

THE MORNING BREAKS

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

Volume 3 Number 43

November 7, 2004

Because of a minor infraction, a shipmate of mine aboard the USS Reeves, bound for Japan, was busted one rank, fined and given extra duty for three weeks.

Looking forward to celebrating his 21st birthday on July 22, he consoled himself every night during his extra duty by reciting, "They can bust me, they can fine me -- but they can't take away my birthday."

As July 2 approached, his excitement increased. When he went to bed on July 21, he happily repeated, "They can bust me, they can fine me -- but they can't take away my birthday."

The next morning, he found out that the ship had crossed the international date line -- and it was July 23.



I'm all for BYU, but this might be taking things a little bit too far!

Dispatcher: 911 Emergency...How may I help you.
Caller: Yeah, I'm having trouble breathing. I'm all out of breath. Dang ... I think I'm going to pass out.
Dispatcher: Sir, where are you calling from?
Caller: I'm at a pay phone. North and Foster. Dang ...
Dispatcher: Sir, an ambulance is on the way. Are you an asthmatic?
Caller: No.
Dispatcher: What were you doing before you started having trouble breathing?
Caller: Running from the police. So don't send them.

My wife and I were at my high school reunion. As I looked around, I noticed the other men in their expensive suits and their bulging stomachs. Proud of the fact that I weighed just five pounds more than I did when I was in high school, the result of trying to beat a living out of a rocky hillside farm, I said to my wife, "I'm the only guy here who can still wear the suit he wore when he graduated."
She glanced at the prosperous crowd, then back at me, and said, "You're the only one who has to."

Let's face it...traveling isn't very much fun when all the historical sites are younger than you are.

When the U.S. Mint reissued two-dollar bills, I thought they might someday become collectors' items. So I went to the bank and picked up a hundred, serially numbered and still in their original band.

On my next trip to my parents' house, I gave the \$200 to my mother and said, "Take good care of these. They might be worth something someday."

Several months later I asked Mom if she was keeping the two-dollar bills safe.

"Oh, yes!" she replied. "I deposited them in the bank the day after you left."

Stationed in Okinawa, Japan, my son and his wife were expecting their first baby. I was elated when he called me at work with the news of my grandchild's birth.

I took down all the statistics and turned to relate it all to my co-workers. "I'm a grandmother!" I declared. "It's a baby girl, and she weighs five pounds."

"When was she born?" someone asked.

Recalling the date my son told me, I stopped, looked at the calendar, and said in amazement, "Tomorrow!"

doesn't say Thank You.

After spending all day Sunday watching football on television, a man fell asleep and spent the night in the chair. His wife woke him in the morning.

"It's twenty to seven," she called.

"In who's favor?"

Experience is a wonderful thing! It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

Getting away from their high-stress jobs, a couple spends relaxing weekends in their motor home.

When they found their peace and quiet disturbed by well-meaning, but unwelcome, visits from other campers, they devised a plan to assure themselves some privacy.

Now, when they set up camp, they place this sign on the door of their RV:

"Insurance agent. Ask about our term-life package."

It was the first day of school. As the principal made his rounds, he heard a terrible commotion coming from one of the classrooms. He rushed in and spotted one boy, taller than the others, who seemed to be making the most noise. He seized the lad, dragged him to the hall, and told him to wait there until he was excused.

Returning to the classroom, the principal restored order and lectured the class for half an hour about the importance of good behavior. Now," he said," are there any questions?

One girl stood up timidly. "Please sir," she asked, "May we have our teacher back?"

"Where is exactly is your teacher?"

"He's in the hall where you dragged him, sir."

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague!

The door bell rings, and a man answers it. Here stands a well dressed kid in a black suit carrying a briefcase, saying "Trick or Treat!"

The man asks the kid who he's dressed up as for Halloween.

The kid says, "I'm an IRS agent."

Then he takes 28% of the man's candy, leaves, and



We all know that when camping you dig the latrines first, then cook breakfast. But it was the first time I saw the boys use the same implements for both.

The speed of light is 186,000 miles per second...or the distance a baby can crawl when your back is turned.

I do the water and sewer billing for a small city in Washington State. Customers complained about our postcard-sized bills -- which they said looked too much like junk mail.

So we decided to start sending full-sized bills in envelopes. The month before the switch, I had a note printed on the cards, announcing the change.

Two days later, I heard someone yelling at our receptionist, "Is this some kind of joke?" When the customer threw his bill upon the desk, I saw his point.

