



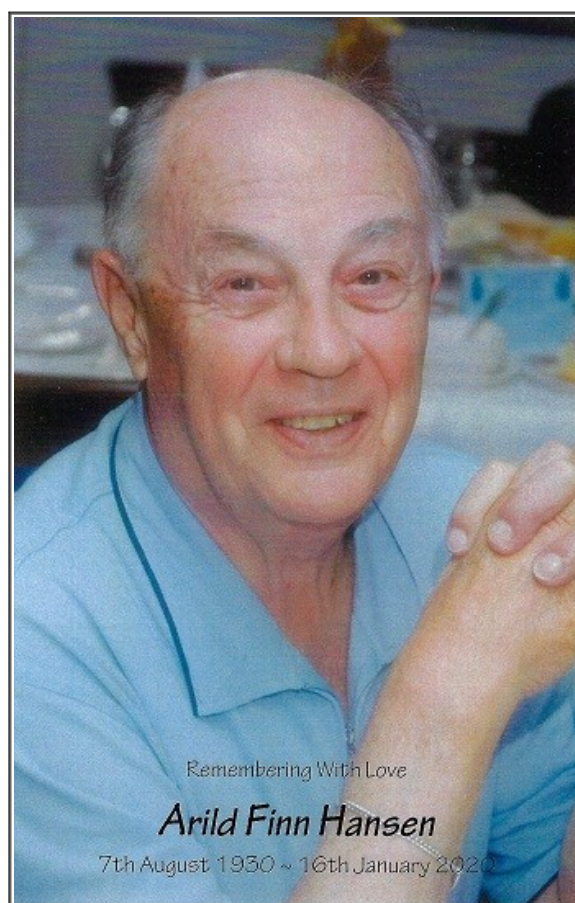
West Auckland Men's Rebus Club

Affiliated to Rebus New Zealand Incorporated

Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2020

Meeting starts at 9:45 am Friday 7 February 2020, in the Kelston Community Centre



Alas, another of our dwindling number has gone: Arild Hansen, who had been a member since 1995, and our President in 2002, was farewelled by a goodly crowd, including several members. at Morrisons on Friday 21 January. Our very own Reverend Trayton N Wickens officiated. I remember Arild as one of the members who welcomed me to the club when I joined five years ago. Unfortunately, deteriorating health meant that he was unable to attend as many meetings as he would have liked, and I did not therefore have much to do with him. I know from Trayton that he valued his membership of Rebus, and I hope the Newsletter enabled him to continue to be part of our community.

Trayton has provided the following account of Arild's life, based on Arild's own writing, and which formed the basis of Trayton's service.

The Story of Arild Finn Hansen

Arild - School and Hobbies

Arild started school at the age of 7, at the end of August 1937 (7 is, or was, the normal starting age of school). He walked about 2 km down to the Sofien Primary school, where he stayed until April 1940, when the German soldiers took over the whole school for their troops. After a few months of schooling at different places, libraries, school halls, teachers homes he started at Wertheim Private School, where he took School C and University Entrance exams. In 1948 started at Oslo Commercial High School, (part of the University).

In his spare time he did skiing and running. He belonged to BUL (Farmers Young League). Skiing was done on the hills to the west of Oslo. The running was done at Trojan and Bislett Stadium. Sometimes during winter he went speed skating at Bislett. In 1948 he partook in athletics Nationals and came 3rd in his age group, with a time of 11.1 seconds for the 100m dash. Did also refereed handball at various venues around Oslo.

Arild and Aase - Courting

Aase and Arild met in July 1948 at Modum on a farm called "Tusu" by the Tyrifjorden (lake). After the summer holiday, Arild started at Oslo Communal Commercial College for 3 years, whilst Aase went on working as a nanny. We rang each other and went to dances and pictures. At Easter 1949 we went by train and walked 30 minutes from the station to Aase's mum and dad's place. In the summer of 1949, about July, Arild pushed his bike around 250kms north of Oslo to spend the holidays with Aase and her family. The trip took about 5hrs. On the 5/4/1950 Aase and Arild got engaged; that was Easter and we took the train to a place to EINA and we took the bus to Aase's parents place. We got only a place in the cattle truck on the train and it was cold as blazes with a lot of snow. About the same time Arild's parents were thinking of a trip to New Zealand. Arild also got called up for military service, but got an exemption because of studies till end of July 1951.

Leaving Norway

We all left Oslo on board 'TAI YANG' on the 13th July 1951. We travelled via Hamburg to Rotterdam-Lisbon, Cape Town, where we stayed for 1 whole week. On leaving Cape Town it took 18 days to get to Melbourne. After 7 days we flew to Sydney and then by flying boat to Auckland and splashed down in Waitemata Harbour about 4pm. Nils and Friedel Ullness were waiting for us when we landed on the water on Friday 13 September 1951.

Life in NZ

Work

Arild started to work as a conductor on the trams on 24 September 1951. In March 1952 he trained as motorman and started driving trams until September 1956, when he started driving passenger buses from Roskill Depot. In September 1957 he moved to Onehunga Depot and stayed there until 1959 when he moved to the City Depot. In 1963 Arild applied for the position of Inspector and was accepted. He worked in different depots as a depot officer. After a few years he was given a position of Dispatcher of all of Auckland, attending to breakdowns and complaints. In about 1972 was given the position of Shift Inspector in Charge, having control of all the buses from Wenderholm in the north to Redoubt Rd in the South. As Shift Inspector he had an office in Hobson St and was attending accidents and delays. Including a few fatal accidents. In 1981 he applied for and got the position of Depot Officer of the Swanson Depot and stayed there until he retired in March 1993.

Homes

In 1953 Aase and Arild brought a section in Roberts Rd Te Atatu from W. Booth for 600 pounds. They started building in 1958. The house was finished in November 1959, just as Diane was born. Prior to that we brought a house in Bramwell Place with Ruth and Gunner from 1954 till November 1959. In 1980 Arild and Aase moved to Ciprian place in Henderson, where they were there for 23 years. In 2003 they moved to Waimana Bay village, where they are still today.

Trips

Aase and Arild did a trip to Norway in 1959 for about 8 weeks (May - June). In 1990 they did a trip to USA and Mexico, staying 7 days in Los Angeles, 3 days in San Diego and 1 in Mexico, 3 days in Grand Canyon, 7 in San Francisco and 7 in Hawaii. In 1997 they did a trip of 5 months to England, Scotland, Norway and USA. In 2001 they had 2 weeks in Brisbane and Gold Coast, staying with Julie Holland.

Extra

Arild was a justice of peace for 10 years, from May 2008 to 2018. He joined Probus in 1995 and was President in 2002.

Family

Arild's Mother (Grandmother) Ruth (Bessa) Family.

Frederik Offedal born 5/7/1867 - died 2/5/1936 met and married Ida Enger.

Ida Enger born 1/5/1872 - died 4/1/1948 - from Valdres Norway.

Ida is one of 11 children.

They had 2 children:

- Ruth Beate (Bessa) 18/3/1909 (Grandmother Bessa)
- Borgna (Bossa) 29/5/1912 -13/9/1962

Ruth married Gunner Olaf Hansen on 17/03/1930. Gunner died on 5/8/1988

They had 2 children:

- Arild Finn 07/08/1930
- Unni Karin 26/06/1951

Arild's Father (Grandfather)

Gunner Olaf born 19/03/1908, who had 2 brothers and 2 sisters:

- Finn died young no further information.
- Sigurd who married Hildegaard and had one child called Thor: married but no children.
- And 2 sisters that are not married (that we know of).

