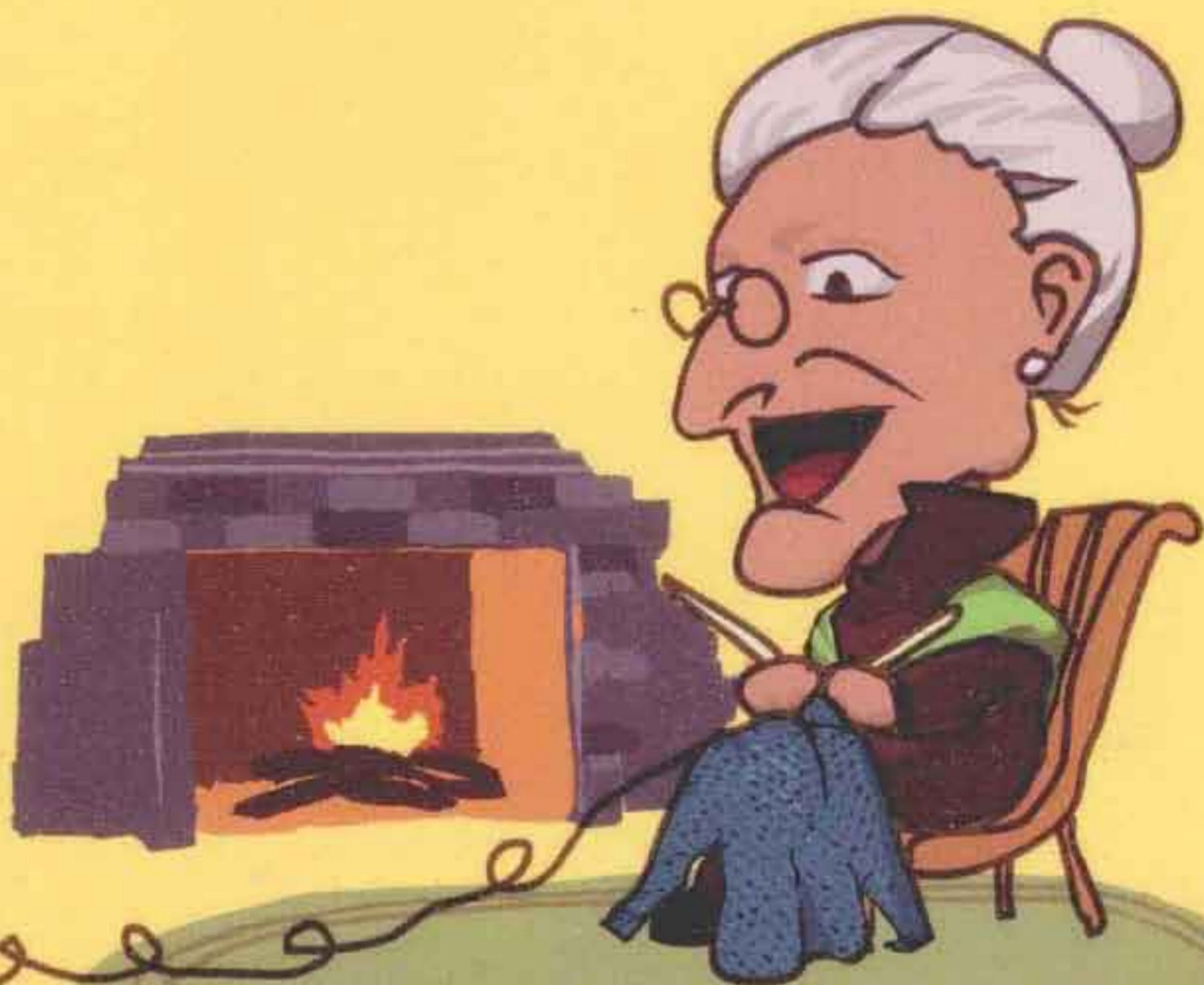




双语译林

英汉双语对照



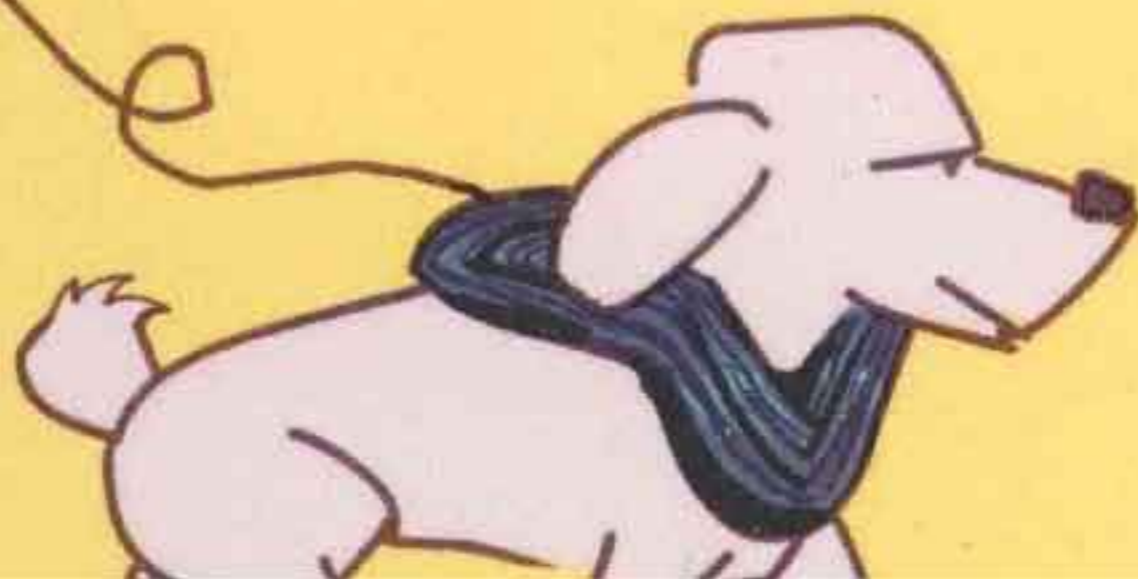
读《读者文摘》

学英语 笑时分

Laughter Really is the Best Medicine

《读者文摘》编辑部 编 | 蒋怡 译

译林出版社



LAUGHTER REALLY IS THE BEST MEDICINE

一，二，三，茄子！

我的笔记本快把我逼疯了。“A、E、I这三个键按下去后总是弹不回来，”我向一位朋友抱怨。

她很快诊断出了症结所在。“你的电脑得了元音易激综合征。”

——安吉·布拉凯特斯

女儿在为公共图书馆招新员工时，总是问应聘者同一个问题，什么样的监督方式他们最能接受。

有一个天才这么回答：“我总觉得超人的X光透视很酷。”

——戴夫·格劳泽

朋友从英国给我寄了顶针织帽，我戴着嫌小了。不过帽子很神气，那个周日我就戴着去教堂了。过后，我给朋友发了封电子邮件，告诉她帽子戴着很好看。她回信说听了这话很开心。“尤其呢，”她写道，“那原本是个茶壶套。”

——杰米·卡尔森

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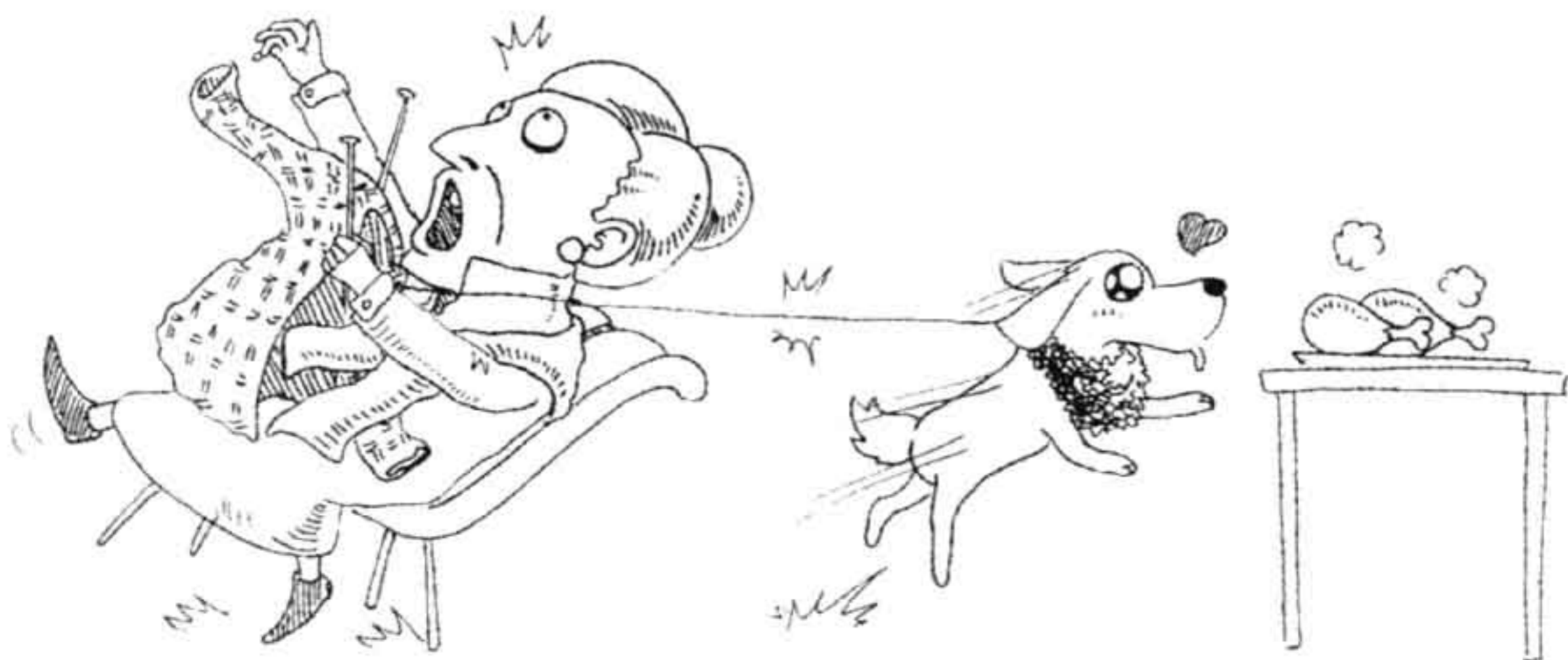
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呆头呆脑 | 一笑而过

Laughter Really Is the
Best Medicine

欢笑时分



- A Note from the Editors

“You grow up the day you have the first real laugh—at yourself.”

Those words from Ethel Barrymore couldn't be more true. Something we all have in common is the ability to laugh at ourselves and the comical situations life brings to us. The comedian Rodney Dangerfield may have joked about not getting any respect, but in reality his talent for tickling our funny bones earned him many guffaws and fans. Moments of laughter take us to another place—one filled with much-needed comic relief.

Inside this collection of jokes, one-liners, and quotable quotes from the popular Reader's Digest column “Laughter, the Best Medicine®,” you'll find Dangerfield, Barrymore, and hundreds more celebrities, professional comedians, joke writers, as well as everyday folks, who poke fun at the facts and foibles of daily life. And you'll find that no subject is sacred. From politics, religion, technology, doctors, and lawyers to sports, pets, children, and relationships—our day-to-day experiences provide all we need for this unbeatable collection.

So take a break and get ready to laugh. We think that these lighthearted glimpses of life are just what the doctor ordered!

▪ 编者寄语

“你第一次真正大笑——笑你自己时，你就长大了。”

埃塞尔·巴里莫尔这话说得再实在不过了。我们大家都有些共同点，会笑话自己，笑话生活带给我们的滑稽境遇。喜剧演员罗德尼·丹杰菲尔德可能会打趣说没人尊重他，但是其实呢，他捻动我们笑神经的本领，为他博得了满堂笑声，还有众多影迷。欢笑时分把我们带去另一个地方——那里尽是我们要的轻松笑颜。

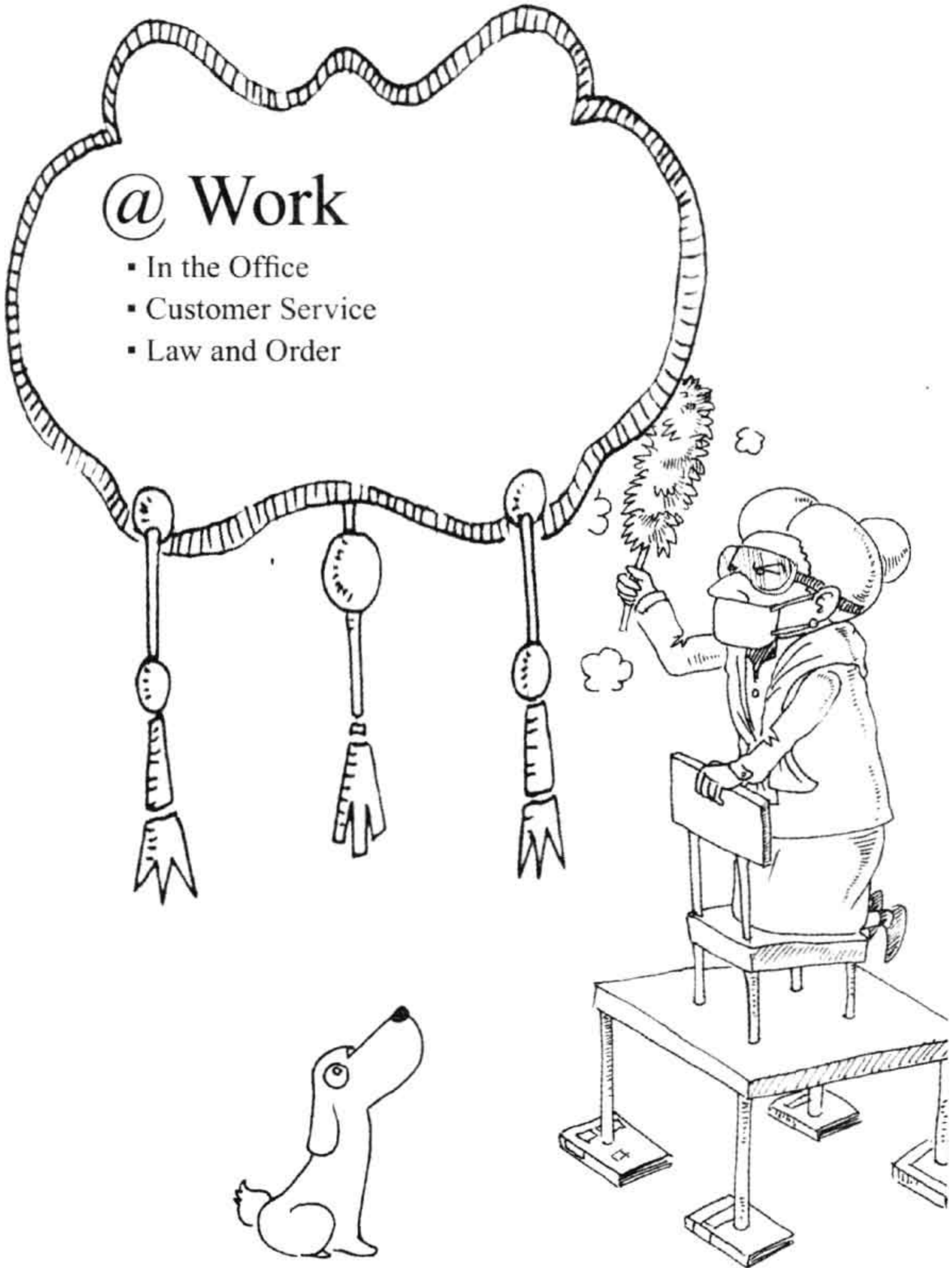
《读者文摘》的《欢笑时分》专栏颇受人们喜爱，本书收集了里面的笑话、俏皮话和妙语，从中你会找到丹杰菲尔德、巴里莫尔等数百位名人、职业喜剧演员、笑话作者，以及拿日常生活的瑕瑜取乐的人们。你会发现没有什么话题是神圣的。从政治、宗教、技术、医生、律师，到体育、宠物、孩童、人际关系——平常生活里的体验，我们摘取种种，汇成这无可比拟的集锦。

那么，请稍事休息，准备开始笑吧。我们认为，这些轻松活泼的生活剪影，就是医生开的处方药！



@ Work

- In the Office
- Customer Service
- Law and Order



工作篇

- 职场乐事
- 客服趣闻
- 法治笑谈

来一些笑声，让朝九晚五的苦差没那么折磨人

■ In the Office



My friend's hour-and-a-half commute to work got old quickly—the time spent stuck in traffic was sending him over the edge. So I was happy for him when he found a new job closer to home.

"That's great," I said. "What are you doing now?"

"I'm a bus driver."

—ELYSA STANTON

My secretary liked to yammer on the phone with friends. One day I was about to interrupt her chat to tell her to get back to work, when she looked up at the clock and put an end to the conversation. "Sorry, I have to hang up now," she said. "It's time for my break."

—JAMES R. MAXWELL

Applicants for jobs at the company where my friend Diana works are asked to fill out a questionnaire. Among the things candidates list is their high school and when they attended. One prospective employee dutifully wrote the name of his high school, followed by the dates attended: "Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday."

—JENNIFER CARUANA

My coworker Sarah was annoyed that our company's automated telephone directory had mangled her last name. She called the person in charge and asked that he fix it.

▪ 职场乐事



朋友要搭一个半小时的车去上班这号事，很快便成了历史——耗在路上的时间最终让他无法忍受。因此，得知他找了一份离家近的新工作，我真替他高兴。

“太棒了，”我说，“你现在做什么呢？”

“开公车。”

——爱丽莎·斯坦顿

秘书很喜欢跟朋友煲电话粥。一天，我正要打断她的电话，要她赶紧工作，只见她抬头看了看钟点，决定不聊了。“抱歉，我得挂电话了，”她说，“我的休息时间到了。”

——詹姆斯·R. 马克斯韦尔

朋友黛安娜工作的公司里，来应聘的求职者要填一张问卷调查。其中一项是列出就读的高中及时间。一位极有希望被录用的应聘者毕恭毕敬地写下了他所读高中的名字，然后在下面的就读时间里写了：“星期一、星期二、星期三、星期四和星期五。”

——珍妮弗·卡鲁阿纳

公司的自动电话簿把同事萨拉的姓读错了，她很是恼火，于是打电话给负责人，要他赶快改正。

“Sorry,” he said. “All requests must be made via e-mail.”

“Okay,” said Sarah, “just tell me how to e-mail the correct pronunciation for Zuckschwerdt.”

—REBECCA COLE

Winding his way through the office cubicles, my son Mike spotted one of his employees playing a video game on the computer.

“Why aren’t you working?” Mike asked him.

The employee had an excellent excuse: “I didn’t see you coming.”

—ROSEMARY SIEVE

“Good morning,” I said to a coworker in the parking lot. She mumbled something back and continued to the front door, distracted. As we walked, I couldn’t help but notice that she was muttering to herself: “It pays the bills, it pays the bills, it pays the bills...”

—LINDA TILLMAN

Our office manager is a tyrant when it comes to keeping the printer area clean. Recently, a coworker printed something, but when he went to pick up the document, it was gone.

“You know I throw out everything that’s more than 24 hours old,” the manager told him.

“But I just printed it,” my friend insisted.

“Sorry,” she said. “But I’m not in tomorrow.”

—NOEL ROWLAND

As a business-writing instructor, I read lots of résumés. Inevitably, I run across some students with skills no employer could pass up, such as:

“抱歉，”他说，“所有要求必须用电子邮件发过来。”

“好吧，”萨拉说，“就请告诉我怎么样才能把楚克施韦特的正确发音用电子邮件发给你吧。”

——丽贝卡·科尔

儿子迈克绕来绕去，穿过办公室的小隔间，突然看到一个员工在电脑上玩游戏。

“你为什么不工作？”迈克问他。

这员工的理由真让人叫绝：“我刚没看到你走过来。”

——罗斯玛丽·西夫

“早上好，”我在停车场跟一位同事打招呼。她含糊地应了我一声，继续朝前门走去，整个人心不在焉的。走在路上时，我无意间发现她在跟自己嘀咕：“要靠它付账单，要靠它付账单，要靠它付账单……”

——琳达·蒂尔曼

打印机周边要保持清洁，在这事上，办公室主任根本是个暴君。最近，一位同事打印了些东西，可他跑去拿文件时，发现不见了。

“你知道，超过24小时没来拿的东西，我全会扔了的。”主任跟他说。

“可是我刚刚才打印啊。”朋友坚持说。

“不好意思，”她说，“因为我明天不在。”

——诺埃尔·罗兰

我是教商务写作的老师，读过的简历多得没话说。因而，我总能碰上这样一些学生，他们所具备的技能绝对让面试官过目难忘，比如说：

- The young paramedic who “makes life-threatening decisions on a daily basis.”
- A child-care worker who can “overlook up to 35 children at one time.”
- An enterprising young woman who is “flexible enough to perform in all manner of positions if the situation gets desperate.”

—AUTUMN CAMPBELL

So how do you make a computer your best bud?

Buy it a nice bunch of software and get it loaded.

—DAVID E. BOELTER

Before leaving my assistant job for greener pastures, I was asked to reply to applicants hoping to replace me. “Very smart and intelligent,” my boss had written on one of the applications. “Too good for this job.”

—VI BRIERLEY

After my wife landed a coveted job offer from DHL, we went out of town to celebrate. While on our trip, she was contacted by the company’s human resources department with an urgent request to complete and send back her tax forms.

“No problem,” she said. “I’ll FedEx them right over.”

—ROSS MCCOY

The average insurance agent’s workday can be pretty mundane—except when he gets to read claim forms like these from actual auto accidents.

- The pedestrian had no idea which way to go, so I ran over him.
- I had been driving my car for 40 years when I fell asleep at the

年轻的医护人员，“每天要做危及生命的决定”。

儿童保育员，能“同时忽略¹多达35名儿童”。

积极进取的年轻女职员，“灵活多变，能胜任各种岗位，如果公司情况岌岌可危的话”²。

——奥特姆·坎贝尔

如何才能把电脑变成你最铁的哥们呢？

给它买一大堆不错的软件，把它装得满满的。

——戴维·E. 贝尔特

在离开目前的助理岗位另谋高就前，老板让我给想接替我工作的应聘者回复。“聪明机灵，”老板在一份求职信上回复，“优秀有余，不适合这份工作。”

——维·布莱尔利

妻子得到梦寐以求的DHL公司的工作机会了，我们去城外庆祝。走在路上，公司人力资源部联系她，请她火速填好报税表给他们寄过去。

“没问题，”她说，“我一会儿就用联邦快递寄过去。”³

——罗斯·麦科伊

普通保险经纪人的工作可能枯燥得很——不过读下面这种机动车事故索赔单却很有意思。

那个路人不知道走哪条路好，所以我就压过去了。

我开了40年的车，最终倒在方向盘上睡着了，就发生了车祸。

1 overlook有“监督”、“忽略”等意，此学生误用了。正确的应为look after（照料）。

2 这样的话写在简历里不得体。

3 这里是开了联邦快递一个玩笑，暗指联邦快递速度太慢。

wheel and had an accident.

- I was on the way to the doctor's with rear-end trouble when my universal joint gave way, causing me to have an accident.
- An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my vehicle and vanished.

When I phoned my employee to find out why she hadn't come to the office, I expected to hear a sob story about how sick she was, blah, blah, blah. Instead, her excuse was pretty plausible.

"When I was driving to work, I took a wrong turn," she explained. "And then I just decided to keep going."

—JUDIE SHEWELL

I've heard every excuse from coworkers for missing a day of work. But this one actually sounded legit.

"What's wrong?" I asked a woman who called in. "Are you sick?"

"No," she said. "I can't find a cute pair of shoes to wear."

—JOSHUA DONALDSON

Asked about the kind of job he wanted, an applicant at our tax management company stated, "I seek full authority but limited responsibility."

—MIKE WILKERSON

"What starting salary are you looking for?" the head of human resources asks the newly graduated engineer at the end of a job interview.

Going for it, the guy says, "Well, sir, I was thinking about \$125,000, depending on the benefits package."

我屁股疼，在去看医生的路上，万向节¹坏了，就发生了车祸。不知从哪里跑出来一辆隐形车，撞了我的车后就消失了。

我给一名员工打电话，问她为什么没来办公室，我等着她跟我哭诉，说她病得多严重，怎么怎么的。偏偏她的理由听着还挺有道理。

“我开车去上班时，拐错了弯，”她解释说，“于是只能决定一直往前开。”

——朱迪·休厄尔

员工不来上班的借口，我是听多了。不过这个听起来还蛮有道理。

“怎么了？”我问打电话来的女职员，“你生病了？”

“不是，”她说，“我找不到一双漂亮点的鞋子可以穿出去。”

——乔舒亚·唐纳森

当问到想找什么样的工作时，来应聘我们税务管理公司的一位求职者说：“我要找权力无限、责任有限的工作。”

——迈克·威尔克森

“你期待有多少起薪？”面试快结束时，人力资源主任问刚刚毕业的工程师。

既然这么问了，那人就说：“噢，先生，我想125,000美金左右吧，这要看福利那一块。”

1 万向节是汽车上的一个重要部件，是利用球型连接实现不同轴的动力传送的机械结构。

“Okay,” the HR director says. “How about five weeks’ vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, 100% company match for your 401(k) and a Porsche for your company car?”

The engineer gasps and says, “Wow! Are you kidding?”

“Yeah,” he replies. “But you started it.”

Many senior executives find talking with management consultants invaluable. My friend, a no-nonsense businessman who works for a large firm, is not one of them. Halfway through their meeting, and noting my friend’s terse answers, the consultant asked, “How do you cope with managerial stress?”

“I don’t,” came the gruff reply. “I cause it.”

—CLIVE ATTWATERS

“That’s a great place to work!” shouted my 16-year-old brother after coming home from the first day at his first job. “I get two weeks’ paid vacation.”

“I’m so glad,” said my mother.

“Yeah,” added John. “I can’t wait to find out where they send me.”

—STEPHANIE DIOCEDO

“Why did you leave your last job?”

“It was something my boss said.”

“What did he say?”

““You’re fired!””

—HEIDI GORDON

“好吧，”人力资源主任说，“那么五周的休假，14次带薪假日，整套医疗及牙齿护理，401(k)计划¹中，你交多少，公司就帮你交多少，再给你配一辆保时捷，你觉得怎么样？”

工程师倒吸了一口气，说：“哇！您是开玩笑吗？”

“是啊，”他答道，“你先开玩笑的嘛。”

许多高管都觉得，跟管理咨询师聊聊获益匪浅。我有一位朋友是商人，供职于某大公司，此人讲求实际，自然不喜这一套。他们的会面进行了一半时，咨询师发现我朋友回答问题总是三言两语，于是便问：

“管理过程中遇到压力，您怎么应对？”

“我不管，”他毫不客气地答道，“我只会制造压力。”

——克莱夫·阿特沃特斯

“在那儿工作真是太棒了！”16岁的弟弟一回家就说，那是他第一份工作第一天上班。“我有两周的公休假。”

“太开心了，”妈妈说。

“是啊，”约翰又说，“我等不及知道他们要送我去哪儿度假了。”²

——斯蒂芬妮·迪奥塞多

“上一份工作，你怎么不做了呢？”

“因为我老板说的一句话啊。”

“他说什么了？”

“你被开除了！”

——海迪·戈登

1 401(k)计划：由雇员与雇主共同缴费建立起来的完全基金式养老保险制度，开始于20世纪80年代，现已逐渐取代传统的社会保障体系，多为私人营利性公司所选用。

2 paid vacation是指“公休假”、“带薪假期”，即仍有工资的假期，弟弟误以为是公款度假了。

My friend had been pounding the pavement in search of a job with no luck. Frustrated, she asked her dad to look at her résumé. He didn't get much further than the first line of her cover letter before spotting the problem.

"Is it too generic?" she asked.

"I doubt it," said her father.

"Especially since it's addressed 'Dear Sir or Madman.'"

—GISELLE MELANSON

朋友近来为了找工作四处奔走，不幸未果。她甚是沮丧，便让爸爸帮着看看简历。她爸爸才看到求职信的第一行，就发现了问题。

“是不是太普通了？”她问。

“不像是。”她爸爸说。

“尤其是开头这称呼，‘尊敬的先生/疯子¹’。”

——吉赛尔·梅兰森

1 女士 (Madam) 和疯子 (madman) 的拼写相近。



When asked her opinion on punctuality, an applicant for an office job assured me she thought it was extremely important. “I use periods, commas, and question marks all the time,” she said.

—MEL ROBERTS

I work for a chartered bank in Ottawa, but my support unit is in Toronto. A colleague from the support unit e-mailed me to say she was missing a report due from one of my clients. I e-mailed back that I had faxed it to her earlier that morning and to check another file because the two reports were faxed at the same time.

“Thanks,” she replied when she found it, “but please don’t staple files together when you are faxing them to us.”

—DENISE LOSIER

Dave irritated everyone in our office. Whether it was the tone of his voice or his condescending attitude, we all steered clear. He must have suspected he was annoying because he asked a coworker, “Why does everybody take an instant dislike to me?”

Larry responded, “It saves time.”

—DAVID GOEHRING

A job interviewer asked me where I wanted to be in five years. I said, “Ideally, suspended with pay.”

—COMIC ANDREA HENRY

Rob and Tom apply for the same job. They take a written test. “You both got the same number of questions wrong,” the HR person tells them, “but Rob gets the job.”

“If we both got the same number of questions wrong, how come he

来应聘文职的人，问她怎么看待守时观念，她信誓旦旦地说守时极其重要。“句号、逗号和问号，我用得可熟了，”¹她说。

——梅尔·罗伯茨

我在渥太华一家特许银行上班，但工作编制仍在多伦多。原单位的一个同事发电子邮件给我，说我一个客户的报告她找不到了。我回信说那天早上我已经把报告传真给她了，让她找找另一份文件里有没有，因为两份报告是同时传真过去的。

“谢谢，”她找到后回复说，“但是请以后传真文件时不要把文件订在一起。”

——丹尼丝·洛希尔

我们办公室里，没人瞧戴夫顺眼的。不管是他说话的口气，还是高人一等的架势，我们都避之而不及。他肯定也猜到了没人喜欢他，因为有一次他问一位同事：“为什么大家一见我就不喜欢我啊？”

拉里回答道：“这样省时间。”

——大卫·戈林

面试官问我，希望五年后的自己身处何地。我说：“我的理想是带薪停职。”

——喜剧演员安德烈亚·亨利

罗布和汤姆应聘同一份工作。两人参加笔试。“你们俩错的题数一样，”人力资源部的人告诉他俩，“但是我们最终要了罗布。”

“如果我们错的题数一样，为什么你们要了他？”汤姆义愤填膺

¹ punctuality是“守时”，应聘者误以为是punctuation，即“标点符号”了。

gets the job?" Tom asks indignantly.

"Well," says the HR person, "one of his incorrect answers was better than yours."

"Whoa, how can that be?"

"For problem No. 46, Rob wrote, 'I don't know.' You wrote, 'Me neither.'"

—SAQIB AHMAD

In the human resources department in the large corporation where I work, I receive absentee slips for all of the employees. Over the years I've heard every excuse, ranging from the reasonable ("I had no hot water") to the questionable ("My dog might have rabies"). But the other day I found one in my voice mail that I'd never heard before.

"I won't be in today," said my absent coworker. "I'll call back later with an excuse."

—KATHY PRICE

A junior manager, senior manager and their boss were on their way to a lunch meeting. In the cab they found a lamp. The boss rubbed it, and a genie appeared. "I'll grant you one wish each," the genie said.

Grabbing the lamp from his boss, the eager senior manager shouted, "I want to be on a fast boat in the Bahamas with no worries." And *poof*, he was gone.

The junior manager couldn't keep quiet. He shouted, "I want to be in Miami, with beautiful girls, food and cocktails." And *poof*, he was gone.

Finally, it was the boss's turn. "I want those idiots back in the office after lunch."

—ASHFAQ AHMED

地问。

“哦，”人力资源部的人说，“他一个错的答案比你的好。”

“哇噢，怎么可能？”

“第46题，罗布写的是，‘我不知道。’你写的是，‘我也不知道。’”

——萨基卜·艾哈迈德

我在一家大公司的人力资源部工作，收到过员工五花八门的请假条。回顾这么多年，什么样的借口我都听过了，有合情合理的（“我没有热水了”），也有说不过去的（“我们家狗狗可能得了狂犬病了”）。不过前两天，我的语音邮箱里有个人请假，这理由我还从没听过。

“我今天不来了，”那请假的同事说，“理由我待会再打电话告诉你。”

——凯西·普赖斯

初级经理、高级经理和他们的老板在赶赴午餐会议的途中。计程车上，他们发现了一盏魔灯。老板擦了擦灯，精灵出现了。“我会答应你们每人一个愿望，”精灵跟他们说。

高级经理一把夺过老板手中的灯，迫不及待地喊道：“我想坐在巴哈马群岛的一艘快艇上，无忧无虑。”嗖的一声，他不见了。

初级经理也按捺不住了。他大叫道：“我想在迈阿密，周围都是美女、美食，还有鸡尾酒。”嗖的一声，他也不见了。

最后轮到老板了。“我要那两个白痴午饭过后回到办公室。”

——阿什法克·艾哈迈德

Having looked the other way for weeks, the boss finally called Smith into his office for a sit-down.

"You know, Smith," he said, "I've noticed that every time you have to take your dear old aunt to her doctor's appointments, there's a home game over at the stadium."

"Wow, sir. I guess you're right," Smith answered.

"I didn't realize it. You don't think she's faking it, do you?"

—SHARON KANSAS

Percentage of the workweek that a typical worker spends in meetings: 25. Odds that a person at a meeting doesn't know why he's there: 1 in 3.

—FROM *FIRED!* BY ANNABELLE GURWITCH (TOUCHSTONE)

When a woman applies for a job at a citrus grove, the foreman asks, "Do you have any experience picking lemons?"

"Well," she answers, "I've been divorced three times."

—MARILYN ADKINS

A friend had a waitressing position open at his diner and asked job seekers to fill out an application. Under "Salary Expected," a woman wrote, "Friday."

—MARSHA MARINO

During a company-held workshop on emergencies, our instructor asked, "What would you do if you received a letter bomb?" One guy knew: "Write 'Return to Sender.'"

—KERVYN DIMNEY

老板几个星期以来一直没有正眼瞧过史密斯，最后，终于把他叫到了办公室。

“那个，史密斯，”他说，“我发现每一次你要陪你亲爱的阿姨去看医生，体育馆就有一场主场比赛。”

“哇哦，老板，您说得没错，”史密斯回答。

“我之前没发现。她该不会是装的吧，您说呢？”

——莎伦·堪萨斯

一周中，普通员工花在开会上的时间百分比：25%。参加会议的人不知道这会为何而开的可能性：1/3。

——《你被开除了！》，安娜贝勒·格维奇著（塔奇斯通出版社）

一女子到柠檬园应聘，领班问她：“你有摘柠檬的经验吗？”

“哦，”她答道，“我离过三次婚。”¹

——玛丽莲·阿德金斯

朋友的小饭店要招一名女服务员，他让前来应聘的人填一份申请。在“期待薪水”²一栏中，一位女士写道，“星期五。”

——玛莎·马里诺

在公司举办的一个紧急情况演练班上，教官问我们：“如果收到一封炸弹邮件，你会怎么办？”有人说他知道：“写上‘退回发件人’。”

——凯尔万·迪姆尼

1 短语pick lemons除了字面意思“摘柠檬”之外，比喻意义指“自找麻烦”。应聘者显然误认为对方是在用该短语的比喻意义。

2 Salary Expected（期待薪水）应填金额的，应聘者误以为期待何时拿到薪水。

I input a junior manager's self-evaluation, which said in part, "I have been on the job for three months, and I finally feel as if I've accomplished something." I made one mistake, however. I replaced the word job with John.

—JANE FOX

Because finding the proper work-life balance is crucial, our company scheduled a meeting on the subject for all employees. To make sure no one fell behind on their work, the conference was held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on a Friday night.

—MARCO RONO

Although desperate to find work, I passed on a job I found on an employment website. It was for a wastewater plant operator. Among the job requirements: "Must be able to swim."

—MICHAEL LEAMONS

Someone advertising on Craigslist said she was well suited for child care. After all, she had plenty of experience in "CPR and Choking Children."

—ANN BOBBE

The businessman was self-conscious because he had no ears. So when he hired a manager, he asked each candidate, "Notice anything unusual about me?"

我帮一位初级经理把自我评价的资料输进电脑，其中有段话是：“这份工作我已经做了三个月了，我终于觉得有成就感了。”可是，我打错了一个词，把“工作”打成了“约翰”¹。

——简·福克斯

适度平衡好工作与生活极其重要，因此，我们公司为全体员工安排了一场主题会议。不过为了确保大家的工作不落下，会议放在周五晚上五点到八点进行。

——马尔科·罗诺

虽然我急着找工作，也在求职网上看到了一条招工信息，但我还是决定不试了。他们要招废水处理厂操作员。招聘要求中有一条是：“必须要会游泳。”

——迈克尔·利蒙斯

有人在克雷格列表²上张贴广告，说她擅长照顾儿童。毕竟，她在“心肺复苏术和窒息儿童³”方面有很多经验。

——安·博贝

有个商人因为他没有耳朵而很害羞。在招一名经理时，他问应聘者，“发现我有什么不寻常吗？”

1 单词job（工作）与John（约翰）拼写相近，其中John又有“厕所”的意思。短语on the job意为“做这份工作”，短语on the John意为“在厕所”，所以成了“我在厕所已经待了三个月了”。

2 克雷格列表（Craigslist）：来源于Craig's list，其创始人是克雷格·纽马克（Craig Newmark）。这是一个分类信息网站，包括求职应聘、房屋租赁买卖、娱乐等，所有信息的发布都是自由且免费的。

3 广告发布者的意思是她擅长处理被噎住的儿童，容易让人误解为她擅长使儿童窒息。

The first replied, "You have no ears." He was shown the door. When the second candidate's response was the same, he was also tossed out. But the third guy had a different answer.

"You're wearing contact lenses," he said.

The businessman was flabbergasted. "How did you know?"

"Because people who don't have ears have to wear contacts."

Who says companies only care about the bottom line? Ours is socially conscious and offers employees fun outdoor activities throughout the complex.

Both of these admirable elements were driven home one day when a voice over the loudspeaker boomed, "Everyone who signed up to donate blood, please report to the rifle range!"

—LISA CARNES

I once had a boss tell me, "Don't dress for the job you have; dress for the job you want." I showed up the next day in a Cubs uniform.

—ROB PARAVONIAN

After giving birth, I quit my job. The exit questionnaire asked, "What steps would have prevented you from leaving?" My answer: "Birth control."

—MELISSA EGGERTSEN

I used to work at the unemployment office. I hated it because when they fired me, I had to show up at work anyway.

—WALLY WANG

第一位说：“您没有耳朵。”他被请出去了。第二位应聘者的回答一样，他也被扔出去了。第三个人的答案不同。

“您戴了隐形眼镜，”他说。

商人大吃一惊。“你怎么知道？”

“因为没有耳朵的人必须要戴隐形眼镜。”

谁说公司只关心利润了？我们公司很有社交意识，在大楼间为员工提供了好玩的室外活动。

这两项羡慕旁人的优势在某一天表露无遗。那天，扬声器里传来一个声音：“请报名献血的员工，到射击场报道！”

——莉萨·卡恩斯

我以前有个老板曾跟我说：“不要为你现有的工作打扮，为你想要的工作打扮。”于是第二天来上班时，我穿了一身童子军制服。

——罗布·帕拉冯尼亚

生完孩子后，我辞去了工作。离职调查问卷上问：“公司哪些地方做得不妥，致使您要离开？”我的答案是：“没有计划生育政策。”

——梅利莎·埃格森

我曾经在失业所工作过。我最痛恨的事，莫过于被单位开除后，还得来单位报到。

——沃利·王

Conversation at our business lunch turned to illegal immigration. “I read an article that said 60 percent of Americans are immigrants,” commented one of my colleagues.

“That can’t be true,” another said.

“No,” agreed a Native American coworker. “There’s a lot more of you than that.”

—DANIELLE PRIMAS

吃工作餐时，我们聊到了非法移民的问题。“我读过一篇文章，说60%的美国人都是移民，”有位同事评论道。

“不可能吧，”另一位说。

“是真的，”一位美国原住民同事表示赞同，“像你们这样的移民还不止60%呢。”

——丹妮尔·普里马斯



My very busy boss placed this want ad in the newspaper: "Local photocopy shop looking for employee who has reproductive experience."

—BRANDON JOHNSON

After interviewing a potential employee, I walked him to the door. We shook hands, and he left me with this parting thought: "Don't work too hard!"

—DAVE ZEDAKER

I was furiously cranking out reports recently when my office mate got a phone call. I did my best to ignore what I heard him tell the person on the other end: "No, I'm not busy. I'm just at work."

—LAURA SWANSSON

How not to become a member of senior management:

During a meeting, our bosses held a contest to name a new project. As members of the management team read through the entries, our CEO picked one out and asked, "Who knows what a phoenix is?"

A junior manager answered, "It's a bird in *Harry Potter*."

—MARIE ALCAREZ

The other day, a manager sent me a form letting me know that one of his staff was no longer employed here. In the "Reason for separation" field, he wrote, "Employee deceased." Under "Recommended for rehire?" he wrote, "Yes."

—JEFF ZEILMANN

My real name is Wilton, but everyone at the plastics factory calls

老板是个大忙人，他在报纸上张贴了如下的招工启事：“当地一家复印店招聘员工，需有生产¹的经验。”

——布兰登·约翰逊

面试完一位很有可能成为我员工的应聘者后，我送他到门口，与他握手言别。走的时候他跟我来了这么一句：“工作别太拼命了！”

——戴夫·泽达克

最近，我赶报告忙得焦头烂额。办公室的同事接了个电话，我努力让自己别在意他跟电话另一头说的话：“不，我不忙，只是上上班而已。”

——劳拉·斯旺森

如何能不成为高级管理层成员：

一次会议上，我们老板来了场竞赛，让大家为新项目起个名字。管理队伍里的成员一个个汇报着自己的想法，首席执行官挑了一个问：“谁知道凤凰是什么？”

一位初级经理答道：“是《哈利·波特》里的一只鸟。”²

——玛丽·阿尔卡瑞

前两天，经理给我发了张表格，通知我一位员工已经不在这里工作了。在“离职理由”这一栏里，他写道：“员工死亡。”在“是否建议再录用？”一栏他写了：“是。”

——杰夫·泽尔曼

我的真名是威尔顿，不过塑料厂的大伙儿都管我叫杜博。于是麻烦

1 reproductive可以指“复制的、复印的”，也可以指“繁衍后代的、生产的”。

2 英国女作家J. K. 罗琳创作的哈利·波特系列小说第五部是《哈利·波特与凤凰社》。

me Dub. And that's where the confusion began. A woman from the front office came by with a form to fill out. But when she asked for my name, I wasn't sure which one to give.

Waiting patiently for me to make up my mind, she said, "I don't have any easier questions."

—WILTON ROSE

Our friend worked in an office where an e-mail flame war erupted. Coworkers were blasting outraged notes back and forth. Finally, their boss stepped in. The e-mails stopped, and everyone got back to work. Then the boss sent one more e-mail.

"Thank goodness that's solved. Does anyone have any questions?"

The flame war was rekindled when a woman, forgetting an important comma, responded, "No thanks to you."

—*SEND: THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO EMAIL FOR OFFICE AND HOME*
(KNOPF)

After months of fruitless searching, I ran across a job in the want ads that I knew I was qualified for. The posting read: "Position may be filled by male or female only."

—RACHAEL DANIELS

A woman looking for a data-processing job at our company was nothing if not eager to please. When I asked, "Can you type?" she answered excitedly, "No, but my sister can."

—MARCELLA THOMPSON

The best you could say about one job candidate was that she was honest. Her résumé stated, "I was entrusted to ruin our office in our

就来了。前厅的女同事拿着表格进来要填。她问我名字时，我不知道给她哪一个好。

她耐心地在一旁等着我拿主意，说：“我没有比这更简单的问题了。”

——威尔顿·罗斯

朋友工作的办公室里，一场电邮火拼爆发了。同事们把一封封怒气冲冲的邮件发来发去。最后，老板插手了。电邮战结束后，大家回到工作上。接着老板又发了封电邮。

“谢天谢地，终于解决了。大家还有什么问题不？”

一位女同事回信时，忘了个重要的逗号，于是战争的火焰又烧开了。她的回信是：“不谢谢你。”

——《发送：办公与家庭电子邮件概览》（克诺夫出版社）

几个月来寻寻觅觅终是徒劳。无意间，我看到了一则招聘启事，我知道自己这回符合要求。启事上写着：“该职位只能由男士或女士担任。”

——雷切尔·丹尼尔斯

来我们公司应聘数据处理工作的一位女士，简直想讨好人想过了头。我问她：“你能打字吗？”她兴奋地回答我：“不会，不过我妹妹会。”

——玛塞拉·汤普森

给一位应聘者最高的评价是，她很诚实。她的简历上写着：“我被

partner's absence."

—JOANNA STOCK

I work at a store manned by grumpy old men. One day a ray of light showed up in the form of a cheerful young customer. She was chatty and charming and left the store gushing. "How lucky we are to be alive!" she announced before the door closed.

"Wow! She was certainly jovial," I remarked to a coworker.

"Yeah," he agreed. "I didn't like her either."

—DUANE BOEVE

With a pile of 300 résumés on his desk and a need to pick someone quickly, my boss told me to make calls on the bottom 50 and toss the rest.

"Throw away 250 résumés?" I asked, shocked. "What if the best candidates are in there?"

"You have a point," he said. "But then again, I don't need people with bad luck around here."

—BECKY HOROWITZ

I was checking out a job website when I found a gig that left me wondering, How tough can it be? "Morgue assistant. Job requirements: Excellent customer-service skills."

—DENISE DANIGELIS

A few weeks after our office purchased expensive handheld organizers for everyone, our director asked an assistant at a staff meeting for the date of an upcoming event. Proudly flipping open her new PDA, she announced the date, then flipped it closed again.

委托趁同事不在时，摧毁办公室。”

——乔安娜·斯托克

我在一家店上班，店里管事的全是些臭脾气的老头儿。一天，来了位年轻活泼的顾客，好比一道阳光照进了店里。她很健谈，招人喜爱，店里顿时多了欢声笑语。“活着真是幸福啊！”她离开前最后说道。

“哇！这人太快活了，”我对一个同事评论道。

“是啊，”他表示赞同，“我也不喜欢她。”

——杜安·博弗

老板的桌上堆了300份简历，他需要尽快挑出一位，于是便让我联系最下面50位求职者，把其余的都扔了。

“250份全扔了？”我吃惊地问，“要是最优秀的在里面怎么办？”

“你说得有道理，”他说，“但是话说回来，我可不要臭运气的人在我这里工作。”

——贝姬·霍罗威茨

我正在浏览一个求职网站，突然看到一份工作，心里甚是纳闷。能有多难呢？“停尸房助理。应聘要求：优秀的客户服务技能。”

——丹尼丝·达尼吉列斯

办公室给每人配了个价格不菲的便携式操作机，几个星期后，在员工会议上，主任问一位助理即将举办的一次活动的时间。她自豪地打开新的掌上电脑，念了下日期，随即又合上了。

"Are you sure about that?" he said.

"Of course," she said. And with that, she reopened her PDA and handed the director the sticky note she had affixed to the screen with all the upcoming meetings listed on it.

—CHRISTOPHER DERAPS

Jake is struggling with two huge suitcases when a stranger asks, "Got the time?"

Jake glances at his wrist. "A quarter to six."

"Nice watch," the stranger says.

"Thanks," Jake says.

"I built it. It can speak the time aloud for any city, in any language. Plus, it's got GPS and an MP3 player."

"Wow!" the man says. "How much?"

"This is my prototype. It's not for sale."

"I'll give you \$1,000."

"Can't," Jake says. "It's not ready."

"\$5,000!"

"Well, okay, but..."

The man slaps a wad of cash into Jake's hand, grabs the watch and starts to walk away.

"Wait," Jake yells, running toward him with the suitcases. "Don't forget your batteries."

—MICHAEL & EDITH MILLER

A waitress at our restaurant had a change of clothes stolen from the break room. Making matters worse, she'd planned on wearing them to the Christmas party.

As a brand-new employee, I didn't know any of this backstory, so I

“你确定没说错吧？”他说。

“当然，”她说，重新打开掌上电脑，把粘在屏幕上的易可贴递给主任，上面列了所有即将召开的会议。

——克里斯托弗·德拉普斯

杰克提着两个巨型箱子，艰难地走着。一个陌生人的叫住他：“你知道现在几点吗？”

杰克瞥了一眼腕表。“六点差一刻。”

“手表真不错，”这个陌生人说。

“谢谢，”杰克说。

“我自己做的，能用各种语言，报任何城市的时间。另外还配有全球卫星定位系统和MP3数码音乐播放器。”

“哇！”那人说，“卖多少钱呢？”

“这是我的模型机，不卖。”

“我给你1000美金。”

“不卖，”杰克说，“还不好卖。”

“5000美金！”

“那好吧，但是……”

那人把一沓钞票塞在杰克的手里，拿了手表，拔腿就走。

“等一下，”杰克喊道，拎着手提箱朝他跑去，“别忘了电池。”

——迈克尔·米勒和伊迪丝·米勒

我们餐馆的一位女招待把换下来的衣服放在休息室，结果衣服被偷了。雪上加霜的是，她本打算穿着这套衣服去参加圣诞舞会的。

我刚来工作没多久，不知道事情的前因，因此看到公告栏里贴了张

was a bit surprised to find this indignant note posted on the community board: “It has been two weeks since the Christmas party, and I still have not found my clothes.”

—DAVID BUTTS

Customer: “Can I please get your name and position with the company?”

Employee: “This is Ryan, and I am sitting down.”

—MELANIE LOEB

Johnson, who always shows up for work on time, comes in an hour late, his face scratched and bruised, his glasses bent.

“What happened to you?” his boss asks.

“I fell down two flights of stairs,” Johnson answers.

“That took you a whole hour?”

—ETHAN PATTON

Computers are great for modernizing the world, putting information at our fingertips, and keeping techies busy answering silly customer questions like these.

Tech Support: “Click on the My Computer icon to the left of the screen.”

Customer: “Do you mean your left or mine?”

—ANNA HANSEN

Everyone knows I’m a stickler for good spelling. So when an associate e-mailed technical documents asking me to “decifer” them, I had to set him straight.

“Decipher is spelled with a ph, not an f,” I wrote. “In case you’ve forgotten, spell-checker comes free with your Microsoft program.”

怒火难抑的纸条，还吃了一惊：“圣诞舞会已经过去两周了，我还是没有找到我的衣服。”

——大卫·巴茨

顾客：“能告诉我你的名字，还有公司职位吗？”

员工：“我叫莱恩，我现在要坐下。”¹

——梅拉妮·洛布

约翰逊平日里总按时到单位，今天他晚来了一小时，脸上刮伤了，青一块紫一块，眼镜也折弯了。

“你怎么了？”他老板问。

“我从两段楼梯上摔了下去，”约翰逊回答。

“就花了你整整一个小时？”

——伊森·巴顿

世界现代化，电脑功不可没，它把信息置于我们的指尖，技术专家们也因此忙于应付客户傻兮兮的问题，比如下面这个。

技术支持：“请点击屏幕左方的‘我的电脑’图标。”

客户：“你是说你的左方还是我的左方？”

——安娜·汉森

大伙儿都知道，我对单词拼写容不得半点马虎。所以当一位同事把技术文件用电邮发给我，请我“解玛”时，我非纠正他不可。

“解码里面是石字旁，不是王字旁，”我写道，“要是你记不住，可使用微软程序中的拼写检查。”

¹ 场景为顾客打电话进来，position既有“工作职位”的意思，也有“位置、方位”的意思。

A minute later came his reply: "Must be defective."

—TERESA FISHER

During a job interview at my granddaughter's pharmacy, an applicant was asked, "Have you ever been convicted of a felony?"

"No," he answered. "My hearing is scheduled for next week."

—SHIRLEY ELLIOTT

一分钟过后，他回信了：“一定哪里有缺陷。”¹

——特雷莎·费希尔

孙女药店里有一次面试求职，一位应聘者被问到：“你曾经因重罪被指控过吗？”

“没有，”他回答，“我的听证会安排在下个星期。”

——雪莉·埃利奥特

1 笑话中，同事把“解码”（decipher）写成了decifer，和正确的词发音一样，ph也发f的音。

“我”给他写信让他修改后，他回信道，微软软件肯定哪儿有缺陷没检查出来，“缺陷”是defective，本是f的地方，这回他却写成了ph，成了dephective。

“ QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Stress is your body’s way of saying you haven’t worked enough unpaid overtime.”

—SCOTT ADAMS,
*DON’T STEP IN THE LEADERSHIP:
A DILBERT BOOK*

“When in doubt, look intelligent.”
—GARRISON KEILLOR IN *PREMIERE*

“You’ll never achieve 100 percent if 99 percent is okay.”

—WILL SMITH IN *PREMIERE*

“Hard work spotlights the character of people: Some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don’t turn up at all.”

—SAM EWING, RADIO ANNOUNCER

“Somebody once said that in looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence, and energy. But if they don’t have the first, the other two will kill you.”

—WARREN BUFFETT

“Work is a slice of your life. It’s not the entire pizza.”

—JACQUELYN MITCHARD

“Doing nothing is very hard to do—you never know when you’re finished.”

—LESLIE NIELSEN

“We live in a society exquisitely dependent on science and technology, in which hardly anyone knows anything about science and technology.”

—CARL SAGAN

“The key to success? Work hard, stay focused and marry a Kennedy.”

—ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER



“ 妙语连珠

“没有把握时，表现得机灵一点。”

——加里森·凯勒，《首映》

“压力是你身体的警报器，告诉你，不给加班费的活儿你还没有干够。”

——司各特·亚当斯，
《领导难当：迪尔波特系列丛书》

如果99%就让你知足，那你永远也到不了100%。

——威尔·史密斯，《首映》

苦活中现人品：有人卷起袖子，有人耸起鼻子，有人干脆影子都不见。¹

——电台播音员萨姆·尤因

“有人曾说，招人替你干活时，你得找三种品质：正直、机灵和活力。不过如果那人没有第一种品质，后面两种就会整死你。”

——沃伦·巴菲特

“工作只是生活的一小块，不是整块比萨。”

——杰奎琳·米切德

“什么都不做其实很难办——你永远也不知道什么时候完工。”

——莱斯利·尼尔森

“我们生活在一个极其依赖科技的社会中，却几乎没人懂科技。”

——卡尔·萨根

“成功的秘诀？努力工作，一心一意，再娶个肯尼迪。”

——阿诺德·施瓦辛格

¹ 这里，原文中用了三个带up的动词词组，turn up one's sleeve（卷起袖子），turn up one's noses（嗤之以鼻），turn up（出现）。

I'd recently started my new job at an insurance company when I noticed something peculiar—six employees had daughters who also worked there.

