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### Dirty Bird

Marty stopped making his famous tomato festival when it started tasting like eyeballs.

The festival was a combination of cherry tomatoes, green onions, basil, and oregano leaves. Marty mixed everything together with oil, vinegar, salt, and pepper. He prepared it for the neighborhood barbecues, usually serving it alongside smoked tri-tip. Everyone raved about it.

One day, a crane showed up in the neighborhood. It made strange warbling noises while stalking nearby fields for food. The crane attracted the local dogs, including Rocky, the Donaldson's spaniel. Rocky came too close, and the crane plucked Rocky's eyes.

After the sockets healed, Rocky returned to the barbecues. Everyone felt bad for him. The kids brought him rawhide treats.

While petting Rocky and looking at Mr. Donaldson's plate, little Tonya blurted, "I wonder if eyeballs taste like those tomatoes?" Marty never made his tomato festival again. The damn dirty bird ruined it.

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With thanks to all the writers who have made this issue possible.

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