

CSBS NEWS

The Official Publication of the Cabot Striped Bass Society



Cabot high school students and chaperones observe specimens in a fish tank in this re-enacted dramatization of an actual educational event at South Water Caye, Belize, CA.

CSBS Leads Successful Excursion to Belize

Under the unassuming leadership of CSBS members Jon Vara and Caleb Pitkin, twenty-six odd members of the Cabot and Walden communities endured a fortnight of ATOD-free* "educational" activities in neo-tropical Belize. Fortunately, the (respectively) hapless and inept Vara & Pitkin were assisted by eleven other chaperones including competent naturalist Steve Amos. No embarrassing incidents were reported during the outing.

* Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs

Quiddler Pro Quo



The Nielsen family from Burlington (Kathy, Emily, Ben, & Bill) rendezvoused at South Water Caye for the purpose of playing scrabble for four consecutive days, before moving their intra-family tournament to Blue Creek. Though not quite ready to play Quiddler, the Niensens watched the Cabot games with envy.

In a desperate attempt to be Number One at something, Jon Vara was ruthlessly insistent that fellow participants in the nightly Quiddler game give him credit for a number of esoteric or imaginary "words." Sickened and deafened by Vara's constant haranguing, and without any dictionary with which to settle disputes, the other players voted him off the Island. In an effort to redeem himself, Jon did some follow-up research, viz

Hi Caleb - Some definitions from my c. 1967 Random House unabridged dictionary. What does yours say? - Jon

AI - noun, "a large sloth, *Bradypus tridactylus*, of Central and South America, having three toes on each forelimb."

BO - Alas, not in my dictionary. But googling "Buddha" and "bo" turns up any number of mentions of Buddha's enlightenment under the bo tree, which is said to be a type of fig. So I'm busted if we go by my dictionary, even though "bo" is in fact a perfectly valid word.

BREE - noun, "Scot. and North Eng. variation of *brw*, pottage."

CLEG - I can't remember whose this was. It's not in my dictionary, but according to an internet dictionary I checked, "cleg" is a synonym for "horsefly" or "gadfly."

COX - noun, "Informal, coxswain"

FID - noun, "Nautical, a stout bar of wood or metal lying across the trestletrees of a lower spar of a mast and passing through the hole (fid hole) or mortise in the heel of an upper spar so as to support the upper spar."

GER - Again, alas, not in my dictionary, although the following text -- one of many citations found through Google -- would seem to confirm that "ger" is perfectly legitimate: "In Buryat Mongolian "ger" simply means "home." In Russian it is known as a "yurta", or in English as a "yurt." The ger is the traditional dwelling of the Kazakh, Kirghiz, Tuvans, Tatars, Yakuts, and other peoples. The most commonly known ger is used by almost all Central Asian nomads, including Mongols and some of the Buryats." Gers are good places to drink fermented mare's milk [see November issue - Ed].

JIF, alas, does not appear in my dictionary.

LAV also--oy!--does not appear, even though it's used in every plumbing-supply catalog ever printed. Definitely a word.

LINO isn't there either, even though you'll hit a mother lode of citations by googling "flooring" and "lino."

OI - "interj. oy."

RET - "v.t., retted, retting. to soak in water or expose to moisture, as flax or hemp, to facilitate the removal of the fiber from the woody tissue by partial rotting."

QUA - "adv., as; as being; in the character or capacity of: *The work of art qua art can be judged by aesthetic criteria only.*"

QUAKEY does seem to be a word--so is "quaker" and "quakiest"--but it's spelled "quaky", not "quakey."

QUAT - Incredibly, **I WAS WRONG ABOUT THIS ONE.** [*Italics and bold capital letters added to emphasize the significance of this admission.*] The correct spelling of this "evergreen shrub, *Catha edulis*, of Arabia and Africa, the leaves of which are used as a narcotic when chewed or made into a beverage," is **qat**. It can also be spelled **kat** or **khat**. So even though I was technically in error, given all the variant spellings, any reasonable person would have to agree that it's an understandable mistake. Like, totally.

QUO - "archaic. quoth."

QUOD - noun. "Chiefly Brit. Slang. jail. Also, see **quad**."

VIZ., - "videlicet." That's the extent of the entry in my dictionary -- no pronunciation, no derivation, no nothin'. If we go the the entry for **videlicet** we find "adverb, Latin. that is to say, namely (used esp. to introduce examples, details, etc.) *Abbr.: viz.*" *

VUE is not in my dictionary.

ZEN - My dictionary recognizes the capitalized version only. See you later, Zen.

ZINE does not appear in my 1967 dictionary. But it's clearly a word, as one can readily confirm by googling it. Caleb, I will defend you to the death on this one. On second thought, make that "to minor injury."

[*Editor's note: From our 2nd edition Webster's New International Dictionary: "viz. (usually read namely). Abbrev. of VIDELICET."]



CSBS member Jon Vara assumes the lotus position as he tries to calm the raging frustration of having been repeatedly and savagely beaten in the nightly Quiddler games on South Water Caye.

Gary Gulka's Fanta, See?



