**Resistance**

**But I say to you that you should not resist evil.**

***(St. Matthew 5:39)***

**Numerous species of mammals, birds, reptiles, even some other fish, are much more aggressive than sharks, says Donald R. Nelson, a marine scientist at California State University in Long Beach. In other animals, he notes, aggressive behaviors are most obvious when the creatures are defending territories, mates or offspring. *(Mark Wexler)***

**You can classify animals also by what parts of their bodies they fight with. Horses and ostriches are foot fighters. Apes and hippos are face fighters. Humans and kangaroos are hand fighters. Skunks have a category all to themselves. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**When ant colonies make war on one another, they fight to exterminate. A two-day battle among the ants can leave the ground cluttered with corpses. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**In the modern effort to eradicate disease, we pop antibiotics like candy, apply hand sanitizers with abandon, and gargle mouthwash by the gallon. But this carpet-bombing of germs takes a huge toll on good microbes as well as bad. *(Sharon Begley, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**Working as a nanny, I once had to use a real dinosaur of a baby carriage. It was so big and unwieldy that I always had trouble on the five steps leading up to my clients’ house. One day as I struggled on the steps, a neighbor came out to help. We pushed and pulled to no avail, and the poor baby was bounced around until he began to cry. “I don’t understand why we can’t get this buggy down off the porch,” lamented the neighbor. “Down?” I said. “I’m trying to get it UP!” *(M. Joan McIntire, in Reader’s Digest)***

**And we have found also, to our dismay, that some species of bacteria are all too quick to develop immunity to some antibiotics so that our research scientists are kept feverishly busy seeking out new varieties of molds to combat each newly immune strain of bacteria. *(Dr. Benjamin F. Miller and Ruth Goode, in Man and His Body, p. 50)***

**The bacterium Helicobacter pylori causes ulcers and has been linked to stomach cancers. Although it was once in almost everyone’s gut, it’s now found in just 6 percent of U.S. children, Science magazine reported in 2011, probably due to the widespread use of antibiotics and anti-microbials. That should mean fewer ulcers, but there’s a dark lining to that silver cloud: H. pylori may ward off asthma. Scientists led by Dr. Martin Blaser of New York University Langone Medical Center found that those without H. pylori are more likely to have had childhood asthma than those with it. Coincidence? In 2011 scientists in Switzerland infected half of a colony of mice with the bacteria and left the other half germ-free. They showered all the mice with dust mites and other allergens. Mice with H. pylori were fine; those without suffered airway inflammation, the hallmark of asthma. *(Sharon Begley, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**The futility of banning books: “Nothing boosts book sales like condemnation by a church,” said Ron Charles. Just ask Sister Margaret Farley, a Catholic theologian whose book Just Love was languishing at No. 142,982 on Amazon’s sales list when the Vatican censured it last week, saying it could cause “grave harm to the faithful.” Within days, Farley’s book – which makes the moral case for sexual pleasure within any kind of loving relationship – hit No. 16 on the best-seller list. Once again, we see what happens to sales when a religious authority “tells the faithful to look away.” But that’s a temptation religious authorities have not been able to resist ever since Gutenberg invented the printing press. Evangelical churches have tried, and failed, to ban books by Tolkien and Steinbeck; more recently, they condemned Harry Potter and Nikos Kazantzakis’s The Last Temptation of Christ. In every case, interest in these things grew. Similarly, Ayatollah Khomeini imposed a fatwa on Salman Rushdie after he published The Satanic Verses in 1988 – turning Rushdie into a literary superstar. Ayatollahs, ministers, and popes, it seems, will never accept a basic truth: “Trying to regulate what people read is counterproductive.” *(The Week magazine, June 22, 2012)***

**Many physicians are convinced that any cutting into a malignant tumor, even for a biopsy, actually increases the livelihood that the tumor will spread. *(G. Edward Griffin, in World Without Cancer, p. 86)***

**Bird flu outbreak: Iowa health officials announced that they would slaughter up to 5.3 million laying hens at an Iowa chicken farm this week in a bid to stem a growing bird flu outbreak in the state. Just days earlier, Wisconsin had declared a state of emergency over its own outbreak of the deadly virus, activating the state's National Guard to help sterilize vehicles used to transport flocks of turkeys that had tested positive for avian influenza. The H5N2 bird flu strain has been found in poultry farms in at least 12 states in the past few months, sparking fears that the virus could mutate and infect humans. "At rare times this bird flu virus picks up genetic capacity to be transmitted from person to person," said infectious disease expert Dr. William Schaffner. "That's when you get a big new pandemic*.*" *(The Week magazine, May 1, 2015)***

**The bubble is rolling along the countryside. Three different soldiers try to attack it in their own special way, and all three end up inside of the bubble. The little boy then gently touches it and it bursts. The little boy says: “If you want it to act like a bubble, then you have to treat it like one.” *(Unity Minister’s Retreat, June 14, 1993)***

