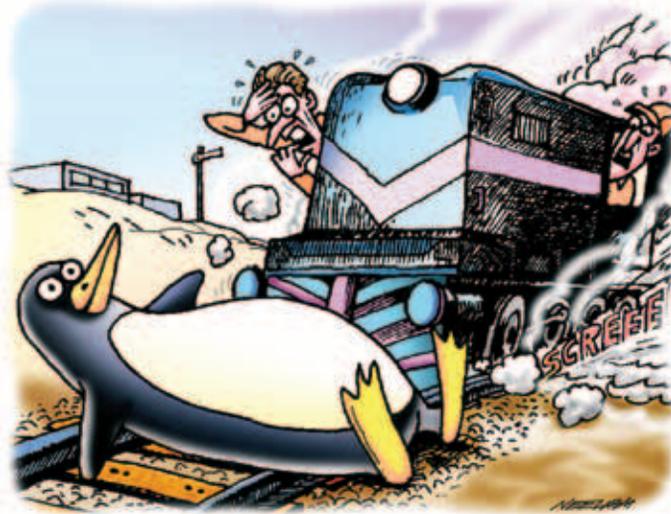


THINGS

No One Ever Tells You

by Jim Aylward



In a world where all the diet doctors today are overweight; where government officials are elected, then re-elected, then indicted, and then blame the media; and where corporations spend millions on ads that leave us wondering what the product or service may be, it's amazing that more of us aren't bonkers – I mean, totally whacked. But today most of us are just blank.

A new drug to cure ugliness? Whatever.

Corruption and greed in high places? What else is new?

A 24-hour cable news network reporting one story over and over and over? Turn on Animal Planet.

But today, there are some things we simply can't ignore – really serious things that demand our complete attention: **Things No One Ever Tells You.** For example, the store in Rotterdam that has a complete wall of breasts (Yes!), cell phones that go with you to the beyond...a 4,000-year-old bowl of pasta, the Irish retirement home with its own pub, a ham sandwich gun, and settling a domestic dispute with Cheese Whiz. Real news. Whatever.

A man in Panjin, China, was about to get into his sports car when he found a note in the door handle. It was from a woman he didn't know. She gave him her phone number, her description, and the declaration, "I love you because you have a BMW!"

My kind of woman – outrageous, straightforward, and shallow.

The Alamo rental car company in England has listed some of the strangest items left behind in vehicles by clients in the past year. Among them were a black leather whip, an artificial leg, a G-string, and a wedding dress.

That's strange. I thought I left my leg in San Francisco.

Russian billionaires (evidently there are some) are paying \$500,000 for statues of themselves with enormous penises and as many as six testicles. Sculptor Jonathan Mees says, "Russians have learned to appreciate the arts."

That reminds me of my friend Ruth. She had a large portrait of her mother over the piano. I said to her, "Your mother was beautiful!" She said, "No she wasn't. She had it painted that way."

A German train came to a screeching halt after the conductor saw what appeared to be a man in a tuxedo lying on the tracks. It wasn't a man. It was a six-foot-tall, stuffed toy penguin. A police spokesperson said, "We would think you would notice if you lost something like this."

"No, officer, you don't understand. I don't want to report a missing person. I want to report a missing penguin!"

A man in Belleville, Illinois, called police to report that someone had stolen his marijuana plants from his home. When the cops arrived, he took them to the room where he kept the plants, and found they had not been stolen after all. They were right there all the time.

"Never mind!"

BottomLineSecrets.com reports people older than 55 who are 5 to 10 pounds over their so-called ideal weights live longer and have fewer chronic diseases than those who are thin. Good.

I'm convinced that, someday, there will be a report that states eating donuts every morning around 10 o'clock can extend your life indefinitely. It makes me happy just to think about it!

To help men who don't know the bra size of their wives or girlfriends, the Piet Zwart store in Rotterdam has installed a wall of breasts of various shapes and sizes. By observing and touching the imitation breasts, the men can figure out which bits of cloth and elastic will fit their partners.

"No, thank you. I'm just browsing!"

In Ireland, the new trend is to bury the dead with their cell phones. Funeral directors say there is a fear of being buried alive, so the phone could be a lifeline to the living. Mostly, however, cell phones are such big deals to the younger generation, they're tucked into the coffin as a memento.

Long before cell phones, Mary Baker Eddy, the founder of Christian Science, had a phone line established from her tomb to the world outside, and a guard on duty, day and night, to take her call from beyond, if it should ever happen. One night, during an electrical storm, the guard was shaken to hear the phone ring.

The costume designer for the latest Superman movie, *Superman Returns*, says the toughest problem she had while designing the suit was determining the size and shape of Superman's "package." She says executives worried that it was too big, not big enough, too pointy, or too round.

Wouldn't you think the poor guy who played the part would have something to do with it?

Chinese archaeologists have found a 4,000-year-old bowl of noodles, which is proof, they say, that their ancestors – not Italians or Arabs – invented pasta.

I understand pasta is always better the next day, but 4,000 years is ridiculous.

Two sisters in Australia went to court to dispute their mother's will, in which their half-brother got most of the money. After a long battle, they were awarded an extra \$360,000.

Their lawyers charged them \$450,000 for their work.

American men are only half as good at sex as they think they are. A survey from *Men's Fitness* magazine finds 82 percent of guys believe they are "excellent" lovers, while only 43 percent of women think they've been with a man who knew what he was doing.

"Oh, come on, please be kind!"

