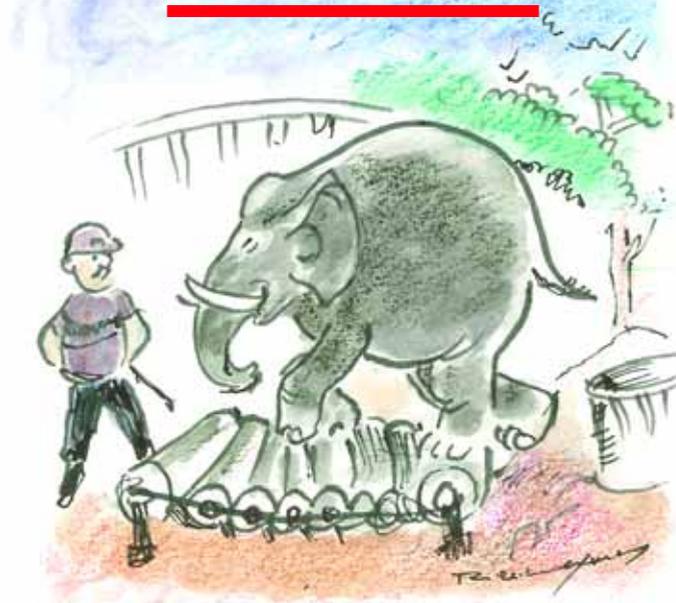


THINGS

No One Ever Tells You

By Jim Aylward



Early on, I decided I wanted to be a columnist for an international magazine, the kind of publication that the President might read on Air Force One. With funny pictures, of course. So I studied and I practiced, and I discovered that a columnist, at least in those sweet days, was supposed to be clean, trustworthy, faithful, loyal, obedient, and, of course, have a full understanding of wackiness in all its many forms.

I went to wacky school. I was actually tutored by Prof. Samuel L. Wacki, himself. I studied Odd and Strange and Ludicrous. I took a night course in Triple Entendre, and today I find myself a global expert on senior prisons, frisky nursing homes, dogs who eat cell phones, broken deck chairs and fat Americans, Polish curses, and the prison cultural program that booked a stripper. With funny pictures, of course.

After all these crazy years, I'm still clean, faithful, loyal, and obedient. I'm not as trustworthy as I used to be, but then, who is? After all, dumpling, this is not the Dark Ages. This is 2005!

Worried that Maggie the elephant has put on too much weight, the Alaska Zoo is building her a treadmill and will start her on exercising daily. She weighs 9,120 pounds.

Well, yes, but she's really just big boned.

The *Queen Mary 2* has had to replace most of its deck chairs because overweight Americans have been falling through them. As one crew member put it, "We have 10 restaurants on the ship, so if they're big when they get on, they tend to be bigger when they get off!"

"Hey there, li'l waitress, I'll have the fries AND the macaroni and cheese, and bring me a fortified deck chair!"

The young couple was deeply in lust. Making love in a parked car atop a cliff in Lujan de Cayo, Argentina, they somehow disengaged the parking brake and sent the car over the edge, and down into the ravine. They survived.

"Was it good for you? It was awesome for me!"

A gas station attendant in Konya, Turkey, misplaced his cell phone. So he dialed the phone's number.

His dog's stomach started to ring.

Community college students in Pennsylvania signed what they thought was a petition to legalize marijuana. That's what they were told. They didn't bother to read the fine print, and later discovered they had registered to vote as Republicans.

A raging bull got loose at a farm in Hof, Germany, prompting local police to break out the tranquilizer guns. The farmer's niece, however, brought out a cow on a leash and the bull calmed right down and followed her back into the barn.

"I haven't seen you around here before, have I?"

Old men in nursing homes in Australia, who sometimes get frisky with nurses, are now allowed to have visits from prostitutes. The ladies are brought into the facilities discretely and with the full knowledge of the supervisors. But, as one official put it, "It's not something we put in our brochures."

"Hi! Frisky Senior Home! This is Nurse Tootsie! May I help you!"

FBI agents arrested a man for robbing nearly two dozen banks across California. While searching his car, they found a copy of *The Big Bad Book of American Bank Robbery*.

A 23-year-old bombed-out-of-his-mind groom climbed on top of a table at his wedding reception in Cheshire, England, and drunkenly toasted the bridesmaids and then shouted insanely at his guests. The bride hit him over his head with an ashtray. He replied by throwing stuff and attacking police when they showed up to arrest him. The wife immediately filed for divorce. The marriage lasted just about 90 minutes.

Ah...but the memories! They'll go on forever!

Madonna and Celine Dion are distant relations, so says genealogist Troy Dunn of Myfamily.com. He traced the ancestry of the two singers to find they shared distant roots.

