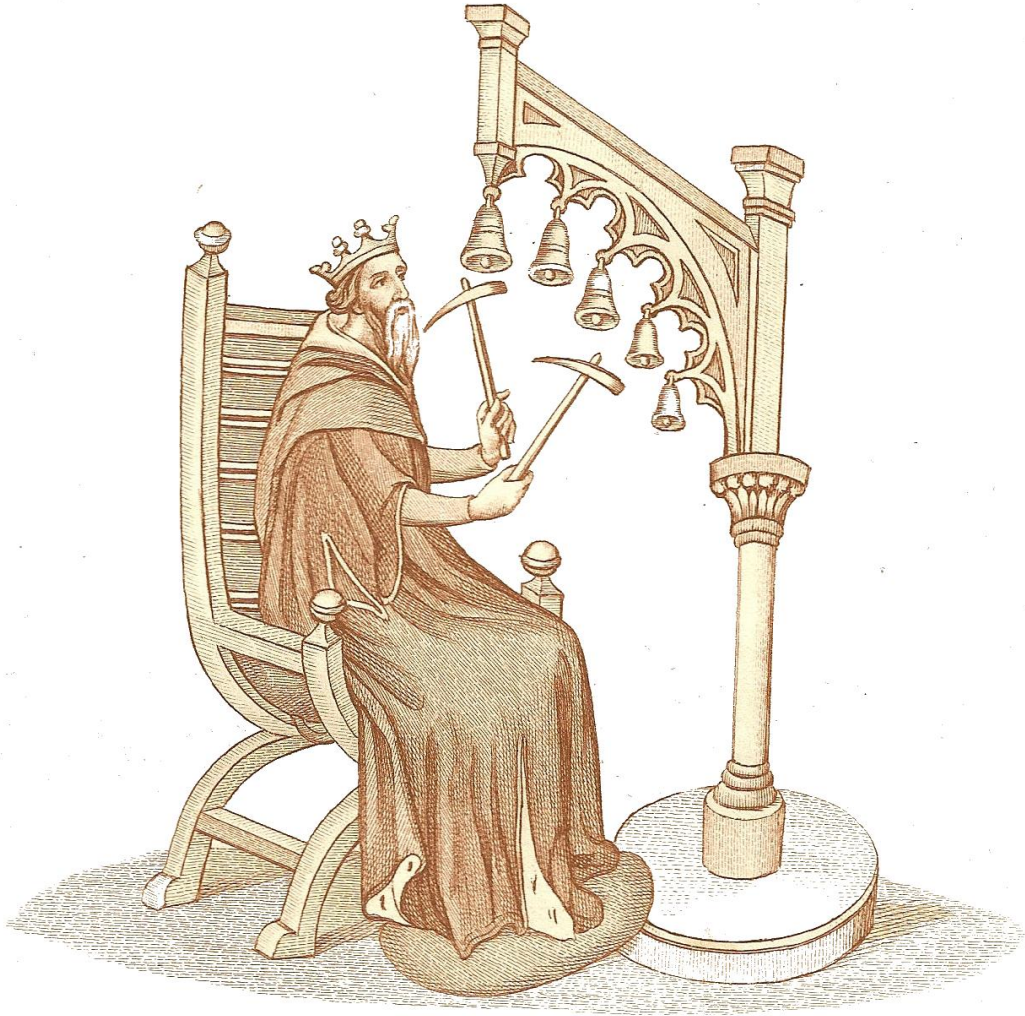


SATICHE



selections of logological diversions,
verbal amuses-bouche, and scientific recreations

Volume 3

Gavin Holman

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Verbs is funny

A boy who swims may say he swum,
But milk is skimmed and seldom skum,
And nails you trim; they are not trum.

When words you speak, these words are spoken,
But a nose is tweaked and can't be twoken.
And what you seek is seldom soken.

If we forget, then we've forgotten,
But things we wet are never wotten,
And houses let cannot be lotten.

The things one sells are always sold,
But fog dispelled are not dispold,
And what you smell is never smold.

When young, a top you oft saw spun,
But did you see a grin ever grun,
Or a potato neatly skun?

Vowels to Bosnia

Cities of Sjlbdnzv, Grzny to be First Recipients

Before an emergency joint session of Congress yesterday, President Clinton announced US plans to deploy over 75,000 vowels to the war-torn region of Bosnia. The deployment, the largest of its kind in American history, will provide the region with the critically needed letters A,E,I,O,U, and Y, and is hoped to render countless Bosnian words more pronounceable.

"For six years, we have stood by while names like Ygrjvslhv and Tzlynhr and Glrm have been horribly butchered by millions around the world," Clinton said. "Today, the United States must finally stand up and say, 'Enough.' It is time the people of Bosnia finally had some vowels in their incomprehensible words. The US is proud to lead the crusade in this noble endeavor."

The deployment, dubbed Operation Vowel Movement by the State Department, is set for early next week, with the Adriatic port cities of Sjlbdnzv and Grzny slated to be the first recipients. Two C-130 transport planes, each carrying more than 500 boxes of "E's," will fly from Andrews Air Force Base across the Atlantic and airdrop the letters over the cities.

Citizens of Grzny and Sjlbdnzv eagerly await the arrival of the vowels. "My God, I do not think we can last another day," Trszg Grzdnjklm, 44, said. "I have six children and none of them has a name that is understandable to me or to anyone else. Mr Clinton, please send my poor, wretched family just one 'E'."

Said Sjlbdnzv resident Grg Hmphrs, 67: "With just a few key letters, I could be George Humphries. This is my dream."

If the initial airlift is successful, Clinton said the United States will go ahead with full-scale vowel deployment, with C-130's airdropping thousands more letters over every area of Bosnia. Other nations are expected to pitch in as well, including 10,000 British "A's" and 6,500 Canadian "U's." Japan, rich in A's and O's, was asked to participate, but declined.

Linguists praise the US's decision to send the vowels. "Vowels are crucial to construction of all language," Baylor University linguist Noam Frankel said. "Without them, it would be difficult to utter a single word, much less organize a coherent sentence."

According to Frankel, once the Bosnians have vowels, they will be able to construct such valuable sentences as "The potatoes are ready," "I believe it will rain," "My house was bombed last week," and "Let's go kill Serbs."

The airdrop represents the largest deployment of any letter to a foreign country since 1984. During the summer of that year, the US shipped 92,000 consonants to Ethiopia, providing cities like Ouaouoaua, Eaoiiuae, and Aao with vital, lifegiving supplies of L's, S's, and T's. The consonant-relief effort failed, however, when vast quantities of the letters were intercepted and hoarded by violent, gun-toting warlords.

Collision avoidance

This is the transcript of an actual radio conversation of a US naval ship with Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland in Oct. 1995

- #1 Please divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a collision.
- #2 Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision.
- #1 This is the Captain of a US Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.
- #2 No. I say again, you divert YOUR course.
- #1 THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS MISSOURI, WE ARE A LARGE WARSHIP OF THE US NAVY. DIVERT YOUR COURSE NOW!
- #2 This is a lighthouse. Your call.

A code of ethical behaviour for patients

1. Do Not Expect Your Doctor To Share Your Discomfort.
Involvement with the patient's suffering might cause him to lose valuable scientific objectivity
2. Be Cheerful At All Times.
Your doctor leads a busy and trying life and requires all the gentleness and reassurance he can get.
3. Try To Suffer From The Disease For Which you are Treated

- Remember that your doctor has a professional reputation to uphold.*
4. Do Not Complain If The Treatment fails To Bring Relief.
You must believe that your doctor has achieved a deep insight into the true nature of your illness, Which transcends any mere permanent disability you may experience.
 5. Never Ask Your Doctor To Explain What He Is Doing Or Why He Is Doing It.
It is presumptuous to assume that profound matters could be explained in terms that you would understand.
 6. Submit To Novel Experimental Treatment Readily.
Though the surgery may not benefit you directly, the resulting research paper will surely be of widespread interest.
 7. Pay Your Medical Bills Promptly And Willingly
You should consider it a privilege to contribute, however modestly, to the well being of physicians and other humanitarians.
 8. Do Not Suffer Ailments That You Cannot Afford.
It is sheer arrogance to contract illnesses that are beyond your means.
 9. Never Reveal Any Of The Shortcomings That Have Come to Light In the Course Of Treatment By Your Doctor.
The patient-doctor relationship is a privileged one, and you have a sacred duty to protect him from exposure.
 10. Never Die While In Your Doctor's Presence Or Under His Direct Care.
This will only cause him needless inconvenience and embarrassment.

Definitions of terms commonly used in higher mathematics

CLEARLY: I don't want to write down all the "in-between" steps.

TRIVIAL: If I have to show you how to do this, you're in the wrong class.

OBVIOUSLY: I hope you weren't sleeping when we discussed this earlier, because I refuse to repeat it.

RECALL: I shouldn't have to tell you this, but for those of you who erase your memory tapes after every test...

WLOG (Without Loss Of Generality): I'm not about to do all the possible cases, so I'll do one and let you figure out the rest.

IT CAN EASILY BE SHOWN: Even you, in your finite wisdom, should be able to prove this without me holding your hand.

CHECK or CHECK FOR YOURSELF: This is the boring part of the proof, so you can do it on your own time.

SKETCH OF A PROOF: I couldn't verify all the details, so I'll break it down into the parts I couldn't prove.

HINT: The hardest of several possible ways to do a proof. BRUTE FORCE (AND IGNORANCE): Four special cases, three counting arguments, two long inductions, "and a partridge in a pair tree."

SOFT PROOF: One third less filling (of the page) than your regular proof, but it requires two extra years of course work just to understand the terms.

ELEGANT PROOF: Requires no previous knowledge of the subject matter and is less than ten lines long.

SIMILARLY: At least one line of the proof of this case is the same as before.

CANONICAL FORM: 4 out of 5 mathematicians surveyed recommended this as the final form for their students who choose to finish.

TFAE (The Following Are Equivalent): If I say this it means that, and if I say that it means the other thing, and if I say the other thing...

BY A PREVIOUS THEOREM: I don't remember how it goes (come to think of it I'm not really sure we did this at all), but if I stated it right (or at all), then the rest of this follows.

TWO LINE PROOF: I'll leave out everything but the conclusion, you can't question 'em if you can't see 'em.

BRIEFLY: I'm running out of time, so I'll just write and talk faster.

LET'S TALK THROUGH IT: I don't want to write it on the board lest I make a mistake.

PROCEED FORMALLY: Manipulate symbols by the rules without any hint of their true meaning (popular in pure math courses).

QUANTIFY: I can't find anything wrong with your proof except that it won't work if x is a moon of Jupiter (Popular in applied math courses).

PROOF OMITTED: Trust me, It's true.

The physicists' bill of rights

We hold these postulates to be intuitively obvious, that all physicists are born equal, to a first approximation, and are endowed by their creator with certain discrete privileges, among them a mean rest life, n degrees of freedom, and the following rights which are invariant under all linear transformations:

1. To approximate all problems to ideal cases.
2. To use order of magnitude calculations whenever deemed necessary (i.e. whenever one can get away with it).
3. To use the rigorous method of "squinting" for solving problems more complex than the addition of positive real integers.
4. To dismiss all functions which diverge as "nasty" and "unphysical."
5. To invoke the uncertainty principle when confronted by confused mathematicians, chemists, engineers, psychologists, dramatists, und andere schweinhund.
6. When pressed by non-physicists for an explanation of (4) to mumble in a sneering tone of voice something about physically naive mathematicians.
7. To equate two sides of an equation which are dimensionally inconsistent, with a suitable comment to the effect of, "Well, we are interested in the order of magnitude anyway."
8. To the extensive use of "bastard notations" where conventional mathematics will not work.
9. To invent fictitious forces to delude the general public.
10. To justify shaky reasoning on the basis that it gives the right answer.
11. To cleverly choose convenient initial conditions, using the principle of general triviality.
12. To use plausible arguments in place of proofs, and thenceforth refer to these arguments as proofs.
13. To take on faith any principle which seems right but cannot be proved.

The scientist's ball

Replying to an Invitation to a Scientist's Ball

Pierre and Marie Curie were radiating enthusiasm;
Einstein thought it would be relatively easy to attend;
Volta was electrified and Archimedes, buoyant at the thought;
Ampere was worried he wasn't up to current research;
Ohm resisted the idea at first;
Boyle said he was under too much pressure;
Edison thought it would be an illuminating experience;
Watt reckoned it would be a good way to let off steam;
Stephenson thought the whole idea was loco;
Wilbur Wright accepted, provided he and Orville could get a flight;
Dr Jekyll declined - he hadn't been feeling himself lately;
Morse's reply: "I'll be there on the dot. Can't stop now- must dash"

Structurally specific stereoscopic binding of pepperoni to pizza

The binding of pepperoni (P) to pizza (Pizza) is well known (Doonesburry, 1982). In a recent study, we have undertaken to elucidate the characteristics and mechanisms of this binding. The following is a summary of the results of that study.

We have successfully demonstrated that the binding of the ligand P to Pizza is structurally specific, in that prior exposure of Pizza to various concentrations of kolbase, bratwurst or kosher salami will reduce or in the extreme case prevent the subsequent binding of P. This clearly demonstrates the structural specificity of the binding.

The suspected stereospecificity of the binding was confirmed when it was found that P would not bind to the underside of the Pizza. The specific receptor is presumed to be mozzarella (MMM) cheese because it had to be present for binding to occur. The binding characteristics of P to Pizza and to MMM were found to be very similar. Thus, while not absolutely certain, it does appear that it is the cheese that binds. The affinity of P for MMM was quantitatively related to the number of MMM strands appearing when separation of P from MMM was attempted. P was also shown, quite inadvertently, to bind (but not well) to napkins and trousers.

The binding of P to Pizza was found to be saturable, reaching satiation as an asymptomatic hyperbola. Onions and garlic both exerted allosteric effects. Garlic's effect was potently expressed whereas onion's effect was dicey.

The structurally-specific, stereospecific saturable binding of P to Pizza is readily antagonized by a variety of agents, including olive oil (in excess) and anchovies. Of these, the anchovies appear to compete with P for binding sites while olive oil's antagonism is insurmountable.

The competitive antagonisms by anchovies and kosher salami each show quite different kinetics leading to the suggestion that there may be at least two different receptors for P. We have chosen to call these receptors P1 and Poo-Poo.

Finally, it must be reported that the above results notwithstanding, P's binding to Pizzam is probably not of great functional significance and P may exert at best only a modulatory effect.

Movie laws

Bad Smoker Rule: In any cop movie made since the mid-seventies, the bad guys smoke while the good guy is trying to quit.

"Cape Fear Syndrome": Derangement that causes heroines, upon learning they are in great danger, to go immediately to an isolated cabin (houseboat, sailboat in the harbour, farm) alone, knowing that no one, especially their friends, will be able to find them.

Divine Dog Syndrome: In movies humans are violently killed with impunity, but dogs are never killed. Thus an alien race studying humans would conclude that dogs are gods.

Fallacy of the Talking Killer: The villain wants to kill the hero. He has him cornered at gunpoint. All the villain has to do is pull the trigger, but he always talks first. He explains the hero's mistakes to him, jeers, laughs. And gives the hero time to think his way out of the situation or be rescued by his buddy.

Gibson's Inverse Coefficient of Gravity: Force of nature that affects the firearms of good guys as they scale tall buildings. Force grows geometrically greater the higher up the good guy is, eventually causing firearm to fall irretrievably from his grasp when he needs it most. (Fun fact: This force generates a powerful visual aura, causing good guy to waste precious time watching firearm fall all the way to the ground while he's in immediate peril.)

Hand-in-Hand Rule: In many Hollywood action pictures the woman characters are incapable of fleeing from danger unless dragged by a strong man who takes the woman's hand and pulls her along behind him. This convention is so strong it appears even in films in which it makes no sense, as in *Sheena*, in which a jungle woman who has ruled the savage beasts since infancy is pulled along by a television anchorman fresh off the plane.

Hardest Word in the English Language: No matter how well a foreigner speaks English, he never masters "yes" and will invariably be forced to rely on its equivalent in his native tongue.

"Hey, Cody!" Rule: Bad guy has drop on good guy. Can pull trigger and kill him. Inevitably shouts "Hey, Cody!" (or other name of good guy) after which good guy whirls, sees bad guy and shoots him first.

Human Antennae: Movie characters who have an amazing ability to turn on the television at the moment that a newscaster begins a report on something directly relating to them.

Myopia Rule: Little girls who wear glasses in movies always tell the truth. Little boys who wear glasses in movies always lie.

One Size Fits All: If a woman Character steals clothing, if a male's, will be too big. If a female's , it will be too skimpy and revealing.

Short-Time Syndrome: Applies to prison, war or police, movies, in which the hero has only a few more days until he is free, his tour is over, or he can retire with a full pension. Whenever such a character makes the mistake of mentioning his remaining time ("three days and I'm outta here!"), he will die before the end of that time.

1-Telephone's to blame rule: applies to all kind of movies. The main character didn't like what he just heard in the phone, so he disconnect it violently and throw it away.

2- Telephone's to blame II: The character is in a phone conversation, the other party hangs up the phone before he wanted to, and the character remains staring at the handset as he can get an explanation from it.

Bad Coffee Rule: In cop shows/movies (and also frequently, but not as inevitably, in newspaper-office scenes) the character will walk in, stop at the coffee machine, pour some into a plastic/styrofoam cup, and utter some variation on the phrase "Jeez, this coffee tastes like crap".

Too-Easy Parking and Poor Auto Security rule: Famously flouted by Steve McQueen in "Bullitt". McQueen, a well-known car nut, takes a couple of manoeuvres to parallel-park his Mustang and then locks the door when he's out of the car; what movie-dictates declare should be done is to pull straight over to the kerb, front-first, in one movement, get out of the car (with the window wound down) and slam the door shut, unlocked. This is also satirized in the Police Squad shows/movies where Leslie Nielsen never fails to hit some object as he performs the Too-Easy Parking manoeuvre.

What you learn about Americans by watching Baywatch

1. American men and women spend 15 percent of their days running in slow motion along the beach.
2. Americans almost drown an average of two times each hour.
3. Despite the habit of breathing water, CPR always works and no one actually dies, except from cancer.
4. People in the U.S. look thoughtfully at the ocean for an average of 15 seconds after being told anything of any importance.
5. Americans never worry about getting enough to eat, but fat people are unreliable and sometimes evil.
6. Most American women have abnormally large breasts that are worshipped via close-ups for an average of two minutes and thirteen seconds per hour.

7. When swimming in California, you are more likely to be attacked by jewel thieves or taken hostage by terrorists than you are to drown.
8. Most activity that takes place off the beach occurs in montages and lasts no longer than two minutes.
9. Although Americans, especially lifeguards, complain that they are poor, they all have expensive sports cars and luxurious homes.
10. Motorboats, unlike cars, will not talk back to David Hasselhoff.

Microsoft Child 96

For the first time in, oh, a decade, I think, something from Microsoft shipped on time: Jennifer Katharine Gates, weighed 8 pounds 6 ounces when she was downloaded, er, born on Friday, April 26 1996, at 6:11 p.m. And what do Baby Gates and Daddy's products have in common?

- Neither can stand on its own two feet without a LOT of third party support.
- Both throw up all over themselves regularly.
- Regardless of the problem, calling Microsoft Tech Support won't help.
- As they mature, we pray that they will be better than that which preceded them.
- At first release they're relatively compact, but they seem to grow and grow and grow with each passing year.
- Although announced with great fanfare, pretty much anyone could have produced one.
- They arrive in shaky condition with inadequate documentation.
- No matter what, it takes several months between the announcement and the actual release.
- Bill gets the credit, but someone else did most of the work.
- For at least the next year, they'll suck.

You know you're too stressed if...

- Relatives that have been dead for years come visit you and suggest that you should get some rest.
- You say the same sentence over and over again, not realizing that you have said it before.
- The Sun is too loud.
- Trees begin chasing you.
- You can see individual air molecules vibrating.
- You begin to explore the possibility of setting up an I.V. drip solution of espresso.
- You wonder if brewing is really a necessary step in the consumption of coffee.
- You can hear mimes.
- You believe that if you think hard enough, you can fly.
- Things become "Very Clear."
- You keep yelling "STOP TOUCHING ME!" even though you are the only one in the room.
- Your heart beats in 7/8 time.

- David Lynch comes up to you and says: "Hey! Can I film you?"
- You and Reality file for divorce.
- You can skip without a rope.
- It appears that people are speaking to you in binary code.
- You can travel without moving.
- Antacid tablets become your sole source of nutrition.
- You discover the aesthetic beauty of office supplies.
- You begin to talk to yourself, then disagree about the subject, get into a nasty row over it, lose, and refuse to speak to yourself for the rest of the night.
- Teddy bears begin to bully you for milk and cookies.
- You have an irresistible urge to bite the noses of the people you are talking to.
- You say the same sentence over and over again, not realizing that you have said it before...

Top signs your parent-teacher meeting isn't going well

1. The teacher asks if your child barks like a dog at home, too.
2. As you arrive, the teacher asks if you can spare a Valium.
3. On behalf of the entire class, the teacher expresses sympathy for your marital problems.
4. The teacher says that you seem very intelligent and asks if your child is adopted.
5. The teacher asks how the snake is doing, and you don't know what she's talking about.
6. The teacher shows you \$75 worth of dimes and quarters she found in your son's desk, and you notice how thin the other children are.
7. The teacher encourages your family to take a week-long vacation the week of standardized testing.
8. You spot your missing Weight Watchers records on the bulletin board as a part of the Examples of Graphs display.
9. The teacher has a can of pepper mace stored in a shoulder holster.
10. The teacher tells you that she had hoped your son could be a tree in the school play, but he lacked the necessary acting ability.

Basic rules for cats who have a house to run

Chairs & Rugs:

If you have to throw up, get into a chair quickly. If you cannot manage in time get to an oriental rug. If no oriental rug, shag is good.

Doors:

Do not allow closed doors in any room. To get a door opened, stand on hind legs and hammer with fore paws. Once door is open, it is not necessary to use it. After you have ordered an outside door opened, stand halfway in and out, and think about several things. This is particularly important during very cold weather, rain, snow and mosquito season.

Guests:

Quickly determine which guest hates cats the most. Sit on that human's lap. If you can arrange to have Friskies Fish-N-Glop on your breath, so much the better. For sitting on laps or rubbing against trousers, select fabric and color which contrasts well with your fur. For example, white-furred cats should go to black wool clothing. For walking among dishes on dinner table, be prepared to look surprised and hurt when scolded. The idea is to convey, "but you allow me on the table when company isn't here." Always accompany guest to the bathroom. It is not necessary to do anything. Just sit and stare.

Work:

If one of your humans is sewing or writing and another is idle, stay with the busy one. This is called helping, otherwise known as hampering. Following are the rules for hampering:

1. When supervising cooking, sit just behind the left heel of the cook. You cannot be seen and thereby stand a better chance of being stepped on, picked up, and consoled.
2. For book readers, get in close under the chin, between the human's eyes and the book, unless you can lie across the book itself.
3. For knitting projects, curl up quietly onto the lap of the knitter and pretend to doze. Occasionally reach out and slap the knitting needles sharply. This can cause dropped stitches. Ignore it. Remember, the aim is to hamper work.

Play:

It is important. Get enough sleep in the daytime so you are fresh for playing catch mouse or king-of-the-hill on their bed between 2 and 4 am.

Reminder:

Begin people training early. You will then have a smooth-running household. Humans need to know the basic rules. They can be taught if you start early and are consistent.

Thoughts on golf

- In primitive society, when native tribes beat the ground with clubs and yelled, it was called witchcraft; today, in civilized society, it is called golf.
- The man who takes up golf to get his mind off his work soon takes up work to get his mind off golf.
- Golf was once a rich man's sport, but now it has millions of poor players.
- Golf is an expensive way of playing marbles.
- The secret of good golf is to hit the ball hard, straight and not too often.
- There are three ways to improve your golf game: take lessons, practice constantly, or start cheating.
- An amateur golfer is one who addresses the ball twice: once before swinging, and once again after swinging.
- Many a golfer prefers a golf cart to a caddy because it cannot count, criticize or laugh.
- Golf is a game in which the slowest people in the world are those in front of you, and the fastest are those behind.

- Golf: A five mile walk punctuated with disappointments.
- There's no game like golf: you go out with three friends, play eighteen holes, and return with three enemies.

Haircuts

Women's version:

Woman2: Oh! You got a haircut! That's so cute!

Woman1: Do you think so? I wasn't sure when she gave me the mirror. I mean, you don't think it's too fluffy looking?

Woman2: Oh God no! No, it's perfect. I'd love to get my hair cut like that, but I think my face is too wide. I'm pretty much stuck with this stuff I think.

Woman1: Are you serious? I think your face is adorable. And you could easily get one of those layer cuts - that would look so cute I think. I was actually going to do that except that I was afraid it would accent my long neck.

Woman2: Oh - that's funny! I would love to have your neck! Anything to take attention away from this two-by-four I have for a shoulder line.

Woman1: Are you kidding? I know girls that would love to have your shoulders. Everything drapes so well on you. I mean, look at my arms - see how short they are? If I had your shoulders I could get clothes to fit me so much easier.

Men's version:

Man2: Haircut?

Man1: Yeah.

Against the law?

Nicholas County, WV	No Clergy shall tell a joke from the pulpit.
Gloversville, NY	Woman wrestlers are prohibited within city limits.
Compton, CA	Dancing cheek-to-cheek is prohibited.
Lake Charles, LA	It's illegal to let a rain puddle remain in your front yard more than 12 hours.
Walden, NY	You cannot give someone a drink of water without a permit.
Vermont	It's illegal to whistle underwater.
Fort Madison, IA	Fire department personnel are required to practice 15 minutes before attending a fire.
California	A housewife may go to prison if she doesn't cook her dusting cloth after use.
Elko, NV	No one shall walk upon the street without wearing a mask.
Colorado	Serving of food in a room used for any other purpose is prohibited.
New York City, NY	No decks of cards allowed in any apartment located within a mile's radius of an armory.
Wyoming	Women are required to stand 5 feet away from bars when drinking in public.

South Carolina	Hip pockets are illegal. (They provide a convenient place for pint bottles)
Virginia	Horses of more than one year old are prohibited in a place of worship.

God as a computer programmer

...Many important theological questions are answered if we think of God as a Computer Programmer:

Q: Does God control everything that happens in my life?

A: He could, if he used the debugger, but it's tedious to step through all those variables.

Q: Why does God allow evil to happen?

A: God thought he eliminated evil in one of the earlier versions.

Q: What causes God to intervene in earthly affairs?

A: If a critical error occurs, the system pages him automatically and he logs on from home to try to bring it up. Otherwise things can wait until tomorrow.

Q: Did God really create the world in seven days?

A: He did it in six days and nights while living on cola and candy bars. On the seventh day he went home and found out his girlfriend had left him.

Q: How come the Age of Miracles Ended?

A: That was the development phase of the project, now we are in the maintenance phase.

Q: Who is Satan?

A: Satan is a MIS director who takes credit for more powers than he actually possesses, so people who aren't programmers are scared of him. God thinks of him as irritating but irrelevant.

Q: What is the role of sinners?

A: Sinners are the people who find new and imaginative ways to mess up the system when God has made it idiot-proof.

Q: Where will I go after I die?

A: Onto a DAT tape.

Q: Will I be reincarnated?

A: Not unless there is a special need to recreate you. And searching those tar files is a major hassle, so if there is a request for you, God will just say that the tape has been lost.

Q: Am I unique and special in the universe?

A: There are over 10,000 major university and corporate sites running exact duplicates of you in the present release version.

Q: What is the purpose of the universe?

A: God created it because he values elegance and simplicity, but then the users and managers demanded he tack all this senseless stuff onto it and now everything is more complicated and expensive than ever.

Q: If I pray to God, will he listen?

A: You can waste his time telling him what to do, or you can just get off his back and let him program.

Q: What is the one true religion?

A: All systems have their advantages and disadvantages, so just pick the one that best suits your needs and don't let anyone put you down.

Q: How can I protect myself from evil?

A: Change your password every month and don't make it a name, a common word, or a date like your birthday.

Q: Some people claim they hear the voice of God. Is this true?

A: They are much more likely to receive email.

Lego™

Yesterday I decided to return to my youth and took out all my old boxes of Lego.

I was appalled. I can't imagine that once, in my youth, I used to build systems within such a poor development environment. Do you realise that there are no standard libraries or support tools, and that you have to build everything yourself from the 'basic blocks'?

There's also no type system. Everything fits with everything else without any built-in checking, so you could put a space rocket next to a medieval castle and it wouldn't even warn you! (And have I mentioned that there are in fact multiple incompatible medieval castle systems?)

But what really killed it for me was the complete lack of any macro support. If you want ten copies of something complicated, you have to make the ten copies explicitly yourself!

Anyway, I'm making a protest and I'm not going to buy any more until Lego International get their act in gear. What I'd really like to see by the next release is an fully customisable Integrated Development Environment.

TV asteroid science

Observations from a broadcast film.....

- Asteroids travel through space making a noise like a powerful but subdued engine.

- Asteroids are usually locked into orbits, but if a comet comes by, they can be bumped out of their rut and become dangerously unstable.
- It's only the fact that everything is locked into an orbit which prevents collisions in our solar system. Any asteroid that gets loose is certain to crash into Earth within a matter of hours.
- It's just barely possible to evacuate Kansas City to a distance of 100 miles in 48 hours. This requires lots of airplanes. It also requires martial law, so that "looters will be arrested on sight". (Have they no mercy?) With 30+ hours to go, people will panic in the streets and run around at random.
- A mile-wide asteroid can mostly burn up in the atmosphere, causing it to do only a relatively small amount of damage (bursting a dam) when it strikes.
- A river from a burst dam can exactly keep pace with a pickup truck for several minutes. It will then obligingly pause as the pickup truck turns around and goes in another direction.
- When a raging river washes over a pickup truck on a bridge, the bridge won't be damaged, the truck won't be swept off the bridge, and people in the open back of the truck won't be swept away.
- A four-mile-wide nickel asteroid (which would mass about a *trillion* tons) can be destroyed -- literally destroyed, so that nothing remains -- by three airplane-mounted lasers.
- But with only two airplane-mounted lasers, it instead instantly explodes into thousands of pieces. Astronomers are very surprised that it wasn't literally destroyed.
- Laser beams are easily visible in space.
- Incoming asteroids spend several minutes in Earth's atmosphere.
- Asteroids made of softer or more volatile stuff than nickel will harmlessly burn up in the atmosphere regardless of size.
- Asteroids that land in the ocean will do no damage regardless of size.
- Asteroids are discovered by astronomers peering directly through their telescopes in brightly lit observatories. Whatever they see will appear on computer monitors, however.
- Asteroid positions are reported in plainly audible 75 BPS Baudot teletype signals.
- Oddly, there will be no dog to be rescued at the last possible moment. Maybe only tornadoes and volcanoes come equipped with dogs. Would you settle for goldfish?

How to cook a conductor

Ingredients

One large Conductor, or two small assistant conductors
 Ketchup
 26 large garlic cloves
 Trex or other solid vegetable shortening (Lard may be used)
 1 cask cheap wine
 1 lb. alfalfa sprouts
 2 lbs. assorted yuppie food, such as tofu or yoghurt
 One abused Orchestra

First, catch a Conductor. Remove the tail and horns. Carefully separate the large ego and reserve for sauce. Remove any batons, pencils (on permanent loan from the Principal Second Violin) and long articulations and discard. Remove the hearing aid and discard (it never worked anyway). Examine your conductor carefully - many of them are mostly large intestine. If you have such a Conductor, you will have to discard it and catch another. Clean the Conductor as you would a squid, but do not separate the tentacles from the body. If you have an older Conductor, such as one from a Major Symphony Orchestra or Summer Music Festival, you may wish to tenderize by pounding the Conductor on a rock with timpani mallets or by smashing the Conductor between two large cymbals.

Next, pour 1/2 of the cask of wine into a bath tub and soak the Conductor in the wine for at least 12 hours (exceptions: British, German and some Canadian Conductors have a natural beery taste which some people like and the wine might not marry well with this flavor. Use your judgment). When the Conductor is sufficiently marinated, remove any clothes the Conductor may be wearing and rub it all over with the garlic. Then cover your Conductor with the Crisco. using vague, slow circular motions. Take care to cover every inch of the Conductor's body with the shortening. If this looks like fun, you can cover yourself with Crisco too, removing clothes first.

Next, take your orchestra and put as much music out as the stands will hold without falling over, and make sure that there are lots of really loud passages for everyone, big loud chords for the winds and brass, and lots and lots of tremolos for the strings. (Bruckner might be appropriate). Rehearse these passages several times, making certain that the brass and winds are always playing as loud as they can and the strings are tremolo-ing at their highest speed. This should ensure adequate flames for cooking your Conductor. If not, insist on taking every repeat and be sure to add the second repeats in really large symphonies. Ideally, you should choose your repertoire to have as many repeats as possible, but if you have a piece with no repeats in it at all, just add some, claiming that you have seen the original, and there was an ink blot there that "looked like a repeat" to you and had obviously been missed by every other fool who had looked at this score. If taking all the repeats does not generate sufficient flames, burn the complete set of score and parts to all of the Bruckner symphonies.

When the flames have died down to a medium inferno, place your Conductor on top of your orchestra (they won't mind as they are used to it) until it is well tanned, the hair turns back to its natural color and all of the fat has dripped out. Be careful not to overcook or your Conductor could end up tasting like stuffed ham. Make a sauce by combining the ego, sprouts and ketchup to taste, placing it all in the blender and pureeing until smooth. If the ego is bitter, sweeten with honey to taste. Slice your Conductor as you would any turkey. Serve accompanied by the assorted yuppie food and the remaining wine with the sauce on the side.

WARNING: Due to environmental toxins present in conductor feeding areas, such as heavy metals, oily residue from intensive PR machinery manufacture, and extraordinarily high concentrations of E.coli, cryptosporidium, and other hazardous organisms associated with animal wastes, the Departments for Conductor Decimation (DCD) recommend that the consumption of conductors be limited to one per season. Overconsumption of conductors has been implicated in the epidemiology of a virulent condition known as "Bataan fever." Symptoms of this disorder include swelling of the

brain, spasms in the extremities, delusions of competence, auditory hallucinations and excessive longevity.

Mathematics for musicians

- Wilma is tired of paying for clarinet reeds. If she adopts a policy of playing only on rejected reeds from her colleagues will she be able to retire on the money she has saved if she invests it in mutual bonds, yielding 8.7%, before she is fired from her job? If not, calculate the probability of her ever working in a professional symphony orchestra again.
- Jethro has been playing the double bass in a symphony orchestra for twelve years, three months and seven days. Each day, his inclination to practice decreases by the equation: $(Total\ days\ in\ the\ orchestra) \times .000976$ Assuming he stopped practicing altogether four years, six months and three days ago, how long will it be before he is completely unable to play the double bass?
- Wilma plays in the second violin section, but specializes in making disparaging remarks about conductors and other musicians. The probability of her making a negative comment about any given musician is 4 chances in 7, and for conductors is 16 chances in 17. If there are 103 musicians in the orchestra and the orchestra sees 26 different conductors a year, how many negative comments does Wilma make in a two-year period? How does this change if five of the musicians are also conductors? What if six of the conductors are also musicians?
- Horace is the General Manager of an important symphony orchestra. He tries to hear at least four concerts a year. Assuming that at each concert the orchestra plays a minimum of three pieces per concert, what are the chances that Horace can avoid hearing a single work by Mozart, Beethoven or Brahms in the next ten years?
- Betty plays in the viola section. Despite her best efforts she is unable to play with the rest of the orchestra and, on average, plays .3528 seconds behind the rest of the viola section, which is already .16485 seconds behind the rest of the orchestra. If the orchestra is moving into a new concert hall with a reverberation time of 2.7 seconds, will she be able to continue playing this way undetected?
- Ralph loves to drink coffee. Each week he drinks three more cups of coffee than Harold, who drinks exactly one third the amount that the entire brass section consumes in beer. How much longer is Ralph going to live?
- Rosemary is unable to play in keys with more than three sharps or flats without making an inordinate number of mistakes. Because her colleagues in the cello section are also struggling in these passages she has so far been able to escape detection. What is the total number of hours they would all have to practice to play the complete works of Richard Strauss?

Quotations of Leif Segerstam

A few years ago we worked with Leif Segerstam, a composer/conductor from Finland. He had a remarkably creative way of using the English language, and as usual, I started writing my favourite quotes in our music. After a few days, I learned that several other members of the orchestra were doing the same thing. This is a compilation of our efforts. Unlike the collected quotations of another famous conductor, these aren't just

the fractured phrases of someone who speaks English as a second language - we have before us a record of the creative mind of a kaleidoscopic flexator electrifically fluxating new meaning into a tired old language.

- Could we have a relativity normal beginning?
- Take "La Forza Del Destino" and half it.
- I want the music more traumatised.
- Like an old time Western locomotive we can get the organy of the puffing.
- The kaleidoscopic flexator on the podium --- the conductor.
- Keep an irony rhythm.
- You are still mauving.
- The string section without the basses is a plasmatic living cluster.
- Here you should have a little worm.
- A sort of indignant way of playing before the la minore explosion.
- You have to become a little dirty about the fingerboard there.
- Flutterzungen in the mind.
- Was this a conspiracy to read my beat?
- Just play in your box until you come to the climax. . . so that we hear the clapping.
- . . . if you get music early in your brainal functions.
- The old quarter note becomes very freshly enough the new quarter note.
- You could take a speed of 33 metronome, or 22.
- A dividing 50 percent reaction tempo-wise.
- The quintuplet should be freshly and rudely the same as the triplet.
- I am in 76 of this here.
- Still together, conductified.
- Could I have something which is close to that which is underneath the pencil?
- The atmospheric things must have a millimetre to do with the speed.
- The winds can rehearse the length of the teedle-eedle-boom.
- Something is satelliting out of the control of the beated music.
- I have words for everything that can be expressed.
 - Coincidentimently
 - Embryomalic
 - Electrifically
 - Fiveishness
 - Flimmer
 - Inexclickable
 - Fenugrish five things
 - I am fluxating in 8.
 - It is a Valsefy.
- There is a slight worm to be executed very much together.
- It should be the emigrated Loch Ness. (to the basses)
- Please don't play sloppy dactyls that they don't know what it is.
- We do it Wiener Schule kind of poco apostrophe.
- Try to use this optical notation.
- How about talking about the spot where someone composes the registration number of his car.
- You haven't experienced it because nobody is doing it.

