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# STEALING MISS HELEN 'OCEAN'S THREE' ATTEMPT A HIGH-STAKES HEIST

On a hot summer day in late July 2018, three people entered Miss Helen's home, forcibly removed her, put her in a stroller, and ran toward their getaway vehicle. This might sound like a typical kidnapping story, but Miss Helen is no ordinary person. She is a 16-inch horn shark living at the San Antonio Aquarium.

Fortunately, their fishy behavior didn't go unnoticed, and someone alerted the aquarium staff. One perpetrator drove away with Miss Helen in tow, but the other two were stopped by aquarium staff, later confessing to their involvement. Thanks to some observant witnesses and aquarium surveillance, police were able to identify the third thief and obtain a warrant to search his house. As it turned out, he had an extensive aquarium in his home and possibly hoped to add Miss Helen to his collection. After being identified, Miss Helen was returned home safely.

The aquarium staff was grateful to have Miss Helen back unharmed, despite her ordeal. "She's a tough little horn shark, I'll tell you that," affirmed Jamie Shank, the assistant husbandry director at the aquarium.

### NO MINOR CRIME

While many animal lovers might disagree, animals are considered personal property, so stealing them is a crime of theft, not kidnapping. The penalties for stealing animals vary depending on each state's laws, and some states have specific laws regarding animal theft.

In Texas, larceny law designates the theft of property valued between \$1,500-\$20,000 as a felony. In the case of Miss Helen, who's valued by the aquarium at \$2,000, the thieves committed a felony. Also, transporting certain animals requires special permits, which led to additional charges against the three thieves.

The Animal Welfare Act, which was adopted in 1966, is the only federal law that regulates the treatment of animals in research, exhibition, transport, and by dealers. Interestingly, it only applies to warm-blooded animals, so if Miss Helen had needed further protection, she would be left out in the cold.



My wife, Cory, and I have been married for 41 years — long enough for me to appreciate what a "partner for life" really means and long enough to recognize how much we have grown together and shaped one another over the years. Scripture says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." That has certainly been the case in our marriage (and I think I needed most of the sharpening).

Cory and I were together long before Steffens Law was a business, and back before I was even a lawyer. When we first met, I had a degree in theater arts from Nebraska Wesleyan University. At the time, I was stage acting and working on productions in Omaha. The work was not very steady. Then I went into construction and opened my first business on the side. When construction work slowed down and I mentioned the possibility of law school, Cory was all for it.

Going back to school after being away from the academic world for several years wasn't easy. I was rusty. But when I was admitted to Washburn College of Law, Cory believed in me, and that made all the difference.

She was pregnant with our first child before "we" finished law school, but she still worked at a title agency to help support us. Every now and then, I travel through Hastings, where I first worked as a lawyer, and I always drive by the tiny house we lived in. I honestly wonder how we managed to raise a child there. Although, I don't know that there was ever a time in our lives when we were happier.

With a background in theater, you'd think public speaking in the courtroom would come easy for me, but that wasn't the case. It was hard. I found it was one thing to memorize someone else's

lines and perform them on stage, but another thing entirely to come up with your own thoughts and present them in a courtroom. It took time to get good at it, and Cory was my best constructive critic. She'd tell me when I was using too much legalese and when I needed to get right down to the heart of what I was trying to say.

In the 35 years that I've been practicing law, I've done a lot of trial work. And still, in all those years, I have never — and I mean never — tried a case without going through my closing statement with Cory first. I know I can trust her to send me back to the drawing board when I've overlooked things and remind me that nobody really cares about 50-cent words.

Steffens Law Office never would have grown like it has without Cory. She has always worked with me to build the business. She kept an eye on the details for me so I could think about the big picture. There were times, as we worked together to build the practice, when the line between wife and business partner was blurred. But we've always found a way to navigate it. A year ago, I finally wrangled the books away from her. The firm has grown so big now that we had no choice but to hire an accounting firm.



Looking back over our years of marriage, I believe I see God's hand at work. I see the way my life was going before Cory and I met (basically, a ship without rudder) and how things changed once we became a couple. We have always trusted each other, and that trust and love has worked in our lives like a force multiplier. We've accomplished more together than we ever could have apart. It has been, and continues to be, the best possible life partnership.

*-Bill Steffens*

# Meet Conan

## THE DOG WHO HELPED TAKE DOWN AL-BAGHDADI

On Oct. 28 last year, President Donald Trump tweeted a photo that quickly went viral. It showed an adorable snapshot of a bright-eyed Belgian Malinois, tongue lolling, still wearing its camo military vest. In the caption, President Trump explained that the pup, Conan, was a national hero who was instrumental in taking down ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

With four years in special operations forces and roughly 50 missions under his collar, Conan was selected to be part of the team that pursued al-Baghdadi through a network of underground tunnels in northwest Syria, where the terrorist ultimately died. It's unclear whether Conan was there to track al-Baghdadi or to spot improvised explosive devices that may have been planted on the route, but either way, he performed well.

According to NBC News, Conan was injured by some live electrical cables during the mission, but he recovered quickly and was back on duty within the week. Meanwhile, President Trump invited the brave pup to the White House and tweeted out a doctored photo that showed him awarding Conan a Medal of Honor.