Thank you, Trayton.

CLUB OFFICERS

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DECEMBER MEETING



President for Life Bill Fairs presided. After seasons' greetings, he opened with a comment on the sparse attendance; only about a dozen members, plus several spouses – we were almost a combined club! Given what was to follow (Christmas lunch) he had expected more. Not only the body of the meeting was sparse: Bill was alone at the top table, without Santa's Helpers.

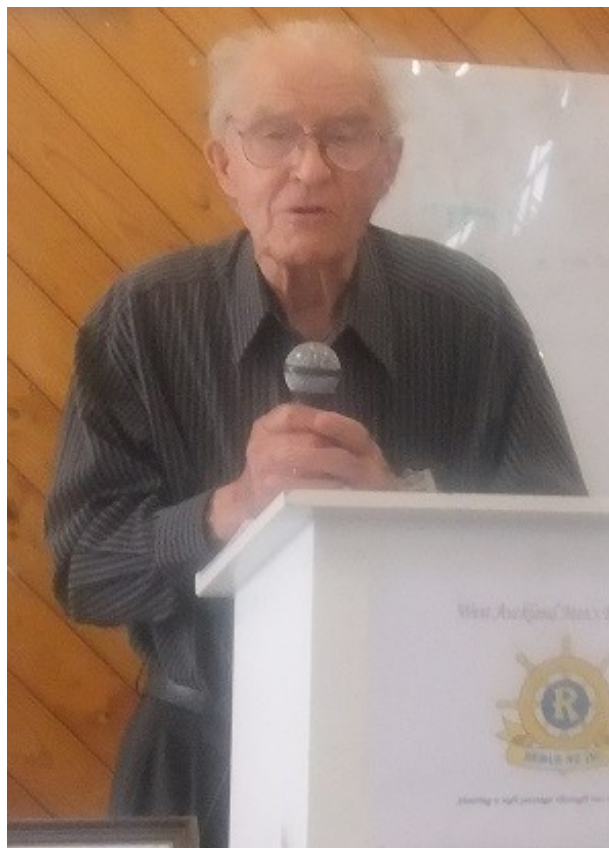
Apologies were received from: Jack Morley (his own and Jan's ill health); Justin Griffith (tripping again); Herb Simmons (Margaret is in hospital, so, being unable to drive, he is grounded); Rodger Hallen (holidaying in Australia – I hope he doesn't inhale); John Lucas (via Pam); Dalton Dean and Bob Lee.

The minutes of the previous meeting were available to be read. There were no matters arising.

Correspondence was received from the Rebus Federation regarding the Calendar, which was still available for purchase at \$10 per copy.

Almoner Trayton Wickens is back from his visit to family in Australia. He has been missed. He was away for most of October. You have already heard of his experiences with dodgy plumbing on the eve of his departure and how our very own in-house plumber Trevor Pollard came to the rescue. Unfortunately, that was not the end of Trayton's travails. He spent the first half of his stay in Australia coping with a cold. Fortunately, his daughter nursed him through it and he is now hale and hearty again. Long may it last.

Trayton's experience does raise an interesting question: if it is an almoner's job to visit the sick, who visits a sick almoner?



Dalton Dean, who is now our only surviving Founding Member (1985!) asks to be remembered. He is plagued with leg troubles, but perseveres. Rodger Hallen, currently in Australia, has managed to stay out of hospital for six months and hopes to be back with us soon. Arild Hansen continues to be unwell [he has, unfortunately, since died]. Bruce Keys (the 'President we want', as Trayton put it), having lost his driver's licence because of Macular Degeneration, continues to be grounded. (If he can no longer attend meetings, I hope he finds the Newsletter at least a partial substitute.) Jack Morley is another member whose ill-health (and Jan's) continues to make him also absent in body, if not in spirit. Herb Simmons also has to absent physically, because his driver, Margaret, is in hospital. We all hope that she recovers soon and can restore Herb to us.

Trayton told of how he had happened upon an old (2013/2014) membership list and noted the passing of former member Arthur George Alston (13 September 1920 – 26 April 2015).

As usual, Trayton finished with a story. An engineer dies and goes to Hell. Finding the place extremely uncomfortable, he is very hot and miserable. He decides to take action. He fixes the water sprays, cooling the place down. He fixes the accessways. He improves TV reception, so that many more channels can be viewed clearly. God then happens to look in on Hell, to check that all is as he intended. He is not pleased to see that all are happy in Hell. The Devil says that it has been so ever since God sent them an engineer. God says he he did not intend to, that it must have been a mistake, and to send the engineer up to Heaven immediately. The Devil refuses: we like him; we'll keep him. God threatens to sue. The Devil laughs: where will you get a lawyer?

Neil Castle then noted that his father, who had belonged to a debating society, had once told him that the Auckland Law Society used to hold its AGM at Auckland Prison!

Bill, in his capacity as Speaker Organizer, confirmed James Duncan's two-part talk on Auckland Trams for February and April, March being reserved for our AGM.



Outings Organiser Ian Smith reminded us of the Coffee Morning at One Sip Coffee, Te Atatu South, which is reported below. He has suggested an 'overseas' Coffee Morning, by ferry to either Devonport or Beachland. He has suggested this for February. However, that would clash with the first New Lynn Probus meeting of 2020, on 21 February. I therefore suggest we have our February Coffee Morning at Denny's, in New Lynn, to follow after the Probus meeting. That would allow those of us who are also members of New Lynn Probus, as well as its other members, to attend our February Coffee Morning. Devonport and/or Beachland can be kept for later in the year.

I like the idea of going further afield for our Coffee Mornings. Having them locally is convenient, but we do need to stretch our wings, even if the longer travel times that would be involved means lunch instead – or Coffee *Afternoons*. Something to think about.

Neil Castle's late brother James was a well-known local potter. However, Neil is also a dab hand as a potter, and had three of his works on display at the meeting:



Is there no end to this man's talents?

Another versatile member, Trevor Pollard, presented President Bill with one of his wooden Christmas trees, as a token of appreciation for Bill's work on our behalf. Bill pointed out that he already had one, as part of his Christmas decorations. Trevor must have a production line going. Personally, I think his wooden Christmas trees look rather phallic. I leave it up to you to decide what that says about me and Trevor.



Members and guests hanging on Bill's every word. Note the prominent bucket for donations towards the cost of the Christmas lunch. And another view of Neil's pots is included.

Bill concluded the formal part of the meeting with more of his customary Words of Wisdom. A six-year-old girl was asked by her teacher how old her father was. 'Six years old', she replied. 'How so', asked the teacher. She replied 'He only became a father when I was born.'

We then adjourned for Morning Tea, aka:

GUEST SPEAKER (aka Christmas Lunch)

Once again, our Christmas Lunch was catered for by Richard, seen here taking a well-earned break from his labours with his local assistant:



Trayton blessed the food:



I was too slow to get a full view of the repast, but I did manage to get a view of the Christmas cake, courtesy of May Fairs, before it disappeared entirely:



Thank you May and Richard, and Bill for providing the Christmas music. It was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by all.

