

Morning Breaks

Volume 19 Number 40

"A sense of humor keeps life interesting..." –Marjorie Pay Hinckley

October 4, 2020

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."



A chrysanthemum by any other name would be easier to spell.

Signs that scientists have gone too far with genetically modified food:

- *Your hot dog just fetched its own ketchup and relish.
- *You spot the tell-tale signs of a primitive central nervous system in your Jell-O.
- *Chocchini: looks like zucchini, tastes like a Ding Dong.
- *The black-eyed peas on your fork just winked at you.
- *Every time you pour a glass of orange juice, your garage door goes up.

My friend is dieting. He says weight gain is due to water retention. My weight gain is due to ice cream retention.

An engineer, a psychologist, and a theologian were hunting in the wilderness of northern Canada.

Suddenly, the temperature dropped and a furious snowstorm was upon them. They came across an isolated cabin, far removed from any town. The hunters had heard that the locals in the area were quite hospitable, so they knocked on the door to ask permission to rest.

No one answered their knocks, but they discovered the cabin was unlocked and they entered. It was a simple place ... 2 rooms with a minimum of furniture and household equipment. Nothing was unusual about the cabin except the stove. It was large, pot-bellied, and made of cast-iron. What was strange about it was its location ... it was suspended in midair by wires attached to the ceiling beams.

"Fascinating," said the psychologist. "It is obvious that this lonely trapper, isolated from humanity, has

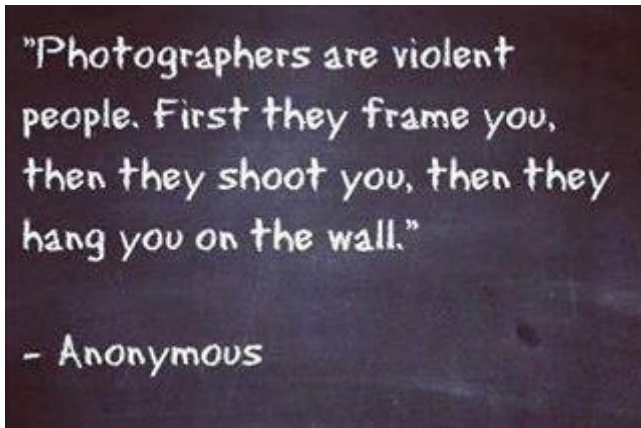
elevated this stove so that he can curl up under it and vicariously experience a return to the womb."

"Nonsense!" replied the engineer. "The man is practicing the laws of thermodynamics. By elevating his stove, he has discovered a way to distribute heat more evenly throughout the cabin."

"With all due respect," interrupted the theologian, "I'm sure that hanging his stove from the ceiling has religious meaning. Fire LIFTED UP has been a religious symbol for centuries."

The three debated the point for several hours without resolving the issue. When the trapper finally returned, they immediately asked him why he had hung his heavy pot-bellied stove from the ceiling.

His answer was succinct. "Had plenty of wire, not much stove pipe."



"Photographers are violent people. First they frame you, then they shoot you, then they hang you on the wall."
- Anonymous

I must learn to slow down and not rush through what I do.

I was visiting my daughter, a successful young professional, when I noticed half a piece of French bread in its original wrapper in her recycling bin.

When I told her that she shouldn't put bread in the recycling bin, she said, "Why not? It tastes like cardboard!"

Between chores in the kitchen and changing loads in the washer, I was also keeping an eye on the movie my husband, George, was watching on television. But the

plot was becoming more and more convoluted, the action moving between scenes in an airplane and scenes on a farm.

I usually enjoy unraveling mystery plots, but I couldn't follow the threads of this one. Finally I finished my chores and settled down to watch the rest of the movie. I was just getting involved with the characters in the airplane when George changed the channel.

"I'm watching this!" I protested. But I needn't have worried...there on the screen were my friends on the farm. During my frequent trips in and out of the room, George had been switching channels, watching two movies at once.

Why do we play in recitals and recite in plays?

Heavy snow had buried a woman's van in their driveway. Her husband dug around the wheels, rocked the van back and forth and finally pushed her free.

A short while later, while on the road, she heard an odd noise coming from under the van. Concerned, she got on her cell phone and called home.

"Thank God you answered," she said when her husband picked up.

"There's this alarming sound coming under the van. For a minute I thought I was dragging you down the highway."

