



# The Bowfin Inquirer

Since 1993



March, 2024

## Car-rupt

by Jerry Lerman (344).

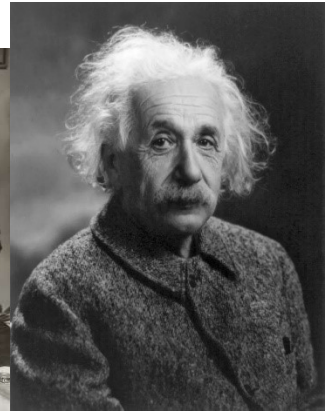
Eve and I really enjoyed our visit to SF Giants' Spring Training a couple weeks ago. We got to see a couple close games (winning one of them), and also took in some activities unrelated to baseball.

Unfortunately, the trip was marred by our experience at the Dollar Rent-A-Car window, right after our arrival. Although we'd not only reserved our car but had also PAID for the 4 day rental (using airline miles), at the desk the clerk presented us with a preprinted list of options, laid out as three columns having 4, 3 and 2 checkmarks.

I was not interested in purchasing any insurance coverage at all, but made the incorrect assumption that these were the only 3 options, so one of the columns must have meant NO coverage, despite its having two checkmarks next to very small print describing what they represented. Having waited in a longish line, and wanting to get into our car, instead of starting a longer conversation to make sure we didn't purchase coverage, we went with our misconception, and electronically signed some impossible-to-read e-document appearing on the tiny screen we were to scrawl our signatures on. And off we went.

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## Aaron's Answers



(Left) Theodor Geisel, or Dr Seuss  
(Right) Albert Einstein

**Questions:** I get a little 'hung-up' on March because my birthday falls in the month. Can you find some interesting facts many of us wouldn't know about one or two of these FAMOUS people who had March birthdays?

- Albert Einstein (March 14, 1879) - physicist
- Elizabeth Barrett Browning (March 6, 1806) - poet
- Theodor Geisel (March 2, 1904) - children's author

-Jerry

**Aaron's Answer (A'sA):** I recently learned about Albert Einstein's period during AP World History, so I'll briefly discuss something related to him. Most of his life

*continued on page 4*

## Solution to Last Month's Quiz

### Do You Want Seconds ?

1956	s <b>T</b> ev <b>E</b> nson
1976	<b>F</b> ord
1948	d <b>E</b> wey
1960	<b>NIXO</b> n
1892	<b>HARri</b> Son
1856	frém <b>onT</b>
1940	will <b>k</b> le
2008	<b>M</b> ccain
1988	d <b>U</b> kak <b>Is</b>
1964	goldwa <b>T</b> er

THE OTHER MEANING:

S	I	X	T	I	E	T	H
5	7	4	1	9	3	10	5
		O	F			A	
		4	2			5	
		M	I	N	U	T	E
		8	4	4	9	6	1

*(Thank you for this solution, Gary Colman!)*

### This Month's Quiz

#### RUE (OR FALSE) ?

Under the *ruse* of being a true/false sort of test, this is actually a multiple-choice – where you are to match the pictured items to the corresponding letter-scramble, and then transfer the corresponding letters of the unscrambled words to unearth what the objects all have in common.

1	_ _ _ _ _ O _ _	AABCHLLTU
2	O _ O O _ _ _ O _	CEFHPRRSU
3	_ _ _ O _ _ O _ _	ALOOPRRTY
4	_ _ _ _ _ O _	DEEIKLLR
5	_ O _ _ O _	IIMNTZ
6	_ _ O _ _ _ _	EILLNRU
7	_ O _ _ O _ O	AEGPSSU
8	O _ _ _	ALWY
9	_ _ _ _ _ O O	ELLMTU



A.



B.



C.



D.



E.



F.



G.



H.



I.

What these have in common:

2 3 7 5 9 6    2 5 1 8    2 9 2 4 7 3 7

### ***Car-rupt continued***

When we got to our hotel, I finally opened the document we'd been handed, and noticed that we'd been signed up for insurance coverage that was going to cost us nearly \$250! So I found the Dollar-Rent-A-Car 800 number and dialed it up, to see if something could be done to "turn off" the coverage immediately.

The phone system didn't avail me of any such opportunity: it was 100% automated menus. Any option that I picked brought me up to another menu. Pressing '0' didn't bring up an operator, as many other systems are designed to do. No option dealt with anything remotely resembling what I wanted to do. I'm sure Dollar saves itself a lot of money by not paying any humans to interface with customers, but they've definitely cost themselves at least THIS household as a future revenue stream!

