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"It is said that power corrupts, but actually it's more true that power attracts the corruptible."
~ David Brin

THIS JUST IN...

A recent study found the average American walks about 900 miles per year. Another study found American beer drinkers drink, on average, 22 gallons of beer a year. That means, on average, beer drinking Americans get about 41 miles to the gallon!

"When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane." ~ Steven Wright

OBLIGATORY IRISH JOKE

My favorite is still the drunk Clancy twins, but here goes:
Into a Belfast pub comes Paddy Murphy, looking like he'd just been run over by a train. His arm is in a sling, his nose is broken, his face is cut and bruised and he's walking with a limp.

"What happened to you?" asks Sean, the bartender.

"Jamie O'Conner and me had a fight," says Paddy.

"That little punk, O'Conner!" fumes Sean. "He couldn't do that to you. He must have had something in his hand."

"That he did," says Paddy, "A shovel is what he had, and a terrible lickin' he gave me with it."

"Well," says Sean, "you should have defended yourself. Didn't you have nuttin' in your hand?"

"That I did," said Paddy. "Mrs. O'Conner's breast. And a thing of beauty it was, but useless in a fight."

To Alcoholics Anonymous, St. Patrick's Day is known as 'Amateur Night.' ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

AND SPEAKING OF CHESTNUTS...

According to Judith Stone in an article for *Smithsonian* magazine, the oldest joke in the world was found on an ancient papyrus and revealed in the *Sunday Times* of London in 1997. It was around 2600 BC when court magician Djadjamonkh delivered this zinger to King Snefru:

"How do you entertain a bored Pharaoh," he asked rhetorically. "You sail a boatload of pretty girls down the Nile dressed only in fishing nets and say, 'Go catch a fish!'"

It only goes to prove that "funny is funny" even if a joke is 4,608 years old!

"Our 12-step program was cancelled due to the total healing of all its members." ~ Dr. David Walker, LACRS

IN THE NOOSE

First off, two teams of physicists in Calgary and Tokyo successfully stored "nothing" within a gas, in the form of a squeezed vacuum "composed of uncertainty." They then

retrieved the nothing. Now, that's really something!

In animal news, although we lost Washoe, a signing chimp and Alex, the cantankerous parrot who when trying to teach his mates how to speak would yell "Talk clearly!" – scientists have discovered that Puttynosed Monkeys can communicate to their peers in the wild when a predator is near: "pyongs" for a leopard and "haks" for an eagle.

Also, observed for the first time, a dolphin named "Moko" saved the lives of two stranded pygmy whales in New Zealand by successfully guiding them back to sea after numerous attempts by humans had failed. <http://www.enn.com/wildlife/article/32859>

And though dogs must be kept on leashes in Amsterdam's largest public park, lovers can now have unbridled sex with more toilets and bins for used condoms added. One citizen commented that public sex is only a nuisance when you do it during the day or at the start of the evening.

Or when you have a headache. www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1982504/posts

"On the whole, human beings want to be good, but not too good and not quite all the time." ~ George Orwell

CH-CH-CH-CHANGES

The USAF changed the name of Area 51 to "Homey" and its own motto to "Above all!" which, of course, translates into German as "Über Alles!" And the Pentagon decided to withdraw (censor?) a news release announcing that an intensive study of thousands of captured Iraqi documents showed absolutely no connections to the Taliban under the regime of late dictator Saddam Hussein. Who pulled the plug?

Meanwhile, an exhaustive Gallup study of Muslims covering 6 years and 40 countries has concluded that only 7% of the population of Islam (both better educated and better off than their peers) condones the terrorist attacks on 9/11, citing political (not religious) reasons, often quoting the Koran, which says, "Taking one innocent life is like killing all humanity." So are we at war with Islam or just those that slam planes into buildings?

That's hard to say. Those interviewed describe us as "ruthless, aggressive, conceited, arrogant, easily provoked and biased" and most deny that Arabs carried out the attacks. And though they profess a desire for self-determination, they do not want Western ways forced upon them but seek "democracy with religious values."

Wait a minute! Isn't that what many Americans want? Just asking...

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALEqM5iZlsZRgzHmgwj6sKpA7PR5F5Ecsw>

"Fidel Castro is retiring. He wants to spend more time at home, torturing his family." ~ David Letterman

DON'T CRUSH THAT DWARF

Swedish gangs are supposedly packing tiny people into suitcases and instructing them to emerge inside the bus' luggage compartments. They go through the other bags, steal valuables and then zip themselves back into their own suitcases.

"We are looking at our records to identify criminals of limited stature," said a police spokesman. www.mypointless.com/2008/01/no-small-crime.htm

"What we need is more people who specialize in the impossible." ~Theodore Roethke

BRINED PIG AND CABBAGE?

Although not an "official" holiday, St. Patty's Day celebrates all things Irish. But -- our beloved corned beef is not one of them!

Although thought of as the quintessential "Irish meal", corned beef and cabbage was derived from another group... the Jews! Irish immigrants, living in New York's lower east side discovered corned beef from their neighbors, and the more expensive brined bacon, the traditional meaty mate to boiled cabbage, was replaced with corned beef for its similar texture and flavor.

And – it's cheaper! La'chaim! Let's eat!

