

Those January blues

At least February only has 28 days

by Dave Garrett

Welcome to the New Year, and may it be a happy one, to everyone. If you survive.

You see, *Gateway*, in its usual industrious manner, has done some research into the probability of surviving the "month". If our little study into various disasters held during the month of January is any indication, this is a very dangerous time to be alive.

To start with, look around you. Notice the huddled bodies of poor starving University students trying to stay warm in our distinctly sub-zero weather. And, do you remember Jan. of 1969? At 10:00 a.m., Jan. 6 the temperature first plunged below zero (Fahrenheit scale back then) and did not reach zero again until Feb. 2 at noon! The coldest temperature recorded during this period was -39.9 degrees in the city, and -49 at the International Airport.

Actually, we didn't have it too bad - between Jan. 6 and 13 in 1886, the central U.S.A. shivered through a blizzard that left approximately 70 people dead. That's winter.

On the other extreme, the American space program suf-

fered a major blow in Jan. 1967. On the 27th of that month Virgil Grissom, Edward White and Roger Chaffee died in a flash fire on the launch pad of their Apollo spacecraft, during a test run. In 1882, 150 people died in a theatre fire at Berdichev, Russia. The performance that night really brought the house down.

Jan. 1st headaches are only the beginning

And on the topic of major cataclysms, January 1976 is a hallmark. By its mere existence it means we are one year closer to 1984! George Orwell take note, there are only eight (I'm beginning to shake) years left till that momentous occasion.

Enough of these abstracts, time for some real earth-shaking news. Way back in 1693 there was an earthquake in Catania, Italy. On that particular January 11, Mother Nature's original rock and roller took 60 thousand people with her.

It has always been the case

that disaster never appears alone. On January 12, 1909, 67 miners died in a coal mine explosion, two weeks after an explosion in the same mine killed 50 people. Nearby, in Pennsylvania, a January explosion in another coal mine claimed 109 people in 1891. But through the use of modern industrial methods coal mining is no longer quite the boom industry it used to be.

Speaking of getting a bang out of life, on January 14, 1969 there was an explosion at sea. This particular pop was on the nuclear powered aircraft carrier, the Enterprise.

Along lines of international relations, the gentleman who negotiated the trade of Francis Gary Powers - remember the U-2 incident of 1962 (no relation to the bus) for Soviet spy Rudolf Abel, became the late Dr. James B. Donovan in January, 1970. He was also responsible for getting the return of prisoners taken in the Bay of Pigs fiasco.

Of course we had to find an "on-this-day-in-history" incident. This tale hails from Woerden, Netherlands, in 1962. Two trains, on Jan. 8, proved that two objects cannot



occupy the same space at the same time.

And who can forget that on Jan. 11, 1964 the U.S. Surgeon-General announced that cigarette smoking is dangerous to the health. The disclosure has had disastrous repercussions for nicotine addicts ever since.

As you see, we have clearly demonstrated that January is a very dangerous time of the year. One must also consider all the effects January has on an individual to clearly understand the full implications of the year.

Many suffer the dire consequences of over-celebration. Take into account as well the severe emotional stress of returning to classes after weeks of late nights and equally late mornings.

Oh, I almost forgot one of the most important items of interest. A dozen years ago in 1964, to the horror of the civilized world, the Beatles arrived. We have never been the same since.

Pity, I kind of liked Beethoven.

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