

May 1

Abode of Peace, Mother of the World, Gift of the Gods, Abode of Beauty, Round City, *Um Al-Basatin*, Mother of Orchards, Baghdad.

May 2

Ah, pandemic Person Zero discovered at last! Along with Judge Crater, Etan Patz, Jimmy Hoffa and Piltdown Man.

And what rough microbe, its hour come round at last, slouches from Fort Detrick to be air (or water) borne?

And Person Zero would be a child, of course.

Or is that Person Degree Zero?

Chrysler's Fall May Help Administration Reshape G.M.

There goes the *Times*, confusing Old and New Testaments... again.

Our father, whose Oldsmobile art in heaven...

May 3

Let the debt bury the debt.

Early-7th to early-6th BCE, known as the Assyrian century. And along came Babylon.

Is there such a thing as sin?

Who knows?

But if there were, what would be the worst?

The worst? To harden the heart against the self. Maybe that. That might just be the worst.

Pete Seeger turns 90.

Back in más o menos julio 1985, you wrote this ditty. To be sung a cappella at a lively tempo and accompanied by however many snapping fingers to whatever tune the words give rise:

If you're alive
you're never alive again
If you're alive
you gotta dance and sing
If you're alive
you gotta shake that thing
'cause you don't come round again

My daddy told me
when I was three
You know he took me
and sat me on his knee
He whispered
"Son, strictly, between you and me
you know you don't come round again"

If you're a drunkard
put that bottle down
If you're a recluse
get your ass out on the town
If you're a straight man
go out and play the clown
'cause you won't come round again

If you love her, boys
treat her right
If you love him, gals
hang on tight
Make hay in the day
but get down at night
'cause you don't come round again

If they say
"Go over yonder and take this gun"
You tell 'em
"Sorry chief, I gotta run
'cause guns, they shoot bullets and things
and I ain't ready to put on wings –
I'd rather stay right here
and dance and sing
'cause I won't
come
round
again."

And then what happened?

Ah, who knows?



Cinco de mayo

I married Isis...



Ken Baze for The New York Times

Ohio plans to use more than a million dollars in stimulus money to build a fence to keep people from jumping to their deaths off of Akron's All-America Bridge. Neighbors below say bodies have damaged roofs.

Or as one second-story man said to another: *Good fences...*

Though given the photo above, one would have to have great velocity and a nearly horizontal trajectory to land on any of these rooves. Perhaps the picture and caption are false friends? Or perhaps "roof" in this case is a metaphor. Or "neighbor." Or "body."

Belo Horizonte, Beautiful Horizon. With 2.3 million souls, it's the fourth largest city in Brazil, capital of the state of Minas Gerais. Often called "Beagá," from the sounds of its initials in Portuguese, it was founded by a prospector in 1751 and built on the site of a village, Curral d'el Rey, Corral of the King. Interesting demographic: the majority of Beagá's inhabitants are female – a hundred and seventy-five thousand more women than men. And then there's the illusion of Rua do Amendoim, Peanut Street, a sloping road where parked cars appear to roll uphill, defying gravity.

And nothing to get jung about...

Or as one perforated sheet said to another: *You're really on a roll...*

TAKE 2:

Or as one perforation said to another: *You're really on a tear...*

Pakistan's President Tries to Assure U.S. on Caliban

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She said, "Where ya been?"
I said, "No place special."
She said, "You look different."
I said, "Well, not quite."
She said, "You been gone."
I said, "That's only natural."
She said, "You gonna stay?"
I said, "Yeah, I jes might."



May 7



Todd Heisler/The New York Times

Norma Kamali participating in a weekly tai chi session with her staff in Central Park. The designer is just as disciplined, and flexible, in her approach to her work.

Most esoteric form... Kaching style... Takes many years to master...

May 8

Every Goliath seeks his David, each cyclops his Odysseus.

On the stairs to the downtown C & E platform at 25th Street, four cops, three uniformed, one plain clothes, for what? To arrest, in handcuffs, a kid about your height – jeans, white teeshirt, backpack. Seems he tried to beat the subway fare.

May 9

In nearly every society, a fearful contest for the monopolization of resources and the ensuing problem of what portion of the social product may be claimed by whom. Even one step back from this reveals the totality of its absurd and degrading nature.

Everywhere: celebrations of infertility.

Global festival of imbalance.

...I'm worth a million in prizes
With my torture film
Drive a GTO
All on a government loan...
...Well that's like hypnotizing chickens...

Chanté M. Pop kan ya makan

May 10

Hideous carnage in the North-West Frontier province of Pakistan only days after Obamanation personally twisted President Zardari's evermore Diem-like arm. Massive and sustained air assaults by Pakistani warplanes on suspected "miscreants" tag-team with U.S. drone strikes on suspected "militants."

Surely no one, except the truly mad, can be under any illusion that such a brutal, desperate gambit can succeed at anything other than sowing innumerable dragon's teeth that will multiply beyond the wildest nightmare.



May 11

Shaky Pakistan Seen as Target of Plots by Al Qaeda



K. M. Chaudary/Associated Press

Supporters of a Pakistani religious group burned an effigy of President Obama at a rally on Sunday in Lahore, Pakistan.

Or is that **Sheiky Pakistan...**?

Banks Brace for Credit Card Write-Offs

One conjures an image of dark-suited men hammering diagonal two-by-fours against the walls to buttress them. Or else the buildings themselves, perhaps with eyes squeezed shut, shoulders hunched, awaiting the onslaught.

Outbreaks Put Worry on the Table

“...Every few weeks, it seem, deadly germs turn up in the food supply...”

Whilst the Recession forces many to live on stick-figure incomes.

Cadets Trade Trenches for Firewalls



Michael Falco for The New York Times

U.S. Soldier Kills 5 Comrades in Iraq, Military Says

No pic accompanies this one.

“...The shooting took place at around 2 p.m. local time at Camp Liberty, a sprawling base next to Baghdad airport...

“...Suspected shooter in custody”

Sprawling.

At which point in the match, it's too late to throw in the towel.

It takes a worried man
To sing a worried song
It takes a worried man
To sing a worried song
I'm worried now
But I won't be worried long

May 13

A sublime and reckless moment in the air since spring done finally rung.