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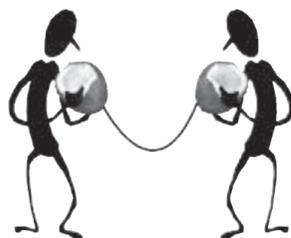
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Editorial: Oh those damn idioms!

There was a peaceful protest held at the Key Largo Winn Dixie recently. Protesters were accusing the supermarket of killing 30 cats and they were telling the public not to shop there. I was notified of the event but when I heard the name of the organizer with the chip on his shoulder, my gut feeling said something smelled fishy.

I stopped in to talk to the Winn Dixie managers and they let the cat out of the bag. They nicely told me that Winn Dixie had nothing to do with any removal of cats nor do they kill cats; it was a cock and bull story. They suggested it might be their landlord and they gave me the number of their PR person. The PR person returned my call but it went to voice mail and I was down to the wire and not able

to reach her by press time. My search showed Island Plaza LLC a.k.a. Inter American Trading Products as the owner of the property. They are not from around here and probably don't care diddly squat about cats.

The property directly behind the Winn Dixie at 2 Blackwater Lane is owned by Barbara Scheu and is in the process of being sold to a company who is going build a buttload of senior citizen low income housing units there. Most likely those renters will bring their own cats and they will reproduce and there will be plenty of cats again.

Over the years there have been problems with people feeding the cats in the woods there. One person who was always a disheveled, filthy mess and reeked of cat feces would

traipse through the store to purchase the cat food. Not good for a business that sells food and prides itself on its cleanliness. The man was given a "no trespassing" order. Here's your walking papers, get out! This was indeed a blessing in disguise.

I am a cat lover and I have two of them. People who have 50 cats or more are cat hoarders and that is a mental illness, meaning they are as crazy as a loon. Maybe it is cat scratch fever. Homeless people sometimes feed cats so that they can use their "pets" to beg money from people. Hey, it sure beats working for a living!

When the Humane Society has to go in and clean up after a cat hoarder they take them to court and the hoarder is banned from owning any animals ever again. The hoarders'

good intentions result in animal cruelty when the cats are left in small cages and not given veterinary care and the feces in the house is a solid two inches thick throughout. Gag me with a spoon, that is gross! Bugs. Fleas. Ticks. Worms. You name it.

Over the course of many months the MM 105 feral cats disappeared. They either died off or were trapped and taken to the Humane Society. Maybe the Key Largo wood rats killed them. To make a long story short your guess is as good as mine where the cats went.

The bottom line is Winn Dixie is innocent and it is a great store! Boycotting it over a lie would be cutting your nose off to spite your face. Stay away from crazy people. Please donate your money and cat food to the Humane Society at MM 106 where it will do some good.

How many idioms did you count? Remember it's curiosity that killed the cat.

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Headlines from the year: 2029

Ozone created by electric cars now killing millions in the seventh largest country in the world, Mexifornia, formerly known as California. (White minorities still trying to have English recognized as Mexifornia's third language.)

Spotted Owl plague threatens northwestern US crops and livestock.

Baby conceived naturally. Scientists stumped.

Couple petitions court to reinstate heterosexual marriage.

Last remaining Fundamentalist Muslim dies in the American Territory of the Middle East (formerly known as Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and Lebanon).

France pleads for global help after being taken over by Jamaica.

George Z. Bush says he will run for President in 2036.

Postal Service raises price of first class stamp to \$17.89 and reduces mail delivery to Wednesdays only.

85-year \$75.8 billion study: Diet and Exercise is the key to weight loss.

Average weight of Americans drops to 250 lbs.

Massachusetts executes last remaining conservative.

Supreme Court rules punishment of criminals violates their civil rights.

Average height of NBA players is now 9 ft., 7 inches.

New federal law requires that all nail clippers, screwdrivers, fly swatters and rolled-up newspapers must be registered by January 2036.

Congress authorizes direct deposit of formerly illegal political contributions to campaign accounts.

IRS sets lowest tax rate at 75 percent.

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