The note was, "Coming soon! New Larger Bills!"

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour!"

The average mind is like lightning...one brilliant flash and then it's gone.

See you next week.



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November 14, 2004

A hesitant driver, waiting for a traffic jam to clear, came to a complete stop on the freeway on-ramp.

The traffic thinned, but the driver still waited. Finally a furious voice from the vehicle behind him cried, "Hey, fellow! The sign says 'Yield,' not 'surrender!'"

How do you tell when you run out of invisible ink?

Flying to Los Angeles from San Francisco the other day, a passenger noticed that the "Fasten Seat Belts" sign was kept lit during the whole journey although the flight was a particularly smooth one.

Just before landing, he asked the flight attendant about it.

"Well," she explained, "up front there are 17 University of California girls going to Los Angeles for the weekend. In back, there are 25 Coast Guard enlistees. What would you do?"

A Hebrew teacher stood in front of his class and said, "The Jewish people have observed their 5,759th year as a people. Consider that the Chinese, for example, have only observed their 4,692nd year as a people. "Now, what does it mean to you?"

After a moment of silence, a student raised his hand.

"Yes, David," the teacher said, "what does it mean?"

David replied, "It means that the Jews had to suffer without Chinese food for 1,067 years."

It was a Saturday afternoon, and Ray had rushed down to the local supermarket to hurriedly pick up some hamburger rolls, chips and a few condiments. The big college game was going to be on, so he was having a few friends over to watch it.

The store was loaded with shoppers and as he headed for the six item express lane, the only one that didn't have a long line, a woman completely ignoring the overhead sign slipped into the check-out line just in front of him pushing a cart piled high with groceries. Ray was quietly fuming at the anticipated delay.

But the elderly cashier beckoned the woman to come forward, looked into the cart and asked ever so sweetly, "So Dearie, which six items would you like to buy?"

Little Johnny had just been put to bed for the umpteenth time and his mother's patience was wearing thin. "If I hear you call 'Mother' one more time, you will be punished," she warned him sternly.

For a while it was quiet, and then she heard a small voice call from the top of the stairs, "Mrs. Jones? Can I have a drink of water?"

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.

A newly hired nurse listened while the doctor was yelling, "Typhoid! Tetanus! Measles!"

She asked another nurse, "Why is he going on like that?"

The experienced nurse replied, "Oh, he just likes to call the shots around here."

I've changed my mind a dozen times. It seems to work better now.

Our five-year-old son went to a church conference with my wife and me.

He got restless, so my wife handed him a pad and pencil and suggested he mark down every time the speaker said the word "and." After a while, he grew bored, and I asked, "Would you like to listen for a different word?"

"Yes," he whispered. "I'd like to listen for 'Amen'."

At the computer store where this clerk works, many of the suppliers insist on being paid C.O.D. So it's no surprise when the delivery truck driver asks for a check.

But there's a problem. "One of our suppliers installed an automated shipping system that printed the labels for the delivery company," he says. "They tied the system to their accounts receivable so that any prior balance would be added to the C.O.D. amount of any current order."

"Trouble was, we had just returned a defective shipment and had a credit balance. Our next order was for less money than the credit balance. The system dutifully looked up our balance and printed the C.O.D. tag."

For -\$38.47.

Which leaves the clerk and the driver scratching their heads. The driver knows he can't hand over the shipment without a check. But a check for a negative amount makes no sense.

"I called my bank and asked what would happen if I wrote a check for -\$34.87," says the clerk. "The branch manager laughed and said it wouldn't go through their system, so go ahead. I wrote the check, gave it to the driver and he left."

Then the phone rang. The bank manager had checked with his IT people and they told him the bank would deposit \$38.47 in my account when the check was processed. They were in a panic!

Fortunately, the delivery company tore up the check when the driver checked in.

I wonder how much the bank spent making sure their software would no longer accept a negative amount on a check.

Never lend your car to anyone to whom you have given birth.

Dear Marty,

I have been unable to sleep since I broke off your engagement to my daughter. Will you forgive and forget?

I was much too sensitive about your Mohawk, tattoo and pierced nose. I now realize motorcycles aren't really that dangerous, and I really should not have reacted that way to the fact that you have never held a job.

I am also very sure that some other very nice people live under the bridge in the park, too. Sure my daughter is only 18 and wants to marry you instead of going to Harvard on full scholarship. After all, you can't learn everything about life from books.

