

Monday, March 20. 2017

The Knights who say "Meh"

There are ten knights

1. Sir Able
2. Sir Bold
3. Sir Callow
4. Sir Daring
5. Sir Effusive
6. Sir Fearless
7. Sir Gallant
8. Sir Hector
9. Sir Indomitable
10. Sir Jolly

Each has a shield with a main color and a trim color. The available shield colors are:

1. Red trimmed with White
2. Blue trimmed with White
3. Blue trimmed with Silver
4. Blue trimmed with Gold
5. Black trimmed with Silver
6. Black trimmed with Gold
7. Black trimmed with White
8. Green trimmed with Gold
9. Green trimmed with White
10. Green trimmed with Silver

The following rules determine how their shields are assigned:

1. If Sir Able's shield is Black with White, then Sir Bold's shield is not Black with Silver
2. If Sir Bold's shield is Black with White, then Sir Callow's shield has Black on it.
3. If Sir Bold's shield is Black with Silver, then Sir Callow's shield does not have any Silver on it.
4. If Sir Callow's shield has Black on it, then Sir Gallant's shield is not Green with Gold
5. If Sir Daring's shield has Blue on it, then Sir Able's shield is Green with White
6. If Sir Effusive's shield is Black with Gold, then Sir Daring's shield does not have any Gold on it.
7. Sir Callow's trim color must be the same as Sir Gallant's trim color
8. If Sir Daring's shield has Blue on it, then Sir Bold's shield color does not have any Gold on it.
9. If Sir Able's shield is Green with White, then Sir Hector's shield is Green with Gold.
10. If Sir Effusive's shield has Black on it, then Sir Fearless's shield is Blue with Gold.
11. If Sir Fearless's shield has Blue on it, then Sir Gallant's shield color is Blue with Silver.
12. Sir Indomitable and Sir Able have the same main shield color
13. Sir Gallant and Sir Fearless have the same main shield color
14. If Sir Callow's shield color is Black with White, then Sir Daring's shield color is Blue with Gold
15. If Sir Gallant's shield color is Blue with Silver, then Sir Hector's shield color has Gold on it.
16. If Sir Effusive's shield color is not Blue with Gold, then Sir Indomitable's shield color is Green with Silver
17. If Sir Hector's shield color is Blue with Silver then Sir Able's shield color is not Black with Silver
18. If Sir Bold's shield has White on it, then Sir Effusive's shield does not have White on it.
19. Sir Daring's main shield color is the same as Sir Fearless's
20. Sir Able's main shield color is the same as Sir Hector's
21. Sir Effusive's trim color is the same as Sir Fearless's
22. Neither Sir Daring nor Sir Jolly have Black on their shield.

What colors are their shields?

Posted by Johnny Elbows in Oddities at 15:10

Saturday, June 16. 2012

Upcoming Events

So I believe I invited you all to Kalissa's Birthday party on June 30th via "The Facebook". If not, consider this the invitation. She'll be having a party on June 30 to celebrate her 3rd birthday. And by her having a party I mean we will be having a barbecue, and she'll be getting attention. That will be at The Castle (our new house) It would be great to see you all there.

In addition it's time for the yearly West Fest Barbecue at Bubba's house. That will be this upcoming Saturday the 23rd. We'll start grilling around 4. It'll end sometime around 10:30 after the fireworks.

Come to one barbecue, or come to both.

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 09:31

Monday, January 9, 2012

A Picture Worth a Thousand Words (+/- 19)

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Here are a few that I think might be worth more than a thousand - they're swiftly becoming three staples in my list of standard answers to so-called "technical questions." When the question is so ridiculous it makes me doubt the sincerity of the asker:

When the question involves violating decades of known best practices, I beg:

And, finally, when even reading the question makes me feel as if my IQ has dropped a few points, I suggest perhaps the asker is part of "what's wrong with the world":

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 12:37

Wednesday, April 27, 2011

Tselem

A few years back, PETA made a bit of a splash by comparing the slaughter of chickens by KFC to the Holocaust. This, of course, enraged many people, as it seemed to make light of the mass extermination of a people. Still, at the time, I only found the item ridiculous. I assumed PETA was being merely sensationalist, attempting to grab the attention of the media to further their message, subscribing perhaps to the old adage that "there is no such thing as bad publicity." I was surprised therefore, when having lunch with a young woman at a university a few years back, she told me that, in a hypothetical in which I and her cat were trapped unconscious in a burning building and in which she'd have time to save only one of us, she would save the cat. I laughed at first, assuming she was being funny. But it turns out she was perfectly serious. Her cat and I are both living creatures, she argued, neither more important than the other, but she's known her cat longer. This stunned me. It's not so much that she would let me die that bothered me, but her logic. She assumed that all living things deserve the same amount of respect and protection and that a human life was in no way more valuable than a cat's. Well, she was young, and irreligious, so one shouldn't be too surprised. What is surprising is that her attitude is one that seems to be growing among the Bible believing religious. This is a disturbing trend and one I wish to counter.

The Torah tells us that when HaShem made man, he singled him out from the rest of creation. The previous creation of fish and fowl, followed by beasts and finally man, suggests a progression, with man as the pinnacle of creation. And then He stops in the creation process and announces his intention to make Man. Something special is about to occur: "And God said, 'Let us make Man in Our image, after Our likeness. They shall rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and over the animal, the whole earth, and every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created Man in His image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Gen. 1.26-27.) Man is the only creature made in His image. He does not make cows, chickens, or cats in his image "only man."

Some take it to mean that God is man-shaped, a terrible error, inasmuch as God is incorporeal. Had God corporeality, He would have parts, and having parts, it would follow that He must have been created. (For a full discussion on this point, consult *Duties of the Heart* by Bachya ben Joseph ibn Paquda.) Moreover, other primates would seem to bear God's image as well, to one degree or another. We might be left with the impression that being made in God's image refers to opposable thumbs.

In *The Guide for the Perplexed*, Maimonides discusses the word tselem, translated in Gen. 1.26 as image. He compares the word tselem with toar, the latter used specifically to refer to physical form. "The term tselem, on the other hand, signifies the specific form, viz., that which constitutes the essence of a thing, whereby the thing is what it is; the reality of a thing is so far as it is that particular being. In man the 'form' is that constituent which gives him human perception: and on account of this intellectual perception the term tselem is employed in the sentences 'In the tselem of God he created him' [1]. He also mentions that the word tselem is used when HaShem condemns the form of an idol. Maimonides argues that it is not the physical shape of idols displeasing to God, but "some idea represented by them." Likewise it is not Man's physical form which is the image of God, but something inward. The tselem of God impressed on Man is Intellect. It is this that sets Man apart from the rest of animalia.

Man is a thinking animal "the thinking animal. Animals are not on the same level as humanity. This is evident in the treatment given to each by HaShem. He tells Noah: "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you; like the green herbage I have given you everything. But flesh; with its soul its blood you shall not eat. However, your blood which belongs to your souls I will demand, of every beast will I demand it; but of man, of every man for that of his brother I will demand the soul of man. Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God He made man" (Gen. 9.3-6.) Now, if an animal's life is of the same value as that of a man's, how can Man be granted license to eat it? Note also, where a man may kill an animal for food, he may not kill another man. And why? Because he has an equal life to right as any other? More than that, he was made in the image of God. He has a special relation to God that no other created thing shares.

Now some will take this as license to animal cruelty. But part of God's command to Noah was that animals should not be eaten with the life still in them. The Torah is full of mitzvahs relating to the kind treatment of animals. And the Noahide commandment not to eat the limb of a living animal is only a category of further commands regarding the proper treatment of animals.

If reading this, one has come to the conclusion that I am opposed to vegetarianism, one has missed the point.

Vegetarianism is not prohibited by the Torah and it has much to recommend it. But what cannot be lost is the difference between humanity and the animal kingdom. When we rate all lives the same, we ignore great differences and we degrade humanity. Man is distinguished by Reason. God has declared Man to be something special. Dead chickens, no matter the number, do not equate with dead humans. If you are forced with the choice between saving a human or a cat, go for the human. The cat you allow to die will bear you no ill will, but neglecting the human is bound to earn one the ill will of Heaven.

[1] Maimonides, Moses. The Guide For The Perplexed. Trans. M. Friedlander. New York: Barnes and Noble. 2004: 18-20.

Posted by The Fox in Oddities at 20:30

Monday, April 25. 2011

Podcast 97: Ringing the Bell

Â I don't know why all the audio glitches really started up again after I took over the podcast, but there was a bit of a hangup in this week's recording - hopefully, we caught them all in post-processing and this audio sounds pretty clean. We were all really excited to start Babylon 5 proper, although I did find a couple of instances where I had to "ring the bell", our signal to remind/reassure the listeners that "it *does* get better than this". Aaron, the TrekWest5 intern, brings his usual apathetic reticence to this week's podcast (sometimes, I wonder if it's even worth the gasoline of hauling him to the Podcast Bunker.) We cover episodes 1-4 of Babylon 5, Season 1.

Various topics discussed in this podcast include:

Â Â Â Â Joey's continuing campaign for office inside the Utah Republican Party
Â Â Â Â The TrekWest5 Culture Corner: Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand
Â Â Â Â JMS answers the question What is/are spoo?
Â Â Â Â Paul Dunbar's We Wear the Mask

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Subscribe Using iTunes Here are the ratings that we gave for each show:

Midnight on the Firing Line: 1hr 1min 25sec

Peter: SciFi - 5 Television - 3

Joey: SciFi - 6 Television - 3

Aaron: SciFi - 6 Television - 4

Soul Hunter: 22min 18sec

Joey: SciFi - 7 Television - 3

Aaron: SciFi - 7 Television - 4

Peter: SciFi - 6 Television - 2

Born to the Purple: 24min 58sec

Aaron: SciFi - 7 Television - 5

Peter: SciFi - 3 Television - 3

Joey: SciFi - 2 Television - 6

Infection: 24min 59sec

Peter: SciFi - 5 Television - 2

Joey: SciFi - 5 Television - 3

Aaron: SciFi - 5 Television - 2

If you have something to say then we welcome your comments below, or feel free to email us at trekwest5@thehomestarmy.com, twitter us at hashtag TrekWest5, or leave us a voicemail at 801-788-4913.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 02:49

Tuesday, August 3, 2010

The Homestarmy Presents: The Brett Favre Un-Retirement Pool

Another year, another Brett Favre retirement saga.

Mad: I agree with Simmons. Where can I put money that Favre will be back by Week 2?

Brandon: Season Starts what September 11, I pick August 26th as the day he announces his return

Mad: He'll come back when there's 1 week of preseason left to go we should host a pool on the homestarmy bag of M&M's gets you in

Mad: He told the Vikings last year he wouldn't play, but changed his mind and joined them immediately after they broke training camp. Camp this year ends on Aug. 12.

Favre has \$13 million on the line he's not walking away

So It's out there. Bag of M&M's. You pick a Date. Closest to the date wins. I'm sticking with August 26th.

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 09:11

Thursday, July 29. 2010

Watch This Space

The question nobody has been wondering is: why hasn't the new guy been posting? Well, I've been quite busy. But, next week, my children and wife are leaving for a few days, and I shall be finally posting my thoughts regarding the end of Lost. At least I've had time to think about it. I shall be posting twice, in fact, once about the narrative of Lost and whether or not it proved to be satisfying, and a second post will be about Lost and faith.

Posted by The Fox in Oddities at 13:29

Awesomely Awkward

Some of you may have seen this site before, but I recently came across it and thought you would enjoy it: Awkward Family Photos. Don't worry it is SFW. Make sure to read the captions with each photo as it adds a little something special.

Here are just a few offerings that cracked me up:

Bearing Fruit
On The Road Again
Deeply Denim
Punks in Space
Elbow Room
Old Smokey

And my personal favorite:

Roadside Assistance

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 09:29

Wednesday, July 7, 2010

It's a Double Rainbow

For those of you who may have missed this, I present: Crazy Double Rainbow Guy

Posted by The Mad Giggler in Oddities at 08:18

Sunday, June 20, 2010

"I was suspected of being a Japanese spy..."

On the weekly TrekWest5 podcast, Peter and I have, from time to time, wondered aloud what it might have been like to live during World War II, and have discussed the persecution of Japanese citizens here in the US during that period. Today, I came across a very interesting account of one man who lived during that period - and how, although he was a young boy, these events impacted his life in a somewhat amusing manner.

The person in question is Les Earnest, and you can read his account (titled "e-t-a-o-n-r-i Spy and the FBI") from the Wikipedia entry.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 14:23

Friday, April 23. 2010

Links worth checking out

I thought I would share some of the links that have given me enjoyment with you all. Most are interesting, and some are funny.

-Mainly for AoD but some of the other geeks will enjoy this rant by a SysAdmin.

-The site Today's Big Thing may actually be my go to site for funny stuff. Here are a few that caused me to laugh: Pop Songs with 4 Cords, A pitcher giving too much info, and why I have never been more turned on or scared at the same time.

-Why I sometimes hate my clients and sales people.

-I really believe that this is how Dickens intended for this play to be done.

Enjoy.

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 11:39

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Good and Goodest

I can't think of anything I love more than this. Except maybe this

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 13:48

Monday, April 12. 2010

The Mysteries of the Inter Nets

This is a conversation I overheard this morning at breakfast. E is 9 years old. S just turned 7.

E: When I am a teenager Iâ€™m going to have a Faceboog.

S: A face bug?

E: Yeah. You can talk to you friends on a Face Bug.

S: You mean like . . .

E (impatiently): Like you can use a Face Bug to talk to your friends in internets!

S: Uh . . . You mean like a taste bug?

