

June 19, 2014

Using the example of baseball's knockdown pitches, Charles Krauthammer writes on the American way of revenge.

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Eliana Johnson profiles Scott Walker as he explores his 2016 chances in Chris Christie's backyard.

Scott Walker is already thinking about how to defeat Hillary Clinton. "You gotta move it from a personality race, because if it's a personality race, you got a third Clinton term," the Wisconsin governor told a lunchtime crowd of about 30 last Tuesday assembled at the Lakewood, N.J., home of Rich Roberts, one of his biggest financial backers. "The only way we win that election is to transform her personality to Washington versus the rest of us. Senator Clinton is all about Washington, everything about her is all about Washington."

Walker is up for reelection in November — his third time on the ballot in four years, he likes to point out — but it is almost certainly his presidential ambitions that brought him to the Orthodox Jewish enclave of Lakewood, where he toured the town's yeshiva and lunched with Roberts and his friends. Roberts has always donated to Republicans, but after selling his pharmaceutical company for \$800 million in 2012, he began pouring a lot more money into the coffers of GOPers, including Walker, Senator Lindsey Graham (S.C.), Senator Rand Paul (Ky.), and former Florida congressman Allen West.

With Walker at his side, Roberts recounted receiving threatening e-mails after donating \$50,000 to ward off Walker's recall from the governorship. "With three days to go until the election, now I'm receiving all these threats, so what am I going to do? I wired him another \$50,000," Roberts said to laughter and applause. ...

In a feel good story [Der Spiegel](#) reports on India's experiments with a new pearl millet grain designed to end malnutrition in many parts of the developing world.

I may not make his family wealthy, but Devran Mankar is still grateful for the pearl millet variety called Dhanshakti (meaning "prosperity and strength") he has recently begun growing in his small field in the state of Maharashtra, in western [India](#). "Since eating this pearl millet, the children are rarely ill," raves Mankar, a slim man with a gray beard, worn clothing and gold-rimmed glasses.

Mankar and his family are participating in a large-scale nutrition experiment. He is one of about 30,000 small farmers growing the variety, which has unusually high levels of iron and zinc -- Indian researchers bred the plant to contain large amounts of these elements in a process they call "biofortification." The grain is very nutritional," says the Indian farmer, as his granddaughter Kavya jumps up and down in his lap. It's also delicious, he adds. "Even the cattle like the pearl millet."

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The [Daily Mail, UK](#) with a story on the concrete block like package of catalogs Restoration Hardware delivered to our homes.

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He uses it like a step stool to reach the kitchen sink. 'I knew I would find a use for these!!!!' reads the caption. ...

Late night from [Andrew Malcolm](#).

Conan: Hillary Clinton said she and her husband Bill were dead broke when they left the White House. Hillary said things were so bad the two of them had to share a bedroom.

Conan: President George H.W. Bush celebrated his 90th birthday skydiving. So if you include Obama, there were two presidents in free-fall today.

Meyers: Obama surprises tourists by walking to Starbucks near the White House. Even more surprising, he traded five Taliban members for one grande soy latte.

Meyers: Oklahoma Republican Scott Esk wrote on Facebook last week that he's "OK" with stoning gay people to death. Now, he's in deep trouble with Republicans for being anti-gun.

Washington Post [Revenge, American-style](#)

by Charles Krauthammer

Vengeance is mine, sayeth the Lord. And although retribution shall surely come in the fullness of time, a ballplayer can only wait so long.

Accordingly, when Boston slugger David Ortiz came to bat against Tampa Bay's David Price at the end of May — for the first time this season — Price fired the very first pitch, a 94-mile-an-hour fastball, square into Ortiz's back.

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But yelling does not quite soothe the savage breast. So, through the fall and long winter, through spring training and one-third of the new season, Price nursed the hurt. Then, as in a gentleman's pistol duel, at first dawn he redeemed his honor.

Except that the other guy had no pistol.

Which made for complications: further payback (Tampa Bay star Evan Longoria received a close retaliatory shave and two other players were hit before the game was done); major mayhem in the form of the always pleasing, faintly ridiculous, invariably harmless bench-clearing brawl; and all-around general ill feeling. After the game, Ortiz declared himself at war with Price, advising the louse to prepare for battle at their next encounter.

Price feigned innocence. As did his Yoda-like manager, Joe Maddon, who dryly observed that a slugger like Ortiz simply has to be pitched inside, then added with a twinkle, "Of course, that was a little bit too far inside."

Yeah, like two feet.