I sometimes forget how backward I can be. I was wrong. I was a fool. I have now come to my senses and you have my full blessing to marry my daughter.

Sincerely, Your future father-in-law.

P.S. Congratulations on winning the lottery!

Friends took their first-grader on a car trip to Canada.

To help pass the time, the boy practiced his new reading skills by calling out road signs.

He fell asleep just before they entered Quebec.

When he awoke he saw the French highway signs and said in a worried tone, "I think I forgot how to read while I was asleep."

Big defense contractor buys a small company, and the small company gets a new IT boss just as work starts to integrate systems with the big outfit's infrastructure, reports a technician on the scene.

And though the new boss has no computer skills or knowledge, she's still the source of a steady stream of instructions for renovating the data center.

"This initially included installing a window into the data center," says the technician. "She wanted to be able to see into it as she walked in every morning and at every smoke break."

"It seemed strange, but I was happy if that meant I could keep her from actually coming into the data center and possibly destroying something."

A week or two later, the boss tells the technician to install track lighting over each row of servers lining the room. Then she requests dimmer switches to control the track lighting.

"Weird assignments kept rolling in -- knock out a wall here, paint a wall there, change the colors of the electrical outlet covers -- while I labored with co-workers to get the real work done," he says. "Meanwhile, I endured daily meetings with corporate managers to describe and explain any and all progress made from the previous day's labors."

Then comes a major project: replacing the aging network switches. "The Friday before we began, I let the boss know what we had assigned to us," says the technician. "She nearly had a cow. She immediately started calling everyone she knew at company headquarters, ranting and raving that this would be way too disruptive to the users and cause general havoc."

The project is pushed back two weeks, but then rescheduled. That Friday, the boss tells the technical staff not to make any changes, no matter what.

"It was then that I finally got the real reason for why she wanted the blinking switches to stay. She loved walking by several times a day and looking through the window in the data center to see the pretty green blinking lights. "That made her feel everything inside the data center was working well. The green activity lights let her know there were no problems, or they would have started blinking amber or red."

After our little talk, I spoke with the corporate folks and was told in no uncertain terms that if this project wasn't done that weekend, I would face serious consequences. I told them not to worry. It would be done by Monday morning.

Over the weekend, the tech and a co-worker make the changes and remove the switches. But they leave the old switch racks in place. "We installed random-blinking green Christmas lights where the switches used to sit behind the smoked glass doors," he says.

"To this day, my boss still thinks she won the battle to keep the blinking switches in place."

Have a great week! Enjoy the flashing lights!



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"I don't think this is what mom had in mind when she told him to go wet his hair down."

Ralph and his friend were driving through town when they came to a red light. Cruising through the red light, Ralph's friend expressed concern.

"Don't worry," Ralph said. "My brother George does it all the time, and he never gets caught."

Coming upon another red light at the next intersection, Ralph again went speeding right through.

"Don't worry," Ralph assured his friend, "George does this every day, and nothing ever happens to him."

At the next intersection, the light is green, and Ralph comes to a complete stop.

"Why do you run through all the red lights and stop when we come to a green light?" asks his friend.

"I'm always afraid that George might be coming through," replies Ralph.

An old Sailor and an old Marine were sitting at the VFW arguing about who'd had the tougher career.

"I did 30 years in the Corps," the Marine declared proudly, "and fought in three of my country's wars. Fresh out of boot camp, I hit the beach at Okinawa, clawed my way up the blood-soaked sand, and eventually took out an entire enemy machine gun nest with a single grenade.

"As a sergeant, I fought in Korea. We pushed back the enemy inch by bloody inch all the way up to the Chinese border, always under a barrage of artillery and small arms

fire.

"Finally, as a gunny sergeant, I did three consecutive combat tours in Vietnam. We humped through the mud and razorgrass for 14 hours a day, plagued by rain and mosquitoes, ducking under sniper fire all day and mortar fire all night. In a firefight, we'd fire until our arms ached and our guns were empty, then we'd charge the enemy with bayonets!"

"Ah," said the Sailor with a dismissive wave of his hand, "all shore duty, huh?"

The following quotes were allegedly taken from actual medical records as dictated by physicians: ~ By the time he was admitted, his rapid heart had stopped and he was feeling better.

~ On the second day, the knee was better and on the third day it had completely disappeared.

~ The patient has been depressed ever since she began seeing me in 1983.

