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Bet You Missed It -- Press Clippings -- In the News -- Carefully Selected By Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths

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Bet You Missed It

Press Clippings — In the News — Carefully Selected by Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths

Column Editor: **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel)

Editor's Note: Hey, are y'all reading this? If you know of an article that should be called to *Against the Grain's* attention ... send an email to <kstrauch@comcast.net>. We're listening! — **KS**

HEMINGWAY RESTORED TO THE ORIGINAL by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

After **Hemingway's** suicide, his fourth wife and his editor **Harry Brague** pulled together *A Moveable Feast*, and apparently made substantial changes in it. Now a new "restored edition" by **Scribners** and **Sean Hemingway**, a grandson, has brought back the original closer to what **Hemingway** intended. But who knows? Dead authors seldom leave instructions. **Emily Dickinson** left 2,000 unpublished poems and a variety of versions have been circulating for a century.

The new structure is nonchronological without the sense of finality of the 1964 version with his divorce from **Hadley**. It even reads more like fiction which is what he always insisted the book was.

See — **Brenda Wineapple**, "Paris in a New Light," *The Wall Street Journal*, July 25-26, 2009, p.W8.

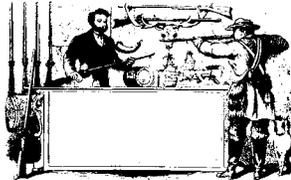
THOSE THRIFTY DC BUREAUCRATS by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

With the deficit kissing the \$2 trillion mark, the feds are into serious belt-tightening. The Justice Department is doing double-side photocopying. And all departments are emailing daily press clips instead of printing them out. The Treasury has discovered unused phone lines, and FEMA will sell its emergency trailers instead of throwing them out after use. So far, the combined effort has resulted in \$102 million in savings. Which comes out to 0.006% of the federal deficit.

"Some of these cuts are so small they would be a rounding error of a rounding error in the federal budget," said **Brian Riedl**, a federal budget expert.

And sure to warm the hearts of newspaper drudges at the dying big dailies, bureaucrats will start getting their news online for free and not renew subscriptions.

See — **Jonathan Weisman**, "In a Savings Shocker, the Government Discovers That Paper Has Two Sides," *The Wall Street Journal*, July 29, 2009, p.A1.



BOOMERS AGING BADLY by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

In a review of **Pamela Satran's** *How Not to Act Old*, we get the helpful tips: Don't count out exact change, don't yell into the cell phone and don't dance to "Sexual Healing." We explore multiple meanings of "hookup," and are advised to learn to type with your thumbs.

And the best way to get a young person to return a call to your cell phone is to hang up without leaving a message.

See — **Barbara Phillips**, "A Dose of Behavioral Botox," *The Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 102, 2009, p. W8.

Future Dates for Charleston Conferences

	Preconferences and Vendor Showcase	Main Conference
2009 Conference	4 November	5-7 November
2010 Conference	3 November	4-6 November
2011 Conference	2 November	3-5 November

GIZMO UPDATE by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

My how time flies in the world of electronic gizmos. The **iPod** is so yesterday, and sales are falling. So what will the next generation look like?

An **iPhone** without the phone. It will stream **YouTube** clips, browse the Web, and retrieve email. And it may have a video camera to compete with the Flip Video of Pure Digital. The mystery will be revealed in time for the "critical holiday season."

See — **Arik Hesseldahl**, "The Next iPod Generation," *Business Week*, Aug. 10, 2009, p.27.

BASEBALL BIZ BOOKS by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Five best portraits of baseball as a business: (1) **Bruce Weber**, *As They See 'Em*; Scribner, 2009; (2) **Jules Tygiel**, *Past Time*, Oxford, 2000; (3) **Michael Lewis**, *Moneyball*, Norton, 2003; (4) **Edward Barrow**, *My Fifty Years in Baseball*, Coward-McCann, 1951; (5) **John Helyar**, *The Lords of the Realm*, Villard, 1994.

George Will's classic *Men at Work* is not listed as it is about playing the game; not business.

See — **Richard Tofel**, "Five Best," *The Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 1-2, 2009, p.W8.

PYNCHON GOES LOWBROW. OR DOES HE? by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

In 1973, **Thomas Pynchon** found fame with the publication of *Gravity's Rainbow* followed by *Vineland*, *Mason & Dixon* and *Against the Day*. He is famous for "sprawling, layered plots and intricate, brainteaser-like sentences." And great length. *Against the Day* ran 1,085 pages.

Now the paltry 384-page *Inherent Vice*, is being called a "novella" by literary bloggers. It's a noir-like detective thriller set in late 1960s Los Angeles. Some call it lightweight while others say it has the expected **Pynchon** complexity.

See — **Alexandra Alter**, "Pynchon's Drugstore Thriller," *The Wall Street Journal*, July 31, 2009, p.W2.

THE SOPORIFIC HORROR OF POWERPOINT by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

You can't move without running up against **PowerPoint**. **Microsoft** estimates 500 million users world-wide. But there are those who thoroughly hate the thing with good reason.

SourPointer **José Bowen** of SMU urges professors to "teach naked." He says **PowerPoint** is a crutch that puts students to sleep. Retired Marine Colonel **T.X. Hammes** says it "is actively hostile to thoughtful decision-making." Bullet points are vague and over-simplified, and the **PowerPoint** pace leaves little time for thought.

Design guru **Edward Tufte** calls it "a prankish conspiracy against evidence and thought," and has the destruction of the brand as a personal goal. After the 2003 Columbia space-shuttle disaster, he fingered **PowerPoint** as the cause. Vital life-threatening info had been shoved to the bottom of a cluttered **PowerPoint** slide.

See — **David Feith**, "Speaking Truth to PowerPoint," *The Wall Street Journal*, July 31, 2009, p.W11.