**If you attack the establishment long enough, they will make you a member of it. *(Art Buchwald)***

**Our antagonist is our helper. He that wrestles with us strengthens our muscles and sharpens our skills. *(Edmund Burke, Irish statesman)***

**If angered, the camel will spit in its rider’s face. If the camel is annoyed, it will turn its neck and spit its foul-smelling cud right into a rider’s face. *(Larry Masidlover)***

**Some cells divide rapidly. Some drugs kill them. Cancer cells so divide. Likewise hair cells. That’s why patients on chemotherapy lose their hair. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Women who follow standard instructions to push during childbirth contractions may damage their bladder and bowel muscles. A new study shows that traditional methods, taught in medical school, practiced by millions of mothers, and spread by Lamaze and other childbirth classes, make no positive difference for the health of new babies and their mothers. In fact, say researchers at the University of Texas, pushing can cause at least short-term damage to a woman’s health. The study followed 320 women, none of whom received epidural anesthesia, into the delivery room. Half of the women pushed during their contractions. They delivered their babies an average of just 13 minutes faster than women who were told to follow their instincts. But three months later, the aggressive pushers had less bladder capacity and were more likely to be incontinent. Lead researcher Dr. Steven Bloom tells The Dallas Morning News that coaching a woman in labor to breathe and relax is fine, but that she should be allowed to do that “which is most comfortable to her.” *(The Week magazine, January 20, 2006)***

**Yes, chimpanzees throw rocks, but never with deliberate aim. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**State of Washington outlawed cigarettes in 1893 – their sale, manufacture, even use. Then 13 other states did likewise. But none could make it stick. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**An $8 billion U.S. campaign to combat cocaine cultivation in Colombia has cut production of the drug there by 65 percent over a decade. But in the same period, cocaine production soared more than 40 percent in Peru and more than 100 percent in Bolivia. Peru is now the world’s biggest cocaine producer. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, January 27, 2012)***

**Coffee, too, was targeted by temperance types in the 1820s. They wanted it banned. They bad-mouthed it aplenty, and demand fell off. Then they charged publicly that it was a sex stimulant. Sales picked up and their campaign came apart. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Most cold symptoms you suffer are not directly caused by the virus but by the immune weapons your body uses to repel it. *(Lowell Ponte, in Reader’s Digest)***

**The Czechs a generation ago circulated “The 10 Commandments of the Resistance” against Soviet occupation. What were they? “We have not learned anything. We don’t know anything. We don’t have anything. We don’t give anything. We can’t do anything. We don’t sell anything. We don’t help. We don’t understand. We don’t betray. We will never forget anything.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**London factory worker William Waldron became so upset when his favorite computer was taken away for repairs that he insisted on staying at home--without pay-- until it came back. After 10 months the computer still hadn’t come back and William was fired. But in October 1981 a court awarded him L3,500 for unfair dismissal and almost L1,500 in severance pay! *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 153)***

**The opposite of peace of mind is conflict – inner conflict that stems from resistance of one sort or another – resisting people; resisting situations; resisting weather; resisting circumstances; resisting ideas. Resistance brings turmoil, chaos, conflict, and resulting stress into the life and experience of the one who entertains it. *(Jack Addington, in New Thought magazine)***

**A Wellington, New Zealand, cow was sentenced to two days in jail for eating the grass in front of the city courthouse. *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It’s a Weird World, p. 83)***

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**Coyotes are so resilient that killing them, even in great numbers, just doesn't have much effect. Decades ago, several Western states tried to reduce coyote numbers through poisoning, trapping, and bounty hunting. But wildlife officials found that 70 percent of the entire population had to be killed every year to make a dent in the numbers -- an impossible target. Coyotes also have a biological mechanism that triggers larger litters whenever their numbers drop*. (The Week magazine, July 17, 2015)***

**As for the effectiveness of massive coyote-killing programs, there is evidence that coyotes possess an inherent capacity to compensate for unusual population losses. In south Texas, where coyotes were abundant, biologist Frederick F. Knowlton found several years ago that coyote litters averaged 4.3 young. But in the Uvalde section of south Texas, where coyote numbers were drastically reduced by intensive control efforts, the average, litter size was 6.9. Furthermore, in areas where coyotes suffer depressed population levels, females appear to begin breeding at young ages than elsewhere. Similarly, Colorado State University researcher Franz Camenzind found that coyotes in one Jackson Hole, Wyoming, area where the population is relatively free from traps, gunning and poison have litters averaging 4.5, as contrasted with six or seven pups in areas where heavy control is practiced. Camenzind concluded, “The more coyotes that are removed from the area, the more pups the4 remaining adults will produce.” Perhaps the ancient Indian tribes who believed that “Brother Coyote” would be the last animal on earth were truly prophetic. *((George Laycock, in Reader’s Digest)***

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**Czar Paul I of Russia became so irritated over people making jokes about his baldness that he issued a decree stating that anyone who mentioned the subject in his presence would be subject to the penalty of death by flogging. *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It’s a Weird World, p. 74)***

