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How Not to Cut Hair

Date Received: 23 Jul 1997

I had to pass this one on - I could not stop laughing.

A little over a year ago, I had a serious accident in my own shop involving my 3 hp Jet dust collector. The recent discussion about dust collecting has given me the "shove" necessary to write about it and the passage of time has dulled the memory to the point where I can now discuss it in public.

My wife is a sweetheart of a person, who I met for the first time while attending kindergarten in our home town of Marshall MO. She beat me up that first day of school. We were always friends during our school years and continued to be friends right up to the time we were married. We've now been married for 29 years and she has mellowed to the point where she seldom beats me up anymore, since it upsets the dog when it happens.

About a year ago, my wife and I decided to "reward" ourselves for the last kid going off to college with a trip to Alaska and a leisurely cruise down the Inside Passage to Vancouver. It was to be a vacation of a lifetime for us. Planning for the trip went smoothly, with the only glitch being my good wife forgetting to make an appointment at the beauty parlor for the day before we were to leave.

I spent the day before the trip straightening up my shop so that a burglar wouldn't trip over anything and sue me for his injuries. My wife came downstairs in the afternoon to ask me if I would trim her hair just a tad so that it would look better for the trip. Since I've been virtually bald since my days in college, I have always just cut my own hair with an old pair of Oster clippers that I bought while in college. There, I had learned the simple fact that food is more important than a professional haircut.

In my shop, I have a 3-hp Jet dust collector that is fed via blast gates from both ducts in the floor AND via a 25' 4" flex hose that connects to the floor sweep/planer/jointer or other movable tools. Since my wife's hair is about 3" long, I thought that it'd be nice to hold the clippers inside the 4" flex pipe so that her hair would stand straight out from her head. This would make it easier to get a smooth cut, in my opinion.

NOTE: FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO MIGHT BE SENSITIVE, quit reading right here.

For those of you continuing to read this tale of woe, here's what happened. This is absolutely true and unadulterated or exaggerated.

My dear wife of 29 years, and the mother of my children, placed her rump on a stool I keep in the shop and proceeded to tell me exactly how much hair she wanted removed from the top, sides and bangs. I walked over to the DC, fired it up and closed off all but the blast gate leading to the 4" flex hose. With the old Oster clippers up inside the hose and me grasping the cutter end of them between my thumb and forefinger, I could hold the 4" flex hose with the other hand and maneuver both things easily. I leaned over my wife's pretty face and made the first cut- doing her bangs.

The hair stood out perfectly from her forehead and the results of that first swipe was terrific. I figured that I would probably get some reward from a beauty college for my wonderful invention. The second swipe was from side-to-side just above and behind the bangs. It went equally well.

Then all hell broke loose.

I claim that my wife moved, but she claims that claim is merely caused by the random firing of obviously defective neurons in my addled brain.

For the third swipe, I had walked around to the rear of my wife's head and was beginning to make the cut across the top of her head. Regardless of the cause (I still say it had to be her fault), the damn 4" flex hose somehow sucked down onto the top of her dear, sweet head. The clippers were running full bore inside the pipe and doing the job that Mr. Oster had designed his clippers are designed to do.

The suction of a DC hose isn't great, but when even the most modest suction is spread over the area of a 4" hose (that conforms well to the shape of a wife's head), there actually is a momentary "grab." It startled my good wife, who let out with a squall and tried to stand up/ kick me/ brush the 4" hose off of her head and explain how I was mentally defective all at the same time. During all this, I was attempting to knock the hose away from her head as well. I naturally succeeded in dislodging it (actually, it probably fell off on its own), but it fell to the OTHER side of her precious little head.

The result was that my wife now had perfectly trimmed bangs, followed by a bald stripe that went damn near from ear-to-ear across the top of her head. Think of it as an inverted Mohawk that has been rotated 90 degrees. This was NOT what my dear wife had in mind when she asked me to trim a bit off of her hair.

This tale now goes from bad to worse, because I tried to remedy the problem by tapering the hair toward the "kerf" and shortening up the rest. Saying that my attempts to remedy the situation were unsuccessful would be like saying that Custer was unsuccessful at taming the Indians.

When that poor old woman finally got to the mirror, I knew that a personal Hell for me was at hand. It was. Now I stand just over 6', am in pretty good shape and tip the scales at almost 280#. My sweet wife and companion of all those years couldn't be over 5'-4", weighs a LOT less and has Multiple Sclerosis. However, she took one look at her new "do" and took off after me like a rabid Doberman. She runs pretty darn well when she's mad. I learned something else that afternoon. I learned that the sweet old woman had obviously been kicked out of the Marine Corps because of her foul, potty mouth. The things that woman said, and the things that she called me, have absolutely prevented her from EVER enjoying the pleasures of heaven, in my humble opinion.

I got little sleep that night, since my good wife felt the need to wake me every ten minutes or so to further discuss the consternation and distress I'd caused her, and to share her emotions and feelings with me. Since Lorena Bobbit had been in the news recently, I had very real additional reasons to remain awake and sober. We were leaving that next morning and there was no time for her to get a wig. We simply went ahead with the trip, with my wife looking (and acting) like a madwoman. Needless to say, the subject of her hair came up frequently. Whenever things would get a little boring on the cruise, I'd tell her, "Vicki, that haircut looks like hell," and it would start all over again.

I tried to alleviate the tension by confidentially offering more rational explanations to inquiring folks than that she was "having a bad-hair day." I explained to our cabin steward that my wife had been in a fight with a wildcat while knife-hunting in Colorado. I told our waiter that she had almost completely overcome a terribly contagious case of head lice. A waitress in the lounge was told that medication had almost completely curbed my wife's terrible impulses with butcher knives. Generally, I'd just comment to curious folks that, "She's much calmer now that the medication is taking effect."

A year later, my good wife STILL winces whenever she hears my DC winding up in the shop. The hair has grown back and is as pretty as before my "trim," but the fleeting trust that my wife has for my ability to cut hair is certainly diminished.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Gauldin

Airline Humour

Bad Landing Apologies

Date Received: Mon, 16 Mar 1998

Real stories from Flight Attendants apologizing for rough transport on the airlines.

Upon landing hard, the pilot gets on the PA system, "Sorry folks for the hard landing. It wasn't the pilot's fault, and it wasn't the plane's fault. It was the asphalt."

An airline pilot wrote that on this particular flight he had hammered his ship into the runway really hard. The airline had a policy which required the first officer to stand at the door while the passengers exited, give a smile, and a "Thanks for flying XYZ airline." He said that in light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment. Finally, everyone had gotten off except for this little old lady walking with a cane. She said, "Sonny, mind if I ask you a question?" "Why no Ma'am," said the pilot, "what is it?" The little old lady said, "Did we land or were we shot down?"

From a disgruntled Southwest Airlines employee.... "Welcome aboard Southwest Flight XXX, to YYY. To operate your seatbelt, insert the metal tab into the buckle, and pull tight. It works just like every other seatbelt, and if you don't know how to operate one, you probably shouldn't be out in public unsupervised. In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, oxygen masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child traveling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs.

If you are traveling with two small children, decide now which one you love more. Weather at our destination is 50 degrees with some broken clouds, but they'll try to have them fixed before we arrive. Thank you, and remember, nobody loves you, or your money, more than Southwest Airlines."

United Airlines FA: "Ladies and Gentlemen, as you are all now painfully aware, our Captain has landed in Seattle. From all of us at United Airlines we'd like to thank you for flying with us today and please be very careful as you open the overhead bins as you may be killed by falling luggage that shifted during our so called "touch down."

About 5 or 6 years ago I was on an American Airlines flight into Amarillo, Texas, on a particularly windy and bumpy day. I could tell during the final that the Captain was really having to fight it, and after an extremely hard landing, the Flight Attendant came on the PA and announced, "Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Amarillo. Please remain in your seats with your seatbelts fastened while the Captain taxis what's left of our airplane to the gate!"

Another flight Attendant's comment on a less than perfect landing: "We ask you to please remain seated as Captain Kangaroo bounces us to the terminal."

Landing: a controlled mid-air collision with a planet.

Funny Safety Lectures

Date Received: Fri, 4 Sep 1998

Occasionally, airline attendants make an effort to make the "in-flight safety lecture" a bit more entertaining. Here are some real examples that have been heard or reported:

"As we prepare for takeoff, please make sure your tray tables and seat backs are fully upright in their most uncomfortable position."

"There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways out of this airplane..."

"Your seat cushions can be used for floatation, and in the event of an emergency water landing, please take them with our compliments."

"We do feature a smoking section on this flight; if you must smoke, contact a member of the flight crew and we will escort you to the wing of the airplane."

"Smoking in the lavatories is prohibited. Any person caught smoking in the lavatories will be asked to leave the plane immediately."

Pilot - "Folks, we have reached our cruising altitude now, so I am going to switch the seat belt sign off. Feel free to move about as you wish, but please stay inside the plane till we land...it's a bit cold outside, and if you walk on the wings it affects the flight pattern."

And, after landing: "Thank you for flying Delta Business Express. We hope you enjoyed giving us the business as much as we enjoyed taking you for a ride."

As we waited just off the runway for another airliner to cross in front of us, some of the passengers were beginning to retrieve luggage from the overhead bins. The head attendant announced on the intercom, "This aircraft is equipped with a video surveillance system that monitors the cabin during taxiing. Any passengers not remaining in their seats until the aircraft comes to a full and complete stop at the gate will be strip-searched as they leave the aircraft."

Once on a Southwest flight, the pilot said, "We've reached our cruising altitude now, and I'm turning off the seat belt sign. I'm switching to autopilot, too, so I can come back there and visit with all of you for the rest of the flight."

As the plane landed and was coming to a stop at Washington National, a lone voice comes over the loudspeaker: "Whoa, big fella...WHOA..!"

"Should the cabin lose pressure, oxygen masks will drop from the overhead area. Please place the bag over your own mouth and nose before assisting children or adults acting like children."

"As you exit the plane, please make sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses."

"Last one off the plane must clean it."

And from the pilot during his welcome message: "We are pleased to have some of the best flight attendants in the industry...Unfortunately none of them are on this flight...!"

After a particularly rough landing during thunderstorms in Memphis, a flight attendant on a Northwest flight announced: "Please take care when opening the overhead compartments because, after a landing like that, sure as hell everything has shifted."

From a Southwest Airlines employee.... "Welcome aboard Southwest Flight XXX, to YYY. To operate your seatbelt, insert the metal tab into the buckle, and pull tight. It works just like every other seatbelt, and if you don't know how to operate one, you probably shouldn't be out in public unsupervised."

Date Received: Friday June 14, 2002

These are real announcements from pilots and cabin crew.

Airline attendant during safety demonstration: "There may be fifty ways to leave your lover, but there are only four ways out of this airplane."

Flight attendant: " Ladies and Gentlemen, please remain in your seats until Captain Crash and his crew have brought the aircraft to a screeching halt up against the terminal gate. Once the tyre-smoke has cleared and the warning bells stop, we'll open the door and you can pick your way through the wreckage to the terminal".

Steward: "We'd like to thank you folks for flying with us today. And the next time you get the insane urge to go blasting through the skies in a pressurized metal tube, we hope you'll think of us".

Pilot: "Welcome aboard flight 163 to New York, we shall be flying at agggghhhhoh my god!... oh no!..... sorry about that folks. I've just spilt my coffee. You should see the front of my trousers."

Passenger - in response: "You should see the back of mine!"

"There has been a slight delay because a football has been discovered on board. As this cannot be deflated, it is necessary to remove it and we are waiting for that to take place." (A real announcement made on Flight CX110 from Sydney to Hong Kong on 8 June!)

Resume Blunders

Date Received: Wed, 3 Dec 1997

(From actual resumes as reported by Fortune magazine:)

"I demand a salary commiserate with my extensive experience."

"I have lurnt WordPerfect 6.0 computer and spreadsheat programs"

"Received a plague for Salesperson of the Year."

"Reason for leaving last job: Maturity leave."

"Wholly responsible for two (2) failed financial institutions."

"Failed bar exam with relatively high grades."

"It's best for employers that I not work with people."

"Let's meet, so you can 'ooh' and 'aah' over my experience."

"You will want me to be Head Honcho in no time."

"Am a perfectionist and rarely if ever forget details."

"I was working for my mom until she decided to move."

"Marital status: Single. Unmarried. Unengaged. Uninvolved. No commitments."

"I have an excellent track record, although I am not a horse."

"I am loyal to my employer at all costs... Please feel free to respond to my resume on my office voice mail."

"I have become completely paranoid, trusting completely no one and absolutely nothing."

"My goal is to be a meteorologist. But since I possess no training in meteorology, I suppose I should try stock brokerage."

"I procrastinate, especially when the task is unpleasant."

"As indicted, I have over five years of analyzing investments."

"Personal interests: donating blood. Fourteen gallons so far."

"Instrumental in ruining entire operation for a Midwest chain store."

"Note: Please don't misconstrue my 14 jobs as 'job-hopping.' I have never quit a job."

"Marital status: often. Children: various."

"Reason for leaving last job: They insisted that all employees get to work by 8:45 every morning. Could not work under those conditions."

"The company made me a scapegoat, just like my three previous employers."

"Finished eighth in my class of ten."

"References: None. I've left a path of destruction behind me."

Buzzword Bingo

Date Received: Mon, 8 Jun 1998

Unsuspecting Executives Become Fair Game in 'Buzzword Bingo'

By Elizabeth MacDonald and Asra Q. Nomani

Staff Reporters of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Ray Mundt, chairman of Unisource Worldwide Inc., has just learned that some of his employees have been playing a popular game called "buzzword bingo," in which participants track the jargon their bosses utter during staff meetings.

"I don't know," Mr. Mundt muses, "how this is going to interface with the communications side. I think it will deter from it."

Bingo!

Word Play

The '90s are supposed to have given the world the transformed workplace -- employees who embrace liberating technology working in organizations themselves liberated of hierarchies and craving the team input of the working stiff.

Maybe so. But in cubicles and conference rooms at companies from annuity sellers to paper distributors, drones and peons are slyly mocking the new corporate culture -- and their cliché-spouting bosses. One of their weapons is an underground game called buzzword bingo, which works like a surreptitious form of regular bingo. Buzzwords -- "incent," "proactive," "impactfulness," for example -- are preselected and placed on a bingo-like card in random boxes. Players sit in meetings and conferences and silently check off buzzwords as their bosses spout them; the first to fill in a complete line wins. But, in deference to the setting, the winner typically coughs instead of shouting out "bingo."

"Buzzword bingo arose as a reaction against half-truth and responsibility-dodging" in the workplace, says former Silicon Graphics Inc. software engineer Chris Pirazzi. When Mr. Pirazzi, now a software engineer elsewhere, worked at the high-tech company, he wrote bingo cards featuring phrases like, "At Stanford, we ..." (In Silicon Valley, it's hip to let people know you attended Stanford University.)

The game, by all accounts, began at Silicon Graphics in Mountain View, Calif. Tom Davis, a scientist and one of the company's founders, says that one day in early 1993, he was sitting in the office of a friend who had scrawled corporate-speak on his blackboard. A light bulb went off, and Mr. Davis wrote a computer program to generate bingo cards filled with the jargon he had seen, plus motivational clichés like "Step up to it." He says he coined the name "buzzword bingo" and passed the cards along to colleagues with a note written in the spirit of the new game: "The ball's in your court."

His employees took the ball and ran with it. Since then, the game has spread up and down the corporate and governmental landscape like an out-of-control empowerment session.

High Speakers, Hijinks

Seniors at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology played bingo at a graduation ceremony two years ago when Vice President Al Gore spoke, feverishly marking his buzzwords, including a Gore perennial: "information superhighway." Mr. Gore came prepared -- someone tipped him off before his appearance. When students cheered after he uttered the word "paradigm," the vice president then asked, "Did I hit a buzzword?" During a later speech by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Labour delegates played a decidedly U.K. version called "New Labour, New Bingo." Their handmade cards included some of Mr. Blair's notable platitudes: "stakeholder" and "greater say." Blair spokesman Godric Smith says of the bingo episode: "Real high-minded, big-picture stuff." Someone eventually sent a copy of the game to cartoonist Scott Adams, inspiring its appearance in a Dilbert comic strip. "It's subversive," says Mr. Adams, who admits to using the word "optimizing" in a recent conversation. "It's as naughty as you can get without getting fired." Indeed, as far as anyone knows, nobody has been fired over buzzword bingo, perhaps because it's usually played below the radar of corporate superiors. In some cases, peers use it to loosen up meetings: At First Colony Life Insurance Co., Lynchburg, Va., annuity salesman David Doran recently told eight co-workers that they couldn't leave his meeting until they used all the buzzwords he had printed on a flip chart -- company-handbook argot such as "voice of the customer" and "what's our deliverable on this?"

As the meeting dragged on to an hour, "they were all trying to steer the conversation to use all the buzzwords in one sentence," Mr. Doran says. "It was hysterical."

Even some bosses sympathize. At Unisource, a paper distributor, Mr. Mundt, the chairman whose own employees play the game, says, "I can understand why workers are playing because I have heard a lot of speakers who are basically boring or they're not saying anything."

Goring the Cliche-Speakers

Ridiculing double-speak, in fact, is the singular object of the game for many. Software engineer Spencer Sun says he got colleagues to play at a San Francisco firm owned by a corporation he identifies as "Big Evil Parent Company." The chief executive arrived to deliver "thinly sugar-coated bad news" about declining sales. To boost the troops' spirits, Mr. Sun distributed buzzword bingo cards before a meeting with the CEO "as a way of thumbing our noses at the whole thing."

One day last fall, Seattle paper saleswoman Joyce Boewe figured she was in for another dull meeting and decided to liven things up with a rousing bingo match. Before the meeting, and unbeknownst to her bosses at Websource Inc., a unit of Unisource, Ms. Boewe quietly handed out bingo cards filled with corporate-speak such as "core competency" "partnership" and "net net." During the meeting, the staff unobtrusively checked off target words as they were used by various speakers. Whispers and smiles shot through the room.

Then things abruptly turned cutthroat. Saleswoman Susan Rowe "started asking the speakers leading questions to draw out buzzwords that were on her own card," says salesman Hume Crawford. No matter -- Ms. Rowe says her efforts were in vain when too few buzzwords got used and the game ended in a stalemate. She thinks, though, that her questions might have won brownie points. There is, she observes, an apple-polishing aspect to buzzword bingo: You can excel at bingo while appearing to hang on to the boss's every word. Certainly, "it keeps you awake" during dull meetings, she says.

More than a dozen Web sites now sport game cards that Internet surfers can download, often free. Web-site designer Benjamin Yoskovitz says he is writing what he calls the "Official Buzz Word Bingo Rule Book." One modification he is devising assigns points to buzzwords; employees tally scores at the end of meetings if no one hits bingo.

It may, in fact, be time for some rule changes. The game can easily get out of hand. Four employees, of gofast.net Inc., a St. Paul, Minn., Internet company, have been playing a covert marathon game at staff meetings for nearly three months. The employees rigged their Palm Pilot hand-held computers to churn out new cards whenever they have a meeting. When a player wins, the computer will make a melodic beeping noise. To date, the beep has yet to sound, indicating a need to reprogram the computers "to create more winning opportunity," says Eric Miller, one of the players, letting fly with a buzzterm of his own.

Strange Country & Western Song Titles

Date Received: Wed, 1 May 1996

The Best of the Worst Country-Western Song Titles (These ARE real)

Compiled By: Bill Atchley

Dead Skunk in the Middle of the Road
Do You Love As Good As You Look
Does Your Chewing Gum Lose Its Flavor On The Bedpost Overnight?
Get Your Biscuits In The Oven And Your Buns In The Bed
Get Your Tongue Outta My Mouth 'Cause I'm Kissing You Goodbye
Guess My Eyes Were Bigger Than My Heart
Heaven's Just A Sin Away
Her Body Couldn't Keep You Off My Mind
Her Cheatin' Heart Made A Drunken Fool Out Of Me
Her Teeth Was Stained, But Her Heart Was Pure

Here's A Quarter, Call Someone Who Cares
How Can A Whiskey That's 6 Years Old Whup A Man That's 33?
How Can I Miss You If You Won't Go Away?
How Can You Believe Me When I Say I Love You When You Know I've Been A Liar All My Life?
I Changed Her Oil, She Changed My Life
I Don't Know Whether To Come Home Or Go Crazy
I Don't Know Whether To Kill Myself Or Go Bowling
I Don't Want Your Body If Your Heart's Not In It
I Fell In A Pile Of You And Got Love All Over Me
I Flushed You From The Toilets Of My Heart.

I Got In At 2 With A 10 And Woke Up At 10 With A 2
I Just Bought A Car From The Guy That Stole My Girl, But
The Car Don't Run
So I Figure We Got An Even Deal
I Keep Forgettin' I Forgot About You
I Knew I'd Hit Rock Bottom When I Woke Up On Top Of Ewe
I Liked You Better Before I Knew You So Well
I May Be Used (But Baby I Ain't Used Up)
I Meant Every Word That He Said
I Still Miss You, Baby, But My Aim's Gettin' Better
I Wanna Whip Your Cow
I Wish I Were In Dixie Tonight, But She's Out Of Town
I Would Have Wrote You A Letter, But I Couldn't Spell Yuck!
I Wouldn't Take Her To A Dawg Fight, Cause I'm Afraid
She'd Win
I Wouldn't Take You To A Dog Fight Even If I Thought You
Could Win
I'd Rather Have A Bottle In Front Of Me Than A Frontal
Lobotomy
I'll Marry You Tomorrow But Let's Honeymoon Tonite
I'm Gettin' Gray From Being Blue
I'm Gonna Hire A Wino To Decorate Our Home
I'm Havin' Daydreams About Night Things In The Middle Of
The Afternoon
I'm Just A Bug On The Windshield Of Life
I'm Not Married But The Wife Is
I'm So Miserable Without You, It's Like Having You Here
I'm The Only Hell Mama Ever Raised
I've Been Flushed From The Bathroom Of Your Heart
I've Got Four On The Floor And A Fifth Under The Seat
I've Got Red Eyes From Your White Lies And I'm Blue All
The Time
I've Got Tears In My Ears From Lying On My Back In My Bed
While I Cry Over You
I've Got The Hungries For Your Love And I'm Waiting In
Your Welfare Line
If Drinkin' Don't Kill Me, Her Memory Will
If Fingerprints Showed Up On Skin, Wonder Whose I'd Find
On You
If I Had Shot You When I Wanted To, I'd Be Out By Now
If I Said You Had A Beautiful Body, Would You Hold It
Against Me?
If It's Got To Be Later, How 'Bout Later Tonight?
If Love Were Oil, I'd Be A Quart Low

If My Nose Were Full of Nickels, I'd Blow It All On You
If The Jukebox Took Teardrops I'd Cry All Night Long
If The Phone Don't Ring, Baby, You'll Know It's Me
If Whiskey Were A Woman I'd Be Married For Sure
If You Can't Feel It (It Ain't There)
If You Don't Leave Me Alone, I'll Go And Find Someone Else
Who Will
If You Leave Me, Can I Come Too?
It Ain't Love But It Ain't Bad
It Takes Me All Night Long To Do What I Used To Do All
Night Long
Learning To Live Again Without You Is Killing Me
Mama Get The Hammer (There's A Fly On Papa's Head)
May The Bird Of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose
My Every Day Silver Is Plastic
My John Deere Was Breaking Your Field, While Your Dear
John Was Breaking My Heart
My Wife Ran Off With My Best Friend, And I Sure Do Miss
Him
Oh, I've Got Hair Oil On My Ears And My Glasses Are
Slipping Down, But Baby
I Can See Through You
Oh, Lord! It's Hard To Be Humble When You're Perfect In
Every Way
Pardon Me, I've Got Someone To Kill
Please Bypass This Heart
She Feels Like A New Man Tonight
She Made Toothpicks Out Of The Timber Of My Heart
She's Got Freckles On Her, But She's Pretty
She's Out Doing What I'm Here Doing Without.
Swing Wide Your Gate Of Love
Tennis Must Be Your Racket 'Cause Love Means Nothin' To
You
Thank God And Greyhound She's Gone
The Last Word In Lonesome Is "me"
They May Put Me In Prison, But They Can't Stop My Face
From Breakin' Out
Velcro Arms, Teflon Heart
What Made Milwaukee Famous (Has Made a Loser Out of
Me)
When We Get Back To the Farm (That's When We Really Go
To Town)
When You Leave Walk Out Backwards, So I'll Think You're
Walking In

Who You Gonna Believe, Me Or Your Lying Eyes?
You Can't Deal Me All The Aces And Expect Me Not To Play
You Can't Have Your Kate And Edith Too
You Can't Roller Skate In A Buffalo Herd
You Done Tore Out My Heart And Stomped That Sucker Flat

You Hurt The Love Right Out Of Me
You Were Only A Splinter As I Slid Down The Bannister Of
Life
You're A Cross I Can't Bear
You're Ruining My Bad Reputation
You're The Reason Our Kids Are So Ugly

The Official Internet Quayle Quote List

Date Received: Fri, 16 Jul 1993

From: Michael G. Goldsman

Subject: New Quayle Quote List (Part 1/2)

Last updated July 14, 1993

**** Summer 1993 Issue ****

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I. Notes:

1. Well.. this is going to be the last list for a while, so revel in it and enjoy it. There aren't THAT many new bits, but I finally did get around to sorting them into categories. though I'll do bug fixes, the list is now in semi-retirement. But we do have his book to look forward to as well as his bid for the presidency in 1994. (Though I've been told it would be illegal to include the whole book and just call it a "quote.")
2. I'm sure the Quayle Museum would enjoy having a few dozen copies of this list, so fire up that copying machine. Perhaps you could make some \$'s by loitering outside and selling copies to unsuspecting Republicans. But at least leave copies in strategic places inside the building!
3. There are sure to be typos and bugos throughout, and I would appreciate it if people would tell me about them.
4. If anyone has sources for any of the quotes without sources, please tell me.
5. Not all of these quotes, are "funny" per se, but each, in its own unique way, does define and help us to better understand the complex person we know as Mr. Former Vice President.
6. I've created a mailing list for distribution of this list whenever updates occur. If you wish to be added to this list, drop me a note. Of course, I'll still post it to alt.fan.dan-quayle et al.

II. Credits

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Mike Goldsman

1854 N. Decatur Rd., NE

Atlanta, Georgia 30307

III. The Quayle Gospel

Dan Quayle's Pre- Vice Presidential Life

Sometimes he acts as if he has been disturbed,
But other times he is as cheerful as a bird...

-- Dan Quayle from a poem written to his dad as a youth on display in the Quayle Museum. (reported in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/17/93) [Someone NEEDS to get me a copy of the complete poem!]

I was a less than serious student in college. If I had it to do over again, I would be far more serious. I did play a lot of golf. But I don't think that's any reflection on my ability to lead this nation.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle

Looking back, I should have pursued philosophy and economics and things of that sort in college more, but I didn't.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle

I didn't pay a lot of attention as I should have in college.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle

[At the Quayle house, civil rights and the environment] weren't things that we discussed a lot at the dinner table.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle (reported in High Times, 11/92)

People of my generation had that little bit of rebellion and independence with your parents. But in my case... there wasn't any social rebellion where I said, "Parents, you really don't know what it's all about."

-- Vice President Dan Quayle (reported in High Times, 11/92)

She was attracted to me by my intellectual curiosity.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle talking about Marilyn (reported in High Times, 11/92)

I've never professed to be anything but an average student.

-- Senator Dan Quayle during the VP debate in Omaha, Nebraska (10/88)

It was just a job. It wasn't any special interest in consumer affairs. I needed a paycheck and the Attorney General said that I would be best to go down there, because he knew I was anti-consumer.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle and talking about his job as Chief investigator, consumer protection division of the Indiana Attorney General's office from 1970-1971

Life has been very good to me. I never had to worry about where I was going to go. But I do say, "Dan, you know, sometime in life there's going to be a tragedy." There was never anything where "I've got to work really hard to get there ..."

-- Senator Dan Quayle engaging in self-reflection while on the campaign trail. (reported in the Washington Post, 10/10/88)

I'll have to check with my dad.

-- Dan Quayle responding when an Indiana GOP county chairman asked him to run for Congress in 1976. (reported by the Washington Post, 10/2/88)

I feel that this [1981] is my first year, that next year is an election year, that the third year is the mid point and that the fourth year is the last chance I'll have to make a record since the last two years, I'll be a candidate again. Everything I do in those last two years will be posturing for the election. But right now I don't have to do that.

-- Senator Dan Quayle

I know one committee I don't want -- Judiciary. They are going to be dealing with all those issues like abortion, bussing, voting rights, prayers. I'm not interested in those issues and I want to stay as far away from them as I can.

-- Senator Dan Quayle (from "What a Waste it Is to Lose One's Mind" - the Unauthorized Autobiography)

Dan Quayle on "Getting Into the Nat'l Guard"

I do- I do- I do- I do- what any normal person would do at that age. You call home. You call home to mother and father and say, "I'd like to get into the National Guard."

-- Senator Dan Quayle, 8/19/88 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

There was no influence used. I didn't have to use any influence because before I applied, there were openings, when I applied, there were openings, and after I applied, there were openings. Those are the facts. And if you're interested in the facts, there they are.

-- Senator Dan Quayle defending the way he got into the National Guard. (from "The Unofficial Dan Quayle Video")

I did not know in 1969 that I would be in this room today, I'll confess.

-- Senator Dan Quayle responding to questions in 1988 about allegations that he used family connections to get into the Indiana National Guard. (reported in the Washington Post, 8/26/88)

When you get into conflict, and regional conflicts, I mean, you have to have certain goals, and a goal cannot be really a no-win situation.

-- Senator Dan Quayle attempting to explain his military service during the Vietnam war. (reported in the Washington Post, 9/6/88)

Obviously, if you join the National Guard, you have less of a chance of going to Vietnam. I mean it goes without saying.

-- Senator Dan Quayle discussing his draft record on NBC's "Meet the Press," 9/20/92. (reported in the Houston Chronicle 9/21/92)

I got into the Guard fairly. There were no rules broken, to my knowledge... I, like many, many other Americans, had particular problems about the way the war was being fought. But yes, I supported my president and I supported the goal of fighting communism in Vietnam.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle (reported in High Times, 11/92)

Dan Quayle on "The Environment"

I have a very strong record on the Environment in the United States Senate.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle

Our future competitiveness demands that true environmentalists and responsible leaders not allow the well-intentioned concerns of the American public to be manipulated and exploited as a means to re-establish unnecessary regulatory, economic and social controls.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle

I take my children hiking and fishing, walking in the woods.

-- Senator Dan Quayle offering proof of his commitment to the environment during the VP debate, 10/5/88 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

The National Academy of Sciences says that this level [40 MPG] is not even technically achievable.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle arguing against suggestions to raise fuel efficiency standards for American automobiles. But Richard A. Meserve, who served as the chairman of the academy's study on fuel efficiency, said that Mr. Quayle had misunderstood a report by the academy that had discussed whether cars that efficient would be attractive to American buyers. (New York Times, 8/29/92)

The [Democrats] talked about putting people first. Well, they put people first unless you happen to be a spotted owl or a giant garter snake or some other endangered species and then that seems to have priority. Obviously, you take the bald eagle and things of that sort, of course you're going to make sure that they are saved and that they can live and you're going to take every precaution that you can. But others---we just need a little flexibility.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle defending his lambasting of Democrats on the Spotted Owl/ Endangered Species issue. (In an interview on Prime Time Live, August 10, 1992. Reported in the NY Times, August 12, 1992)

Our values are creating jobs in America.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle answering Chris Wallace's question: "[The Council on Competitiveness] has made it easier for businesses to exceed pollution levels, it has delayed regulations on aircraft noise, it has weakened regulations to make apartment buildings more accessible to wheelchairs. Are those your values?" (ABC's "Prime Time Live," August 10, 1992)

How about if we say when it's wet, it's wet?

-- Vice President Dan Quayle when asked to define "wetlands." (from "What a Waste it Is to Lose One's Mind" - the Unauthorized Autobiography)

Dan Quayle on "Literature and History"

You always learn something by reading the classics. Particularly *The Prince*. I go through and look at this from this intellectual point of view. Machiavelli had these three classes of mind. The first class was the person that was creative enough to be leader and be able to lead a great nation without much help. The second class of mind was one that wasn't creative but could take ideas, put people around him, and be able to lead nations forward. And the third class of people didn't really know much of anything. And they were the worst kind of leaders, because not only were they not creative, but they didn't know what was right or wrong, and they just sort of went by whatever they felt like. I've tried to figure out where I am. I know I'm not the first because I don't think I have the creativeness that Machiavelli talks about. If I go back and reread it I might figure it out exactly where I put myself. I'm somewhere between two and one.

-- Senator Dan Quayle gives his opinion of the book "*The Prince*," 9/28/88 (reported in *Esquire*, 8/92)

And it was a very good book of Rasputin's involvement in that, which shows how people that are really very weird can get into sensitive positions and have a tremendous impact on history.

-- Senator Dan Quayle gives his opinion of the book "*Nicholas, and Alexandra*," to Hendrick Hertzberg of the *New Republic*, 9/28/88 (reported in *Savvy Woman*, 1/89, p. 56)

It's the best book I've certainly read. And he goes through it; he starts around the turn of the century up through Vietnam. And it's a very good historical book about history.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle on Paul Johnson's "*Modern Times*" (*Playboy*, 1/93)

[The book, "*The Satanic Verses*"] is obviously not only offensive but, I would think most of us would say, in bad taste.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle commenting on the book which caused Salman Rushdie to be placed under a death sentence. The Vice-President had not read the book, 3/16/89 (reported in *Esquire*, 8/92)

Dan Quayle During Election 88

I'm not going to focus on what I have done in the past what I stand for, what I articulate to the American people. The American people will judge me on what I am saying and what I have done in the last 12 years in the Congress.

-- Senator Dan Quayle

I want to be Robin to Bush's Batman.

-- Senator Dan Quayle

I can identify with steelworkers. I can identify with workers that have had a difficult time.

-- Senator Dan Quayle addressing workers at an Ohio steel plant, 1988

As the shoppers of Hy-Vee go, so goes the state of Iowa.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle trying to be noteworthy at a grocery store in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, October 1988. (reported in *High Times*, 11/92)

Certainly, I know what to do, and when I am Vice President -- and I will be -- there will be contingency plans under different sets of situations. And I tell you what, I'm not going to go out and hold a news conference about it. I'm going to put it in a safe and keep it there! Does that answer your question?

-- Senator Dan Quayle, when asked what he would do if he assumed the Presidency, 10/10/88 (reported in *Esquire*, 8/92)

I had not had that question before.

-- Senator Dan Quayle explaining why, during the Bentsen debate, he couldn't say what he would do if he suddenly became president, 10/6/88 (reported in *Esquire*, 8/92)

Want to hear a sad story about the Dukakis campaign? The governor of Massachusetts, he lost his top naval advisor last week. His rubber ducky drowned in the bathtub.

-- Senator Dan Quayle addresses the issues during the 1988 campaign, 9/13/88 (reported in *Esquire*, 8/92)

That is not a yes or no question.

-- Senator Dan Quayle during a somewhat heated exchange with reporters in 1988. Quayle indicated he would only accept "yes or no" questions for the rest of the session. Here, he refuses to answer a question of whether he's offered to take his name off of the ticket, 8/19/88 (reported in the Washington Post, 8/20/88, p. A6)

We will invest in our people, quality education, job opportunity, family, neighborhood, and yes, a thing we call America.

-- Senator Dan Quayle, 1988

I'm going to be a vice president very much like George Bush was. He proved to be a very effective vice president, perhaps the most effective we've had in a couple of hundred years.

-- Senator Dan Quayle Hey, Roger, does... on, on this, you know, if I'm gonna, if I, if I decide on my gesture over there... is that all right?... You don't mind?

-- Senator Dan Quayle asking Roger Ailes's advice on a debating gesture, 10/5/88 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)
I hope there's some respect and dignity for things I did not do.

-- Senator Dan Quayle defending himself against allegations of involvement with Paula Parkinson, 8/23/88 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

Let me say it one more time. It is ill-rel-e-vant.

-- Senator Dan Quayle testily responding to repeated questions about his parents' involvement in the John Birch Society. (reported in the Washington Post, 10/10/88)

Because. Because I say it isn't.

-- Senator Dan Quayle explaining why questions about his parents' ties to the John Birch Society aren't relevant, 10/9/88 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

Dan Quayle's Fun and Games

It's not to keep him from running off our property. It's to protect my putting green.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle telling a guest at his house why his dog, Breezy, wears a special collar that emits a painful jolt of electricity should the dog try to run away. (reported in the NY Daily News, 6/30/92 - taken from The Quayle Quarterly, Summer/Fall 92)

Great American sport. Horseshoes is a very great game. I love it.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, 4/5/89 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

I've played there (the Burning Tree Country Club) before and I'll play there again. I'm not going to protest Burning Tree. Maybe they'll change. I think it would be a good idea for them to take women into the club. I don't have any problem playing there in the meantime.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle (from "What a Waste it Is to Lose One's Mind" - the Unauthorized Autobiography)

I felt like I was in charge.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle after working the locks of the Panama Canal locks during his visit to Panama City in January 1990. (reported in High Times, 11/92)

I could take this home, Marilyn. This is something teenage boys might find of interest.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, when purchasing a South American Indian Doll that, when lifted, displays an erection, 3/11/90 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

That's solid. There, you see how much I learned.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle when visiting a welding class at a vocational school in Union, Missouri. He welded two scraps of metal together to demonstrate how much he had learned while in the National Guard. (reported in the NY Times, 10/25/88)

There. I paid for my ice tea and I even left you a penny.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle at Bob's Big Boy in Claymont, DE. The waitress who served Dan Quayle said he had given the cashier \$1.00 for a 99 cent iced tea, said this, and then laughed. On a stop to a Delaware restaurant, in Feb. 1992, Quayle bought a coffee at Dempsey's Diner and left no tip whatsoever. On that occasion, he had just come from a \$500 a plate fundraiser at the Hotel Du Pont. This time, after leaving his 1 cent tip, he went to a \$250 a plate fundraiser at the Rodney Square Club in downtown Wilmington. (Wilmington News-Journal, 10/24/92)

I'm not so sure that I will miss Johnny Carson, but Johnny Carson will miss me.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle (reported in the Houston Chronicle, 5/22/92 - taken from The Quayle Quarterly, Summer/Fall 1992)

Dan Quayle's Problems with Spelling

May our nation continue to be the beakon of hope to the world.

