



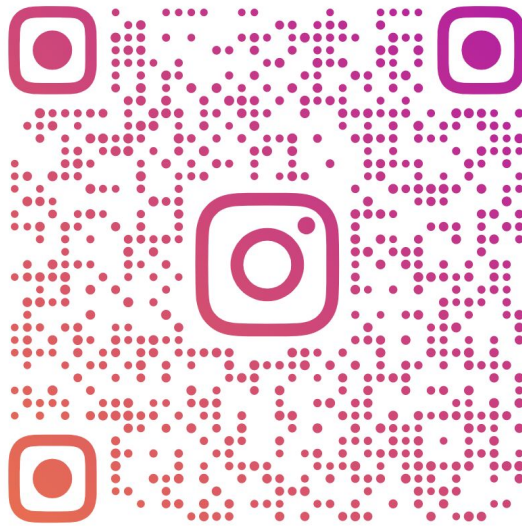
Broken Things

fragments & poems

George Pestana

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Thanks to Frank Winkler (FrankWinkler) on
Pixabay for providing the cover art.



ØDDWRITINGS

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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.

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

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

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