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**"I've done something with my life;
I've made kids happy around the world."
- Walter E. Eiemer (1905-1998),
inventor of bubble gum.**

RUBBER CHICKEN FOR THE SOUL - VOL. 1

The Perfect Anytime Reader

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CHAPTER 1



BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE In Lancashire, England, Ian Lewis, 43, spent 30 years tracing his family tree back to the 17th century, traveling all over England and interviewing 2,000 relatives, before he learned that he had been adopted when he was a month old and that his real name was David Thornton. He said he would immediately start researching his new family history.



GREAT GAG An MIT student spent an entire summer going to the Harvard football field everyday wearing a black and white striped shirt, walking up and down the field for ten or fifteen minutes throwing birdseed all over the field, blowing a whistle and then walking off the field. At the end of the summer, when it was time for the first Harvard home football game, the referee walked onto the field and blew his whistle. The game had to be delayed for a half hour to wait for the birds to get off of the field. The guy wrote his thesis on this, and graduated.



EXPENSIVE TASTES The average cost of rehabilitating a seal after the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska was \$80,000. At a special ceremony, two of the most expensively saved animals were released back into the wild amid cheers and applause from onlookers. A minute later they were both eaten by a killer whale.

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WHO'S CRAZY? In Harare, Zimbabwe, after 20 mental patients disappeared from his bus, the driver replaced them with sane citizens and delivered them to a mental hospital. The bus driver was transporting the patients from the capital city of Harare to Bulawayo Mental Hospital when he decided to stop for a few drinks at an illegal roadside liquor store. Upon his return he was shocked to discover that all the mental patients had escaped. Desperate for a solution, the driver stopped at the next bus stop and offered free bus rides to several people. He then delivered them to the mental hospital and informed the staff they were easily excitable. It took the medical personnel three days to uncover the foul play. The real mental patients are still at large.



I CAN DIG IT Workmen in Rome, Italy, digging gravel for ballast, were instructed to dig from one central pit so as not to spoil the site with too many holes. They unearthed an ancient plaque inscribed in Latin, which turned out to be a sign intended for workmen digging ballast for Roman ships. It instructed them to "dig from a central pit so as not to spoil the site with too many holes."



LEAVING THEIR MARX One of the movie moguls the Marx Brothers had to deal with was Irving Thalberg of MGM. Purposefully or not, Thalberg had the annoying habit of making people wait outside his office for extended periods of time. One time he kept the Marx Brothers longer than they liked. When he finally got around to seeing them, he discovered they were stark naked outside his doorway, roasting potatoes in the lobby's fireplace. It was the last time he kept them waiting.



NEED SOME HELP? Police in Oakland, California, spent two hours attempting to subdue a gunman who had barricaded himself inside his home. After firing ten tear gas canisters, officers discovered that the man was standing beside them, shouting to please come out and give himself up.

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CHAPTER 2



Betcha Didn't Know...

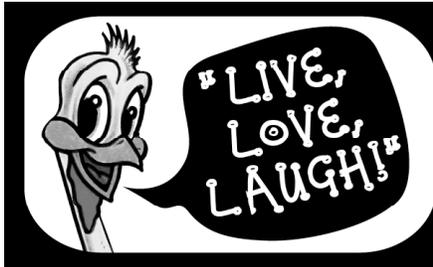
INTERESTING & QUIRKY TRIVIA

- The original Guinness Brewery in Dublin, Ireland has a six thousand year lease.
- The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.
- The 3 most valuable brand names on earth: Marlboro, Coca-Cola and Budweiser, in that order.
- The water we drink is 3 billion years old.
- Thirty-five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.
- Percentage of American men who say they would marry the same woman if they had to do it all over again: 80%. Percentage of American women who say they'd marry the same man: 50%.
- Percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28%. Percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%.
- The loudest sound that could be made in 1600 was that of a pipe organ.
- The average 6 year-old laughs 300 times each day. The average adult laughs 15-100 times per day.
- The cruise liner, Queen Elizabeth II, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns.
- Elephants can't jump. Every other mammal can.
- A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.