Getting home days later, I used Dollar's website to try to lodge a complaint/request for satisfaction. The drop-down box offered a list of options to indicate the purpose of my contact. Among them was nothing resembling 'Complaint' or 'Concern' – nor anything that fit my situation. There was 'Compliment', however, so I used that and tried to explain in text what was wrong with the final invoice we'd received. It wasn't only that insurance matter I needed to discuss, but also the invoice had our address as Richmond, Virginia, and our miles driven as over 1,600, when we'd traveled only about 100 miles in the car.

Someone DID get back to us, opening a case, but their final decision was that nothing could be done for us.

Following that, I found a story on the internet – from 2012 – which began *"A federal class action lawsuit claims Dollar Rent A Car cheated customers out of millions of dollars by signing them up for insurance and other services they declined ...*

*Over the last 4 years Dollar has implemented a systematic program nationwide through which its employees and agents illegally dupe customers into signing up for a collision damage waiver (CDW), car insurance and other added services that consumers have specifically declined. This is not an isolated incident with one consumer, but rather a systematic pattern of conduct that has occurred at a number of Dollar locations throughout the United States," the Dollar Rent A Car class action lawsuit says.*

That lawsuit was settled in 2017, but I'm not convinced the company has turned over any sort of 'new leaf' as a result. Indeed, quite the contrary!

#### **TARGET DATE FOR Next Month's Contributions**

**April 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](mailto:EDITOR@BOWFININQUIRER.COM) **or by**  
**adding a NOTE on our Facebook Page**

**or our website: [BOWFININQUIRER.COM](http://BOWFININQUIRER.COM)**

### *Aaron's Answers continued*

and his findings are well known: the Theory of Relativity,  $E=MC^2$  etc. It might not be well known that his discoveries had far-reaching consequences during his lifetime. Einstein's Theory of Relativity (simplified) states that space and time cannot be truly measured because they are always relative to something else; for example, a car relative to a person on the sidewalk might be moving 25 m/s but relative to itself it's moving 0 and relative to the sun it's moving quite fast (the Earth is orbiting the sun; therefore, the car is moving very, very fast). These discoveries came to light primarily in the late 1920s, along with science discoveries from others such as Heisenberg. The late 20s and the Great Depression were periods of extreme uncertainty for everybody, Einstein's theory is representative of that and caused even more uncertainty in people as science moved away from a safe, comfortable, tangible and real world to one that was more unknown and uncertain.

While many people know the works of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, not many people have heard about her poor health. Since the age of 15 when she got terribly sick, she had severe spinal pains and other problems, causing her to take painkillers all her life. She continued to contract other sicknesses and had a weak immune system all her life.

A little-known fact about Doctor Seuss, or Theodor Geisel is how his nickname, or pen name came about. In fact, when he was studying at Dartmouth College, he worked for a humor magazine there. At some point, he was caught breaking the law by drinking gin with some friends (this was during prohibition) and he was forced to resign from his position on the magazine. He cared so deeply about it that he began going by a different name in order to keep

working for it, and that's how he became Doctor Seuss.

## Now Playing at Hillbarn Theatre



### PERFORMANCE DATES

Thursday, March 21, 8pm  
Friday, March 22, 8pm  
Saturday, March 23, 8pm  
Sunday, March 24, 2pm

Friday, March 29, 8pm  
Saturday, March 30, 2pm  
Saturday, March 30, 8pm  
Sunday, March 31, 2pm\*

Friday, April 5, 8pm\*  
Saturday, April 6, 2pm  
Saturday, April 6, 8pm  
Sunday, April 7, 2pm

MASK-REQUIRED PERFORMANCES  
\*Sunday, March 31, 2024 2PM  
\*Friday, April 5, 2024 8PM

**TICKETS** may be purchased online at [www.hillbarntheatre.org](http://www.hillbarntheatre.org), by phone at 650.349.6411 Ext. 2, or by visiting the Box Office at 1285 E. Hillsdale Avenue in Foster City, Tuesday – Friday 11am-3pm. Discounts are available for youth 18 years of age and under, seniors 65+, and groups of 10 or more.

## Some Puns for Groan-Ups!

*(from the Internet)*

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye-doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whisky-maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber-band pistol was confiscated from an algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
8. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.