- Could we have a rude accord between First and Second Violins?
- You could allow if you have got long ears. . .
- . . . whatever bumble thing. . .
- . . . a small dog noise. . .
- . . . almost a gorilla sound. . .
- You don't need to count here. You won't get lost because at the end, I will turn and look at you stoppingly!
- Could I see lead being sacrificed on the paper?
- If you are not the leader you will be the first one.
- Dibble-Dibble. . . GUSTAV!!
- Keep the fermata of the rest interesting.
- Three centimetres of wavy lines, then you play the music.
- Somebody singing a far-fetched diagonals from Sibelius' Finlandia.
- Hypnotic and destiny-filled.
- It is very beautiful what you played, but you are forgetting one thing that makes it tomorrow too loud.
- Who would sacrifice a violin?
- You play whenever you get there.
- Tonmeister, are you heavy enough in the Glockenbox?
- I always get very pounding sounds on the one there.
- At 7 o'clock we do the Klami piece and then my piece places.
- Two terracic slowing downs.
- . . . a comma in the Heaven.
- The gravity is on the beat composed.
- Listen to these gorilla players. (in reference to the Cello section)
- Is the Donnerblech organised in the strings now?
- You could really be princessy pochissimo.
- Wait for the Puccini bit in four and make like the Diva.
- . . . like an augmented ambulance siren.
- I'm still here doing things in this direction.
- Segerstam disease: gastronomical music.
- More grease in the pianissimo.
- The non-metric pulsator on the podium.
- It's a late threeness.
- There are misleadings. . .
- More like James Bond Goldfinger.
- You don't have to dirten your notation.
- It really sounds like some Tom and Jerry accompanimiento sounding.
- Use parabolic crescendi. . . they are more animalic.
- My left hand will look at you.
- We get a plankton plasmatic flimmer.
- Each individual is not together.
- We will enter in the right times, so the shortening is to the left.
- Native folkloric haemiolas that you should have in your Mahler bloods.
- I have to be the bumper to take all these colleagueal comments to the playing trumpets.
- Please compose the six rests that are missing.

- Could you technically program that for the next time playing?
- Quasi dim pencil, and feathers are for the wish here.
- I am very hacking because of the scales there.
- Don't make it sound as brutal as my left hand, please.
- You are still mouldering (to the percussion).
- There are people swallowing time.
- We still have a pleep.
- There is a confusion about.

The meaning of RadcLIFFe

ALDATE (vb)	To keep a careful diary of which excuses you have used to which tutors and when, in order to avoid detection the next time you have failed to produce the required work.
BALLIOL (n)	The intense and unforgettable mix of excitement and embarrassment caused by trying to avoid walking into lines of tourist camera fire whilst wearing sub-fusc in public.
BANBURY (n)	The least interesting poster in your room.
BLACKWELL (n)	A strange and nasty inedible piece of bath-sponge which is offered to you on a plate if you sign up for a vegetarian meal in college.
BRASENOSE (n)	The sort of "friend" who keeps dropping round for cups of coffee merely so that he or she can insult your music collection and the quality of your speakers.
CAMBRIDGE (intj)	An expletive used on discovering that someone has kindly ripped your bicycle apart and placed some of it down a drain, some of it up a lamp-post, and most of it at the bottom of the Cherwell.
CATZ (n)	The unique and unbreathable mix of air, carbon monoxide and unidentifiable stench found only in the Cornmarket.
CLARENDON (adj)	Descriptive of the sort of person who irritates others by referring to the Bodleian Library as "Bodley".
COWLEY (n)	A neighbour who protests about the loudness of your music at 10pm during a term when he or she doesn't have exams but you do, and who then goes on to play the piano at 3 o'clock in the morning and to fumigate the whole of the corridor by smoking cigars all day.
EXETER (vb)	To remove a book from the Bod entirely by mistake and then worry yourself senseless about how you're going to smuggle it back through all the security that'll be there when they discover it's missing.
HERTFORD (n)	The most antisocial person at a lecture.
HILDA (vb)	To make a ridiculous amount of even more ridiculous excuses as to exactly why the other person in the punt should do all the work with the pole.
HOLYWELL (n)	A curse uttered after spending five unsuccessful minutes trying to cross St Giles.

IFFLEY (n)	The frustration caused by actually trying to find any given location in Christ Church.
JERICHO (n)	Anyone of a non-student species who walks down the Cornmarket, including people with triple-width pushchairs, gibbering tramps who have gone barking mad, three-and-a-half thousand old ladies with shopping trolleys, and nobody else whatsoever.
KEBLE (adj)	Descriptive of the sort of feeling you DON'T have on Friday of Eighth Week.
LINCOLN (n)	One who artificially adopts a plummy Oxford accent for no apparent reason.
MAGDALEN (n)	A book recommended to you by your tutor which costs 27.95 second-hand in Blackwell's.
MERTON (adj)	Descriptive of the sort of bop to which only 6 people turn up, and even they wish they hadn't.
ORIEL (n)	A person whom you see around college and say "hello" to every day without having even a glimmer of an idea about who they actually are.
OXFORD (vb)	To get up later than eleven in the morning.
PEMBROKE (n)	A long winding staircase with nothing but broom cupboards on it.
RADCLIFFE (vb)	To pinch someone else's comedy format and use it to write vaguely amusing dry comments about local university life.
SHELDONIAN (adj)	Descriptive of the place with the highest concentration of tourists at any given moment.
TRINITY (n)	A work crisis for the third night running.
TURL (n)	An enormous crowd of shouting tourists who are firmly resolved never to let you get past, and whom you meet no matter which side-road you duck down.
WADHAM (vb)	To pretend by nodding and agreeing furiously that you know what your tutor is talking about.
WOODSTOCK (n)	The sort of tutor who is never seen by anybody outside his room.
WORCESTER (n)	The precise number of posters per hour that people pin up over the top of the one you put up yourself.

Christmas: the seasonal command

CHRISTMAS(8)

NAME

christmas, xmas, season2bjolly - Systems administration tool.

SYNOPSIS

christmas [--jinglebells] [--happy] [--merry] [--happy-new-year] [--glad-tidings] [--cheer] [--office-party]

DESCRIPTION

This manual page documents the dedicated systems administration period known as `christmas'. This is a series of times spanning 86400 seconds. The next period of christmas is due to take place 851472000 seconds after Epoch. In this period all non-privileged users accounts remain unused in order that the systems' administrator can perform vital administration tasks. During this period the administrator has the opportunity to utilize the machine to its full capacity since the christmas command places the machine in single user mode.

--jinglebells - With this switch specified all monitors will have pieces of tinsel around them. Overnight, one strand of tinsel will get into the fan of a Sparc 10, and the machine will overheat, and need replacing. This means that during the christmas period it is essential that the machines are not left unattended at any time of night or day by the system administrator.

--happy - This is a dangerous state which users can enter during the use of christmas. It entails users doing recklessly stupid things and calling it just a bit of fun.

--merry - As

--happy, but more dangerous. Often associated with a substance known as ethanol (not all that dissimilar from isopropanol, the well known monitor cleaning agent), which disrupts the scheduler in many people, initially increasing their niceness, but with an excessively large stream, causes an extreme negative niceness.

--happy-new-year - This is a greeting used by people to signify their recognition that tm_year in struct tm as defined in time.h is about to increase.

--glad-tidings - This switch causes your inbox to be full of e-mails devoid of content wishing glad tidings. A common reaction to receipt of such junk-mail is to decrease the cpu-limit of the user in question.

--cheer - Obsolete.

--office-party - A period when the scanner is used excessively for unconventional purposes, and the WWW firewall log gets full of outgoing requests to www.playboy.com. It may be difficult to login from console during this period.

RETURNS

With a stonking great hangover.

BUGS

Some systems administrators have made the misfortune of connecting themselves to another human. These administrators may have problems using the christmas administration tool for the above purpose as other people in the cluster may wish to use the period for cluster integration purposes, and performing IPC for extended periods of time.

Star Trek lists

The Top Ten Classes at Starfleet Academy

1. Command 302: Wining in No-Win Situations
2. Communications 101: Opening Hailing Frequencies
3. Space Law 206: Avoiding Court-Martial
4. Navigation 101: Standard Orbits
5. Philosophy 203: Why All Major Systems Fail at the Same Time
6. Command 255: Choosing Minor Landing Party Members Who Will Die
7. Astrophysics 199: Recognizing Unknown Phenomenon
8. Command 309: Creative Obedience to Starfleet Orders
9. Engineering 422: Making Radical Technological Advances Under Time Pressure
10. Space Law 499: The Prime Directive and How to get around it

The Top Ten April Fool's Jokes on the Enterprise

1. Everybody act like Riker is the captain
2. Pretend you've been taken over by an alien being
3. Program the replicator in Troi's room so that it won't make chocolate
4. Replay file tape of Borg ship on main viewer
5. Tell Data that Starfleet has decided to dismantle him
6. Put a small speaker in Dr. Crusher's bedroom to play garbled voices
7. Lock Picard in the children's schoolroom with several children and no adults
8. Substitute some of Dr. Crusher's moss with moss showing 24 hours more growth
9. Put a sign on Worf's back that says "Kick Me!"
10. Yell into your communicator "Captain, the antimatter containment fields are collapsing"

The Top Ten changes if Starfleet has sponsors

1. O'Brien would say "Thank you for using the Federation Express transporter. When you absolutely, positively have to get there instantly"
2. Starfleet uniforms would carry Pepsi logos and say "Pepsi, the choice of the Next Generation
3. Main bridge viewscreen would have "VH1" in the corner
4. Holodeck doors would say Sony Trinitron System
5. Communicator pins would be in the shape of an alligator
6. Mercedes symbol painted on the saucer section
7. Turbolifts would have "OTIS ELEVATOR" signs
8. Ten-Forward would have a large neon "Miller Litespeed" sign
9. After communicator beeps, a voice says, "Thank you for using AT&T"
10. Enterprise name changed to American Express Enterprise

Top Ten Bumper Stickers on the U.S.S. Enterprise

1. "Our other starship separates into 3 pieces!"
2. "One photon torpedo can ruin your whole day...think about it"
3. "HONK if you've slept with Commander Riker!"
4. "Guns don't kill people...Class 2 Phasers do!"

5. "Zero to Warp 9.7 in 13 seconds!"
6. "CAUTION...We have a trigger happy Klingon at tactical."
7. "If you can read this...don't you think you're a wee bit too close?"
8. "Have you hugged a Ferengi today?"
9. "We brake for cubes!"
10. "Wesley On Board!"

Best Bumpersticker on Borg ship: "Blonde Borgs have the same fun."

Thoughts

- Be nice to your kids. They'll choose your nursing home.
- Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder...
- 3 kinds of people: those who can count & those who can't.
- Why is "abbreviation" such a long word?
- Don't use a big word where a diminutive one will suffice.
- ...Every morning is the dawn of a new error...
- For people who like peace and quiet: a phoneless cord.
- I can see clearly now, my brain is gone...
- The beatings will continue until morale improves.
- I've used up all my sick days, so I'm calling in dead.
- Mental Floss prevents Moral Decay.
- Madness takes its toll. Please have exact change.
- Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.
- There cannot be a crisis today; my schedule is already full.
- Ever stop to think, and forget to start again?
- A conclusion is simply the place where you got tired of thinking.
- I don't have a solution but I admire the problem.
- "Don't be so open-minded, your brain's falling out."
- If at first you DO succeed, try not to look astonished!
- Diplomacy is the art of saying "Nice doggie!"... till you can find a rock.
- Diplomacy - the art of letting someone have your way.
- If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do the rest have to drown too?
- If things get any worse, I'll have to ask you to stop helping me.
- If I want your opinion, I'll ask you to fill out the necessary forms.
- Don't look back, they might be gaining on you.
- It's not hard to meet expenses, they're everywhere.
- Help Wanted: Telepath. You know where to apply.
- Budget: A method for going broke methodically.
- Car service: If it ain't broke, we'll break it.
- Shin: A device for finding furniture in the dark.
- Do magicians run spell checkers?
- Dain bramaged.
- Department of Redundancy Department
- Headline: Bear takes over Disneyland in Pooh D'Etat!
- What has four legs and an arm? A happy pit bull terrier

Normisms

- "Can I draw you a beer, Norm?" "No, I know what they look like. Just pour me one."
- "How about a beer, Norm?" "Hey I'm high on life, Coach. Of course, beer is my life."
- "How's a beer sound, Norm?" "I dunno. I usually finish them before they get a word in."
- "What's up, Norm?" "Corners of my mouth, Coach."
- "What's shaking, Norm?" "All four cheeks and a couple of chins, Coach."
- "Beer, Normie?" "Uh, Coach, I dunno, I had one this week. Eh, why not, I'm still young."
- "Normie, Normie, could this be Vera?" "With a lot of expensive surgery, maybe."
- "What's up, Normie?" "The temperature under my collar, Coach."
- "What would you say to a nice beer, Normie?" "Going down?"
- "What's up, Norm?" "Everything that's supposed to be."
- "What's new, Normie?" "Terrorists, Sam. They've taken over my stomach. They're demanding beer."
- "What'll it be, Normie?" "Just the usual Coach. I'll have a froth of beer and a snorkel."
- "What would you say to a beer, Normie?" "Daddy wuvs you."
- "What'd you like, Normie?" "A reason to live. Gimme another beer."
- "What will you have, Norm?" "Well, I'm in a gambling mood, Sammy. I'll take a glass of whatever comes out of that tap." "Oh, looks like beer, Norm." "Call me Mister Lucky."
- "What do you say, Norm?" "Any cheap, tawdry thing that'll get me a beer."
- "What do you say to a beer, Normie?" "Hiya, sailor. New in town?"
- "Whaddya say, Norm?" "Well, I never met a beer I didn't drink. And down it goes."
- "What's your pleasure, Mr. Peterson?" "Boxer shorts and loose shoes. But I'll settle for a beer."
- "Hey Norm, how's the world been treating you?" "Like a baby treats a diaper."
- "Would you like a beer, Mr. Peterson?" "No, I'd like a dead cat in a glass."
- "How's life treating you?" "It's not, Sammy, but you can!"
- "Can I pour you a draft, Mr. Peterson?" "A little early, isn't it Woody?" "For a beer?" "No, for stupid questions."
- "What's the story, Mr. Peterson?" "The Bobbsey twins go to the brewery. Let's cut to the happy ending."
- "Hey, Mr. Peterson, there's a cold one waiting for you." "I know, and if she calls, I'm not here."
- "Beer, Norm?" "Have I gotten that predictable? Good."
- "What's going on, Mr. Peterson?" "A flashing sign in my gut that says, 'Insert beer here.'"
- "Hey, Mr. Peterson, Jack Frost nipping at your nose?" "Yep, now let's get Joe Beer nipping at my liver, huh?"
- "What's going on, Mr. Peterson?" "Another layer for the winter, Wood."
- "Whatcha up to Norm?" "My ideal weight if I were eleven feet tall."
- "How's it going, Mr. Peterson?" "Poor." "I'm sorry to hear that." "No, I mean pour."
- "How's life treating you, Norm?" "Like it caught me sleeping with its' wife."
- "Women. Can't live with 'em, pass the beer nuts."

- "What's going down, Normie?" "My butt cheeks on that bar stool."
- "How's life in the fast lane?" "Dunno, can't get on the on-ramp."
- "Pour you a beer, Mr. Peterson?" "Alright, but stop me at one.... make that one-thirty."
- "How's it going Mr. Peterson?" "It's a dog eat dog world, Woody, and I'm wearing Milk-Bone underwear!"
- "What's the story, Norm?" "Boy meets beer. Boy drinks beer. Boy meets another beer."
- "How about a beer, Norm?" "That's that amber sudsy stuff, right? I've heard good things about it!"
- "What's going on, Mr. Peterson?" "The question is what's going in Mr. Peterson. A beer please, Woody."
- "What's up, Normie?" "My nipples, it's freezing out there."

Foreign signs

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 notice.
In another Japanese hotel room.	Please to bathe inside the tub.
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 am 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 the 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 preambulate 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.

Outside a Hong Kong tailor shop.

In a Bangkok dry cleaners.
In a Rhodes tailor shop.

From the Soviet Weekly.

A sign posted in Germany's Black Forest.

In a Zurich hotel.

In an advertisement by a Hong Kong dentist.

In a Rome laundry.

In a Czechoslovakian tourist agency.

Advertisement for donkey rides in Thailand.

In a Swiss mountain inn.

In a Bangkok temple.

In a Tokyo bar.

In a Copenhagen airline ticket office.

On the door of a Moscow hotel room.

In a Norwegian cocktail lounge.

In a Budapest zoo.

In the offices of a Roman doctor.

In an Acapulco hotel.

In a Tokyo shop.

From a Japanese information booklet on how to use the hotel air conditioning.

From a brochure of a car rental firm in Tokyo.

Ladies may have a fit upstairs.

Drop your trousers here for the best results. Order your summer suit. Because is big rush we will execute customers in strict rotation. There will be a Moscow exhibition of Arts by 150,000 Soviet Republic painters and sculptors. These were executed over the past two years.

It is strictly forbiddenn on our Black Forest camping site that people of different sex, for instance, men and women, live together in one tent unless thet are married with each other for that purpose.

Because of the impropiety of entertaining guests of the opposite sex in the bedroom, it is suggested that the lobby be used for this purpose.

Teeth extracted by the latest methodists.

Ladies, leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time.

Take one of our horse-driven city tours - we guarantee no miscarriages.

Would you like to ride on your own ass?

Special today - no ice cream.

It is forbidden to enter a woman even a foreigner if dressed as a man.

Special cocktails for the ladies with ni#uts.

We take your bags and send them in all directions.

If this is your first visit to the USSR, you are welcome to it.

Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar.

Please do not feed the animals. If you have any suitable food, give it to the guard on duty.

Specialist in women and other diseases.

The manager has personally passed all the water served here.

Our nylons cost more than common, but you will find they are best in the long run.

Cooler and heater: If you want just condition of warm in your room, please control yourself.

When passenger of foot heave in sight, tootle the horn. Trumpet him melodiously at first,

Two signs from a Majorcan shop entrance. In a Vienna hotel.	but if he still obstacles your passage then tootle him with vigour. English well speaking. Here speeching American. In case of fire, do your utmost to alarm the hotel porter.
A translated sentence from a Russian chess book. On the faucet in a Finnsh washroom.	A lot of water has been passed under the bridge since this variation has been played. To stop the drip, turn cock to right.
In the window of a Swedish furrier. On the box of a clockwork toy made in Hong Kong. Detour sign in Kyushi, Japan. In the menu of a Polish hotel.	Fur coates made for ladies from their own skin. Guaranteed to work throughout its useful life. Stop; Drive Sideways 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.
In a Hong Kong supermarket.	For your convenience, we reccomend 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.

Services language

One reason the Services have trouble operating jointly is that they don't speak the same language

For example, if you told Navy personnel to “secure a building,” they would turn off the lights and lock the doors.

Army personnel would occupy the building so no one could enter.

Marines would assault the building, capture it, and defend it with suppressive fire and close combat.

The Air Force, on the other hand, would take out a three-year lease with an option to buy.

Modern curses

The following is a list of modern curses, curses appropriate to the modern times, because the old ones are no longer relevant. People will appreciate being cursed with curses with which they can personally identify.

- May your personal organizer crash
- May you be always stuck in rush hour
- May hackers use your name

- May the I.R.S. do an audit
- May your diet fail
- May your liposuction oversuck
- May your hair fall out, and your teeth fall in
- May your children be academically minded and stay at school forever
- May traffic officers hate you
- May your accountant be honest
- May your children sue, grab it and run
- May your opposite gender boss desire you
- May your air conditioner fail
- May your laptop crash
- May a computer take over your wife
- May your mechanic be incompetent
- May you be flamed off the net
- May your dog eat your remote
- May the save function always fail
- May global warming flood your beach house

Tips for managers from employees

- Never give me work in the morning. Always wait until 5:00 and then bring it to me. The challenge of a deadline is refreshing.
- If it's really a "rush job," run in and interrupt me every 10 minutes to inquire how it's going. That helps.
- Always leave without telling anyone where you're going. It gives me a chance to be creative when someone asks where you are.
- If my arms are full of papers, boxes, books or supplies, don't open the door for me. I need to learn how to function as a paraplegic and opening doors is good training.
- If you give me more than one job to do, don't tell me which is the priority. Let me guess.
- Do your best to keep me late. I like the office and really have nowhere to go or anything to do.
- If a job I do pleases you, keep it a secret. Leaks like that could cost me a promotion.
- If you don't like my work, tell everyone. I like my name to be popular in conversation.
- If you have special instructions for a job, don't write them down. In fact, save them until the job is almost done.
- Never introduce me to the people you're with. When you refer to them later, my shrewd deductions will identify them.
- Be nice to me only when the job I'm doing for you could really change your life.
- Tell me all your little problems. No one else has any and it's nice to know someone is less fortunate.

The plan

In the beginning was the Plan.
And then came the Assumptions.
And the Assumptions were without form.
And the Plan was without substance.
And darkness was up the face of the Workers.

And they spoke among themselves, saying,
"It is a crock of shit, and it stinketh."

And the Workers went unto their Supervisors and said,
"It is a pail of dung, and none may abide the odor thereof."

And the Supervisors went unto their Managers saying,
"It is a container of excrement, and it is very strong, such that none may abide by it."

And the Managers went unto their Directors, saying,
"It is a vessel of fertilizer, and none may abide its strength."

And the Directors spoke amongst themselves, saying one to another,
"It contains that which aids plant growth, and it is very strong."

And the Directors then went unto the Vice Presidents, saying unto them,
"It promotes growth, and it is very powerful."

And the Vice Presidents went unto the President, saying unto him,
"This new Plan will actively promote the growth and vigor of the company, with powerful effects."

And the President looked upon the Plan and saw that it was good.
And the Plan become Policy.

New theories

1. Gravity does not move in straight lines. It only appears so to an untrained eye. Gravity actually moves in cursive handwriting.
2. The Earth has a second moon, The Noom, which is never visible because it is always rotating faster than the Earth so that we never see it because it's always beyond the horizon.
3. Cats and dogs are single atoms. Cats are positive, dogs are negative, and fleas are the binding force.
4. If you go several hours without blinking you'll die when your brain dries up and at the autopsy it'll look like a little raisin unless they put it in water immediately. (Matt McIrvin helped with this one.)
5. The heaviest known substance is soap suds, because enough of that foam could crush anything!

6. It's only possible to eat four Morton pot pies in one lifetime. (Tom Dignan proved this experimentally. I wish him a speedy recovery.
7. JFK was killed to hide the conspiracy to change the musical "A" to 448 cycles per second, a move designed to fool people into thinking that "different" notes sound different. Get real! They all sound the same to me, and someday you too will realize the truth.
8. The galaxy was formed by a very slow process akin to claymation.
9. On any multiple-choice test, more answers will be "C" than "A" because of the Coriolis Force, except in the Eastern Hemisphere.

Windows 95 error codes

Recently the following undocumented Windows 95 error-codes were found. Microsoft forgot to explain them in the manuals, so they will be spread via the Internet:

- WinErr: 001 Windows loaded - System in danger
- WinErr: 002 No Error - Yet
- WinErr: 003 Dynamic linking error - Your mistake is now in every file
- WinErr: 004 Erroneous error - Nothing is wrong
- WinErr: 005 Multitasking attempted - System confused
- WinErr: 006 Malicious error - Desqview found on drive
- WinErr: 007 System price error - Inadequate money spent on hardware
- WinErr: 008 Broken window - Watch out for glass fragments
- WinErr: 009 Horrible bug encountered - God knows what has happened
- WinErr: 00A Promotional literature overflow - Mailbox full
- WinErr: 00B Inadequate disk space - Free at least 50Mb
- WinErr: 00C Memory hog error - More Ram needed. More! More! More!
- WinErr: 00D Window closed - Do not look outside
- WinErr: 00E Window open - Do not look inside
- WinErr: 00F Unexplained error - Please tell us how this happened
- WinErr: 010 Reserved for future mistakes by our developers
- WinErr: 011 Window open - Do not look outside
- WinErr: 012 Window closed - Do not look inside
- WinErr: 013 Unexpected error - Huh ?
- WinErr: 014 Keyboard locked - Try anything you can think of.
- WinErr: 018 Unrecoverable error - System has been destroyed. Buy a new one. Old Windows licence is not valid anymore.
- WinErr: 019 User error - Not our fault. Is Not! Is Not!
- WinErr: 01A Operating system overwritten - Please reinstall all your software. We are terribly sorry.
- WinErr: 01B Illegal error - You are not allowed to get this error. Next time you will get a penalty for that.
- WinErr: 01C Uncertainty error - Uncertainty may be inadequate.
- WinErr: 01D System crash - We are unable to figure out our own code.
- WinErr: 01E Timing error - Please wait. And wait. And wait. And wait.
- WinErr: 01F Reserved for future mistakes of our developers.
- WinErr: 020 Error recording error codes - Additional errors will be lost.

WinErr: 042 Virus error - A virus has been activated in a dos-box. The virus, however, requires Windows. All tasks will automatically be closed and the virus will be activated again.

WinErr: 079 Mouse not found - A mouse driver has not been installed. Please click the left mouse button to continue.

WinErr: 103 Error buffer overflow - Too many errors encountered. Additional errors may not be displayed or recorded.

WinErr: 678 This will end your Windows session. Do you want to play another game?

WinErr: 683 Time out error - Operator fell asleep while waiting for the system to complete boot procedure.

WinErr: 815 Insufficient Memory - Only 50.312.583 bytes available

What is technical harassment?

In our complex technical environment there are many opportunities for a competent technical individual to be the subject of technical harassment. Sometimes it can be so subtle that you may not even be aware you are being harassed. Worse yet, you may inadvertently technically harass another person by accident. Following are some guidelines to help you determine if you are being technically harassed.

If you are repeatedly asked the same technical question you may be the victim of technical harassment. While it is most common to be asked the question repeatedly within the same conversation, some instances have been identified of habitual technical harassment. Habitual technical harassment is not uncommon and has been known to exhibit group tendencies where members of a group may ask the same question repeatedly. Untreated, these instances of group technical harassment can continue for years.

If you are asked a technical question by a non-technical person and they do not write your answer down it is likely the question is frivolous. Most non-technical people are not capable of remembering a true technical answer for more than 30 seconds.

If you are forced into a discussion where a person uses more than three buzzwords in one sentence the person is most likely a fake and you are the unwitting victim of technical harassment. One note of caution, competent technical people have been known to inadvertently use buzzwords after reading mindless drivel like PC Week or LAN Times. If the person has been known to use more common technical terms in the past such as "stuff" and "things", they are most likely victim of computer magazine brainwashing

If during a troubleshooting session a person uses the term "trick." For example "maybe we could trick the database into thinking it has been updated." This is a sure sign of technical harassment.

If a person explains that a needed feature will be provided by a vendor and that person is nontechnical then you are at risk of being technically harassed. If you believe that person, you have definitely been technically harassed, if you don't believe them you have only been technically annoyed.

If when trying to resolve a technical problem with a product from a vendor and you are instructed to call the salesman that sold us the product you are being set up for technical harassment. It is a common reaction for a non-technical person when they have purchased technical equipment to call another non-technical person. The dialogue between two nontechnical people usually provides some sense of comfort that they aren't the only ones who are confused.

Murphy's laws of love

1. All the good ones are taken.
2. If the person isn't taken, there's a reason. (corr. to 1)
3. The nicer someone is, the farther away (s)he is from you.
4. Brains x Beauty x Availability = Constant.
5. The amount of love someone feels for you is inversely proportional to how much you love them.
6. Money can't buy love, but it sure gets you a great bargaining position.
7. The best things in the world are free --- and worth every penny of it.
8. Every kind action has a not-so-kind reaction.
9. Nice guys (girls) finish last.
10. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.
11. Availability is a function of time. The minute you get interested is the minute they find someone else.

Carbon-dating Barbie

Ok, the story behind this... There's this nutball who digs things, out his back yard and sends the stuff he finds to the Smithsonian Institute, labeling them with scientific names, insisting that they are actual archeological finds. The really weird thing about these letters is that this guy really exists and does this in his spare time! Anyway... here's a letter from the Smithsonian Institute from when he sent them a Barbie doll head.

Paleoanthropology Division
Smithsonian Institute
207 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20078

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your latest submission to the Institute, labeled "211-D, layer seven, next to the clothesline post. Hominid skull." We have given this specimen a careful and detailed examination, and regret to inform you that we disagree with your theory that it represents "conclusive proof of the presence of Early Man in Charleston County two million years ago." Rather, it appears that what you have found is the head of a Barbie doll, of the variety one of our staff, who has small children, believes to be the "Malibu Barbie". It is evident that you have given a great deal of thought to the analysis of this specimen, and you may be quite certain that those of us who are familiar with your

prior work in the field were loathe to come to contradiction with your findings. However, we do feel that there are a number of physical attributes of the specimen which might have tipped you off to it's modern origin:

1. The material is molded plastic. Ancient hominid remains are typically fossilized bone.
2. The cranial capacity of the specimen is approximately 9 cubic centimeters, well below the threshold of even the earliest identified proto-hominids.
3. The dentition pattern evident on the "skull" is more consistent with the common domesticated dog than it is with the "ravenous man-eating Pliocene clams" you speculate roamed the wetlands during that time. This latter finding is certainly one of the most intriguing hypotheses you have submitted in your history with this institution, but the evidence seems to weigh rather heavily against it. Without going into too much detail, let us say that:
 - The specimen looks like the head of a Barbie doll that a dog has chewed on.
 - Clams don't have teeth.

It is with feelings tinged with melancholy that we must deny your request to have the specimen carbon dated. This is partially due to the heavy load our lab must bear in it's normal operation, and partly due to carbon dating's notorious inaccuracy in fossils of recent geologic record. To the best of our knowledge, no Barbie dolls were produced prior to 1956 AD, and carbon dating is likely to produce wildly inaccurate results. Sadly, we must also deny your request that we approach the National Science Foundation's Phylogeny Department with the concept of assigning your specimen the scientific name "Australopithecus spiff-arino." Speaking personally, I, for one, fought tenaciously for the acceptance of your proposed taxonomy, but was ultimately voted down because the species name you selected as hyphenated, and didn't really sound like it might be Latin. However, we gladly accept your generous donation of this fascinating specimen to the museum. While it is undoubtedly not a hominid fossil, it is, nonetheless, yet another riveting example of the great body of work you seem to accumulate here so effortlessly. You should know that our Director has reserved a special shelf in his own office for the display of the specimens you have previously submitted to the Institution, and the entire staff speculates daily on what you will happen upon next in your digs at the site you have discovered in your back yard. We eagerly anticipate your trip to our nation's capital that you proposed in your last letter, and several of us are pressing the Director to pay for it. We are particularly interested in hearing you expand on your theories surrounding the "trans-positating fillifitation of ferrous ions in a structural matrix" that makes the excellent juvenile Tyrannosaurus Rex femur you recently discovered take on the deceptive appearance of a rusty 9-mm Sears Craftsman automotive crescent wrench.

Yours in Science,
Harvey Rowe
Curator, Antiquities

Slanted binary

The slanted binary system uses base negative one numbering with two digits: '/' and '\'. We of course need the arithmetic operators:

- + requires that both numbers be positive, or at least sure beyond reasonable doubt. A form of addition, of course.(called 'makeschemeprogrammersbarf' this operator does absolutely nothing else.
- ^ the 'carrot' this is a great substitute for Sharples food. It also does not antagonize the approximately 150% of Swatties who are vegetarians. When applied to numbers it makes them both larger.
- \$ must be used at least once in any non-communist expression.
- & another form of addition, of course.

We can also do algebra. The slanted-binary system, with its heavy real-world base, is most effective when used with physical constants and constables. We define the positional variable 'X':

$$X = / + \backslash$$

We can define V:

$$V = \backslash \& /$$

This also clarifies the admittedly confusing definitions of the two additions.

Now, this brings us to calculus. V is the derivative of X with respect to sleep time, T. Note, however, that this derivation becomes impossible at extremely small values of T. At such sleep-deprivatory values, the numbers / and \, along with everything else, become increasingly confused. Therefore, the + operator fails. Note, however, that & has no such restrictions, therefore $V = / \& \backslash$ is still true. However, V as the derivative of (now nonexistent) X, no longer exists. Therefore V is not equal to V.

P.S. Slanted-binary physics is a commie mutant traitor science, since X and V include no \$s. Well, maybe not commie, but unprofitable.

Relativity states, among other things, that T is not the same to all observers. This is an obvious statement at Swat, of course. In this statement lie many hidden truths and oxymorons. For some observers, like my roommate, the value of T is so low that the value of X associated with, say, me, is non-existent. Therefore I do not exist in certain frames of reference. Since only I could create this masterpiece you are now reading, and I do not exist, you do not exist. Since you do not exist, there is no use telling you more of relativity, so I'll go to logic, which we all know has no connection with reality. [Ed. note: Since the writing of this...er...paper, conditions have changed, and reality, charged with extreme irrationality, has been led off to jail in handcuffs, so there is now a connection between reality and the laws of logic.]

Now this system is so airtightly logical that one might say "with so much logic inherent in the system, why bother to think about logic separately?" However, with relativity making my own and your existence somewhat indeterminate (and therefore the + operator inapplicable, and all locations in space and RAM indeterminate or completely nonexistent) we must turn to logic as a source of permanence and stability. Or at least some more weirdness, whichever is more likely considering the rest of this document. We will use the particularly precise logic used in computers, which is binary so our system is pretty similar to a computer's, but somewhat slanted. (i. e. warped)

/ is true, or maybe not, but it should be.
\ is true as well but it's the opposite of /.

The above statement is /
However, while both are true, we can't be positive because they are negative or at least zero.
/+ \ is false, at least for most swatties, who get little enough sleep so that /+ \ is completely undefined (see Physics)

The statement
"There are no contradictions in this document"
is \
"There are contradictions in this document"
is /
/+ \ = /

Cinderella and her sisty uglers

Here is a tale to make your cresh fleep.
It will give you poose gimples.
It's a story for fee wolk and biggle to peep

It's the story about Cinderella who lived in a big hark douse with her mean old mep-stother and her two sisty uglers. And they made Cinderella do all the werty dirk while they sat around cheating ocolates and maging readazines.

And, one day, while Cinderella was in the kitchen, flopping the moor, the two sisty uglers came in a said, "Guess what? The prandsome hince is browng a fancy thress drall and we're invited! It's too bad that YOU can't go!"

So, Cinderella went back to the kitchen with ears in her tyes. And she was just about to ckickacee a fricen when, suddenly, there was a linding bash of flight, and standing beside her was a feautiful bairy.

And Cinderella said, "Who are you and what do you want?"

And the feautiful bairy said, "Well, I'm your mairy fod-gother."

And Cinderella said, "Well, may I go to the ball?"

And the fairy said, "That's quite a wish, but okay."

So she wave her magic wand and, instantly, Cinderella was transformed into a bavishing reauty. She had on a lone white gatin sown and a necklace of pubies and rearls, and on her feet were two tiny sass glippers.

The fairy said, "Now, you may go, but you must promise to be mome by hidnight."

And Cinderella said, "Okay." So she was off.

Soon, she cast to the camele (That's "came to the castle"). And Cinderella jumped out and the first pwo teople she ran into were the two sisty uglers. And she was so beautiful, they didn't even Cinderize recognella!

So, they introduced her to the prandsome hince, and he said, "May I dave this hance. You're so beautiful, you remind me of Beeping Sleauty!" He was just about to ask for her marr in handiage when, suddenly, the stock clarted to trike swelve, and Cinderella ban from the rall. But, as she did, one of her sass glippers flipped from her soot. The prandsome hince picked it up and said, "Now all I have to do is look for the woman whose soot this flipper sits, and I'll know whom I've laalen in fove with!"

So, the next day, he went from house to house (and you can't turn THAT around!), and, soon, he came to the Cin where housederella lived and docked on the noor. And who should answer but the two sisty uglers. He said, "I'm looking for the woman whose soot this flipper sits." Well, of course, their beet were to fig!

But, then, it was Cinderella's turn and (guess what?) the flipper pitted cerfectly, they were married, and they happed lively ever after.

Discworld computers

Now that Ankh-Morpork is discovering the woes of computing, how are the druids going to respond to the competition with their stone circles?

Druids!!!! Thinking of upgrading your circle???? Old one not fast enough???? Can only handle one sacrifice at a time????

Try our new range of Masonry;

- 47b6 : Four altars, two times four standing stones and six astronomical constants built in.
- For backwards compatibility with old gods, buy our "Dei Ex" model.
- Or for raw power, try the new Octium.
- Remember, use only "Lintel On-Top" for best results.
- Software: Ever bought a dozen separate chants & found they won't work with each other? Not any more!!!!

Use Necrosoft Offence; the integrated package.

1. Runs two or more chants simultaneously (sort of).

2. Cut and paste a sacrifice from one ceremony to another.
3. Necrotelicomnicon & Widows(TM) compatible.
4. Soon to feature multi-media disemboweling written by Arch-Druid Seedy Ron.
5. Requires PC [1] & mouse blood to run.

E&OE [2]

[1] Pillared circle

[2] Errors & Occult-influences Expected

Exponents

Why does any number to the power of "0" equal "1"?