In a shocked voice, her husband replied, "And you didn't stop?!"



Alaska Mission Rule: NO OUTDOOR BAPTISMS IN JANUARY.

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October 11, 2020

A clueless freshman was in his college campus bookstore.

Questioning the store clerk about a book for one of his classes, the clerk responded, "This book will do half the job for you."

"Good," the freshman replied. "I'll take two."

problem, a large banner was posted, which read "Missionaries Only."

The next day, BYU students were out on the field, playing touch football and throwing frisbees. They had posted a new banner which read, "Every member a missionary."



Probably bad taste, and not from this year, but I couldn't help myself!

When the MTC was built in Provo, beautiful green athletic fields were planted so the missionaries would have a place to exercise. However, they were so inviting that BYU students were attracted there, and you would see BYU students out playing touch football, throwing frisbees, etc. on the missionaries' field. To deal with this

My son, Mitchell, a kindergartener, practices spelling with magnetic letters on the refrigerator: cat, dog, dad, and mom have been proudly displayed for all to see. One morning while getting ready for the day, Mitchell bounded into the room with his arms outstretched. In his hands were three magnetic letters: G-O-D. "Look what I spelled, Mom!" Mitch exclaimed, a proud smile on his face.

"That's wonderful!" I praised him. "Now go put them on the fridge so Dad can see when he gets home tonight." Family Home Evening was really helping our family, I thought, happily.

Just then, a little voice called from the kitchen. "Mom? How do you spell zilla?"

The CEO was scheduled to speak at an important convention so he asked one of his employees, Jenkins, to write him a punchy, 20-minute speech. When the CEO returned from the big event, he was furious.

"What's the idea of writing me an hour-long speech?", he demanded. "Half the audience walked out before I finished."

Jenkins was baffled. "I wrote you a 20-minute speech," he replied. "I also gave you the two extra copies you asked for."

Once upon a time, in a land far away, a beautiful, independent, self-assured princess happened upon a frog as she sat contemplating ecological issues on the shores of an unpolluted pond in a beautiful meadow near her castle.

The frog hopped into the princess's lap and said: "Elegant Lady, I was once a handsome prince, until an evil witch cast a spell upon me. One kiss from you, however, and I will turn back into the young man that I am. Then, my dear, we can marry and live in your castle with my mother, where you can bear my children and serve me for the rest of your life, and feel grateful and happy doing so."

That night, as the princess dined on sauteed frog legs in a white wine sauce, she chuckled to herself and thought: "I don't think so."



This is one of the reasons I don't look forward to camping with the scouts. The drive home can be brutal. After the last trip I had to make an emergency trip to the store for Lysol and air freshener before my wife would get in the minivan.

Bishop Murphy walks into a ward in Provo, and says to the first man he meets, "Do you want to go to the Celestial Kingdom?"

The man said, "I do bishop."

The Bishop said, "Then stand over there against the wall." Then the Bishop asked the second man, "Do you want to go to the Celestial Kingdom?"

"Certainly, bishop," was the man's reply.

"Then stand over there against the wall," said the Bishop.

Then Bishop Murphy walked up to O'Toole and said, "Do you want to go to the Celestial Kingdom?"

O'Toole said, "No, I don't sir."

The Bishop said, "I don't believe this. You mean to tell me that when you die you don't want to go to the Celestial Kingdom?"

O'Toole said, "Oh, when I die, yes. I thought you were getting a group together to go right now."

A certain little Mormon girl, when asked her name, would reply, "I'm Brother Sugarbrown's daughter."

Her mother told her this was wrong, she must say, "I'm Jane Sugarbrown."

The Bishop spoke to her at church, and said, "Aren't you Brother Sugarbrown's daughter?"

She replied, "I thought I was, but mother says I'm not."

I asked my wife, "Can you please help me find a match for my sock?"

She answered, "What for? Are you going to set it on fire?"

After church, Johnny tells his parents he has to go and talk to the minister right away. They agree and the pastor greets the family.

"Pastor," Johnny says, "I heard you say today that our bodies came from the dust."

"That's right, Johnny, I did."

"And I heard you say that when we die, our bodies go back to dust."

"Yes, I'm glad you were listening. Why do you ask?"

"Well you better come over to our house right away and look under my bed 'cause there's someone either comin' or goin'!"