-- *The Quayles' 1989 Christmas card. [Not a beacon of literacy, though.]*

Sam, had a great time this weekend but the golf was lousey [sic].

-- *Vice President Dan Quayle in a handwritten note written to Sam Snead in the summer of 1991, after they had played a lousy round of golf. (Herald-Times, Bloomington, IN, July 15, 1992)*

Add one little bit on the end... Think of 'potatoe,' how's it spelled? You're right phonetically, but what else...?

There ya go... all right!

-- *Vice President Dan Quayle correcting a student's correct spelling of the word "potato" during a spelling bee at an elementary school in Trenton.*

I should have caught the mistake on that spelling bee card. But as Mark Twain once said, "You should never trust a man who has only one way to spell a word."

-- *Vice President Dan Quayle, actually quoting from President Andrew Jackson.*

I should have remembered that was Andrew Jackson who said that, since he got his nickname "Stonewall" by vetoing bills passed by Congress.

-- *Vice President Dan Quayle, confusing Andrew Jackson with Confederate General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, who actually got his nickname at the first Battle of Bull Run.*

Office of the Vice President... The Council on Competativeness.

-- *the letterhead on stationary, complete with misspelling, found in Dan Quayle's old White House office by Clinton administration staffers. (Newsweek, 2/8/93)*

Just think what people would say if I said something like that.

-- *Private Citizen Dan Quayle after being introduced as "Don Quayle" at the first tee a practice round of the AT&T Golf Tournament at Pebble Beach, 2/1/93.*

Dan Quayle's Time Travel Machine

We don't want to go back to tomorrow, we want to go forward.

-- *Vice President Dan Quayle*

I am the future.

-- *Senator Dan Quayle, 10/18/88 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)*

I have made good judgments in the Past. I have made good judgments in the Future.

-- *Vice President Dan Quayle*

The future will be a better tomorrow.

-- *Vice President Dan Quayle*

Votes are like trees, if you are trying to build a forest. If you have more trees than you have forests, then at that point the pollsters will probably say you will win.

-- *Senator Dan Quayle, during the '88 campaign (reported in Newsweek in 1988)*

We'll let the sunshine come in and shine on us, because today we're happy and tomorrow we'll be even happier.

-- *Senator Dan Quayle to students at a high school in Miami with the highest dropout rate of the city, 10/26/88 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)*

In George Bush you get experience, and with me you get- The Future!

-- *Senator Dan Quayle in eastern Illinois (LA Times 10/19/88)*

Dan Quayle on Public Speaking

Verbosity leads to unclear, inarticulate things.

-- *Senator Dan Quayle, 10/30/88 (reported in Esquire, 8/92 and the LA Times, 10/30/88)*

I stand by all the misstatements that I've made.

-- *Vice President Dan Quayle to Sam Donaldson, 8/17/89 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)*

Every once in a while, you let a word or phrase out and you want to catch it and bring it back. You can't do that. It's gone, gone forever.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, 5/4/89 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

When you make as many speeches and you talk as much as I do and you get away from the text, it's always a possibility to get a few words tangled here and there.

-- Senator Dan Quayle defending himself (LA Herald Examiner 10/3/88)

Public speaking is very easy.

-- Senator Dan Quayle to reporters in 10/88

The mike works. That's very important to make sure the mike works, and ours is working well.

-- Senator Dan Quayle informing reporters of a successful sound check before the VP debate, 10/5/88 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

Sometimes cameras and television are good to people and sometimes they aren't. I don't know if its the way you say it, or how you look.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle

You smile discreetly, you look like you're enjoying yourself, like you're ready to get down to serious business. You've got to be careful what you say.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, on how to act in front of the press.

The American people would not want to know of any misquotes that Dan Quayle may or may not make.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, in a speech to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, April 1991

Lookit, I've done it their way this far and now it's my turn. I'm my own handler. Any questions? Ask me ... There's not going to be any more handler stories because I'm the handler ... I'm Doctor Spin.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle responding to press reports that his aides have had to, in effect, "potty train" him

Dan Quayle --> Not Quite There

My friends, no matter how rough the road may be, we can and we will never, never surrender to what is right.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle speaking to the Christian Coalition about the need for abstinence to avoid AIDS, 11/15/91 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

Okay, I won't open it until then.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle after having been presented with an empty box that was to contain a gift from a sailing team in South America. He was told that the gift was not ready yet, but that it would be presented to him when they arrived in the United States.

I happen to be a Republican president- ah, the vice president.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle (Newsweek 4/9/90)

Maybe you guys will get lucky this year and face the Orioles in the World Series.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle encouraging the Milwaukee Brewers after throwing out the opening pitch of the season. Both teams are in the American League. (5/3/92 Sunday Detroit News)

Are they taking DDT?

-- Vice President Dan Quayle asking doctors at a Manhattan AIDS clinic about their treatments of choice, 4/30/92 (reported in Esquire, 8/92, and NY Post early May 92)

A low voter turnout is an indication of fewer people going to the polls.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle

I just don't believe in the basic concept that someone should make their whole career in public service.

-- Vice President (former senator, former congressman, etc..) Dan Quayle

This isn't a man who is leaving with his head between his legs

-- Vice President Dan Quayle discussing John Sununu's resignation and apparent lack of flexibility, 12/6/91

Unfortunately, the people of Louisiana are not racists.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, regarding David Duke's candidacy, 10/12/90, (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

We lead in exporting jobs.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle committing a Freudian slip while speaking to the Chamber of Commerce of Evansville, Indiana, a city which lost 4 large companies in the last four years. He quickly changed the word "jobs" to "products." (NY Newsday 7/26/92 - taken from The Quayle Quarterly, Summer/Winter, 1992)

My grandfather... saw where inherited wealth ruined people. And my grandfather was right.

-- Vice-President Dan Quayle giving an analysis of his own situation: he has a half-million dollars worth of his family's newspaper stock holdings. (ABC's "Prime Time Live," August 10, 1992)

You can't just walk into a store and buy a gun. There's all sorts of registration, there are all sorts of state laws.

-- Senator Dan Quayle after criticizing Michael Dukakis for the Massachusetts furlough program. Quayle was soon informed that indeed in many states a person could just walk into a store and buy a gun. (reported in the NY Times, 8/27/88)

If you give a person a fish, they'll fish for a day. But if you train a person to fish, they'll fish for a lifetime.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle while at a job training center in Atlanta celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Job Training Partnership Act, which Quayle helped to sponsor while a senator, 10/13/92. (reported in the NY Times, 10/14/92).

I'm glad you asked me that. This gives me the perfect opportunity to talk about the problems with this Congress...

-- Vice President Dan Quayle responding to reporter's questions about his use of Air force 2 to go on golf trips at the cost of \$26,000/hour.

We're all capable of mistakes, but I do not care to enlighten you on the mistakes we may or may not have made.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, (USA Today 4/22/92 - taken from The Quayle Quarterly, Summer/Fall 1992)

I've been told to keep my remarks relatively brief. I understand Quayle-hunting season begins at noon.

-- Senator Dan Quayle to a crowd in Eau Claire, Wisc. (LA Times 10/16/88)

Who Dan is, and Who his friends are

The other day [the President] said, I know you've had some rough times, and I want to do something that will show the nation what faith that I have in you, in your maturity and sense of responsibility. (He paused, then said) Would you like a puppy?

-- Vice President Dan Quayle (LA Times 5/21/89)

Intrapersonal.

-- Senator Dan Quayle describing his relationship with Bush on the campaign trail in Irvine, California. (reported in the NY Times, 8/28/88)

I spend a great deal of time with the President. We have a very close, personal, loyal relationship. I'm not, as they say, a potted plant in these meetings.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle defending himself (Tampa Tribune-Times 1/7/90)

Although in public I refer to him as Mr. Vice President, in private I call him George... When I talked to him on the phone yesterday. I called him George rather than Mr. Vice President. But, in public, it's Mr. Vice President, because that's who he is.

-- Senator Dan Quayle shortly after being named George Bush's running mate, 8/27/88 (reported in Esquire, 8/92, The NY Times, 8/28/88)

They asked me to go in front of the Reagans. I'm not used to going in front of President Reagan, so we went out behind the Bushes.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle after the swearing in ceremony on Inauguration Day, 1/20/89. No, he's not discussing his sanitary habits. (reported in the NY Daily News, 1/21/89)

I'm the Vice-President. They know it, and they know that I know it.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle talking about his political enemies, 3/13/89 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

You know, before I left, President Bush and I were talking and he said to me, "I knew Spiro Agnew. I worked with Spiro Agnew. And believe me, you are no Spiro Agnew."

-- Vice President Dan Quayle to those who had compared his attacks on the "cultural elite" to Agnew's denunciations of "effete intellectuals." (The Los Angeles Daily News, 6/28/92 - taken from the Quayle Quarterly, Summer/Fall 1992)

Politics and Policymaking

One learns every day. Experience is a great teacher. By experience you learn. But as I enter office, I'm prepared now. Obviously, I will be more prepared as time goes on. I will know more about the office of the presidency. But I'm prepared now and I will be more prepared as time goes on.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle (reported in the NY Times, 1/14/89)

I am now cashing in on being vice president for others. They'll remember me. I'll remember them.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle

America is great, because America is free.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle

One thing we're able to do is raise money.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle on the Republican Party

This is not a bipartisan issue.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle noting that Democrats and political independents join Republicans in endorsing term limits, while speaking before supporters of term-limitation proposals in 15 states, 8/20/92 (reported in the NY Times, 8/21/92)

What you guys want, I'm for.

-- Senator Dan Quayle to farmers on a local pork issue (8/25/88) (from the Book "The Clothes have No Emperor")

I am not part of the problem; I am a Republican.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle

[I support efforts] to limit the terms of members of Congress, especially members of the House and members of the Senate.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, 9/26/90 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

The message of David Duke, is this, basically: Big government, anti-big government, get out of my pocketbook, cut my taxes, put welfare people back to work. That's a very popular message. The problem is the messenger.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle

We are doing the right thing and we do not see the bad things.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle pretending he is one of the wise monkeys.

We shouldn't have to be burdened with all the technicalities that come up from time to time with shrewd, smart lawyers interpreting what the laws or what the Constitution may or may not say.

-- Vice-President Dan Quayle, addressing a police academy in Knoxville, Tennessee in August 1992 (from the AP wire)

I, I can't tell you exactly what we do on that pain and suffering in the ---- [He then looked off-stage to Kevin Moley, the deputy secretary of the Department of health, for advice] Kevin, what do we do on the pain and suffering on our malpractice proposal? [He listened briefly to Moley's explanation] So, it doesn't address it specifically. The state -- the states could in fact -- what we basically do is -- try to do -- is get the states to come up with medical malpractice legislation. We have, I think it's five criteria in our suggested recommendations. But once they meet the five criteria, then they get a favorable distribution from us if they meet -- basically forcing the states to adopt this medical malpractice legislation, and that's the way that you do it.

-- Vice-President Dan Quayle in Phoenix, Arizona, answering a question on Bush's malpractice reform bill. One of the five malpractice measures would actually require states to place a cap of \$250,000 on damages for pain and suffering to avoid a cutoff of federal financing. (reported in the NY Times, 10/7/92)

Quite frankly, teachers are the only profession that teach our children. It's a unique profession and, by golly, I hope when they go into the teaching field that they do have that zeal and they do have that mission and they do believe in teaching our kids and they're not getting into this just as a job or a way to put food on the table.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, 9/18/90 (reported in Esquire, 8/92, and "What a Waste it Is to Lose One's Mind")

Dan Quayle During Election 92

It would be a serious mistake to replace a seasoned statesman with a temperamental tycoon who has no respect for the constitution.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle giving his opinion about Ross Perot's presidential campaign (June 1992)

This president is going to lead us out of this recovery. It will happen.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle at a campaign stop at CA State University, Fresno, 1/17/92 (*The Quayle Quarterly*, Spring/Summer 1992)

We have to do more than just elect a new president if we truly want to change this country.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle

Absolutely. I certainly hope I am.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle on whether he is still on the Republican ticket. (*Newsweek*, August 10, 1992.)

We have had a number of discussions and, believe me, if I thought I was hurting the ticket, I'd be gone.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle on Larry King Live when asked if he'd offered to remove himself from the ticket, (CNN, July 22, 1992)

[I will describe] where I come from and what kind of a house I lived in when I was a kid, how many public schools that I went to - five elementary, two high schools - product of a public school system, two jobs in college, went to night school, worked my way through law school.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle telling an interviewer how he will use his acceptance speech at the Republican Convention to reintroduce himself to the public, and to provide details of his hard-working background. (reported in the *NY Times* 8/15/92)

When you start talking about sleaze, I think some in the media ought to look in the mirror. Now what's the motivation of this? I can't think of any other motivating factor other than you want to hurt the President and help Bill Clinton. There's good journalism and there's bad journalism. And I want to say something to you good journalists. You are being overwhelmed by the bad journalism and the bad journalists of America. Good journalism is taking a rumor, taking gossip and going out and investigating it and finding out if it's true, and if there's any credibility at all. And when you find something like this that was investigated and was totally false, you don't print it.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle at a news conference in Huntington Beach, CA, defending George Bush against charges of marital infidelity. (reported in the *NY Times* 8/13/92)

For more than a month the media have been telling us that Bill Clinton and Al Gore are "moderates." Well, if they're moderates, I'm a world champion speller.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle in his acceptance speech during the 1992 Republican National Convention, 8/20/92.

We will never give Bill Clinton the opportunity to be the President of the United States.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle (9/19/92)

If Ross Perot runs, that's good for us. If he doesn't run, it's good for us. [A reporter then asked him what he meant by that] That's for you to figure out.

-- Vice-President Dan Quayle answering a reporter's question on what the effect might be if Perot re-entered the race. He was campaigning in Rockford, Ill., 9/29/92. The Vice-President later clarified the remark saying that Perot will raise issues about the economy, and this is one of the President's strengths. (reported in the *NY Times*, 9/30/92)

He grew up in Washington, D.C., and he's the son of a wealthy U.S. Senator... He went to the most expensive private schools in Washington, D.C., and I'm the product of the public schools... I'm at a big disadvantage, but we'll do all right.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle while in Detroit, 9/30/92 A spokesman later said that he was joking. (reported in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* 10/1/92)

Our trick, Rush - not a trick, our challenge - our challenge is to make the American people comfortable with the leadership George Bush will offer in the next four years.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, on the Rush Limbaugh show. (Reported in the *NY Times*, 7/8/92 - from the *Quayle Quarterly*, Summer/Fall 1992)

If you elect Bill Clinton and Al Gore, that would be a disaster for agriculture. What Bill Clinton says he'll do, well, I'll tell you what I'm going to do is to give a lot of balance to the interest here in California. What we would have

is an environmental summit, and guess who's going to be the head of that environmental summit? It's not going to be the Governor of Arkansas. He's going to put Senator Al Gore in charge of the environmental summit and his book will be the agenda for that environmental summit. I hope everyone reads that book. We wanted to take that book to our debate, but for some reason Al Gore didn't want us to have the book in the debate because we wanted to make sure everyone knew what was in that book. Because that's the agenda for Bill Clinton. That's the agenda of the Clinton-Gore administration. Here's what he says about farmers. Here's what he says about agriculture in that book. He says that farmers strip-mine the land. He says that agriculture is in fact bulldozing the Garden of Eden. Well I tell you what, if you elect Bill Clinton and Al Gore you can say goodbye to water, goodbye to food, and goodbye to your jobs. But come November the 3rd, the American people are going to say good-bye to Bill Clinton and Al Gore.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle in a speech to farmers outside Fresno, California on 10/7/92. (reported in the NY Times 10/8/92)

Bill Clinton's tax-and-spend policies will create a recession in America.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle in New Jersey, 10/19/92. He did not go on to distinguish between the predicted Clinton recession and the current Bush recession. (reported in the Philadelphia Inquirer, 10/20/92)

Remember the last time we had a Democratic president and a Democratic Congress? Remember the 21 percent interest rates? Remember the inflation of 13 percent? Remember the grain embargo? Remember the Soviet Union invasion of Afghanistan?

-- Vice President Dan Quayle in New Jersey to a crowd of teenagers, 10/19/92. The answer to each questions was probably "no." During the Carter administration, these teenagers were probably more interested in diapers and baby formula than in economics and foreign policy. (reported in the Philadelphia Inquirer, 10/20/92)

We have been pushing the idea George Bush is going to make matters much, much worse by holding the line on taxes, a balanced budget amendment...

-- Vice President Dan Quayle while on "CBS This Morning," 10/27/92. (reported by the Chicago Tribune and by the Star-Ledger on 10/28/92)

The President scores much better than Bill Clinton.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, comparing Bush's record of marital infidelity to Clinton's during a televised interview with David Frost, 10/92.

[Republican supporter: You did great, Dan, great. There's just one thing. This abortion thing. You've got to realize that the Democratic position --]

Is extreme? (nodding in anticipation)

[No, is supported by 72 percent of the people in this country. You've got to drop it, Dan.]

-- Vice President Dan Quayle while standing on the stage after the VP debate taking the congratulations of well-wishing Republicans, 10/13/92. Quayle then nodded politely and moved on. (reported in the NY Times 10/14/92)

He is going to be the president of the United States for the next 4 years. He deserves our congratulations. He ran a good campaign. He ran a tough campaign. If he runs the country as well as he ran his campaign, we'll be all right.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle in his concession speech on 11/3/92 in Huntington, Indiana.

Let us get through this week. Let us get through the debate or debates. Let us see George Bush re-elected this November. And then we'll talk about 1994.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle when asked by Bernard Shaw if Bush/Quayle victory in 1992 would make him the heir apparent in 1996, 8/17/92, on CNN. (A NY Times article started: "No Comment Yet On Strategy for '94. But will it be a good year for potatoes?" It then went on to speculate that Kemp, Baker, Bennett and Buchanan won't be running in '94)

Dan Quayle on "Family Values and the Cultural Elite"

Don't forget about the importance of the family. It begins with the family. We're not going to redefine the family. Everybody knows the definition of the family. [Meaningful pause] A child. [Meaningful pause] A mother. [Meaningful pause] A father. There are other arrangements of the family, but that is a family and family values.

I've been very blessed with wonderful parents and a wonderful family, and I am proud of my family. Anybody turns to their family. I have a very good family. I'm very fortunate to have a very good family. I believe very strongly in the family. It's one of the things we have in our platform, is to talk about it.

-- Senator Dan Quayle, 8/27/88 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

I suppose three important things certainly come to my mind that we want to say thank you. The first would be our family. Your family, my family -- which is composed of an immediate family of a wife and three children, a larger family with grandparents and aunts and uncles. We all have our family, whichever that may be ... The very beginnings of civilization, the very beginnings of this country, goes back to the family. And time and time again, I'm often reminded, especially in this Presidential campaign, of the importance of a family, and what a family means to this country. And so when you pay thanks I suppose the first thing that would come to mind would be to thank the Lord for the family.

-- Senator Dan Quayle on the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, 11/6/88 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

It doesn't help matters when prime time TV has Murphy Brown -- a character who supposedly epitomizes today's intelligent, highly paid, professional woman -- mocking the importance of fathers, by bearing a child alone, and calling it just another "lifestyle choice." I know it is not fashionable to talk about moral values, but we need to do it. Even though our cultural leaders in Hollywood, network TV, the national newspapers routinely jeer at them, I think that most of us in this room know that some things are good, and other things are wrong. Now it's time to make the discussion public.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle addressing the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco and criticizing Murphy Brown's decision to NOT have an abortion and to be a single (highly successful) mother, 5/19/92. When told about Quayle's comments, a senior Bush campaign official replied only "Oh, dear." Bush's top aide said, "The world is a lot more complex than Dan would like to believe"

And for those concerned about children growing up in poverty, we should know this: marriage is probably the best anti-poverty program of all.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle addressing the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, 5/19/92

I think especially in her position, a highly successful professional woman, it would be a real exception to have an unwed child.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle to The Chron's Jerry Roberts.

I don't watch it, but I know enough to comment on it.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle defending his opinions about the TV show "Murphy Brown" [Las Vegas RJ 21 May 92]

The intergenerational poverty that troubles us so much today is predominantly a poverty of values.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle

Illegitimacy is something we should talk about in terms of not having it.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, 5/20/92 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

Murphy Brown is doing better than I am. At least she knows she still has a job next year.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, 8/18/92, (reported on KRXX News)

People who bowl vote. Bowlers are not the cultural elite.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle while at a Las Vegas bowling alley. The Vice President bowled 5 times, and knocked down 19 pins. (6/25/92, San Jose Mercury News) The American Bowling Congress projected his score for a full game to be 76. The Detroit average for amateur players is 163 (USA Today, 7/6/92)

I wear their scorn as a badge of honor.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle discussing how he copes with criticism from the media elite, 6/9/92 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

I'm not sure I'm up for a "Murphy Brown" appearance yet. I'm not sure that they want a guest appearance by me either... Well, I'd consider it.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle on Larry King Live. He also said that he'd make a guest appearance as long as his point of view wasn't censored. (CNN, July 22, 1992)

It's sort of like define pornography. You know it when you see one. You know a cultural elitist when you see one.

[Jim Lehrer: Who are they?]

They know who they are.

[Jim Lehrer: Yes, but WHO ARE they?]

You know and I know.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle describing who he is talking about when he refers to the cultural elite, 6/19/92 *The McNeil/Lehrer Report*. (taken from the *Quayle Quarterly*, Summer/Fall 1992)

It shows "us vs. them," and I'm on the "us" side.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle explaining the strategy behind his twitting of "cultural elites." (*The Indianapolis Star*, 6/14/92 - taken from the *Quayle Quarterly*, Summer/Fall 1992)

I just have one thing to say: Murphy, you owe me!

-- Vice President Dan Quayle after Candice Bergen won an Emmy for her role as *Murphy Brown*

[KTLA a.m. co-anchor Barbara Beck, "So, what's your favorite TV program?"] *Murphy Brown* on KTLA/Channel 5-- not!

-- Vice-President Dan Quayle in a television commercial for KTLA's *Murphy Brown* reruns. (reported in the *San Jose Mercury News*, 9/10/92)

Hollywood is the stronghold of the adversary culture. It is on the other side of the cultural divide from Huntington, and they don't like it when someone from Huntington, with Midwestern values, challenges their so-called moral authority.

-- Vice-President Dan Quayle, while campaigning in Kansas City, MO, 9/2 (reported by the *NY times*, 9/3/92)

It was a good campaign contribution to Bill Clinton, but he gets a lot of contributions from Hollywood. We're making great progress with Hollywood. I am convinced because of my speech of several months ago on the poverty of values in this country that Hollywood will begin to reflect our values better.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, when asked about the season opener of the television sitcom, "*Murphy Brown*," while at the Texas Medical Center in Houston. (Reported by UPI, 9/92)

Dan Quayle on Economics

I want to show you an optimistic sign that things are beginning to turn around.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle trying to convince reporters that the economy was doing better because a *Burger King* had a "now hiring" sign in the window. He was campaigning for reelection in Ontario, CA, 1/17/92 (reported in *Esquire*, 8/92)

You have a part-time job, and that's better than no job at all.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle after the manager of the *Burger King* had said that the jobs offered were part-time minimum wage jobs, which didn't pay enough to live on, and that "It's hard to find people who want to actually show up for the job."

Ever heard of this theory of "trickle down?" That's ridiculous. We're talking about trickling up. We're talking about climbing up the ladder.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle trying to encourage teenage students in Salinas, California to push themselves in school. (*The Fresno Bee*, 5/19/92, taken from *The Quayle Quarterly*, Summer/Fall 1992)

Target prices? How that works? I know quite a bit about farm policy. I come from Indiana, which is a farm state. Deficiency payments - which are the key - that is what gets money into the farmer's hands. We got loan, uh, rates, we got target, uh, prices, uh, I have worked very closely with my senior colleague, (Indiana Sen.) Richard Lugar, making sure that the farmers of Indiana are taken care of.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle on being asked to define the term "target prices." Quayle's press secretary then cut short the press conference, after two minutes and 30 seconds.

Tobacco exports should be expanded aggressively because Americans are smoking less.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, 1990 (reported by IPS, 8/14/92)

[David Broder: Doesn't that sound like a case where the public is getting shafted and there may be a need for local regulation or F.C.C. regulation?]

Yeah. There is F.C.C. regulation. There is regulation.

[There's not control of rates or service.]

That's true, but there is ----

[Well, tell me in simple terms that people can understand: Why shouldn't they be regulated?]

O.K., simple terms, here's the choice. Here's the choice in simple terms. Are you going to try to constrain the price increase through regulation or through genuine competition? Our preference is to do it through genuine competition.

[But there isn't genuine competition.]

That's right. Because you have -- but the cities that grant these things can certainly be more competitive and have more openness if they're ---

[So your suggestion is that they go out and have two or three different companies wire these communities to get competition?]

I'm not going to get into the micromanagement of the cable industry.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle on NBC's "Meet the Press" 9/20/92, defending the administration's opposition to the cable-tv reregulation bill. (reported in the NY Times 10/7/92)

If you listen to the news, read the news, you'd think we were still in a recession. Well, we're not in a recession. We've had growth; people need to know that. They need to be more upbeat, more positive...

-- Vice President Dan Quayle in October 91

Need any help?

-- Vice President Dan Quayle in October 91 addressing GM autoworkers in Southgate two weeks before GM announced 74,000 layoffs

I do have a political agenda. It's to have as few regulations as possible.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle

Dan Quayle on "Geography"

Hawaii is a unique state. It is a small state. It is a state that is by itself. It is a -- it is different than the other 49 states. Well, all states are different, but it's got a particularly unique situation.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle when a woman at a hospital in Colorado Springs asked Mr. Quayle last week whether Hawaii's universal health-care plan might serve as a national model. (reported in the NY Times, 10/7/92 and the Ft. Wayne Journal Gazette 10/11/92)

Somewhere between real and real real.

-- Senator Dan Quayle pinpointing their location to reporters aboard the Quayle campaign plane. (reported in Wall Street Journal, 10/21/88)

The US has a vital interest in that area of the country.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle referring to Latin America.

It's wonderful to be here in the great state of Chicago.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, 4/30/91

We have a firm commitment to NATO, we are a *part* of NATO. We have a firm commitment to Europe. We are a *part* of Europe.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle

I love California; I practically grew up in Phoenix.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle

Dan Quayle on "Science and Technology"

Those same asteroids which promise material riches can be a threat as well.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, 5/1/90 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

[Americans will soon observe the 20th anniversary of] Neil Armstrong and Buzz Lukens' walk on the moon.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle confusing the sexual assaulter/Congressman with Astronaut Buzz Aldrin, 7/15/89 Los Angeles Times (7/16/89)

...Buzz Lukens took that fateful step...

-- Vice President Dan Quayle continuing to confuse the sexual assaulter/Congressman with Astronaut Buzz Aldrin, 7/15/89 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

We are leaders of the world of the space program. We have been the leaders of the world of our... of the space program and we're not going to continue where we're going to go, notwithstanding the Soviet Union's demise and collapse - the former Soviet Union - we now have independent republics which used to be called the Soviet Union. Space is the next frontier to be explored. And we're going to explore. Think of all the things we rely upon in space today: communications from... Japan, detection of potential ballistic missile attacks. Ballistic missiles are still here. Other nations do have ballistic missiles. How do you think we were able to detect some of the Scud missiles and things like that? Space, reconnaissance, weather, communications - you name it. We use space a lot today.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle (from "What a Waste it Is to Lose One's Mind" - the Unauthorized Autobiography)

For NASA, space is still a high priority.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, talking to NASA employees, 9/5/90 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

[It's] time for the human race to enter the solar system.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle on the concept of a manned mission to Mars.

Dan Quayle on "Social Issues"

I can see the hate that was there; I can see the bigotry. I can see it from his perspective.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle discussing his impressions of "The Autobiography of Malcolm X." (The Wall Street Journal, 6/8/92 - taken from The Quayle Quarterly, Summer/Fall 1992)

I would guess that there's adequate low-income housing in this country.

-- Senator Dan Quayle, 10/27/88 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

We're going to have the best-educated American people in the world.

-- Senator Dan Quayle, 9/21/88 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

I don't have to experience tragedy to understand it.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle during a photo-op in LA, responding to criticisms that he didn't understand what it meant to live in the "inner city." (WRAL 6/23/92)

When I have been asked during these last weeks who caused the riots and the killing in L.A., my answer has been direct and simple: Who is to blame for the riots? The rioters are to blame. Who is to blame for the killings? The killers are to blame.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle giving an intelligent, in-depth analysis of the LA riots. (during the Commonwealth Club speech 5/19/92)

There is one picture on TV I'll never forget - the picture of a man being pulled from his truck and being beaten to death.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle talking about a LA riot video tape showing 33-year-old Reginald Denny being beaten unconscious. Denny, however, did not die from the attack. (Reported by AP 5/1/92, taken from the Quayle Quarterly, Summer/Fall 1992)

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a cure for AIDS in the marketplace before Magic Johnson gets AIDS?

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, 11/13/91 (CNN) [Note: Magic Johnson is HIV+ and does NOT have AIDS. This quote seemed to imply to me that Dan was expressing his hope for a cure only because a well-liked figure was in danger of dying: "Because Magic is sick, it would be nice to have a cure."]

My viewpoint is that it's more of a choice than a biological situation... I think it is a wrong choice. It is a wrong; it is a wrong choice. I do believe in most cases it certainly is a choice.

-- Vice-President Dan Quayle discussing his views on homosexuality while on "This Week with David Brinkley" 9/13/92. (reported in the San Francisco Chronicle, 9/14/92)

A very positive message.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle after listening to a sermon in which a Georgia minister condemned homosexuality as "satanic." (Newsweek, 11/92)

Dan Quayle on "Women's Issues"

My position is that I understand from a medical situation, immediately after a rape is reported, that a woman normally, in fact, can go to the hospital and have a D and C. At that time... that is before the forming of a life. That is not anything to do with abortion.

-- Senator Dan Quayle explaining that Dilatation and Curettage, a form of abortion which occurs after fertilization, is not really abortion. (The Washington post, 11/03/88)

You're a very strong woman... Though this would be a traumatic experience that you would never forget, I think that you would be very successful in life.

-- Senator Dan Quayle telling an 11-year-old girl why he would want her to have the baby if she were raped by her father. 10/18/88 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

I hope I never have to deal with it. But obviously I would counsel her and talk to her and support her on whatever decision she made.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle responding to Larry King's question of how he would react if his 13-year-old daughter chose to have an abortion. (CNN, July 22, 1992) Marilyn Quayle later remarked that her daughter would "take the child to term."

[Abortion] is not an issue with the American people. It is a figment of your imagination if you think that this is an issue that is talked about a lot.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle to reporters while flying back to Washington on September 23. [From the Associated Press 9/24/92]

Most women do not want to be liberated from their essential natures as women.

-- Vice-President Dan Quayle, while campaigning in Kansas City, MO, 9/2/92 (reported in the NY times, 9/3/92)

Speaking as a man, it's not a woman's issue. Us men are tired of losing our women.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle talking about breast cancer.

We're in Florida.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle explaining why he had just purchased four peaches (and no citrus fruits -- for which Florida is famous) at a Publix supermarket in Oakland Park, Florida. Georgia (which IS famous for peaches) did not gain from the transaction, however; the peaches were from Chile. (The Sunstenial)

Dan Quayle on "Natural Disasters"

Well, it looks as if the top part fell on the bottom part.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle referring to the collapsed section of the 880 freeway after the San Francisco earthquake of 1989. [this may be a joke; the source is unclear. but it's still funny]

I would like to express my sympathy to all those impacted by this disaster.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle standing in front of the collapsed section of highway caused by the Loma Prieta quake. (CNN)

I couldn't help but be impressed by the magnitude of the earthquake.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, stepping out of the helicopter upon arrival at Alameda Naval Air Station.

It's a very valuable function and requirement that you're performing, so have a great day and keep a stiff upper lip.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle speaking to oil spill clean-up workers at Prince William Sound, May, 1989

The President is going to benefit from me reporting directly to him when I arrive.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle speaking to oil spill clean-up workers at Prince William Sound, May, 1989

They need help, and we have helped, and we are here to help. And we are helping, and we're going to continue to help.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle discussing federal help in the Chicago floods. (Chicago Tribune, 4/24/92 - taken from *The Quayle Quarterly*, Summer/Fall 1992)

The destruction, it is just very heart-rendering.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle attempting to say the SF earthquake wreckage was heart-rending (Newsweek 10/30/89)

Dan Quayle on "International Affairs"

[The US] condones violence in El Salvador.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle reveals what people have known for years. 1/31/89 (reported in *Esquire*, 8/92)

We expect them [Salvadoran officials] to work toward the elimination of human rights in accordance with the pursuit of Justice.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, 2/3/89 (reported in *The Chicago Tribune*, 2/4/89)

El Salvador is a democracy so it's not surprising that there are many voices to be heard here. Yet in my conversations with Salvadorans... I have heard a single voice.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle

Japan is an important ally of ours. Japan and the United States of the Western industrialized capacity, 60 percent of the GNP, two countries. That's a statement in and of itself.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, 10/2/89 (reported in *Esquire*, 8/92)

Who would have predicted... that Dubcek, who brought the tanks in Czechoslovakia in 1968 is now being proclaimed a hero in Czechoslovakia. Unbelievable.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle Actually, Dubcek was the leader of the Prague Spring.

Senator Bentsen talks about recapturing the foreign markets. Well, I'll tell you one way that we're not going to recapture the foreign markets, and that is, in fact, we have another Jimmy Carter grain embargo, Jimmy Carter grain embargo. Jimmy Carter's grain embargo set the American farmer back.

-- Senator Dan Quayle. *Washington Post* transcript (10/6/88)

Perestroika is nothing more than refined Stalinism.

-- Senator Dan Quayle (9/04/88) (from the Book "*The Clothes have No Emperor*")

We are ready for any unforeseen event that may or may not occur.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle talking about the Mideast situation, 9/22/90 (reported in *Esquire*, 8/92)

[The U.S. victory in Gulf war was] a stirring victory for the forces of aggression.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, 4/11/91 (reported in *Esquire*, 8/92)

I'm ready.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle describing his ability to take over the presidency after President Bush vomits and collapses in Tokyo, 1/8/92 (reported in *Esquire*, 8/92)

Dan Quayle on "National Defense"

Right now we have a theory of mutually assured destruction that supposedly provides for peace and stability, and it's worked. But that doesn't mean that we can't build upon a concept of MAD where both sides are vulnerable to another attack. Why wouldn't an enhanced deterrent, a more stable peace, a better prospect to denying the ones who enter conflict in the first place to have a reduction of offensive systems and an introduction to defensive capability. I believe that is the route this country will eventually go.

-- Senator Dan Quayle discussing nuclear weapons at a speech in Chicago. (reported in the *NY Times* 9/9/88)

We should develop anti-satellite weapons because we could not have prevailed without them in 'Red Storm Rising'.

-- Senator Dan Quayle, 9/6/88 (reported in *Esquire*, 8/92) Also reported by *Newsweek*, 9/88

[The US is] naked, absolutely nude, to attack [by the Soviets]

-- Senator Dan Quayle at the Ohio State Fair, 8/20/88 (reported in *Esquire*, 8/92)

Vietnam is a jungle. You had jungle warfare. Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, you have sand. [There is no need to worry about a protracted war because] from a historical basis, Middle East conflicts do not last a long time.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, 10/2/90 (reported in *Esquire*, 8/92)

I got through a number of things in the area of defense, like showing the importance of cruise missiles and getting them more accurate so that we can have precise precision.

-- Senator Dan Quayle referring to his legislative accomplishments. (reported in *The NY Times* 8/26/88)

My opponent knows less about national defense than I know about spelling. Even I know it's Cruise missiles, not Patriot missiles that go through doors and chimneys.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle correcting a Bill Clinton misstatement, 9/92. (seen on CNN; the CNN anchorwoman corrected Quayle when the story was over.)

I guess you'll have to ask the details to the management, I am here. The Governor and I are announcing this today. It was just signed off on by the Secretary of Defense as something that we have been monitoring, and the Governor obviously has been very involved in this. And we're making this announcement today.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle at a factory near Detroit in August, 1992, showing just how familiar he was with the details of a \$300 million plan to upgrade the Army's M-1 tanks. (reported in the *NY Times* 10/7/92)

Plans for the Future

Doing it the right way is not to speculate about returning in four years or what not. All right, folks. Sine die.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle when asked if he plans to be back in power some day. He was borrowing the Latin expression that Congress uses when it adjourns with no fixed date of return. He said this during an interview on 1/15/93. (*Associated Press*, 1/21/93)

I'm not interested in running for governor or any other public office. If I ever run for public office again, it will be for president.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle in an interview with *The Washington Post* on 1/13/93.

You'll have to ask her that.