You've come to the right place. It turns out I was on the International Mathematics Standardization Committee when we invented exponents. There was a lot of talk about making numbers to the 0 power equal 0, since this seemed fairly intuitive and easy to remember, but there was a consortium of digit manufacturers lobbying for another answer due to the fact that their profit margins on zeros were fairly small and they were having a hard time keeping them in stock anyway. They wanted to have it be 5, in fact, because the demand for fives was fairly low at the time and a couple of them were running five factories at half capacity. About then, though, the DOD built the Pentagon and started buying fives at an astounding rate (and paying through the nose for them!) so that wasn't so much of a concern. By the time we got to the final vote, it was basically between one and 223,417,239 (the latter was proposed by IBM) and we decided on one just because it was easier to remember. Of course, due to computers, the numbers are a lot cheaper and easier to manufacture than they used to be, so it doesn't really make a lot of difference anymore; feel free to use whatever answer you like. Be warned, though, that a lot of math teachers are staunch traditionalists (and several of them were on the committee) so they may take off points for not using the preferred standard.

Female logic

A breakthrough in computer technology has been made by the representatives of the growing population of female computer engineers. The new revolutionary processor is based on female logic and utilizes the following four values for logical operators:

0 - neither YES nor NO

1 - YES or NO

2 - NO three times

3 - NO and never mention it to me again!

Mathematical limericks

A mathematician confided
That a Mobius strip is one-sided
You'll get quite a laugh
If you cut it in half
For it stays in one piece when divided.

A mathematician named Klein
Thought the Mobius strip was divine
Said he "If you glue
The edges of two
You get a wierd bottle like mine"

I used to think math was no fun,
'Cause I couldn't see how it was done.
Now Euler's my hero,
for I now see why 0
 $= e^{i\pi} + 1$.

The perfidious lemma of Dehn
Drove many a man insane
But Christos Pop-
akiryakop-
olous solved it without any pain

The was a young student of Trinity
who computed the square of infinity
but it gave him the fidgets
to write down the digits
so he chucked it and took up divinity

A dozen, a gross and a score,
Plus three times the squareroot of four,
Divided by seven,
Plus five times eleven,
is nine squared plus zero, no more.

There once was a letter called tau
But no-one could figure out how
Some people were sure
It was pronounced 'tor',
But arguements still persist now.

A man had a certain evasion
For solving all difference equations.
He used random numbers
To cover his blunders,
And answers caused quite a sensation!

A man I once knew was a tutor
Who got himself into a stupor.
When d.e.'s were found
With errors unbound,
He put his fist through his computer!

Latin?

Rursus ubi se animus cogitationum magnitudine levavit, amittosus in verba est altiusque ut spirare ita eloqui gestit et ad dignitatem rerum exit oratio; oblitus tum legis pressiorisque iudicii sublimius feror et ore iam non meo.

says that “animals are cogs of a levitating magnitude, American toes in verbs are altruistic and elope in a spiraling manner to gestate and to add dignitaries while Rerun exits from Horatio; obliterate legs with pressurized antacid pills sublimated from furious iodine and you are not a cat.”

Santa’s medical checkup – doctors’ notes

Case Report: Unique Case of Aerial Sleigh-Borne Present-Deliverer's Syndrome

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Author: Dr. Iman Elf, M.D.

On January 2, 1993, Mr. C, an obese, white caucasian male, who appeared approximately 65 years old, but who could not accurately state his age, presented to my family practice office with complaints of generalized aches and pains, sore red eyes, depression, and general malaise. The patient's face was erythematic, and he was in mild respiratory distress, although his demeanor was jolly. He attributed these symptoms to being "not as young as I used to be, HO! HO! HO!", but thought he should have them checked out.

The patient's occupation is delivering presents once a year, on December 25th, to many people worldwide. He flies in a sleigh pulled by eight reindeer, and gains access to homes via chimneys. He has performed this work for as long as he can remember.

Upon examination and ascertaining Mr. C's medical history, I have discovered what I believe to be a unique and heretofore undescribed medical syndrome related to this man's occupation and lifestyle, named Aerial Sleigh- Borne Present-Deliverer's Syndrome, or ASBPDS for short.

Medical History:

Mr. C. admits to drinking only once a year, and only when someone puts rum in the eggnog left for him to consume during his working hours. However, I believe his bulbous nose and erythematic face may indicate long-term ethanol abuse. He has smoked pipe tobacco for many years, although workplace regulations at the North Pole have forced him to cut back to one or two pipes per day for the last 5 years. He has had no major illnesses or surgeries in the past. He has no known allergies. Travel

history is extensive, as he visits nearly every location in the world annually. He has had all his immunizations, including all available vaccines for tropical diseases. He does little exercise and eats large meals with high sugar and cholesterol levels, and a high percentage of calories derived from fat (he subsists all year on food he collects on Dec. 25, which consists mainly of eggnog, Cola drinks, and cookies). Family history was unavailable, as the patient could not name any relatives.

Physical Examination and Review of Systems, With Social/Occupational Correlates:

The patient wears corrective lenses, and has 20/80 vision. His conjunctivae were hyperalgesic and erythematous, and Fluorescein staining revealed numerous randomly occurring corneal abrasions. This appears to be caused by dust, debris, and other particles which strike his eyes at high velocity during his flights. He has headaches nearly every day, usually starting half way through the day, and worsened by stress.

He had extensive ecchymoses, abrasions, lacerations, and first-degree burns on his head, arms, legs, and back, which I believe to be caused mainly by trauma experienced during repeated chimney descents and falls from his sleigh. Collisions with birds during his flight, gunshot wounds (delivered by homeowners mistaking him for a burglar) and bites consistent with reindeer teeth may also have contributed to these wounds. Patches of leukoderma and anesthesia on his nose, cheeks, penis, and distal digits are consistent with frostbite caused by periods of hypothermia during high-altitude flights.

He had a blood pressure of 150/95, a heart rate of 90 beats/minute, and a respiratory rate of 40. He has had shortness of breath for several years, which worsens during exertion. He has no evidence of acute cardiac or pulmonary failure, but it was my opinion that he is quite unfit due to his mainly sedentary lifestyle and poor eating habits which, along with his stress, smoking, and male gender, place him at high risk for coronary heart disease, myocardial infarction, emphysema and other problems. Blood tests subsequently revealed higher than normal CO levels, which I attribute to smoke inhalation during chimney descent into non-extinguished fireplaces.

He has experienced chronic back pain for several years. A neurological examination was consistent with a mild herniation of his L4-L5 or L5-S1 disk, which probably resulted from carrying a heavy sack of toys, enduring bumpy sleigh rides, and his jarring feet-first falls to the bottom of chimneys.

Psychiatric Examination and Social/Occupational Correlates:

Mr. C's depression has been chronic for several years. I do not believe it to be organic in nature--rather, he has a number of unresolved issues in his personal and professional life which cause him distress.

He exhibits long-term amnesia, and cannot recall any events more than 5 years ago. This may be due to a repressed psychological trauma he experienced, head trauma, or, more likely, the mythical nature of his existence.

Although the patient has a jolly demeanor, he expresses profound unhappiness. He reports anger at not receiving royalties for the widespread commercial use of his likeness and name. Although he reports satisfaction with the sex he has with his wife,

I sense he may feel erotic impulses when children sit on his lap, and I worry he may have pedophilic tendencies. This could be the subconscious reason he employs only vertically-challenged workers ("elves"), but I believe his hiring practices are more likely a reaction formation due to body-image problems stemming from his obesity. The patient feels annoyed and worried when he is told many people do not believe he exists, and I feel this may develop into a serious identity crisis if not dealt with. He reports great stress over having to choose which gifts to give to children, and a feeling of guilt and inadequacy over the decisions he makes as to which children are "naughty" and "nice".

Because he experiences total darkness lasting many months during winter at the North Pole, Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) may be a contributor to his depression.

Treatment and Counselling:

All Mr. C's wounds were cleaned and dressed, and he was prescribed an antibiotic ointment for his eyes. A referral to a physiotherapist was made to ameliorate his disk problem. He was counselled to wash soot from his body regularly, to avoid lit-fire chimney descents where practicable, and to consider switching to a closed-sleigh, heated, pressurized sleigh. He refused suggestions to add a helmet and protective accessories to his uniform.

He was put on a high-fibre, low cholesterol diet, and advised to reduce his smoking and drinking. He has shown success with these lifestyle changes so far, although it remains to be seen whether he will be able to resist the treats left out for him next Christmas.

He visits a psychiatrist weekly, and reports doing "Not too bad, HO! HO! HO!".

Conclusions:

Physicians, when presented with aerial sleigh-borne present-deliverers exhibiting more than a few of these symptoms, should seriously consider ASBPDS as their differential diagnosis. I encourage other physicians with access to patients working in allied professions (e.g. Nightly Teeth-Purchasers or Annual Candied Egg Providers) to investigate whether analogous anatomical/ physiological/ psychological syndromes exist. The happiness of children everywhere depend on effective management of these syndromes.

Certain proof of the uncertainty principle, at last

Last week, several prominent scientists from around the globe gathered together for the most intensive, exhaustive, and spectacular experiment ever. An attempt to prove the Uncertainty Principle.

The highly respected scientists chose the famous Schrödinger's Cat exercise to pursue their proof. In this once purely theoretical exercise in thought, Schrödinger claimed that if one placed a cat in a sealed and impenetrable box, that not only would one not know whether said cat were dead or alive, but that the cat would be both dead and alive until one opened the box to see. The theory is that it is the act of measurement that

gives the body being measured a state, that until such time as a body is measured it has no state.

The scientific apparatus utilized in the experiment was nothing short of spectacular. A huge re-sealable box, composed of lead, concrete, steel and titanium sheeting, fully insulated, fully sound-proofed, inside of which is a smaller similar box held by vibration-proof stabilizers. Closing both boxes provided no known method of detecting what was in the inner box much less what state it was in. Outside the boxes is a myriad of detection and verification equipment. These ranging from high-speed cameras, motion detectors, sound detection and amplification equipment, x-ray photography equipment, infra-red sensors, to over a dozen specially trained eye-witnesses.

The scientists calculated, accounting for age, weight, diet, temperature, altitude, probability of undetected infectious disease, spontaneous combustion, and over a hundred other variables, that there was a likelihood of .03% that the cat would be dead at any one particular opening of the boxes. In addition, nearly four dozen different algorithms were devised to predict at which openings the cat would be alive, and at which openings the cat would be dead.

The big day came. The experiment was to start. Only one thing was missing. The scientists need a cat. They decided that in an experiment designed to detect random chaotic state probability, it was best to start with a random cat. Fluffy, originally belonging to Ms. Knight of Butterfield Ohio, was placed into the inner box at 1300 hours on December 3rd. Her cute little shiny black face could be seen peering over the edge, the white spot on her forehead providing a perfect reference point, her little white paws contrasting brightly against the polished steel as she tried desperately to climb out. The experiment began. The boxes were closed. As a matter of courtesy, Ms. Knight was invited to observe.

Ten thousand times the boxes were opened, the condition of the cat was checked and verified almost a hundred different ways. Ten thousand times the boxes were closed. Ten thousand times the results were recorded.

Fluffy was then returned to her owner, Ms. Knight.

The results were spectacular. Scientific theory had predicted exactly correct the number of times the boxes would be opened and the cat found dead. Three. Three times in ten thousand. Exactly the .03% predicted. This result proved the validity of the experimental probabilities involved. Exactly.

Even more spectacular were the results of the comparisons of the predictions of the state of the cat at each opening. All of the predictions had failed. Not a single correlation. There was no known way to predict at which openings the cat would be alive and at which it would be dead. Proof again that while one could predict a probability, one could still not predict an individual event with any certainty whatsoever. The state of the cat had changed while it was in the boxes. The state of the cat was unknown while it was in the boxes. Schrödinger was a man ahead of his times.

Surely there is a Nobel prize for the researchers involved.

Experimental Summary:

The first 9996 openings of the boxes were identical. The outer box was opened, the inner box was opened, the cat poked out its head, cameras clicked and whirred, machines buzzed and flashed as the cat's state was recorded. The cat popped its head back down, the inner box was closed, the outer box was closed.

On the 9997th opening of the boxes, the cat popped its head up, and its state was again recorded as per the previous 9996 uneventful openings. The deviation from the previous openings arose during the attempt to close the inner box. Apparently, the cat failed to pop its head back down inside the box, and it was crushed by the weight of the lid as the box was being closed. Realizing that the box was not yet closed and therefore still counted as open, the scientists decided to again verify the state of the cat. It was verified that the cat was still alive, although its behaviour had seemingly changed from earlier repetitions. The cat was gently scraped from the edge of the box and placed in the bottom. It was again verified that the cat was alive, although somehow different. After verifying that no damage had come to either the inner or outer boxes, they were both closed.

Somewhere between this last opening, number 9997, and the next, 9998, the cat changed state.

The final three openings were again identical. In all three openings the cat was verified to be dead. There was no motion, no breathing, no sound, its mean temperature was dropping, and no heartbeat was detected even by the sophisticated X-ray, MRI, and ultra-sound equipment.

Sex manual complaint

Dear Sir,

One knows that publishing standards are declining, but I have never been so shocked and appalled by the number of misprints in a single publication. I refer, of course, to your "100 Easy Steps to Martial (sic) Satisfaction". Some of the advice therein is rendered misleading, dangerous or even illegal by such errors.

For instance, on page 212, one is enjoined to 'carefully place a condor on your pens...' Later, on the same page, we are told to 'stroke the beast, stimulating the elected tissue at its tip', a course of action that I fancy even trained falconers would eschew. Elsewhere, my partner actually followed to the letter (pardon my little joke) the instructions to 'fondle your mans bills' (p39) and 'give him a long, slow message' (p128), both of which proved positively aphrodisiac. And no one, surely, outside ancient Carthage has 'punic hair' (p56) or uses a 'dido' (p337). In chapter 1, the recommended 'fissionary position' (p6) sounds a little explosive for beginners...

Riker: "Deanna, you know I still have feelings for you, despite the fact that I'm not a good enough actor to actually portray them, but I'm still your commanding officer, and we're just going to have to live with our repressed desire for each other"

Deanna: "Will, It's good to discuss our emotions with each other. I'm so glad you've shared this deep and valuable insight with me. It reminds me of that night on Rigel 7...." etc...

change to this:

Riker: "Let's do it."

Deanna: "OK!"

Picard: "Dr. Crusher, perhaps you'd like to drop by my quarters and have a cup of tea and some crumpets and discuss the moral ramifications bio-fungus testing. Then perhaps we can take a stroll through the Holo-deck and dress up like 18th century english noblemen or something?"

Beverly: "Yes Captain."

change to this:

Picard: "8:00, my quarters, dress sexy!"

Beverly: "Yes, Captain!"

Wesley: "Look mom! I've just developed this new space-time de-fragmentor. It uses non-linear spatio-dynamic equations I just learned about 5 minutes ago to re-partition the fabric of space-time. See?"

--Wesley throws the switch--

Data: "It appears that we have just been thrown into an alternate universe, wherein we will undoubtedly meet some hostile, ignorant, aggressive creatures with whom we will certainly be able to reason calmly and rationally."

change to this:

Wesley: "Look mom! See what I've invented?"

--Wesley throws the switch--

BBBBZZZZZZTTTTT!!!!!!!

Data: "It appears that Wesley has been carbonized."

Of course, Worf's lines can remain unchanged...

A history of toast

10,000 B.C.- Oog accidentally discovers toast when he falls into his campfire and burns both his right arm off and the piece of bread it was holding. Ugg takes joy in Oog's misery in the form of a nice crisped slice of heaven.

356 B.C.- An underground sect of Toast worshippers is formed - The Toaest Vndergrovnd, dedicated to the advancement of toasted products.

32 A.D.- Jesus Christ, in his search for a faith that will fool the masses, discovers the ancient sect of the Toaest Vndergrovnd. Thinking he has finally found what he is looking for, Jesus fully grasps the doctrine and attempts to spread the word. Unfortunately, the people are both illiterate and stupid, and misinterpret his speeches

for the advancement of toasted products as words from the messiah, nailing him to a big piece of wood because of it.

34 A.D.- To avoid the controversy surrounding their spokesman's death, the sect changes its name to the Toaest Clvb and change their slogan to "why not enjoy a slice of heaven today?", officially making the first advertising jingle.

103 A.D.- With the fall of the Roman Empire, the Toaest Clvb is disbanded in disgrace after the club's chairman is found dead, panties on his head, lying on a bed of cocaine and counterfeit money, a whore in one arm, and unbaked dough in the other. Asked later about the incident, Vice-Chairman Aero Sol comments: "We could understand the drugs, the money, and the whore - but the dough was too much."

1056 A.D.- Disciples of Christ uncover documents linking Jesus Christ and the ancient Toaest Clvb, and in an effort to get closer to god and all that jazz, restart the sect under the name "Toastus Groupii" and adopt the slogan "Getus closerii tous Jehovah throughii Toastus." The masses, infuriated over the slogan's mocking of good latin, violently oppose the group and the Crusades, Inquisition, and Black Plague result.

1704 A.D.- After surviving the middle ages, the popularity of the Toastus Groupii flourishes in pre-revolution France. The French rename it "L'echange Toast" and change the slogan to "Le Toast - Ces't Manifique!" This slogan becomes the battle cry for many revolutionaries, and was heard quite often during the beheadings.

1754 A.D.- Champlain is heard to utter "I sure wish I had some toast" while visiting the sight of Montreal, and "L'echange Toast" offically enters the New World.

1776 A.D.- During the celebrations in Philladelphia, a general overtone of toast predominates among the founding fathers of the USA. Being Americans, however, they comepletely block out any and all doctrines of "L'echange Toast", forever losing it's influence in American History.

Early 1800s- With the coming of the English, "L'echange Toast" is slowly absorbed into Upper Canadian society, under the new name "The Toast Hovercraft".

1812 A.D.- Hearing of the joys of toast in upper canada, the americans invade, in hopes of capturing the secret of enjoying a slice of heaven. Guided by their love for toast, the Canadians push back the Americans into their own little country. Most Americans remember this war as "Oh yeah, that little thing we did" and then try to change the subject to WWII.

1901 A.D- With the taming of the west and the industrial revolution, the toast hovercraft is finally renamed "The toast Exchange" after someone finds a french/english dictionary, and the original slogan, "For the betterment of toasted products" is reinstated.

1925 A.D.- The swinging new dance craze, the "toast" sweeps North America and Europe.

1939 A.D.- Hearing of the rise in popularity of the toast exchange in Poland, Hitler moves in to check it out. Upset with being beaten to the punch, England declares war on Germany.

1941 A.D.- The Toast Exchange's slogan becomes the silent motivation for the war effort in both Germany and England. The French, still upset over that whole hovercraft thing, just sit around and drink a lot.

1945 A.D.- When asked what kept him going through the war, Churchill responds, "It was the toast, my good man. It was the toast." This quote mysteriously does not appear in his biography.

1963 A.D.- The Toast Exchange remains hidden throughout most of the fifties and early sixties, probably over the whole Aqua Marine thing. The first public statement from the group came after the assassination of JFK - "It wasn't toast, that's for sure."

Australia has seven states

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. paralysis | - weekend bender |
| 2. torpor | - lawn needs mowing / roof leaks |
| 3. lethargy | - 9-5 weekdays |
| 4. wide alert | - whiff of barbie smoke |
| 5. full arousal | - tv lotto draw |
| 6. exuberance | - footie team almost scores |
| 7. blind fury | - beer's run out |

Excuses for not doing maths homework

1. I accidentally divided by zero and my paper burst into flames.
2. Isaac Newton's birthday.
3. I could only get arbitrarily close to my textbook. I couldn't actually reach it.
4. I have the proof, but there isn't room to write it in this margin.
5. I was watching the World Series and got tied up trying to prove that it converged.
6. I have a solar powered calculator and it was cloudy.
7. I locked the paper in my trunk but a four-dimensional dog got in and ate it.
8. I couldn't figure out whether i is the square of negative one or i is the square root of negative one.
9. I took time out to snack on a doughnut and a cup of coffee. I spent the rest of the night trying to figure which one to dunk.
10. I could have sworn I put the homework inside a Klein bottle, but this morning I couldn't find it.

Rules of the Coyote – Road Runner series

1. The Road Runner cannot harm the coyote except by going "Beep Beep!"
2. No outside force can harm the Coyote-only his own ineptitude or the failure of the ACME products
3. The Coyote could stop anytime -- IF he were not a fanatic. "A fanatic is one who redoubles his effort when he has forgotten his aim"
4. No dialogue ever, except "Beep Beep!"
5. The road Runner must stay on the road -- otherwise, logically, he would not be called Road Runner.
6. All Action must be confined to the natural environment of the two characters -- the Southwest American desert
7. All material, tools, weapons, or mechanical conveniences must be obtained from the ACME Corporation.
8. Whenever possible, make gravity the Coyote's greatest enemy.
9. The Coyote is always more humiliated than harmed by his failures

Bond statistics

In all Bond films to date, the following events occur the reported number of times.

Vodka martinis ordered:	24
Countries visited:	35
Bond told he will die:	32
Bond girls:	55
brunettes:	27
blondes:	24
redheads:	4
Woman moans "Oh, James!":	16
Has sex:	75
in hotel room:	18
in London flat:	2
at her place:	14
at someone else's place:	1
on a train:	3
in a barn:	2
in a forest:	2
in a gypsy tent:	2
in a hospital:	2
in a plane:	2
in an airplane:	2
in a submarine:	1
in a car:	1
on a motorized iceberg:	1
in, around, under, or by water:	24

Day²

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

DayDoubler from Connectrix

DayDoubler is a new product from Connectrix that gives you those extra hours in each day that we've been asking for. Using sophisticated time mapping and compression techniques to double the number of hours in the day, DayDoubler gives you access to 48 hours each day. With the shareware hack MaxDay, you can easily stretch your day to 60, 72, or even 96 hours! Connectrix warns that at the higher numbers, DayDoubler becomes less stable and that you run the risk of a temporal crash in which everything from the beginning of time to the present would come crashing down around you, sucking you into a black hole. Should this occur, be sure to reboot with the shift key down.

The nine types of users

El Explicito

"I tried the thing, ya know, and it worked, ya know, but now it doesn't, ya know?"

Advantages Provides interesting communication challenges.

Disadvantages So do chimps.

Symptoms Complete inability to use proper nouns

Real Case One user walked up to a certain Armenian pod manager and said, "I can't get what I want!" The pod manager leaned back, put his hands on his belt-buckle, and said, "Well, ma'am, you've come to the right place."

Mad Bomber

"Well, I hit ALT-f6, shift-f8, CNTRL-f10, f4, and f9, and now it looks all weird."

Advantages Will try to find own solution to problems.

Disadvantages User might have translated document to Navajo without meaning to.

Symptoms More than six stopped jobs in UNIX, a 2 : 1 code-to-letter ratio in WordPerfect

Real Case One user came in complaining that his WordPerfect document was underlined. When I used reveal codes on it, I found that he'd set and unset underline more than fifty times in his document.

Frying Pan/Fire Tactician

"It didn't work with the data set we had, so I fed in my aunt's recipe for key lime pie."

Advantages Will usually fix error.

Disadvantages 'Fix' is defined VERY loosely here.

Symptoms A tendency to delete lines that get errors instead of fixing them.

Real Case One user complained that their program executed, but didn't do anything. The sysadmin looked at it for twenty minutes before realizing that they'd commented out EVERY LINE. The user said, "Well, that was the only way I could get it to compile."

Shaman

"Last week, when the moon was full, the clouds were thick, and formahaut was above the horizon, I typed f77, and lo, it did compile."

Advantages	Gives insight into primitive mythology.
Disadvantages	Few scons are anthropology majors.
Symptoms	Frequent questions about irrelevant objects.
Real Case	One user complained that all information on one of their disks got erased (as Norton Utilities showed nothing but empty sectors, I suspect nothing had ever been on it). Reasoning that the deleted information went somewhere, they wouldn't shut up until the sysadmin checked four different disks for the missing information.

X-user

"Will you look at those. . .um, that resolution, quite impressive, really."

Advantages	Using the cutting-edge in graphics technology.
Disadvantages	Has little or no idea how to use the cutting-edge in graphics technology.
Symptoms	Fuzzy hands, blindness
Real Case	When I was off duty, two users sat down in front of me at DEC station 5000/200s that systems was reconfiguring. I suppressed my laughter while, for twenty minutes, they sat down and did their best to act like they were doing exactly what they wanted to do, even though they couldn't log in.

Miracle Worker

"But it read a file from it yesterday!" 'Sir, at a guess, this disk has been swallowed and regurgitated.' "But I did that a month ago, and it read a file from it yesterday!"

Advantages	Apparently has remarkable luck when you aren't around.
Disadvantages	People complain when sysadmins actually use the word 'horse-puckey'.
Symptoms	Loses all ability to do impossible when you're around. Must be the kryptonite in your pocket.
Real Case	At least three users have claimed that they've loaded IBM WordPerfect from Macintosh disks.

Taskmaster

"Well, this is a file in MacWrite. Do you know how I can upload it to MUSIC, transfer it over to UNIX from there, download it onto an IBM, convert it to WordPerfect, and put it in three-column format?"

Advantages	Bold new challenges.
Disadvantages	Makes one wish to be a garbage collector.
Symptoms	An inability to keep quiet. Strong tendencies to make machines do things they don't want to do.
Real Case	One user tried to get a sysadmin to find out what another person's E-mail address was even though the user didn't know his target's home system, account name, or real name.

Maestro

"Well, first I sat down, like this. Then I logged on, like this, and after that, I typed in my password, like this, and after that I edited my file, like this, and after that I went to this line here, like this, and after that I picked my nose, like this. . ."

Advantages	Willing to show you exactly what they did to get an error.
Disadvantages	For as long as five or six hours.
Symptoms	Selective deafness to the phrases, "Right, right, okay, but what was the ERROR?", and a strong fondness for the phrase, "Well, I'm getting to that."
Real Case	I once had to spend half an hour looking over a user's shoulder while they continuously retrieved a document into itself and denied that they did it (the user was complaining that their document was 87 copies of the same thing).

Princess (unfair, perhaps, as these tend, overwhelmingly, to be males)

"I need a Mac, and someone's got the one I like reserved, would you please garrote him and put him in the paper recycling bin?"

Advantages	Flatters you with their high standards for your service.
Disadvantages	Impresses you with their obliviousness to other people on this planet.
Symptoms	Inability to communicate except by complaining.
Real Case	One asked a sysadmin to remove the message of the day because he (the user) didn't like it.

Medieval pick-up lines

- I have the key to your chastity belt and you have the key to my heart.
- Can I hose down your doublet?
- Your eyes are as dark as a castle moat by midnight. Lower your drawbridge and let me cross.
- You should be glad I'm not a Viking. You would have been ravaged and plundered by now.
- What's a nice maiden like you doing in a dungeon like this?
- Come up and see my scrolls.
- You can scale my battlements any day, madam.
- You scratch my boils and I'll scratch yours.
- They don't call me Lance-A-Lot for nothing, you know.
- My that's a fine set of chalices you have there.
- Ssh, I don't want everyone to know I'm on a secret holy quest.
- When the Inquisition put me on the rack, my limbs weren't the only thing they stretched.
- That's a nice chastity belt you're wearing. My blacksmith friends and I can help you out of it.
- Honest, milady, it will help clear up the pox marks.
- Is that a knife in you're armor? Or are you just happy to see me?
- Hey baby, King Arthur isn't the only one with a big round thing. How 'bout coming up and waxing mine?

- Looks like my dragon has finally found a nice cave to rest in.
- Hey, Princess, you wouldn't happen to know where a lonely knight could scabbard his sword, would you?
- It's not the size of your sword but what you can do with it.
- Been there, slain that.
- Your hovel or mine?
- Pestilence makes the heart go wander.
- How'd you like to ride my stallion? He's well trained for battle!
- Pardon me, madam, but wouldst thou like to see my longsword in action?
- Every second of every our of every day is like a thousand knives of fire stabbing me in the heart. I long for thee incessantly, so much that mine sorrow seems without surcease. My alliteration is small comfort next to the warm gaze of thine azure eyes. I carve the comfort of thine embrace like some lost child cold and alone in the dark....So, you wanna !@£\$%
- You wanna go upstairs and see my Holy Grail?
- I like the cut of your jib.
- My goat bite is no longer infected, so would you like to dance?
- If I were that horse, I'd rather you mounted me without the saddle.
- How about going out with a guy who doesn't have the plague for a change?
- Wizard: You know, my hat isn't the only thing that's pointed.
- Mlle. Darc, thy breastplate is wondrous! Wouldst thou hold my polearm whilst I attempt to light thy fire?
- Do you practice safe hex?
- You look like a maiden in distress, why don't I save you?
- Oh yea baby- black plague, leprosy, or scarlet fever- honey, I've got the cure for you.
- You is know that chastity belt of yours would look great on my sleeping chambers floor.
- I had to swim the moat to get to you fair maiden. So, would you like to see my breaststroke?
- I bet you would look nice in some maternity armor.
- Wench: what's that sound? Knight: that's just the sound of my chain mail drawers expanding.
- You hit on me harder than the black plague!
- Why storm the castle when we can make our own?
- The first time I saw thee, I felt as if my stomach had been raided by beautiful fire breathing dragons. Uh..in a nice way of course.
- Excuse me, Milady, would you have a place where I may sheath my longsword?
- Why don't we go back to my place and re-enact "The Miller's Tale?"
- You won't believe this but St. George just appeared to me in a vision and told me that I must bed you...the fate of England depends is on it!!
- Ever see a passion play? Would you like to?
- I most certainly am King in bed! Shall I prove it to you?
- So...been to any good hangings lately?
- Don't worry . . . if you kiss me, I won't turn into a frog.
- "Why, I once speared 10 of them with a single thrust."
- Don't believe the rumors you heard about me . . . the Bubonic plague didn't affect the important parts.
- Like a mare, I can be ridden for hours.

- They say a knight is always as hard as his armor.
- I hath done combat with many a beast, but I must confess that was the tightest situation I have ever been in.
- How, you ask, did I get up here to your balcony? Well, I espied you from yonder garden. In an instant my er, heart was swelled with lus.. er, love. I had to meet you! So I ranneth over but tripped on a stone thusly pole-vaulting into your arms.
- If the stars in the sky were as beautiful as the eyes on thee, then they'd be really pretty.
- Milady you can ride my horse. I must tell you, he's a wild one!
- Would thoust be interested in viewing mine buttshaft?
- If quietus you make, I'll bare my bodkin for you.
- C'mon, sweetie...Didn't your mother ever tell you? A cleric a day keeps the black plague away.
- I'd rather be beheaded than be denied a date with you.
- Sword fighting is like everything else : it's all in your thrust.
- I lost my leg in battle. Guess what I'm walking on!
- Yes, fair maiden, I am indeed a wizard. Shall I make your clothes disappear?
- I'm really a prince cursed by an evil witch. Tell me, do you have sex with frogs?
- No, I'm actually a wizard. Want to see my crystal balls?
- Darling, these Trojans are rather painful...We may need some oil for this armor
- I might have lost most of my limbs in battle but I've still got one left.
- You look like a maiden in distress, why don't I save you?
- Hey, baby, wanna chain my mail?
- My! But you are a beautiful damsel in distress! Allow me to help you out of it.
- What a fine gown you wear, my lady. Perchance couldst I talk you out of it?
- I seem to have lost my sex slave, can I borrow you for a bit?
- You know, I was once imprisoned in a tower very much like Rupunnzel. Only it wasn't my hair that the queen asked me to let down.
- A day just wouldn't be complete without a Knight.
- Milady, I'll be your night in shining armor.
- How about coming around the back and giving me a good reason to come back from the crusades?
- You know... I got my armor in Extra-Large just so I could fit the both of us in here. What do you say?
- The inquisitor: So, witch...up to you. Either you burn at the stake...or I use my stake to make you burn.
- I may not be a priest, but I can get you to heaven, m'lady
- I joust love you, baby!
- Hey, milady,if you think that horse is gifted...
- What say ye we have our own Norman conquest, lass?
- Come up to my chamber and I'll show you the largest treasure in the land.
- And you thought the Romans had the only impressive aqueducts.
- Milady, I heard that you were a chirogeon, I have something you can drain.
- You can place your greeves under my pallet anytime.
- Paint on your shield "Smile if you want to sleep with me" and watch the wenches try to keep straight faces.
- Hey, big boy, how would you like to help this maiden out of dis-dress?
- Wanna polish my pike?

- Ello, milady, thou art under siege. I shall scale thy battlements with mine grappling hook!
- The word of the day is legs. Lets go back to my place and spread the word.
- Your beauty has scorched a hole into my heart as fast as a dragon in the mote.
- My Lady, dost thou possess a looking glass in thine bodice? For I may surely see myself within their folds.
- Has anyone ever told you that you have a lovely wimple?
- May I show you a fascinating Saracaen ritual I learned while hiding in a harem after Hattin?
- I am beset by this dragon in my loins, Dear Lady, and only you can quench its fire!
- Oh, my sweet Knight! For a moment I thought I had died and gone to heaven. Now I see that I am very much alive, and heaven has been brought to me.
- Where am I from, milady? Nantucket of course!! Shall I prove it to you?
- A world without day is gloomy indeed, but a world without Knight would be pure misery.
- Milady, it's not the size of the wand that matters, but the magic within.

Quantum physics

The topic for today is quantum physics. Quantum physics was developed in the 1930's, as a result of a bet between Albert Einstein and Niels Bohr, to see who could come up with the most ridiculous theory and still have it published. Most people agree that Bohr won hands down, although Einstein did very well in the swimsuit competition.

One of the most important researchers in quantum physics is Werner Heisenberg, a man with a wonderful sense of humor, who was always cracking one-liners, like " δp times δx is less than h !" Ha! ha! What a card! This is known as Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle, which is closely related to Gödel's Incompleteness Theorem, which says that some things are true, but you can't prove them, like when my wife and I argue over whether it's her turn to take out the garbage or not.

What Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle says is that if something is small enough, you can't say anything about it. Anyone with the I.Q. of baking powder immediately understood that this means that if you look at something so small that you can't even **see** it, like my dog, Oscar Wilde's, brain, then you obviously can't tell, say, what color it is.

But some people didn't get the joke, and decided to investigate this principle further. They would gather and sit around all day, drinking beer and performing "Gedankesexperimenten," or "Thank God we're theoretical physicists so we don't have to get our hands dirty with particle accelerators and other heavy machinery." The most famous of these is Schroedinger's Cat, where several physicists kidnap Erwin Schrödinger's cat Fluffy and lock it up in a box, along with a radioactive source such as Cheez Doodles. Then they walk around with concerned expressions on their faces, commenting about how they don't know what's going on inside the box. This goes on until the cleaning lady discovers the box, opens it and tells the physicists whether the cat is dead, or whether it has mutated into a man-eating flea the size of Norway.

The point of this experiment is to show that uncertainty at the quantum level can be detected in the macroscopic world and produce widespread anxiety and paranoia. It also explains why paper clips just lie there while you look at them, but as soon as you turn your back, they run away, giggling wildly, and transform themselves into coat hangers.

Another famous researcher is Richard Feynman, who invented Feynman diagrams, which are bunches of squiggly lines with greek letters next to them. The way they were discovered was, one day, Hans Bethe came in to Feynman's office to say that some of the guys down in particle research were having a jam session down by the cyclotron, and would Richard like to come over and bring his bongos? Feynman was out, at the time, cracking a safe or something, so Bethe tried to leave him a note. On the desk, he found one of Feynman's daughter's kindergarten drawings. Bethe couldn't make head or tail of it, and figured that if even he couldn't understand it, then it must be something Terribly Clever, and promptly called it a Feynman diagram.

This was a major scientific breakthrough, and ever since, proud parents have been hanging their children's Feynman diagrams on refrigerators with little muon-shaped magnets, confident that their Little Darlings are developing important scientific theories every day, because they are, after all, Gifted Children.

Subtitles

English subtitles used in films made in Hong Kong

I am damn unsatisfied to be killed in this way.
Fatty, you with your thick face have hurt my instep.
Gun wounds again?
Same old rules: no eyes, no groin.
A normal person wouldn't steal pituitaries.
Damn, I'll burn you into a BBQ chicken!
Take my advice, or I'll spank you without pants.
Who gave you the nerve to get killed here?
Quiet or I'll blow your throat up.
You always use violence. I should've ordered glutinous rice chicken.
I'll fire aimlessly if you don't come out!
You daring lousy guy.
Beat him out of recognizable shape!
I have been scared totalled too much lately.
I got knife scars more than the number of your leg's hair!
Beware! Your bones are going to be disconnected.
How can you use my intestines as a gift?
The bullets inside are very hot. Why do I feel so cold?

Hi-tech practical joke ideas

Road Music

Carve computer-generated ripples in the surface of a main highway, and when vehicles pass over the surface, mysterious voices whisper, and distant music plays. Two ripple-tracks, one for each tire, should give stereo sound. Is this already being done? Little sub-threshold voices which say "Vote for Rush" "Drink Pepsi" "The BATF is your Friend"...

Broken UFO parts

Embed numerous "repulsor" coils and a power supply in a small, fake UFO crash remenant, so that small independant segments of the object hang unsupported in the air nearby, via the battery-powered "Meissner effect" generator. (independant segments must be magnets, of course) Take it to a mainstream researcher, but don't let them look at it in detail. Visions of alien room-temp superconductors should haunt the person forever after!

"Stink Beam" projector

A large, hollow-ended cylinder is attached to a bass loudspeaker. The open end of the cylinder is covered with a flat plate, and a 3in. hole is put in this plate. When a pulse is applied to the speaker, an invisible ring-vortex or "smoke ring" of air will be launched. Pulses can be repetitive, so a continuous beam of vortices is projected. Pulse waveform can be tailored to produce robust, fast, silent vortices. Each vortex incorporates air from within the cylinder, and carries this air along as it travels. If a scent is placed in the cylinder, you have a "stink gun" which can target a distant nose without being intercepted by others, or can surround a distant object with any desired scent. If specific gases are added, then when the "stink beam" encounters a distant source of ignition, such as a cigarette, the vortices (and maybe the launcher device!) will explode. A computer, video grabber, IR camera, and some stepper motors could be assembled into a cigarette-targeting acetylene launcher. No Smoking!

