

2022 year-end link clearance

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Here begins the year-end link clearance.

- This has always bothered me: Pinocchio is a story by an Italian author set in Italy about a puppet with an Italian name. But the Pinocchio-themed restaurant in Disneyland is named *Pinocchio Village Haus* and has Bavarian architecture. [Why is Pinocchio's Disney Restaurant German?](#) Furthermore, why does it serve American food?
- [Six days with a big lollipop: I completed America's most disgusting treat.](#) Fran Hoepfner undertakes an ill-advised journey.
- [Bernadette Banner](#) creates historical reconstructions of pre-World War I clothing. As an April Fool's joke, she [created an OnlyFans account for saucy Victorian ankle pics](#). Leaving aside the saucy content, and the stunning amount of talent required for the entire undertaking, my favorite part was her taking a selfie, dressed in Victorian clothes, [with the aid of a drone](#).
- [Do you have what it takes to be a U.S. Open ball person?](#) I had always wondered how you got that job. I had also wondered about how the job is done. I found the answers in [Ball Persons: A Training Manual](#), which outlines where and how to position yourself, how to deliver a ball to a player, and (my favorite) the protocols for moving balls around the court.
- History/fraud/self-aggrandizement corner: [The maddening mess of airport codes!](#) (16 minute video for process and history nerds), [The man who tried to fake an element](#) (90 minute video for fraud and history nerds), [ROBLOX OOF.mp3: The origin of the Roblox "OOF" sound](#) (120 minute video for self-aggrandizement nerds), [How the great online toaster hoax was exposed](#) (2000 words for fraud and prankster nerds).
- I don't know much about NASCAR or auto racing, but I was tipped off to [Ross Chastain intentionally sustaining heavy damage to his car by using a video game move on the final turn](#) to sneak into fourth place and advance to the next round. (One thing I found interesting was the illuminated pit signs at 1:21, which look like augmented reality just floating out there.) From what I can gather, this took advantage of a slow turn before the finish, and it was a very risky and dangerous move. I also found [Dale Jr. and Steve Letarte discussing the incident](#), and I really admire Letarte's style: Calm and extremely knowledgeable.

- Machine learning models are all the rage. [AI Weirdness](#) asks simple questions and gets weird answers. Holiday-themed examples: [Valentine's Cards](#). [Candy heart messages](#). [Hallowe'en candy](#). [Toy fads](#).
- C++11 introduced *uniform initialization*, but uniform initialization of vectors is subtle. [Uniform initialization isn't](#). I have been bitten by the `w2` example, and the results were not pretty.

This ends the year-end link clearance.

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