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QUOTE FOR THE DAY:

“I just spent half an hour looking for my cell phone in the car, using the flash light on my cell phone.” Anonymous, but could be me.

GREAT PHONE TIPS:

Thanks to our fellow reader, Joe Knoll – some very useful cell phone tips:

>The emergency number worldwide for all mobile phones is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your network, dialing 112 will search for any other network in the area and provide you with an emergency number.

>You've locked your keys in the car. You have a second set of keys at home, but you're too far away to have someone drive them over. If someone is at home, call their cell phone and ask them to hold their cell phone next to the spare keys and press the unlock button while you hold your cell phone about a foot from the car door. Voila! Open sesame- it really works.

>You think your battery is totally drained. All mobiles have hidden battery power. To activate press *3370#. The phone will show a 50% increase in battery life.

>Your phone has been stolen, but before it ever is stolen, obtain and write down your serial #. Do this by dialing *#06#. Write down the 15 digit # you will receive. When phone is stolen, call service provider who will disable your phone even if the sim card has been changed.

>Bonus tip- not with your cell phone, but at your ATM. You've just stepped up to the ATM and someone tells you they have a gun and wants you to make a withdrawal. If your PIN is 1234, enter it backwards, 4321. The machine

will still give you money, but unknown to the robber, the police will be immediately dispatched to the scene.

NFL INCONTROVERSY AGAIN:

Retired black players have sued the NFL alleging that it has “explicitly and deliberately” discriminated against hundreds if not thousands of black players who filed dementia-related claims in the concussion settlement reached in 2013.

The plaintiffs have asked the judge to stop the league from insisting that race-based benchmarks be used to evaluate players claims. Cyril Smith, lawyer for the players says, “In effect the settlement, as it has been administered has a white door and a black door.” He goes on, “Although the neurocognitive tests behind each door are the same, the raw scores for black and white former players are interpreted differently when they are converted to scores that are used to determine whether or not a player is eligible for payment.

Understanding the specifics behind these allegations is beyond me, nor does the article provide instructional detail, but just the allegation itself is enough to get your attention.

About 70% of the NFL players are black. There are about 20,000 retirees. About 2/3 of the roughly 3,000 claims submitted by all players have been for dementia, and 3/4 of those claims have been denied. Some former players have adopted the phrase, "Delay, deny and hope you die." So, someone please explain, why all the denials, and why a different scoring system for blacks and whites? Looks like the NFL is back in the soup again.

CITY OF PHOENIX BUYS VERY EXPENSIVE DOLL

A Family Dollar store manager alerted police there had been a shoplifting at his store. Cell phone video shows two police officers with guns drawn screaming expletives at a black couple with a four year old daughter about to get in their car (OMG, what bad police training, or idiot cops- pulling out their guns in a situation like this.) Anyway, turns out the

daughter had picked up the doll on their way out of the store and the couple didn't notice until they and the cops arrived at the car at the same time. Fortunately, no one was shot. I suspect the child, while traumatized, was allowed to keep the doll, and the city paid for it, following a notice of claim sent by the couple's lawyer. \$470,000, that's one pricey doll.

COSTLIER BY WEIGHT THAN GOLD:

Creamy as silk and the color of fine old ivory – must be a Montecristi superfino Panama hat. It is in the tiny town of Montecristi in the north west corner of Ecuador where the world's finest Panamas are constructed. Panama hats are called that by virtue that, dating to the 1830s, they were sold in trading posts in the Isthmus of Panama.

A Frenchman, who had been living in Panama presented Napoleon with one of these hats which he wore everywhere when not in his tricorne. The Panama hat became the hat of preference for royalty and celebrities for years to come. In 1930 , a New Yorker article

described one for sale for \$1,000 (today \$16,000).

Even though some Panama hats are made today by machine (I bought mine in nice for \$50) the real deal comes from master craftsmen like Simon Espinal in Montecristi. The hand weaving is so intricate that he makes hats with more than 4,000 weaves per square inch, a hat that can take over five months to weave. While his is the most important part of the hat, it is really a production process with many others involved, including the rematador, the cortador, the apeleador and the planchador. If Simon works really hard he can weave three hats in a year -just a thought, as we approach the Christmas season for that special gift instead of a boring old Bulgari watch.

YOU AND YOUR BIG CARBON FOOTPRINT:

You're taking a one- way economy flight from New York to London. Being carbon conscious you might want to make up for those carbon emissions by giving up quarter pound

hamburgers. How many burgers would you need to skip to offset the flight?

You'd need to skip approximately 278 burgers. That's equivalent to all the beef consumed by an average American in 15 months. So, if you don't take a sailboat home, you'd have to give up burgers for more than two years to compensate for a round trip ticket. Can't give up my burgers, so won't be going to London anytime soon.

BIG NEWS FROM IDAHO:

No, it's not discovering the largest potato ever grown, but it is another Guinness world record. Two Idaho men have established the world record for party horn blower toots - 108 in one minute. My comment on this feat would be the same as in the previous issue when I reported on the world record for Swuggling, why?

SHORT TERM PLEASURES VS LONG TERM ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Good news – researchers have determined, “it’s OK to occasionally lie on the couch and eat chips and whipped cream from a bottle – it may even be good for you. For centuries we’ve been told to lead lives of serious minded accomplishment – instructed to learn useful skills like second languages, fly-fishing and hand carving tiny ducks. We went on boring hikes. We read big books with big words. We talked ourselves into liking kale. Meanwhile, we may have gotten just as much enjoyment out of a ‘Three Stooges’ marathon. The key is to find the balance between doing things that provide pleasure in the moment and things that provide pleasure in the long run.” Pass the Cool Whip.

NOT AN EMILY POST READER:

Speaking of Cool Whip, a guest at a recent wedding sent an inexpensive gift basket containing that and a bunch of other snackables. It seems the bride took exception to the gift as she sent the following e-mail, “I’m not sure if it’s the first wedding you have been to, but for your next wedding, people give

envelopes. I lost out on \$200 covering you and your date's plate and got Fluffy Whip and Sour Patch Kids in return." Very classy.

Your faithful scribe, PB