The February meeting will see us resume our monthly Guest Speakers, with the first of a two-part talk (February and April) by **James Duncan**, of MOTAT, on *Electric Trams*, on which he is an expert. Justin knows James, who ran the waterfront tram (while it was running). And will presumably introduce him. James was also responsible for restoring the Wurlitzer organ in the Playhouse Theatre, Glen Eden (see <http://theatreorgans.com/wota/WOTAMenu.htm> and <http://www.theatreorgans.com/wota/>). Both Bill (at the Blockhouse Bay Historical Society) and my sister (at Mt Albert Ladies' Rebus) have heard James's talks, and report them as very interesting.

We were also to have had a Club Speaker in February, on one of his many interests, but that has been postponed until March, to give us time to discuss the ramifications of the likely impending dissolution of New Lynn Mens Probus, of which see below in *Members Corner*.

OUTINGS

While there has not been any trips since the last Newsletter, we have had two Coffee Mornings of our own, plus one by Probus.

On Friday 20 December 2019 we had our final Coffee Morning of the year (and the fifth to date) at 1 Sip Coffee, Te Atatu South.



The view from outside ▲



Flower power to the fore ►



Crowd scene



Justin holding court ▲ (or leading a prayer session)

Jennifer Tremain ►



On Friday 17 January 2020, we had our first Coffee Morning of the year, at The Sugar Grill, Te Atatu Peninsula.



The first comers were soon added to ▲



Some were fashionably late ▲

But soon fitted in ►



Bill being overshadowed by Vince? ▲ (and The Hat)



The ever-smiling Andrew (and Laurie) ▲



Roger the centre of attention ▲

On Tuesday 21 January New Lynn Mens Probus had a Coffee Morning at Dennys, New Lynn (it was originally to be at Jaimie's, but the numbers attending required a larger venue). Several of our members accepted their kind invitation to join them.



◀ Early arrivals left plenty of room

▼ Which was soon filled



Needless to say, a good time was had by all at all three events. Long may they continue. Justin certainly had the right idea when he suggested monthly Coffee Mornings.

Outings Organiser Ian Smith has suggested an ‘overseas trip’, by train and ferry to Devonport or Beachland, for our next Coffee Morning. However, our February date (21) clashes with New Lynn Mens Probus’s AGM, which some of us would also like to attend, (see below) especially given the important matter to be decided there (see below). I therefore suggest that we have our February Coffee Morning at Dennys, in New Lynn, starting at 11:30 (not 10:30), when Probus has to vacate its meeting venue. The ‘overseas trip’ could then be in March (20).

For those of you who are not familiar with Dennys, it is located on the outside of the western (Henderson) end of LynnMall, opposite the Library and MacDonalds. Coming along Memorial Drive from Great North Road, it is on the left (on the right coming from the Transport Centre). Plenty of parking and close to public transport. Note that Dennys is not the place for a cup of coffee and a bun. The cup of coffee is not a problem, but Dennys does not offer anything between that and a full meal, of which it offers a wide range. But it is convenient for the occasion and spacious. It will give us the chance to meet Probus members and discuss weighty matters (see below).

COMING EXTERNAL EVENTS

The **Philharmonic Society Orchestra**’s concert dates for 2020 are: 5 April, 13 September and 6 December, all Sundays. Each concert starts at 3 pm and lasts approximately one hour, followed by afternoon tea. Admission is by donation (\$5 seems the norm). The venue is the Mt Albert War Memorial Hall, 773 New North Road, Mt Albert.

The 2020 programme for **Morning Melodies**, Mondays 11am – 12pm at the Bruce Mason Centre, 1 The Promenade, Takapuna. Note that tickets are now \$7 (up from \$5).

10 Feb	Kumeu Vintage Brass (Valentine: Songs of Love)
2 Mar	Society Jazzmen with the Swing Out Central Dancers (Plus pre-show Swing dance class)
6 Apr	Bernie Griffen and the Thin Men (Folk-blues from a national treasure)
4 May	Lisa Lorrell and James Harrison (Dynamic duets and soulful solos)
8 Jun	National Youth Theatre (Showstoppers!)
13 Jul	Nairobi Chamber Chorus, The Norwegian National Youth Choir and Nordic Voices (Part of the 12 th World Symposium on ChoralMusic)
3 Aug	APO BaDaBoom! (A delightful and lively percussion quintet)
31 Aug	“It Had to Be You” with Georgia Duder-Wood (Plus pre-show Ballroom dance class)
12 Oct	A Morning with the Caitlin Smith Trio
9 Nov	The Band of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery
7 Dec	The Royal New Zealand Navy Band (Christmas)

SeniorNet West Auckland offers assistance with your computer problems. Feel free to come to one of their Help Sessions, held at their Learning Centre, upstairs in the Henderson RSA, Railside Avenue, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Tutors will be available to help between 10 am and 11 am (extendable to noon if required) on those days. February’s dates are the 11th and 25th. You do not have to be a member, though you can join, and there is a \$5 consultation fee. SeniorNet also has a monthly meeting, with a speaker (sometimes, but not always, about computing), on the 3rd Tuesday of the month (18th in February), at the Kelston Community Centre, in the same room that we use.

If anyone knows of any events they would like to promote to members, please send me the relevant information, so that I can include it in future Newsletters.

MEMBERS CORNER

Members may remember the poster in December’s Newsletter, courtesy of Trevor Pollard, about the *Carols at the Chapel of Faith in the Oaks at Waikumete* on the evening of Sunday 15 December. The following is an account thereof, courtesy of Laurie Vincent, of New Lynn Men’s Probus:

I thought I should make mention of the candlelight evening organised by Trevor and Friends of Waikumete at the Chapel of Faith in the Oaks Glen Eden on Sunday 15th December.

Seven of us attended and as we sat down in this fine little building, spectacular with its highly polished floors and impressive glass stained windows, I wondered what I was doing in the environment, not being a church goer.

Then after the introduction, the piper Bob Campbell, did his welcoming by walking in and out of the church playing his pipes and setting a prelude for an enjoyable evening. We heard the mixed choir resplendent in dark clothing contrasting with a silver scarf. The three Mandolin players combined with pianist Kathryn Mansell and produced often exquisite sounds and soloist Marina Scott apologised during her performances for being a little croaky due to her age. But her high notes were breath-taking. Choirmaster Doug Lilly was full of enthusiasm and encouraged the audience to join in, with old favourites “White Christmas” and “Silent Night”.

All in all it was a nice get-together and I hope more of us will attend this year.

Thank you, Laurie.

Vince Middeldorp has provided the following account of Probus versus Rebus:

In 2013, when the dispute with Probus South Pacific Ltd developed, there were 453 Probus Clubs in New Zealand. In the years following, 272 of these clubs left Probus South Pacific Limited to become members of Probus New Zealand Incorporated.

In September 2015, Justice Kit Toogood QC released his decision ordering Probus New Zealand Incorporated and seven other Probus Clubs to change their names. Only clubs affiliated with Australian company Probus South Pacific Ltd could use the Probus name.

In November 2015, Probus South Pacific Ltd offered to pay the \$15,300 of costs awarded against Probus New Zealand Inc in exchange for Probus New Zealand Inc withdrawing its objection to Probus South Pacific Ltd trademarking the name Probus.