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Volume 19 Number 42 *"A sense of humor keeps life interesting..." –Marjorie Pay Hinckley* October 18, 2020

During the final exam, the professor noticed that one student kept looking at his hand before writing down an answer on his test. This went on throughout the entire exam, leaving the professor no other choice than to check on the student's test-taking habit.

"Is there something interesting written on your palm?"

"Not at all, Professor. It's all pretty boring."



Said to be an actual call to a computer tech-support line, and I don't doubt it.

"My computer's power just died."

"OK. Are the other computers in that room working?"

"Yes."

"What were you doing right before it went out?"

"I had just plugged my curling iron into the power strip."

"Really? What else is plugged into there?"

"Well, my radio, my space heater, my cup warmer, my printer, my monitor, and my computer."

"Did you unplug anything to plug your curling iron in?"

"Yes, my printer."

"Well, unplug the curling iron, plug the printer back in and press the button on the power strip."

"Hey! My computer is working now! Is there something wrong with the power strip?"

A newly appointed young preacher was contacted by the local funeral director to hold a graveside service at a small country cemetery.

There was to be no funeral, just the committal, because the deceased had no family or friends left. The young pastor started early to the cemetery, but soon lost his way.

After making several wrong turns, he finally arrived a half-hour late. The hearse was nowhere in sight, and the workman were relaxing under a nearby tree, eating their lunch. The pastor went to the open grave and found that the vault lid was already in place. He took out his book and read the service.

As he returned to his car, he overheard one of the workman say, "Maybe we'd better tell him that's a septic tank."

I took a package to the post office to mail the other day. The clerk said, "This will cost \$2.40 for fast delivery or \$1.30 for slower service."

"There is no hurry," I said, "just so the package is delivered in my lifetime."

"That will be \$2.40, please."

A man was stranded on the proverbial deserted Pacific island for years.

Finally one day a boat comes sailing into view, and the man frantically waves and draws the skipper's attention. The boat comes near the island and the sailor gets out and greets the stranded man.

After awhile the sailor asks, "What are those three huts you have here?"

"Well, that's my house there."

"What's that next hut?" asks the sailor.

"I built that hut to be my church."

"What about the other hut?"

"Oh, that's where I used to go to church."



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

parent's 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."

The little girl was sitting in her grandfather's lap as he read her a goodnight story. From time to time, she would take her eye's off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. By and by she was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke, "Granddaddy, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart" he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh she said," then "Granddaddy, did God make me too?"

"Yes, indeed honey" he assured her. "God made you just a little while ago."

"Oh" she said. Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it now isn't he?"

A schoolteacher was taking her first golfing lesson.

"Is the word spelt p-u-t or p-u-t-t?" she asked the instructor.

"P-u-t-t is correct," he replied. "Put means to place a thing where you want it. Putt means merely a vain attempt to do the same thing."

After the death of a never married 94-year old spinster of his parish, the rector was given a note from her personal belongings. In the woman's handwriting were specific instructions for her funeral service. Along with the suggestions for Scripture readings and music were the following orders:

"There will be no male pallbearers. Since they wouldn't take me out when I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."

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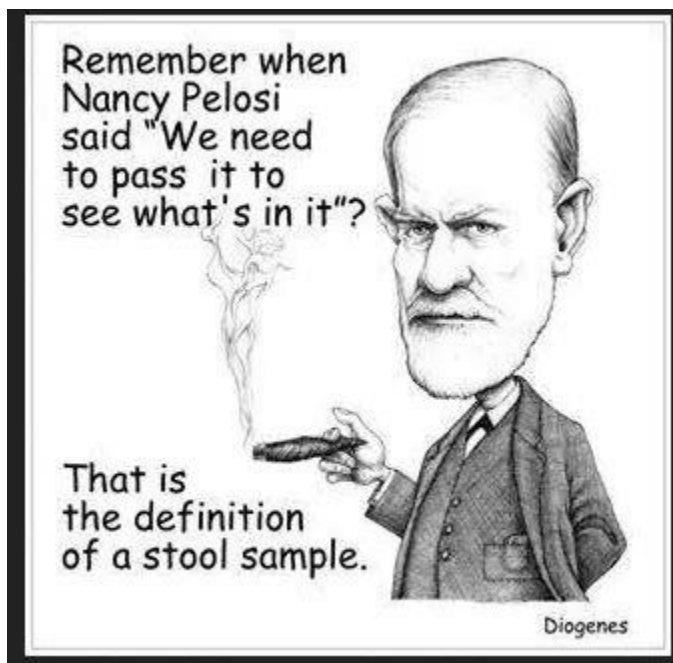
Volume 19 Number 43

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October 25, 2020

A scientist from Argentina, after a lengthy study, has discovered that people with "IBA" or Insufficient Brain Activity, read their email with their hand on the mouse.