-  111,111,111 X 111,111,111 = 12345678987654321
-  The airplane Buddy Holly died in was the “American Pie.” (Thus the name of the Don McLean song.)
-  Caruso and Roy Orbison were the only tenors this century capable of hitting E over high C.
-  It takes 3,000 cows to supply the NFL with enough leather for a year’s supply of footballs.
-  The Pentagon, in Arlington, Virginia, has twice as many bathrooms as is necessary. When it was built in the 1940’s, the state of Virginia still had segregation laws requiring separate toilet facilities for blacks and whites.
-  On average, 100 people choke to death on ballpoint pens every year.
-  The oldest Whiskey distillery in the world is in Ireland and started distilling in 1657.
-  The Sanskrit word for “war” means, “Desire for more cows”.
-  It is physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky.
-  Abdul Kassem Ismael, Grand Vizier of Persia in the tenth century, carried his library with him wherever he went. The 117,000 volumes were carried by 400 camels which were trained to walk in alphabetical order.
-  Carnivorous animals will not eat another animal that has been hit by a lightning strike.
-  Babies are born without kneecaps. They don’t appear until the child reaches 2-6 years of age.
-  The male gypsy moth can “smell” the virgin female gypsy moth from 1.8 miles away.
-  A dragonfly has a lifespan of 24 hours.
-  The world’s youngest parents were 8 and 9 and lived in China in 1910.
-  The three best-known western names in China: Jesus Christ, Richard Nixon and Elvis Presley.

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CHAPTER 3



Quips & Quotes

GREAT LINES & SAYINGS

-  “Why is it that when we talk to God we’re said to be praying, but when God talks to us we’re schizophrenic?” – Lily Tomlin
-  “I do benefits for all religions. I’d hate to blow the hereafter on a technicality.” – Bob Hope
-  “Have you ever noticed? Anybody going slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac.” – George Carlin
-  “Isn’t sanity just a one-trick pony anyway? I mean, all you get is that one trick, rational thinking; but when you’re good and crazy, well, the sky’s the limit!” – The Tick
-  “Never try to teach a pig to sing. It wastes your time and annoys the pig.” – P. G. Wodehouse
-  “Golf is a good walk spoiled.” – Mark Twain
-  “Too bad that all the people who know how to run the country are driving taxi cabs and cutting hair.” – George Burns
-  “Did you ever notice when you blow in a dog’s face he gets mad at you? But when you take him in a car he sticks his head out the window.” – Steve Bluestone
-  “I’m not a vegetarian because I love animals, I’m a vegetarian because I hate plants.” – A. Whitney Brown
-  “I would love to speak a foreign language but I can’t. So I grew hair under my arms instead.” – Sue Kolinsky



"I'm sitting on top of the world, and I've got hemorrhoids."

- Rodney Dangerfield



"This wallpaper is killing me, one of us has to go." - Oscar Wild's alleged last words.



"Sacred cows make the best hamburger." - Mark Twain



"I was only all right up to about age six. After that I was more or less consistently fantastic up until about twenty-five, and since that time I have been world-class." - Spider Robinson



"As they say in my country, the only thing that separates us from the animals are mindless superstition and pointless ritual." - Latka Gravas (Andy Kaufman) on an episode of "Taxi"



"They couldn't hit an elephant at this dist---." - General John B. Sedgwick's last words, 1864



"There's no such thing as a tough child - if you parboil them first for seven hours, they always come out tender." - W.C. Fields



"I have had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn't it." - Groucho Marx



"You know those guys who say, 'Danger is my middle name'? I bet if you looked on their driver's license, it would probably say 'Melvin' or something." - Lee Entekin



"I love deadlines... I especially love the whooshing sound they make as they fly by." - Douglas Adams, Author, Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.



