

LOW DEFINITION

The folks at UrbanDictionary.com offer definitions of words and phrases not found in Webster's. We pass them along for educational purposes only.



► **Clark Kent job:** a day job, or a job that pays the bills but doesn't reflect what you really want to do
Usage example:
"Nice blog. What's your Clark Kent job?"

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

A motorist cruising a highway this month near Manson, Wash., had his vehicle crushed by an airborne cow. The impact of the 600-pound animal — which had fallen off a cliff — totaled the minivan but didn't injure the driver, who was quoted as saying repeatedly, "I don't believe this."

— **Chuck Shepherd**
Universal Press Syndicate



The forlorn biscuit

EBAY ITEM OF THE WEEK

No longer drowning in leftovers? Check out "Lonely leftover biscuit from Thanksgiving dinner" (item No. 290184861472). "I promised the biscuit that he would get a good home," the seller explains. "A home where someone loved him, where he could take walks and sleep in clean sheets. Where he was never alone again." Touching, to be sure — and probably smart: By the time it is received by the winning bidder, the biscuit should be safer to keep as a pet than to eat. Bidding will end Sunday.

— **Nick Chordas**
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WMD

Web sites of Mass Distraction are entertainment-oriented sites (humor, jokes, office time-killers).



www.skop.com/brucelee/index.htm

Martial-arts maestro Bruce Lee was born 67 years ago this week. To celebrate, check out this interactive site on which fans can create, record and play back their own kung fu remix starring Lee. Keyboard commands control sounds and special effects. Theme settings include: "suspense," "mystery," "fight" and "victory" — each with an appropriate 1970s soundtrack. Warning: has been known to cause cubicle workers to rip off their shirts and challenge the boss to a fight.

— **Nick Chordas**
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The Flip Side's goal: to not let success go to our heads. So far so good.



GOALS OR WISFUL THINKING?

'Stop eating my fingers' among Web site's more absurd aspirations

By **Catherine Gignac** | FOR THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Amid the distractions of daily life, achieving long-term, personal goals can be difficult. ★ Writing them down can help, but without a support group your aspirations will likely gather dust before they become reality. ★ That's where 43things.com comes in. ★ The Web site encourages visitors to list 43 life goals and share them with its community of 1.3 million members. ★ Having trouble thinking of 43 aspirations? Browse the lists of others and choose the goals that match your needs. ★ That's what we did, and the results were eye-opening. ★ While most of the goals are fairly typical — lose weight, fall in love, write a book — others are anything but. ★ Today The Flip Side — chasing the carrot since 2004 — shares some of the most absurd aspirations posted on 43things.com.

ASPIRATION	ABSURDITY	COMMENT
STOP EATING MY FINGERS (117 people)	3 carrots	Our first question is: Why haven't you run out of fingers to eat?
LEARN TO FOLD NOTES (521 people)	2 carrots	If you didn't accomplish this in middle school, what exactly were you doing in class?
BE EXPOSED AS A SISSY IN PUBLIC (22 people)	2 carrots	A goal, or a cry for help?
WATCH FRIENDS TV EPISODES FREE (3,989 people)	1 carrot	One word: syndication. The show is on six times a day.
BREATHE FROM MY TOES (1 person)	3 carrots	Be careful what you wish for. To avoid suffocation, we recommend flip-flops.
GO TO NARNIA (24 people)	3 carrots	I tried to go this morning but got stuck in traffic.
GET MY G.E.D. FREE ONLINE IN A DAY OR TWO (1 person)	2 carrots	Right, just like you completed the eighth grade in about 20 minutes.
BECOME A PRINCESS (21 people)	2 carrots	If royalty is at the top of enough lists, William and Harry better watch out.
SQUISH ELEPHANTS WITH MY FINGERS (1 person)	1 carrot	Someone please revoke this guy's zoo membership.
LEARN TO DANCE LIKE SHAKIRA (370 people)	3 carrots	On second thought, if everyone tried this, the world would be one sexy place.

Catherine Gignac, a junior at the Ohio University School of Visual Communication, created this page for a layout-and-design class.

CITY LIGHTS

Ailing Buick tests loyalty of owner

The scene in my 1993 LeSabre's cockpit was typical of a bike-race morning: Wake-up music (W.A.S.P.) blasting on the after-market stereo, coffee surging through the blood, bananas peeled and riding shotgun.

Ten minutes into the haul to Newark my game plans did a 180. As my bike carrier struggled up the slightest of I-70 east inclines, I exited at Hamilton Road.

In a strip-mall lot we talked, man to car: "Look, LeSabre, I know you comprehend only French, so none of this is going to make sense, but here's the deal:

Nothing lasts forever, not cold November rain, not your engine. Our lives together must end. The leak in your intake manifold is killing you and my wallet. I'm so sorry."

In silence, we drove home and it hit me. The only thing to do now, to honor LeSabre's legacy, was to keep Buick in the family: Time to lug my bikes into the country atop a Park Avenue.

I hacked into the Internet. A man listed a black '98 Park Ave. with 140,000 "mostly highway" miles.

