

ODE TO SMALL BALL

Baseball fans love home runs and slugging more than high batting averages, and it shows in players' statistics. Ordinary base hits and the strategy known as small ball are taking a backseat to long-ball power numbers. Fewer hitters these days surpass the .300 mark, which used to be a hotly contested achievement each season. Modern technology shows that batters are swinging upward more and more, shooting for the fences rather than slapping and spraying the ball around the field as the Miami Marlins' Ichiro Suzuki still does. Also, over the years you can see how ballplayers have bulked up to muscle the ball out of the park. Now instead of wiry speedsters like Maury Wills, Ozzie Smith, and Rickey Henderson singling to get on base and maybe steal second, you have big boppers straining to go yard. And along with this new emphasis on offense comes a higher number of strikeouts. It's all good, but I still like small ball.

SNEAKY

If you use Google's Chrome browser on your computer, there is now an extension called Nope. You click the Nope button and it calls your phone with a recorded message you can use as a weaselly excuse to get rid of an unwelcome visitor, like your boss or that annoying person from HR who's invading your space.

CLIMB-IT CHANGE

The tallest “peak” in Florida is 345-foot-high Britton Hill in Lakewood Park, deep in the Florida Panhandle just across the Alabama state line. Locals jokingly call this the Floridian Alps. “Completist” mountaineers known as HighPointers aim to summit every state’s highest elevation, even lowly Britton Hill. (Source: Wall Street Journal, March 10)

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

“The moment we no longer have a free press, anything can happen. What makes it possible for a totalitarian or any other dictatorship to rule is that people are not informed; how can you have an opinion if you are not informed? If everybody always lies to you, the consequence is not that you believe the lies, but rather that nobody believes anything any longer. This is because lies, by their very nature, have to be changed, and a lying government has constantly to rewrite its own history. On the receiving end you get not only one lie—a lie which you could go on for the rest of your days—but you get a great number of lies, depending on how the political wind blows. And a people that no longer can believe anything cannot make up its mind. It is deprived not only of its capacity to act but also of its capacity to think and to judge. And with such a

people you can then do what you please.” (Hannah Arendt, interviewed in New York Review of Books, 1974)

SLEEP TRAIN

Search YouTube for “relaxing train journey” videos to help you relax and maybe even nod off to sleep. My favorite is the Trans-Siberian Express.

SWAMI SEZ

“We never really grow up. We just learn how to act in public.” (Perry Prosdokian)

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