Without this objection being withdrawn, Probus South Pacific Ltd could not trademark the Probus name.

The chairman of Probus New Zealand Inc at the time was Dr Dennis Boshier. He decided to accept the offer. That resulted in Probus South Pacific Ltd becoming the owner of the Probus name in New Zealand.

In December 2015, Rebus NZ Incorporated was registered. It was set up by members of Probus Club of Hibiscus Coast. In September 2015, they offered it to Probus New Zealand Inc. Their offer was rejected.

In January 2016, Probus New Zealand Incorporated changed its name to Fellowship New Zealand Incorporated.

Throughout 2016, Probus South Pacific Ltd sent lawyer's letters to non-affiliated Clubs who had not changed their name. At first Fellowship New Zealand advised clubs to ignore the threats and continue to use Probus. It then advised clubs to use Fellowship as an interim measure and promised a poll to choose a more favourable name.

Also throughout 2016, Rebus NZ Incorporated began offering any club affiliated with Fellowship New Zealand Incorporated affiliation with Rebus NZ Incorporated as an alternative.

Fellowship New Zealand then advised its clubs to change their names from Fellowship to Friendship and in April 2017 changed its own name to Friendship New Zealand Incorporated. The promised poll was never held.

Today in 2020, New Zealand has Friendship clubs, Rebus Clubs and Probus clubs all following the same format: membership for the retired and semi-retired; monthly meetings; outings; fun, friendship and fellowship.

It is possible to derive figures from their websites for the number of clubs affiliated to Friendship New Zealand Incorporated, Rebus NZ Incorporated and Probus South Pacific Ltd.

Doing so results in 154 clubs affiliated to Friendship New Zealand Incorporated, 53 clubs affiliated with Rebus NZ Incorporated and 73 clubs affiliated with Probus South Pacific Ltd.

The last figure is questionable because the Probus website does not generate any club names for the Gisborne and Canterbury districts. The actual number of New Zealand Probus clubs is most likely higher than 73.

Thanks Vince.

On the subject of Probus, members will be aware of our relationship with New Lynn Mens Probus. Those of us who, like myself, are also members of New Lynn Mens Probus, will have received a notice from its Secretary, Murray Young, concerning a resolution passed by its Committee at a meeting on Thursday 23 January (sic):

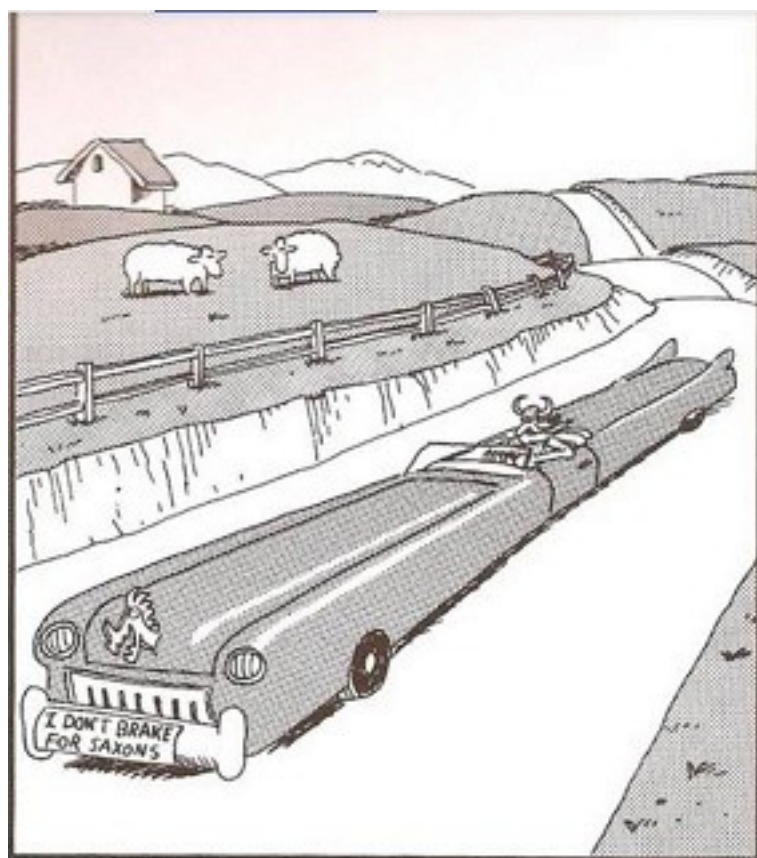
“ As a result of this important New Lynn Men's Probus Club meeting held Thursday 23 January 2020, it was decided that should there be no nominations from the clubs 31 Financial Members for the vacant positions of President and Vice President at the Annual General Meeting to be held Friday 21 February 2020 the club will be dissolved.”

This has implications for us and our Club, which we need to discuss at our February meeting. Therefore, Neil Castle's Club Talk will be postponed until the March meeting, to give us time to discuss the developing situation at New Lynn Mens Probus and its implications for us and our Club, and how we might respond. This matters to all of us, so please give it serious thought before our meeting and be prepared to have your say.

If anyone has any views, opinions, information, requests or questions they want to share with members, please do not hesitate to send them to me, so that I can include them in the Newsletter.

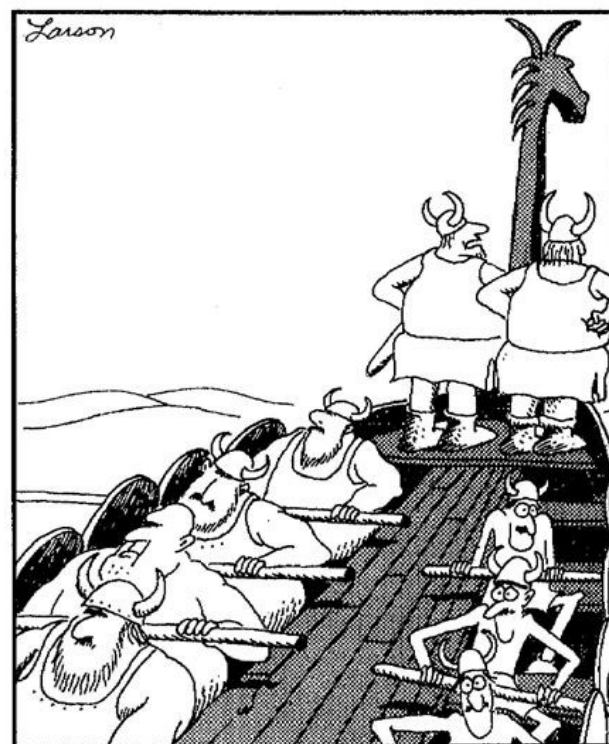
COMIC CORNER

Some cartoons courtesy of Vince Middeldorp:



The Viking longcar was once the scourge of European roadways.