E: Yeah. Taste bugs live on your tongue -

S: -But-

E: -and they tell you how food tastes.

S: Do they come out of your tongue ever?

E: DUH! Yes, when they come out of your tongue they -

S: -theyâ€™re on your face?

E: - they go onto your face and then theyâ€™re Face Bugs. And then they go in internets and -

S: they crawl into inter nets?

E: Hello, yes, Iâ€™m telling you! They crawl into internets and then they talk to your friends.

S: Oh! Thatâ€™s . . . weird. I mean cool.

E: Yeah. (tosses her hair) And when Iâ€™m a teenager Iâ€™m going to have one. Because theyâ€™re cool.

S: (looks mystified and impressed) me too!

Posted by Daboo in Oddities at 08:47

Monday, March 22, 2010

Listen

Mr. Elbows might find this entry to be quite interesting. You may not know it, but he has put his hand to poetry from time to time. I happen to have recently discovered this gem from high school.

Listen.pdf

You may notice a special note at the bottom of the pdf file. Our senior class president was under the impression that I had written the poem for her throughout most of our senior year. It wasn't until a post-high school hiking trip that Mr. Elbows corrected this. Enjoy.

Posted by The Mad Giggler in Oddities at 08:07

Saturday, March 6, 2010

Better Video for OK GO's "This Too Shall Pass"

A few weeks ago, MG linked to a "marching band" version of OK GO's latest video, for the song "This Too Shall Pass". I wasn't as impressed with it as I have been with past videos, which is why I was glad to find this other video for the same track, which includes the absolute best "Rube Goldberg"-style machine I've seen yet - I mean, it involves a person on a zipline, two televisions, 4 paint guns, and a *CAR*. Very cool.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 09:35

Tuesday, February 16. 2010

This Too Shall Pass

From the people that brought you treadmill dancing, I present for your viewing pleasure "This Too Shall Pass" by Ok Go. Unfortunately, embedding was disabled for this video. Here's the link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJKythIXAIY>

Posted by The Mad Giggler in Oddities at 10:05

Tuesday, January 26. 2010

Five Season of "Lost": A Haiku

A plane gone missing,
A hatch found; Others, Jacob.
Back in time--the bomb.

Posted by The Fox in Oddities at 22:53

King Kong: A Haiku

The giant ape climbs.
Fay Wray is clutched in one fist.
The planes swarm--the planes!

Posted by The Fox in Oddities at 22:46

Monday, October 12, 2009

Thwart Us and Die #6

While podcast 5 in the "Thwart Us and Die" series is currently undergoing post-processing, I had a brand-new operating system installed hours before our recording this past Friday and, as I went back to listen to it, the mic was WAY too sensitive, causing it to clip the audio on almost every sound. I tried a couple of recovery tools, but nothing was able to save the audio. My apologies.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 13:05

Wednesday, September 2, 2009

PMP my "tric"

Well it's clear now what you all can get me for Christmas. I have always wanted an MP3 player. I guess technically I already have 3 of them, but strapping my desktop computer on to my back and jogging in place in my apartment just isn't practical. Frankly neither is this. But I want it sooooo bad.

Seriously though, a PMP designed to look like a Star Trek The Next Generation Tricorder is just absolutely ridiculous. I can't imagine that the screen would be large enough for me to want to watch any movie or tv show. And at a price tag of a little over \$360, it's way too expensive for something that only holds 12 hours of music. But why do I want it so bad?

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 09:55

Friday, August 7, 2009

Heresy

A quick vanity search revealed that my moniker has been stolen.

Edit (8/8/09 9:30 pm): Apparently I was drunk when I posted this, because that page is clearly NSFW.

Posted by The Mad Giggler in Oddities at 13:52

Saturday, May 2, 2009

Maximus

The movie, "Gladiator" goes through the story of Maximus, an amazing general in the Roman army. I was discussing with an associate earlier this week about some of Maximus's decisions that shaped his character and what happened to him later on in the story. What makes you decide to take the hard road? When Maximus decided not to support the new emperor because the old emperor wanted the power back in the hands of the people, he had to know the new emperor would have him and his family killed. It didn't appear that Maximus thought that should be a factor in his decision.

Did he think he could save his family, or was he mistaken in thinking the Romans would support the old emperor's wishes? It made me pause and think would I do something for the good of the country knowing my family would be killed? What would you do?

It seemed after his family was dead his attention was focused on revenge for his family. Was his attention also focused on helping the country too, or did he just focus on his family at that time? Once again, what would you do?

He died getting his revenge on the new emperor, and his last words described what the old emperor's wishes were for Romans. He seemed so focused on revenge for his family and the country. Nothing else seemed to matter. I can be focused on a few things in my life, but I often find my attention periodically taken to other less-important events going on around me. I am amazed at the focus and unending dedication of Maximus to just a few ideals. How much more successful in life can you be at home or work or whatever if you are absolutely riveted to a couple of ideals. How easy is it also to make decisions in your life when you only have a few "rules" to base decisions on?

Rule: How does the choice I am preparing to make affect the important things in my life?

Posted by SWatson in Oddities at 16:49

Monday, April 20, 2009

A place called Hell

My family left me last week during Spring Break and went to hell. I thought, that's just funny. I decided to stay back in heaven...My brother-in-law had to move there with his family so he could work for power company. Being in the middle of nowhere, my wife felt bad and decided to take the kids there...well most of them.

Anyway, I got to thinking. The place has absolutely nothing going on there except wilderness. I hope I haven't offended any possible wilderness aficionados here, but that's just not my cup of hot chocolate. They brag over there about no stores, no cable, hardly any people, and the most impressive part of the experience living there is killing rattlesnakes that cover your lawn in the summer, and fishing on a lake.

Is this hell to you? It is to me. What place(s) have you visited, besides your in-laws, that you would consider hell?

I also heard someone say in a talk one time, "if you're in hell it's better to just go through it. Don't stay in hell. Go through it."

Technically, the place is called Hell's Canyon. Please see if you're bored to death at:

<http://www.ohwy.com/id/h/hellscan.htm>

Needless to say, when my family arrived home last night, my wife was totally ticked at me. I wonder why...

Posted by SWatson in Oddities at 22:53

Tuesday, April 14. 2009

Selfish - what's your definition?

Every thing we do in life is selfish. I guess this depends on your definition of the word selfish. But I look at the word that generates an action/inaction that results in a benefit for you. With that definition in mind, we might help others, but in the end, we might also be motivated by how it makes us feel.

If you're helping an elderly woman across the street, she gets a benefit, but you feel good after doing it, unless you're a sicko.

If you visit someone in the hospital, they appreciate the visit, but it's so you can check it off your list of do-good things? My children often do unselfish things because they are nervous that I might be disappointed if they don't "act" unselfish. Do you have (or ever had) a child who you think is more unselfish than another? Is that because he/she smiles when they're helping out or because they think of an appearing-unselfish idea on their own?

Who goes to church never thinking of the "prize at the end."

I watched an episode of Friends way back in the day, and there was an episode where I think it was Phoebe who said to Joey that he couldn't find anything he did in life that was completely unselfish. He almost found something, but after contemplation, she found out he wasn't completely unselfish in her book.

Maybe your definition is that if you do something for someone and you get a benefit out of it, your benefit is just a casualty of the intended unselfish process?

Posted by SWatson in Oddities at 22:23

Wednesday, March 11. 2009

Our Spam Blocking

Talking to Johnny today, I realized we don't talk much around here about traffic numbers or spam. Here's just a quick tidbit on the spam we get, and our anti-spam measures. Since our last database crash, which was in early 2007, we have blocked 437,023 comments as "spam". Many of those blocks are due to the excellent Akismet comment-spam blocking service. Here are some monthly break-downs of our spam since Feb. 2007. We also do keyword based filtering, and I regularly update a "blacklist" of known-bad hosts from sources I collect around the internet.

count | Year-Month

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-----+-----  
114 | 2007-02  
71 | 2007-03  
42 | 2007-04  
913 | 2007-05  
1766 | 2007-06  
10323 | 2007-07  
20793 | 2007-08  
29306 | 2007-09  
22621 | 2007-10  
19681 | 2007-11  
1491 | 2007-12  
17414 | 2008-01  
18504 | 2008-02  
24639 | 2008-03  
39935 | 2008-04  
32254 | 2008-05  
28420 | 2008-06  
33056 | 2008-07  
46829 | 2008-08  
23461 | 2008-09  
13136 | 2008-10  
16934 | 2008-11  
15591 | 2008-12  
9546 | 2009-01  
7864 | 2009-02  
2319 | 2009-03
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Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 12:00

Monday, October 6, 2008

Gin, Television, and Social Surplus

Shirky has a long but really interesting article on what people are doing in their spare time. There's a lot there, but AoD found this comment to be "the cream" of the article:

Desperate Housewives essentially functioned as a kind of cognitive heat sink, dissipating thinking that might otherwise have built up and caused society to overheat.

Posted by The Mad Giggler in Oddities at 15:57

Monday, September 29, 2008

The Breast Restaurant in Town

Well, there's no accounting for taste...but... would you go here?

Posted by Daboo in Oddities at 14:37

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

RT's "Greatest Shakespeare Movies"

In response to a query of mine some time ago, MG sent me this link to Rotten Tomatoes, which ranks a bunch of film adaptations of Shakespeare. While I would like to see a bunch of these (the first four grab the eye), it did not contain the one that currently sits atop my "Want to See" list - a film called *The King is Alive*, a film done according to the Dogme 95 rules.

Here's the list, with some notes and the name of the original Shakespeare work, where appropriate.

- Kenneth Branagh's "Henry V" (1989)
- Akira Kurosawa's "Ran" [King Lear] (1985)
- Kenneth Branagh's "Hamlet" (1996)
- Akira Kurosawa's "Throne of Blood" [Macbeth] (1957)
- "West Side Story" [Romeo and Juliet] (1961)
- "Richard III" (1995) - Stars Ian McKellen in title role
- "Romeo and Juliet" (1968) - I think this is the version everyone watches in High School
- Disney's "The Lion King" [Hamlet/Richard III??] (1994) - RT lists it as "borrowing elements of both Hamlet and Richard III" - seems a stretch to me
- "Henry V" (1944) - Sir Laurence Olivier's directorial debut; what is it with people doing Henry V where they have to both direct and star?
- "Forbidden Planet" [The Tempest??] (1956)
- "Much Ado About Nothing" (1993) - A personal favorite; Has Branagh, Emma Thompson, Denzel Washington, Keanu Reeves, Michael Keaton...very well done, very funny play
- "Hamlet" (1948) - Sir Laurence Olivier again
- "Othello - The Lost Masterpiece" (1952) - Orson Welles
- "Macbeth (Restored Version)" (1948)
- "My Own Private Idaho" [Henry IV] (1992) - River Phoenix, Keanu Reeves, William S. Burroughs
- "Macbeth" (1971) - I should watch this one; I haven't seen enough of Roman Polanski's work
- "The Taming of the Shrew" (1967) - Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton; This is the first Shakespeare film I can remember enjoying
- "Hamlet" (1990) - Mel Gibson and Glenn Close - I actually like this more than RT does, based on where they've ranked it
- "Strange Brew" (1983) [Hamlet??] - As with Lion King, I think this association is a stretch
- "Twelfth Night" (1996) - This might be the one the indomitable Daboo is recommending?
- "William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet" (1996) - Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes; I really didn't care for this one myself, perhaps my least favorite Shakespeare film ever
- "William Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice" (2004) - Never even HEARD of this one, but with Al Pacino and Jeremy Irons, I'm willing to give it a shot
- "Prospero's Books" [The Tempest] (1991) - Never heard of it, might try it
- "Othello" (1995) - I have no idea what this is doing at #24; this belongs in the top 10 of Shakespeare films IMO
- "Titus" (1999) - Honestly, I never realized this was a Shakespeare film - I've walked past it many times, but (for some reason) that shot of Anthony Hopkins on the cover looks like the Dad from "Eight is Enough" to me, so I seriously considered it
- "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (1999) - I can't recall watching it, but I was never a huge fan of this particular play
- "O" [Othello] (2001) - "A contemporary retelling of Othello" - basketball instead of war, high school instead of the military. The mediocre Julia Stiles and the ever-inconsistent Josh Hartnett star. Never saw it, probably won't.
- "Scotland, PA" [Macbeth] (2002) - Sounds pretty good, plus it has Christopher Walken - you know, for the kids
- "10 Things I Hate About You" [Taming of the Shrew] (1999) - More Julia Stiles; it wasn't horrible, more like "eminently forgettable"
- "Hamlet" (2000) - Ethan Hawke and Julia Stiles (again?!); never watched this one, it got some pretty bad reviews

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 11:05

Monday, September 8, 2008

The Lottery

The news about Mr. Tom Brady has caused at least one NFL reporter to refer to that classic short story The Lottery - and I found more than one oddity in the awesome wikipedia entry about that story - however, by far my favorite has to be the following quote by the author:

In the years since then, during which the story has been anthologized, dramatized, televised, and evenâ€”in one completely mystifying transformationâ€”made into a ballet...

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 23:51

Wednesday, August 13, 2008

What the...

Seriously. What the hell is wrong with some people? Seriously!!!!

Special thanks the ThRhett for the video.

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 17:43

First Crosspost: A Tinker's Debts Are Always Paid

[Ed: I will be cross-posting any of my blog.joeysmith.com posts that I think might have general appeal, until such a time as I discover a better method of syndicating the two blogs together.]