**A 405-pound man in Portland, Oregon, filed a $1.3 million lawsuit against a Denny’s restaurant because it didn’t have a chair or booth big enough for him to sit. *(Bill Flick, 1994)***

**Someday is not a day of the week. Which reminds me of a fortune cookie: You often find your destiny on the path you take to avoid it. *(Hector Elizondo)***

**The more we resist a condition the more power we give it. Beware of “fighting a cold” or any other problem under the sun. Disease is simply nothing trying to act like something. It depends upon our belief in it to sustain it. *(Jack E. Addington)***

**What we resist in life, we draw to ourselves. *(Susan Smith James)***

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**Despite the $25 billion the U.S. has spent on “the war on drugs,” the price of one gram of cocaine has actually dropped 16 percent since 2001. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 20, 2012)***

**The tectonic plates of the drug debate are shifting. Perhaps our appetite for spending billions and incarcerating millions, in the service of pieties immune to rational analysis, is not limitless after all. Exhaustion is finally setting in with the enormous human and fiscal costs of attempting to eradicate the ineradicable. People have always used intoxicants, and always will, in ways ancient and new. The Good Book tells that no sooner had Noah planted a vineyard than “he drank of the wine, and was drunken.” We are exiting the era when a focus on the harmful effects of illegal drugs excludes all consideration of the harmful effects of their hard-fisted prohibition. The debate is becoming less susceptible to cheap rhetorical bullying. *(Rich Lowry, in National Review, as it appeared in The Week magazine, August 3, 2012)***

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**When we resist anything, we are dwelling only on the old limited ideas from our experience, environment and education; we are not “passing over” into a new consciousness, and our ability to use the imagination creatively is lost to us. *(Jack H. Holland)***

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**One day a farmer came in and asked if I knew any way to kill potato bugs; he had 20 acres of potatoes, and the vines were being destroyed. I sent men out and culled two quarts of bugs and tried every chemical I had to destroy them. Bisulphide of carbon was found to do it. Instantly, I got a drum and went over to the farm and sprinkled it on the vines; every bug dropped dead. The next morning the farmer reported very excitedly that the stuff had killed his vines as well. I had to pay $300 for not experimenting properly. *(Thomas Edison)***

**Thomas Edison invented a device to electrocute cockroaches. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds. *(Albert Einstein)***

**Don’t join the book burners. Don’t think you’re going to conceal faults by concealing evidence that they ever existed. *(Dwight D. Eisenhower)***

**I was raised in the South, long before air conditioning was thought of. The summers were really hot; morning, afternoon and night there was no respite from the humid heat. One time, as I was fanning myself vigorously, a friend said to me, “You would stay cooler if you did not fan yourself. You create heat in your body by the extra exertion of fanning.” It made sense. From that time on I stopped resisting the weather. I found that I was much cooler and the hot weather ceased to bother me. *(Jack E. Addington)***

**Men resist what they fear. *(Nona L. Brooks)***

**The 11th-century religious leader St. Bernard once excommunicated a swarm of flies for buzzing too loudly while he was preaching. *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It’s a Weird World, p. 54)***

**Engineers a generation ago were confident they’d master that thing called “flood control.” Yet floods are getting worse, and they’re worsening more quickly than other natural disasters. They killed three times as many people in the 1970s as in the 1960s. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**In what Chinese officials are calling the country’s “largest pest eradication program ever,” 200,000 fly swatters were passed out to citizens. *(Bill Flick, 1994)***

**Following the path of least resistance is what makes rivers and people crooked. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**In 1989, a Union Bridge, Maryland, high school permitted a female student. Tawana Hammond, 17, to try out for its football team under the pressure of a federal statute than bars school discrimination on the basis of gender. On her first scrimmage, Tawana, a running back, was tackled and suffered massive internal injuries. In October, 1992, she filed a $1.5 million lawsuit against the county Board of Education for its alleged failure to inform her of how dangerous football is. *(Chuck Shepherd, Universal Press Syndicate, 1993)***

**When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it. *(Henry Ford)***

**The more the American red fox is hunted, trapped and chased, the smarter he becomes. Today there are far more foxes -- and far smarter ones – than our forefathers ever knew. In trying to outwit the fox, man has forced him to become the canniest animal in countryside. *(Jean George, in Curious Creatures, p. 23)***

**Fight for the things that you care about. But do it in a way that will lead others to join you. *(Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Supreme Court Justice)***

**A muscle becomes atrophied if it is unused. To reach optimum strength, a muscle must push against something. And to reach the greatest heights as an individual, a person must learn how to take advantage of a difficulty. *(Rev. Billy Graham, in Till Armageddon)***

**Old habits of inadequacy can be broken. They are not engraved in copper or sand-blasted into concrete, they are only old patterns that you have accepted for yourself. Oh, yes, you may find that when you reject them they will cry like banshees, but they are only screaming because they are dying. *(Jack E. Addington)***

