

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was 20th-century English novelist E.M. Forster who made the following sage observation: “We must be willing to let go of the life we have planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us.”

- If you’re a pogonophobe, the rise of hipsterism in recent years is not good news — anyone afraid of beards isn’t going to get far in public these days without confronting one.

- For centuries, the wrinkling of skin on fingers and toes when they soak in water was cause for puzzlement (among those who take the time to wonder about such things, if nobody else). Researchers believe they’ve found the answer: traction. Like the treads on a tire, the wrinkles of wet skin help improve the gripping power of our extremities; for our ancestors, this made it easier to walk and grip objects during wet seasons.

- You might be surprised to learn that immigration was not a national issue until the late 19th century. Up until 1890, when President Benjamin Harrison declared Ellis Island to be the first federal immigration center, foreigners who wanted to live in America were handled on a state-by-state basis.

- John Sylvan is known as the creator of Keurig coffee pods, used in abundance throughout the world these days. Despite the success of his inventions, however, he refuses to use them himself; he says that he abhors the effect the non-recyclable, non-biodegradable pods have on the environment.

- Of all the actors who have portrayed James Bond in films before 2015, Pierce Brosnan racked up by far the most kills per movie. (The tally for last October’s “Spectre” has not yet been counted.)

Thought for the Day: “It is paradoxical that many educators and parents still differentiate between a time for learning and a time for play without seeing the vital connection between them.” — *Leo Buscaglia*

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