

June 17

Sum(m)er is icumen in...



...whoa, momma!

Sing it cuccu!

Yes, boss!

Lhuder, I can't hear you!

¡Si señor!

ur hose which art in heaven...

Sing it lhude and sing it prhude...

Hush now child,

And don't you cry

Your folks might understand you

By and by

Just move on up

Towards your destination

You may find

From time to time

Complications...

Segun a Curtis Mayfield, kan ya makan.



Photo: Ben Curtis/Associated Press

Hundreds of thousands protested the result of the election in Azadi Square in Tehran on Monday.

Azadi meaning “freedom.” And the square named for the tower in the background. Built in '71 to commemorate the 2,500th anniversary of the Persian Empire, the 150-foot Tower, clad in cut marble from Esfahan, was designed by a Bahá'í, and, supuestamente, integrates Sassanid and Islamic architectural styles. Originally known as Shahyad (Remembrance of the Shahs) Tower, the name was changed following the ouster of a certain Mohammed Reza Pahlavi.

The square served as a gathering place for demonstrators in the days leading up to the revolution in 1979. Twenty eight years later, as a vast crowd assembled to

commemorate that triumph, a free climber fell to his death, having scaled the Tower to within three meters of the summit.

June 18

Rain. Otra vez.

Red door of Engine 14 closed.

Flag hung on diagonal pole to left of door hangs sopping wet and sootstreaked.

One door east, a black-painted storefront, riot gate rolled shut and askew. Two white sheet metal signs nailed above:

BUILDING FOR SALE

—

APARTMENTS

FOR RENT

VACANCIES AVAILABLE

What properties of a vacancy render it available?

And on the streets of Persia, by the thousand, identical little black, white and green signs appear present themselves to the eye of the eager camera: *Raye man ku?*

Where is my vote?

Psychopomps on every street corner, sometimes several of 'em. And the trance migration of the soul.



National Archaeology Museum of Athens

Relief from a carved funerary *lekythos* at Athens: Hermes as psychopomp conducts the deceased, *Myrrhine*, to Hades, ca 430-420 BCE.



Eric Borrer

And does not any self-respecting creek continually practice bank reform?

Oh ye tak the High Line

An' I'll take the slow boat

An' ye'll gae a-bankrupt afore me...

Empoweird.

While the nation, long hovering on the brink, at last achieves ZCC: Zero Critical Consciousness. Doxa eats logos entire, with nary a burp.

June 19



And always hangs the impossible-to-answer question: Where does “pro-Democracy” end, and CIA begin?

Nestlé USA recalled its Toll House refrigerated cookie dough on Friday after health officials linked the dough to infections from the bacteria *E. coli* in as many as 66 people in 28 states.

The recall, by a company with a reputation for strong quality-control measures...

This in the *Times*. Nestlé’s practices over the last thirty years – particularly regarding false claims about infant formula – have made it the most frequently sued corporation en el mundo.

June 20

Dit Bloomberg News:

Two Japanese men are detained in Italy after allegedly attempting to take \$134 billion worth of U.S. bonds over the border into Switzerland. Details are maddeningly sketchy [!]....

Are these would-be smugglers agents of Kim Jong Il stashing North Korea's cash in a Swiss vault? ...Is Japan dumping its dollars secretly? Are the bonds real or counterfeit?

The implications of the securities being legitimate would be bigger than investors may realize. At a minimum, it would suggest that the U.S. risks losing control over its monetary supply on a massive scale.

The trillions of dollars of debt the U.S. will issue in the next couple of years needs buyers. Attracting them will require making sure that existing ones aren't losing faith in the U.S.'s ability to control the dollar.

...These two guys were carrying the gross domestic product of New Zealand or enough for three Beijing Olympics. If economies were for sale, the men could buy Slovakia and Croatia and have plenty left over for Mongolia or Cambodia.... These men ...would be the fourth-largest U.S. creditors....

This tale has gotten little attention in markets, perhaps because of the absurdity of our times...

Trust, like an X-mas goose.

Tit over arse.

The hips beneath my feet.