**Head lice are becoming invincible, says a new Welsh study. A recent survey of nearly 3,000 British schoolchildren found that 8 percent were infested with head lice. Of the lice that colonized those kids’ heads, more than 80 percent were resistant to the most common over-the-counter treatments. Those treatments are made from chemicals called pyrethroids – essentially pesticides for the human scalp. But researchers say that over time, lice have evolved a resistance to the chemicals, developing a biological mechanism that detoxifies the poison before it can kill them. Public health official/ls tell the London Times that rather than conducting futile “chemical warfare,” the best way to defeat these unwanted guests may be to remove them with an old-fashioned, nit-picking comb. *(The Week magazine, June 30, 2006)***

**House Republicans tried to repeal President Obama’s signature health-care law for the 31st time in 18 months this week. Every vote to repeal or dismantle the law has predictably died upon or before reaching the Democratic-controlled Senate, but House Speaker John Boehner said, “We want to show people we are resolved to get rid of this.” *(NPR.org, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 20, 2012)***

**Herbicide use has created at least 48 “superweeds” that are resistant to chemicals. *(Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 32)***

**Heroin-related deaths in the U.S. tripled from 3,036 in 2010 to 8,257 in 2013, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in part because of a crackdown on oxycodone and other prescription opioids. *(TheDailyBeasst.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 20, 2015)***

**The human mind treats a new idea the same way the body treats a strange protein: It rejects it. *(P. B. Medawar, immunologist)***

**It is useless to send armies against ideas. *(Georg Brandes)***

**Any frontal attack on ignorance is bound to fail because the masses are always ready to defend their most precious possession – their ignorance. *(Hendrik Willem van Loon)***

**One time I heard the late Dr. Ernest Holmes remark, “I refuse to argue with anyone. I find that the more I argue, the greater the resistance.” Isn’t this another way of saying, Agree with thine adversary quickly? Resistance builds more resistance as today’s political history has proved. *(Jack E. Addington)***

**About 29 percent of illegal aliens sent out of this country have been sent away before. So say the border watchers. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**When the immune system targets its chemical arsenal on these respiratory diseases, it sometimes destroys part of its own tissues in what scientists call an autoimmune response. *(Lowell Ponte, in Reader’s Digest)***

**That which it is impossible to force, it is impossible to hinder. *(Marianne Moore, poet)***

**In October, a federal appeals court upheld a $325,000 jury award to Robert Fischer, who had claimed that an electrical shock he received from a Pepsi-Cola machine in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1987 had left him impotent. Fischer’s wife was awarded $35,000 for loss of services. *(Chuck Shepherd, Universal Press Syndicate, 1993)***

**Dr. William Tiller, the well-known Stanford physicist, has stated that it is a law of physics that, unless there has been resistance, no impression can be made (between materials). In the mental realm, a wonderful corollary of this would be that, unless we resist, there can be no impression! How important that is when we are faced with all the seeming problems and obstacles in our world! *(Jack H. Holland)***

**Impulses we attempt to strangle only develop stronger muscles. *(Yahia Lababidi, poet)***

**Native Americans were forbidden to paint pictures in their native style until 1932. Scholars say the government ruling was a blundering attempt at cultural genocide – to extinguish traditions that seemed to prevent Indian tribes -- people from melding into the general population. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**It was possible in the European courts of the Middle Ages to bring class-action lawsuits against insects – for eating crops. One 16th-century lawyer wrote a lengthy treatise on procedures for filing against grasshoppers. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**To put a new gleam in their eyes, a Singapore firm has introduced jeans with a solid-gold label and a similarly lustrous price tag: $925. Yane jeans bear a Y-shaped trademark, made of 22-karat gold, above the right hip pocket. Boutique browsers have snapped up more than 100 pairs since the jeans went on display last May. Such conspicuous consumption, though, has caused a stir. A Singapore newspaper called the blue-jeans binge “nothing less than barbaric,” and the government broadcasting company banned further TV ads, telling Yane that the jeans are “exploitation of the rich.” Undaunted, Yane is now planning a pair of diamond-solitaire jeans – with a price tag of $6,449. *(Time)***

**Jogging in a swimming pool has been acknowledged as a more efficient way to run than jogging on pavement. Water is 12 times more resistant than air and 45 minutes of water jogging equals two hours of regular running. *(Dr. Stephen Langer)***

**The Basque language is called Euskera. The late Francisco Franco banned it when he took power in Spain in 1839. But Basques taught it to their children in secret schools. It survived. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**Martha Stewart is under house arrest for the next five months. Her activities will be limited to doing things that will make her even richer. *(Jay Leno, in Rocky Mountain News, 2005)***

**Saudi Arabia has pledged to fight rising oil prices. Let's hope it works out better than their pledge to fight terrorism. *(Jay Leno, in The American Legion magazine, 2008)***

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**The less you want a fellow, the more punctual he's bound to be. *(P. G. Wodehouse)***

**Argue your limitations and you get to keep them. *(Loretta Ivory)***

**The thing that makes people and rivers crooked, is always following the line of least resistance. That is not always the best way. We are here to follow the line of letting our light shine. That is what following the path of Jesus Christ is. *(Christopher Ian Chenoweth)***