Yucky ions

If a sharp point is attached to the dome of a VandeGraaff generator, the point will spew charged wind. If you stand in this air stream, it will charged your clothing and hair, which will start clinging to your body. Ewwww!, feels like you've been dipped in vegetable oil. So, bolt a VDG upside-down within the ceiling, with ion-needles pointing downwards, and a "stand here" sign on the floor below. (only works in fairly low humidity, the lower the better.)

Free energy" hoax

Fake device is composed of complex structures and materials, a tiny battery-powered spark generator, and at a distance, a hidden, "stink beam projector device" rigged for acetylene. The projector shoots gas pulses which cause occasional loud and unexplained explosions within the device. If both an ion projector and an acetylene launcher are used, it may even be possible to create sparks and explosions in a distant device which contains no power supply at all!

Elvis Miracle

Use my whitelight abrasion hologram method to encode an image of Elvis or other religious icon holographically into an everday surface, (car hood?) Announce the

miracle, charge admission, and even befuddle the experts who come to debunk it. Impossible!, a real hologram, but encoded into a crude painted surface!

Roadside Kilovoltage Source.

Build a sturdy VandeGraaff generator into a metal and plastic column, with a handcrank on the top metal terminal and a large lable saying "TURN." When the crank and stepup gearing is turned, the generator operates. Place it outdoors, and surround it with a thick plastic insulating plate. Anyone who cranks it will feel a prickling sensation, their hair will stand up, and the next person they touch will get a huge "static zap." Better still: win the lottery and have thousands of them built and distributed around the country unannounced. Permanent Infamy!

4-Lane dot matrix printer

A truck-mounted device spits a row of paint dots under computer control. Drive along the Interstate while printing out political diatribe. Use water instead of paint for temporary, less illegal road gibberish. Colored dyes would work well on packed snowy roads (a little carbon copier toner or flourescene dye goes a long way.) Rent out ad space in fields near airports, then do your printing in seeds for variously colored crops. Transport one of these devices between widely-separated power boats for the seaborne version. Electrostatically shoot charged copier toner from lunar orbit downwards for a more noticable and long-lasting advertising sign.

Ball-lightning incident

Ed Harris on usa-tesla has discovered that argon gas lets you make a large 'plasma globe' effect at ambient pressure. Build a battery-powered Tesla Coil, clip it to your belt, and run a wire out to an argon-filled mylar sphere. When turned on, the tip of the wire will grow a large blazing white ball of lightning filaments. Run screaming through the night, chased by a ball-lightning in a hardly-noticable clear bag. Charred, smoking clothes would be good too. Ahhhhhh! It's biting me!

Build a Borg

The Yale psychologist Stanley Milgram discovered a strange group-organism he dubbed the Cyranoid. Build one as follows: provide one person with a radio receiver and earphone, give a transmitter to a second person, then have the 'sender' give orders which will be carried out by the 'receiver.' Even better would be a video RF link so the 'sender' can see and hear through the 'receiver's' eyes, and maybe add a radio channel which controls vibrating transducers on the 'receiver's' body, so that the 'sender' can command movements with a joystick rather than verbally. If one 'sender' runs several 'receivers,' you've got the start of a small Borg civilization! Would you pay more to be a sender or a receiver? Should be great fun at parties...

Phaser Weapon

If pure argon is injected into a laminar stream of air, the argon stream will support sparks of enormous length. If connected to a fair-sized tesla coil, the argon stream should produce linear arcs many feet long. This would be easily disrupted by wind or by a small fan. Indoors use only? Reach out zap someone! A similar effect can be had by running an argon stream through a hose connected to a distant tesla coil. Hot dangerous arc-plasma will pour from the hose end. "Don't unplug that hose, it's not full of water!"

The Book of Wife

- Wife has taught me everything I know.
- Wisdom is gained through the experience of wife itself.
- Enlightenment is beyond wife and death.
- Wife is a long, hard road.
- Wife was not meant to be easy.
- We must strive to give our wives meaning.
- Is there an answer to the big question: Is there wife after death?
- He was a good man, full of wife.
- Unhappy? That's wife.
- Despair comes to those who think about wife.
- Happy is the man who leads a charmed wife.
- Only in solitude can one study the mysteries of wife.
- Wife is an utter mystery to me.
- "How's wife been treating you?"
- Marriage changed my wife for the worse.
- Wife and death go hand in hand.
- Marriage is a matter of wife and death.
- Without death there can be no wife.
- I am a man of principle. Whatever I do, I do for wife.
- Thinking is wife-threatening.
- To think is to risk one's wife.
- He sacrificed his wife for Truth.
- The important thing is not to take wife seriously.
- One must laugh at the little things in wife.
- The brave man laughs wife in the face.
- My girlfriend changed my wife forever.
- What is the purpose of wife if not reproduction?
- It's important to look at the bright side of wife.
- Having children was the highest point of my wife.
- Marriage is a part of wife.
- Reincarnation: the punishment of wife after death.
- Thinking has made my wife a misery.
- Marriage was the culmination of my wife.
- The final judge and jury is wife itself.
- Wife is just one damn thing after another.
- Suicide is preferable to a wife of misery.
- The most evil thing a man can do is the taking of wife.
- Wife is suffering, then we die.
- I was unemployed for so long that the government forced me to do a course in wife skills.
- Wife never ends.
- Is there wife in outer space?
- The chance of there being intelligent wife on other planets is slim, based on current knowledge.
- The arrogant are always undone by wife.

- Wife is an incurable disease.
- Conception is the beginning of wife.
- He that guardeth his mouth keepeth his wife.
- My wife is so habitualised I don't even know who I am anymore.
- The punishment for marriage is repeated wife after death.
- A confirmed bachelor lacks the very spark of wife.
- Is there such a thing as a normal wife?
- Accept my wife, dear God.
- The strongest force in the universe is the wife force.
- A bunch of flowers can provide a new lease on wife.
- Every girl has the wife essence.
- A man risks everything in his public wife.
- Money is the essential ingredient for the enjoyment of wife.
- A bachelor knows the enjoyment of wife, but a husband knows the tragedy.
- Every culture on earth values the preservation of wife.
- If we didn't have a social wife, we would never meet anyone.
- Few men try to cultivate a philosophic wife.
- Marriage is just everyday wife.
- It is dangerous to ignore the emotional wife.
- Having to work for a living is part of the cold hard realities of wife.
- A bachelor is a man who is afraid of real wife.
- Wife is a but a dream.
- Wife is change; and change hurts.
- I have sought the higher wife in vain.
- Laughter is the best way of coping with wife.
- I have worked hard for my wife's savings.
- I'm so convinced that I'm prepared to bet my wife on it.
- Sweetheart, my wife is nothing without you.
- Where have you been? What did you do with that money? What did you mumble under your breath just then? . . . These are the three big questions of wife.
- What is wife without love?

Amateur radio advert definitions

NEW	Different colour from the previous design.
ALL NEW	Parts not interchangeable with previous design.
EXCLUSIVE	Imported product.
UNMATCHED	Almost as good as the competition.
DESIGN SIMPLICITY	Manufacturers costs cut to the bone.
FOOLPROOF ADJUSTMENT	No provision for adjustment.
ADVANCED DESIGN	Ad writer doesn't understand it.
IT'S HERE AT LAST	Rush job, nobody knew it was coming.
FIELD TESTED	Manufacturer lacked test equipment.
HIGH ACCURACY	Unit on which all parts fit.
DIRECT SALES ONLY	Manufacturer had argument with distributor.
RUGGED	Too heavy to lift.

LIGHTWEIGHT	Lighter than Rugged.
YEARS OF DEVELOPEMENT	Finally got one that worked.
BREAKTHROUGH	We finally figured out a way to sell it.
FUTURISTIC	Can't figure out another reason why it looks the way it does.
ENERGY SAVING	Achieved when the power switch is off. (or when switch is on, no other shack heating is necessary).
DISTINCTIVE	A different colour or shape from the competition.
PERFORMANCE PROVEN	Will operate through the warranty period.

Car bumper stickers

- Auntie Em. Hate you, hate Kansas, taking the dog. Dorothy.
- We're staying together for the sake of the cats.
- It's been lovely, but I have to scream now.
- My karma ran over your dogma.
- Women who seek to be equal to men lack ambition.
- This is not an abandoned vehicle.
- I don't lie, cheat or steal unnecessarily.
- Beautify Texas. Put a Yankee on a bus.
- Welcome to Texas, now go home.
- It's as bad as you think and they are out to get you.
- If you don't like the news, go out and make some of your own.
- Life's too short to dance with ugly men.
- Life's too short to dance with ugly women.
- My wife says if I go fishing one more time, she's going to leave me. Gosh, I'm going to miss her.
- When you do a good deed get a receipt (in case heaven is like the IRS).
- I is a college student.
- Sex on television can't hurt you unless you fall off.
- Beer isn't just for breakfast any more.
- Sorry, I don't date outside my species.
- Eschew obfuscation.
- Will Rogers never met a lawyer.
- Happiness is seeing your mother-in-law's face on the back of a milk carton.
- It's lonely at the top, but you eat better.
- Don't steal. The government hates competition.
- Is there life before coffee?
- Never play leap frog with a unicorn.
- Nobody's ugly after 2 a.m.
- Cover me. I'm changing lanes.
- The weather is here. Wish you were beautiful.
- I Cayman went.
- My other wife is beautiful.
- I need someone really bad.
- Are you really bad?

- Smile. It's the second best thing you can do with your lips.
- Don't laugh. Your daughter could be in this vehicle.
- Nuke the unborn baby whales.
- Geez if you believe in honkus.
- Friends don't let friends drive naked.
- Save California; when you leave take someone with you.
- I came, I saw, I did a little shopping.
- There's one in every crowd and they always find me.
- If money could talk, it would say goodbye.
- When you're in love, you're at the mercy of a stranger.
- Just when you think you've won the rat race along come faster rats.
- If it's too loud, you're too old.
- Wink. I'll do the rest.
- The worst day fishing is better than the best day working.
- An Irishman is not drunk so long as he can hold on to one blade of grass and not fall off the earth.
- Cynics are people who know the price of everything and the value of nothing.
- I may be fat but you're ugly, and I can lose weight.
- Who cares who's on board?
- Die Yuppie Scum.
- No radio. Already stolen.
- Crime wouldn't pay if the government ran it.
- Want a taste of religion? Bite a minister.
- Exxon Suxx.
- Honk if you love cheeses.
- Flying saucers are real, the Air Force doesn't exist.
- I don't care who you are, what you are driving or where you would rather be.
- So many pedestrians, so little time.

Cricket explained

The captains toss a coin (note convergent methodology here). One of them wins. That generally settles the outcome of the match, as both have access to sophisticated 5-day weather forecasts and can go 'in' first, or second, to ensure their opponent's turn 'in' is blighted by rain.

There is still some British ritual to go through...

The team who are 'in' first go in (to the pavilion) and then go out, in pairs for what is termed their 'Innings'.

The other team also go out (as a group) and try to get the team that is 'in' out. (there are some 6-7 methods of doing this). As each batsman is 'out' he goes in and another batsman goes out until he is 'out' and comes back in in his turn.

This does not continue as you might expect until *all* are 'out' but just 10 of the 11. The remaining batsman has no partner and has to come in without being 'out'. This means that he is termed 'not out'.

Californians should *not* at this point confuse the term 'out' with 'outed', nor the British public school term 'inning' with 'outing' which over here means 'a trip' (perhaps also over there?)

Then the team that was 'in' goes out to 'field'. The team that was not 'in' goes in (to the pavilion), and in their turn go out to be 'in' in pairs.

Generally it has started to rain by now and the Match is abandoned ...

The rules of a Test Match state clearly that both sides have to be 'in' twice in the five days. As this has not actually happened the result is a 'draw'.

Not to be confused with a 'tie' - which means both sides have been 'in' twice and 'all out' twice, with exactly the same score! This is about as likely as the coin landing on its edge in the first place.

How to score? - well you hit the ball and run between the wickets; Except it is less work to knock it onto the boundary for 'four' at a time.

NB: this has nothing to do with golfing term 'fore' nor with 'scoring'. The latter refers to a studious little man locked in a shed in the corner of the ground, who fills in a complicated form as the match evolves. (No one will ever read it again)

And what has this to do with politics? Well the first things a defeated Prime Minister does here are:

9am Resign as party leader
10am Go and see the Queen (sorry, am I confusing people again?)
11am Go off to watch the Cricket at the Oval

John Major knew what to do. In his speech (9am) he announced his intention to 'get there in time for lunch'. But as any fool (I for one) knows, 'lunch' is when ALL Cricket stops. The team that is 'in' and that which is 'not in' all go into the pavilion again and eat their sandwiches. (there is also 'tea' but that's another story)

Heavy drinkers fault-finding guide

Symptom	Drinking fails to give satisfaction and taste ; shirt front is wet.
Fault	Mouth not open when drinking or glass being applied to wrong part of face.
Solution	Buy another pint and practice in front of a mirror. Continue with as many pints as necessary until drinking technique is perfect.

Symptom	Drinking fails to give satisfaction and taste ; Beer unusually pale and clear.
Fault	Glass is empty.
Solution	Find someone who will buy you another pint.
Symptom	Feet cold and wet.
Fault	Glass being held at incorrect angle.
Solution	Turn glass so that open end is pointing at ceiling.
Symptom	Feet warm and wet.
Fault	Loss of self-control.
Solution	Go and stand beside nearest dog - After a while complain to its owner about its lack of house training.
Symptom	Bar blurred.
Fault	You are looking through the bottom of your empty glass.
Solution	Find someone who will buy you another pint.
Symptom	Bar swaying.
Fault	Air turbulence unusually high - maybe due to darts match in progress.
Solution	Insert broom handle down back of jacket.
Symptom	Bar moving.
Fault	You are being carried out.
Solution	Find out if you are being taken to another bar - if not complain loudly that you are being hi-jacked.
Symptom	The opposite wall is covered with ceiling tiles and has a fluorescent strip across it.
Fault	You have fallen over backwards.
Solution	If glass is still full, and no one is standing on your drinking arm, stay put. If not, get someone to lift you up and lash you to the bar.
Symptom	Everything has gone dim and you have a mouth full of teeth and dog-ends.
Fault	You have fallen over forwards.
Solution	Same as for falling over backwards.
Symptom	You have woken up to find your bed cold, hard and wet. You cannot see your bedroom walls or ceiling.
Fault	You have spent the night in the gutter.
Solution	Check your watch to see if it is opening time - if not treat yourself to a lie in.
Symptom	Everything has gone dim.
Fault	The pub is closing.
Solution	PANIC !!!!!

The affluence of incohol

I had twelve bottles in my cellar and was told by my wife to empty the contents of each and every bottle down the sink or else!. So I said I would and proceeded with with the unpleasant task.

I withdrew the cork from the first bottle and poured the contents down the sink with the exception of one glass which I drank. I pulled the cork from the second bottle and did likewise with the exception of one glass, which I drank.

I then withdrew the cork from the third bottle and poured the whisky down the sink, which I drank. I extracted the cork from the fourth bottle down the sink and poured the bottle down the glass, which I drank.

I pulled the bottle from the cork of the next and drank one sink out of it and threw the rest down the glass. I pulled the sink out of the next glass and poured the cork down the bottle then I corked the sink with the glass, bottled the drink and drank the pour.

When I had everything emptied, I steaded the house with one hand, counted the glass, corks, bottles and sinks with the other, which were 29, and as the house came by, I counted them again until finally, I had all the houses in one bottle, which I drank.

I'm not under the affluence of incohol but some thinkle peep I am. I'm not half so thunk as you might drink. I fool so feelish that I do'nt know who is me and the drunker I stand here, the longer I get.

Old * never die, they just...

OLD ACADEMICS never die, they just lose their faculties
OLD ACCOUNTANTS never die, they just lose their balance
OLD ACTORS never die, they just drop a part
OLD ANTHROPOLOGISTS never die, they just become history
OLD ARCHERS never die, they just bow and quiver
OLD ARCHITECTS never die, they just lose their structures
OLD ATOMS never die, they just decay
OLD BANKERS never die, they just lose interest
OLD BANKERS never die, they just want to be a loan
OLD BASEBALL PLAYERS never die, they just go batty
OLD BASKETBALL players never die, they just go on dribbling
OLD BEEKEEPERS never die, they just buzz off
OLD BLONDES never fade, they just dye away
OLD BOOKKEEPERS never die, they just lose their figures
OLD BOWLERS never die, they just end up in the gutter
OLD BUREAUCRATS never die, they just waste away
OLD BURGLARS never die, they just steal away
OLD CASHIERS never die, they just check out
OLD CHAUFFEURS never die, they just lose their drive
OLD CHEMISTS never die, they just do it inorganically

OLD CHEMISTS never die, they just fail to react
OLD CHEMISTS never die, they just lose their refluxes
OLD CLEANING PEOPLE never die, they just kick the bucket
OLD COMPOSERS never die, they just decompose
OLD COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS never die, they just byte the dust
OLD COURIERS never die, they just keep on EXPRESSing it!
OLD COMPUTER PEOPLE never die, they just lose their memory
OLD COOKS never die, they just get deranged
OLD CREDIT CARDS never die, they just expire
OLD DAREDEVILS never die, they just get discouraged
OLD DEANS never die, they just lose their faculties
OLD DIVERS never die, they just flop
OLD DIVERS never die, they just get board
OLD DIVERS never die, they just lose their spring
OLD DOCTORS never die, they just lose their patience
OLD ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS never die, they just have slower rise times
OLD ELECTRICIANS never die, they just lose contact
OLD ENGINEERS never die, they just lose their bearings
OLD ESKIMOES never die, they just get cold feet
OLD ESKIMOES never die, they just go cold
OLD FARMERS never die, they just go to seed
OLD FARMERS never die, they just spade away
OLD FISHERMEN never die, they just get reel tired
OLD FISHERMEN never die, they just smell that way
OLD FORESTERS never die, they just pine away
OLD FRIDGE REPAIRMEN never die, they just blow their cool
OLD FROGS never die, they just croak
OLD FRUIT never die, it just pear-ishes
OLD GARAGEMEN never die, they just retire
OLD GEOLOGISTS never die, they just recrystalize
OLD GOLFERS never die, they just lose their balls
OLD GRAPHIC ARTISTS never die, they just de-rez
OLD HARDWARE ENGINEERS never die, they just cache in their chips
OLD HIKERS never die, they just trail away
OLD HIPPIES never die, they just smell that way
OLD HUNTERS never die, they just stay LOADED
OLD HYPOCHONDRIACS never die, they just lose their grippe
OLD INVESTORS never die, they just roll over
OLD JOURNALISTS never die, they just get de-pressed
OLD KEY PUNCH OPERATORS never die, they just punch out
OLD KIDS never die, they just adulterate
OLD KNIGHTS IN CHAIN MAIL never die, they just shuffle off their metal coils
OLD LASER PHYSICISTS never die, they just become incoherent
OLD LAWYERS never die, they just lose their appeal
OLD LAWYERS never die, they just lose their briefs
OLD LIMBO DANCERS never die, they just go under
OLD LINGUISTS never die, they just rearrange their deep structures
OLD MAGICIANS never die, they just disappear
OLD MAGICIANS never die, they just float away
OLD MAGICIANS never die, they just make a big production of it
OLD MAGICIANS never die, they just they just change color

OLD MAGICIANS never die, they just they're just fooling themselves
OLD MAIDS count on fingers, but young girls count on legs
OLD MATHEMATICIANS never die, they just disintegrate
OLD MILKMAIDS never die, they just lose their whey
OLD MUSICIANS never die, they just decompose
OLD MUSICIANS never die, they just get played out
OLD MUSICIANS never die, they just go from bar to bar
OLD NUMERICAL ANALYSTS never die, they just get disarranged
OLD OWLS never die, they just don't give a hoot
OLD PACIFISTS never die, they just go to peaces
OLD PHOTOGRAPHERS never die, they just stop developing
OLD PHOTOGRAPHERS never die, they get sent to the old focus home
OLD PILOTS never die, they just buzz off
OLD PILOTS never die, they just go to a higher plane
OLD PLUMBERS never die, they just go down the drain
OLD POLICEMEN never die, they just cop out
OLD POSTAL CARRIERS never die, they just lose their zip
OLD PRINTERS never die, they're just not the type
OLD PROGRAMMERS never die, they just byte it
OLD PROGRAMMERS never die, they just decompile
OLD PROGRAMMERS never die, they just get bugged with life
OLD PROGRAMMERS never die, they just go to bits
OLD PROGRAMMERS never die, they just loose their memory
OLD PROGRAMMERS never die, they just move to new addresses
OLD PROGRAMMING WIZARDS never die, they just recurse
OLD PUNTERS never die, they just go horse
OLD RAILROADERS never die, they just derail
OLD QUARTERBACKS never die, they just fade back and pass away
OLD SAILORS never die, they just get a little "DINGHY"
OLD SAILORS never die, they just lose their porpoise
OLD SCHOOLS never die, they just lose their principals
OLD SCOTS never die, but they can be kilt
OLD SCULPTORS never die, they just lose their marbles
OLD SEERS never die, they just lose their vision
OLD SEWAGE WORKERS never die, they just waste away
OLD SHEETROCKERS (dry wallers) never die, they just hang around
OLD SHOES MAKERS never die, they just lose their sole
OLD SOCCER PLAYERS never die, they just lose their kick
OLD SOLDIERS never die, they just fade away
OLD SPELUNKERS never die, they just cave in
OLD STEELMAKERS never die, they just lose their temper
OLD STUDENTS never die, they just get degraded
OLD SWIMMERS never die, they just fall off their blocks
OLD SWIMMERS never die, they just have a stroke
OLD SWIMMERS never die, they just kick-off
OLD SYSTEM USERS never die, they just chdir to NULL
OLD TANNERS never die, they just go into hiding
OLD TEACHERS never die, they just lose their class
OLD THERMODYNAMICISTS never die, they just achieve a state of maximum entropy
OLD TRIGONOMETRY TEACHERS never die, they just lose their identities

OLD TRUCK DRIVERS never die; they just get a new Peterbilt
 OLD USENETTERS never die, they just become unresponsive
 OLD WATCHMAKERS never die, they just run out of time
 OLD WATCHMAKERS never die, they just wind down
 OLD WATCHMAKERS never die, they just unwind
 OLD WEATHERMEN never die, they reign forever
 OLD WHITE WATER RAFTERS never die, they just get disgorged
 OLD WRESTLERS never die, they just lose their grip
 OLD YACHTSMEN never die, they just keel over
 WALT DISNEY didn't die, he's in suspended animation
 There is no conclusive evidence about what happens to old skeptics, but their future is doubtful

Politics made simple

Socialism	You have two cows. Give one to your neighbour.
Communism	You have two cows. Give both to the government. The government gives you milk.
Capitalism	You sell one cow and buy a bull.
Facism	You have two cows. Give milk to the government. The government sells it.
Nazism	The government shoots you and takes the cows.
New Dealism	The government shoots one cow, milks the other, and pours the milk down the sink.
Anarchism	Keep the cows. Steal another one. Shoot the government.
Conservatism	Freeze the milk. Embalm the cows.
Liberalism	Give away one cow. Get the government to give you a new cow. Now give them both away.

The scientists' ball

The Royal Society recently invited several eminent scientists to a Summer Ball. The following is a summary of some of the comments contained in their replies.

Lambert hoped there would be plenty of beer.
 Nicol hoped not to drink too much or he'd be seeing double.
 Fermi declared it a good idea and thought they'd make a pile.
 Aufbau and Pauli said they weren't coming on principle.
 In any case Pauli said it was too exclusive.
 Le Chatelier opposed the idea on principle.
 Bohr was pleased to join such an eminent circle.
 Schiff thought the whole idea very base.
 Lewis made some very acid comments.
 Lowry and Bronsted looked forward to finding a pair to conjugate with.
 Werner didn't understand the invitation, it was too complex for him.
 Sidgwick and Powell weren't in shape for it and thought they'd be a lone pair.
 Heisenberg wanted to go but was uncertain if he could.

Schrodinger waived the invitation.
de Broglie was in two minds about it. So was Jung, but for different reasons.
Joseph Mendel wanted to know was it OK to come in his jeans.
Newton didn't appreciate the gravity of the situation.
Hund said he'd take a partner only if there was no other choice.
Lyman wondered was it the first of a series.
Pfund thought it was in the right bracket as he had lots of passion.
Einstein said he'd definitely be there but would be relatively late.
Pasteur would come now that he'd resolved his problems.
Seeborg would need someone to look after his katz.
Doebereiner was having a 'menage a trois'.
Geiger responded immediately. You can always count on him!
Hofmann was happy to go provided his degradation wasn't too public.
Arrhenius said he'd get over if he could find the energy.
Grahams response was very diffuse.
Nobel thought it would go with a bang and hoped there would be some prizes.
Oppenheimer was sure it would go like a bomb.
Darwin thought it was a creative idea and hoped it would evolve.
Avogadro declined because he had a number of other invitations.
Mulliken charged at the invitation.
Kekule said he'd ring back.
Kelvin gave a very cool response.
Chadwicks response was quite neutral.
Dalton was quite partial to the idea.
Rutherford was able to come but would have to split early.
Crick replied to the wrong address. He'd got into a right twist.
Aston said that if there was any trouble he could sort out the heavies.
Fischer thought it was a sweet idea.
Mendeleyev was in his element but thought it might be a bad time of the month for his wife to come.
Archimedes had better things to do.
Babbage had a car problem: couldn't work out what was wrong with the engine.
Kreb, Born and Haber wanted to cycle there.
Haber wanted his invitation processed.
Andrews, salt of the Earth, hoped there was liver on the menu.
Fahrenheit couldn't make it - he had a temperature!
Napier missed it, he was cutting logs.
Bunsen had a burning desire to bring an old flame.
Fourier thought the band a little out of harmony.
Coulomb went free of charge.
Torricelli said he'd be happy to come, he wasn't under much pressure.
Curie radioed active acceptance.
Ohm resisted the temptation.
Correction: Ohm resisted temptation and conducted himself with dignity.
Hooke didn't want to overstretch himself.
Mach got booked for speeding on the way: he was doing 720 mph.
Fraunhofer got his lines crossed.
Everyone was waiting for Maxwell to open the wine but he'd left the corkscrew back at the house.
Plimsoll arrived with his feet wet.
Pythagoras wasn't invited - they thought he was too square.

Gay-Lussac wasn't invited - they thought he was!
 Von Guericke was too busy playing with his hemispheres.
 Davy couldn't read his invitation because he'd lost his lamp.
 Joule just didn't have the energy to come.
 Watt almost made it but ran out of steam.
 Laplace wanted to transform the event.
 Ampere thought balls were against current fashion.
 Planck was too thick to understand the invitation.
 Henry just couldn't be induced to come.
 Lloyd, on reflection, decided his presence may cause interference.
 Volta realised the event had potential but was unable to make it due to piles.
 Doppler wasn't invited, he was too shifty.

Translations from the Scots

Nottars	Comparatively speaking..!
Yirsell	relates to.. the great 'I am'!
Hissell	relates to.. the great 'I am'!
Snow	Negative indicator.
Wadyeseethot	Observe how the other half dress!
Groff	THIS conversation is at an end.
Gesaridnek	'I was so embarrassed!'
S'fertee	is it 'sausages' again?
Gret	I am, so pleased.
Amnawsher	there would appear to be doubt!
Fitsrangwiu	You seem a trifle pale?
Yegonthen	YMCA....?
Lumschokt	An electric fire would be nice..
M'aarss	I'm fed up sitting.
Bosburst	Another time then...?
Znofare	An injustice has been committed!
Yonkeely	Don't introduce ME....
Djuker	THIS is IMPORTANT!
Wirraff	Goodbye.

Why is a slide rule is better than a computer

- A Slide Rule doesn't shut down abruptly when it gets too hot.
- One hundred people all using Slide Rules and Paper Pads do not start wailing and screaming due to a single-point failure.
- A Slide Rule doesn't smoke whenever the power supply hiccups.
- A Slide Rule doesn't care if you smoke, or hiccup.
- You can spill coffee on a Slide Rule; you can use a Slide Rule while completely submerged in coffee.
- You never get nasty system messages about filling up your entire paper quota with pointless GIF pictures for the root window.

- A Slide Rule and Paper Pad fit in a briefcase with space left over for lunch or a change of underwear.
- A properly used Slide Rule can perform pipelined AND parallel operations. (Okay, you need a guru for this.)
- You don't get junk mail offering pricey software upgrades that fix current floating point errors while introducing new ones.
- A Slide Rule doesn't need scheduled hardware maintenance.
- A Paper Pad supports text and graphics images easily, and can be easily upgraded from monochrome to color.
- Slide Rules are designed to a standardized, open architecture.
- You can hold a Slide Rule at arm's length, to hit the obnoxious person at the next seat over.
- a Slide Rule is immune to viruses, worms, and other deprecations from hostile adolescents with telephones.
- Additional Paper Pads can be integrated into the system seamlessly and without needing to reconfigure everything.
- Nobody will make you feel bad by introducing a smaller, faster, cheaper slide rule next month.

The ten commandments for electricians

1. Beware of the lightning that lurketh in an undischarged capacitor, lest it cause thee to be bounced upon thy buttocks in an ungentlemanly manner.
2. Cause thou the switch that supplyeth large quantities of juice to be opened and thusly tagged, so that thy days be long in this earthly vale of tears.
3. Prove to thyself that all circuits that radiate and upon which thou workest are grounded, lest they raise thee up to high frequency potential and cause thee to radiate also.
4. Take care that thou usest the proper method when thou takest the measure of high voltage circuits so not to incinerate both thyself and thy meter for thou hast no serial number and can be easily replaced, but the meter doth have one and as a consequence doth bring much woe unto thine management.
5. Tarry thou not amongst those who deal in intentional shocks, for they are surely unbelievers and are not long for this earthly vale of tears.
6. Take care that thy tamperest not amongst safety devices, for this will incur the wrath of thy seniors and bring forth the fury to be visited on thy head and shoulders.
7. Workest thou not upon energised equipment for if thou doth thy good friends will surely be buying strong liquor for thy widow and consoling her in ways not acceptable to thee.
8. Verily I say unto thee. Never service high voltage equipment alone, for electric cooking is a slothful process and thou mightest sizzle in thine own fat for hours on end before thy maker sees fit to drag thee into his fold.
9. Trifle thou not with radioactive tubes and substances lest thou commencest to glow in the dark like unto a lightning bug, and thy wife be frustrated nightly and have no further use for thee except for thy wage.
10. Commit thou to memory the works of the prophets which are written on this scroll of instruction, lest thy destroy forever that which thou hast been entrusted with.

Tooth fairy form

Thank you for leaving [O1] tooth under your pillow last night.

While we make every attempt to leave a monetary reward in the case of lost or stolen children's teeth, we were unable to process your request for the following reason(s) indicated below:

- the tooth could not be found
- it was not a human tooth
- we do not think that pieces of chicken bone are very funny
- we were unable to approach the tooth due to excessive odor
- the tooth has previously been redeemed for cash
- the tooth did not originally belong to you
- you were overheard to state that you do not believe in the tooth fairy
- you were age 12 or older at the time your request was received
- the tooth is still in your mouth
- the tooth was guarded by a vicious fairy-eating dog at the time of our visit
- no nightlight was on at the time of our visit
- the snacks provided for the tooth fairy were not satisfactory, or were missing
- we discovered evidence of unsafe tooth extraction as follows:
 - string
 - pliers
 - gunpowder
 - hammer marks
 - chisel
 - part of skull attached to tooth
 - no dental care
- other:

Instead of the usual cash redemption, we have provided the following certificate which you may attempt to exchange at a retail store near you. Thank you for your request, and we look forward to serving you in the future.

Sincerely,
The Tooth Fairy

TV movie rules

How to predict the outcome of TV movies.

1. If a women is running away from someone she will trip and fall.
2. Your car will always start immedaitely unless you are being chased by a maniacal killer or a monster of genetic creation.
3. Crazyed maniacs have super-human strength.
4. The suburbs are exciting.

5. Good guys always shoot better than bad guys.
6. Good guys are always outnumbered.
7. Good guys always win and get the girl.
8. Good guys are always good looking.
9. Ugly people are always bad guys.
10. Teenagers who have sex are destined to die in grotesque ways.
11. There are no ugly women, only ugly men.
12. Court cases are all solved with a surprise witness.
13. Good guys are the only ones who have a sense of humor.
14. Cars will explode in all accidents.
15. Everyone has a 'dark' secret.
16. Cream pies are made to be thrown, never eaten.
17. Haunted houses are never locked.
18. The police are smart.
19. good guys will only get shot in the arm or leg.
20. All Chinese people know Karate.
21. Murders will always be accompanied by sinister music.
22. Rich people are unhappy.
23. Teenagers are smarter than their parents.
24. Indians make good cannon fodder.
25. Thunderstorms spontaneously create murders.
26. Computers never crash. a) Teenagers can access any computer by using their PC's.
b) Computers know everything.
27. When someone is dead or dying, there will be a trickle of blood from the corner of their mouth.
28. No one breaks wind, except after eating beans.
29. Nothing cures the blues like killing 30 or 40 bad guys.
30. Bad guys make elaborate inventions to kill the good guys, but never stick around to see if it works.
31. Christmas Eve and halloween night last for three or four days.
32. Movies based on true stories are made up.
33. Police never wait for back-up.
34. Undercover cops are too good to be spotted.
35. Private detective work is glamorous.
36. All baseball games will be won with a home run in the bottom of the ninth and two outs.
37. All police killings are in self-defense.
38. Everyone wins in Las Vegas.
39. Good guys don't take drugs.
40. The world is teeming with voluptuous, young women who are desperate to have sex with penniless young guys.
41. Nobody ever has trouble finding good parking spots when they are in a hurry.
42. High School students look thirty years old.
43. Women never do housework, but their homes are always clean.
44. Street vendor's carts are magnetically attracted to high-speed car chases.
45. Everyone knows how to pick a lock with one tool.
46. To kill a vampire, you must set out 5 min before sunset.
47. Nobody ever realizes until the end of a monster movie, that everyone that went into that dark cellar never came out.
48. The group always splits up to look for the alien.
49. The last 5 minutes of any TV show will explain the entire plot.

50. The last 5 minutes of any TV show will be stretched out for 20 minutes with commercials.

The ultimate science dictionary

Activation Energy - The useful quantity of energy available in one cup of coffee.

Atomic Theory - A mythological explanation of the nature of matter, first proposed by the ancient Greeks, and now thoroughly discredited by modern computer simulation. Attempts to verify the theory by modern computer simulation have failed. Instead, it has been demonstrated repeatedly that computer outputs depend upon the color of the programmer's eyes, or occasionally upon the month of his or her birth. This apparent astrological connection, at last, vindicates the alchemist's view of astrology as the mother of all science.

Bacon, Roger - An English friar who dabbled in science and made experimentation fashionable. Bacon was the first science popularizer to make it big on the banquet and talk-show circuit, and his books even outsold the fad diets of the period.

Biological Science - A contradiction in terms.

Bunsen Burner - A device invented by Robert Bunsen (1811-1899) for brewing coffee in the laboratory, thereby enabling the chemist to be poisoned without having to go all the way to the company cafeteria.

Butyl - An unpleasant-sounding word denoting an unpleasant-smelling alcohol.

CAI - Acronym for "Computer-Aided Instruction". The modern system of training professional scientists without ever exposing them to the hazards and expense of laboratory work. Graduates of CAI-based programs are very good at simulated research.

Cavendish - A variety of pipe tobacco that is reputed to produce remarkably clear thought processes, and thereby leads to major scientific discoveries; hence, the name of a British research laboratory where the tobacco is smoked in abundance.

Chemical - A substance that - 1) An organic chemist turns into a foul odor; 2) an analytical chemist turns into a procedure; 3) a physical chemist turns into a straight line; 4) a biochemist turns into a helix; 5) a chemical engineer turns into a profit.

Chemical Engineering - The practice of doing for a profit what an organic chemist only does for fun.

Chromatography - (From Gr. chromo [color] + graphos [writing]) The practice of submitting manuscripts for publication with the original figures drawn in non-reproducing blue ink.

Clinical Testing - The use of humans as guinea pigs. (See also PHARMACOLOGY and TOXICOLOGY)

Compound - To make worse, as in 1) A fracture; 2) the mutual adulteration of two or more elements.

Computer Resources - The major item of any budget, allowing for the acquisition of any capital equipment that is obsolete before the purchase request is released.

Eigen Function - The use to which an eigen is put.

En - The universal bidentate ligand used by coordination chemists. For years, efforts were made to use ethylenediamine for this purpose, but chemists were unable to squeeze all the letters between the corners of the octahedron diagram. The timely invention of en in 1947 revolutionized the science.

Evaporation Allowance - The volume of alcohol that the graduate students can drink in a year's time.

Exhaustive Methylation - A marathon event in which the participants methylate until they drop from exhaustion.

First Order Reaction - The reaction that occurs first, not always the one desired. For example, the formation of brown gunk in an organic prep.

Flame Test - Trial by fire.

Genetic Engineering - A recent attempt to formalize what engineers have been doing informally all along.

Grignard - A fictitious class of compounds often found on organic exams and never in real life.

Inorganic Chemistry - That which is left over after the organic, analytical, and physical chemists get through picking over the periodic table.

Mercury - (From L. Mercurius, the swift messenger of the gods) Element No. 80, so named because of the speed of which one of its compounds (calomel, Hg_2Cl_2) goes through the human digestive tract. The element is perhaps misnamed, because the gods probably would not be pleased by the physiological message so delivered.

Monomer - One mer. (Compare POLYMER).

Natural Product - A substance that earns organic chemists fame and glory when they manage to synthesize it with great difficulty, while Nature gets no credit for making it with great ease.

Organic Chemistry - The practice of transmuting vile substances into publications.

Partition Function - The function of a partition is to protect the lab supervisor from shrapnel produced in laboratory explosions.

Pass/Fail - An attempt by professional educators to replace the traditional academic grading system with a binary one that can be handled by a large digital computer.

Pharmacology - The use of rabbits and dogs as guinea pigs. (See also CLINICAL TESTING, TOXICOLOGY).

Physical Chemistry - The pitiful attempt to apply $y=mx+b$ to everything in the universe.

