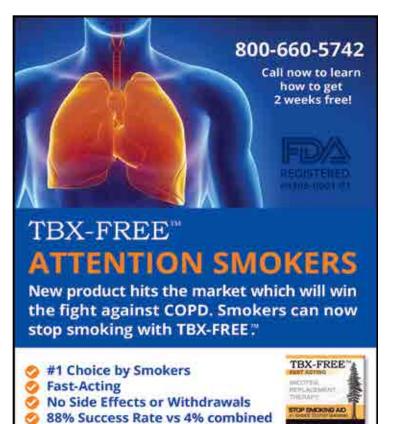
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was cremated. Despite violating Einstein's wishes, Harvey convinced Einstein's son to let him keep it for further study. Although Princeton fired Harvey, he kept Einstein's brain more than forty years, chopping it into pieces and storing it in two mason jars. He occasionally sent pieces of the brain to specialists around the country, some of whom discovered unique attributes to the brain. In one test, the tissue appeared denser than in normal brains and the inferior parietal lobe was larger. Finally, in 1998, Harvey returned the brain to Princeton University saying, "Eventually you get tired of the responsibility of having it."

10. His Final Words Were Lost in Translation
Einstein died in his sleep at Princeton Hospital on April
18, 1955. He suffered a ruptured aneurysm and refused
surgical treatment. He explained, "I want to go when I
want. It is tasteless to prolong life artificially. I have done
my share, it is time to go. I will do it elegantly." Before
dying, Einstein said a few words to the nurse, but he spoke
in German and the nurse did not understand.

#### WHO AM I?

One Monday morning a mailman is walking the neighborhood on his usual route. As he approaches one of the homes he noticed that both cars were in the driveway. His wonder was cut short by Bob, the homeowner, coming out with a load of empty beer and liquor bottles."Wow Bob, looks like you guys had one hell of a party last night," the mailman comments. Bob, in obvious pain, replies "Actually we had it Saturday night. This is the first I have felt like moving since 4:00 am Sunday morning. We had about fifteen couples from around the neighborhood over for some weekend fun and it got a bit wild. Hell, we got so drunk around midnight that we started playing WHO AM I?"The mailman thinks a moment and says, "How do you play that?""Well, all the guys go in the bedroom and we come out one at a time with a sheet covering us and only our "privates" showing through a hole in the sheet. Then the women try to guess who it is."The mailman laughs and says, "Damn, I'm sorry I missed that.""Probably a good thing you did," Bob responds. "Your name came up seven times."

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