



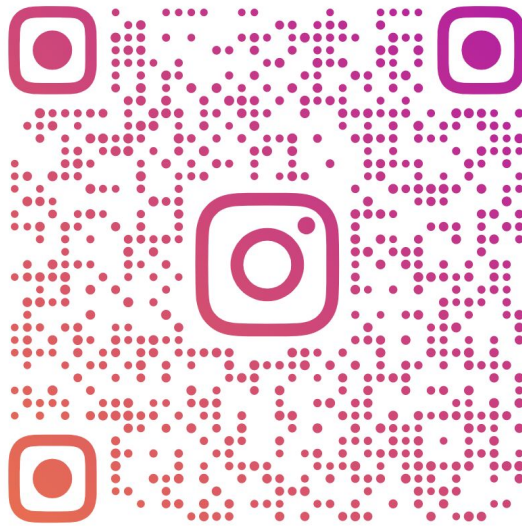
Broken Things

fragments & poems

George Pestana

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Thanks to Frank Winkler (FrankWinkler) on
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ØDDWRITINGS

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Table of Contents

Broken News.....	4
Wood.....	11
IO, the Lawbreaker.....	13
Before the Fall of the Mastodons.....	14
Request from a Kindly Cow.....	16
Index of Random Things.....	17
Index of Artists.....	25
Index of First Lines.....	26

Broken News



Officials were shocked today to learn that a smurf, whose identity will not be revealed, was responsible for breaking up the crime ring of a notorious band of criminals intent on stealing all diamond wedding rings in the city and hoarding them at a secret location. Central to the plot was the insertion of tiny pellets of the drug penicillin into the inside grooves of said rings, said to confer the power of safety from all infection whether intentionally spread or not. Using a stun gun aptly named "henry IV," the smurf proceeded to burn all flammable evidence in sight, while merely singeing everything else. Unfortunately the secret location happened to exist within the slum sector of the city, and many priceless slum artifacts were lost in the fire. Attempts to interview eyewitnesses proved fruitless, owing to the fact that they were dead at the time of the bust.



An unidentified dog today spurned the crumbs handed to him by his master, shortly after burping. The master, one J. H. Fumblecricket, exclaimed exasperatedly that he didn't know what had gotten into the beast. "I cann'a explain it," he said, "Lyotard hadn'a once acted so daft in all me life." When queried about the burp, the concerned citizen seemed unconcerned. "He burps alot," said the man, "especially after chasin' lizards." Upon examination of the crumbs nothing untoward was noticed. Rumor has it that after the incident a chemist neighbor examined the crumbs for any lingering rat poison or other dangerous commonly found substance, but Mr. Fumblecricket was unable (or perhaps, unwilling) to confirm the report. This marks the third time in as many years that unusual behavior has been noted in the dog residents of this particular neighborhood. Conspiracy theories are bound to begin their inevitable sprouting should this mystery not be solved, and quickly. When asked if he had filed a police report, Mr. Fumblecricket shook his head. Whether he shook it up, down, or sideways is of course immaterial to the case. We caution all responsible readers to watch their pets carefully for crumb denial, should this prove not to be an isolated incident.



- BREAKING NEWS -

**DUMB THUMB
RUBS
SUNBURN,
HURTS NUN!!**

A none-too-clever thumb has rubbed the sunburned shoulder of a woman of the cloth. Sister Mary-Ann Peluski complained yesterday of the painful incident, perpetrated in broad daylight at the corner of Winston and Marmoset. The owner of the thumb, who has asked to remain anonymous, objected that all he was doing was scratching her itch, which he could clearly sense. Sister Peluski denies itching at all, claiming that her shoulder was feeling mildly sedated as she pondered the concerto she had heard the night before. Preparations have been made for a full inquiry, to be taken under oath under the oak tree in front of Justice Hall. Residents may remember this particular spot as the same one on which the bones of former president Monroe lay scattered due to the upsetting of his hearse by a frightened cow, followed by a veritable feasting of flesh-eating crows shortly thereafter. This will be the first test of local ordinance 23, which prohibits the abuse of skin by non-relatives. The defense will undoubtedly claim that the intent to abuse was not present during the action, while the prosecution will argue that the damaged nature of the skin should clearly have indicated to the thumb not to proceed, despite the admittedly limited intelligence of the opposable digit.