When a pair of would-be burglars knocked 93-year-old Soja Popova to the floor of her home in Klaipeda, Lithuania, she grabbed one of the men by his "family jewels" and squeezed so hard, his shrieks alerted neighbors, who subsequently called the police.

Soja says her grip is good because of all those years she spent milking goats.

A new survey from Career-builder.com finds 43 percent of workers have called in sick with fake excuses in the past year. The most bizarre? "I'm too fat to get into my work pants!", "My cow bit me," and "My son fell asleep next to wet cement in our back yard. His foot fell in and we can't get him out!"

How do you get relatives to come to retirement homes to see Grandpa? One home in Ireland has become the first to install its own fully functioning pub. Nursing home official Rose Mooney says, "The whole social aspect of life extends the years." With the pub in the place, she says, relatives are visiting more often.

"I'll drink to that!"

A Swiss driver, caught speeding by a police camera, screeched to a halt, backed up, and attacked the camera with a pickax. Then he ran over the mangled thing with his car, and threw the remains off a cliff.

That should do it.

A hypnotist has been robbing banks in Moldova by talking to tellers and gradually putting them in a trance, before commanding them to give him all the money. Bank clerks have been told to stop making eye contact with customers.

"I am not getting sleepy, and you only get \$20 back!"

A man who was struck in the head by a New York City subway train three years ago, as he was peering into the tunnel looking for the train, was struck again in the head by a commuter train as he looked down the tracks. Parker T. Hall Houghtaling, 23, says he doesn't remember much about either incident.

"Where is that damn... AAARGH!"

Alarmed by the number of men arrested for statutory rape of girls younger than 16, officials in Sri Lanka responded by lowering the age of consent to 13.

Ah! The government at work.

Some 61 percent of clinically obese persons surveyed in New York don't believe they have a weight problem. Most say they are "slightly" overweight, and 19 percent say they are "just right."

"I'm just big boned. And hungry all the time."

A young man put on a mask and proceeded to rob a bank in Obermillstatt, Austria, not knowing that his high-school sweetheart was a teller there. She recognized her first love by his unusually blue eyes. After he fled with the loot, she gave the police his name.

She didn't like his cat either.

A man, armed with what everyone thought was a gun, robbed a bar in Chicago, but tripped and fell on the way out and was immediately apprehended by the bar's patrons. They found that the "gun" was actually a ham sandwich molded into the shape of a firearm.

I can see the tabloid headline now: I WAS ROBBED BY A MOLDY HAM SANDWICH.



A woman applied for a courtesy patrol position with the Dallas County Sheriff's department, but when deputies did a routine check on her, they found she was wanted in New Mexico for conspiracy to commit arson.

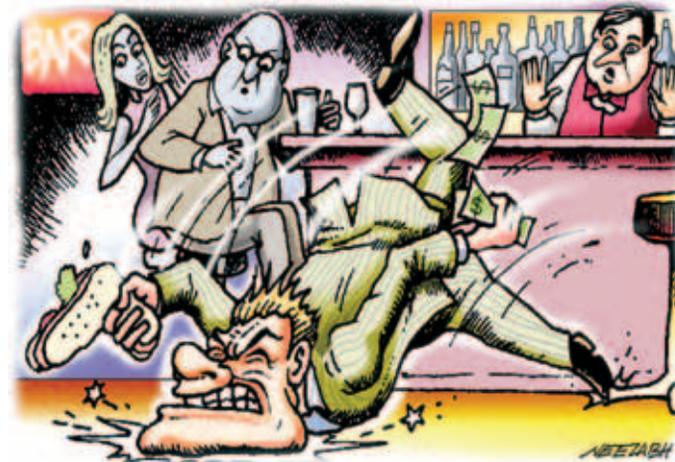
"I didn't get the job, did I?"

London's *Sunday Telegraph* reports that because of the shortage of military supplies caused by sending troops to Afghanistan and Iraq, British army soldiers on training exercises have been ordered to simply shout, "Bang! Bang!", rather than fire practice rounds.

"I said 'Bang! Bang!' Now die, dammit!"

A large posterior? It could mean less effective medications. A study from the Adelaide and Meath Hospital, Dublin, finds injections given in the rump aren't reaching the blood stream in patients who have much too much padding.

"Nurse Ratched, the fat needle, please!"



Safety inspectors questioned the owner of a strip club in Kienberg, Switzerland, as to whether the decorations around the club's stage were fireproof. To demonstrate his confidence in this, the owner lit the stuff with his cigarette lighter.

The building burned to the ground.

Firefighters, arriving to tackle a blaze at a smoke-filled Maryland convenience store, were astonished to find shoppers still waiting in checkout lines. A cashier said, "Customers, the store is on fire! Hello?"

At Belfast Zoo, three chimps managed to climb out of their compound. Armed security guards had to round them up. When the guards fired shots into the air, the chimps actually stopped and put their hands up.

That's just proof that there are too many old Warner Brothers movies on cable TV.

The Serbian village of Smrdic, which means "old smelly," has changed its name to Izvor. That means "spring." The name change is meant to halt the exodus of young people too embarrassed to live there.

Ah, to be young again and live in Old Smelly!

During an argument over his wife's failure to cook him some dinner, a South Carolina man squeezed Cheese Whiz on the kitchen floor. She responded by squeezing cheese onto his pickup truck. So he squeezed cheese into her hair. She then called police.

I understand on the weekends they have civilized discussions with Cool Whip. ●