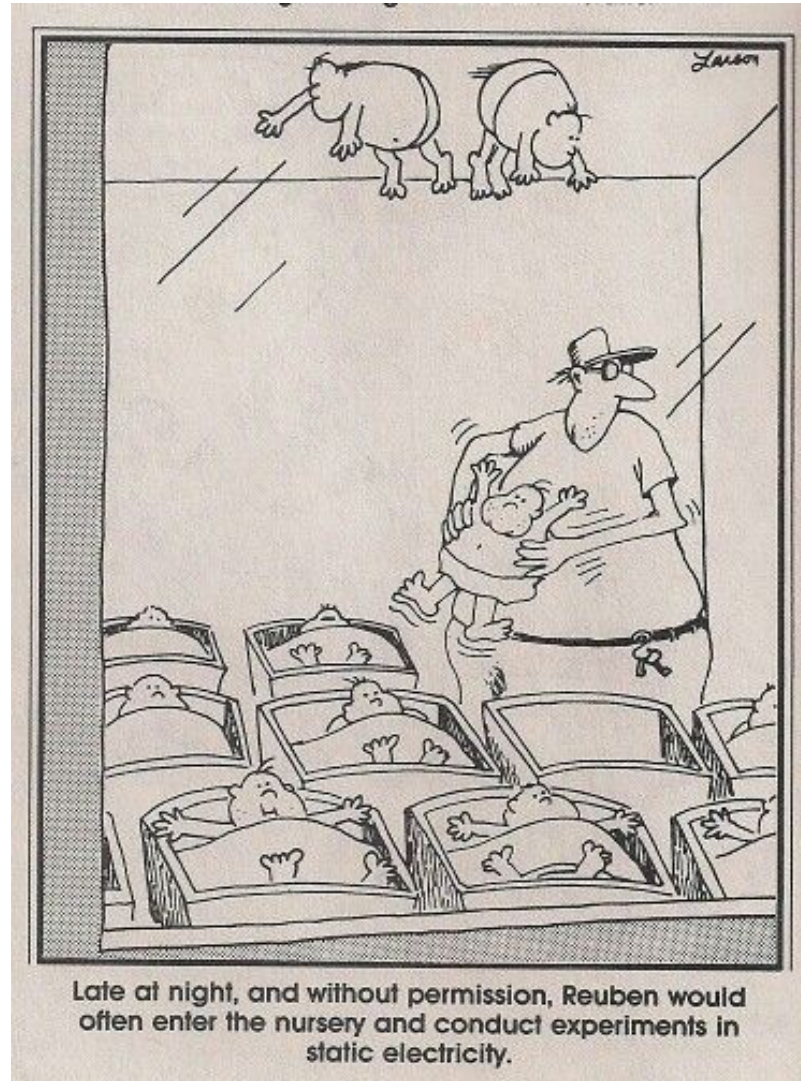
Two sides of the same coin?



"I've got it, too, Omar ... a strange feeling like we've just been going in circles."

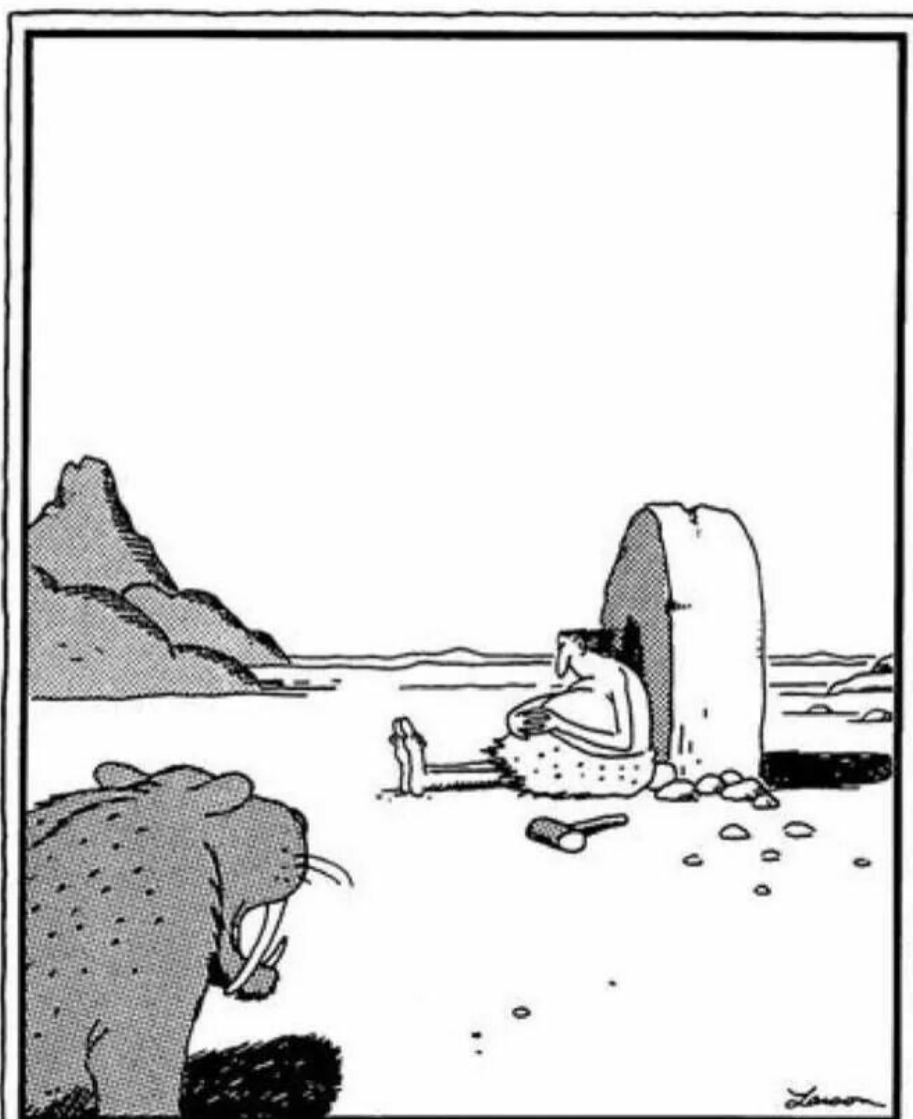


Unbeknownst to most students of psychology, Pavlov's first experiment was to ring a bell and cause his dog to attack Freud's cat.



Late at night, and without permission, Reuben would often enter the nursery and conduct experiments in static electricity.