~ Patient was released to outpatient department without dressing.

~ Discharge status: Alive but without permission.

~ The patient refused an autopsy.

~ The patient expired on the floor uneventfully.

~ The patient's 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 had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch.

~ She is numb from the toes down.

~ The skin was moist and dry.

~ When she fainted, her eyes rolled around the room.

Customer Guide to Supermarket Checkout

1. When in the express lane, make sure that all items are rung up and bagged before you start looking for your

checkbook. Then, after you make a futile search for your pen, borrow one from the clerk and make sure your checkbook is balanced before giving up the check.

2. Never get into the 10-Items-or-Less line with less than 12 items. IT'S THE LAW!!!

3. When in the 10-Items-or-Less line and you have your 12 to 20 items, always ask the clerk if it's okay. That way, if he says "yes," then the people behind you will get mad at HIM, not you. If he says "no," then YOU can get mad at him. Either way, you win!

4. Save all your pennies and dump them in the bottom of your purse so that when you are in the express lane you won't be embarrassed by spending all that time looking for one and not finding any.

5. When asked if you want paper or plastic, take all the time you need to make the right decision. Don't be rushed. Get it right. If you're not sure just say, "BAG." That way they will have to ask you again, giving you more time to decide. You may want to practice this at home in case you are ever asked this question at a grocery store.

6. Always, and I repeat, ALWAYS tell the checker your reason for choosing paper or plastic. Checkers by nature are very curious and if you should fail to give them your reason for choosing paper over plastic, the clerk is liable to lie awake at night wondering why you didn't choose plastic.

7. Always keep this in mind: If something is heavy and you don't want to lift it out of the basket and put it on the belt. Don't fret whether the checker will automatically know the price. After all, everyone knows how smart those clerks are.

8. Since everyone knows how ignorant those clerks are, you must always remember to tell them to not put the eggs and bread in the bottom of the bag.

9. Feel free to ask your clerk anything you may want to know. All checkers are experts on how to prepare whatever meal you should decide to make that night. They can give you precise directions to anywhere in the state you might want to go. They can tell you the best restaurant around, the kind of wine you will like best or anything else you may need to know about life. After all, everyone knows how smart those clerks are.

10. Don't forget rule NO. 8

11. After waiting in the checkout line for several minutes and it's finally your turn at the counter, be sure to tell the clerk that more help is needed. He will certainly ensure that there is plenty of help next time.

12. When the clerk greets you and asks how you're doing, don't feel pressured into answering him. After all the clerk has to be polite -- but you don't have to.

13. When the store is not busy and there is only one check-stand with a light on, be sure to ask the nearest clerk which check stand is open. You don't want to take a chance being tricked into the wrong one.

14. If the clerk asks you if you know the price of an item and you don't, tell him it's "2-something" or "3-something." The clerks love that because they don't get to use their SOMETHING keys very often.

If your dog doesn't like someone, you probably shouldn't, either!

In a upscale department store, every night at closing time one of our customer-service representatives reminds shoppers over the public address system to finish their shopping.

One evening, a woman who had recently worked at K-mart opened the announcement by saying, "Attention K-mart shoppers..."

Quickly realizing her mistake, she tap-danced her way out of trouble by adding, "...you are in the wrong store."



Yes, dear!

I was browsing in a souvenir shop when the man next to me struck up a conversation.

Just as he was telling me that his wife was getting carried away with her shopping, a brief power shortage caused the lights to flicker overhead.

"Ah," he sighed that must he her checking out now."

I'd had enough of my employees abusing their allotted break time. In an effort to clarify my position, I posted a sign on the bulletin board:

"Starting immediately, your 15-minute breaks are being cut from a half-hour to 20 minutes."

A budget is a revolutionary concept of worrying about money before you spend it...and after.

A hesitant driver, waiting for a traffic jam to clear, came to a complete stop on the freeway on-ramp.

The traffic thinned, but the driver still waited. Finally a furious voice from the vehicle behind him cried, "Hey, fellow! The sign says 'Yield,' not 'surrender!'"