**New opinions are always suspected, and usually opposed, without any other reason but because they are not already common. *(John Locke, English philosopher)***

**After Martin Luther started the snowball of Protestantism rolling, he was not the most popular fellow in the Vatican. Pope Leo’s agent called him a “leper with a brain of brass and a nose of iron,” and the cry went up, “Burn Luther at the stake!” *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 34)***

**Jesus said, “Resist not evil.” The word “resist” comes from the Latin word “resistare” which means “to cause to stand again.” So whenever we resist something, we are giving it energy. *(Rev. Andy Kress)***

**A person often meets his destiny on the road he took to avoid it. *(Jean de La Fontaine)***

**Nothing so aggravates an earnest person as a passive resistance. *(Herman Melville)***

**The Australians sent in cats to defend Casterton when it was invaded by thousands of mice. But the cats gave up, stuffed, exhausted. Traps didn’t work, either. But poisoned bait did, finally. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Who overcomes by force hath overcome but half his foe. *(John Milton)***

**It seems that the harder we try not to think negative thoughts, the more we seem to think them. A man went to a magi, a mystic seer, seeking a magic formula, but as the man was leaving, he was told: “Do these things I have told you, but in addition, you must avoid thinking of monkeys. Do not once think of monkeys, or the spell will be broken.” The man went his way but he never became rich or powerful. He tried so hard not to think of monkeys that they were on his mind constantly. *(A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity, p. 27)***

**Nothing fixes a thing so intensely in the memory as the wish to forget it. *(Michel de Montaigne)***

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**When we spray DDT against mosquitoes, we find we are killing bees and other beneficent insects and either poisoning or starving out a good part of our valued bird population. *(Dr. Benjamin F. Miller and Ruth Goode, in Man and His Body, p. 51)***

**Should we eliminate mosquitoes?: For more than 100 million years, the mosquito has been "our apex predator, the deadliest hunter of human beings on the planet," said Timothy Winegard. About 100 trillion of these blood-sucking insects patrol our world, transmitting diseases that kill 700,000 people every year. By infecting human beings with yellow fever, malaria, and a host of other parasites, viruses, and bacteria, mosquitoes "may have killed nearly half of the 108 billion humans who have ever lived." Now the "life-and-death" battle between mosquitoes and people "may be coming to a head." Scientists armed with a gene-editing technology called Crispr have designed mosquitoes that produce infertile offspring. If released en masse into the wild, these biologically altered bugs could render mosquitoes extinct. Limited field experiments have shown this strategy actually works. There is fear, however, that eradicating mosquitoes could have unforeseen consequences, allowing some other species to become a threat, or otherwise disturbing "mother nature's equilibrium." Still, with both old and new pathogens like Zika spreading, it would be a mistake to underestimate the deadly threat mosquitoes pose to our species. At some point, we may have to choose between us and them. (*The Week magazine, August 9, 2019)***

**Fighting malaria with gene-edited mosquitoes: Scientists have shown for the first time that genetic engineering can wipe out populations of malaria-spreading mosquitoes. In the landmark study, researchers used the gene-editing technique CRISPR to alter the genetic makeup of the Anopheles gambiae species, which is responsible for most cases of the parasitic disease in sub-Saharan Africa. Specifically, they introduced a mutation that deforms the females’ mouths – making it impossible for them to bite and spread the parasite – and their reproductive organs. They combined this with a “gene-drive,” a genetic element to accelerate the spread of the mutation in mosquito populations. Dozens of these modified mosquitoes were then placed together with hundreds of natural mosquitoes in lab cages designed to stimulate sub-Saharan conditions. Within a year, the entire population had collapsed. Malaria kills some 400,000 people a year, but tackling the disease with gene-edited mosquitoes is controversial, because of fears over how they might disrupt delicate ecosystems. Scientists have previously inserted a genetic self-destruct code into Aedes aegypti mosquitoes – which spread Zika, dengue, and other diseases – and released the bugs in Florida, Brazil, and other tropical locations without apparent harm to the environment. The benefits of genetically altering mosquitoes “are so great,” Harvard bioethnicist Jeantine Lunshof tells NPR.org, “and I have not found convincing arguments that this would have considerable detrimental effects.” *(The Week magazine, August 13, 2021)***

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**When will Canadians learn to stop messing with Mother Nature? asked Connie Woodcock. Every time we try to manipulate a wild species, the animals get out of control. We introduced Asian ladybugs to eat our crop pests, only to find that they like to bite humans and are “smelly when killed.” We reintroduced wild turkeys, for no particular reason it seems, and now there are more than 100,000 in Ontario alone, clogging city parks like Canada geese. The latest ill-conceived effort involves elk. Ontario’s Ministry of Natural Resources imported an elk herd from Alberta six years ago, and it has already increased fivefold, to more than 500. The beasts are “eating local farmers out of house and home, plus breaking down fences, trampling crops, and attracting wolves – which lunch on sheep, too.” It’s not as if we didn’t already have far too many deer. Now Ontarians are nursing their ladybug bites as they dodge turkey and elk on the roads. “Mother Nature must be laughing her head off.” (*The Week magazine, February 20, 2009)***

