

Cranshaw Engages in Debate

by Bill Yarrow

They were discussing reincarnation, what animals they would come back as. "I'd be a vole," Cranshaw said. *Is a vole even an animal?* Connie asked. "Of course it's an animal! It's the only animal whose name begins with a V. *What about vulture? What about vulpine?*" "A vulture is a bird, not an animal. And vulpine is an adjective, not a noun." *Are you sure? Yesterday, I saw a hive of vulpines in Oxnard.* "Adjacent to the canines, no doubt!" Connie went silent and stared at chain-link fence surrounding the abandoned construction site. Her iPhone buzzed. *I don't care what you say. Canine is a noun. I know it. So is feline. Vulpine must be one too!* "Your sense of reality is highly incidental." *Well, you don't even know that birds are animals!* "What animal would you come back as then, Connie?" *A raccoon with razor teeth and a keen appetite for voles!*