-- Private Citizen Dan Quayle to reporters when asked if "a Quayle" might run for governor of Indiana. (reported in *Newsweek*, 7/5/93, pg 13)

Huh?

It's rural America. It's where I came from. We always refer to ourselves as real America. Rural America, real America, real, real, America.

-- Senator Dan Quayle, 10/20/88 (reported in *Esquire*, 8/92)

Let me tell you something. As we were walking around in the store, Marilyn and I were just really impressed by all the novelties and the different types of little things that you could get for Christmas. And all the people that would help you, they were dressed up in things that said 'I believe in Santa Claus.' And the only thing that I could think is that I believe in George Bush.

-- Senator Dan Quayle at a garden center and produce store in Baltimore (from the *Los Angeles Times*, Douglas Jehl, 11/6/88)

You all look like happy campers to me. Happy campers you are, happy campers you have been, and, as far as I am concerned, happy campers you will always be.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, to the American Samoans, whose capital Quayle pronounces "Pogo Pogo," 4/25/89 (reported in *Esquire*, 8/92)

It's a good Supreme Court. They're lawyers... they're judges... they're appointed for life.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle on being asked about the verdict in the Supreme Court ruling on the PA abortion law case. (Broadcast on ABC's "Prime Time Live," August 10, 1992)

We will move forward, we will move upward, and yes, we will move onward.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle to a group of students at a Chicago school, 4/24/89 (reported in *Esquire*, 8/92)

I've heard people say that [I have a short attention span]. I don't feel I do, because when I'm interested in something I'll stay in focus as long as it is necessary... If you get off on something I'm not very interested in, it's very easy for me to block it out. It's easy for me to block things out.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, 12-Jan-92

I was known as the chief grave robber of my state.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle

Things Dan Did

Dan got into law school through an experimental Indiana University program intended to offer 'equal opportunity' to minorities, the economically disadvantaged and other students of different viewpoints and backgrounds.

Dan Quayle had a trip planned to Beijing, but was worried because of the turmoil at that end. His security advisor however informed him that it was pretty safe for D.Q. as, "They are only harassing intellectuals."

Republican activist Dana Reed said he was amused recently when he received an unsolicited certificate of commendation signed by Vice President Dan Quayle. The honor was awarded to Reed as "a champion of the traditional American values of family, faith, hard work and morality." Reed quipped, "I'm twice-divorced and 'Murphy Brown' is my favorite TV show" (reported July, 92 by the Orange County Register)

On 10/11/88 Dan Quayle held a pumpkin next to his head. (reported in Esquire 8/92)

On 6/13/89, Dan Quayle posed in El Salvador holding a grenade launcher. Unbeknownst to him, it was aimed at his elbow. (reported in Esquire 8/92)

Quayle was very enthusiastic about signing author Tom Clancy to the National Space Council as an unpaid consultant (see his quote re: Red Storm Rising). Clancy, however, was not Quayle's first choice; that honor went to famed aviator Clutch Cargo. A plan to approach him and offer him the position was scuttled when it was discovered that Mr. Cargo is a fictional character. (reported in The New Republic, 7/3/89)

During the White House Easter Egg Roll of 1991, Quayle signed autographs using only his finger. He had prepared pre-signed cards which his aides handed out while he made signing gestures. This allowed him to move briskly and efficiently through the crowd, said his spokesman.

Dan Quayle, in April 1991, was concerned that his advisors may be getting out of touch with "Real Americans." In order to combat this, he suggested that they read People magazine.

On 8/13/91 lawyer Dan Quayle tells the American Bar Association that the US has too many lawyers. He is quickly scolded by another speaker. (reported in Esquire 8/92)

While discussing the terms of the vice-presidential debate, Quayle's aide suggested that "props" be allowed, mainly because the Vice-President wanted to read directly from Al Gore's book on the environment, "Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit." Gore's people agreed, saying that the Senator would then use a potato as a prop. Quayle quickly abandoned the proposal. (reported in The NY Times, 10/6/92)

It seems that Dan had let his Indiana driver's license expire in August of '90, and he had to take the written and driving tests when he returned to Indiana. His staff was unable to exert enough influence over the DMV to get them to waive the test provisions.

In his last days as a lame-duck vice president, Dan Quayle spent almost two-thirds of the residential entertainment money that was to last Al Gore most of this year. In less than three months, Quayle spent \$57,259 of the \$90,000 entertainment fund for 1993. (Scripps Howard News Service, 5-28-93)

The Quayle Quote File Hall of Fame

It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle

I believe we are on an irreversible trend toward more freedom and democracy - but that could change.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, 5/22/89 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

The Holocaust was an obscene period in our nation's history. I mean in this century's history. But we all lived in this century. I didn't live in this century.

-- Senator Dan Quayle, 9/15/88 (reported in Esquire, 8/92, The New Yorker, 10/10/88, p.102)

This election is about who's going to be the next President of the United States!

-- Senator Dan Quayle, 9/2/88 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

One word sums up probably the responsibility of any vice president, and that one word is 'to be prepared'.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, 12/6/89 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

If we do not succeed, then we run the risk of failure.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, to the Phoenix Republican Forum, 3/23/90 (reported in Esquire, 8/92) Also reported by Reuters, 5/2/90

Let me just tell you how thrilling it really is, and how, what a challenge it is, because in 1988 the question is whether we're going forward to tomorrow or whether we're going to go past to the -- to the back!

-- Senator Dan Quayle, 8/17/88 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

What a waste it is to lose one's mind. Or not to have a mind is being very wasteful. How true that is.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle winning friends while speaking to the United Negro College Fund, 5/9/89 This gem has been added to Bartlett's "Familiar Quotations." (reported in Esquire, 8/92) (reported in the NY Times, 12/9/92)

Take a breath, Al... Inhale.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle politely cutting off Senator Al Gore during the VP Debate in Atlanta, 10/13/92. Gov. Zell Miller of Georgia said that Dan Quayle reminded him of one of his grandkids when they've had too much sugar.

Republicans understand the importance of bondage between a mother and child.

-- Senator Dan Quayle. US News and World Report (10/10/88)

Hawaii has always been a very pivotal role in the Pacific. It is IN the Pacific. It is a part of the United States that is an island that is right here.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, Hawaii, 4/25/89 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

Welcome to President Bush, Mrs. Bush, and my fellow astronauts.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle addressing the 20th anniversary celebration of the moon landing, 7/20/89 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

Mars is essentially in the same orbit... Mars is somewhat the same distance from the Sun, which is very important. We have seen pictures where there are canals, we believe, and water. If there is water, that means there is oxygen. If oxygen, that means we can breathe.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle, 8/11/89 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

The loss of life will be irreplaceable.

-- Vice President Dan Quayle after the San Francisco earthquake, 10/19/89 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

Bobby Knight told me this: "There is nothing that a good defense cannot beat a better offense." In other words a good offense wins.

-- Senator Dan Quayle, in a speech to the City Club of Chicago, comparing the offensive capabilities of the Warsaw Pact with the defensive system of NATO, 9/8/88 (reported in Esquire, 8/92)

Darwin Awards

This is a compilation of a few files sent to me. For more, visit the Darwin Awards website!

Date Received: Thu, 13 Feb 1997

Subject: The 1997 Darwin Awards (fwd)

The Darwin Awards are given posthumously to those better off for no longer contributing to the human gene pool.

You may recall last year's Darwin Award winner: The man who found out moments before making a 300 MPH dent in an Arizona cliff that the JATO (jet assist take off) unit he'd strapped to his car could not be turned off once it was turned on.

Darwin Awards are (by definition) granted posthumously.

The 1996 nominees are:

[San Jose Mercury News] An unidentified man, using a shotgun like a club to break a former girlfriend's windshield, accidentally shot himself to death when the gun discharged, blowing a hole in his gut.

[Hickory Daily Record 12/21/92] Ken Charles Barger, 47, accidentally shot himself to death in December in Newton, N.C., when, awakening to the sound of a ringing telephone beside his bed, he reached for the phone but grabbed instead a Smith & Wesson .38 Special, which discharged when he drew it to his ear.

[Unknown, 25 March] A terrible diet and room with no ventilation are being blamed for the death of a man who was killed by his own gas. There was no mark on his body but autopsy showed large amounts of methane gas in his system. His diet had consisted primarily of beans and cabbage (and a couple of other things). It was just the right combination of foods. It appears that the man died in his sleep from breathing from the poisonous cloud that was hanging over his bed. Had he been outside or had his windows been opened, it wouldn't have been fatal. But the man was shut up in his near airtight bedroom. He was "... a big man with a huge capacity for creating [this deadly gas]." Three of the rescuers got sick and one was hospitalized.

[Reuters, Mississauga, Ontario] Man slips, falls 23 stories to his death. A man cleaning a bird feeder on his balcony of his condominium apartment in this Toronto suburb slipped and fell 23 stories to his death, police said Monday. Stefan Macko, 55, was standing on a wheeled chair Sunday when the accident occurred, said Inspector D'Arcy Honer of the Peel regional police. "It appears the chair moved and he went over the balcony," Honer said. "It's one of those freak accidents. No foul play is suspected."

[UPI, Toronto] Police said a lawyer demonstrating the safety of windows in a downtown Toronto skyscraper crashed through a pane with his shoulder and plunged 24 floors to his death. A police spokesman said Garry Hoy, 39, fell into the courtyard of the Toronto Dominion Bank Tower early Friday evening as he was explaining the strength of the building's windows to visiting law students. Hoy previously had conducted demonstrations of window strength according to police reports. Peter Lauwers, managing partner of the firm Holden Day Wilson, told the Toronto Sun newspaper that Hoy was "one of the best and brightest" members of the 200-man association. [ed. note - I think this guy should win, not only because he removed some incredibly stupid genes from the pool, but he also eliminated a lawyer in the process... :] (best and brightest? whatever does that say about the rest of them?)

[AP, Cairo, Egypt, 31 Aug 1995 CAIRO, Egypt (AP)] Six people drowned Monday while trying to rescue a chicken that had fallen into a well in southern Egypt. An 18-year-old farmer was the first to descend into the 60-foot well. He drowned, apparently after an undercurrent in the water pulled him down, police said. His sister and two brothers, none of whom could swim well, went in one by one to help him, but also drowned. Two elderly farmers then came to help, but they apparently were pulled by the same undercurrent. The bodies of the six were later pulled out of the well in the village of Nazlat Imara, 240 miles south of Cairo. The chicken was also pulled out. It survived.

[Times of London] A thief who sneaked into a hospital was scarred for life when he tried to get a suntan. After evading security staff at Odstock Hospital in Salisbury, Wiltshire, and helping himself to doctor's paging devices, the thief spotted a vertical sunbed. He walked into the unit and removed his clothes for a 45-minute tan.

However, the high-voltage UV machine at the hospital, which is renowned for its treatment of burns victims, has a maximum dosage of 10 seconds. After lying on the bed for almost 300 times the recommended maximum time, the man was covered in blisters. Hours later, when the pain of the burns became unbearable, he went to Southampton General Hospital, 20 miles away, in Hampshire. Staff became suspicious because he was wearing a doctor's coat. After tending his wounds they called the police. Southampton police said: "This man broke into Odstock and decided he fancied a quick suntan. Doctors say he is going to be scarred for life.

More intelligence-challenged people

45 year-old Amy Brasher was arrested in San Antonio, Texas, after a mechanic reported to police that 18 packages of marijuana were packed in the engine compartment of the car which she had brought to the mechanic for an oil change. According to police, Brasher later said that she didn't realize that the mechanic would have to raise the hood to change the oil.

Portsmouth, R.I. Police charged Gregory Rosa, 25, with a string of vending machine robberies in January when he: 1. fled from police inexplicably when they spotted him loitering around a vending machine and 2. later tried to post his \$400 bail in coins.

Karen Lee Joachimi, 20, was arrested in Lake City, Florida, for robbery of a Howard Johnson's motel. She was armed with only an electric chainsaw, which was not plugged in.

The Ann Arbor News crime column reported that a man walked into Burger King in Ypsilanti, Michigan at 7:50 am, flashed a gun and demanded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order. When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast. The man, frustrated, walked away.

In case you've forgotten about the 1995 awardees, some of them are listed below:

James Burns, 34, of Alamo, Mich., was killed in March as he was trying to repair what police described as a "farm-type truck." Burns got a friend to drive the truck on a highway while Burns hung underneath so that he could ascertain the source of a troubling noise. Burns' clothes caught on something, however, and the other man found Burns "wrapped in the drive shaft." [Kalamazoo Gazette, 4-1-95]

Same thing up here in MI. Seems some poor fella thought it would be a good idea to "move" a downed wire from his car. Newspaper reports it took a FULL MINUTE of neighbors whacking away at him with a 2x4 to free their freshly fried former friend from the fatal flashing.

Bowling Green, Ohio, student Robert Ricketts, 19, had his head bloodied when he was struck by a Conrail train. He told police he was trying to see how close to the moving train he could place his head without getting hit.

In Wesley Chapel, Florida, Joseph Aaron, 20, was hit in the leg with pieces of the bullet he fired at the exhaust pipe of his car. When repairing the car, he needed to bore a hole in the pipe. When he couldn't find a drill, he tried to shoot a hole in it. David C. Thornton

Date Received: Tue, 8 Apr 1997

This story was clipped from the recent Darwin awards, which people get for doing something incredibly stupid. True stories. Here's the winner:

Larry Walters is among the relatively few who have actually turned their dreams into reality. His story is true, as hard as you may find it to believe. [He went on to a Letterman show followed by a lawn-chair party]. Larry was a truck driver, but his lifelong dream was to fly. When he graduated from high school, he joined the Air Force in hopes of becoming a pilot. Unfortunately, poor eyesight disqualified him. So, when he finally left the service, he had to satisfy himself with watching others fly the fighter jets that crisscrossed the skies over his backyard. As he sat there in his lawn chair, he dreamed about the magic of flying. Then one day, Larry had an idea. He went

down to the local Army-Navy surplus store and bought forty-five weather balloons and several tanks of helium. These were not your brightly colored party balloons; these were heavy-duty spheres measuring more than four feet across when fully inflated. Back in his yard, Larry used straps to attach the balloons to his lawn chair. He anchored the chair to the bumper of his jeep and inflated the balloons with helium. Then, he packed a few sandwiches and drinks and a loaded BB gun, figuring he could pop a few balloons when it was time to return to earth. His preparations complete, Larry sat in his chair and cut the anchoring cord. His plan was to lazily float into the sky, and eventually back to terra firma. But things didn't quite work out that way. When Larry cut the cord, he didn't float lazily up; he shot up as if fired from a cannon! Nor did he go up a couple hundred feet. He climbed and climbed until he finally leveled off at eleven thousand feet! At that height, he could hardly risk deflating any of the balloons, lest he unbalance the load and really experience flying. So, he stayed up there, sailing around for fourteen hours, totally at a loss about how to get down. Eventually, Larry drifted into the approach corridor for Los Angeles International Airport. A Pan Am pilot radioed the tower about passing a guy in a lawn chair at eleven thousand feet, with a gun in his lap. (Now there's a conversation I would have given anything to have heard!) LAX is right on the ocean, and you may know that at nightfall, the winds on the coast begin to change. So, as dusk fell, Larry began drifting out to sea. At that point, the Navy dispatched a helicopter to rescue him, but the rescue team had a hard time getting to him because the draft from the helicopter's propeller kept pushing his home-made contraption farther and farther away. Eventually, they were able to hover above him and drop a rescue line, with which they gradually hauled him back to safety. As soon as Larry hit the ground, he was arrested. But as he was led away in handcuffs, a television reporter called out, "Sir, why'd you do it?" Larry stopped, eyed the man, then replied nonchalantly, "A man can't just sit around!"

Date Received: Fri, 25 Jul 1997

Subject: Darwin Award Candidates

THE DARWIN AWARDS are given every year to bestow upon (the remains of) that individual, who through single-minded self-sacrifice, has done the most to remove undesirable elements from the human gene pool.

Here are some current candidates:

[AP, Mammoth Lakes, CA] A San Anselmo man died yesterday when he hit a lift tower at the Mammoth Mountain ski area while riding down the slope on a foam pad, authorities said.

Matthew David Hubal, 22, was pronounced dead at Centinela Mammoth Hospital. The accident occurred about 3 a.m., the Mono County Sheriff's Department said. Hubal and his friends apparently had hiked up a ski run called Stump Alley and undid some yellow foam protectors from the lift towers, said Lieutenant Mike Donnelly of the Mammoth Lakes Police Department. The pads are used to protect skiers who might hit the towers. The group apparently used the pads to slide down the ski slope and Hubal crashed into a tower. It has since been investigated that the tower he hit was the one with its pad removed.

[AP, St. Louis, MO] Robert Puelo, 32, was apparently being disorderly in a St. Louis market. When the clerk threatened to call police, Puelo grabbed a hot dog, shoved it in his mouth, and walked out without paying for it. Police found him unconscious in front of the store: paramedics removed the six-inch wiener from his throat, where it had choked him to death.

[UPI, Spain] To poacher Marino Malerba, who shot a stag standing above him on an overhanging rock -- and was killed instantly when it fell on him.

Man Loses Face at Party

[Associated Press, Kincaid, W. VA] A man at a party popped a blasting cap into his mouth and bit down, triggering an explosion that blew off his lips, teeth and tongue, state police said Wednesday.

Jerry Stromyer, 24, of Kincaid, bit the blasting cap as a prank during a party late Tuesday night, said Cpl. M.D. Payne.

"Another man had it in an aquarium, hooked to a battery, and was trying to explode it," Payne said. "It wouldn't go off and this guy said, 'I'll show you how to set it off.'" "He put it in his mouth and bit down. It blew all his teeth off, his tongue and his lips," Payne said. Stromyer was listed in guarded condition Wednesday with extensive facial injuries, according to a spokesman at Charleston Area Medical Division. "I just can't imagine anyone doing something like that," Payne said.

[UPI, Portland, OR] Doctors at Portland's University Hospital said Wednesday an Oregon man shot through the skull by a hunting arrow is lucky to be alive, and will be released soon from the hospital.

Tony Roberts, 25, lost his right eye last weekend during an initiation into a men's rafting club, Mountain Men Anonymous, in Grants Pass, Ore. A friend tried to shoot a beer can off his head, but the arrow entered Roberts' right eye. Doctors said had the arrow gone 1 millimeter to the left, a major blood vessel would have cut and Roberts would have died instantly.

Neurosurgeon Dr. Johnny Delashaw at the University Hospital in Portland said the arrow went through 8 to 10 inches of brain, with the tip protruding at the rear of his skull, yet somehow managed to miss all major blood vessels. Delashaw also said had Robert tried to pull the arrow out on his own he surely would have killed himself. Roberts admitted afterwards he and his friends had been drinking that afternoon. Said Roberts, "I feel so dumb about this."

Pillsbury Dough Boy Wanted for Attempted Murder.

[AP, Arkansas] A woman named Linda went to Arkansas last week to visit her in-laws, and while there, went to a store. She parked next to a car with a woman sitting in it, her eyes closed and hands behind her head, apparently sleeping. When Linda came out a while later, she again saw the woman, her hands still behind her head but with her eyes open. The woman looked very strange, so Linda tapped on the window and said "Are you okay?"

The woman answered "I've been shot in the head, and I am holding my brains in." Linda didn't know what to do; so she ran into the store where store officials called the paramedics. They had to break into the car because the door was locked.

When they got in, they found that the woman had bread dough on the back of her head and in her hands. A Pillsbury biscuit canister had exploded, apparently from the heat in the car, making a loud explosion like that of a gunshot, and hit her in the head. When she reached back to find what it was, she felt the dough and thought it was her brains. She passed out from fright at first, then attempted to hold her brains in!

Date Received: 30 Sep 1997

Subject: misc.

Darwin must have been wrong....

Police in Wichita, Kansas, arrested a 22-year-old man at an airport hotel after he tried to pass two (counterfeit) \$16 bills.

A man in Johannesburg, South Africa, shot his 49-year-old friend in the face, seriously wounding him, while the two practiced shooting beer cans off each other's head.

A company trying to continue its five-year perfect safety record showed its workers a film aimed at encouraging the use of safety goggles on the job. According to Industrial Machinery News, the film's depiction of gory industrial accidents was so graphic that twenty-five workers suffered minor injuries in their rush to leave the screening room. Thirteen others fainted, and one man required seven stitches after he cut his head falling off a chair while watching the film.

The Chico, California, City Council enacted a ban on nuclear weapons, setting a \$500 fine for anyone detonating one within city limits.

A bus carrying five passengers was hit by a car in St. Louis, but by the time police arrived on the scene, fourteen pedestrians had boarded the bus and had begun to complain of whiplash injuries and back pain.

Swedish business consultant Ulf af Trolle labored 13 years on a book about Swedish economic solutions. He took the 250-page manuscript to be copied, only to have it reduced to 50,000 strips of paper in seconds when a worker confused the copier with the shredder.

A convict broke out of jail in Washington D.C., then a few days later accompanied his girlfriend to her trial for robbery. At lunch, he went out for a sandwich. She needed to see him, and thus had him paged. Police officers recognized his name and arrested him as he returned to the courthouse in a car he had stolen over the lunch hour.

When two service station attendants in Ionia, Michigan, refused to hand over the cash to an intoxicated robber, the man threatened to call the police. They still refused, so the robber called the police and was arrested.

A Los Angeles man who later said he was "tired of walking," stole a steamroller and led police on a 5 mph chase until an officer stepped aboard and brought the vehicle to a stop.

Date Received: Wed, 21 Oct 1998

Subject: THE WORLD IS CRAMMED WITH STUPID PEOPLE

Hey, guys. Just got this from a friend-- thought I'd pass it along. It is hard to believe that all of these are true, but they're funny anyway.

SUBJECT: THE WORLD IS CRAMMED WITH STUPID PEOPLE

They have finally been released! For those not familiar with the Darwin Award - It's an annual honor given to the person who provided the universal human gene pool the biggest service by getting killed in the most extraordinarily stupid way. As always, competition this year has been keen again. Some candidates appear to have trained their whole lives for this event!

DARWIN AWARD CANDIDATES

In September in Detroit, a 41-year-old man got stuck and drowned in two feet of water after squeezing head first through an 18-inch-wide sewer grate to retrieve his car keys.

In October, a 49-year-old San Francisco stockbroker, who "totally zoned when he ran," according to his wife, accidentally jogged off a 200-foot-high cliff on his daily run.

Buxton, NC: A man died on a beach when an 8-foot-deep hole he had dug into the sand caved in as he sat inside it. Beachgoers said Daniel Jones, 21 dug the hole for fun, or protection from the wind, and had been sitting in a beach chair at the bottom Thursday afternoon when it collapsed, burying him beneath 5 feet of sand. People on the beach, on the outer banks, used their hands and shovels, trying to claw their way to Jones, a resident of Woodbridge, VA, but could not reach him. It took rescue workers using heavy equipment almost an hour to free him while about 200 people looked on. Jones was pronounced dead at a hospital.

In February, Santiago Alvarado, 24, was killed in Lompoc, CA, as he fell face-first through the ceiling of a bicycle shop he was burglarizing. Death was caused when the long flashlight he had placed in his mouth (to keep his hands free) rammed into the base of his skull as he hit the floor.

According to police in Dahlgonega, GA, ROTC cadet Nick Berrena, 20, was stabbed to death in January by fellow cadet Jeffrey Hoffman, 23, who was trying to prove that a knife could not penetrate the flak vest Berrena was wearing.

Sylvester Briddell, Jr, 26, was killed in February in Selbyville, Del, as he won a bet with friends who said he would not put a revolver loaded with four bullets into his mouth and pull the trigger.

In February, according to police in Windsor, Ontario, Daniel Kolta, 27, and Randy Taylor, 33, died in a head-on collision, thus earning a tie in the game of chicken they were playing with their snowmobiles.

In September, a 7-year-old boy fell off a 100-foot-high bluff near Ozark, AR, after he lost his grip swinging on a cross that marked the spot where another person had fallen to his death in 1990.

DARWIN AWARD HONORABLE MENTIONS

In Guthrie, OK, in October, Jason Heck tried to kill a millipede with a shot from his 22-caliber rifle, but the bullet ricocheted off a rock near the hole and hit pal Antonio Martinez in the head, fracturing his skull.

In Elyria, Ohio, in October, Martyn Eskins, attempting to clean out cobwebs in his basement, declined to use a broom in favor of a propane torch and caused a fire that burned the first and second floors of his house.

Paul Stiller, 47, was hospitalized in Andover Township, NJ, in September, and his wife Bonnie was also injured, by a quarter-stick of dynamite that blew up in their car. While driving around at 2 AM, the bored couple lit the dynamite and tried to toss it out the window to see what would happen, but they apparently failed to notice that the window was closed.

Taking "Amateur Night" Too Far: In Betulia, Colombia, an annual festival in November includes five days of amateur bullfighting. This year, no bull was killed, but dozens of matadors were injured, including one gored in the head and one Bobbittized. Said one participant, "It's just one bull against [a town of] a thousand Morons."

SOME MORE ALSO RANS

Four people were injured in a string of related bizarre accidents. Sherry Moeller was admitted with a head wound caused by flying masonry, Tim Vegas was diagnosed with a mild case of whiplash and contusions on his chest, arms and face, Bryan Corcoran suffered torn gum tissue, and Pamela Klesick's first two fingers of her right hand had been bitten off. Moeller had just dropped her husband off for his first day of work and, in addition to a good-bye kiss, she flashed her breasts at him. "I'm still not sure why I did it," she said later "I was really close to the car, so I didn't think anyone would see. Besides, it couldn't have been for more than two seconds". However, cab driver Vegas did see and lost control of his cab, running over the curb and into the corner of the Johnson Medical Building. Inside, Klesick, a dental technician, was cleaning Corcoran's teeth. The crash of the cab against the building making her jump, tearing Corcoran's gums with a cleaning pick. In shock, he bit down, severing two fingers from Klesick's hand. Moeller's wound was caused by a falling piece of the medical building.

TAOS, NM - A woman went to a poison control center after eating three birth-control vaginal inserts. Her English was so bad she had to draw a picture describing how she believed she had poisoned herself. A translator arrived shortly thereafter and confirmed doctors' suspicions. Marie Valishnokov thought the inserts were some kind of candy or gum, being unable to read the foil wrappers. After the third one, she realized something was wrong when her throat and mouth began to fill with a sour-tasting foam. She ran for the Poison Control Center, only a few blocks away where doctors were able to flush the foam from her mouth, throat and stomach with no ill effects.

La Grange, GA - Attorney Antonio Mendoza was released from a trauma center after having a cell phone removed from his rectum. "My dog drags the thing all over the house," he said later. "He must have dragged it into the shower. I slipped on the tile, tripped against the dog and sat down right on the thing." The extraction took more than three hours due to the fact that the cover to Mr. Mendoza's phone had opened during insertion. "He was a real trooper during the entire episode," said Dr. Dennis Crobe. "Tony just cracked jokes and really seemed to be enjoying himself. Three times during the extraction his phone rang and each time, he made jokes

about it that just had us rolling on the floor. By the time we finished, we really did expect to find an answering machine in there".

TACOMA, WA - Kerry Bingham, had been drinking with several friends when one of them said they knew a person who had bungee-jumped from the Tacoma Narrows Bridge in the middle of traffic. The conversation grew more heated and at least 10 men trooped along the walkway of the bridge at 4:30 am. Upon arrival at the midpoint of the bridge they discovered that no one had brought bungee rope. Bingham, who had continued drinking, volunteered and pointed out that a coil of lineman's cable lay nearby. One end of the cable was secured around Bingham's leg and the other end was tied to the bridge. His fall lasted 40 feet before the cable tightened and tore his foot off at the ankle. He miraculously survived his fall into the icy river water and was rescued by two nearby fishermen. "All I can say," said Bingham, "is that God was watching out for me on that night. There's just no other explanation for it." Bingham's foot was never located. (Why will my Phoenix friends not be surprised about this family's gene pool?!)

BREMERTON, WA - Christopher Coulter and his wife, Emily, were engaging in bondage games when Christopher suggested spreading peanut butter on his genitals and letting Rudy, their Irish Setter, lick them clean. Sadly, Rudy lost control and began tearing at Christopher's penis and testicles. Rudy refused to obey commands and a panicked Emily threw a half-gallon bottle of perfume at the dog. The bottle broke, covering the dog and Christopher with perfume. Startled, Rudy leaped back, tearing away the penis. While trying to get her unconscious husband in the car to take him to the hospital, Emily fell twice, injuring her wrist and ankle. Christopher's penis was in a styrofoam ice cooler "Chris is just plain lucky," said the surgeon who spent eight hours reattaching the penis. "Believe it or not, the perfume turned out to be very fortuitous. The high alcohol content, which must have been excruciatingly painful, helped sterilize the wound. Also, aside from it being removed, the damage caused by the dog's teeth to the penis per se is minimal. It's really a very stringy piece of flesh. Mr. Coulter stands an excellent chance of regaining the use of his limb because of this." Washington Animal Control has no plans to seize Rudy.

AND THE WINNER:

PADERBORN, GERMANY - Overzealous zookeeper Friedrich Riesfeldt fed his constipated elephant Stefan 22 doses of animal laxative and more than a bushel of berries, figs and prunes before the plugged-up pachyderm finally let fly-and suffocated the keeper under 200 pounds of poop. Investigators say ill-fated Friedrich, 46, was attempting to give the ailing elephant an olive-oil enema when the relieved beast unloaded on him like a dump truck full of mud. "The sheer force of the elephant's unexpected defecation knocked Mr. Riesfeldt to the ground, where he struck his head on a rock and lay unconscious as the elephant continued to evacuate his bowels on top of him," said flabbergasted Paderborn police detective Erik Dern. "With no one there to help him, he lay under all that dung for at least an hour before a watchman came along, and during that time he suffocated. "It seems to be just one of those freak accidents that happen."

(Editor's note: This story is filed under "urban legends" at the Darwin Awards website.

Date Received: Wed, 27 Jan 1999

Subject: 1999 Darwin Awards (fwd)

For those of you who might not have heard of the Darwin Awards, this is an award given to a person who does the world a great service by taking himself/herself OUT of the gene pool, thus ending the perpetuation of that particular brand of stupidity....

GRAVITY KILLS

A 22-year-old Reston man was found dead yesterday after he tried to use occy straps (the stretchy little ropes with hooks on each end) to bungee jump off a 70-foot railroad trestle, police said. Fairfax County (Virginia) police said Eric A. Barcia, a fast-food worker, taped a bunch of these straps together, wrapped an end around

one foot, anchored the other end to the trestle at Lake Accotink Park, jumped ... and hit the pavement. Warren Carmichael, a police spokesman, said investigators think Barcia was alone because his car was found nearby. "The length of the cord that he had assembled was greater than the distance between the trestle and the ground," Carmichael said. Police say the apparent cause of death was "major trauma." An autopsy is scheduled for later in the week.

LAUNCHED ON THE FOURTH OF JULY ...

Three young men in Oklahoma were enjoying the coming fourth of July holiday and wanted to apparently test fire some fireworks. Their only real problem was that their launch pad and seating arrangements were atop a several-hundred-thousand-gallon fuel distillation storage tank. Oddly enough, some fumes were ignited, producing a fireball seen for miles and miles. They were launched, no doubt, countless thousands of feet into the air and were found dead 250 yards from their respective seats.

DON'T ASK GOD TO PROVE HIMSELF, HE JUST MIGHT...

A lawyer and two of his buddies were fishing on Caddo Lake in Texas. A lightning storm hit the lake and most of the fisherman immediately headed for the shore. But not our friend the lawyer. He was alone on the rear of his aluminum bass boat and his buddies were in the front. This gentleman stood up, spread his arms wide (crucifixion style) and shouted: "HERE I AM LORD, LET ME HAVE IT!" Needless to say, God delivered [well, wouldn't you?]. The other two passengers on the boat survived and are said to have immediately joined the Ministry.

CATCH!

A man in Alabama died from rattlesnake bites. Big deal, you may say, but there's a twist here that makes him a Darwin Award candidate. It seems he and a friend were playing catch with a rattlesnake. You can guess what happened from here. The friend (a future Darwin Award candidate) was hospitalized.

THEY SAY THOSE THINGS WILL KILL YOU

Not much was given to me on this unlucky fellow, but he qualifies nonetheless. You see, there was a gentleman from Korea who was killed by his cell phone, more or less. He was doing the usual "walking and talking" when he walked into a tree and managed to somehow break his neck. Keep that in mind the next time you decide to drive and dial at the same time.

GIMME A LIGHT!

Several years ago, in a west Texas town, employees in a medium-sized warehouse noticed the smell of a gas leak. Sensibly, management evacuated the building, extinguishing all potential sources of ignition - lights, power, etc. After the building had been evacuated, two technicians from the gas company were dispatched. Upon entering the building, they found they had difficulty navigating in the dark. To their frustration, none of the lights worked. Witnesses later described the vision of one of the technicians reaching into his pocket, and retrieving an object that resembled a lighter. Upon operation of the lighter- like object, the gas in the warehouse exploded, sending pieces of it up to three miles away. Nothing was found of the technicians, but the lighter was virtually untouched by the explosion. The technician that was suspected of causing the explosion had never been thought of as "bright" by his peers.

The Worst Things To Say To A Police Officer:

Date Received: Tue, 12 May 1998

I can't reach my license unless you hold my beer.

That uniform makes your butt look really big.

You're not gonna check the trunk, are you?

Didn't I see you get your butt kicked on Cops?

I bet I could grab that gun before you finish writing my ticket.

Hey, you must have been doing about 125 mph to keep up with me!

Good job! I thought you had to be in relatively good physical condition to be a police officer.

I was going to be a cop, but I decided to finish high school instead.

Bad Cop! No Donut!

Gee, that gut sure doesn't inspire confidence.

When you smack the crap out of me, make sure you smile pretty for the camcorder.

I pay your salary!

Gee, thanks officer! That's terrific. The last officer only gave me a warning too.

Do you know why you pulled me over? Okay, just so one of us does.

I was trying to keep up with traffic. Yes, I know there is no other car around, that's how far they are ahead of me.

Sorry, I can't hear you over the radio. No, I am not turning it down. I love this song.

Well, when I reached down to pick up my bag of crack, my gun fell off my lap and got lodged between the brake pedal and the gas pedal, forcing me to speed out of control.

Aren't you the guy from the Village People?

Yes Mr. Budweiser, I haven't had any officers tonight.

When the Officer says "Gee Son....Your eyes look red, have you been drinking?" You probably shouldn't respond with, "Gee Officer, your eyes look glazed, have you been eating doughnuts?"

Christmas Downsizing

Date Received: Tue, 10 Dec 1996

Season's Greetings from the North Pole.

The recent announcement that Donner and Blitzen have elected to take the early reindeer retirement package has triggered a good deal of concern about whether they will be replaced, and about other restructuring decisions at the North Pole.

Streamlining was appropriate as the North Pole no longer dominates the season's gift distribution business. Home shopping channels and mail order catalogues have diminished our market share and we cannot sit idly by and permit further erosion of the profit picture.

The reindeer downsizing was made possible through the purchase of a late model Japanese sled for my annual trip. Improved productivity from Dasher and Dancer, who summered at the Harvard Business School, is anticipated and should take up the slack with no discernible loss of service. Reduction in reindeer will also lessen airborne environmental emissions for which the North Pole has been cited and received unfavourable press. I am pleased to inform you and yours that Rudolph's role will not be disturbed. Tradition still counts for something here at the North Pole.

Management denies, in the strongest possible language, the earlier leak that Rudolph's nose got that way not due to substance abuse. Calling Rudolph "a lush who was into the sauce and never did pull his share of the load" was an unfortunate comment, made by one of Santa's helpers and taken out of context at a time of the year when helpers are known to be under executive stress.

Today's global challenges require the North Pole continually to look for better, more competitive measures. Effective immediately, the following economy measures are to take place in the "Twelve Days of Christmas" program:

The partridge will be retained, but the pear tree never turned out to be the cash crop forecasted. It will be replaced by a plastic hanging plant, providing considerable savings in maintenance.

The two turtle doves represent a redundancy that is simply not cost effective. In addition, their romance during working hours could not be condoned. The positions are therefore eliminated.

The three French hens will remain intact. After all, everyone loves the French.

The four calling birds were replaced by an automated voice mail system, with a call waiting option. An analysis is underway to determine who the birds have been calling, and how often and how long they talked.

The five golden rings have been put on hold by the Board of Directors. Maintaining a portfolio based on one commodity could have negative implications for institutional investors. Diversification into other precious metals as well as a mix of T-Bills and high technology stocks appear to be in order.

The six geese-a-laying constitutes a luxury which can no longer be afforded. It has long been felt that the production rate of one egg per goose per day is an example of the decline in productivity. Three geese will be let go, and an upgrading in the selection procedure by personnel will assure management that from now on every goose it gets will be good.

The seven swans-a-swimming is obviously a number chosen in better times. The function is primarily decorative. Mechanical swans are on order. The current swans will be retrained to learn some new strokes, and therefore enhance their outplacement.

As you know, the eight maids-a-milking concept has been under heavy scrutiny by the EEOC. A male/female balance in the work force is being sought. The more militant maids consider this a dead-end job with no upward mobility. Automation of the process may permit the maids to try a-mending, a-mentoring, or a-mulching.

Nine ladies dancing has always been an odd number. This function will be phased out as these individuals grow older and can no longer do the steps.

Ten Lords-a-leaping is overkill. The high cost of Lords plus the expense of international air travel prompted the Compensation Committee to suggest replacing this group with ten out-of-work congressmen. While leaping ability may be somewhat sacrificed, the savings are significant because we expect an oversupply of unemployed congressman this year.

