

The Morning Breaks

"A sense of humor keeps life interesting..." -Marjorie Hinckley

Volume 3 Number 23

June 6, 2004

Battle Hymn of Term Finals

Mine eyes have seen the horror
Of the ending of the term
It has poisoned all my spirits
Like an apple with a worm
It's infected all my freedom
Like an ugly cancer germ
The truth shall soon be known.

Chorus: Failure, failure, degradation,
Failure and humiliation,
Failure, failure, academia,
The truth shall soon be known.

I have listened to the teachers
But the homework leaves me cold
I have never done assignments
Although many times been told
I have even missed my classes
When I was feeling bold
The truth shall soon be known

Chorus: Failure, failure, degradation,
Failure and humiliation,
Failure, failure, academia,
The truth shall soon be known.

They are adding all my points up
And I haven't earned but few
In fact, I haven't even gotten
More than one or two
Oh, if I could only find an answer
Anything to do
The truth shall soon be known.

Chorus: Failure, failure, degradation,
Failure and humiliation,
Failure, failure, academia,
The truth shall soon be known.

On the lines of every gradebook
There is solemn news for me
The worst is yet to come when
Financial Aid ignores my plea
So I guess the only answer is
To drop my books and flee
The truth shall soon be known.

Chorus: Failure, failure, degradation,
Failure and humiliation,
Failure, failure, academia,
The truth shall soon be known.

Well, the end has finally come
And I have failed to pass a class
Though the fun and laughter, goofing off
Was really quite a gas
But I won't be in the numbers

Of the capped and gowned mass
The truth was finally shown.

Chorus: Failure, failure, degradation,
Failure, and humiliation,
Failure, failure, academia,
The truth was finally known.

An irritated father complained to his golf buddy.

"When I was a kid, my parents sent me to my room without supper if I misbehaved. But my son has his own color TV, telephone, computer, every computer game and CD player in his room!"

"So how do you handle it?" his friend asked.

"I send him to MY room!"

One caller to our answering service gave me his name, number and message and then said, "You know my name. What's yours?"

"We're not allowed to give our names," I replied, "but my operator number is 4136"

Sounding disappointed, he said, "May I call you by your first digit, or would that be too personal?"

My children and I were playing hide-and-seek one evening. With the lights turned off in the house, the kids scattered to hide, and I was "it." After a few minutes, I was able to locate all of them.

When it was my turn to hide, they searched high and low but couldn't find me. Finally one of my sons got a bright idea. He went to the phone and dialed; they found me immediately because my pager started beeping.

An important thing to remember for missionaries new to a foreign country: If you don't know where you're going you're never lost.

Having lost weight over the past few years, a lady was discarding things from her wardrobe that no longer fit.

Her seven-year-old niece was watching as she held up a huge pair of slacks.

"Wow," the lady said, "I must have worn these when I was 183."

Her niece looked puzzled, then asked, "How old are you now?"

At one point during a little league baseball game, the coach said to one of his young players, "Do you understand what cooperation is? What a team is?" The little boy nodded yes.

"Do you understand that what matters is whether we win together as a team?" The little boy nodded yes.

"So," the coach continued, "when a strike is called, or you are out at first, you don't argue or curse or attack the umpire. Do you understand all that?" Again, the boy nodded yes.

"Good," said the coach. "Now go over there and explain it to your mother."

On duty as a customer-service rep for a car-rental company, I took a call from a driver who needed a tow. He was stranded on a busy highway, but he didn't know the make of the car he was driving. I asked again for a more detailed description beyond "a blue four-door."

After a pause, the driver replied, "It's the one on fire."

A Bishop was an avid duck hunter, and was in the market for a new bird dog. His search ended when he found a dog that could actually walk on water to retrieve a duck. Shocked by his find, he was sure none of his friends would ever believe him.

He decided to try to break the news to a friend of his, a pessimist by nature, and invited him to hunt with him and his new dog.

As they waited by the shore, a flock of ducks flew by. They fired, and a duck fell. The dog responded and jumped into the water. The dog, however, did not sink but instead walked across the water to retrieve the bird, never getting more than his paws wet.

The friend saw everything but did not say a single word.

On the drive home the hunter asked his friend, "Did you notice anything unusual about my new dog?"