"Look, I'm not gonna kid you, bro," he said on the phone. "You could drive this car to Africa! Check it out — I'll let it go for \$2,200."

We met in a Wal-Mart lot the next morning. The Buick was black, which was the only real-life fact it shared with any of the online images (taken at night). Dents pocked the body. The driver's side mirror? Shattered. Half of the instrument panel worked — a result of a creative stereo installation.

A bullet hole accentuated the trunk. "You ever wreck this thing?" I asked during the test drive.

"Wreck wreck or just tappin' into stuff?" he asked. "Naw, but it's been run into stuff. It's a big car. I backed into a gas pump one time, and my wife's always tappin' stuff with it — you know how ladies drive. But, no, I never really wrecked it."

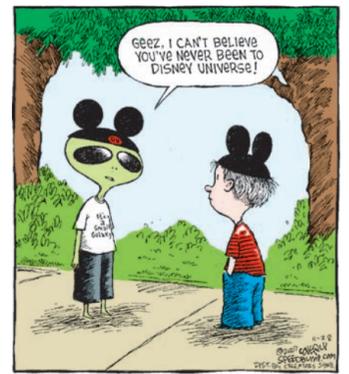
He said he really didn't even want to part with the car ("I love Park Avenues," he said) but with Christmas coming on, his eight kids — spread among three households — were demanding video-game systems.

"Man, I gotta buy three Wii's," he said. "Not one! Three! Can they share? Hell, no! Can't I buy just one for the house I live in? No!"

I didn't know what a Wii was until I Googled "Oui video game." I did know that I'd spent an hour on a Sunday morning in Hilliard driving a Buick that wasn't my Buick, which was the saddest fact of all.

LeSabre, whom am I kidding?
How am I going to quit you?
abeck@dispatch.com

SPEED BUMP DAVE COVERLY



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Hayden not hiding much in magazine feature

GQ magazine has named **Hayden Panettiere** its "Obsession of the Year." The 18-year-old actress, who stars on NBC's *Heroes*, says we're never going to see her acting the fool a la **Lindsay Lohan**, **Paris Hilton** and **Britney Spears**. "You can't schedule rehab for me," she told the magazine. "And I don't think you can schedule any DUIs. I think I'm going to be one of those boring girls." To bolster her down-to-earth persona, she says she'd rather drive a Prius than a Porsche and would feel "bad about myself" if she landed a \$1 million an-episode deal. In the GQ spread, she poses in sexy underwear and a hula hoop.

Hayden Panettiere: nice and boring



Pepper-spray mystery nothing to sneeze at

Police are investigating how 2008 Miss Universe qualifier **Ingrid Marie Rivera** was able to stop crying be-

tween camera appearances at Saturday's Miss Puerto Rico pageant, if her gown and makeup had been sabotaged with the spray, as she asserts, NBC News reports.

Today's birthdays

- 64 | Randy Newman, singer
- 58 | Paul Shaffer, orchestra leader (*Late Show*)
- 57 | Ed Harris, actor (*Empire Falls*)
- 55 | S. Epatha Merkerson, actress (*The Closer*)
- 45 | Jon Stewart, comedian
- 28 | Chamillionaire, rapper

Today show host **Meredith Vieira** asked on yesterday's broadcast whether crime-scene investigators think the pepper-spray claim might have been imaginary. "They're saying they think she made it up?" Vieira asked reporter **Kerry Sanders**, who replied: "They're looking into it. They're curious."

Taking sting out of 'Bee'

Despite the success of *Bee Movie*, don't look for any more films from **Jerry Seinfeld**. "Jerry is — as he would say — at the end of his

career," his wife, **Jessica**, told **Barbara Walters** on her weekly Sirius satellite radio show. "The movie took four years out of our life," Mrs. Seinfeld said. "In the future, he'll just do stand-up. That makes him happy."

Hogan isn't her hero

Hulk Hogan's estranged wife, **Linda**, is seeking half of the couple's more than \$9.5 million in assets, including a share of the value of their 17,000-square-foot mansion in Bel Air, Calif. She also wants their 17-year-old son, **Nick**, to live with her, while allowing Hogan "liberal" visitation, according to her divorce petition.

Custody call

Reps for **Britney Spears** and **Kevin Federline** have agreed that she will have the children on Christmas Day, TMZ.com reports.

This is the pits

Brad Pitt has pulled out of his starring role in Universal's *State of Play* over creative

ON THE WEB

► To pop off about today's People column, visit Dispatch.com/flipside and click on **Popping Off**.

differences concerning the script, *Variety* reports. The studio is looking at **Russell Crowe** to fill the role in the political thriller.

Love note

Dallas Cowboys quarter-back **Tony Romo** spent the day after Thanksgiving with **Jessica Simpson** and her family in Waco, Texas, *In Touch Weekly* hears. The mag says the couple is getting more serious.

Sour note

Pete Wentz has sent a cease-and-desist letter to the heavy-metal band **Neurosonic**, whose song *So Many People* pokes fun at Wentz's girlfriend, **Ashlee Simpson**, the *New York Post* reports.

— **Compiled by Steve Berry**
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