

What's the Buzz at Reformation?

Aug. 7, 2022

Aug. 15 Mon. Ronald McDonald House

Water shortage, skateboards, and the X-games

"Summertime...and the sports are ex-treeme..."

One unexpected result of the California droughts since the 1970s has been the emergence of skateboarding. Although skateboards have been around since the late 1950s or early 1960s (they were called "sidewalk surfboards"), the sport really took off in the 1970s in California. Why CA? Well, the drought left many swimming pools, drainage ditches, and ornamental pools and lakes drained, so with all that fairly smooth concrete around, who can blame the youngsters for trying new tricks with their boards? Neither high insurance rates, establishment snubbing, nor emergency rooms trips served to keep the young from their love of skateboarding. Now guys and gals, from kids to um, kids-at-heart, are pushing the sport forward.

The first televised X Games was in 1995, held in Newport, Rhode Island. Gold, silver, and bronze medals were awarded. There are Summer (May) and Winter X-games, showcasing skateboarding, freestyle motocross, snowboarding, and snowmobile. Attendance has generally risen: while the 1998 attendance for the Winter X Games dropped 10,000 from 1997 (only 25,000 people came in 1998), in 2000, there was a huge jump to over 80,000. Running concurrently with the X Games is the X Fest, offering live music, athlete autograph sessions, etc. Both the X Games and X Fest make an attempt at creating a smaller carbon footprint, using biodiesel fuel when possible, however beverage sponsors might not be so sensitive to the environment.

Some highlights have included:

- Tony Hawk's 900 in skateboarding
- Travis Pastrana's double backflip in freestyle motocross (I watched this!)
- Heath Frisby's first front flip with a snowmobile
- Torstein Horgmo's first landing of a triple cork in snowboarding (halfpipe)
- And whatever Shawn White is doing

Sources: *Wikipedia.org*, "X Games" and "Skateboarding"
Skateboarding Magazine: "The Evolution of Skateboarding"

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Butterbeer is the youth-friendly drink served in the pub in the Harry Potter films and at the Wizarding World of Harry Potter theme parks in Orlando, Florida, Hollywood California, and Osaka, Japan.

Butterbeer (non-alcoholic version)

I recommend making the topping first, so the cream soda doesn't lose its fizz.

Time: 5 min.

Serves: 4-5

Butterbeer:

2 c. cream soda

1 tsp. butter extract

1 tsp. rum extract

Topping:

2 c. marshmallow fluff/cream

1 c. whipping cream

1 tsp. rum extract

Whip the whipping cream until soft or stiff peaks form. Fold in the marshmallow fluff and rum extract.

Mix the butterbeer and pour into mugs or glasses. Top with topping.

Odd Names for Babies

Have you ever wondered where some parents come up with names for their offspring? Although some unusual names are handed down from family (my husband had a male relative named Pearl), other first names can be traced to historical events, biblical names or concepts, even outbreaks of disease. And some, you just plain wonder...

Here are some sibling names:

Realitie + Illucion
Twinkle + Sparkle
Ida Pig + Yuda Pig
Ima Hogg + Ura Hogg (powerful Southern family, teasing limited!)
Dave & David

And noteworthy widespread illnesses:

Rubella (1814)
Cholera (1830)
Hysteria (1881)
Mumps (1891)
Kathryn E. Coli (1894)
Typhus (1897)
Anna-Arexia (more recent)
Euthanasia (more recent)

Most of the deadly sins are represented at least once:

Avarice
Sloth (12 recorded)
Greed (70)
Pride (830)
Envy
Lust
Wrath

And a mom thought the doctor had named her kids on the birth certificate:

Male (pronounced MAH-lee) & Female (pronounced FEM-uh-lee)

(continued next week)

Cherry Tomato BLTs

Time: 15 min. (longer if bacon isn't cooked yet)

Makes 36 appetizers

Basics:

36 cherry tomatoes (any color), stems removed

9 slices cooked bacon, chopped OR use real bacon bits

mayonnaise to taste (anywhere from 3 T. to 3/4 cup), just enough so filling holds together

2 cups butter lettuce, chopped

Optional:

1-2 T. fresh minced basil

1/2 c. freshly grated Parmesan

1/8 tsp. garlic powder

Salt & pepper to taste

Slice a thin slice off the top of each cherry tomato, and scrape out and discard pulp and seeds or reserve for another use. Then slice a thin slice off the bottom so the tomatoes will stand upright. Put tomatoes upside down on paper towels to drain.

In small bowl combine other ingredients. Stuff tomatoes just before serving.

More Unusual Baby Names (Downright Strange)

Abcde (pronounced AB- se-duh)
Audio Science
Bobbie Pins
Chester Field
Chubaka
Dinner Ware
Bread White
Brock Lee
Emoney (from E-money)
Fifi Trixibell
Justin Tyme
Lasagna
Lunch
Merry Christmas Tree
Moon Pie
Pilot Inspektor
Repent Or Burn (nicknamed Rob)
Rick Iwickie
Teddy Baer

Egg Salad Appetizers

Time: 1 hour (includes 30 min. to boil the eggs, then 15 minutes to let them cool off before slicing)

Makes: 32-40, depending on how many pitas or crackers are in the package
each pita round yields 8 appetizers

1 c. mayonnaise

2 T. capers, drained and chopped (optional)

2 T. Dijon mustard or mustard of your choice

4-5 pita rounds, each cut into 8 wedges

OR use artisan bread toast, melba toast or non-sweet flat crackers

6 hard-boiled eggs, peeled and sliced into 1/4" thick rounds

Fresh flat-leaf parsley for garnish, chopped or whole leaf

In a small bowl combine mayonnaise, capers, and mustard. Spread mayonnaise mixture on the pita wedges. Top with one slice of hard-boiled egg (use the end slices for something else) and then add an extra 1/2 tsp. mayonnaise on top. Garnish with flat-leaf parsley.

Joseph Campbell, scholar and philosopher (1904-1987)

Joseph Campbell was a nonconformist. When he could not get faculty approval to stretch his doctoral studies to include modern art and Sanskrit in addition to medieval literature, he withdrew from school. The Great Depression arrived, and he withdrew even further, living in a shack for most of the next five years, reading for nine hours a day. What he gleaned in his study resulted in his teaching career, several books, and many lectures.

Love is a friendship set to music.

We must be willing to get rid of the life we had planned, so as to make room for the life that is waiting for us.

The privilege of a lifetime is being who you are.

**Find a place inside where there's joy,
and the joy will burn out the pain.**

**When you make the sacrifice in marriage,
you're sacrificing not to each other
but to unity in a relationship.**

**A hero is someone who has given his or her life
to something bigger than oneself.**

**When we quit thinking primarily about ourselves
and our own self-preservation,
we undergo a truly heroic
transformation of consciousness.**

**Follow your bliss
and the universe will open doors
where there were only walls.**

Sources: Wikipedia.org "Joseph Campbell"
BrainyQuote.com "Joseph Campbell quotes"

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People will never guess how easy this is. The recipe comes from Wanda Douglas, who married a chef and is a wonderful cook herself. You can make it mild or wowza with spices.

3-Ingredient Dip

Time: 5 minutes; for more flavor, let it chill for an hour or more in the fridge
Makes 1 1/2 cups

1 cup mayonnaise

1/2 of a red or white onion, chopped fine

4 oz. shredded Swiss, Jarlsberg, or Emmentaler cheese

In a mixing bowl or in the serving bowl, mix ingredients. If you have time, let it chill in the refrigerator for more flavor.

Serve with crackers and-or veggies.