I picked up "The Name of the Wind" on the recommendation of Radar- when I first opened the book, I was gravely concerned - my experience has previously shown that the more glowing reviews a book got, the more likely it is that the book *would* *not* have sold without those reviews, and this book had no less than three full pages of raves. However, I went against my own judgement and have thus far been glad. If you decide to pick it up, do me this favor - stick with the story long enough to see Chronicler deal with highway robbery. If you still don't like it by that point, at least I won't be able to say you didn't give it a fair shake.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 02:09

Tuesday, July 29. 2008

Anyone looking for a side job?

An acquaintance of mine is looking for a webprogrammer to help him get his pet project up and running. It's a golf management system (that's all I'm at liberty to say at the moment.) If you're interested, I'll fwd your info to him and he'll be in touch. He's the CFO of a well established construction company and is quite responsible. What the crap is Birdwood, NE?

Posted by The Jet in Oddities at 09:41

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Look-alike Meter

I guess I look equally like Jared and Pete:
MyHeritage: Look-alike Meter - Pedigree - Family reunion

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 17:26

Sunday, May 18, 2008

Girls only want boyfriends who have great skills.

You know, like nunchuck skills, bow hunting skills, computer hacking skills.

Do you have any hidden skills? I do. I can shave a cat. If you think that's not a difficult skill...lol.

Oh, and yes he was conscious.

So...what are YOUR skills?

Posted by Daboo in Oddities at 17:54

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

One Hundred Words

Okay, so I don't usually like to just re-post a link I've seen on Penny-Arcade, but these are absolutely cool, and I definitely recommend reading through them. They are little stories of 100 words. I thought they would be boring, but actually each one is quite interesting and hooked me--though they're a little frustrating in that I want to know more. I especially loved the stories about Longinus, which coordinate with another author at the Fabian Society. I think it takes a lot of creativity to be able to intrigue a reader in only 100 words--makes me jealous. :)

Posted by Daboo in Oddities at 07:44

Monday, May 12, 2008

Behold, the future of America.

When I was 13, it never crossed my mind to steal a credit card from my parents and stay up all night playing Halo with hookers, but obviously this kid is ahead of the league.
I'm posting this here because it made me laugh so hard.

Posted by Wren in Oddities at 09:27

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

I Love It When Microsoft Does Dumb Stuff

Harkening back to the glory days of "Dance Monkey-boy Dance", I bring you Bruce ServicePack and the Vista Street Band performing "Rockin' our Sales".

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 10:16

Friday, April 18. 2008

Ten Word Stories

Details at penny-arcade.com (warning: lots of vulgarity to be found there).

Mine

Got nerfed, rolled an alt, got nerfed again, emoted displeasure.

Reported for foul language, argued with GM, lost my shoes.

Gnome bit my ankle, but an undead patched it up.

Feared by warlock, stunned by rogue, capped flag.

I stealthed into the flag room only to be ice-trapped.

"My ankle is bleeding!" he cried, glaring at the gnome.

"Those are mine," he sneered, accompanied by his hulking infernal.

"Cute couple. Her beautiful tusks match his cold, undead skin."

For sale: shiny paladin armor, slightly coated in murloc slime.

Some from Daboo:

This village was the most beautiful refuge, before Arthas came.

He writhed in her icy grip. "Just kidding! Undead rock!"

For sale: Hunter pet, velociraptor, **very** sharp teeth. Slightly disloyal.

"Oops," he thought frantically, "Tauren don't appreciate Troll love songs!"

Posted by The Mad Giggler in Oddities at 09:46

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Ya Moron

Some tennis-playing idjit hit himself in the head with his racket during a professional match, presumably out of frustration. You can watch it via our youtube cache. The mistake he made happens around 0:28, and he goes postal on his own forehead at around 0:34.

I can say I've felt that frustration about once a week for the past few years. The best part is around 1:32 where his opponent comes over and laughs at him.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 00:22

Monday, March 3, 2008

The Rules

Doing it this way should save me some time on IM today.

If you were just as confused by today's XKCD as I was, follow below the fold. If you weren't confused, you lose anyway.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 12:21

Sunday, February 24, 2008

The face of Christianity

So I was cruising the internet this last week (I hate surfing) looking for a torrent to one of my new favorite shows The Unit and I noticed an ad on one of the sites that I found quite fascinating. It was an ad for a Christian Single site.

It just seemed to me that this ad had seemed a little racy for my brand of Christianity. What do you guys think? (see the ad by following the link below:) Oh, look! I can join for free!

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 17:07

Aw Nuts!

I recently watched a report on the news regarding the types of food that people should be eating at certain ages in their life. I was personally struck by the fact that I am not eating well at all for any age! I decided that I needed to try and do something about it.

So I decided, based on recommendations by the reporter, that I should begin including vegetables and nuts to my diet. This is not an easily made decision since I grew up on a farm where we raised walnuts and almonds. I hate walnuts and don't really enjoy almonds. I do like some nuts and so I purchased pistachios and cashews. According to the report nuts help to reduce the risk of heart disease. I'm not sure about this because when I saw the price for just a pound of each type of nut my blood pressure hit the roof. Pistachios cost me \$6 to purchase a pound (and that includes the weight of the shell), and the cashews also cost me \$6 (thankfully pre-shelled). Maybe it will be worth the price. Can anybody recommend any other types of nuts that are healthy, and preferably cheap? :)

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 16:46

Sunday, February 17, 2008

No truer statment...

My friend Jon said something as we were walking out of church today that made me laugh and was absolutely the truth. He said: "Captain Planet was the lamest of superheroes ever because he fights pollution and his only weakness is... pollution."

Here is where you can learn more about Captain Planet. Make sure you have your sound turned on.

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 15:33

Sunday, February 3, 2008

Some SciFi Movies

I was looking for some movies for the Mrs. and I to watch together, and came across Rotten Tomatoes Journey Through Sci-Fi, listing what they consider the top 100 SciFi movies of all time. From that list, I culled the following subset of movies that I've either never seen, or that I don't recall well enough to count them as a "rewatch". They also had a more timely list, focused on football related movies. I think Rudy being tied for #9 is a bit of an atrocity while *Jerry* *Maguire* got a tie for #3, but *shrug*. (Make sure to read all the way to the bottom, where they explain why "Brian's Song" didn't make the list).The SciFi list:

- X: The Man with the X-Ray Eyes
- The Man Who Fell to Earth
- Seconds
- Time After Time
- Open Your Eyes
- Altered States
- Westworld
- They Live
- Things to Come
- 2046
- THX 1138
- Time Bandits
- Children of Men

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 17:47

Thursday, January 31, 2008

Another top 10 list

My students are practicing description. Specifically, we're learning about sensory words, similes, and metaphors. I asked them to describe their mothers. And let me just say, these were all written in complete seriousness. Here are my top 10 favorites (each of these is by a different child):

10: Her eyes are as blue as the water in the toilet.

9: She has dark brown hair like a little puppy sitting on her head.

8: Her hair is just like a polluted cloud.

7: When she gets mad she makes weird faces like a clown.

6: Her brown glistening eyes seem as if they are poisonous cockroaches coming after you in the dark.

5: Her eyes are as brown as a bear covered in chocolate.

4: She looks like a nice, extravagant witch.

3: She is short, like a pumpkin.

2: She looks like a frog but with whiter, less warty skin.

And finally, 1:

When she starts screaming she is like a more pissed-off version of you. (no offense.)

oh, and I have to add an honorable mention. This was written by a boy:

She cute. She even cuter than Brad Pitt.

Posted by Daboo in Oddities at 11:35

Saturday, January 26, 2008

Decision reached

I posted an article about a Klingon chalice back on Feb 5 2007. A friend had gotten me a Klingon chalice and I was looking for suggestions on what to drink in it.

I finally made a decision. My decision was to drink Henry Weinhard's Root Beer. I know that originally I did not want to have a soda because it was too fizzy. But my love for that brand of root beer was just too strong.

Christmas day I made my traditional chili and was about to pour my root beer in to a normal glass, when I decided that the time had finally come to break in this chalice. It was wonderful. The chalice held the entire content of the bottle, including a nice 1/2 inch head. I have since used the chalice for other beverages (mainly pomegranate juice mixed with 7-up since it makes me think I am drinking fizzy blood :)). But I am happy to report that I greatly enjoy using it to drink out of.

*photos courtesy of Jon Madsen.

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 16:06

As Golum would say... "I'M FREE!!!!!!"

I have had the same calling in my stake for the last year and four months. I was an assistant stake executive secretary - with responsibilities over the missionary department. Most of you would say, that's nothing, wait till you get in to a family ward. I would agree. But a calling in a university/single stake is not quite the same. High turnover and constant activities make for a very stressful job.

I have enjoyed my calling as I have been able to attend most of the baptisms in the stake as well as be able to see the week to week operations of stake leadership as I attended Stake Presidency meetings and Stake PEC. But the toll has been hard as my duties demanded that I miss a good share of my own ward (all of Sunday School and sometimes all of Elders Quorum). I really like Sunday School. And frankly I don't recognize a good share of the people in my own ward.

So this past Thursday I sat down with the Stake President and asked if I could be released to go back to my ward. He agreed and said that I could go back. I thanked him and walked out feeling much better. So now I get to just be a regular member for a little while; at least until they call me to something else. ;)

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 12:04

Tuesday, January 15. 2008

I Had No Idea...

exactly how far in advance some book publishers plan their releases! (first book, right-most column)

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 10:41

Monday, January 14, 2008

I don't just make this stuff up!

Hey, remember when I told you guys that the youngest woman on record to ever give live birth was six years old? And someone said, "That's not even possible," and I insisted that the girl had reached puberty at a very young age, three if I remember correctly, (probably due to hormones in her dairy or eggs, although that's questionable) then got sexually abused by some homeless guy in her South American village at age five and subsequently gave birth to a boy by ceasarian section at age six?

Well it's true. Very occasionally, girls mature at a very young age. They even have a term for it nowadays. They call it 'precocious puberty'. Here is an example.

Posted by Wren in Oddities at 13:24

Sunday, January 13, 2008

Perhaps I should look in to this...

I was in the office of my companies accountant this week and he pulled up a website that I have to share with all of you. This may not be considered safe for work (or not safe for church in my case as I am writing this here at church while I wait for it to start).

This is the website. This might be a good idea for me in lieu of Johnny Elbow's most recent news.

[Editors note: On second thought, maybe not.]

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 09:59

Funny thing heard in Stake PEC meeting

Some of you might find this quite amusing. So I was sitting in my stakes bi-monthly PEC/High Council meeting this morning when I heard one of the funnier things said in there in quite a long time (though sadly I must admit that I was the only one laughing).

One of the High Councilmen (HC) was talking about how he was planning to help get more people to attend institute from our stake. During this, he asked the question to another HC who happens to be an administrator and teacher here at the institute. The question raised by the first HC was: "Is it possible to get some numbers from the institute indicating who from our stake is not attending? Perhaps their names and a way to contact them? Or is that a right of privacy issue that we can't get that information?" The second HC responded with: "No, we don't have a problem with right of privacy, I just don't have any information to give you as we don't keep that sort of data."

I immediately began chuckling as it sounded an awful lot like he said: "No, we don't support peoples right to privacy here at the institute. We'll happily give you anyones name and any information that we have on them."

I want to ensure all of you that your information would be considered private should you choose to attend classes here at the institute. I spoke to the HC and he assured me that students information is not given out. I hope you all found this as humorous as I did.

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 09:29

Wednesday, January 9, 2008

Go Go Mom

My props go out to this responsible parent.

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 09:59

Monday, January 7, 2008

Baaa means NO!

If you are easily offended, then do not click here.

It's kinda like that guy who married that dog in Africa to atone for his sin of stoning dogs to death. Only this story goes in the opposite direction.

Posted by Wren in Oddities at 12:44

Sunday, January 6, 2008

NACK

It seems there's a hidden message or two in Google's latest holiday logo. Honestly, I don't find the first one mentioned to be particularly "hidden" - when I looked at the logo the first time, I thought that was the entire POINT.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 22:00

I never have, until this week

In my entire life I have never had a McRib. Well it turns out that McDonald's has brought it back again.

I hereby pledge to all of you this week, that I shall finally partake of this sandwich and report back to you on my findings. Pray for my arteries if I end up actually liking it.

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 16:54

Friday, November 30, 2007

A Great Loss

According to a credible source, Evel Knievel died today. Which is sad. It's kind of like if Chuck Norris died, only with less press coverage. The man was a legend, even if he was a legend I, personally, never heard much about.

I don't know why I care, but.. but I do.

Posted by Wren in Oddities at 14:48

Thursday, November 22, 2007

Dragomi

Our sister-in-law, who is an amazing belly dancer, started belly-dancing many years ago and taught the two of us for a while. We performed one time, and then abandoned her--and she went on to form Dragomi, a completely new take on belly-dancing. This is one of their performances. The one in the sort-of-middle is our sister-in-law. She's amazing. (by the way, she choreographed this as well as dancing in it.)

This is NSFW.

DRAGOMI

Posted by Daboo in Oddities at 10:19

Wednesday, November 21, 2007

The View from the Crossbar

So now we are officially halfway through the season, as every team has at least played 8 of their 16 games.

What have we learned so far?

Well, we've learned that the NFL teams as a whole are worse this year, while the NFC Teams as a whole are better. We've learned that the world hates Bill Belichick, and we can be pretty safe to assume the feeling is mutual. We've learned that 0-9 is enough of a desperation that the Dolphins are apparently welcoming back Ricky Williams with open arms. We've also been, once again, reminded how arrogant the '72 dolphins are, and how insecure they are about their place in history.

In case you missed it 2 weeks ago Don Shula, head coach of the 1972 Dolphins, and the only team in NFL history to go undefeated in a season, made the comment that should the Patriots go undefeated this year, a strong possibility, that it would be tainted by the Beli-cheat-spy-gate-media-overhyped-mountain-out-of-a-molehill scandal from the week one game against the Jets. While Shula is indeed entitled to his opinion, it just reminds us how lame the annual pop a champagne cork for the final undefeated team to lose ceremony of the '72 Fins are.