(Don't bother taking it off now, it's too late!)



Academic Phrases and Meanings

The following list of phrases and their definitions might help you understand the mysterious language of science and medicine. These special phrases are also applicable to anyone working on a Ph.D. dissertation or academic paper anywhere!

"It has long been known"... I didn't look up the original reference.

"A definite trend is evident"... These data are practically meaningless.

"While it has not been possible to provide definite answers to the questions"... An unsuccessful experiment, but I still hope to get it published.

"Three of the samples were chosen for detailed study"... The other results didn't make any sense.

"Typical results are shown"... This is the prettiest graph.

"These results will be in a subsequent report"... I might get around to this sometime, if pushed/funded.

"In my experience"... once "In case after case"... twice "In a series of cases"... thrice "It is believed that"... I think.

"It is generally believed that"... A couple of others think so, too.

"Correct within an order of magnitude"... Wrong.

"According to statistical analysis"... Rumor has it.

"A statistically oriented projection of the significance of these findings"... A wild guess.

"A careful analysis of obtainable data"... Three pages of notes were obliterated when I knocked over a glass of pop.

"It is clear that much additional work will be required before a complete understanding of this phenomenon occurs"... I don't understand it.

"After additional study by my colleagues"... They don't understand it either.

"Thanks are due to Joe Blotz for assistance with the experiment and to Cindy Adams for valuable discussions"... Mr. Blotz did the work and Ms. Adams explained to me what it meant.

"A highly significant area for exploratory study"... A totally useless topic selected by my committee.

"It is hoped that this study will stimulate further investigation in this field"... I quit.

A tightwad was convinced by a friend to buy a couple of lottery tickets. But after he won the big prize he didn't seem happy.

"What's wrong?" the friend asked. "You just became a millionaire!"

"I know," he groaned. "I can't imagine why I bought that second ticket!"



One Sunday a pastor told his congregation that the church needed some extra money and asked the people to prayerfully consider giving a little extra in the offering plate. He said that whoever gave the most would be able to pick out three hymns.

After the offering plates were passed, the pastor glanced down and noticed that someone had placed a \$1,000 bill in offering. He was so excited that he immediately shared his joy with his congregation and said he'd like to personally thank the person who placed the money in the plate.

And there sat our Rosie all the way in the back shyly raised her hand. The pastor asked her to come to the front. Slowly she made her way to the pastor. He told her how wonderful it was that she gave so much and in thanksgiving asked her to pick out three hymns.

Her eyes brightened as she looked over the congregation, pointed to the three most handsome men in the building and said, "I'll take him and him and him."

The chairman of the board of our company called me into his office to tell me the good news. I was being promoted to Vice President of Corporate Research and Planning.

Of course, I was excited, but that didn't stop me from asking for my new title to be changed to Vice President of Corporate Planning and Research.

"Why?" asked the chairman.

"Because," I said, "our organization uses abbreviated job titles, and I don't want to be known as VP of CRAP."

A new business was opening and one of the owner's friends wanted to send him flowers for the occasion. They arrived at the new business site and the owner read the card, "Rest in Peace".

The owner was angry and called the florist to complain.

After he had told the florist of the obvious mistake and how angry he was, the florist replied, "Sir, I'm really sorry for the mistake, but rather than getting angry, you should imagine this: somewhere there is a funeral taking place today, and they have flowers with a note saying, 'Congratulations on your new location'"

Our cat, Figaro, comes home between 10 or 11 at night to eat. If he's late, I turn on the carport light and call him until he appears.

One day my daughter was explaining to a friend where we live, and her friend said, "Is that anywhere near the house where the woman stands on her steps late at night and sings opera?"

A pipe burst in a lawyer's house, so he called a plumber.

The plumber arrived, unpacked his tools, did mysterious plumber-type things for a while, and handed the lawyer a bill for \$600.

The lawyer exclaimed, "This is ridiculous! I don't even make that much as a lawyer!"

The plumber replied sympathetically, "Neither did I when I was a lawyer."