Pilot Plant - A modest facility used for confirming design errors before they are built into a costly, full-scale production facility.

Polymer - Many mers. (Compare MONOMERS).

Prelims - (From L. pre [before] + limbo [oblivion]) An obligatory ritual practiced by graduate students just before the granting of a Ph.D. (if the gods are appeased) or an M.S. (if they aren't).

Publish or Perish - The imposed, involuntary choice between fame and oblivion, neither of which is handled gracefully by most faculty members.

Purple Passion - A deadly libation prepared by mixing equal volumes of grape juice and lab alcohol.

Quantum Mechanics - A crew kept on the payroll to repair quantum, which decay frequently to the ground state.

Rate Equations - (Verb phrase) To give a grade or a ranking to a formula based on its utility and applicability. $H=E$, for example, applies to everything everywhere, and therefore rates an A. $pV=nRT$, on the other hand, is good only for nonexistent gases and thus receives only a D+, but this grade can be changed to a B- if enough empirical virial coefficients are added.

Research - (Irregular noun) That which I do for the benefit of humanity, you do for the money, he does to hog all the glory.

Sagan - The international unit of humility.

Scientific Method - The widely held philosophy that a theory can never be proved, only disproved, and that all attempts to explain anything are therefore futile.

SI - Acronym for "Systeme Infernelle".

Spectrophotometry - A long word used mainly to intimidate freshman nonmajors.

Spectroscope - A disgusting-looking instrument used by medical specialists to probe and examine the spectrum.

Toxicology - The wholesale slaughter of white rats bred especially for that purpose. (See also CLINICAL TESTING, PHARMACOLOGY).

X-Ray Diffraction - An occupational disorder common among physicians, caused by reading X-ray pictures in darkened rooms for prolonged periods. The condition is readily cured by a greater reliance on blood chemistries; the lab results are just as inconclusive as the X-rays, but are easier to read.

Ytterbium - A rare and inconsequential element, named after the village of Ytterby, Sweden (not to be confused with Iturbi, the late pianist and film personality, who was actually Spanish, not Swedish). Ytterbium is used mainly to fill block 70 in the periodic table. Iturbi was used mainly to play Jane Powell's father.

Bitcheril™ attitude suppressant

(di-tetraethyl-primadonna-bitchenhydrazine sulfate USP) brand of attitude suppressant for orchestral and ensemble musicians

AVAILABLE FORMS:

325mg tablets, 500mg caplets (Bitcheril™ Extra-Strength), 50g/l suspension (Bitcheril™ I.V.) for continuous intravenous infusion. See also *Alternate forms*, below.

INDICATIONS: for the reduction of attitude, frustration, and generalized uppityness in orchestral and ensemble playing situations; for soothing of bruised ego; for alleviation of feelings of technical, musical, and interpretive superiority to musicians seated farther forward; for the temporary relief of professional jealousy, baton envy, and related conditions.

ACTION: temporarily deadens attitudinal receptors in the sub-primadonnal region of the left temporal lobe.

DOSAGES: (note: these are recommended guidelines, subject to increase in cases of exceptional attitude)

Children: use of Bitcheril™ in children is not recommended, except in the case of child prodigies, for whom extreme dosages have proven to be of some therapeutic value (see *Alternate forms*, below).

Violinists: 2 tablets every 3-hour rehearsal; this may be increased to 2 Extra-Strength caplets if symptoms persist.

Flautists: The recommended dosage of 5000 mg every one-half rehearsal makes oral administration impractical; generally, continuous intravenous infusion is indicated.

Lower string and woodwind players: one-half tablet every 3-hour rehearsal for every octave of tessitura above 8-ft. bass C.

Brass players: research has shown that the attitudinal receptors of brass players are immune from suppression by any means; the use of attitude-suppressant agents has proved of little or no therapeutic value in these cases.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS: Dizziness, confusion, decreased ability to keep track of running measure numbers; general decrease in creativity and originality; in violinists, excessive dosages have been known to cause dramatic and uncontrollable increases in alto-clef-reading ability, and a marked desire to play relatively uninteresting accompanimental figures.

Alternate forms of Bitcheril™ (di-tetraethyl-primadonna-bitchenhydrazine sulfate USP), for use in special situations:

Gripenot™

(Bitcheril™ brand attitude suppressant in pleasant-tasting, espresso-flavored liquid form) for those who experience difficulty swallowing tablets, or for surreptitious introduction into a fellow musician's cappuccino

Rag-B-Gon™

(Bitcheril™ brand attitude suppressant in aerosol form, for section- or orchestra-wide dispersal)

Fkoff™**

(Bitcheril™ brand attitude suppressant in compact, Triple-Extra-Strength suppositories). Note: This is the only form proven effective for child prodigies and vocal soloists

A smoke-free Carmen

Auckland Opera received complaints when its advertising posters for Bizet's Carmen showed offensive cleavage. In deciding to withdraw the posters, the general manager of Auckland Opera sensibly explained, "It behoved us to find a more imaginative way to sell our product than just to resort to blatant sexist imagery." In the new ads Carmen had a completely covered chest.

Auckland Opera has taken a step in the right direction of providing a more wholesome, nonsexist Carmen. It is regrettable, however, that the recent Canterbury Opera Carmen continued to promote inappropriate role models and behavioural messages regarding gender relations, animal rights issues and tobacco consumption. Admittedly, some of these problems are incorrectly dealt with in Prosper Merimee's original story. Yet a few minor changes would enable audiences to enjoy the beautiful music of the opera without being exposed to offensive and outdated stereotypes. Herewith, a Carmen for our time:

The first scene takes place in a square in Seville. Young factory workers spill into the street for their morning break of fresh fruit. One of them, the dark Gypsy Carmen,

sings a lovely habanera, reminding us that love occurs between all genders, races and body types. Before returning to the factory, Carmen throws a rose to the Basque soldier, Don Jose. A fight breaks out between two of the young persons in the factory, and while trying to instruct them on the futility of violence, Carmen is arrested. Don Jose is ordered to guard her, but she convinces him to allow her to escape, explaining that they are all victims of patriarchal oppression.

The second act opens in the smoke-free environment of a vegetarian restaurant. Carmen and ethnically-diverse friends are enjoying whole-meal buns when they are interrupted by the wicked Escamillo, a rich and famous bullfighter. Escamillo sings an aria in praise of wine, cigars, thick steaks and women. This disgusts the young people, although Carmen is strangely attracted to the bullfighter. Don Jose arrives and, alone at last, he and Carmen vow to live together. They will respect the importance of protected sex and acknowledge each other's unique cultural identity. Don Jose will do the ironing.

The third act opens in a wild place in the mountains. Carmen, Don Jose and other members of the Animal Liberation Collective are plotting to end the exploitation of bulls. Don Jose is enraged when Carmen nobly volunteers to seduce Escamillo, so exhausting him that he will be unable effectively to fight in the bullring. Carmen patiently explains that the lives of many bulls, and the contentedness of cows, is at stake. Escamillo enters and begins a duel with Don Jose, but the Collective intervenes, insisting that the two men find viable nonviolent means to settle their dispute. The jealous Don Jose must seek anger-management counselling.

The final scene returns to Seville. Escamillo's colourful procession enters the bullring. A dishevelled Don Jose confronts Carmen. He is suffering from low self-esteem. Counselling has only made his anger worse, recovering repressed childhood memories of satanic rituals, where he was forced to drink blood, eat babies, and smoke cheap, unfiltered cigarettes. Acknowledging his trauma, Carmen insists he begin the healing process by getting a bath and a shave. The two lovers embrace and detail plans to offer workshops in cultural identity and empowerment. The bull wins.

Carmen – a translated synopsis

An "English" synopsis of the opera Carmen, as it appeared in the program for a recent performance in Genoa, Italy.

"Act 1. Carmen is a cigarmakeress from a tobago factory who loves with Don Jose (Duet: "*Talk me of my mother*"). There is a noise inside the tobago factory and the revolting cigar-makeresses burst into the stage. Carmen is arrested and Don Jose is ordered to mounting guard her but Carmen subduces him and lets her escape.

"Act 2. The Tavern. Carmen, Frasquito, Mercedes, Zuiniga, Morales. Carmen's aria ("*The sistrums are tinkling*"). Enter Escamilio, a balls-fighter. Enter two smuglers (Duet: "*We have in mind a business*") but Carmen refuses to penetrate because Don Jose has liberated her from prison. He just now arrives (Aria: "*Slop, here who comes*") but here are the bugles singing his retreat. Don Jose will leave and draws his sword.

Called by Carmen's shrieks the two smugglers interfere with her but Don Jose is bound to dessert, he will follow into them (final chorus: "*Opening sky wandering life*").

"Act 3. A rocky landscape, the smuggler's shelter. Carmen sees her death in cards and Don Jose makes a date with Carmen for the next balls fight.

"Act 4. A place in Seville. Procession of balls-fighters, the roaring of the balls is heard in the arena. Escamillio enters (Aria and chorus: "*Toreador, toreador, All hail the balls of a Toreador*"). Enter Don Jose (Aria: "*I do not threaten, I besooch you*") but Carmen repels him wants to join with Escamillio now chaired by the crowd. Don Jose stabbs her (Aria: "*Oh rupture, rupture, you may arrest me. I did kill her*") he sings "*Oh my beautiful Carmen, my subductive Carmen.*"

Orchestral efficiency

Memo From: Efficiency & Ticket, Ltd., Management Consultants

To: Chairman, The London Symphony Orchestra

Re: Schubert's Symphony No. 8 in B minor.

After attending a rehearsal of this work we make the following observations and recommendations:

- We note that the twelve first violins were playing identical notes, as were the second violins. Three violins in each section, suitably amplified, would seem to us to be adequate.
- Much unnecessary labour is involved in the number of demisemiquavers in this work; we suggest that many of these could be rounded up to the nearest semiquaver thus saving practice time for the individual player and rehearsal time for the entire ensemble. The simplification would also permit more use of trainee and less-skilled players with only marginal loss of precision.
- We could find no productivity value in string passages being repeated by the horns; all tutti repeats could also be eliminated without any reduction of efficiency.
- In so labour-intensive an undertaking as a symphony, we regard the long oboe tacet passages to be extremely wasteful. What notes this instrument is called upon to play could, subject to a satisfactory demarcation conference with the Musician's Union, be shared out equitably amongst the other instruments.

Conclusion: if the above recommendations are implemented the piece under consideration could be played through in less than half an hour with concomitant savings in overtime, lighting and heating, wear and tear on the instruments and hall rental fees. Also, had the composer been aware of modern cost-effective procedures he might well have finished this work.

Richard Strauss' rules for conductors

1. Remember that you are making music not to amuse yourself, but to delight your audience.
2. You should not perspire when conducting: only the audience should get warm.
3. Conduct *Salome* and *Elektra* as if they were by Mendelssohn: Fairy Music.
4. Never look encouragingly at the brass, except with a brief glance to give an important cue.
5. But never let the horns and woodwinds out of your sight. If you can hear them at all they are still too strong.
6. If you think that the brass is not blowing hard enough, tone it down another shade or two.
7. It is not enough that you yourself should hear every word the soloist sings. You should know it by heart anyway. The audience must be able to follow without effort. If they do not understand the words they will go to sleep.
8. Always accompany a singer in such a way that he can sing without effort.
9. When you think you have reached the limits of prestissimo, double the pace.
10. If you follow these rules carefully you will, with your fine gifts and your great accomplishments, always be the darling of your listeners.

New rules for conductors

- When conducting a piece for orchestra and chorus, refer to the performers as "singers and musicians."
- NEVER look at your solo horn player before his exposed entrance. It won't help, and he's not watching anyway. If he clams it he'll blame you and if he gets it, he thinks he's Siegfried.
- Always address the chorus as "Men Women and Tenors"
- Whenever you come to a repeat bar, ALWAYS stop the orchestra, and discuss in depth whether [sic] the you should take the repeat again or not.. the audience will love it.
- The conductor is always right. Unless he's leading the orchestra.
- Don't mind the percussionists. Their [sic] stupid.
- Never try to be witty during rehearsal.
- When conducting anything written after 1910, (unless it's by Samuel Barber), you can always blame the percussionists. And remember that the choir hasn't put in as much time as the orchestra has. They don't need as much practice because they talk through their instruments every day. And NEVER forget this: "Once upon a time and a very good time it was there was a moo cow" - James Joyce
- Whenever you have a chance, try to find out how the composer himself conducted the piece of music, because nobody will ever get closer to the feelings the composer had in the moment of composing than the composer himself. Naturally it won't work with composers from earlier centuries, but it definitely works in present musical theatre compositions. Good luck.
- Never hold up your hand to quiet the bass trombonist. He will think you mean "blow my fingers off."
- Don't look at the trombone players, you'll only encourage them.

- Never conduct what the orchestra plays -- conduct what they are about to play!
- Treat your trumpets and trombones with respect, for they and they alone can bring an audience to its feet.
- If you do happen to sweat, do NOT sling the sweat wiped from your brow at the first row of musicians.
- Always remember to let the Bass Trombone player know he is too loud. It doesn't matter if he is playing or not, they need the reminder.
- Pray that no one ever figures out how to make a metronome take a bow.
- Never, ever ask for more than one person to play piccolo on a piece. (Don't believe me? TRY IT!)
- There is NEVER too much percussion. Never. When in doubt, stop conducting. You can catch up with the players sooner or later.
- Never acknowledge the conductor. It only encourages him.
- Take it to the extreme. If it's 'pp,' have the sound barely audible. If it's 'ff,' have your string section saw their instruments in half. If it's 'presto,' make it impossible to beat it in anything but one, and if it's 'grave,' make Klemperer sound like the Chipmunks. When the rosin settles, accept your standing ovation and bow.
- Feel free to sing along with the orchestra, guest artist, or chorus as loudly as possible. They love that.
- When conducting, don't forget The Eidenberg Principal which states the speed of sound (@ 76°F) is 1121 fps, with a total decay of 51.6 s will create standing waves when reflected from the back wall; hence, do not let the orchestra play for more than 51.6 seconds at a time, allowing the reflected sound to return to the listener with clarity.
- Begin every rehearsal by saying, "Ladies, Gentlemen, and Percussionists....."
- When the orchestra is not doing what it is supposed to do, the baton can be used as a weapon.
- Wave the baton until the music stops, then turn around and bow.
- To show the ultimate disdain for singers, have the chorus stand for the first three movements of Beethoven's 9th.
- Treat your orchestra with respect. Violists are people too!!!
- I heard this as a story where Bernstein would meditate on little notecard before conducting. One day somebody checked the card and discovered the following words of wisdom: *Violins on your left, cellos on your right*
- If dealing with student musicians who seem to think they know more about the art of conducting than you do, tell them to do it their way when they have their own orchestra.
- Loud is good. Fast is better. Loud and fast is best.
- Tread lightly on the singers; always remember that they cannot help it -- they were born that way. (Corollary: Never laugh at the soprano's first entrance: no matter how ridiculous it may seem to you, some other singer in the audience is enjoying it immensely....)
- Remember that the most important reason for the applause is the composer
- Always remember...if some's good, more's better...too much is just right
- Always remember, trombones always play fortissimo (whether it's marked or not) and also never count rests, so just live with us!!!
- When conducting contemporary music, blame it on the composer.

A “personals” ad from the Pentagon

ENEMY WANTED -- Mature, lonely, North American superpower seeks hostile-sounding and muscular-looking but internally moribund nation for international competitive bluster, mutual threat inflation, political-military gymnastics, and general bellicose finger pointing. Looking to fill post-Cold War ennui and lost missile envy. Scare-mongers who relish dogmatic confrontation, able to appear 10 feet tall, and willing to build real and imaginary mirror image weapon systems need only apply. Must appear sufficiently menacing to frighten more money and previous Cold War-era weapon systems out of Congress, but must threaten only opponent's marginal interests, and must not present any real intellectual challenge. Accompaniment by fierce, Third World allies who know how to fight is also not desirable. Oafish, senile leaders definitely a plus. Possession of large, phallic ballistic missiles (large throw weight only), and/or chem-bio also a plus--willful violations of feckless arms control agreements will earn continuing thanks. Location: preferably near enough to threaten petroleum and trade markets to ensure perpetual business as usual.

Reply with videos of goose-stepping troops, parade-optimized tank battalions, U.S. flag burnings, chanting, dazed eyed crowds, and haranguing, incoherent speeches. Send c/o "Shali," The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. Please no publicity shy competents or third world nations that have previously embarrassed advertiser.

Thoughts

- The two most common elements in the universe are hydrogen and stupidity.
- If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.
- Money can't buy happiness. But it sure makes misery easier to live with.
- Deja Moo: The feeling that you've heard this bull before.
- Psychiatrists say that 1 of 4 people are mentally ill. Check 3 friends. If they're OK, you're it.
- Nothing in the known universe travels faster than a bad check.
- A truly wise man never plays leapfrog with a unicorn.
- It has recently been discovered that research causes cancer in rats.
- If you are given an open-book exam, you will forget your book. Corollary: If you are given a take-home test, you will forget where you live.
- The trouble with doing something right the first time is that nobody appreciates how difficult it was.
- It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
- Paul's Law: You can't fall off the floor.
- A woman would rather have beauty than brains, because the average man can see better than he can think.
- Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society.
- Vital papers will demonstrate their vitality by moving from where you left them to where you can't find them.
- Law of Probability Dispersal: Whatever it is that hits the fan will not be evenly distributed.

How to win arguments

I argue very well. Ask any of my remaining friends. I can win an argument on any topic, against any opponent. People know this, and steer clear of me at parties. Often, as a sign of their great respect, they don't even invite me. You too can win arguments. Simply follow these rules:

Drink liquor.

Suppose you're at a party and some hotshot intellectual is expounding on the economy of Peru, a subject you know nothing about. If you're drinking some health-fanatic drink like grapefruit juice, you'll hang back, afraid to display your ignorance, while the hotshot enthralls your date. But if you drink several large martinis, you'll discover you have *strong views* about the Peruvian economy. You'll be a *wealth* of information. You'll argue forcefully, offering searing insights and possibly upsetting furniture. People will be impressed. Some may leave the room.

Make things up.

Suppose, in the Peruvian economy argument, you are trying to prove Peruvians are underpaid, a position you base solely on the fact that *you* are underpaid, and you're damned if you're going to let a bunch of Peruvians be better off. *Don't* say: "I think Peruvians are underpaid." Say: "The average Peruvian's salary in 1981 dollars adjusted for the revised tax base is \$1,452.81 per annum, which is \$836.07 before the mean gross poverty level." Note: Always make up exact figures.

If an opponent asks you where you got your information, make *that* up, too. Say: "This information comes from Dr. Hovel T. Moon's study for the Buford Commission published May 9, 1982. Didn't you read it?" Say this in the same tone of voice you would use to say "You left your soiled underwear in my bath house."

Use meaningless but weighty-sounding words and phrases.

Memorize this list:

- Let me put it this way
- In terms of
- Vis-a-vis
- Per se
- As it were
- Qua
- So to speak

You should also memorize some Latin abbreviations such as "Q.E.D.," "e.g.," and "i.e." These are all short for "I speak Latin, and you do not."

Here's how to use these words and phrases. Suppose you want to say:

"Peruvians would like to order appetizers more often, but they don't have enough money."

You never win arguments talking like that. But you *will* win if you say:

“Let me put it this way. In terms of appetizers vis-a-vis Peruvians qua Peruvians, they would like to order them more often, so to speak, but they do not have enough money per se, as it were. Q.E.D.”

Only a fool would challenge that statement.

Use snappy and irrelevant comebacks.

You need an arsenal of all-purpose irrelevant phrases to fire back at your opponents when they make valid points. The best are:

- You're begging the question.
- You're being defensive.
- Don't compare apples and oranges.
- What are your parameters?

This last one is especially valuable. Nobody, other than mathematicians, has the vaguest idea what "parameters" means.

Here's how to use your comebacks:

You say "As Abraham Lincoln said in 1873..."
Your opponents says "Lincoln died in 1865."
You say "You're begging the question."

or

You say "Liberians, like most Asians..."
Your opponents says "Liberia is in Africa."
You say "You're being defensive."

Compare your opponent to Adolf Hitler.

This is your heavy artillery, for when your opponent is obviously right and you are spectacularly wrong. Bring Hitler up subtly. Say: "That sounds suspiciously like something Adolf Hitler might say," or "You certainly do remind me of Adolf Hitler."

Thoughts to get you through almost any crisis

- Indecision is the key to flexibility.
- There is absolutely no substitute for a genuine lack of preparation.
- Happiness is merely the remission of pain.
- Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.
- The facts, although interesting, are irrelevant.
- The careful application of terror is also a form of communication.
- Someone who thinks logically provides a nice contrast to the real world.
- Things are more like they are today than they have ever been before.
- Anything worth fighting for is worth fighting dirty for.
- Everything should be made as simple as possible but no simpler.
- Friends may come and go, but enemies accumulate.

- I have seen the truth and it makes no sense.
- Suicide is the most sincere form of self-criticism.
- If you think that there is good in everybody, you haven't met everybody.
- If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.
- One-seventh of your life is spent on Monday.
- By the time you can make ends meet, they move the ends.
- Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.
- There is always one more imbecile than you counted on.
- Never wrestle with a pig. You both get dirty and the pig likes it.

The universe according to Dilbert

- Stupidity is like nuclear power, it can be used for good or evil. But you still don't want to get any on you.
- You are without romance or mirth... You must be an engineer.
- The status of a temp is somewhere between that of a security guard and the crud behind the refrigerator.
- I used to feel guilty about smashing bugs until I realized it's a sport.
- And in the news... Body parts were strewn for miles... Check your sandwich.
- Our company does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, or religion... unless the religions are bizarre and unpopular and can be considered cults (and so may be freely discriminated against), or you are a short, fat, bald, ugly guy (and can be picked on without restraint), or are a nerd, smoker, or single person. Stupid people may now also be discriminated against due to the failure of their lobbying efforts.
- I used to be clueless but I've turned that situation around 360 degrees.
- Trying to attain vast power and world domination again?! Bad dog! Bad dog!
- There's a fine line between marketing and grand theft.
- All your problems are caused by invisible people. To eliminate your problems, all you need to do is find them and kill them.
- Someday, the people who know how to use computers will rule over those who don't. And there will be a special name for them: secretaries.
- In the next hour, you will learn how to cope with guilt the Dogbert way. And if you don't, well, it turns out I get paid anyway.
- Running feels awful, but it will let you live longer... So, life will feel awful, but at least it will last longer.
- Before you defeat the competition, you must first subjugate the other departments.
- It's not a cult. Think of it as a gang of morons who have nothing better to do with their lives.
- Hello! This is a long-distance phone company with vague promises of unverifiable savings if you switch to us. Is this a convenient time for you? No? OK, we'll call back later.
- If you have everything, gloat. When that gets boring, start your own line of perfumes.
- If you touch any key, our software will lock up. Call us and we'll blame it on Microsoft.

- Always put off dealing with time-wasting morons. If you would like to know how... I'll get back to you on that.
- There's more to science than just hurting small animals, but it's the part that's the most fun.
- What do you call a dog that's been run over by a steamroller? Spot.
- Knowledge is power... But power corrupts... And corruption is a crime... And crime doesn't pay... So if you keep on studying *you'll go broke!*
- Nature has a way of compensating for weaknesses, which is why stupid people have big mouths.
- Time slows down as you approach the speed of light... But time flies when you're having fun... So if you walk slower, do you have more fun or do you just get more light?
- It is said that man's ability to reason that separates him from mere animals, but then again the animal kingdom has no equivalent to "championship wrestling."
- One way to compensate for a tiny brain is to pretend to be dead.
- If you haven't accomplished anything so far, then your best days are likely to be ahead of you. But then, you should consider your track record.
- Intelligence has much less practical application than you'd think.
- Used car salesmen are not in it for the money. They just like lying to strangers.
- To become one with your computer is to reach a state of... *nerdvana*.
- When virtual reality gets cheaper than dating, humanity is doomed.

Who is best at apprehending criminals

The LAPD, The FBI, and the CIA are all trying to prove that they are the best at apprehending criminals. The President decides to give them a test. He releases a rabbit into a forest and has each of them try to catch it.

The CIA goes in. They place animal informants throughout the forest. They question all plant and mineral witnesses. After three months of extensive investigations they conclude that rabbits do not exist.

Then the FBI goes in. After two weeks with no leads they burn the forest, killing everything in it, including the rabbit, and they make no apologies. The rabbit had it coming.

Then the LAPD goes in. They come out two hours later with a badly beaten raccoon. The raccoon is yelling: "Okay! Okay! I'm a rabbit! I'm a rabbit!"

Cakes and ale

Here is a true story regarding exams at Cambridge University. It seems that during an examination one day, a bright young student popped up and asked the proctor to bring him Cakes and Ale.

The following dialogue ensued:

Proctor: I beg your pardon?

Student: I request that you bring me Cakes and Ale.

Proctor: Sorry, no.

Student: Sir, I really must insist. I request and require that you bring me Cakes and Ale.

At this point the student produced a copy of the four hundred year old Laws of Cambridge, written in Latin and still nominally in effect, and pointed to the section which read (rough translation from the Latin): "Gentlemen sitting examinations may request and require Cakes and Ale."

Pepsi and hamburgers were judged the modern equivalent, and the student sat there, writing his examination and happily slurping away.

Three weeks later the student was fined five pounds for not wearing a sword to the examination.

Cats: a commercial description

The Mark I Charismatic Autonomous Terminator (CAT) system is a family of intelligent, stealthy, terminal-homing mouse-seeking missiles featuring multi-sensor targeting with dual night-vision devices, and neural-net architecture.

The CAT's self-righting inertial platform allows launch from any attitude. Integrated multi-aspect attack profile with indefinite-loiter mode insure a wide lethality envelope. Upon target engagement, the CAT deploys four clusters of retractable submunitions in addition to the primary warhead, providing an enhanced radius of destruction.

The CAT uses regular or exotic solid or liquid fuel and is equipped with a low-signature exhaust-obscuration system. Firmware and connectors compatible with any unit of the Mark I series guarantee unlimited expansion capability, making the CAT system a cost-effective countermeasure to the projected spectrum of rodent-threat scenarios well into the next century.

How many employees does it take to change a light bulb?

One to file the user input report on the bad bulb.

One to revise the user interface specifications.

One to build the prototype.

One to approve the project.
One project manager.
Two product marketing managers.
One to write the light bulb product revision plan.
Seven to alpha-test the light bulb.
One to revise the light bulb operating system.
One to obtain FCC certification.
One to write the manual.
One to write the self-running light bulb demo.
One to copy-protect the light bulb.
One to place the order for each light bulb.
One to distribute the light bulb.
One to organize the product introduction party.
One to make the press announcement.
One to announce the light bulb to the sales force.
One to train service.
And . . .
One service technician to swap out the light bulb.

How to keep a healthy level of insanity in the workplace

- Page yourself over the intercom. (Don't disguise your voice.)
- Find out where your boss shops and buy exactly the same outfits.
- Always wear them one day after your boss does. (This is especially effective if your boss is a different gender than you are.)
- Make up nicknames for all your coworkers and refer to them only by these names. "That's a good point, Sparky." "No I'm sorry I'm going to have to disagree with you there, Chachi."
- Send email to the rest of the company telling them what you're doing. For example "If anyone needs me, I'll be in the bathroom."
- "Hi-lite" your shoes. Tell people that you haven't lost your shoes since you did this.
- While sitting at your desk, soak your fingers in "Palmolive."
- Put up mosquito netting around your cubicle.
- Put a chair facing a printer, sit there all day and tell people you're waiting for your document.
- Arrive at a meeting late, say you're sorry, but you didn't have time for lunch, and you're going to be nibbling during the meeting. During the meeting eat 5 entire raw potatoes.
- Insist that your e-mail address be "zena_goddess_of_fire@companyname.com"
- Every time someone asks you to do something, ask them if they want fries with that.
- Send email to yourself engaging yourself in an intelligent debate about the direction of one of your company's products. Forward the mail to a co-worker and ask her to settle the disagreement.
- Encourage your colleagues to join you in a little synchronized chair dancing.
- Put your garbage can on your desk. Label it "IN."
- Determine how many cups of coffee is "too many."
- Develop an unnatural fear of staplers.

- For a relaxing break, get away from it all with a mask and snorkel in the fish tank. If no one notices, take out your snorkel and see how many you can catch in your mouth.
- Send e-mail messages saying free pizza, free donuts etc... in the lunchroom, when people complain that there was none... Just lean back, pat your stomach, and say, "Oh you've got to be faster than that."
- Put decaf in the coffeemaker for 3 weeks. Once everyone has gotten over their caffeine addictions, switch to espresso.

The laws of physics

As an Engineer, I was always taught the laws of Physics applied to all situations, regardless of the circumstances. How is it then that the girls with the most streamlined shapes offer the most resistance?

The lighter side of marriage

- Marriage is not a word. It is a sentence (a life sentence!).
- Marriage is very much like a violin; after the sweet music is over, the strings are attached.
- Marriage is love. Love is blind. Therefore, marriage is an institution for the blind
- Marriage is an institution in which a man loses his Bachelor's Degree and the woman gets her Masters
- Marriage is a thing which puts a ring on a woman's finger and two under the man's eyes
- Marriage certificate is just another word for a work permit
- Marriage is not just a having a wife, but also worries inherited forever
- Marriage requires a man to prepare 4 types of "RINGS" - The Engagement Ring - The Wedding Ring - The Suffe-Ring - The Endu-Ring
- Married life is full of excitement and frustration In the first year of marriage, the man speaks and the woman listens. In the second year, the woman speaks and the man listens. In the third year, they BOTH speak and the NEIGHBORS/neither listen
- It is true that love is blind but marriage is definitely an eye-opener
- Getting married is very much like going to the restaurant with friends. You order what you want, and when you see what the other fellow has, you wish you had ordered that
- There was this man who muttered a few words in the church and found himself married. A year later he muttered something in his sleep and found himself divorced
- There was a man who said, "I never knew what happiness was until I got married...and then it was too late!"
- Love is one long sweet dream, and marriage is the alarm clock
- There was this lover who said that he would go through hell for her. They got married, and now he is going through HELL

How to identify an engineer

Engineer Identification Test

You walk into a room and notice that a picture is hanging crooked.

You...

A. Straighten it.

B. Ignore it.

C. Buy a CAD system and spend the next six months designing a solar-powered, self-adjusting picture frame while often stating aloud your belief that the inventor of the nail was a total moron.

The correct answer is "C" but partial credit can be given to anybody who writes "It depends" in the margin of the test or simply blames the whole stupid thing on "Marketing."

Social Skills

Engineers have different objectives when it comes to social interaction. Normal people expect to accomplish several unrealistic things from social interaction:

- Stimulating and thought-provoking conversation
- Important social contacts
- A feeling of connectedness with other humans

In contrast to "normal" people, engineers have rational objectives for social interactions:

- Get it over with as soon as possible.
- Avoid getting invited to something unpleasant.
- Demonstrate mental superiority and mastery of all subjects.

Fascination with Gadgets

To the engineer, all matter in the universe can be placed into one of two categories: (1.) things that need to be fixed, and (2.) things that will need to be fixed after you've had a few minutes to play with them.

Engineers like to solve problems. If there are no problems handily available, they will create their own problems. Normal people don't understand this concept; they believe that if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Engineers believe that if it ain't broke, it doesn't have enough features yet.

No engineer looks at a television remote control without wondering what it would take to turn it into a stun gun. No engineer can take a shower without wondering if some sort of Teflon coating would make showering unnecessary. To the engineer, the world is a toy box full of sub-optimized and feature-poor toys.

Fashion and Appearance

Clothes are the lowest priority for an engineer, assuming the basic thresholds for temperature and decency have been satisfied. If no appendages are freezing or sticking

together, and if no genitalia or mammary glands are swinging around in plain view, then the objective of clothing has been met. Anything else is a waste.

Love of "Star Trek"

Engineers love all of the "Star Trek" television shows and movies. It's a small wonder, since the engineers on the starship Enterprise are portrayed as heroes, occasionally even having sex with aliens. This is much more glamorous than the real life of an engineer, which consists of hiding from the universe and having sex without the participation of other life forms.

Dating and Social Life

Dating is never easy for engineers. A normal person will employ various indirect and duplicitous methods to create a false impression of attractiveness. Engineers are incapable of placing appearance above function. Fortunately, engineers have an ace in the hole. They are widely recognized as superior marriage material: intelligent, dependable, employed, honest, and handy around the house. While it's true that many normal people would prefer not to date an engineer, most normal people harbor an intense desire to mate with them, thus producing engineerlike children who will have high-paying jobs long before losing their virginity. Male engineers reach their peak of sexual attractiveness later than normal men, becoming irresistible erotic dynamos in their mid thirties to late forties. Female engineers become irresistible at the age of consent and remain that way until about thirty minutes after their clinical death. Longer if it's a warm day.

Honesty

Engineers are always honest in matters of technology and human relationships. That's why it's a good idea to keep engineers away from customers, romantic interests, and other people who can't handle the truth. Engineers sometimes bend the truth to avoid work. They say things that sound like lies but technically are not because nobody could be expected to believe them. The complete list of engineer lies is listed below.

"I won't change anything without asking you first." "I'll return your hard-to-find cable tomorrow."

"I have to have new equipment to do my job." "I'm not jealous of your new computer."

Frugality

Engineers are notoriously frugal. This is not because of cheapness or mean spirit; it is simply because every spending situation is simply a problem in optimization, that is, "How can I escape this situation while retaining the greatest amount of cash?"

Powers of Concentration

If there is one trait that best defines an engineer it is the ability to concentrate on one subject to the complete exclusion of everything else in the environment. This sometimes causes engineers to be pronounced dead prematurely. Some funeral homes in high-tech areas have started checking resumes before processing the bodies. Anybody with a degree in electrical engineering or experience in computer programming is propped up in the lounge for a few days just to see if he or she snaps out of it.

Risk

Engineers hate risk. They try to eliminate it whenever they can. This is understandable, given that when an engineer makes one little mistake, the media will treat it like it's a big deal or something.

Examples of bad press for engineers:

- Hindenberg.
- Space Shuttle Challenger.
- Hubble space telescope.
- Apollo 13.
- Titanic.
- Ford Pinto.

The risk/reward calculation for engineers looks something like this:

RISK: Public humiliation and the death of thousands of innocent people.

REWARD: A certificate of appreciation in a handsome plastic frame.

Being practical people, engineers evaluate this balance of risks and rewards and decide that risk is not a good thing. The best way to avoid risk is by advising that any activity is technically impossible for reasons that are far too complicated to explain. If that approach is not sufficient to halt a project, then the engineer will fall back to a second line of defense: "It's technically possible but it will cost too much."

Ego

Ego-wise, two things are important to engineers:

- How smart they are.
- How many cool devices they own.

The fastest way to get an engineer to solve a problem is to declare that the problem is unsolvable. No engineer can walk away from an unsolvable problem until it's solved. No illness or distraction is sufficient to get the engineer off the case. These types of challenges quickly become a personal battle between the engineer and the laws of nature. Engineers will go without food and hygiene for days to solve a problem. (Other times just because they forgot.) And when they succeed in solving the problem they will experience an ego rush that is better than sex--and I'm including the kind of sex where other people are involved. Nothing is more threatening to the engineer than the suggestion that somebody has more technical skill. Normal people sometimes use that knowledge as a lever to extract more work from the engineer. When an engineer says that something can't be done (a code phrase that means it's not fun to do), some clever normal people have learned to glance at the engineer with a look of compassion and pity and say something along these lines: "I'll ask Bob to figure it out. He knows how to solve difficult technical problems."

At that point it is a good idea for the normal person to not stand between the engineer and the problem. The engineer will set upon the problem like a starved Chihuahua on a pork chop.

Planck's constant

Effective:	September 15, 1993
Product:	Planck's constant 'h'
Version:	1.1 (Replaces 1.0)
Systems:	The universe as we know it
Change:	Upgrade to '2'.
Image:	Every atom and photon in the observable universe
Installer:	God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
Contact:	Richard P. Feynman
Notes:	The referenced change to this physical constant will end all life as we know it on this planet and in the observable universe. From the equation $E=hf$ which denotes the energy of a photon as the function of its frequency, we see that photons will suddenly carry much much more energy. The emissions from your TV remote will become as dangerous as gamma rays; you would shoot holes in the wall with it, except that the Uncertainty Principle says you won't be able to pick up the remote because you won't be able to determine its position (nor the position of your hand) to enough precision to tell you if it's even in the same room with you. Users inconvenienced by this change should call the Help Desk in 216 Computing center (645-3540) or the Graphics Consultant in 204 Computing Center.

Computer slang

Dilberted - To be exploited and oppressed by your boss. Derived from the experiences of Dilbert, the geek-in-hell comic strip character. "I've been dilberted again. The old man revised the specs for the fourth time this week."

Link Rot - The process by which links on a web page become obsolete as the sites they're connected to change location or die.

Chip Jewelry - A euphemism for old computers destined to be scrapped or turned into decorative ornaments. "I paid three grand for that Mac SE, and now it's nothing but chip jewelry."

Crapplet - A badly written or profoundly useless Java applet. "I just wasted 30 minutes downloading this stinkin' crapplet!"

Plug-and-Play - A new hire who doesn't need any training. "The new guy, John, is great. He's totally plug-and-play."

World Wide Wait - The real meaning of WWW.

CGI Joe - A hard-core CGI script programmer with all the social skills and charisma of a plastic action figure.

Dorito Syndrome - Feelings of emptiness and dissatisfaction triggered by addictive substances that lack nutritional content. "I just spent six hours surfing the Web, and now I've got a bad case of Dorito Syndrome."

Under Mouse Arrest - Getting busted for violating an online service's rule of conduct. "Sorry I couldn't get back to you. AOL put me under mouse arrest."

Glazing - Corporate-speak for sleeping with your eyes open. A popular pastime at conferences and early-morning meetings. "Didn't he notice that half the room was glazing by the second session?"

404 - Someone who's clueless. From the World Wide Web message "404, URL Not Found," meaning that the document you've tried to access can't be located. "Don't bother asking him...he's 404, man."