"I'm a marvelous housekeeper. Every time I leave a man, I keep his house." - Zsa Zsa Gabor



"When you sit with a nice girl for two hours you think it's only a minute. But when you sit on a hot stove for a minute you think it's two hours. That's relativity." - Albert Einstein



"I do not take drugs... I am drugs." - Salvador Dali

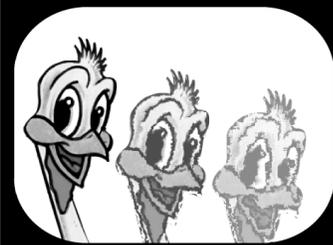


"When you look at Prince Charles, don't you think that someone in the Royal family knew someone in the Royal family?" - Robin Williams



"Never kick a fresh turn on a hot day." - Harry S. Truman

CHAPTER 4



The Gene Pool Needs A Little Chlorine

STUPID HUMAN ENDEAVORS



A New Jersey woman sued her son after he won 2 million dollars on a Lottery ticket. The woman says that she and her son had pooled 20 dollars a month each for more than a decade. Mom claims Sonny called her the day after the winning number was announced to say that “we” had won the 2 million... but called back the next day to say that the winning ticket happened to be one that he had bought with his own money.



Swedish business consultant Ulf Trolle labored for 13 years on a book about Swedish economic solutions. He took the 250-page manuscript to be copied, only to have it reduced to 50,000 strips of paper in seconds when a worker confused the copier with the shredder.



In England, police were raiding the home of one man (on an unrelated matter) and were surprised to discover that he had a video library featuring a tape onto which he had recorded (videotaped) the crimes of himself and his colleague. He had also edited the crimes together and added incidental music.



In Kansas City, Missouri, officials were checking videotapes to find who won a \$10,000 slot machine jackpot and walked off without it.



In 1972, an ambitious, but not noticeably well-educated man in Argentina was arrested after trying to hijack a bus to Cuba.



In Virginia, a janitor went to great lengths to avoid I.D. in a 7-Eleven robbery, using a ski mask and rental car for the occasion. But he also wore his work uniform, which said “Cedar Woods Apartments” and had his name, Dwayne, stitched across the front.



A man in Conyers, Georgia, apparently “stole” his own Mercedes. He hid the car in his basement and then told the police that it had been stolen. The goal, apparently, was insurance fraud. However, he forgot that his Benz was equipped with a Lojak. The police activated the device and tracked the car to the man’s basement.



The attorney for Howard “Wing Ding” Jones, accused of selling drugs, sought to lower his client’s bail from \$150,000, insisting in a Norristown, Pennsylvania courtroom that Jones was not a risk to flee. At that very moment, Jones bolted from the courtroom and sprinted out the front door. Police captured him 50 minutes later and returned him to the courtroom, where his bail was raised to \$500,000.



Police in Doylestown, Pa., arrested Alfons Kessler, 47, for attempting to murder his girlfriend’s husband. It was Kessler’s fifth attempt at the man. He had been unsuccessful using a gun, a truck, a Molotov cocktail and a crossbow: and this time was unsuccessful using a pipe bomb.



A Newark, New Jersey woman reported her car as stolen and mentioned that there was a car phone in it. The policeman taking the report called the phone and told the guy that answered that he had “read the ad in the newspaper” and wanted to buy the car. They arranged to meet and the thief was arrested.



The operators of Casino Niagara in Niagara Falls, Ontario, told a local newspaper that customers urinating around slot machines had become a serious problem. Customers who believed a slot machine would soon pay off were afraid to leave the machines and either wore adult diapers, urinated into the plastic coin cups or simply on the floor.

CHAPTER 5



Signs, Signs, Everywhere Are Signs

FUNNY SIGNS • MISPRINTS • GRAFITTI
BUMPERSTICKERS • T-SHIRT SAYINGS



BUMPER STICKER SIGHTINGS

- "Seen it all, done it all, can't remember most of it."
- "Time is what keeps everything from happening all at once."
- "I used to have a handle on life, but it broke."
- "Too many freaks - not enough circuses."
- "All men are idiots, and I married their King."
- "Lottery: A tax on people who are bad at math."
- "I don't suffer from insanity, I enjoy every minute of it."
- "I have the body of a God... Buddha!"
- "Consciousness: that annoying time between naps."
- "Be nice to your kids. They'll choose your nursing home."
- "Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else."
- "E. Coli Happens."
- "Don't bother me. I'm living happily ever after."
- "Sometimes I wake up grumpy; other times I let him sleep."
- "You're just jealous because the voices only talk to me."
- "I'm out of bed and dressed. What more do you want?"
- "God made us sisters, Prozac made us friends."
- "The more you complain the longer God lets you live."
- "Where am I going and why am I in this hand basket?"

