

Leave the Jokes to Us, Credit Card Man

LONDON (AFP) – Doctors in Britain treating patients suffering from infected wounds can now prescribe them a pot of maggots. Research at the Princess of Wales Hospital showed that sterile maggots heal wounds faster than conventional medicine, giving scientific credence to a technique used during WWI on recovering soldiers. Nurses can now visit the patients' homes to apply maggots to the wound and seal them into the infection with a dressing, leaving them to feed on the bacteria (maggots don't eat healthy tissue). After three days, the maggots are removed. That's right, you'll be walking around with maggots feeding off your flesh for **THREE WHOLE DAYS**. Yum. What miracles will larvae bring us next?

ETHIOPIA (Reuters) – In Ethiopia's remote, rural communities, guests at weddings often discharge firearms in the air to express joy. But one guest was a little too overloaded with weapons when he decided to hit the dance floor: "A grenade accidentally fell from a guest's belt during a group dance in eastern Ethiopia, killing four persons including the bride," the Ethiopian News Agency reported. In the awkward silence that follows, as all eyes in the room are fixed on you, what do you say to the groom? Sorry...

LINCOLN, Neb. (Associated Press) – At 10:30 a.m., on the air, as District Representative Arnie Stuthman spoke on the floor, NETV's audio feed accidentally switched to sound from the children's show *Sesame Street*. Dubbed over Arnie's voice was the high-pitched squeak of a Sesame Street character asking, "Where's Ernie hiding today?" The crossed audio and video feeds made it seem as if Stuthman was requesting the presence of Representative Ernie Chambers in a mocking voice. Chambers later commented on the event: "There's a power higher than that of the Legislature working that may be trying to get a message to somebody," a statement which is both cryptic and makes no sense, but hey, welcome to Nebraska.

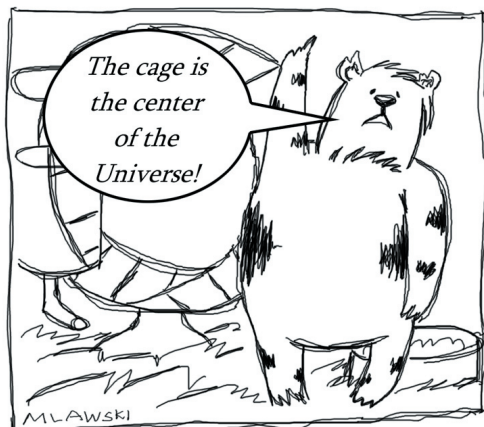


SYDNEY (AFP) – Australians are persistent. Take Luke Tresoglavic for example, who was swimming at Caves Beach when a two-foot-long shark clamped onto his leg. Instead of freaking out like a blonde, blue-eyed Scandinavian, he subdued the thrashing shark with his bare hands, and swam towards shore with the predator still attached to his calf. Once on the beach, the shark died of suffocation—but the problem remained: "People tried to help me but could not remove the shark. So I got up into my car and drove to the clubhouse." Lifesavers there, in a Swedishly erotic procedure, hosed Tresoglavic off with fresh water, removing the shark.

SWEDEN (AFP) – In one Swedish town, concerned officials have built a special love tunnel so that horny male bullfrogs crossing the busy road won't die when they trek to their mating pond. Given this Freudian context, *Frogger* finally makes sense.

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (Reuters) – Guard duty can be boring. Guards often pass the time by playing cards, watching TV, or, say, dueling to the death. Late Sunday, two policemen guarding the mayor's office killed each other in an old-fashioned duel. According to a hospital official, the two officers, aged 29 and 33 years old, died "from gunshot wounds as a result of a pistol duel." Although the motive for the duel will never be known, one of the duelists clearly cheated because the odds of firing at the exact same time are pretty slim. The slower duelist presumably shot back after he had already been mortally wounded, to which the 'winning' duelist undoubtedly shouted, "YOU FILTHY CHEAT—" before collapsing on the ground.

SEOUL, South Korea (Reuters) - After failed negotiations with striking workers, the KEB Credit Service Company fired one-fourth of its employees...with official mobile phone text messages. One can only imagine what it must be like to look at one's phone and see (rough translation), "You're fired :o)! -KEB." A KEB spokeswoman defended the action, saying that there was no other way to contact the 161 striking employees (approximately 70% of South Koreans own mobile phones). One employee at the picket line tried to make light of the situation: "What a convenient world we live in—for the management that is." Leave the jokes to us, credit card man. ☹



Medieval hamster astronomy