The darker side of science

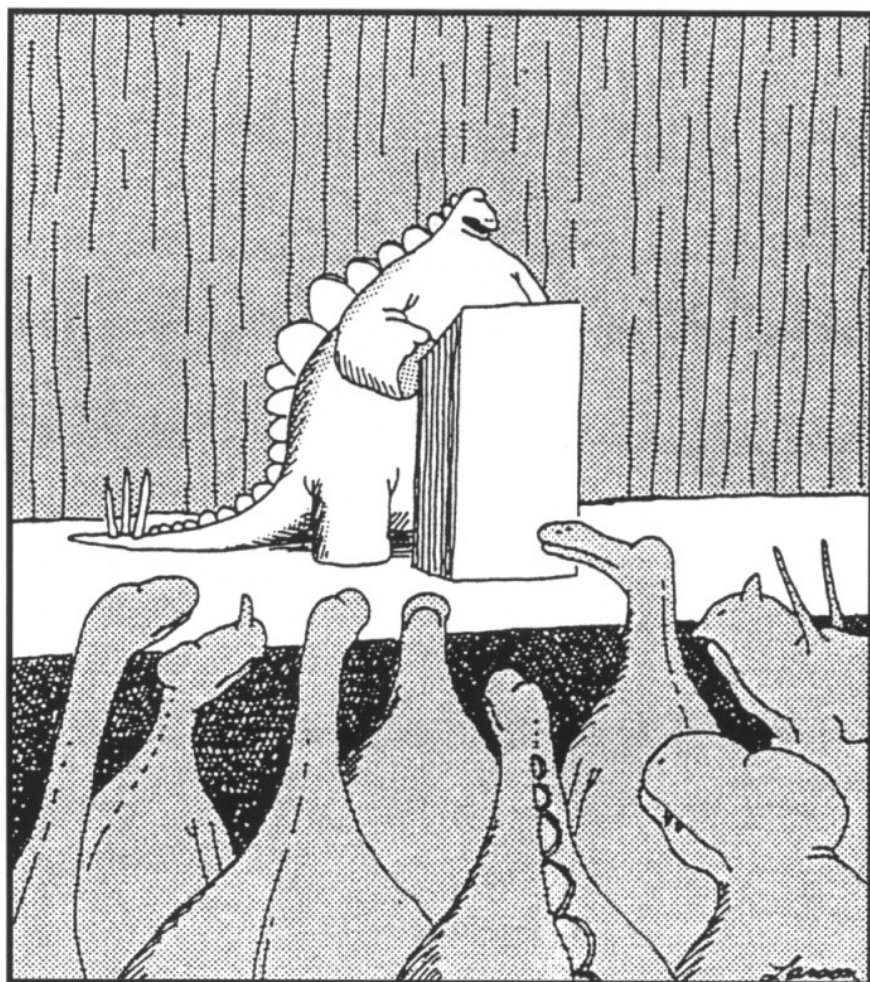


Thag Anderson becomes the first fatality as a result of falling asleep at the wheel.



"All right! Rusty's in the club!"

Playing chicken

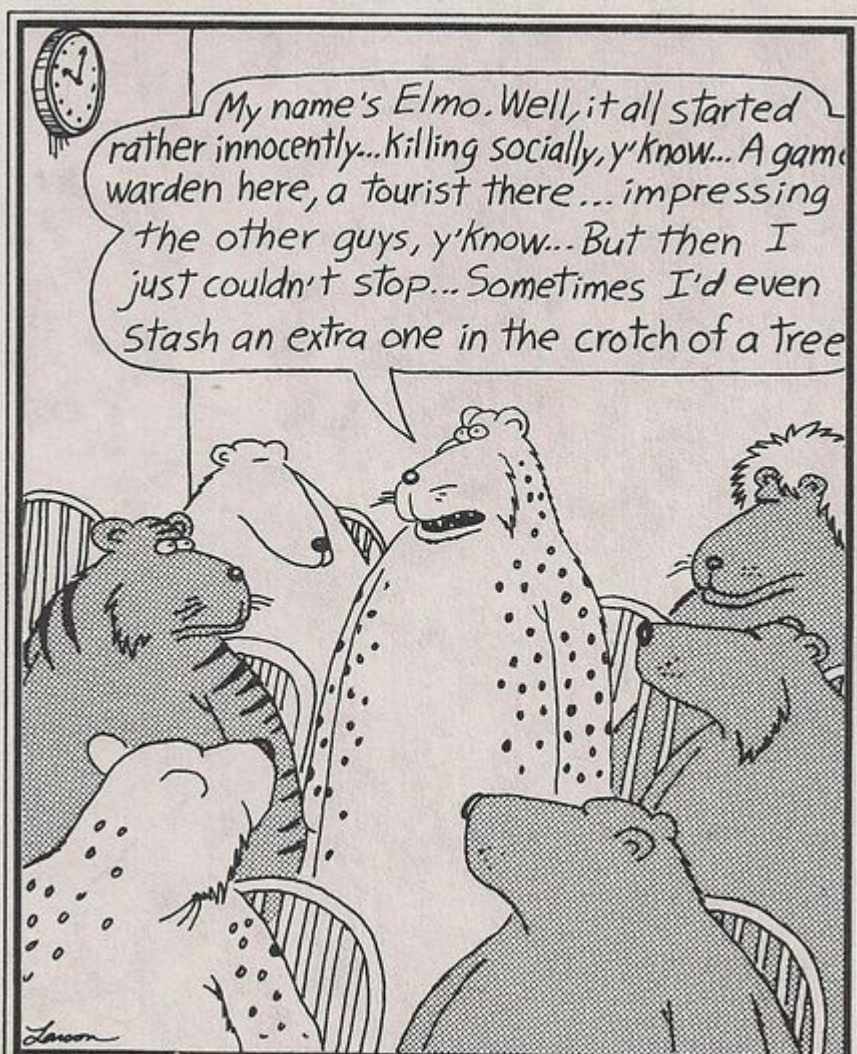


"The picture's pretty bleak, gentlemen. ... The world's climates are changing, the mammals are taking over, and we all have a brain about the size of a walnut."

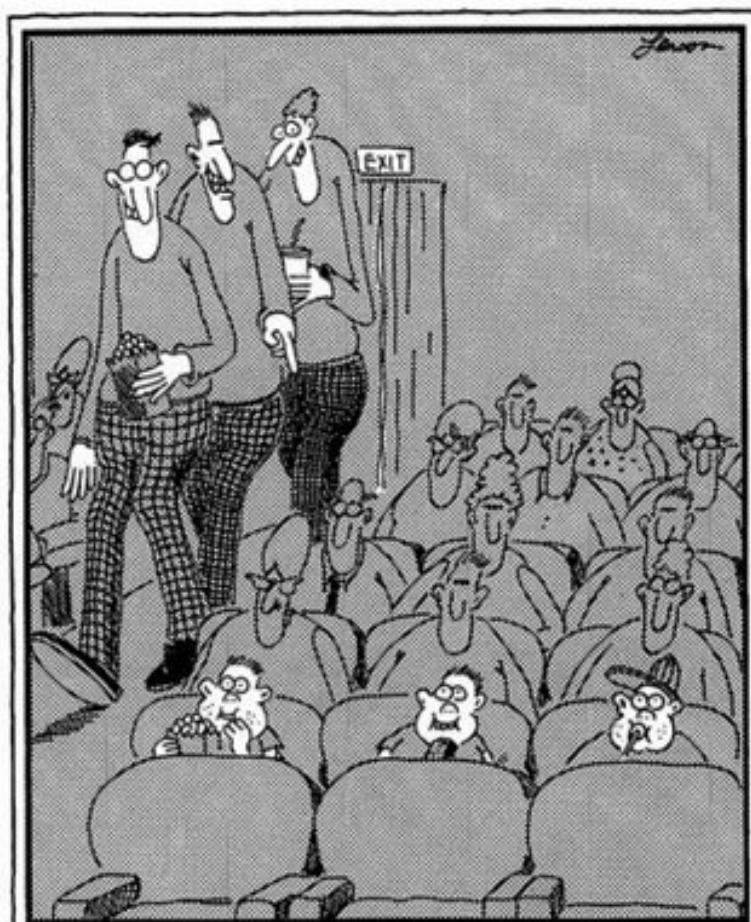
SoMo and The Donald?