The thing about the '72 Fins is this, many experts don't consider them the best team in NFL History. Usually they aren't in the top 3. They played a weak schedule in a weak conference on their way to their feat. This doesn't mean that the feat isn't a great accomplishment. What they don't realize, is that these assaults on the record don't diminish what they did. Instead it helps to point out exactly how difficult it really was.

But the current plight of the Dolphins, and the organizations celebration of their legacy does bring up one valid question: If the '07 Dolphins celebrate the 35th anniversary of the perfect season, by themselves going perfect at 0-16, will they from now on out pop a champagne bottle to toast the final winless team in future seasons? And even more so, if the final winless team were to win, on the same weekend that the final undefeated team lost, would the new guys, get together with the old guys for one big bash?

Rollin' with Nolan

The San Francisco 49ers lost their 8th straight game this week. In doing so the Niners have now went 11 straight quarters without a TD. So the question remains, why doesn't Nolan get more heat? Why doesn't anyone talk about him being on the hot seat. Granted when he took over the Niners they were pretty bad, but there hasn't been much improvement during his regime. The Niners have widely been considered to be a sleeper for each of the past few seasons, and each year they fail to live up to expectations.

The cupboard that once was bare, has been stocked decently. During the Nolan regime, the Niners have added a top 5 pick TE in Vernon Davis, a veteran leader WR in Darrell Jackson, and RB Frank Gore. Defensively they've stocked up in both free agency (Tully Banta-Cain, Nate Clements), and the draft (Patrick Willis, Manny Lawson). They even started the regime with #1 overall draft pick QB Alex Smith.

Of course the main argument is that Smith has been horrible in the NFL. Which is hard to argue against. But consider for a moment, that when Smith was in college he played in a wide open passing system, that gave him plenty of options. If no passing options were open Smith had the option to run it.

In Nolan's niner offensive game plan, Smith rarely has the chance to throw more than 3-5 yards downfield. Nolan has saddled Smith and the Niners with a putrid excuse for an offense. Even Trent Dilfer, who went to the Superbowl with the Crappy Ravens Offense, can't do anything with the Niners offense.

One only has to look at 2006 when the Niners brought in offensive guru Norv Turner. Under Norv, the offense lightened up a bit, and Smith began to excel. In fact Smith performance in '06 was one of the main reason many were picking the Niners to win the NFC West in '07. But when Norv left, so did any passing play over 3 yards before the final 3 minutes of the game.

This speaks to a larger problem of NFL Teams scouting an NFL QB, Drafting him, then putting him in a system

completely different from his skillset. But the QB is always the one labelled a bust, and usually they are kept in the crappy system too long that it screws them up completely trying to adjust. There is still time for Smith, but chances are, especially with the way Nolan doesn't take much heat, that Smith will be out of SF before Nolan. Meanwhile the Niners under Nolan will continue to be awful offensively, while doing just enough each offseason to raise the hopes of it's fans before crushing them from September to December.

Props to the Zebras

Gotta give props to the officials working the Cleveland/Baltimore game this past week. I don't care if they used replay or not, the fact that they got the call right is what mattered most.

For those that don't know, Cleveland was trailing Baltimore 30-33 as time was running out. Browns kicker Phil Dawson lined up for a game-tying field goal. As he kicked the ball, it hit the right upright, then crossed the path of the cross bar, and hit the bar that extends from the ground to the cross bar. It then bounced back out and landed supposedly short of the goal post.

Initially it was ruled a missed fieldgoal. Ravens celebrated headed into the locker room thinking they had secured a victory.

Not so fast. There was some disagreement between the refs, and it was then determined, correctly, that since the ball passed completely behind the crossbar the kick was good. Players were brought back on the field, OT Ensued, Browns ended up winning.

The big controversy comes from whether or not a). instant replay was used to determine the outcome, or b). replays on the stadiums jumbo screen were used.

Field goals do not fall under the category of plays that are reviewable. This is mainly for kicks that are kicked so high they actually go higher than the side goal posts. Since angles and judgements come into play to determine if the ball would have hit the goal post (if it were extended higher or not), I can understand replay not being used. However for a play that is completely without judgement such as this, replay should be used. However since I've never before seen a kick such as that, it doesn't come into play very often.

Secondly the refs are not supposed to use the Jumbo Screen at the stadiums to influence their calls. The official who started the discussion says that he did not use any replays but that he always thought it should be called good.

Understandeably Ravens and their fans are a bit miffed. However, it really doesn't matter, because the Kick was good, The Browns should have had the chance to go into OT. And especially with the Browns in what looks like a heated race for the Wild Card, could you imagine the backlash if they were to have missed the playoffs by that one kick?

Turkey, and Football

Ahh Thanksgiving. It's a great day. An early morning flag football game, followed by an early day game, followed by the ability to gorge ones self with food, followed by an afternoon game, followed by more food, followed by a night game, followed by an evening snack. What more could one want?

So that brings up a question? Why do the Cowboys and Lions always get a home game on Thanksgiving. It gives them an unfair advantage as it's much easier to play at home on a short week, than it is on the road. Sure the NFL has added a 3rd game that rotates through other teams, so that more fans can enjoy their team on that day. However why Dallas and Detroit. Many will claim it's tradition, but there really was no valid reason for the tradition in the first place other than apathy to change it.

At least this year both the Cowboys and The Lions are not only good, but have a lot on the line during the Turkey day games. The Lions host the Packers, in a game that could have a big effect on the Race for the NFC North crown, and will give one team a leg up on the head to head tiebreakers.

Meanwhile both NFC 1 loss teams (Packers and Cowboys) play on thanksgiving, which means that Thursday could have an effect on the race for the NFC Homefield advantage.

It's just too bad the late game is such a stinker. But that's what the NFL Gets for trying to schedule around stars instead of teams. Especially around a star QB (Vick) who wasn't that good of a qb to begin with.

The Top 14

1. New England Patriots - 10 - 0: Really it's an amazing team to watch. They are so much better than the rest of the NFL (See 2 - 10). This is one of those rare teams that unless your a fan of a Rival team you just have to sit back and enjoy the show. This is like the '85 Bears, '96 Bulls, and other historic teams. Oh and by the way Shula, even if this team loses a game, It's still better than the '72 Dolphins at this point.
2. New England Patriots - 10 - 0: They are the best team. By a ways right now.
3. New England Patriots - 10 - 0:
4. New England Patriots - 10 - 0:
5. New England Patriots - 10 - 0: Brady and Moss are on ubelievable paces.
6. New England Patriots - 10 - 0:
7. New England Patriots - 10 - 0:
8. New England Patriots - 10 - 0: Do you realize there is a legitimate chance at both Moss and Terrell Owens playing in the Super Bowl. What the heck has happened to the Football Gods?
9. New England Patriots - 10 - 0:
10. New England Patriots - 10 - 0: No Seriously, has someone kidnapped the football gods this year?
11. Dallas Cowboys - 9 - 1: Though Dallas still has defensive problems, they are tops in the NFC. Although their biggest concern should be there center. He's sending way too many snaps over Romo's head.
12. Indianapolis Colts - 8 - 2: Another victory this week should reclaim their second best team spot. Imagine if they can start getting healthy before the playoffs.
13. Green Bay Packers - 9 - 1: No running game, might hurt in January, but for now a rejuvenated Favre is fun to watch.
14. Pittsburgh Steelers - 7 - 3: Losing to the Jets at home really hurts the hopes of the '72 Dolphins.

The Bottom 3

30. New York Jets - 2 - 8: Between Mangini and Weiss this year the Patriots might not have to worry about their coordinators being scavenged, if not for that danged Romeo Crennell
31. Miami Dolphins - 0 - 10: I know they are winless, but they've had a lot of close games, and with Beck a small semblence of an offense with more excuses than...
32. San Francisco 49ers - 2 - 8: ... Nolan's Niners who are healthier and crappier.

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 14:06

Tuesday, November 20, 2007

When humans interfere with sunny days.

Adult Only Entertainment? Sesame Street? Really?

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 14:52

Thursday, November 15, 2007

If you're bored

I had a friend send me a link to a website today and it caused me to chuckle in a few places.

You might find some of them interesting:

mascots

weird and painful

Wow. Just wow!

clothing?

nicknames partiallyNSFW

searches #3 and 17 are the best ones! partiallyNSFW

There are quite a few more of these links, so feel free to look around.

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 20:28

I wish I could say I'm surprised...

... but you knew it was only a matter of time.

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 13:15

Tuesday, November 13. 2007

It sorta makes sense.....

I have nothing to add.

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 16:27

Sunday, November 4, 2007

AMEN!!!

As seen on a license plate holder Saturday night in Sugarhouse:

Forget World Peace
Just Focus On Your Turnsignal

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 18:52

Wednesday, October 31. 2007

CNN...bringing you "teh" news

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 14:12

Halloween Fun

So I created an album, with Halloween pictures in it. The first 6 are Sabrina and I. I believe I set it up so anyone can add pictures to this gallery.

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 08:25

Monday, October 29, 2007

who says white boys can't dance?

You guys.

Posted by Wren in Oddities at 20:25

Saturday, October 27. 2007

I love Chuck Norris

For those of you who love this website about Chuck Norris, I think you will get a kick (no pun intended) about this YouTube offering.

Enjoy.

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 15:40

Tuesday, October 23. 2007

Product Reviews

How many of you have read a product review and said, "Yes, that person really got to the heart of why I should or should not buy that product." Well, this one gets to the funny bone.

Home Depot Product Review

Remember to click on the Product Review tab.

Posted by The Mad Giggler in Oddities at 15:11

Friday, October 19. 2007

Chuckled Under My Breath?

Wow, Radar. Just...wow...

(18:37:23) AoD: hey
(18:37:28) AoD: check this out
(18:37:32) AoD: <http://www.piera.ca/pics/inv.png>

The real joke, though, is below the fold...(18:38:43) Radar: lol
(18:38:46) Radar: I like it
(18:38:54) Radar: I just posted something to the blog
(18:43:38) Radar: I just posted something again
(18:45:04) Radar: come on, don't ignore me now
(18:45:15) AoD: I'm not ignoring you
(18:45:24) Radar: I'm off the clock and have a half hour to go till the party
(18:45:27) AoD: I'm reading the site you linked
(18:45:29) Radar: oh
(18:45:51) Radar: I should edit my post and make it say mildly instead of moderately
(18:46:12) AoD: LOL
(18:46:13) AoD: good stuff
(18:46:26) Radar: you really liked that site?
(18:46:44) AoD: there's some funny stuff in it, like the classic 1997 site design
(18:46:53) AoD: the little pizza mouse icon
(18:46:59) AoD: >blink

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 18:42

New icon/avatar?

Mad-Freaking-Giggler just decided today that he wanted to change the icon/avatar (see image to the right) for the oddities category on the blog. I told him that we should wait and ask the other people on the blog what they wanted to do, but he just said "screw them!" (or something to that effect, I can't remember the exact words) But anyway, we now have a great blast from the past to view. Those of us from the INS days should actually get a good chuckle over this. Enjoy

ps. good job finding this MG!

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 18:29

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

New band

So one of the employees that I supervise at work fancies himself a bit of a designer. Whenever he is waiting in my office to get off the phone he will doodle something on the window or whiteboard. It is usually quite amusing. He decided that I needed a quote of the day and so drew me as a fetus with a mustache on my whiteboard and decided to give me a quote. I think you should all enjoy the quote:

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 17:08

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Sometimes it feels like Lenovo is my own personal punching bag

Seen today on my thinkpad:

Window title: Updating System Update

Window text: Sytem update needs to update the system in order to continue with your System Update update operation.
Please shut down all other programs and run System Update.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 15:26

Monday, August 20, 2007

jejejeje

that's how you giggle in Spanish.

Anyway. I don't know if I've posted this up here before, but it always makes me laugh so I'm posting it again anyway.
Hold out for the Supa Dance Remix!

Posted by Wren in Oddities at 23:18

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

More Japanese Fun

Can't really blame the last guy in this video.

But Wait there's more, although beware the second video is NSFW and may contain naked japanese buttcrack.

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 21:02

Tuesday, July 31. 2007

My New Light Switch

Awesome.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 09:04

Friday, July 20. 2007

Funny Prank

On the one hand, this [youtube video] is really funny. On the other hand, if they did that to ME, I'd be pretty pissed.

BTW, the "stuffthathappens" blog generally does stories on the lighter side of technology, like rather dry joke, or this amusing observation.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 06:52

Sunday, July 15, 2007

Talk about your time wasters..

Some of these boxes contain pretty interesting stuff...

Posted by Wren in Oddities at 21:08

Friday, June 22, 2007

Tandem Writing

Remember the book - "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus"? Well, here is a true life example from the University of Phoenix. An English Professor assigned his students to a joint writing exercise that quickly degraded - check it out below the break...

"Today we will experiment with a new form called the tandem story. The process is simple. Each person will pair off with the person sitting to his or her immediate right. As homework tonight, one of you will write the first paragraph of a short story. You will e-mail your partner that paragraph and send another copy to me. The partner will read the first paragraph and then add another paragraph to the story and send it back also sending another copy to me. The first person will then add a third paragraph, and so on, back and forth. Remember to re-read what has been written each time in order to keep the story coherent. There is to be absolutely NO talking outside of the e-mails and anything you wish to say must be written in the e-mail. The story is over when both agree a conclusion has been reached."

The following was actually turned in by two of my English students:

Rebecca (last name deleted), and Gary (last name deleted).