Eleven pipers piping and twelve drummers drumming is a simple case of the band getting too big. A substitution with a string quartet, a cutback on new music, and no uniforms will produce savings which will drop right down to the bottom line.

We can expect a substantial reduction in assorted people, fowl, animals, and other expenses. Though incomplete, studies indicate stretching deliveries over twelve days is inefficient. If we can drop ship in one day, service levels will be improved.

Regarding the lawsuit filed by the attorney's association seeking expansion to include the legal profession ("thirteen lawyers-a-suing") action is pending.

Lastly, it is not beyond consideration that deeper cuts may be necessary in the future to stay competitive. Should that happen, the Board will request management to scrutinize the Snow White program to see if seven dwarves is the right number.

Happy Holidays!

Santa

Some More Dumb People Tricks

Date Received: 24 Jul 1997

Dubious Achievement Awards -- British Division

The following is from the British Sunday Express giving Gongs (medals) for dubious distinctions.

Tortoise Trophy

To British Rail, which ingeniously solved the problem of lateness in the InterCity express train service by redefining "on time" to include trains arriving within one hour of schedule.

Rubber Cushion

To John Bloor, who mistook a tube of superglue for his hemorrhoid cream and glued his buttocks together.

Crimewatch Cup Gold star

To Henry Smith, arrested moments after returning home with a stolen stereo. His error was having tattooed on his forehead in large capital letters the words "Henry Smith." His lawyer told the court: "My client is not a very bright young man."

Silver star

To Michael Robinson, who rang police to deliver a bomb threat, but became so agitated about the mounting cost of the call that he began screaming "Call me back!" and left his phone number.

Bronze star:

To Paul Monkton, who used as his getaway vehicle a van with his name and phone number painted in foot-high letters on the side.

British Cup

To the passengers on a jam-packed train from Margate to Victoria, who averted their eyes while John Henderson and Zoe D'Arcy engaged in oral sex and then moved on to intercourse ... but complained when the pair lit up post-coital cigarettes in a nonsmoking compartment.

Flying Cross

To Percy the Pigeon, who flopped down exhausted in a Sheffield loft, having beaten 1,000 rivals in a 500 mile race, and was immediately eaten by a cat. Alas, the 90-minute delay resulting from finding his remains and handing his ID tag to the judges relegated Percy from first to third place.

Lazarus Laurel

To Julia Carson, who as her tearful family gathered 'round her coffin in a New York funeral parlour, sat bolt upright and asked what the hell was going on. Celebrations were short-lived, due to the fact that Mrs. Carson's daughter, Julie, immediately dropped dead from shock.

Silver Bullet

To poacher Marino Malerba, who shot a stag standing above him on an overhanging rock -- and was killed instantly when it fell on him.

Date Received: Fri, 4 Jun 1999

A News of the Weird column that was mailed to me some time ago.

In May, the immigration office at Pearson International Airport in Toronto announced that one of its employees had been disciplined because of complaints that, under the pretense of official policy, he had ordered people entering Canada to remove their shoes and socks so that he could photograph their feet. According to officials, the man had already been counseled four times about his habit. [Sault Star-CP, 5-3-95]

COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE TRUE

In December, the Air Force Times reported that Army soldier Joseph Cannon had recently ended his six-year career having not received a single military paycheck after boot camp. Officials said Cannon's records were lost at his first duty station, but that he had never complained, though he missed 144 paychecks totaling over \$103,000. Apparently, Cannon lived in the barracks, ate only in the mess halls, and borrowed money from relatives whenever he had special needs. [Air Force Times, 12-5-94]

According to records released in March of the November 1994 autopsy of serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer, officials kept Dahmer's body shackled at the feet during the entire procedure, "such was the fear of this man," according to pathologist Robert Huntington. [Milwaukee Journal-AP 3-17-95]

In February, a fishing boat sank in rough, cold waters off Vancouver Island, leaving two men in a life raft that was tied to the sinking boat by a nylon rope. Neither had a knife to cut the rope, and had the ship sunk, it would have pulled the boat and the men down with it. For an hour, the two men alternated chewing the rope, with one man losing a tooth in the process, and, minutes before the ship sank, the men finally chewed through the rope and survived. [Vancouver Sun, 2-13-95]

According to two colleagues, the pilot of the American Eagle airlines plane that crashed near Morrisville, N. C., in December told them and others that he was not qualified to pilot that particular aircraft and that he accepted a captain's assignment only when American Eagle told him to accept it or resign. The pilot, who had been forced out of his previous job because of poor skill performance and who had had difficulty during American Eagle's training, was said by colleagues interviewed by the Associated Press to have poor emergency decision-making ability and not to be "captain material." [Greensboro News- Record-AP, Apr95]

According to a New York Times story in May, as many as 20 Orthodox Jewish fathers in New York City who are involved in bitter divorce fights may be improving their leverage by resorting to an obscure passage in the Torah. A father is permitted to arrange his daughter's marriage while she is still a minor (under age 13); the daughter can then marry no one else without the father's permission. Because a mother so fears for her daughter's well-being, she may relent to divorce demands of the husband if he will drop the arrangement. The Times interviewed rabbis who called the practice disgusting and abhorrent, but valid. [N. Y. Times, 5-27-95]

In July, a judge in Denver, Colo., ruled that a mother and her current boyfriend could have temporary custody of her 8-month- old twin girls, even though DNA tests revealed that the boyfriend and the woman's estranged husband each fathered one, but not both, of the girls. The woman must have ovulated twice during a single cycle and had intercourse with both men during that cycle. [Albuquerque Journal-AP, 5-18-95]

According to a May story by Reuters columnist Sherwood Ross, psychic advisors Phyllis Schwartz and Hy Kaplan of Cherry Hill, N. J., have been retained by nearly 100 firms, including several of the Fortune 500, to "read" the vibes of applicants for employment. According to Kaplan, they need to know nothing more than name and position applied for, but they also note age, gender, and residence so they won't "read" the wrong person of the same name. [St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 4-17- 95]

In April in Los Angeles, Ruth Walston filed for divorce from her husband, actor Ray Walston. She's 79, he's 80, they've been married 51 years, and she charged "irreconcilable differences." [People, 5-8-95]

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Names that showed up recently on police blotters: Pleading guilty to rape in Denver, William Freelo; sentenced for assault in St. Joseph, Mo., Jesse James; cited for speeding in Parma, Ohio, Amelia A. Earhart; charged with assault and burglary in Moorhead, Minn., was a man who would not give his name and is thus listed on the rolls as Mr. Fnu Mnu Lnu (derived from "first name unknown," etc.); and jailed in Des Moines, Iowa, was Shannon Cooper, who police said went out bar-hopping, temporarily abandoning her children, Champaigne, 2, Chardonay, 1, and Chablea, 3 months. [Rocky Mountain News, 4-22-95] [Franklin County Watchman-AP, 2-20-95] [Columbus Dispatch-AP, Dec94] [Fargo Forum, Dec94] [Des Moines Register, 11-18-94]

Notable announcements in the news recently included the hiring by a medical clinic in Koloa, Hawaii, of Dr. Michael Cholera; the success of a new tooth decay preventive by Dutch professor Taco Pilot; the appointment as county coroner in Spokane, Wash., of Pat Mummey; and the revelation of fraud uncovered in a United Nations office in Kenya, as announced by office spokeswoman, Shamp Poo. [The Garden Island, May95] [Nashville Tennessean-AP, 4-8-94] [Spokane Spokesman- Review, 10-22-94] [New York Times-Reuters, 3-3-95]

California Names: In Newport Beach, Miss Truly Gold recently married Cary S. Boring. The Los Angeles Times reported that 16 people named Jesus Christ have California drivers licenses. The chair of the Polish American Congress, Anti-Defamation Committee of California, Inc., as of last year was Teodor Polak. [Albuquerque Journal-AP, 10-10-94] [Los Angeles Times, 5-2-95] [Los Angeles Times, 1-9-94]

LEAST COMPETENT PERSON

In May, police in Halifax, Mass., charged Robert Brinson, 28, with assembling an Oklahoma City-style fertilizer bomb to blow up his ex-girlfriend and her family. Police said one bomb was found in the woman's bathroom and another in a doghouse outside, both consisting of turpentine and nails in cans with a battery and timer. However, police said the bombs were not explosive--since Brinson had mistakenly used potting soil instead of fertilizer. [Boston Herald, 5-23-95] Copyright 1995, Universal Press Syndicate. All rights reserved. Released only for entertainment of readers. No commercial use may be made of the material or of the name News of the Weird.

Dumb Things People Do

(I don't know where the guy who put these together got them from, but I wouldn't be surprised if they came from News of the Weird -- Harold)

Date Received: Fri, 6 Mar 1998

Hello, and welcome to Bizarre! As a matter of fact, no, I don't have a life...

Police in Germany opened fire on a runaway calf with a submachine gun when it tried to escape from a slaughterhouse. A spokesman said it took "several shots with special ammunition" to kill the baby cow... gee, they're strict...

Born loser? Blame your parents. Researchers in Wales now say that your bad luck may be more than, well, bad luck. Professor Peter McGuffin says you may be genetically programmed to lose. "Adverse life events," says the professor, "happen more frequently" to genetically unlucky people... Mommy says I'm special...

So this guy must be the super race: a monk in Thailand is in big trouble with local authorities and betting shops after successfully predicting the winning lottery numbers -- 11 times in a row... so much for that vow of poverty...

223 inmates who escaped from a northern Honduras prison last week were recaptured today... maybe they should have split up...

Lost your virginity? Don't worry: you can get it back. Dutch surgeons are performing the operation on adolescent girls "who are no longer virgins but wish to appear so..." fortunately, the operation is easily reversed...

A man in Clifton, Colorado apparently got so caught up in his "Tomb Raider" computer game that he forgot he wasn't supposed to use a real gun. Sheriff's deputies confiscated Douglas Miller's shotgun after he fired it at his computer screen... my highest score ever...

Richard Stone of Cheddar, England somehow managed to get trapped when his own van rolled over him and pinned him to the ground. Stone cried out for help, but no one heard him -- no one except Sonny, a macaw parrot who lives nearby. When Sonny began to mimic the man's cries for help, two passers-by heard the parrot and freed Stone... Polly want a medal?

Doctors in California have a new treatment for wrinkles: injecting "Botox" directly into facial skin. You may want to think twice, though. "Botox" is short for botulism toxin, the deadliest nerve poison known to man...

A Costa Mesa, California man allegedly robbed taxi driver James Hooper with a large caliber handgun, then tried to escape on foot. One foot, to be exact. Police say Timothy Lambert's gun accidentally discharged, shooting his own foot. Officers followed a trail of bloody prints a short distance before arresting Lambert...

A doctor in Nairobi successfully removed a bean lodged in a young girl's ear. According to the Daily Nation, when her parents told him they didn't have enough to pay his bill, the doctor "grabbed the child and forced the bean back into her ear..."

Believe it or not, there are some people who just don't like the Spice Girls-- about 2 million of them. That's how many hits the "Slap A Spice Girl" website reports so far.

A Seattle hospital technician was arrested this week after he doused his boss with gasoline and tried to set him on fire...

When Raymond Lutz of Great Falls, Montana was stopped for going 104 miles per hour in a 45 mph zone, he had a darn good reason. Lutz told Sheriff John Strandell that "he had just got done washing his truck and was trying to dry it off..."

A German toolmaker has been arrested for extortion after threatening auto maker Daimler-Benz. The unnamed man had demanded a helicopter and millions of German marks, or he would "kill drivers of Mercedes cars..." hey, most of them paid cash anyway...

In other German automotive news, BMW announced the first factory-standard armored passenger car. The car is outfitted with body armor, bullet-resistant glass, and tires that can go 50 mph after being shot out. Look for the 540i Protection model in showrooms soon... why don't they just call it the Drug Dealer Special Edition?

My Funny Valentine: police officers in at least four states are in cyber- trouble after exchanging explicit email messages with a 17-year-old Illinois girl. Eight deputies in North Carolina alone have been disciplined. The teen's mother says the cops "took advantage of her daughter's innocent adventures," but an attorney for one suspended officer sees it differently. "This young woman," said Troy Spencer, "has made contact with a very vulnerable element of our society -- police officers..."

Sick of the weather? Don't blame Al Nino. The Nipomo, California man is getting a little tired of strangers calling him up to complain...

Just ask your mother: researchers in Minnesota have linked poor dental hygiene to heart disease, strokes, emphysema, and premature births. Scientists warn that the bacteria in your mouth can travel through your body, putting you at risk for chronic diseases... doctors said the germs may also "cause your face to freeze that way...)

Pennsylvania state police have refused to return the "water bong" they seized from Timothy Martin during a traffic stop on Interstate 80. Martin told police the bong was "an heirloom," and that he wanted it back... it was grandpappy's favorite...

A 78-year-old man shot and wounded five people in a Reno, Nevada casino, and was caught as he made his escape with his walker...

Date Received: Fri, 27 Mar 1998

...Will the Real Dummy Please Stand Up?!

AT&T fired President John Walter after nine months, saying he lacked "intellectual leadership". He received a \$26 million severance package. Perhaps it's not Walter who's lacking intelligence...

...With a Little Help from Our Friends!

Police in Oakland, California spent two hours attempting to subdue a gunman who had barricaded himself inside his home. After firing ten tear gas canisters, officers discovered that the man was standing beside them, shouting pleas to come out and give himself up...

...And What Was Plan B?

An Illinois man pretending to have a gun kidnapped a motorist and forced him to drive to two different automated teller machines. The kidnapper then proceeded to withdraw money from his own bank accounts...

...And These Nitwits Are Teaching Our Children?!!

A 9-year-old boy in Manassas, Virginia received a one-day suspension under his elementary school's drug policy last week - for Certs! Joey Hoeffler allegedly told a classmate that the mints would make him "jump higher."

And a student in Belle, West Virginia was suspended for three days for giving a classmate a cough drop. School principal Forest Mann reiterated the school's "zero-tolerance" policy...not to be confused with the "zero-intelligence" policy.

...Some Days, It Just Doesn't Pay to Gnaw Through the Straps...

Fire investigators on Maui have determined the cause of a blaze that destroyed a \$127,000 home last month - a short in the homeowner's newly installed fire prevention alarm system. "This is even worse than last year," said the distraught homeowner, "when someone broke in and stole my new security system."

... And for the Main Course...

A man in Taormina, Italy was hospitalized after swallowing 46 teaspoons, 2 cigarette lighters, and a pair of salad tongs.

...The Getaway

A man walked in to a Topeka, Kansas Kwik Shop, and asked for all the money in the cash drawer. Apparently, the take was too small, so he tied up the store clerk and worked the counter himself for three hours until police showed up and grabbed him.

...Have I Got a Deal for You!

More than 600 people in Italy wanted to ride in a spaceship badly enough to pay \$10,000 a piece for the first tourist flight to Mars. According to the Italian police, the would-be space travelers were told to spend their "next vacation on Mars, amid the splendors of ruined temples and painted deserts. Ride a Martian camel from oasis to oasis and enjoy the incredible Martian sunsets. Explore mysterious canals and marvel at the views. Trips to the moon also available."

Authorities believe that the con men running this scam made off with over six million dollars...

...Too Well-Educated

In Medford, Oregon, a 27-year-old jobless man with an MBA blamed his college degree for his murder of three people. "There are too many business grads out there," he said. "If I had chosen another field, all this may not have happened..."

...Did I Say That?!

Police in Los Angeles had good luck with a robbery suspect who just couldn't control himself during a lineup. When detectives asked each man in the lineup to repeat the words, "Give me all your money or I'll shoot," the man shouted, "That's not what I said!"

...Ouch, That Smarts!

A bank robber in Virginia Beach got a nasty surprise when a dye pack designed to mark stolen money exploded in his Fruit-of-the-Looms. The robber apparently stuffed the loot down the front of his pants as he was running out the door.

"He was seen hopping and jumping around," said police spokesman Mike Carey, "with an explosion taking place inside his pants." Police have the man's charred trousers in custody...

...Are We Not Communicating?

A man spoke frantically into the phone: "My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart!" "Is this her first child?" the doctor asked.

"No, you idiot!" the man shouted. "This is her husband!"

...Not the Sharpest Knife in the Drawer!

In Modesto, CA, Steven Richard King was arrested for trying to hold up a Bank of America branch without a weapon. King used a thumb and a finger to simulate a gun, but unfortunately, he failed to keep his hand in his pocket. Hmmm...wonder what he uses for a knife?

Date Received: Tue, 14 Apr 1998

Hello, and welcome to Bizarre! It's the Best of Bizarre!, Volume Zero...

In Ohio, an unidentified man in his late twenties walked into a police station with a 9-inch wire protruding from his forehead, and calmly asked officers to give him an X-ray to help him find his brain, which he claimed had been stolen. Police were shocked to learn that the man had drilled a 6-inch deep hole in his skull with a Black & Decker power drill, and stuck the wire in to try and find the missing brain...

Members of the First Church of the Nazarene in Ironton, Ohio, held a record burning after evangelist Jim Brown told them that the song "A Horse is a Horse" - the theme song from the Mr. Ed show - contained satanic messages when played backwards...

Pierre Beaumard, a French factory worker suffering from various obsessional fears and an inability to relate to others, decided to join a therapy group. Mr. Beaumard was encouraged to sandwich himself between two mattresses, and allow other group members to walk on him to "stamp out his complexes." After several minutes of this treatment, Beaumard was crushed to death...

In a related story, 9-year-old Derek Hume was run over by a 1 ton concrete roller. The boy escaped without a bruise, however, because the massive cylinder pressed him into the rain-soaked earth... he's just lucky he wasn't sandwiched between mattresses...

Richard Avella, a 350-pound New York man, entered a Long Island jewelry store, drew a gun, and told the clerk, "This is a stick-up," then tripped and fell to the floor. He was unable to get up before police arrived...

Officials from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration inspected their own offices and cited themselves on three safety violations...and if I don't get this taken care of right away, I'm going to have to shut me down...

When his .38 caliber revolver failed to fire at his intended victim during a hold-up in Long Beach, California, robber James Eliot peered down the barrel and tried it again. This time, it worked...

Ron Hoffman of Crystal, Kentucky, picked up a machete and lopped off the red roof light of a Pennsylvania state police cruiser. After his arrest, Hoffman explained it was "just something he always wanted to do..."

A Toronto gas station attendant had no trouble identifying a robber for police, even though the man had worn a pair of women's panties over his head as a disguise. The thief, who later admitted that his mind was clouded by intoxicants, had stuck his face through one of the leg-holes so he could see...

Francis Karnes, a 39-year-old man in Sacramento, California, was charged with reckless endangerment after he pulled a gun and shot his lawnmower when it wouldn't start... and of course, you heard about those awful chainsaw massacres in Texas...

Police in Morecomb, England, report that a human foot washed up on the beach matched another foot found a month earlier at another location. The rest of the unidentified victim has not been found... but he couldn't have gotten far...

A 37-year-old California man reported to police that an intruder dressed in black and carrying a big knife broke into his home, forced him to smoke two packs of Pall Mall Golds, then left...

In a sad story from Boston, a giant 30-pound lobster was being weighed before its donation to the city aquarium, when it fell off the scale and died. The giant lobster's shell was irreparably cracked. "We're devastated," said a spokesman for the aquarium... so are we... now where's the cocktail sauce?

And this just in... French farmer Michael LeMond shot himself in the foot when he opened fire on what he thought was a ghost... nope, it's a foot alright...

Workmen in Rome, digging gravel for ballast, were instructed to dig from one central pit so as not to spoil the site with too many holes. They unearthed an ancient plaque inscribed in Latin, which turned out to be a sign intended for workman digging ballast for Roman ships. It instructed them to dig from a central pit so as not to spoil the site with too many holes...

In our Likely Story department this week, the crew of a trawler that sank in the Sea of Japan claimed their ship went down after "being struck by a cow which fell out of the clear blue sky". According to Flying magazine, no one believed this absurd explanation-- except the Russian military. It seems that the crew of a military cargo jet had stolen a cow they found wandering on a Siberian airfield, and loaded it aboard. While cruising at 30,000 feet, the terrified cow ran amok and jumped out of the plane...

Our Nice Try Award this week goes to the Miami Beach attorney who entered a 'not guilty' plea for his client based on astrological forces. The lawyer maintained that the position of the stars at the time of his client's birth caused him to break into a couple's home, tie them up and threaten them, and walk out with a brassiere on his head...

Rufus Spittle of Butthair, AL cut his nose off with a Garden Weasel and fell into a deep depression. Desperate to cheer up, he wisely contacted the company with the world's best-selling, funniest bumper stickers: Bad Cop-No Donut, Discourage Inbreeding-Ban Country Music, I'd Rather Be Spanking The Monkey, Racists Eat Poo, and many more. We kick butt at <http://www.idiot-ink.com/>

In the Netherlands, an airline pilot has been sentenced to four months in jail. Wim de Nijs was convicted of jamming the air traffic control frequency and jeopardizing airport safety, by singing the "Flintstones" theme over the radio for 20 minutes while landing his plane...

Florida motorists are watching their rear-view mirrors this week after an appellate court ruled that rectal searches by police are legal. According to the Fifth District Court of Appeals, the removal of 54 grams of cocaine from a suspect's rectum by a member of the Orange County highway drug squad was "part of a legal patdown to make sure the man wasn't armed..." America, land of the free, home of the rectal patdown...

E.C. Stewart, Jr. may never get out of jail after the Levelland, Texas District Attorney recommended last week that his bail be set at "a zillion dollars". The judge agreed...

In Clearwater, Florida, a 70-year-old man was killed while sunbathing in a lounge chair at the beach, when a bulldozer ran over him... hey, we asked him to move...

A 73-year-old Milwaukee woman has lost her suit against the local Catholic Church, after an electronic scoreboard fell on her during a bingo game in 1990. Mary Verdev was asking for \$90,000 in damages, claiming that since the incident she experiences spontaneous orgasms, sometimes in "clusters"... b-b- b-b-bingo!

That's Bizarre!, and remember, it's all true.

Date Received: Fri, 17 Apr 1998

USAir recently introduced a special half fare for wives who accompanied their husbands on business trips. Expecting valuable testimonials, the PR department sent out letters to all the wives of businessmen who had used the special rates, asking how they enjoyed their trip. Letters are still pouring in asking, "What trip?"

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed and dry cleaners depressed? Laundry workers could decrease, eventually becoming depressed and depleted! Even more, bedmakers will be debunked, baseball players will be debased, landscapers will be deflowered, bulldozer operators will be degraded, organ donors will be delivered, software engineers will be detested, the BVD company will be debriefed, and even musical composers will eventually decompose. On a more positive note though, perhaps we can hope politicians will be devoted.

Excerpt from a live radio interview on a regional Welsh radio station:

A female newscaster is interviewing the leader of a Youth club: Interviewer: So, Mr. Jones, what are you going to do with these children on this adventure holiday?

Jones: We're going to teach them climbing, sailing, canoeing, archery, shooting...

Interviewer: Shooting! That's a bit irresponsible isn't it?

Jones: I don't see why. They'll be properly supervised on the range.

Interviewer: Don't you admit that this is a terribly dangerous activity to be teaching children?

Jones: I don't see how. We will be teaching them proper range discipline before they even touch a firearm.

Interviewer: But you're equipping them to become violent killers.

Jones: Well, you're equipped to be a prostitute but you're not one, are you?

At this point, the interview was terminated.

More Dumb Things People Do

This file is yet another (long!) collection of things sent to me about stupid people.

Date Received: Friday, June 23, 2000

IDIOT SIGHTINGS

Idiot Sighting #1: I was at the airport, checking in at the gate, when the airport employee asked, "Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?" I said, "If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?" He smiled and nodded knowingly, "That's why we ask."

Idiot Sighting #2: The stoplight on the corner buzzes when it is safe to cross the street. I was crossing with an intellectually challenged coworker of mine, when she asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals to blind people when the light is red. She responded, appalled, "Why on earth are blind people driving?"

Idiot Sighting #3: At a sad good-bye lunch for an old and dear coworker who was leaving the company due to "downsizing," our manager spoke up and said, "This is fun. We should have lunch like this more often." Not another word was spoken. We just looked at each other like deer staring into the headlights of an approaching truck.

Idiot Sighting #4: I worked with an individual who plugged her power strip back into itself and for the life of her could not understand why her system would not turn on.

Idiot Sighting #5: When my husband and I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car, we were told that the keys had been accidentally locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. As I watched from the passenger's side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered it was open. "Hey," I announced to the technician, "It's open!" "I know," answered the young man. "I already got that side."

Idiot Sighting #6: We had to have the garage door repaired. The Sears repairman told us that one of our problems was that we did not have a "large" enough motor on the opener. I thought for a minute, and said that we had the largest one Sears made at that time, a 1/2 horsepower. He shook his head and said, "Lady, you need a 1/4 horsepower." I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4. He said, "NO, it's not." Four is larger than two..."

We haven't used Sears repair since.

Idiot Sighting #7: My daughter and I went through the McDonald's take-out window and I gave the clerk a \$5 bill. Our total was \$4.25, so I also handed her a quarter. She said, "you gave me too much money." I said, "Yes I know, but this way you can just give me a dollar bill back." She sighed and went to get the manager who asked me to repeat my request. I did so, and he handed me back the quarter, and said "We're sorry but they could not do that kind of thing." The clerk then proceeded to give me back \$1 and 75 cents in change. Do not confuse the clerks at McD's.

Date Received: Wed, 10 Dec 1997

Actual lines out of U.S. Military OERs (Officer Efficiency Reports) and from Royal Navy and Marines officer fitness reports:

A gross ignoramus = 144 times worse than an ordinary ignoramus.
A photographic memory but with the lens cover glued on.
A prime candidate for natural de-selection.
A room temperature IQ.
Bright as Alaska in December.
Donated his body to science before he was done using it.
Fell out of the family tree.
Gates are down, the lights are flashing, but the train isn't coming.
Got a full 6-pack, but lacks the plastic thingy to hold it all together.
Got into the gene pool while the lifeguard wasn't watching.
Has two brains; one is lost and the other is out looking for it.
He's so dense, light bends around him.
If brains were taxed, he'd get a rebate.

If he were any more stupid, he'd have to be watered twice a week.
If you give him a penny for his thoughts, you'd get change.
If you stand close enough to him, you can hear the ocean.
It's hard to believe that he beat out 1,000,000 other sperm.
Not the sharpest knife in the drawer.
One neuron short of a synapse.
One-celled organisms outscore him in IQ tests.
Some drink from the fountain of knowledge; he only gargled.
Takes him 10 hours to watch 60 minutes.
This medical officer has used my ship to carry his genitals from port to port, and my officers to carry him from bar to bar.
Was left on the Tilt-A-Whirl a bit too long as a baby.
Wheel is turning, but the hamster is dead.

Actual quotes from Federal employee performance evaluations:

He would be out of his depth in a parking lot puddle.
His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of morbid curiosity.
I would not allow this employee to breed.

She sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them.
Since my last report, he has reached rock bottom and has started to dig.

This employee is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.

This employee is really not so much of a has-been, but more of a definitely won't be.

This employee should go far - and the sooner he starts, the better.

This young lady has delusions of adequacy.

When he opens his mouth, it seems that this is only to change whichever foot was previously in there.

Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap.

Date Received: Tue, 28 Apr 1998

George Moscatello, 47, of Woodside, N.Y., was camping in a remote area of the Northwest Territories when he heard "some pitter-patter sounds" outside his tent. Thinking it might be wolves, he loaded his gun and activated an emergency locator signal that is supposed to be used only for air and sea emergencies. Authorities launched a search and rescue aircraft, whose mission cost \$12,000. Moscatello, an inexperienced camper who had already burned part of his tent after a mishap with his propane heater, told rescuers he was investigating the legend of Bigfoot.

The FBI announced it is looking for Enca Sandra Kay, 47, who had four husbands at the same time. Kay was born Eddie James Mundell and deserted from the Marine Corps nearly 30 years ago, according to FBI agent Tim Coakley, who said Mundell underwent a sex change operation two years later and changed his name.

Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the spiritual leader of Israel's Shas political party, decreed that any woman who wears a wig to a synagogue is damned. "Both she and her wig will burn in hell," Yosef said. Yosef also told followers that, contrary to popular belief, it is permissible to pick one's nose on the Sabbath.

A 25-year-old Argentine man pushed his 20-year-old wife out of an eighth-floor window after an argument, but her fall was broken when her legs became entangled in power lines below. A police spokesperson told the state-run Telam news agency that when the husband saw the woman dangling beneath him, he apparently tried to throw himself on top of her to finish her off. He missed, however, and fell to his death. Meanwhile, the woman managed to swing over to a nearby balcony and was saved.

Young women drive almost as aggressively as men, according to an Australian study that found female drivers below age 30 are only slightly less likely than young men to tail-gate, hurl abuse, shake their fists, blast their horns and cut in front of other drivers. An aggression index, compiled from a survey by the Australian Associated Motor Insurers Ltd., shows young women scored 31.77 points on a road rage "Richter" scale, compared with men's score of 32.63.

Alan Hall, 48, ran into a woman he knew as Brenda at a gas station in Fairfield, Calif., and invited her back to his brother's house, where they had sex. Afterward the woman reportedly made a statement implying she wanted revenge for Hall's conviction in the 1983 murder of a friend of hers. Hall told police the woman then cut off his penis and fled. It was found eight hours later on his front lawn, but by then it was too late to reattach the organ.

Police in Madison Township, Ohio, cited Kim Hansel, 37, for public indecency after someone complained she was mowing her lawn topless. She put bandages and leaves on her breasts and went back to mowing the lawn. Prosecutors dropped the indecency charge, but a judge fined Hansel \$40 for disorderly conduct because she turned the riding mower around in the street after drinking.

Date Received: Mon, 12 Oct 1998

It's surprising these people haven't all died... of stupidity.

I saw a lady at work today putting a credit card into her floppy drive and pulling it out very quickly. I inquired as to what she was doing and she said she was shopping on the internet, and they asked for a credit card number, so she was using the ATM "thingy".

1st Person: "Do you know anything about this fax-machine?"

2nd Person: "A little. What's wrong?"

1st Person: "Well, I sent a fax, and the recipient called back to say all she received was a cover-sheet and a blank page. I tried it again, and the same thing happened."

2nd Person: "How did you load the sheet?"

1st Person: "It's a pretty sensitive memo, and I didn't want anyone else to read it by accident, so I folded it so only the recipient would open it and read it."

I recently saw a distraught young lady weeping beside her car. "Do you need some help?" I asked.

She replied, "I knew I should have replaced the battery in this remote door unlocker. Now I can't get into my car."

"Do you think they (pointing to a distant convenience store) would have a battery for this?"

"Hmmm, I dunno. Do you have an alarm, too?" I asked.

"No, just this remote 'thingy,'" she answered, handing it and the car keys to me.

As I took the key and manually unlocked the door, I replied, "Why don't you drive over there and check about the batteries...it's a long walk."

Tech Support: "What does the screen say now.."

Person: "It says, 'Hit ENTER when ready'."

Tech Support: "Well?"

Person: "How do I know when it's ready?"

Several years ago we had an intern who was none too swift. One day he was typing and turned to a secretary and said, "I'm almost out of typing paper. "What do I do?"

"Just use copier machine paper," she told him. With that, the intern took his last remaining blank piece of paper, put it on the photocopier and proceeded to make five blank copies.

One of our servers crashed. I was watching our new system administrator trying to restore it. He inserted a CD and needed to type a path name to a directory named "i386." He started to type it and paused, asking me "Where's the key for that line thing?" I asked what he was talking about, and he said, "You know, that one that looks like an upside-down exclamation mark." I replied, "You mean the letter 'i'?" and he said, "Yeah, that's it!"

I was in a car dealership a while ago when a large new motor home was towed into the garage. The front of the vehicle was in dire need of repair and the whole thing generally looked like an extra in "Twister." I asked the manager what had happened. He told me that the driver had set the cruise control, then went in back to make a sandwich.

Date Received: Mon, 12 Oct 1998

IDIOTS IN RETAIL

I was signing the receipt for my credit card purchase when the clerk noticed that I had never signed my name on the back of the credit card. She informed me that she could not complete the transaction unless the card was signed. When I asked why, she explained that it was necessary to compare the signature on the credit card with the signature I just signed on the receipt. So I signed the credit card in front of her. She carefully compared that signature to the one I signed on the receipt. As luck would have it, they matched.

IDIOTS AT WORK

Sign in a gas station: Coke -- 49 cents. Two for a dollar.

IDIOTS & GEOGRAPHY

After interviewing a particularly short-spoken job candidate, I described the person to my boss as rather monosyllabic. My boss said, "Really? Where is Monosyllabia?" Thinking that he was just kidding, I played along and said that it was just south of Elbonia. He replied "Oh, you mean over by Croatia?"

ADVICE FOR IDIOTS

An actual tip from page 16 of the HP "Environmental, Health & Safety Handbook for Employees: "Blink your eyelids periodically to lubricate your eyes."

IDIOTS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

I live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbor call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the Deer Crossing sign on our road. The reason: Many deer were being hit by cars and he no longer wanted them to cross there.

IDIOTS & COMPUTERS

My neighbor works in the operations department in the central office of a large bank. Employees in the field call him when they have problems with their computers. One night he got a call from a woman in one of the branch banks that had this question: "I've got smoke coming from the back of my terminal. Do you guys have a fire downtown?"

IDIOTS ARE EASY TO PLEASE

I was sitting in my science class, when the teacher commented that the next day would be the shortest day of the year. My lab partner became visibly excited, cheering and clapping. I explained to her that the amount of daylight changes, not the actual amount of time. Needless to say, she was very disappointed.

IDIOTS IN FOOD SERVICE

My daughter went to a local Taco Bell and ordered a taco. She asked the individual behind the counter for "minimal lettuce." He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg.

AN IDIOT'S IDIOT

Police in Radnor, Pennsylvania, interrogated a suspect by placing a metal colander on his head and connecting it with wires to a photocopy machine. The message "He's lying" was placed in the copier, and police pressed the copy button each time they thought the suspect was telling a lie. Believing the "lie detector" was working, the suspect confessed.

Date Received: Mon, 19 Oct 1998

Next time you think you're having a bad day read this:

The average cost of rehabilitating a seal after the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska was \$80,000. At a special ceremony, two of the most expensively saved animals were released back into the wild amid cheers and applause from onlookers. A minute later they were both eaten by a killer whale.

A psychology student in New York rented out her spare room to a carpenter in order to nag him constantly and study his reactions. After weeks of needling, he snapped and beat her repeatedly with an ax leaving her mentally retarded.

In 1992, Frank Perkins of Los Angeles made an attempt on the world flagpole-sitting record. Suffering from the flu he came down eight hours short of the 400-day record, his sponsor had gone bust, his girlfriend had left him and his phone and electricity had been cut off.

A woman came home to find her husband in the kitchen, shaking frantically with what looked like a wire running from his waist towards the electric kettle. Intending to jolt him away from the deadly current she whacked him with a handy plank of wood by the back door, breaking his arm in two places. Till that moment he had been happily listening to his Walkman.

Two animal rights protesters were protesting at the cruelty of sending pigs to a slaughterhouse in Bonn. Suddenly the pigs, all two thousand of them, escaped through a broken fence and stampeded, trampling the two hapless protesters to death.

And the capper

Iraqi terrorist, Khay Rahnajet, didn't pay enough postage on a letter bomb. It came back with "return to sender" stamped on it. Forgetting it was the bomb, he opened it and was blown to bits.

Date Received: Sat, 18 Jul 1998

Things That Make You Go, "Duh!"

I am a medical student currently doing a rotation in toxicology at the poison control center. Today, this woman called in very upset because she caught her little daughter eating ants. I quickly reassured her that the ants are not harmful and there would be no need to bring her daughter into the hospital. She calmed down, and at the end of the conversation happened to mention that she gave her daughter some ant poison to eat in order to kill the ants. I told her that she better bring her daughter in to the ER right away.

Seems that a year ago, some Boeing employees on the field decided to steal a life raft from one of the 747s. They were successful in getting it out of the plane and home. When they took it for a float on the Stilliguamish River, they were quite surprised by a Coast Guard helicopter homing in on the emergency locator that is activated when the raft is inflated. They are no longer employed there.

I worked for a while at a Wal-Mart store, selling sporting goods. As an employee of Wal-Mart you are sometimes required to make store-wide pages, e.g., "I have a customer in hardware who needs assistance at the paint counter." One night a tentative female voice came over the intercom system with the following message: "I have a customer by the balls in toys who needs assistance."

A police officer had a perfect hiding place for watching for speeders. One day, everyone was under the speed limit, the officer found the problem: a 10-year-old boy was standing on the side of the road with a huge hand painted sign which said "RADAR TRAP AHEAD." A little more investigative work led the officer to the boy's accomplice, another boy about 100 yards beyond the radar trap with a sign reading, "TIPS" and a bucket at his feet, full of change.

A carpet layer had just finished installing carpet for a lady. He stepped out for a smoke, only to realize he'd lost his cigarettes. In the middle of the room, under the carpet, was a bump. "No sense pulling up the entire floor for one pack of smokes," he said to himself. He proceeded to get out his hammer and flattened the hump. As he was cleaning up, the lady came in. "Here," she said, handing him his pack of cigarettes. "I found them in the hallway." "Now," she said, "if only I could find my parakeet."

There are many transmission lines that crisscross Connecticut. These are held up by Transmission Towers of various constructions. Those most commonly installed near urban areas are called "metal Ornamental Towers" (supposedly prettier than wood towers). Sometimes adventurous folk climb the towers in order to enjoy the view and the night air. Most stay away from the wires, and when they get bored, come back down. Apparently, a man who was forlorn after a recent spat with his girlfriend needed some fresh air to clear his head and decided to climb a tower. He stopped for a 6 pack to help clear his thoughts, went to a tower south of Hartford, next to I-91, and climbed it. Public Service employees later pieced the rest of the story together...