"That's incredible," I remarked.

My boss nodded.

"We ask a lot of our employees," he said, "including their firstborn."

—SUSAN PIELASA

Voice mail is my sworn enemy—I have never understood how it works. Finally, I broke down and called the office operator to walk me through it.

"I can send you an instruction sheet," she said.

"Great, fax it over."

"Sure," she said. "But fax it right back. It's my only copy."

—ROBERT BALK

I work in the library's Local Studies section. Recently, my colleagues and I received invitations to attend a presentation at the town hall. The invites were computer-generated and used abbreviations for job titles.

So, the Reference Librarian became Ref Lib and so on.

I'm not sure whether my coworkers were impressed or amused when my invitation arrived—addressed to "Local Stud."

—ALAN DUCKWORTH

I spent 20 minutes explaining life insurance options to one of our employees. After reviewing the different plans and monthly deductions, he decided to max out, choosing \$100,000 worth of life insurance. But he had one last question.

"Now," he said, "what do I have to do to collect the money?"

—MICHELE CUNKO

最近，我在某家保险公司谋了个职位，刚开始工作便发现了奇怪的事——有六个员工他们的女儿也在这里上班。

“太不可思议了，”我说。

老板点了点头。

“我们也问过许多员工，”他说，“包括他们的头生子女。”

——苏珊·皮耶拉萨

我跟语音邮件的仇不共戴天——从来就没搞懂过怎么用那玩意儿。最终，我崩溃了，只能找办公室的操作员带我走出迷境。

“我可以把使用说明书发给你，”她说。

“好极了，传真给我吧。”

“没问题，”她说，“但是你要立刻传回来给我。我只有这么一份。”

——罗伯特·鲍克

我在图书馆的本土研究部工作。近来，我和同事们都收到了市政厅展示会的邀请函。邀请函是电脑生成的，工作职位用缩略语表示。

这么一来，参考书馆管理员就成了参馆，诸如此类。

不知道我的邀请函到时，同事们有没有大吃一惊，或大笑起来——寄给“本土种马”¹。

——艾伦·达克沃思

我花了20分钟时间，把人寿保险的细则一一说给一位同事听。他看过了不同的方案和月扣除额后，决定选最大的金额，挑了份价值100,000美金的人寿保单。不过他还有最后一个问题。

“那么，”他说，“钱我要怎么来领呢？”

——米歇尔·坎科

¹ 本土研究部 (Local Studies) 的缩略语是 local stud, stud 有一个含义是“种马”。

A computer-illiterate client called the help desk asking how to change her password.

“Okay,” I said, after punching in a few keys. “Log in using the password 123456.”

“Is that all in caps?” she asked.

—SUSAN KESSLER

My laptop was driving me crazy. “The A, E, and I keys always stick,” I complained to a friend.

She quickly diagnosed the problem. “Your computer is suffering from irritable vowel syndrome.”

—ANGIE BULAKITES

My friend was job hunting with little luck. “Maybe I’ve set my sights too high,” she said. “I’m looking for a position that’s mentally challenging but not intellectually challenging.”

—CHRISTOPHER BREEN

When hiring new staff at her public library, my daughter always asks applicants what sort of supervision they’d be most comfortable with.

One genius answered, “I’ve always thought Superman’s X-ray vision would be cool.”

—DAVE GLAUSER

Tech Support: “What does the screen say now?”

Customer: “It says ‘Hit Enter when ready.’”

Tech Support: “Well?”

Customer: “How do I know when it’s ready?”

—BECQUET.COM

一位电脑菜鸟客户打电话给服务台，问怎么修改密码。

“这个啊，”我敲了几个键后说，“用123456这个密码登陆。”

“都是大写状态下输入吗？”她问道。

——苏珊·凯斯勒

我的笔记本快把我逼疯了。“A、E、I这三个键按下去后总是弹不回来，”我向一位朋友抱怨。

她很快诊断出了症结所在。“你的电脑得了元音¹易激综合征。”

——安吉·布拉凯特斯

朋友各处求职，无果。“可能我的目标定太高了吧，”她说，“我要找一份需要动脑子，但不要动智商的工作。”

——克里斯托弗·布林

女儿在为公共图书馆招新员工时，总是问应聘者同一个问题，什么样的监督方式他们最能接受。

有一个天才这么回答：“我总觉得超人的X光透视很酷。”

——戴夫·格劳泽

技术支持：“现在屏幕上显示什么？”

客户：“说‘准备好后请敲击Enter键’。”

技术支持：“怎么样？”

客户：“我怎么知道它什么时候准备好啊？”

——BECQUET.COM

1 英语26个字母中有5个元音：A、E、I、O、U。

- Customer Service



A customer in our pharmacy yelled at one of the technicians before storming out. Another customer asked if everything was all right.

“Sure,” said the tech. “You have to understand, most of our customers are on drugs.”

—MINERVA REYES

It was the usual busy day at our bank. A woman came up to customer service and demanded, “What do I have to do to change the address on my account?”

Without looking up, I replied, “Move.”

—CAROL GOODWIN

A customer brought her car into our Saturn dealership complaining of rattling noises. Later the technician said the problem was no big deal. “Just a case of CTIP: Customer Thinks It’s a Porsche.”

—ERIK DAVISON

Even though a patient owed our medical office \$95, when I contacted him, I was told in no uncertain terms that he didn’t appreciate our calls or the bills stamped “Past due.”

“I want to be removed from the mailing list,” he insisted.

“No problem,” I assured him. “Just one thing: There’s a \$95 processing fee.”

—MEGHAN COCHRAN

■ 客服趣闻



我们药房的一位顾客对着一位药剂师大声嚷嚷，然后气冲冲地出去了。另一位顾客问出什么事了。

“没什么事，”药剂师答道，“你也知道，我们大多数顾客都嗑药。”

——米内尔娃·雷耶斯

银行里，照例繁忙的一天。一位女士走到客服处，问：“怎么做才能修改我账户上的地址？”

我连头也没抬，答道：“搬家。”

——卡罗尔·古德温

客户把她的车开到我们土星经销店，抱怨车子会发出格格的笑声。后来，技术人员说这不是什么大问题。“只是一例‘客保’：客户以为开的是保时捷。”

——埃里克·戴维森

一位病人欠了我们医疗室95美元，我跟他联系时，他斩钉截铁地告诉我，他讨厌我们给他打电话，也讨厌账单上盖着的“逾期”字样。

“把我从你们邮寄名单中删了，”他坚持要求。

“没问题，”我跟他保证，“不过有一点：要收95美元手续费。”

——梅根·科克伦

You didn't have to be a brain surgeon to figure out that a customer at our post office was an off-duty mail clerk from another plant. He'd written on his package, "Fragile: Toss Underhand."

—DENISE MARTIN

On her first full day working at a discount store, my niece encountered her first cranky customer. The man had brought over mouse poison and demanded to know why it cost so much. "What's in there?" he said sarcastically. "Steak?"

"Well, sir," said my niece, "it is their last meal."

—BELINDA ANDERSON

The phone rang. It was a salesman from a mortgage refinance company. "Do you have a second mortgage on your home?"

"No," I replied.

"Would you like to consolidate all your debts?"

"I really don't have any," I said.

"How about freeing up cash for home improvements?" he tried.

"I don't need any. I just recently had some done and paid cash," I parried.

There was a brief silence, and then he asked, "Are you looking for a husband?"

—NANCY JORDAN

When you've got a long list of things to buy at a department store, you tend to tune out announcements like "All cashiers to the front register" or "Associate, pick up line three." But one did catch my attention: "Customer service needed in men's boxers."

—PAT ROMANO

就算不是脑科大夫，你也能看出，来我们邮局的这位顾客是另一个厂里下了班的收信员。瞧他在包裹上写的：“易碎：请低手投递。”

——丹尼丝·马丁

侄女第一天到折扣店上全天班，碰上了她第一位坏脾气顾客。那人把老鼠药拿到前台，问为什么这么贵。“里面有什么？”他酸溜溜地说，“难不成是牛排？”

“哦，先生，”侄女说，“这是它们最后一餐了。”

——贝琳达·安德森

电话响了，是抵押贷款再融资公司的销售员打来的。“请问您家的房子有过二次抵押吗？”

“没有，”我答道。

“您想把所有债务合在一起吗？”

“我没有什么债务，”我说。

“您需要现金用于装修吗？”他又问。

“我不需要。前不久装修过，付的现金，”我回避着说。

电话那头沉默了片刻，接着又问：“您要找对象吗？”

——南希·乔丹

如果你去百货商店有很多东西要买，广播里的一些通知如“所有收银员到前台集中”或是“伙伴们，开第三号收银口”，你就没工夫搭理。不过有一条倒是吸引了我的注意：“男式平脚短裤区需要客服。”

——帕特·罗马诺

Our routine was always the same when unloading the delivery truck for our department store: clothes in the morning and special orders in the afternoon. That wasn't good enough for one antsy customer. He wanted his special-ordered pool table that morning.

"Okay," I reassured him. "Just as soon as we take off our clothes."

—KEITH BARRY

The dynamic young saleswoman was offering a lot of unsolicited advice as my mother was trying on pants. Each time Mom came out of the dressing room, it was "Too short" or "Too baggy" or "No, no, no. Wrong color."

It ended when my mother stepped out and heard, "Those are the worst yet."

"These," Mom said, "are mine."

—STACY BAUGH

When I overheard one of my cashiers tell a customer, "We haven't had it for a while, and I doubt we'll be getting it soon," I quickly assured the customer that we would have whatever it was she wanted by next week. After she left, I read the cashier the riot act.

"Never tell the customer that we're out of anything. Tell them we'll have it next week," I instructed her. "Now, what did she want?"

"Rain."

—MARGARET ARTHURS

For the umpteenth time in one shift, my coworker at the grocery store somehow managed to offend a customer.

"Do you ever think about the things you say before you say them?" I asked.

就运货车卸货一事，我们百货公司一直都是老规矩：早上卸服装，下午卸特殊订单。有位脾气暴躁的客户可难伺候了。他非得早上就拿到专门订制的桌球台。

“好吧，”我只能跟他保证，“我们把衣服一脱完¹就给你运。”

——基思·巴里

妈妈在试裤子，年轻活泼的售货小姐，好事得非得多嘴。妈妈每回从试衣间出来，她不是说“太短了”，就是说“太肥了”，要么就说“不好，不好，不好。颜色不好”。

妈妈最后从试衣间里出来，听见她说：“这条是所有里面最难看的一条了。”

“这条，”妈妈说，“是我穿来的。”

——斯泰西·鲍

无意中听到一名收银员跟顾客说：“好久没有了，我想短期内也不会有吧。”我赶忙跟客户纠正，不管她要什么，下周我们肯定能有。她离开后，我狠狠地把收银员训了一顿。

“永远别跟顾客说我们缺货。要跟他们说下周就会有，”我教育她，“对了，她要什么的？”

“下雨。”

——玛格丽特·阿瑟斯

每一次轮班，同事都会好多次得罪顾客。

“你说什么话之前会先想想吗？”我问他。

1 短语take off指“把……从……上拿下来”，这里是take off clothes，又可理解为“把衣服脱下来”。

“No,” he admitted.

“I like to hear them for the first time along with everybody else.”

—PATRICK CHENOWETH

My brother delivered prescriptions to people too ill to go out. Since the neighborhoods he visited were often unsafe, he decided to get some protection.

“Why do you need a pistol?” asked the clerk at the gun shop.

My brother had to explain, “I deliver drugs at night and carry a lot of money.”

—LAURA LOFTIS

It seems the manager of the vegetable department at my grocery store doesn't tolerate picky customers. He posted this sign: “Notice! Take lettuce from top of stack, or heads will roll!”

—RICK PARKER

One afternoon the manager of our grocery store saw a somewhat bewildered man staring at his shopping list. When the manager approached, he noticed these words printed in large capital letters at the bottom of the page: “YOU ARE NOW DONE SHOPPING—COME HOME!”

—BECQUET.COM

Where does a one-armed man shop?

At a secondhand store.

Just as my husband pulled his delivery van away from the florist, the manager came running out. There was a cancellation on one of the

“不会，”他承认。

“我想和其他人一样，在这句话刚被说出来的时候听到它。”

——帕特里克·切诺韦思

哥哥的工作是给病重出不了门的病人送处方药上门。他要去的几个社区的治安经常不好，因此他决定带上防卫工具。

“你为什么要买手枪？”枪店的售货员问。

哥哥便解释一下：“我晚上去送粉¹，身上还会带很多钱。”

——劳拉·洛夫提斯

我杂货店里负责蔬菜区的经理好像最受不了挑三拣四的顾客。他竖了个标语：“注意！莴苣从货堆顶上往下拿，否则头落地！”²

——里克·帕克

一天下午，我们杂货店的经理注意到，一位看上去很茫然的顾客一直盯着购物清单发呆。经理便走过去瞧瞧，发现纸的最下面用大号的大写字体印了一行字：“你已经买完东西了——快回家！”

——BECQUET.COM

独臂侠在哪买东西？

二手店。

老公刚把送货车开出花店，就看到经理跑了出来。有份订单取消

1 drug既指一般药品药粉，也可指毒品、白粉。

2 经理的标语的实际意思是，莴苣从货堆顶上开始往下拿，否则的话上面放的就会滚动。

orders, and he needed it back.

“Which one?” my husband asked.

“The one that reads, ‘Susan, I will love you forever. Bob.’ ”

—JACKIE SETTLE

My wife and I were living in Cambridge, Massachusetts—the quintessential college town. Rushing through the supermarket checkout, we didn’t notice we were in a 12-item line and what we had was way over the limit.

The weary cashier looked at all our groceries. “Are you from Harvard and can’t count or from MIT and can’t read?”

—BRADFORD CRAIN

Watching us fill balloons with helium at our gift shop, a customer asked the price.

“It’s a quarter per balloon,” a coworker said.

“It used to be ten cents,” she complained.

Another customer concluded, “Well, that’s inflation.”

—MELISSA BURNS

Being very organized came in handy when I put an extension on my house. I made sure all my bills were paid promptly. So I was mortified when I received a letter from an electrician that stated in bold letters, “Second and Final Notice!”

“I’m sorry,” I said when I called him. “I never saw the first notice.”

“I didn’t send one,” he told me. “I find second notices are much more effective.”

—JEREMY K., FROM *THE CLASSIFIED GUYS*

了，他要把货拿回去。

“哪一份？”老公问。

“上面写着‘苏珊，我会永远爱你。鲍勃’的那一份。”

——杰基·塞托

我和妻子住在麻省的剑桥——鼎鼎大名的大学城。我俩在超市的收银处排队等着，后来才发现，这条通道仅限12件物品，而我们买的件数大大超过了这个数字。

收银员不耐烦地看看我们买的东西。“你是哈佛的吧，数数都不会，还是麻省理工的啊，不认字？”

——布拉德福德·克莱恩

礼品店里，一位顾客看着我们给气球充氦气，便问这怎么卖的。

“每个气球25美分，”同事答道。

“以前只要10美分呢，”她抱怨道。

另一位顾客总结说，“噢，这就是通货膨胀¹呀。”

——梅利莎·伯恩斯

家里井井有条，住着也舒服，所以我就装了个电话分机。所有账单我都保证及时交付，因而收到电工的信，我还觉得挺难为情。信上打着粗体字：“二次通告，也是最后一次！”

“真是抱歉，”我给他打电话，“我从没见到第一次通告。”

“我没发第一份，”他告诉我，“因为第二次总是管用得多。”

——杰雷米·K.，原载于《分类信息报》

1 单词inflation指“膨胀”，在经济领域里又指“通货膨胀”。

My husband uses scraps of wood, called “shorts,” for carving. In a lumber store, he saw some lovely pieces in a bin behind the counter. But he had a lot of explaining to do after he asked the clerk, “Do you mind if I come around and poke through your shorts?”

—CATHY GROVES

Practically bounding into the advertising department of his newspaper, my husband announced the great news: “We’ve reached our ad sales target! I just sold the last spot.”

“July?” another rep asked excitedly.

“No,” my husband gloated. “I didn’t have to.”

—CELIA NOTLEY

I learned a lesson in marketing from a man who bought a trailer, an old boat, and a motor from me. “Thanks,” he said as he loaded them up. “I’m planning to resell them.” Good luck, I thought. I had been trying to get rid of them for months. But when I ran into him weeks later, he’d sold everything.

“How did you do that?” I marveled.

“I took out an ad: ‘Heavy-duty boat trailer with free boat.’ When the buyer came to get it, I asked if he had a motor. He said no. I told him I happened to have one in my garage. Bought that too.”

—PAT MCCLAIN

Working on a computer all day has definitely messed with my girlfriend’s view of reality. We had just placed our lunch order, and as our waitress walked away, she slipped on a wet spot on the floor.

“How about that?” Amy observed dryly. “Our server is down.”

—JOSEPH LASSEGARD

老公用木头碎料——也就是“下脚料”——做雕刻。在木材店，他看到柜台后面的大箱子里有一些很不错的小木块，于是问了售货员一个问题，话一出口可有的解释了：“你介不介意我到柜台后面来看看你的短裤衩¹啊？”

——凯西·格洛夫斯

老公几乎是蹦蹦跳跳地跑进报馆广告部的，他宣布了一条好消息：“我们完成广告销售目标啦！我刚刚把最后一块卖掉了。”

“七月的²？”另一位销售员激动地问。

“不是，”老公得意洋洋地说，“没这个必要。”

——塞莉娅·诺特利

有一个人从我手里买走了一辆拖车、一艘旧船，还有一台发动机，从他身上，我学到了一堂营销课。“谢谢，”他一边装货一边说，“我打算转手卖了。”看你怎么卖，我心想。我可是花了好几个月才脱手的。可是几个星期后我又碰见他时，他已经全卖了。

“你是怎么卖的？”我吃惊地问。

“我打了个广告：‘买重型拖车，即免费赠送船。’有人来买时，我就问他有没有发动机。他说没有。我跟他说，我车库里正好有一台，一起买了吧。”

——帕特·麦克莱恩

女友在电脑上捣鼓了一整天，她的现实感显然已经模糊了。我们刚刚点完餐，服务员转身刚走，她踩在地板上一块湿的地方，滑了一跤。

“这下好了，”艾米冷冷地说，“我们的服务器崩溃了。”

——约瑟夫·拉塞加德

1 shorts既可以指“废料、下脚”，也可以指“短裤衩”。

2 July (七月)的发音跟You lied? 发音相近，有可能是丈夫误以为同事问他，“你开玩笑的吧？”

Our coworker Patrick shared his worst workday ever. He was at an appliance store and the delivery truck had broken down, which meant he was flooded with angry phone calls from customers. One irate caller canceled the delivery and told Patrick what he could do with it.

“I’m sorry,” said Patrick. “That’s impossible. I already have a stove, a vacuum cleaner, and a microwave up there.”

—JANE BENOIST

同事帕特里克跟我们讲他最糟糕的工作日。他在一家电器店上班，送货车突然坏了，那就意味着一个个怒气冲冲的顾客电话打进来。一位愤怒的顾客打电话来取消送货，并告诉帕特里克他可以怎么处置这东西。

“太抱歉了，”帕特里克说，“这恐怕不行。我已经有一个炉子，一个吸尘器和一台微波炉了。”

——简·伯努瓦



A restaurant posts a sign that says, "\$500 if we fail to fill your order." A customer decides to put it to the test by ordering "elephant ears on rye." The waitress writes down his order and walks to the kitchen. Seconds later, the chef storms out of the kitchen, goes to the customer's table, and slams down five hundred-dollar bills.

"You got me," he tells the customer. "But I want you to know that this is the first time in 10 years we've been out of rye bread."

—BOB BRITTAIN

A couple's meal had just arrived in a cast-iron pot when the top lifted. Spotting two beady little eyes, the woman gasped and the lid slammed down.

"Did you see that?" she asked her husband.

"See what?"

Just then, the top rose, again revealing two eyes. "Waiter!" the man called. "There's something strange in that pot."

"What did you order?"

"The chicken surprise," the man said.

"Oh, I apologize, sir," the waiter replied. "This is the peeking duck."

—MIKE PILOTTI

A shopper at my in-laws' clothing store couldn't understand why she had to pay so much for her purchase. "I got this from the '15% to 35% Off' rack," she complained. "And I pick 35%."

—KATY GIBBS

Spotting one of his customers wandering the aisles of his specialty food shop, my boss approached.

一家饭店贴出个告示：“美味任君点，未如君意，\$500奉上。”有位顾客存心考考他们，就点了份“象耳黑麦”。女招待记下了菜单，来到厨房。不一会儿，主厨气冲冲地从厨房里出来，来到这位顾客的桌边，把五张百元大钞甩在桌上。

“算你狠，”他跟顾客说，“但我还是要告诉你，这是十年来我们第一次黑麦面包不够。”

——鲍勃·布里顿

一对夫妇点的菜来了，盛在一个铸铁罐里。一揭开盖子，就看见两颗滴溜溜转的小眼珠，那位太太吓了一跳，赶忙合上盖子。

“你看到没有？”她问她丈夫。

“看到什么？”

就在那时，锅盖掀起来了，两只眼睛又露了出来。“服务员！”丈夫喊道，“锅里有个怪东西。”

“请问您点的是？”

“惊喜鸡，”丈夫说道。

“噢，很是抱歉，先生，”服务员回答，“这是窥视鸭。”

——迈克·皮洛蒂

亲家的服装店里，有位顾客就是没弄明白，为什么买的东西这么贵。“这是从‘六五折到八五折’那个架子上拿的，”她怨道，“我要选六五折。”

——凯蒂·吉布斯

老板看到有位顾客在特产店的货架边逛来逛去，便上前招呼。

“We’re having a sale on tongue,” he said. “Would you like some?”

“Eeww!” shuddered the woman. “I would never eat anything from an animal’s mouth!”

“In that case,” my boss said, “how about a dozen eggs?”

—TERRY STROBAUGH

Sliding the loan agreement across the desk for my psychologist husband to review, the bank officer apologized, “I ran out of room here.” She pointed to the space for “occupation.”

It read, “Licensed psycho.”

—MARION WHITLEY

Our salesman at the electronics store was pitching a high-definition television. A fellow shopper, overhearing the spiel, mentioned that he’d upgraded his regular TV to high-def.

“How’d you do that?” my husband asked.

“I dusted the screen.”

—JENNIFER NEELY

I was in a crowded pub one night when a large man sat down next to me and began pounding on the bar. The waitress was juggling three mugs of beer in each hand and said she’d be right back. But that wasn’t soon enough for him, and he again pounded away. Going to the cash register, the waitress wrote the number “567” on a piece of paper and laid it in front of the man.

“You’ll have to wait until your number is called,” she said. Then, turning to the other patrons, she called out, “Who has number one?”

—BECQUET.COM

“口条正在打折，”他说，“请问您要来点吗？”

“呀！”那位女士浑身发抖，“我才不要吃动物嘴里的东西呢！”

“那么，”老板说，“来一打鸡蛋怎么样？”

——特里·施特罗鲍

银行职员把贷款协议递到桌子另一侧，让我那身为心理学家的丈夫过目。“这里没有地方了，”她抱歉地指着“职业”处的空格。

只见那里写着：“带证经营的疯子¹。”

——马里昂·惠特利

电器专卖店的售货员正眉飞色舞地向我们推销高清电视机。一位顾客在旁听了他的推销噱头，便上前来，说他刚把自家的普通电视机升级为高清了。

“你怎么升级的？”丈夫问道。

“我把屏幕上的灰尘掸掉了。”

——詹妮弗·尼利

某晚我在一家酒吧，里面人山人海的。一个大块头在我边上坐了下来，开始不停地敲吧台。女招待两只手里各捧着三大杯啤酒，说她马上就来。不过那男子可没这么好的耐心，于是又在吧台上敲了开来。女招待走到收银台前，在一张纸上写了串数字“567”，放在他面前。

“您必须等一会，会有人喊您的号的，”她说。接着转身面向其他顾客，她大声喊道：“谁是1号？”

——BECQUET.COM

1 “心理医生”（psychologist）中，单写psycho是指“神经病、疯子”。

Since my purchases came to \$19.06, I handed the cashier a twenty.

“Do you have six cents?” she asked.

“Sorry,” I said after fishing around in my pockets, “I have no cents.”

“Finally,” she muttered, “a man who can admit it.”

—KELLY SMITH

At the salon, I overheard the receptionist admit to another customer, “I haven’t taken my vitamins today. I’m walking around unprotected.”

The customer commiserated with her. “I haven’t taken my Prozac today—everyone’s walking around unprotected.”

—DEBRA HAIR

Days after buying a thriving rosebush, I returned it to the store. “Is something the matter?” the clerk asked. I handed her a brown mass of sticks and said, “It’s dead.”

She examined the former flora thoroughly, then smiled pleasantly before asking, “And is there anything else wrong with it?”

—ELIZABETH TORHAN

Returning home from dinner out one night, I started feeling sick. Suspecting food poisoning, I called the restaurant’s manager.

“I cannot believe that happened,” the woman said. She sounded genuinely shocked. “What did you order?”

“I had the stuffing.”

“That’s weird,” she observed. “Usually it’s the meat loaf.”

—JANCY QUINN

买的东西总共19.06美元，我于是递了一张20美元的钞票给收银员。

“请问您有6美分吗？”她问。

“不好意思，”我在口袋里摸了半天后跟她说，“我没有零钱¹。”

“终于，”她嘟囔道，“有男人愿意承认了。”

——凯利·史密斯

在大厅里，我无意中听到接待员跟一位顾客说：“我今天没吃维生素片，整个人都没有安全感。”

那位顾客深表同情。“我今天没吃百忧解²——周围所有人都不会有安全感。”

——德布拉·海尔

我买了一盆盛开的蔷薇还没几天，就到店里去退货。“有什么问题吗？”店员问。我递给她一撮枯黑的枝条，说：“它死了。”

她把枝条仔细看来看去，然后微笑着问我：“除了这个之外，还有哪里有问题吗？”

——伊丽莎白·托尔汗

某晚，在外面吃完饭回到家，我开始感到不舒服。怀疑是不是食物中毒了，于是我给饭店的经理拨了电话。

“太不可思议了，”女经理说。听她说话的口气很是震惊。“您点的什么？”

“我吃了馅儿。”

“太奇怪了，”她说，“通常出问题的是肉糜糕啊。”

——扬西·奎因

1 短语have no cents，字面意思是“没有零钱”，还有另外一个意思是“没有脑子”。

2 百忧解(Prozac)是一种治疗精神抑郁的药。

The halls of the shopping mall that I manage were cluttered with boxes. So I had the maintenance staff check the labels and place the packages in front of the stores they belonged to. The next day I got a call from the manager of a furniture store wondering why there were so many boxes piled up outside his door.

“What’s the name of your store?” I asked him.

“This End Up.”

—MIKE DEMARCO

■ Law and Order



With a young child on the stand, the district attorney knew he needed to start with some simple questions.

“If I were to tell you that this pen was red, would that be the truth or a lie?” he asked.

“The truth,” said the child.

“Very good!” said the D.A. “And if I were to say that dogs could talk, would that be the truth or a lie?”

“The truth,” said the child again.

“Really?” asked the D.A. “Dogs can talk? What do they say?”

“I don’t know,” the child answered. “I don’t talk dog.”

—LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT COMMISSIONER
MICHAEL A. COWELL IN *LOS ANGELES DAILY JOURNAL*

Being a bailiff, I’ve heard it all. One woman asked to get off jury duty, insisting that side effects from her medication could interfere with

大型购物中心的走道里乱糟糟地堆满了箱子，身为经理，我让负责日常维护的员工根据标签，把箱子分放到各家店门口。第二天，一家家具店的经理给我打电话，问为什么他们店门口堆了那么多箱子。

“请问贵店是？”我问他。

“此端向上。”

——迈克·德马科

■ 法治笑谈



证人席上站着一个小女孩，地方检察官心里有数，开始时得问些简单的问题。

“如果我跟你说这支笔是红色的，这是实话还是谎话？”他问。

“实话，”孩子说。

“太棒了！”检察官说，“如果说狗能讲话，这是实话还是谎话？”

“实话，”孩子又说。

“是吗？”检察官问，“狗能讲话？它们讲什么呢？”

“我不知道，”孩子答道，“我不同狗讲话。”

——洛杉矶郡高级法院院长迈克尔·A. 考埃尔，
原载于《洛杉矶日报》

身为法警，以下皆为我亲耳所闻。一位妇女提出她不能当陪审员，因为刚服过药有副作用，无法集中注意力。

her ability to concentrate.

“What are you taking?” the judge asked her.

“A fertility drug,” she answered. “I’m trying to get pregnant.”

“And what are the side effects?”

“It gives me a headache,” she said.

—BECQUET.COM

The guest speaker at our training sessions for correctional officers was a leading psychologist. We appreciated the fact that he was able to answer in plain English a question many of us had: What is the difference between someone who is delusional and someone who is schizophrenic?

“Delusional people build castles in the air,” he explained. “Schizophrenics move in and live there.”

—REBECCA LEWIS

As I pulled into a crowded parking lot, I asked the cop standing there, “Is it all right to park here?”

“No,” he said. “Can’t you see that No Parking sign?”

“What about all those other cars in there?”

He shrugged. “They didn’t ask.”

—ARTHUR CLUM

Two requirements for a security position advertised online raise the question: Why the latter if you have the former? “Must be able to carry a weapon and have excellent customer service skills.”

—KRISTIN PAWLIK

When I taught in a prison, one of my students kept missing

“您服了什么药？”法官问她。

“受孕药，”她回答，“我计划要生宝宝。”

“那副作用是什么呢？”

“让我很头疼，”她说。

——BECQUET.COM

受邀来为我们狱警培训做报告的是一位首屈一指的心理学家。让我们最为佩服的是，他能用日常生活的语言解答我们为之困扰的问题：妄想症患者与精神分裂症患者有什么区别？

“妄想症患者能建空中楼阁，”他解释道，“精神分裂症患者干脆搬到里面去住了。”

——丽贝卡·刘易斯

我把车开进一个很挤的停车场，问站在那里的警察：“这里可以停车吗？”

“不可以，”他说，“难道你没有看到‘禁止停车’的标牌吗？”

“那别的这么多车怎么都能停？”

他耸了耸肩。“因为他们没有问。”

——阿瑟·克鲁姆

网上招聘一名安保人员的广告中有两条要求，让人不禁起疑：满足了第一条，为什么还要有第二条呢？“必须要能随身携带武器，客户服务技能也要一流。”

——克里斯廷·帕夫利克

我在一所监狱教课时，有一位学生经常缺课。第一次，是因为拔

classes. First it was because he had a tooth pulled; then his tonsils were removed. Finally, he chopped off the tip of his finger in workshop. All of this led one guard to comment, "We better keep an eye on this guy. He seems to be trying to escape one piece at a time."

—LUCY GRACE

When a car blew past a stop sign at a busy intersection, my uncle, a Mississippi state trooper, gave chase and pulled the driver over.

"Didn't you see that Stop sign back there?" my uncle asked.

"Yeah, I saw it," admitted the driver. "The problem is, I didn't see you."

—MICHAEL HAMILTON

"Does anyone in this room need to be dismissed from jury duty?" my father, a judge, asked a roomful of prospective jurors.

A nervous young man stood up. "I'd like to be dismissed," he said.

"And why is that?"

"My wife is about to conceive."

Slightly taken aback, Dad responded, "I believe, sir, you mean 'deliver.' But either way, I agree. You should be there."

—BETH DUNCAN

I teach inmates at a correctional facility. Recently I was asking another staffer who teaches anger management about some of the books on his shelf, which covered topics such as stress and aggression. "Those," he answered, "are the tools of my tirade."

—CHRIS WITTEK

The stressed-out store clerk quits and becomes a cop.

牙；第二次，是扁桃体摘除。最后，他在厂里干活时把一根手指头切掉了些。一位狱警断言：“我们最好盯着这家伙。他好像想一次逃出去一点。”

——露西·格雷丝

繁忙的十字路口，一辆汽车无视“停车”标牌，一开而过，我叔叔身为密西西比州骑警，立刻追了上去，把司机拉到一旁。

“你难道没有看到后面的‘停车’标牌吗？”叔叔问。

“是啊，我看到了，”司机承认道，“问题是我没有看到你。”

——迈克尔·汉密尔顿

“这里有人不能当陪审员的吗？”我当法官的爸爸问一屋子有望成为陪审员的人。

一位神情紧张年轻男子站起来。“我不能当，”他说。

“为什么呢？”

“我妻子快怀孕了。”

爸爸稍稍吃了一惊，回答说：“先生，我想您的意思是‘生孩子’。不过不管怎样，我批准。您终归是要到场的。”

——贝丝·邓肯

我在一家管教所教课。近日，我向一位教愤怒管理的同事了解他书架上的几本书，是关于压力和攻击的。“那些书，”他说，“是我用长篇大论痛斥他们的工具。”

——克里斯·维特克

心力交瘁的商店店员最终辞职了，去当了警察。

“How’s the new gig?” his friend asks.

“The pay is bad and the hours are awful, but I love that the customer is always wrong.”

—ROBERT FLEMING

“Hurry up!” I yelled to my niece. We were running late for the movies, and she hadn’t even gotten in the car.

“It’s better to get there late than not at all,” she chimed.

“That’s great advice. Did your mother teach you that?”

“No,” she said. “That’s what the cop told Mommy last week when he pulled us over.”

—PATRICIA STILES

My brother was alarmingly at ease speeding through a red light. I, on the other hand...

“What if traffic cameras are watching?” I shrieked.

“Stop worrying. Besides, it doesn’t matter even if they are,” he assured me. “I don’t have license plates yet.”

—ANDREW BENSON

What do you call twin policemen?

Copies.

—TYLER MEASOM

My mom drove cross-country to visit me in college. Heading south from Tucson, we were on our way to spend the day in Mexico when a state trooper pulled us over. “What seems to be the problem?” Mom asked.

“Drug smugglers use this road a lot,” he explained, “and a

“新的行当怎么样？”他朋友问。

“薪水很低，工作时间又变态，不过我喜欢的是，顾客永远是错的。”

——罗伯特·弗莱明

“快点！”我朝外甥女嚷嚷。我们要去看电影，快来不及了，可她还没上车。

“迟到总比不到好，”她念着顺口溜。

“这建议不错。是你妈妈教你的？”

“不是，”她说，“上周，警察把我妈妈的车拦到一边时就这么说的。”

——帕特里夏·斯泰尔斯

哥哥闯红灯时，淡定的神情让人吃惊。而我……

“万一摄像头拍到怎么办？”我尖叫道。

“别担心啦。再说了，就算拍到也没关系，”他让我放心，“我还没领牌照呢。”

——安德鲁·本森

你管双胞胎兄弟警官叫什么？

复本¹。

——泰勒·米森姆

妈妈开着车，千里迢迢来我们学校看我。我们从图森市开车一路往南，去墨西哥玩一天。路上，一位骑警把我们拦在一边。“有什么问题吗？”妈妈问。

“毒品走私犯经常走这条路，”他解释说，“我们发现一辆形迹可

¹ 警察可以叫cop，双胞胎的话复数加上s，成为cops；同时，一份复印品叫copy，双胞胎外貌一样，就像复制出来的一样，所以笑称他们为copies，拼写也与cops极为相近。

suspicious-acting Buick with Pennsylvania plates has been spotted going up and down it.”

“I just got in yesterday,” Mom said. “And I’m hardly a smuggler. Just a teacher on sabbatical.”

The patrolman eyed her suspiciously. “Do you have a prescription for that?”

—JOSEPH BLUMBERG

Shortly after the sheriff announced he would not seek reelection, the prisoners in the jail began razzing my husband, Joe, a deputy sheriff.

“You oughta run,” said one prisoner, as he was led back to his cell. “I’d vote for you.”

“Maybe,” said Joe, as he slammed the cell door shut. “After all, it looks like I’ve got the inmate vote all locked up.”

—CAROL WARD

Arrested on a robbery charge, our law firm’s client denied the allegations. So when the victim pointed him out in a lineup as one of four men who had attacked him, our client reacted vociferously.

“He’s lying!” he yelled. “There were only three of us.”

—KATHRYN ENSLOW

My brother was having dinner with his girlfriend, Colleen, and her family, when her brother, an RCMP officer, stretched across the table for the butter dish. Colleen’s mother admonished, “Watch that boardinghouse reach!”

“That’s not a boardinghouse reach,” he corrected. “It’s the long arm of the law.”

—KATHLEEN SUTCLIFFE

疑的别克车，挂的是宾夕法尼亚的牌照，在这里来来回回。”

“我昨天才来，”妈妈说，“我什么时候成走私犯了，我只不过是休假的老师。”

巡警狐疑地看着妈妈。“你有医生开的处方吗？”¹

——约瑟夫·布卢姆伯格

警长宣布他不再谋求连任时，监狱的囚犯们开始拿我丈夫乔开玩笑，他是副警长。

“你要参选呀，”一名囚犯在回狱房时说，“我会投票给你的。”

“再说吧，”乔应着，把囚室门砰的一声关上，“不管怎么说，囚犯们的票看来我是锁定了。”

——卡罗尔·沃德

我们律师事务所一名客户被逮捕了，罪名是抢劫，他否认这些指控。因此，当受害人在一排嫌疑犯中指出他，说他是袭击他的四人中的一个时，这名客户反应过激。

“他撒谎！”他大喊道，“我们只有三个人。”

——凯思琳·恩斯洛

我哥哥跟他女朋友科琳一家人吃饭，科琳的哥哥是加拿大皇家骑警队的警官，他伸过手到桌对面去够黄油。科琳的妈妈批评他：“包做饭的手²，像什么样子！”

“那不是包做饭的手，”他纠正道，“是长长的法律之手。”

——凯思琳·萨克利夫

1 美国某些高校里，教师每七年有一次公休假。笑话中的这位巡警可能没听过这么一说，于是多管闲事地问，是不是医生要求的，有医生开的假条没。

2 包做饭的手 (boardinghouse reach)：西方国家餐桌礼仪中，把手伸得长长的，到桌对面去够食物，可能会被视为不雅。

At the end of the day, I parked my police van in front of the station house. My K-9 partner, Jake, was in the back barking, which caught the attention of a boy who was passing by.

“Is that a dog you have back there?” he asked.

“It sure is,” I said.

“What did he do?”

—CLINT FORWARD

Lots of people get hurt in Napa Valley, and after reading a recruiting ad for hotline volunteers in *The Register*, I think I know why. It said: “Over 300 people in Napa Valley are assaulted each year. Volunteer to help.”

—MIKE REEVES

Just out of law school and dressed in a conservative white shirt, gray pants and tie, I was rushing off to court when I was stopped by an elderly woman.

“Are you one of those Latter-day Saints boys on a mission?” she asked politely.

“No, ma’am,” I said. “I’m an attorney.”

“Oh,” she said. “You’re playing for the other team.”

—KEITH POGUE

Caught up running errands, my mom’s friend forgot where she’d parked. A police officer, noticing her agitation, asked, “Is something wrong?”

“I can’t find my car,” she explained.

“What kind is it?”

收工时，我把警车停在门口。我的“妙探狗福星”¹杰克在后排位置上狂吠，引起了路过的一位小男孩的注意。

“后面的狗是你的吗？”他问。

“当然是啊，”我说。

“他犯什么罪了？”

——克林特·福沃德

纳帕谷里经常有人受伤，我在《域报》上看到一则招聘热线电话接线员志愿者的广告，我想我知道原因了。报上说：“每年纳帕谷里，有超过三百多人遭袭。请志愿者帮忙²。”

——迈克·里夫斯

我刚从法学院毕业，穿着传统的白衬衫、灰裤子，打着灰色领带，匆匆忙忙跑去法庭。一位挺大年纪的妇女拦住了我。

“你是后期圣徒男孩组合的吗，出来办事？”她礼貌地问。

“不是，太太，”我说，“我是律师。”

“噢，”她说，“你现在在另一个合唱团唱了。”

——基思·波格

妈妈的朋友到处跑着办事，忙得焦头烂额，忘了把车停在哪里了。一位警官注意到她焦急的样子，便问：“出什么事了吗？”

“我找不到我的车了，”她解释说。

“是什么样的？”

1 K-9是1989年公映的一部美国动作喜剧片，中文译名为《妙探狗福星》，片中的主角之一是一只德牧警犬，名叫杰里·李。

2 此处有歧义，是请志愿者帮忙对付袭击者呢，还是帮忙袭击游客。

She gave him a quizzical look. "Name some."

—LILA DRYER

A cop was rushed into the OR for an emergency appendectomy. The surgery went well, but afterward he felt a weird pulling sensation on his chest. Worried that something else might be wrong, he lifted his hospital gown to take a look.

Attached firmly to his chest hairs was a wide strip of tape. "Get well soon" was written on it, and it was signed, "The nurse you gave a ticket to this morning."

—JACKSON HALL

When the driver in front of my police cruiser began weaving in and out of his lane, I quickly hit the sirens and pulled him over. As I approached his window, I was hit with the stench of alcohol.

"Sir," I said, "can you tell me when you started drinking and how much you've had?"

"Well, Officer, I can't tell you how much I've had," he slurred. "But I started drinking in 1967."

—ROBERT W. MILLER

From the *Westfield* (Massachusetts) *Evening News* police log: "A caller reports that her neighbors are having another argument. The responding officer reports the resident was alone and not intoxicated but was having a disagreement with his Christmas tree, which was giving him trouble as he was taking it down."

—DOROTHY CUSSON

Our barbershop quartet—an all-girl group—was invited to perform

她用不解的神情看着他。“说几辆来听听呢。”

——莉拉·德赖尔

一名警察被推进手术室，进行紧急的盲肠切除手术。手术进行得很成功，不过之后，他觉得胸口有阵奇怪的抽痛。他担心哪里不对了，便把病服掀起来看看。

紧紧贴在他胸毛上的，是一条宽宽的胶带。上面写着“早日康复”，署名是“今天早上被你贴罚单的护士”。

——杰克逊·霍尔

我开着巡逻警车，前面的车突然在车道上七扭八弯。我赶上那司机时，闻到一股刺鼻的酒精味。

“先生，”我说，“您可以告诉我您什么时候喝酒的吗，喝了多少？”

“噢，长官，我不能告诉您我喝了多少，”他口齿不清地说，“不过我是从1967年开始喝酒的。”

——罗伯特·W. 米勒

《韦斯特菲尔德（马萨诸塞州）晚报》上的警务栏：“有人打电话到警署，称她的邻居又在吵架了。闻讯赶去的警官报告说，那户人家只有一个人在家，没有喝醉，是在跟圣诞树吵架，因为他把树取下来时遇上了些麻烦。”

——多萝西·屈松

我们理发店四重唱——清一色的女子组合——受邀前往犹他州州立

at the Utah State Prison. We never had a better audience. The inmates called for encore after encore.

Finally our director announced, "This next number is a little long. How much time do you have?"

Someone shouted, "Five to ten years."

—LENORE SPENCER

- An inmate at our prison asked to go to the infirmary.

"It's acne," he said.

"I get it whenever I come to jail."

"Let me get this straight," I said. "Every time you come to jail, you break out?"

—KENNETH SHAFFER

My father-in-law, a retired detective, told me about the time he arrested a mobster who ran a gambling ring. Once in custody, the guy began spilling names.

"I'm surprised how easily these tough guys break down," I said.

Bill shrugged. "Sometimes that's just the way the bookie crumbles."

—JOHN MASTERSON

A Jacksonville, Florida, man was so upset when a sandwich shop left the special sauce off his hero that he called 911...twice. The first time was to ask if officers could make sure his sandwich was made properly. The second time, to complain that the cops weren't responding fast enough to the first call.

—USA TODAY

A man is on trial for armed robbery. The jury comes back with the

监狱表演。我们从没见过这么好的观众。囚犯们一直要求再来一曲再来一曲。

最后，我们指挥说：“下一曲比较长。你们还有多少时间？”

有人喊道：“五到十年。”

——莉诺·斯潘塞

我们监狱有一名囚犯想去医务室。

“我生了痤疮，”他说。

“每回我一来监狱就得痤疮。”

“我们挑明了说吧，”我说，“你每回一来监狱，就越狱？”

——肯尼思·谢弗

我岳父退休前是一名侦探，有一回他跟我说起他曾经逮捕过一个聚众赌博的罪犯。那家伙被关起来后，就供出了同伙的名字。

“这些玩命的家伙，怎么这么快就扛不住了啊，”我说。

比尔耸了耸肩。“赌注登记经纪人有时就是这样崩溃的。”

——约翰·马斯特森

佛罗里达州杰克逊维尔市。一名男子因为三明治店忘了在他的巨堡王上加特制沙司，居然拨了911……还拨了两次。第一次是请警察来看看，他要的三明治是不是按规矩做的。第二次，是抱怨警察接到他第一个电话后，没有迅速行动。

——《今日美国》

一名男子因持械抢劫在受审。陪审团带着判决结果回到庭上。主席

verdict. The foreman stands, clears his throat, and announces, "Not guilty."

The defendant leaps to his feet. "Awesome!" he shouts. "Does that mean I get to keep the money?"

—LAWRENCE ADELSON

My father was a guard at San Quentin, and we lived on the prison grounds. Occasionally, inmates came by and helped with yard work. One day Mom lost the keys to the shed. A man who was mowing the lawn offered to help. Picking up a hammer, he gave the lock two sharp taps, and it magically opened. "Wow," said Mom. "How did you do that so quickly?"

Handing back the hammer, the prisoner said, "Ma'am, I'm not in this place for nothing."

—LANE BECKER

A murder has been committed. Police are called to an apartment and find a man holding a 5-iron in his hands, looking at the lifeless body of a woman on the floor. The detective asks, "Sir, did you kill her with that golf club?"

"Yes. Yes, I did," says the man, stifling a sob.

"How many times did you hit her?"

"I don't know. Five... maybe six... Put me down for a five."

—BRIAN HANSEN

A small town's sheriff was also its lone veterinarian. One night the phone rang and his wife answered.

"Let me speak to your husband!" a voice demanded.

"Do you require his services as a sheriff or a vet?" the wife asked.

起身，清了清嗓子，宣布道：“罪名不成立。”

被告一跃而起。“太棒了！”他大喊，“是不是说钱我可以自己留着了？”

——劳伦斯·阿德尔森

父亲是圣昆廷的狱警，我们全家住在监狱的地方上。家里时不时会有囚犯过来，帮忙打理园子。一天，母亲把库存房的钥匙弄丢了。在刈草的男子于是来帮忙。他拎起榔头，朝着门锁狠狠地砸了两下，门奇迹般地开了。“哇，”母亲说，“你怎么会做得这么麻利？”

那囚犯把榔头还给母亲，说：“太太，我没这点本事也来不了这地方啊。”

——莱恩·贝克尔

一桩谋杀案发生了。警察接到电话赶到事发的公寓，看到一名男子手里拿着一根五号铁头球棒，眼睛直愣愣地看着躺在地上的女人，她已经断气了。侦探问：“先生，你是用那根高尔夫球杆打死她的吗？”

“是的，是的，没错，”男子说，快哽咽了。

“你打了她几下？”

“我不知道。五杆……可能是六杆……给我记五杆吧。”

——布莱恩·汉森

某小镇的警长，同时还是镇上唯一的兽医。一天晚上，电话响了，他妻子接了电话。

“请换你丈夫听！”电话那头要求。

“你是要找警长呢，还是兽医？”妻子问。

“Both,” cried the caller. “We can’t get our dog’s mouth open, and there’s a burglar in it.”

A survey sent out to our contractors posed the question, “What motivates you to come to work every day?”

One guy answered, “Probation officer.”

—E. HEWITT

Suspicious person: Officer made contact with a man walking backward down a street. When asked, the man told the officer he did not want anyone sneaking up on him.

—FROM *THE (SEARCY, ARKANSAS) DAILY CITIZEN*; LINDA WALLER

An attorney I worked with at a personal-injury law firm deeply resented the term ambulance chaser.

“It’s not right to call us that,” he told me. “Besides, we usually get there before the ambulances do.”

—BRIAN MAYER

Stanley R. Zegel was rear-ended while stopped for a red light.

Police were told by the driver of the offending car that he had been distracted looking at a paper for the address of the nearby court-ordered driving-improvement course he was on his way to attend.

—FROM *THE WINFIELD (ILLINOIS) REGISTER*; JOANNE AHER

Going with a prisoner to the local hospital to have blood work done was too much for me: I fainted as the needle was inserted into his arm. I was out for only a second, but it was long enough for the inmate to become concerned for my well-being.

“都要，”打电话的人叫道，“我们家的狗，嘴说什么也不肯张开，他嘴里有个入户窃贼。”

在我们承包商中进行的一次调查中，有个问题是这样的：“是什么驱使你每天来上班的呢？”

有个人回答说：“缓刑监督官。”

——E. 休伊特

多疑之人：警官发现有名男子在街上倒着走，于是上前询问。该男子告诉警官，他不想被人跟踪。

——原载于《每日公民报》（阿肯色州瑟西县），琳达·沃勒

与我同在一家人身伤害法律事务所工作的一位律师对“救护车追逐者”这个称呼深恶痛绝。

“这样叫我们不对，”他跟我说，“再说了，我们经常赶在救护车前到呢。”

——布莱恩·梅尔

斯坦利·R. 泽格尔停车等绿灯时，被人追尾了。

肇事车的司机告诉警察，他要去上法院指定的驾驶培训课程，就在附近，他当时正在文件上找地址，所以一时走了神。

——原载于《温菲尔德域报》（伊利诺伊），乔安妮·阿赫

让我带囚犯到当地医院里去检查血液，可真是折腾啊：针一插进他的手臂里，我就发晕了。虽然我只晕了一小会儿，这却足以让囚犯忧心起我的健康来。

“You know,” he said, “if you take these cuffs off me, I can drive us back to prison.”

—JOY DAY

My mom had a lead foot, so I was not surprised when a state trooper pulled us over as we were driving through Georgia.

Hoping to get off with a warning, Mom tried to appear shocked when he walked up to the car.

“I have never been stopped like this before,” she said to the officer.

“What do they usually do, ma’am,” he asked, “shoot the tires out?”

—JOAN TORELLO

Inmates at our Ohio prison are allowed to shine shoes in order to make a few extra bucks. One day I was having my shoes shined when the prisoner began to complain.

“Here I am with a degree, and I have to resort to shining shoes,” he grumbled.

“What kind of degree do you have?” I asked.

Without looking up: “First degree.”

—STEVEN RAY

A lawyer was playing golf when he got hit by a ball. When the player came over looking for the ball, the lawyer said, “I’m a lawyer, and this will cost you \$5,000.”

“I’m sorry,” said the golfer. “But I did say ‘fore.’”

“I’ll take it,” said the lawyer.

Our waitress’s favorite customers are cops. “When they’re done,” she says, “I get to give them their ticket and they have to pay it before

“那个，”他说，“如果你帮我把手铐解开，我可以开车载我们俩回监狱。”

——乔伊·戴伊

妈妈喜欢开快车，所以我们的车开在佐治亚州，一个州警官把我们拦到一旁时，我没觉得吃惊。

妈妈希望警官给点警告就完事了，所以当警官朝我们车走来时，她尽量表现得很惊讶。

“以前从来没有警察像这样把我们拦下来过，”她跟警官说。

“他们一般怎么做呢，太太，”他问，“把轮胎射扁？”

——琼·托雷洛

我们俄亥俄州监狱的囚犯可以帮人擦鞋，挣几块零花钱。某天，我让人给我擦鞋，那人开始跟我抱怨。

“我有学位，可在这儿还得替人擦鞋，”他嘟哝着。

“你有什么学位？”我问。

他连头也没抬：“一级啊¹。”

——史蒂文·雷

一位律师在打高尔夫时被球砸中了。球的主人跑过来找球，律师说：“我是律师，你得赔5000美元。”

“对不起，”打球的人说，“不过我说了‘前面当心’啊。”

“我会记录在案的，”律师说。

我们有一个女服务员特别喜欢警察来光顾我们店。“他们吃完

¹ degree可以指“度数”、“学位”等，在这里，囚犯是“一级”，如“一级谋杀罪”等。

they can leave.”

—PHILLIP TILLEY

A police officer arrives at the scene of an accident to find a car smashed into a tree. The officer rushes over to the vehicle and asks the driver, “Are you seriously hurt?”

“How should I know?” the driver responds. “I’m not a lawyer!”

—MICHAEL KNIGGE

Part of my job at the district attorney’s office is to send letters to people accused of crimes, informing them when a court date is scheduled. One such notice was returned, clearly by a criminal mastermind, with this jotted on the envelope: “I DO NOT LIVE HERE.”

—CASSIE GALINDO

A friend was reading the front page of the newspaper when she asked, “What part of the body is the melee?”

“A melee isn’t a part of the body,” I said.

“I didn’t think so, but it’s right here in the paper.”

“How’s it used?”

“It says, ‘A police officer was injured in the melee.’ ”

—JASON CORNWELL

When a seven-year-old girl called 911 and then hung up, the Burnett, Wisconsin, police were dispatched to her home. When they arrived, they discovered the problem—the girl’s grandfather was cheating in a game of cards.

—ANANOVA NEWS

后，”她说，“我就把单子给他们，他们不付钱可别想走。”

——菲利普·蒂利

一位警官赶到事发现场，发现一辆车撞上了树。警官一个箭步冲到车子旁，问司机：“你伤得重吗？”

“我怎么知道？”司机回答说，“我又不是律师！”

——迈克尔·克尼格

我在地方检察官的办公室做事，其中一项工作便是送信给那些被指控犯有某种罪的人，通知他们法院安排何时开庭。有一张通知单被退了回来，显然是一个犯罪高手一手策划的，只见信封上潦草地写了几个字：“我不住在这里。”

——凯西·加林多

朋友在读报纸的头条新闻，问我：“身体上哪个部位叫混斗？”

“混斗不是身体部位，”我说。

“不是吧，报纸上这么写的呢。”

“怎么说？”

“上面说，‘一名警察的混斗¹受了伤。’”

——贾森·康韦尔

一个七岁的小女孩拨通了911，然后挂掉了，威斯康星州伯尼特镇警局接到命令立刻赶赴女孩家。到了现场，他们才弄清了问题所在——原来是女孩的爷爷玩纸牌时作弊。

——《阿纳诺瓦新闻》

1 表达某部位受了伤，一般说sb. is injured in+身体部位，但该短语sb. is injured in+名词，也有可能指“某人在……中受了伤”，所以原文A police officer was injured in the melee, 应是“警察在混斗中受了伤”。

A fellow cop from our precinct had only a few months left on the job, and he could always be heard ticking off the weeks, days, hours, and minutes. Our chief was not amused.

“I’ve been on the job for 43 years, and I’ve never counted off the days until I’m outta here,” he said.

I couldn’t help agreeing with him. “That’s because everyone else is counting for you.”