"Madonna's people had no comment," said Dunn. "Celine's people were horrified."

After his wife refused to have sex with him for five full days, a man in Seville, Spain, tried to have her charged with domestic abuse. The judge, however, refused.

"Sir...there are alternatives available. Have you been to the new Blow-Up Doll Store?"

The library in Douglas County, Colorado, is using dogs to get kids to read. Their new program, "Bark For Books," gets kids to read aloud to canines to hone literary skills.

"Sparky, shut up and listen to this here F. Scott What's-his-name."

Wild school kids at Exeter University in Scotland have put their school up for sale on eBay. They're asking \$10 million, but they say they're willing to consider almost anything.



In a new opinion survey, journalists ranked lower than nursing home operators and advertising salesmen for honesty and integrity. They are, however, ranked just above car salesmen.

I used to be a journalist. But now, thanks to modern science, I'm a Senior Deputy Word Aligner.

Sex advice authors Alexa Joy Sherman and Nicole Tocantins, say when an older man hits on a younger woman excessively, he is guilty of "Viaggravation."

Taking advantage of the situation, a woman sold rocks to rioters during two nights of unrest in Benton Harbor, Michigan. She made about \$70 charging \$1 for small rocks, \$5 for bigger ones.

She ended her selling spree when someone took one of her rocks and hit her with it.

A young woman in Madrid tried to cast a spell like the wizard Harry Potter, by cooking a mixture of water, oil, alcohol, and toothpaste on her stove.

She burned her house down.

A small airport in Mackay, Australia, was shut down for an hour in a security scare after mechanical humming sounds were heard inside a trash can.

It turned out to be a woman's vibrating sex toy.

Stressed out in Spain? Then it's sledgehammer time. In Soria overworked types can spend around \$75 for entrance to the local scrapyard where they get to smash whatever they like for two full hours. The damage therapy allows you to attack appliances, cars, cell phones – anything metal or plastic.

"No, Xavier's not here. He's at the scrapyards trying to get over a little disagreement we had about snoring."

The town of Nalcrest, Florida is populated entirely by former postal workers. The 800-person village was founded in 1963 by the U.S. Postal Service as a private retirement community.

There are no dogs allowed.

Plans are in the works for the world's first senior citizen prison in Hanover, Germany. Due to the increase in senior crime, the new facility will offer bathroom and bedroom handrails, and cells designed to allow for walkers and wheelchairs.

"Pssst! Save your medications for the breakout! Pass it along!"

A man in Itzehoe, Germany, got a parking ticket and was ordered to pay a \$40 fine or spend 10 days in jail.

He said because his nagging wife was hard to live with, he would choose jail.

A California sixth-grader was suspended from school for performing cartwheels and handstands in the schoolyard. Eleven-year-old Deidre Faegre "created an unsafe situation for herself and others," said Principal Denise Patton. She explained that other, less-skilled kids might try to imitate Faegre and get hurt.

In that case, said Deidre, the school should also ban basketball.

The Quakertown, Pennsylvania, Optimists' Club is disbanding for lack of interest.

Over the years, people have fallen into the River Liffey, which runs through the middle of Dublin. Today there is a marked increase in river-falling there. Alcohol is a suspected factor. The majority of incidents have taken place near Temple Bar, where imbibing has been known to occur. Patrons have been falling in by accident and as the result of wagers.

"Shawn, me boy-o, another Bushmill's, another pint, and then I swim with the fishes and pick up 20 big ones! And Jimmy Stewart thought he had a wonderful life!"

The mother of a middle school student in Anchorage, Alaska, body-slammed an assistant principal at the school's open house.

She said she was upset about the school's anti-bullying policies.

There was a golf tournament in Norco, California recently, and it was very successful. A number of strippers and prostitutes were stationed along the course, smiling graciously. Some 160 golfers signed up for the day.

Yes, and a lot of them forgot to bring any golf clubs.

Inmates at a Norwegian prison were allowed to select guests to speak and perform as part of a monthly cultural program. So they booked a stripper. When she removed all of her clothes, the guards removed her.

"Aw, come on! Give us a break! All we was doin' was tryin' to improve our intellect and the level of our awareness!"

A man filed papers to run for a post on the Springdale, Arkansas City Council, then failed to campaign because of time. He spent no money on the race, then dropped out a month before the election.

He won.

A woman in Chehalis, Washington, angry that her boyfriend had left her for another woman, spotted his red car driving along a road. She rammed into it to get even with him. A very angry man she had never seen before got out of the car. She told the state trooper who arrested her, "That's not my boyfriend!"

Repeat after me now: All red cars are not alike. ●

