

COMMENTARY

Welcome, Shroomers



UP BEAR CREEK
By Art Goodtimes

29th ANNUAL MUSHFEST ... Thanks to the Telluride Institute for continuing a long tradition of celebrating all things fungal here in the western San Juans. There's a great program once again this year with something mycological for everyone ... Learn about the essential decomposing function of fungi in

the web of life – breaking down nutrients and spreading them to other forest life. Restoring damaged ecological niches. Providing for humans “food, fun & poison,” as the poet Gary Snyder sagely noted. The science of mycology, always imaginatively presented by the mushroom master Gary Lincoff, is intriguing to all ages. To realize that mushrooms are an intermediate “kindom” in the evolutionary chain different from both plants and animals is to begin to enter the fascinating world of stinkhorns, puffballs, corals and clubs ... If you love gathering mushrooms – pot-hunting, as some call it – there are daily forays ... If you want

to taste the edibles, you can cook them up yourself, or sample dazzling mushroom dishes at restaurants around town ... If health is your major concern, you'll learn that mushrooms are not just poisonous (actually only one variety is deadly in local forests) but some are great medicinal healers – the Japanese shiitake and the Chinese ling chi, for example ... If you want to know the truth about magic mushrooms – what Terrence McKenna and others have begun calling entheogens (“that which takes you to God”) – what harm it's alleged they can do as well as their social

see **UBC** on page 30

THE 29TH ANNUAL TELLURIDE MUSHROOM FESTIVAL

Ethnomycology, Roots And the Universality of Mycorrhizal Fungi

For 29 years, lovers of wild mushrooms and their kin have descended upon Telluride for the Annual Mushroom Festival.

GUEST COMMENTARY

By Britt A. Bunyard
Publisher and Editor in Chief,
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www.fungimag.com

Many come to learn from expert lecturers on medicinally important mushrooms, others to gain hands-on experience cultivating

or cooking with gourmet mushrooms, and still others come to simply let their hair down (some, literally) with old friends. The event is family-friendly and surely offers something for everyone. Besides the lectures, the workshops, and the demonstrations, most would no doubt say they come to the Telluride Festival to learn how to safely identify wild mushrooms.

Foraging for wild edible foods is now more popular than

ever in North America and wild mushrooms top the list for many people. But the average mushroom hunter would be quick to tell you that they stick to just a few species that they feel comfortable with. And with good reason: while there are only a few poisonous species in North America, dozens of poisonings occur every year, some resulting in death. The best way to learn

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Feline Trumps Rodents

As if one kid wasn't enough, we decided to bring more into our home.

RAISING ELLE
By Martinique Davis

This would mean more gear to buy, which means more trips to Montrose, and more time spent shuffling around all the gear we already have to make room for.

More health check-ups to attend, and appointments therefore to squeeze into an already packed schedule. More messes to clean, specifically off of a living room floor that, with just one kid, sees more than its fair share of chaos.

More poop to deal with. They are messy and noisy, exasperatingly inquisitive, occasionally stinky and almost always underfoot. So why, intentionally, choose to bring more youngsters into the house?

Aside from being downright adorable, their presence is supposed to elicit the exodus of the mice colony that has wreaked havoc on our sanity this summer.

So last week, Elle and I went to Ridgway to pick out the newest members of the family: two kittens, adopted from the Second Chance Humane Society.

The region's no-kill animal shelter was hit hard this summer with an influx of new kitten litters, as well as the heartbreaking arrival of more than a dozen older cats made homeless by the death

of their caretaker (who was killed by a bear earlier this month). The shelter is now over-capacity, its small army of volunteers doing what they can to care for these furry orphans while they wait for someone to bring them home.

Coincidentally, our house became the unsolicited haven for another, less adorable breed of furball this summer. Their arrival was nearly undetectable at first; just the spent leftovers of a sunflower seed snack under the couch, or the faint sound of diminutive claws clicking across a laminate floor during the wee hours of the morning.

Yet without an early, weighty crackdown on their cagey dealings (disposing of an occupied mousetrap is not a pleasant way to start the day), these interlopers soon became quite comfortable here at Chez Prohaska. I was irritated at the sunflower seed detritus, growing ever larger in its pile under the couch. We were grossed out when we moved the dog food bin and exposed a mouse latrine. But the final straw, the ultimate breaking point, were the peaches. After throwing out nearly a half box-worth of the summer's best sun-ripened Palisade peaches, thanks to some very lucky mouse who found his way into our fruit bowl for a Grand Tasting, I drew the line.

We were at war, and I was prepared to call in all reinforcements. If that meant getting a cat, who

see **ELLE** on page 31

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

TOP FIVE REASONS WE DO NOT NEED OBAMA'S PROPOSED CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION AGENCY
BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR GOOD FRIENDS IN THE BANKING INDUSTRY

1) IMPOSE NEW REGULATIONS ON THE BANKING INDUSTRY? WHAT-
EVER FOR?
ADMITTEDLY MISTAKES HAVE BEEN MADE--BUT THAT'S ALL BEHIND US NOW!
YOU HAVE OUR WORD OF HONOR!

2) RISK-TAKING WILL BE DIS-COURAGED!
AND OF COURSE WE REFER TO THE SORT OF "RISK-TAKING" WHICH DOES NOT LEAD TO THE NEAR-COLLAPSE OF THE ENTIRE FINANCIAL SYSTEM! HEH HEH!
WE'VE LEARNED OUR LESSON! NOW GET OVER IT ALREADY!

3) INNOVATION WILL BE STIFLED!
DREAMERS SUCH AS OURSELVES CANNOT FUNCTION WITH SOME GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRAT WATCHING OUR EVERY MOVE!
OUR CREATIVE SPIRITS WILL SIMPLY WITHER AWAY AND DIE!

4) IT IS AN INSULT TO CON-SUMERS!
THE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T THINK YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH TO SORT THROUGH OUR SCAMS ON YOUR OWN!
AND BY "SCAMS" WE MEAN "EXCITING FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES"!

5) AN INJURY TO CREDIT CARD COMPANIES IS AN INJURY TO ALL!
AS LONG AS FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS OURS SUFFER THE INJUSTICE OF NEEDLESS REGULATORY OVERSIGHT--
--THEN NO MAN OR WOMAN CAN TRULY BE FREE!
TO THE BAR-RICADES, COMRADES!

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