>-----

THE STORY:

(First paragraph by Rebecca)

At first, Laurie couldn't decide which kind of tea she wanted. The chamomile, which used to be her favorite for lazy evenings at home, now reminded her too much of Carl, who once said, in happier times, that he liked chamomile. But she felt she must now, at all costs, keep her mind off Carl. His possessiveness was suffocating, and if she thought about him too much her asthma started acting up again. So chamomile was out of the question.

(second paragraph by Gary)

Meanwhile, Advance Sergeant Carl Harris, leader of the attack squadron now in orbit over Skylon 4, had more important things to think about than the neuroses of an air-headed asthmatic bimbo named Laurie with whom he had spent one sweaty night over a year ago. "A.S. Harris to Geostation 17", he said into his transgalactic communicator. "Polar orbit established. No sign of resistance so far..." But before he could sign off, a bluish particle beam flashed out of nowhere and blasted a hole through his ship's cargo bay. The jolt from the direct hit sent him flying out of his seat and across the cockpit.

(Rebecca)

He bumped his head and died almost immediately, but not before he felt one last pang of regret for psychically brutalizing the one woman who had ever had feelings for him. Soon afterwards, Earth stopped its pointless hostilities towards the peaceful farmers of Skylon 4. "Congress Passes Law Permanently Abolishing War and Space Travel," Laurie read in her newspaper one morning. The news simultaneously excited her and bored her. She stared out the window, dreaming of her youth, when the days had passed unhurriedly and carefree, with no newspapers to read, no television to distract her from her sense of innocent wonder at all the beautiful things around her. "Why must one lose one's innocence to become a woman?" she pondered wistfully.

(Gary)

Little did she know, but she had less than 10 seconds to live. Thousands of miles above the city, the Anu'udrian mothership launched the first of its lithium fusion missiles. The dimwitted wimpy peaceniks that pushed the Unilateral Aerospace Disarmament Treaty through the congress had left Earth a defenseless target for the hostile alien empires who were determined to destroy the human race. Within two hours after the passage of the treaty the Anu'udrian ships were on course for Earth, carrying enough firepower to pulverize the entire planet. With no one to stop them, they swiftly initiated their diabolical plan. The lithium fusion missile entered the atmosphere unimpeded. The President, in his top-secret mobile submarine headquarters on the ocean floor off the coast of Guam, felt the inconceivably massive explosion, which vaporized poor, stupid, Laurie and 85 million other Americans. The President slammed his fist on the conference table. "We can't allow this! I'm going to veto that treaty! Let's blow 'em out of the sky!"

(Rebecca)

This is absurd. I refuse to continue this mockery of literature. My writing partner is a violent, chauvinistic semilliterate adolescent.

(Gary)

Yeah? Well, you're a self-centered tedious neurotic whose attempts at writing are the literary equivalent of Valium. "Oh shall I have chamomile tea? Or shall I have some other sort of F***ING TEA??? Oh no, I'm such an air headed bimbo who reads too many Danielle Steele novels."

>-----
(Rebecca)

A**hole.

(Gary)

B****.

>-----
(Rebecca)

Get screwed.

(Gary)

Eat sh**.

(Rebecca)

SCREW YOU - YOU NEANDERTHAL!!!

(Gary)

GO DRINK SOME TEA - *****.

(TEACHER)

A+ - I really liked this one. Only group to get an A.

Blog Export: Annals of the Homestarmy, <http://www.thehomestarmy.com/s9y/>

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 08:41

Friday, June 15, 2007

Japanese have great gameshows

Like this.

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 13:56

Thursday, June 14, 2007

My computer isn't too bright

I kid you not folks, my computer just popped up a box titled "System update needs to perform a system update" which reads:

"Please shut down System Update so that we can update the system."

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 16:59

Tuesday, June 12. 2007

AoD is teh defeated!

So, from time to time, I've been known to display a somewhat dazzling array of useless facts. However, a conversation with Daboo this morning that started with the pronunciation of "Reville" wandered into what I consider deep, dark, frightening woods...which some of you might find funny! Follow below...

Daboo: you've never heard that song?

AoD: I was rather guessing. :)

AoD: Nooo

Daboo: it's from Moulin Rouge

AoD: never saw it

Daboo: but got played on the radio quite a bit also

Daboo: hunh. So you picked up the phrase...elsewhere...interesting.

AoD: I picked it up from a British girl who spent some time in France.

AoD: Voulez-vous coucher avec moi (ce soir)? is a version of a French phrase that has become well-known in the English-speaking world through popular songs. It means "Do you want to sleep with me (tonight)?" and is perhaps best known from the song "Lady Marmalade," written by the songwriting team of Bob Crewe and Kenny Nolan and first popularized in 1975 by the group Labelle featuring Patti LaBelle, Nona Hendryx and Sarah Dash. The song was rerecorded by Christina Aguilera, Lil' Kim, Mya, and Pink as a single for the Moulin Rouge! film soundtrack.

AoD: I'm pretty sure I've never listened to a station that played "Lil' Kim", "Mya" or "Pink"

Daboo: hehe

AoD: Christina Aguilera was on 7th heaven though

AoD: So I've heard her sing

Daboo: she scares me

AoD: No, never mind

AoD: That was Ashlee Simpson, sayeth the IMDB

AoD: So I don't know who Christina is either

Daboo: she's scary.

AoD: I mean, I have a pretty good idea who "Lil' Kim" is. She's been in movies.

Daboo: do you know Pink?

AoD: No

AoD: But that's a disturbing name

Daboo: I'll play you a song by her tonight, I like her

AoD: Nevermind, I don't know who Lil' Kim is either. I was thinking of "Missy 'Misdemeanor' Elliott" (sayeth the IMDB)

AoD: o.O

Daboo: lol you don't know anyone O.o

AoD: Come on. They look exactly the same.

AoD:

http://imdb.com/gallery/granitz/5670/Events/5670/12301966.jpg.html?path=pgallery&path_key=Jones,%20Kimberly%20%27Lil%27%20Kim%27

AoD:

http://imdb.com/gallery/granitz/3892/Events/3892/MissyEllio_Grani_6590472_400.jpg.html?path=pgallery&path_key=Elliott,%20Missy%20%27Misdemeanor%27

AoD: Perhaps it's a Superman/Clark Kent thing

Daboo: They don't look anything alike, darling.

AoD: They're both clones of <http://www.starjones.com/>

Daboo: I guess they both have faces, so that's a start... ;)

AoD: (My Mother has a thing about Star Jones)

Daboo: Star Jones was on The View, right?

AoD: I have no idea who she is, but I know she got married in some big hoopla that had my mother in fits

Daboo: yeah, she was on The View. She was really controversial and fought with everyone.

AoD: I don't know what The View is

AoD: I mean, I know what *A* view is

AoD: But not "The" View

Daboo: it's that talk show with Barbara Walters that all housewives cannot live without

Daboo: the one Rosie O'Donnell was just fired from

AoD: In database theory, a view is a virtual or logical table composed of the result set of a query. Unlike ordinary tables

(base tables) in a relational database, a view is not part of the physical schema: it is a dynamic, virtual table computed or collated from data in the database. Changing the data in a table alters the data shown in the view.

Daboo: lol no, no that's not it.

AoD: :)

AoD: FINALLY!

AoD: I *KNOW* Rosie O'Donnell.

Daboo: LOL

AoD: She was Rizzo in "Grease"

AoD: I mean the Broadway one, not the movie one.

AoD: BWAHAHA! I GOT ONE RIGHT!

AoD: Grease (1994) (as Betty Rizzo)

Daboo: lol you're weird

AoD: She's kind of an uggo, but she's got a more than decent voice

Daboo: well, Rosie got hired on to The View instead of Star Jones, which was a big huge controversy if you don't have anything better to do than care about daytime tv.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 08:29

An...Interesting Idea

I'm more of a "middle man" myself, but if you're an "edger", you might want to pickup one of these.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 04:34

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

A couple of videos

The first one is a blast from the past, man. It always amazes me what you can find on youtube.

The second is just a funny guy named Demetri Martin who makes me laugh.

Posted by Wren in Oddities at 18:28

Because Using Linux Makes You an Action Hero!!!

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 13:47

I haven't done this in a really long time.....

... but you really should check out this picture. Especially you Radar.

Sadly she passed away last night.

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 09:17

Monday, June 4, 2007

Your Jealous Rage of the Day (sponsored by YouTube)

Join me...hate him.

Stupid jerks with the talent and whatnot...

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 14:44

Friday, May 25. 2007

I'm Speechless

...

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 13:09

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Shocking!!

haha

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 13:33

Speaking of weird...

The Motion Picture Association of America is debating the moral implications of portraying smoking on film. It seems that characters "glamorizing" smoking in a film will soon affect the overall rating of a flick. I think it's a great step toward a healthier America, you know?

Posted by Wren in Oddities at 13:04

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

New Backstory

Slowly, the history plodded forth in the raspy tones of the Forsaken. "It was a dark cavern. These things are always done in dark places. Green slime dripped from overhead onto a fungus covered lump of rock colored with the blood of Lordaeron. The toxic fumes that emanate ceaselessly from the Apothecarium combined with the scent of sulfur and bat guano to produce an almost overwhelmingly poisonous atmosphere. Not that I minded. Five figures we were, each dangerous in his own right, each armed with gear befitting his rank amid Sylvanas' trusted lieutenants. We built Maleficium there and we swore to protect the Horde and carry out the will of Thrall and the Dark Lady."

The words broke in unexpectedly, "Yet it is not enough."

The hollow, sunken face turned in the direction of the interruption. "Yessss," it hissed. "I know. Why else would I be in this horrid place?" The sounds of glasses clinking and distant seagulls penetrated the stillness surrounding the table. The goblin bartender sidled over. "More ale, fellows?"

Oblivious to the glares directed at him, the green fellow sauntered off, no doubt in search of profit elsewhere.

"Look, Xiphoid. We all appreciate what you've done for the guild, but it's not enough," said Waruk placatingly. "There is betrayal seething inside the Horde, and too many threats outside it to bother listing. We can't wait for Thrall and Sylvanas to take action. The Warchief wants to avoid open warfare with the Alliance, but that doesn't mean we can't do our part to harass them and keep them from gaining in power."

"Lok'tar, Waruk! My band of assassins is ready and waiting for our orders. You want supplies destroyed? Consider it done. You want an Alliance outpost gone? It doesn't exist."

"While your enthusiasm is to be commended, Insurance," at the sound of the Orc's name, one pair of eyes around the table narrowed, while in another a glint of humor could be detected. Xiphoid continued, "We do not yet have the information to make wise decisions regarding targets we wish. . .removed."

Just as he finished those words, a loud popping noise burst from the center of the table and a small green imp wreathed in flame began to hop from one foot to the other in a bizarre sort of dance. "My master sends his greetings. Your choice of locale prevented his appearing in person. Yelp! Ouch! Stop that!" No one around the table could determine any cause for the imp's pain, before it whimpered and went on, "The warlock Kilj'hard desires to lend his services in the effort to eradicate all. . .Alliance life."

Not sure how to respond to this, Xiphoid simply nodded and said, "Thank your master for us. I'll be in contact with him after we conclude our business here."

As if those words were a dismissal spell, the imp simply vanished. There was a moment of silence as Xiphoid looked around the table with a troubled look on his countenance.

Seeking to move on from the awkward moment, Melancholia rasped in as soothing a fashion as she could muster, "Indeed, the Alliance must be stopped, and I bring the resources of the Royal Apothecary Society to the Cause. We bring options no other can provide." Those closest to her thought they heard her mutter something about "such tasty options."

"Yes. Fine. Thank you. Your dogged research will have its day to shine. Now, Waruk, do I understand that you represent several of Sunstrider's people who are willing to engage in espionage?"

"Yes, Xiphoid. Since their first overtures to Thrall, I have journeyed among our former antagonists to judge for myself how committed they are to the Horde. I can offer the services of several of our new allies that have proven their loyalties. If necessary, they can serve as information gatherers, though the loss of the Sunwell is starting to have. . .physical effects; most notable the green glow."

"I shall rely on your wisdom to dictate where they can best be used. Unless anyone else has anything to offer. . .?" Silence greeted his question, so the venerable mage continued, "The inevitable betrayal must be stopped and the Horde

must be triumphant. Let us do our best to see it so."

After a pause to let his words sink in, Xiphoid continued. "There must be an oath; one with dire consequences for any who should choose to break it. We must also set in motion a means of passing information between groups. This second is vital. Our tasks will lead each group to disparate areas of Azeroth and Draenor. For each mission to be accomplished successfully, those charged with the task must have as much knowledge as possible. . ."

"Or as much as his skull can hold," muttered Insurance.

Xiphoid continued on as if he hadn't heard, ". . .and in turn the rest of us will need to know as soon as possible when each task has been accomplished. It is with this in mind that I have acquired one of the magical communication channels usually reserved for guilds. Nevermind who had to die for this, that is unimportant. The channel is not to be abused and is to be kept secret. Disclosure of its existence to one not of the oathbound will result in severe castigation. Am I clear?"

"MOOOOOO!"

"\$%#@! Who let the cow in?" cursed Xiphoid.

The sounds of wood creaking under enormous strain began to fill the tavern as the heavily armored Tauren climbed onto a nearby table and began to dance.

Waruk looked apologetically at Xiphoid. "It is the day for Happy Hour. No doubt more of the guild will be arriving shortly."

"Double \$%#@! Whose idea was this idiotic cover story for the guild? Maleficium is a very serious group of very serious individuals on a very serious mission. The very idea that a number of Sylvanas' favorites would run off drunken into the Plaguelands without bringing any weaponry or gear of any kind IS ABSOLUTELY OUTRAGEOUS!"