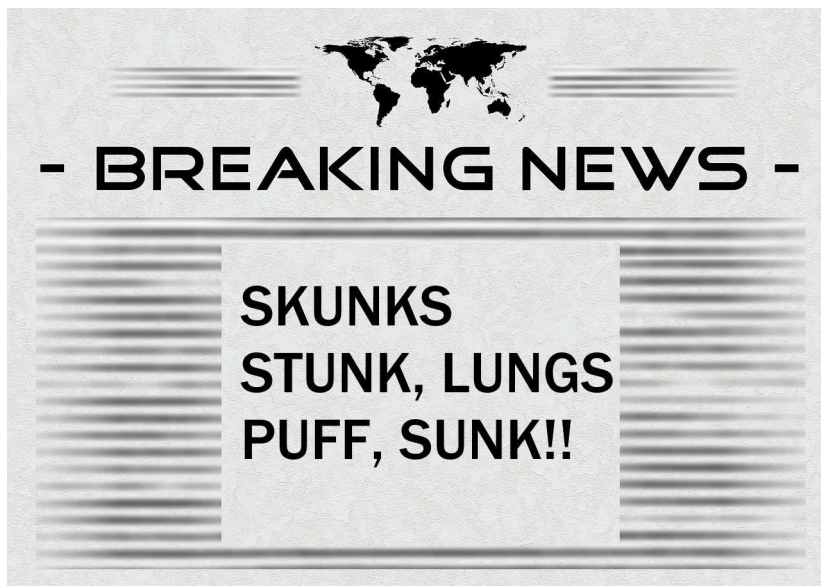
The never-ending economic slump received a shot of adrenaline today as the largest trust of the land, Magellan Balboa, injected a truly massive amount of specie into circulation. The hope is that the sudden increase in liquidity will cause solid structures to melt throughout Wall Street, particularly the sculpture spreading its horrible wings over the populace recently erected by Phineas the bad-mouthed sailor upon the front lawn of the central bank. Participants of the yearly bull run have endlessly criticised the monstrous work of supposed 'art,' your correspondent included, for its propensity to steer the steers away from their appointed route, goring passersby in the process, much to the chagrin of the metropolitan city cleaners' guild. Veteran wall street brokers have noted, with full fidelity, that the trust's decision to boost the slump will likely succeed, at least to the point of changing it into a shambling sort of stance. Causing it to fully become erect is seen as doubtful, however, given historical precedence. Yet one cannot fail to appreciate the optimism apparent in the actions of Magellan Balboa - here they are, a firmly established firm, putting their monetary position in peril in the hopes of stemming the floodwaters of oncoming financial disaster if only for a brief shining moment, all for the benefit of the little man.



Residents of Carlyle Street were awoken yesterday morning by a constant barrage of drum-thumpings. In a desperate attempt to stop the racket, everyone in the neighborhood proceeded to open their backyard apiaries such that a swarm of bees soon clouded the skies throughout the town. The buzzing of those insects served to soften the audible blows of the skin-taught instruments, which was somewhat of a relief - but what really amazed the onlookers was the collective action of the swarm. It seemed that the repeated, rhythmic beats served to form patterns in the very body of that mass of flying creatures, much as a flock of birds will form patterns as they leap into the air during the summer; and the observers, mesmerized, soon began descrying fantastic shapes amidst the living clouds. Castles formed, and huge lollipops, and rings of undulating kangaroos - and soon the residents' cameras were out, and photos were taken. A new art form was declared - that of Apian Swarm Photography. Such photographs cannot be printed in newspapers, it was quickly discovered; the reason for which is not yet clear, but several hypotheses put forth by those in the know suspect that the inherent loathing of pointillist techniques by photojournalists in this part of the world is to blame. As for the cause of the drum beats, the Meredith High School Band admitted to have been particularly expressive that morning.



A brush was found this morning in a most disgusting state of turf, mud, dust, and fluff all entangled together willy-nilly. What the owner of the brush was intending to do can hardly be imagined, though one can be certain that those with civilized taste would clearly want to distance themselves from even attempting to make such a supposition. The police were immediately called, resulting in more than one officer doubling over and emptying the contents of their bellies into the nearest bush at first site of the discovery. Gingerly holding his nose, one upholder of the law managed to carefully dust the wretched handle for fingerprints, followed by all-around applause at this not-to-be-underestimated feat of endurance. Should the perpetrator of this offense to the public sense of decency and all that is good ever be identified, one can be certain that, like the ancient Athenians, he, or - good Lord! - she, will summarily be ostracized without the city walls. Such abhorrent sullyng of cleaning utensils is not to be tolerated, lest we as a society fall down the slippery slope leading to all debauchery and contumeliousness. A record has been noted of the location of the find, and the area cordoned off should members of the public be accosted by any lingering odiferous remnants of this disaster without the requisite warning to gird their loins in preparation for the assault upon their senses.