—JESSE THATCHER

我们警区有一位同事还有几个月就要离职了，经常能听到他在数日子，还有几周、几天、几小时、几分钟。我们警长心里很不是滋味。

“这份工作我做了43年了，只要我还在这里，我就不会数日子，”他说。

他的话我很认同。“那是因为大家在帮你数。”

——杰西·撒切尔



I was the court stenographer the day a teenager, who'd been in drug rehab, came before the judge. He told the court how he was gradually overcoming his addiction. The judge was impressed. "Well done," he said. "Let's hope you end the year on a high."

—PHILIP HORTON

Did you hear they arrested the devil?

Yeah, they got him on possession.

—GREGG SIEGEL

An old-school cop and I were leaving the precinct when a couple of teens flashed peace signs at us. "Great," he muttered. "Now they're giving us two fingers."

—CAROLYN ANDREWS

While prosecuting a robbery case, I conducted an interview with the arresting officer. My first question: "Did you see the defendant at the scene?"

"Yes, from a block away," the officer answered.

"Was the area well lit?"

"No. It was pretty dark."

"Then how could you identify the defendant?" I asked, concerned.

Looking at me as if I were nuts, he answered, "I'd recognize my cousin anywhere."

—MORRISON LEWIS, JR.

Like many attorneys, I have handwriting that's barely legible. After I scribbled instructions for one of my clients, he spent a minute trying to decipher what I'd written before declaring, "If I took this to a pharmacy,

一名一直在戒毒所待着的少年来到法官面前，那天正好是我当法庭速记员。他把他怎么样逐渐克服毒瘾说给法官听。法官被深深打动了，“干得不错，”他说，“希望到年底你能再创新高¹。”

——菲利普·霍顿

他们逮到恶魔了，你听说了没？

是啊，他们抓到他私藏毒品。

——格雷格·西格尔

我跟一位当警察的校友一起离开警区时，看见两三个少年朝我们摆出V字形和平手势。“这下好了，”他轻声低语，“他们终于朝我们伸两根手指了。”

——卡罗琳·安德鲁斯

我在调查一桩抢劫案的官司，跟逮捕罪犯的警官问话。我的第一个问题是：“您在现场看见被告了吗？”

“是的，隔着一个街区，”警官回答。

“当时光线怎么样？”

“不好，挺暗的。”

“那么，您怎么能确认就是被告呢？”我疑惑地问道。

他盯着我看，仿佛我是傻子似的，他说：“我表兄到哪里我都认得。”

——小莫里森·刘易斯

跟许多律师一样，我的笔迹很难辨认。有一回我把具体操作写了下来给客户看，他花了足足一分钟，想弄明白我到底写的什么，最后说：

1 high做名词既有“高峰、最高水平”的意思，也可以指“由毒品引起的快感（或恍惚状态）”，所以法官说的话有歧义，也可以理解成“希望你年底时吸食得很欢”。

I bet I could have a prescription filled.”

—DARRELL F. SMITH

An attorney specializing in personal injury decided to branch out, so he added libel claims to his practice. He wanted to add insult to injury.

—SHARON BERKEY

Potential jurors know that much of their time is spent simply cooling their heels. As the court attendant, I was doing my best to keep a jury pool of 75 happy while they waited to be called. After a full morning of doing nothing, however, one man suggested this:

“Open the blinds,” he commented, “and we could watch the seasons go by.”

—CAROL BECKLEY

I was at my desk in the station house writing up a report on a drunk driver when our police chief yelled over, “Is your squad car running?” Budget cuts made him watch every penny, and he didn’t want us wasting gas.

“The engine’s off,” I assured him.

“You on overtime doing reports?” he persisted. “We’re not paying officers to sit around doing reports.”

That’s when the drunk offered his assistance. “Hey, Chief,” he slurred, “if it would help the department, I could drive myself to jail.”

—JED SEIDL

So what did the cop have to say to his stomach?

Nothing. He’s always been one to listen to his gut.

—A.J. GIORDANO

“如果我把这纸条带去药房，肯定能取一包药回来。”

——达雷尔·F. 史密斯

一位专司人身伤害案件的律师决定拓展业务，要增加诽谤索赔这一类。他要在伤害上再加上诽谤。

——莎伦·伯基

要当陪审员的都知道，很多时间只是在干等，白白浪费了。我身为法警，尽我所能让75人组成的陪审团心情愉快。然而，一整个上午还是啥也没做，有位男子提议：

“把百叶窗打开吧，”他说，“我们好看到季节变换。”

——卡罗尔·贝克利

警局里，我伏在桌上写一位醉酒驾驶者的报告，我们局长在另一头大喊：“你的巡逻车是不是没熄火？”预算削减，搞得他每花一分钱都精打细算，自然不乐意我们浪费汽油。

“发动机关了，”我让他放心。

“你写这个报告，是在加班吗？”他又说，“你们留下来写报告，我可不多付工资啊。”

这时，醉汉帮忙说话了。“嗨，长官，”他含糊不清地说道，“如果你们警局需要，我可以自己开车到监狱去啊。”

——杰德·塞德尔

那么，警官跟他的肚子说了什么？

什么都用不着说。他总是凭胆量¹办事。

——A. J. 乔达诺

¹ gut既可以指“胃、肠、肚子”，也可以指“勇气、胆量”。

Alabama state troopers were closing in on a speeding car when it crossed into Georgia. Suddenly the officer behind the wheel slowed to a stop.

“What are you doing?” his partner asked. “We almost had him!”

“He just crossed over into the eastern time zone,” he said. “Now he’s a full hour ahead of us.”

—SCOTTIE BARRON

一辆汽车超速行驶，亚拉巴马州的骑警紧追不舍。车子开入了佐治亚州州界，跟在后面的骑警慢慢停下车。

“你这是在干吗？”他的拍档问，“我们就快追上他了！”

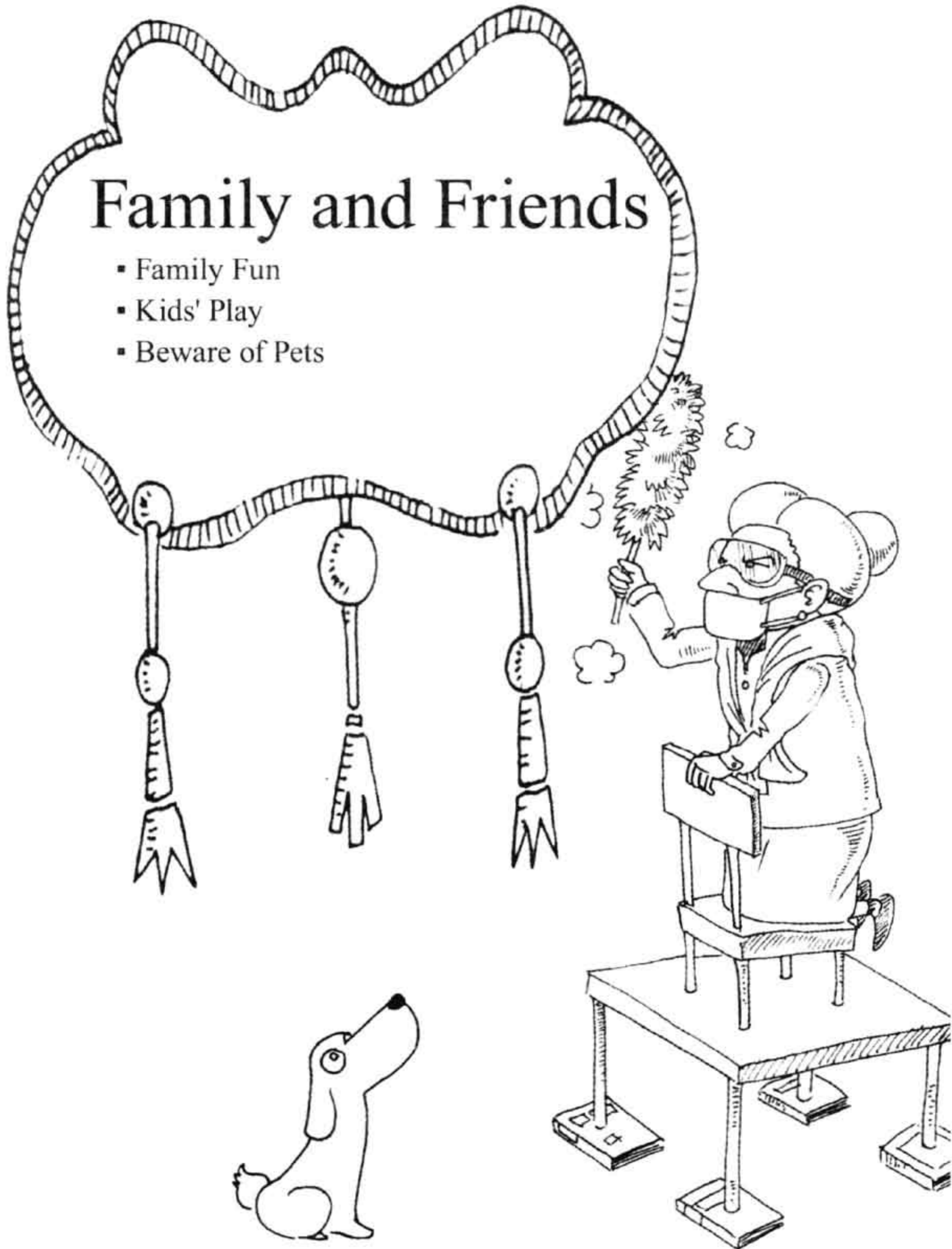
“他进入东部时区¹了，”他说，“现在比我们快了整整一个小时。”

——斯科蒂·巴伦

¹ 美国共有六个时区，本土四个，再加夏威夷及阿拉斯加共六个。时区的划分不仅仅看地理位置，还考虑到行政区域。佐治亚州位于东部时区，而亚拉巴马州位于中部时区，比东部时区慢一个小时。

Family and Friends

- Family Fun
- Kids' Play
- Beware of Pets



亲友篇

- 天伦之乐
- 童言趣语
- 爱宠难防

与我们同甘苦的人，生活因他们而幽默

■ Family Fun



Joe figured out a way to remember his wife's birthday and their wedding anniversary. He opened an account with a florist and told him to send flowers to his wife on those dates, along with a note signed, "Your loving husband." His wife was thrilled by the attention, and all was great until one anniversary. Joe came home, saw the bouquet, kissed his wife, and said, "Nice flowers. Where'd you get them?"

Jeff's blind date with Suzanne was bad from the start—in short, they loathed each other. Fortunately, Jeff had asked his friend to call him so he'd have an excuse to leave if the date wasn't going well.

When his friend called, Jeff pretended to be in shock. "I have to leave," Jeff said to Suzanne. "My aunt just died."

"Thank God," Suzanne replied. "If yours hadn't, mine would've had to."

—FROM *LAUGH OFF* BY BOB FENSTER (ANDREWS MCMEEL)

A woman rubbed a lamp and out popped a genie. "Do I get three wishes?" she asked.

"Nope, I'm a one-wish genie. What will it be?"

"See this map? I want these countries to stop fighting so we can have world peace."

"They've been at war thousands of years. I'm not that good," he said. "What else do you have?"

▪ 天伦之乐



乔想出了一个记住妻子生日和结婚周年日的方法。他在一家花店开了个账户，让他们在这些重要日子里给他妻子送花，并附上一张卡片：“爱你的丈夫”。他妻子受宠若惊，一切进行得很完美。然而某个结婚周年日，乔回到家看到花束，吻了吻妻子，说：“花很漂亮，哪里来的？”

杰夫与苏珊娜经人介绍第一次约会，一开始就感觉不对头——简单来说，两人都不喜欢对方。幸亏杰夫之前就让他朋友给他打电话，如果约会不如意，他就有借口先离开了。

朋友的电话打来时，杰夫假装极为震惊。“我得先走了，”杰夫跟苏珊娜说，“我阿姨刚刚过世了。”

“谢天谢地，”苏珊娜回答，“如果你阿姨没过世，那我阿姨就得过世了。”

——摘自鲍勃·芬斯特的《一笑了之》（安德鲁斯·麦克米尔出版社）

一位女子擦了擦魔灯，里面跳出一个妖怪。“我能许三个愿吗？”她问。

“不行，我只能满足你一个愿望。你要什么？”

“看到这地图了吗？我要这些国家停止打仗，这样世界就和平了。”

“他们已经打了几千年仗了。我可能没那本事，”他说，“你还有其他愿望吗？”

“Well, I’d love a good man. One who’s considerate, loves kids, likes to cook, and doesn’t watch sports all day.”

“Okay,” the genie said with a sigh. “Let me see that map again.”

—D. RICHARDS

My sister-in-law phoned to ask my opinion about a special pecan dish she had served at her daughter’s wedding reception. “What was that all about?” my husband asked after I hung up.

“It was just a recipe question,” I replied. “Do you remember the nuts they had at Arrah’s reception?”

He furrowed his brow for a moment, then said, “I don’t recall all their names.”

—DEBBIE STEPHENS

My husband is a car nut. That’s why I could appreciate the card he gave me on our fifth wedding anniversary. It read, “The last 72,000 miles of my life have been the best ever!”

—CYNTHIA ADCOCK

Watching a TV show on couples prompted me to ask my wife of 60 years, “If you had it to do over again, would you marry me?”

“You’ve asked me that before,” she answered.

“What’d you reply?”

She said, “I don’t remember.”

—MILTON LIBMAN

Our agency helps people figure out their marital woes. One man who came to us seemed to have solved his own problems even before he chatted with anyone. On the registration form, under marital status, he

“噢，我想爱上一个好男人。他很体贴，喜欢孩子，喜欢做饭，不会整天看体育比赛。”

“好吧，”精灵叹着气说，“再把地图拿来我看看。”

——D. 理查兹

我嫂子打电话来问我，她女儿婚宴上那盘特制山核桃怎么样。“有什么事吗？”电话挂断后，丈夫问我。

“就是问我做菜的事，”我回答，“你还记得亚拉婚宴上的那些坚果¹吗？”

他皱了皱眉，说：“我记不得那些人的名字了。”

——德比·史蒂芬斯

丈夫是个车迷。我们结婚五周年纪念日，他给我的卡片很别致，上面写着：“我生命中最最近的72,000英里是我一生中最棒的！”

——辛西娅·阿德科克

看了一档关于夫妻的电视节目后，我有感而发，问结婚60年的妻子：“如果一切可以重来，你还会嫁给我吗？”

“这问题你以前问过我，”她回答。

“你怎么回答的？”

她说：“不记得了。”

——米尔顿·利布曼

我们公司主要帮助客户排遣婚姻带来的悲痛。一位男子来找我们，还没找人咨询，他好像已经解决了自己的问题。在登记表上，婚姻状况

¹ nut可以指“坚果”，在俚语里也可以指“疯子、狂人”。

wrote, "Devoiced."

—PATRICIA LANGFORD

A drunk walked into a lounge. After staring at a beautiful woman who was sitting at the bar for 10 minutes, he sauntered over and kissed her. She jumped up and slapped him silly.

"I'm sorry," he said. "I thought you were my wife. You look just like her."

"Ugh. Get away from me, you worthless, insufferable, no-good drunk!" she yelled.

"Wow," he said. "You even sound like her."

—NICK MCCONNACHIE

After listening to her complain about her boyfriend, I tried steering my friend toward the positive side of their relationship. But she was having none of it.

"I was just trying to offer some perspective," I said.

"I have perspective," she snapped. "That's what I was just sharing with you."

—MARY ODBERT

I was thrilled to see a beautiful bouquet of flowers awaiting me at the teachers lounge. But I was mystified by the card, which read, "With love from A. C. Credmire."

That evening I told my husband about A. C. Credmire.

"That's me," he said, laughing. "When I called it in, I'd asked the florist to sign it, 'With love from a secret admirer.'"

—GERI WILLES

一处，他写了：“Devioced”¹。

——帕特里夏·朗福德

一个醉汉走进酒吧，盯着坐在吧台边的一位美女看了十分钟左右，然后摇摇晃晃走了过去，亲了她一下。她气得跳起来，扇了他一巴掌。

“对不起，”他说，“我以为你是我老婆呢。你跟她长得很像。”

“呸。离我远点，你真让人讨厌，没用的窝囊酒鬼！”她喊道。

“哇。”他说，“你说话也很像她。”

——尼克·麦康纳奇

听完朋友抱怨她男朋友后，我决心引导她多想想跟她男朋友在一块儿时积极的一面。但是她怎么都听不进去。

“我只是想给你提供一个角度看问题，”我说。

“我有角度，”她高声说道，“刚刚跟你说的就是我的角度。”

——玛丽·欧德伯特

教师休息室里，看到有人送了我一大束鲜花，我很是吃惊。不过卡片上的留言倒让我迷惑不解：“爱你的A. C. 克莱德米尔。”

晚上，我跟丈夫说了A. C. 克莱德米尔这个人。

“就是我，”他笑着说，“我打电话去时，让花店老板帮我署名，‘爱你的神秘仰慕者’²。”

——格里·威尔斯

1 原文中，该处那男子想填divorced（离婚），可把单词拼错了，写成了devoiced，即“使浊音变清音，使清化”。

2 丈夫给花店打电话时，说a secret admirer（一个神秘的仰慕者），花店老板听成了发音极为相似的A. C. Credmire（音译成A. C. 克莱德米尔）。

Fresh out of gift ideas, a man buys his mother-in-law a large plot in an expensive cemetery. On her next birthday he buys her nothing, so she lets him have it.

“What are you complaining about?” he fires back.

“You still haven’t used the present I gave you last year.”

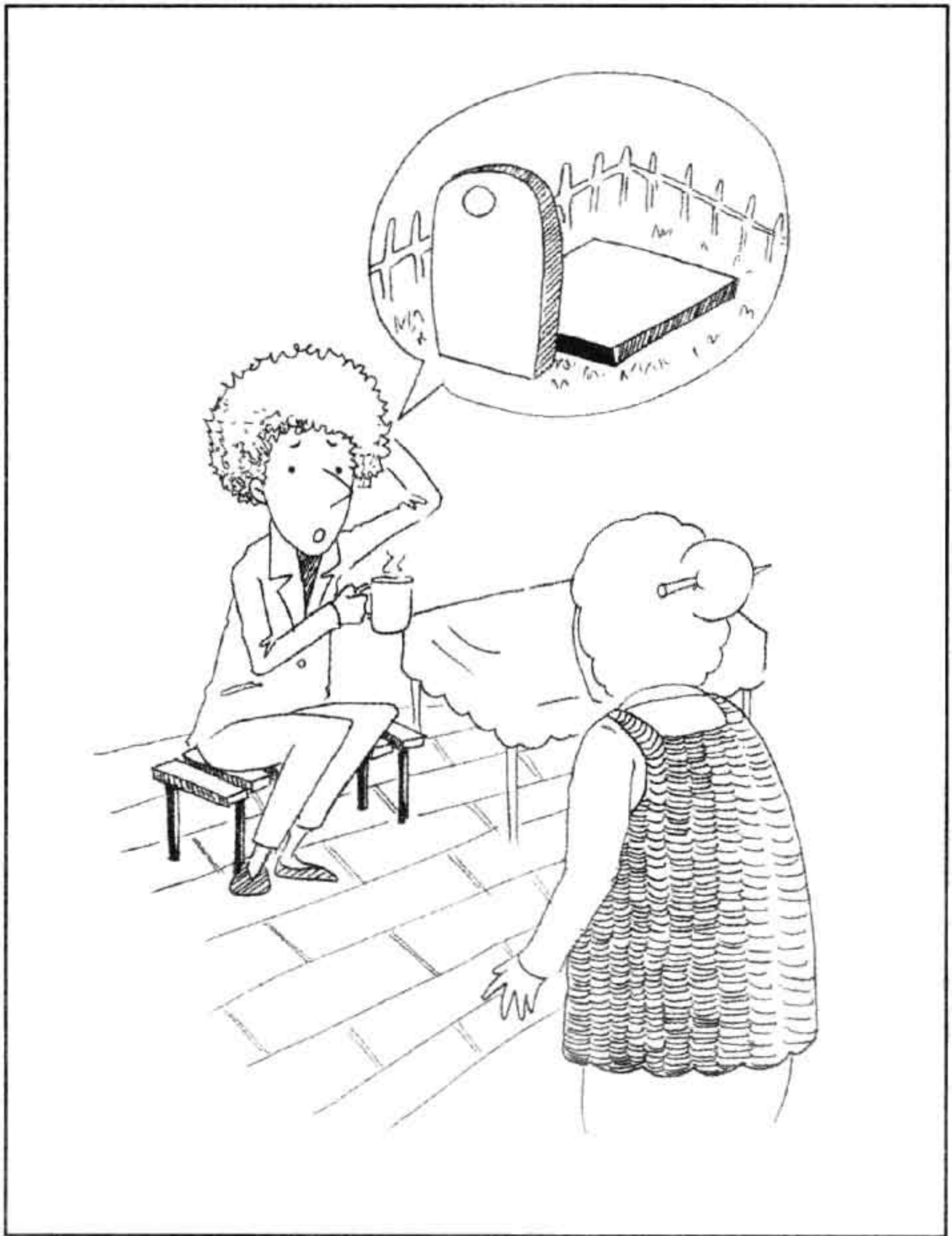
—L. B. WEINSTEIN

一位男子苦于不知送丈母娘什么礼物好，就在一个昂贵的墓地里买了一大块地。她下一次过生日，他什么也没买，于是她决心提醒提醒他。

“您抱怨什么呢？”他回嘴道。

“去年给您的礼物，您到现在还没用呢。”

——L. B. 温斯坦



Surfing the Net, I came across a movie poster of a man and woman kissing passionately in the pouring rain. I called my husband over. “How come you never kiss me like that?”

He studied the sodden couple. “Because we haven’t had that much rain.”

—SERENA S.

I asked my husband if he wanted to renew our vows.

He got so excited—he thought they had expired.

—RITA RUDNER ON *COMIC RELIEF 2006* (HBO)

“Honey, I have good news and bad news,” a man tells his wife.

“What is it?” she asks.

“First, I think I’m losing my voice,” he croaks.

“So,” his wife says, “what’s the bad news?”

—MINNIE MORETZ

When we finished a personality assessment at work, I asked my friend Dan if he would share the results with his wife. “That would require me to go home and say, ‘Hi, honey. I just paid someone \$400 to tell me what’s wrong with me,’ ” he said. “And based on that, considering we’ve been married 23 years, she’d hand me a bill for \$798,000.”

—RON JAMES

When a friend’s marriage began to unravel, my 12-year-old son offered, “I think the problem is largely psychological.”

“How so?” I asked.

我在网上闲逛，偶然看到一张电影海报，上面有一男一女在倾盆大雨中激吻。我把丈夫喊过来。“你怎么从来没这么亲过我？”

他端详了这对湿淋淋的男女一会儿。“因为我们这儿从没下过这么大的雨。”

——塞雷娜·S.

我问丈夫愿不愿意重发誓约¹。

他激动极了——他以为已经到期了呢。

——丽塔·拉德纳，《娱乐界慈善2006》（HBO电视网）

“亲爱的，我有好消息和坏消息要告诉你，”男子告诉妻子。

“什么？”她问。

“首先，我想我要失声了，”他用低哑的声音说。

“那么，”妻子问，“坏消息是什么？”

——米妮·莫雷兹

我们在单位做了项性格测试，我问朋友丹，会不会把结果告诉他妻子。“那样的话，我就得回家说，‘嗨，亲爱的，我刚刚付了400美金，让别人告诉我我有什么问题，’”他说，“我们已经结婚23年了，照这结果，她肯定会递给我一张798,000美金的账单。”

——罗恩·詹姆斯

朋友的婚姻亮红灯了，我12岁的儿子有自己的看法。“我觉得问题出在心理上。”

“怎么说？”我问。

1 此处指结婚誓词。

“He’s psycho and she’s logical.”

—DEBORAH MOLER

I was passing a couple in the produce aisle and noticed the man fastening a twist tie on a bag of oranges. “Those are gorgeous,” I said. “Did you pick them out?”

“I don’t pick,” he replied. “I just hold the bag open.” As his wife stepped away, he muttered, “And sometimes I don’t even do that right.”

—DALE BOOTH

Randy Pausch was a renowned computer science professor, but that didn’t carry much weight with his mother. After he got his PhD, she introduced him to friends by saying, “This is my son. He’s a doctor, but not the kind who helps people.”

Servers at Disney World’s Cinderella Castle treat you like royalty—literally. After lunch our waiter asked, “Is there anything else My Lord wishes?”

“Yes,” I joked. “I’d like my wife to treat me like this at home.”

He bowed to my wife, Donna. “My Lord desires to be treated like a king in his castle. May I suggest a reply?”

“Sure,” my wife said. “Tell him he’s spent a little too much time in Fantasyland.”

—TERRY GRAY

I suppose it speaks volumes about the state of my marriage when I admit to nodding knowingly at a remark made by a colleague. She was telling me about the death of another coworker’s spouse, when she commented, “How sad. They’d been married only five years,

“他心智不健全，而她呢，理性过头¹。”

——德博拉·莫勒

农产品货柜那儿站了一对夫妻，我路过时，发现丈夫正在给橘子袋打结。“橘子很漂亮，”我说，“您一个个挑的吗？”

“不是我挑的，”他回答我，“我就把袋子撑开。”趁他妻子走到一旁，他嘀咕了一句，“就这样，我有时还做不好。”

——戴尔·布思

兰迪·波许是位知名的计算机科学教授，不过他母亲可没怎么把这当回事。他拿到哲学博士学位那会儿，她向朋友介绍儿子时说：“这是我儿子，他是博士，不是那种救人命的医生²。”

迪斯尼世界灰姑娘城堡的服务员把顾客像王公贵族一样接待——这话一点也不假。午餐过后，服务员问我：“陛下还有什么心愿吗？”

“有，”我开玩笑说，“我希望我妻子在家里也这样对我。”

他向我妻子多娜鞠了一躬。“陛下希望在他的城堡中也有人这样伺候他。您能给我个答复吗？”

“当然，”我妻子说，“告诉他，他在仙境中待得太久了。”

——特里·格雷

听着同事的话，我承认我会意地不住点头，这多少能说明我现在的婚姻状况吧。她告诉我，我们另一位同事的配偶去世了，说，“太惨

1 psychological (心理) 是由两个词根合成的，psycho表示“精神不正常”，logical是“符合逻辑的”。儿子说问题出在心理上，即丈夫心智不健全，妻子理性过头，故曰“心理”。

2 doctor既可以指医生，也可以指博士。

so I imagine she still loved him.”

—JANET IVES

I had obviously crossed some line while talking with my wife because suddenly she was steaming mad. Without coming right out and asking what I’d said wrong, I tried a Dr. Phil trick: “How could this conversation have gone better?”

She replied, “I could have had it with a different person.”

—ALAN SCHORY

Purely by coincidence, I ran into my husband in our local grocery store on Valentine’s Day. Tom was carrying a beautiful pink azalea, and I joked, “That better be for me.”

From behind, a woman’s voice: “It is now.”

—PATRICIA RUT

My ex-wife was deaf. She left me for a deaf friend. To be honest, I should have seen the signs.

—TERRY SANGSTER

A man walks into the street and hails a passing taxi.

“Perfect timing,” he tells the driver. “You’re just like Frank.”

“Who?” asks the cabbie.

“Frank Fielding. He did everything right. Great tennis player, wonderful golfer, sang like Pavarotti.”

“Sounds like quite a guy.”

“Not only that, he remembered everyone’s birthday, was a wine connoisseur, and could fix anything. And his wardrobe? Immaculate. He was the perfect man. No one could ever measure up to Frank.”

了。他们结婚才五年，所以我想她还爱着他吧。”

——珍妮特·艾夫斯

跟妻子说话时，显然我说过头了，因为她突然气得冒火。我没有直接问她我哪里说错了，我试了试菲尔博士¹的方法：“怎么样你才不会生气呢？”

她回答说：“跟另一个人说话。”

——艾伦·斯赫瑞

完全是碰巧，情人节那天，我在附近的杂货店里碰到了我丈夫。汤姆手捧一束很漂亮的粉色杜鹃花，我开玩笑说：“你最好是买给我的。”

背后传来一个女人的声音：“现在是了。”

——帕特里夏·鲁特

我前妻耳聋。她离开了我，跟一个聋子一起过了。说老实话，我早该看到征兆的。

——特里·桑斯特

一位男子走到街上，拦下一辆路过的出租车。

“时间刚刚好，”他跟司机说，“你简直像极了弗兰克。”

“谁？”出租车司机问。

“弗兰克·菲尔丁。他什么事都做得很好。网球打得好，高尔夫打得好，唱歌就像帕瓦罗蒂。”

“听起来那家伙是很棒啊。”

“不止呢，每个人的生日他都记得，他还是品酒专家，简直就是完人。没有人比得上弗兰克。”

1 菲尔博士 (Dr. Phil)：美国的一个脱口秀、真人秀，主持人菲尔博士是个拥有博士学位的心理医生，他专门在电视上帮人解决家庭问题。

"Amazing. How'd you meet him?"

"Oh, I never met Frank."

"How do you know so much about him?"

"I married his widow."

—STEPHANIE CAPLEN

Steve, my accountant husband, and I both suffer from insomnia. One night I suggested we try a relaxation technique. Lying with my eyes closed, I described a calming scene: "We're in a beautiful bungalow on a tropical island. A gentle breeze comes through the French doors that lead to our private beach..."

A wide-awake voice startled me. "How much is this vacation costing us?" Steve asked.

—BRANDY DELVES

Halfway through a romantic dinner, my husband smiled and said, "You look so beautiful under these lights." I was falling in love all over again when he added, "We gotta get some of these lights."

—SHAWNNA COFFEY

My pregnant daughter and her husband were checking out a new birth facility that was more like a spa. The birthing room had a hot tub, soft music, and candlelight.

"What do you think?" she asked.

He looked around. "Isn't this how we got here in the first place?"

—STEVE SANDERSON, GCFL.NET

On the last night of our childbirth classes, our teacher took us to see the maternity center. We were gathered by the door when a mom,

“太不可思议了，你怎么认识他的？”

“噢，我没见过他。”

“那你怎么知道他这么多事？”

“我娶了他的遗孀。”

——斯蒂芬妮·卡普伦

我和我当会计的丈夫史蒂夫都因失眠而痛苦不已。某晚，我提议试试一种放松术。我躺着，闭上眼睛，开始描述一种安宁的场景：“热带的小岛上，我们在一个很美的小屋子里。一阵柔和的微风从法式落地窗外吹进来，窗外是我们的私人海滩……”

一个清醒的声音把我惊醒。“这样度假得花我们多少钱啊？”史蒂夫问。

——布朗迪·德尔夫斯

浪漫的晚餐吃到一半，丈夫笑着说：“你在这些灯光下真好看。”我又完全沉浸在甜蜜的爱情中了，可他突然加了一句：“这样的灯我们也得买几个。”

——肖娜·科菲

女儿有孕在身，跟她丈夫在讨论一种看上去更像是温泉疗养的新型分娩设施。产房里有一个热水浴缸，放着轻音乐，点着烛光。

“你觉得怎么样？”她问。

他向四周看了看。“我们刚来到这个世界时不就是这样吗？”

——史蒂夫·桑德森，GCFL.NET

分娩课的最后一晚，老师带我们去看产房。我们围在门口，一位明

clearly in labor, and her nervous husband came rushing down the hall.

When he saw our group of pregnant women, he screamed, "Oh, my God. Look at the size of that line!"

—RACHEL ZEBOSKI

We had been trying for a child for years, so I was ecstatic when I got up at five one morning, took a home pregnancy test, and found I was expecting.

"Richard," I yelled to my husband, "we're going to have a baby!"

"Great," he said, and rolled over.

"How can you go back to sleep?"

Muttering into his pillow, he said, "I'm stocking up."

—JUDITH FRIEDMAN

"For sale," read the ad in our hospital's weekly newsletter, "sleeveless wedding gown, white, size 8, veil included. Worn once, by mistake."

—ELIZABETH EVANS

My wife's doctor wanted to wean her off antidepressants. "What would happen if you stopped taking them?" he asked.

"To me? Nothing," she said.

"But all of a sudden, my husband becomes a real jerk."

—D. D.

When my husband pointed out my tendency to retell the same stories over and over, I reminded him that he was just as guilty.

"Allow me to clarify," he said in response. "I review. You repeat."

—JACQUELINE COOLEY

显快要生宝宝的妇女和她那紧张的丈夫匆匆从走道跑来。

他看到我们这么多孕妇，尖叫道：“噢，天哪。看看这队伍好壮观！”

——雷切尔·泽博斯基

好几年了，我们一直想要个宝宝。某天早上五点，我起床做了个妊娠试验，发现已经怀孕了，我欣喜若狂。

“理查德，”我大声喊丈夫，“我们要有孩子了！”

“太棒了，”他说，接着翻个身又睡了。

“你怎么又睡觉了？”

他对着枕头喃喃：“我先存些觉。”

——朱迪丝·弗里德曼

“出售，”医院的《每周通讯》上有一则广告写着，“无袖婚纱，白色，8号，包括面纱。不小心误穿过一次。”

——伊丽莎白·埃文斯

妻子的医生想让她戒掉抗抑郁剂。“要是你不吃会怎么样？”他问。

“我吗？不会怎样，”她说。

“不过我丈夫会突然变成个十足的傻瓜。”

——D. D.

丈夫说我老是喜欢把说过的事再说上几遍，我提醒他，他也有这个问题。

“请容我澄清一下，”他回答说，“我是回顾，你是重复。”

——杰奎琳·库利

After my second year of medical school, I moved back home. One night I was up late studying for my clinical exam. Because my father woke me every morning at seven, I put a note on my door: "DO NOT DISTURB. Studying until 3 a.m."

This got me no sympathy from my dad, who is himself a doctor. He left a note attached to mine: "The hotel management hopes you're enjoying your stay. We'd like to remind you that checkout was at noon—approximately six years ago."

—VARGHESE ABRAHAM

What's the difference between an outlaw and an in-law?

Outlaws are wanted.

I was sprawled on the living-room couch watching my favorite show on the Food Network when my husband walked in.

"Why do you watch those food shows?" he asked. "You don't even cook."

Glaring back at him, I asked, "Then why do you watch football?"

—LINDSAY WRIGHT

Leaving the party late, two friends compare notes. "I can never fool my wife," the first says. "I turn off the car engine, coast into the garage, sneak upstairs and undress in the bathroom. But she always hears me. And she wakes up and yells at me for being out late."

"You should do what I do," says his buddy. "I roar into the garage, stomp up the steps, throw open the door, and start kissing my wife. And she pretends to be asleep."

Our family took hours to set up camp on a recent outing. But the

在医学院学习的第三年，我搬回家住。某晚，为了准备临床考试，我复习功课到很晚。每天早上，爸爸七点钟会喊我起床，于是我就在门上贴了张纸条：“不要吵我。学习到凌晨三点。”

身为医生的爸爸丝毫不同情我。他在我的纸条旁又贴了一张：“本酒店祝您住宿愉快。友情提示，请中午退房——大约六年前就开始实行了。”

——瓦尔吉斯·亚伯拉罕

逃犯和姻亲有什么区别？

逃犯遭人通缉。¹

我摊开四肢，懒洋洋地躺在客厅的长沙发上，看美食频道我最喜欢的节目，这时丈夫走了进来。

“你干吗看这些美食节目？”他问，“你都不做饭。”

我瞥了他一眼，问：“那你为什么看足球呢？”

——林赛·赖特

两个朋友离开派对时已经很晚了，便交流交流个人心得。“我永远也骗不了我老婆，”第一个人说，“我把汽车引擎熄火，慢慢滑进车库里，轻手轻脚上楼，在浴室里脱了衣服。可她总能听见我，醒来就对我破口大骂，骂我在外面玩到这么晚。”

“你应该试试我的方法，”那位老兄说，“我就轰隆隆地把车子开进车库，吧嗒吧嗒上楼，哐地把门打开，然后抱住我老婆就亲。她就假装睡着了。”

最近一次郊游，我们全家花了好几个小时才把帐篷支好。旁边那对

¹ outlaw (逃犯) 和 in-law (姻亲)，从拼写来看正好相反。同时，sb. is wanted, 可以理解为“某人被人寻着”，于逃犯而言，即是被人通缉；反言之，in-law (姻亲) is not wanted, 姻亲没人想要，没办法而已。

couple and three kids who pulled up next to us did it in mere minutes.

“How did you manage that?” I asked the father.

“I have a system,” he said. “No one goes to the bathroom until everything is set up.”

—ARI ROSNER

Leave it to my husband to make me feel good about my body. He was marveling about some football player who was five feet nine inches tall and weighed 250 pounds when I commented, “That’ll be me if I keep eating like I’ve been eating.”

“No, not you,” my beloved assured me. “You’ll never be five foot nine.”

—ELLEN BREUNIG

I was cleaning a hotel room when the previous occupant came in, looking for her husband’s keys. We searched high and low without luck. I finally peeked underneath the bed closest to the wall.

“Don’t bother—that was my bed,” she said. “He wouldn’t have gone anywhere near it.”

—SHARON GARDNER

Marry an orphan: You’ll never have to spend boring holidays with the in-laws.

—GEORGE CARLIN

For our first Thanksgiving my wife’s parents came over for dinner. My bride roasted a beautiful turkey, which she brought to the table on a silver tray. With a very sharp knife I carved it into lovely piles of thinly sliced white and dark meat. I smiled at my father-in-law, a well-known

夫妻和三个孩子只花了几分钟就搞定了。

“你们怎么弄的？”我问那位父亲。

“我有个规定，”他说，“活没干完，谁也不能上厕所。”

——阿里·罗斯纳

本想让老公说些好话，我好对自己的身材有点信心的。他正惊叹于某个足球运动员身高五英尺九英寸、体重250磅时，我说：“如果我一直照现在这种吃法，就跟他一样了。”

“不，你不会，”我的爱人安慰我说，“你永远也长不到五英尺九英寸。”

——埃伦·布罗伊尼希

我在清理饭店房间时，之前住在这里的房客走了进来，找她丈夫的钥匙。我们到处搜了个遍也没找到。最后，我朝靠墙那张床的床底下望去，想看看有没有。

“那里不用找了——那是我的床，”她说，“他不可能到那附近去的。”

——莎伦·加德纳

跟个孤儿结婚：你永远也不用陪亲家过无聊的假期。

——乔治·卡林

我们婚后的第一个感恩节，妻子的父母过来吃饭。我的新娘烤了一只火鸡，用银色托盘盛着端上桌。我用一把很锋利的刀，把火鸡切成一片片薄薄的黑白相间的肉，堆得整整齐齐。岳父是颇有名气的外科大

surgeon, and said, "How was that for a stunning bit of surgery?"

He laughed and replied, "Not bad. Now let's see you put it back together."

—CARL ROSS

When I asked a friend the secret to his 52 years of marriage, he replied, "We never go to sleep angry."

"That's a great philosophy," I noted.

"Yes. And the longest we've been awake so far is five days."

—DON BOLDEN

Considering divorce, I was feeling pretty blue. "It's not just me," I whined to my mother. "Do you know anyone who is happily married?" Mom nodded. "Your father."

—C. HEINECKE

My wife's first husband passed away at a young age, and she didn't want that to be my fate. After watching me laze around all day, she said, "You need a hobby."

"I have one—I collect rich widows," I said, lying on the couch.

"Well, isn't that a coincidence?" she replied. "I collect dead husbands."

—GERIG HUGGINS

En route to Atlanta, my stepfather spotted some mules by the side of the road. "Relatives?" he asked my mother.

Not taking the bait, she responded, "Yeah, through marriage."

—ERICA VANNOY

夫，我朝他笑笑：“说这是漂亮的外科手术也不为过吧？”

他大笑，然后说：“干得不错。现在看你怎么缝起来。”

——卡尔·罗斯

我问一位朋友，结婚52年有什么秘诀没有。他回答我说：“我们从不带着怒气去睡觉。”

“这个做法不错。”我附和道。

“是啊，到目前为止，我们最长一次没睡觉是五天。”

——唐·博尔登

说到离婚，我就很沮丧。“又不是我一个，”我跟妈妈发牢骚，“你认识那种婚姻很幸福的人吗？”妈妈点点头，“你爸爸。”

——C. 海内克

我妻子的第一任丈夫年纪轻轻就过世了，她不想我也落得同样下场。她看到我整日无所事事，就说：“你得有个爱好。”

“我有啊——收集有钱的寡妇，”我躺在沙发椅上说。

“噢，这岂不是太巧了？”她答道，“我偏偏收集死鬼。”

——格里克·哈金斯

在去亚特兰大的路上，继父看到路边有几头骡子。“亲戚？”他问我妈妈。

妈妈没上他的当，回答说：“是啊，老公家的。”

——埃丽卡·范诺伊

Before going out to a movie, my husband and I stopped at the town dump to drop off some garbage. As I waited for him in our pickup truck, a man walked by. Glancing at my dress and jewelry, he said, "I certainly hope this isn't your first date."

—VIDA MCHOES PICKETT

I felt like my boyfriend, Brian, was taking me for granted. "You're never home," I complained. "All you want to do is hang out with your buddies. We only go out if they're not available."

"That's not true," Brian protested. "You know I'd rather be with you than have fun."

—LISA SIMONS

"I had to stop seeing my girlfriend, the biologist," a guy told his friend.

"Why?"

"I couldn't take it anymore," he said. "She kept trying to expose me to different cultures."

—ROBERT HANSHEW

I pointed to the young couple in the car ahead of us. The woman had her head on the man's shoulder. "Look," I said to my husband. "We used to ride like that. What changed?"

Staring straight ahead, he replied, "I didn't move."

—BOBBIE MOONEY

On my parents' 50th anniversary, I remarked to my father that he and Mom never seemed to fight.

"We battled," he said, "but it never amounted to much. After a

我和丈夫去看电影之前，在小镇的垃圾站停了一下扔些垃圾。我在小货车里等他时，一名男子恰巧路过。他瞥了一眼我的打扮和珠宝，说：“但愿你不是第一次约会。”

——维达·麦霍伊·皮克特

我总觉得我男朋友布赖恩太不把我当回事了。“你从来不在家，”我抱怨道，“你就想跟你那些哥们混在一起。只有等到他们没空时我们才约会。”

“这话可不对，”布赖恩反驳说，“你知道我是宁愿跟你在一起，也不愿开开心心去玩的。”

——莉萨·西蒙斯

“我不得不跟我女朋友分手了，她是生物学家，”一个人告诉他朋友。

“为什么？”

“我再也受不了了，”他说，“她总是跟我说一些不同的文化。”

——罗伯特·汉休

我指了指坐在我们前面的车里的一对年轻夫妻。那女的把头靠在她丈夫的肩上。“看啊，”我跟我丈夫说，“我们以前开车时也这样。现在怎么不了？”

他直直地盯着前方，回答我说：“我又没动。”

——鲍比·穆尼

爸妈50周年结婚纪念日那天，我跟爸爸说，他和妈妈好像从来不吵架。

“我们也吵，”他说，“不过从来都吵得不凶。过不了多久，我们

while one of us always realized that I was wrong.”

—GARY MARKMAN

A group of guys are in the locker room when a cell phone rings. One of them picks it up.

Man: “Hello.”

Woman: “Honey, it’s me. Are you at the club?”

Man: “Yes.”

Woman: “Well, I have news. The house we wanted is back on the market. They’re asking \$950,000.”

Man: “Well then, go ahead and make an offer, but make it \$1.2 million so we’ll be sure to get it.”

Woman: “Okay. I’ll see you later. I love you!”

Man: “Bye. I love you too.”

The man hangs up. Then he asks, “Anyone know whose phone this is?”

—DENISE STEWART

Whack! Right on the head with a rolled-up magazine! “What was that for?” the husband shouts.

“That,” his wife says, “was for the piece of paper I found—with the name Laurie Sue on it.”

“But dear,” he says, “that was just the name of a horse I bet on when I went to the track.”

“Okay,” she says. “I’ll let it go...this time.”

Two weeks later—whack!

“Now what?” he wails.

“Your horse called.”

—JODY L. ROHLENA

中总有一个人发现是我错了。”

——加里·马尔克曼

一群人在休息室里休息，突然手机响了。其中一个人接了电话。

男子：“喂。”

女子：“亲爱的，是我。你在俱乐部吗？”

男子：“是啊。”

女子：“噢，我有个事情。我们想买的那房子现在又开始卖了。他们要价95万。”

男子：“这样吧，你先去谈谈，跟他们说我们出120万，这样肯定能买到。”

女子：“好吧。那过会儿见。我爱你！”

男子：“再见。我也爱你。”

男子挂了电话，然后问：“有人知道这是谁的电话吗？”

——丹尼丝·斯图尔特

砰！卷着的杂志重重地敲在了头上！“干吗打我？”丈夫大叫。

“这一记，”妻子说，“是为了我找到的一张纸——上面写着芳丽·苏的名字。”

“亲爱的，”他说，“那只是我去赛马场买的一匹马的名字。”

“好吧，”她说，“就放过你……这一次。”

两个礼拜后——砰！

“又怎么了？”他哭丧着脸说。

“你的马打电话来了。”

——乔迪·L. 罗赫莱纳

One thing I've learned from my last relationship is that if an argument starts with, "What did you mean by that?" it's not going to end with, "Now I know what you mean by that."

—COMIC DONALD GLOVER

The downside to retirement, I told my daughter, a stay-at-home mom with three young girls, is that you no longer feel euphoric about Fridays. "When you're retired, every day is Friday."

"I know what you mean," my daughter replied. "When you're a stay-at-home mom, every day is Monday."

—BRENDA JOULLIAN

Chris was assigned a paper on childbirth and asked his parents, "How was I born?"

"Well, honey," his mother said, "the stork brought you to us."

"Oh," he said. "So how were you and Daddy born?"

"The stork brought us."

"What about Grandpa and Grandma?" Chris persisted.

"The stork brought them too!" Mom replied, squirming in her recliner.

A few days later Chris handed his paper to the teacher with an opening sentence that read, "This report has been very difficult to write due to the fact that there hasn't been a natural childbirth in my family for three generations."

Lying on her deathbed, a woman tells her husband of 60 years that he can finally open the chest at the foot of the bed, which had been off-limits to him throughout their marriage. Much to his surprise, he finds three ears of corn and \$100,000 inside. "Why are there three ears of corn

从上一次恋爱经历中，我学到了一点，如果两人争吵从“你说这话什么意思？”开始，最后结束不可能是：“现在我懂你的意思了。”

——喜剧演员唐纳德·格洛弗

我女儿是全职家庭主妇，有三个女儿，我跟她讲，退休的缺点就是你再也不会因为是星期五而欣喜若狂了。“等你退休后，每天都是星期五了。”

“我懂你的意思，”女儿回答说，“如果你是全职家庭主妇，每天都是星期一。”

——布伦达·茹利安

克里斯要写一篇有关小孩出生的文章，就问他爸妈：“我是怎么生出来的？”

“噢，宝贝，”他妈妈说，“是鹤把你送来给我们的。”

“哦，”他说，“那么你和爸爸是怎么生出来的呢？”

“是鹤送我们来的。”

“那爷爷和奶奶呢？”克里斯继续问。

“也是鹤送来的！”妈妈坐在躺椅里回答，心里觉得有些不安。

几天后，克里斯把文章交给了老师，开头的一句是：“由于我家三代中没有一人是自然生产的，所以这份报告非常难写。”

一位老太太临终前，告诉她结婚60年的老伴，他可以打开床尾的那个箱子了。结婚这么多年，她一直不许老头子碰箱子。老头子发现里面有三株玉米穗和100,000美元。“里面怎么会有三株玉米穗？”他问。

in here?" he asks.

"Every time I cheated on you, I put an ear of corn in the chest."

"I forgive you," said the husband. "But what about the \$100,000?"

"Every time I got a bushel of corn, I sold it."

"What's a couple?" I asked my mother. She said, "Two or three." Which probably explains why her marriage collapsed.

—JOSIE LONG, ON *COMEDY SMACK*

We bought my mother a shelf for Christmas, and I asked my husband if he'd hang it as part of her gift.

"Sure," he agreed. "Just remind me to take my tools." I scribbled a note and stuck it on the gift.

"Holidays getting you down, Mom?" my daughter said. She pointed to my Post-it: "Take items to hang self."

—BEVERLY WOLF

Even with a thousand games, dolls, and crafts to choose from, my customer at the toy store still couldn't find a thing for her grandson.

"Maybe a video or something educational?" I asked.

"No, that's not it," she said.

We wandered the aisles until something caught her eye: a laser gun with flashing lights and 15 different high-pitched sounds. "This is perfect," she said, beaming. "My daughter-in-law will hate it."

—MICHAEL TURNER

“每次我背叛你后，就在箱子里放上一株玉米穗。”

“我原谅你，”老伴说，“那100,000美元呢？”

“每次一到一蒲式耳，我就把玉米穗卖了。”

“什么叫夫妻¹啊？”我问妈妈。她说：“两三个。”可能这就能说明为什么她的婚姻失败了吧。

——乔西·朗，《喜滋滋》

圣诞节，我们给我妈妈买了一个架子，我问丈夫，能不能把它和其他礼物挂在一起。

“当然可以，”他同意，“你要提醒我带上工具。”我草草写了张便条，贴在礼物上。

“妈妈，过节你心情不好啊？”女儿说。她指着我写的便利贴：“带上工具上吊²。”

——贝弗利·沃尔夫

玩具店里有千百种游戏啊、玩具啊、手工啊，可是我的顾客怎么也挑不到一件适合她孙子的。

“视频或是某种教育游戏怎么样啊？”我问。

“不，不要那种，”她说。

我们在货架前走来走去，终于她的眼前一亮：是一把镭射枪，上面有闪光灯，还有15种不同的响声。“太好了，”她兴奋地说，“我儿媳妇肯定很讨厌。”

——迈克尔·特纳

1 couple指“一对、一双”，也指“夫妻”。A couple of做数量词时，表示“两三个”。

2 hang既有“悬挂”的意思，也有“绞死（某人）”的意思。笑话中的“我”在便条上，把“架子”（shelf）拼错了，误写成了“自己”（self），本来是“带上工具挂架子”，成了“带上工具上吊”了。

Returning home early from a business trip, a man finds his wife in the bedroom. She isn't wearing a stitch of clothing.

Surprised, he says, "It's the middle of the afternoon. Why aren't you dressed?"

"I have nothing to wear," his wife answers.

"Nonsense," he says, throwing open her closet. "You have a red dress, a green dress...Hi, Harry...a purple dress..."

"If I were to die first, would you remarry?" the wife asks.

"Well," says the husband, "I'm in good health, so why not?"

"Would she live in my house?"

"It's all paid up, so yes."

"Would she drive my car?"

"It's new, so yes."

"Would she use my golf clubs?"

"No. She's left-handed."

—HAROLD HESS

Abe, an old penny-pincher from way back, was dying. On his deathbed, peering up through his cataracts, he asked, "Is my wife here?"

"Yes, I'm here next to you," she answered.

"And the kids?"

"We're here, Daddy," the youngest answered.

"Is the rest of the family here too?"

"Around your bed," his wife assured him.

At that, Abe sits up and yells, "So why is the kitchen light on?"

Scene: The Garden of Eden. Eve to Adam: "Do you love me?"

Adam to Eve: "Do I have a choice?"

—MASOUD SHIEHMORTEZA

一名男子出差回来，早早回了家，发现他妻子在卧室里，一丝不挂。

他很惊讶，说：“大下午的，怎么不穿衣服？”

“我没有衣服穿，”他妻子回答说。

“胡说，”他把她的衣柜打开，“你有红裙子、绿裙子……你好啊，哈利……紫裙子……”

“如果我先死，你会再婚吗？”妻子问。

“噢，”丈夫说，“我身体健壮，干吗不呢？”

“那她会住在我的房子里吗？”

“钱都付了，当然会啊。”

“她会开我的车吗？”

“车是新的，肯定会啊。”

“她会用我的高尔夫球杆吗？”

“不会，她是左撇子。”

——哈罗德·赫斯

很久以前，一个名叫阿贝的守财奴快要死了。临终前，他两眼昏花，迷迷糊糊中问：“我老伴在吗？”

“在，我就在你边上，”她回答。

“孩子们呢？”

“我们都在，爸爸，”最小的孩子回答。

“家里其他人也在吗？”

“都在你床边，”妻子安慰他。

听到这话，他一坐而起，大叫道：“那么厨房的灯怎么还开着？”

场景：伊甸园。夏娃对亚当说：“你爱我吗？”

亚当对夏娃说：“我有的选吗？”

——马苏德·希尔莫塔扎

Both of my parents work and lead hectic lives. So my father was bound to forget their wedding anniversary.

Remembering at the last minute, he sped to the stationery store, flew through the door, and breathlessly asked the salesclerk, "Where are the anniversary cards?"

To his surprise he heard my mother call out, "Over here, Bill."

—ELIZABETH RANSOM

I was pregnant with our eighth child and couldn't visit my mom in the hospital, so my husband went instead.

"There's a risk of sterility if you get that close to someone who's having radiation treatments," a nurse warned.

My husband smiled and said, "I know."

—ARLENE CALDWELL

My wife wanted to play the violin at our wedding reception, but right before, a string snapped. Her mother made the announcement to our guests: "I'm sorry to say that Amy cannot perform today. Her G string broke."

—BRET WALKER

The topic in the office break room was the high price of divorce.

"I should've taken out a home-improvement loan to pay for my attorney," said one disgusted woman.

"Can you do that?" I wondered.

"She got her bum husband out of the house, didn't she?" said a friend. "I'd call that a home improvement."

—MARTI MCDANIEL

我爸妈工作生活都很忙。所以，爸爸差点要忘记他俩的结婚纪念日了。

最后一分钟他想起来了，于是赶紧跑去文具店，夺门而入，上气不接下气地问售货员：“纪念日卡片在哪里？”

他吃了一惊，只听妈妈在里面喊他：“在这里，比尔。”

——伊丽莎白·兰塞姆

我怀了第八胎，不能去医院看我妈妈了，所以我丈夫就去了。

“你靠接受放射疗法的病人这么近，小心不能生育，”护士提醒他。

我丈夫笑了笑说：“我知道。”

——阿琳·考德威尔

妻子想在我们的婚宴上拉小提琴，可是在那之前，小提琴的一根弦断了。她妈妈对来客宣布说：“很抱歉地告诉大家，艾米今天没法表演了。她的G弦¹断了。”

——布雷特·沃克

办公室休息区里，大家说起了离婚的高代价。

“我真应该拿装修的贷款请律师，”一个让人恶心的女子说。

“可以这么做吗？”我问。

“她把她吊儿郎当的老公赶出了家，不是吗？”朋友说，“这个也叫装修啊。”

——马蒂·麦克丹尼尔

1 G弦(G string)：有一种内裤叫G弦，也就是丁字裤。

The new bride wanted everything to be perfect for the Thanksgiving dinner she was hosting for her in-laws. So she called the turkey hotline and said, "I bought a 12-pound bird. How long does it need to cook?"

"Just a minute," said the hotline operator, paging through her reference book.

"Thanks!" said the bride as she hung up.