**In Los Angeles, three moviegoers were injured when beaten over the head with wooden sticks by members of a group known as Christians Against The Last Temptation of Christ. *(Associated Press, 1988)***

**Whoever fights monsters should see to it that in the process he does not become a monster. *(Friedrich Nietzsche)***

**A film studio painted a sign on the roof in letters eight feet high, reading QUIET PLEASE. Instead of keeping noisy airplanes away, the sign brought planes roaring down even lower so pilots could read what it said. *(Funny Funny World)***

**The Japanese surrendered to the Allies six days after a second nuclear bomb was dropped on Nagasaki on August 15, 1945. Had they not surrendered, the United States was prepared to drop another nuke on August 18 and to keep on dropping them as fast as they could be made. *(Don Voorhees, in The Indispensable Book of Useless Information, p. 181)***

**The outer cannot resist because it is only the reflection of the inner. *(Dr. Jack Addington)***

**What we resist, will persist. *(Rev. Andy Kress)***

**Pesticides: Monocropping higher-yielding varieties demands dependence on pesticides. But pesticides are also decreasing in effectiveness. In the 1940s, for example, insects ate 7 percent of the U.S. crop. Now, although farmers now spend huge sums on pesticides each year, insects eat about 13 percent of the crop. *(David Pimentel and others, in Bioscience, 1978)***

**More than 400 pests have resistance to some poisons. As simpler formulas become ineffective or illegal, more expensive formulas are needed. Some plants have been bred to resist certain pests or diseases. Genetic engineering, it is hoped, will speed this process. But pests’ short life cycles allow them both to adapt to the new varieties and to multiply very rapidly. *(Michael Morrison)***

**Pigeons and their droppings were such a serious problem at the library in Beloit, Wisconsin, that officials shelled out $375 for an ultrasonic sound machine to drive them away. Now the birds are dropping their bombs from greater heights, causing bigger splats than ever. Library director Alan Tollefson says he won’t allow the pigeons to be poisoned or trapped. What he will do remains to be seen. *(World Wide News, 1986)***

**James “Scott” Hooper, a student at Oklahoma State University, had his lawsuit against Pizza Shuttle tossed out by a Stillwater, Oklahoma, court in October. He had sued for $7 because his pizza contained the wrong toppings, which he mistakenly ate part of. Hooper said he turned down an out-of-court settlement of a $4 coupon. *(Chuck Shepherd, Universal Press Syndicate, 1993)***

**Plant life does indeed defend itself. A pint of alfalfa leaves can release enough toxic fumes to kill a mouse. Air Force researchers found that out. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Don’t try to burn out poison ivy. The smoke can deposit the mean stuff all over you. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The price of blocking Obama: Memo to Republicans "biting your nails" over the possibility Donald Trump will become the party's presidential nominee: "You brought it on yourselves," said Steven Rattner. Trump's following largely consists of struggling working-class and middle-class Americans who feel abandoned by both parties. But President Obama made numerous attempts to provide jobs and assistance to people hurt by globalization and automation -- and congressional Republicans killed nearly all of them. Obama's $447 billion American Jobs Act, proposed in 2011, would have employed more than 1 million people to rebuild the nation's crumbling roads and bridges, and also included payroll tax cuts to stimulate job growth. That legislation, which would have been fully funded by higher taxes on the wealthy and some corporations, was "dead virtually upon its arrival on Capitol Hill." Obama also proposed larger tax credits for child care, and wage insurance, which would have helped laid-off workers forced to take lower-paying jobs. The GOP spitefully blocked all those measures too, in order to deny the president an economic victory. Washington's paralysis convinced millions of Americans that no one in government cares about them. The GOP's reward? Trumpism. *(The Week magazine, April 29, 2016)***

**In Attica, New York, a prison inmate about to be transferred to a facility near Gary, Indiana, filed suit against the government claiming it was cruel and unusual punishment to be forced to move to Indiana. *(Bill Flick, 1994)***

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**During Prohibition, there were more than 100,000 illegal drinking establishments in New York City. *(Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 181)***

**What popularized so many mixed drinks was Prohibition. Bad booze needed taste touchups, so there were abundant sales of vermouth, both dry and sweet; lemons and limes; and bitters. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**When the United States government introduced prohibition in 1920, the intention was to improve society by outlawing alcohol. However, the initiative had precisely the opposite effect over the next 13 years, creating the most alcoholic and lawless period in American history. Seeing the new law as an affront to civil liberties, ordinary citizens hit the bottle with a vengeance while organized crime blossomed as machine-gun-toting mobsters battled for control of the illicit liquor industry. Prohibition proved so unpopular that, with the exception of the vocal lobbying groups, almost the whole of America raised a glass to its eventual demise. *(Geoff Tibballs, in The Giant Bathroom Book of Dumbology, p. 76)***