"I sure did," responded his friend. "He can't swim."

I did this lesson when I was teaching the 16 year olds. The boy I asked refused to try the "dirt" (I was told later, by his mother, that he is a very picky eater) and another boy volunteered.

The second boy tasted the "dirt" and was completely shocked that it was OREO! He told me he knew it was not real dirt...but he didn't know what it was.

This turned out to be a VERY effective lesson for this class. (PS...all you elders, please take note: both of these boys served missions in Thailand (and for 3 months were companions). The first boy lost 25 pounds and the 2nd boy gained almost 20!)

Gladys Knight, who joined the LDS Church last year, got to sing for the Prophet on Friday night. She also performed at a luncheon honoring Sister Marjorie Hinckley on Saturday.

Of course, President Hinckley has been traveling so much that I'm sure some of Gladys' songs must ring true for Sister Hinckley.

I wonder which song she identifies most with, "Midnight Train to Georgia" or "Neither One Of Us (Wants To Be The First To Say Goodbye)?"

(Note: Wendy and I have the opportunity to see Gladys Knight in concert at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas during a convention we attended. She was fabulous, and everyone in her show was dressed appropriately. She has been voted the "Best Show In The West" for her Las Vegas show, which just goes to prove that exposing al the skin doesn't necessarily make for a good show.)

When my daughter LaBronna was 4 she asked me who Jesus' father was. I told her it was God. She said, "well who's his mother" and I told her his mother was Mary.

She said "I thought Mary had a little lamb" ?

A Catholic priest, a Protestant minister, and a Mormon bishop were discussing when life begins.

"Life begins," said the priest, "at the moment of fertilization. That is when God instills the spark of life into the fetus."

"We believe," said the minister, "that life begins at birth, because that is when the baby becomes an individual and is capable of making its own decisions and must learn about sin."

"You've both got it wrong," said the bishop. "Life begins when the children have graduated from college and moved out of the house."

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Volume 3 Number 24

June 13, 2004

The preacher spent his whole sermon relating the evils of sin and how all men are sinners with no exceptions.

At the end of the sermon he asked rhetorically, "Now does anyone here think they are without sin?"

He had only to wait a few seconds before a man in one of the back pews stood up.

The pastor asked the man who had the audacity to stand after such a fiery sermon, "Sir, do you really think you are completely without sin?"

The man quickly answered, "No sir, I'm not standing up for myself, but for my wife's first husband."

A man walked by a table in a hotel and noticed three men and a dog playing cards. The dog was playing with extraordinary performance.

"This is a very smart dog," the man commented.

"Not so smart," said one of the players. "Every time he gets a good hand he wags his tail."

A family who had just moved into a new neighborhood was anxious to make a good impression.

But the neighbors seemed cold and made no overtures of welcome. The mother of the brood was overjoyed when finally her youngest son ran in and announced happily, "Mommy, the lady down the street asked my name today!"

"Oh, how nice!" exclaimed the mother enthusiastically.

"And then what did she do?"

"Then she gave it to the policeman." the boy said.

A flight instructor was sent out to help a trainee who had radioed that he was about to make a forced landing a few miles from the base. The instructor spotted the plane standing in a field small enough to present a real challenge to his professional reputation.

With determination, full flaps and engine just above the stall, he maneuvered into the field. Climbing out, he shouted angrily to the trainee, "Just how did you manage to get into such a small field?"

"I landed in the big field over there," the trainee explained, "but in order to leave room for you, I had the farmer tow me here."

A tourist was admiring the necklace worn by a local Indian.

"What is it made of?" she asked.

"Alligator's teeth," the Indian replied.

"I suppose," she said patronizingly, "that they mean as much to you as pearls do to us."

"Oh no," he objected. "Anybody can open an oyster."

Cessna: "Newark tower, Cessna 12345, student pilot, I am out of fuel."

Tower: "Roger Cessna 12345, reduce airspeed to best glide!! Do you have the Newark airfield in sight?!?!?"

Cessna: "Uh, um...tower, I'm parked on the south ramp. I just wanted to know where the fuel truck is."

A boy is about to go on his first date, and is nervous about what to talk about. He asks his father for advice.

The father replies: "My son, there are three subjects that always work. These are food, family, and philosophy."