The man sat there 60 feet above the highway, drank his beer and consoled his bruised ego. After 5 beers, he needed to do what people often need to do after 5 beers. It being such a long hike down, he unzipped and did his business right there off the tower. Electricity is a funny thing. One doesn't need to touch a wire in order to get shocked. Depending on conditions, 115,000 volt lines, like those supported by the tower, could shock a person as far away as 6 feet. When the man "whizzed" near the conductor (wire), the power arced to his "stream" (urine is an excellent conductor of electricity), traveled up to his private parts, and blew him off the tower. The guys at the power company noted a momentary outage on this line and sent repairmen to see if there was any damage. When they got to the scene of the accident, they found a very dead person, his fly down, what was left of his private parts smoking, and a single beer left on top of the tower.

Date Received: Wed, 12 Aug 1998

Have you ever struggled with a performance review? Read on for some tips to make the next one easier.

John Jones, the head of the company asked his manager to write a detailed employment review describing Bob Smith, one of his programmers.

1. Bob Smith, my assistant programmer, can always be found
2. hard at work in his cubicle. Bob works independently, without
3. wasting company time talking to colleagues. Bob never
4. thinks twice about assisting fellow employees, and he always
5. finishes given assignments on time. Often Bob takes extended
6. measures to complete his work, sometimes skipping coffee
7. breaks. Bob is a dedicated individual who has absolutely no
8. vanity in spite of his high accomplishments and profound
9. knowledge in his field. I firmly believe that Bob can be
10. classed as a high-caliber employee, the type which cannot be
11. dispensed with. Consequently, I duly recommend that Bob be
12. promoted to executive management, and a proposal will be
13. executed as soon as possible.

Signed ...

Jim

A memo was soon sent following the letter:

John,

That idiot was reading over my shoulder while I wrote the report sent to you earlier today. Kindly read only the odd numbered lines above (1, 3, 5, etc...) for my true assessment of him.

Regards ...

Jim

Genealogy for Dummies

Date Received: Wed, 30 Sep 1998

Would you believe...these are copies of actual correspondence received by the Family History Department.

Our 2nd great grandfather was found dead crossing the plains in the library. He was married 3 times in the endowment house and has 21 children.

For running down the Wheelers, I will send \$3.00 more.

He and his daughter are listed as not being born.

I would like to find out if I have any living relatives or dead relatives or ancestors in my family.

Will you send me a list of all the Dripps in your library?

My Grandfather died at the age of 3.

We are sending you 5 children in a separate envelope.

Documentation: Family Bible in possession of Aunt Merle until the tornado hit Topeka, Kansas, now only the Good Lord know where it is . . .

The wife of #22 could not be found. Somebody suggested that she might have been stillborn - what do you think?

I am mailing you my aunt and uncle and 3 of their children.

Enclosed please find my Grandmother. I have worked on her for 30 years without success. Now see what you can do.

I have a hard time finding myself in London. If I were there I was very small and cannot be found.

This family had 7 nephews that I am unable to find. If you know who they are, please add them to the list.

We lost our Grandmother, will you please send us a copy?

Will you please send me the name of my first wife? I have forgotten her name.

A 14-year-old boy wrote: "I do not want you to do my research for me. Will you please send me all of the material on the Welch line, in the US, England and Scotland countries? I will do the research.

Further research will be necessary to eliminate one of the parents.

What Not to Do with Glue

Date Received: Tue, 20 Apr 1999

Vermont native Ronald Demuth found himself in a difficult position. While touring the Eagle's Rock African Safari (Zoo) with a group of thespians from St. Petersburg, Russia, Demuth went overboard to show them one of America's many marvels. He demonstrated the effectiveness of "Crazy Glue" ... the hard way. Apparently, Demuth wanted to demonstrate just how good the Adhesive was, so he put about 3 ounces of the adhesive in the palms of his hands, and jokingly placed them on the buttocks of a passing rhino. The rhino, a resident of the zoo for the past thirteen years, was not initially startled as it has been part of the petting exhibit since its arrival as a baby. However, once it became aware of its being involuntarily stuck to Demuth, it began to panic and ran around the petting area wildly making Demuth an unintended passenger. "Sally (the rhino) hasn't been feeling well lately. She had been very constipated. We had just given her a laxative and some depressants to relax her els, when Demuth played his juvenile prank," said James Douglass, caretaker. During Sally's tirade two fences were destroyed, A shed wall was gored, and a number of small animals escaped. Also, during the stampede, three pygmy goats and one duck were stomped to death. As for Demuth, it took a team of medics and zoo caretakers over four hours to remove his hands from the rhino's buttocks.

First, the animal had to be captured and calmed down. However, during this process the Laxatives began to take hold and Demuth was repeatedly showered with over 30 gallons of rhino diarrhea. "It was tricky. We had to calm her down, while at the same time shield our faces from being pelted with rhino dung. I guess you could say that Demuth was into it up to his neck. Once she was under control, we had three people with shovels working

to keep an air passage open for Mr. Demuth. We were able to tranquilize her and apply a solvent to remove his hands from her rear," said Douglass. "I don't think he'll be playing with Crazy Glue for a while."

Meanwhile, the Russians, while obviously amused, also were impressed with the power of the adhesive. "I'm going to buy some for my children, but of course they can't take it to the zoo," commented Vladimir Zolnikov, leader of the troupe.

Dumb Instructions

Date Received: Friday, June 23, 2000

I guess the human race is becoming more mentally challenged by certain obvious directions we read on warning labels. Here are some actual label instructions on consumer products that may tell us that we are

In a US guide to setting up a new computer -

TO AVOID CONDENSATION FORMING, ALLOW THE BOXES TO WARM UP TO ROOM TEMPERATURE BEFORE OPENING. (Sensible, but the instruction was INSIDE the box.)

On a Japanese product used to relieve painful hemorrhoids -

LIE DOWN ON BED AND INSERT POSCOOL SLOWLY UP TO THE PROJECTED PORTION LIKE A SWORD-GUARD INTO ANAL DUCT. WHILE INSERTING POSCOOL FOR APPROXIMATELY 5 MINUTES, KEEP QUIET.

On a blanket from Taiwan -

NOT TO BE USED AS PROTECTION FROM A TORNADO.

On a helmet mounted mirror used by US cyclists -

REMEMBER, OBJECTS IN THE MIRROR ARE ACTUALLY BEHIND YOU.

On a Taiwanese shampoo -

USE REPEATEDLY FOR SEVERE DAMAGE.

On the bottle top of a (UK) flavored milk drink -

AFTER OPENING, KEEP UPRIGHT.

On a New Zealand insect spray -

THIS PRODUCT NOT TESTED ON ANIMALS.

In some countries, on the bottom of Coke bottles -

OPEN OTHER END.

On a packet of Sunmaid raisins -

WHY NOT TRY TOSSING OVER YOUR FAVOURITE BREAKFAST CEREAL?

On a Sears hairdryer -

DO NOT USE WHILE SLEEPING.

On a bag of Fritos -

YOU COULD BE A WINNER! NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. DETAILS INSIDE.

On a bar of Dial soap -

DIRECTIONS - USE LIKE REGULAR SOAP.

On Tesco's Tiramisu dessert (printed on bottom of the box)-

DO NOT TURN UPSIDE DOWN.

On Marks & Spencer Bread Pudding -

PRODUCT WILL BE HOT AFTER HEATING.

On a Korean kitchen knife -

WARNING KEEP OUT OF CHILDREN.

On a string of Chinese made Christmas lights -

FOR INDOOR OR OUTDOOR USE ONLY.

On a Japanese food processor -

NOT TO BE USED FOR THE OTHER USE.

On Sainsbury's peanuts -

WARNING - CONTAINS NUTS.

On an American Airlines packet of nuts -

INSTRUCTIONS - OPEN PACKET, EAT NUTS.

On a Swedish chainsaw -

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO STOP CHAIN WITH YOUR HANDS OR GENITALS.

On a child's superman costume -

WEARING OF THIS GARMENT DOES NOT ENABLE YOU TO FLY.

On some frozen dinners -

SERVING SUGGESTION DEFROST.

On a hotel provided shower cap in a box -

FITS ONE HEAD.

On packaging for a Rowenta iron -
DO NOT IRON CLOTHES ON BODY.

On Boot's "Children's" cough medicine -

DO NOT DRIVE CAR OR OPERATE MACHINERY.

On Nytol sleep aid -

WARNING MAY CAUSE DROWSINESS.

Date Received: January 7, 2003

Those cardboard sunscreens for your windshield ... mine has "do not operate vehicle with sunshade in place"
3M dust mask we use at work...."does not provide independent air supply" -- no sh*t Sherlock!

Interview Strangeness

Date Received: Thu, 26 Mar 1998

We've all been interviewed for jobs. And, we've all spent most of those interviews thinking about what not to do. Don't bite your nails. Don't fidget. Don't interrupt. Don't belch. If we did any of the don'ts, we knew we'd disqualify ourselves instantly. But some job applicants go light years beyond this. We surveyed top personnel executives of 100 major American corporations and asked for stories of unusual behavior by job applicants.

The lowlights: Somehow I keep seeing George Castanza ...

"... stretched out on the floor to fill out the job application."

"She wore a Walkman and said she could listen to me and the music at the same time."

"A balding candidate abruptly excused himself. Returned to office a few minutes later, wearing a hairpiece."

"... asked to see interviewer's resume to see if the personnel executive was qualified to judge the candidate."

"... announced she hadn't had lunch and proceeded to eat a hamburger and French fries in the interviewer's office - wiping the ketchup on her sleeve"

"Stated that, if he were hired, he would demonstrate his loyalty by having the corporate logo tattooed on his forearm."

"Interrupted to phone his therapist for advice on answering specific interview questions."

"When I asked him about his hobbies, he stood up and started tap dancing around my office."

"At the end of the interview, while I stood there dumbstruck, went through my purse, took out a brush, brushed his hair, and left."

"... pulled out a Polaroid camera and snapped a flash picture of me. Said he collected photos of everyone who interviewed him."

"Said he wasn't interested because the position paid too much."

"While I was on a long-distance phone call, the applicant took out a copy of Penthouse, and looked through the photos only, stopping longest at the centerfold."

"During the interview, an alarm clock went off from the candidate's brief case. He took it out, shut it off, apologized and said he had to leave for another interview."

"A telephone call came in for the job applicant. It was from his wife. His side of the conversation went like this: "Which company? When do I start? What's the salary?" I said, "I assume you're not interested in conducting the interview any further." He promptly responded, "I am as long as you'll pay me more." I didn't hire him, but later found out there was no other job offer. It was a scam to get a higher offer.

"His attaché [case] opened when he picked it up and the contents spilled, revealing ladies' undergarments and assorted makeup and perfume."

"Candidate said he really didn't want to get a job, but the unemployment office needed proof that he was looking for one." Could it be VanderLay Industires?

"... asked who the lovely babe was, pointing to the picture on my desk. When I said it was my wife, he asked if she was home now and wanted my phone number. I called security."

"Pointing to a black case he carried into my office, he said that if he was not hired, the bomb would go off. Disbelieving, I began to state why he would never be hired and that I was going to call the police. He then reached down to the case, flipped a switch and ran. No one was injured, but I did need to get a new desk."

Date Received: Monday, September 25, 2000

Something funny I noted on the LOTD in Dilbert: top 20 odd questions to be asked in a job interview.

Was interviewing for (Consulting) programming position. Manager interviewing me asked me if I knew how to drive a FORKLIFT! I DO know how to drive a forklift and told him so. Got the (programming) job! Go figure... -- Ingle-bert

TRUE: INTERVIEWER: What would be your ideal job? ME: You mean anything? INT: Yes... ME: I'd like to find someone to pay me half a million each year to watch their beach house for 6 months...any other stupid questions? --Juno: and they still offered me the job!

College academic advisor - the guy I had class with 3 times a week since I started college, the guy who was my advisor for 4 years - asking me 'Um... what's your name and major again?' my final semester when I went in for advising --Faceless number...

'Do you know how to use a fire extinguisher?' Said by the fellow interviewing me as he handed me an extinguisher, while fire alarms and sprinklers had come on. I said I was a fast learner and followed him out to the fire. Not bad for an accountant! --I got the job

'If we hire you, would you be willing to stay as your current gender and agree not to have a sex change operation?' Made me wonder if this has been an ongoing problem for this company, and if so, WHY? -- Way2cynical

True story - I was sitting in an interview and the interviewer asked if the company that I was leaving was hiring. I said yes, referred him and got the referral bonus that the company offered - then quit and took his old job! -- strange-but-true-bert

In an interview for a job with 5x the salary than the one I had: 'So, do you think we can tempt you away from your current position?' --labmonkey - I'm outta here

Not in Job Interview, but applying for insurance. 'Have you committed arson in the last 30 days?' I, of course, answered, 'No, not in the last 30 days.' --LadyCoder

'We don't think you're right for this job, do you know anybody else we can interview instead?' --mikey

Can you go 8 hours without leaving your desk to go to the bathroom? (Well I guess so, but the cleaning people are not going to like emptying the trash can) --Stupid Question, Stupid answer.

True: No questions asked. Manager put feet up on desk, began telling how company worked and fell asleep! Got the job and promoted within a week. --Squidbert

Applying for a machinists position: 'How many words can you type?', replied 'all of them' --lathe-hand

True and nice for a change: Interviewer said in middle of interview 'Hey! Get in your car and follow me!' Drove me to the other end of town to meet some guy in another company - Was hired at that place! --Farewell and thank you for all the fish!

Let's meet at my house on Saturday for a second interview. --I showed up with my husband.

Can you lift 50 lbs? (for a call centre job) ---Are the phones that heavy?

Want a beer? --I love this job!

TRUE: Are you a geek? --No Longer Amazed-bert

TRUE: 'What would I have to say to make you walk out of this interview?' --Nick

Five years ago, about three minutes in to the interview, interviewer fixes me with a piercing gaze and asks : 'So which Star Trek do you prefer - Old Series or Next Generation?' --Harlequin - in the nightmare interview from Hell

How about AFTER getting the job? My first day at Hell Inc., walked in to greet my clerk. Her first words were 'What exactly are YOUR qualifications?' They hadn't told me she was bitter (insane) because she hadn't been given my job.

--queen of the darned -followed by 2 yrs of stalking

On a interview for a computer programming job, I was asked if I knew Pascal. -- No, he died in 1662 - I did not get the job

"You've done well so far, but your answer to this next question is really all we look at. If half a chicken can lay half an egg in half an hour, how many pickles can a monkey with a wooden leg stomp?" -- I'm really not making this up-bert

Was asked: If you were an animal, what would you be and why? Since I didn't really want the job, I answered, rather sarcastically: An elephant, so I can crush anything in my path. Was praised for my go-get 'em attitude. -- Cubicle with a View

Well, if I were a tree, I guess I'd be an Oak. Tell me, do you get many trees working here? Were they hired in arboreal form, or did they achieve tree status while working here? -- And what psychology class did you flunk out of?

Would you be willing to convert to the Amish religion? They are our main customers and they buy more easily from one of their own' -- Sure, I'll also learn to speak Dutch if you want.

Prospective PHB asked me if I knew what the Company did. When I said yes, he said I was hired as he hadn't figured it out in 10 years. -- Why did I take this job-Bert

Q: Do you like writing technical documentation? A: How far behind is your engineering group in their technical documentation? -- Aliens4Reality

PHManager at truck stop: You know how to skin possum? -- Trapped in hick hell

'What are your mission-critical skill sets?' I wish I were making this up. I wish I hadn't taken that job. -- Sorry, I don't speak fluent potato-head.

[Dumb News Bites](#)

Date Received: Mon, 28 Jun 1999

British News Bites

From the Churchdown Parish Magazine:

Would the Congregation please note that the bowl at the back of the Church labeled "For The Sick", is for monetary donations only.

From The Guardian concerning a sign seen in a Police canteen in Christchurch, New Zealand:

Will the person who took a slice of cake from the Commissioner's Office return it immediately. It is needed as evidence in a poisoning case.

From The Times:

A young girl, who was blown out to sea on a set of inflatable teeth, was rescued by a man on an inflatable lobster. A coast-guard spokesman commented, "This sort of thing is all too common these days."

From The Gloucester Citizen:

A sex line caller complained to Trading Standards. After dialing an 0891 number from an advertisement entitled "Hear Me Moan" the caller was played a tape of a woman nagging her husband for failing to do jobs around the house. Consumer Watchdogs in Dorset refused to look into the complaint, saying, "He got what he deserved."

From The Daily Telegraph in a piece headed Brussels Pays 200,000 Pounds to Save Prostitutes":

"... the money will not be going directly into the prostitutes' pocket, but will be used to encourage them to lead a better life. We will be training them for new positions in hotels."

From The Derby Abbey Community News:

"We apologize for the error in the last edition, in which we stated that 'Mr Fred Nicolme is a Defective in the Police Force'. This was a typographical error. We meant of course that Mr Nicolme is a Detective in the Police Farce."

Dumb Things Said About Parks

And to think that a U.S. court of appeals has ruled that the comments and opinions of park visitors can be accepted as factual evidence of the need to ban mountain bikers from trails...

These are questions that people actually asked of Park Rangers around the United States. Excerpted from Outside Magazine, May 1995, pp. 120-121.

Grand Canyon National Park

Was this man-made?

Do you light it up at night?

I bought tickets for the elevator to the bottom -- where is it?

Is the mule train air conditioned?

So where are the faces of the presidents?

Everglades National Park

Are the alligators real?

Are the baby alligators for sale?

Where are all the rides?

What time does the two o'clock bus leave?

Denali National Park (Alaska)

What time do you feed the bears?

Can you show me where the yeti lives?

How often do you mow the tundra?

How much does Mount McKinley weigh?

Mesa Verde National Park

Did people build this, or did Indians?

Why did they build the ruins so close to the road?

What did they worship in the kivas -- their own made-up religion?

Do you know of any undiscovered ruins?

Why did the Indians decide to live in Colorado?

Carlsbad Caverns National Park

How much of the cave is underground?

So what's in the unexplored part of the cave?

Does it ever rain in here?

How many Ping-Pong balls would it take to fill this up?

So what is this -- just a hole in the ground?

Yosemite National Park

Where are the cages for the animals?
What time do you turn on Yosemite Falls?
Can I get my picture taken with the carving of
President Clinton?

Yellowstone National Park

Does Old Faithful erupt at night?

Date Received: Thu, 15 Oct 1998

I can attest to the brilliant insights of some campers. One particular trip, I overheard one say, "where can I plug in this hairdryer in the morning?" We were ten miles from town in an isolated pasture with a little stream running through it. No waterwheel in sight. These were the same campers that packed lunch into paper bags for a river rafting trip. The fish ate well that day. Kent

These are actual comments left on Forest Service comment cards by backpackers completing wilderness camping trips:

A small deer came into my camp and stole my bag of pickles. Is there a way I can get reimbursed? Please call.

Escalators would help on steep uphill sections.

Instead of a permit system for hikers, the Forest Service needs to reduce worldwide population growth to limit the number of visitors to wilderness.

Trails need to be wider so people can walk while holding hands.

Found a smoldering cigarette left by a horse.

Trails need to be reconstructed. Please avoid building trails that go uphill.

Too many bugs and leeches and spiders and spider webs. Please spray the wilderness to rid the area of these pests.

Please pave the trails so they can be plowed of snow in the winter.

Chairlifts need to be in some places so that we can get to wonderful views without having to hike to them.

The coyotes made too much noise last night and kept me awake. Please eradicate these annoying animals.

Need more signs to keep area pristine.

A McDonald's would be nice at the trailhead.

The places where trails do not exist are not well marked.

Too many rocks in the mountains.

Dumb Sports-Related Quotes

Date Received: Tue, 4 Nov 1997

Why Sports Scholarship Is An Oxymoron

"You guys pair up in groups of three, then line up in a circle."

-- Bill Peterson, a Florida State football coach.

"That's so when I forget how to spell my name, I can still find my clothes."

-- Stu Grimson, Chicago Blackhawks left wing, explaining why he keeps a color photo of himself above his locker

"You guys line up alphabetically by height."

How do you turn it on?

When does the guy who turns it on get to sleep?

We had no trouble finding the park entrances, but where are the exits?

Todd Ourston * Marin County, California

-- Bill Peterson, a Florida State football coach.

"I play football. I'm not trying to be a professor. The tests don't seem to make sense to me, measuring your brain on stuff I haven't been through in school."

-- Clemson recruit Ray Forsythe, who was ineligible as a freshman because of academic requirements

"I know the Virginia players are smart because you need a 1500 SAT to get in. I have to drop bread crumbs to get our players to and from class"

-- George Raveling, Washington State basketball coach

"Why would anyone expect him to come out smarter? He went to prison for three years, not Princeton."

-- Boxing promoter Dan Duva on Mike Tyson hooking up again with promoter Don King

"I can't really remember the names of the clubs that we went to."

-- Shaquille O'Neal on whether he had visited the Parthenon during his visit to Greece

"The ballparks have gotten too crowded. That's why nobody goes to see the game anymore."

-- Yogi Berra

"I'm going to graduate on time, no matter how long it takes."

-- Senior basketball player at the University of Pittsburgh

"Nobody in football should be called a genius. A genius is a guy like Norman Einstein."

-- Football commentator and former player Joe Theismann

In this edition of the CRAPCO News...

Sports Shorts

Chicago Cubs outfielder Andre Dawson on being a role model: "I want all the kids to do what I do, to look up to me. I want all the kids to copulate me."

New Orleans Saint RB George Rogers when asked about the upcoming season: "I want to rush for 1,000 or 1,500 yards, whichever comes first."

Joe Jacoby of the 'Skins: "I'd run over my own mother to win the Super Bowl." Matt Millen of the Raiders: "To win, I'd run over Joe's mom too."

Shaquille O'Neal, on his lack of championships: "I've won at every level, except college and pro."

Lou Duva, veteran boxing trainer, on the Spartan training regime of heavyweight Andrew Golota: "He's a guy who gets up at six o'clock in the morning regardless of what time it is."

Pat Williams, Orlando Magic general manager, on his team's 7-27 record: "We can't win at home. We can't win on the road. As general manager, I just can't figure out where else to play." (1992)

Chuck Nevitt, North Carolina State basketball player, explaining to Coach Jim Valvano why he appeared nervous at practice: "My sister's expecting a baby, and I don't know if I'm going to be an uncle or an aunt."

Tommy Lasorda, Dodger manager, when asked what terms Mexican-born pitching sensation Fernando Valenzuela might settle for in his upcoming contract negotiations: "He wants Texas back." (1981)

Darrell Royal, Texas football coach, asked if the abnormal number of Longhorn injuries that season resulted from poor physical conditioning: "One player was lost because he broke his nose. How do you go about getting a nose in condition for football?" (1966)

Mike McCormack, coach of the hapless Baltimore Colts after the team's co-captain, offensive guard Robert Pratt, pulled a hamstring running onto the field for the coin toss against St. Louis: "I'm going to send the injured reserve players out for the toss next time." (1981)

Steve Spurrier, Florida football coach, telling Gator fans that a fire at Auburn's football dorm had destroyed 20 books: "But the real tragedy was that 15 hadn't been colored yet." (1991)

Jim Finks, New Orleans Saints G.M., when asked after a loss what he thought of the refs: "I'm not allowed to comment on lousy officiating." (1986)

Frank Layden, Utah Jazz president, on a former player: "I asked him, 'Son, what is it with you? Is it ignorance or apathy?' He said, 'Coach, I don't know and I don't care.'" (1991)

Torrin Polk, University of Houston receiver, on his coach, John Jenkins: "He treats us like men. He lets us wear earrings." (1991)

Shelby Metcalf, basketball coach at Texas A&M, recounting what he told a player who received four F's and one D: "Son, looks to me like you're spending too much time on one subject."

Dumb Movie Subtitles

Date Received: Tue, 4 Nov 1997

Actual Hong Kong Movie Sub-Titles

| | |
|--|--|
| I am damn unsatisfied to be killed in this way. | You always use violence. I should've ordered glutinous rice chicken. |
| Fatty, you with your thick face have hurt my instep. | I'll fire aimlessly if you don't come out! |
| Gun wounds again? | You daring lousy guy. |
| Same old rules: no eyes, no groin. | Beat him out of recognizable shape! |
| A normal person wouldn't steal pituitaries. | I have been scared shitless too much lately. |
| Damn, I'll burn you into a BBQ chicken! | I got knife scars more than the number of your leg's hair! |
| Take my advice, or I'll spank you without pants. | Beware! Your bones are going to be disconnected. |
| Who gave you the nerve to get killed here? | The bullets inside are very hot. Why do I feel so cold? |
| Quiet or I'll blow your throat up. | How can you use my intestines as a gift? |

This will be of fine service for you, you bag of the scum. I am sure you will not mind that I remove your manhoods and leave them out on the dessert flour for your aunts to eat.

Yah-hah, evil spider woman! I have captured you by the short rabbits and can now deliver you violently to your gynecologist for a thorough extermination.

Greetings, large black person. Let us not forget to form a team up together and go into the country to inflict the pain of our karate feets on some ass of the giant lizard person.

Dumb Travellers

Date Received: Mon, 11 May 1998

The following are actual stories told by travel agents (and you wonder why US citizens generally score lower than the rest of the world on geography).

I had someone who wanted to stay at the Bob Newhart Inn in Connecticut. When I explained that the inn was fictional, the customer became very irate and insisted "I know it is real, I see them check in every week!"

Also, I really did have someone ask for an aisle seat so that her hair wouldn't get messed up by being near the window.

A client called inquiring about a package to Hawaii. After going over all the cost info, she asked, "would it be cheaper to fly to California and then take the train to Hawaii?"

I got a call from a woman who wanted to go to Cape Town. I started to explain the length of the flight and the passport information when she interrupted me with "I'm not trying to make you look stupid, but Capetown is in Massachusetts. Without trying to make her look like the stupid one, I calmly explained, "Cape Cod is in Massachusetts, Cape Town is in Africa." Her response ... click.

A secretary called in looking for hotel in Los Angeles. She gave me various names off a list, none of which I could find. I finally had her fax me the list. To my surprise, it was a list of hotels in New Orleans, Louisiana. She thought the LA stood for Los Angeles, and that New Orleans was a suburb of of L.A. Worst of all, when I called her back, she was not even embarrassed.

A man called, furious about a Florida package we did. I asked what was wrong with the vacation in Orlando. He said he was expecting an ocean-view room. I tried to explain that is not possible, since Orlando is in the middle of the state. He replied, "Don't lie to me. I looked on the map and Florida is a very thin state."

I got a call from a man who asked, "is it possible to see England from Canada?" I said, "No." He said, "but they look so close on the map."

Another man called and asked if he could rent a car in Dallas. When I pulled up the reservation, I noticed he had a 1-hour lay-over in Dallas. When I asked him why he wanted to rent a car, he said, "I heard Dallas was a big airport, and I need a car to drive between the gates to save time."

A nice lady just called. She needed to know how it was possible that her flight from Detroit left at 8:20 am and got into Chicago at 8:33 am. I tried to explain that Michigan was an hour ahead of Illinois, but she could not understand the concept of time zones. Finally, I told her the plane went very fast, and she bought that!

A woman called and asked, "Do airlines put your physical description on your bag so they know whose luggage belongs to who?" I said, "No, why do you ask?" She replied, "Well, when I checked in with the airline, they put a tag on my luggage that said FAT, and I'm overweight, is there any connection?" After putting her on hold for a minute while I "looked into it" (I was actually laughing) I came back and explained the city code for Fresno is FAT, and that the airline was just putting a destination tag on her luggage.

I just got off the phone with a man who asked, "How do I know which plane to get on?" I asked him what exactly he meant, which he replied, "I was told my flight number is 823, but none of these damn planes have numbers on them."

A woman called and said, "I need to fly to pepsi-cola on one of those computer planes." I asked if she meant to fly to Pensacola on a commuter plane. She said, "Yeah, whatever."

A business man called and had a question about the documents he needed in order to fly to China. After a lengthy discussion about passports, I reminded him he needed a visa. "Oh no I don't, I've been to China many times and never had to have one of those." I double checked, and sure enough, his stay required a visa. When I told him this he said, "Look, I've been to China 4 times and every time they have accepted my American Express."

A woman called to make reservations, "I want to go from Chicago to Hippopotamus, New York" The agent was at a loss for words. Finally, the agent: "Are you sure that's the name of the town?" "Yes, what flights do you have?" replied the customer. After some searching, the agent came back with, "I'm sorry, ma'am, I've looked up every airport code in the country and can't find a Hippopotamus anywhere." The customer retorted, "Oh don't

be silly. Everyone knows where it is. "Check your map!" The agent scoured a map of the state of New York and finally offered, "You don't mean Buffalo, do you?" "That's it! I knew it was a big animal!"

Embarrassing moments

Date Received: Wed, 21 Jul 1999

Sorry for so many jokes in one day but this one, from Alan, really got me.

While in line at the bank one afternoon, my toddler decided to release some pent-up energy and ran amok. I was finally able to grab hold of her after receiving looks of disgust and annoyance from other patrons. I told her that if she did not start behaving "right now", she would be punished. To my horror, she looked me in the eye and said in a voice just as threatening, "If you don't let me go right now, I will tell Grandma that I saw you kissing Daddy's pee-pee last night!" The silence was deafening after this enlightening exchange. Even the tellers stopped what they were doing. I mustered up the last of my dignity and walked out of the bank with my daughter in tow. The last thing I heard when the door closed behind me were screams of laughter.

Amy Richardson
Stafford, Virginia

It was the day before my eighteenth birthday. I was living at home, but my parents had gone out for the evening, so I invited my girlfriend over for a romantic night alone. As we lay in bed after making love, we heard the telephone ring downstairs. I suggested to my girlfriend that I give her a piggyback ride to the phone. Since we didn't want to miss the call, we didn't have time to get dressed. When we got to the bottom of the stairs, the lights suddenly came on and a whole crowd of people yelled, "SURPRISE!!!" My entire family, aunts, uncles, Grandparents, cousins and all my friends were standing there. My girlfriend and I were frozen in a state of shock and embarrassment for what seemed like an eternity. Since then, no one in my family has planned a surprise party again...

Tim Cahill
Poughkeepsie, New York

One of the funniest "most-embarrassing-moment" stories I've come upon in a long time was about a lady who picked up several items at a discount store. When she finally got up to the checker, she learned that one of her items had no price tag. Imagine her embarrassment when the checker got off the intercom and boomed out for all the store to hear, "PRICE CHECK ON LANE THIRTEEN, TAMPAX, SU- PERSIZE." That was bad enough, but somebody at the rear of the store apparently misunderstood the word "tampax" for "THUMB TACKS." In a businesslike tone, a voice boomed back over the intercom. "DO YOU WANT THE KIND YOU PUSH IN WITH YOUR THUMB OR THE KIND YOU POUND IN WITH A HAMMER???"

A teacher noticed that a little boy at the back of the class was squirming around, scratching his crotch and not paying attention. She went back to find out what was going on. He was quite embarrassed and whispered that he had just recently been circumcised and he was quite itchy. The teacher told him to go down to the principal's office, he was to phone his mother, and ask her what he should do about it. He did it and he returned to the classroom, where he sat down in his seat. Suddenly there was a commotion at the back of the room. She went back to investigate only to find him sitting at his desk with his penis hanging out. "I thought I told you to call your mom." she screamed. "I did," he said, "And she told me that if I could stick it out till noon, she'd come and pick me up from school".

Date Received: Fri, 13 Jun 2003 In High School, I was in Army JROTC, or Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. Every year, we had a Military Ball, an affair similar to a Prom or Homecoming dance. My senior year, I went all out. I rented a stretch Limo for my date and I, and planned on a little action later that night. Preparing for this, I put a condom and a mint in the breast pocket of my uniform. When I got to the dance, someone realized that no

one had brought a spatula or a knife for the cake. Captain Avery, a retired Airborne Ranger, was my teacher, and he asked me to run across the street and buy the items, and he gave me the money. I did it, and put the change in my breast pocket. When I returned to the dance hall, I gave him the money, not thinking about what else was in the pocket. The mint was on the top of the stack of bills I gave him, and I took it, and began walking away. As I was walking away, I put the mint back into my pocket, but didn't feel the condom. Captain Avery called my name as I was walking away, but I just kept walking, red-faced. The following Monday, in class, he casually walked over to my desk and quietly told me to hold out my hand. He then deposited the condom into my palm. Talk about embarrassing.

World Cup Guidelines for American Tourists

Date Received: Thu, 16 Jul 1998

The following advisory for American travelers heading for France was compiled from information provided by the US State Department, the Central Intelligence Agency, the US Chamber of Commerce, the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control, and some very expensive spy satellites that the French don't know about. It is intended as a guide for American travelers only.

General Overview

France is a medium-sized foreign country situated in the continent of Europe. It is an important member of the world community, though not nearly as important as it thinks. It is bounded by Germany, Spain, Switzerland and some smaller nations of no particular consequence and with not very good shopping.

France is a very old country with many treasures, such as the Louvre and EuroDisney. Among its contributions to western civilization are champagne, Camembert cheese and the guillotine.

Although France likes to think of itself as a modern nation, air conditioning is little used and it is next to impossible to get decent Mexican food. One continuing exasperation for American visitors is that the people willfully persist in speaking French, though many will speak English if shouted at. As in any foreign country, watch your change at all times.

The People

France has a population of 54 million people, most of whom drink and smoke a great deal, drive like lunatics, are dangerously oversexed, and have no concept of standing patiently in line. The French people are in general gloomy, temperamental, proud, arrogant, aloof, and undisciplined; and those are their good points.

Most French citizens are Roman Catholic, though you would hardly guess it from their behavior. Many people are communists, and topless sunbathing is common. Men sometimes have girls' names like Marie, and they kiss each other when they hand out medals. American travelers are advised to travel in groups and to wear baseball caps and colorful trousers for easier mutual recognition.

Safety

In general, France is a safe destination, though travelers are advised that, from time to time, it is invaded by Germany. By tradition, the France surrenders more or less at once and, apart from a temporary shortage of Scotch whisky and increased difficulty in getting baseball scores and stock market prices, life for the visitor generally goes on much as before. A tunnel connecting France to Britain beneath the English Channel has been opened in recent years to make it easier for the Government to flee to London.

History

France was discovered by Charlemagne in the Dark Ages. Other important historical figures are Louis XIV, the Huguenots, Joan of Arc, Jacques Cousteau, and Charles de Gaulle, who was President for many years and is now an airport.

Government

The French form of government is democratic but noisy. Elections are held more or less continuously, and always result in a run-off. For administrative purposes, the country is divided into regions, departments, districts, municipalities, cantons, communes, villages, cafes, booths, and floor tiles.

Parliament consists of two chambers, the Upper and Lower (though, confusingly, they are both on the ground floor), whose members are either Gaullists or communists, neither of whom is to be trusted, frankly. Parliament's principal preoccupations are setting off atomic bombs in the South Pacific, and acting indignant when anyone complains.

According to the most current State Department intelligence, the President now is someone named Jacques. Further information is not available at this time.

Culture

The French pride themselves on their culture, though it is not easy to see why. All their songs sound the same, and they have hardly ever made a movie that you would want to watch for anything but the nude scenes. And nothing, of course, is more boring than a French novel.

Cuisine

Let's face it, no matter how much garlic you put on it, a snail is just a slug with a shell on its back. Croissants, on the other hand, are excellent, though it is impossible for most Americans to pronounce this word. In general, travelers are advised to stick to cheeseburgers at leading hotels such as Sheraton and Holiday Inn.

Economy

France has a large and diversified economy, second only to Germany's in Europe, which is surprising because people hardly work at all.

If they are not spending four hours dawdling over lunch, they are on strike and blocking the roads with their trucks and tractors. France's principal exports, in order of importance to the economy, are wine, nuclear weapons, perfume, guided missiles, champagne, high-caliber weaponry, grenade launchers, land mines, tanks, attack aircraft, miscellaneous armaments and cheese.

Public Holidays

France has more holidays than any other nation in the world. Among its 361 national holidays are 197 saints' days, 37 National Liberation Days, 16 Declaration of Republic Days, 54 Return of Charles de Gaulle in Triumph as if he Won the War Single-Handed Days, 18 Napoleon Sent into Exile Days, 17 Napoleon Called Back from Exile Days, and 112 France is Great and the Rest of the World is Rubbish Days. Other important holidays are National Nuclear Bomb Day (January 12), the Feast of St. Brigitte Bardot Day (March 1), and National Guillotine Day (November 12).

Conclusion

France enjoys a rich history, a picturesque and varied landscape, and a temperate climate. In short, it would be a very nice country if it weren't inhabited by French people.

The best thing that can be said for it is that it is not Germany.

A Word of Warning

The consular services of the United States government are intended solely for the promotion of the interests of American businesses such as McDonald's, Pizza Hut, and the Coca-Cola Corporation. In the event that you are the victim of a crime or serious injury involving at least the loss of a limb, report to the American Embassy between the hours of 5.15 am and 5.20 am on a Tuesday or Wednesday, and a consular official who is supremely indifferent to your plight will give you a list of qualified dentists or something similarly useless.

Freud on Seuss

Date Received: Tue, 25 Aug 1998

A book review by Josh LeBeau

The Cat in the Hat, by Dr. Seuss, 61 pages. Beginner Books, \$3.95

The Cat in the Hat is a hard-hitting novel of prose and poetry in which the author re-examines the dynamic rhyming schemes and bold imagery of some of his earlier works, most notably Green Eggs and Ham, If I Ran the Zoo, and Why Can't I Shower With Mommy? In this novel, Theodore Geisel, writing under the pseudonym Dr. Seuss, pays homage to the great Dr. Sigmund Freud in a nightmarish fantasy of a renegade feline helping two young children understand their own frustrated sexuality.