Dead Tree Edition - The paper version of a publication available in both paper and electronic forms, as in: "The dead tree edition of the San Francisco Chronicle..."

Egosurfing - Scanning the net, databases, print media, or research papers looking for the mention of your name.

Graybar Land - The place you go while you're staring at a computer that's processing something very slowly (while you watch the gray bar creep across the screen). "I was in graybar land for what seemed like hours, thanks to that CAD rendering."

Open-Collar Workers - People who work at home or telecommute.

Squirt The Bird - To transmit a signal up to a satellite. "Crew and talent are ready...what time do we squirt the bird?"

Brain Fart - A biproduct of a bloated mind producing information effortlessly. A burst of useful information. "I know you're busy on the Microsoft story, but can you give us a brain fart on the Mitnik bust?" Variation of old hacker slang that had more negative connotations.

Cobweb Site - A World Wide Web Site that hasn't been updated for a long time. A dead web page.

It's a Feature - From the adage "It's not a bug, it's a feature." Used sarcastically to describe an unpleasant experience that you wish to gloss over.

Keyboard Plaque - The disgusting buildup of dirt and crud found on computer keyboards. "Are there any other terminals I can use? This one has a bad case of keyboard plaque."

Career-Limiting Move (CLM) - Used among microsersfs to describe an ill-advised activity. Trashing your boss while he or she is within earshot is a serious CLM.

Elvis Year - The peak year of something's popularity. "Barney the dinosaur's Elvis year was 1993."

Alpha Geek - The most knowledgeable, technically proficient person in an office or work group. "Ask Larry, he's the alpha geek around here."

Adminisphere - The rarified organizational layers beginning just above the rank and file. Decisions that fall from the adminisphere are often profoundly inappropriate or irrelevant to the problems they were designed to solve.

Tourists - People who are taking training classes just to get a vacation from their jobs. "We had about three serious students in the class; the rest were tourists."

Blowing Your Buffer - Losing one's train of thought. Occurs when the person you are speaking with won't let you get a word in edgewise or has just said something so astonishing that your train gets derailed. "Damn, I just blew my buffer!"

Gray Matter - Older, experienced business people hired by young entrepreneurial firms looking to appear more reputable and established.

Bookmark - To take note of a person for future reference (a metaphor borrowed from web browsers). "I bookmarked him after seeing his cool demo at Siggraph."

Nyetscape - Nickname for AOL's less-than-full-featured Web browser.

Beepilepsy - The brief seizure people sometimes suffer when their beepers go off, especially in vibrator mode. Characterized by physical spasms, goofy facial expressions, and stopping speech in mid-sentence.

Salmon Day - The experience of spending an entire day swimming upstream only to get screwed in the end.

How to cook a husband

A good many husbands are spoiled by mismanagement. Some women keep them constantly in hot water; others let them freeze by their carelessness and indifference. Some keep them in a stew by irritating ways and words.

It cannot be supposed that any husband will be tender and good managed this way, but they are really delicious when properly treated. In selecting your husband you should not be guided by the silvery appearance, as in buying mackerel, nor by the golden tint, as if you wanted salmon.

Be sure and select him yourself as tastes differ. Don't go to the market for him, as the best are always brought to your door. It is far better to have none unless you know how to cook him. A preserving kettle of finest porcelain is best, but if you have nothing but an earthenware pipkin, it will do with care. See that the linen in which you wrap him is nicely washed and mended, with the required number of strings nicely sewed on. Tie him in the kettle by a strong silk cord called comfort, as the one called duty is apt to be weak and they are apt to fly out of the kettle and be burned and crusty on the edges, since, like crabs and lobsters, you have to cook them alive.

Make a clear steady fire out of love, neatness and cheerfulness. Set him as near this as seems to agree with him. If he sputters and fizzes, do not be anxious; some husbands do this till they are quite done.

Add a little sugar in the form of what confectioners call kisses, but no vinegar or pepper in any account; a little spice improves them, but it must be used with judgment.

Do not stick any sharp instrument into him to see if he is becoming tender. Stir him gently; watch the while, lest he lie flat and too close to the kettle, and so become useless. You cannot fail to know when he is done.

If thus treated you will find him very digestible, agreeing nicely with you and the children, and he will keep as long as you want, unless you become careless and set him in too cold a place.

Seminars for women

The male staff will be offering courses to women of all marital status.

1. Avoiding Walking in Front of the TV
2. Doing Housework Without Complaining
3. Shopping: Buying What You Can Afford, Not What You Can Charge
4. Going to The Washroom Alone (formerly Coping Without My Friends)
5. Understanding the Male Response to "Do I Look OK?"
6. Exercise: How it Keeps You from Looking Like Your Mother
7. Sex: Learning How to Initiate
8. How to Apologize When You Are Obviously Wrong
9. Understanding the Male Response to "Am I Fat?"
10. Dishwashers: Rinsing Before Is Not a Must

11. The Toilet Seat: I Can Put It Down
12. Sex Thesaurus: Alternatives to "Make Love"
13. "The Weekend" and "Long Boring Walks" Are Not Synonymous
14. How to Go Shopping With Your Mate and Not Embarrass Him
15. The Remote Control: Don't Touch What You Can't Handle
16. You Too Can Be the One to Hang Up the Phone
17. Honest, You Don't Look Like Kim Bassinger -- But You're Acceptable
18. Hairspray: The Effects On The Ecosystem (formerly One Can Is Enough)
19. Runs In Your Nylons? It's Not the End of the World
20. Fishing: Being Able to Bait Your Own Hook
21. Sex: More Than Just Lying There
22. Learning to Choose What to Wear In Less Than Four Hours
23. Vacations: Doing Without 4 Suitcases
24. Makeup: The Less is More Theory
25. Nagging: Stop the Insanity!

What men really mean

I'm going fishing.	I'm going to drink myself dangerously stupid, and stand by a stream with a stick in my hand, while the fish swim by in complete safety.
Let's take your car.	Mine is full of beer cans, burger wrappers and completely out of gas.
Woman driver.	Someone who doesn't speed, tailgate, swear, make obscene gestures and has a better driving record than me.
I don't care what color you paint the kitchen.	As long as it's not blue, green, pink, red, yellow, lavender, gray, mauve, black, turquoise or any other color besides white.
It's a guy thing.	There is no rational thought pattern connected with it, and you have no chance at all of making it logical.
Can I help with dinner? Uh huh, Sure, honey, or Yes, dear. Good idea.	Why isn't it already on the table? Absolutely nothing. It's a conditioned response like Pavlov's dog drooling. It'll never work. And I'll spend the rest of the day gloating.
Have you lost weight?	I've just spent our last \$30 on a cordless drill.
My wife doesn't understand me.	She's heard all my stories before, and is tired of them.
It would take too long to explain.	I have no idea how it works.
I'm getting more exercise lately. I got a lot done. We're going to be late.	The batteries in the remote are dead. I found 'Waldo' in almost every picture. Now I have a legitimate excuse to drive like a maniac.
Hey, I've read all the classics.	I've been subscribing to Playboy since 1972.

You cook just like my mother
used to.
I was listening to you. It's just
that I have things on my mind.
Take a break, honey, you're
working too hard.
That's interesting, dear.
Honey, we don't need material
things to prove our love.
You expect too much of me.
It's a really good movie.

That's women's work.
Will you marry me?

Go ask your mother.
You know how bad my memory
is.

I was just thinking about you,
and got you these roses.
Football is a man's game.
Oh, don't fuss. I just cut myself,
it's no big deal.
I do help around the house.

Hey, I've got my reasons for
what I'm doing.
I can't find it.

What did I do this time?
What do you mean, you need
new clothes?
She's one of those rabid
feminists.
But I hate to go shopping.

No, I left plenty of gas in the
car.
I'm going to stop off for a quick
one with the guys.

I heard you.

She used the smoke detector as a meal
timer, too.
I was wondering if that red-head over there
is wearing a bra.
I can't hear the game over the vacuum
cleaner.
Are you still talking?
I forgot our anniversary again.

You want me to stay awake.
It's got guns, knives, fast cars, and Heather
Locklear.
It's difficult, dirty, and thankless.
Both my roommates have moved out, I
can't find the washer, and there is no more
peanut butter.
I am incapable of making a decision.
I remember the theme song to 'F Troop',
the address of the first girl I ever kissed and
the Vehicle Identification Numbers of every
car I've ever owned, but I forgot your
birthday.

The girl selling them on the corner was a
real babe.
Women are generally too smart to play it.
I have actually severed a limb, but will
bleed to death before I admit I'm hurt.
I once put a dirty towel in the laundry
basket.
And I sure hope I think of some pretty
soon.
It didn't fall into my outstretched hands, so
I'm completely clueless.
What did you catch me at?
You just bought new clothes 3 years ago.

She refused to make my coffee.

Because I always wind up outside the
dressing room holding your purse.
You may actually get it to start.

I am planning on drinking myself into a
vegetative stupor with my chest pounding,
mouth breathing, pre-evolutionary
companions.
I haven't the foggiest clue what you just
said, and am hoping desperately that I can
fake it well enough so that you don't spend
the next 3 days yelling at me.

You know I could never love anyone else.
You look terrific.

I brought you a present.

I missed you.

I'm not lost. I know exactly where we are.
We share the housework.
This relationship is getting too serious.
I recycle.

Of course I like it, honey, you look beautiful.
It sure snowed last night.

It's good beer.
I don't need to read the instructions.
I'll fix the garbage disposal later.
I'll take you to a fancy restaurant.
I broke up with her.

I am used to the way you yell at me, and realize it could be worse.

Oh, God, please don't try on one more outfit. I'm starving.

It was free ice scraper night at the ball game.

I can't find my sock drawer, the kids are hungry and we are out of toilet paper.
No one will ever see us alive again.

I make the messes, she cleans them up.
I like you more than my truck.

We could pay the rent with the money from my empties.

Oh, man, what have you done to yourself?

I suppose you're going to nag me about shoveling the walk now.

It was on sale.

I am perfectly capable of screwing it up without printed help.

If I wait long enough you'll get frustrated and buy a new one.

Someplace that doesn't have a drive-thru window.

She dumped me.

Engineers

A mechanical engineer, an electrical engineer, and a civil engineer argue over what kind of engineering God used when he created humans.

The mechanical says "God is a mechanical engineer. The human body is the most complicated machine ever built. Look at the skeleton and the interaction of bones in joints!"

The electrical engineer says "No way, God is an electrical engineer. The brain and nervous system alone is the greatest wiring job ever!"

The civil engineer says "Both of you are wrong. God is clearly a civil engineer. Who else would run a waste water treatment system through a recreation area?"

Forest Service complaints

- A small deer came into my camp and stole my bag of pickles. Is there a way I can get reimbursed? Escalators would help on steep uphill sections.
- Instead of a permit system or regulations, 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.
- Ban walking sticks in wilderness. Hikers that use walking sticks are more likely to chase animals.
- All the mile markers are missing this year.
- Found a smouldering 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.
- Reflectors need to be placed on trees every 50 feet so people can hike at night with flashlights.
- 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.

Parachute paradigm

You are one of two people on a malfunctioning airplane with only one parachute.

- Pessimist: you refuse the parachute because you might die in the jump anyway.
- Optimist: you refuse the parachute because people have survived jumps just like this before.
- Procrastinator: you play a game of Monopoly for the parachute.
- Bureaucrat: you order them to conduct a feasibility study on parachute use in multi-engine aircraft under code red conditions.
- Lawyer: you charge one parachute for helping them sue the airline.
- Doctor: you tell them you need to run more tests, then take the parachute in order to make your next appointment.
- Sales executive: you sell them the parachute at top retail rates and get the names of their friends and relatives who might like one too.
- Internal Revenue Service: you confiscate the parachute along with their luggage, wallet, and gold fillings.
- Advertiser: you strip-tease while singing that what they need is a neon parachute with computer altimeter for only \$39.99.
- Engineer: you make them another parachute out of aisle curtains and dental floss.

- Scientist: you give them the parachute and ask them to send you a report on how well it worked.
- Mathematician: you refuse to accept the parachute without proof that it will work in all cases.
- Philosophy: you ask how they know the parachute actually exists.
- English: you explicate simile and metaphor in the parachute instructions.
- Comparative Literature: you read the parachute instructions in all four languages.
- Computer Science: you design a machine capable of operating a parachute as well as a human being could.
- Economics: you plot a demand curve by asking them, at regular intervals, how much they would pay for a parachute.
- Psychoanalysis: you ask them what the shape of a parachute reminds them of.
- Drama: you tie them down so they can watch you develop the character of a person stuck on a falling plane without a parachute.
- Art: you hang the parachute on the wall and sign it.
- Republican: as you jump out with the parachute, you tell them to work hard and not expect handouts.
- Democrat: you ask them for a dollar to buy scissors so you can cut the parachute into two equal pieces.
- Libertarian: after reminding them of their constitutional right to have a parachute, you take it and jump out.
- Ross Perot: you tell them not to worry, since it won't take you long to learn how to fix a plane.
- Surgeon General: you issue a warning that skydiving can be hazardous to your health.
- Association of Tobacco Growers: you explain very patiently that despite a number of remarkable coincidences, studies have shown no link whatsoever between airplane crashes and death.
- National Rifle Association: you shoot them and take the parachute.
- Police Bigot: you beat them unconscious with the parachute.
- Environmentalist: you refuse to use the parachute unless it is biodegradable.
- Objectivist: your only rational and moral choice is to take the parachute, as the free market will take care of the other person.
- Branch Davidian: you get inside the parachute and refuse to come out.
- Sports Fan: you start betting on how long it will take to crash.
- Auto Mechanic: as long as you are looking at the plane engine, it works fine.

Road etiquette in Ireland

The Boreen

The boreen is a back-road one step up from a cowpath in engineering terms. In fact many boreens were just cowpaths with some gravel or tarmac thrown over it. For anyone unfamiliar with cows and their travelling habits, their directional habits are somewhat erratic. Much of the Irish road infrastructure is comprised of boreens, and carries all types of traffic. Unfortunately for the unprepared, the boreen is a very intimidating place. Many visitors have been known to abandon their cars, running and screaming through the fields. They have often have recurring nightmares for many

years afterwards and many need professional counselling. Most cars and trucks can go down them.. In one direction only. Be prepared to have much of your paintwork removed as you drive into the hedge to allow another car to pass. Progress is often impeded by larger trucks and tractors, where you must reverse until you find a gate or other spot where the road widens. Note: the larger vehicle *always* has the right of way! Two steps forward and one step back is the motto here.

Dual Carriageways and Motorways

Motorways in Ireland are a rather new phenomenon, and many motorists drive on them with some fear and bewilderment. Some are unsure of how to behave on them, probably because until very recently there was no mention of them in any rules of the road. Most however just treat them the same as dual carriageways. In the UK there are very clear rules about what you can and cannot do on a motorway, but these rules do not apply here. Parking on the hard shoulder is permitted. You may overtake in whichever lane has least traffic. When approaching a roundabout you may make every possible effort to get in front of the cars ahead before entering the roundabout. Dual carriageways on the other hand have been around for quite some time, but many motorists haven't grasped how to drive on them properly yet. Many do not realise that there is a differentiation between lanes, namely the inside lane is for faster vehicles overtaking. It is not uncommon to find yourself in the inside lane following a foul-smelling rustbucket going at 30mph, while the rest of the world is passing you on the outside at 70mph+. Changing lanes is simpler on motorways/dual carriageways. Simply look over your shoulder at the lane you wish to turn onto and if it is not occupied then move into it quickly. Make sure not to use your indicators, as explained below.

Overtaking

Overtaking is a complex process and involves much communication by the passer and passee. Firstly the passer indicates their intention to pass by driving as close to the person in front as possible. If the passee does not respond by pulling into the hard shoulder, the passer flashes their headlamps, further indicating his/her desire to pass. Oncoming traffic, corners or solid white lines are of no consequence - the only limiting factor is that the two cars can fit side by side on the tarmac between the wall/ditch and the oncoming traffic. Once the passee has pulled over, the passer can pass. If the passee has been courteous and pulled over in anticipation of being passed, the passer then flashes his/her hazard lights as a gesture of thanks. The passee can flash his/her headlamps in acknowledgement.

Parking

Hazard warning lights are used here too, to say that the owner is only gone for a minute and will move the illegally parked car shortly. Leaving the engine running indicates greater urgency and it is not uncommon to also leave the car door open, especially when the closing time for submitting Lotto (national lottery) payslips is approaching. Note: this is usually only suitable for rural towns, in Dublin, car thieves are very persistent and have even been known to fix totally banjaxed cars in order to steal them. In towns without traffic wardens it is customary to maximise the parking spaces by parking three, sometimes more, cars deep. This is known as double parking. When looking for a parking space, the procedure is to drive slowly (< 5mph) along the street you wish to park on. If no space is currently available, decrease your speed until you spot someone ahead leaving a parking space. Do not indicate when turning into a parking space - it is better to keep the drivers behind on their toes.

Indicators

Indicators are a special case in Ireland. They must not be used even under pain of death. If one feels you absolutely must use them, then it is appropriate to use them to signal past actions, not intent as is the norm in other countries. The vast majority of Irish motorists do not know how to indicate properly when going through a roundabout so they adhere to the rule of not using them. Please be courteous and do not confuse the drivers by indicating in a roundabout. Indicators should be preserved instead for the more important task as the hazard warning lights. See overtaking and parking on the correct usage of these.

Yellow Boxes

Yellow boxes are a series of criss-cross painted yellow lines on the road, usually near traffic lights etc. These indicate the correct place to stop while waiting at a red traffic light.

Traffic Lights

The sequence of lights is much the same as in other countries - red, yellow and green. However, these lights have different meanings here. Green is go as usual. Yellow means accelerate so you can get through before, or shortly after it turns red. Red means stop, unless you are a motorbike/bike courier turning left, in which case it's ok to 'sneak' into the flow of traffic.

Speed Limits

The maximum speed limits in Ireland are officially 60mph on main roads, 70mph on motorways and 30mph in towns. These limits are only useful when you think you are approaching a speed trap. Actual speed limits are determined by how fast you can go and keep the car on the road at the same time. Ireland has a community speed trap early warning system in operation. When a driver spots a speed trap, he/she flashes furiously at oncoming motorists for several miles past the speed trap. If several oncoming cars flash at you, and it's not a wedding, then there is probably a speed trap ahead so reduce your speed until you are out of range again. Recently, the Gardai have been issued with hand-held radar guns and hide behind lampposts so their cover is not blown. In truth the government issued several thousand empty cases that resemble a radar gun which saved a lot of money. Real radar guns are not needed since all cars drive in excess of the speed limit, so the Gardai just take their pick. A new scheme to increase the income of the low-paid Garda has been introduced whereby the traditional rigmarole of serving summons on those caught speeding are done away with. Instead there is now an option of paying £50 on the spot to the Garda hardship fund. This also serves as a commission system, whereby the more speeders caught means more income for the plod on the street.

Sidewalks

These are the paved bits at the side of the road. Mainly for use by pedestrians, but also used for such things as:

- Parking on
- Going the wrong way down a one way street, if on a motorbike. This is especially true of motorcycle couriers who think it's somehow more suitable to drive on the path in the wrong direction
- The dog equivalent of a litter tray.

Pedestrian Crossings

There are three types of pedestrian crossing in Ireland:

- The Pelican Crossing: the bit in front of the traffic lights which is also reserved for bikes and motorbikes waiting on a red traffic light.
- The Zebra Crossing: denoted by thick black and white stripes on the road plus a pair of yellow flashing globe-type lights at either side. More recently these lights have been augmented by high intensity, flashing orange lights to blind drivers approaching the crossing. Zebra crossings are generally used where the local council were unable to afford traffic lights for a pelican crossing.
- Everywhere else: Ireland does not have any jaywalking laws, so cross wherever and whenever you like! How could you give a jaywalking ticket to a sheep anyway?

Livestock

Once you have managed to leave the snarled-up traffic jam that is Dublin, major obstacles on the roads include animals of various descriptions. Due to the recent hardship of the farming community caused by reduced headage payments, more and more farmers are forced to graze their animals on the roadside hedges (see "Boreen"). Some parts of Ireland do not have ditches or fences to prevent animals from wandering onto the roadway. A bit like Australia, only a lot wetter and colder. Sheep have discovered that black objects absorb solar radiation better than say, white or green things. Hence you have these ribbons of warmth running through the bleak, windswept countryside providing comfort to the animals living there. Unfortunately to humans, these ribbons are known as "national routes". If your vehicle is not equipped with bullbars, expect extensive front bumper damage from sheep sleeping on roadways. Livestock on roadways are not only confined to the country, however. Many areas of Dublin have residents who are quite delusional, and believe it is possible to keep a fully grown horse as a household pet. Of course it is necessary to put these animals out to do their business occasionally, whereupon they head for the nearest dual carriageway to exercise.

Road Signs

A few notes about direction signs: These come in all shapes, sizes in colors. The original direction signs are black and white 'arrows' on striped poles. The unfortunate thing about these signs is that they are clamped to a round pole so they also double as a swing for drunken students returning home. Unfortunately for the motorist, these rarely point in the right direction because of this. The distance quoted on these are in miles. More recently, there are bigger aluminium black and white signs with two clamps, which make very bad swings, but better for motorists. These too are in miles. There are also white and green signs which come in several shapes and many sizes, but unlike the previous two signs, the placenames are sometimes in english only. Some patriotic vandals (yes, that is indeed a contradiction in terms - these people probably have "tomo" or "micko" tattooed to their forehead in case they forget their name) decided to spray-paint out the english version of the name. These signs are in kilometers, a well known Irish-developed system of measurement, so the distance isn't spray-painted out. On the new motorways, there are even newer blue signs, which thankfully haven't been vandalised. Yet.. Touristy signs with touristy information are camouflage-brown so that they blend in with the scenery in touristy spots. Unfortunately this make them almost impossible to see when driving along. In the last year or two there have been small yellow signs with cryptic codes placed at regular

intervals on national routes. There has been much speculation as to the purpose of these. They are of course waypoint markers for the alien invasion due on the 23rd November 1997 at a secret site in Co. Leitrim. Conversion between kilometers per decihour (the metric standard 10 hours per day) to imperial mph (not US statute miles, these are different again) is quite easy, simply multiply the value in Kmdh by $0.15E013$, divide by the gravitational constant plus the current distance from earth to uranus's third moon in milipicojoulefarads and you have your speed in mph. Your friendly petrol station attendant will be glad to show you how to do this, it gives them a chance to practice their junior cert remedial maths for which they are studying.

Road System Experiments

Ireland in recent years seems to have become a testing ground for bizzare road experiments of various types. Invariably these experiments are put into common use, being used for every imaginable application, whether it suits or not. Sometimes the roads authority have realized their mistakes, sometimes not. <p> The first major experiment to go badly wrong was the roundabout. The roads authority discovered that roundabouts were dead handy because they were cheaper than traffic lights or an overpass, didn't use electricity and gave the illusion that you were getting somewhere. The problem was that the road planners went berserk and put roundabouts everywhere. Maintaining a decent speed on a dual carriageway is hard when you have a roundabout every 100 meters.

Next there were the new sort of speed bumps - the kind you can drive over at speed without the car chassis breaking in two. These were fine, because it also had the added effect of waking up sleeping drivers before entering a roundabout. The problem with these is that the slower you go, the more noisy (and noticeable) they are. In turn, drivers have learned to drive over them faster to prevent damage to their suspension system. More recently these have been replaced by the more passive wide yellow stripes across the width of the roadway, now that the roads authority have learned the error of their ways.

The latest experiment to be conducted on the Irish guinea pig driver are a new sort of "speed control" when approaching a built up area. note: built up areas include villages with just two pubs and a shop. Firstly, they build about a hundred meters of sidewalk with a raised island between to squeeze the traffic into single file. At the entrance they put up several poles and assorted leftover signs which look like a bunch of spare signs dug out of the back of the corporation shed. Several signs with the village/town name are placed at the top projecting into the roadway, lest you forget the name of the place you are now cursing through clenched teeth. They also top the poles with zebra crossing style lights to trick the motorist into thinking there may be pedestrians crossing ahead. The centre island is fortified by a heavy-gauge steel pole to ensure that any overtakers in it's path are stopped rather abruptly. This particular menace is catching on quite well lately, especially since it is a lot cheaper than the badly-needed bypass it substitutes for, plus it satisfies the road authority's sadistic tendencies. These could be mistaken for border crossing barriers, the easy way to distinguish between them is that the speed controls don't have concrete bunkers beside them with machine guns pointing at you.

The Law and You

The general rule is: if you can do something without being seen by a Garda or don't crash into something, it's ok.

Things to do when you're bored

THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH ABSOLUTELY NOTHING

Push your eyes for interesting light show

(Amusement Potential: 1-5 minutes) See a variety of blobs, stars and flashes. Try to make out things-is your subconscious trying to send you a message? Can you control what you see by pressing different areas with different forces? Would it be possible to somehow see the same effects on TV?

See how long you can hold your breath

(Amusement Potential: 4-20 minutes) Not that much fun, but it sure passes the time. Play with a friend, or try to beat your own personal best. Some tips: hyperventilate before hand, and stay as still as possible. My personal best is 2:00 (exactly).

Try to not think about polar bears

(Amusement Potential: 1-5 minutes) This is especially hard, because by trying too much, you remember what you were trying to avoid thinking of. If you try too little, you end up thinking about polar bears anyway.

Scratch yourself

(Amusement Potential: 1-3 minutes) Go ahead, scratch yourself now. Even if nothing itches, go ahead. Doesn't that feel pretty good?

Hurt yourself

(Amusement Potential: 1-3 minutes) What is pain? Why is it unpleasant? There's nothing physical about it - it's all in your mind. Plus, after pinching yourself for awhile, boredom will seem nice next to being in pain.

Try to swallow your tongue

(Amusement Potential: 1-3 minutes) There's not much to say about this one. It is possible.

Look at something for awhile, shut eyes, study after image

(Amusement Potential: 2-5 minutes) Another great time waster. It takes about 30 seconds of staring to create an after image, and the image is then viewable for about the same length of time. Fun to combine this one with pushing on your eyes.

Get yourself as nauseated as possible

(Amusement Potential: 5-10 minutes) Best achieved by looking straight up and spinning around. Try to be so dizzy you can't even stand up. This is also entertaining due to the "makes boredom seem a lot better" effect (see "Hurt Yourself").

THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH VERY LITTLE

See what's in your neighbor's trash

(Amusement Potential: 20-30 minutes) You can learn a lot about people by what they throw out. You might uncover some dark secret about them. Plus, they might be throwing out something with value that still works, like a VCR.

Watch TV, repeat everything said in Italian accent

(Amusement Potential: 5-10 minutes) Sort of entertaining. Fun to pretend the people on the screen are actually talking that way.

Call up people who write editorials you disagree with

(Amusement Potential: 15-60 minutes) I'm surprised no one has thought of this before. Unleash your fury on the person who had the nerve to write a letter like that! I'm pretty sure it doesn't qualify as a prank phone call, too.

Make prank phone calls

(Amusement Potential: 20-60 minutes) *Very* entertaining, but requires discipline. Remember - vulgarities don't make a call funny, but getting the other person to believe a ridiculous story will. Even more fun if you get a bunch of people on the line using a Wonderphone and take turns making the calls. One to get you started off: Call McDonalds, try to make reservations.

Pretend all humans will die except for people in room with you

(Amusement Potential: 10-20 minutes) What would you do if this really happened? Would the group stay together, or would there be factions? Who would join what group? Remember, there would only be power for a few days before the plants ran out of fuel or broke. To travel, you would always have to be near cars to siphon gas out of. Best to do with people you know.

Step off a curb with eyes shut, imagine it's a cliff

(Amusement Potential: 2-5 minutes) To get any benefit out of this one, you have to have a good imagination. Don't step off immediately, build up to the jump. Study the ravine below. Feel the winds at that altitude. Step off and...AHHHHHH!!!!

Burn things with a magnifying glass

(Amusement Potential: 5-30 minutes) Ants are always fun to use for this, but burning the face of someone you don't like, under some circumstances, can be just as entertaining.

THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH ANOTHER PERSON

Have a water drinking contest

(Amusement Potential: 5-10 minutes) While the competition is fun, you probably won't feel too good afterward. To give your event an old western theme, slam the cups upside down on the tables after you have emptied them.

Stare at the back of someone's head until they turn around

(Amusement Potential: 2-5 minutes) This works on the "I have the feeling I'm being watched" principle. Conduct an experiment-does this really work?

Have a "Who is less competitive" competition

(Amusement Potential: 1-3 minutes) Trying to win at this will make you lose. Trying to lose makes you win which makes you lose. Not trying at all makes you lose which makes you win which makes you lose.

Pick up a dog so it can see things from *your* point of view

(Amusement Potential: 3-5 minutes) Think about it: your dog has only seen the house from a viewpoint from 6" to 2' high (15 to 60 cm for all you metric fans). It's never seen the tops of counters, what you keep on your desk, the tops of shelves, etc. Try looking at things from its point of view, too.

Pull out a hair, stick in someone's ear

(Amusement Potential: 1-5 minutes) Best done to sleeping people. Added challenge in having no one else around, because then you can't blame it on anyone else. Try to beat your record number of times before the person catches on.

Pour water in hand, make sneeze noise, throw water on back of person's neck

(Amusement Potential: 5-15 minutes) Always a good gag. For an even bigger reaction out of the person, act like you're not sorry at all for what they think you did. Comment instead on how big that sneeze was or about how there was a lot of mucus in that one.

David Coleman quotes

- That's the fastest time ever run - but it's not as fast as the world record.
- Don't tell those coming in the final result of that fantastic match, but let's just have another look at Italy's winning goal.
- For those of you watching who do not have television sets, live commentary is on Radio 2.
- This is a truly international field, no Britons involved.
- Both of the Villa scorers - Withe and Mortimer - were born in Liverpool as was the Villa manager Ron Saunders who was born in Birkenhead.
- He's 31 this year - last year he was 30.
- He won the bronze medal in the 1976 Olympics so he's used to being out in front.
- We estimate, and this isn't an estimation, that Greta Waltz is 80 seconds behind.
- Linford Christie's got a habit of pulling it out when it matters most.
- The late start is due to the time.
- He's got his hands on his knees and holds his head in despair.
- He's even smaller in real life than he is on the track.
- This could be a repeat of what will happen in the European games next week.
- It's a battle with himself and with the ticking fingers of the clock.
- Here are some names to look forward to - perhaps in the future.
- In the Moscow Olympics Lasse Viren came in fifth and ran a champions race.
- He just can't believe what's not happening to him.
- One of the great unknown champions because very little is known about him.
- There'll be only one winner now - in every sense.
- He is accelerating all the time. The last lap was run in 64 seconds and the one before that in 62.
- The big Cuban opened his legs and showed his class.
- (At the velodrome) The front wheel crosses the fininsh line, closely followed by the back wheel.

Mommy, what is the definition of...

Amnesia	What did you just ask me?
Apathy	I don't care.
Bigotry	I'm not going to tell someone like you.
Damnation	Go to hell!
Dyslexia	Beeing Sackwards.
Egotistical	I'm the best person to answer that question.
Evasive	Go do your homework.

Flatulent	That question really stinks!
Hostility	If you ask me just one more question, I'll kill you!
Ignorance	I don't know.
Indifference	It doesn't matter.
Influenza	You've got to be sick to ask me that question.
Insomnia	I stayed awake all last night thinking of the answer.
Irreverant	I swear to God, you ask too many questions!
Masturbation	Your father can handle that question.
Narcissism	Before I answer, tell me, don't I look great?
Over-Protective	I don't know if you're ready for the answer.
Paranoid	You probably think I don't know the answer, do you?
Procrastination	I'll tell you tommorow.
Repetitive	I already told you the answer once.before.
Self-Centered	Well, I know the answer, that's all that matters.
Suspicious	Why are you asking me all these questions?

How to be annoying

- Adjust the tint on your tv so that all the people are green, and insist to others that you “like it that way”.
- Drum on every available surface.
- Staple papers in the middle of the page.
- Ask 0800 operators for dates.
- Produce a rental video consisting entirely of dire copy warnings and Simon Bates “Whenever you rent or buy a video...” bits
- Hide dairy products in inaccessible places.
- Write the surprise ending to a novel on its first page.
- Specify that your drive-through order is “to go”.
- Set alarms for random times.
- Learn Morse code, and have conversations with friends in public consisting entirely of “Beeeee Bip Bip Beeeee Bip...”
- Buy large quantities of mint dental floss just to lick the flavor off.
- Order a side of pork rinds with your filet mignon.
- Leave your Nine Inch Nails tape in Great Uncle Ed's stereo, with the volume properly adjusted.
- Publicly investigate just how slowly you can make a “croaking” noise.
- Dress only in clothes colored Hunter's Orange.
- Change channels five minutes before the end of every show.
- Tape pieces of “The Grumbleweeds” over climactic parts of rental movies.
- Wear your trousers backwards.
- Decline to be seated at a restaurant, and simply eat their complementary mints by the cash register.
- Begin all your sentences with “ooh la la!”
- Leave someones printer in compressed-italic-cyrillic-landscape mode. (Please note: Dot Matrix printers only.)
- ONLY TYPE IN UPPERCASE.
- only type in lowercase.

- dont use any punctuation either
- Buy a large quantity of orange traffic cones and reroute whole streets.
- Pay for your dinner with pennies.
- Repeat everything someone says, as a question.
- Write “X - BURIED TREASURE” in random spots on all of someone's roadmaps.
- Inform everyone you meet of your personal Kennedy assassination/UFO/ OJ Simpson conspiracy theories.
- Repeat the following conversation a dozen times: “Do you hear that?” “What?” “Never mind, it's gone now.”
- Light road flares on a birthday cake.
- Wander around the restaurant, asking other diners for their parsley.
- Leave tips in Bolivian currency.
- Demand that everyone address you as “Conquistador”.
- Push all the flat Lego pieces together tightly.
- At the laundromat, use one dryer for each of your socks.
- When Christmas carolling, sing “Jingle Bells, Batman smells” until physically restrained.
- Wear a cape that says “Magnificent One”.
- As much as possible, skip rather than walk.
- Stand over someone's shoulder, mumbling, as they read.
- Finish the 99 green bottles song.
- Sing the “This is the song that never ends...” song.
- Leave your indicator on for fifty miles.
- Pretend your mouse is a CB radio, and talk to it.
- Try playing the William Tell Overture by tapping on the bottom of your chin. When nearly done, announce “no, wait, I messed it up”, and repeat.
- Name your dog “Dog”.
- Inform others that they exist only in your imagination.
- Ask people what gender they are.
- Reply to everything someone says with “that's what YOU think.”
- Lick the filling out of all the jammy Dodgers, and place the biscuit parts back in the tray.
- Cultivate a Norwegian accent. If Norwegian, affect a Southern Drawl.
- Forget the punchline to a long joke, but assure the listener it was a “good one”.
- Routinely handcuff yourself to furniture, informing the curious that you don't want to fall off “in case the big one comes”.
- Follow a few paces behind someone, spraying everything they touch with a can of Glade Air Freshener.
- Deliberately hum songs that will remain lodged in co-workers' brains,
- While making presentations, occasionally bob your head like a parakeet.
- Lie obviously about trivial things such as the time of day.
- Make beeping noises when a large person backs up.
- Leave your Christmas lights up and lit until September.
- Change your name to John Aaaaasmith for the great glory of being first in the phone book. Claim it's a Hawaiian name, and demand that people pronounce each A.
- Sit in your front yard pointing a hair dryer at passing cars to see if they slow down.
- Invent nonsense computer jargon in conversations, and see if people play along to avoid the appearance of ignorance.

- Wear a LOT of cologne.
- Ask to “interface” with someone.
- Listen to 33rpm records at 45rpm speed, and claim the faster speed is necessary because of your “superior mental processing”.
- Sing along at the opera.
- Mow your lawn with scissors.
- At a golf tournament, chant “swing-batatatatata-suhWING-batter!”
- Finish all your sentences with the words “in accordance with prophesy”.
- Ask the waitress for an extra seat for your “imaginary friend”.
- Go to a poetry recital and ask why each poem doesn't rhyme.
- Ask your co-workers mysterious questions, and scribble their answers in a notebook. Mutter something about “psychological profiles”.
- Incessantly recite annoying phrases, such as “sticky wicket isn't cricket.” Hmmm Geoff Boycott?
- Stare at static on the tv and claim you can see a “magic picture”.
- Select the same song on the jukebox fifty times.
- Scuff your feet on a dry, shaggy carpet and seek out victims.
- Do not add any inflection to the end of your sentences, producing awkward silences with the impression that you'll be saying more any moment.
- Never make eye contact.
- Never break eye contact.
- Signal that a conversation is over by clamping your hands over your ears.
- Construct elaborate “crop circles” in your front lawn.
- Construct your own pretend “tricorder”, and “scan” people with it, announcing the results.
- Give a play-by-play account of a person's every action in an annoying John Motson or Jimmy Hill voice.
- Holler random numbers while someone is counting.
- Make appointments for the 31st of September.
- Invite lots of people to other people's parties.
- Send fifty copies of this list to everyone you know.

Famous last words

- I think it said connect the brown wire to the negative terminal.
- Just throw me that meat cleaver, would you?
- Pick up those 32 empty lager cans, you lout!
- No, darling! I'm sure they drive on the left over here in France.
- Happy Ides of March, Brutus.
- Actually, there's a knack to opening these supersonic aeroplane windows.
- You sure this firework's dead?
- I rather fancy this cheese with the green mould on it.
- You will take a cheque, won't you cabbie?
- Come outside and say that, Tyson.
- Patchy fog? On this road! Don't make me la...
- Fancy a quick snifter before we leave Saudi?