Pantaloone Square was overrun last night by an army of dispeptic skunks, resulting in multiple admissions to the city hospital of residents suffering from collapsed lungs. Those who survived described labored breathing in which their chests heaved to enormous proportions before shrinking down into shriveled forms of their former selves. Surprisingly, none of the skunks appeared to have sprayed anyone or any buildings in the square; they were instead suffering from an apparently acute form of indigestion, resulting in streams of flatulent air of such concentration that the effects of inhalation of said streams resembled those of nerve gases used during the recent war. The possibility of this being a giant hoax perpetrated by a group of wayward schoolboys has crossed the minds of more than one investigative reporter, given that yesterday the Society for Ladies of Proper Etiquette (SLOPE) held their annual meeting in that same square, and that particular organization has had run-ins with local gangs of roguish urchins on various occasions. Should this be the case, the timing of the hoax indicated quite poor planning, for SLOPE had left the square hours before the skunks descended upon the scene; and indeed, our urchin gangs have exhibited shocking incompetency in the execution of prior adventures, even by the standards of the contemporary blackguard-in-the-making.

Wood

wood that the
wood-termites chew
withstands the
withdrawal.
it's a wood-bank,
like a food-bank
for foragers.
eaten away,
the planks and posts
stand still,
an image
of intensely slow
crumbling,
hosts for the hungry,
pallid as ghosts.
good will
is in good supply
here in these halls
of holes
and grainy porridge
bowls.
"please, sir,
may i have
another?"
i read dickens
in the woods,
stricken
with the sense
of convalescence,
even as the
walls weaken,
mumbling not

with wheedling
words
of the ways of the
woods and the
termites'
feeding,
needing, and yet
not pleading.

The above poem was first published in SkywayJournal, February, 2021.



Artist : GDJ (Gordon Johnson) from Pixabay

IO, the Lawbreaker

i hid within implicit sin
in drifting high; illicit pills
i wish i didn't mix with gin
in-stilling mississippi's will

to flow or drown tomorrow's crop
forlorn to knock on sorrow's door;
oh! not for Solon's crown to drop
of old, or roll on Oxford's floor

did i inhibit witticism's
instinct in inspiriting
insight, in sight, in limpid prisms
splitting light, if limiting,

to colors soft, or bold;
for Honor(')s hot or Honor(')s cold.



Artist : Philippe GDS (PhilGONDAS) from Pixabay

Before the Fall of the Mastodons

before the fall
of the mastodons
the grey light
shimmered
in the early hours.
some burly,
some lean,
homo erecti
followed their
ancient routine,
arising,
cleaning,
fire-tending,
blending their
speech with that
of lower creatures.
they spoke
of the turning wind
and coming storm
and the breaking
of previous plans.
the shaking of trees
for nut-fall
would be replaced
by basin-spreading
for rain-catch;
salted hides
sealed
for dryness, in places
unrevealed to the
eye in the sky,
and the gift prepared

for the slaking
of the land.
and with a hand-movement
all work started.
the gazelles and hares
in their own way
felt these changes
and knelt in their hearts
though not knowing why.



Artist: Digital Designer (DigitalDesigner) from Pixabay

Request from a Kindly Cow



Artist : dendoktoor on Pixabay

are you enjoying this manuscript clotted with angst
besotted absurdity brindled with colors of sun
wondering lazily who in their right mind would thank
with hundred-fold melodies creatures so tame
that write on this parchment, my stomach, my name

kindly consider from whence was derived, in corporate
craft of [odd writings](http://oddwritings.com), so carelessly careful and free
the draft of which mottles the eyes of your fingers
the stretch of your skin, the brawn of your thought,
the crust of your crinoline headcheese

visit me please, and drop a few coins to show your thanks
<http://oddwritings.com>
moo

Index of Random Things

absurdity.....	16
adrenaline.....	7
angst.....	16
Apian Swarm Photography.....	8
apiaries.....	8
applause.....	9
art.....	7
art form.....	8
assault.....	9
Athenians.....	9
bank.....	7
barrage.....	8
basin.....	14
beats.....	8
bees.....	8
bellies.....	9
blackguard.....	10
bones.....	6
brawn.....	16
breathing.....	10
brokers.....	7
brush.....	9
bull run.....	7
burps.....	5
bush.....	9
buzzing.....	8
cameras.....	8
castles.....	8
chagrin.....	7

chemist.....	5
chests.....	10
circulation.....	7
city walls.....	9
civilized taste.....	9
cleaners.....	7
cleaning utensils.....	9
coins.....	16
colors.....	13
concerto.....	6
conspiracy.....	5
contumeliousness.....	9
convalescence.....	11
cordon.....	9
cow.....	6
craft.....	16
criminals.....	4
crinoline.....	16
crop.....	13
crown.....	13
crows.....	6
crumbling.....	11
crumbs.....	5
crust.....	16
debauchery.....	9
decency.....	9
defense.....	6
diamond.....	4
dickens.....	11
dickens (image).....	12
disaster.....	7

