

THINGS

No One Ever Tells You

By Jim Aylward



Ah, the good things in life – things like gardenias growing on trees, which they do. I always imagined them growing on prom dates or in the minds of florists everywhere. Things like fry cakes (or, as some call them, doughnuts) – flavored dough dunked in deep fat for deep pleasure and very deep middles.

Good things like scary Johnny Depp movies, pens with real ink, books written by real writers (perhaps published in 1952), handwriting that's legible, a phone call from a real-live person, an unexpected sum in your bank account, laughing out loud with a friend over something ridiculous, crunchy cinnamon toast, and a really good cup of tea.

And, naturally, these good "Things No One Ever Tells You": how mermaids in Poland grow larger through politics, how aromatherapy makes inmates serene, how good voters go to heaven, why I don't play the cello anymore, the Indian express train that isn't, and why so many people today want to fire the boss but just can't. Good things all.

Have that cup of tea, that fry cake, and the following oh-so-delicious, incredible new "Things."

A man in Barnsley, England, was forced to paint swimsuits on his garden gnomes after neighbors complained to the police about the naked statues. The gnomes now sport polka-dot bikinis and shorts.

Repeat after me: "A nude gnome is a no-no."

A Harvard University study shows that folks who eat candy live almost a year longer than those who don't.

A Milky Way a day keeps the doctor away.

In a lighthearted competition, pub patrons in Britain were asked to suggest an 11th Commandment. My favorite is, "Thou shalt not consume thine own body weight in fudge."

The mermaid on a proposed coat of arms for Usta, Poland, will be altered because city officials decided her breasts were simply too small. The officials decreed that they be enlarged.

It was a bipartisan triumph.

An elephant's nose also functions as a hose and arm.

And you won't even mow the lawn!

Inmates in a jail in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, are now being calmed by aromatherapy and classical music. The rapists and murderers are sniffing sandalwood and listening to Mozart as part of a new rehabilitation program.

And if the sandalwood doesn't work, they can always use that old standby, eau de rubber hose.

An 86-year-old man was stopped for driving the wrong way on a divided highway in Bern, Switzerland. He told police he thought everybody else was driving the wrong way.

"Since they upped my methotrexate, I can't tell north from south! But my arthritis is swell!"

A centipede has three pairs of jaws – but never waits to say grace.

The chairman of the Election Commission of Kuala Lumpur has urged politicians there to stop telling people that everyone who votes for them will go to heaven.

A political operative in the States says he's trying to figure out a way of using that here without causing an investigation of some kind.

A chef who has a TV cooking show in England playfully prepared, while in the nude, a roast at home for his wife. Unfortunately, he got too close to the oven and burned some things.

At a new barbershop in Paisley, Scotland, men's hair is cut by women who are naked from the waist up. The place is called A Bit off the Top.

"No, I'm not in any hurry! I'll wait!"

Playing musical instruments can be hazardous to your health. Dr. Thilo Gambichler of London says violinists can suffer from "fiddler's neck," whereby the skin in contact with the instrument develops a bark-like appearance. Flautists, he continues, can develop dermatitis of the lips, while guitarists may get a chest irritation known as "guitar nipple."

I think the doctor is right. I had a terrible problem when I played the cello, but I don't want to talk about it.

Ambrosia was known in Greek and Roman mythology as the food of the gods.

Today, of course, ambrosia would be made by Krispy Kreme.

Reaching out to its elderly citizens, the Chinese government has started paying them annual subsidies. Those from 90 to 94 get \$36 a year, those 95 to 99 get \$60, and those 100 or more get \$120.

That just proves my dear, old mother correct. She always said, "It doesn't pay to get old."

An off-duty Montreal policeman was caught in the parking lot of a Quebec supermarket with a cart full of groceries he hadn't purchased. He told the manager he was "testing the store's security."

He found it very good and gave it an A+.

A woman pulled up to a London candy shop in a chauffeur-driven limo and bought 10,000 chocolate bars.

Now, that's a sweet tooth!

It was recently revealed that a new X-ray scanner used by Scotland Yard to detect hidden weapons and other contraband on passersby can also see right through people's clothing.