What is so delightful about this classic act of revenge is both the length of the fuse — eight months! — and the swiftness of the execution: one pitch, one plunk, one message delivered. Revenge as it was meant to be: cathartic, therapeutic, clean, served cold. No talking it through. No sublimation by deep breathing, reason or anything in between. No arbitration, no mediation. "Direct action," as the left might put it.

Think of it, compact and theatrical, as a highly abridged “Count of Monte Cristo,” still the most satisfying revenge novel of all time. There the fuse is deliciously long — the 14 years our betrayed hero suffers and broods on an island prison before escaping — and the execution is spectacularly elaborate: the decade developing a new identity with which to entrap his betrayers and bring each to a tortured demise.

I suspect what makes revenge so satisfying in both literature and sport is that, while the real thing can turn rather ugly, revenge thusly mediated can be experienced not just vicariously but schematically.

After all, there is nothing satisfying about watching a well-armed real-world thug like Vladimir Putin chew up neighboring countries to avenge the Soviet collapse of 1991. Or the Crimean giveaway of 1954. Or was it Czar Nicholas’ misadventure of 1917-18?

Even benign dreams of restoration can be a bit unsettling. Ever seen a Quebec license plate? “*Je me souviens*.” In English, “I remember.” What? The Battle of the Plains of Abraham, marking the fall of Quebec to Britain — *in 1759*.

The response became known centuries later as “*la revanche des berceaux*.” Revenge of the cradles. They multiplied. Quietly. Determinedly. A serious exercise in making love, not war.

But the amorous Quebecois are the exception. More common are the savage retributive habits of the more tribal elements of the human family. The Serbs, for example, waging late 20th-century war suffused with fury at the Turkish conquest of Kosovoin 1389. Or Ayman al-Zawahiri calling for infidel blood with an invocation of Andalusia, lost to Islam in 1492.

We Americans, children of so young a country, can barely fathom such ineradicable grievances. We did give the world Tonya Harding and the Godfather’s horse’s head in the bed, but the best we can do outside sport and fiction is “Remember the Alamo.” Wonderful sentiment, but with Mexico now a best buddy, hardly a battle cry.

No. We’ll do our vengeance on the playing field, thank you, where unwritten rules apply and the frisson can be enjoyed with Bud in hand. So mark your calendar. Next Sox-Rays encounter: July 25. Here’s hoping Price is pitching.

National Review

Scott Walker Gets Ready

The Wisconsin governor meets donors — in Chris Christie’s territory.

by Eliana Johnson

Scott Walker is already thinking about how to defeat Hillary Clinton. “You gotta move it from a personality race, because if it’s a personality race, you got a third Clinton term,” the Wisconsin governor told a lunchtime crowd of about 30 last Tuesday assembled at the Lakewood, N.J., home of Rich Roberts, one of his biggest financial backers. “The only way we win that election is to transform her personality to Washington versus the rest of us. Senator Clinton is all about Washington, everything about her is all about Washington.”

Walker is up for reelection in November — his third time on the ballot in four years, he likes to point out — but it is almost certainly his presidential ambitions that brought him to the Orthodox Jewish enclave of Lakewood, where he toured the town’s yeshiva and lunched with Roberts and his friends. Roberts has always donated to Republicans, but after selling his pharmaceutical company

for \$800 million in 2012, he began pouring a lot more money into the coffers of GOPers, including Walker, Senator Lindsey Graham (S.C.), Senator Rand Paul (Ky.), and former Florida congressman Allen West.

With Walker at his side, Roberts recounted receiving threatening e-mails after donating \$50,000 to ward off Walker's recall from the governorship. "With three days to go until the election, now I'm receiving all these threats, so what am I going to do? I wired him another \$50,000," Roberts said to laughter and applause.

As Walker shook hands, posed for pictures, and spoke to the group gathered in Roberts's dining room and an adjoining room — men and women separated by a wall, as is sometimes customary among Orthodox Jews — the broad outlines of a campaign platform were clear. In a 20-minute speech and a question-and-answer session that followed, he touted his expansion of school vouchers to religious institutions, cited his victory on tort reform, and recounted staring down Wisconsin's public-sector unions and the protesters who stormed the state on their behalf.

You could see him taking subtle shots at his potential rivals. The governor took a swipe at his friend Chris Christie on Christie's home turf, touting his own success reducing property taxes in Wisconsin after a decade of steady increases. New Jersey's astronomical property taxes are notorious, and Christie, who has a full-blown budget crisis on his hands right now, has done little to address the problem.

On foreign policy, Walker positioned himself firmly in the establishment camp, dismissing arguments that Republican voters want to see the United States reduce its engagement with the world. "I don't believe that," he said. Without naming him specifically, he rejected the idea that Kentucky senator Rand Paul has captured the hearts and minds of Republican voters on matters of foreign policy. "I believe fundamentally the reason why many young voters are suspect about foreign policy and the wars and many things like that is that they just haven't been properly administered," he said.