The story opens with two youngsters, a brother and sister, abandoned by their mother, staring mournfully through the window of their single-family dwelling. In the foreground, a large tree/phallic symbol dances wildly in the wind, taunting the children and encouraging them to succumb to the sexual yearnings they undoubtedly feel for each other. Even to the most unlearned reader, the blatant references to the incestuous relationship the two share set the tone for Seuss' probing examination of the satisfaction of primitive needs. The Cat proceeds to charm the wary youths into engaging in what he so innocently refers to as "tricks." At this point, the fish, an obvious Christ figure who represents the prevailing Christian morality, attempts to warn the children, and thus, in effect, warns all of humanity of the dangers associated with the unleashing of the primal urges. In response to this, the cat proceeds to balance the aquatic naysayer on the end of his umbrella, essentially saying, "Down with morality; down with God!"

After poohpoohing the righteous rantings of the waterlogged Christ figure, the Cat begins to juggle several icons of Western culture, most notably two books, representing the Old and New Testaments, and a saucer of lactal fluid, an ironic reference to maternal loss the two children experienced when their mother abandoned them "for the afternoon." Our heroic Id adds to this bold gesture a rake and a toy man, and thus completes the Oedipal triangle.

Later in the novel, Seuss introduces the proverbial Pandora's box, a large red crate out of which the Id releases Thing One, or Freud's concept of Ego, the division of the psyche that serves as the conscious mediator between the person and reality, and Thing Two, the Superego which functions to reward and punish through a system of moral attitudes, conscience, and guilt. Referring to this box, the Cat says, "Now look at this trick. Take a look!" In this, Dr. Seuss uses the children as a brilliant metaphor for the reader, and asks the reader to examine his own inner self.

The children, unable to control the Id, Ego, and Superego allow these creatures to run free and mess up the house, or more symbolically, control their lives. This rampage continues until the fish, or Christ symbol, warns that the mother is returning to reinstate the Oedipal triangle that existed before her abandonment of the children. At this point, Seuss introduces a many-armed cleaning device which represents the psychoanalytic couch, which proceeds to put the two youngsters' lives back in order.

With powerful simplicity, clarity, and drama, Seuss reduces Freud's concepts on the dynamics of the human psyche to an easily understood gesture. Mr. Seuss' poetry and choice of words is equally impressive and serves as a splendid counterpart to his bold symbolism. In all, his style is quick and fluid, making The Cat in the Hat impossible to put down. While the novel is 61 pages in length, and one can read it in five minutes or less, it is not until after multiple readings that the genius of this modern master becomes apparent.

MEMORANDUM (On Government-Related Travel)

Due to the increasing federal budget deficit, the following policies have been established regarding employees traveling on official government business.

(Note: this is from a sheet that I photocopied on March 12, 1993, when the Canadian government was in the midst of wholesale cutbacks.)

TRANSPORTATION

Hitchhiking in lieu of commercial transport is the preferred choice. Fluorescent safety vests will be issued to all employees prior to their departure on government business trips. Bus transportation will be used whenever hitchhiking is not possible. Airline tickets will only be authorized for purchase in extreme circumstances, and the lowest fares will be used. If, for example, a meeting is scheduled in Vancouver, but a lower fare can be obtained by traveling to Montreal, then the meeting will be relocated to Montreal.

LODGING

All employees are encouraged to stay with relatives, friends, or mere acquaintances while on government business. If weather permits, public areas such as parks, roadside rest stops, and parking lots should be used for temporary lodging sites. Bridges and tunnels may provide shelter in periods of inclement weather.

MEALS

Expenditures for meals will be limited to the absolute minimum. It should be noted that certain grocery chains, such as Loblaws, often provide free samples of promotional items. Entire meals can frequently be consumed in this manner. Travelers should also become familiar with indigenous roots, berries and other protein sources available at their destination. If restaurants must be utilized, travelers should seek establishments offering "all you can eat" salad bars. This will be especially cost-effective to employees traveling together, as a single plate can be used to feed an entire group. Employees are also encouraged to bring their own food while on government business. Cans of tuna fish, Spam and Beefaroni can be conveniently consumed at your leisure, without the unnecessary bother of heating or other costly preparations.

ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment while on travel is strictly discouraged. If such extravagances are required on diplomatic contacts, international visitors should be encouraged to "pick up the tab". Such action will save the taxpayers money and also convince foreign diplomats that we are concerned about spending money on effective government, not on useless frivolities. The hospitality provided to diplomats who visit our facility shall be tasteful, yet cost-effective. In lieu of lavish dinners, a picnic bench will be placed in the rear parking lot near the dumpster and a garden hose will be made available so that liquid refreshments can be provided for our guests.

From Hollywood Squares

Date Received: Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Subject: FWD:From The Original Hollywood Squares T.V. Show

These are from the days when game show responses were spontaneous, not scripted like they are now. Or were they?

If you're going to make a parachute jump, you should be at least how high?

Charley Weaver: Three days of steady drinking should do it.

True or false, George...experts say there are only seven or eight things in the world dumber than an ant.?

George Gobel: Yes, and I think I voted for six of 'em.

True or false...a pea can last as long as 5,000 years.

George Gobel: Boy, it sure seems that way sometimes...

You've been having trouble going to sleep. Are you probably a man or a woman?

Don Knotts: That's what's been keeping me awake.

Can you get an elephant drunk?

Paul Lynde: Yes, but she still won't go up to your apartment.

According to Cosmo, if you meet a stranger at a party and you think he's really attractive, is it okay to come out directly and ask him if he's married?

Rose Marie: No, wait until morning.

Which of your five senses tends to diminish as you get older?

Charley Weaver: My sense of decency.

In Hawaiian, does it take more than three words to say "I love you"?

Vincent Price: No, you can say it with a pineapple and a twenty.

What are "Do It", "I Can Help" and "Can't Get Enough"?

George Gobel: I don't know but it's coming from the next apartment.

As you grow older, do you tend to gesture more or less with your hands while you are talking?

Rose Marie: You ask me one more growing older question, Peter...and I'll give you a gesture you'll never forget!

According to Zsa Zsa, does black look sexy on a woman?

Redd Foxx: I wouldn't have it any other way...

What are "dual purpose" cattle good for that other cattle aren't?

Paul Lynde: They give milk and cookies ... but I don't recommend the cookies!

If you find someone lying unconscious in the street, should you do anything?

George Goebel: I'd probably crawl around him, I guess.

Paul, why do Hell's Angels wear leather?

Paul Lynde: Because chiffon wrinkles too easily.

Charley, you've just decided to grow strawberries. Are you going to get any during your first year?

Charley Weaver: Of course not, Peter. I'm too busy growing strawberries!

In bowling, what's a perfect score?

Rose Marie: Ralph, the pin boy.

It is considered in bad taste to discuss two subjects at nudist camps. One is politics. What is the other?

Paul Lynde: Tape measures.

During a tornado, are you safer in the bedroom or in the closet?

Rose Marie: Unfortunately, Peter, I'm always safe in the bedroom.

Can boys join the camp fire girls?

Marty Allen: Only after lights out.

When you pat a dog on its head he will usually wag his tail. What will a goose do?

Paul Lynde: Make him bark.

If you were pregnant for two years, what would you give birth to?

Paul Lynde: Whatever it is, it would never be afraid of the dark.

According to Ann Landers, is there anything wrong with getting into the habit of kissing a lot of people?

Charley Weaver: It got me out of the Army!

Is it possible for the puppies in a litter to have more than one daddy?

Paul Lynde: Why, that bitch!

While visiting China, your tour guide starts shouting "Poo! Poo! Poo!" What's that mean?

George Goebel: Cattle crossing.

It is the most abused and neglected part of your body-what is it?

Paul Lynde: Mine may be abused but it certainly isn't neglected!

Charley, what do you call a pig that weighs more than 150 pounds?

Charley Weaver: A divorcee.

Back in the old days, when Great Grandpa put horseradish on his head, what was he trying to do?

George Gobel: Get it in his mouth.

According to Movie Life magazine, Ann-Margaret would like to start having babies soon, but her husband wants her to wait a while. Why?

Paul Lynde: He's out of town.

Dennis Weaver, Debbie Reynolds, and Shelley Winters star in the movie "What's The Matter With Helen?" Who plays Helen?

Charley Weaver: Dennis Weaver - that's why they asked the question.

Which stays pregnant longer? Your wife or your elephant?

Paul Lynde: Who told you about my elephant?

When a couple have a baby, who is responsible for its sex?

Charley Weaver: I'll lend him the car. The rest is up to him.

James Stewart did it over twenty years ago when he was forty-one years old. Now he says it was "one of the best things I ever did." What was it?

Marty Allen: Rhonda Fleming.

Jackie Gleason recently revealed that he firmly believes in them and has actually seen them on at least two occasions. What are they?

Charley Weaver: His feet.

Do female frogs croak?

Paul Lynde: If you hold their little heads under water.

Your baby has a certain object which he loves to cling to. Should you try to break him of his habit?

Joan Rivers: Yes. It's daddy's turn.

[School 1977 vs. School 2007](#)

Date Received: February 9, 2008

The triumph of political correctness. 8-(

Scenario: Johnny and Mark get into a fistfight after school.

1977 - Crowd gathers. Mark wins. Johnny and Mark shake hands and end up mates.

2007 - Police are called, Armed Response Unit arrives and arrests Johnny and Mark. Mobiles with video of fight confiscated as evidence. They are charged with assault, ASBOs are taken out and both are suspended even

though Johnny started it. Diversionary conferences and parent meetings conducted. Video shown on 6 internet sites.

Scenario: Jeffrey won't sit still in class, disrupts other students.

1977 - Jeffrey is sent to the principal's office and given 6 of the best. Returns to class, sits still and does not disrupt class again.

2007 - Jeffrey is given huge doses of Ritalin. Counselling to death. Becomes a zombie. Tested for ADD. School gets extra funding because Jeffrey has a disability. Drops out of school.

Scenario: Billy breaks a window in his neighbour's car and his Dad gives him the slipper.

1977 - Billy is more careful next time, grows up normal, goes to college, and becomes a successful businessman.

2007 - Billy's dad is arrested for child abuse. Billy is removed to foster care and joins a gang. Psychologist tells Billy's sister that she remembers being abused herself and their dad goes to prison. Billy's mum has an affair with the psychologist. Psychologist gets a promotion.

Scenario: Mark, a college student, brings cigarettes to school.

1977 - Mark shares a smoke with the school principal out on the smoking area.

2007 - Police are called and Mark is expelled from School for drug possession. His car is searched for drugs and weapons.

Scenario: Mohammed fails high school English.

1977 - Mohammed retakes his exam, passes and goes to college.

2007 - Mohammed's cause is taken up by local human rights group. Newspaper articles appear nationally explaining that making English a requirement for graduation is racist. Civil Liberties Association files class action lawsuit against state school system and his English teacher. English is banned from core curriculum. Mohammed is given his qualification anyway but ends up mowing lawns for a living because he cannot speak English.

Scenario: Johnny takes apart leftover firecrackers, puts them in a model plane paint bottle and blows up an anthill.

1977 - Ants die.

2007 - MI5 and police are called and Johnny is charged with perpetrating acts of terrorism. Teams investigate parents, siblings are removed from the home, computers are confiscated, and Johnny's dad goes on a terror watch list and is never allowed to fly again.

Scenario: Johnny falls during break and scrapes his knee. His teacher, Mary, finds him crying, and gives him a hug to comfort him.

1977 - Johnny soon feels better and goes back to playing.

2007 - Mary is accused of being a sexual predator and loses her job. She faces three years in prison. Johnny undergoes five years of therapy.

HU'S ON FIRST

By James Sherman

Playwright Jim Sherman wrote this today after Hu Jintao was named chief of the Communist Party in China.

(We take you now to the Oval Office.)

George: Condi! Nice to see you. What's happening?

Condi: Sir, I have the report here about the new leader of China.

George: Great. Lay it on me.

Condi: Hu is the new leader of China.

George: That's what I want to know.

Condi: That's what I'm telling you.

George: That's what I'm asking you. Who is the new leader of China?

Condi: Yes.

George: I mean the fellow's name.

Condi: Hu.

George: The guy in China.

Condi: Hu.

George: The new leader of China.

Condi: Hu.

George: The Chinaman!

Condi: Hu is leading China.

George: Now whaddya' asking me for?

Condi: I'm telling you Hu is leading China.

George: Well, I'm asking you. Who is leading China?

Condi: That's the man's name.

George: That's who's name?

Condi: Yes.

George: Will you or will you not tell me the name of the new leader of China?

Condi: Yes, sir.

George: Yassir? Yassir Arafat is in China? I thought he was in the Middle East.

Condi: That's correct.

George: Then who is in China?

Condi: Yes, sir.

George: Yassir is in China?

Condi: No, sir.

George: Then who is?

Condi: Yes, sir.

George: Yassir?

Condi: No, sir.

George: Look, Condi. I need to know the name of the new leader of China. Get me the Secretary General of the U.N. on the phone.

Condi: Kofi?

George: No, thanks.

Condi: You want Kofi?

George: No.

Condi: You don't want Kofi.

George: No. But now that you mention it, I could use a glass of milk. And then get me the U.N.

Condi: Yes, sir.

George: Not Yassir! The guy at the U.N.

Condi: Kofi?

George: Milk! Will you please make the call?

Condi: And call who?

George: Who is the guy at the U.N?

Condi: Hu is the guy in China.

George: Will you stay out of China?!

Condi: Yes, sir.

George: And stay out of the Middle East! Just get me the guy at the U.N.

Condi: Kofi.

George: All right! With cream and two sugars. Now get on the phone.

(Condi picks up the phone.)

Condi: Rice, here.

George: Rice? Good idea. And a couple of egg rolls, too. Maybe we should send some to the guy in China. And the Middle East. Can you get Chinese food in the Middle East?

[An Interview with Madonna](#)

Date Received: Fri, 4 Dec 1998

The following are extracts from an interview with Madonna by the Hungarian magazine Blikk. The questions to Madonna were asked in Hungarian and then translated into English. Madonna's responses were then translated into Hungarian. The interview was then published in Hungarian and, finally, translated back into English.

Time Magazine states, "to say that something was lost in the process is to be wildly ungrateful for all that was gained"

Here are some of the gems culled from the interview:

BLIKK: Madonna, Budapest says hello with arms that are spread-eagled. Did you have a visit here that was agreeable? Are you in good odor? You are the biggest fan of our young people who hear your musical productions and like to move their bodies in response.

MADONNA: Thank you for saying these compliments (holds up hands). Please stop with taking sensationalist photographs until I have removed my garments for all to see. (laughs). This is a joke I have made.

BLIKK: Madonna, let's cut to toward the hunt. Are you a bold hussy-woman that feasts on men who are tops?

MADONNA: Yes, yes, this is certainly something that brings to the surface my longings. In America it is not considered to be mentally ill when a woman advances on her prey in a discotheque setting with hardy cocktails present. And there is a more normal attitude toward leather play-toys that also makes my day.

BLIKK: Us this how you met Carlos, your love servant who is reputed? Did you know he was heaven-sent right off the stick? Or were you dating many other people in your bed at the same time?

MADONNA: No, he was the only one I was dating in my bed then, so it is a scientific fact that the baby was made in my womb using him. But as regards those questions, enough! I am a woman and not a test-mouse! Carlos is and everyday person who is in the orbit of a star who is being muscle-trained by him not a sex machine.

BLIKK: May we talk about your other "baby", your movie, then? Please do not be denying that the similarities between you and the real Evita are grounded in basis. Power, money, tasty-food, Grammys-all these elements are afoot.

MADONNA: What is up in the air with you? Evita never was winning a Grammy!

BLIKK: Perhaps not. But as to your film, in trying to bring your reputation along a rocky road, can you make people forget the bad explosions of Who's That Girl? and Shanghai Surprise?

MADONNA: I am a tip-top starlet. That is the job that I am paid to do.

BLIKK: O.K. here's a question from left space. What was your book Slut about?

MADONNA: It was called Sex, my book.

BLIKK: Not in Hungary. Here it was called Slut. How did it come to publish? Were you lovemaking with a an-about-town printer? Do you prefer making suggestive literature to fast selling CD's?

MADONNA: These are different facets to my career highway. I am preferring only to become respected all over the map as a 100% artist.

BLIKK: There is much interest in you from this geographical region, so I must ask this final questions. How many Hungarian men have you dated in bed? Are they No. 1? How are they comparing to Argentine men, who are famous for being tip-top as well?

MADONNA: Well, to avoid aggravating global tension, I won't say. It's a tie (laughs). No, no, I am serious now. See here I am working like a canine all the way around the clock! I am too busy even to try the goulash the makes your country for the record books.

BLIKK: Thank you for your candid chitchat.

MADONNA: No problem, friend who is a girl.

Excerpts From Letters Sent To Landlords

Date Received: Thu, 1 Apr 1999

The toilet is blocked and we cannot bathe the children until it is clear.

I want some repairs done to my stove as it has backfired and burnt my knob off.

This is to let you know that there is a smell coming from the man next door.

The toilet seat is cracked: where do I stand?

I am writing on behalf of my sink, which is running away from the wall.

I request your permission to remove my drawers in the kitchen.

Our lavatory seat is broken in half and is now in three pieces.

The person next door has a large erection in his back garden, which is unsightly and dangerous.

Will you please send someone to mend our cracked sidewalk. Yesterday my wife tripped on it and is now pregnant.

Our kitchen floor is very damp, we have two children and would like a third, so will you please send someone to do something about it.

Will you please send a man to look at my water, it is a funny color and not fit to drink.

Would you please send a man to repair my downspout. I am an old age pensioner and need it straight away.

Could you please send someone to fix our bath tap. My wife got her toe stuck in it and it is very uncomfortable for us.

When the workmen were here they put their tools in my wife's new drawers and made a mess. Please send men with clean tools to finish the job and keep my wife happy.

Dumb Medical Reports

Date Received: Mon, 02 Feb 1998

Medical goofs, a collective from medical interview records written by various paramedics, emergency room receptionists, and (we are afraid) a doctor or two at major hospitals.

The baby was delivered, the cord clamped and cut and handed to the pediatrician, who breathed and cried immediately.

Exam of genitalia reveals that he is circus sized.

The skin was moist and dry.

Rectal exam revealed a normal size thyroid.

The patient had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch.

She stated that she had been constipated for most of her life until 1989 when she got a divorce.

Between you and me, we ought to be able to get this lady pregnant.

The patient was in his usual state of good health until his airplane ran out of gas and crashed.

I saw your patient today, who is still under our car for physical therapy.

The patient lives at home with his mother, father, and pet turtle, who is presently enrolled in day care three times a week.

Bleeding started in the rectal area and continued all the way to Los Angeles.

Both breasts are equal and reactive to light and accommodation.

She is numb from her toes down.

Exam of genitalia was completely negative except for the right foot.

While in the emergency room, she was examined, X-rated and sent home.

The lab test indicated abnormal liver function.

The patient was to have a bowel resection, however, he got a job as a stockbroker instead.

Occasional, constant, infrequent headaches.

Coming from Detroit, this man has no children.

Examination reveals a well-developed male lying in bed with his family in no distress.

Patient was alert and unresponsive.

When she fainted, her eyes rolled around the room.

Politically Correct Little Red Riding Hood

Date Received: Sun, 07 Dec 1997

There once was a young person named Little Red Riding Hood who lived on the edge of a large forest full of endangered owls and rare plants that would probably provide a cure for cancer if only someone took the time to study them.

Red Riding Hood lived with a nurture giver whom she sometimes referred to as "mother", although she didn't mean to imply by this term that she would have thought less of the person if a close biological link did not in fact exist. Nor did she intend to denigrate the equal value of nontraditional households, although she was sorry if this was the impression conveyed.

One day her mother asked her to take a basket of organically grown fruit and mineral water to her grandmother's house.

"But mother, won't this be stealing work from the unionized people who have struggled for years to earn the right to carry all packages between various people in the woods?"

Red Riding Hood's mother assured her that she had called the union boss and gotten a special compassionate mission exemption form.

"But mother, aren't you oppressing me by ordering me to do this?"

Red Riding Hood's mother pointed out that it was impossible for womyn to oppress each other, since all womyn were equally oppressed until all womyn were free.

"But mother, then shouldn't you have my brother carry the basket, since he's an oppressor, and should learn what it's like to be oppressed?"

And Red Riding Hood's mother explained that her brother was attending a special rally for animal rights, and besides, this wasn't stereotypical womyn's work, but an empowering deed that would help engender a feeling of community.

"But won't I be oppressing Grandma, by implying that she's sick and hence unable to independently further her own selfhood?"

But Red Riding Hood's mother explained that her grandmother wasn't actually sick or incapacitated or mentally handicapped in any way, although that was not to imply that any of these conditions were inferior to what some people called "health".

Thus Red Riding Hood felt that she could get behind the idea of delivering the basket to her grandmother, and so she set off.

Many people believed that the forest was a foreboding and dangerous place, but Red Riding Hood knew that this was an irrational fear based on cultural paradigms instilled by a patriarchal society that regarded the natural world as an exploitable resource, and hence believed that natural predators were in fact intolerable competitors.

Other people avoided the woods for fear of thieves and deviants, but Red Riding Hood felt that in a truly classless society all marginalized peoples would be able to "come out" of the woods and be accepted as valid lifestyle role models.

On her way to Grandma's house, Red Riding Hood passed a woodchopper, and wandered off the path, in order to examine some flowers.

She was startled to find herself standing before a Wolf, who asked her what was in her basket.

Red Riding Hood's teacher had warned her never to talk to strangers, but she was confident in taking control of her own budding sexuality, and chose to dialogue with the Wolf.

She replied, "I am taking my Grandmother some healthful snacks in a gesture of solidarity."

The Wolf said, "You know, my dear, it isn't safe for a little girl to walk through these woods alone."

Red Riding Hood said, "I find your sexist remark offensive in the extreme, but I will ignore it because of your traditional status as an outcast from society, the stress of which has caused you to develop an alternative and yet entirely valid worldview. Now, if you'll excuse me, I would prefer to be on my way."

Red Riding Hood returned to the main path, and proceeded towards her Grandmother's house.

But because his status outside society had freed him from slavish adherence to linear, Western-style thought, the Wolf knew of a quicker route to Grandma's house.

He burst into the house and ate Grandma, a course of action affirmative of his nature as a predator.

Then, unhampered by rigid, traditionalist gender role notions, he put on Grandma's nightclothes, crawled under the bedclothes, and awaited developments.

Red Riding Hood entered the cottage and said,

Grandma, I have brought you some cruelty free snacks to salute you in your role of wise and nurturing matriarch."

The Wolf said softly "Come closer, child, so that I might see you."

Red Riding Hood said, "Goddess! Grandma, what big eyes you have!"

"You forget that I am optically challenged."

"And Grandma, what an enormous, what a fine nose you have."

"Naturally, I could have had it fixed to help my acting career, but I didn't give in to such societal pressures, my child."

"And Grandma, what very big, sharp teeth you have!"

The Wolf could not take any more of these specist slurs, and, in a reaction appropriate for his accustomed milieu, he leaped out of bed, grabbed Little Red Riding Hood, and opened his jaws so wide that she could see her poor Grandmother cowering in his belly.

"Aren't you forgetting something?" Red Riding Hood bravely shouted. "You must request my permission before proceeding to a new level of intimacy!"

The Wolf was so startled by this statement that he loosened his grasp on her.

At the same time, the woodchopper burst into the cottage, brandishing an ax.

"Hands off!" cried the woodchopper. "And what do you think you're doing?" cried Little Red Riding Hood. "If I let you help me now, I would be expressing a lack of confidence in my own abilities, which would lead to poor self esteem and lower achievement scores on college entrance exams."

"Last chance, sister! Get your hands off that endangered species! This is an FBI sting!" screamed the woodchopper, and when Little Red Riding Hood nonetheless made a sudden motion, he sliced off her head.

"Thank goodness you got here in time," said the Wolf. "The brat and her grandmother lured me in here. I thought I was a goner."

"No, I think I'm the real victim, here," said the woodchopper. "I've been dealing with my anger ever since I saw her picking those protected flowers earlier. And now I'm going to have such a trauma. Do you have any aspirin?"

"Sure," said the Wolf.

"Thanks."

"I feel your pain," said the Wolf, and he patted the woodchopper on his firm, well padded back, gave a little belch, and said "Do you have any Maalox?"

Informative Comments

I went to McDonald's yesterday and said, "I'd like some fries." The kid at the counter said, "Would you like some fries with that?" - Jay Leno

The second day of a diet is always easier than the first. By the second day you're off it. - Jackie Gleason

Never raise your hands to your kids. It leaves your groin unprotected. - Red Buttons

Advertising: The science of arresting the human intelligence long enough to get money from it. - Stephen Leacock

Did you ever notice when you blow in a dog's face he gets mad at you? But when you take him in a car, he sticks his head out the window. - Steve Bluestone

Have you ever noticed? Anybody going slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac. - George Carlin

I would live to speak a foreign language but I can't. So I grew hair under my arms instead. - Sue Kolinsky

You have a cough? Go home tonight, eat a whole box of Ex-Lax, tomorrow you'll be afraid to cough. - Pearl Williams

I'm desperately trying to figure out why kamikaze pilots wore helmets. - Dave Edison

Never moon a werewolf. - Mike Binder

Product Diversity Exceeds Biodiversity

Date Received: Sunday, October 01, 2000

WASHINGTON, DC--According to an EPA study conducted in conjunction with the U.N. Task Force On Global Developmental Impact, consumer-product diversity now exceeds biodiversity. According to the study, for the first time in history, the rich array of consumer products available in malls and supermarkets surpasses the number of living species populating the planet.

"Last year's introduction of Dentyne Ice Cinnamon gum, right on the heels of the extinction of the Carolina tufted hen, put product diversity on top for the first time," study chair Donald Hargrove said. "Today, the Procter & Gamble subphylum alone outnumbers insects two to one."

The sharp rise in consumer-product diversity--with more than 200 million new purchasing options generated since 1993--comes as welcome news for those upset over the dwindling number of plant and animal species. "As more and more species fall victim to extinction, we face a grave crisis of decreased diversity, not only in America but across the globe," Hargrove said. "But the good news is, these losses in biodiversity are more than offset by a corresponding rise in consumer-product diversity. Though flora and fauna are dwindling, the spectrum of goods available to consumers is wider than at any time in planetary history. And that's something we can all be happy about."

Scientists are calling the current decrease in biodiversity one of the worst episodes of mass extinction in the Earth's history. The rate at which species are currently vanishing approaches that of the "K-T Event" that ended the Age of Dinosaurs 65 million years ago and resulted in a loss of 76 percent of the world's species. The current era of biodiversity depletion, however, is unique in that it is the first mass extinction to occur in conjunction with an expanding industrial society, and thus, the first in which consumer-product availability can function as a "balancing factor" to help keep global diversity thriving.

"Any healthy system needs diversification in order to flourish," University of Chicago biologist Jonathan Grogan said. "Any complex system, whether we are talking about the Amazon Rainforest or the Mall of America, needs a rich array of species/products if it is to survive. That is why, in light of the crumbling global ecosystem, it is increasingly vital that we foster the diversification of the global marketplace by buying the widest range of consumer products possible."

According to Grogan, because of the interdependent nature of systems like the Amazon Rainforest and the Mall of America, the disappearance of any one species/product can lead to the disappearance of countless others.

"The extinction of the Borneo hooded tern was an indirect result of the disappearance of the native species of sea snails upon which it fed," Grogan said. "This kind of vicious cycle, once begun, is impossible to contain. Fortunately, though, the process can function the same way in reverse: The successful introduction of a new item can lead to additional items later on. For example, the proliferation of Love My Carpet-brand carpet cleaner in hall closets across America would not have been possible without the introduction of the affordable, easy-to-use Hoover 5.0 upright vacuum cleaner. And thus, the cycle of life goes on."

According to science writer David Quammen, much of the rise in consumer-product diversity is a direct result of the decrease in biodiversity. "When a species vanishes, the world loses not only that species, but the wide range of highly specialized physical and biochemical functions that species served. These ecological losses necessitate the creation of new, synthetic products capable of serving the same functions," Quammen said.

"So, for example, when we lose a strain of microbe that filters the water we drink, we compensate by developing the amazing Brita water filter, with its patented filtration technology. When we lose a plant in the jungles of Indonesia whose berry bears an extremely rare nutrient, we develop in its place fruity, fun-to-eat Flintstones chewable vitamin supplements."

Read the EPA report: "The planet Earth stands on the brink of one of the most devastating global extinctions in history. By the year 2040, nearly two-thirds of all current species will be extinct. Rainforest habitats that were once lush canopies of life, sustaining millions of highly specialized and interdependent species of plants and animals, have been reduced by upwards of 95 percent in some areas. Thankfully, however, retail outlets which, as little as 50 years ago, were the domain of only a handful of basic staple goods, have evolved into lush, highly developed supermarkets and department stores with a nearly limitless abundance of consumer goods."

Environmental and business leaders cheered the report's optimistic findings, but they warn that consumers still have their work cut out for them.

"As our ecological resources continue to disappear, we must all do our part," Quaker Oats CEO Reuben McCall said. "That means diligent, conscientious commitment to increased consumption of new products. If these products are not bought, nobody will manufacture them. And if this were to happen, the damage to the precious diversity of our consumer landscape would be disastrous."

Quiz Show Answers

Date Received: March 27, 2008

UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE (BBC2)

Jeremy Paxman: What is another name for 'cherry pickers' and cheesemongers'?

Contestant: Homosexuals.

Paxman: No. They're regiments in the British Army who will be very upset with you.

BEG, BORROW OR STEAL (BBC2)

Jamie Theakston: Where do you think Cambridge University is?

Contestant: Geography isn't my strong point.

Theakston: There's a clue in the title.

Contestant: Leicester.

BBC NORFOLK

Stewart White: Who had a worldwide hit with What A Wonderful World?

Contestant: I don't know.

White: I'll give you some clues: what do you call the part between your hand and your elbow?

Contestant: Arm.

White: Correct. And if you're not weak, you're...?

Contestant: Strong.

White: Correct - and what was Lord Mountbatten's first name?

Contestant: Louis.

White: Well, there we are then. So who had a worldwide hit with the song What A Wonderful World?

Contestant: Frank Sinatra?

LATE SHOW (BBC MIDLANDS)

Alex Trelinski: What is the capital of Italy?

Contestant: France.

Trelinski: France is another country. Try again.

Contestant: Oh, um, Benidorm.

Trelinski: Wrong, sorry, let's try another question. In which country is the Parthenon?

Contestant: Sorry, I don't know.

Trelinski: Just guess a country then.

Contestant: Paris.

THE WEAKEST LINK (BBC2)

Anne Robinson: Oscar Wilde, Adolf Hitler and Jeffrey Archer have all written books about their experiences in what: Prison, or The Conservative Party?

Contestant: The Conservative Party.

BEACON RADIO (WOLVERHAMPTON)

DJ Mark: For Pounds 10, what is the nationality of the Pope?

Ruth from Rowley Regis: I think I know that one. Is it Jewish?

UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

Bamber Gascoigne: What was Gandhi's first name?

Contestant: Goosey?

GWR FM (Bristol)

Presenter: What happened in Dallas on November 22, 1963?

Contestant: I don't know, I wasn't watching it then.

RTE RADIO 2FM (IRELAND)

Presenter: What is the name of the long- running TV comedy show about pensioners: Last Of The...?

Caller: Mohicans.

PHIL WOOD SHOW (BBC RADIO MANCHESTER)

Phil: What's 11 squared?

Contestant: I don't know.

Phil: I'll give you a clue. It's two ones with a two in the Middle.

Contestant: Is it five?

RICHARD AND JUDY

Q: Which American actor is married to Nicole Kidman?

A: Forrest Gump.

RICHARD AND JUDY

Leslie: On which street did Sherlock Holmes live?

Contestant: Er . . .

Leslie: He makes bread . . .

Contestant: Er . . .

Leslie: He makes cakes . . .

Contestant: Kipling Street?

LINCS FM PHONE-IN

Presenter: Which is the largest Spanish-speaking country in the world?

Contestant: Barcelona.

Presenter: I was really after the name of a country.

Contestant: I'm sorry; I don't know the names of any countries in Spain.

NATIONAL LOTTERY (BBC1)

Question: What is the world's largest continent?

Contestant: The Pacific

ROCK FM (PRESTON)

Presenter: Name a film starring Bob Hoskins that is also the name of a famous painting by Leonardo Da Vinci.

Contestant: Who Framed Roger Rabbit?

THE BIGGEST GAME IN TOWN (ITV)

Steve Le Fevre: What was signed, to bring World War I to an end in 1918?

Contestant: Magna Carta?.

JAMES O'BRIEN SHOW (LBC)

O'Brien: How many kings of England have been called Henry?

Contestant: Er, well, I know there was a Henry the Eighth ... ER ..ER .. Three?

CHRIS SEARLE SHOW (BBC RADIO BRISTOL)

Searle: In which European country is Mount Etna?

Caller: Japan.

Searle: I did say which European country, so in case you didn't hear that, I can let you try again.

Caller: Er.... Mexico?

PAUL WAPPAT (BBC RADIO NEWCASTLE)

Paul Wappat: How long did the Six-Day War between Egypt and Israel last?

Contestant (after long pause): Fourteen days.

DARYL DENHAM'S DRIVETIME (VIRGIN RADIO) Daryl Denham:

Denham: In which country would you spend shekels?

Contestant: Holland?

Denham: Try the next letter of the alphabet.

Contestant: Iceland? Ireland?

Denham (helpfully): It's a bad line. Did you say Israel?

Contestant: No.

PHIL WOOD SHOW (BBC GMR)

Wood: What 'K' could be described as the Islamic Bible?

Contestant: Er . . .

Wood: It's got two syllables . . . Kor . . .

Contestant: Blimey?

Wood: Ha ha ha ha, no. The past participle of run . . .

Contestant: (Silence)

Wood: OK, try it another way. Today I run, yesterday I

... .

Contestant: Walked?

THE VAULT

Melanie Sykes: What is the name given to the condition where the sufferer can fall asleep at any time?

STEVE WRIGHT IN THE AFTERNOON (BBC RADIO 2)

Wright: Johnny Weissmuller died on this day. Which jungle-swinging character clad only in a loin cloth did he play?

Contestant: Jesus

Contestant: Nostalgia.

LUNCHTIME SHOW (BRMB)

Presenter: What religion was Guy Fawkes?

Contestant: Jewish.

Presenter: That's close enough.

[Dumb Sex-Related Laws](#)

Date Received: June 22 1995

OK, denizens - I'm looking at a Xeroxed page from a 1993 issue of a magazine (can't tell which one; this is one of those "XEROX the funny story and pass it around the office" deals) that contains excerpts from a book entitled *Loony Sex Laws that You Never Knew You Were Breaking*. The thing was written by Robert Wayne Pelton and published by Walker and Company, if I'm reading this smudged copy correctly. Assuming this guy did his homework properly, his book might be a good resource for answering these sorts of questions.

Some jewels (any typos are mine):

In the quiet town of Connorsville, Wisconsin, it's illegal for a man to shoot off a gun when his female partner has an orgasm.

It's against the law in Willowdale, Oregon, for a husband to curse during sex.

In Oblong, Illinois, it's punishable by law to make love while hunting or fishing on your wedding day.

No man is allowed to make love to his wife with the smell of garlic, onions, or sardines on his breath in Alexandria, Minnesota. If his wife so requests, law mandates that he must brush his teeth.

Warn your hubby that after lovemaking in Ames, Iowa, he isn't allowed to take more than three gulps of beer while lying in bed with you -- or holding you in his arms.

Bozeman, Montana, has a law that bans all sexual activity between members of the opposite sex in the front yard of a home after sundown-- if they're nude. (Apparently, if you wear socks, you're safe from the law!)

In hotels in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, every room is required to have twin beds. And the beds must be a minimum of two feet apart when a couple rents a room for only one night. And it's illegal to make love on the floor between the beds!

The owner of every hotel in Hastings, Nebraska, is required to provide each guest with a clean and pressed nightshirt. No couple, even if they are married, may sleep together in the nude. Nor may they have sex unless they are wearing one of these clean, white cotton nightshirts.

An ordinance in Newcastle, Wyoming, specifically bans couples from having sex while standing inside a store's walk-in meat freezer!

A state law in Illinois mandates that all bachelors should be called master, not mister, when addressed by their female counterparts.

In Norfolk, Virginia, a woman can't go out without wearing a corset. (There was a civil-service job-- for men only-- called a corset inspector.)

However, in Merryville, Missouri, women are prohibited from wearing corsets because "the privilege of admiring the curvaceous, unencumbered body of a young woman should not be denied to the normal, red-blooded American male."

It's safe to make love while parked in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Police officers aren't allowed to walk up and knock on the window. Any suspicious officer who thinks that sex is taking place must drive up from behind, honk his horn three times and wait approximately two minutes before getting out of his car to investigate.

Another law in Helena, Montana, mandates that a woman can't dance on a table in a saloon or bar unless she has on at least three pounds, two ounces of clothing.

Lovers in Liberty Corner, New Jersey, should avoid satisfying their lustful urges in a parked car. If the horn accidentally sounds while they are frolicking behind the wheel, the couple can face a jail term.

In Carlsbad, New Mexico, it's legal for couples to have sex in a parked vehicle during their lunch break from work, as long as the car or van has curtains to stop strangers from peeking in.

A Florida sex law: If you're a single, divorced or widowed woman, you can't parachute on Sunday afternoons.