A COLLECTION OF T-SHIRT SAYINGS

-  “Son of Baglady”
-  “Onward, through the fog.”
-  “Upon the advice of my attorney, my shirt bears no message at this time.”
-  “You call me a freak like it’s a bad thing!”
-  “Stress is when you wake up screaming and realize you weren’t asleep.”
-  “Errors have been made. Others will be blamed.”
-  “Stop repeat offenders. Don’t re-elect them!”
-  On a senior citizen’s car: “Give me my damn discount.”
-  “Oh crap! You’re going to try and cheer me up, aren’t you?”
-  “Never underestimate the power of stupid people in large groups.”
-  “Everything you know is wrong, but you can be straightened out.”
-  “Power means never having to respond.”
-  “I’m not as dumb as you look.”
-  “The secret of success is sincerity. Once you can fake that you’ve got it made.”
-  “You looked better on the internet.”
-  “The number of people watching you is directly proportional to the stupidity of your action.”
-  “If you don’t know what you’re doing, do it neatly.”
-  “Liberal Arts major... Will think for food.”
-  “Only those who attempt the absurd can achieve the impossible.”
-  “My mother is a travel agent for guilt trips.”
-  (This one on a little kid’s shirt) “My human experience is just beginning.”
-  “I don’t believe in miracles. I rely on them.”
-  “Save the whales! Trade them for valuable prizes.”



APPROPRIATE SIGNS

-  Maternity clothes shop: “WE ARE OPEN ON LABOR DAY”
-  On a maternity room door: “PUSH, PUSH, PUSH”
-  ”On a front door: “EVERYONE ON THE PREMISES IS A VEGETARIAN EXCEPT THE DOG”
-  Optometrist’s office: “IF YOU DON’T SEE WHAT YOU’RE LOOKING FOR, YOU’VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE”
-  Sign on fence: “SALESMEN WELCOME NECESSARY – DOG FOOD IS EXPENSIVE”
-  Muffler shop: “NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY – WE’LL HEAR YOU COMING”
-  Veterinarian’s waiting room window: “BE BACK IN 5 MINUTES. SIT! STAY!”
-  Funeral home: “DRIVE CAREFULLY, WE’LL WAIT”



TRAVEL ANYONE?

(With special homage to Nury Vittachi)

-  The sign in a Norwegian lounge reads: “LADIES ARE REQUESTED NOT TO HAVE CHILDREN IN THE BAR”
-  An airline ticket office in Copenhagen reminds you: “WE TAKE YOUR BAGS AND SEND THEM IN ALL DIRECTIONS”
-  A hotel in Madrid informs: “IF YOU WISH DISINFECTION ENACTED IN YOUR PRESENCE, PLEASE CRY OUT FOR THE CHAMBERMAID”
-  A Romanian medical doctor proclaims himself a: “SPECIALIST IN WOMEN AND OTHER DISEASES”
-  In the window of a Swedish furrier the message reads: “FUR COATS MADE FOR LADIES FROM THEIR OWN SKINS”
-  The room service in a Lisbon hotel tells you: “IF YOU WISH FOR BREAKFAST, LIFT THE TELEPHONE AND ASK FOR ROOM SERVICE. THIS WILL BE ENOUGH TO BRING YOUR FOOD UP”
-  On the menu of a Swiss restaurant: “OUR WINES LEAVE YOU NOTHING TO HOPE FOR”

CHAPTER 6



The Wacky Wide Web

HUMOR FROM THE WEB

THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

-  2000 B.C. - Here, eat this root.
-  1000 A.D. - That root is heathen. Here, say this prayer.
-  1850 A.D. - That prayer is superstition. Here, drink this potion.
-  1940 A.D. - That potion is snake oil. Here, swallow this pill.
-  1985 A.D. - That pill is ineffective. Here, take this antibiotic.
-  2000 A.D. - That antibiotic doesn't work. Here, eat this root.