The boy picks up his date and they go to a soda fountain. Ice cream sodas in front of them, they stare at each other for a long time, as the boy's nervousness builds.

He remembers his father's advice, and chooses the first topic.

He asks the girl: "Do you like spinach?" She says "No," and the silence returns.

After a few more uncomfortable minutes, the boy thinks of his father's suggestion and turns to the second item on the list. He asks, "Do you have a brother?" Again, the girl says "No" and there is silence once again.

The boy then plays his last card. He thinks of his father's advice and asks the girl the following question: "If you had a brother, would he like spinach?"

Amy and Jamie are old friends.

They have both been married to their husbands for a long time. Amy is upset because she thinks her husband

doesn't find her attractive anymore.

"As I get older he doesn't bother to look at me!" Amy cries.

"I'm so sorry for you, as I get older my husband says I get more beautiful every day." replies Jamie.

"Yes, but your husband's an antique dealer!"

Soon after I began my mission in Denmark, my trainer and I went to visit an inactive sister. The sister wasn't home, so we talked to her teenage son for a few minutes before leaving. As we were getting ready to leave I decided to try out a phrase I'd heard a lot since I'd been in Denmark: "Hilse," which means "Say hi."

I tried to say, "Hilse din mor for os," which means "Tell your mother hi for us." Instead of saying, "Hilse," I said, "Hest din mor for os." The boy gave me a strange look and went into his house.

I turned to my trainer and asked why he'd given me such a funny look. She laughed and said I'd just told him to "Horse your mother for us."

Several months later I was a trainer. My trainee wanted to say, "Because of Christ's atonement we can receive forgiveness for our sins." Instead of using the word, "Tilgivelse" (forgiveness), she used the word, "Tilladelse" (permission). So what she actually said was, "Because of Christ's atonement we can receive permission for our sins." Luckily we were in our room studying and not teaching an investigator when she said that.

In Salt Lake City, Utah everyone is into researching their family tree. Even the big department stores sell genealogy supplies. A newcomer to Salt Lake City, and a non-researcher, got a job as a clerk at one of the big department stores.

She received her introduction to genealogy one day when a customer came into the store and asked "Where do I find the Family Group Sheets?"

The new clerk, with a shocked look on her face, answered, "Family Group Sheets? All we carry are the King, Queen, double and twin size sheets."

During primary, the music instructor asked the children to close their eyes and imagine Christmas. All the children proceeded, and told about presents, trees, baby Jesus, and other Christmas images that they saw.

Lisa, a little girl in my Sunbeams class, raised her hand and said, "I just see black". The instructor didn't understand, and had Lisa close her eyes again. "I still see black", she said. I had to explain it to the instructor, who began laughing, along with all of the teachers in the room.

It always amazes me at their honesty!

It was the Sunday that a Stake High Council member was speaking. True tradition, the High Councilman's talk was dragging on. Not only was it past the time for his talk to end, it was well past the time for Sacrament Meeting to end. The congregation was getting restless and the children very fidgety.

My then two and-a-half year-old son finally had had enough and decided to take matters into his own hands. His stood up on the bench and with all the voice of authority that a toddler can muster proclaimed, "Amen. Go home!"

After the ripple of laughter from the congregation died down, the High Councilman stated, "Well, I guess it's about time to wrap this up." He then quickly bore his testimony and sat down.

The High Councilman must have shared this experience, because the next month at the beginning of his talk, the visiting High Councilman said, "I will keep my remarks brief. I hear your ward has a warning system should I speak to long."

My uncle rewrote the lyrics to "In Our Lovely Deseret." Here they are:

In our lovely Deseret

Where the saints of God have met

There's a multitude of children all around.

And they cry and scream and shout

So they will be taken out

To the corridor where they can run around.

Hush! Hush! Children, here's the Sacrament.

Wait 'till the speaker's up to scream.

Then we'll go out to the hall

Where you can have a ball

And we'll do the very same thing here next week.

During a Primary lesson on the bishopric, the teacher asked the children what a bishop does. Without hesitation, a bright six-year-old answered, "It moves diagonally." She'll make a great chess player.

One busy Saturday as I was leaving for work and my husband was leaving for the temple, our 11-year-old asked who was going to fix breakfast. We told him that his 15-year-old brother would. He replied, "Would this be a good time to use my 72-hour kit?"