One day shy of sol sistere y la locura llegar a ser más fuerte.

Definitions for “sketchy,” according to the Urban Dictionary include the following:

1) someone or something that just isn't right.

2) the feeling you get the morning after using a lot of drugs, most commonly associated with extacy.

3) something unsafe.

4) someone or something that gives off a bad feeling.

i dunno, his story sounds kind of sketchy.

i cant come in to work today, im sketchy.

Iffy. Questionable.

Sara is kind of a sketchy person to hang out with because she gets drunk a lot and she tends to get other people in trouble.

The directions on this worksheet are sketchy. I do not think that they are giving the correct information on how to multiply fractions.

Creepy, iffy, fairly unsafe, an air of uncertainty, not kosher, and just generally something or someone that you don't want to be associated with (or really do want to be associated with, depending on who you are...)

1. That guy staring at me is really sketchy.

2. This Waffle House is really sketchy.

3. I don't know if I like Steve's driving – it's kinda sketchy.

1. Adj. - Describes a person that has taken too much Speed and has become untrustworthy and unpredictable.

2. Also used to describe a place or action that is worrisome or uncomfortable.

1. I am not letting that Sketchy-ass Sketcher borrow my car. He's a Fuckin' Speed Freak.

2. 6th Street is pretty sketchy at night....

And then *Financial Times* ways in:

Mafia blamed for \$134bn fake Treasury bills

One summer afternoon, two “Japanese” men in their 50s on a slow train from Italy to Switzerland said they had nothing to declare at the frontier point of Chiasso.

But in a false bottom of one of their suitcases, Italian customs officers and ministry of finance police discovered a staggering \$134bn (€97bn, £82bn) in US Treasury bills.

Whether the men are really Japanese, as their passports declare, is unclear but Italian and US secret services working together soon concluded that the bills and accompanying bank documents were most probably counterfeit, the latest handiwork of the Italian Mafia.

Few details have been revealed beyond a June 4 statement by the Italian finance police announcing the seizure of 249 US Treasury bills, each of \$500m, and 10 “Kennedy” bonds, used as intergovernment payments, of \$1bn each. The men were apparently tailed by the Italian authorities.

The mystery deepened on Thursday as an Italian blog quoted Colonel Rodolfo Mecarelli of the Como provincial finance police as saying the two men had been released. The colonel and police headquarters in Rome both declined to respond to questions from the *Financial Times*.

“They are all fraudulent, it’s obvious. We don’t even have paper

securities outstanding for that value,” said McKayla Braden, senior adviser for public affairs at the Bureau of Public Debt at the US Treasury department. “This type of scam has been going on for years.”

The Treasury has not issued physical Treasury bonds since the 1980s – they are handled electronically – though they still issue savings bonds in paper format.

In Washington a US Secret Service official said the agency, which is working with the Italian authorities, believed the bonds were fake.

Officials in Tokyo were nonplussed. Takeshi Akamatsu, a Japanese foreign ministry press secretary, said Italian authorities had confirmed that two men carrying Japanese passports had been questioned in the bond case but Tokyo had not been informed of their names or whereabouts.

“We don’t know where they are now,” Mr Akamatsu said.

Italian officials, while pointing out that hauls of counterfeit money and Treasury bills were not unusual, were stunned by the amount involved. Investigators are looking into the origin and destination of the fakes.

Italian prosecutors revealed last month that they had cracked a \$1bn bond scam run by the Sicilian Mafia, with the alleged aid of corrupt officials in Venezuela’s central bank. Twenty people were arrested in four countries.

The fake bonds were to have been used as collateral to open credit lines with banks, Reuters news agency reported. The Venezuelan central bank denied the accusations.

Don't mess with bills...

And what will that wily fox Hugo think of next?

Pero, the obvious problem with the *FT* story is that at the time these "Japanese" "Men" were "questioned" by "Italian" "authorities," it wasn't yet summer. Still isn't, except sketchily.

And what would Louie the Mouse, aka Topo Gigio say?



Other than in, in his best American: "Eddie, keesa me goo'night!"

Topo, we hardly knew ya...