MARS VS. VENUS

An English professor wrote the words, "woman without her man is a savage" on the blackboard and directed his student to punctuate it correctly.

The men wrote: "Women, without her man, is a savage."

The women wrote: "Woman: Without her, man is a savage."

PONDERENCES AND OBSERVATIONS

-  Why do we drive on the parkway and park on the driveway?
-  Is it true that cannibals don't eat clowns because they taste funny?
-  Why do kamikaze pilots wear helmets?
-  When your pet bird sees you reading the newspaper, does she wonder why you're just sitting there, staring at the carpeting?
-  If knees were backwards, what would chairs look like?

THE BEST (AND WORST) OF COUNTRY MUSIC

- My John Deere Was Breaking Your Field, While Your Dear John Was Breaking My Heart

- I Keep Forgettin' I Forgot About You
- If You Leave Me, Can I Come Too?
- I Fell In A Pile Of You And Got Love All Over Me
- I've Got The Hungries For Your Love And I'm Waiting In Your Welfare Line
- If I Can't Be Number One In Your Life, Then Number Two On You
- If My Nose Were Full Of Nickels, I'd Blow It All On You
- Velcro Arms, Teflon Heart
- If The Phone Don't Ring, Baby, You'll Know It's Me
- My Every Day Silver Is Plastic
- She Made Toothpicks Out Of The Timber Of My Heart
- She Got The Gold Mine And I Got The Shaft She Got The Ring And I Got The Finger
- You Can't Have Your Kate And Edith Too
- Drop Kick Me Jesus Through The Goalposts Of Life



MEMORABLE JOB INTERVIEWS

Vice Presidents and personnel directors of the one hundred largest corporations were asked to describe their most unusual experience interviewing prospective employees.

- A job applicant challenged the interviewer to an arm wrestle.
- Interviewee wore a Walkman, explaining that she could listen to the interviewer and the music at the same time.
- Candidate announced she hadn't had lunch and proceeded to eat a hamburger and French fries in the interviewers office.
- Candidate explained that her long-term goal was to replace the interviewer.
- Candidate said he never finished high school because he was kidnapped and kept in a closet in Mexico.
- Balding candidate excused himself and returned to the office a few minutes later wearing a hairpiece.
- Applicant said if he were hired he would demonstrate his loyalty by having the corporate logo tattooed on his forearm.
- Candidate fell and broke arm during interview.
- Candidate dozed off during interview.

HONG KONG MOVIES ENGLISH SUBTITLES

-  I am damn unsatisfied to be killed in this way.
-  Same old rules: no eyes, no groin.
-  A normal person wouldn't steal pituitaries.
-  Damn, I'll burn you into a BBQ chicken.
-  Take my advice, or I'll spank you without pants.
-  I'll fire aimlessly if you don't come out!
-  You daring lousy guy.
-  Beat him out of recognizable shape!
-  I got knife scars more than the number of your leg's hair!
-  Beware! Your bones are going to be disconnected.
-  How can you use my intestines as a gift?
-  Greetings, large black person, Let us not forget to form a team up together and go into the country to inflict pain of our karate feet on some ass of the giant lizard person.

THINGS YOU WOULD NEVER KNOW WITHOUT THE MOVIES

-  During all police investigations, it will be necessary to visit a strip club at least once.
-  All beds have special L-shaped cover sheets that reach up to the armpit level on a woman but only to waist level on the man lying beside her.
-  Should you wish to pass yourself off as a German officer, it will not be necessary to speak the language. A German accent will do.
-  A man will show no pain while taking the most ferocious beating, but will wince when a woman tries to clean his wounds.
-  When paying for a taxi, don't look at your wallet as you take out a bill - just grab one at random and hand it over. It will always be the exact fare.
-  Mothers routinely cook eggs, bacon and waffles for their family every morning even though their husband and children never have time to eat them.
-  All bombs are fitted with electronic timing devices with large red readouts so you know exactly when they're going to go off.