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Volume 3 Number 25

June 20, 2004

Thought you might enjoy this interesting prayer given in Kansas at the opening session of their Senate. It seems prayer still upsets some people:

When Minister Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kansas Senate, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but this is what they heard:

"Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.

We confess that we have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and call it Pluralism.

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.

We have killed our unborn and called it choice.

We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem.

We have abused power and called it politics.

We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition.

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, Oh, God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free.

Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent to direct us to the center of Your will and to openly ask these things in the name of Your Son, the living Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen!"

The response was immediate. A number of legislators walked out during the prayer in protest..

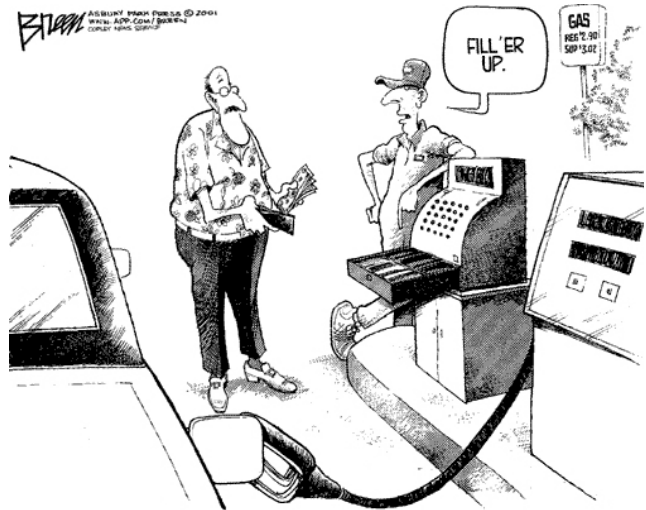
In 6 short weeks, Central Christian Church, where Rev. Wright is pastor, logged more than 5,000 phone calls with only 47 of those calls responding negatively.

The church is now receiving international requests for copies of this prayer from India, Africa and Korea.

Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on his radio program, "The Rest of the Story," and received a larger response to this program than any other he has ever aired.

With the Lord's help, may this prayer sweep over our nation and wholeheartedly become our desire so that we again can be called "one nation under God."

Just thought you would like to see that there are still people in the United States who "stand for something" and don't go around "falling" for everything.



Thanks to Ellen Jensen for forwarding this on.

In a grocery store a cashier held up a small dairy carton and yelled to a co-worker, "How much is half-and-half?"

Without a moment's hesitation the other cashier replied, "One."

I.T Department Computer Problem Self-Report Form*

1. Describe your problem:
2. Now, describe your problem accurately:
3. Speculate wildly about the cause of the problem:
4. Problem Severity:
A. Minor__ B. Minor__ C. Minor__ D. Trivial__
5. Nature of the problem:
A. Locked Up__ B. Frozen__ C. Hung__ D. Shot__
6. Is your computer plugged in? Yes__ No__
7. Is it turned on? Yes__ No__
8. Have you tried to fix it yourself? Yes__ No__
9. Have you made it worse? Yes__
10. Have you read the manual? Yes__ No__
11. Are you sure you've read the manual? Yes__ No__
12. Are you absolutely certain you've read the manual? No__

13. Do you think you understood it? Yes__ No__

14. If 'Yes,' then why can't you fix the problem yourself?

15. How tall are you? Are you above this line?

16. What were you doing with your computer at the time the problem occurred?

17. If 'nothing,' explain why you were logged in:

18. Are you sure you aren't imagining the problem? Yes__ No__

19. How does this problem make you feel?

20. Tell me about your childhood:

21. Do you have any independent witnesses of the problem? Yes__ No__

22. Can't you do something else, instead of bothering me? Yes__

23. Then why don't you do it?

Breaking Up Is Hard To Do...(especially when you share the same major!)

PSYCHOLOGY: Girl accuses guy of just using her as a substitute for his Mother.

SOCIOLOGY: Each claims to have been oppressed in the relationship.

ARCHAEOLOGY: One tries to bury the past, and accuses the other of trying to dig it up.

THEATRE: "OH! Life is... ENDED... as we KNOW it!"

PHYSICS: Both resign themselves to the fact that what goes up must come down.