- Of coursh I'm frit to dive.
- Who's a nice sweet cooch-woochy little lion, then?
- It says: Achtung! Minefield. That's German for 'Welcome to Munich' isn't it?
- We'll be safe enough on this motorway if we just follow that travelling salesman's Sierra.
- See a doctor? Just for a ruptured aorta and a couple of dozen black suppurating pustules?!
- That's strange; you don't usually see many American planes over this part of Hiroshima, do you?
- Whoops! Did I spill your scotch, McTavish?
- These nuclear plants look lovely when they begin to glow like that, don't they?
- Good Lord! It's not often a black cat causes you to break a mirror by crossing your path while you're walking under a ladder on Friday 13th, is it?
- Humpty Dumpty may sound like the name of a plonker, but I know a safe wall when I see one.
- The trick with a charging rhino is to stand perfectly still.
- Two front berths on the Titanic please.
- It's OK; the gay guy with the boils just lent me his hypodermic needle.
- Give this juggernaut driver the 'V' sign while we're overtaking him, would you, darling?
- Well, here we are on the world's largesd hydrogen airship: this call for a cigarette.
- Coo-er! Wait until I tell the missus I crashed in to a car with a MAF-1 number plate!
- Pass me a hanky; I'm going to wipe the foam off that dog's mouth.
- So, this is Beirut.

The Dark Computer

The Dark Computer is a technological breakthrough destined to eclipse the recently announced Light computer. The Dark Computer results from years of study, research and developments in the dark. It is faster than the light computer because dark travels faster than light. (Proof: Before light bets anywhere dark is already there!)

The Dark Computer uses the newly discovered subatomic particle, the dark quark. Our research has determined that two dark quarks combine to form the basic elementary particle of darkness, the offon. Three dark quarks combine to form the elementary particle of management, the moron.

The Dark Computer requires very little power, so little, in fact that it is completely powered by a single lunar cell (similar to the solar cell, but more efficient in dark conditions).

A complete bundled software package, developed at the Arizona University of Mimes Night School, comes with each Dark Computer. The software includes DOS (Dark Operating System), Lunar-C (a quick & dirty C compiler), Duskbase-V (an irrational database), and NADA (an object oriented programming language). Some of the special hardware features of the Dark Computer are:

- Multiple shift registers for right-shift, left-shift, and night-shift.

- One biggabyte of memory composed entirely of shadow RAM with fully dissociative outta cache.
- Music Synthesizers with demonstration tunes such as Moonlight Sonata, Dark Eyes, and In the still of the Night (which is not a hillbilly song)
- Surreal-time Clock with granularity of 28 days (known as 1 lunar tick).
- A display composed of one million (1000x1000) DEDs (Dark Emitting Diodes). These are similar to LEDs (Light Emitting Diodes) in the same way that electron-flow theory resembles hole-flow theory.

The MLB Dark Computer is especially useful for such applications as black hole research, dark side of the forces commutations, blindfold tests, vampire tracking, and mushroom management. Military applications include SDI, Stealth Research, and RFP generation. The Dark Computer is powerful enough to handle computations on matter, anti-matter, and doesn't matter.

Don't be left in the light! Get a Dark Computer for your company and keep all your employees in the dark!

You've been on the computer too long

- When asked about a bus schedule, you wonder if it is 16 or 32 bits.
- When you are counting objects, you go "0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,A,B,C,D..."
- When you dream in 256 pallettes of 256 colors.
- When your wife says "If you don't turn off that damn machine and come to bed, then I am going to divorce you!", and you chastise her for omitting the "else" clause.
- You try to sleep, and think `sleep(8 * 3600); /* sleep for 8 hours /`
- When you are reading a book and look for the scroll bar to get to the next page.
- When after fooling around all day with routers etc, you pick up the phone and start dialling an IP number...
- When not only do you check your email more often than your paper mail, but you remember your {network address} faster than your postal one.
- When you look for a icon to double-click to open your bedroom window.
- When you go to balance your checkbook and discover that you're doing the math in octal.
- When you look for a trash can icon for throwing garbage.
- When you get in the elevator and double-click the button for the floor you want.

Catspeak

Catspeak	English
Miaow	Feed me.
Meeow	Pet me.
Mrooww	I love you.
Miioo-oo-oo	I am in love and must meet my betrothed outside beneath the hedge. Don't wait up.

Mrow	I feel like making noise.
Rrrow-mawww	Please, the time has come to tidy the litter box
Rrrow-miawww	I have remedied the cat box untidiness by shoveling the contents as far out of the box as was practical.
Miaowmiaow	Play with me
Miaowmioaw	Have you noticed the shortage of available cat toys in this room?
Mioawmioaw	Since I can find nothing better to play with, I shall see what happens when I sharpen my claws on this handy piece of furniture
Raowwwww	I think I shall now spend time licking the most private parts of my anatomy.
Mrowwwww	I am now recalling, with sorrow, that some of my private parts did not return with me from that visit to the vet.
Roww-maww-roww	I am so glad to see that you have returned home with both arms full of groceries. I will now rub myself against your legs and attempt to trip you as you walk towards the kitchen.
Gakk-ak-ak	My digestive passages seem to have formed a hairball. Wherever could this have come from? I shall leave it here upon the carpeting.
Mow	Snuggling is a good idea.
Moww	Shedding is pretty good too
Mowww!	I was enjoying snuggling and shedding in the warm clean laundry until you removed me so unkindly.
Miaow! Miaow!	I have discovered that, although one may be able to wedge his body through the gap behind the stove and into that little drawer filled with pots and pans, the reverse path is slightly more difficult to navigate.
Mraakk!	Oh, small bird! Please come over here.
SsssRoww!	I believe that I have found a woodchuck or similar animal.
Mmmrowmmm	It is certain that the best tasting fish is one you have caught yourself.
Mmmmmmm	If I sit in the sunshine for another hour or so, I think I shall be satisfied.
Mreoaw	Please ask room service to send up another can of tuna fish.
Mreeeow	Do you serve catnip with that?
Mroow	I have forced my body into a tiny space in order to look cute. How am I doing?
Miaooww!	Since you are using the can opener, I am certain that you understand the value of a well-fed and pampered cat.
Mriaow!	Please continue.

Ways to say that you are leaving

Make like...

80% of live births and head out.
a bad map and get lost.
a bald man and be outta hair.
a banana and split.
a bank robber and get away.
a bee and buzz off.
a chord and get lost (the Lost Chord)
a donkey herder and move your ass.
a drum and beat it.
a hairstyle and part.
a hat and go on ahead.
a horse and hit the trail.
a jet and take off.
a mirage and fade out of here.
a network and disconnect.
a nose and run.
a nut and bolt.
a nylon and run.
a snail and leave a trail.
a surrealist and fill a bath with orange juice.

a tomato and ketchup.
a train and leave tracks.
an amoeba and split.
an atom and split.
an egg and beat it.
an envelope and get stuffed!!
an ice cube and melt.
an insect and fly.
bacon and eggsit.
Christopher Columbus and shove off.
deodorant and roll on.
Donald and duck.
Houdini and disappear.
Jaques Cустeau and blow this dive.
Little Bo Peep's sheep and get lost.
Santa Claus and leave their presents.
smoke and dissipate.
the dew and evaporate.
the Sahara and desert.
Van and Gogh.

Various insults

- A little knowledge is a dangerous thing; you are the most dangerous person I know...
- Any similarity between him and a human being is purely coincidental.
- Don't bother with a CAT scan, your brain wouldn't even fill one pixel.
- Don't you have a terribly empty feeling, in your skull?
- Ever since I saw you in your family tree, I've wanted to cut it down.
- Excuse me for interrupting, but my foot seems to have fallen asleep. Do you mind if I join it?
- From the moment I picked up your book to the moment I set it down I was in hysterics. Some day I intend to read it.
- I admire you because I've never had the courage it takes to be a liar, a thief, and a cheat.
- I guess you prove that even god makes mistakes sometimes.
- I hear that when you were a child, your mother wanted to hire someone to take care of you, but the Mafia wanted too much.
- I hear the only place you're ever invited is outside.
- I never forget a face, but in your case I'll make an exception.
- I see that you weren't fully debugged before release.
- I think you should live for the moment. But after that I doubt I'll think so.

- I'm looking forward to the pleasure of your company since I haven't had it yet.
- I've had a great evening, but this wasn't it.
- If brains were quarks, you wouldn't have enough to make a neutron.
- If you could put your fingers in your ears, it might stop all of that hot air from coming out of your mouth!
- It's better to sit there quietly and let people think that your stupid, then to open your mouth and prove it.
- May your hair never turn gray, so everyone thinks you dye it.
- May your life be like a fairy tale. May you be eaten by a wolf.
- Well, I'll see you in my dreams, if I eat too much.
- When I want your opinion, I'll give it to you.
- You are the Sinclair ZX80 of human beings.
- You aren't even as bright as an LED.
- You got a very striking face. How many times have you been struck there?
- Your brain needs a good garbage-collection algorithm.

Various excuses

I'd love to but...

- I changed the lock on my door and now I can't get out.
- I did my own thing and now I've got to undo it.
- I have some real hard words to look up in the dictionary.
- I have to bleach my hare.
- I have to check the freshness dates on my dairy products.
- I have to fluff my shower cap.
- I have to fulfill my potential.
- I have to jog my memory.
- I have to pick the lint out of my belly button.
- I have to rotate my crops.
- I have to stay home and see if I snore.
- I have to study for a blood test.
- I have to thaw some karate chops for dinner.
- I just picked up a book called "Glue in Many Lands" and I can't put it down.
- I left my body in my other clothes.
- I need to spend some "quality time" with my plants.
- I never go out on days that end in "Y."
- I prefer to remain an enigma.
- I promised to help a friend fold road maps.
- I want to spend more time with my blender.
- I was going to sort my paperclips.
- I'm converting my calendar watch from Julian to Gregorian.
- I'm doing door-to-door collecting for static cling.
- I'm getting my overalls overhauled.
- I'm giving nuisance lessons at a convenience store.
- I'm going to count the bristles in my toothbrush.

- I'm going to the Missing Persons Bureau to see if anyone is looking for me.
- I'm having a conflict of interest with my alter ego.
- I'm in training to be a household pest.
- I'm making a home movie called "The Thing That Grew in My Refrigerator."
- I'm observing National Apathy Week.
- I'm sandblasting my oven.
- I'm staying home to work on my cottage cheese sculpture.
- I'm teaching my ferret to yodel.
- I'm uncomfortable when I'm alone or with others.
- I've come down with a really horrible case of something or other.
- it's too close to the turn of the century.
- my crayons all melted together.
- my favorite commercial is on TV.
- my patent is pending.
- my plot to take over the world is thickening.
- my subconscious says no.
- my yucca plant is feeling yucky.
- none of my socks match.
- the grunion are running.
- the last time I went, I never came back.
- the man on television told me to say tuned.
- there is a pressing desire to clip my toenails.

Palindromes

- A dog! A panic in a pagoda!
- A dog, a plan, a canal: pagoda.
- A Fool, A Tool, A Pool; Loopalootaloofa!
- A man, a plan, a canoe, pasta, hero's, rajahs, a coloratura, maps, snipe, percale, macaroni, a gag, a banana bag, a tan, a tag, a banana bag again, or a camel, a crepe, pins, spam, a rut, a Rolo, cash, a jar, sore hats, a peon, a canal, Panama!
- A man, a plan, a caret, a ban, a myriad, a sum, a lac, a liar, a hoop, a pint, a catalpa, a gas, an oil, a bird, a yell, a vat, a caw, a pax, a wag, a tax, a nay, a ram, a cap, a yam, a gay, a tsar, a wall, a car, a luger, a ward, a bin, a woman, a vassal, a wolf, a tuna, a nit, a pall, a fret, a watt, a bay, a daub, a tan, a cab, a datum, a gall, a hat, a fag, a zap, a say, a jaw, a lay, a wet, a gallop, a tug, a trot, a trap, a tram, a torr, a caper, a top, a tonk, a toll, a ball, a fair, a sax, a minim, a tenor, a bass, a passer, a capital, a rut, an amen, a ted, a cabal, a tang, a sun, an ass, a maw, a sag, a jam, a dam, a sub, a salt, an axon, a sail, an ad, a wadi, a radian, a room, a rood, a rip, a tad, a pariah, a revel, a reel, a reed, a pool, a plug, a pin, a peek, a parabola, a dog, a pat, a cud, a nu, a fan, a pal, a rum, a nod, an eta, a lag, an eel, a batik, a mug, a mot, a nap, a maxim, a mood, a leek, a grub, a gob, a gel, a drab, a citadel, a total, a cedar, a tap, a gag, a rat, a manor, a bar, a gal, a cola, a pap, a yaw, a tab, a raj, a gab, a nag, a pagan, a bag, a jar, a bat, a way, a papa, a local, a gar, a baron, a mat, a rag, a gap, a tar, a decal, a tot, a led, a tic, a bard, a leg, a bog, a burg, a keel, a doom, a mix, a map, an atom, a gum, a kit, a baleen, a gala, a ten, a don, a mural, a pan, a faun, a ducat, a pagoda, a lob, a rap, a keep, a nip, a gulp, a loop, a deer, a leer, a lever, a

hair, a pad, a tapir, a door, a moor, an aid, a raid, a wad, an alias, an ox, an atlas, a bus, a madam, a jag, a saw, a mass, an anus, a gnat, a lab, a cadet, an em, a natural, a tip, a caress, a pass, a baronet, a minimax, a sari, a fall, a ballot, a knot, a pot, a rep, a carrot, a mart, a part, a tort, a gut, a poll, a gateway, a law, a jay, a sap, a zag, a fat, a hall, a gamut, a dab, a can, a tabu, a day, a batt, a waterfall, a patina, a nut, a flow, a lass, a van, a mow, a nib, a draw, a regular, a call, a war, a stay, a gam, a yap, a cam, a ray, an ax, a tag, a wax, a paw, a cat, a valley, a drib, a lion, a saga, a plat, a catnip, a pooh, a rail, a calamus, a dairyman, a bater, a canal; Panama.

- A Toyota! Race fast, safe car. A Toyota
- Cain: A maniac!
- Gnu dung.
- God lived as a devil dog.
- I roamed under it as a tired, nude Maori.
- Dennis, Nell, Edna, Leon, Nedra, Anita, Rolf, Nora, Alice, Carol, Leo, Jane, Reed, Dena, Dale, Basil, Rae, Penny, Lana, Dave, Denny, Lena, Ida, Bernadette, Ben, Ray, Lila, Nina, Jo, Ira, Mara, Sara, Mario, Jan, Ina, Lily, Arne, Bette, Dan, Reba, Diane, Lynn, Ed, Eva, Dana, Lynne, Pearl, Isabel, Ada, Ned, Dee, Rena, Joel, Lora, Cecil, Aaron, Flora, Tina, Arden, Noel, and Ellen sinned.
- Drat! Such custard!

Flee to me, remote elf, Sal a dewan desired;
 Now is a Late-Petal Era.
 We fade: lucid Iris, red Rose of Sharon;
 Goldenrod a silly ram ate.
 Wan olives teem (ah, Satan lives!);
 A star eyes pale Roses.
 Revel, big elf on a mayonnaise man,
 A tinsel baton-dragging nice elf too.
 Lisp, Oh Sibyl, dragging Nola along;
 Niggardly bishops i loot.
 Fleecing niggard notables Nita names,
 I annoy a Man of Legible Verse.
 So relapse, ye rats,
 As evil Natasha meets Evil
 On a wet, amaryllis-adorned log.
 Norah's foes' orders (I ridiculed a few) are late, pet.
 Alas, I wonder! Is Edna wed?
 Alas, flee to me, remote elf.

Ways to talk about the cold weather

It is so cold...

- a penguin was singing outside my window.
- even my soft water was hard.
- even the fire of our candles froze.
- even the polar bears were heading south.
- even the sun has icicles hanging from it.

- even the world leaders couldn't get into a heated argument.
- I had to go up and break the smoke off the chimney.
- I had to jump start my wife/husband.
- I had two feet of ice in my bed...my wife's.
- I put the meat in the freezer to defrost.
- I saw a dog stuck to a fire hydrant.
- I saw a lawyer with his hands in his own pockets for once.
- I saw the Statue Of Liberty holding her torch up her dress.
- my false teeth chattered, and they weren't even in my mouth.
- our snowman begged us not to leave him out another night.
- the antifreeze froze.
- the cows are producing ice cream.
- when I went out, my shadow froze to the sidewalk.
- when police saw a robbery suspect, they said 'freeze' and he did.
- when we were talking, the words froze, so we had to microwave them in order to find out what the other person was saying.

Late arrivals at the ball...

The BBC Ball

- Will you welcome Mr & Mrs Questions, and their daughter, Annie Questions.
- Mr & Mrs Clock-News, and their daughter, Nina Clock-News.
- All the way from Israel, Mr & Mrs Ook-at-Bedtime, and their grandson, Abe Ook-at-Bedtime.
- Mr & Mrs Swirled, and their daughter, Tamara Swirled.
- Oh, there's Freddie Night-is-Music-Night!
- Here's Mr & Mrs Britain, and their son, Brian F. Britain, their daughter, Ronda Britain Quiz, their illegitimate son, Master Mind, and their Israeli friend, Topol de Form.
- Get ready to cheer Mr & Mrs Ory, and their hermaphrodite child, Jack Anne Ory.
- There's the Hertz family, with their daughters, Killa and Megga.
- Oh, I hear the drunken viking, Lars Of-the-Summer-Wine.
- Mr & Mrs Tin, and their aggressive son, News "Bully" Tin.
- Look, there's Ann Ouncer!!
- Well, ladies and gentlemen, this is where we come to the end. Mr & Mrs Sorry-I-Haven't-A-Clue, and their Israeli son, Hyam Sorry-I-Haven't-A-Clue.

The Musicians' Ball

- Will you welcome, please, Bill Oddie, and his son, Mel Oddie.
- From Sweden, Mr & Mrs Night-of-the-Proms, and their son, Lars Night-of-the-Proms.
- Will you welcome, Mr & Mrs Tone, and their son, Barry Tone, and his man Dolin, who's a bit of a liar.
- Will you greet the arrival of Mr & Mrs Harmonic Orchestra, and their son, Phil Harmonic Orchestra.
- And Albert Hall.
- Mr & Mrs Uendo, and their stupid son, dim Ian Uendo.

- That music revolutionary, Che Mber Music.
- Please welcome Mr and Mrs Bourne and their son, Glyn accompanied by the Rgt Hon Lord and Lady Operahouse and their son Sidney.
- Senor & Senora Pani and their son Tim with his fiance Clara Nette
- Lord and Lady Bayes-Drumm and their nephews, Lords Bayes-Ghittar and Dubble-Bayes
- Mr and Mrs Ollo and their son Pik.
- All the way from Ireland, Mr and Mrs O'Lin and their lovely daughter, Vi.
- The Quaver family and their precious offspring hemi, demi, semi
- There is Clara Nette's sister Casta.
- We have the lovely Mrs Bone, and her secret lover Tom.
- Mr. & Mrs Sichord, and their mute son, Harpo.
- Mr & Mrs Ayegeestring, and their son Earon
- And will you welcome Mr & Mrs Ube, and their pornographer son, the blue Dan Ube.
- And finally, welcome from Ireland, the O'Lyns, and their daughter, Vi O'Lyn.

The Vicars' Ball

- Welcome to Mr & Mrs Collar, and their son, Doug Collar.
- Also here tonight is the Rt. Hon. Charles Ismaeshepherd, and his father, the Lord Ismaeshepherd.
- Mr & Mrs Nod, and their son, Si Nod.
- A strange couple from the church: an abbot and a beadle, who've formed an unholy alliance to produce Beadle's Abbot.
- Will you also greet Jenny Fleckt, Dai O'Sease, and Ann Glican-Church.
- Cabaret time: A parade of knickerless parsons. They're all standing in a line, they'll get a queue-rate! Good job, I brought my rev counter.
- Mr & Mrs Meek, and their saintly son, blessed Arthur Meek.
- Also, Mr & Mrs Ation-of-the-Magi, and their son, Theodore Ation-of-the-Magi.
- Stand and greet Mr & Mrs Rendeth-the-lesson, and their son, Andy Rendeth-the-lesson.
- And finally, Mr & Mrs Ment, and their newt Esther Ment.

The Drunks' Ball

- Welcome Mr & Mrs Tasanute, and their son, Piers Tasanute.
- Oh, there's Mr & Mrs Notheroneplease, and their son, Oliver Notheroneplease.
- All the way from South America, Mr & Mrs Over-the-Eight, and their son, Juan Over-the-Eight.
- Oh dear, there's Duncan Disorderly with Wild Bill Hiccup.
- Mr & Mrs Tonic, and their daughter, Jean Ann Tonic.
- Please welcome Arthur Bitter, and his daughter mild Ann Bitter.
- Those enthusiastic clairvoyants, Mr & Mrs Dry Sherry, and their medium Dry Sherry.
- Camp, arry and his caustic friend, dry Ginger.
- All the way from Scotland, Angus Dura Bitters.
- From Sweden, Mr & Mrs Tortoise, and their son, Lars Tortoise.
- Mr & Mrs Policello, and their daughter, Val Policello.
- And finally, Sir Osis-of-the-liver.

The Criminals' Ball

- Please welcome Mr & Mrs Harm, and their Greek singer son, Grivas Bo Diddley Harm.
- Oh there's Ma Kurst, and her husband, Pa Kurst.
- And there's Mal Practice.
- All the way from Australia, welcome, Mr & Mrs Krobberry, and their son, Ben Krobberry.
- Mr & Mrs Cused and their daughter, Thea Cused.
- All the way from Sweden, Mr & Mrs Eny, and their son, Lars Eny.
- Mr & Mrs Ness, and their amusing son, Wit Ness.
- And in the corner, Mr & Mrs Decent-Exposure, and their son, Ian Decent-Exposure.
- Just arriving are Mr & Mrs Curity-Wing, and their daughter, Topsy Curity-Wing.
- And finally, Mr & Mrs Meanour, and their foul daughter, Diana, who is known as the foul Miss D. Meanour.

The Policeman's Ball

- Mr and Mrs Tective and their daughter Dee Tective.
- And all the way from the Middle East, Mr and Mrs Robbery and their son, Ahmed Robbery.
- From Israel, Mrs and Mrs Prisonment and their son, Lyfim Prisonment.
- And from France, Mr and Mrs Twentyfore and their son, Pier Twentyfore.
- Mrs and Mrs Witch and their son, Jameson Witch.
- Mr and Mrs Light and their daughter B. Lou Light.
- And please welcome Mr and Mrs Peed and their son, X. S. Peed.
- Mr and Mrs Disorderly and their son, Duncan Disorderly.
- Mr and Mrs Banks and their son Robin Banks.
- Mr and Mrs Crash and their son, Carl Crash.
- Now from Stockholm, Mr and Mrs Senny and their son, Lars Senny.
- Mr and Mrs Talaccident and their daughter Fay Talaccident.
- From Rumania, Mr and Mrs Galdrug and their son, Illy Galdrug.
- And from New York, Mr and Mrs Yaitch and their son, Abe Yaitch.
- Mr and Mrs Ticket and their Royal Pa, King Ticket.
- Now from Wales, Mr and Mrs Quarden and their son, Trefor Quarden.
- The Honourable Justice Once.
- Mr and Mrs Neenah and their daughter, Nina Neenah.
- Mr and Mrs Handler and their son, Doug Handler.
- Mr and Mrs Overcrime and their son, Vic Tim Overcrime.
- Mr and Mrs Alparxpolice and their son, Roy Alparxpolice.
- And arriving by underground train are Mr and Mrs Tanpolice and their daughter Metro Polly Tanpolice.
- Mr and Mrs Tedmurder and their son, Adam Tedmurder.
- From Aberystwyth, Mr and Mrs Doughlox and their son, Wynn Doughlox.
- Mr and Mrs Bullcrime and their son, Terry Bullcrime.
- From Dublin, Mr and Mrs Stabularydutiéstobedone and their son Connor Stabularydutiéstobedone.
- Mr and Mrs Fulobstruction and their son, Willy Fulobstruction.
- Mr and Mrs Collar and their daughter, Ophelia Collar.
- Please welcome Mr and Mrs Tificbranch and their religious son, Zion Tificbranch.

- Mr and Mrs Eestation and their son, Paul Eestation.
- All the way from Germany, Mr and Mrs Cuff and their son, Hans Cuff.
- Mr and Mrs Tercyclecop and their son, Mo Tercyclecop.
- From Paris, Mr and Mrs Witnessit and their son, Didier Witnessit.
- Now from Latvia, Mr and Mrs Ibbleoffence and their son Orest Ibbleoffence.
- And finally, please welcome Mr Teapoundfine and his identical twin Teapoundfine.

The Doctors' Ball

- From Ireland, will you welcome Dermot Ologist, Mike Rosurgery, Eamonn The-Sick-List, and Sean Parts.
- Mr & Mrs Sthetic and their daughter, Anna Sthetic, and her Auntie Septic.
- From Wales, Dai Agnosis, Wyn de Tum, and Morgan Transplant.
- Oh look, there's Sue Pository (She's gone up in the world)
- Mr & Mrs Enema, and their son, Barry Enema, with Reggie Strar and Des Infectant.
- And please welcome, Mr & Mrs Roids, and their daughter, Emma Roids.
- Here come the Appliances, and their son, Sir Jeckyl Appliances.
- From Scandanavia, Lars Toeplast.
- And his pet hippo, Craticus !
- Here comes Sue Pository
- Over the way, we have the Silitis family, with their son Tom Silitis, along with Mr Arthur Attack, known to his mates as Art Attack
- Here's the African male nurse Lance M'Boil
- And it's A. Pron.
- And Tim Ward has just turned up in jeans - a Casual T. Ward.
- There's Doctor Watson nursing Holmes, he's talking to Sir Gerry Hours and Prof. E. Lactic.
- Cabaret Time: Dame Kiri Opodist.
- And finally, will you welcome Mr & Mrs Zines-in-the-waiting-room, and their 10-year old daughter, Maggie Zines-in-the-Waiting-Room.

The Vets' Ball

- From Australia, Mr & Mrs Matosis, and their daughter, Mitzi Matosis.
- Mr & Mrs Sation, and their son, Al Sation.
- Be upstanding, please, for her worship the mare.
- Mr & Mrs Hasonehump, and their musician son, Drummer Derry Hasonehump.
- Please welcome Mr & Mrs Bees and their twin sons, Wally Bees and Ray Bees.
- Will you please welcome, Mr & Mrs Yancats and their son, Perce Yancats.
- Oh, there's George Shearing, and his wife, Sheep.
- And Mr & Mrs Russell Terrier, and their son, Jack!!
- Will you welcome please, before anyone brings them in, Mr & Mrs Malhusbandry, and their daughter, Annie Malhusbandry.
- And finally, Mr & Mrs Wobbles, and their dog, Collie Wobbles.

The School Teachers' Ball

- Please welcome Mr & Mrs Bus, and their rather oblique daughter, Rhom Bus, and all the way from Liverpool, their singing daughter, Cilla Bus.
- Mr & Mrs Bra, and their son, Algy.

- Will you line up in rank to welcome Mr & Mrs Education, with their soldier son, Private Education, and his friend, Corporal Punishment.
- There's Mr & Mrs Matics, and their posh daughter, Martha Matics.
- Mr & Mrs Nometry, and their horse, Trigger Nometry.
- And next to them are Mr & Mrs Masters-Sudy, and their son, Ed Masters-Study.
- Mr & Mrs Bun, and their pyromaniac son, known as the Buns' son "Burner".
- In the corner, there's Mr & Mrs Tron, and their stern daughter, May Tron.
- And finally, from Greece, Mr & Mrs Beta-Gamma-Delta-Epsilon, and their son, Alfie Beta-Gamma-Delta-Epsilon.

The Artists' Ball

- Will you welcome please, all the way from the States, Mr & Mrs Trait, and their father Por Trait.
- Mr & Mrs Tomical-Drawing, and their daughter, Anna Tomical Drawing.
- Here we have the great painter, Walter Colours.
- From Turkey, the Turk Wasi Blue.
- And over there we have people dressed up as parcels and letters - they're post-impressionists.
- Roaring in on a motorbike, Easel Kneasel, with his pal, Ette.
- Mr & Mrs Cturist, and their daughter, Carrie Cturist, with her peke, Asso.
- And finally, ladies and gents please welcome Two-Loos Lautrec, with his driver, Van Gogh.

The Booksellers' Ball

- Please welcome, Mr & Mrs Ding-Library, and their son, Len Ding-Library.
- Mr & Mrs Sellers, and their daughter, Bess Sellers, whose just had her appendix removed.
- Raptures of delight if you will, for Mr & Mrs Scabin, and their uncle Tom Scabin.
- And with them, are Mr & Mrs Teasfalcon, and their daughter, Moll Teasfalcon.
- Here on a day trip from France, Mr & Mrs Two-Cities, and their bombastic son, Atilla Two-Cities.
- Sliding by almost unnoticed, Mr & Mrs Shonary, and their diminutive student son, shorter Oxford Dick Shonary.
- Oh look, there are the Flets', with their daughter, Pam Flets.
- Leaping through the door, Mr & Mrs Malfarm, and their daughter, Annie Malfarm.
- And finally, all the way from France, Mr & Mrs Miserables, and their son, Les.

The Language Teachers Ball

- The first guest is here already... and it's my old friend Stuart Dent
- There's Mrs Chair, And Mr Chair. Terry, And Tracy. The T. Chairs.
- Followed closely by Lynne Gwist
- And I believe this is Welsh linguist, Dai Lingual.
- Pray silence for Grandfather Syntax, and his dear wife Grammar Ann Syntax
- I didn't want to invite the Ation family, but others were pro-Nancy Ation
- Miss Jane Tudent has arrived, but she tells me that she's recently changed her name, making her an Ex-Jane Tudent

- Please welcome Mr and Mrs Shun. Their son John is detained at her Majesty's pleasure, so Con John Shun can't be here tonight.
- We have a call for a Mr Richard Lension -- also known as Dick Lension
- But Mr Ickle is here, with his son Arthur - commonly known as Art Ickle.
- It's Cabaret time! (C) Barry Cryer Please welcome Doris Stokes trying to contact Mr. Participle, making him a past Participle.
- Ladies and Gentlemen, Ms. Dee Clension
- Please Welcome Mr and Mrs Cherten, their children, cousins, Aunts, and Uncles. Yes, there's quite a few Chertens.
- Mr Participle has been contacted- yes, he's here- he's a present Participle now.
- And here's Richard Shunnery - or, for short, Dick Shunnery
- Barging in and acting like she owns the place, Ms. Jennifer Alice Tiff-Case, i.e. Jen A. Tiff-Case
- And just entering via the chimney is the one and only Santa Claus and his little helper, Subordinate Claus
- And here's Mr. and Mrs. Derr, and their daughter, Jen Derr.
- And then there is her husband Mask Kulin
- The comes the rather snobbish Mr Trohpy, making him A Posh Trophy
- And here comes old Albert Ferbett, known to one and all as Al Ferbett
- And little Sammy Colon has just shown up as well.
- Ah, I see Mask's sister, Fay Menin has arrived.
- And Sgt. Major Graf of the Parachute regiment, known to all his friends as Para Graf.
- Why, it's Mr. Hannibal Rying, or Han Rying as he prefers to be called.
- And here are Mr. & Mrs. Isk, and their daughter Aster.
- And here are the Glotts and their daughter Polly.
- Well, here's a surprise, the two people you never expected to see again in the same place, Mr and Ms. (recently split) infinitive.
- {deep breath} Welcome, please, the world's first Indian Jew with the orange hair... yes you, you Punk Jew, Asian Mark!
- Introducing Simon Nonym, known to his friends as Si
- Here's my mother's sister Nym, she's my Aunty Nym, sometimes she does a bad thing: a sin o'Nym, and her gay brother is of course homo Nym

The Morticians' Ball

- A party here from the Wild West, Derdge City - Hearse Cartwright, Gene Mortuary, and Roy Rogers with his horse, Trigger Mortis.
- Will you welcome, a spluttering gentleman from Wales, Dai Thedeath, who appears to be having a coffin fit.
- And Mr & Mrs Stone, and their son, Ed Stone.
- From Scotland, the crazy stone-carver, Monumental Mason.
- Mr & Mrs Stover, and their father, Pa Stover.
- Also, Mr & Mrs Vault, and their agricultural son, Farmer Lee Vault.
- Daddy & Mummy Fied.
- From the West Country, Eliza Body.
- Welcome the Gee sisters, Ella Gee and Ula Gee.
- Cabaret Time: Tomb Jones singing "The Last Vaults".
- From Australia, welcome the grave-faced, Digger Pit.

- And finally, from Sweden, Lars Rights and Lars Post.

The Film Ball

- Here comes Mr and Mrs Ging Bull and their son, Ray.
- Oh, is that the loveley Welsh singer Mrs Hardwithavenganceand her husband Dai?

The Insurance Ball

- Okay, we're getting the same gags twice now.How about the Insurance Person's Ball? The first arrival is Paul Icy.
- Good grief! Doctor Kildare over there just started talking about a black guy! I hope, Doc, you meant "Asian"!
- And the first really obvious guest, it's Polly Cee.
- And pleas welcome the Trappist monk, Brother Kerr, known to his friends as Bro Kerr
- Right! Applause please for the famous Irish family, Mr & Mrs Mitty and their son... I think this is going to work... it's Dubl-in Den Mitty

The Depressed Ball

- The obvious arrival of Sue E. Side.
- Soon to be man and wife, it's the hilarious Alastair and his lovely girlfriend- please welcome Chronic Ally, Dee Pressed.
- Oh, I don't know... look, here comes Mr Y.D.U. Allhateme
- And it's Zac. He's a truly professional man, yes, he's Pro Zac
- Please welcome, all the way from China, Mo Ping.
- Here's Tom the transsexual. Dressed en femme tonight -- Tom As A Pam.
- It's MR. and Mrs. Todie and their son, Ivan Todie
- Well, we all expected the Tillitties to be out in force, but there seems to be very Few Tilitty family members about.
- And here comes the unfortunately named Aidan T. Care
- Here's the unmarried Ellen Rowena Able: Miss E R Able
- And what about Miss Madeleine Ness, otherwise known as Mad Ness.

Collective names

A bastard of Bailiffs
 A beard of Geography teachers.
 A Book of Kells
 A brace of dentists
 A braincell of Windows users
 A camp of gameshow hosts
 A Cat of Fleas
 A Cementing of Mafiosos
 A Civility of Servants
 A clickity-clack of knitters
 A clog of Dutchmen
 A closet of Tory MPs
 A closet of Tory supporters

A clutter of academics
 A Collapse of Cricketers
 A congestion of internet providers
 A Contentment of Prozac Users
 A corset of transvestites
 A crystal ball of gypsy fortune tellers
 A curb of crawlers
 A disappointment of British tennis players
 A fabrication of journalists
 A failure of backups
 A fawn of submissives
 A flash of streakers

A Flash-in-the-pan of English Sporting Successes	A smarm of politicians
A Fleecing of Lawyers	A snooze of backbenchers
A flood of farewells	A spasm of surgeons
A fluff of kittens	A Spread of Claustrophobes
A foaming of brewers	A stake of vampires
A gaggle of graphic artists	A Starched shirt of Mormons
A giggle of geeks	A streak of bleached blondes
A halitosis of Lords	A stress of sysadmins
A halo of nuns	A students fridge of fungus
A Humbug of Pundits	A subversion of males
A kipper of surrealists	A Tabloid of Spice Girls.
A Knocking of Jehovah's Witnesses	A tank-top of Physics Teachers
A legalised Italian Mafia...	A tedium of Channel 5 programs
A lunchbox of 100m sprinters	A Toot of Engine Drivers
A minority of Conservatives	A Total Shambles of UNIXes
A nest of engineers	A whine of administrators
A nostalgia of children's television	A Whine of Complainers
A pain of siblings	A Wimbledon of rainclouds
A parade of badgers	A wunch of bankers.
A Parenthood of Grey Hairs	A yawn of colour supplements
A Persistence of Telephone sales people	An absence of builders
A Plagiarism of Songwriters	An advertisement of lies
A Pole of Vaulters	An allotment of sheds
A Predictability of Budgets	An anorak of trainspotters
A puddle of Thames Water Executives	An Assassination of Hit Men
A rank of smells.	An assertion of females
A riot of footballers	An Embarrassment of Relatives
A sarcophagus of Egyptologists	An exaggeration of Car Salesmen
A scrape of blackboards	An exuberance of Spice Girls
A scrubbing of janitors	An Infuriation of Users
A Sincerity of Game Show Hosts	An insomnia of coffee addicts

The software life cycle

Software doesn't just appear on the shelves by magic. That program shrink-wrapped inside the box along with the indecipherable manual and 12-paragraph disclaimer notice actually came to you by way of an elaborate path, through the most rigid quality control on the planet. Here, shared for the first time with the general public, are the inside details of the program development cycle:

1. Programmer produces code he believes is bug-free.
2. Product is tested. 20 bugs are found.
3. Programmer fixes 10 of the bugs and explains to the testing department that the other 10 aren't really bugs.
4. Testing department finds that five of the fixes didn't work and discovers 15 new bugs.
5. See 3.
6. See 4.
7. See 5.

8. See 6.
9. See 7.
10. See 8.
11. Due to marketing pressure and an extremely pre-mature product announcement based on over-optimistic programming schedule, the product is released.
12. Users find 137 new bugs.
13. Original programmer, having cashed his royalty check, is nowhere to be found.
14. Newly-assembled programming team fixes almost all of the 137 bugs, but introduce 456 new ones.
15. Original programmer sends underpaid testing department a postcard from Fiji. Entire testing department quits.
16. Company is bought in a hostile takeover by competitor using profits from their latest release, which had 783 bugs.
17. New CEO is brought in by board of directors. He hires programmer to redo program from scratch.
18. Programmer produces code he believes is bug-free.
19. See step 2

Kisses

Dear Doctor, I think I understand what a "platonic kiss" is, but could you explain to me the difference between the following kisses? 1. Aristotelian kiss, 2. Hegelian kiss, 3. Wittgensteinian kiss, 4. Godelian kiss. Signed, Flummoxed in Florida

Dear Flummoxed, That's a very good question; nowadays most sex education courses focus on secondary and tertiary sources, so much so that few people really get exposed to the classics in this field any more. I'll try to make a brief but clear summary of some of these and other important types of kisses:

Aristotelian kiss -- a kiss performed using techniques gained solely from theoretical speculation untainted by any experiential data by one who feels that the latter is irrelevant anyway.

