



# Xavier's Daily

## ➔ Challenge yourself!

A man who was outside in the rain without an umbrella or hat didn't get a single strand of his hair wet. Why?

Answer - He was bald.



## ➔ Spectrum's Corner

### Thought of the Day

"The universe doesn't give you what you want with your thoughts; it gives you what you demand with your actions"

- Dr Steve Maraboi

### Word of the Day

tenable \ 'te-nə-bəl \ adjective  
: based on sound reasoning or evidence

eg. "The concept of things going back to some historical fixed condition is really just no longer tenable," said Patty Glick, a senior scientist for climate adaptation at the National Wildlife Federation and one of the lead authors of the document.

## THE ISLAND OF DEAD DOLLS:-

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[Interact Club]

The story of La Isla de las Muñecas ("The Island of the Dolls") is intimately entwined with the story of Don Julian Santana Barrera. A native of Xochimilco, a borough of Mexico City, Don Julian left his wife and family sometime in the mid-20th century to sequester himself on an island on Teshuilo Lake. His reasons for doing so are hazy at best, but as soon became clear, Santana Barrera was not necessarily of sound mind. Not long after relocating, he made a chilling discovery on the shores of his island: the body of a young girl, drowned in the lake. A doll came floating down the canals shortly afterward, changing the course of Santana Barrera's life and the shape of the island for years to come.

Alone on the island, Barrera took the doll and hung it from a tree in order to appease the spirit of the deceased girl. But, at least in the eyes of the man who now considered himself the island's caretaker, the one doll was not enough. For the next 50 years, Santana Barrera would scrounge dolls from the trash and from the canals, and hang them from the island's many trees. Some he'd hang whole, others in various states of disrepair — headless, torso-less, or taken apart in other ways.

These don't sound like the actions of a person with a healthy grasp on reality, and indeed, there are many doubts surrounding this legend. The biggest question? The reality of the little girl who died. Many people, including Don Julian's own family, didn't believe that he ever found the girl, although whether they believe he made it up, imagined the experience, or was somehow mistaken is unclear. What is clear is that whether the girl existed or not, Don Julian devoted the rest of his life to her. And perhaps creepiest of all, even the end of his life had clear ties to the story of the drowned child.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Don Julian Santana Barrera was born in the Xochimilco borough of Mexico City in 1921. During the 1950s, he moved to that island and became its caretaker.