THE MORNING BREAKS

Volume 3 Number 46

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November 28, 2004

The passengers on the jetliner were relaxing in their seats for the long flight. The voice over the loudspeaker had just announced that the aircraft had reached its cruising altitude and that the passengers were free to unfasten their seatbelts and move about the cabin. Then the voice continued.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we are proud to announce that you are flying on the maiden voyage of one of our brand new fully-automated jetliners. These new jetliners are the pride of our fleet and have no need for pilot, co-pilot or navigator. All human error has been eliminated. You needn't be alarmed, as everything from the cabin pressure to the speed and altitude is completely controlled by our computer. We're excited about the world's first fully-automated airplane, and we hope you are, too. So just sit back and relax, and remember, nothing can go wrong... nothing can go wrong... nothing can go wrong... nothing can go wrong..."

A 6th grade teacher posed the following problem to one of her arithmetic classes:

"A wealthy man dies and leaves ten million dollars. One-fifth is to go to his wife, one-fifth is to go to his son, one-sixth to his butler, and the rest to charity. Now, what does each get?"

After a very long silence in the classroom, one little boy raised his hand and with complete sincerity in his voice, answered, "A lawyer!"

Don't cry because it's over... smile because it happened.

This particular man was taking a shortcut through the graveyard one dark night. That was a mistake, because the gravediggers had just opened a new site, in preparations for a funeral early the next morning.

The unfortunate man took a headlong plunge into the deep pit. It began to rain, and the sides became slippery, besides being deep. Try as he may (and he did again and again) he could not climb out. Finally he resigned himself to wait for the caretakers the next morning, and he settled into a corner.

Just before dawn another man, who had been "out on the town" all night and who was definitely inebriated, stumbled into the same grave. He yelped and started trying his best to get back topside.

After a few attempts, this deep voice from the corner said, "It's no use. You can't get out!"

But he did...



Okay, technology is getting a little out of hand!

A small boy was looking at the red ripe tomatoes growing in the farmer's garden.

"I'll give you my two pennies for that tomato," said the boy pointing to a beautiful, large, ripe fruit hanging on the vine.

"No," said the farmer, "I get a dime for a tomato like that one."

The small boy pointed to a smaller green one, "Will you take two pennies for that one?"

"Yes," replied the farmer, "I'll give you that one for two cents."

"OK," said the lad, sealing the deal by putting the coins in the farmer's hand, "I'll pick it up in about a week."

I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, by the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.

If you're going to draw on the wall then do it behind the couch!"

Two mothers were talking about their sons.

The first said, "My son is such a saint. He works hard, doesn't smoke, and he hasn't so much as looked at a woman in over two years."

The other woman said, "Well, my son is a saint himself. Not only hasn't he not looked at a woman in over three years, but he hasn't touched a drop of liquor in all that time."

"My word," the first mother said. "You must be so proud."

"I am," the second mother replied. "And when he's paroled next month, I'm going to throw him a big party."

I work in a personnel office with the government in Washington, DC, reviewing applications for federal employment.

The standard form includes the question, "Why did you leave your previous employment?"

One applicant, a former U.S. Congressman, responded, "The express wish of 116,000 voters."

Real friends are those who, when you've made a fool out of yourself, don't think you've done a permanent job.

The bishop spoke in sacrament meeting by way of assignment from the stake president. At the end of the meeting he waited by the back door to shake everyone's hand as they walked out of the chapel.

An elderly man shook his hand and said, "Bishop, that was the worst sermon I've ever listened to. It was terrible."

As the bishop stood there dumbfounded, the old man's wife stepped in, trying to help.

"Please don't pay any attention to him, bishop. He only repeats what he hears others say."

While vacationing in Alaska, I couldn't help but notice all the warnings about bears posted in campgrounds, visitor centers and rest areas advising people not to feed the bears, how to avoid bears, what to do if a bear sees you, what to do if a bear attacks, and so on.

My favorite, however, was a hand-lettered sign on the door of a small gas station in a remote area. It said: "Warning! If you are being chased by a bear, don't come in here!"



Now that's just plain mean!

Birthdays are good for you...the more you have the longer you live.

In Marine Corps basic training, I soon learned that everything we recruits used belonged to our drill instructor. For instance, she referred to the stuff in our footlockers as "my trash" and to the racks where we slept as "my racks."

One time when when we were all whispering in the bathroom while making "head calls," our drill instructor must have overheard us.

To our surprise, she suddenly yelled, "Why do I hear voices in my head?"

Just before Thanksgiving, the holding pen was abuzz as Mother Turkey scolded her younger birds. "You turkeys are always into mischief," she gobbled. "If your grandfather could see the things you do, he'd turn over in his gravy."

Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.

Have a great week and enjoy the real meaning of Christmas as you share the gospel message.