Walker also threw some elbows at Washington Republicans, criticizing them for harping on issues like the debt and the deficit without offering a positive vision for the future. "We have to be optimistic," he said. He pointed to a particular senator who "constantly talks about how horrible the debt is." Walker said that, while he shares the sentiment, the issue has limited popular appeal. At times, he said that listening to the senator harping on it makes him "want to slit my wrists because I'm just like, 'My God, this is so awful, I cannot believe this.'"

The Obama administration, of course, came in for the harshest judgments. Walker accused the president of relying on his "political shop" to make decisions of national and global import. He cited the release of Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl in exchange for five high-profile Taliban prisoners: "I think what happened with the exchange — remember that movie years ago, Wag the Dog?" He fears, he said, that Obama's political advisers — trying to cope with the political flak over the ongoing scandal at the Department of Veterans Affairs — jumped at the opportunity to make the exchange happen, without clearing the decision with the secretaries of state and defense, who would have put the brakes on such a deal.

As Walker was garnering applause from the lunch crowd, the aides he had in tow were getting less positive feedback. Though operating on friendly turf, they acted skittish, guarded, and unfriendly. An event organizer complained that the governor's team was dismissive and difficult to deal with, and that she found it nearly impossible to get Walker on the phone with his host.

Since Walker rose to national prominence when he faced down the unions in 2011, Republican donors have admired his steeliness, his calm, and his quiet resolve. But they have privately

wondered whether he has the star power and political judgment necessary to succeed on the presidential level. This event offered a small sample size, but maybe the donors also need to wonder about his team. After all, Walker was less than 40 miles from Trenton, where the man who just six months ago seemed to have an inside track for front-runner status in the fight for the Republican presidential nomination had his fortunes reversed by his own aides.

Walker brought a national message to this gathering at a top donor's home, an indication of the seriousness of his presidential ambitions. For the time being, Hillary Clinton is sucking up all the media oxygen. For three days last week, the Drudge Report featured a photograph of a pregnant Chelsea Clinton in leather pants over a headline about the \$600,000 salary she earned at NBC News. The low-key Wisconsin governor is a stark contrast to that flashiness, and he is hoping a wholesome Midwesterner becomes Hillary Clinton's worst political nightmare.

Der Spiegel

[Miracle Crop - India's Quest to End World Hunger](#)

Over one third of humanity is undernourished. Now a group of scientists are experimenting with specially-bred crops, and hoping to launch a new Green Revolution -- but controversy is brewing.

by Philip Bethge

It may not make his family wealthy, but Devran Mankar is still grateful for the pearl millet variety called Dhanshakti (meaning "prosperity and strength") he has recently begun growing in his small field in the state of Maharashtra, in western [India](#). "Since eating this pearl millet, the children are rarely ill," raves Mankar, a slim man with a gray beard, worn clothing and gold-rimmed glasses.

Mankar and his family are participating in a large-scale nutrition experiment. He is one of about 30,000 small farmers growing the variety, which has unusually high levels of iron and zinc -- Indian researchers bred the plant to contain large amounts of these elements in a process they call "biofortification." The grain is very nutritional," says the Indian farmer, as his granddaughter Kavya jumps up and down in his lap. It's also delicious, he adds. "Even the cattle like the pearl millet."



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The goal of the project, initiated by the food aid organization Harvest Plus, is to prevent farmers like Mankar and their families from going hungry in the future. In fact, the Dhanshakti pearl millet is part of a new "Green Revolution" with which biologists and nutrition experts hope to liberate the world from hunger and malnutrition.

Global Problem

Today some 870 million people worldwide still lack enough food to eat, and almost a third of humanity suffers from an affliction known as hidden famine, a deficiency in vitamins and trace elements like zinc, iron and iodine. The consequences are especially dramatic for mothers and children: Women with iron deficiencies are more likely to die in childbirth, and they have a higher rate of premature births and menstruation problems. Malnourished children can go blind or suffer from growth disorders. Throughout their lives, they are more susceptible to infection and suffer from learning disorders, because their brains have not developed properly.

"These children are deprived of their future from birth," says Indian agronomist Monkombu Swaminathan, who has campaigned for the "fundamental human right" of satiety for more than 60 years. To solve the problem of hunger once and for all, Swaminathan and other nutrition experts are calling for a dramatic shift in our approach to agriculture. They argue that instead of industrial-scale, high-tech agriculture, farming should become closer to nature -- and involve intelligent plant breeding and a return to old varieties.

