**In Sync**

**Before they call I will answer,**

**and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.**

***(Isaiah)***

**On the very same day McLean Stevenson, who played Lt. Col. Henry Blake on TV’s “M\*A\*S\*H,” died of a sudden heart attack, so did Hollywood actor Roger Bowen, who played Lt. Col. Henry Blake in the movie, “M\*A\*S\*H.” *(Bill Flick)***

**When awake, you blink your eyes three times for every heartbeat, if typical. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**Each species of bamboo flowers only once in its life, and within that species every plant in the world flowers at the same time. *(Brendan Lehane, in The Power of Plants, p. 39)***

**Many bamboos only flower at intervals as long as 60 or 120 years, and the flowering occurs simultaneously with all plants in the population. Subsequently, the plants produce flowers, which then produce seeds, and then die off. A new crop requires ten years to grow to full maturity. *(Charlotte Lowe, in Fact-O-Pedia, p. 13)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Most birds flap their wings simultaneously. However, swifts flap their wings alternately. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**An American student, Charles Martin Hall, then twenty-two years old, heard his chemistry teacher say that anyone who could devise a practical way of isolating aluminum from its ores would grow rich. Hall went home to his own laboratory, experimented, devised such a method – and grew rich. That very same year, 1886, a French chemist, Paul Heroult, devised the very same method. He was twenty-two years old also. Both Hall and Heroult died twenty-eight years later; each one died one month past his fifty-first birthday. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 418)**

**As with most romantic encounters, timing is everything. The researchers have found that if a coral spawns just 15 minutes out of sync with its neighbors, its chance of reproductive success is greatly reduced. The tiny tapioca-like sacs, about two millimeters in diameter, rise in unison, slowly drifting to the surface. For the few minutes that they are suspended in the water, I feel like I’m swimming in a snow globe. (Megan Gambino. in Smithsonian magazine)**

**Scientific literature is teeming with examples of how various cycles and rhythms in nature are synchronized. This tendency of things to synchronize with the rhythm of the universe can be found everywhere. In human beings, it begins at conception, when the fetal heartbeat, respiration, and general life rhythms soon attune themselves to those of the mother. It is obvious during breast-feeding when the heart rate and respiration of mother and baby synchronize. It has been known for years that women in college dorms will, without conscious effort, tend to synchronize their menstrual cycles. *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 84)***

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**Pearl White, heroine of “The Perils of Pauline,” and Warner Oland, villain in same, died on the same day: August 5, 1938. She died in Paris, he in Stockholm. (L. M. Boyd)**

**The two greatest writers in their respective languages -- William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes -- died on the very same day in the very same year, April 23, 1616. They probably did not know of each other. Two men who knew each other well -- the second and the third Presidents of the U.S., John Adams and Thomas Jefferson -- died on the very same day in the very same year, the Fourth of July in 1826. Adam's last words were: “Jefferson still lives.” Jefferson had died, however, a few hours earlier. (The fifth President, James Monroe, also died on a Fourth of July -- 1831.) (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 419)**

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**In 1900, three scientists, the Dutchman Hugo de Vries, the German Carl Correns, and the Austrian Eric von Tschermak, “discovered” the laws of genetics, independently. Each one, in searching through previous work on the subject, discovered that Gregor Mendel had made the discovery thirty-three years earlier. Each one published a paper in which he gave the credit to Mendel, a remarkable display of scientific honesty in triplicate. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 96)**

**More than 60,000 miles of arteries, veins, and capillaries in an adult body pulsate to a muscular rhythm – 100,000 heartbeats a day. Scientists once viewed the cardiovascular system as a pump and a lot of pipes; now they increasingly focus on the molecular level. *(Jennifer Kahn, in National Geographic magazine)***

