

DARWIN AWARDS FOR DUMMIES

If you scan the police log in this newspaper and in the Half Moon Bay Review, you may notice a remarkable number of car break-ins where the owners had not locked their cars. Well, you also know that it is not nice to laugh at these people {the Germans call this schadenfreude), but seriously, how bad do you feel for people who get ripped off because they don't lock their cars. Isn't it just a lack of common sense?

RACISM ON HIGHWAY 1

Kudos to Half Moon Bay Review staff writer Sara Hayden for her coverage of the recent racist incident on Highway 1 (a white woman driver cut off an Asian woman driver and gave her the finger, yelling, "Go back to China.") When I posted about this ugly incident on the Midcoast NextDoor forum, the site's moderator complained to me about my posting a controversial topic and "shaming" someone. I told him I was just posting a published news story. As far as shaming a racist, I plead guilty. I would do it all over again. So bravo to the Half Moon Bay Review for fully covering this incident, and shame on the cowardly NextDoor for trying to suppress the story.

WORLD'S HOTTEST ICE CREAM

Respiro Del Diavolo (Devil's Breath) is an ice cream made with Carolina Reaper chili peppers, which top the Scovill heat scale at a level 500 times hotter than Tabasco sauce. The Aldwych Café in Glasgow, Scotland created this burner. My question is: Why? I guess it kind of makes sense in a country that loves haggis (sheep heart, liver, and lungs mixed with oatmeal, onion, suet, stock, and salt). Confession: I tried regular haggis and vegetarian haggis when I visited Scotland, and both are delicious. But no way could you get me to try the world's hottest ice cream!

THE GOOD PARENT

Whatever child-rearing style a parent adopts will have an undeniable impact on a child's development, from social skills to self-esteem to how they cope with failure. In fact, recent research from PsychTests reveals that parents who take a supportive or proactive approach when their child fails – encouraging them, tutoring them, helping them study – are more likely to raise children who are ambitious, confident, and self-motivated. But children whose parents punish failure may grow to fear it. PsychTests president Dr. Ilona Jerabek says, "Some parents are afraid that if they're too lenient, their children will become wayward and difficult to control. Others worry that if they're too tough, their

child will grow to resent them, or rebel. Tough love may work under certain extreme circumstances, but it shouldn't be a parent's sole approach."

SNAPPLECAPPER

"Nowhere in the Humpty Dumpty nursery rhyme does it say that Humpty Dumpty is an egg." (Snapple.com real fact)

GRAMMARJAMMER

An oxymoron walked into a bar, and the silence was deafening.

SWAMI SEZ

"The idea of wilderness needs no defense, it only needs defenders." (Edward Abbey)

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