Women aren't allowed to wear patent-leather shoes in Cleveland, Ohio-- a man might see the reflection of something "he oughtn't"

No woman may have sex with a man while riding in an ambulance within the boundaries of Tremonton, Utah. If caught, the woman can be charged with a sexual misdemeanor and "her name is to be published in the local newspaper." The man isn't charged nor is his name revealed.

Philippe D. Nave, Jr. | We're sorry - all our .sigs are busy right now.

Denver, Colorado USA | Please re-read this message, and the next available

JUST THE FACTS

Date Received: Wednesday, April 11, 2001

In Lebanon, men are legally allowed to have sex with animals, but the animals must be female. Having sexual relations with a male animal is punishable by death. (Like THAT makes sense.)

In Bahrain, a male doctor may legally examine a woman's genitals, but is prohibited from looking directly at them during the examination. He may only see their reflection in a mirror.

Muslims are banned from looking at the genitals of a corpse. This also applies to undertakers; the sex organs of the deceased must be covered with a brick or piece of wood at all times. (A brick??)

The penalty for masturbation in Indonesia is decapitation.

There are men in Guam whose full-time job is to travel the countryside and deflower young virgins, who pay them for the privilege of having sex for the first time... Reason: under Guam law, it is expressly forbidden for virgins to marry. (Let's just think for a minute; is there any job anywhere else in the world that even comes close to this?)

In Hong Kong, a betrayed wife is legally allowed to kill her adulterous husband, but may only do so with her bare hands. The husband's lover, on the other hand, may be killed in any manner desired. (Ah! Justice!)

Topless saleswomen are legal in Liverpool, England - but only in tropical fish stores. (But of course!)

In Cali, Colombia, a woman may only have sex with her husband, and the first time this happens, her mother must be in the room to witness the act. (What a thought.)

In Santa Cruz, Bolivia, it is illegal for a man to have sex with a woman and her daughter at the same time. (This was a big enough problem that they had to pass this law?)

In Maryland, it is illegal to sell condoms from vending machines with one exception: prophylactics may be dispensed from a vending machine only "in places where alcoholic beverages are sold for consumption on the premises." (Is this a great country or what? Not as great as Guam!)

If you yelled for 8 years, 7 months and 6 days, you would have produced enough sound energy to heat one cup of coffee. (Hardly seems worth it)

If you fart consistently for 6 years and 9 months, enough gas is produced to create the energy of an atomic bomb. (Now that's more like it)

A pig's orgasm lasts for 30 minutes. (In my next life I want to be a pig)

Banging your head against a wall uses 150 calories an hour. (Still not over that pig thing)

Humans and dolphins are the only species that have sex for pleasure. (Is that why Flipper was always smiling?)

The strongest muscle in the body is the tongue. (Hummm....I won't touch THAT one!)

The ant can lift 50 times its own weight, can pull 30 times its own weight and always falls over on its right side when intoxicated. (From drinking little bottles of...? Did the govt. pay for this research??)

Some lions mate over 50 times a day. (In my next life I STILL want to be a pig ... quality over quantity)

Butterflies taste with their feet. (Ah, geez) An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain. (I know some people like that)

Starfish don't have brains. (I know some people like that too)

After reading all these, all I can say is.....Damn Those Pigs.

Dumb Courtroom Exchanges

Date Received: Fri, 17 March 1995

Most language is spoken language, and most words, once they are uttered, vanish forever into the air. But such is not the case with language spoken during courtroom trials, for there exists an army of courtroom reporters whose job it is to take down and preserve every statement made during the proceedings.

Mary Louise Gilman, the venerable editor of the National Shorthand Reporter has collected many of the more hilarious courtroom bloopers in two books - *Humor in the Court* (1977) and *More Humor in the Court*, published a few months ago. From Mrs. Gilman's two volumes, here are some of the best, all recorded by America's keepers of the word:

Q: What is your brother-in-law's name?

A: Borofkin.

Q: What's his first name?

A: I can't remember.

Q: He's been your brother-in-law for years, and you can't remember his first name?

A: No. I tell you I'm too excited. (Rising from the witness chair and pointing to Mr. Borofkin.) Nathan, for God's sake, tell them your first name!

Q: Did you ever stay all night with this man in New York?

A: I refuse to answer that question.

Q: Did you ever stay all night with this man in Chicago?

A: I refuse to answer that question.

Q: Did you ever stay all night with this man in Miami?

A: No.

Q: Now, Mrs. Johnson, how was your first marriage terminated?

A: By death.

Q: And by whose death was it terminated?

Q: Doctor, did you say he was shot in the woods?

A: No, I said he was shot in the lumbar region.

Q: What is your name?

A: Ernestine McDowell.

Q: And what is your marital status?

A: Fair.

Q: Are you married?

A: No, I'm divorced.

Q: And what did your husband do before you divorced him?

A: A lot of things I didn't know about.

Q: And who is this person you are speaking of?

A: My ex-widow said it.

Q: How did you happen to go to Dr. Cherney?

A: Well, a gal down the road had had several of her children by Dr. Cherney, and said he was really good.

Q: Do you know how far pregnant you are right now?

A: I will be three months November 8th.

Q: Apparently then, the date of conception was August 8th?

A: Yes.

Q: What were you and your husband doing at that time?

Q: Mrs. Smith, do you believe that you are emotionally unstable?

A: I should be.

Q: How many times have you committed suicide?

A: Four times.

Q: Doctor, how many autopsies have you performed on dead people?

A: All my autopsies have been performed on dead people.

Q: Were you acquainted with the deceased?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Before or after he died?

Q: Officer, what led you to believe the defendant was under the influence?

A: Because he was argumentary and he couldn't pronounce his words.

Q: What happened then?

A: He told me, he says, "I have to kill you because you can identify me."

Q: Did he kill you?

A: No.

Q: Mrs. Jones, is your appearance this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

A: No. This is how I dress when I go to work.

Q: Did he pick the dog up by the ears?

A: No.

Q: What was he doing with the dog's ears?

A: Picking them up in the air.

Q: Where was the dog at this time?

A: Attached to the ears.

Q: When he went, had you gone and had she, if she wanted to and were able, for the time being excluding all the restraints on her not to go, gone also, would he have brought you, meaning you and she, with him to the station?

MR. BROOKS: Objection. That question should be taken out and shot.

Q: And lastly, Gary, all your responses must be oral. O.K.? What school do you go to?

A: Oral.

Q: How old are you?

A: Oral.

Q: What is your relationship with the plaintiff?

A: She is my daughter.

Q: Was she your daughter on February 13, 1979?

Q: Now, you have investigated other murders, have you not, where there was a victim?

Q: ... and what did he do then?

A: He came home, and next morning he was dead.

Q: So, when he woke up the next morning, he was dead?

Q: Did you tell your lawyer that your husband had offered you indignities?

A: He didn't offer me nothing; he just said I could have the furniture.

Q: So, after the anesthesia, when you came out of it, what did you observe with respect to your scalp?

A: I didn't see my scalp the whole time I was in the hospital.

Q: It was covered?

A: Yes, bandaged.

Q: Then, later on.. what did you see?

A: I had a skin graft. My whole buttocks and leg were removed and put on top of my head.

Q: Could you see him from where you were standing?

A: I could see his head.

Q: And where was his head?

A: Just above his shoulders.

Q: What can you tell us about the truthfulness and veracity of this defendant?

A: Oh, she will tell the truth. She said she'd kill that sonofabitch- and she did!

Q: Do you drink when you're on duty?

A: I don't drink when I'm on duty, unless I come on duty drunk.

Q: ...any suggestions as to what prevented this from being a murder trial instead of an attempted murder trial?

A: The victim lived.

Q: Are you sexually active?

A: No, I just lie there.

Q: Are you qualified to give a urine sample?

A: Yes, I have been since early childhood.

Q: The truth of the matter is that you were not an unbiased, objective witness, isn't it. You too were shot in the fracas?

A: No, sir. I was shot midway between the fracas and the naval.

Q: What is the meaning of sperm being present?

A: It indicates intercourse.

Q: Male sperm?

A: That is the only kind I know.

Q: (Showing man picture.) That's you?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: And you were present when the picture was taken, right?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Was that the same nose you broke as a child?

Glenn Hendler Department of English University of Notre Dame Notre Dame, IN 46556

Date Received: Mon, 22 Jan 1996

From the Salt Lake Tribune:

"Lawyers typically aren't funny -- unless by accident. Case in point: The following questions from lawyers were taken from official court records nationwide...

Q: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

A: No.

Q: Did you check for blood pressure?

A: No.

Q: Did you check for breathing?

A: No.

Q: So, it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

A: No.

Q: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

A: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

Q: But could the patient have still been alive nevertheless?

A: It is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law somewhere.

Now, doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, in most cases he just passes quietly away and doesn't know anything about it until the next morning?

Q: What happened then?

A: He told me, he says, 'I have to kill you because you can identify me.'

Q: Did he kill you?

Was it you or your brother that was killed in the war?

The youngest son, the 20-year-old, how old is he?

Were you alone or by yourself.

How long have you been a French Canadian?

Do you have any children or anything of that kind?

Q: I show you exhibit 3 and ask you if you recognize that picture.

A: That's me.

Q: Were you present when that picture was taken?

Q: Were you present in court this morning when you were sworn in?

Q: So you were gone until you returned?

Q: She had three children, right?

A: Yes.

Q: How many were boys?

A: None.

Q: Were there girls?

You don't know what it was, and you didn't know what it looked like, but can you describe it?

Q: You say that the stairs went down to the basement?

A: Yes.

Q: And these stairs, did they go up also?

Q: Have you lived in this town all your life?

A: Not yet.

A Texas attorney, realizing he was on the verge of unleashing a stupid question, interrupted himself and said, "Your Honor, I'd like to strike the next question."

Q: Do you recall approximately the time that you examined the body of Mr. Edington at the Rose Chapel?

A: It was in the evening. The autopsy started about 8:30 p.m.

Q: And Mr. Edington was dead at the time, is that correct?

A: No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy!

Dumb Newspaper Headlines

Air Head Fired

Arson Suspect is Held in Massachusetts Fire

Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft

Autos killing 110 a day - let's resolve to do better

Ban On Soliciting Dead in Trotwood

Bank Drive-in Window Blocked by Board

Blind woman gets new kidney from daughter she hasn't seen in years

British Union Finds Dwarfs in Short Supply

British left waffles on Falkland Islands

Chef Throws His Heart into Helping Feed Needy

Child's death ruins couple's holiday

Childs stool great for use in garden

Cold wave linked to temperatures

Deaf College Opens Doors to Hearing

Dealers will hear car talk at noon

Death causes loneliness, feeling of isolation

Deer Kill 17,000

Dr. Ruth to talk about sex with newspaper editors

Drunk gets nine months in violin case

Drunken drivers paid \$1000 in '84

Enfields Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide

Enraged cow injures farmer with ax

Eye drops off shelf

Farmer Bill dies in house

Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors

If strike isn't settled quickly, it may last a while

Include your Children when Baking Cookies

Iraqi head seeks arms

Is there a ring of debris around Uranus?

Juvenile court to try shooting defendant

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks

Killer sentenced to die for second time in 10 years

Lansing Residents Can Drop Off Trees
 Lawmen from Mexico barbecue guests
 Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half
 Lung cancer in women mushrooms
 Man Minus Ear Waives Hearing
 Man Struck by Lightning Faces Battery Charge
 Man is fatally slain
 Milk drinkers are turning to powder
 Miners refuse to work after death
 NJ judge to rule on nude beach
 Never withhold herpes infection from loved one
 New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
 New Vaccine May Contain Rabies
 Nicaragua sets goal to wipe out literacy
 Old School Pillars are Replaced by Alumni
 Organ festival ends in smashing climax
 Panda mating fails; Veterinarian takes over
 Plane too close to ground, crash probe told
 Police Discovered Pot Plants Were Really Cannabis
 Police begin campaign to run down jaywalkers
 Police found safe hidden under bed
 Prosecutor Releases Probe into Undersheriff
 Prostitutes appeal to Pope

Date Received: 24 Sep 1996

Firm Grasp of the Obvious Department From the Notebook pages of The New Republic 1995:

Study Finds Sex, Pregnancy Link
Cornell Daily Sun, December 7, 1995
 Whatever Their motives, Moms Who Kill Kids still Shock Us
Holland Sentinel, date unknown.
 Survey Finds Dirtier Subways After Cleaning Jobs Were Cut
The New York Times, November 22
 Survey Finds Dirtier Subways After Cleaning Jobs Were Cut
The New York Times, November 22
 Survey Finds Dirtier Subways After Cleaning Jobs Were Cut
The New York Times, November 22
 Alcohol ads promote drinking
The Hartford Courant, November 18

Quarter of a million Chinese live on water
 Queen Mary having bottom scraped
 Reagan wins on budget, but more lies ahead
 Red Tape Holds Up New Bridge
 Safety experts say school bus passengers should be belted
 Sex Education Delayed, Teachers Request Training
 Shot off woman's leg helps Nicklaus to 66
 Smokers are productive, but death cuts efficiency
 Some Pieces of Rock Hudson Sold at Auction
 Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Experts Say
 Soviet Virgin Lands Short of Goal Again
 Squad Helps Dog Bite Victim
 Steals Clock, Faces Time
 Stolen Painting Found by Tree
 Stud Tires Out
 Survivor of Siamese twins joins parents
 Teacher Strikes Idle Kids
 Two Soviet Ships Collide, One Dies
 Two Sisters Reunited after 18 Years in Checkout Counter
 Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead
 War Dims Hope for Peace

Malls try to attract shoppers
The Baltimore Sun, October 22
 Official: Only rain will cure drought
The Herald-News, Westport, Massachusetts
 Teen-age girls often have babies fathered by men
The Sunday Oregonian, September 24
 Low Wages Said Key to Poverty
Newsday, July 11
 Man shoots neighbor with machete
The Miami Herald, July 3
 Tomatoes come in big, little, medium sizes
The Daily Progress, Charlottesville, Virginia, March 30
 Dirty-Air Cities Far Deadlier Than Clean Ones, Study Shows
The New York Times, March 10

Man Run Over by Freight Train Dies

The Los Angeles Times, March 2

Scientists see quakes in L.A. future

The Oregonian, January 28

Wachtler tells graduates that life in jail is demeaning

The Buffalo News, February 26

Free Advice: Bundle up when out in the cold

Lexington Herald-Leader, January 26

Prosecution paints O.J. as a wife-killer

Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel, January 25

Economist uses theory to explain economy

Collinsville Herald-Journal, February 8

Bible church's focus is the Bible

Saint Augustine Record, Florida, December 3, 1994

Clinton pledges restraint in use of nuclear weapons

Date Received: Wed, 4 Nov 1998

The following were actually taken from recent classified ads in newspapers:

1 Man, 7 Woman Hot Tub -- \$850/Offer

Amana Washer \$100. Owned By Clean Bachelor Who Seldom Washed

Snow Blower For Sale ... Only Used On Snowy Days

Free Puppies ... Part German Shepherd/Part Dog

2 Wire Mesh Butchering Gloves, 1 5-finger, 1 3-finger, Pair: \$15

Tickle Me Elmo, Still In Box, Comes With It's Own 1988 Mustang, 5l, Auto, Excellent Condition \$6800

Cows, Calves Never Bred... Also 1 Gay Bull For Sale

'83 Toyota Hunchback -- \$2000

Star Wars Job Of The Hut -- \$15

Free Puppies: 1/2 Cocker Spaniel - 1/2 Sneaky Neighbor's Dog

Free Yorkshire Terrier. 8 Years Old. Unpleasant Little Dog

Soft & Genital Bath Tissues Or Facial Tissue - 89 Cents

German Shephard. 85 Lbs. Neutered. Speaks German. Free

Full Sized Mattress. 20 Yr Warranty. Like New. Slight Urine Smell

Free 1 Can Of Pork & Beans With Purchase Of 3 Br 2 Bth Home

For Sale: Lee Majors (6 Million Dollar Man) - \$50

Nordic Track \$300 - Hardly Used - Call Chubbie

Cedar Rapids Gazette, April 6

Discoveries: Older blacks have edge in longevity

The Chicago Tribune, March 5

Court Rules Boxer Shorts Are Indeed Underwear

Journal of Commerce, April 20

Biting nails can be sign of tenseness in a person

The Daily Gazette of Schenectady, New York, May 2

Lack of brains hinders research

The Columbus Dispatch, April 16

How we feel about ourselves is the core of self-esteem, says author Louise Hart

Boulder, Colorado, Sunday Camera, February 5

Fish lurk in streams

Rochester, New York, Democrat & Chronicle, January 29

Bill's Septic Cleaning - "We Haul American Made Products"

Shakespeare's Pizza - Free Chopsticks

Found: Dirty White Dog...Looks Like A Rat...Been Out Awhile...Better Be Reward

Hummels - Largest Selection Ever - "If It's In Stock, We Have It!"

Get A Little John: The Traveling Urinal - Holds 2 1/2 Bottles Of Beer

Harrisburg Postal Employees Gun Club

Georgia Peaches - California Grown - 89 Cents Lb.

Nice Parachute - Never Opened - Used Once - Slightly Stained

Free: Farm Kittens. Ready To Eat

American Flag - 60 Stars - Pole Included - \$100

Tired Of Working For Only \$9.75 Per Hour? We Offer Profit Sharing And Flexible Hours. Starting Pay: \$7 - \$9 Per Hour

Notice: To Person Or Persons Who Took The Large Pumpkin On Highway 87 Near Southridge Storage. Please Return The Pumpkin And Be Checked. Pumpkin May Be Radioactive. All Other Plants In Vicinity Are Dead

Exercise Equipment: Queen Size Mattress & Box Spring - \$175

Our Sofa Seats The Whole Mob - And It's Made Of
100% Italian Leather

Joining Nudist Colony, Must Sell Washer & Dryer -
\$300

Lawyer Says Client Is Not That Guilty

Alzheimer's Center Prepares For An Affair To
Remember

Ground Beast: 99 Cents Lb.

Gas Cloud Clears Out Taco Bell

Open House - Body Shapers Toning Salon - Free
Coffee & Donuts

Kellogg's Pot Tarts - \$1.99 Box

Fully Cooked Boneless Smoked Man - \$2.09 Lb.

Dumb Auto Insurance Claim Statements

Date Received: Thu, 27 Jun 1996

The following are actual statements found on insurance forms where car drivers attempted to summarize the details of an accident in the fewest possible words. The instances of faulty writing serve to confirm that even incompetent writing can be highly entertaining.

Coming home I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have.

The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intention.

I thought my window was down, but I found it was up when I put my head through it.

I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way.

A truck backed through my windshield into my wife's face.

The guy was all over the road. I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him.

I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment.

In an attempt to kill a fly I drove into a telephone pole.

I had been shopping for plants all day and was on my way home. As I reached an intersection a hedge sprang up, obscuring my vision and I did not see the other car.

I had been driving for forty years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had an accident.

I was on the way to the doctor with rear end trouble when my universal joint gave way causing me to have an accident.

As I approached an intersection a sign suddenly appeared in a place where no stop sign had ever appeared before. I was unable to stop in time to avoid the accident.

To avoid hitting the bumper of the car in front I struck a pedestrian.

My car was legally parked as it backed into another vehicle.

An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my car and vanished.

I told the police that I was not injured, but on removing my hat found that I had a fractured skull.

I was sure the old fellow would never make it to the other side of the road when I struck him.

The pedestrian had no idea which way to run as I ran over him.

I saw a slow moving, sad faced old gentleman as he bounced off the roof of my car.

The indirect cause of the accident was a little guy in a small car with a big mouth.

I was thrown from my car as it left the road. I was later found in a ditch by some stray cows.

The telephone pole was approaching. I was attempting to swerve out of the way when I struck the front end.

SILLY LAWS

Compiled from various Life n.x files posted to rec.humor. One date is the date the file was retrieved, the other the "original" date of posting. They are courtesy of: Henry Cate III

Date Received: Wed, 18 Aug 1993

Original Date Received: 31 Oct 88

Frankfort, Kentucky, makes it against the law to shoot off a policeman's tie.

Horses are forbidden to eat fire hydrants in Marshalltown, Iowa.

Idaho state law makes it illegal for a man to give his sweetheart a box of candy weighing less than fifty pounds.

In Denver it is unlawful to lend your vacuum cleaner to your next-door neighbor.

In Devon, Connecticut, it is unlawful to walk backwards after sunset.

In Greene, New York, it is illegal to eat peanuts and walk backwards on the sidewalks when a concert is on.

In Lexington, Kentucky, it's illegal to carry an ice cream cone in your pocket.

In Memphis, Tennessee, it is illegal for a woman to drive a car unless there is a man either running or walking in front of it waving a red flag to warn approaching motorists and pedestrians.

In Ohio, if you ignore an orator on Decoration day to such an extent as to publicly play croquet or pitch horseshoes within one mile of the speaker's stand, you can be fined \$25.00.

In Pocatello, Idaho, a law passed in 1912 provided that "The carrying of concealed weapons is forbidden, unless same are exhibited to public view."

In Seattle, Washington, it is illegal to carry a concealed weapon that is over six feet in length.

In Tennessee, it is illegal to shoot any game other than whales from a moving automobile.

In Tulsa, Oklahoma, it is against the law to open a soda bottle without the supervision of a licensed engineer.

Date Received: 20 Aug 93

Original Date Received: 1 Nov 88

It is against the law for a monster to enter the corporate limits of Urbana, Illinois.

It is illegal to drive more than two thousand sheep down Hollywood Boulevard at one time.

It is illegal to say "Oh, Boy" in Jonesboro, Georgia.

It is Texas law that when two trains meet each other at a railroad crossing, each shall come to a full stop, and neither shall proceed until the other has gone.

It's illegal in Wilbur, Washington, to ride an ugly horse.

Kansas state law requires pedestrians crossing the highways at night to wear tail lights.

Kirkland, Illinois, law forbids bees to fly over the village or through any of its streets.

Minors in Kansas City, Missouri, are not allowed to purchase cap pistols; they may buy shotguns freely, however.

Date Received: Mon, 23 Aug 1993

Original Date Received: 1 Nov 88

New Hampshire law forbids you to tap your feet, nod your head, or in any way keep time to the music in a tavern, restaurant, or cafe.

Texas law forbids anyone to have a pair of pliers in his possession.

The Arkansas legislature passed a law that states that the Arkansas River can rise no higher than to the Main Street bridge in Little Rock.

The City of Palo Alto, in its official description of parking lot standards, specifies the grade of wheelchair access ramps in terms of centimeters of rise per foot of run. A compromise...

The penalty for laughing in a courtroom is six months in jail; if it were not for this penalty, the jury would never hear the evidence.

-- H. L. Mencken

The state law of Pennsylvania prohibits singing in the bathtub.

Date Received: Mon, 30 Aug 1993

Orig. Date Received: 1 Nov 88

There is a Massachusetts law requiring all dogs to have their hind legs tied during the month of April.

Virginia law forbids bathtubs in the house; tubs must be kept in the yard.

Date Received: Wed, 22 Sep 1993

Original Date Received: 24 Feb 90

It is illegal to take more than 2 baths a month within Boston confines.

Two people cannot kiss in front of a church.

All Public Displays of Affection (PDAs) are forbidden on Sunday.

Pedestrians always have the right of way.

Anyone may let their sheep and cows graze in the public gardens/commons at any time except Sundays

In Calgary there is a by-law that is still on the books that requires businesses within the city to provide rails for tying up horses.

There is/was a law on the books in Washington state that stated that a motorcar driven at night must be preceded by something like 100 yards by a man carrying a lantern.

Stupid laws: In the England it is illegal to sell most goods on a Sunday, (this law is mostly ignored), it is however legal to sell a carrot. It is also legal to sell it at any price and to give free gifts with it, such as anything else one might want to buy on a Sunday!

Pennsylvania:

In certain sections of Pennsylvania many years ago, the Farmer's Anti-Automobile society set up some "rules of the road." In effect, they said:

1. "Automobiles travelling on country roads at night must send up a rocket every mile, then wait ten minutes for the road to clear."
2. "If a driver sees a team of horses, he is to pull to one side of the road and cover his machine with a blanket or dust cover that has been painted to blend into the scenery."
3. "In the event that a horse refuses to pass a car on the road, the owner must take his car apart and conceal the parts in the bushes."

Utah: It is against the law to fish from horseback.

Ohio: In Bexley, Ordinance number 223, of 09/09/19 prohibits the installation and usage of slot machines in outhouses.

Indiana: Back in 1924, a monkey was convicted in South Bend of the crime of smoking a cigarette and sentenced to pay a 25 dollar fine and the trial costs.

Kansas: No one may catch fish with his bare hands in Kansas.

California: In 1930, the City Council of Ontario passed an ordinance forbidding roosters to crow within the city limits.

Kentucky: A Kentucky statute says: "No female shall appear in a bathing suit on any highway within this state unless she is escorted by at least two officers or unless she be armed with a club." Later, an amendment proposed: "The provisions of this statute shall not apply to any female weighing less than sixty pounds nor exceeding 200 pounds; nor shall it apply to female horses."

Oklahoma: Harthahorne City Ordinance, Section 363, states that it shall be unlawful to put any hypnotized person in a display window.

Date Received: Fri, 10 Dec 1993

These excerpts are from the book "Loony Laws" by Robert Pelton (Walker; \$8.95) Enjoy!

In Ottumwa, Iowa, "It is unlawful for any male person, within the corporate limits of the (city), to wink at any female person with whom he is unaquainted."

In Los Angeles, you cannot bathe two babies in the same tub at the same time.

In Zion, Ill., it is illegal for anyone to give lighted cigars to dogs, cats, and other domesticated animals kept as pets.

In Carmel, N.Y., a man can't go outside while wearing a jacket and pants that do not match.

In Clawson, Mich., there is a law that makes it LEGAL for a farmer to sleep with his pigs, cows, horses, goats, and chickens.

In Gary, Ind., persons are prohibited from attending a movie house or other theater and from riding a public streetcar within four hours of eating garlic.

In Miami, it's illegal for men to be seen publicly in any kind of strapless gown.

In St. Louis, it's illegal to sit on the curb of any city street and drink beer from a bucket.

In Detroit, couples are banned from making love in an automobile unless the act takes place while the vehicle is parked on the couple's own property.

In Hartford, Conn., you aren't allowed to cross a street while walking on your hands.

In Michigan, a woman isn't allowed to cut her own hair without her husband's permission.

In Baltimore, it's illegal to throw bales of hay from a second-story window within the city limits. It's also illegal to take a lion to the movies.

In Oxford, Ohio, it's illegal for a woman to strip off her clothing while standing in front of a man's picture. (ed: ???)

In Nicholas County, W. Va., no member of the clergy is allowed to tell jokes or humorous stories from the pulpit during a church service.

In California, animals are banned from mating publicly within 1,500 feet of a tavern, school, or place of worship.

In Carrizozo, N.M., it's forbidden for a female to appear unshaven in public (includes legs and face).

In Los Angeles, a man is legally entitled to beat his wife with a leather belt or strap, but the belt can't be wider than 2 inches, unless he has his wife's consent to beat her with a wider strap.

Dumb Probation Statements

Date Received: Mon, 27 Jan 1997

What was that again? (Notes taken from years of being a probation officer. Statements made by probationers.)

The defendant stated he became predicted to the drug while he was in the Job Corp.

Mr. Jones advised he was not able to report to the probation officer as his wife was pregnant and began to have contraptions.

Mr. Smith related he did not report last week as he had to be a pall burial at his friend's funeral.

He just thought of it on the sperm of the moment.

He was hospitalized because he had eucalyptus fits.

It was difficult for her to walk as she had very close veins.

When the probationer was asked why the Internal Revenue Service was looking for her, she explained that she felt since she was convicted of a felony, her rights as a citizen of this country were taken away from her and she was not allowed to pay taxes.

Probationer advised she always saved money when flying by going stand-still.

Lady answering door to probation officer stated she was related to the probationer by murder. (The lady was the victim's sister.)

My wife came and got the kids. She had a writ of hideous corpus.

When told the probation officer would be sending for classification material from the Oklahoma penitentiary, the probationer advised there would be no problem as the prison had recently installed a new microwave which contained all of this information on the inmates.

Probationer advised he has a brother who lives in Corpus Crispy, TX.

When asked if he had siblings, the probationer responded that he did not and that, in fact, he had never had any kind of social disease.

Probationer advised that he had asked his attorney to handle his new case, but the attorney reclined.

Probationer entered a "no comment" to the charges.

In describing the sequence of events prior to the robbery, the defendant stated the three men got together in an alley and circumcised their watches.

Probationer, after being in physical therapy for a while advised that he regained use of all but one of his arms.

Her excuse for the baby crying all the time was, "She is allergic to Kansas."

One probationers philosophy concerning raising children is to administer discipline with love and understanding rather than by harsh and unnecessary capitol punishment.

She stated she worked at Sears and Robot.

With a prison term approaching for violation of probation, the probationer asked if she couldn't be placed in an outhouse. (Should be out-patient or half way house)

Probationer advised that he was ready now to straighten out his life and now wanted to become a reproductive member of society.

Upon being released to the probation officer for a shoplifting charge at Safeway, the probationer was advised to get a job so he wouldn't have to steal. Probationer agreed and asked probation officer if she thought Safeway would hire him.

She said the welfare dept. assigned her a housekeeper as she was pooped up with the kids too much.

The probationer came into the bar and yelled at another patron "You slammed my name and now I am going to slammer yours" before he hit the guy.

She used methadone so long she was beginning to get amused to it.

The applicant for probation advised that she wanted to take the lie dictator test, but the police would not let her.

She told the probation officer that her husband had died of hemorrhoids of the brain.

Wife of probationer reported that when her husband returned from prison he was terribly thin and emancipated.

The defendant didn't think it was right that the police wouldn't even let her take a liar's detective test.

The defendant claimed he got multiple sclerosis because his wife screamed and yelled at him all the time.

The probationer asked the judge for a preferred judgment (deferred)

The probationer stated she really didn't mind the counseling sessions as her life was actually pretty dull and it helped to break the monopoly.

She said she couldn't report to probation this week because she wasn't feeling well, and besides it was hot, and she, in fact had nearly fainted from heat prostitution.

A probationer reported that her brother worked in a factory which made the kind of planes that ejaculate the pilot.

The defendant reported that he needed to have surgery for a seriously infected groin.

When asked by the probation officer what the highest grade he achieved in school, the probationer replied, "C".

The defendant stated he would only sign the probation paperwork in the presence of a notary republican.

She told the probation officer that what happened to her was no accident, but done with predominant meditation.

After instruction from the probation officer, the probationer thanked the officer for abreasting her of her situation.

The probationer told his probation officer that he worked devious hours on his job at the country club.

A police report coming to the probation department stated the following: The suspect knocked on her window and told her she was leaking gas.

A defendant asked her officer for advice on the disillusionment of her marriage.

The defendant said she would be having no more children, as she had tubal realization last year.

She stated her ex-husband was ear-dropping outside at the window.

Probationer states that he is always made the scapegoat.

Defendant reports that her child's father is using her as a pond to get her back.

Defendant stated he had recently bought a contra-ninney-yum.

One defendant's hobbies were reported to be interior design and yogurt.

A defendant reported that her son was nearly amended by now. (Emancipated)

When asked if her had any outstanding debts, the probationer replied that none of his debts were really very outstanding, just the average run of the mill bills.

She advised the probation department that she had received an educational grant from the federal government which paid for her books and intuition.

Upon visiting a probationers place of employment, the probation officer was invited by the probationer to help himself to a cup of coffee in the next room where there was a coffee urinal.

The probationer was so angry with her daughter for having another illegitimate child, that she told the daughter to go to Planned Parenthood for a condominium so she wouldn't have any more kids.

Defendant stated she was attending opportunity school majoring in adding machines.

Defendant stated there were several black and white people in his house at the time of the arrest.

The defendant could not report to probation one week due to her daughter having the chicken pops.

Defendant reported that his attorney was trying to work out a flea bargain with the district attorney.

When asked what her husband did for a living, the probationer replied that he had been in cement for years.

When asked about her health, the probationer replied that she had an in-grown liver from years of drinking.

From a police report: The defendant did not rape the victim because his erection mechanism failed.

Defendant's statement of the offense on a car theft charge: I was walking down the street when I saw this lady standing next to her car and the hood was up. I asked her if she was having car trouble and she said she was. I offered to try and fix it, but told her I was broke and could use a little money for helping her. She told me she didn't have any money, but if I fixed her car, she would make it worth my while. After I fixed the car, she asked me to step behind some bushes and she started taking off her pants. I didn't want her pants, so I took her car.

After appearing in court on a new charge, the defendant told his probation officer that the judge has embolished the matter and what happened was just a case of temporary stupidity.

Dumb Quotes

Date Received: Thu, 22 Aug 1996

CLUELESS QUOTES BY CLUELESS FOLKS

"Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life."

-- Brooke Shields, during an interview to become spokesperson for a federal anti-smoking campaign.

"I haven't committed a crime. What I did was fail to comply with the law."

-- David Dinkins, New York City Mayor, answering accusations that he failed to pay his taxes.

"They gave me a book of checks. They didn't ask for any deposits."

-- Congressman Joe Early (D-Mass) at a press conference to answer questions about the House Bank Scandal.

"He didn't say that. He was reading what was given to him in a speech."

-- Richard Darman, director of OMB, explaining why President Bush wasn't following up on his campaign pledge that there would be no loss of wetlands.

"It depends on your definition of asleep. They were not stretched out. They had their eyes closed. They were seated at their desks with their heads in a nodding position."

-- John Hogan, Commonwealth Edison Supervisor of News Information, responding to a charge by a Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspector that two Dresden Nuclear Plant operators were sleeping on the job.

"I didn't accept it. I received it."

-- Richard Allen, National Security Advisor to President Reagan, explaining the \$1000 in cash and two watches he was given by two Japanese journalists after he helped arrange a private interview for them with First Lady Nancy Reagan.

"I was a pilot flying an airplane and it just so happened that where I was flying made what I was doing spying."

-- Francis Gary Power, U-2 reconnaissance pilot held by the Soviets for spying, in an interview after he was returned to the US.

"I was under medication when I made the decision not to burn the tapes."

-- President Richard Nixon

"I've never had major knee surgery on any other part of my body."

-- Winston Bennett, University of Kentucky basketball forward.

"I support efforts to limit the terms of members of Congress, especially members of the House and members of the Senate."

-- Vice-President Dan Quayle

"Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country."

-- Mayor Marion Barry, Washington, DC

"Sure, it's going to kill a lot of people, but they may be dying of something else anyway."

-- Othal Brand, member of a Texas pesticide review board, on chlordane.

"Are you any relation to your brother Marv?"

-- Leon Wood, New Jersey Nets guard, to Steve Albert, Nets TV commentator.

"Beginning in February 1976 your assistance benefits will be discontinued .. Reason: it has been reported to our office that you expired on January 1, 1976."

-- Letter from the Illinois Department of Public Aid

"The Holocaust was an obscene period in our nation's history... this century's history.... We all lived in this century. I didn't live in this century."

-- Dan Quayle, then Indiana senator and Republican vice-presidential candidate during a news conference in which he was asked his opinion of the Holocaust.

"In the early sixties, we were strong, we were virulent..."

-- John Connally, Secretary of Treasury under Richard Nixon, in an early seventies speech, as reported in a contemporary "American Scholar".

"Rotarians, be patriotic! Learn to shoot yourself."

-- Chicago Rotary Club journal, "Gyrator".

"The streets are safe in Philadelphia. It's only the people who make them unsafe."

-- Frank Rizzo, ex-police chief and mayor of Philadelphia.

"I've always thought that underpopulated countries in Africa are vastly underpolluted."

-- Lawrence Summers, chief economist of the World Bank, explaining why we should export toxic wastes to Third World countries.

"The crime bill passed by the Senate would reinstate the Federal death penalty for certain violent crimes: assassinating the President; hijacking an airliner; and murdering a government poultry inspector."

-- Knight Ridder News Service dispatch

"After finding no qualified candidates for the position of principal, the school board is extremely pleased to announce the appointment of David Steele to the post."

-- Philip Streifer, *Superintendent of Schools, Barrington Rhode Island.*

"The doctors X-rayed my head and found nothing."

-- Dizzy Dean explaining how he felt after being hit on the head by a ball in the 1934 World Series.

Date Received: Thu, 6 Nov 1997

"Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons."

--Popular Mechanics, forecasting the relentless march of science, 1949

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."

--Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943

"I have traveled the length and breadth of this country and talked with the best people, and I can assure you that data processing is a fad that won't last out the year."

--The editor in charge of business books for Prentice Hall, 1957

"But what ... is it good for?"

--Engineer at the Advanced Computing Systems Division of IBM, 1968, commenting on the microchip.

"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home."

--Ken Olson, president, chairman and founder of Digital Equipment Corp., 1977

"This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us."

--Western Union internal memo, 1876.

"The wireless music box has no imaginable commercial value. Who would pay for a message sent to nobody in particular?"

--David Sarnoff's associates in response to his urgings for investment in the radio in the 1920s.

"The concept is interesting and well-formed, but in order to earn better than a 'C,' the idea must be feasible."

--A Yale University management professor in response to Fred Smith's paper proposing reliable overnight delivery service. (Smith went on to found Federal Express Corp.)

"Who the hell wants to hear actors talk?"

--H.M. Warner, Warner Brothers, 1927.

"I'm just glad it'll be Clark Gable who's falling on his face and not Gary Cooper."

--Gary Cooper on his decision not to take the leading role in "Gone With The Wind."

"A cookie store is a bad idea. Besides, the market research reports say America likes crispy cookies, not soft and chewy cookies like you make."