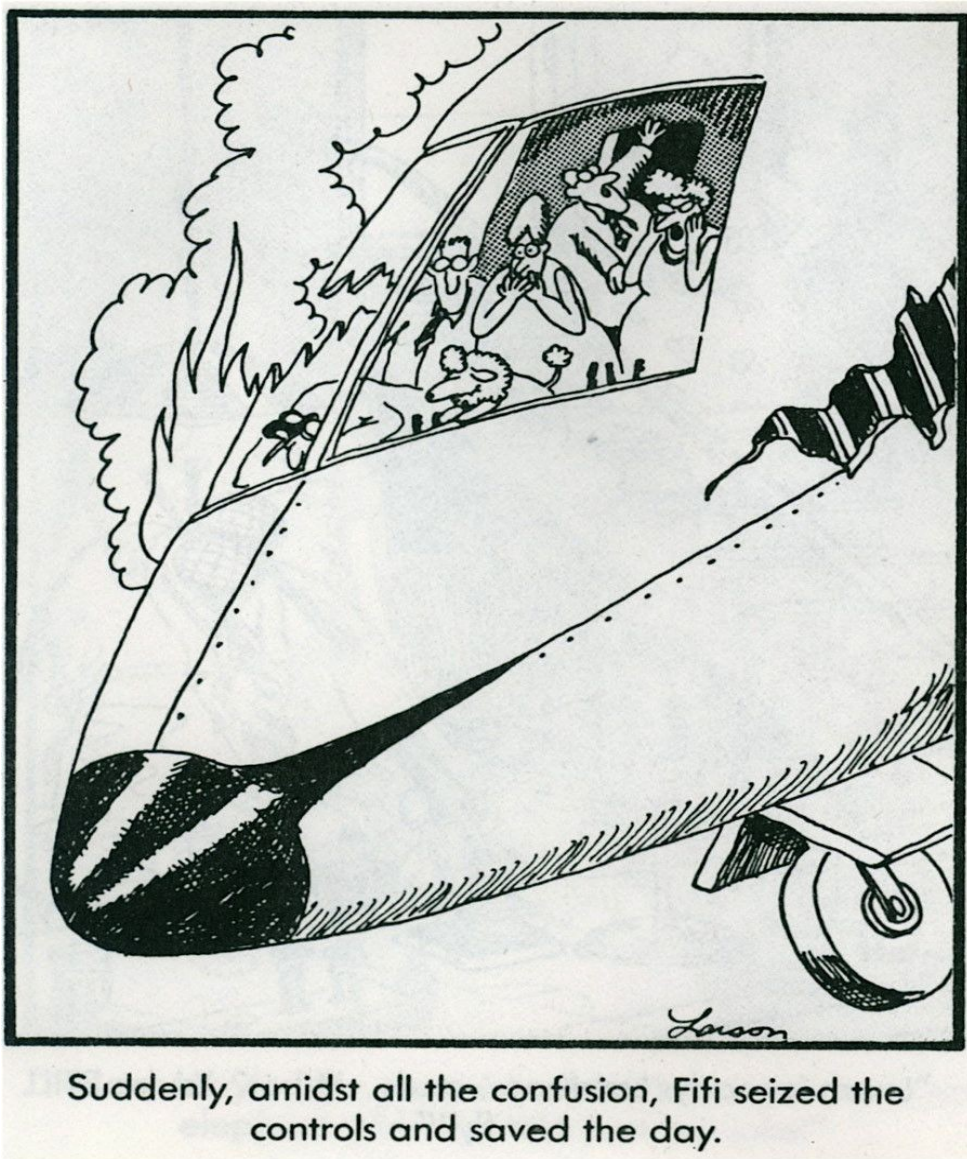
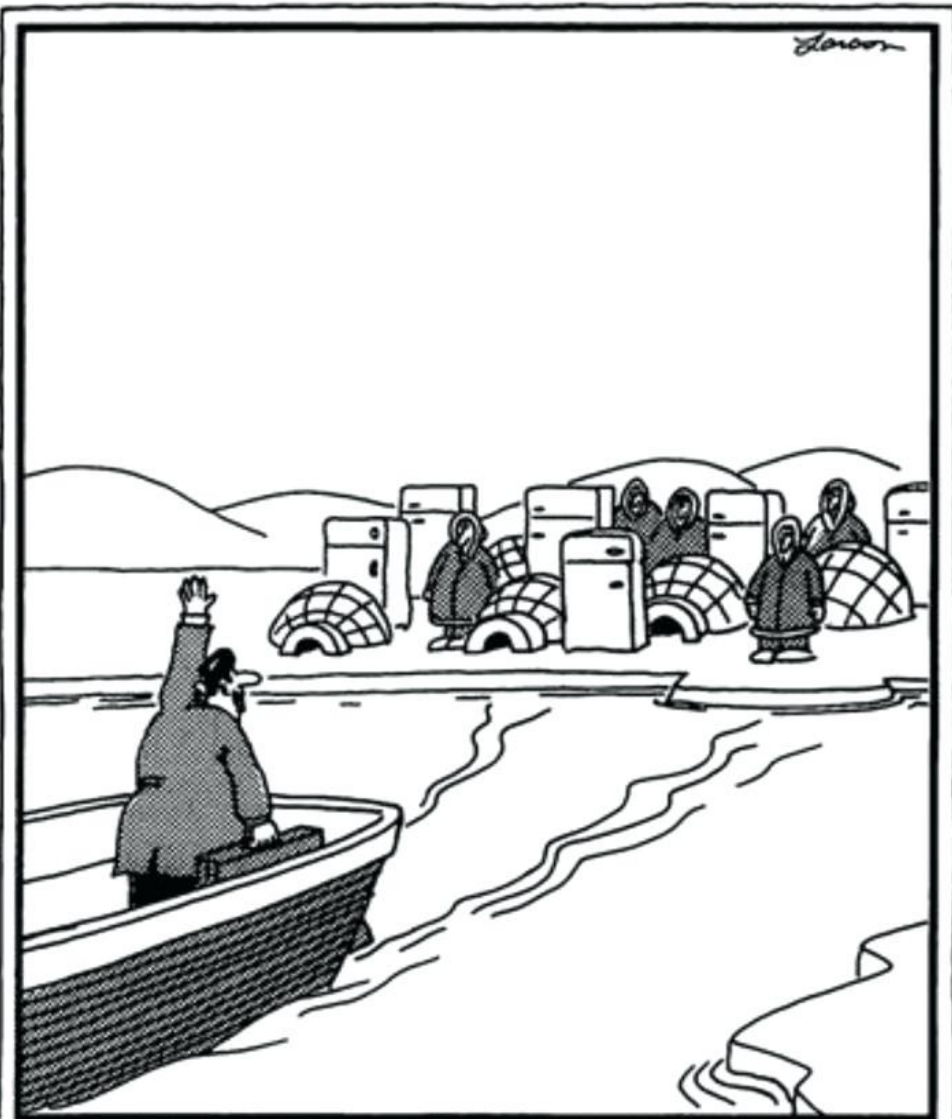
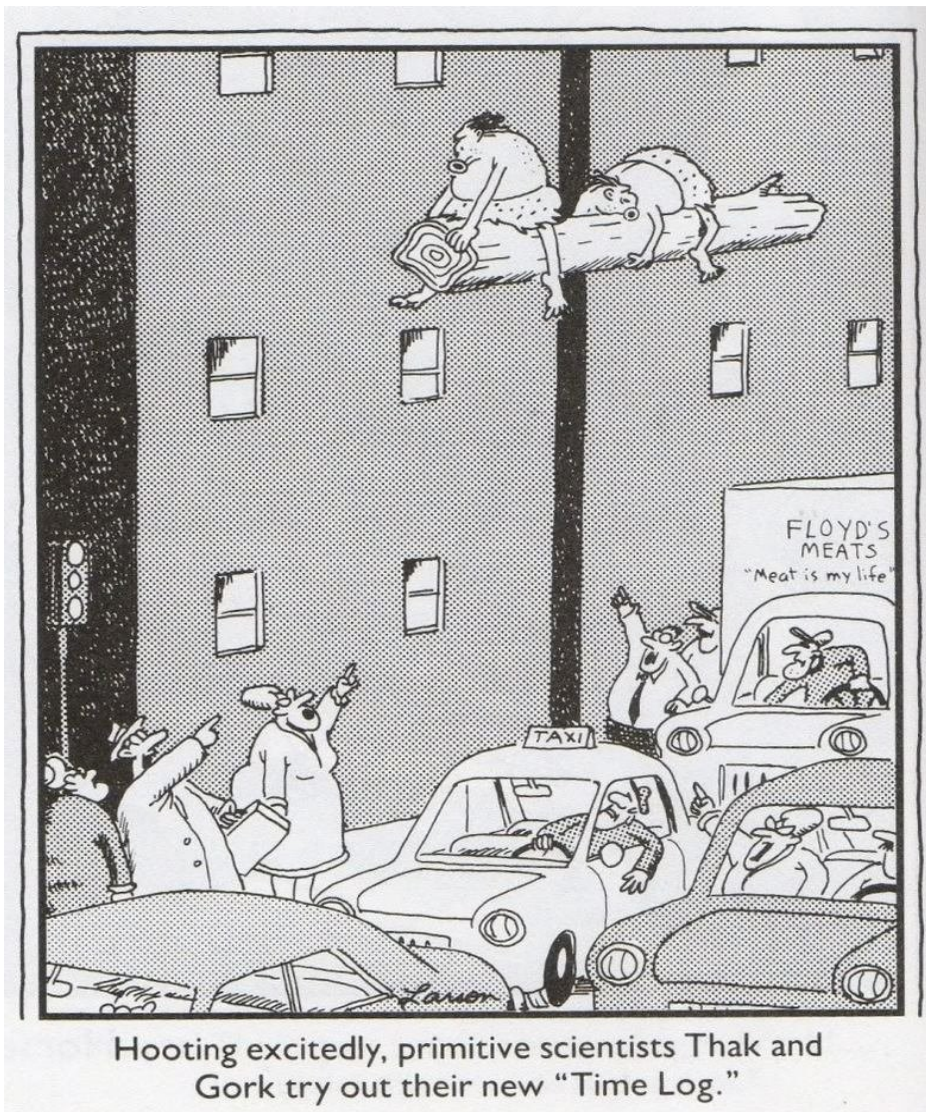


