



The Bowfin Inquirer

Since 1993



December, 2023

Hi, Neighbors!

By Yifu Rong (340)

Greetings, everyone! My name is Yifu Rong, and I currently thrive in the realm of YouTube. My delightful partner, Jing Guo, contributes her talents at Rivian. We spent eight vibrant years residing in Michigan before making our move here between 2021 and 2022.

Winter holds a special place in our heart as we revel in the joy of skiing. Annually, destinations like Salt Lake City, Denver, and now Tahoe, have been my playgrounds.

This May, we sealed our union in marriage and soon after embarked on our journey here. This year has been nothing short of enriching for us, and we're elated to join and contribute to the vibrant tapestry of the Bowfin community.

Regards,
Yifu



Aaron's Answers

Questions: 1) Credit cards didn't exist in the 1950s - except maybe the Diners Club/Carte Blanche cards. Can you please tell me a bit about the history of those cards and whether they exist anymore?

2) Perhaps, like me, you've sensed something special goes on inside when given a WRAPPED present. Can you tell us anything about the emotional and psychological effects of gift wrapping?

Aaron's Answer (A'sA): The first question is rather interesting. The Diner's Club and Carte Blanche cards were similar to modern day credit cards, and also similar to debit cards. Essentially, they were pieces of plastic that you could use to pay for meals at your convenience. The primary difference between credit cards and those cards was when you had to pay; those cards required a monthly payment of everything you owed, while credit cards are more flexible, but with increasing costs over time. While the Diner's Club and Carte Blanche groups look nothing like they used to, they still sort of exist. Diner's Club actually bought and absorbed Carte Blanche, marketing it as a different type of card. At some point, Mastercard bought Diner's Club, making them a subsidiary. They do still exist, but also kind of don't.

As far as the second question goes, there are a myriad of reasons for why gift-wrapping adds to the gift-giving experience. First of all, gift-wrapping shows a lot of time, care and effort for a gift. The better a gift is

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Solution to Last Month's Quiz

Mark My Words!

Solution provided by neighbor, Gary Colman.
Thank you, Gary!

Here's my submission for this month's puzzle:

A. Acute accent	4. purée
B. Grave accent	9. crème de la crème
C. Cedilla	3. façade
D. Circumflex	6. coup de grâce
E. Diaeresis	1. Äpfel
F. Breve	10. cái chẵn
G. Haček (this should be easy!)	11. četvrtak
H. Macron	5. skrën
I. Tilde	8. mañana
J. Tittle	2. jelly
K. Angstrom/circle	12. åben
L. Ligature	7. encyclopædia

4. What word is pronounced the same if you take away four of its five letters?
5. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What are they?
6. What word in the English language does the following: the first two letters signify a male, the first three letters signify a female, the first four letters signify a great, while the entire word signifies a great woman?
7. What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, and has a bed but never sleeps?
8. What breaks yet never falls and what falls but never breaks?

This Month's Quiz

Fit ... as a Riddle!

Can you fit each of the numbered riddles to its correct lettered answer?

The riddles came from a web site; I've merely mixed them up. This shouldn't prove particularly challenging, and I hope you and your families find it amusing!

1. I am the beginning of everything, the end of everywhere. I'm the beginning of eternity, the end of time and space. What am I?
2. What can fill a room but takes up no space?
3. If you drop me I'm sure to crack, but give me a smile and I'll always smile back. What am I?

- A. Day and Night
- B. The letter e
- C. Footsteps
- D. A river
- E. Light
- F. Queue
- G. A mirror
- H. Heroine

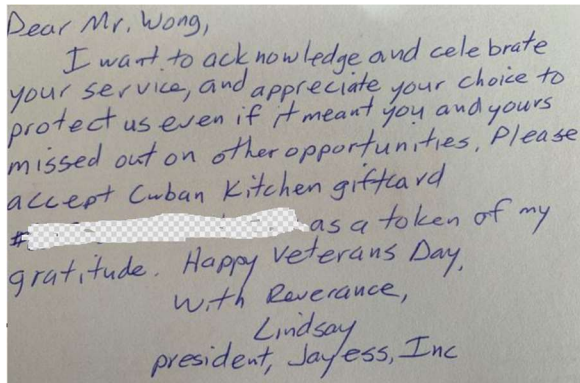
This Postman Rings “Nice!”

by Dr. Weyman Wong (372)

(Ed. Note: Weyman shared this story with us in two emails, so I've reprinted them in sequence)

Email 1:

I was surprised to find a \$50 gift card to Cuban Kitchen (San Mateo) in my mail recently. Although I've written a thank you letter to Lindsay Chu, I have yet to get a response explaining how I was chosen for his generosity. If I hear from him later, I will share this with all.



It's located next to Jack's Burgers on the east side of El Camino opposite 38th Ave less than 1/2 mi from Cheung Hing and Mollie Stone. The menu's on their web page, qbacubankitchen.com

Email 2:

Mystery solved!

We had dinner tonight at Cuban Kitchen and used our \$50 gift card. It was legit. For a brief moment we were dining either in Miami or in Cuba, as the modest restaurant had Latin music along with a staff of Latinos. When we first entered and asked if Lindsay was

familiar to them, the first gal mumbled something unintelligible in broken English. Luckily, our male waiter spoke English well enough to say Lindsay was a USPS worker they see almost daily, as he was their mailman. Boom! Then it struck me, as I've also known one of our many mail-persons to be a Chinese Lindsay. HE was the one thanking me for my military service to the tune of a gift card for Cuban Kitchen! He must've deduced I was a veteran because I fly the flag on Veterans Day, Memorial Day, etc. Additionally, he's seen mail addressed to Capt. Wong from various organizations I support. All put together, he deduced I was a veteran, a proud veteran.

While at Cuban Kitchen, we met and chatted with owner Lynna Martinez, who informed us Lindsay had bought several gift cards for some veterans on his route. She said learning his motive really warmed her heart and gave her goose bumps. We said we felt likewise.

In any case, thanks to mail carrier Lindsay, we now know a bit of Cuban cuisine. We can recommend the place to anyone wanting to escape from the frenetic Bay Area to enjoy a moment in Miami or Cuba. They offer an informative web page: <https://www.qbacubankitchen.com/>

Hope this heart-warming story provides a good send off to some happy holidays!

Aaron's Answers continued

wrapped, the more the gift-giver generally cares. Another reason is the added anticipation of not knowing what's inside, as opposed to just seeing it as a knife set, or a bathrobe. The mysterious box adds to the anticipation immensely. The final reason that I'm going to mention (there are many more) is the increased value of the gift. First off, just like anything, the newer and less-damaged or used something is, the better it is perceived to be. Gift-wrapping makes something seem really new, adding to that effect. Additionally, gift-wrapping generally accentuates the value of a seemingly ordinary thing into something far greater. Even a little bow and wrapping paper can turn something you see every day into a meaningful, colorful and powerful gift. Happy Holidays!

TARGET DATE FOR Next Month's Contributions

January 20, 2024

Please reach us with your articles, news, photos,
CHILDREN'S ARTWORK or ideas at

344 Bowfin, (650 572-9153) or email us at our
email EDITOR@BOWFININQUIRER.COM *or by*
adding a NOTE on our Facebook Page

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