The world has enough to eat. The only problem is that the poor, whose diet consists primarily of grain, are eating the wrong food. Corn, wheat and rice - the grain varieties that dominate factory farming -- are bred primarily for yield and not for their nutritional content. They cannot adequately feed the poorest of the poor -- nutrients and trace elements are at least as important as calories.

Food safety is tied to variety, says Swaminathan, who calls for a sustainable "evergreen" revolution. He advocates the development of new, more nutritional grain varieties better adapted to climatic conditions. "We must re-marry agriculture and nutrition -- the two have been too far away from each other for a long time," says the scientist.

The First Revolution

Swaminathan, 88, is considered the father of India's 1960s Green Revolution. He created rice and wheat varieties that were smaller than normal but with substantial higher yields than existing varieties. He also worked with heterozygous plants, so-called hybrids, which are up to twice as productive as their parent generation. The walls of his office in the city of Chennai on the east coast of India are covered with tributes and certificates -- one reads: "India's Greatest Global Living Legend" -- and in 1987, he received the United Nations World Food Prize.

"The Green Revolution was a tremendous success," says Swaminathan. As an adolescent, he lived through the "Great Bengal Famine" that killed millions of Indians in the mid-1940s. "Back then we used to get less than one ton of wheat per hectare (2.5 acres)," says Swaminathan, adding that the yield per hectare has more than tripled since then.

But at what price? Although new high-performance varieties guaranteed high yields, they depleted the soil and consumed far too much water. More and more fertilizer and pesticides were needed. Many small farmers lost everything when they invested in seed grain and were unable to sell their harvest at a profit. Meanwhile, they neglected to grow traditional bread cereals.

"Formerly, the farmers were depending on 200 to 300 crops for food and health security," says Swaminathan, whereas today there are only "but gradually we have come to the stage of four or five important crops, wheat, corn, rice and soy bean." "The Green Revolution," says the scientist, "did not eliminate hunger and malnutrition."

Springtime in Maharashtra

In India, where about 250 million people, or a fifth of the population, are undernourished, the problem is urgent. Some 50 to 70 percent of children under the age of five and half of all women suffer from an iron deficiency. Almost half of all children are physically underdeveloped or even crippled because they are chronically undernourished or malnourished.

The situation is especially precarious in Maharashtra. In the early morning, we travel out to the countryside with Bushana Karandikar, an economist from the city of Pune (formerly Poona). Karandikar manages the Dhanshakti Project for Harvest Plus. "Malnutrition is the sad part of the Indian growth story," she says during the trip. "It is very surprising, but India is almost in the same league as sub-Saharan African countries, which have much, much lower per capita income."

It is spring, and Maharashtra is green -- the land looks fertile, with its lush fields and fruit plantations lining the road. But as scientist Swaminathan puts it, this is part of "India's enigma": "green mountains and hungry millions."

In the town of Ghodegaon, the problems quickly become apparent. Men, children and, most of all, young women in colorful saris are waiting on an unpaved street outside the town's 15-bed clinic. They remove their shoes at the door to the building, where the walls are decorated with portraits of the gods adorned with garlands of flowers.

Dr. Rajneesh Potnis greets us on the second floor, where we are served sweets and aromatic coffee. Potnis has been working in this clinic for 25 years. His fellow medical students told him he was crazy when he went to Ghodegaon, but Potnis was determined to help people. Today he provides advice to nursing mothers, helps women give birth, and treats conditions like rickets, night blindness and anemia.

"The women are the worst off," says the doctor. "They work the hardest, and yet they eat what's left over." As a result, he explains, they frequently suffer from premature deliveries and stillbirths, infections and sudden attacks of faintness. The tribal people, ethnic minorities which live on the margins of society, are in the worst position. "They only come when they have no other choice."

Potnis hands out mineral and vitamin pills subsidized by the Indian government. He also advises families to eat a varied diet, but his efforts are often futile, he explains. "It's so easy to say to people: Eat more pulses, more vegetables and eggs -- but most of them can't afford any of that."

The Millet Solution

This is where biofortified pearl millet comes into play. Farmers in the region have always grown pearl millet. So why not simply replace the traditional variety with Dhanshakti? "Then people will get their minerals from the bread they eat every day, anyway," says Potnis.

Ramu Dahine's five-person family, in the nearby village of Vadgaon Kashimbe, is a case in point. Daughter-in-law Meena is baking bhakri, a traditional round, unleavened flatbread made from pearl-millet flour. Dressed in a red sari, she crouches on the floor in front of a small stone building with a corrugated metal roof. She combines pearl-millet flour and water, kneads the dough, places the flatbread into a pan and blows through a long tube onto the coals of a small wood fire until flames begin to flicker.