JOURNALISM: "Today was the end of an era. Jack, 19, and Jill, 18, called an end to their relationship of 2 weeks..."

WOMEN'S STUDIES: "HE did it!"

BUSINESS: Both decide that they're spending way too much money together, and that it's simply cheaper to be single.

HISTORY: Each party argues the breakup was caused by something the other party did in the past.

GEOGRAPHY: Both people decide to simply move far away to avoid each other.

ECONOMICS: One party demands more than the other can supply.

Walking through the hallways at the middle school where I work, I saw a new substitute teacher standing outside his classroom with his forehead against a locker.

I heard him mutter, "How did you get yourself into this?"

Knowing that he was assigned to a difficult class, I tried

to offer moral support.

"Are you okay?" I asked. "Can I help?"

He lifted his head and replied, "I'll be fine as soon as I get this kid out of his locker."

The two teenagers were arrested. The police sergeant told them they were entitled to a phone call. Some time later a man entered the station and asked for them by name.

The sergeant said, "I suppose you're the lawyer?"

"Nope," the chap replied. "I'm just here to deliver their pizza."

A woman's husband dies and she has only \$20,000 to her name. After everything is done at the funeral home and cemetery, she tells her closest friend that she has no money left.

The friend says, "How can that be? You told me you still had \$20,000 left just a few days before your husband died. How could you be broke?"

The widow says, "Well, the funeral home cost me \$5,000. And of course, I had to make the obligatory donation to the church, so that was another \$5,000. The rest went for the memorial stone."

The friend says, "\$10,000 for the memorial stone? Wow, how big was it?"

Extending her left hand, the widow says, "Three carats."

I'm not saying our new receptionist is dumb, but this is how she filled out her insurance forms:

Date of Birth: January 12, 1978

Weight: 6 pounds, 10 ounces

Height: 20 inches

Five mornings a week, my husband goes to the health club, gets on the stair-stepper, sets the timer, and buries his nose in a book. Recently, he noticed an amazingly fit middle-aged woman who seemed to run circles around everyone, took few breaks, and rarely even broke a sweat.

"It's not fair," he complained. "By the time I'm dragging myself off to the showers, she's hopping back onto the stepper for another session."

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June 27, 2004

Here are some actual answers from contestants who have appeared on the game show Family Feud:

Name something a blind person might use: *a sword*
Name a song with moon in the title: *blue suede moon*
Name a bird with a long neck: *a penguin*
Name an occupation where you need a torch: *a burglar*
Name a famous brother and sister: *Bonnie and Clyde*
Name an item of clothing worn by the Three Musketeers: *a horse*
Name something that floats in the bath: *water*
Name something you wear on the beach: *a deck chair*
Name something red: *my cardigan*
Name a famous cowboy: *Buck Rogers*
Name a famous royal: *mail*
Name a number you have to memorize: *7*
Name something you do before going to bed: *sleep*
Name something you put on walls: *roofs*
Name something in the garden that's green: *a scarecrow*
Name something that flies that doesn't have an engine: *dishes*
Name something you might be allergic to: *skiing*
Name a famous bridge: *the bridge over troubled waters*
Name something a cat does: *goes to the toilet*
Name a continent: *Italy*
Name something you do in the bathroom: *decorate*
Name an animal you might see at the zoo: *a dog*
Name something slippery: *a con man*
Name a kind of ache: *a pancake*
Name a food that can be brown or white: *potato*
Name a potato topping: *jam*
Name a famous Scotsman: *Jock*
Another famous Scotsman: *Vinnie Jones*
Name something with a hole in it: *window*
Name a non-living object with legs: *plant*
Name a domestic animal: *leopard*
Name a part of the body beginning with 'N': *knee*
Name a way of cooking fish: *cod*
Name something you clean: *your sister*

It has to be confessed that the minister was rather long-winded.

During his sermon a young wife of the congregation remembered that she had left the Sunday dinner in the gas range without regulating the flame.

She hastily wrote a note and slipped it to her husband,

who was an usher.

He, thinking it was for the minister, calmly walked up and laid it on the pulpit.

The minister paused, took the note with a smile, which turned into a terrific frown as he read:

"Please hurry home and shut off the gas."

A young man is an avid listener to the city's police frequency, and he leaves the scanner on all the time.