—MICHAEL DEMERS

感恩节的晚餐，新娘子要招待男方家属，希望一切能顺顺利利，于是她给火鸡热线打了个电话，说：“我买了只12磅的火鸡，要煮多久？”

“等一分钟，”¹热线接线员一边说，一边在参考书中找。

“谢谢！”新娘子说完挂断了电话。

——迈克尔·德默斯

¹ just a minute可以理解为“等一下”，也可以理解为“就一分钟”，显然，接线员是让新娘等一下。



I was presiding over a wedding when the best man asked if I wouldn't mind also keeping an eye on the gift table. "There are a few people here the newlyweds don't trust around all that money," he confided.

"Then why on earth were they invited?" I asked.

Looking at me as if I were nuts, he said, "They're family."

—DAVID GILBERT

I'm not much of a gift wrapper, especially compared with the women who work at our shop. But I was the only one available the day a customer wanted a gift wrapped for his mother.

"Sorry," I said, handing back a box covered with wrinkled, oddly taped paper. "It's wrapped, but it sure looks like a guy did it."

"Great," he said happily. "Now my mom will think I did it myself."

—ANDREW BRANNON

My girlfriend broke up with me. She said it's because I was always correcting her. She came over to my house and said, "Eddie, we need to talk."

I said, "My name is Eric."

She said, "See! I can't say anything right around you."

—ERIC HUNTER, AS HEARD AT PUNCHLINE COMEDY CLUB IN ATLANTA

我在主持婚礼，伴郎问我能不能留意着点儿礼品台。“这里有几个人，这么多钱新婚夫妇对他们不放心，”他跟我透露。

“那为什么邀请他们来呢？”我问。

他瞪着我，仿佛我是傻子，说：“他们是亲戚。”

——大卫·吉尔伯特

我不怎么会包装礼物，尤其是跟我们店的女同事相比。有一天，一位顾客想把送给母亲的礼物包装一下，正好只有我一个人手头不忙。

“抱歉，”我把一个皱皱巴巴、包得很奇怪的盒子递给他时说，“包是包好了，但是看起来肯定像是个男的包的。”

“好极了，”他快活地说，“我妈妈肯定以为是我包的了。”

——安德鲁·布兰农

我女朋友跟我分手了。她说理由是我经常纠正她。她来到我家，说：“埃迪，我们要谈谈了。”

我说：“我的名字是艾瑞克。”

她说：“看到没！跟你说话我就没说对过。”

——埃里克·亨特，在亚特兰大笑点喜剧俱乐部听来的

“QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Being a good husband is like being a stand-up comic. You need 10 years before you can even call yourself a beginner.”

—JERRY SEINFELD IN *O*

“Friends are God’s way of apologizing to us for our families.”
—ANONYMOUS

“When my daughter was born, we videotaped the birth. Now when she makes me angry, I just hit Rewind and put her back in.”

—COMIC GRACE WHITE

“My mother used to say that there are no strangers, only friends you haven’t met yet. She’s now in a maximum-security twilight home in Australia.”

—DAME EDNA EVERAGE

“When you’re in love, it’s the most glorious two-and-a-half minutes of your life.”

—RICHARD LEWIS

“Families are about love overcoming emotional torture.”

—MATT GROENING, *THE SIMPSONS* CREATOR

“The formula for a happy marriage? It’s the same as the one for living in California: When you find a fault, don’t dwell on it.”

—JAY TRACHMAN, HUMORIST

“Friendship will not stand the strain of very much good advice for very long.”

—ROBERT LYND, *THE PEAL OF BELLS*



66 妙语连珠

“当个好丈夫好比是做单口相声演员。要用十年，你才能管自己叫初学者。”

——杰里·宋飞，《O》

“朋友是上帝补偿我们，没能给我们好亲戚的方式。”

——佚名

“我女儿出生时，我们用录像录了生产过程。现在她一惹我生气，我就倒带，把她放回来。”

——喜剧演员格雷丝·怀特

“我妈妈以前老讲，这世上没有陌生人，只有你还没有遇到的朋友。她现在在澳大利亚保安措施最好的养老院里。”

——埃德娜·艾弗瑞奇夫人

“你陶醉在爱情中时，那是你一生中最精彩的两分半钟。”

——理查德·刘易斯

“家就是用爱征服情感苦痛。”

——《辛普森一家》的创作者马特·格罗宁

“幸福婚姻的公式？跟住在加州的公式一样：发现毛病时，别记挂着就是。”

——幽默家杰伊·特拉赫曼

“友谊经受不住长时间好忠告的攻击。”

——罗伯特·林德，《钟声》



■ Kids' Play



My oldest sister had made a salad for dinner and served it on everyone's plate before we sat down. Coming to the table, Dad caught my four-year-old sister, Amy, poking his salad and told her to stop.

Amy was very quiet all through dinner. Finally, when the meal was over, Dad asked her, "Amy, why were you playing with my food?"

"I was trying to get the moth out," she replied.

—ANNA WOZNIAK

I was going over a basic math concept with my Grade 1 students, but they were having a great deal of difficulty. After the umpteenth attempt, I was running out of patience—apparently, this was evident to my students. I had to chuckle when one of the girls proclaimed to the class, "Uh-oh! That's the same look my mom gets before she tells me I'm driving her up the wall."

—ALLISON ANSORGER

Our five-year-old twins had been squabbling all day, and I'd finally had enough. Pulling them apart, I said, "How would you feel if Daddy and I argued like that?"

My son replied, "But you and Daddy chose each other. We had no choice."

—JANE LIVINGSTON

童言趣语



晚餐，大姐准备了沙拉，大伙坐下吃饭前，她帮每个人盛在了盘里。爸爸走到桌边，发现我四岁大的妹妹艾米正在他的沙拉里捣鼓着，便让她不许动。

吃饭时，艾米一声不吭。最后吃完饭，爸爸问她：“艾米，你怎么可以乱动我的吃的呢？”

“我想把里面的飞蛾赶出去的，”她回答。

——安娜·沃兹尼亚克

我正给一年级的学生讲一个基本的数学概念，可他们理解起来很费劲。试了不知多少次后，我快没有耐心了——显然，学生们都看在眼里。一个小女孩大声在班里说的话，让我忍俊不禁，“啊哦！我妈妈跟我说我把她气得直跳脚时，也是这种表情。”

——艾利森·安索格

家里五岁大的双胞胎一整天一直吵架，我终于受不了了。我把他们拉开，说：“如果我和爸爸这样吵架，你们会有什么感受？”

儿子回答：“你跟爸爸是自愿在一起的。我们没有选择。”

——简·利文斯顿

My young daughter loves to go to performances at the local high school, so when her brother was in a spelling bee, she happily came along. But halfway through, she lost interest. Leaning in to me, she whispered, "This is the most boring play I have ever seen."

—ANGIE AIKEN

My Grade 2 class was doing a special project in which they raised butterflies from caterpillars. The students and I watched the insects in our classroom aquarium as they attached themselves to the lid, each forming a chrysalis. Within a week they began to emerge, wet and crumpled. The kids watched in fascination as the wings began to straighten, and with careful fanning, the butterflies dried themselves.

About three days after hatching, the insects began to fly. One little boy in particular, who had been watching carefully each day, saw this and excitedly announced, "They're flying!"

"Of course they're flying!" a little girl in the class replied, rolling her eyes. "They're called 'butterflies.' If they didn't fly, they'd just be butter!"

—DIANE R. MARTIN

When he received a journal as a gift, my eight-year-old son was mystified. "Mom, what am I supposed to do with this? The pages are blank."

"You write down interesting stuff that happens to you," I said.

"So it's like a blog...on paper."

—BEVERLY TAYLOR

The night we took our three young sons to an upscale restaurant for the first time, my husband ordered a bottle of wine. The server brought

女儿最喜欢去当地的高中看表演了，因此她哥哥要参加拼字比赛时，她便满心欢喜地跟着来了。可是比赛进行到一半，她就没了兴致，靠在我身上悄悄对我说：“这是我看过的最无聊的表演了。”

——安吉·阿尔肯

我带的二年级在做一项特殊的作业，饲养毛毛虫直到它们孵化成蝴蝶。我和学生们在教室的生物箱边观察毛毛虫，毛毛虫吸附在顶盖上，每一条便是一个蝶蛹。接下来的一个星期里，蝴蝶慢慢出来了，黏糊糊地皱成一团。孩子们入迷地看着，看着翅膀慢慢伸展开来，轻轻拍动几下，好让浑身干透。

出茧后三天，蝴蝶开始能飞了。有个小男孩每天看得尤其认真，他看到了就激动地大叫：“它们飞了！”

“它们当然要飞啊！”班里一个小女孩眨巴着眼睛回答说，“它们叫‘蝴蝶’。如果不飞，就是黄油了！”¹

——黛安娜·R. 马丁

八岁的儿子见收到的礼物是一本日记本时，就犯迷糊了：“妈妈，这个是用来干吗的？纸上都是空白的。”

“你把周围发生的好玩的事情写在上面，”我说。

“就像博客啊……不过在纸上。”

——贝弗利·泰勒

某晚，我们第一次带三个小儿子去一家高档饭店用餐，丈夫点了瓶葡萄酒。服务员把酒拿来，照例是拔塞子，然后给我倒一点尝下味道。

1 “蝴蝶”叫butterfly, fly是“飞”的意思，单词butter有“黄油”的意思。如果没有fly, 就只剩butter了。

it over, began the ritual uncorking, and poured a small amount for me to taste. My six-year-old piped up, "Mom usually drinks a lot more than that."

—T. ELLSWORTH, ON GCFL.NET

While leading a tour of kindergarten students through our hospital, I overheard a conversation between one little girl and an X-ray technician.

"Have you ever broken a bone?" he asked.

"Yes," the girl replied.

"Did it hurt?"

"No."

"Really? Which bone did you break?"

"My sister's arm."

—A. L. GRABER

Thanks to reruns, my kids discovered the old *Ozzie & Harriet* TV shows. My 11-year-old son was especially taken with Ricky Nelson. He wanted a guitar like his, wanted to sing like him, and decided to hunt down some of his old recordings.

After a long search he came home and announced, "I couldn't find any Ricky Nelson albums, so I got some made by his brother."

"David?" I asked, not recalling that he had much of a musical career.

"No. Willie."

—WENDY SILVEY

I have always tried to be conscientious about teaching my children respect by example, keeping an even tone when speaking to my boys,

六岁的儿子大声嚷道：“妈妈平时喝得比这多多了。”

——T. 埃尔斯沃斯，GCFL.NET

我带着一群幼儿园的学生在参观我们医院，无意中听到一个小女孩在和X光技师说话。

“你有没有弄断过骨头？”他问。

“有啊，”小女孩回答。

“疼吗？”

“不疼。”

“是吗？你弄断的是哪里的骨头？”

“我姐姐的手臂。”

——A. L. 格雷伯

由于电视台重播，孩子们看了《欧吉和哈丽雅特时代》¹这档电视节目。11岁的儿子更是从此迷上了里基·纳尔逊。他想要一把他那样的吉他，想像他那样唱歌，于是决定去各处搜寻他的一些老唱片。

经过一番苦苦的搜索，他回到家，说：“我找不到里基·纳尔逊的专辑，就买了一些他哥哥的。”

“大卫？”我问，想不起他有没有唱过歌了。

“不是，是威利²。”

——温迪·西尔维

平日里，我总是用实际行动教导孩子们要懂礼貌，这一点上丝毫也

1 《欧吉和哈丽雅特时代》(Ozzie & Harriet)：美国ABC电视台的一档连续剧，从1952年播放至1966年，主要讲纳尔逊一家子的生活。欧吉是爸爸，妈妈哈丽雅特是歌手，两个儿子分别叫大卫和里基。

2 威利·纳尔逊(1933—)：美国乡村音乐歌手兼创作人。

and reserving my “big voice” for serious, repeated offences. I found myself reflecting on this one morning after waking up with laryngitis.

I croaked out an explanation in a barely audible whisper to my eight-year-old son who turned to his five-year-old brother and said excitedly, “Matt! Mom can’t yell at us! What do you want to do?”

—TRACY COSTA

The first time my son was on a bike with training wheels, I shouted, “Step back on the pedals, and the bike will brake!”

He nodded but still rode straight into a bush.

“Why didn’t you push back on the pedals?” I asked, helping him up.

“You said if I did, the bike would break.”

—WILLIAM B. FROM *THE CLASSIFIED GUYS*

I was on the computer in my home office when my eight-year-old son asked what I did for a living.

“I’m a consultant,” I said.

“What’s a consultant?”

“It’s someone who watches people work and then tells them how they could do it better.”

“We have people like that in my class,” he said, “but we call them pests.”

—KATIE ADAMS

After passing his driver’s test, my grandson was asked to sign up to be an organ donor. Unsure, he turned to his father and asked, “Will it affect my football playing?”

—JANET RANNALS

不敢疏忽，跟儿子说话时语调要平和，“大嗓门”要留到他们犯严重错误、屡教不改时。直到某日早晨，我醒来时发现喉炎犯了，这才发现是时候检讨一下自己了。

我用嘶哑的声音轻声跟八岁的儿子解释这是怎么回事，只听他跟五岁的弟弟说：“马特！妈妈不能吼我们了！你有什么想干的吗？”

——特蕾西·科斯塔

儿子第一次踩着带有辅助轮子的脚踏车学骑车，我大喊：“脚踩回到踏板上来，车子就会刹车！”

只见他点着头，仍一头冲进了草丛里。

“为什么不踩回到踏板上来呢？”我扶他起来时问。

“你说那样车子会坏啊。”¹

——威廉·B，原载于《分类信息报》

我在自家的书房里用电脑，八岁的儿子过来问我是做什么工作的。

“我是咨询师，”我说。

“咨询师是什么？”

“就是看着别人工作，然后告诉他们怎么样才能做得更好。”

“我们班上也有这样的人，”他说，“不过我们管他们叫讨厌鬼。”

——凯蒂·亚当斯

驾照考试通过了，孙子要填一份器官捐献协议。他一脸茫然地问他爸爸：“这会影晌我踢足球吗？”

——珍妮特·兰纳斯

1 brake（刹车）和break（弄坏）发音相同，爸爸说的是前者，而儿子误以为是后者。

I was standing at a crosswalk when a group of students marched by. "Okay, children, why do we all need to stay on the sidewalk?" the teacher asked.

I expected to hear something about the dangers of traffic. Instead I heard, "Because if we don't, our health insurance won't cover us."

—SANDRA JERGENSEN

For Christmas I gave my kid a BB gun.

He gave me a sweater with a bull's-eye on the back.

—RODNEY DANGERFIELD

Anyone with toddlers knows that trying to control them is like herding cats. So I was impressed by a parenting trick of my husband's.

Our two-year-old bolted out of our van in a busy parking lot, but my husband, Bill, got him to stay put by shouting, "Hands on the van."

"Where'd you learn that?" I asked.

"From that TV show."

"*Supernanny? Nanny 911?*"

"No," he said. "*Cops.*"

—CHERI DRAPER

Three boys are bragging about their fathers.

"My dad can shoot an arrow and reach the target before the arrow does."

"Well, my dad's a hunter, and he can fire his gun and be there before the bullet."

"That's nothing," the third boy says. "My dad works for the city. He stops working at 4:30 and gets home by 3:45."

我站在人行横道上，看见一群学生齐步走过。“孩子们，为什么大家都要在人行横道上走呢？”老师问。

我原以为会听到注意安全之类的，谁知却是：“因为如果不，医疗保险就起不了作用。”

——桑德拉·杰根森

圣诞节，我送了孩子一把BB枪。

他送了我一件毛衣，背上是一个靶心。

——罗德尼·丹杰菲尔德

家里有刚学会走路的小孩的人都知道，想要他们别乱跑简直就像逮猫猫。我丈夫管小孩倒挺有一手，让我大为佩服。

小货车在一个拥挤的停车场刚停下，我们两岁大的孩子就溜下了车，我丈夫比尔就有本事让他站住别动，他叫道：“把手放在车上不许动。”

“你从哪里学的？”我问。

“从电视里。”

“《超级奶妈》？《奶妈911》？”

“不是，”他说，“《美国警察》。”

——谢里·德雷珀

三个男孩在吹嘘他们的爸爸。

“我爸爸能射箭，箭还没到靶子上他就到靶子那儿了。”

“噢，我爸爸是猎人，他一开枪，子弹还没到他就到了。”

“这都没什么，”第三个孩子说，“我爸爸在城里上班。他4:30离开单位，到家才3:45。”

To commemorate his first visit to our library, I gave a six-year-old boy a bookmark. More familiar with electronic gadgets than old-school tools, he had no clue how it worked. So I demonstrated by placing it between two pages, then closing the book. "When you start reading again, voilà!" I said, opening the book to my bookmarked page.

"Wow!" he said. "That's cool!"

—CARRIE MULLER

During Sunday school the substitute teacher asked my four-year-old what his name was. "Spider-Man," said my son.

"No, I mean your real name," pressed the teacher.

My son apologized. "Oh, I'm sorry. It's Peter Parker."

—JENNIFER NORTON

A little boy went to the library to check out a book titled *Comprehensive Guide for Mothers*.

"Is this for your mother?" the librarian asked.

"No," said the boy.

"So why are you checking it out?"

"Because I started collecting moths last week."

—L. B. WEINSTEIN

Just before a boy enters the barbershop, the barber tells his customer, "This is the dumbest kid in the world. Watch." The barber puts a dollar in one open palm and two quarters in the other and asks the kid, "Which do you want?" The boy takes the quarters and leaves.

"See?" says the barber, laughing.

Later, the customer passes the boy, who is standing outside a candy

我送给六岁大的小男孩一个书签，为他第一次来我们图书馆留作纪念。小孩电子设备玩得利索，却没见过这些老式的玩意，他压根就不知道书签是干吗用的。因此我就把书签放在两页纸中间，然后合上书。

“你下次再看书时，就找到啦！”我把书翻到插了书签的那一页。

“哇！”他说，“太酷了！”

——卡丽·穆勒

主日学校里，代课老师问我四岁大的儿子叫什么名字。“蜘蛛侠，”他说。

“不是，我是说真名，”老师接着问。

儿子赶忙道歉。“哦，对不起，彼得·派克¹。”

——詹妮弗·诺顿

小男孩去图书馆借了一本书，名为《好妈妈面面观》。

“是给你妈妈借的吗？”图书管理员问。

“不是，”小男孩说。

“那你借来干吗呢？”

“因为我上周开始收集飞蛾了。”²

——L. B. 温斯坦

小男孩走进理发店前，理发师跟他的顾客说，“他是世上最笨的小孩，你看好了啊。”理发师在摊开的手掌心上，一只放了一美元，另外一只放了两枚25分硬币，问孩子：“你要哪一个？”小男孩拿了硬币就离开了。

“看到了没？”理发师大笑着说。

过后不久，那位顾客正好路过，看见男孩站在一家糖果店外面。

1 彼得·派克 (Peter Parker)：美国电影《蜘蛛侠》的男主人公剧中本名叫彼得·派克。

2 mother是妈妈，moth是飞蛾，小男孩误以为mother是“收集飞蛾的人”，因为“-er”做后缀时表示“……的人”。

store. "Why'd you take the quarters and not the dollar?" he asks.

"Because," says the boy, "the day I take the dollar, the game's over."

—CONNIE BEHENSKY

My sister explained to my nephew how his voice would eventually change as he grew up. Tyler was exuberant at the prospect. "Cool!" he said. "I hope I get a German accent."

—STACI BAILEY

My bargain-happy brother took his eight-year-old son to the pizzeria to pick up their order. Corey wanted to get the pizza himself, so my brother handed him a \$20 bill and a \$2 coupon and waited in the car. A few minutes later Corey appeared with the pizza, change, and the coupon.

"Wouldn't they take the coupon?" my brother asked.

"Oh, sure, but we didn't need it," said Corey. "We had enough money."

—ALAN ZOLDAN

Teacher: "George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree but also admitted it. Now, Joey, do you know why his father didn't punish him?"

Joey: "Because George still had the axe in his hand?"

When our son, Joe, turned six, my husband and I decided it was high time for him to ditch the Winnie the Pooh underwear for something a bit more studly. So I bought him some Incredible Hulk briefs. When Joe got home, he found the package lying on his bed.

"Finally!" he exulted. "Adult underwear!"

—NORA DORSO

“你为什么拿硬币，不拿一美元呢？”他问。

“因为，”小男孩说，“我要是拿一美元，今后他就不会跟我玩这把戏了。”

——康妮·贝亨斯基

姐姐跟外甥解释说，等他长大了，说话声音就会变。泰勒一听来了劲了：“太酷了！我想要德国口音。”

——斯塔奇·贝利

我有个还价成瘾的哥哥，带着他八岁大的儿子去比萨店取外卖。科雷想要自个儿去拿，哥哥便给了他一张20美元的纸币、一张2美元的折扣券，然后在车里等他。几分钟后，科雷拿了比萨、找钱还有折扣券回来了。

“他们没要折扣券？”哥哥问。

“哦，他们要，不过我们用不着啊，”科雷说，“我们的钱足够呀。”

——艾伦·佐尔丹

老师问：“乔治·华盛顿不仅砍了他爸爸的樱桃树，他还承认是自己干的。那么，乔伊，你知道为什么他爸爸没有惩罚他吗？”

乔伊说：“因为斧头还握在乔治的手里？”

儿子乔六岁了，我和丈夫决定，该是时候让他抛弃维尼熊的裤衩，穿一些更有阳刚气的，所以我就给他买了绿巨人的三角裤。乔一回家，就看到床上放着的包裹。

“我终于有了！”他欢呼道，“成人裤衩！”

——诺拉·多尔索

Keith, a coworker, was driving his family to a campsite when an SUV towing a beautiful vintage Airstream trailer pulled up beside them. Keith was salivating at the thought of owning one when his three-year-old daughter weighed in.

“Look at that,” she said. “I guess they can’t afford a tent.”

—KARIN HORLINGS

I love making clothes for my five-year-old granddaughter. And she, in turn, always seems happy to accept them. The other day I asked if she would like me to make her a skirt.

“Yes,” she said. “But this time, could you make it look like it came from a store?”

—BONNIE LOGAN

A fellow teacher assigned his fourth-grade student to write a topic sentence for the following phrases: “Sam always works quietly. Sam is polite to the teacher. Sam always does his homework.”

The student’s topic sentence? “I hate Sam.”

—JEREMY BULLINGER

When a nosy fourth-grade student wanted the scoop on what another teacher and I were discussing in private, I decided it was time for an impromptu lesson in manners.

“Do you know what ‘minding your own business’ means?” I asked pointedly.

He didn’t, but a student clear across the room shouted, “I do!”

—CARLEE NEWTON

One day my three-year-old daughter asked when her birthday was.

同事基思开车载着全家到了露营地，一辆SUV拖着一台很漂亮的老爷清风房车开了过来，停在他们边上。基思正出神地想着自己什么时候也能拥有这样的车时，他三岁的小女儿插了进来。

“快看呀，”她说，“他们可能买不起帐篷吧。”

——卡琳·赫林斯

我喜欢给五岁大的孙女做衣服。而她呢，似乎也总是很乐意有新衣服穿。前两天，我问要不要给她做条短裙。

“好啊，”她说，“不过这次您能不能做成像店里买来的那样啊？”

——邦尼·洛根

一位老师给四年级的学生布置了作业，为下面的几句话写一句中心句：“山姆总是安静地学习。山姆对老师很有礼貌。山姆总是完成他的家庭作业。”

学生的中心句？“我讨厌山姆。”

——杰里米·布林格

一位好管闲事的四年级学生想偷听我和另外一位老师私底下在谈些什么，我决定临时给他上上礼仪的课。

“你知道‘管好你自己的事’是什么意思吗？”我毫不客气地问。他不知道，不过教室另一头的一位学生喊道：“我知道！”

——卡莉·牛顿

某天，我三岁大的女儿问她的生日是什么时候。我知道告诉她4

Knowing that the date, April 14, would mean nothing to her, I said, “It’s either just before or just after Easter.”

“Great,” she said.

“You don’t know when my birthday is either.”

—MARTHA HYNSON

My friend Susan was helping her five-year-old son review his math while her teenager was in the kitchen making a snack.

“You have seven dollars and seven friends,” Susan said. “You give a dollar each to two of them but none to the others. What do you have left?”

From the next room she heard her teenager call out, “Two friends.”

—DIANE KOH

We rushed our four-year-old son, Ben, to the emergency room with a terrible cough, high fever, and vomiting. The doctor did an exam, then asked Ben what bothered him the most.

After thinking it over, Ben said hoarsely, “I would have to say my little sister.”

—ANGELA SCHMID

In the last two years our Micmac family, living in northern Ontario, has begun to find our roots. In doing this, one of the most important things for me is to share everything I am learning with my children.

I had explained to my eight-year-old daughter, Emma, that Columbus had mistakenly named us Indians, but that we called ourselves native or Anishinabe. I realized the impact my words were having when one day I was looking through Emma’s school agenda. There, on a map of the world, the words “Indian Ocean” had been

月14日，她也对这个日子没有概念，于是便说：“复活节前后。”

“好极了，”她说。

“你也不知道我什么时候生日。”

——玛莎·辛森

朋友苏珊正帮她五岁的儿子复习数学，而另一个十多岁的儿子在厨房里弄点心吃。

“你有七美元和七个朋友，”苏珊说，“你给他们中两人每人一美元，其他人就不给了。那你还剩下什么？”

她听到从另一个房间传来了大儿子的声音：“两个朋友。”

——黛安娜·科赫

四岁大的儿子本咳嗽很严重，发着高烧，呕吐不止，我们迅速把他送进急诊室。医生检查了下，然后问他，什么事最让他操心。

本好好想了想，哑着嗓子说：“我得说是我的妹妹。”

——安杰拉·施密德

我们米克马克一家子住在安大略省北部，过去两年里我们开始了寻根之旅。对我而言，其中最重要的一件事就是我要把学到的东西与孩子们分享。

我跟八岁大的女儿埃玛解释过，哥伦布错把我们叫成了印第安人，不过我们管自己叫土著人或是阿尼希纳贝人。一天，我看了埃玛的学习安排，才知道她牢牢记住了我的话。一张世界地图上，“印度洋”¹的

1 印度洋的英文是Indian Ocean，印第安人的英文是Indian。

neatly scratched out, and it now read proudly in bright red pen, "Native Ocean."

—THERESA EAGLES

Concerned when one of his most reliable workers doesn't show up, the boss calls the employee's home. The phone is answered by a giggling child.

"Is your dad home?" the boss asks.

"Yes."

"May I speak to him?"

"No."

"Well, can I speak to your mom?"

"No. She's with the policeman."

Alarmed, the boss says, "Gosh. Well then, may I speak with the policeman?"

"No. He's busy talking to the man in the helicopter that's bringing in the search team."

"My Lord!" says the boss, now really worried. "What are they searching for?"

"Me," the kid chortles.

—DENISE STEWART

Last Christmas morning, after all the presents were opened, it was clear that my five-year-old son wasn't thrilled with the ratio of toys to clothes he'd received. As he trudged slowly up the stairs, I called out, "Hey, where are you going?"

"To my room," he said, "to play with my new socks."

—RICK BURNS

字样被工工整整地涂掉了，现在用鲜红的笔骄傲地写上了“土著洋”。

——特雷莎·伊格尔斯

一位值得信赖的职员没有来上班，老板很是担忧，就给他家里打电话。接电话的是一个咯咯笑的孩子。

“你爸爸在家吗？”老板问。

“在家。”

“可以让他接电话吗？”

“不可以。”

“哦，那能让你妈妈接电话吗？”

“不行，她跟警察在一起。”

老板感觉不妙，说：“天哪，那这样吧，可以让警察接电话吗？”

“不行，他忙着跟带搜寻队来的直升机里的人说话呢。”

“我的老天！”老板这下真急了，“他们在找什么？”

“我，”孩子哈哈大笑。

——丹尼丝·斯图尔特

去年圣诞节早晨，五岁大的儿子把所有礼物拆开，玩具少衣服多，显然他并不兴奋。他一步步地慢慢走上楼时，我喊他：“嘿，你到哪里？”

“回房间，”他说，“玩我的新袜子。”

——里克·伯恩斯

When our last child moved out, my wife encouraged me to join Big Brothers. I was matched with a 13-year-old named Alex. Our first outing was to the library, where we ran into his friend.

“Who’s he?” the friend asked Alex, pointing to me.

“My Big Brother, Randall.”

The boy looked at me, then back at Alex. “Dude, how old is your mother?”

—RANDALL MARTIN

我们最小的孩子也搬出去住后，妻子鼓励我去参加“老大哥”组织¹。跟我搭档的是一个13岁的孩子，名叫亚历克斯。我们第一次出去是去图书馆，在那儿遇到了他朋友。

“他是谁？”朋友指着我问亚历克斯。

“我的老大哥，兰德尔。”

那孩子看了看我，然后跟亚历克斯说：“哥们，你妈多大年纪？”

——兰德尔·马丁

1 “老大哥”组织 (Big Brothers)：首创于美国的一个非营利组织，其使命是请有职业威望的成年人与孩子建立一对一的关系，帮助孩子开发潜力。



This teenager was in my boutique for at least an hour choosing the perfect dress for a party. But the next day she was back with the outfit.

“Can I exchange this for something else?” she asked.

I was surprised, but I couldn’t argue with her explanation: “My parents like it.”

—SALI THOMAS

On the way back from a Cub Scout meeting, my grandson asked my son the question. “Dad, I know that babies come from mommies’ tummies, but how do they get there in the first place?” he asked innocently. After my son hemmed and hawed awhile, my grandson finally spoke up in disgust. “You don’t have to make something up, Dad. It’s okay if you don’t know the answer.”

—HARRY NEIDIG

Every morning I do a mad dash to drop off my son Tyler at day care so I can get to work on time. My impatience hit home one morning when he piped up from the back of the car, “Our car is really fast, and everyone else’s is slow because they’re all idiots, right, Mom?”

—RHONDA ROBERTS

Scene: the bookstore where I work.

Dramatis personae: a father and his son.

Son: “Dad, does it really tell you how?”

Father: “How to what, Son?”

Son: “How to kill a mockingbird?”

—THERESA FINE-PAWSEY

A teenager brings her new boyfriend home to meet her parents.

一位少女在我的店里至少淘了一个小时，找一条穿着赴宴的漂亮裙子。可是第二天她拿着衣服又回来了。

“我能换件其他的吗？”她问。

我吃了一惊，不过她的理由让我无从辩驳：“我爸妈喜欢这裙子。”

——萨利·托马斯

一次开完幼童军会后回家，在路上，孙子问了儿子一个问题。“爸爸，我知道宝宝是从妈妈的肚子里出来的，但是他们怎么会在肚子里的呢？”他天真地问。儿子支支吾吾了一会儿，最后孙子气愤地说：“你不用想着编故事骗我，爸爸。其实你不知道的话也没关系。”

——哈里·奈迪格

每天早上，我开着车一路狂奔，送儿子泰勒去日托所，以便自己能准时到单位上班。一天早上，我烦躁的心情表露无遗，忽然儿子从后座上探过头来说：“我们的车开得真快啊，别人的车都好慢，因为他们都是白痴，对吧，妈妈？”

——朗达·罗伯茨

场景：我工作的书店。

人物：爸爸与儿子。

儿子说：“爸爸，书里真的告诉我们怎么做吗？”

爸爸说：“什么怎么做，儿子？”

儿子说：“怎么杀死一只知更鸟？”¹

——特雷莎·法恩-波西

一位少女把她的新男朋友带回家见父母。父母看到他的发型、文身

¹ 美国作家哈珀·李（Harper Lee）发表于1960年的小说，题为《杀死一只知更鸟》，主要讲的是美国大萧条时期南方的种族矛盾。

They're appalled by his haircut, his tattoos, his piercings.

Later, the girl's mom says, "Dear, he doesn't seem to be a very nice boy."

"Oh, please, Mom!" says the daughter. "If he wasn't nice, would he be doing 500 hours of community service?"

—MARIA SALMON

Last June my friend told me about her plans for our upcoming prom. "I'm renting a stretch limo and spending \$1,000 on a new dress, and I've reserved a table at the most expensive restaurant in town," she said.

Our teacher overheard her and shook her head. "I didn't spend that much on my wedding."

My friend answered, "I can have three or four weddings. But a prom you do only once."

—STEPHEN BIDDLE

The pregnant guppy in the science-room fish tank fascinated my seventh-grade class. We all anxiously awaited the arrival of her babies. But a lesson on human growth and development raised a question for one student.

"Mrs. Townsend," she called out, "how will we know when the fish's water breaks?"

—DANA TOWNSEND

In lectures on human genetics, I explained to my college students that males determine the sex of the offspring by contributing either an X or a Y chromosome. So at the end of the year, I put it on the final exam: "How is the sex of the child determined?"

和穿孔后很是惊讶。

过后，少女的妈妈说：“宝贝，他看上去好像不是规矩的男孩呢。”

“哦，妈妈呀！”女儿说，“如果他不规矩，怎么会做500小时社区服务呢？”

——玛丽亚·萨尔蒙

去年六月，朋友告诉我，她即将到来的毕业舞会¹是怎么安排的。“我要租一辆超长豪华车，花1000美元买条裙子，在城里最贵的饭店里预约个位置，”她说。

我们老师听到了，摇了摇头。“我结婚时都没这么大手笔。”

朋友答道：“我能结三四次婚，但正式舞会只有一次。”

——史蒂芬·比德尔

实验室鱼缸里的古比鱼怀孕了，可把我七年级班上的学生给迷住了。我们都焦急地等着小宝宝降临，不过人类繁衍与进化的知识把一个学生难倒了。

“汤森太太，”她大声说，“鱼的羊水破时，我们怎么才会知道啊？”

——达娜·汤森

人类遗传学的课上，我跟班上的大学生解释，男性提供一条X染色体，或一条Y染色体，以此决定后代的性别。学期末，我把这题出在了期末考卷上：“孩子的性别是怎么决定的？”

1 在国外，正式舞会对学生来说是很隆重的事情，一般在学年末举行。出席这样的舞会，大家在穿着打扮上很讲究，约好舞伴一起出席。舞会的最后还会选出舞王和舞后。

One student wrote, "By examining it at birth."

—PATRICIA S. GINDHART

A Cherokee Indian was a special guest at my sister's elementary school. He talked to the children about his tribe and its traditions, then shared with them this fun fact: "There are no swear words in the Cherokee language."

One boy raised his hand. "But what if you're hammering a nail and accidentally smash your thumb?"

"That," the fellow answered, "is when we use your language."

—ANGELA CHIANG

Teacher: "There are two words I don't allow in my class. One is gross, and the other is cool."

Johnny: "So, what are the words?"

"Boys just like one thing," my ten-year-old told a friend. Oh no, the end of her innocence, I thought. Then she announced her finding: "PlayStations."

—ALAN ZOLDAN

Flummoxed by his true-false final exam, a student decides to toss a coin up in the air. Heads means true; tails, false. Thirty minutes later he's done, well before the rest of the class. But then the student starts flipping the coin again. And soon he's swearing and sweating over each question.

"What's wrong?" asks the concerned teacher.

"I'm rechecking my answers," says the student.

一位学生写道：“出生时看一下决定的。”

——帕特里夏·S. 金德哈特

妹妹就读的那所小学里，来了一位特殊的客人，一位彻罗基族的印第安人。他给孩子们讲他们的部落和传统，然后还说了一件有趣的事：

“彻罗基语言里没有脏话。”

一位男孩举起了手。“但是如果你们在钉钉子时，不小心碰到了拇指的话会怎么办？”

“那个，”那人回答说，“我们就要用你们的语言了。”

——安杰拉·姜

老师说：“在我的课上，有两个词不准用。一个下流，另一个酷。”

约翰尼说：“那这两个词是什么呢？”

“男生就喜欢一样东西，”我十岁的女儿跟她朋友说。哦，不，她的纯真年代结束了，我心想。只听她跟朋友透露：“游戏机。”

——艾伦·佐尔丹

期末考试，一位学生判断题不会答，于是决定抛硬币决定。头朝上就是对的，反面朝上就是错的。半小时后他便做完了，比班上其他同学快了很多。可是他接着又开始抛硬币了。不一会儿，只听他嘴里咒骂着，急得满头大汗。

“怎么了？”老师关切地问。

“我在检查答案呢，”学生说。

One of my Grade 3 pupils came to my desk one morning, sporting a bandaged finger. When I asked her what had happened, she replied, "Well, you know those things you sharpen carrots with?"

—NANCY PERRY

Shortly after becoming landed immigrants in Canada, our family was returning to Montreal after a vacation in the United States. As we neared the Canadian border, we asked our five children to settle down and be quiet.

At the border the customs officer asked my husband, "What is your status in Canada?"

Before he could answer, our nine-year-old daughter piped up with, "We are all landed hypocrites!"

—JANE B. GLOWKA

A student tore into our school office. "My iPod was stolen!" she cried. I handed her a form, and she filled it out, answering everything, even those questions intended for the principal. Under "Disposition," she wrote, "I'm really ticked off."

—DEBORAH MILES

Interviewing a college applicant, the dean of admissions asks, "If you could have a conversation with someone, living or dead, who would it be?"

The student thinks it over, then answers, "The living one."

—DAVE GAU

Mystery writer P. D. James told a college audience that her career path was laid out early in life. "My parents had an inkling of what I

某日早晨，三年级班上的一个学生来到我办公桌边，给我看她包扎着的手指。我问她怎么了，只听她说：“哦，你知道削胡萝卜的那些工具吗？”

——南希·佩里

成为加拿大的落地移民后不久，我们一家人在美国度完假后回蒙特利尔。快靠近加拿大边境了，我们让五个孩子坐好了别吵。

边境上，边防官员问我丈夫：“你在加拿大是什么签证？”

他还没开口，九岁的女儿抢着回答：“我们都是地主伪君子。”¹

——简·B.格洛夫卡

一位学生跑进我们学校的办公室。“我的iPod被偷了！”她大叫。我递给她一张表格，她认认真真地填着，每道问题都回答，由校长填的问题她都答了。在“可能情况”²一格里，她写了：“我真的很生气。”

——德博拉·迈尔斯

招生办主任在面试一位申请大学的学生：“如果你可以选择跟任何人谈话，活着的或是已经去世的，那你会选谁？”

学生好好想了想，说：“活着的。”

——戴夫·高

悬疑小说作家P.D.詹姆斯告诉一位大学生读者，她的职业生涯在很小的时候就露出端倪了。“我将来会干什么，我五岁时爸妈就看出了迹

1 在加拿大，有一类移民叫“落地移民”（landed immigrants），即所持移民签证终身有效，landed还有另一个解释，是“拥有大量土地的”。

2 Disposition既可以指“意向、可能情况”，也可以指“性情、性格”。学生以为是填“心情怎样”。

might become when I was five years old. When they read me 'Humpty Dumpty,' I asked, 'Was he pushed?' "

—SHIRLEY SAYRE

Driving my three-year-old daughter to day care before work, I noticed a family of dead raccoons on the road. I quickly sped past, hoping she wouldn't spot them. No such luck.

"Mommy, what was that?"

"Some wood must have fallen from a truck," I fibbed.

"Oh," she said. "Is that what killed all those raccoons?"

—TAMMY MAAS

I see a sign that says "Caution, Small Children Playing." I slow down, and then it occurs to me: I'm not afraid of small children.

—JONATHAN KATZ

■ Beware of Pets



My mother-in-law's dog was overweight, so the vet gave her some diet pills for the dog. On the return visit the dog's weight was unchanged. The vet asked if she was having trouble getting the dog to take the pills. "Oh no," my mother-in-law answered. "I hide them in her ice cream!"

—VI KNUTSON

My sight-impaired friend was in a grocery store with her guide dog

象。他们给我讲‘蛋娃’¹的故事，我问，‘是有人推他的吗？’”

——雪莉·塞尔

上班前，我开车把三岁大的女儿送去日托所，一路上，我看见一家子浣熊死在了路上。我加速开走，希望女儿没有看到。不过她还是看到了。

“妈妈，那是什么？”

“卡车上掉下来的木头，”我撒了个谎。

“哦，”她说，“然后把那些浣熊砸死了吗？”

——塔米·马斯

我看到一个标牌，上面写着：“注意安全，儿童在玩耍。”我把车速减慢，突然又想：我怕小孩不成。

——乔纳森·卡茨

■ 爱宠难防



岳母的狗体重超标，兽医就给了几片减肥药，让她给狗吃。下一次见医生时，狗的体重还是没有降。兽医问，给狗吃药片是否有困难。

“哦，不，”岳母回答说，“我把药放在她的冰淇淋里的。”

——维·克努森

朋友是弱视，有一回带着导盲犬在逛超市，经理问：“这狗眼睛不

1 “蛋娃” (Humpty Dumpty): 西方国家一个著名的童谣, 几乎所有英语国家的小朋友都会唱, 主要是讲蛋娃坐在墙上, 摔了下来, 国王所有的马和仆人都没法把它拼回原样了。

when the manager asked, “Is that a blind dog?” My friend said, “I hope not, or we’re both in trouble.”

—SUE YOUNG

I heard the dog barking before he and his owner actually barreled into our vet practice. Spotting a training video we sell, the owner wisely decided to buy one.

“How does this work?” she asked, handing me a check. “Do I just have him watch this?”

—BRANDI CHYTKA

Tourists come to Yellowstone National Park armed with a lot of questions. As someone who works nearby, I don’t always have answers. Like the time one earnest woman wanted to know, “At what elevation do deer turn into elk?”

—AMY BUCKLES

A marine biologist was telling his friends about some of his most recent research findings.

“Some whales can communicate at a distance of 300 miles,” he said.

“What the hell would one whale say to another 300 miles away?” asked his sarcastic friend.

“I’m not absolutely sure,” the expert said, “but it sounds something like, ‘Can you hear me now?’”

While staring at a monkey in the zoo, one of my preschool students had a question: “What does he eat?”

The zookeeper rattled off a long list of foods that the monkeys were fed.

好使吗？”朋友说：“应该没有吧，不然我们俩都有麻烦了。”

——休·扬

狗和主人还没有冲进我们的兽医院，我就听到狗在叫了。一看我们有训狗的视频卖，主人当即决定要买一盘。

“这个怎么用呢？”她把支票递给我时问，“只要放给它看就行了吗？”

——布兰迪·希特卡

来黄石国家公园的游客有一肚子的问题要问。我在公园附近工作，很多问题不知该怎么回答他们。就像有一次，一位妇女真诚地问我：“高到海拔多少米时，驯鹿能变成麋鹿？”

——埃米·巴克尔斯

一位海洋生物学家跟他的朋友们说起自己的最新研究成果。

“有些鲸隔开300英里也能对话。”他说。

“一条鲸跟300英里以外的另一条鲸有什么好说的呢？”一位朋友挖苦他说。

“我也不太清楚，”这位专家说，“不过有可能会是，‘现在你能听到我吗？’”

动物园里，学前儿童们盯着一只猴子看，其中一个问了个问题：“它吃什么呢？”

动物园管理员报出了一长串喂给猴子吃的食物。

“Where does he get his food from?” asked the student.

“Oh, just the regular supermarket,” answered the zookeeper.

My student wasn’t finished. “Well, who drives him?”

—MICHELLE MUELLER

A farmer pulls a prank on Easter Sunday. After the egg hunt he sneaks into the chicken coop and replaces every white egg with a brightly colored one.

Minutes later the rooster walks in. He spots the colored eggs, then storms out and beats up the peacock.

—ADAM JOSHUA SMARGON

There was no way we were giving up the stray kitten that adopted us. We called her Princess.

When we took her to the animal hospital to get her checked out, the vet had news: She was actually a He. “So what’s the new name going to be?” he asked. “The Cat Formerly Known as Princess?”

—JEANETTE ANDERSON

I dressed my dog up as a cat for Halloween.

Now he won’t come when I call him.

—REID FAYLOR, HEARD AT THE ROOFTOP COMEDY TALENT INSTITUTE

A zookeeper spotted a visitor throwing \$10 bills into the elephant exhibit.

“Why are you doing that?” asked the keeper.

“The sign says it’s okay,” replied the visitor.

“No, it doesn’t.”

“那它的食物是从哪里来的呢？”孩子问。

“哦，就是一般的超市，”动物园管理员回答。

孩子还没有问完。“那谁开车载它去呢？”

——米歇尔·米勒

周日复活节，农夫玩了个恶作剧。捡蛋活动¹后，他溜进鸡笼，把一个个白白的鸡蛋换成了五颜六色的彩蛋。

没过多久，公鸡回笼子了。他一看到彩蛋，便愤然跑了出去把孔雀揍了一顿。

——亚当·约书亚·司马贡

我们决定收养找上我家的这只流浪猫了，为她起名公主。

我们带她去宠物医院检查身体，兽医爆出了新闻：这只猫其实是公的。

“那新名字是什么呢？”他问，“难不成叫‘从前叫公主的猫’？”

——珍妮特·安德森

万圣节那天，我把狗狗扮成了一只猫。

现在，不管我怎么喊他的名字，他都不理了。

——里德·费勒，在屋顶喜剧才艺培训机构听来的

动物园管理员看到一位游客把十美元的纸币扔进大象笼子里。

“你干吗扔进去？”管理员问。

“标牌说可以的，”游客回答。

“没有，标牌上说不可以。”

1 捡蛋活动(egg hunt)：复活节当天，大人们把煮熟的蛋或假的蛋(如里面塞上巧克力糖)绘成五颜六色的，藏在不同的地方让孩子们去找。捡蛋活动结束后，还会颁奖给表现最好的小朋友。复活节的蛋象征了耶稣的复活。

“Yes, it does. It says, ‘Do not feed. \$10 fine.’”

A woman walked into my aunt’s animal shelter wanting to have her cat and six kittens spayed and neutered.

“Is the mother friendly?” my aunt asked.

“Very,” said the woman, casting an eye on all the pet carriers.

“That’s how we got into this mess in the first place.”

—SARAH MITCHELL

The week we got our puppy, I caught a stomach bug and stayed home from work one day. That afternoon my wife called to check up on me.

“I’m okay,” I said. “But guess who pooped in the dining room.”

My wife’s response: “Who?”

—RUSSELL MOORE

“What should I do?” yelled a panicked client to the receptionist at our veterinarian’s office. “My dog just ate two bags of unpopped popcorn!”

Clearly not as alarmed as the worried pet owner, the receptionist responded coolly, “Well, the first thing I would do is keep him out of the sun.”

—BRENDA SHIPLEY

The injury to our piglet wasn’t serious, but it did require stitches. So I sent my teenage daughter back into the farmhouse to get needle and thread and bring it to me, while I looked after the squealing animal.

Ten minutes later she still hadn’t returned.

“What are you doing?” I called out.

“可以的，上面写着，‘禁止喂食，十美元可以¹’。”

一位妇女来到我阿姨的动物收容所，要把猫妈妈连带六只小猫一起做绝育手术。

“猫妈妈脾气好吗？”我阿姨问。

“很好，”那位妇女说，瞥了一眼所有的宠物包，“我们就是因为她脾气好才惹上麻烦的。”

——萨拉·米切尔

刚有小狗的那个星期，我胃不舒服，必须请假休息一天。那天下午，妻子打电话回来问我怎么样了。

“我没事，”我说，“不过你猜谁在饭厅里拉屎了。”

妻子的回答是：“谁？”

——罗素·穆尔

“我该怎么办啊？”一位惊慌失措的客户在兽医的办公室里对着接待员大声嚷嚷，“我的狗刚刚吃了两袋子还没有爆的爆米花！”

接待员显然不如这位焦急万分的主人那样吃惊，她语气平静地回答说：“哦，要是我的话，我首先会让他避免照到阳光。”

——布伦达·希普利

小猪伤得虽然不厉害，但伤口还需要缝合。于是我让女儿回农舍把针线拿给我，我留下来照顾痛得直叫的小猪。

十分钟过去了，女儿还没有回来。

“你在干吗？”我大喊。

¹ fine做形容词，表示“好的，优秀的”，用作名词意为“罚款”。所以，标牌的意思是“禁止喂食，违者罚款十美元”，而非“禁止喂食，十美元可以”。

She yelled back, "Looking for the pink thread."

—JUNE HALEY

I was shopping in the pet section of my local supermarket when I overheard a woman singing the praises of a particular water bowl to her husband.

"Look, it even has a water filter!" she concluded, holding the doggie dish out for her husband's inspection.

He had a slightly different take on things: "Dear, he drinks out of the toilet."

—JAMES JENKINS

A lonely woman buys a parrot for companionship. After a week the parrot hasn't uttered a word, so the woman goes back to the pet store and buys it a mirror. Nothing. The next week, she brings home a little ladder. Polly is still incommunicado, so the week after that, she gives it a swing, which elicits not a peep. A week later she finds the parrot on the floor of its cage, dying. Summoning up its last breath, the bird whispers, "Don't they have any food at that pet store?"

—LUCILLE ARNELL

Why do black widow spiders kill their mates after mating?

To stop the snoring before it starts.

—ARLANA LOCKETT

A fellow salesperson, an animal lover, was suddenly overcome by allergies at one of our company meetings. Coughing, sniffing, watery eyes...she was a mess.

"If you have such terrible allergies, why do you keep so many

她大声回答：“在找粉红色的线。”

——琼·黑利

我在附近超市的宠物专区买东西，听到一位太太在跟她丈夫说某个喂水器有多好多好。

“看啊，还有滤水器呢！”她把狗食盘递给丈夫看。

丈夫看问题的角度略有不同：“亲爱的，厕所的水他都喝。”

——詹姆斯·詹金斯

一位寂寞的女子买了只鸚鵡做伴。一周过去了，鸚鵡一个字也不说，于是，这位女子又去了宠物店，帮它买了面镜子。可还是不说话。第二周，她带回家一架小梯子。波莉还是金口不开。又一周过去了，她给它买了个秋千，可仍然从它嘴里套不出一个字。一周后，她发现鸚鵡躺在鸟笼的地板上，奄奄一息。鸚鵡撑足最后一口气，无力地说道：

“宠物店就没有食物卖吗？”

——露西尔·阿内尔

为什么黑寡妇蜘蛛在交配后要把伴侣杀掉？
以防被打鼾声所扰。

——阿兰娜·洛基特

一位售货员同事酷爱小动物，我们公司有一次开会，她突然过敏症犯了。咳嗽、鼻子一抽一抽、眼泪止不住往外涌……难受得够呛。

“你的过敏症这么严重，为什么还要养那么多宠物呢？”一位朋

pets?" asked a friend.

"Because"—sneeze, cough, hack—"if I'm going to be sick, I might as well have company."

—JOHN CALDWELL

I was admiring a picture on my design client's wall when she came up from behind and mentioned, "That's my mother and her dog."

"She's very attractive," I said.

"She was more like a friend, really. I miss her."

"She's no longer alive?" I asked.

"No. But my mother is."

—SANDRA BOLETCHER

A man and his dog go to a movie. During the funny scenes the dog laughs. When there's a sad part, the dog cries. This goes on for the entire film: laughing and crying in all the right places.

After the show a man who was sitting in the row behind them comes up and says, "That was truly amazing!"

"It sure was," the dog owner replies. "He hated the book."

—DONALD GEISER

There, in the reptiles section of our zoo, a male turtle was on top of a female behaving very, um, affectionately. My daughter was transfixed. She asked, "Mommy?"

Uh-oh, I thought. Here comes The Question. "Yes?" I said.

"Why doesn't he go around?"

—DAWN HOISINGTON

A guy drives into a ditch, but luckily, a farmer is there to help. He

友问。

“因为，”——她打了个喷嚏，接着咳了一阵——“要是我生病了，好歹也有个伴啊。”

——约翰·考德威尔

我正在欣赏需要设计服务的客户家的墙上挂着的一张照片，她从我身后走来，说：“那是我妈妈和她养的狗。”

“她很有魅力啊，”我说。

“她更像是朋友，真的，我好想她。”

“她已经过世了？”我问。

“是啊。不过我妈妈还在。”

——桑德拉·博莱特切克

一位男子带着他的狗去看电影。电影放到滑稽的地方，狗就哈哈大笑。感伤的情节出现时，狗就呜呜地哭。整部电影放映过程中一直这样：该笑的地方笑，该哭的时候哭。

电影结束后，坐在他们后排的一位先生走过来，说：“太不可思议了！”

“绝对是啊，”狗的主人回答说，“那书他倒不喜欢看。”

——唐纳德·盖泽

我们动物园的爬行动物区，一只公龟趴在一只母龟身上，动作，呃，相当暧昧。我女儿看呆了，问我，“妈妈？”

啊哦，我心想。终于要问我那个问题了。“什么？”我说。

“他为什么不到处去玩玩呢？”

——唐·霍伊辛顿

一男子把车开进了田沟沟里，不过，好在有个农夫帮忙。他把他的

hitches his horse, Buddy, up to the car and yells, "Pull, Nellie, pull!" Buddy doesn't move.

"Pull, Buster, pull!" Buddy doesn't budge.

"Pull, Coco, pull!" Nothing.

Then the farmer says, "Pull, Buddy, pull!" And the horse drags the car out of the ditch.

Curious, the motorist asks the farmer why he kept calling his horse by the wrong name.

"Buddy's blind," said the farmer. "And if he thought he was the only one pulling, he wouldn't even try."

A talking horse shows up at Dodger Stadium and persuades the manager to let him try out for the team.

In his first at bat, the horse rips the ball deep into right field—then just stands there.

"Run! Run!" the manager screams.

"Run?" says the horse. "If I could run, I'd be in the Kentucky Derby."

—CHARLES LEERHSEN

A guy finds a sheep wandering in his neighborhood and takes it to the police station. The desk sergeant says, "Why don't you just take it to the zoo?"

The next day, the sergeant spots the same guy walking down the street—with the sheep.

"I thought I told you to take that sheep to the zoo," the sergeant says.

"I know what you told me," the guy responds. "Yesterday I took him to the zoo. Today I'm taking him to the movies."

—TAMARA CUMMINGS

马巴迪套在车的前部，然后大喊：“拉，内利，拉啊！”巴迪没有挪动。

“拉，巴斯特，拉啊！”巴迪一动不动。

“拉，科科，拉啊！”不动。

接着农夫说，“拉，巴迪，拉啊！”然后，马就把车子拉出了田沟沟。

司机很是好奇，便问农夫为什么一直把马的名字叫错。

“巴迪是瞎子，”农夫说，“他要是知道只有他在拉车，那他肯定不干。”

一匹会说话的马来到道奇体育场¹，说服了经理让他参加比赛。

第一记击球，他把球打到了准确的地方——然后就站着不动了。

“跑！快跑啊！”经理尖叫道。

“跑？”马说，“要是我会跑，我就在肯塔基赛马场了。”

——查尔斯·里尔森

有个人在自家附近看到一只流浪羊，于是把它牵到警察局。前台的警官说：“为什么不带它去动物园呢？”

第二天，警官看到那个人在街上走着——牵着他的羊。

“我想我告诉过你带它去动物园，”警官说。

“你跟我说的我懂啊，”那人回答，“昨天我带它去动物园了。今天我要带它去看电影。”

——塔玛拉·卡明斯

1 道奇体育场 (Dodger Stadium)：位于洛杉矶的一个棒球场，是洛杉矶道奇队的主场。

An orangutan in the zoo has two books—the Bible and Darwin’s *Origin of Species*. He’s trying to figure out if he’s his brother’s keeper—or his keeper’s brother.