CHAPTER 7



What A Way To Go!

INTERESTING EXPIRATIONS & CLOSE CALLS

 **DEADLY DEMO** - A Lawyer demonstrating the safety of windows in a downtown skyscraper crashed through a pane with his shoulder and plunged 24 floors to his death. Mr. Tom Lim, 39, was at the Toronto Dominion Bank Tower and was explaining the strength of the buildings' windows to visiting law students, a police spokesman said. Mr. Lim had previously conducted demonstrations of window strength, according to police reports. Mr. Peter Lauwers, managing partner of the firm Holden Day Wilson, told the Toronto Sun newspaper that the late Mr. Lim was "one of the best and brightest" lawyers of the 200-member group.

 **KILLER TOILET** - A falling portable toilet blew off a building and crushed a construction worker to death. Pablo Jose Pascual, 23, was working at a construction site north of Miami, Florida, when a sudden gust of wind blew a portable toilet over the edge of the building. The victim didn't know what hit him." "It was a tragedy but it could have been worse." Said a co-worker. "Fortunately, no one was using the toilet."

 **DEATH BY DISHWASHER** - A woman climbed into a portable dishwasher, closed the door and died when the machine started up. The death of Anna Sakamoto, 25, was ruled a suicide by Alameda County Coroner's deputies. She died of scalding and asphyxiation. When officers broke in, they found the machine's racks, washer arm and spray tower beside the victim's sunglasses and jewelry. They opened the machine and found the body. Federal safety officials and industry representatives said it was believed to be the first time anyone had died inside a dishwasher.

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 **THAT SMOKY FLAVOR** - A man's smoked body was discovered in the chimney of a barbecue restaurant. Workers found the body while tearing down the Farmers Market and Restaurant in El Paso, Texas. Police say the victim was identified as a Mexican national known only as Tony, about 19 years-old. The restaurant owner Juventino Hernandez said, "It's still possible that Tony might have been trying to burglarize the restaurant one night. He was small in stature, so he might have tried to get through the chimney. I and another restaurant owner used to feed him for doing small, odd jobs." "Then, after a while he just stopped coming around." Witnesses described the body as looking very "smoked." The barbecue was cooked with mesquite wood, witnesses said, which may have covered any odors.

 **BRUTAL BAPTISM** - A man being baptized in waist-deep water was swept off balance by a wave and drowned. Police said Jack E. White, 37, of Boston, was being baptized by the Rev. Hough G. Smith in Lake Cochituate when the two toppled over into deeper water. "We were standing close together and I said 'I baptize you in the name of Jesus' ...and when I said 'Holy Ghost,' we fell apart," Smith recalled. "I didn't know what was going on because it happened so quickly." He had performed baptisms in the same spot before without problems. Sgt. Richard Cashman said both people couldn't swim and the Reverend ran for help after being able to make it to shore. "It could have been an omen if you believe in that kind of thing." A medical examiner ruled the death as an accidental drowning.

 **MAN KILLED BY TWIN** - A man was killed in a traffic accident and in a freak coincidence, the driver of the other car was his twin. Thomas Corerra, 22, was a passenger in a car driven by Ramon Rodriguez, 24, in a remote area east of Livermore, California. According to the California Highway Patrol, they were hit by an automobile operated by Andy Corerra, Thomas's twin brother. Rodriguez was reported in critical condition at Valley Memorial Hospital. Andy Corerra was treated and released.

 **SELF-DEFENSE DEATH** - A woman killed her boyfriend while he taught her self-defense. Robert Gerkin, 26, of Jacksonville, Florida was teaching his girlfriend how to defend herself. Police say he was pretending to be a burglar in their home and she shot him in the face. Gerkin was killed by a .12-gauge shotgun blast at close range during the lesson, said Duval County Sheriff's spokesman Asa Higgs. No charges were filed against the girlfriend.