One morning while making his bed, I heard the dispatcher say, "Car 34, there is a five-foot boa constrictor in a front yard. The resident wants a policeman to come and remove it."

There was a long pause, then some static.

Slowly, a voice said, "We can't get the car started."

My daughter's 5th-grade class had been studying astronomy. One morning at breakfast she announced, "On Friday we're having a quiz on the moon."

That's when her little brother piped up, saying, "Are you gonna let her go, Mom?"

When my father-in-law decided to move after his retirement, he invited us to his home to take a few pieces of furniture he wanted us to have. One item was beautiful but very heavy, an antique dining-room set. Our teenage son helped us wrestle the set into our truck. It took the whole day, but finally the table, chairs, and china cabinet were sitting in our dining room.

"Just think," I said as I admired the furniture while my son sat resting.

"This set is 100 years old. And someday, it will belong to you."

"Oh, no!" he replied with a stricken look on his face. "You mean I'm going to have to move this thing AGAIN?"

The Stake President was standing at the pulpit after

changing the ward's bishopric. He decided it would be a good time to give the youth in the ward a lesson on church organization, and began by asking a question to the youth. "Does anyone know what the bishop does?"

There was silence. Finally, one little boy on the front row raised his hand and answered gravely, "He's the one you can move diagonally."

A mother was anxiously awaiting her daughter's plane. She had just come back from a far away land trying to find adventure.

As the daughter was exiting the plane, the mother noticed a man directly behind her daughter dressed in feathers with exotic markings all over his body and carrying a shrunken head.

The daughter introduced this man as her new husband.

The mother gasped in disbelief and disappointment and screamed, "I said for you to marry a Rich Doctor! a RICH Doctor!"

A friend of mine, and her husband, were on vacation. They visited a Church on Sunday. My friend likes to sit close to the front. So they entered a pew in the second row. Shortly after settling into the pew, an usher came up to them, tapped lightly on bench, and said, "This pew is saved."

Her husband replied, "So are WE!"

A friend of mine is a deputy with the sheriff's department canine unit. One evening, the deputy was dispatched to the scene of a possible burglary, where he discovered the back door of a building ajar. He let the dog out his patrol car and commanded it to enter and seek.

Jumping from the back seat, the dog headed for the building. After lunging through the doorway, the dog froze and backed out. My friend was puzzled until he investigated further and saw the sign on the building:

"Veterinarian's Office."

They have finally found a diagnosis for my condition. Hooray!! I have recently been diagnosed with A.A.A.D.D.! Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder...

This is how it goes:

I decide to wash the car; I start toward the garage and notice the mail on the table. Ok, I'm going to wash the car. But first I'm going to go through the mail.

I lay the car keys down on the desk, discard the junk

mail and I notice the trash can is full. Ok, I'll just put the bills on my desk and take the trash can out, but since I'm going to be near the mailbox anyway, I'll pay these few bills first.

Now, where is my checkbook? Oops, there's only one check left. My extra checks are in my desk.

Oh, there's the coke I was drinking. I'm going to look for those checks. But first I need to put my coke further away from the computer, oh maybe I'll pop it into the fridge to keep it cold for a while.

I head towards the kitchen and my flowers catch my eye, they need some water. I set the coke on the counter and uh oh! There are my glasses. I was looking for them all morning! I'd better put them away first.

I fill a container with water and head for the flowerpots - - Aaaaaaah! Someone left the TV remote in the kitchen. We'll never think to look in the kitchen tonight when we want to watch television so I'd better put it back in the family room where it belongs.

I splash some water into the pots and onto the floor, I throw the remote onto a soft cushion on the sofa and I head back down the hall trying to figure out what it was I was going to do?

End of Day: The car isn't washed, the bills are unpaid, and the coke is sitting on the kitchen counter, the flowers are half watered, the checkbook still only has one check in it and I can't seem to find my car keys!

When I try to figure out how come nothing got done today, I'm baffled because I KNOW I WAS BUSY ALL DAY LONG!!! I realize this is a serious condition and I'll get help, BUT FIRST I think I'll check my e-mail...

Please send this to everyone you know because I DON'T REMEMBER IF I SENT IT OR NOT!!!



Big Steve sends his greetings from Calf Creek