—SAMUEL J. STANNARD

The first thing I noticed about the pickup truck passing by the grocery store was the goofy-looking pooch sitting in the passenger seat wearing goggles.

The second thing was the rear bumper sticker, which read, “Dog is my copilot.”

—ANNA COOPER

A rabbit and a duck went to dinner. Who paid?
The duck—he had the bill.

Carrying two dead raccoons, a buzzard tries to check in at LAX for the red-eye to New York. “Sorry, sir,” says the ticket agent. “We allow only one item of carrion.”

—JANET HUGHES

Staring at an empty cage, a zoo visitor asks, “Where are all the monkeys?”
“It’s mating season,” the keeper replies. “They’re inside.”
“Do you think they’d come out for peanuts?”
“Would you?”

—DENNIS RICKMAN

Two men went bear hunting. While one stayed in the cabin, the other went looking for a grizzly. He soon found one. Taking aim, he fired his rifle, nicking the bear. Enraged, it charged the hunter, chasing

动物园的一头猩猩有两本书——圣经和达尔文的《物种起源》。他一直想搞明白，到底他是看守他兄弟的——还是他的看守人的兄弟¹。

——塞缪尔·J. 斯坦纳德

杂货店门口有一辆小货车开过，我首先留意到的是乘客座上坐了一只带着护目镜的狗，看上去傻里傻气的。

我注意到的第二件事，是汽车后部的保险杆贴纸上写着：“狗是我的副驾驶。”

——安娜·库珀

兔子和鸭子同去吃饭。谁付账？

鸭子——他有喙²。

秃鹰衔着两只死浣熊，在洛杉矶国际机场检票搭乘通宵航班去纽约。“对不起，先生，”检票员说，“我们只准带一块腐肉。”

——珍妮特·休斯

动物园里一位游客盯着一只空空的笼子，问：“猴子呢？”

“现在是交配期，”管理员回答，“它们在里面呢。”

“你觉得丢花生给它们吃，它们会出来吗？”

“要你你会吗？”

——丹尼斯·里克曼

两人同去猎熊。一人留守小木屋，另一人出去找灰熊，不一会儿就找到了一头。他瞄准目标，扳动了步枪，在熊身上打了个豁口。熊暴

1 圣经《创世记》(4: 9)中讲到，耶和华问该隐他兄弟亚伯在哪里，该隐说：“我不知道！我岂是看守我兄弟的吗？”而根据《物种起源》里讲的进化论，人是从大猩猩慢慢进化而来的。

2 bill既有“账单”的意思，也可以指“鸟嘴，喙”。

him back to the cabin. As the hunter reached the open cabin door, he slipped and fell. The bear tripped over him and rolled into the cabin. The man leaped up, slammed the cabin door shut, and yelled to his friend inside, "You skin this one while I go get another!"

"Can I purchase frogs for my new pond here?" a customer asked at our garden center.

"You don't buy frogs," I explained. "They just sort of choose where they live, then turn up."

"Right..." agreed the gentleman. "And is the same true with fish?"

—SAMANTHA DAVIS

A garden center customer picks up a container of insecticide and asks the salesperson, "Is this good for red ants?"

"No," says the salesperson. "It'll kill 'em!"

—DONALD CLEMENTS

A kangaroo orders a beer. He puts down a \$20 bill.

The bartender gives him \$1 in change and says, "Don't see a lot of kangaroos in here."

"At these prices," says the kangaroo, "I'm not surprised."

—CHARLES LEERHSEN

"What is that sound?" a woman visiting our nature center asked.

"It's the frogs trilling for a mate," Patti, the naturalist, explained. "We have a pair in the science room. But since they've been together for so long, they no longer sing to each other."

The woman nodded sympathetically. "The trill is gone."

—KATHYJO TOWNSON

怒，朝那人扑来，一路追着他到了小木屋。猎人到小木屋时，门开着，他摔倒在地上，把熊绊了一跤，熊咕噜噜地滚进了小木屋。那人一跃而起，砰地关上门，朝里面的朋友大喊：“你把这熊的皮剥了，我再去找一头！”

“我想买些青蛙放在新池塘里，这里有吗？”一位顾客在我们花卉中心问。

“青蛙不是买的，”我解释说，“它们自己会选住的地方，然后就出现了。”

“好吧……”那位先生答应着，“鱼是不是也一样啊？”

——萨曼莎·戴维斯

花卉中心里，顾客拿起一罐杀虫药，问售货员，“红蚁用这个好吗？”¹

“不好，”售货员说，“会杀了红蚁！”

——唐纳德·克莱门茨

一只袋鼠点了一杯啤酒，他放下一张20美元的纸钞。

酒保给了他1美元找零，说：“这里没有多少袋鼠光顾。”

“这种价格，”袋鼠说，“一点也不奇怪啊。”

——查尔斯·里尔森

“什么声音？”来参观我们自然中心的一位女士问。

“青蛙呱呱叫，在找伴侣呢，”帕蒂是博物学家，他解释说，“我们实验室里就有一对，可是他们在一起太久了，都不再唱歌吸引对方了。”

那位女士深有同感地点点头。“没有触电的感觉了。”

——凯西乔·汤森

1 顾客说Is this good for red ants?意思是Is this good for killing red ants?(杀红蚁管用吗?)他省略了kill这个动词，售货员就和他开了个玩笑。

When a lonely frog consults a fortune-teller, he's told not to worry. "You are going to meet a beautiful young girl," she says, "and she will want to know everything about you."

"That's great!" says the excited frog. "When will I meet her?"

"Next semester," says the psychic, "in biology class."

—ZHANG WENYI

During a trip to the zoo, we saw a sign posted next to the empty polar bear exhibit stating that the bear had died after eating a glove.

"The poor polar bear," remarked the woman standing next to us.

Her husband's slightly different reaction: "The poor guy wearing the glove."

—MELINDA ERICKSON

Spotted outside a veterinary hospital in Clinton, Utah: "Happy Father's Day! Neutering Special."

—SHARON NAUTA STEELE

The highlight of our zoo trip was a peacock showing off its plumage. My four-year-old son was particularly taken with it. That evening he couldn't wait to tell his father: "Dad, guess what! I saw a Christmas tree come out of a chicken!"

—CAROL HOWARD

Buffalo were roaming the range when a tourist passed by.

"Those are the mangiest-looking beasts I've ever seen!" he exclaimed.

One buffalo turned to another and said, "I think I just heard a discouraging word."

—JONATHAN BELL

一只孤单的青蛙去找算命人，算命人让他不要着急。“你马上就会碰到一位非常漂亮的姑娘，”她说，“她想知道你一切的事。”

“太棒了！”青蛙激动地说，“我什么时候能碰上她呢？”

“下个学期，”巫师说，“生物课上。”

——张文仪

有一回去动物园，我们看到空空的北极熊笼子边竖了一个标牌，说熊吃了一只手套就死了。

“可怜的北极熊，”站在我们边上的女人说。

她丈夫的反应略有不同：“戴手套的那人才可怜。”

——梅琳达·埃里克森

在犹他州克林顿市的一家兽医院外面看到的：“父亲节快乐！去势手术特价。”

——莎伦·璠塔·斯蒂尔

我们这趟动物园之行最精彩的部分，要属看到一只开屏的孔雀了。四岁的儿子看得尤其入神。那天晚上，他迫不及待地告诉爸爸：“爸爸，你知道吗！我看到一棵圣诞树居然长在了鸡的身上！”

——卡罗尔·霍华德

水牛在放牧场上踱着步，一位游客正好路过。

“这是我见过的最肮脏的动物了！”他惊呼道。

一头水牛转过身跟另一头说：“我刚刚听到一些不中听的话。”

——乔纳森·贝尔

Just as I was finishing my hike at Carl Sandburg National Historic Site in North Carolina, I heard a group of campers discussing recent bear sightings.

“If you meet a bear, don’t run,” one person said.

His friend seemed surprised. “Really? Why?”

“Because,” I interjected, “bears like fast food.”

—DENISE EDEN

在北卡罗来纳州卡尔·桑德伯格国家历史遗址的徒步旅行快要结束了，我听到一群露营的人在说最近有好多熊出没的事。

“要是碰上了熊，千万别跑，”一个人说。

他朋友看上去很惊讶。“是吗？为什么？”

“因为，”我插嘴说，“熊都喜欢快餐¹。”

——丹尼丝·伊登

1 快餐 (fast food)，也可以从字面上来理解，即“跑得快的食物”。



It's really humid in the woods, so the two hiking buddies remove their shirts and shoes. But when they spot a sign saying "Beware of bears," one of them stops to put his shoes back on.

"What's the point?" the other says. "You can't outrun a bear."

"Actually," says his friend, "all I have to do is outrun you."

—DON PAQUETTE

A farmer wonders how many sheep he has in his field, so he asks his sheepdog to count.

"So what's the verdict?" the farmer asks when the dog is done.

"Forty."

"Huh?" the farmer says, puzzled. "I only had 38."

"I know," the dog says. "But I rounded them up."

树林里湿气很重，两位出来徒步旅行的哥们把衬衫和鞋子脱了。当他们看到一个标志上写着“小心熊出没”时，其中一人赶紧停下来把鞋子穿上。

“有什么用啊？”另一人说，“你肯定跑不过熊的。”

“其实，”他朋友说，“我只要跑过你就可以了。”

——唐·帕克特

农夫想知道他田里养了多少头羊，就让牧羊犬出去数数。

“结果有多少？”农夫等牧羊犬数完后问。

“四十头。”

“嗯？”农夫满脸疑惑地说，“我以前只有三十八头啊。”

“我知道，”牧羊犬说，“我四舍五入的。”¹

¹ round up这个短语既可以表示“四舍五入”，又可以表示“将牲畜赶拢”，而后者正是牧羊犬的工作。

Life and Death

- Life in These Times
- Funny Thing about Aging
- Dying to Laugh
- Humor in Medicine
- Holy Jokes



生死篇

- 此时人生
- 年华老去
- 斯人已逝
- 医患幽默
- 上帝也疯狂

生活纵有起起落落，但也时有乐趣

▪ Life in These Times



Before I could enroll in my company's medical insurance plan, I needed to fill out a questionnaire. As expected, the form was very thorough, leaving nothing to chance. One question asked, "Do you think you may need to go to the emergency room within the next three months?"

—HAIFENG JI

A hot-air balloonist had drifted off course. He saw a man on the ground and yelled, "Excuse me, can you tell me where I am?"

"Yes," the guy said. "You're in a balloon."

"You must work in I.T.," the balloonist said.

"How did you know?"

"What you told me is technically correct but of no use to anyone."

"And you must work in management," the man on the ground retorted.

"Yup."

"Figures. You don't know where you are or where you're going, but you expect me to help. And you're in the same position you were in before we met, but now it's my fault."

—MICHAEL & EDITH MILLER

Moving back to Austin, Texas, after 10 years, I was surprised at how much the city had grown. I asked my real estate agent about the

■ 此时人生



要想参加公司的医疗保险计划，我得先填一张调查问卷。如我所料，表格上面面俱到，无任何疏漏。其中一道问题是：“您觉得在接下来的三个月里，您有可能去急诊室吗？”

——季海峰

一个驾着热气球的人偏离了飞行路线。他看到地面上有人，于是大喊：“请问你知道我现在是在什么地方吗？”

“知道啊，”那人说，“你在热气球里。”

“你肯定在IT领域工作，”热气球上面的人说。

“你怎么知道？”

“你刚跟我说的，从技术角度来说是对的，但是对任何人都没用。”

“那你肯定是做管理工作的，”地面上的人回驳。

“正是。”

“有道理。你不知道自己在哪儿，也不知道要去哪儿，希望我能帮你。我们还没遇上前，你就是这般处境了，而现在居然是我的错了。”

——迈克尔·米勒和伊迪丝·米勒

时隔十年，我搬回得克萨斯州奥斯汀市，惊奇地发现城市发展真是快啊。我问地产经纪人通勤的事，她说：“周一，高峰时间从五点开

commute. She said, “On Mondays, rush hour starts at 5. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, it starts around 4:30. On Thursdays, it starts at 4.”

“When does it begin on Fridays?” I asked.

“On Thursday.”

—KRISTIN HOLDGRAFER

In a recent poll one in four people said they’d donate a kidney to a complete stranger. Yeah, sure. Ninety percent won’t even let a stranger merge in traffic.

—JAY LENO *THE TONIGHT SHOW* (NBC)

His new hybrid car was my friend’s pride and joy. He was always bragging about it and boring his buddies to death.

As he was giving us a ride one day, he pontificated, “They should have a special lane for people who care about the environment.”

“They already do,” came a voice from the backseat. “It’s called a sidewalk.”

—JAMES SEWELL

Three contractors bid on a minor fence-repair job at the White House.

The first contractor, from Florida, comes in with a bid of \$1,000: \$400 for material, \$400 for labor and \$200 profit.

The second contractor, from Tennessee, says he’ll do the job for \$800: \$300 for material, \$300 for labor, and \$200 profit.

Then comes the contractor from New Jersey, who submits a bid of \$100,800.

“Why so much?” asks the startled government official.

“Well,” says the contractor, “I figure, \$50,000 for me, \$50,000 for

始。周二和周三，四点三十分左右开始，周四，四点开始。”

“那周五几点开始啊？”我问。

“从周四开始。”

——克里斯廷·霍尔德格拉夫

最近的一项民意测验显示，四人中就有一人说他愿意把肾脏捐给一个完全不认识的陌生人。是啊，太神奇了。90%的人甚至不愿意公共场合里有陌生人碰到他呢。

——杰伊·莱诺，《今夜秀》（美国全国广播公司）

朋友买了辆混合动力车，骄傲得意的那个劲儿，整天吹嘘那车有多好，朋友们听得耳朵上快生老茧了。

一天，他开车载着我们，自以为是地说：“应该为关心环境的人开辟一条专用车道。”

“已经有了，”一个声音从后座传来，“叫作人行道。”

——詹姆斯·休厄尔

三位承包商竞标白宫一处篱笆修理工作。

第一位承包商来自佛罗里达州，他的报价是1000美元：材料费400美元，人工费400美元，利润200美元。

第二位承包商来自田纳西州，他说他需要800美元：材料费300美元，人工费300美元，利润200美元。

轮到第三位来自新泽西州的承包商了，他的报价是100,800美元。

“为什么这么多？”政府官员吃惊地问。

“噢，”承包商说，“我想我拿50,000美元，你拿50,000美元，然

you, and \$800 for the guy from Tennessee to fix the fence.”

As I wandered down an aisle of my local warehouse store, I overheard the man next to me talking on his cell phone.

“Now is just not a good time for me. I need to concentrate on this,” he said, exasperated. “I’ll call you back when I get to the car.”

—MARTHA STEVENS

New York city straphangers were told over the subway PA to expect the expected: “Because of construction, this train will be making express stops. The MTA reminds all passengers that to better serve our customers, construction will be going on for the rest of your lives.”

—OVERHEARD IN NEW YORK

My husband placed a perfectly good set of used tires outside his garage with a sign that read “Free.” After a few weeks with no takers, he changed the sign to “\$20.”

The next day they were stolen.

—JEANNIE CABIGTING

I figured out how to cure the high divorce rate in this country. Have cell phone companies write the marriage contracts—you’ll never get out of them.

—BUZZ NUTLEY

I just got a GPS for my car, and my first trip with it was to a drugstore. Since the manual said not to leave it in the car unattended, I brought it with me into the store. While there, the GPS came alive, and a voice stated, “Lost satellite contact.”

后800美元付给田纳西州那人，让他修篱笆。”

我在本地一家商店的走道上闲逛，无意中听见边上有一位男子在打电话。

“现在时间不凑巧，我得集中注意力做眼前的事，”他恼火地说，“等回到车上再给你回电话。”

——玛莎·史蒂文斯

纽约城里，地铁广播正大声向乘客们播报，他们意料中的事也许会发生：“由于施工，列车停车的时间较短。纽约大都会交管局提醒所有乘客，为了更好地为乘客服务，施工将陪伴您的余生。”

——在纽约听来的

丈夫在车库外面放了一组很不错的二手轮胎，并立了个标牌，写着“免费”。几个星期过去了还是没有人来拿，于是他把标牌改成了“20美元”。

第二天，轮胎被人偷走了。

——珍妮·卡比丁

如何降低我国的高离婚率呢，我想出了一个办法。让移动电话公司帮着起草婚姻合同——那你这辈子都离不了婚了。

——巴兹·纳特利

我的车里新装了一个全球卫星定位系统，第一次用它是开车去药店。因为使用说明上说不要把它留在车内无人看管，于是我就带上它进了药店。在药店里，卫星定位系统又启动了，有个声音说道：“卫星连线已断。”

I wasn't embarrassed until a woman turned to me and said, "Your ankle bracelet monitor is talking to you."

—DAVID MCAFEE

Normal is getting dressed in clothes that you buy for work and driving through traffic in a car that you are still paying for, in order to get to the job you need to pay for the clothes and the car and the house you leave vacant all day so you can afford to live in it.

—ELLEN GOODMAN IN *THE BOSTON GLOBE*

We got a registered letter from the city clerk saying we were in arrears on property taxes. I rushed to our town hall to settle the matter. It turned out we had paid our taxes a day late and there was a fine. "How much?" I asked the clerk.

She checked her computer. "Eight cents. Anything else?"

"Yes," I said, counting out the pennies. "Just for the record, you spent 70 cents in postage to tell us this."

—SARAH SAPORT

Did you hear that General Motors is coming out with a new car? It's called the Filibuster, and it's supposed to run forever.

—BUZZ NUTLEY

One day at a local café, a woman suddenly called out, "My daughter's choking! She swallowed a nickel! Please, anyone, help!"

Immediately a man at a nearby table rushed up to her and said he was experienced in these situations. He calmly stepped over to the

我本来没觉得尴尬，直到一位女士跟我说：“你的电子脚环¹在跟你说话呢。”

——大卫·麦卡菲

做个正常人，就是穿上为上班而买的衣服，驾着你仍须还贷的车子，离开整天空着没人在的房子去单位上班，好挣钱为衣服车子买单，也才能住得起房子。

——埃伦·古德曼，《波士顿环球报》

我们收到一份政府单位寄来的挂号信，说我们拖欠了房产税。我赶忙跑去市政厅解决此事。后来发现我们晚了一天交税，必须缴纳罚金。

“罚金要多少？”我问办事员。

她看了看电脑。“八美分。还有其他事吗？”

“有啊，”我一边数着硬币一边说，“提醒你们一下，你们花了70美分的邮资告诉我们这件事。”

——萨拉·萨波特

通用汽车马上要推出一款新车，你听说没？叫飞步²，听名字像是可以永久开下去。

——巴兹·纳特利

某天在当地的一家咖啡馆里，一位女士突然大喊：“我女儿噎住了！她把五分镍币给吞下去了！大家帮帮忙啊！”

邻桌一位男子立刻冲上前去，说这种情况他有经验。他镇定地走到

1 ankle bracelet可译为电子脚环或电子脚镣，通常本宅软禁或假释期的嫌疑犯被要求佩带，确保其在警方可监控的距离范围内。文中的“我”被人误以为是嫌疑犯了。

2 filibuster原指在议会中，用滔滔不绝、冗长的发言来阻挠议事。用它做汽车名，让人感觉这车应该是像发言一样不会停。

girl, then with no look of concern, wrapped his arms around her and squeezed. Out popped the nickel.

The man returned to his table as if nothing had happened.

“Thank you!” the mother cried. “Tell me, are you a doctor?”

“No,” the man replied. “I work for the IRS.”

—MIKE THOMAS

The opposite of talking isn't listening. The opposite of talking is waiting.

—FRAN LEBOWITZ

Since he runs a pawnshop, I decided to ask a friend of mine to appraise my grandfather's violin. “Old fiddles aren't worth much, I'm afraid,” he explained.

“What makes it a fiddle and not a violin?” I asked.

“If you're buying it from me, it's a violin. If I'm buying it from you, it's a fiddle.”

—LARRY BICKEL

The plumber fixes a leak in the doctor's house—then bills him for \$1,000.

“This is ridiculous!” the doctor says. “I don't even charge that much.”

The plumber says, “Neither did I when I was a doctor.”

—JEFFREY RAIFFE

“Read all about it!” yelled the newsboy, hawking his papers on the corner. “Fifty people swindled! Fifty people swindled!”

Curious, a businessman bought a paper. “Hey,” he said, “there's

女孩身边，脸上丝毫没有慌张之色，他用手臂抱住女孩，用力一挤。五分镍币就掉出来了。

男子若无其事地回到自己的桌边。

“谢谢你！”那位母亲说，“告诉我，你是医生吗？”

“不是，”男子回答，“我在国内税务局上班。”

——迈克·托马斯

说的反面不是听。说的反面是等。

——弗兰·勒博威茨

我有一个朋友是开当铺的，我请他为我爷爷的小提琴估个价。“恐怕旧的劳什子不值什么钱，”他解释说。

“什么时候叫劳什子，而不叫小提琴啊？”我问。

“如果你从我这儿买，叫小提琴。如果你卖给我，就叫劳什子。”

——拉里·比克尔

水暖工帮医生家补了个漏洞——要价1000美金。

“太可笑了！”医生说，“我的收费都没这么高呢。”

水暖工说，“我以前当医生时也没这么高。”

——杰弗里·赖夫

“特大新闻！”卖报的小男孩在街角大声叫卖，“50个人被骗了！50个人被骗了！”

一个商人很好奇，于是买了一份。“喂，”他说，“上面没有写50

nothing in here about 50 people being swindled.”

“Read all about it!” yelled the newsboy again. “Fifty-one people swindled!”

The deafening car alarm outside the supermarket got everyone’s attention. So by the time I entered the store, this announcement was coming over the PA system: “Would the owner of a silver PT Cruiser please return to the parking lot? Your car is crying.”

—BOB NEWTON

Well, at least there’s one good thing about high gas prices: Whenever I fill the tank, I double the value of my car.

—ELIZABETH HAMILTON

So there I was, tearing my hair out trying to sign up for an online basketball pool. For my username, I offered terms like Hoops and Hangtime, only to be told, “That user ID is taken. Please select another.”

I realized I wasn’t the only frustrated one when I saw my last two entries were also taken: ForPetesSake and ThisIsInsane.

—GAIL WORKMAN

I think Ford names trucks by how many times you cuss when you fill them up: F-150, F-250...

—BUZZ NUTLEY

As a stockbroker gets out of his BMW, a car slams into the door, shearing it off. When the police arrive, the stockbroker is apoplectic.

“See what that idiot did to my beautiful Bimmer?” he shouts. “Do you know what this car cost?”

个人被骗了。”

“特大新闻！”卖报的小男孩又在喊了，“51个人被骗了！”

超市外震耳欲聋的汽车警报声引起了大伙的注意。等我走进超市时，广播里正在播报：“请银色PT漫步者的主人立刻去停车场，您的车大哭不止。”

——鲍勃·牛顿

油价这么高，至少有一件好事：每次油箱加满，我的车的价值就翻了一倍。

——伊丽莎白·汉密尔顿

我抓破了头皮，想在一家水上篮球游戏的网站上注册。填用户名时，我试了好几个，如“篮球框”啊、“滞空时间”啊之类的，屏幕上提示：“该用户名已被注册。请另选一个。”

我又试了两个，发现都已被用了，才知道泄气的不仅是我一个人，这两个名字分别为：“看在上帝的份上”和“这也太疯狂了”。

——盖尔·沃克曼

我觉得，福特给货车起名字时，是根据装货时你诅咒它的次数：F-150，F-250……

——巴兹·纳特利

一个证券经纪人从宝马上下来时，一辆车子撞上了他的车门，车门掉了下来。警察来了，证券经纪人一肚子怒火。

“看到那个白痴把我心爱的宝马撞成什么样了吗？”他大叫，“你知道这车值多少钱吗？”

“Sir,” says the officer, “you’re so worried about your car that you haven’t even noticed that your left arm was ripped off.”

The stockbroker takes a look at where his arm once was and screams, “Where’s my Rolex?”

My youngest son was in Montreal getting ready to leave for Australia. I spoke to him the night before he left and suggested he write me a letter once he was settled.

“You mean,” Todd said, “with a pen and paper?”

—JANET BINGLEY

Scientists now say that people should not use their cell phones outdoors during thunderstorms because of the risk of being struck by lightning.

You should also avoid using them in movie theaters because of the risk of being strangled.

—BEN WALSH

Our town tends to be politically active, so as the editor of the local newspaper, I’m used to getting phone calls about all sorts of important issues. That includes this message left on my voice mail after a recent election: “Would you give me a call and explain to me what we were voting on? I’d like to see if I voted the way I wanted to.”

—MATT LUBICH

When my friend phoned the IRS recently, he prefaced his comments by stating, “I’m calling with the stupid question of the day.”

The tired-sounding agent replied, “Too late.”

—CINDY MOORHEAD

“先生，”警察说，“您太担心车了，都没有注意到您的左臂掉了。”

证券经纪人看了一眼左臂的位置，尖叫道：“我的劳力士呢？”

小儿子人在蒙特利尔，准备前往澳大利亚。前一天晚上他临走前，我跟他聊天时说起让他一安顿好就给我写信。

“你是说，”托德说，“用笔和纸写？”

——珍妮特·宾利

如今，科学家会说，雷雨天不要在室外使用手机，因为有可能被闪电击中。

在电影院也尽量不要使用，因为有可能会被人掐死。

——本·沃尔什

我们小镇的公民政治意识非常活跃，因而作为当地报纸的编辑，我已经习惯了接到有关于各种各样重要问题的电话。就像最近一次选举刚结束，我的语音信箱里有一条留言：“您能给我回个电话，告诉我最近我们是为了什么投票的吗？我想看看我有没有按照我想的方式投票。”

——马特·卢比希

朋友最近给国内税务局打电话，在发表自己的感想之前先说：“我打电话来，是要问一个今日最傻之问题。”

对方操着疲惫的声音说：“你已经晚了。”

——辛迪·穆尔黑德

“QUOTABLE QUOTES

You have to remember one thing about the will of the people. It wasn't that long ago that we were swept away by the Macarena.

—JON STEWART

Life is too short to drink the house wine.

—HELEN THOMAS

People often overestimate what will happen in the next two years and underestimate what will happen in 10.

—BILL GATES, *THE ROAD AHEAD*

If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles.

—DOUG LARSON

Most of my life, if a man did something totally other than the way I thought it should be done, I would try to correct him. Now I say, "Oh, isn't that interesting?"

—ELLEN BURSTYN IN *O*

Think of life as a terminal illness, because if you do, you will live it with joy and passion, as it ought to be lived.

—ANNA QUINDLEN IN *A SHORT GUIDE*

TO A HAPPY LIFE

The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.

—DOLLY PARTON

The one thing that unites all human beings, regardless of age, gender, religion or ethnic background, is that we all believe we are above-average drivers.

—DAVE BARRY

Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps you in touch with your children.

—J. P. GETTY



“ 妙语连珠

生命太短暂了，没时间喝自家的酒²。

——海伦·托马斯

关于人民的意愿，你得记着一点。没多久之前，我们还为《马卡雷娜》¹疯狂呢。

——乔恩·斯图尔特

人们总是高估未来两年会发生的事，而低估未来十年会发生的事。

——比尔·盖茨，《前面的路》

如果人们能专注于生命中真正重要的东西，那钓鱼竿就要脱销了。

——道格·拉森

活了大半辈子，以前要是有人做某件事的方式跟我以为的正确方式完全不一样，我会想纠正他。而现在我只会说：“噢，挺逗的吧？”

——埃伦·伯斯泰因，《O》

把生活当作疾病晚期吧，因为这样一来，你就会带着喜悦和激情而活，而生活就应该这样。

——安娜·昆德伦，《如何幸福地生活》

我的看法是，如果你想要彩虹，就要能忍耐下雨。

——多利·帕顿

所有人，不论年龄、性别、宗教信仰或族裔，都不约而同地相信自己的驾驶水平超乎寻常。

——戴夫·巴里

钱不是万能的，可钱能保证你的孩子们不跟你断了联系。

——J. P. 格蒂

1 《马卡雷娜》是西班牙“河边人”二重唱组合的专辑，是世界上最成功的拉丁音乐唱片。

2 自家的酒 (house wine)，或家庭专用酒。北美很多家庭都有专用酒，就是口味适合家庭饮用、会长期购买的酒，一般价廉物美，经济实惠。



I was at a local festival and noticed a guy in bad circus makeup doing intricate balloon animals.

He was twisting something together when a little girl asked, "What are you making?"

He sighed, "Minimum wage."

—EMILY SHULTZ

What's the difference between a pigeon and an investment banker?
The pigeon can still make a deposit on a BMW.

—PAUL STRAMBERG

■ Funny Thing about Aging



For her 40th birthday, my wife said, "I'd love to be 10 again." So that Saturday, we had a heaping stack of chocolate-chip pancakes, her favorite childhood breakfast. Then we hit the playground and a merry-go-round. We finished the day with a banana split.

"So how did you enjoy being a kid for a day?" I asked.

"Great," she said. "But when I said I wanted to be 10 again, I meant my dress size."

—SEBASTIAN E., ON *CLASSIFIED GUYS*

I'm not keen on taking pills, so when my doctor gave me a prescription to lower my blood pressure, I asked him if there were any side effects.

"Yes," he said. "Longevity."

—BELLA KELLY

当地一个节日盛会上，我注意到有个化着很丑的马戏团妆容的人，正把气球做成一个个精致的小动物。

他正把气球扭到一块时，一个小女孩问他：“你在做¹什么？”

他叹道：“挣最低工资。”

——埃米莉·舒尔茨

鸽子和投资银行家的区别是什么？

鸽子仍旧可以在宝马上筑窝。²

——保罗·斯特拉姆伯格

▪ 年华老去



快过40岁生日了，妻子说：“能回到十该多好。”于是那个周六，我们买了一大堆巧克力煎饼，这是她小时候最喜欢吃的早餐。接着，我们去了游乐场，玩了旋转木马。晚些时候又吃了香蕉船。

“当了一天的孩子，感觉怎么样？”我问。

“太棒了，”她说，“不过我说回到十，指的是衣服的尺寸。”

——塞巴斯蒂安·E.，《分类信息报》

我不喜欢吃药，所以医生给我开降血压的药时，我问有副作用没有。

“有，”他说，“长寿。”

——贝拉·凯利

1 make既有“制作”的意思，也有“挣（钱）”的意思。

2 金融危机之后，鸽子还能在宝马上歇歇脚、筑个窝，可投资银行家没钱付买宝马的定金了。

Though I often pride myself on appearing younger than my 59 years, I had a reality check when I brought my mother back to the nursing home after a visit with us. As I struggled with her suitcases, two elderly gentlemen held the door open for me.

“We hope you will be very happy here,” one of them said to me.

—MARION CLOUSE

I was feeling pretty creaky after hearing the TV reporter say, “To contact me, go to my Facebook page, follow me on Twitter, or try me the old-fashioned way—e-mail.”

—LEE EVANS

To celebrate my retirement, my wife and I dined with a friend we hadn’t seen in years. The next day he sent us an e-mail that included—I hope—an honest mistake: “How wonderful it was to see you both aging.”

—LAWRENCE DUNHAM

Here’s one way of making sure a sales promotion won’t bankrupt your business. A sign in a local barbershop read “We offer senior-citizen discounts. Must be at least 80 years old and accompanied by a parent.”

—ROBERT MCGRORY

Not long after my grandfather bought my grandmother a pair of powerful—and expensive—hearing aids, Grandma accidentally washed her hair with them in.

“Oh, great,” she said to me. “If your grandfather finds out that I damaged these hearing aids, I’ll never hear the end of it.”

—JERE SANDBERG

虽然我常以为自己比实际年龄59岁看起来要年轻，为此也很得意，现实还是击碎了我的美梦。那回我母亲来我家住了几天后，我送她回养老院。我吃力地拎着她的行李箱，两位年长的绅士帮我打开门。

“希望你在这儿住得愉快，”其中一位跟我说。

——马里昂·克劳斯

听了电视主持人的话，我的心里怎么都不是滋味。“如想与我联系，可以登录我脸谱网的主页，关注我的微博，或是用老式的方法——电子邮件。”

——李·埃文斯

为了庆祝退休，我和妻子跟一个多年未见的朋友共进晚餐。第二天，他给我们发了一封电子邮件，里面出了个——我希望是——诚实的错误：“见到你俩都老了，我真开心。”

——劳伦斯·邓纳姆

以下是打促销而又不会让生意赔本的一种方法。我们当地的一家理发店里贴了一张广告：“我们为老年客户提供优惠。必须80岁以上，有父母的陪同。”

——罗伯特·麦格罗里

爷爷给奶奶买了一副非常管用——价格也不菲——的助听器后不久，奶奶就戴着它洗头了。

“哦，这下好了，”她跟我说，“如果被你爷爷发现我弄坏了助听器，我就听不完他的唠叨了¹。”

——杰雷·桑德伯格

¹ never hear the end of sth.意为某人唠叨个不完，同时，也可从字面上来理解，奶奶丢了助听器，爷爷唠叨什么她就再也不用听了。

We had a satellite dish installed on our roof, and my 22-year-old son was trying to teach me how to operate the remote. Since I am not the most technologically savvy person, it was not going well.

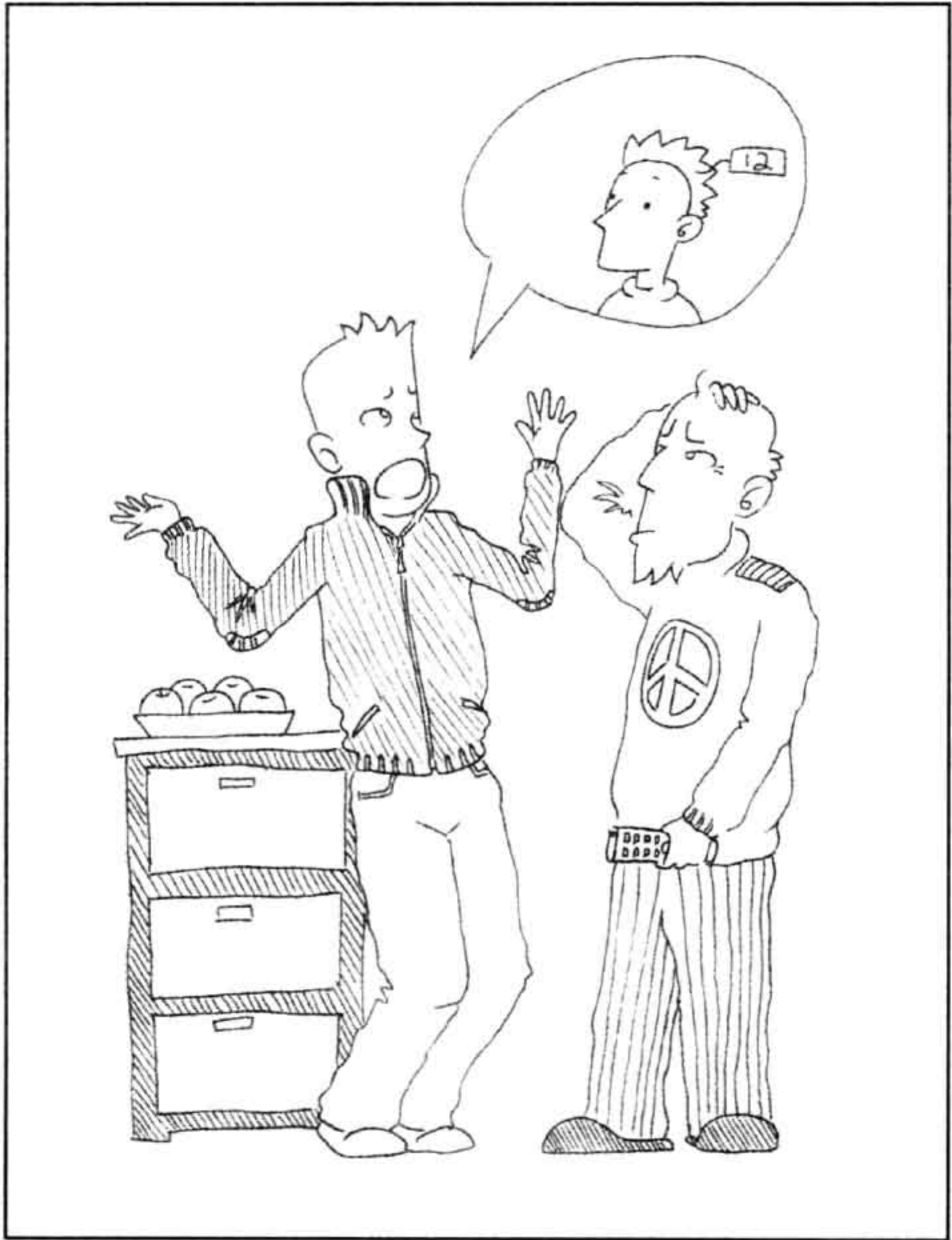
After repeating the instructions for the umpteenth time, he sighed, "This would be a lot easier if you were 12."

—PAULA MAHARREY

我们在房子的屋顶上安装了个卫星电视天线，我22岁的儿子在教我怎么用遥控器。我对科技一窍不通，所以进展不是很顺利。

他把如何使用讲了无数遍，最后叹道：“如果你12岁，就会简单多了。”

——葆拉·马哈雷



I recently ran into the woman who used to clean our house and was surprised to hear that she was still at it despite her advanced age.

“How do you manage it?” I asked.

She explained her secret: “I just keep clients who can’t see the dirt any better than I can.”

—MALCOLM CAMPBELL

No generation gap between me and my younger college classmates, I thought. Wrong. When a teacher used the expression “broken record,” a young man next to me asked, “What’s that mean?”

“Endless repetition,” I explained. “If a record were scratched, the needle would skip and play the same piece of music over and over.”

His face brightened. “Like a corrupted MP3 file?”

—CHRISTINA LINDSEY

Teaching is not for sensitive souls. While reviewing future, past and present tenses with my ninth-grade English class, I posed the question, “‘I am beautiful’ is what tense?”

One student raised her hand. “Past tense.”

—REEMA RAHAT

How can you tell you’re getting old?

You go to an antiques auction and three people bid on you.

A couple are getting ready for bed after a long day’s work.

“I look in the mirror, and I see an old lady,” the woman says to her husband. “My face is all wrinkled, and I’m sagging and bagging all over. And look at this flab on my arms.”

Her husband is silent.

“Hey!” she says, turning to him. “Tell me something positive to

前不久，我碰上一位曾经在我家帮忙打扫卫生的阿姨，她说她虽然年纪大了，可还在帮人打扫，我听后很是惊讶。

“你怎么做到的呢？”我问。

她跟我说了她的秘密：“只要我看不到的灰尘，客户也看不到就可以了，找那样的客户。”

——马尔科姆·坎贝尔

本以为我跟比我小的大学同学之间没有代沟呢。谁知不是。老师说到“损坏的唱片”时，坐在边上的小伙子问我：“什么意思？”

“无休止的重复，”我解释说，“如果一张唱片刮花了，唱针会跳过去，不断重复播放同一首曲子。”

他豁然开朗。“就像一个损坏的MP3文件一样？”

——克里斯蒂娜·林赛

敏感的人当不好老师。在九年级的英语课堂上，我们在复习将来、过去和现在时态，我提了个问题：“‘我很漂亮’是什么时态？”¹

一位学生举手说：“过去时。”

——雷玛·拉哈特

怎么能知道自己在变老？

你去一个古董拍卖会，三个人向你出价。

漫长的一天工作下来，一对夫妻正准备睡觉。

“我照镜子，看到里面一位老太太，”女人跟她丈夫说，“脸上全是皱纹，全身的肉松垮垮的。看看我手臂上松垂的肉。”

她丈夫一言不发。

“喂！”她说，转身面对他，“跟我说说好的方面，让我自我感觉

¹ 正确答案是现在时。

make me feel better about myself.”

“Well,” he says, “your eyesight is still great.”

—JEFFREY RAIFFE

For my 75th birthday my son gave me a beautiful purse and filled it with 75 one-dollar bills. The next day I went shopping and pulled out my fat wad of singles.

The cashier’s eyes bugged out of her head. “Are you a cocktail waitress?” she asked.

“No,” I replied, counting out my money. “An exotic dancer.”

—HELEN KLEIN

Feeling listless, I bought some expensive “brain-stimulating” pills at the health-food store. But it wasn’t until I got home that I read the label.

“This is just rosemary extract,” I complained to my husband. “I can’t believe I spent all that money for something that I have growing like wild in the yard!”

“See?” he said. “You’re smarter already.”

—SUSANNE HIGBEE

The antiaging ad that I’d like to see is a baby covered in cream, saying, “Ah! I’ve used too much!”

—COMIC ANDREW BIRD

A nurse friend of mine took a 104-year-old patient for a walk in the hospital corridor. When she got him back to his room and sat him down, he took a deep breath and announced, “That was great! I don’t feel a day over 100!”

—MARY CIPOLLONE

好些呀。”

“哦，”他说，“你的视力还是很好。”

——杰弗里·赖夫

我75岁生日，儿子送给我一个很漂亮的皮夹，里面塞了75张一元钞票。第二天，我去买东西，抽出一沓厚厚的钞票。

收银员的眼珠都快蹦出来了。“您是鸡尾酒服务员吗？”她问。

“不是，”我一边回答，一边数着钱，“外国舞女。”

——海伦·克莱因

我感觉没精打采的，就去保健品店买了些昂贵的“兴奋大脑”的药片。可是回到家我才注意看上面的标签。

“只是迷迭香精华，”我跟丈夫抱怨说，“真不敢相信，我居然花了那么多钱，买了些自家院子种满了的东西！”

“看见没？”他说，“你已经聪明多了。”

——苏珊·希格比

我最喜欢看的抗衰老广告，是一个涂满乳霜的宝宝，说：“啊！我用了太多了！”

——喜剧演员安德鲁·伯德

我一位当护士的朋友陪一位104岁的病人在医院的过道里散散步。等把他送回病房，扶他坐好后，只见他深深吸了一口气，说：“太棒了！我一点也不觉得自己已经100多岁了！”

——玛丽·西波隆

My friend's grandmother was in the hospital and was fading fast. When he visited her the next day, he was delighted to find her alert and on the mend. "You really gave us a scare," he said. "We thought you were going to buy the farm."

"I'm fine," she reassured him. "I was just checking out the property."

—RICK HOSMER

When I checked into a motel, I noticed a card in our room indicating that guests 55 or older received a seniors' discount. As a newly minted 55-year-old, I returned to the front desk armed with photo ID. Imagine my chagrin when the clerk told me he had already given me the discount!

—JACKIE GREENHALGH

My friend was looking at home-gym equipment with her husband. She stepped on a treadmill and said, "Honey, if you buy this for me, I will look like I did in high school."

"Sweetheart," he said gently, "it's a treadmill, not a time machine."

—LORETTA NISSEN

Even though she's been teaching English for 25 years, my mother never felt her age was an issue, until the day she helped a student with a report on the Vietnam War. Mom recognized the name of a war correspondent mentioned in the textbook and blurted, "I used to go out with him!"

Peering up from his work, another wide-eyed student asked, "You dated someone from our history book?"

—SHANA GREEN

朋友的奶奶住院了，整个人不行了。第二天，他去医院看她，发现她已在康复中了，整个人很精神。“奶奶你真的把我们吓坏了呢，”他说，“我们还以为你要买农场¹了呢。”

“我很好，”她安慰他说，“我先前只是在看地。”

——里克·霍斯默

入住汽车旅馆后，我发现房间里有张卡片，说55岁及以上的顾客可以享受老年人折扣价。我刚满55岁，于是带上有照片的身份证回到前台。接待员告诉我说，已经给了我折扣时，你可以想象得出我有多苦恼了吧！

——杰基·格林哈尔希

朋友跟她丈夫在看家用健身器。她踏上跑步机说：“亲爱的，要是你买这个给我，我就会跟高中时一样年轻了。”

“宝贝，”他温柔地说，“这是跑步机，不是时间机器。”

——洛蕾塔·尼森

妈妈虽然教了25年的英语，但从来不觉得自己上了年纪，直到某一天她辅导一位学生写一篇越战的作业。妈妈认出了教科书上一位战地记者的名字，脱口而出说：“我以前跟他约过会！”

旁边另一个学生眼睛睁得大大的，从书本上抬起头问：“你跟我们历史书上的人约过会？”

——莎娜·格林

¹ buy the farm意为归山、去世。

A neighborhood photography studio offered a special that few could resist. The sign read:

Now shooting seniors for free.

—LINDA CANTRELL

Inspirational speaker Dr. Wayne Dyer still remembers the card his kids gave him for his 64th birthday. The front said, “Inside is a message from God.”

Pleased they finally appreciated his work, he opened it to read, “See you soon!”

—CHRISTINE KITTO

Sadly, in the nightclub world, bald singers don’t fare well—hence my reason for buying a hairpiece. When I asked my accountant if I could write off the toupee as an expense, he hesitated. Then he changed his mind.

“All right,” he said finally, “I’ll put it down as an overhead.”

—GEORGE SIMPKIN

We invite grandparents to a special day at our school, culminating in a photo op with grandparent and grandchild posing in front of a colorful display from a history class.

Only after the last shot was snapped did we notice what appeared above each grandparent’s head: a banner screaming, “Discover the Ancient World.”

—DEBBIE WOOSTER MILLER

I heard an older woman complain about her aches. But her friend one-upped her: “I woke up this morning and thought I was dead

邻里有一家摄影工作室在搞特价活动，叫人无法阻挡。招牌上写着：

现在射杀老年人免费。¹

——琳达·坎特雷尔

极具感召力的讲演家韦恩·戴尔博士至今仍记得64岁生日时孩子们送他的卡片。封面上写着：“里面是上帝给你的信。”

他很开心，以为孩子们终于能赞赏他的工作了，打开一读：“不久就要见到你了！”

——克里斯蒂娜·基托

夜总会的世界里，秃顶歌手可混不好——这就是我要买假发的理由。我问会计，假发能不能计入开销，他犹豫了一会。后来他又改变主意了。

“好吧，”他最后说，“我就写吊顶²吧。”

——乔治·辛普金

我们邀请了爷爷奶奶们参加学校的一个特殊活动，最后一个安排是老人和他们的孙子孙女站在一大排五颜六色的历史课展览前合影。

最后一记快门按下后，我们才发现每位爷爷奶奶的头顶上，都有一个大横幅，上面写着“发现古老的世界”。

——戴比·伍斯特·米勒

我听见一位年纪比我大的女士在抱怨身上的疼痛。不过她朋友比她

1 shoot最常用的意思是“射（箭等）”，另一个意思是“拍（照、电影等）”，显然，此商家的意思是，老年人拍照免费，但它的广告牌引起了歧义。

2 overhead既有“经常开支，管理费用”的意思，也有“吊顶，舱顶”等释义，此处为双关。

because nothing hurt.”

—NANCY KUNKEL

I walked into the music store to buy a CD of Rachmaninoff’s Second Piano Concerto. I found the hip-hop, R&B, country, and jazz sections, but no area where I might look for Rachmaninoff.

“Excuse me,” I said to a young store clerk. “Do you have a classical section?”

After a brief hesitation she asked, “You mean...like Elvis?”

—TOM LISKER

Man, times have officially changed since I was a kid. I was at the mall with my daughter when we saw a man with a patch over his eye. My daughter said to me, “What is he trying to quit?”

—BUZZ NUTLEY

There was no way I was going to allow myself to go gray while only in my 30s. So I dyed my hair. Later, I modeled the new look for my husband. “Well, do I look five years younger?” I asked.

“No,” he said. “But your hair does.”

—STACY OATES

A guy sees a beautiful woman at the other end of the bar. He walks up to her and says, “Where have you been all my life?”

“Well,” she says, “for the first half of it, I wasn’t even born.”

—ROBERT GABBITAS

Even at age 88, my mother was vain about her looks. At a party an old friend exclaimed, “Edith, you haven’t changed in 20 years!”

更厉害：“今天早晨醒来时，我以为我死了呢，因为哪儿都不痛了。”

——南希·孔克尔

我走进一家音像店，想买拉赫玛尼诺夫第二钢琴协奏曲的CD。我找到了嘻哈音乐、R&B、乡村音乐和爵士音乐区，就是没有卖拉赫玛尼诺夫的地方。

“请问，”我问一位年轻的售货员，“你们这里有古典乐区吗？”
她迟疑了片刻，问：“您是说……埃尔维斯¹这样的？”

——汤姆·利斯克

天哪，现在的时代跟我小时候真不一样了。我与女儿在购物中心，我们看见一个男子，一只眼睛上戴了眼罩。女儿问我：“他想逃避什么呢？”

——巴兹·纳特利

我才三十多岁，才不要让头发变白呢。所以我就去染发了。过后，我摆了个姿势让丈夫看我的新造型。“怎么样，我看上去有没有年轻五岁？”我问。

“没有，”他说，“不过你的头发倒是有。”

——斯泰西·奥茨

一男子看到酒吧的另一头坐了位非常漂亮的女士。他走过去，说：“我活到现在，你怎么才出现在我生活中呢？”

“哦，”女子说，“你活前半生时，我还没出生呢。”

——罗伯特·加比塔斯

母亲88岁了，可对外貌还是很在乎。一次派对上，一个老朋友惊

1 埃尔维斯·普雷斯利(Elvis Presley)：“猫王”，美国摇滚歌手，活跃于20世纪五六十年代。

“Oh,” said Mom, horrified. “I hope I didn’t look like this 20 years ago.”

—JIM BRADING

I’m bald—well, balding. I like to say “balding” because it sounds more productive. And I don’t like to say I’m losing my hair, because that makes it sound like had I been more responsible, this wouldn’t have happened. “Where’s your hair?” “I lost it. You know me. Where are my keys?”

—ISAAC WITTY, AS HEARD ON ROOFTOPCOMEDY.COM

The woman in front of me at the motor vehicles office was taking the eye test, first with her glasses on, then off. “Here’s your license,” the examiner said when she was done. “But there’s a restriction. You need to wear glasses to drive your car.”

“Honey,” the woman declared, “I need them to find my car.”

—NICOLE HAAKE

Some of us took our friend, an older woman, out to lunch to celebrate her birthday. When the waitress came to take our order, one of the women told her, “This is a special occasion. Elsie is 92 today.”

The waitress made seven instant enemies and one friend by asking, “Which one is Elsie?”

—ANONYMOUS

Two neighbors appeared in court, each woman accusing the other of causing trouble in their building.

“Let’s get to the evidence,” the judge said in an effort to end their bickering. “I’ll hear the oldest woman first.”

呼：“伊迪丝，20年了你居然没变！”

“噢，”母亲惊恐地说，“希望20年前我没像现在这样。”

——吉姆·布罗丁

我谢顶了——哦，是正在谢顶。我喜欢说“正在谢顶”，因为听起来没那么绝望。我不喜欢说我在掉头发，因为感觉就像是如果我负责任些，头发就不会掉了。“你的头发呢？”“掉了。你知道我的。我的钥匙呢？”

——艾萨克·威蒂，在屋顶喜剧网上听来的

机动车办事处，在我前面的女士在做视力测试，先戴着眼镜测，然后摘下再测。“这是你的驾照，”她测完后，测试官说，“不过有个限制。你开车时必须戴着眼镜。”

“亲爱的，”女士说，“我得戴着眼镜才能找到车。”

——妮科尔·哈基

我们带一位年纪稍长的朋友出去吃午饭，庆祝她的生日。女服务员过来帮我们点菜时，其中一位告诉她：“今天是个特殊的日子，是埃尔西92岁的生日。”

女服务员一下子结识了七个敌人和一个朋友，因为她问：“谁是埃尔西？”

——佚名

两个邻居来到法庭上，互相指责对方给大楼添了麻烦。

“我们看看证据吧，”法官想让她们别再吵了，“年纪大的那位先说。”

The case was dismissed for lack of testimony.

The thing you need to focus on in your 20s is not getting a bad tattoo. You don't want to be 40 and going, "No, dude, it was different back then—everyone loved SpongeBob."

—TOM PAPA IN *TIME OUT NEW YORK*

An elderly couple with memory problems are advised by their doctor to write notes to help them remember things.

One evening, while watching TV, the wife asks her husband to get her a bowl of ice cream. "Sure," he says.

"Write it down," she suggests.

"No," he says. "I can remember a simple thing like that."

"I also want strawberries and whipped cream," she says. "Write it down."

"I don't need to write it down," he insists, heading to the kitchen.

Twenty minutes later he returns, bearing a plate of bacon and scrambled eggs. "I told you to write it down!" his wife says. "I wanted fried eggs!"

—WENDY LEVINE

"You know when you're getting old," my friend said, "when you tell your best friend you're having an affair and she asks, 'Is it catered?'"

—BOB ROYER

The kids in my third-grade class were struggling with the day's lesson on homonyms. I'd said the word I and wanted them to guess the soundalike word eye, but they just couldn't.

Finally, I pointed to my eye. Bingo! One boy got it. He shouted out,

因为缺少证言，这个案件最后不了了之。

二十多岁时，千万要注意别往身上刺不讨巧的文身。你可不想到了40岁，说：“不，哥们，当时不一样——大家都喜欢海绵宝宝。”

——汤姆·帕帕，《休闲纽约》

一对上了年纪的夫妇记性不好，医生建议他们写下随身纸条，可以帮助记忆。

一天晚上在看电视时，妻子让丈夫去拿冰淇淋。“好的，”他说。

“写下来，”她建议说。

“没必要，”他说，“这么简单的事我能记着。”

“我还要草莓和鲜奶油，”她说，“写下来。”

“不用写，”他坚持说着，朝厨房走去。

20分钟过后，他回来了，托着一盘培根和炒蛋。“跟你说了写下来的！”妻子说，“我要的是煎蛋！”

——温迪·莱文

“你知道自己什么时候在变老，”我朋友说，“当你告诉你最好的朋友，你跟人有暧昧关系¹，她问你，‘提供餐饮吗？’”

——鲍勃·罗耶

我三年级班上的孩子们，正学到一课讲同音异义词的。我说了I这个词，希望他们来猜发音相同的另一个词eye，但是没有人猜到。

最后，我指了指自己的眼睛。嘿！一个男孩猜到了。他大叫了出

¹ affair可以指“恋爱关系”、“暧昧关系”，也可以指聚会等。

“Crow’s-feet!”

—JANE RAY

The remote for our television broke, so my son went to get a new one at the electronics store. Later he called. “Mom, I forgot to bring it with me. What’s the brand?”

I glanced at it. “It’s a Volch.”

“A what?”

“V-o-l-c-h,” I spelled.

“Mom,” he sighed, “that’s short for Volume and Channel.”

—JOAN WHITE

When a storm blew in around our cruise ship, an older woman on deck struggled to hang on to her hat and keep her skirt from flaring up at the same time. My wife ran over to help. “Should I hold your skirt down?” she asked.