Insurance looked disparagingly at Xiphoid. "Calm down, old man. I don't think you have any body parts to spare and your eyeball looks like it's about to pop. The cover story is fine. It gives us freedom to move about. How else could we have this meeting in Ratchet? Besides. . ." and with this, he pulled out a large gun, took a long, aimed shot, and fired. "We'll have several more hours until the rest of the guild shows up. Let's continue the meeting."

The body of the large, armored, dancing cow toppled to the tavern floor.

As the rest of the meeting's attendants were deciding on a rational reaction to this event, a lanky Troll bearing dual glowing daggers sauntered into the tavern exclaiming, "Oy! Who be killin' me cow?"

"It's about \$#@!ing time you showed up, Raaji. I was beginning to think we wouldn't be able to count on your aid here," replied Xiphoid. "Now, if we can avoid any more interruptions, I'd like to continue with the business at hand."

"Ya mon! Did you be tellin' dem about de secret channel?" queried Raaji as he signaled to two nearby goblins to clean up the Tauren corpse at his feet. As they went to work, he flopped into a chair near Insurance.

"Yesss," hissed Xiphoid. "As I was saying before the livestock got out of hand, we require an oath before use of this Arcane Communication will be permitted. I have harnessed the mystical arts necessary to enchant this rod with a curse to mark any who betrays us. Due to our disparities in biological makeup, this was a very difficult process. . ."

"Yeah, yeah. Spare us the sermon, Xiphoid. What will it do to the traitors?" interrupted Insurance.

"Are you familiar with the corruption of the Lost Ones and the Wretched?" asked Xiphoid.

"Sure, I've seen a few around. Of course, they never made it back to whatever hovel they called home," chuckled the orc.

"Fine. The curse laid on this rod will make you wish you had been counted among either of those groups should you betray us," explained the mage.

"What does that mean? That doesn't tell me anything," barked Insurance.

Xiphoid simply directed a look at him that seemed to say, "Who the hell do you think I am?"

"I don' be carin' what de curse does. Anyone who betrays dis group will find a knife in his back," muttered Raaji.

"That will hardly be necessary. . ." began Xiphoid.

"It doesn't matter. No one who betrays the group will be left alive whether the curse gets them first or one of us does. Let's all swear on the rod and start passing out assignments," said Waruk impatiently. "There's no reason to waste time arguing about who has the most effective method for dealing with traitors when the whole point of this group is to defend the Horde from those who would destroy it from within or without. We already know about Neeru Fireblade, but how many more are there like him that are just competent enough to avoid Thrall's detection?"

"You have a good point, Shaman," answered Melancholia. "I, too, am eager to begin putting the resource of the Society to work. Let's have the rod, Xiphoid."

Nodding his compliance and agreement, the mage passed the rod around and each at the table swore to protect each of the others and to defend the Horde from its enemies.

After everyone had taken their turn, Xiphoid addressed the others once more. "Waruk. I understand you and your Sin'dorei allies have been aiding the Dark Lady's efforts in Hillsbrad and Alterac. Please continue your efforts there and report back on any success the Blood Elves have at infiltrating the enemy's encampments there."

The orc nodded his assent.

Xiphoid continued, "Insurance. Your task is more difficult. You must join the goblin arena tournament. Gain the trust of other participants and report back anything suspicious. You will be competing against teams from both the Alliance and Horde, so it will be a good opportunity to uncover plots that will undermine our efforts on either side."

"You can count on me. I shall lead my team to victory in the tournament and earn glory for the Maleficium even as I halt the efforts of the Horde's enemies." Insurance saluted and walked away from the table to talk to the goblin bartender about purchasing a charter.

"Raaji. You must aid Melancholia by guiding her through the wilds of Outland in search of Alliance supply depots where we can plant the alchemical solutions of the Royal Society. This will require great stealth on your part, can you handle it?"

"Ya mon. You can count on me!" shouted Raaji as he threw a dust pellet to the ground and vanished.

Xiphoid nodded his satisfaction. "Though he has an odd manner of speaking, he will be of invaluable assistance Melancholia. Do you have any questions?"

"No. I will return at once to the Undercity to await word from the troll," she answered.

"Excellent. Now, I'll continue my public appearances as a member of the Maleficium High Council and search for hints of betrayal from the other guilds housed in Orgrimmar," said Xiphoid, before muttering, "I'll also look into how to make best use of Kilj'hard's interest in our organization."

Realizing that Waruk and Melancholia were still watching him, he continued in a louder voice, "I'm not sure how much he can be trusted, but I know his hatred of the Alliance is unquestionable. I've heard dark rumors of his past in the Mage Quarter, but it is difficult to lend them much credence. In any case, we must not turn down aid when it is offered with sincerity." He paused, looked around, and said, "Well, you all have your orders. I'll be at Happy Hour tonight, but I can, of course, be contacted by means our new magical communication." He then began chanting a magical spell and disappeared in a ball of light.

Waruk and Melancholia got up from the table, and as the Warlock went outside to summon her fiery steed, the shaman paid the barkeep and began his journey back to Tarren Mill.

Posted by The Mad Giggler in Oddities at 13:09

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

I don't know why...

I don't know why, but this is the funniest one I have seen so far. I think it is because as a kid, I always read this stupid comic hoping that one day it would actually be funny to me.

Sadly, it never was. It came close back in June of 1992.

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 07:42

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Ah, Star Wars...you bring us all the funniest crazies

"How Stuff Works" takes an amusing look at how a lightsaber works. There's also a wikipedia article on lightsabers themselves, which includes more information on how they are made, as well an incredibly detailed article on the 7 forms of lightsaber combat.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 11:57

Sunday, May 6, 2007

What'd I tell you?

Didn't I tell you that there would be more rapid updates? Because there's gonna be.

Anyway, for those of you who know, this is Darcy again. Because he rocks! I just want everyone to know that he's wearing pajama pants... it only looks like he's naked because he's sitting at a kitchen counter. Å-Å-

Darcy's a crime boss. He runs the east side. And he smokes because he figures that he won't live long enough to reap the benefits of lung cancer. ./

Posted by Wren in Oddities at 03:00

Friday, May 4, 2007

Art

-giggle- okay this is the third time I'm trying this. Seriously, I'm a moron. Whoever checks over the autosave is gonna see the same information over and over..

SO.

Giggler showed me how to add media to a post! Which means that I can just post stuff right here instead of linking to the gallery. Which means that updates will be smaller and more frequent.

For this, I wanted to try Audrey Kawasaki's style. *Please note* that this link is *not* work safe, and some Audrey Kawasaki's pieces are a little.. lesbiancentric. But her style is still awesome. So is this how you do it? Here goes nothing.

Posted by Wren in Oddities at 01:08

Friday, April 20, 2007

xkcd is always great

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 11:05

I'm Not Sure If This is Real or Not

A radical new tire design may be coming your way soon.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 07:50

Monday, April 16. 2007

Convex or Concave?

Following my recent pattern of optical oddities, I present you this image from the planet Mars, and pose the question (click image for larger version):

Convex (mineral deposit) or concave (crater)? If you focus on the top, left-hand edge of the image, your eyes should eventually adjust to see a concave hole in the ground with the sun shining from that corner. If you focus on the bottom, right-hand edge, you should see a hill protruding towards you with a light source in THAT corner.

It's actually a crater, and it took me some time to find the "convex" shape in it, so if you don't immediately see one or the other, keep trying. Focus on the brightest or darkest point and let your focus soften as you follow the edge around toward the opposite contrast.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 04:52

Wednesday, April 11, 2007

Efficient Directions

So go to maps.google.com and click on find directions.

Search from New York, NY to Paris, France.

Then scroll down and check direction #23.

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 21:59

Monday, April 9, 2007

Microsoft is Dead?

Paul Graham's latest is all about how "no one is scared of Microsoft anymore". It also did me the favor of informing me that I fit into the "older half" of Mr. Graham's audience. Someday, perhaps soon, I will write to you about age...they say "slinging code is a young man's game", and everyone I see at conferences or user's groups is at least ten years younger than me. Did I miss it?

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 11:20

Sunday, April 8, 2007

Re: Jeckyll and Hyde

I liked Johnny's post, so I thought I'd try it myself, except I took it one step further...I shaved half of my beard and combed my hair on that side, leaving the other side bearded and ruffled.

I'm not sure what it is, but something really disturbs me about the second image...I look like some sort of simpleton.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 15:51

Saturday, April 7, 2007

Dr Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

So, I decided to do a strange experiment. Here's what I did. I took a picture of myself, and then I split the picture in half. I took each of the halves, and created a mirror image of it, and then I stuck two of the same half together to create a whole face. (I don't know if that makes any sense) So, now I have two pictures, one that's my left side twice, and one that's my right side twice. They look kind of like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

The mirroring isn't quite perfect, but you get the idea :)

Posted by Johnny Elbows in Oddities at 07:34

Thursday, April 5, 2007

Google Maps Captures Army of Giants Attack Netherland..ish(?) City

I believe the operative phrase is ZOMG!

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 22:27

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Something for Everyone

Those of you who are "Green" will probably most admire what these guys did. Myself, I'm most fond of their stated mission: "Exploring niches in regulatory systems and social codes". HACK THE SYSTEM!

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 14:33

Monday, March 12, 2007

Stop motion animation of classic video games

Here's one.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 19:59

Sunday, March 11. 2007

A Dilemma Indeed

What to do?

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 00:59

Thursday, March 8, 2007

For Later Viewing

Most of you are behind a troll-monitored firewall that blocks youtube, but when you get home, watch this. It's the actor who does the voice of Yakko from Animaniacs singing the countries of the world song...and he's an OLD MAN. I mean, OOOOLD MAAAANNNN!

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 13:12

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Bob Dylan Singing Dr. Seuss

I'm not entirely sure what Bob Dylan or Ted Geisel would have to say about this.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 15:35

Sunday, February 25, 2007

Monday Morning Oddities, vol. 1 issue 2

First off, how about a SCUBA diving cat (and dog)?

A book that sounds interesting, as well as a link to the Shelfari service (Pete, Jared, and I are already busily shelfaring (?) away).

If you're into technical books, O'Reilly Labs has an interesting project.

Are you becoming too gringo?

In a loving tribute to the needlessly complex, how about a 25 minute video presentation of a Rube Goldberg Machine? Actually, I'm not even sure what the device DID, because it cut away at the end to some high-school class doing far more simple machines, but for 25 minutes I watched fascinated. There are several explosions (including at least one cannon), lots of things burning/starting on fire, and a number of indistinct chemical reactions.

When computer scientist Jim Gray went missing, the technology industry started what has been called "the largest strictly civilian, privately sponsored search effort...ever seen." Unfortunately, he was never found, and the search was called off on February 16, 2007. It's a great loss to our community, among other reasons because he was working on some incredibly interesting areas of research.

Let's close with a guy doing 500 Impressions in 2 Minutes with a little bit of What *REALLY* Happened After the Death Star Blew Up (warning, the latter may be considered NSFW).

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 22:23

Wow!! Oh my gosh! You ain't gonna believe this one.

This just goes to show that life provides the funniest ironies.

Just make sure to read the last paragraph. I laughed out loud when I did. :)

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 15:52

Monday, February 19, 2007

Some oddities for your Monday Morning

Fun With jwz

So, you might not know who jwz is, but he's probably largely responsible for the fact that you're reading this webpage right now, due to his involvement in making the former Netscape web browser into an open source project that become Firefox nee Mozilla.

Most of the time, his articles make me pretty angry (he's very opinionated, and you all know that *I* am the sole of peaceful agreement...right?). Anyway, I enjoyed this one. Note that there is a tiny bit of profanity.

No News is Good News?
I laughed. HARD.

Animated American Atlas

No idea if Daboo's students are studying this stuff or not, but I found it enlightening to have it all put together in one big narrative that way.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 23:51

Thursday, February 8, 2007

This is for Joey - Cheer up buddy, because it could be worse. Believe me, it could be worse.

This post is not for everyone!!! It involves things of a gross nature. Continue reading at your own risk. This is intended for the laughter of Joey. You have been warned.So I have been quite sick this last week. I actually missed work for the first time in 4 years because of it. But it seemed to have a strange effect on me that has not ever happened before. I do not know the cause of it. Was it the several year old can of Campbell's chicken noodle soup? Was it the Tylenol Cold Multi-Symptom severe? Was it the orange juice I kept downing? Or was it all three? The world may never know.

But the urge to urinate suddenly came upon me. I went to the bathroom to relieve myself. As the stream began to flow I noticed something very stange: my urine was not the usual color. It was yellow, yes. But it was a shade of yellow I had never before beheld. It was just like Mountain Dew, but without all the carbination. But it took me to the next level of thinking: What would it be like if our urine was carbinated? Think of the foam that would you could get in the bowl. Since Navy people call the bathroom "the head," would you then get a "head" on the toilet while in "the head?" It makes you think. Or at least it makes me, and hopefully you.

Well I hope this has brought you a smile. By the way this story was not embellished at all.

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 22:00

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

There's...a Smiley Face on the Surface of Mars...

Another old entry that didn't get out of "Draft" state for some unknown reason:

I was poking around in Google Mars, and I found this (the feature in question should be almost directly in the middle of the page).

o.O

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 02:28

Monday, February 5, 2007

qaD wlv

So a friend picked me up a nice treasure (not like those punk friends who go home to see their families and then claim that they are out of "cell service", and whose names rhyme with doughy) on his recent trip to Las Vegas: a Klingon Chalice.

So here is the dilemma: What do I choose to drink as the maiden beverage?