**SHELL SWAP MEET: Hermit crabs that have outgrown their snail shells synchronize their search for new housing. Researchers in Belize report when one crab finds an empty shell, it waits until a crowd forms, then the crabs “piggyback,” or climb onto one another’s shells, in a line from largest to smallest. Once one crab shimmies into the free shell, the others follow, like dominoes. *(Abigail Tucker, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**A stranger beside me at the rail of Keeneland Race Course in Lexington, Kentucky, spoke a single sentence that captured the kinship between horse and man. It was just after dawn, and we were watching an exercise boy, joyously erect in the stirrups, as he breezed a fine Derby prospect. All was silent but for the rhythmic thud of hoofs on the breast of the earth. My neighbor, white-haired, kept his eyes on the flying horse as he spoke, “Sounds like a man's heartbeat, don't it?” he said. (Charles McCarry, in National Geographic magazine)**

**Every individual existence is brought into rhythm by a pendulum to which the heart gives type and name. There is a time for expanding and a time for contraction. One provokes the other and the other calls for the return of the first. Never are we nearer the Light than when the darkness is deepest. (Swami Vivekananda)**

**Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, is said to have beat another inventor to the patent office by less than ten minutes. Frank Whittle and Hans Von Oldhiam invented the jet engine at the same time without the one knowing about the other. *(Joe Griffith, in Speaker’s Library of Business, p. 237)***

**Seismologists after serious study have concluded earth’s orbit would be utterly unaffected even if all the people worldwide were to jump up and down at the same time. Good. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The human body is “fearfully and wonderfully made.” No doubt about it. But the body of a plant is nearly as complicated and wonderful to behold. Take just one little remarkable fact: All the leaves on a single tree open on the same day, yet they’re all in different locations, some are more shaded, some get more water, temperatures vary from base to top. But on a signal, they open together. Curious. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 236)***

**Once they hit their stride, marathon runners don’t speed up to go faster. They lengthen their stride. Or so say researchers at Penn State. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**It was in the England of 1831 where fine military minds first found out that solders ought not march to cadence across bridges. Especially suspension bridges. Some did. And rhythmically tore the bridges apart. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Your marriage can be expected to last longer if your sleep / wake cycle is the same as your matrimonial mate's. That's what researchers now say. They recommend you synchronize your body clocks, but don't say how. (L. M. Boyd)**

**You've read that Swiss pikemen five centuries ago were the first military men to march in step to rhythm. Had to. They carried 18-foot spears. Out of sync, they'd have knocked one another's heads off. (L. M. Boyd)**

**SHARED BIRTHDAYS: banded mongooses, small striped carnivores from sub-Saharan Africa, have unusually high “breeding synchrony” – 64 percent of females give birth on the very same night. A 12-year study in Uganda reveals the reason for this phenomenon. If a mommy mongoose gives birth too early, other adults in the group may kill the new pup. And if a pup is born too late, it is too small to compete with larger litter mates and is more likely to starve. (Sarah Zielinski, in Smithsonian magazine)**

**When two mosquitoes of the opposite sex approach each other, according to new research at Cornell University, they synchronize their wing beats and harmonize the buzzing, producing a high-frequency love duet. The researchers theorize that the ritual evolved as a form of sexual selection that helps females pick mates: if a male can’t keep up with her song, she’ll fly away to find a real Pavarotti. *(Joseph Caputo, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**I was the new coach of a Little League baseball team and had not yet learned the names of my players. At our first game, I called each boy by the number on his uniform. When I yelled, “Number 5, your time to bat,” Jeff Smith came to the plate to hit. When I called for “Number 7,” Steve Heinz jumped up. Then I asked for “Number 1,” and no one emerged from the dugout. Again I called for Number 1. Still no one. As the umpire looked on, annoyed at this delay of the game, I shouted, “Who’s Number 1?” That’s when the whole team yelled, “We are, Coach! We are!” *(Kenneth L. Montgomery, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Oysters shipped 1,000 miles inland, from the Connecticut shore to Illinois, open their shells in Illinois at the times of high tides at their ancestral beds. After a couple of weeks, they alter their schedule and open their shells when it would be high tide in their new domicile. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 123)**