“Forget about that,” the woman yelled. “I’ve got an 85-year-old body. This hat is brand-new.”

—MIKE DREA

■ Dying to Laugh



Most businesses like that our credit card machines automatically print, “Thank you, please come again,” at the bottom of receipts. Though one guy called to ask if I could take it off.

“Sure,” I said. “But do you mind my asking why?”

来：“鱼尾纹！”

——简·雷

家里电视机的遥控器坏了，儿子于是去电器商店买一个新的。过后，他打电话回来。“妈妈，我忘了把旧的那个带上。是什么牌子的？”

我看了看。“Volch的。”

“什么？”

“V-o-l-c-h，”我拼给他听。

“妈妈，”他叹道，“那是声音和频道的缩写。”¹

——琼·怀特

我们在游轮上，一阵大风吹来，站在甲板上的一位年长的女士赶紧按住帽子，同时还要按着裙子不让它飘起来。我妻子赶忙跑去帮忙。

“要我帮您按住裙子吗？”她问。

“那个不用了，”女士大喊道，“我这85岁的身子没人要看。这帽子倒是新买的。”

——迈克·德雷

■ 斯人已逝



我们的信用卡机会在收据的底部自动打印“谢谢，欢迎再次光临”，大多数公司都很喜欢。然而，有个人打电话来，问我能不能把那行字取消掉。

“当然可以，”我说，“不过能告诉我理由吗？”

1 声音的英文是volume，频道是channel，各取其前几个字母，组成缩合词Volch。

"It just seems inappropriate," he answered. "We're a funeral home."

—MICHELLE BALLARD

During my uncle's wake I saw two of his friends peer into the open casket. "Doesn't Stanley look good?" said one.

"He should," said the other. "He just got out of the hospital."

—MARY KINNEY

Lying on his deathbed, the rich, miserly old man calls to his long-suffering wife. "I want to take all my money with me," he tells her. "So promise me you'll put it in the casket."

After the man dies, his widow attends the memorial service with her best friend. Just before the undertaker closes the coffin, she places a small metal box inside.

Her friend looks at her in horror. "Surely," she says, "you didn't put the money in there."

"I did promise him I would," the widow answers. "So I got it all together, deposited every penny in my account, and wrote him a check. If he can cash it, he can spend it."

Junk mail for my father-in-law clogged our mailbox months after he passed away. Usually I tossed the stuff, but one envelope made me hesitate. In bold letters it promised, "Here's that second chance you hoped for!"

—ERREN KNIGHT

An acquaintance of ours was—how do I put this delicately?—not well loved. So when he died, I was amazed to see how many people showed up for his funeral.

“这在我们这儿显得不大合适，”他回答，“我们是开殡仪馆的。”

——米歇尔·巴拉德

为叔叔守夜时，我看见他两个朋友偷偷朝开着的棺材里看。“斯坦利的脸色是不是很好？”其中一个说。

“应该很好啊，”另一个说，“他刚刚从医院出来呢。”

——玛丽·金尼

一个富有的吝啬鬼临终前把他受尽折磨的妻子叫到床前。“我想把所有的钱都带走，”他跟她说，“答应我，你会把钱放在棺材里的。”

守财奴死后，妻子与她的好朋友一起出席了葬礼。就在工作人员要盖上棺材时，她把一个小的金属盒放了进去。

她朋友吃惊地看着她。“你该不会，”她说，“把所有钱都放在里面了吧。”

“我答应过他，”寡妇回答说，“于是我就把所有钱放在一起，存进了我的账户，然后给他写了张支票。如果他能换成现金，就可以用了。”

丈人刚去世的几个个月内，写给他的垃圾邮件塞满了我们的邮箱。我一般会即刻清理掉，不过有一封让我犹豫了一会。信封上用粗体字写着：“这里有您一直期待的第二次机会！”

——埃伦·奈特

我们认识的一个人——怎么委婉地说呢？——不怎么招人喜欢。所以当 he 去世后，看到有这么多人出席葬礼我很惊讶。

"I'm not surprised," said my husband. "As P. T. Barnum said, 'Give the people what they want, and they'll show up.'"

—JOYCE FITZSIMMONS

My father, a gravedigger, was told to prepare for a funeral. But on the day of the service, it was discovered that he had dug up the wrong plot. Luckily for him, the deceased's daughter was very understanding.

"Poor Dad," she lamented. "He always complained he could never find a parking space."

—EMILY WILLMOT

Pillsbury spokesman Pop N. Fresh died yesterday, at 71. In attendance at the funeral were Mrs. Butterworth, the California Raisins, Hungry Jack, Betty Crocker and the Hostess Twinkies.

Fresh rose quickly in show business, but his career was filled with many turnovers. He was not considered a smart cookie, wasting much of his dough on half-baked schemes. Still, even as a crusty old man, he was a roll model for millions.

Fresh is survived by his second wife. They have two children and one in the oven.

The funeral was held at 3:50 for about 20 minutes.

—CHARLES SULLIVAN

“我一点也不觉得奇怪，”丈夫说，“P. T. 巴纳姆¹曾经说过，‘予人所欲，众人皆至。’”

——乔伊斯·菲茨西蒙斯

我爸爸是挖墓人，别人请他挖个墓地准备葬礼。不过在葬礼当天才发现，他挖错了地方。幸亏死者的女儿很能体谅人。

“可怜的爸爸，”她悲叹道，“他生前总是抱怨找不到停车位。”

——埃米莉·威尔莫特

皮尔斯伯里的发言人波普·N.弗雷什于昨天去世，享年71岁。出席葬礼的有巴特沃斯牌煎饼糖浆、加州葡萄干、“饥饿的杰克”快餐连锁店、贝蒂妙厨和“满足女主人”甜点。²

弗雷什在演艺界出名得很快，但他的职业生涯波折不断。他算不上是个机灵的小子，在半生不熟的行当里砸了很多钱。但是，虽然一把年纪了脾气还很急，他依然是无数人心中的榜样。³

弗雷什与遗孀——他的第二任妻子——有两个孩子，其中一个还在娘胎里。

葬礼于3:50举行，整个过程持续了20分钟。

——查尔斯·沙利文

1 菲尼亚斯·泰勒·巴纳姆 (Phineas Taylor Barnum)，19世纪美国有名的马戏团经理人兼表演者。

2 这几个均为食品品牌。

3 在描写弗雷什的生平时，作者用了很多跟食品业相关、同时在俚语中也普遍使用的词，这映衬了弗雷什作为面粉公司皮尔斯伯里的发言人的身份。这些词有smart cookie (机灵的小子，cookie原指曲奇饼干)、dough (钱，另一个意思是生面团)、half-baked schemes (半生不熟的行当)、roll model (心中的榜样，roll有圆面包的意思)，以及下文的in the oven (在娘胎里，oven也可指烤箱)。

A customer named Willie Smith called our dry cleaners looking for his suit.

“We have a William Smith,” I told him.

“No, Willie Smith,” he insisted. I looked in our logbook and discovered that the suit had been picked up by the sister of William Smith. I phoned her, then got back to Willie.

“You’re not going to believe this,” I said. “But William died and was buried in your suit.”

“Well, you’re not going to believe this,” he said. “I was at that funeral. And I remember thinking, What a nice suit William’s wearing.”

—CARL POWALIE

It was my four-year-old’s first time at a funeral, and I wanted to make sure he behaved at the cemetery.

“What is the most important rule to remember?” I asked.

He thought for a while, then answered, “Don’t dig up the bodies?”

—STACIE TERREAULT

Leaving a funeral, my 13-year-old son dropped a heavy question on me: “What will happen to us if you and Dad die?”

My young daughter knew: “We’d go in the limo.”

—CHERYL ROBERTS

As I shampooed his carpet, an elderly client began to tell me what a wonderful woman his recently deceased wife was.

“Bless her soul, we had 35 happy years together,” he said, pausing to reminisce. Looking up, he added, “That ain’t too bad outta 50.”

—STEPHEN PRYJDA

一位名叫威利·史密斯的顾客给我们干洗店打电话，说要找他的西装。

“有个叫威廉·史密斯的客户，”我跟他说。

“不是，是威利·史密斯，”他纠正说。我看了下工作簿，发现西装被威廉·史密斯的妹妹取走了。我给她打过电话后，再给威利回了电话。

“几乎不敢相信，”我说，“威廉去世了，下葬时穿着你的西装。”

“好吧，我接下来说的你也不会相信，”他说，“葬礼我还去的，记得当时心里想，威廉穿的这西装可真不赖。”

——卡尔·波瓦利

我四岁大的孩子第一次参加葬礼，我得确保他在墓地不捣蛋。

“最要紧的是什么，还记得吗？”我问。

他想了一会，回答我说：“不要挖尸体？”

——斯塔西·泰雷尔特

从葬礼上出来，我13岁的儿子扔给我一个沉重的问题：“如果你和爸爸死了，我们怎么办呢？”

我们的小女儿知道：“我们坐着豪华车去。”

——谢里尔·罗伯茨

我帮一位年长的顾客洗地毯时，他跟我说起他刚刚去世的妻子人有多好。

“愿她的灵魂得到安息，我们在一起快乐地生活了35年，”他说着陷入了回忆中。接着，他抬起头又说了一句：“结婚50年，能这样挺不错了。”

——史蒂芬·普里西达

Following a funeral service, the pallbearers are carrying the casket out of the church when they accidentally bump into a wall. From inside the coffin they hear a faint moan. Opening the lid, they find the man inside alive! He leaps out, performs a little jig, and lives another 10 years before eventually keeling over.

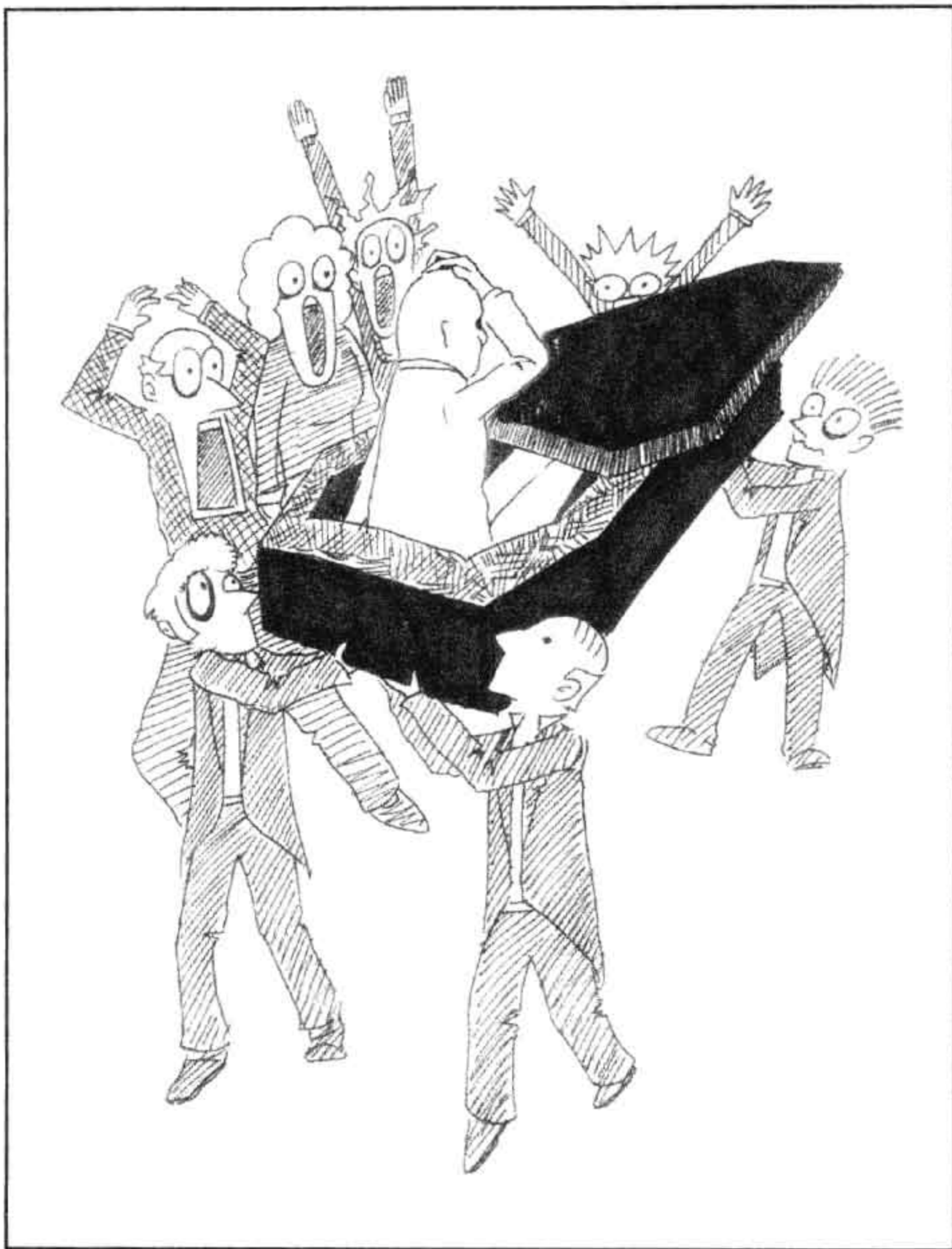
Once again, a ceremony is conducted, and at the end the pallbearers carry out the casket. As they head toward the doors of the church, the wife of the deceased leaps to her feet and shouts, "Watch the wall!"

—DORIS POOLE

一次葬礼上，抬棺柩的人把棺材抬出教堂时，不小心撞在了墙上，只听见从棺材里传来一声轻微的呻吟。打开棺盖，发现里面的人活过来了！他跳出来，表演了一小段舞，然后又活了十年才倒地。

葬礼又一次举行了，快结束时，抬棺柩的人把棺材抬出去。正朝教堂门口走去时，死者的妻子一跃而起，大呼：“小心墙壁！”

——多丽丝·普尔



Before he made the big time, actor Ray Liotta held a less glamorous job working in a cemetery. Though some might have been put off by it, Liotta told the women on *The View* that he didn't mind the gig.

"I had a hundred people under me, and it was quiet," he said.

—JOSEPH BLUDIS

A lawyer dies and goes to heaven. "This must be a mistake," he says to Saint Peter at the golden gates. "I'm too young to die. I'm only 50."

"Fifty?" says Saint Peter. "According to our calculations, you're 82."

"How'd you get that?"

"We added up your billable hours."

The burial service for the elderly woman climaxed with a massive clap of thunder, followed by a bolt of lightning, accompanied by even more thunder. "Well," said her husband to the shaken pastor when it ended, "she's there."

—NORM SCHMITZ

During a funeral the organist played a beautiful rendition of Bach's "Sheep May Safely Graze" as the casket was carried out of the church. After the service the minister complimented him on his performance. "Oh, by the way," the minister asked, "do you know what the deceased did for a living?"

"No idea," said the organist as he began packing up.

The minister smiled. "He was a butcher."

—PETER LUNN

When Luciano Pavarotti died, the TV newscaster insisted that the

演员雷·廖塔在成名前干的工作可不怎么诱人，他在公墓上班。有些人可能不愿意做这样的工作，可廖塔告诉《观点》节目的女主持¹他不介意。

“我脚底下躺着一百多号人，周围静极了，”他说。

——约瑟夫·布卢迪斯

一位律师死后进了天堂。“肯定弄错了，”他在金门²与圣彼得说，“我太年轻了，还没到死的时候。我才50岁。”

“50岁？”圣彼得说，“据我们计算，你82岁了。”

“你们怎么算的？”

“我们把你计时收费的时间全加起来。”

一位老妇的葬礼进行到高潮处，天空响起了巨大的雷声，接着一道闪电划过，然后又雷声不断。“噢，”雷声停下时，老妇的丈夫跟吓坏了的牧师说，“她显灵了。”

——诺姆·施密茨

葬礼上，棺材从教堂里抬出去时，风琴手优美地奏起了巴赫的《羊可平安吃草》。葬礼过后，牧师称赞他弹得不错。“噢，对了，”牧师问，“你知道死者生前是做什么的吗？”

“不知道，”风琴手一边收拾一边说。

牧师笑了笑。“他是屠夫。”

——彼得·伦恩

卢恰诺·帕瓦罗蒂去世时，电视新闻主持人说，这位男高音的葬礼

1 《观点》(The View) 是美国ABC电视台一档脱口秀节目，由几位女性担任主持人。

2 金门：有些人相信，天堂是个事实上存在的地方，它有具体的大小，门是金色的，不过圣经中对此没有详细的记载。

tenor's funeral would not be a sad affair but rather a celebration of his life, featuring the opera world's greatest stars. "With so many celebrities and dignitaries in attendance, who wouldn't want to be at the funeral?" the reporter asked.

My daughter knew: "Pavarotti."

—HOLLY HASSELBARATH

"As another year rolls in," read an ad in our paper, "we'd like to offer our best wishes to all of you who have given us reason to celebrate." It was signed, "Gunter's Funeral Homes."

—JAN ASLIN

■ Humor in Medicine



The teenage boy seemed placid as I approached his hospital bed to give him a psychiatric evaluation. His mother was seated nearby, immersed in her knitting.

I walked over and introduced myself to the boy. He looked right through me and started screaming: "I can't see! I can't see!"

I had never witnessed such a dramatic example of hysterical blindness. "How long has this been going on?" I asked his mother.

Without looking up, she replied, "Ever since you stepped in front of his television."

—ISAAC STEVEN HERSCHKOPF, MD, IN *THE NEW YORK TIMES*

My patient in the hospital had led a tough life, and it showed—he

不会是悲恸的场景，会是对他一生的怀念，歌剧界众多名人均会出席。

“有这么多名人显贵出席，这样的葬礼谁不想参加呢？”

我女儿说她知道：“帕瓦罗蒂。”

——霍利·哈塞尔巴拉特

“新的一年到来之际，”报纸上的一则广告写道，“谨向关爱我们的新老客户，致上最真挚的祝福。”署名是：“冈特殡仪馆。”

——简·阿斯林

▪ 医患幽默



我去一个十几岁的小男孩病床边，为他做精神检查时，他看上去挺平静的。他妈妈坐在一边，埋头打毛线。

于是我走过去，向男孩介绍说我是谁。他使劲朝我后面看，然后大叫：“我看不见了！我看不见了！”

我从来没碰到过这么戏剧化的癔病性失明。“这样的情况持续多久了？”我问他妈妈。

她连头也没抬，回答我说：“自从你站在他电视机前就开始了。”

——艾萨克·史蒂文·赫施科普夫博士，《纽约时报》

医院里，我负责的那位病人生活很艰辛，你看他——衣冠不整、头

was disheveled and unkempt. Recently, while he was in a particularly somber mood, I was combing his hair when he mumbled, "It's hopeless."

"Don't say that," I insisted. "It's not hopeless. You just need to make a decision to change your life and seek help. You'll see, things will start looking up!"

Turning around, he said, "I was talking about my hair."

—NADINE GINTHER

A psychiatrist gets a frantic call. "You've got to help me, Doctor," a woman says. "My husband thinks he's a big opera star. He sings every night at the top of his lungs! *Aida! Rigoletto! Traviata!*"

"Send him to me," the shrink says. "I'll see what I can do."

A week later the woman calls again. "Doc, I don't know how you did it! He's not singing nearly as much. Did you cure his delusion?"

"No," says the psychiatrist. "I just gave him a smaller part."

—MARY LODGE

One of our patients wasn't taking any chances. Prior to her operation, she taped notes all over her body for the surgeon: "Take your time," "Don't cut yourself," "No need to rush," "Wash your hands," etc.

After surgery, as I helped her back into her bed, we discovered a new note taped to her, this one from the doctor: "Has anyone seen my watch?"

—ALBERTA ALLEN

Part of my job on the hospital's cardiac floor was shaving patients from chin to toe in preparation for bypass surgery. The women tended to be fine with this procedure, but not the men. One guy in particular gave me a rough time, refusing to let me come near him. Finally, I made

发蓬乱。近来，他的心情特别低落，我帮他梳头发时，他喃喃自语：“没希望了。”

“别那么说嘛，”我劝他，“还是有希望的。只要你下定决心改变生活，让别人帮你。你会发现，一切都会好转的！”

他转过头说：“我是说我的头发。”

——娜丁·金瑟

一位精神病专家接到一通紧急电话。“你要帮帮我啊，医生，”一位女子说，“我丈夫以为他是歌剧大明星，每天晚上扯着嗓子大唱！《阿依达》！《弄臣》！《茶花女》！”

“带来我看看，”心理医生说，“看看我能不能帮上忙。”

一周后，女子又打来电话。“医生，不知道你是怎么做到的！他现在唱得没以前多了。你治好了他的幻想症吗？”

“不是，”精神病医生说，“我只是让他演一个小一点的角色。”

——玛丽·洛奇

我们一个病人凡事都谨小慎微。动手术前，她在自己身上贴满了纸条，提醒医生：“慢慢来不急”、“别切到自己了”、“没必要赶时间”、“请洗手”等等。

手术完后，我扶着她回到床上，发现她身上贴了一张新的纸条，是医生贴的：“有人看到我的手表了没？”

——艾伯塔·艾伦

我在医院的心脏科上班，我工作的内容包括帮要做搭桥手术的病人剃掉毛发，从下巴到脚趾。整个过程下来，女士一般没有问题，但男士不一样。有一位男子尤其让我伤脑筋，他怎么都不愿意我靠近他。最

a suggestion that helped him overcome his shyness.

"If you like," I told him, "I can do this with my eyes closed."

—MARSHEA LEWIS

After transporting hospital patients from one floor to the next, I stopped to chat with a new volunteer. "I work in patient transfer," I told him. "I push people around."

Not the type to be one-upped, he countered, "I work at the information desk. I tell them where to go."

—RALPH JOHNSON

"Hello, nurse," said a rabbi, phoning me at our hospital nurses station. "I got a call that a patient wanted to see me, but I'm not sure which one it was."

Clueless myself, I took a wild stab. I walked into a room, woke the patient, and asked, "Did you request a rabbi?"

"No," she said sleepily, "I ordered the chef's salad."

—MARGARET KRAFT

Before writing a prescription for my young daughter, the pediatrician asked her if she was allergic to anything. Erica whispered something in his ear.

That night, before giving her the medicine, I read the directions on the bottle. The doctor had warned, "Do not take with broccoli."

—JOHN JOHNSTON

I was on line in the cafeteria of the hospital where I work when I overheard a doctor ask an anesthesiologist how his day was.

"Good," came the response. "Everyone's woken up so far."

—JENNA GALAZEN

后，我只能提了个建议，好帮他克服羞怯。

“如果你需要的话，”我跟他说，“我可以闭上眼睛帮你剃。”

——马什亚·刘易斯

我把医院的病人从一层楼送至另一层，碰上一位新来的志愿者，我于是停下来和他聊聊。“我做病人运输工作，”我说，“我把病人推来推去。”

他可不是愿意服输的人，他回敬道：“我做问询工作，我告诉别人去哪里。”

——拉尔夫·约翰逊

“喂，护士小姐，”一位拉比打电话到医院护士站，“我接到电话说，有一位病人要见我，但我不确定是哪一位。”

对此我也一无所知，于是只能随便逮住一个人问问。我走进一间病房，叫醒那位病人，问：“你有请拉比吗？”

“没有，”她睡眼惺忪地说，“我点了主厨沙拉。”

——玛格丽特·克拉夫特

在开药方前，小儿科医生问我的小女儿有没有对什么东西过敏。埃丽卡在他耳朵边叽里咕噜说了一会。

那天晚上，给她吃药前，我读了读药瓶上的注意事项。医生写了：“别与西兰花一起服用。”

——约翰·约翰斯顿

我在医院工作，在食堂排队时，听见一位医生问麻醉师今天怎么样。

“挺好，”麻醉师回答，“到目前为止所有人都醒过来了。”

——詹娜·加拉泽

Whatever happened to “First do no harm”? While I was paying my bill at my doctor’s office, I noticed blood trickling down my leg. The Band-Aid they had put on me after a procedure had come loose.

“I’m bleeding all over your floor,” I said to the receptionist.

She looked up immediately, alarmed. “Thanks for telling me. I’ll call housekeeping.”

—TRACY KRAFT-THARP

Visiting the psych ward, a man asked how doctors decide to institutionalize a patient.

“Well,” the director said, “we fill a bathtub, then offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient, and ask him to empty the tub.”

“I get it,” the visitor said. “A normal person would use the bucket because it’s the biggest.”

“No,” the director said.

“A normal person would pull the plug.”

—JOSH ROBERTS

A woman called our hospital switchboard requesting an ambulance. “You need to dial 911,” I said.

“Okay,” she answered. “And they’ll have the phone number for the ambulance?”

—SONYA SQUIRRELL

“I hate taking my allergy medicine,” my friend Mikayla complained. “The stuff makes me groggy.”

“Why not stop?” I asked.

“Well, it does work. So I guess that means I’d rather be dopey or sleepy than sneezy.”

—SARAH POLEYNARD

他们没学过“不作恶原则”¹吗？在医生的办公室里结账时，我发现血正顺着大腿往下流。治疗过后他们给我贴的创可贴松了。

“我把地板上滴得全是血，”我对接待员说。

她随即抬起头，一脸担心的样子。“谢谢你告诉我，我马上叫保洁人员。”

——特蕾西·克拉夫特-撒普

一位男子在参观精神病院，他问医生怎么决定病人是否该入院治疗。

“这个啊，”院长说，“我们在浴缸里装满水，给病人一把调羹，一只茶杯和一个水桶，让他把浴缸里的水清理掉。”

“我懂了，”来访者说，“正常的人会用水桶，因为水桶最大。”

“不是，”院长说。

“正常人会拔掉水塞。”

——乔希·罗伯茨

一位女子给我们医院的总台打电话，要叫一辆救护车。“您应该拨911，”我说。

“好吧，”她回答说，“他们有救护车的电话号码？”

——索尼娅·斯圭勒尔

“我讨厌吃抗过敏的药，”朋友米凯拉抱怨说，“吃了那东西，整个人头昏无力。”

“那为什么还要吃呢？”我问。

“哦，也有效果的。我想昏昏沉沉恍恍惚惚欲睡，总比喷嚏连天来得好。”

——萨拉·波利纳德

1 医学伦理学中的“不作恶原则”（First do no harm），指“鉴于特定的情况，最好什么也不做，总比冒险作为带来危害的好”。

Say what? I was phoning a specialist to make an appointment. A woman picked up and announced, "Urology. Can you please hold?"

—FREDERICK KOENIG

Sitting in the orthopedic surgeon's office cradling my broken hand, I racked my brains but couldn't come up with the medical term for my scheduled procedure. "Excuse me," I said to the physician's assistant. "What's the term doctors use for setting a broken bone?"

He grinned. "Billable procedure."

—PAUL SMITH

A man goes to his doctor and hands him a note that says, "I can't talk! Please help me!"

"Okay," says the doctor. "Put your thumb on the table."

The man doesn't understand how that will help, but he does what he's told. The doctor picks up a huge book and drops it on the man's thumb.

"AAAAAAAAAAA!" the man yells.

"Good," says the doctor. "Come back tomorrow, and we'll work on B."

—L. B. WEINSTEIN

In order to process a medical claim, I asked a patient's mother to send details of her son's accident to me at our hospital's business office. The boy had suffered a broken arm, so the file was coded "Treatment of limb." Aptly so, I thought, after reading her description of the accident: "My son was running through the yard and turned into a tree."

—KIMBERLY SHERRELL

怎么回答好呢？我给某个专家门诊打电话预约。一位女士接的电话，说：“泌尿科，请您稍等。”

——弗雷德里克·凯尼格

我坐在整形外科医生的办公室里，骨折的手臂吊着，绞尽脑汁也想不起来医生安排我做的治疗，医学叫法是什么。“抱歉，”我对医生的助理说，“把断了的骨头接起来，医生管这叫什么？”

他咧嘴一笑。“赚钱疗法。”

——保罗·史密斯

一名男子去看医生，递给医生一张纸条，上面写着：“我说不了话了！请帮帮我！”

“好吧，”医生说，“把你的拇指放在桌上。”

男子不明白这怎么会帮上忙，不过还是照做了。医生拿起一本很重的书，狠狠地砸在了男子的拇指上。

“AAAAAAAAAAA！”男子大叫道。

“很好，”医生说，“明天再来吧，明天我们练B。”

——L. B. 温斯坦

我请一位病人的母亲把她儿子事故的详细报告送到我们医院的商务办公室，以便帮他处理医疗索赔。那男孩子的手臂骨折，因此，资料的编号是“手臂¹治疗”。读完她写的事故经过，我想资料编号真是没错：“我儿子在院子里跑，突然变成了棵树²。”

——金伯利·谢雷尔

1 limb既可以指树枝、树干，也可以指人的四肢（腿、臂），此处是双关。

2 turn into是“变成……”，另一个极为相似的短语是run into（撞上），文中那位母亲的意思应该是后者，误写了前者。

A patient at my daughter's medical clinic filled out a form. After "Name" and "Address," the next question was "Nearest Relative." She wrote, "Walking distance."

—GIA SPOOR

Patients, beware: Doctors and nurses are writing things on your charts behind your back.

- "Hourly observations should be taken every half-hour."
- "At the beginning of treatment, the patient should be taken into the treatment room, where a member of the nursing staff will get familiar with him."
- "Encourage the patient to eat; if he does not, supplement the diet with smacks."
- "I calmed the patient down by calling her names quietly."
- "The patient has been depressed since I started nursing her."

—JOHN WIGHTMAN

One crazy day in our pediatric clinic saw me hand a young patient a urine-sample container and tell him to fill it up in the bathroom.

A few minutes later he returned to me at my nurses station, holding the empty cup in his hand. "I didn't need this, after all," he said. "There was a toilet in there."

—LINDA FEIKLE

My doctor swore that my colonoscopy would be painless, but the nurse made it seem otherwise. "The lab," she said, "will call to set a date for your screaming."

—DEBBIE MASTERSON

女儿的诊所有一位病人填一份表格。“名字”和“地址”后的问题是“最近的亲戚”。她写了“步行即可到”。

——吉亚·斯普尔

病人们，注意啦：这是医生和护士瞒着你们在表格上写的话。

“每隔一小时进行的检查改为每隔半小时做一次。”

“治疗一开始，要先把病人带至治疗室，一名护理人员先与他混熟。”

“鼓励病人吃饭；如果不吃，就说要是吃了饭菜，就送响吻。”

“我轻轻呼唤病人的名字，让她安静下来。”

“从我护理这位病人开始，她就一直情绪低落。”

——约翰·怀特曼

那是疯狂的一天，小儿科诊所里，我递给一位年幼的病人一个验尿容器，让他去洗手间装满尿。

几分钟过后，他回到护士站，手里拿着那小杯子，空空的。“我没用上这个，”他说，“里面有马桶的。”

——琳达·费克勒

医生跟我保证，结肠镜检查不会痛的，不过护士的言语却让我觉得会很痛。“手术室，”她说，“会为你的尖叫安排一个时间。”

——戴比·马斯特森

At the dentist's office for oral surgery, I was handed a couple of forms to fill out. As I signed the first one, I joked with the receptionist: "Does this say that even if you pull my head completely off, I can't sue you?"

"No, that's the next sheet," she said. "This one says you still have to pay us."

—LAWRENCE MARQ GOLDBERG

Three psychiatrists agree that people always come to them with their problems, but they have no one to go to with theirs, so they decide to listen to one another's deepest, darkest secrets.

The first confesses, "I'm a compulsive shopper, deeply in debt. So I always overbill patients."

The second admits, "I have a drug problem, and I pressure my patients into buying drugs for me."

The third says, "I know it's wrong, but no matter how hard I try, I just can't keep a secret."

—L. B. WEINSTEIN

When my mother hit her head at work, she suffered a nasty gash and bled all over her blouse. It was bad enough that the hospital gave her a donated T-shirt. Imagine my surprise, then, when I got to the ER and found the woman who raised me with two black eyes and stitches on her forehead, wearing a T-shirt that read, "I Survived the Grand Rapids Pub Crawl."

—SEAN PARKER

Mary decides to consult a diet doctor. "What's the most you've ever weighed?" he asks her.

我去牙医的办公室做口腔手术，接待员递给我几张表格填一下。我签完第一张后，跟接待员开玩笑说：“这个是说即便你们把我的头完全拧下来，我也不能起诉你们，对吧？”

“不是，那个是下一张，”她说，“这一张是说你还得付我们钱。”

——劳伦斯·马克·戈德堡

三位精神病专家一拍即合，认为人们总是带着麻烦来找他们，而他们自己有麻烦却无人可诉，于是决定互相倾诉心底最深处、最说不出口的秘密。

第一位坦白道：“我有购物强迫症，已经欠下一大笔债了。所以我跟病人的要价总是很高。”

第二位承认说：“我有毒瘾，我强迫病人为我买毒品。”

第三位说：“我知道这不对，但是不管我多努力，总也守不住秘密。”

——L. B. 温斯坦

妈妈上班时撞到了头，头上裂开很大一道伤口，衬衫上沾的全是血。糟糕的是，医院给了她一件别人捐的T恤换上。想象一下吧，我一到急诊室，发现把我养大的妈妈两只眼睛下面重重的黑眼圈，前额上缝了好几针，穿的T恤上印着“大急流域夜店一族”¹的字样。

——西恩·帕克

玛丽决定去看减肥医生。“你体重最重时多少？”医生问她。

¹ 大急流域(Grand Rapids)是美国密歇根州的一个城市。

“One hundred fifty-nine pounds.”

“And the least?”

“Six pounds, four ounces.”

—SYBIL CARR

Prior to his biopsy, a patient confessed to a fellow nurse just how nervous he was. “Don’t worry,” the nurse assured him. “You’re just having a little autopsy.”

—ANNE SANTORO

You can’t blame the woman for being upset. After all, she was delivering her baby in our hospital elevator.

“This is nothing,” said my fellow nurse, trying to console the new mother. “Last year a friend of mine helped a woman deliver her baby on the front lawn of the hospital.”

The patient began to wail. “That was me!”

—STEPHANIE NIEDERBERGER

Proofreading an instruction manual for a hospital ventilator, I did a double-take when I came across this questionable troubleshooting tip: “If the problem persists, replace patient immediately.”

—ADRIAN URIAS

On my first day working at a psychiatric hospital, I met a friendly man who assured me that the staff was great. “You’ll like it here,” he said.

“Good to know,” I said. “Thanks.”

That afternoon, we assembled for a round of meetings with our patients. Standing among them was my new friend.

“159磅。”

“最轻呢？”

“6磅4盎司。”

——西比尔·卡尔

做活检前，病人跟护士说他很紧张。“别担心，”护士安慰他，“只是做一个小小的尸检嘛。”

——安妮·桑托罗

那位女士如此难过也是情有可原。毕竟，她可是在我们医院的电梯里生下了宝宝。

“这没什么，”身为护士的同事安慰这位新妈妈，“去年，我朋友帮一个女的在医院前面的草坪上把孩子生下来了呢。”

病人放声大哭起来。“那就是我！”

——斯蒂芬妮·尼德贝格尔

在校对医院通风设备的使用说明时，我发现其中一个检修技巧有问题，我愣了一会才恍然大悟：“如果问题继续存在，请立即换一位病人。”¹

——阿德里安·乌里亚斯

去精神病医院上班的第一天，我碰到一位很友善的人，他告诉我医院的工作人员人都很好。“你会很喜欢这里的，”他说。

“谢谢相告，”我说，“谢谢。”

当晚，我们集合在一起，和病人开一轮会议。站在病人群中的就有我这位新朋友。

¹ replace既有“代替”、“更换”的意思，也有“把……放回原位”的意思。说明书的原意应该是“请立即让病人出去”，但引起了歧义。

"Psst, get over here," he whispered, giggling.

"What's so funny?" I asked.

"You were standing in the staff's section."

—KEVIN SU

Maybe I was overreacting, but I couldn't help worrying about the quality of care at the local hospital. On a form titled, "Some Questions for Our Pregnant Patients," the very first item was:

"1. Gender? (check one) M__ F __."

—JENNIEY TALLMAN

When my wife gave birth to our son, she shared a room with a woman whose last name was Pope. One day their doctor came in and asked me how things were going.

"Fine," I answered. "How are you?"

"Great!" he said. "So far this morning, I've circumcised a Bishop and a Pope."

—JOE BISHOP

"I'm afraid you've only got three weeks to live," the doctor told his patient.

"Then I'll take the last two weeks of July and the week between Christmas and New Year's."

—GEORGE NORDHAM

When the patient was wheeled into the emergency room, I could tell he was out of it. I asked if he knew the date. He didn't.

"Do you know what season it is?"

“嘘，快过来，”他咯咯地笑着，轻声唤我过去。

“什么这么有意思啊？”我问。

“你站到工作人员的地方了。”

——凯文·苏

也许是我反应过激了，但我真没办法放心本地医院的医护质量。一张题为“孕妇信息表”的表格上，第一项便是：

“1.性别？（选择一个）男_____女_____。”

——珍妮·托尔曼

妻子生儿子时，跟一位姓波普的女士同住一间病房。一天，医生进来，问我一切可好。

“挺好的，”我回答说，“你怎么样？”

“很好！”他说，“今早为止，我已经割了一个毕晓普和一个波普了。”¹

——乔·毕晓普

“你恐怕只能再活三个星期了，”医生跟病人说。

“那我要七月的最后两个星期，还有圣诞节和新年之间的那个星期。”

——乔治·努德哈姆

病人被推进急诊室时，我能看出他神志不清了。我问他知不知道今天几号。他不知道。

“你知道现在什么季节吗？”

1 Bishop在做姓时，译为“毕晓普”，通常情况下，它的意思为“主教”；Pope在做姓时，译为“波普”，通常情况下意为“教皇”。犹太教和伊斯兰教里有行割礼的习俗，而基督教、天主教一般不实行割礼，用洗礼的仪式替代了。

He thought a moment. "Baseball?"

—A. H.

One diagnostic-imaging center claims that its high-tech medical procedures are second to none. The center's newspaper advertisement proclaimed, CT Colonoscopy:

No Scope, No Sedation, No Recovery.

—FLORENCE CRUMLEY

Our friend Kathy, a school nurse, took one look at the emergency card filled out by a student's mother and knew she had to give the woman a call. "It says here that your son's allergic to Sicilians," Kathy said.

"He is," came the reply. "He's allergic to all of the Sicilians. You know, penicillin, amoxicillin..."

—RUTH PERSON

The pharmacist arrives at work to find a frightened-looking man leaning against the wall.

"What's wrong with him?" the pharmacist asks his clerk.

"He wanted cough medicine, but I couldn't find any, so I gave him a laxative."

"Laxatives won't cure a cough," yells the owner.

"Sure they will. Look at him. He's afraid to cough."

An elderly woman is being examined by a young physician. After about four minutes in the examination room, she bursts out of the door. Spotting an older doctor, she tells him what happened.

Astounded, he marches down the hallway toward his young

他想了会儿。“棒球季？”¹

——A. H.

一家影像诊断中心称，他们的高科技医学诊疗是首屈一指的。该中心在报纸上登的广告里说，CT结肠镜检查：

无需观测镜，无需麻醉，无需康复。

——弗洛伦斯·克拉姆利

我朋友凯西是校医院的护士，她看了看一位学生的母亲填写的急救卡，发现要给那位女士打个电话了。“上面写了您儿子对西林过敏，”凯西说。

“是的，”电话那头回答说，“他对任何一种西林都过敏。知道吧，就是盘尼西林、阿莫西林……”

——露丝·珀森

药剂师到药店时，发现一名一脸惊恐的男子，正斜靠在墙上。

“他怎么了？”药剂师问接待员。

“他要买治咳嗽的药，但我没找到，就给了他一剂泻药。”

“泻药不是用来治咳嗽的，”药剂师大叫。

“当然可以。你看看他，都吓得不敢咳嗽了。”

一位年轻的内科医生正给一位老妇检查身体。大约四分钟后，老太太从检查室里夺门而出。瞧见一位年长些的医生，她立刻跟他说了发生的事。

医生很是讶异，大阔步地穿过走廊，去找那位年轻的同事。

1 在一年中，美国的四大球——橄榄球、棒球、篮球和冰球各有其赛季，例如，无特殊情况的话，橄榄球赛季是从9月到12月，棒球赛季是从4月到10月。

colleague.

“What’s the matter with you?” he demands. “That woman is 74! Why would you tell her she’s pregnant?”

The young doc asks, “Well, does she still have the hiccups?”

—GINGER SIMPSON

Following my husband’s physical exam, the doctor delivered some bad news. “Your white blood cells are elevated,” he said.

“What does that mean?” I asked.

Looking concerned, the doctor explained, “Up.”

—MERNA JOHANNESSEN

As I was admitted to the hospital prior to a procedure, the clerk asked for my wrist, saying, “I’m going to give you a bracelet.”

“Has it got rubies and diamonds?” I asked coyly.

“No,” he said. “But it costs just as much.”

—EILENE COOK

A man walks into a bar and orders six whiskeys. Putting them in a row, he downs the first glass, then the third and finally the fifth.

“Excuse me,” the bartender says as the man turns to leave. “But you left three glasses untouched.”

“I know,” the man says. “My doctor says it’s okay to have the odd drink.”

—JEE WAN YAU

My husband, an auto mechanic, was on the kidney transplant list, and as you can imagine, it was a tense time for our family. But one day the phone rang, and our teenage son answered. It was the hospital with

“你是怎么回事？”他问，“那位老太太已经74岁了！你为什么跟她说她怀孕了？”

年轻的医生问：“噢，那她还打嗝吗？”

——金杰·辛普森

丈夫体检完后，医生说了一些坏消息。“你的白细胞数上涨了，”他说。

“什么意思？”我问。

医生一脸担忧地解释说：“就是变多了。”

——梅纳·约翰内森

在治疗之前，我住进了医院，护理人员让我把手腕伸出来，说：“我要给你戴个手镯。”

“上面有红宝石和钻石吗？”我忸怩地问。

“没有，”他说，“可价格也不比那便宜。”

——艾琳·库克

一位男子走进酒吧，要了六杯威士忌。他把六个杯子排成一排，先一口气喝光了第一杯，接着第三杯，最后喝了第五杯。

“不好意思，”男子转身离开时，酒保说，“您还有三杯没喝呢。”

“我知道，”男子说，“医生说喝奇数杯¹就没问题。”

——姚洁婉

丈夫是汽车修理工，他在等合适的肾做移植，可以想象，我们全家都很紧张。某天电话响了，是我们十几岁的儿子接的。是医院打来的，

1 odd有多个意思，可以作“奇数”讲，也可以作“少量”讲。显然，医生的意思是，酒喝少量是可以的。

good news. "Dad," he yelled excitedly. "Your parts are in!"

—BETTE LARSEN

When I was at the hospital being prepared for surgery, the floor nurse asked, "Which eye is to be operated on?"

I answered, "The left eye is the right eye. The right eye is the wrong eye."

—WILLIAM SHANK, IN *THE NEW YORK TIMES*

▪ Holy Jokes



A famous director goes to heaven.

"Boy, are we glad to see you," Saint Peter says. "God has the perfect project for you."

"I'm done making movies," the director says. "I just want to rest."

"But you'd have a dream crew. Mozart has signed on to write the score, Michelangelo will design the sets, and Shakespeare is hard at work on the screenplay."

"Wow! How can I say no to that? I'm in."

"Fabulous. There's just one thing," Saint Peter says. "God has this buddy who thinks he can act..."

The bishop spoke to the congregation about the priest and nun shortage.

"Too many of you are only having one child and letting them go off into other professions. I propose that each family should have three

告诉我们好消息。“爸爸，”他兴奋地大喊，“你的零部件到了！”

——贝特·拉森

我在医院里等着做手术，楼层护士问：“哪只眼睛要动手术？”

我回答说：“左眼是好的，右眼有问题。”¹

——威廉·尚克，《纽约时报》

■ 上帝也疯狂



一位著名的导演进了天堂。

“孩子啊，你来我们真高兴，”圣彼得说，“上帝为你准备了绝对适合你的工作。”

“我再也不想拍电影了，”导演说，“我只想休息。”

“但是你会有梦幻团队啊。莫扎特已经签了合同，他来写乐谱，米开朗琪罗会设计布景，莎士比亚正忙着写剧本呢。”

“哇！这样的好事我怎么能拒绝呢？我也参加。”

“棒极了。就是有一件事哦，”圣彼得说，“上帝找了个自称能演戏的哥们……”

主教当着教堂会众，说起教会正缺牧师和修女。

“大家现在都只生一个孩子，孩子们都从事其他行业去了。我建议每个家庭应该生三个孩子：为父亲生一个，为母亲生一个，为教会

¹ 形容词right既可以指“右面的”，也可以指“好的，正确的”。

children: one for the father, one for the mother and one for the church.”

A few days later the bishop was out grocery shopping when he saw a pregnant woman from his parish. But before he could say hello, she shouted above the crowd, “This one is yours, Bishop!”

—EDWIN KLINE

A banker approaches the Pearly Gates sweating and struggling with a heavy suitcase. Saint Peter greets him and says, “Set the suitcase down and come in.”

“No way!” barks the banker. “I have to bring it in.”

“What could possibly be in there that’s so important?” asks Saint Peter.

The banker opens the suitcase to reveal 50 gold bricks. Saint Peter’s jaw drops: “You brought pavement?”

—JIMMY HOLMES

The pastor asks his flock, “What would you like people to say when you’re in your casket?”

One congregant says, “I’d like them to say I was a fine family man.”

Another says, “I’d like them to say I helped people.”

The third responds, “I’d like them to say, ‘Look! I think he’s moving!’”

—L. B. WEINSTEIN

“Hello, Reverend Smith? This is the Internal Revenue Service. Is Samuel Jones a member of your congregation?”

“He is.”

“Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?”

“He will.”

—HUGH NEEDL

生一个。”

几天后，主教在外买东西，遇上他教区里一位怀了孕的教徒。还没等他开口打招呼，只听她在人群中大喊：“主教！这个孩子是你的！”

——埃德温·克兰

一位银行家拎着一个很重的行李箱，满头大汗地来到天堂门口。圣彼得迎上前去，说：“把行李箱放下，进来吧。”

“不行！”银行家大叫，“必须得拿进来。”

“里面有什么东西这么重要？”圣彼得说。

银行家打开行李箱，原来是50块金砖。圣彼得大吃一惊：“铺路的砖你都带了？”

——吉米·霍姆斯

牧师问他的教徒：“你躺在棺材里时，最想听到别人说什么？”

一位教徒说：“我想听到他们说我是一个顾家的好男人。”

另一位说：“我想听到他们说帮助过人。”

第三位回答说：“我想听到他们说，‘看呀！他好像在动呢！’”

——L. B. 温斯坦

“喂，是史密斯牧师吗？这里是美国国税局。请问塞缪尔·琼斯是您教区的吗？”

“是的。”

“他有捐10,000美元给教会吗？”

“他会的。”

——休·尼尔德

Two kids are on their way to Sunday school when one says to the other, "What do you think about this Satan stuff?"

"Well, you remember Santa? This could turn out to be your dad, too."

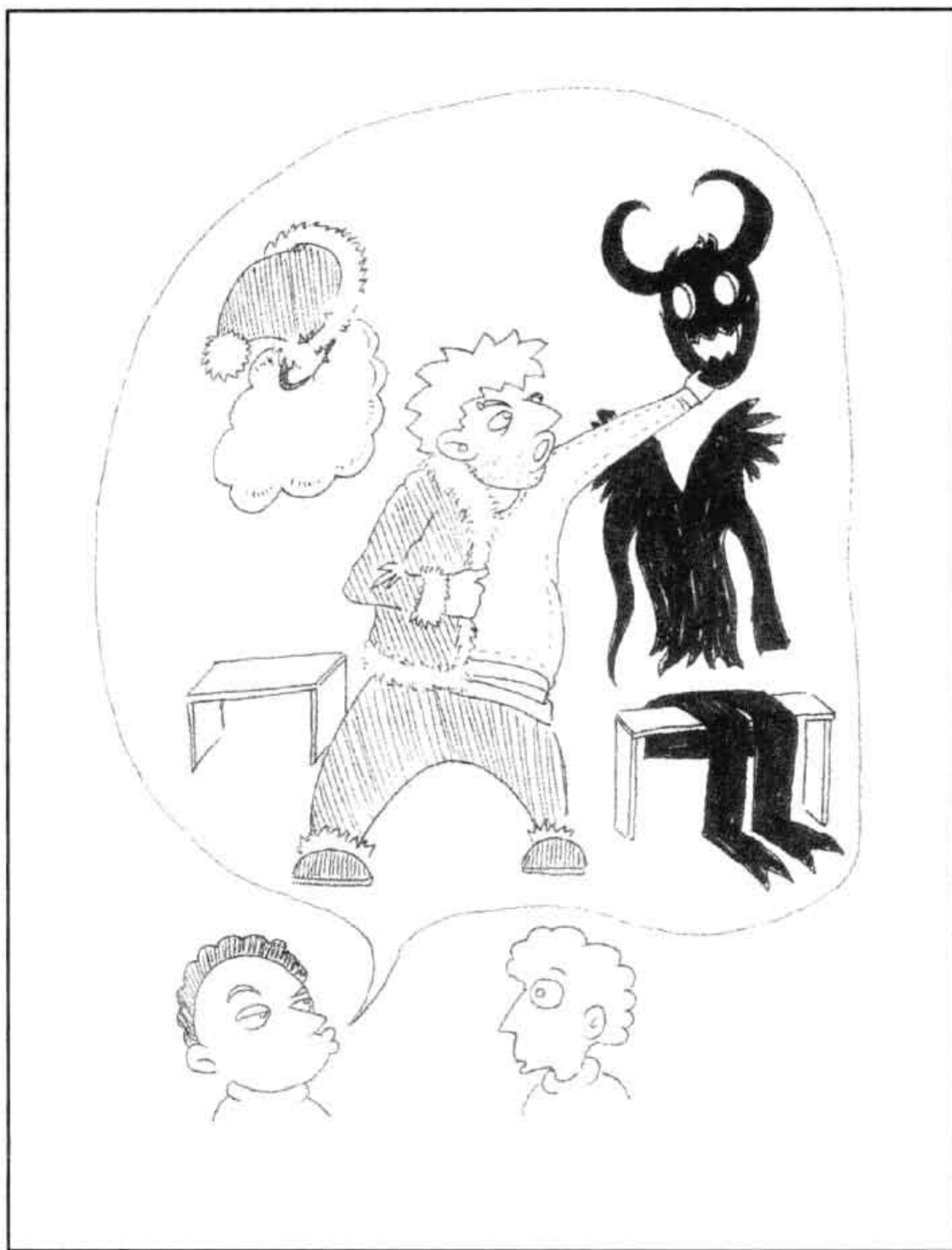
—PAT RUZSBATZKY

两个孩子走在去主日学校的路上，其中一个对另一个说：“撒旦那个事，你怎么看的？”

“噢，你还记得圣诞老人吗？这也有可能是你爸爸呢。”¹

——帕特·鲁日鲍茨基

¹ Satan（撒旦）的拼写和Santa（圣诞老人）很接近，圣诞老人除了叫Santa Claus之外，还可以叫作Father Christmas。另外，西方国家里，爸爸经常假扮圣诞老人给孩子惊喜，孩子发现原来圣诞老人就是爸爸假扮的，故猜测，可能撒旦也有可能是爸爸变的呢。



During a church meeting on family, the instructor asked, "When we reach the end of our mortal existence, will we say, 'I wish I'd spent more time on the job'?" He persisted, "Has anyone ever wondered that?"

"Yes," said one man. "Right after I got fired."

—FRANK MILLWARD

My brother-in-law was a lay minister, so when his sister wanted a small, casual wedding, she asked him to officiate. He had never performed a marriage ceremony before, so he decided to ask his pastor for advice.

"My sister has asked me to marry her," he began, "and I'm not sure what to do."

The minister answered, "Try telling her you just want to be friends."

—HEIDI MORTON

An atheist is walking through the forest when Big Foot jumps out at him. As he approaches menacingly, the atheist yells, "Lord, save me!"

Seconds later a voice rumbles from heaven, "I thought you didn't believe in me."

"Well," the man says, "until a minute ago, I didn't believe in Big Foot either."

—GREGG PICILLO

"The Earth is wicked again. I'm going to flood it and start over," God told Noah. "Build another ark and save two of every living thing."

Six months later the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard—but no boat. "Where's the ark?" he roared. "I'm about to start the rain."

在一次主题为家庭的教会会议上，教员问：“等到了生命的末尾，我们会说‘真希望多花点时间在工作上’吗？”他继续追问，“大家有没有这么想过呢？”

“有，”一位男子说，“我被炒鱿鱼那会儿。”

——弗兰克·米尔沃德

我姐夫是非神职的牧师，他妹妹想举办一个小型简单的婚礼时，就请他主持仪式。他以前从来没有主持过婚礼，于是决定去请教牧师。

“我妹妹要我帮她主持婚礼¹，”他说，“我不知道该怎么做。”

牧师回答道：“跟她说说看，说只想做朋友。”

——海迪·莫顿

一个无神论者在森林里行走，突然一个大脚怪朝他扑来。大脚怪步步逼近，无神论者大叫：“主啊，救救我！”

几秒钟后，天上传来隆隆的说话声：“我以为你不信我呢。”

“哦，”那人说，“一分钟前，我还不信有大脚怪呢。”

——格雷格·皮奇洛

“地球上又到处都是邪恶了。我要淹没它，重新再来过，”上帝对诺亚说，“你再造一条方舟，每一种生物保存两只。”

六个月后，上帝从天上往下看，看到诺亚在自家院子里啜泣——没有船的影子。“方舟呢？”他吼道，“我要开始布雨了。”

1 marry sb.的意思可以是替某人主持婚礼、把某人嫁出去，也可以理解为娶某人、嫁给某人。

“Well, things have changed,” Noah said. “First, I needed a building permit. Then some group said it was inhumane to put the animals in such a close space. Then the government halted construction to conduct an environmental-impact study on the flood.”

Suddenly the clouds cleared, and a rainbow stretched across the sky.

“You mean, you’re not going to destroy the world?” Noah asked.

“What’s the point?” God said. “Looks like someone beat me to it.”

—E. T. THOMPSON

Al’s assets are going down the drain as the market takes a nosedive. Depressed, he goes to church.

“Grab your Bible and drive to the ocean,” the minister advises. “Sit at the water’s edge, and open the Bible. The wind will riffle the pages, but eventually it’ll stay open. Read the first words your eyes fall on, and they will tell you what to do.”

Al does as he is told. When the pages stop moving, his eyes fall on the words that are meant for him.

A year later Al returns to see the minister wearing a \$1,000 suit and driving a new Jag. He hands the minister a thick envelope. “Please accept this donation for the church,” he says. “Thanks for your advice.”

“What words did you see that brought you such fortune?” the minister asks.

“Chapter 11.”

Every day a woman stood on her porch and shouted, “Praise the Lord!”

And every day the atheist next door yelled back, “There is no Lord!”