--Response to Debbi Fields' idea of starting Mrs. Fields' Cookies.

"We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out."

--Decca Recording Co. rejecting the Beatles, 1962.

"Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible."

--Lord Kelvin, president, Royal Society, 1895.

"If I had thought about it, I wouldn't have done the experiment. The literature was full of examples that said you can't do this."

--Spencer Silver on the work that led to the unique adhesives for 3M "Post-It" Notepads.

"So we went to Atari and said, 'Hey, we've got this amazing thing, even built with some of your parts, and what do you think about funding us? Or we'll give it to you. We just want to do it. Pay our salary, we'll come work for

you.' And they said, 'No.' So then we went to Hewlett-Packard, and they said, 'Hey, we don't need you. You haven't got through college yet.'"

--Apple Computer Inc. founder Steve Jobs on attempts to get Atari and HP interested in his and Steve Wozniak's personal computer.

"Professor Goddard does not know the relation between action and reaction and the need to have something better than a vacuum against which to react. He seems to lack the basic knowledge ladled out daily in high schools."

--1921 New York Times editorial about Robert Goddard's revolutionary rocket work.

"You want to have consistent and uniform muscle development across all of your muscles? It can't be done. It's just a fact of life. You just have to accept inconsistent muscle development as an unalterable condition of weight training."

--Response to Arthur Jones, who solved the "unsolvable" problem by inventing Nautilus.

"Drill for oil? You mean drill into the ground to try and find oil? You're crazy."

--Drillers who Edwin L. Drake tried to enlist to his project to drill for oil in 1859.

"Stocks have reached what looks like a permanently high plateau."

--Irving Fisher, Professor of Economics, Yale University, 1929.

"Airplanes are interesting toys but of no military value."

--Marechal Ferdinand Foch, Professor of Strategy, Ecole Supérieure de Guerre.

"Everything that can be invented has been invented."

--Charles H. Duell, Commissioner, US Office of Patents, 1899.

"Louis Pasteur's theory of germs is ridiculous fiction".

--Pierre Pachtet, Professor of Physiology at Toulouse, 1872

"The abdomen, the chest, and the brain will forever be shut from the intrusion of the wise and humane surgeon".

--Sir John Eric Ericksen, British surgeon, appointed Surgeon-Extraordinary to Queen Victoria 1873.

"640K ought to be enough for anybody."

--Bill Gates, 1981

"Any serious graphics applications still run better on Apple's Macintosh platform..."

--Bill Gates, 1991

Date Received: Wed, 12 Aug 1998

"I expect to win it. Sit back, put your feet up in front of the TV, relax and enjoy it. Let me do the worrying - that's what I get paid for."

--England soccer manager Graham Taylor before the 1992 European championships. England didn't win a game.

"I have always found strangers sexy."

--Hugh Grant, six months before he was arrested with stranger Divine Brown.

"I would not wish to be Prime Minister, dear."

--Margaret Thatcher in 1973.

"That rainbow song's no good. Take it out."

--MGM memo after first showing of The Wizard Of Oz.

"You'd better learn secretarial skills or else get married."

--Modelling agency, rejecting Marilyn Monroe in 1944.

"Radio has no future." "X-rays are clearly a hoax". "The aeroplane is scientifically impossible."

--Royal Society president Lord Kelvin, 1897-9.

"You ought to go back to driving a truck."

--Concert manager, firing Elvis Presley in 1954.

"Forget it. No Civil War picture ever made a nickel."

--MGM executive, advising against investing in *Gone With The Wind*.

"Can't act. Can't sing. Slightly bald. Can dance a little."

--A film company's verdict on Fred Astaire's 1928 screen test.

"Very interesting, Whittle, my boy, but it will never work."

--Professor of Aeronautical Engineering at Cambridge, shown Frank Whittle's plan for the jet engine.

"There will be one million cases of AIDS in Britain by 1991."

--World Health Organisation in a 1989 report. It over-estimated by 992,301 cases.

"The Beatles? They're on the wane."

--The Duke of Edinburgh in Canada, 1965. They went on to produce a string of No 1s.

"The atom bomb will never go off - and I speak as an expert in explosives."

--U.S. Admiral William Leahy in 1945.

"All saved from Titanic after collision."

--New York Evening Sun, April 15 1912.

"Brain work will cause women to go bald."

--Berlin professor, 1914.

"Television won't matter in your lifetime or mine."

--Radio Times editor Rex Lambert, 1936.

"And for the tourist who really wants to get away from it all, safaris in Vietnam."

--Newsweek magazine, predicting popular holidays for the late 1960s.

Date Received: Mon, 22 Feb 1999

Here are a few quotes of some famous... idiots. :-)

Moments when saying nothing might have worked out better:

Question: If you could live forever, would you and why?

Answer: I would not live forever, because we should not live forever, because if we were supposed to live forever, then we would live forever, but we cannot live forever, which is why I would not live forever.

--Miss Alabama in the 1994 Miss USA contest

Whenever I watch TV and see those poor starving kids all over the world, I can't help but cry. I mean I'd love to be skinny like that but not with all those flies and death and stuff.

--Mariah Carey, pop singer

"The police are not here to create disorder. They're here to preserve disorder."

--Former Chicago mayor Daley during the infamous 1968 Democratic Party convention

Things are more like they are now than they ever were before.

--Former U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower

Traditionally, most of Australia's imports come from overseas.

--Former Australian cabinet minister Keppel Enderbery

We're going to turn this team around 360 degrees.

--Jason Kidd, upon his drafting to the Dallas Mavericks

Researchers have discovered that chocolate produces some of the same reactions in the brain as marijuana ... The researchers also discovered other similarities between the two, but can't remember what they are.

--Matt Lauer on NBC's Today show, August 22

"It's like an Alcatraz around my neck."

--Boston mayor Menino on the shortage of city parking spaces

Half this game is ninety percent mental.

--Philadelphia Phillies manager Danny Ozark

They're multipurpose. Not only do they put the clips on, but they take them off.

--Pratt & Whitney spokesperson explaining why the company charged the Air Force nearly \$1,000 for an ordinary pair of pliers

It is wonderful to be here in the great state of Chicago.

--Former US Vice President Dan Quayle

I was recently on a tour of Latin America, and the only regret I have was that I didn't study Latin harder in school so I could converse with those people.

--Former US Vice President Dan Quayle

It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it.

--Former US Vice President Dan Quayle

The president has kept all of the promises he intended to keep.

--Clinton aide George Stephanopolous speaking on "Larry King Live"

That lowdown scoundrel deserves to be kicked to death by a jackass, and I'm just the one to do it.

--A congressional candidate in Texas

Without censorship, things can get terribly confused in the public mind.

--General William Westmoreland, during the war in Vietnam

Silly Signs

A (large!) collection of files, some quite old, listing strange English translations of various signs, and other amusing signs.

Date Received: 14 Jul 1993

Well not really translation errors, but a series of REAL notices spotted around the world and written by...well let's just say "people whose first language is not English". Apologies if these have appeared before...

In a Tokyo Hotel:

Is forbidden to steal hotel towels please. If you are not a person to do such a thing is please not to read notis.

In a Bucharest hotel lobby:

The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret that you will be unbearable.

In a Leipzig elevator:

Do not enter lift backwards, and only when lit up.

In a Belgrade hotel elevator:

To move the cabin, push button for wishing floor. If the cabin should enter more persons, each one should press a number of wishing floor. Driving is then going alphabetically by national order.

In a Paris hotel elevator:

Please leave your values at the front desk.

In a hotel in Athens:

Visitors are expected to complain at the office between the hours of 9 and 11 A.M. daily.

In a Yugoslavian hotel:

The flattening of underwear with pleasure is the job of the chambermaid.

In a Japanese hotel:

You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.

In the lobby of a Moscow hotel across from Russian Orthodox monastery:

You are welcome to visit the cemetary where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists, and writers are buried daily except Thursday.

In an Austrian hotel catering to skiers:
Not to perambulate the corridors during the hours of repose in the boots of ascension.

On the menu of a Swiss restaurant:

Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.

On the menu of a Polish hotel:
Salad a firm's own make; limpid red beet soup with cheesy dumplings in the form of a finger; roasted duck let loose; beef rashers beaten up in the country people's fashion.

Outside a Hong Kong tailor shop:
Ladies may have a fit upstairs.

In a Bangkok dry cleaners:
Drop your trousers here for best results.

Outside a Paris dress shop:
Dresses for street walking.

In a Rhodes tailor shop:
Order your summers suit. Because is big rush we will execute customers in strict rotation.

From the Soviet Weekly:
There will be a Moscow Exhibition of Arts by 150,000 Soviet Republic painters and sculptors. These were executed over the past two years.

A sign posted in Germany's Black Forest:
It is strictly forbidden on our black forest camping site that people of different sex, for instance, men and women, live together in one tent unless they are married with each other for that purpose.

In a Zurich hotel:
Because of the impropriety of entertaining guests of the opposite sex in the bedroom, it is suggested that the lobby be used for this purpose.

In an advertisement by a Hong Kong dentist:
Teeth extracted by the latest Methodists.

In a Rome laundry:
Ladies, leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time.

In a Czechoslovakian tourist agency:
Take one of our horse-driven city tours - we guarantee no miscarriages.

Advertisement for donkey rides in Thailand:
Would you like to ride on your own ass?

In a Swiss mountain inn:
Special today -- no ice cream.

In a Bangkok temple:
It is forbidden to enter a woman even a foreigner if dressed as a man.

In a Tokyo bar:
Special cocktails for the ladies with nuts.

In a Copenhagen airline ticket office:
We take your bags and send them in all directions.

On the door of a Moscow hotel room:
If this is your first visit to the USSR, you are welcome to it.

In a Norwegian cocktail lounge:
Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar.

In a Budapest zoo:
Please do not feed the animals. If you have any suitable food, give it to the guard on duty.

In the office of a Roman doctor:
Specialist in women and other diseases.

In an Acapulco hotel:
The manager has personally passed all the water served here.

In a Tokyo shop:
Our nylons cost more than common, but you'll find they are best in the long run.

From a Japanese information booklet about using a hotel air conditioner:
Cooler and Heater: If you want just condition of warm air in your room, please control yourself.

From a brochure of a car rental firm in Tokyo:
When passenger of foot heave in sight, tootle the horn. Trumpet him melodiously at first, but if he still obstacles your passage then tootle him with vigor.

Two signs from a Majorcan shop entrance:
English well speaking

Here speaking American.

In a Nairobi restaurant:
Customers who find the waitresses rude ought to see the manager.

On the grounds of a private school:
No trespassing without permission.

One of the Mathare buildings:
Mental health prevention centre.

A sign seen on an automatic restroom hand dryer:
Do not activate with wet hands.

In a Pumwani maternity ward:
No children allowed.

In a cemetery:
Persons are prohibited from picking flowers from any
but their own graves.

Tokyo hotel's rules and regulations:
Date Received: Fri, 10 Dec 1993

English Language Blunders From Around the World Collected by Ronnie Alexander & Karl Zimmer University of California, Berkeley

Italian Hotel Brochure:
This hotel is renowned for its piece and solitude. In fact, crowds from all over the world flock here to enjoy its solitude.

Rome hotel:
Fire! It is what can doing, we hope. No fear. Not ourselves. Say quickly to all people coming up down everywhere a prayer. Always is a clerk. He is assured of safety by expert men who are in the bar for telephone for the fighters of the fire to come out.

Polish Tourist Brochure:
As for the tripes serves you at the Hotel Monopol, you will be singing its praise to your children as you lie on your deathbed.

French Hotel:
A sports jacket may be worn to dinner, but no trouser.

French Restaurant Menu:

Date Received: Thu, 5 Oct 1995

I came across a Silly Sign posted near a Slimes Dam at Saldanha Bay (Iron Core export Harbour), South Africa, and want to share it with you.

W A R N I N G !

To all seagulls swimming in RED WATER is strictly prohibited. By order.

Date Received: Tue, 26 Mar 1996

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

In a New York restaurant:
Customers who find our waitresses uncivil ought to see the manager.

Guests are requested not to smoke or do other disgusting behaviours in bed.

Supermarket, Hong Kong:
For your convenience, we recommend courteous, efficient self-service.

In an East African newspaper:
A new swimming pool is rapidly taking shape since the contractors have thrown in the bulk of their workers.

In the window on a Swedish furrier:
Fur coats made for ladies from their own skin.

Extract of fowl, peached or sunnyside up.

French Swimming Pool:
Swimming is forbidden in absence of the Savior.

Spanish Hotel Ad:
The provision of a large French widow in every room adds to the visitors comfort.

Madrid Restaurant Menu:
Tarts of the house.

Madrid Hotel:
Peoples will left the room at midday of tomorrow in place of not which will be more money for hole day.

Athens Restaurant Menu:
Chopped cow with a wire through it. *Bowels in sauce** *shish-kebab **tripe

On the Box of a Clockwork Toy Made in Hong Kong:
Guaranteed to work throughout its useful life.

In a Los Angeles dance hall:
Good clean dancing every night but Sunday.

In the offices of a loan company:

Ask about our plans for owning your home.

On military bases:

Restricted to unauthorized personnel

On a bar:

Our customers enter optimistically and leave misty optically.

In an appliance store window:

Don't kill your wife. Let our washing machines do the dirty work.

In a clothing store:

Bargains for men with 16 and 17 necks

In the window of a general store:

Why go elsewhere and be cheated when you can come right here?

Date Received: Tue, 20 May 1997

From: Cornelia.Herrmann

Dear Harold Reynolds

I came across a Silly Sign posted at Heia Safari Ranch near Johannesburg, South Africa, and want to share it with you.

CAUTION!

Stay away from Zebras
as they kick
Management

Kind regards

CORNELIA HERRMANN

Date Received: Fri, 21 Nov 1997

Editor's Note: These are actual signs from England -- but then again no one says it like the Brits!

Sign in a Laundromat:

Automatic washing machines: Please remove all your clothes when the light goes out

Sign in a London department store:

Bargain basement upstairs

In an office:

Would the person who took the step ladder yesterday please bring it back or further steps will be taken

Outside a farm:

Horse manure 50p per pre-packed bag 20p do-it-yourself

In an office:

In a Maine restaurant:

Open 7 days a week and weekends

On a radiator repair garage:

Best place to take a leak

On a Tennessee highway:

Take notice, when this sign is under water, this road is impassable.

In front of a New Hampshire car wash:

If you can't read this, it's time to wash your car.

In a Vienna hotel:

In case of fire, do your utmost to alarm the hotel porter.

On the faucet in a Finnish washroom:

To stop the drip, turn cock to right.

After tea break staff should empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board

On a church door:

This is the gate of Heaven. Enter ye all by this door. (This door is kept locked because of the draft. Please use side door.)

English sign in a German cafe:

Mothers, please wash your hans before eating

Outside a second-hand shop:

We exchange anything - bicycles, washing machines etc. Why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?

Sign outside a new town hall which was to be opened by the Prince of Wales:

The town hall is closed until opening. It will remain closed after being opened. Open tomorrow.

Outside a photographer's studio:

Out to lunch: If not back by five, out for dinner also

Seen at the side of a Sussex road:

Slow cattle crossing. No overtaking for the next 100 yrs.

Outside a disco:

Smart's is the most exclusive disco in town. Everyone welcome

Sign warning of quicksand:

Quicksand. Any person passing this point will be drowned. By order of the district council

Notice sent to residents of a Wiltshire parish:

Due to increasing problems with litter, louts and vandals, we must ask anyone with relatives buried in the graveyard to do their best to keep them in order

Notice in a dry cleaner's window:

Anyone leaving their garments here for more than 30 days will be disposed of

Sign on motorway garage:

Date Received: Tue, 17 Feb 1998

Auto Body Shop: May we have the next dents?

Beauty Shop: Dye now!

Bowling Alley: Please be quiet. We need to hear a pin drop.

Butcher's Window: Pleased to meat you.

Butcher's window: Let me meat your needs.

Cafeteria: Shoes are required to eat in the cafeteria. Socks can eat any place they want.

Car Dealership: The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment.

Computer Store: Out for a quick byte

Diner Window: Don't stand there and be hungry, come in and get fed up.

Funeral Home: Drive carefully, we'll wait.

Garbage Truck: We've got what it takes to take what you've got.

Hotel: "Help!" We need inn - experienced people.

Maternity Clothes Shop: We are open on labor day.

Muffler Shop: No appointment necessary. We'll hear you coming.

Please do not smoke near our petrol pumps. Your life may not be worth much but our petrol is

Notice in health food shop window:

Closed due to illness

Spotted in a safari park:

Elephants please stay in your car

Notice in a field:

The farmer allows walkers to cross the field for free, but the bull charges

Message on a leaflet:

If you cannot read, this leaflet will tell you how to get lessons

Sign on a repair shop door:

We can repair anything. (Please knock hard on the door - the bell doesn't work)

Spotted in a toilet in a London office block:

Toilet out of order. Please use floor below

Sign in a Japanese hotel:

Sports jackets may be worn but no trousers

Sign in Egyptian hotel:

If you require room service, please open door and shout, "Room Service!"

Music Library: Bach in a minuet.

Non-smoking area: If we see you smoking we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action.

On a Front Door: Everyone on the premises is a vegetarian except the dog.

On a Maternity Room Door: "Push, Push, Push"

Optometrist's Office: If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place.

On the trucks of a local plumbing company in NE Pennsylvania: "Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber."

Pet Store: "Buy one Dog, get one Flea." Pizza shop slogan: "7 days without pizza makes one weak."

Podiatrist's Window: Time wounds all heels.

Scientist's Door: Gone Fission

Sign in an office: We shoot every 3rd salesman, and the 2nd one just left.

Sign on Fence: Salesmen welcome. Dog food is expensive.

Sign on an electrician's truck: Let us remove your shorts.

Taxidermist Window: We really know our stuff.

The Electric Company: We would be delighted if you send in your bill. However, if you don't, you will be.

On a button worn by a nurse in a maternity ward: "You labor, we deliver."

On the door of a plastic surgeon's office: "Let us help you pick your nose."

Used Car Lot: Second Hand cars in first crash condition

Veterinarians waiting room: Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!

Silly Slogans

Date Received: 14 Nov 1997

More fun and games with international business!

Coors put its slogan, "Turn it loose," into Spanish, where it was read as "Suffer from diarrhea".

Clairol introduced the "Mist Stick", a curling iron, into Germany only to find out that "mist" is slang for manure. Not too many people had use for the "manure stick".

Scandinavian vacuum manufacturer Electrolux used the following in an American campaign: Nothing sucks like an Electrolux.

In Chinese, the Kentucky Fried Chicken slogan "finger-lickin' good" came out as "eat your fingers off".

The American slogan for Salem cigarettes, "Salem-Feeling Free", was translated into the Japanese market as "When smoking Salem, you will feel so refreshed that your mind seems to be free and empty".

When Gerber started selling baby food in Africa, they used the same packaging as in the US, with the beautiful Caucasian baby on the label. Later they learned that in Africa, companies routinely put pictures on the label of what's inside, since most people can't read English.

Colgate introduced a toothpaste in France called Cue, the name of a notorious porno magazine.

An American T-shirt maker in Miami printed shirts for the Spanish market which promoted the Pope's visit. Instead of "I saw the Pope" (el Papa), the shirts read "I saw the potato" (la papa).

In Italy, a campaign for Schweppes Tonic Water translated the name into "Schweppes Toilet Water".

Pepsi's "Come alive with the Pepsi Generation" translated into "Pepsi brings your ancestors back from the grave", in Chinese.

We all know about GM's Chevy Nova meaning "it won't go" in Spanish markets, but did you know that Ford had a similar problem in Brazil with the Pinto? Pinto was Brazilian slang for "tiny male genitals". Ford renamed the automobile Corcel, meaning "horse".

Hunt-Wesson introduced Big John products in French Canada as Gros Jos. Later they found out that in slang it means "big breasts".

Frank Perdue's chicken slogan, "it takes a strong man to make a "tender chicken" was translated into Spanish as "it takes an aroused man to make a chicken affectionate".

When Parker Pen marketed a ball-point pen in Mexico, its ads were supposed to have read, "it won't leak in your pocket and embarrass you". Instead, the company thought that the word "embarazar" (to impregnate) meant to embarrass, so the ad read: "It won't leak in your pocket and make you pregnant".

The Coca-Cola name in China was first read as "Ke-kou-ke- la", meaning "Bite the wax tadpole" or "female horse stuffed with wax", depending on the dialect. Coke then researched 40,000 characters to find a phonetic equivalent "ko-kou-ko- le", translating into "happiness in the mouth".

Three years ago, during a trip to Indiana, my folks decided to show off their new "real" Mexican restaurant, named Chi-chi's. Upon seeing the name on the marquee, my partner started to laugh. My folks asked him why he was laughing, and he explained that in Mexican Spanish, "chi-chi's" literally means "titties." (My folks - who are Baptists - were not amused; but they didn't go back to that restaurant, either!)

Probably the most famous of all is John Kennedy's announcement to the people of Berlin, "Ich bin ein Berliner!" JFK thought he said, "I am a citizen of Berlin!" What he *really* said was, "I am a jelly doughnut!" ("Berliner" is German for "jelly doughnut".)

Some friends from England visited us a few years back. Their teenage daughter got a huge laugh from the name of an airline back then: The Trump Shuttle (Donald Trump's airline). They said in England, "Trump" translated into "fart"!

No wonder macs are the best-selling computer in Japan, Microsoft's Windows '95 ad slogan, translated into Japanese: "If you don't know where you want to go, we'll make sure you get taken."

Date Received: Wed, 04 Mar 1998

From "American Demographics" magazine:

Here's a look at how shrewd American business people translate their slogans into foreign languages:

When Braniff translated a slogan touting its upholstery, "Fly in leather," it came out in Spanish as "Fly naked."

Chicken magnate Frank Perdue's line, "It takes a tough man to make a tender chicken," sounds much more interesting in Spanish: "It takes a sexually stimulated man to make a chicken affectionate."

When Vicks first introduced its cough drops on the German market, they were chagrined to learn that the German pronunciation of "v" is f - which in German is the guttural equivalent of "sexual penetration."

Not to be outdone, Puffs tissues tried later to introduce its product, only to learn that "Puff" in German is a colloquial term for a whorehouse. The English weren't too fond of the name either, as it's a highly derogatory term for a non-heterosexual.

The Chevy Nova never sold well in Spanish speaking countries. "No va" means "it doesn't go" in Spanish.

U.S. cosmetics firm Clinique pulls a print ad for its Elixir perfume after Thailand's government (the foreign ministry) sent a letter of protest to the company complaining the ad was "an insult" to Buddhists. The perfume ad, which ran in Vogue and other U.S. fashion magazines, depicts a snake crawling over the head of an image of the lord Buddha (note: in Thailand, the head is the most revered part of the body). Clinique has reportedly pulled the ad and sent a letter of apology to the Thai ambassador in Washington, in which it expressed "shock to hear about the possible negative perceptions that would be put on this picture." Interestingly, the ad campaign ran only in the USA and caused global problems.

How about a Scandinavian Company calling their toilet paper CRAPP (In the British Environment - well?)

UK based machine company introducing a new model of what is referred to in the US as a drill press gave it the UK designation "screwing machine".

Here's one from Finland, Canon (I'm not sure about the brand) has a camera called EOS. Finns that are in marketing research use 'EOS' as an acronym for 'I cannot say' or 'I don't know', in Finnish 'en osaa sanoa'.

'Irish Mist' Irish whiskey marketed in Germany, where Mist is an alternative word for manure.

Toyota MR2 marketed in France where it is pronounced "emm err deux", which is a near homonym for "emmerde", which means dung (manure). It is now marketed as simply MR.

Brand confusion: Durex is the best-selling brand of condoms in the UK and a popular brand of adhesive tape in Australia. Watch out for confused Aussies in England and vice versa.

Dumb Traffic Exam Answers

Date Received: 7 Aug 1996

Anyway - here is one from rec.humor today.....

The following are a sampling of REAL answers received on exams given by the California Department of Transportation's driving school (read Saturday Traffic School for moving violation offenders.)

Q: Do you yield when a blind pedestrian is crossing the road?

A: What for? He can't see my license plate.

Q: Who has the right of way when four cars approach a four-way stop at the same time?

A: The pick up truck with the gun rack and the bumper sticker saying "Guns don't kill people. I do."

Q: What are the important safety tips to remember when backing your car?

A: Always wear a condom.

Q: When driving through fog, what should you use?

A: Your car.

Q: How can you reduce the possibility of having an accident?

A: Be too s--- faced to find your keys.

Q: What problems would you face if you were arrested for drunk driving?

A: I'd probably lose my buzz a lot faster.

Q: What changes would occur in your lifestyle if you could no longer drive lawfully?

A: I would be forced to drive unlawfully.

Q: What are some points to remember when passing or being passed?

A: Make eye contact and wave "hello" if he/she is cute.

Q: What is the difference between a flashing red traffic light and a flashing yellow traffic light?

A: The color.

Q: How do you deal with heavy traffic?

A: Heavy psychedelics.

Q: What can you do to help ease a heavy traffic problem?

A: Carry loaded weapons.

Q: Why would it be difficult to be a police officer?

A: It would be tough to be a d---head all day long.

Selected by Jim Griffith.

LETTERS TO WELFARE

Date Received: 17 Jun 1997

For those unfamiliar, Welfare payments are made in the US to individuals and families with income below a certain level. The following quotations are taken from actual letters received by the Welfare Department in applications for support of receiving payments.

I am forwarding my marriage certificate and 6 children. I had seven but one died which was baptized on a half sheet of paper.

I am writing the welfare department to say that my baby was born two years old. When do I get my money?

Mrs. Jones has not had any clothes for two years and has been visited regularly by the clergy.

I cannot get sick pay. I have six children can you tell me why?

I am glad to report that my husband who is missing is dead.

This is my eighth child. What are you going to do about it.

Please find for certain if my husband is dead. The man I am now living with can't do anything until he knows.

I am very much annoyed to find out that you have branded my son illiterate. This is a dirty lie as I was married a week before he was born.

In answer to your letter, I have given birth to a son weighing 10 lbs. I hope this is satisfactory.

I am forwarding my marriage certificate and my 3 children one of which is a mistake as you can see.

My husband got his project cut off about two weeks ago and I haven't had any relief since.

Unless I get my husband's money pretty soon, I will be forced to lead an immortal life.

You have my changed little boy to a girl, will this make any difference?

I have no children yet, as my husband is a truck driver and works night and day.

I want money as quick as I can get it. I have been in bed with the doctor for two weeks and he doesn't do me any good. If things don't improve, I will have to send for another doctor.

In accordance with your instructions, I have given birth to twins in the enclosed envelope.

Dumb Criminals

Date Received: 9 May 1996

Every day, we are assaulted by stories of stupid people--many of whom use their stupidity for personal gain (e.g., \$2.5M to someone stupid enough to put hot coffee in her--uh--lap while driving). From time to time,

though, we hear of those who strive to achieve new levels of stupidity *while* also breaking the law. To these brave men and women--oops, "women and men"--we present the highest possible honor: entry into the "Stupid-Criminal Hall of Shame."

The following are their accounts ...

Kentucky (where else?): Two men tried to pull the front off a cash machine by running a chain from the machine to the bumper of their pickup truck. Instead of pulling the front panel off the machine, though, they pulled the bumper off their truck. Scared, they left the scene and drove home. With the chain still attached to the machine. With their bumper still attached to the chain. With their vehicle's license plate still attached to the bumper. (Editor's Note 1: And they wonder why we call them "Yahoos" ...)

New York: As a female shopper exited a convenience store, a man grabbed her purse and ran. The clerk called 911 immediately and the woman was able to give them a detailed description of the snatcher. Within minutes, the police had apprehended the snatcher. They put him in the cruiser and drove back to the store. The thief was then taken out of the car and told to stand there for a positive ID. To which he replied, "Yes Officer, that's her. That's the lady I stole the purse from."

Seattle: When a man attempted to siphon gasoline from a motor home parked on a Seattle street, he got much more than he bargained for. Police arrived at the scene to find an ill man curled up next to a motor home near spilled sewage. A police spokesman said that the man admitted to trying to steal gasoline and plugged his hose into the motor home's sewage tank by mistake. The owner of the vehicle declined to press charges, saying that it was the best laugh he'd ever had.

Ann Arbor: The Ann Arbor News crime column reported that a man walked into a Burger King in Ypsilanti, Michigan at 7:50am, flashed a gun and demanded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order. When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast. The man, frustrated, walked away.

South Carolina: A man walked into a local police station, dropped a bag of cocaine on the counter, informed the desk sergeant that it was substandard cut, and asked that the person who sold it to him be arrested immediately.

Indiana: A man walked up to a cashier at a grocery store and demanded all the money in the register. When the cashier handed him the loot, he fled--leaving his wallet on the counter.

Tennessee: A man successfully broke into a bank after hours and stole the bank's video camera. While it was recording. Remotely. (That is, the videotape recorder was located elsewhere in the bank, so he didn't get the videotape of himself stealing the camera.)

Newark: A woman was reporting her car as stolen, and mentioned that there was a car phone in it. The policeman taking the report called the phone, and told the guy that answered that he had read the ad in the newspaper and wanted to buy the car. They arranged to meet, and the thief was arrested.

Arkansas: Seems this guy wanted some beer pretty badly. He decided that he'd just throw a cinder block through a liquor store window, grab some booze, and run. So he lifted the cinder block and heaved it over his head at the window. The cinder block bounced back and hit the would-be thief on the head, knocking him unconscious. Seems the liquor store window was made of Plexi-Glass. The whole event was caught on videotape.

England: A German "tourist," supposedly on a golf holiday, shows up at customs with his golf bag. While making idle chatter about golf, the customs official realizes that the tourist does not know what a "handicap" is. The customs official asks the tourist to demonstrate his swing, which he does--backward! A substantial amount of narcotics was found in the golf bag.

Germany: Oil of Olay no longer turning the trick for her, a woman decided that she would bathe in the milk of a camel (a modern-day Cleopatra). So she stole a camel from the local zoo (where *else* can you find a camel when you need one?) and transported it back to her house--where she realized that the camel's name was "Otto." (Editor's Note 2: She might not have gotten much milk from Otto, but she probably made a friend for life while trying to ...)

Arizona: A company called "Guns For Hire" stages gunfights for Western movies, etc. One day, they received a call from a 47-year-old woman, who wanted to have her husband killed. She got 4-1/2 years in jail.

Texas: A man convicted of robbery worked out a deal to pay \$9600 in damages rather than serve a prison sentence. For payment, he provided the court a check--a *forged* check. He got 10 years.

(Location Unknown): A man went into a drug store, pulled a gun, announced a robbery, and pulled a Hefty-bag face mask over his head--and realized that he'd forgotten to cut eyeholes in the mask.

(Location Unknown): A man successfully broke into a bank's basement through a street-level window, cutting himself up pretty badly in the process. He then realized that (1) he could not get to the money from where he was, (2) he could not climb back out the window through which he had entered, and (3) he was bleeding pretty badly. So he located a phone and dialed "911" for help ...

Virginia: Two men in a pickup truck went to a new-home site to steal a refrigerator. Banging up walls, floors, etc., they snatched a refrigerator from one of the houses, and loaded it onto the pickup. The truck promptly got stuck in the mud, so these brain surgeons decided that the refrigerator was too heavy. Banging up *more* walls, floors, etc., they put the refrigerator BACK into the house, and returned to the pickup truck, only to realize that they locked the keys in the truck--so they abandoned it.

(Location Unknown): A man walked into a Circle-K (a convenience store similar to a 7-11), put a \$20 bill on the counter and asked for change. When the clerk opened the cash drawer, the man pulled a gun and asked for all the cash in the register, which the clerk promptly provided. The man took the cash from the clerk and fled--leaving the \$20 bill on the counter. The total amount of cash he got from the drawer? Fifteen dollars.

Selected by Jim Griffith.

Date Received: Tue, 27 May 1997

It has become commonplace to read in our newspapers of a crime somewhere in America amusingly bungled by the criminal's ineptitude. Droll though these news items may be, they reflect an overlooked cost of our current national crisis in education. The basic learning skills of criminals have deteriorated to a shocking degree.

Consider the following:

A bank robber in Bumpus, Tenn., handed a teller the following note: "Watch out. This is a rubbery. I hav an oozy traned on your but. Dump the in a sack, this one. No die packkets or other triks or I will tare you a new naval. No kwarter with red stuff on them, too." Dr. Creon V.B. Smyk of the Ohio Valley Educational Council says such notes are, lamentably, the rule. "Right across the board, we see poor pre-writing skills, problems with omissions, tense, agreement, spelling and clarity," he moaned.

Smyk believes that the quality of robbery notes could be improved if criminals could be taught to plan before writing. "We have to stress organization: Make an outline of your robbery note before you write it," he said. "Some of the notes get totally sidetracked on issues like the make, model and caliber of the gun, number of bullets, etc., until one loses sight of the main idea -- the robbery."

In Bent Forks, Ill., kidnapers of ice-cube magnate Worth Bohnke sent a photograph of their captive to Bohnke's family. Bohnke was seen holding up a newspaper. It was not that day's edition and, in fact, bore a prominent headline relating to Nixon's trip to China.

This was pointed out to the kidnapers in a subsequent phone call. They responded by sending a new photograph showing an up-to-date newspaper. Bohnke, however, did not appear in the picture. When this, too, was refused, the kidnapers became peevish and insisted that a photograph be sent to them showing all the people over at Bohnke's house holding different issues of _Success_ magazine.

They provided a mailing address and were immediately apprehended. They later admitted to FBI agents they did not understand the principle involved in the photograph/newspaper concept. "We thought it was just some kind of tradition," said one. Educators agree that such mix-ups point to poor reasoning and comprehension skills, ignorance of current events, and failure to complete work in the time allotted.

Burglars in Larch Barrens, Md., tried to cut through a safe using a Lazer Tag gun.

Industrial thieves broke into the Bilgetek plant in Canasta, Wash., by crossing a metal catwalk and then blew it up, having forgotten it was their only means of escape.

Rustlers in Spavin, N.D., made off with three Saint Bernard dogs, a stationary bicycle and the visiting in-laws of a farmer, after having failed to correctly identify the valuable cattle on the premises.

"No problem-solving abilities, no communication skills, no 'plays and relates well with others,' no nothing," FBI regional director J. Paine Bloomey said, reviewing the state of modern criminality. "We are talking plain, flat-out, hard-boiled, stupid as pea turkeys."

By contrast, Japanese criminals score in the range 10 to 15 points higher than their American counterparts in basic skills tests. In the Japanese underworld, it is considered a matter of honor to execute a thoughtful, grammatical, error-free crime.

Still, experts such as Smyk stop short of demanding a total overhaul of the educational system. "For all their acumen," he says, "Japanese criminals wind up sacrificing a lot of the joie de vivre you see in our guys."

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YOU MEAN ME?

A pair of Michigan robbers entered a record shop nervously waving revolvers. The first one shouted, "Nobody move!" When his partner moved, the startled first bandit shot him.

DEADHEADS

A man in Orange County Municipal Court had been ticketed for driving alone in the carpool lane. He claimed that the four frozen cadavers in the mortuary van he was driving should be counted. The judge ruled that passengers must be alive to qualify.

THIS WOULD BE ME

The judge called the case of People vs. Steven Lewon Crook. The bailiff opened the door to the holding cell and called, "Crook, come forward." Five of the prisoners entered the courtroom.

LEARN YOUR LESSON

When asked for her occupation, a woman charged with a traffic violation said she was a schoolteacher. The judge rose from the bench. "Madam, I have waited years for a schoolteacher to appear before this court," he smiled with delight. "Now sit down at that table and write 'I will not pass through a red light' five hundred times."

AHH, THAT'S BETTER!

A judge in Louisville decided a jury went "a little bit too far" in recommending a sentence of 5,005 years for a man who was convicted of five robberies and a kidnapping. The judge reduced the sentence to 1,001 years.

OOPS! I BLEW THAT ONE!

A lawyer defending a man accused of burglary tried this creative defense: "My client merely inserted his arm into the window and removed a few trifling articles. His arm is not himself, and I fail to see how you can punish the whole individual for an offense committed by his limb." "Well put," the judge replied. "Using your logic, I sentence the defendant's arm to one year's imprisonment. He can accompany it or not, as he chooses." The defendant smiled. With his lawyer's assistance he detached his artificial limb, laid it on the bench, and walked out.

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The police showed up at the victim's house after receiving a call of a break in while the man was away at work. The house was in a nice upper-middle class neighbourhood. The police walked around to the side of the house with the victim, where they were shown the pried open sliding glass patio door. Clearly the entrance for the criminal. When asked if anything in the house was missing the man said nothing except his stash of marijuana. Police, not believing what they had just heard asked the man to repeat himself. The man, realizing that he had just admitted to possessing an illegal drug stammered and finally said, "oh forget the whole thing." He waved the police off and went back into his house. The police walked away laughing.

The two suspects had been apprehended and now sat in a courtroom at the defendant's table. A witness was on the stand being asked questions by the prosecutor. "And ma'am you say you were robbed of your purse on the street?" Yes sir, the witness answered. "And the two men who robbed you, are they here in the courtroom today?" Before the witness could answer both defendants raised their hands. The judge and jury laughed openly.

A man was arrested for stealing a car. When he was taken to court for his arraignment the judge asked, how do you plead? Instead of saying guilty or not guilty the man said: "Before we go any further, judge, let me explain why I stole the car." The judge ruled in record time.

Some criminals are not too bright and here's one to prove that: (at the time of booking)

Officer: What is your D.O.B.?

Criminal: What's a D.O.B., man?

Officer: When's your birthday?

Criminal: May 5th

Officer: What year?

Criminal: Every year, man.