In a most uncharacteristic loss of self control, Cabot Health Officer and Planning Commission Chair Gary Gulka indulged himself with either three or four FANTA sodas in a single evening. Gulka, usually a model of responsibility and restraint, was clearly worn down by a week of intense chaperoning on South Water Caye, and drank in quick succession a variety of FANTA flavors, including Orange, Root Beer, and Ginger Ale. "This is good!" he said repeatedly.

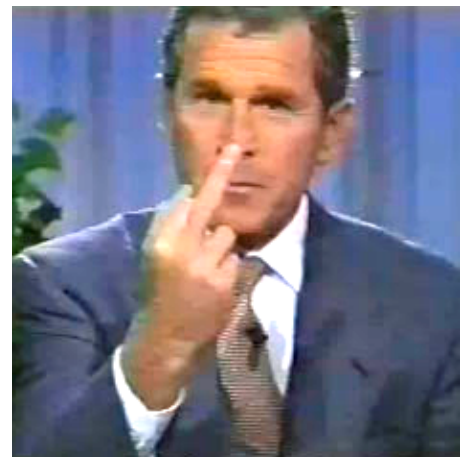


Fanta - Fruit of the Fatherland

Fanta was developed during WWII in Nazi Germany by Max Keith (pronounced *Kite*), who was the leading bottler of Coca-Cola in that country. When supplies of coke syrup (secret formula) became unavailable to him during the war, Keith began bottling a soda made from local ingredients, including whey, apple pulp, and other by-products from local food processing plants. Coca-Cola later incorporated Fanta into its line of soft drinks. It is now marketed in 180 countries in over seventy different flavors.



And Now . . . This Message -



The Line of Duty – Casualties in Belize



Jon Vara: Minor volleyball injury to the knee, aggravated by blue anti-fouling paint.



Seth Pitkin: Oozing volleyball injury treated with ointment applied externally, and massive doses of sludge-like coffee taken internally.



Caleb Pitkin: Volleyball injury, sinus infection, and ear wax.



Jon Vara: Badly misshapen head and torso partly disguised by ridiculous red hat.



Dan Molind: Scraped shin and beef deficiency, the result of eating only chicken for nearly two weeks.



Sam Tormey: Knee injury, compounded by chronic casual attitude.



Casey Cochran: Unfortunate coral injury, bandaged by Health Goddess Emily Dale.



Ian Ackermann: Brain injury in grayscale.



Ian Ackermann : Brain injury in color.



Monkey at Belize Zoo: Addicted to Fanta.

CSBS Donates Foul-Smelling Washcloth to Salvation Army

Dover, MA – Probationary CSBS member Mark Bromley, en route to a celebration of the life of the late Richard Hart Vara (progenitor of Cabot angler/wordsmith Jon Vara), stopped in the parking lot of the Dover Catholic church for the purpose of changing from his driving *ensemble* to an attire more perfectly suited to the Vara celebration. Always one to plan ahead, Bromley had brought along a plastic zip-lock bag containing a moistened washcloth with which he dampened his unruly mop of hair (hitherto confined under a cap).

Unfortunately, Bromley failed to notice either the advanced state of decay of the cloth, or the pungent odor emanating from it. When the horror of his mistake became apparent, Bromley, out of concern for his gagging and retching traveling companion Caleb Pitkin, deposited the rotting rag in a nearby collection bin.

Pitkin, in order to spare Bromley any further embarrassment, kept to himself his observation that the bin was labeled "Clothing Donations for the Salvation Army."



At left above, Mark Bromley demonstrates one of the many Birdseye caps with which he carefully controls the wayward hair on his head. This is in pleasing contrast to the uncontrolled growth sported by Chris Tormey (right). The hair issue is one of several that must be addressed by Tormey before he will be inducted into the Cabot Striped Bass Society. His frustration and vexation over this issue are apparent in his expression.

"Verbal" Vara Sweeps CSBS Palindrome Competition

The following entries, composed in Belize (or en route thereto or therefrom), were submitted by Jon Vara unless otherwise noted.

- Rex, I'm a mixer ❖ A trap star at Sparta
- Re-flog a golfer (by Ian Ackerman)
- Yes, or get some mo' steg, Rosey (by Sam Tormey)
- Was I taco? So, cat, I saw. (another by Sam T.)
- Nameless Seleman (by Calvin Alexander)
- Hannah (by Caleb Pitkin)
- So mama, I am Amos ❖ Eva's U-Save
- Not lime, Milton ❖ Set-sawn wastes
- Emit one visa, as I've no time.
- No loco colon ❖ Dopy pod
- Partner rent rap ❖ Camelot, ole Mac
- Red nag gander ❖ Wotan, a tow
- A reposition? No, it is opera.
- Tangy gnat ❖ No rococo, Ron
- Re-ventilators rot a lit? Never!
- Hot salsa, but fit ropers report if tubas last. Oh!
- A mall, as bard DNA's bird dribs and drabs a llama.
- Tops stop a notary rat on a pot's spot.
- K.C., eh? SaI, Lisa's as ill as heck.
- No, Dr. Don. ❖ A moray aroma
- Was God all at one? Not all — a dog saw.
- Go droopy, poor dog ❖ Sewer ewes
- Goby bog ❖ Set a tornado; Dan rotates
- Re: vendetta at Ted? Never!
- Yak, omit Canadian aid. An act? I'm okay.
- Rob ran. Apology? Go lop an arbor!