“哦，一切都变了，”诺亚说，“一开始，我需要一张施工许可证。接着不知哪个组织说，把动物放在这么小的空间里不人道。然后政府又下令中止工程，他们要先研究一下大水对环境的影响。”

倏地，云朵消散了，彩虹横跨天际。

“您是说，您不打算摧毁地球了？”诺亚问。

“还有什么意思呢？”上帝说，“看来我已经被别人捷足先登了。”

——E. T. 汤普森

市场暴跌，阿尔的资产也打了水漂。他万分沮丧，来到教堂里。

“拿上你的圣经，开车去海边，”牧师建议说，“坐在水边，打开圣经。风会吹拂过书页，最终停留在某一页。读一下你的眼睛看到的头几个字，它们会告诉你该怎么做。”

阿尔照牧师的话做了。书页不再翻动时，他眼睛停留的那几个字就是为他准备的。

一年后，艾尔穿着价值1000美元的西装，开着一辆崭新的捷豹，回来拜访牧师。他递给牧师一个厚厚的信封。“请接受我给教会的捐款，”他说，“谢谢你给我的建议。”

“你看到了什么字，能带来这么多财运？”牧师问。

“第11章。”¹

每天，一位女子都会站在门廊里大喊：“感谢主啊！”

每天，一位无神论者都会大声回应她：“这世上没有主！”

1 美国《破产法》的第11章（Chapter 11）规定，任何大型企业或是私有企业，或是个人，都可以申请资产重组。

One day she prayed, "Lord, I'm hungry. Please send me groceries."

The next morning she found a big bag of food on the stairs. "Praise the Lord," she shouted.

"I told you there was no Lord," her neighbor said, jumping from behind a bush. "I bought those groceries."

"Praise the Lord," the woman said. "He not only sent me groceries, but he made the devil pay for them."

The new monk is assigned to copy the old texts by hand. Noticing that he'll be copying from copies and not from the original manuscripts, he tells an elderly monk, "If there was an error in the first copy, that error would be continued in all the subsequent copies."

The elderly monk agrees and goes to the cellar with a copy to check it against the original. Hours go by and nobody sees him. Concerned, the new monk searches for him in the cellar. Hearing wailing, he finds the old monk leaning over one of the original books. Looking up, he sobs, "The word is celebrate."

The rabbi and the priest met at the town's annual picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter.

"This ham is really delicious," the priest teased the rabbi. "You really ought to try it. I know it's against your religion, but you just haven't lived until you've tried Mrs. Hall's prized Virginia Baked Ham. Tell me, when are you going to break down and have some?"

The rabbi looked at his friend with a big grin and said, "At your wedding."

—ANDREA GERAGHTY

Johnny's mother stops to watch her son read the Bible to their cat.

一天，女子在祈祷，“主啊，我好饿。请为我送来食物。”

第二天早晨，她发现楼梯上放着一大包食物。“感谢主啊，”她大呼。

“跟你说了这世上没有主，”她的邻居从灌木丛中跳出来说，“这些吃的是我买的。”

“感谢主啊，”女子说道，“他不仅为我送来食物，还让魔鬼付了账。”

新来的修士被指派去手抄旧的经文。他发现是对着抄本再手抄，而不是照着原手稿，就与一位年长的修士说，“如果第一份抄本中有错误，那这个错误会一直延续到以后每一个抄本中。”

年长的修士想了想也对，就拿着一份抄本去地窖中对照原经文。好几个小时过去了，不见他回来。新来的修士就很担心，跑去地窖里找他，发现老修士正趴在原经文上面嚎啕大哭。他抬头望了望，呜咽道：“那个词是celebrate¹。”

拉比与神父在小镇一年一度的野餐会上碰见了。两人是老朋友了，于是跟往常一样相互打趣。

“这火腿味道真不错，”神父逗拉比说，“你真应该尝尝看。我知道这有悖你的宗教，但是人活一辈子都没尝过霍尔太太大名鼎鼎的弗吉尼亚烤火腿，就等于白活了。说说看，你什么时候破一破这斋戒吃点火腿啊？”

拉比看了看他朋友，咧嘴一笑，说：“在你的婚礼上。”

——安德烈娅·杰拉蒂

约翰尼的妈妈停住脚步，看着儿子在读圣经给家里的猫咪听。“太

1 天主教里神职人员是不能结婚的，celibate（不结婚的，没有性关系的）与celebrate（庆祝）拼写相似。笑话中，年长的修道士发现原来抄错了，原文是celebrate，而抄成了celibate，追悔莫及。这当然是个笑话。

“Isn’t that sweet?” she says. But an hour later she hears a terrible racket. Running out the door, she finds Johnny stuffing the cat into a bucket of water.

“Johnny, what are you doing?”

“I’m baptizing Muffin,” he replies.

“But cats don’t like to be in water.”

“Well then, he shouldn’t have joined my church.”

A man was driving down the street in a lather because he had an important meeting and couldn’t find a parking space. Looking up to heaven, he said, “Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking space, I promise to go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up swearing.”

Miraculously, a spot opened right in front of the building.

The man looked up and said, “Never mind. I found one.”

Our Sunday school speaker had riveting stories to share with the kids: He was working near Mount St. Helens when it erupted. He was in Florida when Hurricane Andrew hit and was visiting friends in New Orleans as Katrina struck.

One child raised his hand. “Staying long in Tucson?”

—MARGIE DORAME

Just as I began my Christmas Eve service, the electricity in the church failed. The ushers and I found some candles and placed them around the sanctuary. Then I reentered the pulpit, shuffled my notes, and muttered, “Now, where was I?”

A tired voice called out, “Right near the end!”

—REV. DOUGLAS C. WOODS

感人了呢，”她说。但是一个小时候后，她听见一阵吵闹。跑到门外一看，发现约翰尼正把猫往一桶水里按。

“约翰尼，你在干吗？”

“我在给马菲洗礼呢，”他回答说。

“但是猫不喜欢水啊。”

“那么，他就不该加入我的教会。”

一名男子十分焦躁地在路上开着车，因为他要出席一个很重要的会议，却找不到停车位。他抬起头看着天，说：“上帝啊，可怜可怜我吧，如果你帮我找个停车位，我保证这辈子每周日都去教堂，我也不讲脏话了。”

大楼前奇迹般地出现了一个空位。

男子朝天上看了看，说：“不用了，我找到位置了。”

我们主日学校的演讲嘉宾跟孩子们分享了很有趣的故事：圣海伦斯火山喷发时，他就在附近工作。安德鲁飓风来时，他就在佛罗里达，卡特里娜飓风来时，他正巧在新奥尔良看望朋友。

一个孩子举起手。“你要在图森待很久吗？”

——玛吉·多拉姆

我才刚开始做平安夜的宗教仪式，教堂里的灯就熄了。我和管事找来了些蜡烛，放在祭坛的周围。接着，我重新站到讲坛前，翻了翻我做的笔记，支吾着问：“刚刚讲到哪里了？”

只听一个疲惫的声音说：“就快要讲完了！”

——道格拉斯·C. 伍兹神父

One Sunday a minister played hooky from church so he could shoot a round of golf. Saint Peter, looking down from Heaven, seethed. "You're going to let him get away with this, God?"

The Lord shook his head.

The minister took his first shot. The ball soared through the air 420 yards and dropped into the cup for a hole in one. Saint Peter was outraged. "I thought you were going to punish him!"

The Lord shrugged. "Who's he going to tell?"

Moses and Jesus are playing golf. Moses selects a five iron and tees off. His ball lands in the lake.

It's Jesus' turn. "Tiger Woods would use this," he says, grabbing a five iron.

"But my shot ended up in the lake!" Moses protests. "You should use a four iron."

"Nope. Tiger would use a five."

So Jesus swings hard—and hits the ball into the lake. He's walking on the water looking for it when a man approaches.

"Who does he think he is, Jesus Christ?" the man asks.

"No," Moses explains. "He is Jesus. He thinks he's Tiger Woods."

An engineer is standing outside the Pearly Gates.

"Sorry," Saint Peter tells him, "but you're in the wrong place." He snaps his fingers, and the engineer finds himself in hell.

Dissatisfied with the level of comfort there, the engineer starts making improvements.

One day God phones Satan to ask how things are going.

"Great," he answers. "We've got central air and escalators now. There's no telling what that engineer will come up with next."

某个周日，一位牧师从教堂里溜出来，好去打一局高尔夫。圣彼得正从天上往下看，大怒。“您就让他这么逍遥快活吗，上帝？”

上帝摇了摇头。

牧师第一次击球。球在空中飞了420码，最后落进了球洞里。圣彼得生气极了。“我还以为您要惩罚他呢！”

上帝耸了耸肩。“谁能料到啊？”

摩西和耶稣在打高尔夫。摩西选了五号铁头球杆开球。球落在了湖里。

轮到耶稣了。“泰格·伍兹会用这个，”他说着，随手拿起一根五号铁头球杆。

“但是我的球掉在湖里了啊！”摩西抗议道，“你应该用四号铁头球杆的。”

“不要。泰格会用五号的。”

耶稣于是用力挥杆——把球打进了湖里。他走到水面上找球，这时来了个人。

“他以为他是谁啊，耶稣基督吗？”那人问。

“是啊，”摩西解释说，“他确实是耶稣。可他以为自己是泰格·伍兹。”

一位工程师站在天国的门口。

“抱歉，”圣彼得跟他说，“你来错地方了。”他手指一弹，工程师到了地狱。

工程师很不满意那儿的生活质量，于是开始改善条件。

一天，上帝给撒旦打电话，问最近怎么样。

“很好，”他回答说，“我们现在有了中央空调和电梯。谁也说不准那工程师下一步会想出什么来。”

“You’ve got an engineer?” God says. “There’s been a mistake. Send him back up here, or I’ll sue.”

“Yeah, right.” Satan chuckles. “Where are you going to find a lawyer?”

—VICKY BULLETT

Who’s the patron saint of e-mail?

Saint Francis of a CC.

—TERRY SANGSTER

Three buildings in town were overrun by squirrels—the town hall, the hardware store, and the church. The town hall brought in some cats. But after they tore up all the files, the mayor got rid of the predators, and soon the squirrels were back.

The hardware store humanely trapped the squirrels and set them free outside town. But three days later the squirrels climbed back in.

Only the church came up with an effective solution. They baptized the squirrels and made them members. Now they see them only on Christmas and Easter.

Adam bit the apple and, feeling great shame, covered himself with a fig leaf. Eve, too, felt shame and covered herself with a fig leaf. Then she went behind the bush to try on a maple leaf, a sycamore, and an oak.

—TERRY SANGSTER

Three guys are fishing on a lake when an angel appears in the boat with them. The first guy gets over his shock and humbly says to the angel, “I’ve suffered from back pain for years. Is it too much to ask that you help me?” The angel touches the man’s back, and he feels

“你那儿有个工程师？”上帝说，“肯定弄错了。把他送上来，不然我就告你。”

“是啊，好吧。”撒旦嘿嘿笑，“你到哪里去找律师呢？”

——维基·布利特

谁是电子邮件的守护神呢？

阿西西的方济各。¹

——特里·桑斯特

镇上三幢楼里松鼠成灾——市政厅、五金店和教堂。市政厅抓了几只猫来。不过市长的松鼠算是赶跑了，可猫把所有文件都撕得烂碎，而且没过多久，松鼠又回来了。

五金店比较人性化，他们把松鼠逮住，把它们送到城外放生了。不过三天后，松鼠又爬回来了。

只有教堂的法子管用。他们帮松鼠洗礼，让它们成为教徒。现在只在圣诞节和复活节能看到它们。

亚当咬了苹果后，感到无比羞愧，就用无花果叶遮起身子。夏娃也觉得无比羞愧，用无花果叶遮身子。然后她到灌木丛后面试了试枫树叶、梧桐树叶和橡树叶。

——特里·桑斯特

三人在湖面上钓鱼，一个天使出现在了他们船上。第一个人壮起胆子，谦逊地跟天使说：“我的背疼了好多年了。您能帮帮我吗？”天使

¹ 阿西西的方济各 (St. Francis of Assisi, 1182—1226)，方济各会的创办人，也是动物、商人、天主教教会运动、美国旧金山和自然环境的守护圣人。他的名字与笑话中St. Francis of a CC发音几乎一致。CC意为“邮件抄送”。

instant relief.

The second guy points to his Coke-bottle glasses and asks if the angel could cure his poor eyesight. The angel tosses the man's glasses into the lake. When they hit the water, the man's vision clears and he can see everything distinctly.

The angel now turns to the third guy, who throws up his hands in fear. "Don't touch me!" he cries.

"I'm on disability!"

After my fire crew put out a fire in a barn, the monks who owned it invited us in for some tea and lighthearted conversation—or so we thought. But as we entered the monastery, one fireman was reminded of a particularly rude joke. And worse yet, repeated it.

A monk responded, "My son, you are fighting fires in this life, and you will surely be fighting them in the next."

—MICHAEL TOWNSEND

I accompanied one of my congregants to court to settle some legal affairs. As I waited, a man took note of my clerical collar. "So," he said, "prayer didn't help you either, huh?"

—REV. F. WILLIAM HODGE

The sign by the minister's parking spot at a church in Senath, Missouri, cleverly kept parishioners moving:

"You Park, You Preach."

—PATSY HANNERS

After examining the paltry tips left by a church group, our waitress was not pleased. Looking toward my table, she grumbled, "These people

摸了摸那人的背，他立刻觉得无比舒服。

第二个人指着他的可乐瓶底厚的眼镜片，问天使能否治好他的近视。天使把那人的眼镜扔进了湖里，眼镜碰到水时，那人的视力立刻清晰了，他能清楚地看到所有东西。

天使转向第三个人，那人害怕地举起双手。“别碰我！”他大喊。
“我就靠残疾拿补助金了。”

我们消防队把一个粮仓的火扑灭后，身为主人的僧侣们邀请我们进去喝口茶，顺便随意聊聊——至少我们是这么想的。但是当我们走进寺院时，一个消防员想起一个很粗鄙的笑话。更糟糕的是，他还说出来给大家听了。

一位僧侣听后这样说道：“孩子啊，这辈子你在与大火作战，下辈子你肯定还要与大火作战。”

——迈克尔·汤森

我陪一位教徒去法庭解决一些法律问题。我在等的时候，一位男子注意到我穿了教士的衣服。“那么，”他说，“祈祷也没帮得上你，呃？”

——F. 威廉·霍奇神父

密苏里州锡纳斯的一个教堂里，牧师的停车位旁边有个标语，巧妙地提醒教民们不要占位：“停这里，你就要布道。”

——帕齐·汉纳斯

女服务员盯着一个教会组织留下的吝啬得不行的小费，一脸不悦。她望着我，嘟哝了一句：“这些人来的时候带着十诫和十美元纸钞，两

come in with the Ten Commandments and a ten-dollar bill, and they don't break any of them!"

—ELZENA ARGUELLO

My father, a pastor, met with a couple who wanted to marry in his church. When he raised the subject of premarital counseling, the two were quick to nix it.

"We don't need counseling," the bride-to-be assured him. "We've both been married several times before."

—MICHELLE PATTERSON

When my back seized up, I called my doctor's office, explaining that I was a minister and was in too much pain to deliver my sermon. Could they help?

The woman on the other end asked me to hold. The next thing I heard was a loud voice announcing, "I have a minister on the phone who can't stand to preach!"

—GILBERT VIEIRA

Our professor assigned a two-page paper on one of the seven deadly sins. On the due date I heard a student tell his buddy, "That was so easy. All I did was write one page and double-space it."

"Which sin did you pick?" his friend asked.

"Sloth."

—JASON O'SHEA

样都不破！”

——艾尔泽娜·阿尔盖洛

我爸爸是牧师，他碰上一对新人，想在他的教堂里结婚。他说到婚前咨询的话题时，两人很快就拒绝了。

“我们不需要咨询，”准新娘这么跟他说，“我们俩之前都结过好几次婚了。”

——米歇尔·帕特森

背疼又犯了，我打电话到医生的办公室，解释说我是牧师，背疼得无法布道了。他们能帮上忙吗？

电话另一头的女士让我稍等。接下来我听到她用洪亮的嗓门喊：“这里有个牧师打电话来，说他实在受不了布道了！”¹

——吉尔伯特·维埃拉

教授布置的作业是写两页纸的文章，写七宗罪中的一个。交文章的那天，我听见一位同学跟他朋友说：“太简单了，我就写了一页，然后设置双倍行距。”

“你写了哪个罪？”他朋友问。

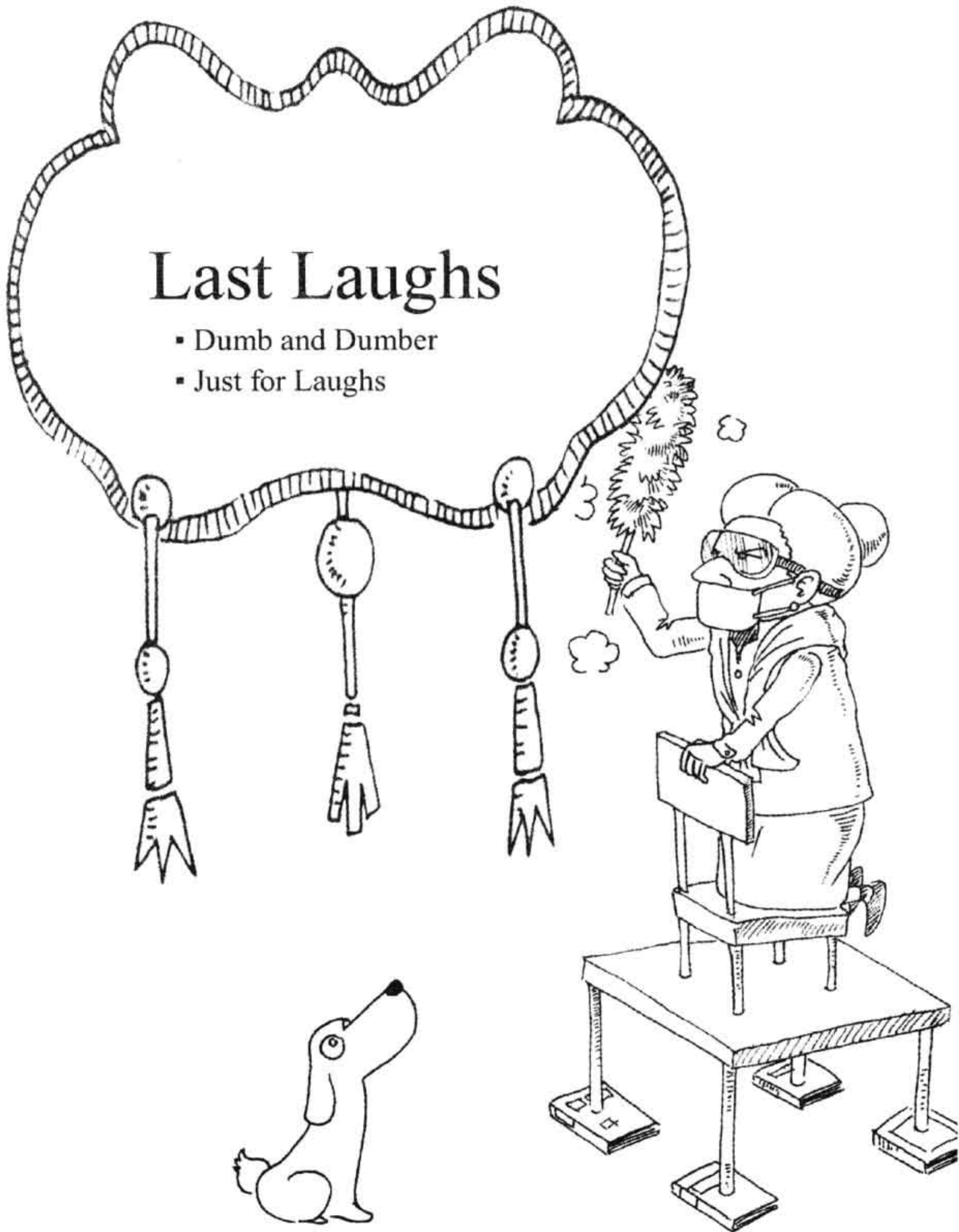
“懒惰。”

——贾森·奥谢伊

1 I have a minister on the phone who can't stand to preach!可以理解为“这里有个牧师打电话来，说他没法站着布道了”，也可以理解为“这里有个牧师打电话来，说他实在受不了布道了”。

Last Laughs

- Dumb and Dumber
- Just for Laughs



结束篇

- 呆头呆脑
- 一笑而过

让人哈哈大笑的笑话，我们无法拒绝

▪ Dumb and Dumber



Larry wins the lottery and dashes downtown to claim his prize. "Give me my \$20 million," he tells the man in charge.

"Sorry, but it doesn't work that way," the man says. "You'll get a million today, and then the rest will be spread out over the next 19 years."

Larry is furious. "Look, I want my money! And if you're not going to give me my \$20 million right now, then I want my dollar back!"

After my speech at a tech conference on "Tips for Going Paperless," I opened the floor to questions. "I have one," said a man. "Where are the handouts?"

—MIKE BROWNING

Two snowmen are standing in a field when one says to the other, "Do you smell carrots?"

—PATRICK HIGGINS

Jim arrives home to find his wife lying on the floor in a pool of sweat. He rushes over and rouses her. It's then that he notices that she's wearing a parka and a mink.

"Are you okay? What are you doing?" he asks.

"You've been promising to paint the living room for months now," she explains groggily. "I wanted to prove that I could do just as good a

■ 呆头呆脑



拉里中了彩票，飞奔到城里去拿奖金。“把我的2000万美元给我，”他跟负责人说。

“抱歉，这样不行，”负责人说，“你今天只能先拿到100万，剩余的分摊到接下来的19年来取。”

拉里火冒三丈。“听着，我要拿我的钱！如果现在不把2000万给我，我就要回我的1美元！”

科技大会上，我的演讲《无纸化的诀窍》结束后，让台下的观众提问。“我有个问题，”一位男子说，“我没有拿到讲演提纲。”

——迈克·布朗宁

两个雪人站在田野里，其中一个对另一个说：“你闻到胡萝卜味道没？”

——帕特里克·希金斯

吉姆回到家，发现妻子大汗淋漓地躺在地上。他赶忙跑过去叫醒她。此时才发现她身上穿着派克大衣和貂皮大衣。

“你没事吧？你在干吗啊？”他问。

“你说要粉刷客厅，已经说了好几个月了，”她无力地解释说，“我要证明我也可以干得跟你一样好，而且比你还快。”

job as you, and faster too.”

“Well, it does look like you did a good job,” Jim says, looking around. “But why are you all bundled up?”

“I know how to read,” she snaps. “The can said, ‘For best results put on two coats.’”

—CORA M. BOGGS

Frantic while getting ready for a party at home, I asked my husband to run out for a quart of milk. When he returned empty-handed, I asked, “Where’s the milk?”

“All out,” he said. “They only had pints.”

Did I mention that he has a PhD? In statistics?

—LOUISE WEISS

A customer at our bookstore asked me, “Do you have the original book *Romeo and Juliet*? My daughter needs it for school, and all I can find is the play.”

—AUDRIE WESTON

Posted on the elevator at work is the usual warning sign: “In case of fire, do not use elevator.” Scrawled in pen beneath it is this addendum: “Use water.”

—DAVID MOORE

With talk of downsizing the U.S. Postal Service always in the air, our union steward passed the word to all the letter carriers that we needed to be proactive.

“Save our jobs,” he urged. “E-mail your Congressman.”

—SUSAN KEMP

“好吧，看上去你干得是挺不错的，”吉姆看了看周围说，“但你穿这么多衣服是做什么？”

“我可认识字的啊，”她高声说道，“罐子上写着呢，‘为了达到最佳效果，请穿上两件外套¹’。”

——科拉·M. 博格斯

为了筹备在家举办的派对，我忙得快发疯了，于是让丈夫帮我出去买1夸脱牛奶。可他空着手回来了，我问：“牛奶没买到？”

“全卖光了，”他说，“只剩品脱²的了。”

我有没有说过他有博士学位？统计学博士？

——路易丝·韦斯

书店里，一位顾客问我：“你们有《罗密欧与朱丽叶》³的原书吗？我女儿学校里要用，我只能找到戏剧。”

——奥德里·韦斯顿

单位里的电梯上贴着常见的警告标语：“万一起火，请不要使用电梯。”有人用笔在下面附了一句：“使用水。”

——大卫·穆尔

美国邮政服务公司要裁员的消息一直传得沸沸扬扬，于是我们工会管事告诉每一位邮递员说，我们要积极采取行动了。

“为了保住我们的饭碗，”他主张说，“给国会议员发电子邮件。”

——苏珊·肯普

1 coat通常指外套、大衣，也指（涂料的）一层，油漆罐上应该是指“请涂上两层”。

2 夸脱和品脱都是计量单位。1夸脱等于2品脱，约1.14升。

3 《罗密欧与朱丽叶》是莎士比亚写的戏剧。

“You have to explain this to me,” I told the chef at our restaurant. The chalkboard read, “Today’s Special: Broiled Snaper with 2 Peas.”

The chef laughed. “Yeah, I saw that the hostess had misspelled snapper too,” he said. “But she misunderstood me when I said, ‘The special has two p’s.’”

—CANDICE WOHLFIEL

Recently, one of the guys at the warehouse called my husband, the general manager, to tell him that he wouldn’t be in that day.

“I’m having my autopsy,” he said. “But with any luck I’ll be in tomorrow.”

—TERRI RITTER

As manager of an electronics shop, I ordered a part, number 669, from the factory. When it arrived, I noticed they’d sent me part 699 instead. I fired off an angry letter and sent it back. A few days later I got the replacement. It was the same part, along with a note containing these four words: “Turn the box over.”

—BECQUET.COM

Heading down the interstate, our car passed through a huge swarm of gnats so dense that their bodies made popping noises as they hit the windshield. “I can’t get over how loud they are,” my wife said.

“Well, we are hitting them at 65 miles an hour,” I pointed out.

Her reply left me speechless. “I didn’t know bugs could fly that fast.”

—JOHN SHINDLEBOWER

“你得跟我解释解释，”我跟餐馆的厨师说。黑板上写的是“今天的特色菜：烤笛周加两颗豌豆。”

厨师大笑。“是啊，我也发现老板娘把笛鲷给写错了，”他说，“我跟她说，‘特色菜里有两个p’¹，可她误解我的意思了。”

——坎迪斯·沃尔菲尔

最近，在仓库工作的一个员工给我当总经理的丈夫打电话，说那天他不来上班了。

“我要去验尸²，”他说，“不过如果运气好的话，明天就能来上班。”

——特里·里特

我是一家电子产品店的经理，从工厂订购了一个第669号零部件。货到后，我发现他们给我寄来的是零部件699。于是我发了一封投诉信，连带货品寄了回去。几天后，他们帮我换了货。还是同样的东西，随带的一张便条上写了四个字：“倒转箱子。”

——BECQUET.COM

我们的车在州际公路上行驶，突然闯进了一个大的蚊子群，密密麻麻的，蚊子撞在挡风玻璃上还发出砰砰的声响。“想不到声音会这么大，”妻子说。

“噢，我们是以时速65英里撞上它们的，”我指出。

她的回答让我无语。“我不知道这虫子还能飞这么快啊。”

——约翰·欣德鲍尔

1 “豌豆”（pea）英文单词的发音与字母p一样，厨师说“特色菜里有两个p”，是指老板娘漏写了snapper里的一个p，老板娘误以为是“烤笛鲷加两颗豌豆”。

2 说话者的意思其实是去做“活检”，“活检”是biopsy，与“验尸”（autopsy）拼写相近。

I answer a lot of questions at the information desk at Olympic National Park, in Washington State. But one visitor stumped me: "Do you have any trails that just go downhill?"

—MIKE PERZEL

A woman walked into our thrift shop and deposited a lamp on our counter.

"I'd like to donate this," she said. "I know you don't take electrical equipment, so I've cut the plug off."

—DEBORAH SUTTON

After my business conference ended for the day, I headed back to my hotel. The lobby and the elevators were packed. I went up to the front-desk clerk. "Can you direct me to the stairs? It'll probably be faster to walk up to my floor."

"I'm afraid that's not possible," she said, completely seriously. "Our stairs only go down."

—ABBY CONLEY

How did the blonde die raking leaves?

She fell out of the tree!

Try as I might, I just couldn't get in sync with my insurance customer. When I asked if he lived in the eastern or central time zone, he answered, "We're normal time."

Not sure what that meant, I continued. "Let me put it this way: Is it 10:45 where you are?"

"No," he said. "It's 10:46."

—CHERYL KOCHANЕК

我在华盛顿州奥林匹克国家公园的问询处回答游客的问题。有位游客把我难住了：“你们有只有下坡的路吗？”

——迈克·珀泽

一位女士走进我们的旧货店¹，来到柜台前，要把一个台灯给我们。

“我想把这捐了，”她说，“我知道你们不收电器，所以我把插头扯断了。”

——德博拉·萨顿

一天的商务会议结束后，我回饭店。大厅里和电梯里都站满了人。于是我走到前台。“能告诉我楼梯在哪里吗？可能爬楼梯回房间会快些。”

“恐怕不行哦，”服务员一本正经地说，“我们只有往下的楼梯。”

——阿比·康利

金发美女耙树叶时怎么会死了？²

她从树上摔了下来！

我竭尽全力，还是没能跟我的保险客户说到一块儿去。我问他住在东部时区还是中部时区，他回答我说：“我们是正常时间。”

我不明白他什么意思，就接着问：“那这么说吧：您所在的地方现在是10:45吗？”

“不是，”他说，“10:46。”

——谢里尔·科哈内克

1 在美国，thrift shop这类旧货店便宜出售二手商品，收益全部给慈善机构。

2 动词rake既可以表示“用耙子耙”，也可以表示“掠过，擦过”。所以原文又可以理解为：金发美女擦过树叶时怎么会死了？

When my friend Rachel said she was expecting, I asked, “Do you know the baby’s sex?”

“Yes,” she replied, “but we’ve decided not to announce it.”

“Can I take a guess?”

“Sure, go ahead.”

“Is it a girl?”

“Oh, no,” she replied. “You’re way off.”

—NAFTALI DOMBROFF

On his way home from work recently, my husband came upon a “Road Closed” sign. Undeterred, he maneuvered his truck around it and continued on. But he didn’t get very far. The pavement ended, giving way to another, larger sign: “What Part of ‘Road Closed’ Didn’t You Understand?”

—TERI KERSCHEN

After hearing stories about radioactivity in granite countertops, my wife became alarmed.

“I have granite in my kitchen,” she told a friend.

“Maybe you should get a Geiger counter,” her friend suggested.

My wife was intrigued. “Are those the granite imitations they sell at Costco?”

—DANIEL OSTER

I was leading a tour through Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico when a woman asked, “How many miles of undiscovered passageways are there in this cave?”

—JIM DAVIS

朋友雷切尔说她有宝宝了，我问：“你知道是男是女吗？”

“知道，”她回答说，“不过我们决定先不跟人说。”

“我能猜一下吗？”

“好啊，猜吧。”

“是女孩吗？”

“噢，不是，”她回答，“差远了呢。”

——纳夫塔利·东布罗夫

我丈夫近来有一次下班回家途中，碰上一块写着“道路关闭”的标牌。他可没被吓着，就开着货车绕过标牌，径直往前开。可没开多远就不得不停下来。前面的路没有铺，尽头放了一块更大的标牌：“‘道路关闭’中哪一个字你不认识？”

——泰里·克舍

听说花岗石台面有放射性，妻子一下子警惕起来。

“我们家厨房里就用了花岗石，”她告诉一个朋友。

“那你用个盖革计数器¹试试，”朋友建议她。

妻子很好奇。“是好市多²卖的那种仿制花岗石吗？”

——丹尼尔·奥斯特

我带团参观新墨西哥州的卡尔斯巴德洞穴，一名女游客问：“这个洞穴里，还有多长的通路没被人发现哪？”

——吉姆·戴维斯

1 盖革计数器 (Geiger counter)：一种专门探测电离辐射强度的计数仪器。显然，妻子从未听说过这种设备。

2 好市多 (Costco)：美国最大的连锁会员制仓储店之一，是由两家店合并而成，其创始人之一Sinegal坚称，所有商品的利润绝不超过14%，引来许多忠实的顾客。

In our storeroom we use a stepladder to get items from the top shelf. But it's always in the way, and after banging my shin on it for the umpteenth time, I asked the staff to please keep it somewhere safe.

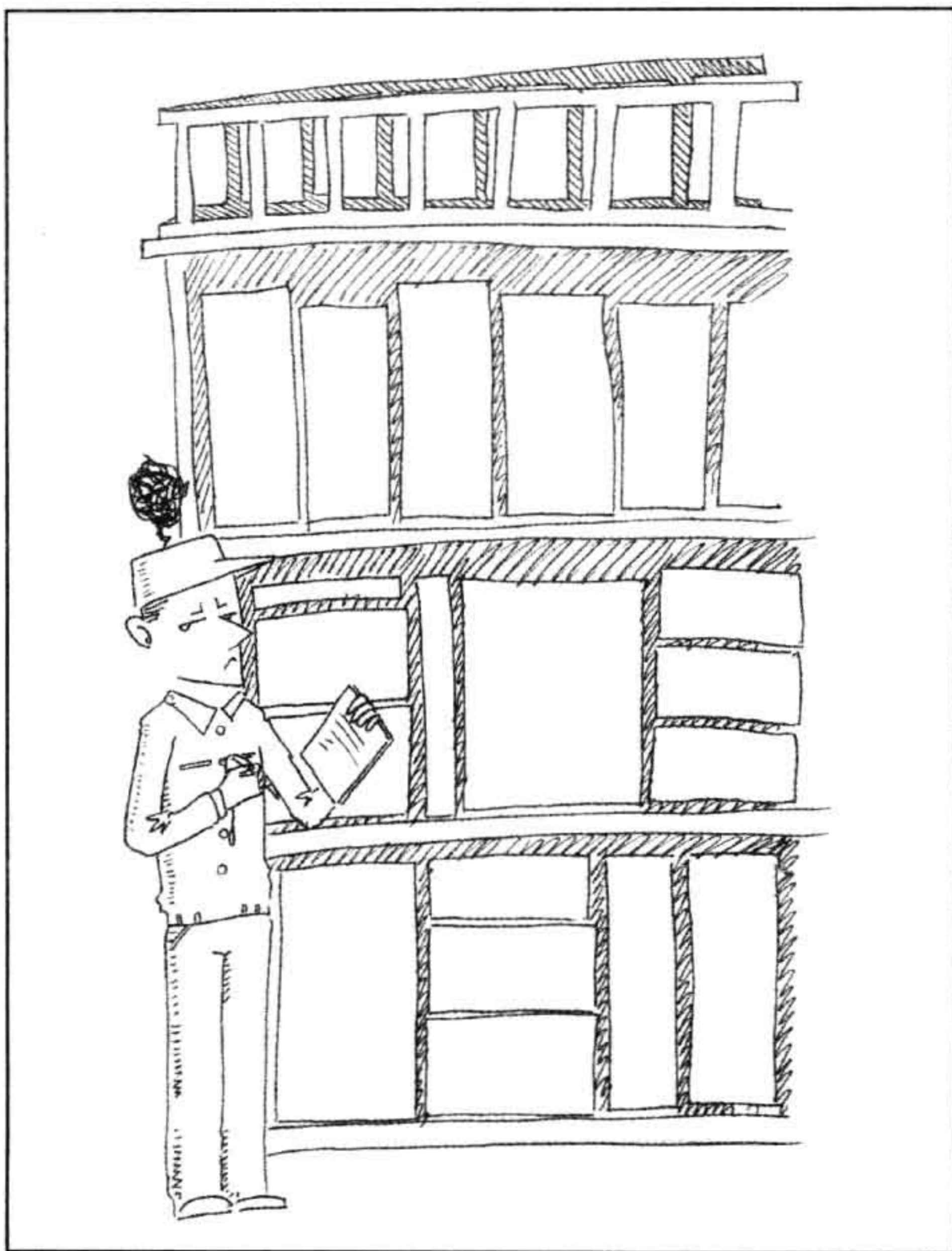
The next day I found the ladder neatly collapsed and placed where it couldn't hurt anyone: on the top shelf.

—NEIL HUDSON

在仓库里，我们从架子顶部拿东西就用折梯。但是平时折梯总挡着道，我的小腿撞在上面无数次了，于是我就让工作人员把它放到安全的地方去。

第二天，我发现折梯已被整整齐齐地折叠好了，放在任何人都碰不到的地方：架子顶部。

——尼尔·赫德森



A customer walked into our auto-parts store looking for a flat washer. "That'll be 15 cents," I said.

"Fifteen cents for a washer? Are you crazy?" he yelled. "I'll drill a hole in a quarter and make my own."

—JACK REEVES

After weighing a woman's letter on our post office scale, I told her the envelope was too heavy and would require another stamp. Confused, she asked, "But won't another stamp make it heavier?"

—CYNTHIA FRANKLIN

Seen on a marquee outside the Clinton Correctional Facility, a maximum security prison in Dannemora, New York: "The Dannemora Fire Department reminds you it's fire prevention week. Practice your escape plan."

—DICK BECKER

My wife, a professor of medicine, has published five books. After she'd written her latest one, I stopped at a market to buy some chocolate and champagne.

"Are you celebrating something?" asked the clerk as he bagged my items.

"Yes," I replied proudly. "My wife just finished a book."

He paused a moment. "Slow reader?"

—DENNIS DOOK

The instructor of our paramedic certification class taught us to keep performing chest compressions until backup arrived.

"But what if we can't keep going?" a fellow student wanted to

一位顾客走进我们汽车零部件销售点，要找一个平垫圈。“15美分，”我说。

“一个平垫圈15美分？疯了吧？”他大声嚷嚷，“不如在25美分硬币上钻个孔，自己做一个了。”

——杰克·里夫斯

我在邮局的秤上称了称一位女士的信件，跟她说这封信太重了，需要再贴张邮票。她一脸迷惑，问：“再贴一张邮票不会更重吗？”

——辛西娅·富兰克林

克林顿监狱是纽约州丹尼莫拉镇一所高度设防的监狱，监狱门口的遮篷上写着：“丹尼莫拉消防署提醒您，本周是消防周。请训练您的逃生方法。”

——迪克·贝克尔

妻子是医学系的教授，已出版了五本书了。她刚写完最新的一本后，我在市场买点巧克力和香槟酒庆祝。

“您要庆祝什么喜事吗？”售货员帮我包东西时问。

“是啊，”我骄傲地回答，“我妻子刚刚完成了一本书。”

他顿了顿。“她有阅读障碍？”

——丹尼斯·杜克

急救人员资格课上，指导老师教我们，抢救人员到达之前要一直帮病人按压胸腔。

“那要是我们没法一直按呢？”一位学生想知道，“要拨911吗？”

know. "Should we call 911?"

"Son," said our instructor, "you are 911."

—CRISTY FIGUEROA

A colleague at the nursing home was excited about the English literature class he was taking at night school.

"We're reading Shakespeare," he said.

"Great," I replied. "Which one?"

"William."

—PENNY BOWDEN

After browsing the restaurant menu, I had a question for the waitress. "About the salmon entrée, is that a steak or a fillet?"

"Neither," she said. "It's a fish."

—ROBERT PETRIN

While I was making a huge batch of snickerdoodle cookies, I asked my ten-year-old to read the recipe and ingredients off the box to me, doubling them as he went along. He did as he was told. His first instruction: "Preheat the oven to 700 degrees."

—DEBBIE DEERWESTER

After a day full of accidents and mistakes, my coworker had had it.

“孩子，”指导老师说，“你就是911¹。”

——克里斯蒂·菲格罗阿

疗养院的同事在夜校上了一门英国文学课，心情很是激动。

“我们在读莎士比亚呢，”他说。

“太棒了，”我说，“哪个？”

“威廉²。”

——佩妮·鲍登

我浏览了一下餐馆的菜单，问女服务员：“三文鱼主菜，是鱼排呢，还是鱼片？”³

“都不是，”她说，“是鱼。”

——罗伯特·彼得林

我打算做一大炉曲奇饼，让十岁大的孩子帮我读盒子上的食谱和原料，一边看要一边把用量加倍。他按我说的做了。他读的第一条是：

“先把烤箱预热到700度。”⁴

——戴比·迪尔韦斯特

一整天这儿出错那儿碰麻烦，同事实在受不了了。“为什么，”她

1 美国的急救电话是911，于20世纪60年代开始使用。

2 “我”的意思是“在读莎士比亚哪部作品”，同事误以为问题是哪个莎士比亚，故回答“威廉·莎士比亚”。

3 steak通常指牛排，也可以指鱼排。fillet指里脊肉片，也可指剔除骨头的鱼片。显然，这两个词女服务员均取了通常释义。

4 由于做的曲奇较多，相应地，原料也要加倍，妈妈让孩子把食谱读给她听，用量要加倍，孩子把烤箱的温度也加倍了。一般烤箱的温度是三四百华氏度。

“Why,” she cried out in exasperation, “do things that happen to stupid people keep happening to me?”

—ADAM FRICKE

My cousin’s not bright. She got an AM radio—took her a month to realize she could use it at night.

—FROM *LAUGH OFF* BY BOB FENSTER (ANDREWS MCMEEL)

Anyone traveling on business for our company must fill out an expense report. A field on the form asks for “name on credit card.” One Einstein entered “MasterCard.”

—PAM THOMPSON

“What’s the quickest way from here to Philadelphia?”

“Are you walking or driving?”

“I’m driving.”

“That’s definitely the quickest way.”

After a tourist parked herself on our Washington Island, Wisconsin, trolley, she wanted to know if we had any beaches.

“Yes,” I assured her. “Four of them.”

“Great!” she exclaimed. “Which one’s closest to the water?”

—TERRI MOORE

This report from an agent landed on my desk in the auto claims division of our insurance company: “Driver encountered a large deer that jumped out from the woods to challenge his vehicle. The deer attacked his vehicle without having any insurance.”

—BROOK ROBINSON

愤怒地大叫，“所有只有笨人才碰到的事都发生在我身上了？”

——亚当·弗里克

我表妹脑子不灵光。她买了台AM收音机——花了一个月才晓得晚上也能收听。

——摘自鲍勃·芬斯特的《一笑了之》（安德鲁斯·麦克米尔出版社）

我们公司任何因公出差的人都必须填写一张报销清单。表格上有一处问“信用卡名字”。一位爱因斯坦式的人物填了“万事达卡”。

——帕姆·汤普森

“从这里去费城最快的方法是什么？”

“你是步行还是开车？”

“开车。”

“那就是最快的方法了。”

一位游客坐上了威斯康星华盛顿岛的电车后，想知道我们这里有没有海滩。

“有啊，”我跟她说，“有四个。”

“太好了！”她呼喊道，“哪个靠水最近？”

——特里·穆尔

在保险公司的汽车索赔部，我的桌上放了一份代理人写的报告：“司机碰见一头巨鹿，鹿从树林里跳出来撞他的车。鹿没有买任何保险，就袭击了他的车。”

——布鲁克·罗宾索

Three dolts are in the forest when they spot a set of tracks.

Dolt No. 1 says, "Hey, deer tracks!"

Dolt No. 2 says, "No, dog tracks!"

Dolt No. 3 says, "You're both crazy—they're cow tracks!"

They were still arguing when the train hit them.

A dull-witted king is losing a territorial dispute with a neighboring monarch.

As the fight wears on, he gets more and more frustrated until finally he roars, "Where are my two court jesters?"

In seconds two jesters appear at his side.

"Okay, let's continue," he says, "now that I have my wits about me."

—RICHARD MARINO

My niece was thrilled to hear that a new car wash was opening up in her neighborhood.

"How convenient," she said. "I can walk to it."

—CATHY MCCOURT

Driving along a country road, I ignored a Bridge Out sign and continued on. But in a few miles I came to a stop: The road was completely barricaded. So I turned around and retraced my route. That's when I saw this sign on the back of the first: "It was, wasn't it?"

—THOMAS ROY

As a retired chemist, I was interested in some unusual chemical towers at a factory. Curious, I asked a guard, "What do they make there?" He replied, "\$8.35 an hour."

—ROBERT JOSLIN

三个傻瓜在森林里，看到一串足迹。

傻瓜一号说：“看呀，鹿的脚印。”

傻瓜二号说：“不是，狗的脚印。”

傻瓜三号说：“你俩都胡说——分明是奶牛的脚印。”

他们还在吵着，被开来的火车一头撞上了。

领土纠纷谈判中，眼见一个笨头笨脑的国王就要败给邻国的君王了。

激战继续进行，他越来越泄气，最后终于咆哮了：“我那两位爱卿呢？”

没过一会，两个弄臣出现在了她的面前。

“好了，继续吧，”他说，“现在我有智囊团在了。”

——理查德·马里诺

侄女听说她住的街区附近新开了一家洗车店，大为兴奋。

“现在方便了，”她说，“我可以步行去了。”

——凯西·麦考特

开在一条乡间公路上，我没搭理“此路不通”的标志，径直往前开。开了几英里后停了下来：这路完全被堵住了。于是我掉头，沿原路返回，看见刚才那个标语的后面写着：“是不通，对吧？”

——托马斯·罗伊

我是一名退休的化学师，看到一个工厂里有一些奇特的化学反应塔，甚感兴趣。出于好奇，我问保安：“里面的人做什么？”¹他回答说：“8.35美元一小时。”

——罗伯特·乔斯林

1 make既可以理解为生产、制造，又可以解释为挣（钱）。

Family members came down from Fairbanks, Alaska, to visit us in Anchorage just as the thermometer dropped to zero. I was freezing, but not them. "We're used to cold weather," my brother-in-law said.

"Sure," I replied. "To you folks, zero is nothing."

—WALT ARDEN

On the first day of our marriage retreat, the instructor talked about the importance of knowing what matters to each other.

"For example," he began, pointing to my husband, David, "do you know your wife's favorite flower?"

David answered, "Pillsbury All Purpose."

—ANNEMARIE WOODS

A customer called our florist shop to order a bouquet. "Make it bright and festive looking," she said. "I want it to cheer up a friend. She just lost her Seeing Eye dog."

—KATHY BRENING

A woman came to our bank to cash a check.

"Do you have identification?" I asked.

"Yes," she said. "A strawberry mark on my left knee."

—HARRY CHALKLY

Trying to do my share to help the environment, I set up a trash basket at my church and posted above it this suggestion: "Empty water bottles here."

亲戚从阿拉斯加州费尔班克斯来我们安克雷奇做客，正逢温度降到0度。我都快冻僵了，他们却不觉得冷。“我们习惯了冰天雪地，”妹夫说。

“是啊，”我回答说，“对你们来说，0度是毛毛雨。”

——沃尔特·阿登

参加幸福婚姻工作坊的第一天，导师说了解对方在乎什么是很重要的。

“比如说，”他指着我丈夫戴维说，“你知道你妻子最喜欢的花¹是什么吗？”

戴维回答说，“皮尔斯伯里²多功能面粉。”

——安娜玛丽·伍兹

一位顾客给我们花店打电话订一束花。“弄得鲜艳点，要有节日气氛，”她说，“我要送给一位朋友让她开开心心。她的导盲犬刚刚丢了。”

——凯西·布伦宁

一位女士来我们银行兑现支票。

“您有身份凭证吗？”我问。

“有，”她说，“左膝盖上有一个草莓印记。”

——哈里·乔克利

我决心为环境保护出一份力，于是在教堂里放了一只垃圾箱，上面贴了标语：“空瓶可放此处”³。

1 flower（花）和flour（面粉）发音相同。

2 皮尔斯伯里（Pillsbury）是美国一种面粉的品牌。

3 Empty water bottles here. 如果把empty当作形容词来理解，意为“空瓶可放此处”；如果当作物动词来理解，则意为“把瓶中的水倒在此处”。

I should have been a little more specific, because when I went to check it later, I didn't find any bottles in it. But it was full of water.

—MAHMOOD JAWAID

Our client sought short-term disability insurance after injuring a knee. In order to process his claim, I had to ask the obvious: "And which knee is it?"

He replied, "Mine."

—CAROLYN PETERSON

Some people just don't have a green thumb. When my son Bill learned his friend was going to The Home Depot, he asked, "Would you pick up some tulip bulbs? I need to get some for my mom."

"Sure," his pal responded. "How many watts?"

—BEATRIX NOVAK

Shopping for deodorant, my daughter picked one up and read the label: "Dermatologist Tested."

"Good," she said. "They're no longer testing it on rabbits."

—LYNN CARROLL

I had just eaten the worst meal in my life and had to say something.

"Is everything okay?" the waitress asked.

"No," I replied. "The chicken is so tough, you can't cut it with a knife."

"I'm so sorry," she said. "Can I bring you a different knife?"

—JOHN CARLSON

I walked into the lobby of my apartment building recently and was

我应该把话说明白些的，因为过后去看时，没看到里面有任何瓶子，倒是装满了水。

——马哈茂德·贾瓦伊德

一位客户膝盖受伤了，想领取短期残疾的保险金。帮他处理索赔时，我问了个答案一目了然的问题：“哪个膝盖受伤了？”

他答道：“我的啊。”

——卡罗琳·彼得森

有些人对园艺活就是一窍不通。儿子知道他朋友要去家得宝¹，便问：“能不能帮我带些郁金香种球²回来？我要帮我妈妈买一些。”

“好啊，”他朋友答应道，“多少瓦的？”

——比阿特丽克斯·诺瓦克

女儿上街买除臭剂，她拿起一个，一读标签上的字：“得到皮肤科大夫认证”。

“不错，”她说，“他们终于不用兔子做试验了。”

——林恩·卡罗尔

我刚刚吃了这一辈子吃过的最难吃的东西，要发泄一下。

“有什么问题吗？”女服务员问。

“有，”我回答说，“鸡肉太硬了，用刀也切不开。”

“抱歉，”她说，“那我给您换一把刀？”

——约翰·卡尔森

最近走进公寓楼的大厅时，总能看到一张告示，写着：“致为植物

1 家得宝 (The Home Depot)：全球领先的家居建材专业零售商，同时也是美国的第二大零售商。

2 郁金香种球是tulip bulbs, bulb有灯泡的意思。儿子的朋友显然不懂园艺，只听懂了灯泡。

greeted by this notice: "To whoever is watering these plants, please stop. They are the property of the building, and our maintenance staff will take care of them. They may have already been watered, in which case you will be overwatering them. Besides, these plants are fake."

—PAUL ROGERS

Waiting my turn to enter a rotary intersection, I noticed a guy drive around twice, then leave by the same road he'd entered. His vanity license plate read "GENIUS."

—KATHLEEN GOWDY

A pirate walks into a bar with a paper towel on his head. The bartender says, "What's with the paper towel?" The pirate says, "Arrr! I've got a Bounty on me head!"

My sister, Sandy, was driving in Vancouver when she was rear-ended by a car driven by a younger woman. Sandy had seen in her rearview mirror that the woman appeared to be on her cell phone and was not slowing down, so Sandy braced herself for the inevitable impact.

"If you can't drive and talk at the same time, you shouldn't be on a cell phone!" Sandy said to the woman.

"I'll have you know," the woman replied, "I was not on my cell; I was putting on makeup!"

—SHIRLEY LADRET

I work for an office equipment company. One day Dave, a coworker of mine, received a phone call from a customer who was having trouble changing the toner in a photocopier.

浇水者，请立即停止。植物是大楼的公共财产，我们的保洁人员会照顾好它们。它们可能已经浇过水了，这样的话您会让它们溺死的。再说了，这些植物是假的。”

——保罗·罗杰斯

我在排队等着进环岛，发现一个人绕了环岛两周，然后从他进去的原路出来了。他那张虚荣牌照上写着“天才”。

——凯思琳·高迪

海盗走进一家酒吧，头上顶了一张纸巾。酒保说：“纸巾是怎么回事？”海盗说：“啊！我这头上有一张悬赏单！”¹

妹妹桑迪在温哥华开着车，突然被后面的车追尾，开车的是个比她年纪小的女子。桑迪从后视镜里看到，那女子好像是在打电话，并没有减速，桑迪于是一口咬定是开车打电话惹的祸。

“如果你不会一边开车一边说话，就不应该打电话！”桑迪对那女子说。

“我告诉你吧，”那女子答道，“我才没有在打电话，我是在化妆！”

——雪莉·拉德雷

我在一家办公用品公司上班。一天，同事戴夫接到一个客户打来的电话，说他给复印机换墨粉时遇上麻烦了。

1 海盗的意思是“有人悬赏要拿我的人头”，他用直观的形式表达了出来。

“What seems to be the problem?” Dave asked.

“Well,” the customer said, “it’s telling me to change toner. But every time I open the door to do it, it tells me to ‘please close front door.’ What do I do?”

—ROBERT FEDORUK

I used to drive an Eclipse. I think it was a nice car, but I couldn’t look directly at it.

—BUZZ NUTLEY

▪ Just for Laughs



Lost in the desert for three days, a man suddenly hears, “Mush!”

Looking up, he sees what he thinks is a mirage: an Eskimo on a sled, driving a team of huskies. To his surprise, the sled comes to a stop at his feet seconds later.

“I don’t know why you’re here, but thank goodness,” the man says. “I’ve been lost for days.”

Panting, the Eskimo replies, “You think you’re lost?”

—ROBERT LUTZ

On a trip together, a Hindu, a rabbi, and a lawyer stop at a farmhouse and ask to stay the night. There’s space for two, but one will have to sleep in the barn.

“I’ll go,” the Hindu volunteers. A few minutes later, the lawyer and the rabbi hear a knock.

“怎么回事？”戴夫问。

“是这样的，”客户说，“提示我说要换墨粉。可是每次我打开盖子换，就提示我‘请关上前盖’。我该怎么办呢？”

——罗伯特·费多鲁克

我以前开的是日蚀¹，觉得那车相当不错，只是我不敢正眼看它²。

——巴兹·纳特利

■ 一笑而过



一男子在沙漠中迷路了三天，忽然听见有人说话：“快走！”

他抬头一看，像是海市蜃楼景象：一个爱斯基摩人驾着雪橇，赶着一群哈士奇。不一会儿，雪橇在他跟前停了下来，吓了他一跳。

“我不知道你怎么会在这里，不过谢天谢地啊，”男子说，“我迷路好几天了。”

爱斯基摩人气喘吁吁地说：“你以为你迷路了？”

——罗伯特·卢茨

印度教信徒、拉比和律师三人一起赶路，途中碰见一家农舍，便请主人留宿他们一晚。地方只够两个人睡，另外一个人得睡在牲口棚里。

“我去吧，”印度教信徒自告奋勇地说。几分钟后，律师和拉比听到有人敲门。

1 三菱公司生产的一个跑车系列。

2 在美国、墨西哥等地，老一辈人相信看到日蚀会给人带来噩运。

“There’s a cow in the barn,” the Hindu says. “A cow is sacred, and I cannot sleep with a sacred beast.”

“No problem, I can do it,” the rabbi says, grabbing his pillow. But minutes later, the rabbi knocks.

“There’s a pig in the barn. It’s an unclean animal—my belief forbids me to be near such a creature.”

With a tired sigh, the lawyer heads out. Almost immediately, there’s a third knock at the door.

