

UNCLE JOHN'S WEIRD WEIRD WORLD EPIC OOPS!

OOPS!

Everyone loves tales of outrageous blunders, so go ahead and feel superior for a few moments.



THE LOST WEEKEND

Somjet Korkeaw, a 42-year-old office worker from Bangkok, Thailand, was leaving work on a Saturday afternoon when he suddenly realized he'd forgotten something and had to return to his office on the 99th floor to get it. But the passenger elevators had already been turned off for the weekend and the stair doors were locked, so he decided to take a small cargo elevator (designed to carry food and documents). It was small, so he had to crouch into a ball to fit, but it was the only way back to the office. One problem: Korkeaw weighed 150 pounds, far too heavy for the lift to carry. Result: It got stuck between floors. He had to wait, bent over and crammed inside the little box, for more than 40 hours until the building reopened on Monday morning.

BIRD BRAIN

How much does Eric Torpy admire NBA legend Larry Bird? So much that when Torpy was sentenced to 30 years in prison for armed robbery and attempted murder in 2005, he said to the judge, "Why not make it 33?" (That was Bird's jersey number.) Equally bizarre: The judge granted Torpy's request. However, after serving the first few years of his sentence, Torpy wasn't happy with the situation anymore. "Now I wish that I had 30 years instead of 33," he said in 2011. "I've wisened up." Adding insult to injury, the story made the rounds in the press and Torpy was made fun of on *The Tonight Show*...which means that Larry Bird himself has most likely heard about it. "He must think I'm an idiot," said Torpy, who will be eligible for parole in 2033.

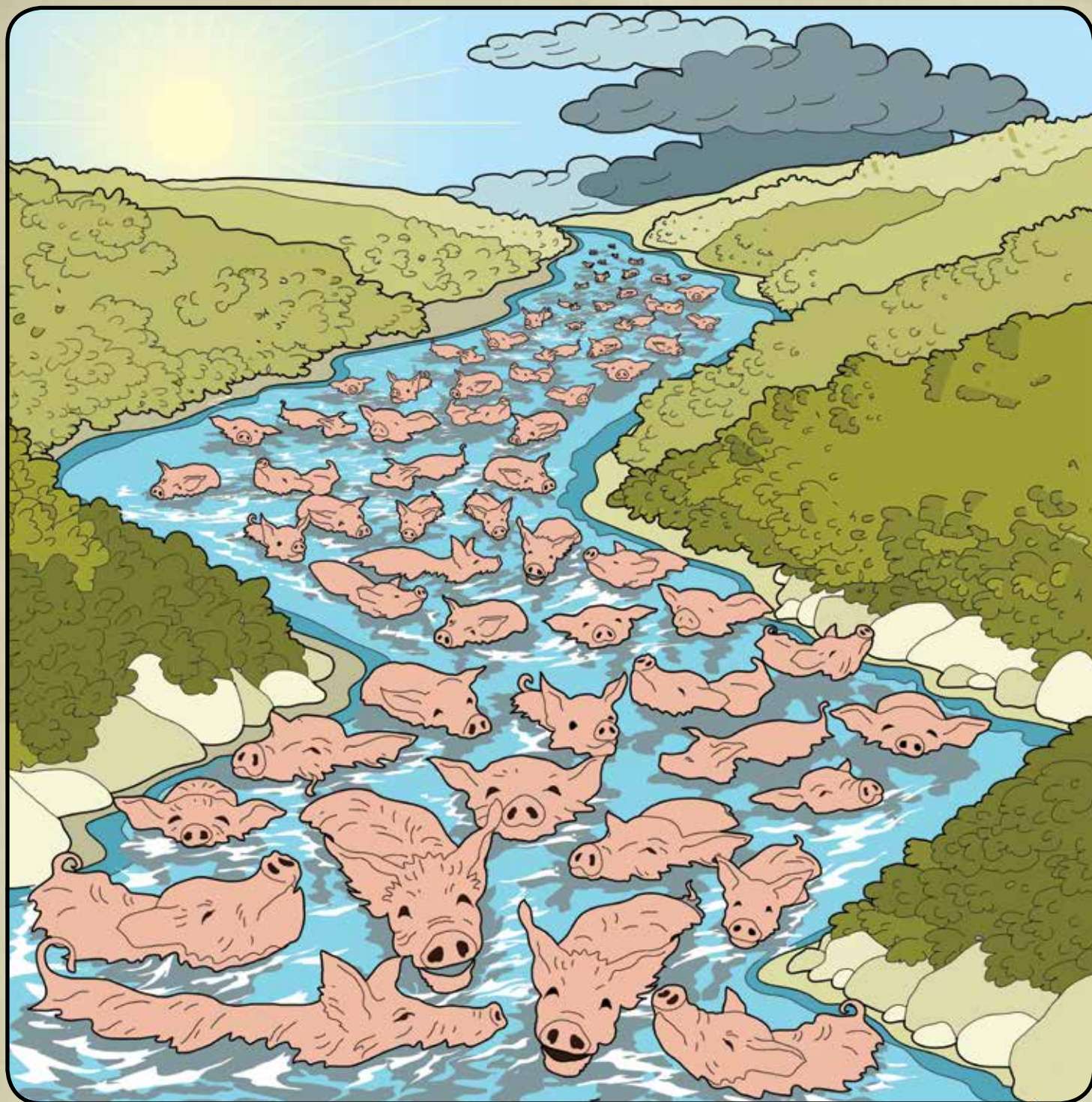
OUT-SQUIRRELED

A tourist at Montana's Glacier National Park wanted to take a picture of a squirrel that had scurried away into its rocky den. Trying to coax the animal out of its lair, the man dangled his only set of car keys in front of the opening. The squirrel darted out, snatched the keys right out of the man's hand, and disappeared back into the ground. Rangers tried to assist the frantic tourist, but the squirrel (and the keys) were nowhere to be found. The man had to call a locksmith out to the park and pay a hefty sum to get his car back on the road.

UNFRIENDLY FIRE

In July 2009, a French Foreign Legion commander ordered his troops to engage in target practice on a field near Marseille, in

southern France. Bad idea: It was a hot, dry, and windy day, and the guns fired tracer rounds—which burn, so the soldiers can see where their shots land. Each round started a little fire...and all the little fires became one big fire (France's largest in three years, forcing the evacuation of 300 homes in a nearby neighborhood). The Foreign Legion apologized and explained that there are rules in place not to use incendiary devices on hot days, but for some reason, the commander ignored that rule. (Reportedly, the same thing nearly happened the year before.) Said one homeowner: "I've lost my home, my car, and all my possessions. My family is now living in a gym, and it's all because of these ridiculous soldiers."



HOG HEAVEN

In January 2011, Australia's *Morning Bulletin* reported a story of seemingly biblical proportions after cyclone Yasi caused severe flooding in the northeast part of the country: "There have been 30,000 pigs floating down the Dawson River since last week." Over the next few days, at least three other newspapers printed the *Bulletin's* report verbatim. Apparently no one at any of the press offices questioned that incredible figure. Readers, however, had a tough time believing it and challenged the papers. A little digging revealed the truth: When *Morning Bulletin's* reporter originally interviewed pig farmer Sid Everingham about the flood, Everingham didn't say "30,000 pigs"—he said "30 sows and pigs." The newspapers all printed corrections.