This is a special occasion, and I don't want to use some sub-standard tonic. Milk is too wimpy (this is a klingon chalice). Cran Apple just doesn't feel right. I think I need something thick. Citrus drinks don't seem a good choice. Water = not a drink. Soda is too fizzy. I am so confused.

So people, I need your help. I am here by taking suggestions as to what I should drink as my virgin libation. Ideas?

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 22:25

Oddities Indeed!!!

More here.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 15:01

Where the h3ll is Joey?

So I have been trying to call Joey since last night during the super bowl, and every time that I call, I get no ring, no dial tone, and no Joey. Does anyone know what is happening? I know he is alive because he has posted a few things today (most of which are confusing to the common man). WHY WON'T YOU ANSWER ME JOSEPH SMITH????!!

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 13:59

Friday, February 2. 2007

More on DSLs: awk, part II

To reward those of you who have struggled through my most recent posts regarding DSLs in general and awk in particular, I give you a short post.

How I'm using awk (in conjunction with other tools) to block the botnet attacking us: I was able to find a regular expression that lets me match attempts by the botnet. So I told my computer to watch the logfile forever, looking for matching lines and blocking the IP address that made the request. Here's what the command line looks like (I've left out the actual grep command so that spammers don't pick up on it).

```
tail -f /var/log/apache2/sites/thehomestarmy.com | grep " | awk '{print $1}' | xargs iptables-add-rule.sh
```

Here, awk is being used for its simplest, but perhaps most popular, feature. It's very intelligent about providing ways to break a piece of text into chunks and making those chunks available for printing. What I've done is asked awk "Please read you input, break it into fields, and print the first field." That first field from my apache logfile format happens to be the IP address of the user requesting the page.

That's it.

To demonstrate how effective these "little languages" are at solving this kind of task, I went ahead and wrote the same tool in perl and C.

Using DSLs (awk, grep, bash): 1 line, 20 words, 156 bytes

Perl solution: 20 lines, 62 words, 566 bytes

C solution: 367 lines, 926 words, 9718 bytes.

DSLs clearly won the day here.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 10:14

Thursday, February 1, 2007

For you Harry Potter fans

You can reserve book 7 now.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 14:45

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

[Forwarded from Pejer]: Does anyone else see a problem with this?

Or does this mean that it is finally legal to do this? If not, how does homestarrunner get away with it?

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 12:46

Friday, January 26. 2007

I have come a long way

Who would have thought that, a little farm boy from Linden would be sitting on an airplane typing out an article to share with his friends on their blog. I have come a long way in my life to reach this point and I find that as I sit here, at about 35,000 ft. hovering somewhere over the Sierra Nevada mountain range, that I am truly blessed.

I spent the better part of an hour sitting in the airport this morning waiting to board my plane sending emails to clients and co-workers. I felt it an odd experience to be sure. This is by no means my first time on an airplane, but so many times before I sat waiting in an airport bored stiff and trying to look like I was actually interested in what was happening down at the Cinn-a-bon. Internally I longed to be one of those people who pulled out their laptop to do "important" stuff. I was this morning; and it felt good.

I will admit a sad lesson that I learned. I actually had typed this article out once before while I waited this morning to board. I was logged into the homestarmy typing away at this very article and I pulled out my verizon aircard to connect to the web and post it, when my connection went down mid-load. I was devastated! I had just lost the entire article.

So now I sit in the upper atmosphere re-writing (though to be candid, this article does not contain the same words) in notepad. I will not make the mistake again of working offline on the web. I have learned to work in something that you can save locally.

One might have become bitter and angry about having lost about 15 minutes worth of work. And let's be fair, I have never fully enjoyed writing. But I am neither disgruntled or pissed off. I have finally become one of the people I used to so longingly gaze at. I don't know if there is a name for these people, but for this morning and the rest of my vacation at home, I am one of them. And it feels good!

I don't feel any different, being on this side of the laptop monitor. The only thing I worry about is when the battery will die. Because I have no idea how this blasted thing works!

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 15:32

Thursday, January 25, 2007

Bow Ties?

So I thought it would be a good idea to try something new. I asked my Mother for a couple of bow ties for Christmas. She performed admirably and I now have two bow ties. They look great, and I love them.

One problem: I don't know how to tie a bow tie.

So do one of you happen to know how to tie a bow tie, or perhaps know of a web site that teaches one how to do it? If you could let me know, I would be grateful. Who knows, maybe this is what has been keeping me single all these years. :)

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 14:19

Also,

I know there's this unspoken disapproval about posting videos from youtube here now, but I know at least one of you will appreciate these three; they're music videos by an artist named Emilie Simon and I love them. I have listed them here in order of coolness.

Flowers

Desert

Posted by Wren in Oddities at 09:57

Thursday, January 18, 2007

I can't live with you...

And I can't live without you.

I promised myself I wouldn't resort to posting videos from youtube on here, but... well... d'awwww. I mean, I can't speak the French so's I have no idea what the song is about but I really liked the animation.

Posted by Wren in Oddities at 22:42

Tuesday, January 16. 2007

Always Remember: It Might Look GayeR Than You Thought

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 08:54

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Forwarded from Radar

Funny stuff...my question is, why wasn't the teacher bothered by the sudden shift to China in the last paragraph?

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 13:55

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Finally, someone understands my darkest fears

First of all,

and secondly...

Posted by Daboo in Oddities at 07:36

Monday, January 8, 2007

Talk about your oddities

These guys found this strange metal ball that, so far, has defied all attempts to identify what it is. Any guesses?

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 08:51

Tuesday, January 2, 2007

xkcd rocks

I realize some of you will probably not get it, but still... ell oh ell.

Go here for more awesome geek jokes.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 23:40

Stars and Garters!

I don't know who's responsible for this, but I seem to be wearing a slashdot t shirt that is very large. I put it on because I mistook it for the U2 shirt I stole from Giggler. It's big and warm and black, and I'm wearing it to bed. I don't know where it came from, but I can only assume it arrived over the holidays. I guess the purpose of this post is to let the real owner know that I do, indeed have the slashdot shirt with the green geek and coffee mug on it, and NO, you're not getting it back. Ever.

Posted by Wren in Oddities at 23:02

Tuesday, December 19, 2006

On a slightly more serious note: You Should Write Blogs

This guy has written a great article discussing why YOU should write blogs...and no, posting funny videos doesn't count as writing a blog. He even takes the time to shoot down some of the common excuses people give about why they DON'T blog. Take a few minutes and read it. Print it out and read it at home, if you must...it's not like there's Hereos, Studio 60, Veronica Mars, or Lost to watch.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 12:56

Monday, December 18, 2006

Why am I the only one who does this?

You people need to get up off your lazy butts and find amusing videos. I'm the only one who ever does it! I DO NOT WORK AT A COMPUTER ALL DAY! This is an outrage, and it's gone on long enough!!!!

While I'm waiting for you to appease me, I'll be watching this stopmotion video.

Posted by Daboo in Oddities at 12:17

Friday, December 15, 2006

It's official: I'm in Love!

Every year around this time, I get excited for the Mormon Tabernacle Choir Christmas concert. I have been to a total of five now (one for every Christmas I have been here). And almost every year I have had to stand back and wonder at why they chose the special guest that they did. Because frankly I had no idea who any of them were.

Past performances have included Angela Lansbury (though I was not in Salt Lake when she came), Walter Cronkite, Frederica von Stade and Bryn Terfel, Audra McDonald, Renee Flemming, and this year Sissel. As the date loomed ever closer I wondered if I was going to be able to scratch up a ticket for myself. You see not once have I ever had to wait in line or call to get a ticket. It has always been handed to me by friends who had extras. This year was no different. My friend James Fairbanks (a choir member) walked by and he and I got talking and he offered me not one, but two tickets!! I had an opportunity for a date. I made the arrangements and the young lady I had in mind consented to be my companion for the evening. But you see it is not her for which the title of this article is being written, though I certainly had a fantastic evening with her and she is quite lovely and fair to gaze upon. Her company was excellent and fun. No, you see I am in love with Sissel!

Now I am quite certain she is married. She is seven years older than I am. And she is Norwegian. A combination which will make it nigh unto impossible for me to ever make a proper love connection. But as she came out onto the stage last night and merrily parted her lips to issue forth the most beautiful, clear, and smooth sound I have ever heard; I could not help but fall in love. She simply had to smile and I suddenly found myself smiling too. It took no effort what so ever for her to fill the entire Conference Center with some of the most enchanting, exquisite, and elegant sound it has ever heard.

There was no strain. No gasping breath. No scratchy note. Not a single thing was out of tune in her entire body. For it is without a doubt a single well tuned and refined musical instrument. I am sorry for any of you who will not be able to hear her sing (though she will be televised on this Sunday's Music and the Spoken Word: 9:30am KSL channel 5). It was a joy to be sure. I was moved so much that I actually plan on purchasing two of her albums: one to give to my mother and one for me. Those of you who know me, know that I hardly ever open my wallet for anything. It will be a sheer delight to purchase her cd Into Paradise. She sang one of the songs from it last night, and I just melted in my seat.

PS. Do any of you know where Norway is?

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 06:12

Thursday, December 14, 2006

Russia's Greatest Love Machine!

This is mostly for Wren. Bah ha ha. It's catchy!

Posted by Daboo in Oddities at 16:13

Wednesday, December 13, 2006

A new take on an old favorite

Canon in D has never sounded quite like this before.

Posted by Daboo in Oddities at 08:04

Tuesday, December 12, 2006

Sylvanas' Song and Anansi

First of all, check out this cool quest reward in the BC. Obviously only available to the Horde...it's creepy and cool.

Second of all, while we're talking about books, you **MUST READ THIS BOOK!** It starts out a little slow, but once it gets rolling it's one of the best books I've read. It's by Sandman author Neil Geiman, so you know it's going to be something different, and it's awesome! If you have ever heard any Anansi stories, he is the spider trickster of African legends. All trickster legends from Africa originate with Anansi, even those that have been later (erroneously) given to such imposters as Brer Rabbit.

Posted by Daboo in Oddities at 09:26

Friday, December 1, 2006

I are a HTML'er!

So I have been reading this book about HTML and I learned about hr tags last night. So when In came in this morning I went and played around with them.
I think it's cool. I like HTML!

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 12:04

Friday, November 17. 2006

kiwis and ponies

Awesome little animation...

and it only gets weirder

Posted by Daboo in Oddities at 09:00

Tuesday, November 7, 2006

Judge Lewis

In continuation of a discussion that began during D&D Last night, here are a couple videos of Judge Lewis.

First her putting a hunter in contempt.

Second is her opposition of ceremonial dunking.

Note: As of 9:46 p.m. She was losing her re-election bid 53% to 47% with 16% precincts reporting.

EDIT: Judge Lewis was ousted, as she lost her re-election bid 54% to 46%. She was the only judge not to be retained.

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 21:38

Wednesday, November 1, 2006

Fascinating.

If you want something interesting to listen to, give this a try.

Posted by Daboo in Oddities at 08:40

Tuesday, October 31. 2006

Kinda Cool....

...although I'm sure AoD would still find a way to cause major trouble with this.

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 13:54

Thursday, October 5, 2006

Trippy

This is kinda cool.

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 11:36

Thursday, September 14, 2006

AI-Mormons

You just might be able to catch more flies with honey instead of vinegar. Enjoy!

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 06:27

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

mmmmmmm!

I just wanted to let Joey know that I was eating Ming's chinese food for lunch. And boy is it good!!!! :)

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 12:43

Saturday, September 9, 2006

Cause it made me laugh

So I was driving into work today and I noticed something that made me laugh. You may have heard it before but I thought I would share it any way. The license plate holder around the car in front of me said this:

There are 3 types of people in this world; those who can count and those who can't.

On an unrelated note, is anyone else uncomfortable about the fact that dictionary.com has changed their look?

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 16:32

Friday, August 11. 2006

Monkey Play

How in the world this Monkey survived, I will never know.

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 16:35

Tuesday, August 8, 2006

Anyone need a good laugh?

Exercise never looked so hilarious, or gay!

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 06:36

Friday, August 4, 2006

Behold, the power of ninjas

Note to self: ninjas can only be defeated by the power of the sea.

Posted by Daboo in Oddities at 09:58

Sunday, July 30, 2006

She's Crazy

This is the crazy telemarketing phone call thing I was talking about.

Posted by Daboo in Oddities at 10:08

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Just for Laughs...

I came across this quote from one of the guys at work, and I felt that all of you should share in its juicy goodness. The quote:

I'm not a vegetarian because I like animals, I am vegetarian because I hate plants.

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 07:29

Tuesday, June 13. 2006

A Blast from the Past

So I guess thanks to AoD, Giggler went looking for the About Us Pages that Maverick made for the Company way back when.

In reading it we came across this classic from Radar.

He works on "my own brand of unix and Java script operating system. I call it: "JOS" (which stands for the "Junix Operating System, not the first name of the creator of Buffy, and Angel tv series). My design allows me to parse out the DOM at a much faster RAM to CPU ratio, thus allowing the ddl and the css port to integrate along side the xslt ribbon cable. My design effectively makes the USB coolant fan obsolete, and out of date. Also, by linking the GUI with the ROM slot cable, I have increased procesor speed to ten megapixels per unit of PCI. Yeah, put this in your pipe and parse it Steve Jobs, Linus Torvald, and Bill Gates!"

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 15:28

Sweet, Sweet Nerd Love

I came across this article in the Wall Street Journal today. It's so funny that I had to share it.