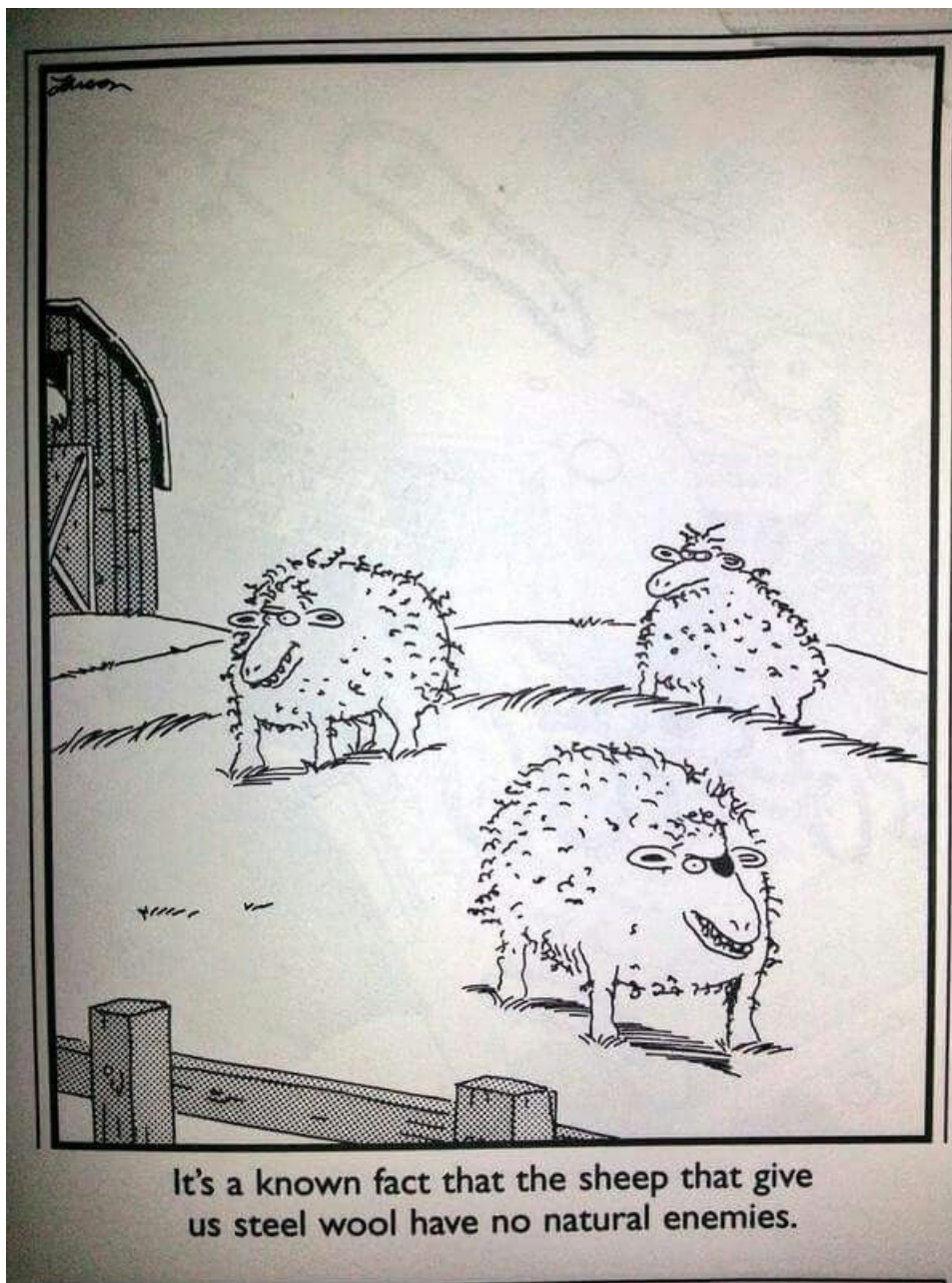
The third most common cause of forest fires.



At Maneaters Anonymous







So that's how it's made!

Thank you, Vince.

**The next meeting will be on Friday 7 February 2020
Usual time, usual place**

If you have any queries or problems with distribution, please raise them with Jack Morley (83 45763 or jmorley@xtra.co.nz). Jack is responsible for distribution, I for content. Any contributions are most welcome (<mailto:JohnMihaljevicNZ@gmail.com>).

John Mihaljevic (Newsletter Editor)