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Manly injuries



Laughing Matters

BY CHARLES MARSHALL

I've been out of commission the past two or three weeks due to a broken toe I sustained while hiking in the Alaskan wilderness.

My group was about 15 miles away from camp when we were attacked by a 12-foot Kodiak bear. I realized my group's only chance for survival was to use myself as a distraction while everyone else ran for safety. As I was charging the bear, I tripped over a 12-foot Kodiak log and broke my toe.

This, of course, is an outright lie and we all know it. The log was 13 feet if it was an inch. No, the whole story is a

shameless fabrication, but it still sounds better than "I broke it climbing over a baby gate when I was racing for the phone" which is, in fact, what actually happened.

The main problem for a man with any visible injury is that sooner or later someone is going to ask him how it happened.

Every guy knows there are both acceptable and unacceptable answers to this question. The criteria for acceptability pivots around the issue of manliness.

Thus, any explanation with the words "Kodiak bear" is going to sound better than one with the words "baby gate." When confronted with the injury question, a man should only render a tough-guy answer such as he got wounded in a fight, or while playing a sport or better yet, in a fight while playing a sport. Or even better, in a fight with a Kodiak bear while playing a sport.

Men should also note that any acceptable reason for an injury is immediately ruined if the injury happened while you were interacting with a woman.

"I broke my arm in a fight" sounds much better than "I broke my arm in a fight with a girl." "I busted my ankle playing basketball" sounds immeasurably better than "I busted my ankle playing basketball with my 8- year-old niece." I'll admit it is somewhat surprising to me that accidental gun injuries are considered by many to be acceptable manly injuries. Yes, in the case that you accidentally did yourself in ("I wonder if this trigger-thingy works?"), your friends would indeed talk in lowered tones about how manly you were.

After that they would regale each other for hours with numerous stories of other not-so-bright-things you did in your life. Meanwhile, you would have to spend all eternity explaining to everyone just how it was that you got there ahead of schedule.

Please keep in mind that I didn't invent any of these rules for manliness. No, these are well-worn, time-tested laws of nature, just like gravity, lunar tides and bad breath on the first date.

These things are going to happen whether we like it or not.

Pain is a difficult thing to deal with, though. I remember being in the doctor's office as the nurse drew blood from my newborn daughter for some necessary tests. I gritted my teeth as my little girl's face registered her surprise and then pain, and I would have gladly traded places with her without a second thought.

I'm told this is not an uncommon sentiment among parents. Over the years, I must have heard a half dozen stories of parents who drowned while attempting to save their children

from a deadly undertow.

Such is the nature of love.

Such is the nature of a parent's heart. Such is the nature of God's love for mankind. There is no pain you experience that the Lord is not aware of and does not care about. It is his nature to love you as his child.

And speaking of children, I have to go play basketball with my 8-year-old niece, I mean, um, with a Kodiak bear.

Charles Marshall is a nationally known Christian comedian and author.

Visit his Web site at www.charlesmarshallcomedy.com

or contact him via e-mail at charles@charlesmarshallcomedy.com.

Anthem residents make International headlines with their scientific research

Scientists grace the cover of Scientific American

PHOENIX – Susana Martinez-Conde, Ph.D.,

director of the Laboratory of Visual Neuroscience, and Stephen Macknik, Ph.D., director of the Laboratory of Behavioral Neurophysiology at Barrow Neurological Institute at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, are featured on the cover of the August issue of Scientific American for their research on fixational eye movements. The pair was also featured in a recent issue of the Wall Street Journal. They both reside in Anthem.

"Scientific American is considered by many to be the Rolling Stone magazine of science," says Dr. Macknik. "It is a honor in our career to be featured in such a prestigious publication." Drs. Martinez-Conde and Macknik authored an article describing the history of fixational eye movement research and the investigations they have conducted at Barrow. For decades, researchers have debated the purpose of fixational eye movements and particularly of microsaccades, the largest and fastest of fixational eye movements.

Recent research conducted by Dr. Martinez-Conde and her team at Barrow has shown that microsaccades produce visibility when a person's gaze is fixed on an object. Microsaccades may also help reveal a person's subliminal thoughts.

Fixational eye movements are responsible for driving most of our visual experience and without them humans would become blind to stationary objects.

"We are thrilled to have our research highlighted in Scientific American," says Dr. Martinez-Conde.

"Fixational eye movements have long been debated and our research has proven that they do serve a very important purpose." Barrow is world-renowned for its outstanding neurological and neurosurgical care. The center is routinely recognized as one of the top 10 neuroscience centers in the nation by U.S. News and World Report. The research conducted by Drs. Macknik and Martinez-Conde is funded by the Barrow Neurological Foundation.

Scientific American is the oldest continuously published magazine in the U.S. and has been bringing its readers unique insights about developments in science and technology for more than 150 years. The magazine publishes 15 foreign language editions and has a total of more than one million copies in circulation worldwide.



Susana Martinez-Conde, Ph.D.



COURTESY PHOTOS
Stephen Macknik, Ph.D.

Finding help more easily online

(NAPS)—A helpful online resource is available to the 50 million Americans with disabilities.

An award-winning, federal Web site, DisabilityInfo.gov, connects people with disabilities, their families and many others, to the information and resources needed to actively participate in the workplace and their communities.

Already known for its links to valuable federal resources, the site's new state map feature enables visitors to find local disability-related programs and services.

The site has information on benefits, housing programs, accessible transportation, special education, job training resources and more.

DisabilityInfo.gov is run by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability

Employment Policy in collaboration with 22 federal government agencies. It offers a free subscription service for its quarterly newsletter, email alerts on new information and an online pressroom with disability-related articles.

For more information, visit www.DisabilityInfo.gov. A onestop federal resource offers disability-related information and services.