**In the Bible Belt, the fight over Prohibition goes on: One in nine counties in the U.S. still prohibits the sale of alcohol, but in Texas, Tennessee, and Kansas, dozens of “dry” counties have voted to go “wet” in recent years. *(USA Today, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 16, 2010)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Queen Elizabeth I hated noise. In the historical records of England is a decree she issued to promote quiet at night. It forbade husbands from beating their wives after 10 p.m. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Ironically, our efforts to wipe out the rat have only produced a smarter, heartier breed. Some rats display a defense called neophobia – the fear of anything new. They are thus suspicious of poisoned bait and traps. “It’s the non-neophobic rats who fall for the traps and are killed,” notes Mitchell. “The smarter ones survive and pass on their neophobic genes.” *(Robert Neubecker)***

**England a century or so ago reintroduced flogging as the prescribed punishment for robbery. And the rate of robbery promptly went up – way up. What do you make of that? *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 190)***

**In reaction to Fox News' proclamation that all of Seuss was being "canceled," consumers sent dozens of his other books to the top of Amazon's charts. *(The Week magazine, March 19, 2021)***

**I learned long ago, never to wrestle with a pig. You get dirty, and besides, the pig likes it. *(George Bernard Shaw)***

**Resistance is a sign that one is accepting the reality of a teaching. *(J. Sig Paulson, Unity minister)***

**After an act of Congress, in 1808, prohibited African slave trading, at least a quarter of a million more slaves were illicitly imported into the U.S. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 449)***

**Enraged slaves overcame French colonial domination in Haiti. It’s cited by a Smithsonian writer as the world’s only successful slave rebellion. But the long aftermath of poverty and pain turned less heroic. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Replying more than one hundred times to the same piece of spam email will overwhelm the sender’s system and interfere with their ability to send any more spam. *(Noel Botham, in The Best Book of Useless Information Ever, p. 57)***

**The fatal strategy of the 1918 flu: By infecting macaque monkeys with a reconstructed version of the 1918 Spanish flu virus, researchers are learning why it was such an effective killer. The 1918 Spanish flu pandemic killed 50 million people, and unlike other, less virulent strains, it took a huge toll among the young and healthy. When researchers infected seven macaques with the virus, they found that the monkeys’ natural immune responses actually inflicted more damage than the virus itself. The infection set off a “cytokine storm,” a sudden surge of immune-response chemicals that flooded the monkeys’ lungs with blood and mucous, essentially drowning them in their own fluids. The effect explains why the 1918 virus “was indeed different from all other flu viruses we know of,” says virologist Yoshihiro Kawaoka. People with the best immune systems – that is, the young – were most likely to fight back strenuously, and to kill themselves in the process. The study will help scientists devise ways to treat victims of a possible pandemic of the flu virus now spreading among the world’s bird population, which, when it has infected humans, has shown some similarities to the 1918 flu. *(The Week magazine, February 2, 2007)***

**Man: “Mr. Drabble, is it true you started a strict diet one week ago?” Drabble: “Yes.” Man: “On the day you started your diet, you also got your car washed and vacuumed, did you not?” Drabble: “Yes.” Man: “How, then, do you explain the presence of this in your car?” Drabble: “A donut sprinkle?” Woman: “Yes, Ralph. How do you explain that?” Drabble: “I think I need a lawyer!” *(Kevin Fagan, in Drabble comic strip)***

**About 55 million Americans have become ill from the swine flu so far, the federal government reported. About 11,160 died. About one in five Americans received the swine flu vaccine. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, January 29, 2010)***

**The tax collector is running into more and more pockets of resistance. *(Joe Ryan, in Think-Tank)***

**If you are planning to sue the telephone company, pick a little one. American Telephone & Telegraph employs 940 full-time lawyers on the biggest corporate legal staff in the nation. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**If “the war on terror” began on September 11, 2001, the U.S. now has been fighting that conflict longer than it did the entirety of World War II. *(National Review, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 27, 2005)***

**September 11, 2001, was a “shock to the American psyche,” said Fareed Zakaria, and to ensure we’d never be attacked again, we overreacted. In the nine years since, al Qaida has not mounted a single major attack in the U.S., and now relies on poorly trained lone wolves who consistently botch poorly conceived plots. Yet to fight al Qaida, the government has created or recognized at least 263 anti-terror organizations, and tripled the intelligence budget to $75 billion. Several hundred thousand bureaucrats now wage the “war on terror” from 33 gleaming new office complexes that, together, are triple the size of the Pentagon. Some 30,000 people get paid simply to listen in on phone calls. This “national-security state” effectively has carte blanche to read your e-mails, screen your phone calls, and tread on Americans’ constitutional rights. In the past, the U.S. government has abused its authority during wartime, but then “demobilized.” But “this is a war without end,” so the abuses can continue indefinitely. “When do we declare victory? When do the emergency powers cease?” *(The Week magazine, September 17, 2010)***

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**In a speech to the nation on Iraq, President Bush said he was asking Congress for $87 billion to fight terrorism and cautioned Americans that the struggle would “take time and require sacrifice.” *(Rocky Mountain News, September 7, 2003)***