President Trump captioned the photo "AMERICAN HERO!" and he's not alone in his appreciation for the hardworking dogs that have been helping our military since World War II.

"To me, they're the first line of defense," United States War Dogs Association President Ron Aiello told Vox after the news about Conan came out. "They're such a great asset to our military today."

Military dogs are put up for adoption after 6–8 years in the service, which means a lucky civilian could take Conan in as early as 2022! Meanwhile, dozens of other smart canine heroes are looking for homes. To learn more about military and other working dog adoptions, visit [MissionK9Rescue.org](http://MissionK9Rescue.org).



# Solving the Unsolvable

## THE BEST CONSEQUENCE EVER FOR ARRIVING LATE TO CLASS

In college, arriving late to class might earn you a stern look from your professor, and turning in homework late normally results in a docked grade. For one student, however, these actions resulted in veneration from the academic community and a story that has become legend.

George Dantzig, a doctoral candidate at the University of California, Berkeley, arrived late for a graduate statistics class one day in 1939. He saw that his professor, Jerzy Neyman, had written two problems on the board, and guessing they were the homework assignment, he wrote them down to solve later. A few days later, Dantzig delivered his answers to Professor Neyman. He apologized for turning them in late, remarking that they seemed more difficult than usual. When Neyman told him to just throw the answers on his desk, Dantzig reluctantly did so, fearing his homework would be lost forever in the sea of papers already there. He couldn't have been more wrong.

Six weeks later, Neyman went to Dantzig's house and excitedly asked him to read the introduction he had written on one of Dantzig's papers. Of course, Dantzig had no idea what he was talking about. Over the course of the conversation, however, he found out that the two difficult problems he had thought were homework were actually examples of famous unsolved statistical proofs — and Dantzig had solved them!

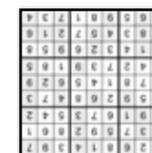
Neyman published the first of the two proofs soon after. Then, a year later when Dantzig was struggling to decide on his doctoral thesis topic, his professor just shrugged and told him to wrap the two problems in a binder. Neyman said he would accept them as his thesis.

Dantzig's story has been retold in various versions over the years often as an illustration of what a person is capable of when they think positively. After all, Dantzig may not have solved these proofs if he believed they were "unsolvable!" However, even though some versions might lean more toward urban legend, it's still an impressive story of the best consequence a student ever received for arriving to class and turning in homework late.



# TAKE A BREAK

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## EASY SHRIMP SCAMPI

Make date night simple with this easy shrimp scampi recipe.

### Ingredients

- 4 tbsp butter
- 4 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- 1 lb shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1/2 tsp oregano
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 8 oz cooked linguine
- 1/4 cup parsley

### Directions

1. In a skillet over medium heat, melt 2 tbsp of butter with 2 tbsp of olive oil. Add garlic and cook for 2 minutes.
2. Add shrimp and oregano, stirring frequently until shrimp is pink. Remove shrimp from skillet.
3. Add wine and lemon juice to skillet and bring the mixture to a boil.
4. Stir in remaining butter and olive oil and cook until butter is melted.
5. Add cooked shrimp to skillet and cook for 1 minute, stirring occasionally.
6. In a serving bowl, top cooked linguine with shrimp mixture. Garnish with parsley and serve.

Inspired by The Blond Cook

# FROM ZERO TO 300

## Meet the Women Who Pioneered Motor Sports

While Danica Patrick and Courtney Force are well known as modern faces in motor sports, they're far from the first women to cross the finish line. Since the early 1900s, women have been a constant fixture of automotive racing, including the following three who each left their marks on the sport.

### SHIRLEY MULDOWNEY

Shirley Muldowney is professionally known in the drag racing community as "The First Lady of Drag Racing." In 1973, she was the first woman to earn a Top Fuel license from the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) and, despite backlash from competitors, went on to win the NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series an unprecedented three times. Twentieth Century Fox documented her trials and accomplishments in the 1983 biopic "Heart Like a Wheel." Muldowney famously loathed her own characterization but still lauded the film as required viewing for anyone interested in the sport of drag racing.

### JANET GUTHRIE

Janet Guthrie had her sights set on the stars from day one. A skilled aerospace engineer, she began her racing career in 1963. After taking home two class wins in the famed 12 Hours of Sebring endurance race, Guthrie became a well-known figure among racing gurus. In 1976, she became the first woman to compete in the NASCAR Cup Series when she finished 15th in the Coca-Cola 600, then called the World 600. To date, Guthrie's storied career has landed her in the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame, the International Motorsports Hall of Fame, and the Automotive Hall of Fame.

### DOROTHY LEVITT

Dorothy Levitt is known for her driving skills on both land and water, setting the first water speed record and an early women's world land speed record. Her motor racing career started slow in 1904 due to illness and various car troubles, but Levitt eventually went on to garner a reputation for her speed and earn the nickname "The Fastest Girl on Earth." When she wasn't racing, she spent her time writing. In her book "The Woman and the Car," Levitt recommended that women carry a small mirror with them for driving in traffic, effectively inventing the rearview mirror five years before it went into production.

If you want to learn more about these women and others in motor racing, pick up Todd McCarthy's book "Fast Women: The Legendary Ladies of Racing."