The Dahines eat the bread, and hardly anything else, twice a day. The seed dealer recommended the pearl millet, says the farmer. He doesn't even know that the grain has a high iron content, but he did notice that his family was healthier than usual by the end of the last rainy season. The variety also has another benefit: Because it isn't a hybrid, Dahine can use a portion of his harvest as seed for the next season.

"For the real poor, this pearl millet is a great hope," says Karandikar. Swiss scientists have shown that the consumption of Dhanshakti millet significantly increased iron levels in the blood of local women. And Indian researchers showed that a daily serving of only 100 grams of the pearl millet could completely satisfy the iron requirements of children.

Can a New Revolution Take Root?

But for the global champions of the new, gentle Green Revolution and its campaign against hunger, this is but one of many successful attempts to develop more nutritious grain and vegetable varieties. In Brazil, for example, the research organization Embrapa developed biofortified beans, pumpkins and manioc. In Uganda and Mozambique, farmers are growing a new variety of sweet potato rich in provitamin A. In Rwanda, more than 500,000 families are eating beans enriched with iron. And in India, farmers will soon begin growing rice and wheat with especially high levels of zinc.

The Harvest Plus program has already reached about seven million men, women and children, says program head Howarth Bouis, adding that biofortified grain is expected to improve the nutrition of a billion people by 2030. Bouis' early decision to apply only conventional methods in breeding the new varieties was important to its success. "At Harvest Plus we took the decision not to invest in transgenics, because we wanted to avoid the controversy," he says, remembering all too well the dispute over a variety known as Golden Rice.

The Genetic Engineering Conundrum

The transgenic plant, developed in 1992 at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, contains almost twice as much beta-carotene, a precursor to vitamin A, as ordinary rice. Nevertheless, there has been so much public resistance to genetic engineering that it has yet to be approved for use anywhere in the world.

But in many cases, genetic engineering is unnecessary anyways. There are often natural varieties with grains that already contain the desired vitamins or nutrients. Rice is a perfect example, with about 100,000 varieties in existence worldwide. "You can basically find any trait you can think of," says Swaminathan. In the laboratories of his M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in Chennai, scientists are experimenting with high zinc-content rice. The biologists analyzed thousands of rice strains and eventually discovered about a dozen varieties with especially high zinc levels. They are now being crossed with high-yield varieties.

But Swaminathan isn't opposed to choosing the high-tech approach if it can help alleviate hunger. "I won't worship nor discard genetic engineering," he says. "It is important to harness all the tools that traditional wisdom and contemporary science can offer"

Because, for example, it is very difficult to increase iron levels in rice with conventional breeding techniques, the scientists have turned to biotechnology. "We isolated genes from mangroves and introduced them into the genome of rice," explains Ganesan Govindan, one of the bioengineers at MSSRF. The transgenic rice grains contain elevated levels of iron, and the plants are more tolerant of drought and salt. Researchers expect the variety to be ready for market in two or three years.

'25,000 Farmer Suicides'

But these high-tech solutions are also controversial. Vandana Shiva, a prominent opponent of modern agricultural engineering, lives in the Indian capital New Delhi. In the offices of her organization, Navdanya -- located in the affluent neighborhood of Hauz Khas -- are decorated with a flower arrangement on a glass table and clay vases containing sheaves of grain.

Shiva, dressed in a flowing robe and with a large bindi on her forehead, is an impressive figure, steeled by her tough, decades-long battle with the establishment. The civil rights activist never tires of castigating seed companies. "A globally operating industry is pushing hard to make the world dependent on their products," she says. Farmers who have made the switch, she explains, give up their traditional seed and are then forced to buy the commercial varieties, which often come with license fees, in perpetuity.

"This type of agriculture has taken the lives of 25,000 farmers in India, who committed suicide because they couldn't pay back their debts," says Shiva. She doesn't think much of biofortified varieties, either. "Harvest Plus is focused on one nutrient," she says critically. "But a single nutrient is not a solution to multidimensional malnutrition crisis; the body needs all the micronutrients."

Instead of these "monocultures," Shiva is calling for a return to diversity in fields. "Most of our traditional crops are full of nutrients," she explains. Why create Golden Rice with lots of vitamin A when carrots and pumpkins contain plenty of it already? Why develop genetically modified bananas with high iron content when horseradish and amaranth contain so much iron?

Shiva recommends field crop-rotation, and the fostering of vegetable and fruit gardens and small family farms primarily geared toward nutrition instead of maximized profit. Because Shiva believes organic farming is the only viable approach to defeating hunger, her organization has trained 75,000 farmers in organic farming methods since the late 1980s.

