

HAPPY NEW YEAR
YA THINK?
By Sarah Holloway

A tiny brain, overwhelmed by the constant chaos of our world, can easily become fixated on a load of drivel. That's why my New Year's Day wasn't dominated by earnest resolutions to bring order to the rampant disorder of my surroundings – to lose 50 pounds (of course), to clean the garage, basement, attic, kitchen table and the yard. I became obsessed by a song title.



I finished reading a mystery book in the early hours of 2010 and was struck by the reference of the song.

“The Girl From Ipanema.” My knowledge of music is sketchy, but shreds of memory popped up to torment me as to where and when I had heard this song. The sentence in the book read, “Eddie Layton opening up with his rendition of that ballpark classic ‘The Girl From Ipanema,’” Why was it connected to baseball? Who recorded it or say it? I remember hearing part of the words at the end of a TV ad advertising a ‘60s music collection that flashed by too quickly to

follow by had no clue who was singing it.

All serious subjects, the almost-fatal Christmas bombing of Flight 253 headed for Detroit, the depression, the humongous health care plan from hell, the enormous national debt and Iran's continued progress toward having a nuclear bomb, as well as my ability to concentrate on what my family members were talking about, vanished from my mind like a bag of Christmas package wrappings. I couldn't stop thinking about this devilish song. Nobody I asked had ever heard of it, and I had to find out about it.

Thanks to the Internet, I soon learned a lot. “the Girl From Ipanema” is a bossa nova song, with music written by Antonio Carlos Jobim and Portugese lyrics by Vinicius de Moraes. English lyrics were later written by Norman Gimbel. It was a worldwide hit in the mid-60's and won a Grammy for Record of the Year in 1965. Samples of the lyrics are: “Tall and tan and young and lovely/ The girl from Ipanema goes walking/ And when she passes each one she passes goes ‘a-a-ah!/ When she walks she's like a samba that/ Swings so cool and sways so gentle / That when she passes each one she passes goes ‘a-a-ah!”

But I still don't know how it's connected to baseball and where to get a current version of it.

If you haven't crumpled up this piece and tossed it in the rubbish bin by now, you might give some thought to answering the following.

1. Who coined the time reference “24/7”?

2. Who first gave a high-five greeting?
3. Where did the phrase “TCB – Takin car of business” originate?
4. Who first said, “Think outside the box”?
5. Can you recall the earliest person to say, “I’m keepin’ on keepin’ on”?
6. Why do the words “Put a lid on it” keep ringing in my ears?

Did someone say, “Stifle yourself”? No, that was Archie Bunker...remember?

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