**A flock of brown pelicans flying to an early-morning or pre-dusk fishing engagement is an enchanting sight. Following a leader, the birds move with military precision in a long, slanting line. As the squadron leader flaps its wings, each bird behind it also flaps, almost in unison. (Jack Denton Scott, in Reader's Digest)**

**My daughter and I were aboard a crowded train full of tired travelers. Somewhere in this great crush of bodies a cellular phone began to ring. Immediately, 20 people answered, “Hello . . .” (Dawn E. Stewart, in Reader’s Digest)**

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**Second President John Adams carried on a lengthy and erudite correspondence with his successor Thomas Jefferson. They often discussed government. This presidential exchange continued until both died on the same day, July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. (John Ross Schroeder, in Plain Truth magazine)**

**Three presidents of the United States -- Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and James Monroe--died on July Fourth. Jefferson and Adams died on the very same day, in 1826. *(James Meyers, Mammoth Book of Trivia, p. 134)* Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and James Monroe all died on July 4th. Jefferson and Adams died at practically the same minute of the same day. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 134)***

**Although strictly coincidental, JFK and Abraham shared some unusual history. Lincoln was elected in 1860, Kennedy in 1960; Lincoln’s secretary was named Kennedy, Kennedy’s was named Lincoln; both men were assassinated; and both men were succeeded by their vice presidents, both of whom were named Johnson. (Charlotte Lowe, in Fact-O-Pedia, p. 141)**

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**First day on record when all 48 contiguous states had snow on the ground at the same time was January 31, 1977. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Maureen O’Sullivan and Mia Farrow, mother and daughter, starred simultaneously in hit Broadway plays and each is the mother of 7 children. (Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 24)**

**My husband was once employed in the printing division of a large manufacturing firm. One morning, word came from the top that some visiting VIP's would be touring the plant in just a few minutes. All production was immediately shut down as employees scrambled to quickly tidy up the work place. When the appointed lookout yelled, “Here they come!” fifty fingers that were poised over fifty machine start-up buttons pressed down in unison -- and blew every fuse in the building. (Carol Brown, in Reader's Digest)**

**After our campus purchased a new telephone system, students learned that their phones had many capabilities. One of these, conference calling, allowed up to eight people to talk simultaneously. I organized seven friends, and within minutes we were all on the same line -- everyone talking at once. I yelled for silence. “Okay,” I said, “do we have eight on the phone? Everybody count off.” With that all seven voices called out in unison, “One!” *(Mark Feil, in Reader's Digest)***

**In 1842, the German physician Julius Robert von Mayer published his arguments in favor of the theory of the conservation of energy. That same year, another physician, the American Crawford W. Long, performed operations using anesthesia. Five years later, another German, Hermann von Helmholtz, advanced the theory of the conservation of energy, and another American, William T. G. Morton, performed operations using anesthesia. The history books give Helmholtz and Morton the credit for those advances and the earlier workers are forgotten. The race is not always to the swift. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 100)**

**Mark Twain said, "I came in with Halley's Comet in 1835. It is coming again next year, and I expect to go out with it." He was right. He died on April 21, 1910, one day after the comet's closest approach to Earth. (The Daily Chronicle)**

**Jesus was vibrating totally at the same frequency as God. Two frequencies of the same vibration cannot help but attract and become one. He was entirely capable of all that God can do. *(Susan Norberg, in Unity magazine)***

**There are only three animals that walk by stepping with both legs of the same side at the same time (both right legs step, then both left legs step) – the camel, the giraffe, and the cat. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 166)***

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**Do whales sleep? Experts still don't know for sure. They do know whales rest near the surface in pods, and come up together to breathe. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Humpback whales don't just sing, but sing in rhyme, Cornell University scholars now believe. (L. M. Boyd)**

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**Some wrestlers won't start their bout until they're breathing in unison.**

**(L. M. Boyd)**

**The two greatest writers in their respective languages – William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes – died on the very same day in the very same year, April 23, 1616. They probably did not know of each other. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 419)**

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