'There Isn't Enough Arable Land'

Harvest Plus Director Bouis believes that Shiva's approach is naïve. "We have the fundamental problem that there isn't enough arable land for a constantly growing population," he says.

A UN Environment Programme report predicts that by 2050, agriculture will have to produce 70 percent more calories than today to feed an expected global population of 9.6 billion people. This "food gap" can only be closed, says Bouis, if we "make agriculture even more productive."

But in Maharashtra, it's clear that new varieties of super grains are not always the entire answer. A third farmer from the town of Vadgaon Kashimbe, Santosh Pingle, 38, and his family are visibly better off than their neighbors. They live in a plastered house, they have cows and goats for milk,

and they enjoy the occasional luxury of a chicken from the market. Pingle's recipe for success is that he has done more with his land than other farmers.

The farmer grows iron-rich Dhanshakti millet to satisfy the iron needs of his family of five. On the other half of their field, the Pingles grow tomatoes and high-yield hybrid millet, which they sell in the market. They also grow protein-rich pulses and other vegetables in their house garden, and his wife Jayashree and her daughters harvest lemons, coconuts and mangoes several times a year.

The Pingles are well on their way to achieving "prosperity and strength" -- and they always have enough to eat.

Daily Mail

'Oh I get it, the catalogs ARE the furniture'

Restoration Hardware's 17 POUND issue prompts hilarious reactions from recipients

by Margot Peppers

Recipients of Restoration Hardware magazine were left flabbergasted when they received the latest issue, which tipped the scales at a whopping 17lbs.

While some complained about the ecological wastefulness of the gargantuan volume, others saw the humor in the situation and took to Twitter to share their inventive uses of it - as a stool, an ottoman and even a weight for doing arm exercises.

'People just leave these 17lb Restoration Hardware "catalog packs" laying around because they're so cumbersome,' wrote one Twitter user. 'Oh, I get it, the Restoration Hardware catalogs ARE the furniture.'



Funny reactions: Recipients of Restoration Hardware magazine were left flabbergasted when they received the latest issue - which tipped the scales at a whopping 17lbs. Some came up with inventive uses for it



Lift up: One Twitter user put it under her tiny dog to give it a boost

In one Instagram shot, a young boy stands on the catalog, which consists of 13 'sourcebooks' with more than 3,300 pages altogether.

He uses it like a step stool to reach the kitchen sink. 'I knew I would find a use for these!!!!' reads the caption.

Another photo shows the massive tome sitting being used to hold open a gate. Its caption says: 'My Restoration Hardware catalog makes a great door stopper! What are you using yours for?'

And another humorous recipient wrote: 'This Restoration Hardware catalog is as big as an ottoman. They basically mailed me paper furniture.'



Jake Lodwick @jakelodwick · Jun 10

Oh, I get it, the **Restoration Hardware** catalogs *are the furniture*.

Expand

← Reply ↻ Retweet ★ Favorite ⋮ More



Jake Lodwick @jakelodwick · Jun 10

People just leave these 17lbs **Restoration Hardware** 'catalog packs' laying around bc they're so cumbersome. pic.twitter.com/B32ABISsRF

 View photo

← Reply ↻ Retweet ★ Favorite ⋮ More

© Twitter

Feedback: The gargantuan volumes prompted some very funny reactions on Twitter



Christopher Moore @TheAuthorGuy · Jun 11

Going out in the morning to clean up all the dead UPS guys who were delivering Restoration Hardware Catalogs today. #14Lbs

Twitter

Expand

Reply Retweet Favorite More

Burden: Some recipients expressed their concern for the mailmen who had to deliver the catalogs

Some complained about the sheer weight of the catalog, with one person tweeting: 'Restoration Hardware catalog is probably giving hernias to UPS men all over this great nation.'

Another reader with a similar concern said: 'Going out in the morning to clean up all the dead UPS guys who were delivering Restoration Hardware catalogs today.'

'Seriously Restoration Hardware? S E R I O U S L Y ??' complained another person. 'I just pulled my shoulder carrying this.'



© Instagram/theresidentialchef

Weighty: One photo shows the massive tome being used to hold open a gate. Its caption says: 'My Restoration Hardware catalog makes a great door stopper! What are you using yours for?'



A LOT of paper: The giant mailings made such an impression that they even inspired a Tumblr page called Deforestation Hardware



Heavy reading: Some people couldn't believe just how much the 3,300-page tome weighed

Twitter user [Carole Parker](#) posted a whole series of photos of how she used the catalog in various creative ways, accompanied by the caption: 'What will u do w/ ur RH catalog?'