"What do AA members call St. Patrick's day? Amateur night," ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

MAKE THE PIE HIGHER

"I think we all agree, the past is over.
This is still a dangerous world.
It's a world of madmen and uncertainty
And potential mental losses.
Rarely is the question asked
Is our children learning?
Will the highways of the Internet
Become more few?
How many hands have I shaken?
They underestimate me.
I am a pitbull on the pantleg of opportunity.
I know that the human being
And the fish can coexist.
Families is where our nation finds hope,
Where our wings take dream.
Put food on your family!
Knock down the tollbooth!
Vulcanize society!
Make the pie higher!
I am the Decider! "

(Bush poeticized by Washington Post's Richard Thompson. 300+ days left...)

"The right to be heard does not automatically include the right to be taken seriously." ~ Hubert Humphrey

OY, DANNY – BOY!

Foley's Pub in Manhattan has banned the song "Danny Boy" for the entire month of March. "It's overplayed, it's been ranked among the 25 most depressing songs of all time, and it's more appropriate for a funeral than for a St. Patrick's Day celebration," says owner Shaun Clancy. Still, AJ's Cafe in Ferndale, Mich. staged a "Danny Boy" marathon last weekend, with 1,000 renditions over 50 hours.

The lyrics were written by an English lawyer Frederick Edward Weatherly, who never set foot in Eire, says Malachy McCourt in "Danny Boy: The Legend of the Beloved Irish Ballad." Weatherly's sister-in-law sent him the music to "The Derry Air" and his version became number one with a bullet (sic) when opera's Ernestine Schumann-Heink recorded it in 1915.

Bing Crosby recorded it in the 40s and it was the theme song of the, "Danny Thomas Show". Judy Garland, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Cher and Willie Nelson have

all recorded it. Oh well. You can always sing "Cockles and Mussels," which is the tale of a beautiful fishmonger who dies prematurely of a raging fever.

"There is no present or future, only the past happening over and over again." ~ Eugene O'Neill on Ireland

HIPPITY HOP

Easter is a special time. The Holy Holiday celebrates the third day after Jesus is crucified and then buried in a tomb with a large boulder in front of it. The story goes that Mary Magdalene is by the gravesite when a great light bursts forth, the earth shakes, and the boulder that is in front of the tomb rolls aside and the miracle of Jesus rising from the grave looks out through the beaming light and because of that light, he sees his shadow and thus there are six more weeks of winter.

"That which has always been accepted by everyone, everywhere, is almost certain to be false." ~ Paul Valery

AND ENDING ON A SAD NOTE

My dear Firesign Theatre partner of over 40 years, David Ossman, learned this week that his eldest son, Devin (45) had died of hypothermia after an ill-fated hike up Mt. Rainier in Washington State.

Devin, a talented flutist, was the son of David and Bettine, one of the creators of L.A.'s Renaissance Pleasure Faire where we often "played" together. He leaves behind a sister, a wife and two daughters.

A national park spokesman said it appears Ossman lost the trail, fell in the snow and was overcome by exposure. He was reported missing after his car was found parked at a trailhead Monday night. About 20 searchers and two dogs searched for him in snow more than three feet deep and family members said he was probably not dressed for an overnight stay in the woods.

Our healing love goes out to David and Judith and their sons Orson and Preston as well as Devin's family and the many, many friends and fellow artists affected by this loss. We will be at a memorial service on May 3rd at the Whidbey Island Arts Center where he was next scheduled to perform

<http://blog.seattlepi.nwsourc.com/whidbey/archives/134637.as>

"Throw yourself into the infinite sea of possibilities." ~ Dr. Ernest Holmes, LACRS

IRISH TANKS

Danny Mann, Garry Hollis, Bill Coombs, Eddie Deezen, *Funny Times*, John Apicella, Steve Carlson, Jann Cobler, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., Doug Stone, Nick Oliva, *The Week* magazine, Fred & Mary O'Willard, Sally Gehring, Gregg Berger and *National Geographic*. And congratulations to Kristin Proctor who just filmed a co-starring role on "Medium" and is soon to be flown to Oslo for some TV interviews related to Scandinavian showings of *The Wire*, where she appeared in the second season. *Skål, dotter!*

"There are two kinds of light – the glow that illuminates and the glare that obscures." ~ James Thurber

CLICK?

TAKE THE 5TH: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEhF-7suDsM>

BO: <http://www.jibjab.com/view/227796>

SEE: <http://dothetest.co.uk/>

CARUSO UNDER GLASS: <http://defamer.com/hollywood/david-caruso/david>

NICK ON YOUTUBE: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5XfXECpU6w>

CRAP: <http://www.mindlesscrap.com/index.html>

MORE CRAP: <http://www.mindlesscrap.com/trivia/trivia.htm>

TRANSPARENT CRAPPER: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/entertainment/3257370.stm>

BLUB: <http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/view/id/206>

CUT: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OS2fI2p9iVs>

“When I do good, I feel good; when I do bad, I feel bad. That’s my religion.” ~ Abraham Lincoln

+++++++ (March 22, 2008) ++++++

* FIRESIGN CDS: <http://www.laugh.com>

* FUNNY TIMES: <http://www.funnytimes.com>

“Illegal aliens have always been a problem in the United States. Ask any Indian.” ~ Robert Orben

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