**Terrorism: When increased body screening of airline passengers was implemented after 9/11, Richard Reid attempted to destroy an airliner with a bomb in his shoe; and when shoes began to be screened in response to Reid’s attack, al Qaida plotted to use a liquid explosive attack; and when liquids were banned, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab used a powdered incendiary hidden in his underwear in an attempted attack. (Rafe Sagarin, in Learning From the Octopus, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 23, 2012)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* A 2010 study of study of states that outlawed texting while driving found that banning the practice actually resulted in a slight increase in accidents. This may be because drivers in those states hold their phones lower to avoid being seen texting and have even less eye contact with the road. “Only” 18 percent of fatal crashes involving distracted drivers were the result of cell phone usage. The rest was caused by other distractions. *(Don Voorhees, in The Super Book of Useless Information, p. 77)***

**What would you do to save your life if a fanged Bengal tiger clamped its teeth on your left arm? Probably what trainer Gunther Gebel-Williams did when in such a worrisome fix. He survived because, with all his strength, he punched it in the nose. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**If you're treading water, you're losing ground. *(Stephen W. Comiskey)***

**What disturbs us in this world is not trouble, but our opposition to trouble. The true source of all that frets and irritates and wears away our lives is not in external things but in the resistance of our wills to the will of God expressed by eternal things. *(Alexander Maclaren)***

**Good week for: Ivanka Trump, whose signature perfume became the top-selling fragrance on Amazon.com, as Trump supporters responded to a boycott of her products by Trump critics. *(The Week magazine, March 3, 2017)***

**Every time you try to smother a truth, two others get their breath. *(Bill Copeland)***

**After writing “Uncle Tom’s Cabin,” which was a runaway best-seller, Harriet Beecher Stowe was bombarded with hate mail. Out of one package that she received fell the ear of a slave. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The swine flu vaccine of 1976 caused more sickness and death, than the flu itself did. *(Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 221)***

**People who fight fire with fire usually end up with ashes. *(Abigail Van Buren, Chicago Tribune – New York News Syndicate)***

**At 72 hours, the third generation of young viruses pours into her system. There are now close to a trillion, and for every virus the lymphocytes manage to kill, 10,000 take its place. *(Carol Eron, in Reader’s Digest)***

**When Republicans overtly tried to discourage people of color from getting to the polls last year, those voters turned out in record numbers. Current Republican efforts to curtail mail-in voting, remove ballot drop boxes, and restrict early voting are "so blatantly partisan and so indefensible" that they may backfire. When you threaten people's right to vote, you make it more precious -- and motivate them to exercise it. *(The Week magazine, March 26, 2021)***

**It is now 50 years since the U.S. launched its War on Drugs, said Jose Melendez and Victor Sancho in El Universal (Mexico), a conflict that has achieved little beside corrupting Latin American democracy. The war began on June 17, 1971, when President Richard Nixon -- angry that Vietnam veterans were coming home addicted to heroin, and eager to distract the public from civil rights protests -- declared drug abuse to be "public enemy No. 1." The U.S. has since funneled more than $1 trillion into its drug war, yet last year a record 90,000 Americans died of an overdose. In Latin America, the toll is incalculable. Governments in the region were forced to crack down hard on drug production and trafficking to avoid being hit with U.S. sanctions. But those crackdowns simply drove up drug prices, making the trade vastly more profitable and empowering the cartels. When governments tried to squash them, the gangs began buying off cops, then mayors, then judges, then senators, then presidents. "The war caused a domino effect," as each corrupt politician in turn corrupted another, and now the criminality involves political parties, businessmen, and bankers "in a network of corruption across Latin America." *(The Week magazine, July 2, 2021)***

**Wasp venom contains a scent. A pheromone. When other wasps detect it, they head toward it in great haste and with ferocity. It’s a summons, like “Help!” This is another reason it’s not a good idea to squash a wasp. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**When wind is channeled through canyons of tall buildings, its velocity goes way up. City architects have to consider that, they say. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Can you link the Black Death of the 17th century with witchcraft? Try this: Those who feared witches associated them with cats. So the fearful killed said cats, by the jillions. With the cats gone, the rats multiplied. They carried the fleas that spread the plague. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**I could never have come so far without your constant resistance. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot Shots)***

**Almost all the famous women’s rights leaders suffered long chronic illnesses yet lived to spectacularly old ages. So reports a student of the feminist cause. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The latest word from France is that le hot dog will no longer be able to cut la moutarde. The French are worried that American words are creeping into their venerable language and causing a “visible degradation.” French-American words, known as Franglais, are hot political items in Paris and National Assemblyman Pierre Bas is leading the rush to the barricades to protect the home tongue. Words such as “hot dog,” “drugstore,” “aftershave” and “do-it-yourself,” which have come into common French usage, give Bas the vapors. Starting next year, it will be illegal to use a foreign word, especially an American word, in French ads, guarantees, treaties and invoices. *(Argosy)***

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