In one photo, the volume is sitting on a leather armchair being used as a 'decorative throw pillow'. Another sees her using it as a platform while she does a handstand.

The giant mailings made such an impression that they even inspired a Tumblr page called Deforestation Hardware.



Handstand support: Another Twitter user posted a series of photos showing how she used the catalog in various creative ways, accompanied by the caption: 'What will u do w/ ur RH catalog?'



Comfortable? The massive book being used as a decorative throw pillow

The website, which organized a mass return of the 'unwanted mailing' in Santa Monica, claims the company's decision to send out such a sizable booklet was wasteful and unnecessary.

But Restoration Hardware has defended the catalogs, saying that the fact they only ship out once a year means they're not as ecologically wasteful as one might assume.

A delivery confirmation e-mail sent to recipients reads: 'Combined with our carbon-neutral shipping practices and our responsibly sourced paper, that adds up to a significantly reduced impact on the environment.'

IBD

Late Night Humor

by Andrew Malcolm

Fallon: Actress Audra McDonald broke the record last week when she won her sixth Tony Award. Yeah, now she's got more Tonys than a beach in New Jersey.

Meyers: Three Canadians escaped prison by jumping onto a helicopter landing in the prison yard. From there, it was just a short flight to the getaway Zamboni.

Conan: Hillary Clinton said she and her husband Bill were dead broke when they left the White House. Hillary said things were so bad the two of them had to share a bedroom.

Fallon: They're re-releasing "Forrest Gump" for the movie's 20th anniversary. That's really great because now if you want to see "Forrest Gump," you must turn on TBS at ANY time of day.

Meyers: Hillary may not run for president she says because she loves hanging with friends who happen to live in Iowa, New Hampshire, Ohio, Florida and the great state of Pennsylvania.

Meyers: A Massachusetts woman gave birth to the second of her twins 24 days after the first one. She plans on naming them, "Medium Rare" and "Well Done."

Conan: After his Taliban prisoner deal, Obama's job approval hits the lowest level ever. But his approval rating with the Taliban is through the roof.

Fallon: Ted Cruz has renounced his Canadian citizenship. So now it's up to Canada to take Justin Bieber back.

Conan: Ford teams with Heinz Ketchup to make a car part out of tomatoes. So it's official, Americans will put ketchup on anything.

Meyers: Obama surprises tourists by walking to Starbucks near the White House. Even more surprising, he traded five Taliban members for one grande soy latte.

Meyers: The CIA has an official Twitter account. Which means that you could receive the terrifying email, "The CIA is now following you."

Meyers: A Florida man was arrested after he was caught wearing the swimsuit of a woman whose house had just been burglarized. Even worse for that woman, it looked better on him.

Meyers: In an interview with Diane Sawyer, Hillary Clinton said she would make her decision on running for President "by the end of the year." Specifically, the year 1998.

Conan: President George H.W. Bush celebrated his 90th birthday skydiving. So if you include Obama, there were two presidents in free-fall today.

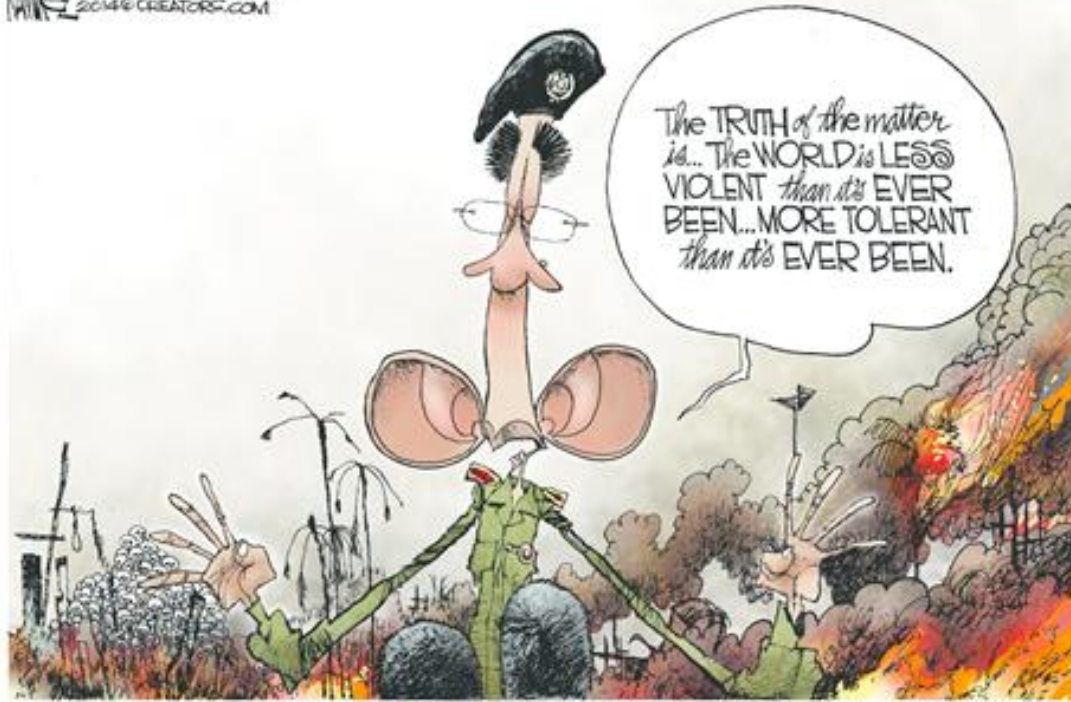
Conan: Brazilian officials ask World Cup tourists not to fight or scream if mugged. They've also asked people to please not die if murdered.