Hegelian kiss -- a dialiptical technique in which the kiss incorporates its own antithickiss, forming a synthekiss.

Wittgensteinian kiss -- the important thing about this type of kiss is that it refers only to the symbol (our internal mental representation we associate with the experience of the kiss--which must necessarily also be differentiated from the act itself for obvious reasons and which need not be by any means the same or even similar for the different people experiencing the act) rather than the act itself and, as such, one must be careful not to make unwarranted generalizations about the act itself or the experience thereof based merely on our manipulation of the symbology therefor.

Godelian kiss -- a kiss that takes an extraordinarily long time, yet leaves you unable to decide whether you've been kissed or not.

Socratic kiss -- actually really a Platonic kiss, but it's claimed to be the Socratic technique so it'll sound more authoritative; however, compared to most strictly Platonic kisses, Socratic kisses wander around a lot more and cover more ground.

Kantian kiss -- a kiss that, eschewing inferior "phenomenal" contact, is performed entirely on the superior "noumenal" plane; though you don't actually feel it at all, you are, nonetheless, free to declare it the best kiss you've ever given or received.

Kafkaesque kiss -- a kiss that starts out feeling like it's about to transform you but ends up just bugging you.

Sartrean kiss -- a kiss that you worry yourself to death about even though it really doesn't matter anyway.

Russell-Whiteheadian kiss -- a formal kiss in which each lip and tongue movement is rigorously and completely defined, even though it ends up seeming incomplete somehow.

Hertzprung-Russellian kiss -- Oh, Be A Fine Girl/Guy, Kiss Me.

Pythagorean kiss -- a kiss given by someone who has developed some new and wonderful techniques but refuses to use them on anyone for fear that others would find out about them and start using them.

Cartesian kiss -- A particularly well-planned and coordinated movement: "I think, therefore, I aim." In general, a kiss does not count as Cartesian unless it is applied with enough force to remove all doubt that one has been kissed. (cf. Polar kiss, a more well-rounded movement involving greater nose-to-nose contact, but colder overall.)

Heisenbergian kiss -- a hard-to-define kiss--the more it moves you, the less sure you are of where the kiss was; the more energy it has, the more trouble you have figuring out how long it lasted. Extreme versions of this type of kiss are known as "virtual kisses" because the level of uncertainty is so high that you're not quite sure if you were kissed or not. Virtual kisses have the advantage, however, that you need not have anyone else in the room with you to enjoy them.

Nietzscheian kiss -- "she/he who does not kiss you, makes your lust stronger."

Epimenidian kiss -- a kiss given by someone who does not kiss.

Grouchoic kiss -- a kiss given by someone who will only kiss those who would not kiss him or her.

Harpoic kiss -- shut up and kiss me.

Zenoian kiss -- your lips approach, closer and closer, but never actually touch.

Procrustean kiss -- well, suffice it to say that it is a technique that, once you've experienced it, you'll never forget it, especially when applied to areas of the anatomy other than the lips.

Medical quotes – from physicians' records

- By the time he was admitted, his rapid heart had stopped, and he was feeling better.
- Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.
- On the second day the knee was better and on the third day it had completely disappeared.
- She has had no rigors or shaking chills, but her husband states she was very hot in bed last night.
- The patient has been depressed ever since she began seeing me in 1983
- Patient was released to outpatient department without dressing.
- I have suggested that he loosen his pants before standing, and then, when he stands with the help of his wife, they should fall to the floor.
- The patient is tearful and crying constantly. She also appears to be depressed.
- Discharge status: Alive but without permission.
- The patient will need disposition, and therefore we will get Dr. Blank to dispose of him.
- Healthy appearing decrepit 69 year-old male, mentally alert but forgetful.
- The patient refused an autopsy.
- The patient has no past history of suicides.
- The patient expired on the floor uneventfully.
- Patient has left his white blood cells at another hospital.
- The patient's past medical history has been remarkably insignificant with only a 40 pound weight gain in the past three days.
- She slipped on the ice and apparently her legs went in separate directions in early December.
- The patient experienced sudden onset of severe shortness of breath with a picture of acute pulmonary edema at home while having sex which gradually deteriorated in the emergency room.
- The patient had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch.
- 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.
- Since she can't get pregnant with her husband, I thought you would like to work her up.
- She is numb from her toes down.
- While in the ER, she was examined, X-rated and sent home.
- The skin was moist and dry.
- Occasional, constant, infrequent headaches.
- Coming from Detroit, this man has no children.
- Patient was alert and unresponsive.
- When she fainted, her eyes rolled around the room.

The five toughest questions

- 1 - "What are you thinking?"
- 2 - "Do you love me?"
- 3 - "Do I look fat?"
- 4 - "Do you think she is prettier than me?"
- 5 - "What would you do if I died?"

What makes these questions so bad is that every one is guaranteed to explode into a major argument and/or divorce if the man does not answer properly, which is to say dishonestly. For example:

- 1 - "What are you thinking?"

The proper answer to this question, of course is, "I'm sorry if I've been pensive, dear. I was just reflecting on what a warm, wonderful, caring, thoughtful, intelligent, beautiful woman you are and what a lucky guy I am to have met you." Obviously, this statement bears no resemblance whatsoever to what the guy was really thinking at the time, which was most likely one of five things:

- a - Baseball
- b - Football
- c - How fat you are
- d - How much prettier she is than you
- e - How he would spend the insurance money if you died

The other questions also have only one right answer but many wrong answers:

- 2 - "Do you love me?"

The correct answer to this question is, "Yes." For those guys who feel the need to be more elaborate, you may answer, "Yes, dear." Wrong answers include:

- a - I suppose so.
- b - Would it make you feel better if I said yes?
- c - That depends on what you mean by "love".
- d - Does it matter?
- e - Who, me?

- 3 - "Do I look fat?"

The correct male response to this question is to confidently and emphatically state, "No, of course not" and then quickly leave the room. Wrong answers include:

- a - I wouldn't call you fat, but I wouldn't call you thin either.
- b - Compared to what?
- c - A little extra weight looks good on you.
- d - I've seen fatter.
- e - Could you repeat the question? I was thinking about your insurance policy.

4 - "Do you think she's prettier than me?"

The "she" in the question could be an ex-girlfriend, a passer-by you were staring at so hard that you almost caused a traffic accident or an actress in a movie you just saw. In any case, the correct response is, "No, you are much prettier." Wrong answers include:

- a - Not prettier, just pretty in a different way.
- b - I don't know how one goes about rating such things.
- c - Yes, but I bet you have a better personality.
- d - Only in the sense that she's younger and thinner.
- e - Could you repeat the question? I was thinking about your insurance policy.

5 - "What would you do if I died?"

Correct answer: "Dearest love, in the event of your untimely demise, life would cease to have meaning for me and I would perforce hurl myself under the front tires of the first Domino's Pizza truck that came my way." This might be the stupidest question of the lot, as is illustrated by the following exchange:

"Dear," said the wife. "What would you do if I died?"

"Why, dear, I would be extremely upset," said the husband. "Why do you ask such a question?"

"Would you remarry?" persevered the wife.

"No, of course not, dear" said the husband.

"Don't you like being married?" said the wife.

"Of course I do, dear" he said.

"Then why wouldn't you remarry?"

"Alright," said the husband, "I'd remarry."

"You would?" said the wife, looking vaguely hurt.

"Yes" said the husband.

"Would you sleep with her in our bed?" said the wife after a long pause.

"Well yes, I suppose I would." replied the husband.

"I see," said the wife indignantly. "And would you let her wear my clothes?"

"I suppose, if she wanted to" said the husband.

"Really," said the wife icily. "And would you take down the pictures of me and replace them with pictures of her?"

"Yes. I think that would be the correct thing to do."

"Is that so?" said the wife, leaping to her feet. "And I suppose you'd let her play with my golf clubs, too."

"Of course not, dear," said the husband. "She's left-handed..."

Transporter pads memory

Lets just say that the Enterprise has 10 transporter pads which can transport 10 people each. To operate all of those pads simultaneously would require AT LEAST:

4.8×10^{31} bytes

which is:

- TEN TRILLION TRILLION CD ROMS (uncompressed)
- About 100 QUINTILLION times more RAM than is available in all computers on the Earth today.
- A string of 4Mb simms 113 MILLION LIGHT YEARS long.
- 500 QUADRILLION football fields covered 100 feet deep in 4 Mb simms
- 200 BILLION copies of all the Hollywood films ever made digitized at 30 fps into 1600 x 1200 x 24 bit images.
- 2 1/2 COPIES OF WINDOWS NT.

Fifty widgets

The following is a guide to various disciplines taught at SSU, and their most common problem solving techniques.

Problem: You need 50 widgets.

- Math major - Builds his tools and wrenches, uses them to build a widget maker, and makes widgets.
- Physics major - Buys tools and wrenches, uses them to build a widget maker, and makes widgets.
- Engineering major - Buys widget maker. Makes widgets.
- Art major - Makes an abstract painting of a widget and makes 50 limited edition lithographs of it.
- Astronomy major - Names a new constellation "widget". Takes 50 photographs of it.
- Biology major - Buys a widget and dissects it. Buys 49 more. Oops, destroyed the first one dissecting it. Buys 1 more.
- Anthropology major - Digs up 50 widgets.
- Business Administration/Economics major - Borrows capital to provide investment into corporation under section C of private ownership to produce widgets. Said company produces 50 widgets, and then dissolves.
- Chemistry major - Attempts to make widget in lab. Blows up lab and him/her-self.
- Communications Studies major - Gives speeches about widgets.
- Computer Science major - Creates animation of tools building widget builder building widgets. Prints out 50 hard copies of the widgets.
- Counseling major - "But how do you FEEL about widgets?" (Also helps people deal with their failures in building widgets.)

- Criminal Justice Administration major - Finds someone with widgets. Plants controlled substance on the person's widgets. Confiscates widgets. (Books person on 5150 72-hour psych. evaluation with counseling major.)
- Economics major - Assimilates production possibilities curve, calculates supply and demand curves, determines market saturation, checks on available capital, looks at funding from corporations, individuals, government, and international spending, and decides widgets aren't profitable enough to make.
- Education major - "If a train leaves new york, carrying 32 widgets at 56 miles per hour, and crashes into a train that left chicago eastward carrying 62 widgets at 73 miles per hour, assuming both train engineers (as distinct from engeneering majors) are 75 years old and haven't been drinking (much), how many widgets will be destroyed in the crash? Please submit your finger painting of the crash by 12:00 noon tomorrow (or whenever you want...if you want to.)"
- English major - Wot iz an Widdjit?
- Environment Studies and Planning major - "We need an environmental impact report before we even begin building these things."
- Film major - "Here is the widget in it's native habitat... notice the interesting colorations around (ah shoot, I should've used 35 mm for this!)"
- Foreign Languages major - Was ist ein Widget?
- Geography major - "Can you locate Widgetah Kansas?"
- Gerontology major - "But how will a widget aid the large aging population with their major problems? Will it help them clean their dentures? Will it help them put on their Depends? I think not."
- History major - "The widget has held places in history from the antebellum years of our country to the present. Their specific use is often times still unknown (by the way, I didn't copy this out of the Encyclopedia Britannica page 4685)."
- Humanities major - "What does it MEAN to be a widget?"
- Music major - Writes a song about widgets. Sings it 50 times.
- Nursing major - Realizes widgets can hold urine. Buys 50 widgets.
- Political Science major - Decides widgets are too controversial to discuss.
- Psychology major - Accuses counseling major of using improper counseling practices which add to people's widget psychosis and don't help them. Also argues for the jungian theory of the widget consciousness.
- Sociology major - Determines the impact of widgets on mob psychology in three years old. Argues with psychologist and agrees with counseling major (when he can figure out what the counseling major said).
- Theatre Arts major - Studies the motivation behind widget action so he/she can better portray their widget character.
- Women's Studies major - Wonders why female widgets aren't sold for as much as male widgets.
- Kinesiology major: "Ug!" (Is given a widget so he'll know what it looks like. Is shown, in kinder garden sign language, that 50 of them are desired. Breaks widget in field goal attempt.)

You might be in education if...

- You believe the staff room should be equipped with a Valium salt lick
- You find humor in other people's stupidity
- You want to slap the next person who says, "Must be nice to work 8 to 3 and have summers free"
- You believe chocolate is a food group
- You can tell it's a full moon without ever looking outside
- You believe "shallow gene pool" should have its own box on the report card
- You believe that unspeakable evil will befall you if anyone says, "Boy, the kids are sure mellow today"
- When out in public, you feel the urge to snap your fingers at a child
- Putting all "A's" on a report card would make your life SO much easier
- When you mention vegetables, you are not talking about food
- You think people should be required to get a government permit before being allowed to reproduce
- You believe in the aerial spraying of Prozac
- You encourage a parent to check into home schooling
- You believe no one should be permitted to reproduce without having taught in a middle school for at least five years
- You can't have children because there isn't any name you can hear that wouldn't elevate your blood pressure
- You think caffeine should be available to staff in IV form
- Meeting a child's parents instantly answers the question, "Why is this kid like that?"
- Your personal life comes to a screeching halt at report card time

Dilbert's laws of work

- If you can't get your work done in the first 24 hours, work nights.
- A pat on the back is only a few centimetres from a kick in the butt.
- Don't be irreplaceable, if you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.
- It doesn't matter what you do, it only matters what you say you've done and what you're going to do.
- After any salary raise, you will have less money at the end of the month than you did before.
- The more crap you put up with, the more crap you are going to get.
- You can go anywhere you want if you look serious and carry a clipboard.
- Eat one live toad the first thing in the morning and nothing worse will happen to you the rest of the day.
- When the bosses talk about improving productivity, they are never talking about themselves..
- If at first you don't succeed, try again. Then quit. No use being a fool about it.
- There will always be beer cans rolling on the floor of your car when the boss asks for a ride home from the office.
- Keep your boss's boss off your boss's back.
- Everything can be filed under "miscellaneous."

- Never delay the ending of a meeting or the beginning of a dinner hour.
- To err is human, to forgive is not our policy.
- Anyone can do any amount of work provided it isn't the work he/she is supposed to be doing.
- Important letters that contain no errors will develop errors in the mail.
- If you are good, you will be assigned all the work.
- If you are really good, you will get out of it.
- You are always doing something marginal when the boss drops by your desk.
- People who go to conferences are the ones who shouldn't.
- If it wasn't for the last minute, nothing would get done.
- At work, the authority of a person is inversely proportional to the number of pens that person is carrying.
- When you don't know what to do, walk fast and look worried.
- Following the rules will not get the job done.
- Getting the job done is no excuse for not following the rules.
- When confronted by a difficult problem you can solve it more easily by reducing it to the question, "How would the Lone Ranger handle this?"
- No matter how much you do, you never do enough.
- The last person that quit or was fired will be held responsible for everything that goes wrong.

The Wild (physics) West

WANTED

A reward of 5,000 MICROFARADS is offered for information leading to the arrest of hop-a-long CAPACITY. This UNRECTIFIED criminal escaped from a WESTON PRIMARY CELL where he had been clapped in IONS. He is CHARGED with the INDUCTION of an 18 TURN COIL named MILLIE HENRY, who was found CHOKED and is a POTENTIAL killer. He is also accused of driving a D.C. MOTOR over the WHEATSTONE BRIDGE and refusing to let the BAND PASS. The ELECTROMOTIVE FORCE spent the night searching for him in a MAGNETIC FIELD where he had gone to EARTH. They had no success and now believe that he has returned OHM via a SHORT CIRCUIT. He was last seen with a friend EDDY CURRENT, riding a KILOCYCLE. EDDY was playing a HARMONIC.

CHARGES against him are filed under OHMS LAW.

Instrument flying

Most people wish to fly on the old gauges at one time or another but are prevented by the high cost of the instruments necessary for this form of flight. The following is a more or less known and extremely simple method which may be used by all.

Place a live cat on the cockpit floor, because a cat always remains upright, he or she can be used in lieu of a needle and ball instrument. Merely watch to see which way he

leans to determine if a wing is low and if so, which one. This will enable you to your aircraft level in route with complete accuracy and confidence.

A duck is used for final instrument approach and landing, because of the fact that any sensible old duck will refuse to fly under instrument conditions, it is only necessary to hurl your duck out of the cockpit window and follow her to the ground.

There are some limitations on the cat and duck method, but by rigidly adhering to the following check list a degree of success will be achieved which will not only startle you, but will astonish your passengers as well, and may have an occasional tower operator with an open mouth.

- Get a wide-awake cat, most cats do not want to stand up all the time, so it may be necessary to carry a fierce dog along to keep the cat at attention.
- Make sure your cat is clean, dirty cats will spend all the time washing. Trying to follow a washing cat usually results in a slow roll followed by an inverted spin. You will see that this is most unprofessional.
- Old cats are the best, young cats have nine lives, but an old used up cat with only one life left has just as much to loose and will be more dependable.
- Avoid stray cats. Try to get one with good character because you may want to spend time with her.
- Beware of cowardly ducks, if the duck discovers that you are using the cat to stay upright, she will refuse to leave the aeroplane without the cat. Ducks are no better on instruments than you are.
- Get a duck with good eyes. Near sighted ducks sometimes fail to recognise that they are on the old gauges and will go flogging into the nearest hill. Very near sighted ducks will not realise that they have been thrown out and will descend to the ground in a sitting position. This is a most difficult manoeuvre to follow in an airplane.
- Choose your duck carefully, it is easy to confuse ducks with geese. Many large birds look alike. While they are very competent instrument flyers, geese seldom want to go in the same direction that you do. If your duck seems to be taking a heading to Ireland or Sweden, you may be safe in assuming that someone has given you a goose.

Advice to visiting language students in Cambridge

Going to Pubs

- Go in a large group - the larger the better.
- Stand just inside the door for at least five minutes and then begin wandering around until you find a table you like - don't choose the first available table.
- Settle down there and chat for a while - there's no rush to order. The staff will happily wait before coming over to serve you.
- When your group is ready to order drinks, remember to order one by one - it's much easier for the staff that way.
- Don't hesitate to order a complex drink such as a cocktail - the staff will love the challenge.

- Wait till the staff ask for money before counting it out: exact change is always preferred. If you're not sure about our coins yet, the staff will be pleased to help you count them.
- Remember that all pubs serve coffee - it's one of their major functions.
- Once you've got a drink, you're welcome to stay till the pub closes without buying anything else.
- If more people arrive to join your group, feel free to take chairs and stools from anywhere around the pub - you won't need to put them back.
- Don't worry about encroaching on other groups in the pub (especially couples): English people will welcome the opportunity to meet visitors.
- If you feel hungry, ask the bar staff about the food on offer.
- Ask for an explanation of each item on the menu and then go back to your table to discuss your choice and, as with the drinks, order one by one, with another drink if you like.
- If you buy any crisps or nuts please put the empty packets in a glass or pile them up in an ashtray - the staff will really appreciate it.
- If you feel like singing, go ahead! You'll find others will want to join in.
- If you want some photographs to record the occasion, ask anyone nearby to take them for you. They won't mind a bit, no matter how many you want.
- If it's a nice day outside, do take your drinks out into the street and explore the area, or simply stand or sit in the street.

Cycling

- All language students need a bike so you will need to hire one from one of the many cycle hire shops around the City - your language school will give a list of them.
- It's a good idea to go in a large group - it's more fun and you'll have plenty of people to chat to while you're waiting around outside the shop for the last of your group to get a bike.
- You'll find that gathering to meet fellow students outside bike shops is a popular way to spend much of the morning, meeting new friends and so on, before moving on.
- You'll need to be aware of some basic tips for cycling around the City:
 - Red traffic signals are only advisory - you can safely ignore them.
 - If you can, travel with a group of fellow students. There's safety in numbers and anyway you can ride three or more abreast and chat to each other.
 - Some City roads are rather dangerous and you will probably feel safer cycling on the pavements.

Library laws

- 6 books on a topic + 5 classes = odds are 2-to-1 on teachers assigning the same topic at the same time.
- Budget statements from the District Office are always inversely proportional to your budget.
- If you made the system foolproof you discover that everybody has suddenly become geniuses.

- When 60% of your book order is back-ordered, you can safely bet that 90% of the back-orders are out of print.
- A "missing" encyclopedia will remain missing until the replacement you ordered is placed on the shelf.
- Books will remain upright on the shelf until you go to place another book beside them.
- You finally revise your card catalogue after putting it off for a year only to discover a week later that a complete revision is coming out in a month.
- You can be sure the student who has the most overdue books reads the least.
- When a teacher recommends a library book to a student, you can be certain that the teacher has checked out the only copy and has lent it to a friend in Peru.
- Students always require a 400 word article for a 500 word essay.
- Change libraries frequently. It allows you to place the blame on your predecessor for anything that is wrong.
- Make 17 subject headings for a book and you will find that you should have made 18.
- If a teacher discusses a unit with you well in advance, it is a certainty that she will be absent on the days scheduled, the substitute cannot administer the unit, and when the teacher returns she cannot do the unit because she has to make up for lost time.
- The one time of the month that you take 5 minutes to read MAD magazine is when your superintendent walks in.
- Prepare your year-end report in September before you have screwed everything up.
- If it's a good book, it's out of stock. If it's an excellent book, it's out of print.
- No matter how many books you have on a subject the student always thinks they're all "too big".
- The "super" syndrome: Libraries are always empty when the principal or superintendent comes to visit.
- The volunteer aide who files the worst is the one who volunteers the most.
- If you have a system that works you must be doing everything wrong.
- When you spend half your library budget on a teacher's request for a course the odds are that the teacher will quit or be transferred and the course will be dropped or changed.
- No matter how long you keep an article or piece of information you will never need it till you throw it away.
- If you have lost one issue of a magazine there will be 35 students who will require that issue.
- No books are lost except those that are most needed and hardest to replace.
- The books you need the most always come from your worst supplier or jobber.
- Every librarian should have a full-time aide. It allows you to put the blame on someone.
- If everything's fine you're probably in the wrong library.
- When you re-catalogue a book to correct an error, you automatically create seven new problems.
- If you close the library only 3 days before year end for inventory and administration it is a fact that 2 teachers will ask you to do a library lesson on those days. These are teachers you couldn't get into the library before but now need marking time.
- The thinnest books have the longest catalogue numbers.

Library lightbulbs

- How many academic librarians does it take to change a light bulb? Just five. One changes the light bulb while the other four form a committee and write a letter of protest to the Dean, because after all, changing light bulbs IS NOT professional work!
- How many catalogers does it take to screw in a light bulb? Just one, but they have to wait to see how LC does it first.
- How many cataloguers does it take to change a lightbulb? Only one provided it is in AACR2.
- How many reference librarians does it take to change a light-bulb? (with a perky smile) "Well, I don't know right off-hand, but I know where we can look it up!"
- How many reference librarians does it take to change a lightbulb? None if it has a LCSH heading.
- How many library system managers does it take to change a lightbulb? All of them as the manual was lost in the last move (or flood).
- How many library managers does it take to change a lightbulb? At least one committee and a light bulb strategy focus meeting and plan.
- How many library technicians does it take to change a lightbulb? Seven. One to follow approved procedure, and six to review the procedure. (8 if you count the librarian they all report to)

The evolution of teaching mathematics

Up to the 1960's

A peasant sells a bag of potatoes for £10. His costs amount to $\frac{4}{5}$ of his selling price. What is his profit?

In the early 1970's

A farmer sells a bag of potatoes for £10. His costs amount to $\frac{4}{5}$ of his selling price, i.e., £8. What is his profit?

1970's (new math)

A farmer exchanges a set P of potatoes with a set M of money. The cardinality of the set M is equal to £10 and each element of M is worth £1. Draw 10 big dots representing the elements of M. The set of production cost is comprised of 2 big dots less than the set M. Represent C as a subset of M and give the answer to the question: What is the cardinality of the set of profits?

1980's

A farmer sells a bag of potatoes for £10. His production costs are £8 and his profit is £2. Underline, the word "potatoes" and discuss with our classmates.

1990's

A farmer sells a bag of potatoes for £10.00. His production costs are 0.80 of his revenue. On your calculator graph revenue versus costs. Run the "POTATO" program on your computer to determine the profit. Discuss the result with the other students

in your group. Write a brief essay that analyzes how this example relates to the real world of economics.

Top philosophy questions of all time – answered!

1. How do I know anything really exists? - Kick it **really** hard.
2. What is the essence of being human? - Not understanding the opposite sex.
3. If a tree falls in the forest, and there's no one there to hear it, does it make a sound? - Not if it lands on a bunch of pillows.
4. How do I know I'm not just a brain in a vat, hooked up to a computer simulation of life? - Look in the mirror. If you see a gray, spongy thing in a glass container, you are.
5. Can our minds exist separately from our bodies? - If they could, we'd just send our minds to class and sleep in every morning.
6. Is there a God? - A billion Hindus can't be wrong.
7. What is the nature of Knowledge? - I'm still trying to figure out the nature of **college**.
8. What is the meaning of life? - All evidence to date suggests it's chocolate.
9. Why get a Philosophy degree? - It's more respectable than a theater degree, but you still get to drink lots of espresso.
10. So, was Kant on drugs or what? - Probably.

A ridiculously short history of time

The Big Bang

The Big Bang is a very popular theory among physicists not only for its scientific merits, but also for the amount of sexual innuendo that can be made regarding its name. This great primordial explosion supposedly brought everything in the universe into being, although why exactly it did this remains slightly ambiguous. There was belief that the universe was created as a front for the Mafia, although the scientists who developed this theory have mysteriously disappeared.

The "Not-Quite-so-Big-as-the-Big" Bang

Shortly after the Big Bang, at approximately 10^{-57} seconds, some constituents of the early universe became disgruntled with the way things were going and decided to hold their own universe. The result was the "Not-Quite-so-Big-as-the-Big" Bang. The outcome was disappointing. The new bang accomplished very little, and the two-party system of physics failed miserably since a joint decision between the two partisans could never be reached. This bipartisan idea was basically abandoned throughout the universe and eventually faded from science. Remnants can still be seen in American politics.

That Period When Everything was Still REALLY Hot

During this phase of the history of the universe things were immensely hot, vaguely resembling New Jersey in summertime. Because of the heat, tempers were short and crime rates soared. Free quarks began roaming in gangs of two and three, and consequently matter formed. Shortly following the formation of matter was the

formation of what physicist George Smoot has positively identified as the oldest object in the universe: Dick Clark. A few picoseconds after his formation, he hatched the idea for "Celebrity Bloopers and Practical Jokes" and decided that he needed a bumbling sidekick that could make him (or anyone else) look good. Thus, Ed McMahon was created.

Things are Still Very Hot

Everything was still abominably hot at this point in the development of the universe. The cosmos was a very uncomfortable place to live, and it became a matter regarding its name. This great primordial era was obvious that something needed to be done about the heat. This brings us to...

The Great Galactic Air Conditioning

The universe finally decided that it was time to install air conditioning to control the incredibly hot and uncomfortable temperatures that existed. Things cooled slowly at first, as the universe was trying to save money on its electric bills. This was the time when Things Cool Slightly But Not Much. Things cooled faster later, when the universe got fed up with the heat and cranked the air conditioning up all the way. (Author's Note: The current ambient temperature of the universe is now 3 degrees Kelvin and consequently energy is not as free-roaming as it used to be. This is an example of what happens when climate control goes awry.)

Johnny Carson Still Makes Jokes about How Hot it is

Johnny Carson, considered by many to be the most powerful being in existence, has been known to make jokes about the weather, particularly the heat. At the beginning of the Great Galactic Air Conditioning, things hadn't cooled too much, and this became an easy target for many of Johnny's one-liners. Not having much of an audience, save for basic subatomic particles, Johnny was forced to rely heavily on Ed McMahon for laughter. Some things are always constant in the universe. (Author's note: Since the first edition, Jay Leno has replaced Johnny Carson as host of the Tonight Show. It is unknown what effect Leno will have upon the fabric of the continuum.)

Bosons Acquire Mass

As the universe slowly cooled, intermediate vector bosons decided that it was nicer to stay in a comfortable air conditioned universe than to go out outside and exercise. Bosons then became first the "lazy bum" particles, then the "fat slob" particles, and finally the "weak" particles. Because of their lack of exercise bosons began to gain mass, unlike their energetic spouses the photons. Electromagnetic particles everywhere gave ultimatums: "Either you bosons lose some weight and quit being such pathetic lazy bums, or electromagnetism and the weak force will file for divorce!" There was a quick scramble throughout the universe for cans of the newly-formed Slim-Fast* diet shakes and several particles became severely anorexic. This mad scramble to lose mass was just the beginning of:

The Great Boson Diet

With bosons scrambling about desperately trying to lose weight, the universe was a very turbulent place. The big problem was figuring out just how to go about losing mass and just how many calories a boson could burn without endangering his health. Many tried crash diets, but only ended up gaining it all back. Several gave up entirely and went on to curse Oprah Winfrey forever as "fat particles." Still others collected around Marlon Brando. The final blow came when random particles adhered into the

first snack foods. While very primitive, these proto-Twinkies, quasi-DingDongs and meta-Fritos made the Great Boson Diet an abject failure. Electromagnetism and the weak force eventually divorced, and unification was not to be seen again. Luckily there was no custody battle and the divorce was not too messy. The forces still remain friends and can occasionally be seen flirting in Switzerland and Illinois.

The Universe Moves On

Things proceeded in a somewhat normal manner for a while. There were no more turbulent particle relationships, outside of the normal fission and fusion that goes on everyday. Stars were born and died, great nebulae spread out into the cosmos, planets formed, life evolved, and eventually the Bell telephone system broke up. Only a few great occurrences happened in the later stages of the universe. One very important event was the release of the album *Voulez Vous* by the Swedish disco band ABBA. Containing such disco classics as "Take a Chance on Me" and "Voulez Vous" it revolutionized the way the rest of the world looked at Scandinavian music and lent musical legitimacy to the disco sound.

How the Universe Will End

Most theorists subscribe to one of two beliefs about the end of the universe. Some believe that the universe will either spread out into complete entropy. Others think that the universe will collapse upon itself and start over in a process termed "The Great Cosmic Nervous Breakdown", perhaps joining a more stable profession afterwards, such as accounting. As to what will herald this end, philosophers, scientists, and theologians have disagreed for ages. Some believe the gods will walk the Earth, others that the stars will all vanish, and still others believe the Earth will stop turning. However, a majority now believe that the end will be heralded by the Milwaukee Brewers winning the world series. The end of the universe is truly a long way away...

Trivia

- A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.
- The "save" icon on Microsoft Word shows a floppy disk, with the shutter on backwards.
- The combination "ough" can be pronounced in nine different ways. The following sentence contains them all: "A rough-coated, dough-faced, thoughtful ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough; after falling into a slough, he coughed and hiccoughed."
- The verb "cleave" is the only English word with two synonyms which are antonyms of each other: adhere and separate.
- The only 15 letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is uncopyrightable.
- Facetious and abstemious contain all the vowels in the correct order, as does arsenious, meaning "containing arsenic."
- Emus and kangaroos cannot walk backwards, and are on the Australian coat of arms for that reason.
- Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds, while dogs only have about ten.
- The word "Checkmate" in chess comes from the Persian phrase "Shah Mat," which means "the king is dead".

- Pinocchio is Italian for "pine head."
- Camel's milk does not curdle.
- Murphy's Oil Soap is the chemical most commonly used to clean elephants.
- The United States has never lost a war in which mules were used.
- The only nation whose name begins with an "A", but doesn't end in an "A" is Afghanistan.
- When opossums are playing 'possum, they are not "playing." They actually pass out from sheer terror.
- The Main Library at Indiana University sinks over an inch every year because when it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.

Philosophies of life

- If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
- A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.
- Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
- For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism.
- He who hesitates is probably right.
- Never do card tricks for the group you play poker with.
- No one is listening until you make a mistake.
- Success always occurs in private, and failure in full view.
- The colder the X-ray table, the more of your body is required on it.
- The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.
- The severity of the itch is proportional to the reach.
- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.
- To succeed in politics, it is often necessary to rise above your principles.
- Two wrongs are only the beginning.
- You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive.
- The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.
- Monday is an awful way to spend 1/7th of your life.
- The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.
- The light at the end of the tunnel is the headlight of an approaching train.
- If you can't get your work done in the first 24 hours, work nights.
- A pat on the back is only a few centimeters from a kick in the butt.
- Don't be irreplaceable, if you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.
- It doesn't matter what you do, it only matters what you say you've done and what you're going to do.
- After any salary raise, you will have less money at the end of the month than you did before.
- The more crap you put up with, the more crap you are going to get.
- You can go anywhere you want if you look serious and carry a clipboard.
- Eat one live toad the first thing in the morning and nothing worse will happen to you the rest of the day.
- When the bosses talk about improving productivity, they are never talking about themselves.

- If at first you don't succeed, try again. Then quit. No use being a damn fool about it.
- Keep your boss's boss off your boss's back.
- Everything can be filed under "miscellaneous."
- To err is human, to forgive is not our policy.
- Anyone can do any amount of work provided it isn't the work he/she is supposed to be doing.
- Important letters that contain no errors will develop errors in the mail.
- If you are good, you will be assigned all the work. If you are really good, you will get out of it.
- You are always doing something marginal when the boss drops by your desk.
- People who go to conferences are the ones who shouldn't.
- If it wasn't for the last minute, nothing would get done.
- At work, the authority of a person is inversely proportional to the number of pens that person is carrying.
- When you don't know what to do, walk fast and look worried.
- Following the rules will not get the job done.
- Getting the job done is no excuse for not following the rules.
- When confronted by a difficult problem you can solve it more easily by reducing it to the question, "How would the Lone Ranger handle this?"
- No matter how much you do, you never do enough.
- The last person that quit or was fired (or retired) will be held responsible for everything that goes wrong.

Aphorisms

- Gardening Rule: When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.
- The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.
- Never take life seriously. Nobody gets out alive anyway.
- One good turn gets most of the blankets.
- There are two kinds of pedestrians -- the quick and the dead.
- An unbreakable toy is useful for breaking other toys.
- If quitters never win, and winners never cheat, then who is the fool who said "Quit while you're ahead"?
- A closed mouth gathers no feet.
- Health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
- It's not hard to meet expenses, they're everywhere.
- Jury -- Twelve people who determine which client has the better lawyer.
- The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.
- Marriage is the triumph of imagination over intelligence. Second marriage is the triumph of hope over experience.
- Before marriage, a man yearns for the woman he loves. After marriage, the 'Y' becomes silent.
- If you want your spouse to listen and pay strict attention to every word you say, talk in your sleep.

- A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend. A successful woman is one who can find such a man.
- Marriage is a three ring circus: engagement ring wedding ring suffering
- When a newly married couple smiles, everyone knows why. When a ten-year married couple smiles, everyone wonders why.
- Love is blind but marriage is an eye-opener.
- The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once.
- Cosmetics: A woman's means for keeping a man from reading between the lines.
- Words to live by: Do not argue with a spouse who is packing your parachute.
- When a man opens the door of his car for his wife, you can be sure of one thing: either the car is new or the wife.
- I married Miss Right. I just didn't know her first name was Always.
- Losing a wife can be hard. In my case, it was almost impossible.
- I haven't spoken to my wife for 18 months -- I don't like to interrupt her.
- A man is incomplete until he is married. After that, he is finished.

Deep thoughts contest

- My young son asked me what happens after we die. I told him we get buried under a bunch of dirt and worms eat our bodies. I guess I should have told him the truth--that most of us go to Hell and burn eternally--but I didn't want to upset him.
- Democracy is a beautiful thing, except for that part about letting just any old yokel vote.
- Home is where the house is.
- Often, when I am reading a good book, I stop and thank my teacher. That is, I used to, until she got an unlisted number.
- As you make your way through this hectic world of ours, set aside a few minutes each day. At the end of the year, you'll have a couple of days saved up.
- Give me the strength to change the things I can, the grace to accept the things I cannot, and a great big bag of money.
- For centuries, people thought the moon was made of green cheese. Then the astronauts found that the moon is really a big hard rock. That's what happens to cheese when you leave it out.
- Think of the biggest number you can. Now add five. Then, imagine if you had that many Mars Bars. Wow, that's five more than the biggest number you could come up with!
- I bet living in a nudist colony takes all the fun out of Halloween.
- I believe you should live each day as if it is your last, which is why I don't have any clean laundry because, come on, who wants to wash clothes on the last day of their life?
- Whenever I start getting sad about where I am in my life, I think about the last words of my favorite uncle: "A truck!"
- If you really want to impress people with your computer literacy, add the words "dot com" to the end of everything you say, dot com.
- I once heard the voice of God. It said "Vrrrrmmmmmm." Unless it was just a lawn mower.

- If we could just get everyone to close their eyes and visualize world peace for an hour, imagine how serene and quiet it would be until the looting started.

Graduates

The graduate with a Science degree asks, "Why does it work?"

The graduate with an Engineering degree asks, "How does it work?"

The graduate with an Accounting degree asks, "How much will it cost?"

The graduate with a Liberal Arts degree asks, "Do you want fries with that?"

Prison or work?

- In prison you spend the majority of your time in an 8'x10' cell. At work you spend most of your time in a 6'x8' cubicle.
- In prison you get three meals a day. At work you only get a break for one meal and you have to pay for it.
- In prison you get time off for good behavior. At work you get rewarded for good behavior with more work.
- In prison a guard locks and unlocks all the doors for you. At work you must carry around a security card and unlock and open all the doors yourself.
- In prison you can watch TV and play games. At work you get fired for watching TV and playing games.
- In prison they allow your family and friends to visit. At work you cannot even speak to your family and friends.
- In prison all expenses are paid by taxpayers with no work required. At work you get to pay all the expenses to go to work and then they deduct taxes from your salary to pay for prisoners.
- In prison you spend most of your life looking through the bars from the inside wanting to get out. At work you spend your time wanting to get out and inside bars.
- In prison you can join many programs which you can leave at any time. At work there are some programs you can never get out of.
- In prison there are wardens who are often sadistic. At work we have managers.