dog.....	5
draft.....	16
drifting.....	13
drown.....	13
drum-thumpings.....	8
dust.....	9
endurance.....	9
erect.....	7
eye in the sky.....	14
eyewitnesses.....	4
fantastic shapes.....	8
feasting.....	6
feeding.....	12
fidelity.....	7
fingerprints.....	9
fingers.....	16
fire-tending.....	14
firm.....	7
flatulence.....	10
flesh-eating.....	6
flock.....	8
floodwaters.....	7
floor.....	13
fluff.....	9
food bank.....	11
foragers.....	11
forlorn.....	13
front lawn.....	7
Fumblecricket.....	5
gangs.....	10
gazelles.....	15

ghosts.....	11
gift.....	14
gin.....	13
girding of the loins.....	9
goodwill.....	11
guild.....	7
halls.....	11
handle.....	9
hares.....	15
headcheese.....	16
hearse.....	6
henry IV.....	4
henry iv (image).....	13
hides.....	14
hoax.....	10
holes.....	11
homo erecti.....	14
honor.....	13
hospital.....	10
hungry.....	11
hypotheses.....	8
incompetency.....	10
indigestion.....	10
infection.....	4
inhalation.....	10
inquiry.....	6
insects.....	8
insight.....	13
instinct.....	13
instruments.....	8
intelligence.....	6

itch.....	6
Justice Hall.....	6
kangaroos.....	8
kneeling.....	15
knock.....	13
liquidity.....	7
little man.....	7
lizards.....	5
loathing.....	8
local ordinance 23.....	6
lollipops.....	8
lungs.....	10
Lyotard.....	5
Magellan Balboa.....	7
Marmoset.....	6
mastodons.....	14
meeting.....	10
melodies.....	16
Meredith High School Band.....	8
mississippi.....	13
mix.....	13
moo.....	16
mud.....	9
mumbling.....	11
mystery.....	5
needing.....	12
nerve gases.....	10
nose.....	9
nut-fall.....	14
oak tree.....	6
oath.....	6

odiferous remnants.....	9
officer.....	9
onlookers.....	8
optimism.....	7
ostracism.....	9
Oxford.....	13
parchment.....	16
patterns.....	8
penicillin.....	4
peril.....	7
pets.....	5
Phineas the bad-mouthed sailor.....	7
photojournalists.....	8
photos.....	8
pills.....	13
planks.....	11
plans.....	14
pleading.....	12
pointillist techniques.....	8
police.....	9
police report.....	5
porridge.....	11
posts.....	11
president Monroe.....	6
prisms.....	13
prosecution.....	6
racket.....	8
rain.....	14
rat poison.....	5
roguish urchins.....	10
roll.....	13

routine.....	14
schoolboys.....	10
scratching.....	6
sculpture.....	7
shaking of trees.....	14
shambling.....	7
shoulder.....	6
sin.....	13
Sister Mary-Ann Peluski.....	6
skin (abuse of).....	6
skin (stretching of).....	16
skunks.....	10
slippery slope.....	9
slum.....	4
slump.....	7
smurf.....	4
Society for Ladies of Proper Etiquette.....	10
solid structures.....	7
Solon.....	13
sorrow's door.....	13
specie.....	7
speech.....	14
splitting light.....	13
steers.....	7
stomach.....	16
storm.....	14
stretch.....	16
stun gun.....	4
sullyng.....	9
summer.....	8
sunburned.....	6

swarm.....	8
termites.....	11
thanks.....	16
thumb.....	6
trust.....	7
turf.....	9
Wall Street.....	7
wedding rings.....	4
wheedling.....	12
wind.....	14
wings.....	7
Winston.....	6
witticism.....	13
wood.....	11

Index of Artists

dendoktoor.....	16
Digital Designer (DigitalDesigner).....	15
Frank Winkler.....	2
GDJ (Gordon Johnson).....	12
Philippe GDS (PhilGONDAS).....	13

Index of First Lines

A brush was found this morning.....	9
A none-too-clever thumb.....	6
An unidentified dog.....	5
are you enjoying this manuscript.....	16
before the fall.....	14
i hid within implicit sin.....	13
Officials were shocked.....	4
Pantaloons Square was overrun last night.....	10
Residents of Carlyle Street were awoken.....	8
The never-ending economic slump.....	7
wood that the.....	11