Fallon: Before winning the Stanley Cup, the L.A. Kings were leading 3 games to 1. As they say in hockey, the N.Y. Rangers were hanging on by the skin of their tooth.

Meyers: A Florida man was arrested for offering an undercover cop a salad in exchange for oral sex. He was charged with solicitation and one count of over-estimating how much people like salad.

Conan: Scientists have found a 16-foot shark they call the "Colossal Great White." By the way, Colossal Great White used to be my porn name.

Meyers: Oklahoma Republican Scott Esk wrote on Facebook last week that he's "OK" with stoning gay people to death. Now, he's in deep trouble with Republicans for being anti-gun.



BAGHDAD BOBAMA.

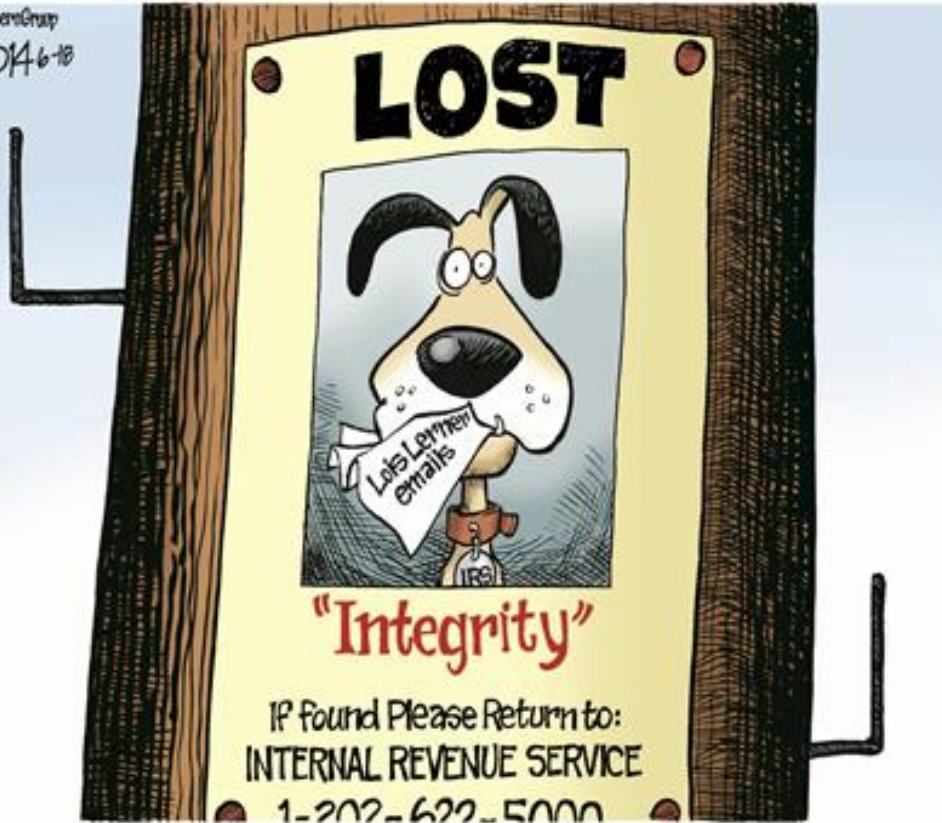
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Leader of the "SURPRISED PARTY"



"I DON'T EXACTLY KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE EMAILS."





MY PARENTS
WENT TO THE
UNITED STATES
ILLEGALLY
AND ALL I GOT
WAS THIS LOUSY
T-SHIRT
...AND CITIZENSHIP
...AND VOTING RIGHTS
...AND HEALTH BENEFITS
...AND...