To Find a Mate, Raid a Dungeon Or Speak Like an Elf

Some choice gems:

Nick Yee, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Communication at Stanford University who studies online games, found in a survey earlier this year that 29% of women players and 8% of men said they had gone on to date someone they met in a game. He says the games are filled with scenarios that shed light on players' personalities. A risky raid on a dungeon, for example, can reveal whether someone is a team player. "These are trust-building exercises," he says. Players "are constantly having to make decisions like, 'Do I run out and save myself or help the others survive?' " Situations that reveal so much about someone's character are less common in the real world, he thinks.

David Knife, 32, fell in love with his wife, Tracy, 30, while playing Anarchy Online, a science-fiction game. Mr. Knife says he was impressed by her leadership skills. Ms. Knife, who in the game led a guild of about 50 players, "was very motherly to many of the players," he says. "It's the way she controls everyone by still being very nice."

Terri Perkins, a spokeswoman for Funcom NV, the Norwegian publisher of Anarchy Online, says the company knows of more than 20 couples who married after meeting in the game, which was launched in June 2001. Because so many players like to stage in-game weddings, she says, the company has assigned about a dozen volunteer players to help arrange the weddings, which can include fireworks displays at the ceremony.

"I have to remember two wedding days and two engagement days,"

Unlike Napoleon Dynamite's brother, these examples did not hit close to home for me.

Posted by The Mad Giggler in Oddities at 10:39

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Another Milestone reached...

So I have this new job, working for a web development company. It is great! I have a higher wage. I have newer, better fitting, and cooler clothes. I have self confidence. I have responsibility. I have a new title (Project Manager). And most important, I have one thing Joey wishes he had: Jared.

But alas, I am not here to gloat about my victory over Joey. The accomplishment I wish to share is regarding the amount of work I do. You see I have been doing a bit more work than my responsibilities require. A lot more.

Up until now, my personal best amount of work was about 100 hours for a two week period. That included working on Saturdays. I only work Monday through Friday, and so for my last two week pay period, I topped out at 123 hours!

Some of you (namely Joey), might say this is nothing. And I would probably agree. But this is me we are talking about not Joey. I actually enjoy sleeping at night. 123 hours in ten days is pretty good in my book, and I just wanted to share.

Thank You

ps. heee heee heee Joey. I got him!

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 12:38

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Words I Like

I like that the word Polysyllabic, is itself, Polysyllabic.

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 07:11

Friday, April 28, 2006

Marten's got enough uteruses in his life as it is.

There are some things I will never understand.

Posted by Wren in Oddities at 13:23

Tuesday, April 25. 2006

From Peter

Nash asked me to post this.

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 12:09

Monday, April 10, 2006

I Don't Claim To Know the Answer . . .

My question is: Why do we still have borders?

I don't like borders. I've crossed the border between the United States and Mexico a few times, in a few different places. I've also crossed the border between the United States and Canada a few times in a few different places. And I've dealt with visa and customs problems more times than I can even remember. I've probably wasted several months of my life standing in line so that some government official could look over someone's papers, frown officiously, and then stamp them as his way of saying that he would allow that person to stay inside of "his" borders for a little while longer.

So why do we have those borders? What purpose do they serve?

Do they make us safer? I don't think so. I don't have any data to back up my position, but I really have a hard time believing that illegal immigrants commit a disproportionately large number of crimes. My experience with illegal immigrants has been that most of the time, they're too busy working to have time to commit many crimes.

Do they help us economically? I don't think they do that, either. Sure, illegal immigrants are willing to work for ridiculously low wages because they know that if they protest, they could be deported, but there are significant costs that come with having such low wage workers around. Health care, schooling, and other public resources are straining to deal with the added expense that comes from having so many people depend on them who can't afford to pay for them. Maybe if they weren't so worried about borders, they would be able to protest the inhumane working conditions that they have to deal with. And maybe then, they could afford to pay for the public resources that they use, bringing down the costs for all of us.

So, do borders protect us culturally? Maybe they do that. But realistically, what is American culture? We don't have our own language. We don't have our own religion. We don't have anything that is really ours. Nearly everything that we think of as ours was really someone else's before it was ours. All we can really claim is the American Dream, the dream that through hard work and perseverance, anyone can succeed, and realistically, who embodies that dream better than illegal immigrants?

Why do we have borders? They're a convenient way to define Us and Them. We can use them to say, "We have certain rights, protections and privileges that They don't have." Think about it though. What did you do to deserve those rights? Do you deserve them because your parents were born in the United States? Do you deserve them because you were born in the United States? So, They don't deserve those rights because they weren't born in the United States? Whatever happened to the idea that "all men are endowed with certain inalienable rights . . ." ? Is a man alienated from his inalienable rights simply because he is an alien?

Posted by Johnny Elbows in Oddities at 15:36

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

When fate turns you into a Motorcycle... You become a motorcycle.

All I can say is prepare yourself for 30 minutes of awesomeness.

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 16:05

Monday, November 14, 2005

Math can be hard, too!

Three friends check into a motel for the night and the clerk tells them the bill is \$30, payable in advance. So, they each pay the clerk \$10 and go to their room.

A few minutes later, the clerk realizes he has made an error and overcharged the trio by \$5. He asks the bellhop to return \$5 to the 3 friends who had just checked in. The bellhop sees this as an opportunity to make \$2 as he reasons that the three friends would have a tough time dividing \$5 evenly among them; so he decides to tell them that the clerk made a mistake of only \$3, giving a dollar back to each of the friends. He pockets the leftover \$2.

Now, each of the three friends gets a dollar back, thus they each paid \$9 for the room which is a total of \$27 for the night. We know the bellhop pocketed \$2 and adding that to the \$27, you get \$29, not \$30 which was originally spent.

Where's the missing dollar?

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 13:26

Sunday, November 13, 2005

Riddle Me This

This is an oldie but goodie:

There is a man lying in the desert flat on his face, dead. He has no water, no hiking gear, is wearing a back-pack, and there are no tracks leading up to his body. How did he die?

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 23:10

Saturday, November 5, 2005

Trivia Question

An old woman died, leaving her family a precious diamond. But she hid it in a secret location, and gave them only one clue: It's hidden in a cylinder surrounded by a thousand squares.

Where is the diamond?

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 18:54

Monday, October 24, 2005

Olympics in 2016?

Now see this only goes to prove they'll have a championship for almost anything.

I especially enjoy the last paragraph.

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 15:53

Saturday, October 22, 2005

Thanks Joey

So I had this friend of mine that was supposed to put something up on the blog for me, but he seems to have not done so. Anyone want to guess who that someone was? That's right Joey. Well I finally have a keyboard under my fingertips, so here is the message.

I will not be able to make the D&D session on wednesday, because I am attending my Stake temple night activity at the SL temple. I am not asking anyone to change their schedule to do it another night. I am only informing you of my absence. Feel free to not cancel, but to press on without me. Joey can play my character for me. Sorry for the bad news.

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 15:33

Tuesday, October 4, 2005

Wanna Go For a Ride?

This is pretty clinical, but probably not appropriate for all audiences. The New York Times has an article about the dangers of riding bikes for extended periods of time. Among the choice parts of the article, I picked out these gems for your reading pleasure:

Dr. Goldstein added, "Numbness is your body telling you something is wrong."

Just as many smokers do not get lung cancer, many cyclists will never develop impotence from bicycle seats, the scientists said.

"We make kids wear helmets and knee pads," Dr. Goldstein said. "But no one thinks about protecting the crotch."

Cyclists became angry and defensive, he said, adding: "They said cycling is healthy and could not possibly hurt you. Sure you can get numb. But impotent? No way."

"Most people are not riding long enough to damage themselves permanently," said the spokesman, Marc Sani, publisher of Bicycle Retailer and Industry News. "But a consumer's first line of defense, for their enthusiasm as well as sexual prowess, is to go to a bicycle retailer and get fitted properly on the bike."

This has been a Public Health & Safety Announcement courtesy of the Homestarmy and sponsored by Kelloggs.

Posted by The Mad Giggler in Oddities at 09:39

Monday, September 19. 2005

Drink Up Me Hearties. Yo Ho!

Avast Ye, Fer Today be the 19th of September. Means only one thing it does. Arrr, It's Talk Like A Pirate day!

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 10:59

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Please Explain

So I was having a conversation with a friend, and he made the comment: "I can always hope". So I got wondering about another statement. Can a person actually, hope against hope? Please give me your thoughts.

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 16:10

WWII

Here is a pretty good retelling of World War II

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 11:32

Tuesday, August 16. 2005

radar

So I was trying to find some information about Pandas, to hopefully show The Mad Giggler that Pandas are actually not friendly cuddly animals. So I went to wikipedia to do some research and found this interesting bit of info, that I thought you should all share in:

On the trivial side, pandas in captivity sometimes do not know how to mate. In order to tackle this problem, keepers of the bears in China, usually show "pornographic/educational" videos to the bears, the contents being pandas having sex with each other. Amazingly, the bears get stimulated by the videos.

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 15:42

Saturday, August 13. 2005

I need some help understanding women

So at my family reunion, one of my aunts told me that she had a girl that she had been "dying" to introduce me to. So I said, sure here is my email address, have her contact me. Now here is where I need the help.

My aunt described her as "willowy". Which I took to mean as slender and graceful. So in my first email I told her that my aunt had called her willowy, and then I asked her (as a joke), since she was willowy, if she had to prune herself often. She replied and said that she would classify anorexic and willowy close together. On a side note, she then said that she was probably thicker like an oak tree.

So what is that supposed to mean? I don't understand women. Please help!

Posted by Radar in Oddities at 20:09

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Perhaps some levity?

It seems that a university Philosophy professor made a great breakthrough and had agreed to do a series of talks at universities throughout the country detailing his discoveries. Because the professor disliked airplanes, he hired a chauffeur to drive him from one spot to the next. Spending so much time together, the professor and the chauffeur became friendly and in the course of time, the chauffeur confided that he thought the professor had about the easiest job in the world.

"How's that?" asked the professor.

"Well," said the driver. "You give the same talk night after night. You get asked the same questions night after night. There's just nothing to it. Really, I've heard it so many times now, even I could do it."

At this, the professor challenged the chauffeur and at their next stop, the chauffeur and the professor changed roles (and clothes). Good as his word, the chauffeur gave a very successful talk and, just as he had predicted, the same questions were asked. That is, until one person asked a new question, one the chauffeur-cum-professor didn't know. He thought about it for a while and finally said, "Young man, that is the single most stupid question I have EVER been asked. Why, I'm surprised that you don't know the answer to it. I would think anyone would. In fact, the question is so simple, I'm going to have my chauffeur answer it!"

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This same professor comes into a class on Philosophy on the last day of the term and tells the students that 100% of their grade for the class will be based on the paper he is about to ask them to write. He pulls up a chair, sits down, and declares: "You have 1 and a half hours to prove to me, using the things you've learned this term, that this chair does not exist."

All of the students save one begin frantically scribbling, tying Bhuddism to Fruedianism to Aristotle. The last student looks very carefully at the professor for about 30 seconds, then writes a few words on a piece of paper, hands it in, and leaves. When the grades are published, the entire class is mystified to see that only the one student passed. His paper is posted next to the grades, and says simply:

"What chair?"

Posted by Ancient of Days in Oddities at 11:31

Tuesday, July 26. 2005

Sick of all the Nostalgic Crap

It was announced today that they are going to make a Voltron movie. This is of course on the heels of them announcing that there will also soon be a cgi Smurfs movie, and a cgi Ninja Turtles movie. Ninja Turtles is of course recently seen a resurgence in the video game markets with a crappy (right Giggler) game last year.

This after the following lineup of movies that came out this year: The Longest Yard, Star Wars III, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Batman Begins, Bad News Bears, Herbie: Fully Loaded, and Bewitched, with Dukes of Hazzard right around the corner. Sure some of these movies were good (Charlie, Longest Yard, Batman), of course some of them weren't so good (Bewitched, Star Wars).

Not to mention the countless covers of songs that seem to be on the airwaves now a days.

Is anyone else sick of the entertainment industries seeming refusal to come up with good original mainstream entertainment for us to enjoy, and instead decide that they must rape and pillage the memories of our youth by hiring someone like Michael Bay to direct a live-action Transformers movie, nice opening to "The Island" there buddy. I don't mind the occasional sequel, or remake, especially when done well (Charlie and the Chocolate Factory), as opposed to something just put out there to make money, quality be damned (Star Wars), but I also like to see new original works, or adaptations of things that hadn't been given proper treatment before like Lord of the Rings or Chronicles of Narnia. I think that all the Screenwriters, song writers, video game makers, etc. are locked into a room, strapped down to electric chair that sends immense voltage throughout their body, until they come up with something new, different, and/or Original.

The worse part of all this, is it seems that when something new and different is produced, studio's manage to screw it all up.

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 13:02

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Ahhh, the Joys of True Love

Found this Story, and just had to share it with you.

Divorced Couple Argue Over Virtual Items

I guess it was just a matter time before we would start seeing this ... a couple filing for divorce in China is arguing over custody of their computer game characters and virtual items.

According to the Chongqing Business Post, Mr. Wang from Chongqing and Ms. Ye from Hubei met last September on Shanda's online game Legend of Mir 2. Wang saved Ye's character from being killed by another player and the two quickly fell in love. The couple married at the end of October but decided to get a divorce this last June.

During their marriage, the couple jointly played over ten Mir 2 accounts, attaining level 40 to 50 status for all of them, which I am told is quite high. All the characters and virtual items are estimated to be worth 40,000 to 50,000 Yuan, and Wang said that he wants to keep the accounts and virtual items and is willing to give their joint apartment to Ye. However, Ye wants to split the apartment and game items equally (how do you split an apartment?).

Remember, if you are going to share your virtual items with your significant other make sure to write your name on all your items!

Sometimes even true love isn't enough

Posted by Sideshow in Oddities at 12:33