"Just looking for contraband, miss!"

An auditor died at his desk in a Helsinki tax office, but it was two days before anybody noticed.

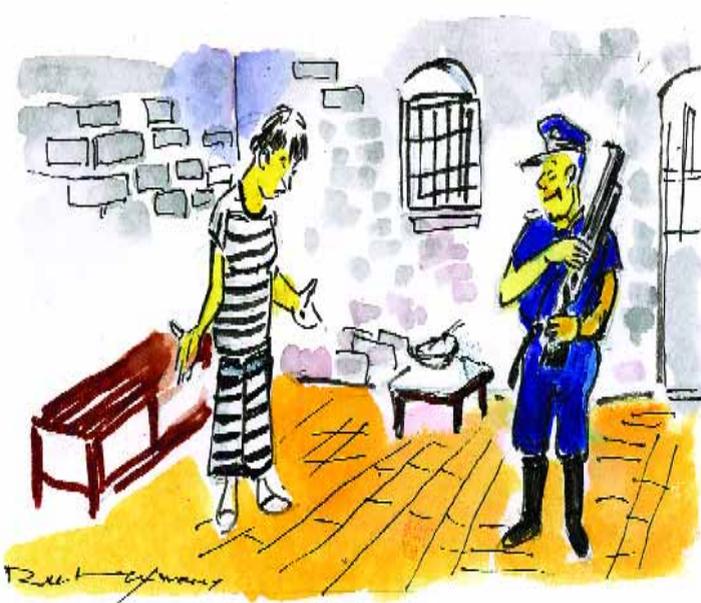
"I didn't know him well. I don't think anybody did. He was awfully quiet."

An Indian commuter train has run an average of five to six hours late every day for the last 16 years. The Srantah Express, which travels from Chapra to Allahabad, is detained daily by commuters who use the emergency chord to stop the train near their homes.

The Srantah Express isn't.

An Englishman crashed his very expensive Aston Martin DB into the front gate of his mansion because he became distracted when he saw the woman next door undressing in front of her bedroom window.

"I just looked up for a second, and the bloody gate was in my windscreen!"



A woman got away clean after shoplifting a pair of pants from a store in Yangtze, China. But when she got home, she found they were too long, so she went back to have them shortened at the place where she had stolen them. She was arrested and given new prison pants with stripes. They fit just fine.

Police in Kansas City, Missouri, searching the home of a suspected bank robber they'd arrested, found a to-do list he had written to himself, which included, "Rob bank."

He should have added, "Destroy to-do list."

When an alligator closes its mouth, most of its lower teeth cannot be seen.

But they're there.

Hanna Barysevich, supposedly 116, told Britain's *Daily Mirror* that her philosophy of life is to "eat good meals, eat pork fat, eat potatoes, and drink good vodka and wine."

Well, she's working on the famous four food groups, so...

A British scientist, imprisoned for seven years for trying to poison his wife, has been hired to teach at the University of Manchester.

His subject? Ethics.

A man arrested for drunk driving near Buffalo, New York, called his girlfriend and asked her to bail him out. On her way to the jail, she was arrested for drunk driving as well.

"Does that mean we both have to stay here?"

The Australian Parliament is considering a new measure to remove members from the chamber if they become intoxicated.

To flask or not to flask: That is the question.

A pound of butter contains 720 million to 180 billion fat globules.

If you don't want to eat it, just apply it directly to your belly.

Nearly 800 people voted for Mirdin Kasim for a seat in Indonesia's Regional Representatives Council, despite the fact that he had died three months earlier.

So, how bad could he be?

Thieves stole an alligator from the Australian Reptile Park in Somersby, but they soon freed it when it proved to be too much to handle. The zoo had named the gator Mr. Cranky Pants.

They should have taken Mr. Congeniality.

A serial burglar was hauled into court in Darwin, Australia, after breaking into 17 homes and businesses. He had previously been charged with 28 break-ins, and he went on his next spree after he was freed on bail. The judge asked, "Who's the idiot" who granted bail?

It turned out to be the judge asking the question.

A new survey from www.Badbossology.com says that 48 percent of those surveyed would fire their bosses if only they could. ●