It’s the cow and the pig.

Back when I was working as a graphic designer, I often grabbed lunch at a Chinese restaurant. I’ll never forget a bit of wisdom from a fortune cookie I received one day: “In case of fire, keep calm, pay bill, then run!”

—BORYS PATCHOWSKY, IN *THE NEW YORK TIMES*

After a fruitless year of entering the Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes online, I suddenly drew a blank on my password. I chose the new-password option on the website and waited for the company to e-mail it to me. An hour later, I got it. The password they gave me: loser61.

—KATHLEEN SLACK

There’s a lunch wagon offering “Filly Cheese Steaks” I see almost every day. Each time I pass it, I chant to myself: “Please let it be a misspelling.... Please let it be a misspelling.”

—CINDY GREATREX, IN *THE NEW YORK TIMES*

“牲口棚里有头牛，”印度教信徒说，“牛是圣物啊，我不能跟圣物睡一起。”

“没问题，那我去吧，”拉比说，一边拿上枕头。不过几分钟后，拉比来敲门了。

“牲口棚里有头猪。猪是不干净的动物——我的信仰禁止我靠近猪。”
律师疲惫地叹了口气，钻出房间。没多久，门外第三次传来了敲门声。
这次是牛和猪。

我以前当平面设计师时，午餐经常是在一家中国餐馆随便吃点。某天拿到一块幸运饼干¹，里面的智慧物语让我终生难忘：“万一起火，不要慌张，把账单结了，然后跑吧！”

——博雷斯·帕乔斯基，原载于《纽约时报》

一年以来，我在在线杂志促销公司举办的抽奖活动中从来没有中过奖²，有一天我突然就把密码给忘了。我点击了网站上那个新密码选项，等着公司用电子邮件把新密码告诉我。一个小时后，我收到邮件了。他们给我的密码是：loser61³。

——凯瑟琳·斯莱克

每天我都能看见一辆卖“费城⁴奶酪牛肉三明治”的餐车。每次走过时，我都默默祈祷：“希望是拼错了……希望是拼错了。”

——辛迪·格瑞特雷克斯，原载于《纽约时报》

1 又叫签语饼，北美地区的中餐馆里，结账付款前，会送上幸运饼干。这种饼干呈空心贝壳状，内置纸条，写着各种祝福或预测内容。

2 Publishers Clearing House是美国一家出售折扣杂志和家居用品的直销公司。顾客输入密码登录时，可参与抽奖，中奖者可获奖金。

3 loser的意思是“失败者，窝囊废”。

4 餐车上的招牌把“费城”的简称Philly拼错了，写成了Filly，虽然两个单词发音完全一样，但后者的意思是“母驹”或“活泼的姑娘”。

Looking down the stairs at a football game, a fan spots an open seat on the 50-yard line. He asks the man sitting next to it if the seat is taken.

“No,” he replies. “I used to take my wife to all the games, but ever since she passed away, I’ve gone alone.”

“Why don’t you invite a friend?”

“I can’t. They’re all at the funeral.”

—JOEL BRANSCOME

Our old house needed constant TLC. Fortunately my dad is handy and can do most of the work himself. One day he crawled under the foundation to prop up some sagging floorboards. Suddenly we heard a muffled yell, and Dad crawled out on his hands and knees at a speed I hadn’t thought possible.

“What’s wrong?” my mother asked.

“I reached to pick up the crowbar,” Dad gasped, “and it slithered out of my hand.”

—ROBERT SHELLEY

Days after gorging myself at an Easter dinner, I did penance by going to the gym across the street from work. The first thing I noticed as I signed in was a bowl of Easter candy sitting on the counter, calling to me.

“That doesn’t seem fair,” I joked to the trainer.

Patting the bowl, she smiled. “Job security.”

—JULIE BLACKWOOD

Two American tourists are driving through Wales. They decide to stop for a bite to eat in the village of Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch.

足球比赛场上，一球迷循着阶梯朝下望去，看到五十码线处有个空位。他问边上的男子那位置上是否有人。

“没有，”男子答道，“以前不管什么比赛，我都带我妻子一起来，可是她去世后，我就落单了。”

“为什么不叫上一个朋友呢？”

“不行啊，他们都在葬礼上呢。”

——乔尔·布兰斯科姆

家里的老房子时常需要修修这里、补补那里的。好在爸爸手巧，大部分活能自己干。某天，他爬到房基下去把一些下陷的地板支起来。突然听见爸爸失声大叫，只见他正手脚并用，以快得惊人的速度爬出来。

“怎么了？”妈妈问。

“我够到铁撬棍了，”爸爸喘着气说，“可它又从我手里滑了出去。”

——罗伯特·谢利

复活节晚餐上，我大吃特吃。过了几天，我决定下班后到街对面的健身房去赎罪。登记时，我看见柜台上摆着的一盘复活节糖果在召唤我。

“这太不公平了，”我跟教练开玩笑说。

她拍了拍盘子，笑着说，“就靠它保住我们的饭碗了。”

——朱莉·布莱克伍德

两名美国游客开着车在威尔士旅行。到了一个名叫兰韦尔普尔古因吉尔戈格里惠尔恩德罗布尔兰蒂西利奥戈戈赫¹的村子，他们决定停下来找点吃的。

1 兰韦尔普尔古因吉尔戈格里惠尔恩德罗布尔兰蒂西利奥戈戈赫（Llanfairpwllgwyngyll-gogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch）：位于威尔士安格尔西岛的一个村庄，这是欧洲拥有最长名字的地方，也是全世界拥有最长名字的地方之一。

Baffled by the name, one of them turns to a local and asks, "Would you please say where we are—very slowly?"

The Welshman leans over and says, very slowly, "Burr-r-gerrr Kinngg."

—DENISE STEWART

Dad's a safety-first kind of guy. But while vacationing with some buddies, he was talked into going parasailing. He was on the back of the boat getting hooked into the parachute when he nervously asked the pilot, "How often do you replace the rope?"

The pilot replied, "Every time it breaks."

—MICHAEL WASSMER

My husband's expanding waistline was a sore subject, but I could no longer ignore it, especially since he's still young and handsome.

"Honey," I said, using my seductive voice, "if you lose 20 pounds, I promise to dance for you."

Using his sarcastic voice, he shot back, "Lose 10 pounds, and I'll watch."

—EMILY GURLEY

"A hamburger and fries," a man orders.

"Me too," says the ostrich, sitting beside him.

"That's \$9.40," the waitress says. The man reaches into his pocket and hands her the exact change.

They return the next day. Both order a steak and potato, and again the man pays with exact change.

"How do you do that?" the waitress asks.

"A genie granted me two wishes," explains the man. "My first was

两人被村子的名字给搞糊涂了，便问一位村民：“能不能告诉我们这是在哪儿呀——慢点说？”

那个威尔士人侧过身子，用很慢的语速说：“汉——堡——王。”

——丹尼丝·斯图尔特

爸爸是凡事安全第一的那种人。有一回跟几个好友出去度假，在朋友的鼓动下，他决定试试帆船运动。他在船尾往身上绑降落伞时，紧张地问领航员：“你们多久换一次绳啊？”

领航员答道：“断了我们就换。”

——迈克尔·瓦斯默

老公的腰围日渐见粗，这事也不好多提，怕弄得他不开心。不过我再也无法睁一只眼闭一只眼了，尤其是他年纪轻轻，这么帅气。

“亲爱的，”我娇滴滴地引诱他，“要是你减掉20磅，我就跳舞给你看。”

他也不甘示弱，挖苦我说：“你先减掉10磅，再让我来看你跳舞吧。”

——埃米莉·格利

“一个汉堡，还有薯条，”一男子点了餐。

“我也是，”坐在他边上的鸵鸟说。

“一共9.40美元，”女服务员说。男子把手伸到口袋里，然后把钱递给她，不多也不少。

第二天他们又来了，都点了牛排和土豆，男子照例付了钱，不多也不少。

“你怎么做到的？”女服务员问。

“精灵许我两个愿望，”男子解释说，“我第一个愿望是不管买什

that I'd always have the right amount of money to pay for anything."

"Brilliant! But what's with the ostrich?"

"My second wish was for an exotic chick with long legs who agrees with everything I say."

—EDWARD M. JEAN

I was in the back of our ambulance tending to a patient when we slowed to a crawl. Just ahead of us, a huge semi was hauling a house.

"Don't you hate that?" said our driver. "When people are simply too lazy to pack."

—ANTHONY ADKINS

I had an inauspicious start as a dog groomer when one of my first clients bit me. Noticing my pain, my boss voiced her concern.

"Whatever you do," she said, "don't bleed on the white dogs."

—JAN VIRGO

I was talking to my doctor about a weight-loss patch I had seen advertised. Supposedly you stick it on, and the pounds melt away. "Does it work?" I asked.

"Sure," he said. "If you put it over your mouth."

—MARY KAAPKE

A man staggered up to the pharmacy counter.

"Would you give me something for my head?" the man asked.

"Why?" the pharmacist said, looking up. "What would I do with it?"

么，总能有不少也不少的钱。”

“太牛了！那鸵鸟又是怎么回事？”

“我的第二个愿望是要有一个长腿的洋妞儿¹，我说什么她都照做。”

——爱德华·M. 让

我坐在救护车后部，照看一个病人，车慢慢停了下来。就在前头，一辆大型的半拖车在把整幢房子拖走。

“你说这讨不讨厌？”司机说，“有些人居然懒成这样，都懒得打包行李。”

——安东尼·阿德金斯

刚当上狗狗美容师，我就出师不利，被客户咬了一口。老板看着我痛苦的神情，十分担心。

“不管干什么，”她说，“千万不能把血滴在白色的狗身上。”

——简·弗戈

我跟医生说起在广告上看到的减肥贴。据说只要贴上，肥肉就会不翼而飞。“那东西管用吗？”我问。

“当然，”他说，“如果贴在嘴巴上。”

——玛丽·卡普克

一名男子踉踉跄跄地走到药店柜台前。

“您能给我些治我头的药吗？”²男子问。

“为什么？”药剂师说着，一边抬起头，“我要它干吗？”

1 chick既能指“小妞”，又可以指“鸟类”。

2 Would you give me something for my head?可以理解为“您能给我些治我头的药吗？”，也能理解为“我把头给你，能换些东西吗？”显然，病人意指前者，药剂师理解成后者了。

Three rough-looking bikers stomp into a truck stop where a grizzled old-timer is having breakfast.

One of the bikers extinguishes his cigarette in the old guy's pancakes. The second biker spits a wad of chewing tobacco into his coffee. The third biker dumps the whole plate on the floor.

Without a word of protest, the old guy pays his bill and leaves.

"Not much of a man, was he?" says one of the bikers.

"Not much of a driver either," says the waitress. "He just backed his truck over three motorcycles."

I love playing Santa at the mall. But parents often have trouble getting young children to sit on my knee. It took a lot of coaxing for one little girl to perch there, so I got straight to the point.

"What do you want most of all for Christmas?" I asked.

She answered, "Down!"

—MORLEY LESSARD

"Excuse me, what are those women dressed in white doing?" a tourist asked his guide.

"Oh, well, it's custom for brides in Jerusalem to pray at the Wailing Wall on the day of their wedding," he replied.

"Why?"

"So they can get used to talking to a wall."

—RACHEL BERMAN

On the first day of her vacation, my coworker fell and broke her leg. As the doctor examined her, she moaned, "Why couldn't this have happened on my last day of skiing?"

He looked up. "This is your last day of skiing."

—EDNA KITCHEN

三名长相凶狠的飞车族噔噔噔地来到一处货车停靠站，只见一位头发灰白的长者在那儿吃早餐。

其中一名男子把烟头摁在了老人的烙饼上。第二名在老人的咖啡里吐了一口嚼烟。第三名干脆把老人的整个盘子扔到地上。

老人一句表示抗议的话都没说，付了账单便离开了。

“他不算是个男人，是吧？”一名飞车族说。

“还不算个司机呢，”女服务员说，“他刚刚倒车时，把三辆摩托车给撞倒了。”

我喜欢在购物中心扮圣诞老人。不过大人们经常得花好大的劲，才能说服小孩们坐到我腿上。好不容易，一阵连哄带骗后，一个小女孩坐到了我腿上，于是我就直奔主题了。

“圣诞节你最想要什么礼物啊？”我问。

她回答说，“放我下来！”

——莫利·莱萨德

“请问，穿白衣服的那些女的在干吗啊？”一位游客问导游。

“噢，是这样的，按耶路撒冷的习俗，新娘们结婚当天要在哭墙前祈祷，”导游回答说。

“为什么呢？”

“这样她们就会习惯跟墙说话了。”

——雷切尔·伯曼

同事去度假的第一天摔倒了，腿摔断了。医生帮她检查时，她埋怨说：“为什么不在滑雪的最后一天再摔呢？”

医生抬起头。“这就是你滑雪的最后一天。”

——埃德娜·基钦

Johnny swallowed a quarter. A man walking by turned Johnny upside down and patted his back with great precision. The quarter popped out.

“You must be a quarterback. Thank you!” said Johnny’s mom.

—STEVEN SHWE

约翰尼把一枚25分硬币吞了下去。正巧一位男子路过，他把约翰尼倒立过来，非常精准地拍打他的后背。硬币便被吐了出来。

“你肯定是名四分卫¹。太谢谢了！”约翰尼的妈妈说。

——史蒂文·瑞

1 25分硬币是quarter，后背是back，而橄榄球中的四分卫叫quarterback，正好是前两个单词的结合。



I live for baseball. But I had to go to work during an important game, so I asked my wife to tape it for me. After I left the office, I flew through our front door, bursting with anticipation.

“Don’t tell me the score!” I yelled to her.

“I don’t know the score,” she assured me. “All I know is that your team lost.”

—MICHAEL BOGGESS

Three guys were fishing when one of them hooked a mermaid. She promised to grant each of them a wish if they’d let her go.

“Deal,” the first fisherman said. “I’d like you to double my intelligence.” Immediately, he began to recite Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*.

“Wow!” the second guy exclaimed. “Could you triple my intelligence?” He’d no sooner made the request than he started spouting Einstein’s equations on the theory of relativity.

“That’s amazing!” the third fisherman yelled. “Quintuple my intelligence.”

“Are you sure?” the mermaid asked. “You might not like the outcome.”

“I’m sure. Just do it,” the guy said.

He closed his eyes to wait for the wish to be granted and—*poof!*—he became a woman.

—DANNY HOCHSTETLER

So what has six eyes but can’t see?

A: Three men in a house with dirty dishes in the sink, laundry that needs to be folded, and kids that need a bath.

—DARREN BAKER

棒球是我的命。有一场很重要的比赛，而我居然要上班，于是我让妻子帮我录下来。离开办公室后，我飞一般地穿过家门，满心期待。

“别告诉我比分！”我大声跟妻子说。

“我也不知道比分，”她跟我保证，“我只知道你们队输了。”

——迈克尔·博格斯

三位男子在钓鱼，其中一位逮住了一条美人鱼。美人鱼答应，如果他们能放了她，她就满足他们每人一个心愿。

“成交，”第一位渔人说，“我想让你把我的智商加倍。”一转眼，他便开始背诵莎士比亚的《麦克白》了。

“哇！”第二位男子惊呼，“你能让我的智商变成三倍吗？”话音刚落，他便滔滔不绝地大谈爱因斯坦的相对论等式。

“太神奇了！”第三位渔人大叫，“把我的智商变成五倍。”

“你确定吗？”美人鱼问，“结果可能并不是你想要的。”

“我确定，你照做就行，”那人说。

他闭上眼睛，等待心愿实现——噗！他变成了女人。

——丹尼·霍赫斯泰特勒

什么东西有六只眼睛却什么也看不见？

答：三个男人在一个房子里，水槽里的脏盘子要洗，洗干净的衣服要叠，孩子们要洗澡，他们通通看不见。

——达伦·贝克

While visiting his wife's cousin's farm in Manitoba for the first time, our Icelandic friend Gunnar was warned about the big, blood-sucking mosquitoes. Gunnar was out in a field one day, driving a tractor, when he suddenly screeched to a halt, ran pell-mell through the field, and burst through the farmhouse door and into the kitchen. "I just saw a MOSQUITO!" Gunnar gasped.

Turns out it was actually a dragonfly!

—AMANDA DINSDALE

While taking down the vitals for a soon-to-be mom, I asked how much she weighed.

"I really don't know," she said in response.

"More or less," I prompted.

"More, I guess."

—AGNES HALVERSON

Sitting in a hospital waiting room, I watched a woman helping her son finish a crossword puzzle. "Mom," he asked, "what fits here?"

"It's man's best friend," she hinted.

The boy thought for a second then guessed, "Duct tape?"

—CAEL JACOBS

A Dutchwoman explains her nation's flag to an American friend. "It symbolizes our taxes," she jokes. "We get red when we talk about them, white when we get our bill, and blue after we

我们的冰岛朋友冈纳第一次来马尼托巴¹，到妻子表亲的农场上做客，家人提醒他要留心吸血的大蚊子。一天，冈纳开着拖拉机在田里，突然紧急刹车，慌里慌张地穿过田野，冲进农舍，跑进厨房里。“我刚刚看到一只蚊子！”冈纳上气不接下气地说。

弄了半天发现，不过是只蜻蜓！

——阿曼达·丁斯代尔

我帮一位快要当妈妈的孕妇做体检，问她现在多重。

“我还真不知道，”她回答我说。

“大概的重量，”²我提示她。

“我想是重了。”

——阿格尼丝·霍尔沃森

我坐在医院的候诊室里，看着一位妇女教儿子做纵横字谜游戏。

“妈妈，”他问，“这里应该填什么？”

“人类最好的朋友，”她提示儿子。

男孩想了几秒钟，说：“胶带？”³

——卡埃尔·雅各布斯

一名荷兰女子向她的美国朋友解释荷兰国旗的含义。“国旗象征着我们的纳税，”她开玩笑说，“一说起纳税我们就气得满脸通红，拿到

1 马尼托巴：加拿大中南部的一个省份，其首府是温尼伯。

2 more or less可以指“差不多”，也可以指“多了还是少了”。孕妇误以为医生问她“重了还是轻了”，故回答“重了”。

3 这里填以D开头的单词，妈妈提示说是人类最好的朋友——狗（dog），儿子想到的是胶带（duct tape）。

pay.”

“Same with us,” says the American. “Only we see stars, too.”

Did you hear about the man who spent his life collecting memorabilia of Wonder Woman, Joan of Arc, and Florence Nightingale? Apparently, he was a heroine addict.

Teeing off on the 12th hole at a golf resort, we stopped to buy cold drinks from the young woman driving the beverage cart. As my buddy reached for his wallet, he said to her, “You’re in great shape. You must work out a lot.”

Flattered, she gave him a big smile. “Thank you.”

The next day a different young woman was driving the cart. “Watch this,” I whispered. I walked up to her and said, “Wow, you must work out a lot.”

“Yeah,” she replied. “You should try it.”

—THOMAS OSBORNE

After my wife and I had navigated through a website for 20 minutes, a talking image of a woman popped up to offer help. “At last,” my wife said, “a real person.”

—VINCENT PELOZA

Why do mermaids wear seashells?

Because B-shells are too small and D-shells are too big.

—ADAM RUDEBUSCH

Two buddies were watching the game when one turned to his friend and said, “You won’t believe it. All last night I kept dreaming of

税单时脸色煞白，付完后就垂头丧气了¹。”

“我们也是这样，”那位美国朋友说，“只是我们还头冒金星呢。”

你听没听说过，一位男子一辈子整天就收集神力女超人、圣女贞德和弗洛伦丝·南丁格尔的纪念品？他显然是个女英雄控。

高尔夫球场上，打完第12个洞后，我们休息片刻，跟一位推饮料车的年轻女子买冰镇饮料。朋友一边伸手掏钱包，一边跟她说：“你身材不错啊，肯定经常锻炼吧。”

她受宠若惊，朝他粲然一笑。“谢谢夸奖。”

第二天，推饮料车的换了另外一位年轻女子。“你看着啊，”我悄声说，然后走上前跟她说，“哇，你肯定经常锻炼身体吧。”

“是啊，”她回答，“你也该试试。”²

——托马斯·奥斯本

我和妻子在一个网站上闲逛了20分钟后，突然一个会说话的女人头像弹了出来，说可以给我们提供帮助。“总算，”妻子说，“来了个真人。”

——文森特·佩洛扎

美人鱼为什么戴贝壳³？

因为B罩杯太小了，D罩杯又太大。

——亚当·鲁德布施

两人在看比赛，其中一个转过去对他朋友说，“说了你也不信。昨

1 荷兰国旗是红白蓝三色旗，blue可以表示“心情低落、忧郁”。美国国旗也有红白蓝三种颜色，还有50颗小星星，代表50个州。

2 work out既可以指“锻炼身体”，也可以指“在户外工作”。第二位女子以为“我”在嘲笑她的职业，于是回答“你也该试试（推饮料车兜售）”。

3 贝壳是seashell，跟C-shell（C罩杯）发音一致。

a horse and the number five. So I went to the track, put \$500 on the fifth horse in the fifth race, and you won't believe what happened."

"Did he win?"

"Nah," the guy said. "He came in fifth."

—LUIS ANDRE

The knit cap my friend sent me from England was a bit small. But it was lovely, so I wore it to church that Sunday. Afterward, I e-mailed her to say how nice it looked on me. She shot me back a note saying how glad she was. "Especially," she wrote, "since it's a tea cozy."

—JAMIE CARLSON

The gunslinger swaggered into the saloon. He looked to his left. "Everybody on that side of the room is a lily-livered, yellow-bellied coward," he shouted.

He looked to his right. "Everybody on this side is a flabby, dim-witted saddle tramp." No one dared challenge him.

Satisfied, he was ordering his drink at the bar when he heard the sound of hurried footsteps.

"Where do you think you're going?" he yelled at the little guy who'd stopped in his tracks.

"Sorry," the man said. "I was on the wrong side of the room."

—GEORGE MORRIS

Did you hear about the mermaid and the fisherman?

They met online.

—ROGER WEAVER

One year my father was in and out of the hospital. Each time,

天一晚上，我一直梦到一匹马和五这个数字。于是我就去了赛马场，花了500美元买第五场的第五匹马，你猜结果怎么了，说了你也不会信。”

“它赢了？”

“哪有，”那人说，“它跑了第五名。”

——路易斯·安德烈

朋友从英国给我寄了顶针织帽，我戴着嫌小了。不过帽子很神气，那个周日我就戴着去教堂了。过后，我给朋友发了封电子邮件，告诉她帽子戴着很好看。她回信说听了这话很开心。“尤其呢，”她写道，“那原本是个茶壶套。”

——杰米·卡尔森

持枪歹徒昂首阔步地走进一家酒吧。他朝左边看看。“房里那边的人都是胆小无能的孬种，”他大声喊道。

他朝右边看看，“这边都是软弱又不会用脑子的流浪汉。”没有人胆敢顶撞他。

他很是得意，在吧台边要了杯饮料，忽然听见有人匆匆地移动脚步。

“你往哪里去？”他大喊，小个子男人只好停住。

“不好意思，”他说，“我站错地方了。”

——乔治·莫里斯

你听说过美人鱼和渔夫的故事没？

他们是在网上认识的。

——罗杰·韦弗

有一年，爸爸住院好几次。每次，邻居们都不辞辛劳地来帮忙——

his tireless neighbors stepped in—mowing the lawn, shoveling the driveway, taking Mom to the hospital, picking up prescriptions.

After Dad recovered, my mother said, “I’d like to thank the neighbors for all they did. What would be something they’d appreciate?”

Dad suggested, “Tell them we’re moving.”

—MARK REILLEY

My son, a used-car dealer, showed his customer a 2005 Chevy in great condition. “And it’s only \$7,000,” he told the man.

“I’m willing to give you \$3,500,” said the customer.

My son feigned disappointment. “If at all possible,” he responded, “I’d like to sell you the whole car.”

—LIZ BROOKER

Bob: Al, when did you get a trombone?

Al: I borrowed it from my neighbor’s kid.

Bob: I didn’t know you could play the trombone.

Al: I can’t. And now, neither can he.

—CAPERS SIMMONS

When his house went up in flames, my brother-in-law watched firemen fight a losing battle to save the greenhouse. One firefighter tried to console him: “We couldn’t get the plants out, but we did water them.”

—ROBERTA HUNT

Some New Yorkers were on a safari in the jungles of a little-explored faraway country when they were captured by cannibals.

“Oh, yes!” the chief of the tribe exclaimed. “We’re going to put you

给草坪刈草，铲平车道，送妈妈去医院，帮忙去取药。

爸爸康复后，妈妈说：“我要谢谢邻居们的帮忙。你觉得送他们什么礼物好呢？”

爸爸建议说：“跟他们说我们快搬家了。”

——马克·赖利

儿子是二手车商，他向客户推销一款2005年产的雪佛兰，车子性能良好。“只卖7000美元，”他这么跟客户说。

“我愿意出3500元，”客户说。

儿子故作失望。“要是可以的话，”他回答说，“希望你能把整辆车都买下来。”

——利兹·布鲁克

鲍勃：阿尔，你什么时候买了长号？

阿尔：我从邻居家小孩那儿借来的。

鲍勃：我没听说过你会吹长号啊。

阿尔：我吹不了，现在那孩子也吹不了了。

——卡珀斯·西蒙斯

妹夫家起火了，虽然消防员竭力灭火，可还是眼睁睁地看着花房烧了个精光。一个消防员安慰他说：“虽然没能把植物救出来，不过我们帮它浇水了。”

——罗伯塔·亨特

一处未开发的偏远乡间，几个纽约人在热带丛林里狩猎，被一群野人抓了去。

“噢，太棒了！”食人部落的首领大喊，“我要把你们放在一大锅

all into big pots of water, cook you, and eat you.”

“You can’t do that to me,” the tour leader said. “I’m the editor of *The New Yorker!*”

“Well,” he responded, “tonight you will be editor-in-chief!”

—HERM LONDON

Every year, my father visits a friend in Tennessee. During one stay his buddy teased, “You should move down here. Of course, then you wouldn’t be a Yankee anymore.”

“I’ve always wondered about something,” Dad said. “What’s the difference between a Yankee and a damn Yankee?”

“A Yankee,” his friend replied with a smile, “only comes to visit.”

—CRESAYA WINCHELL

For a story about safe driving, a BBC anchorwoman had this revelation: “Most cars have only one occupant, usually the driver.”

—ALEX CHERN

At the DMV to renew her license, my mother had her photo taken and waited for her new card. Finally her name was called, and she went to the counter to pick it up.

“Good grief,” she said. “My picture’s hideous. It looks nothing like me.”

The woman in line behind her plucked it out of her hand. “That’s because it’s mine.”

—CLARE SPAULDING

Our surname, Stead, rhymes with bed, but people often say steed, like the horse. One day a business associate of mine came over to the

汤里煮了，然后吃了你们。”

“你敢这么对我，”游客的领队说，“我可是《纽约客》的编辑！”

“好吧，”他回答，“今晚就让你当煮编！”

——赫尔姆·伦敦

爸爸每年都要去田纳西州看望一位朋友。有一回他朋友开玩笑说：“要不你搬来这里住吧。不过这样你就不是北方佬了。”

“有个问题我总是想不通，”爸爸说，“北方佬和该死的北方佬¹之间有什么不同呢？”

“北方佬，”他朋友笑着回答，“一来就走。”

——克雷萨亚·温切尔

安全驾驶的专题故事里，英国广播公司一位女主播爆料：“大部分车只有一个人开，通常是驾驶员。”

——亚历克斯·彻恩

妈妈去车管所更换驾照，拍完照片后等着拿新照。好不容易叫到她的名字了，她走到柜台前拿起一看。

“真倒霉，”她说，“这照片太吓人了，一点也不像我啊。”

站在她后面的女士一下子从她手中夺过驾照：“那是因为这是我的。”

——克莱尔·斯波尔丁

我姓斯特德，与床的发音押韵，不过大伙儿总管我叫斯蒂德，跟马的发音一样。一天，我生意上的一个朋友来我家，是我妈妈招呼的。

¹ 该死的北方佬：英语里的这个称呼是指搬到南方住的北方佬，因为南方的气候暖和，南方人热情友好。而一般的北方佬会回北方，因为他们喜欢北方寒冷的天气以及并不可口的食物。

“ QUOTABLE QUOTES

The only nice thing about being imperfect is the joy it brings to others.

—DOUG LARSON

The only time to eat diet food is while you're waiting for the steak to cook.

—JULIA CHILD

A man has to be Joe McCarthy to be called ruthless. All a woman has to do is put you on hold.

—MARLO THOMAS

The word aerobics came about when the gym instructors got together and said, "If we're going to charge \$10 an hour, we can't call it jumping up and down."

—RIAT RUNDER

If you don't have enemies, you don't have character.

—PAUL NEWMAN

Anyone who believes the competitive spirit in America is dead has never been in a supermarket when the cashier opens another checkout line.

—ANN LANDERS

At the Sharper Image store, I saw a body fat analyzer. Didn't that used to be called a mirror?

—JAY LENO

I always cook with wine. Sometimes I even add it to the food.

—W. C. FIELDS

Airplane travel is nature's way of making you look like your passport photo.

—AL GORE

You grow up the day you have the first real laugh—at yourself.

—ETHEL BARRYMORE



“ 妙语连珠

我经常拿着酒瓶做饭。有时也会往菜里倒点。

——W. C. 菲尔茨

不完美的唯一好处是能让别人乐呵。

——道格·拉森

搭飞机是大自然把你变成护照照片那模样的方式。

——阿尔·戈尔

唯一吃减肥餐的时候，就是在等我牛排上桌时。

——朱莉娅·蔡尔德

男人要像乔·麦卡锡¹那样，才能称得上残忍。女人只要不接你电话就可以了。

——马洛·托马斯

健身房的教练们聚在一起，说：“如果我们要收十美元一小时，就不能管它叫跳上跳下。”于是，“有氧健身操”这个说法诞生了。

——丽塔·伦德

你第一次真正大笑——笑你自己时，你就长大了。

——埃塞尔·巴里莫尔

如果你没有敌人，就说明你没有个性。

——保罗·纽曼

说美国人的竞争意识不复存在的人，肯定没见过超市里突然多开一条收银通道时的场景。

——安·兰德斯

在醒目形象²的店里，我看到一个身体脂肪分析仪。以前不都叫镜子吗？

——杰伊·莱诺

1 乔·麦卡锡 (Joe McCarthy)：美国国内1950—1954年间反共的典型代表，他迫害了很多共产党员和民主进步人士。

2 醒目形象 (Sharper Image) 是美国一个成立于20世纪70年代的电器店，它通过独具特色的产品设计、开发和自主品牌打造，以及充分利用网店的销售，在电器零售市场占据了重要的份额。

”

house and was greeted by my mother.

“Is Mr. Steed in?” the woman asked.

“He’s Stead,” my mother snapped.

“Oh, no,” the woman gasped. “I was talking to him only yesterday.”

—J. STEAD

You don’t just see the sights when you work at the San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau—you see and hear it all, as these queries can attest:

“How many oceans does San Diego have?”

“Why is your office called the International Visitor Info Center if you don’t have information on Oklahoma?”

“I’m calling from Canada. Is it acceptable to wear navy blue in November?”

—*THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE*, C. TUCKER

I was working as a lab instructor at Stadacona’s Naval Combat Systems Engineering School in Halifax when I overheard two students having an animated discussion. One of them was explaining a concept using technical terms like “pulse modulation” and “plasma-based.” I was impressed by their scholastic enthusiasm, but was quickly brought back down to earth when the second student replied, “Yeah, that’s great against the Romulans, but don’t forget that the Klingons use...”

—JOHN C. ARKSEY

A young American tourist goes on a guided tour of a creepy old castle in England. “How did you enjoy it?” the guide asked when it was over.

“It was great,” the girl replied, “but I was afraid I was going to see

“斯蒂德先生在家吗？”那位女子问。

“他叫斯特德，”¹妈妈厉声纠正说。

“哦，不会吧，”那位女子倒吸了一口凉气，“昨天我还跟他通电话的呢。”

——J. 斯特德

如果你在圣迭戈观光局上班，你不仅可以观光——你是既观光又耳闻，游客咨询的问题就可以做证：

“圣迭戈有多少个海洋？”

“如果你们单位连俄克拉何马的信息都没有，怎么会叫国际游客信息咨询中心的？”

“你好，我在加拿大。请问11月份穿海军蓝可以吗？”

——C. 塔克，《圣迭戈联合论坛报》

我在哈利法克斯的斯塔达科纳海军战斗系统工程学院的实验室里当指导老师，有一天我无意中听见两个学生正激烈地讨论着什么。其中一个在用“脉冲调制”和“等离子基”这样的专业术语解释一个概念。学生有这股钻研的劲儿，我打心眼里高兴，可没过多久我的心就凉了下來，只听第二个学生回答说：“是啊，对付罗姆兰人是很棒，不过可别忘了克林贡人²用的是……”

——约翰·C. 阿克塞

一位年轻的美国游客在英国参加了带导游讲解的阴森森的古堡之旅。“玩得开心吗？”旅行结束后导游问。

“很不错，”女孩回答说，“不过我总害怕在那种黑漆漆的过道里

1 “他叫斯特德”（He's Stead）与“他死了”（He's dead）发音极其相似。

2 罗姆兰人和克林贡人均均为科幻电视剧《星际迷航》中虚构的外星种族。

a ghost in some of those dark passageways.”

“No need to worry,” said the guide. “I’ve never seen a ghost in all the time I’ve been here.”

“How long is that?” she asked.

“Oh, about 300 years.”

—DONALD GEISER

I helped a lost little girl by taking her to the store’s service counter and having them page her mother. I saw this as a chance to teach my 12-year-old daughter, Kylie, a safety lesson.

“That girl did the right thing,” I said. “Do you know why? Because she asked a woman for help, not a man.”

Kylie looked at me, mystified.

“Why on earth would I ask a man for help if I was already lost?”

—STEPHANIE TAIT

Three days of suffering through a nasty virus left me wiped out. But I found a silver lining the very first day I could crawl out of bed. Throwing on a pair of pants, I called out to my husband, “Look! These jeans fit—they finally fit!”

“Great,” he said. “But they’re mine.”

—ANN DWYER

A friend and I were listing all the disgusting foods we like to eat. I guess I won the contest because when I told her how much I enjoyed tongue, she shuddered.

“Ewww,” she said. “Why would you want to taste something that tastes you back?”

—DONNA EIDINGER

会看到鬼。”

“不用担心，”导游说，“我在这儿这么久了，还从没有见到过鬼。”

“多久了？”她问。

“噢，有300多年了。”

——唐纳德·盖泽

一个小女孩走丢了，我送她到商店的服务台，让工作人员用广播呼叫她妈妈。我瞧这是个好机会，正好给12岁的女儿凯莉上一堂安全知识课。

“那小女孩做得挺好，”我说，“你知道为什么吗？因为她向女的求助，不是向男的。”

凯莉迷惑不解地看着我。

“要是我已经走丢了，怎么还可能向一个男的求助呢？”

——斯蒂芬妮·泰特

与一种非常严重的病毒感染抗争三天后，我浑身无力。爬下床的第一天，我发现了一件可喜的事。我随手穿上一条裤子，大声喊我丈夫来看，“看啊！这条牛仔裤穿得上了——终于穿得上了！”

“太棒了，”他说，“可是这裤子是我的。”

——安·德怀尔

我和朋友在比谁喜欢吃的东西更恶心。最后我赢了，因为我跟她说我有多喜欢吃舌肉时，她震惊了。

“快要吐了，”她说，“你怎么喜欢尝那种能尝你的东西啊？”

——唐娜·艾丁杰

Freelance newspaper writers don't get nearly as much attention as writers with regular bylines. So I was delighted when I finally got some notice. It was at the bank, and I was depositing a stack of checks.

"Wow," said the teller, reading off the names of publishers from the tops of the checks. "You must deliver a lot of papers."

—MEAGAN FRANCIS

Traveling through Spain, my friend Amy and I soaked in the culture, gorged ourselves on excellent food, and basically, indulged our every whim. One day we walked into a shop that had the most gorgeous coats. As we tried a few on, we noticed the odd looks we were getting from the shopkeepers. We didn't know why until one kind English-speaking patron took pity on us.

"Excuse me," she said. "This is a dry cleaners."

—ROSIE SPIEGEL

The escalator was broken, and the only way out of the airport was up a flight of stairs. I had a big suitcase and a sore knee.

I began dragging my bag and was making a loud thud on every step when a man behind me grabbed the suitcase and carried it to the top.

"That was so chivalrous," I gushed, thanking him.

"Chivalry had nothing to do with it," he said. "I've got a splitting headache."

—MEGAN SICLARI

Our friend hates to work out, which means the treadmill in her bedroom barely gets used. Nevertheless, she swears by it.

"It really works," she told me.

"I throw my jeans over it, and they get smaller."

—SHEILA TARNER

报纸自由撰稿人的知名度没有正常署名的作家高。所以得知终于有人注意我时，我很高兴。那天在银行，我要存一沓支票。

“哇，”出纳员读着支票上方出版商的名字说，“你肯定送过很多报纸。”

——米根·弗朗西斯

我和朋友艾米在西班牙各地旅行，我们融入当地文化，饱食各地美食，基本上每一个心血来潮的念头都一一满足。一天，我们走进一家店，店里卖的衣服很漂亮。试了几件衣服后发现，店员正用奇怪的目光看着我们。我们搞不清楚状况，直到一位会讲英语的好心顾客实在看不下去了。

“不好意思，”她说，“这里是干洗店。”

——罗西·施皮格尔

自动扶梯坏了，出机场的唯一路径是爬楼梯。我有一个很大的行李箱，膝盖已累得发软。

我拖着行李箱，每上一级，都要发出很响的声音，后面一位男士一把夺过旅行箱，帮我送到了楼梯口。

“你真是见义勇为啊，”我动情地说，对他表示感谢。

“这跟见义勇为没关系，”他说，“只是我头疼得快爆炸了。”

——梅甘·西克拉里

朋友不喜欢锻炼身体，很少碰卧室里的跑步机。不过，她对它还是赞不绝口。

“真的很管用，”她跟我说。

“我把牛仔裤扔在上面，牛仔裤就变小了。”

——希拉·塔纳

After standing in line at the DMV for what felt like eons, my brother finally got to the counter. As the clerk typed his name into the computer, she said, "That's odd."

"What's wrong?" James asked.

"My computer says you're deceased."

Surveying his surroundings, James muttered, "Great. I died and went to hell."

—FAE BUNDERSON

When I arrived at my mother's apartment complex, I was greeted by the disconcerting sight of a fire truck parked outside. There was no sign of smoke, and the firefighters didn't seem worried. Still, I asked one, "Is it safe to go inside? I'm a little wary of entering a building when the fire truck's lights are on."

"Don't worry about it," he said. "We do it all the time."

—NANCY DOANE

An amateur pilot wannabe, I knew I'd finally made progress with my flight training the day my instructor turned to me and said, "You know, you're not as much fun since you stopped screaming."

—BARBARA MACLEAN

How come married women are heavier than single women?

A single woman goes home, sees what's in the fridge, and goes to bed. A married woman sees what's in bed and goes to the fridge.

At Air Canada Jazz, we have four different paint schemes on our aircraft. The most prominent feature is a maple leaf on the tail. The fleet features either a green, yellow, red, or orange leaf, symbolizing the four

弟弟在车管所排队等了好久，终于轮到他了。办事员把他的名字输入电脑，说：“好奇怪啊。”

“哪里不对？”詹姆斯问。

“电脑说此人已去世。”

詹姆斯观察了一下周围，嘟囔道：“太棒了。看来我真死了，来了地狱了。”

——法埃·邦德森

我来到妈妈住的公寓楼下，见门外停着一辆消防车，以为事情不妙。不过没看见有烟，消防员看上去也不着急。我就问其中的一位：

“现在进去安全吗？消防车的灯还亮着，我不大敢进去呢。”

“别担心，”他说，“我们一直这样。”

——南希·多恩

我渴望成为一名业余飞行员，有一天，教练转身跟我说：“你知道吗？你不尖叫后就不好玩了。”于是，我知道我的飞行训练总算有进步了。

——芭芭拉·麦克莱恩

为什么已婚女子都比单身女子要重呢？

单身女子回到家，打开冰箱看看，然后就躺床上去了。已婚女子看看床上躺着什么，然后去开冰箱了。

我们加拿大爵士航空的飞机，有四种不同的喷涂图案。最显著的特征是尾翼上有一片枫叶。机身是绿色、黄色、红色、橘黄色四种中的一

seasons.

Upon arriving at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on a sunny but cool fall morning, the air-traffic controller asked why, yesterday, our plane had a yellow tail, but today's was orange. Without any hesitation my first officer replied, "It is autumn now, you know."

—MIKE CHUTSKOFF

Saving for a new car on a teacher's salary takes a while. So in the meantime, a mechanic friend loaned me an old junker so beat up, even its dents had dents. I came out of school one day to find a police officer and a woman examining it. "What's going on?" I asked.

"I saw her hit your car," the cop explained. "But I can't figure out where."

—YEFIM A. BRODD

I took a real estate client to a handyman special. The place was great, and we couldn't understand why it was so cheap, until we turned on the water main and water gushed from the ceiling. Dripping wet, my client put a positive spin on the showing: "Nice house," he said. "It's even self-cleaning."

—TIFFANY J. IN *THE CLASSIFIED GUYS*

When my luggage didn't make the flight home with me, I stormed over to the airport's customer-service counter.

"Can you describe your suitcase?" the clerk asked.

"It's a navy-blue duffel bag, 24 inches long, 18 inches wide, and 20 inches high," I said. "It has red piping around the edges, three big stars on one side, and the words Atlanta Olympics in big letters on the other side."

种颜色的树叶，象征着四个季节。

秋天一个晴朗清冷的早晨，飞机刚到宾夕法尼亚州的哈里斯堡，空中交通管制员就问，为什么我们的飞机昨天还是黄色的尾翼，今天就变成橘黄色的了。副驾驶不假思索地回答：“现在是秋天啊，对吧。”

——迈克·丘特斯考夫

身为一名教师，要想存钱买辆新车得等上好久。在此期间，我一位当机械工的朋友借给我一辆破得不能再破的车，凹痕上还有凹痕呢。一天我从学校出来，发现一名警官和一位女子在查看我的车。“怎么了？”我问。

“我看到她撞上你的车了，”警察解释说，“不过说不好撞的是哪一块。”

——叶菲姆·A. 布罗德

我带一位房产客户去看一处廉价房。房子看着很不错，不过等打开总水管，发现天花板上有水喷下来，我才明白为什么如此便宜了。我们淋了一身的水，倒是客户替大家圆了场。“房子不错，”他说，“还是自助式清洁的呢。”

——蒂法尼·J.，《分类信息报》

我发现行李没有跟我搭乘同一班飞机回来时，就急匆匆跑到机场的客服柜台。

“您能描述下您的行李箱吗？”接待员问。

“是海军蓝的行李袋，24英寸长，18英寸宽，20英寸高，”我说，“边缘处有红色的滚边，一面有三颗大星星，另一面是亚特兰大奥运会的大字。”

“Okay,” she said. “And is there anything distinctive about your bag?”

—KRIS MUCKERHEIDE

A mobster discovers that his deaf accountant has cheated him out of 10 million bucks. He confronts him, bringing along an interpreter. “Ask him where the money is,” the mobster says.

The interpreter does so, and the accountant signs back, “What are you talking about?”

The interpreter tells the godfather, “He says he doesn’t know what you’re talking about.”

The mobster puts a pistol to the bookkeeper’s head. “Ask him again!”

The interpreter signs, “He’ll kill you if you don’t tell him!”

“Okay, okay!” the bookkeeper signs back. “The money is buried behind the shed in my cousin Enzo’s backyard!”

“What’d he say?” asks the don.

“He says you don’t have the guts to pull the trigger.”

My son’s first job took him to Shenzhen, China. During the Chinese New Year I asked Todd why it was called the Year of the Pig.

“I’m not sure,” he wrote back. “A few months ago it was the Year of the Dog, and I’m still writing *Dog* on all my checks.”

—PHAMA WOODYARD

One morning, my mom went out to the freezer to get some meat to thaw. When she returned, my 15-year-old sister, Rebekah, looked up from the computer and exclaimed: “You’ve got enough meat to feed an army!”

“好吧，”她说，“请问您的行李袋有什么显著特征吗？”

——克里斯·穆克海德

歹徒发现，耳聋的会计骗了他1000万美元，于是带上一个翻译，去跟他当面对质。“问他钱在哪里，”歹徒说。

翻译照做了，会计打手语说：“你在说什么？”

翻译告诉这位教父级人物，“他说他不明白你在说什么。”

歹徒用枪指着会计的脑门。“再问他！”

翻译打了手势，“如果你不说，他就杀了你！”

“好吧，好吧！”会计用手势说，“钱埋在我表弟恩佐家后院的库棚后面！”

“他说什么？”大人物问。

“他说谅你也不敢开枪。”

儿子的第一份工作在中国深圳。正值中国新年，我问托德，为什么叫猪年呢。

“我也不清楚，”他回信说，“几个月前还是狗年呢，我现在在支票上写年份时还是写狗。”

——帕马·伍德亚德

某日清晨，妈妈去冰箱里拿一些肉出来解冻。等她回来时，我15岁的妹妹丽贝卡从电脑前抬起头，大呼道：“这么多肉，够一个军队吃了！”

She added, on second thought, "Well, maybe the Canadian army."

—ABIGAIL WHEALE

My wife loves sales. She'll buy anything that's marked down. Yesterday she came home with an escalator.

—JOHN SFORZA

A teetotaler is seated next to a rock star on a flight to Texas. After the plane takes off, the musician orders a whiskey and soda.

"And the same for you?" the flight attendant asks the teetotaler.

"I'd rather be tied up and ravaged by crazed women than let liquor touch my lips," he snorts.

"Here," says the rocker, handing back his drink. "I didn't know we had a choice."

—JOHN BOWMAN

One of the youth league soccer coaches didn't care much for my refereeing and had no problem letting me know it. Fed up, I threatened him with a penalty if he didn't can it. He calmed down, but an older woman took up where he'd left off.

"You'd better control your sideline," I warned the coach.

The coach turned to the woman and barked, "Knock it off, Mom!"

—JOSEPH WHEELER

Dad's satellite dish conked out. When I walked into his living room, I found my father talking on the phone with the help desk. The TV set was pulled away from the wall, and he was staring at the mass of tangled wires spilling out from the back of it. He looked completely overwhelmed.

转念一想，她又加了一句：“噢，可能够加拿大军队吃了。”¹

——阿比盖尔·惠尔

妻子最喜欢买打折货了，任何标“低”的东西她都会买。昨天回家时带了一架自动扶梯。

——约翰·斯福尔扎

在飞去得克萨斯州的路上，一位禁酒人士坐在一位摇滚歌星边上。飞机一起飞，这位音乐艺人就点了一杯加苏打水的威士忌。

“您要来同样的吗？”飞机乘务员问禁酒人士。

“我宁愿被一群疯女人绑起来蹂躏，也不会让酒精沾上我的嘴唇，”他轻蔑地说。

“还给你，”摇滚歌星把酒递给乘务员，“我不知道还能选那个呢。”

——约翰·鲍曼

青少年联盟的一个足球教练不服从我的裁判，还不介意让我知道。我终于受够了，就威胁他说如果再这样，我就要给他惩罚。他算是不折腾了，不过一位上了年纪的太太却开始闹腾。

“你最好管管你的场外区域，”我警告那位教练说。

只见那位教练跟那太太说：“别吵了，妈妈！”

——约瑟夫·惠勒

爸爸的卫星天线出了故障。我走进他的客厅时，发现他正跟维修中心通电话。电视机从墙上取了下来，他正盯着电视机背后散落出来的乱成一团的电线出神，整个人看上去不知所措。

¹ 加拿大素来当兵的人不多。

"Tell you what I'm going to do," Dad said to the technician. "I'm going to hang up now, go to college for a couple of years, then call you back."

—DANA MARISCA

You can take the man out of the auto business...

I was walking through the door after a morning of appointments—I'd gone to the beauty salon to have my hair colored and then to the chiropractor—when I heard my husband talking on the phone with my son.

"She's not in," he said. "She's gone out for a paint job and a realignment."

—ARLENE SHOVALD

After giving birth, I couldn't lose the 40 pounds I'd gained. So I dragged my husband to the mall in search of more flattering clothes. We were encouraged by a sign over a rack of suits: "Instantly hides 10 pounds!"

"Look," he said. "You just need to buy four of these."

—CINDY DAYE

"Purpose of visit?" asked the customs agent as we approached a checkpoint at the Canada-U.S. border.

"We're going to a wedding," my wife said.

"Are you carrying any weapons—knives, guns?" he asked.

"No," she said. "It's not that kind of wedding."

—MARTIN JAGODZINSKI

Traveling is a major part of my wife's job as a saleswoman, and it's

“告诉你我会怎么做，”爸爸跟维修工人说，“我现在马上挂电话，然后去大学里学两年，然后再给你打过去。”

——达纳·马里斯卡

你可以让一个男人不在汽车行业干……

忙了一上午——先去了美发店染发，然后去脊椎按摩师那里，我刚走到家门口，听见丈夫在跟儿子通电话。

“她不在家，”他说，“出门去上漆了，然后重新组合。”

——阿琳·舒瓦德

生完孩子后，长的40磅肉怎么都减不掉。于是我拽上老公去逛商场，找穿着不那么显胖的衣服。有一排衣服上挂了一个标牌，我俩看了顿时来了劲：“即减10磅！”

“看吧，”他说，“你只要买四件这种衣服就可以了。”

——辛迪·达耶

“来访目的？”加美边境检查站的工作人员问。

“去参加婚礼，”妻子说。

“有携带任何武器吗——刀枪之类的？”他问。

“不，”她说，“不是你想的那种婚礼。”

——马丁·亚戈金斯基

妻子的工作是销售员，得去各地出差。对她来说，一个星期去四五

not unheard-of for her to visit four or five cities in one week. I hadn't thought too much of it until she returned wiped out from her last long business trip.

As her head hit the pillow, she sighed, "It's so nice to be sleeping in my own bed, with my own husband."

—DAVID HARRISON

The manager of a jewelry store nabs a shoplifter trying to steal a necklace. "Listen," the crook says, "you don't want any trouble, and neither do I. What do you say I just buy the necklace and we forget this ever happened?"

The manager agrees and writes up a sales slip.

"You know," says the crook, "this is more than I wanted to spend. Got anything less expensive?"

—ROSEMARY COVERT

My brother and I were stopped at a red light when a landscaping truck drove past, its entire back laden with fresh green sod.

"Wow," he deadpanned. "I wish I had enough money to send my lawn out to get cut."

—MICHAEL VONDRAK

The barber's client looked depressed, so the barber told him, "Cheer up. I knew a guy who owed \$5,000 he couldn't pay. He drove his vehicle to the edge of a cliff, where he sat for over an hour. A group of concerned citizens heard about his problem and passed a hat around. Relieved, the man pulled back from the cliff's edge."

"Incredible," said the client. "Who were these kind people?"

"The passengers on the bus."

—PATRICK BROOME

座城市是家常便饭。我一直对此没有多虑，直到最近一次，她刚刚结束漫长的旅途，筋疲力尽地回到家。

她把头枕在枕头上，叹着气说：“能回到家跟自己的老公一起躺在自家的床上真好。”

——戴维·哈里森

珠宝店的经理逮住一个想偷项链的扒手。“听着，”那小偷说，“你不想惹麻烦，我也不想。要不我就买了这条项链，我们把这事给忘了，你觉得怎么样？”

经理同意了，就写了一张销售小票。

“那个，”小偷说，“这超过了我的心理价位，有没有再便宜点的？”

——罗斯玛丽·科弗特

我和哥哥在红灯前停了下来，一辆环境美化车从我们身边开过，车整个背部全覆盖着青草草皮。

“哇，”他面无表情地说，“我希望我也能有这么多钱，把草坪运出去修。”

——迈克尔·冯德拉克

顾客一脸沮丧，于是理发师就跟他说，“打起精神来。我认识一个人欠了人家5000美元，没法还债。他把车开到悬崖边，在那儿坐了一个多小时。一群好心人听说了他的问题，就开始募捐。问题解决了，那人就从悬崖边下来了。”

“太不可思议了，”顾客说，“那些好心人是谁啊？”

“公车上的乘客。”

——帕特里克·布鲁姆

After a severe storm walloped Kentucky, our utility company sent us to the hardest-hit area to get power restored. I was picking up fallen wires when a car horn blared at me.

“Hey!” I yelled at the driver.

“Didn’t you see all those red flags, signs, and barriers back there?”

“Oh, yes,” he replied. “I got by them all right. It’s your truck that’s in the way now.”

—GLEN STAUFFER

一场严重的暴风雨袭击了肯塔基州，我们被公用事业公司派去受灾最重的地方修电路。我正在支倒塌的电线，只听见一辆车朝我响了响喇叭。

“喂！”我冲着司机喊。

“你没看到这一路的红旗啊，标语啊，障碍物什么的么？”

“噢，看到了，”他回答，“我都想法子绕过了，现在挡我路的是你的卡车。”

——格伦·斯陶费尔



After my four-year-old and I turned the department store upside down looking for a bathing suit for me, we finally found a black-and-white one-piece that we both liked. I tried on the suit and modeled it for her. It was a hit.

"Mommy, you look so pretty!" she squealed. "You look just like Shamu the whale."

—LORI RHODES

During my physical fitness class, I had everyone lie on their backs with their legs up as if pedaling a bike. After several minutes one man suddenly stopped.

"Why did you stop pedaling?" I shouted.

"I didn't stop," he said, wheezing. "I'm coasting."

—HENRY BOTWINICK

"I'll never find the right guy," I heard the young guest at the wedding shower sigh.

"Don't give up," urged an older woman. "Every pot has a lid."

"Or," a cynical voice behind her offered, "you could just be a skillet."

—GEORGIANNA GUTHRIE

My sister and I decided to reframe a favorite photograph of our mother and father from when they were dating, some 60 years ago. After removing the picture from the frame, I turned it over, hoping to find a date. I didn't. Instead, my mother had written, "128 lbs."

—JEAN TATE

While stationed in Germany in the mid-'70s, I was the driver for

为了找一件泳衣，我和四岁大的女儿把百货商店翻了个底朝天，终于找到了一件我俩都喜欢的黑白连体泳衣。我穿上泳衣，秀给女儿看。感觉很棒。

“妈妈，你好漂亮啊！”她尖声尖气地叫道，“你好像食人鲸沙木¹啊。”

——洛丽·罗兹

体能健美课上，我让学生仰面躺着，双腿腾空，做踩脚踏车的姿势。几分钟后，一位男士突然停了下来。

“你怎么不踩了？”我大声问。

“我没停啊，”他喘着气说，“我在滑行呢。”

——亨利·博特威尼克

“我再也找不到合适的男人了，”单身女子派对上，我听见一位年轻的客人叹着气说。

“别放弃，”年纪稍长一点的女士鼓励她，“每个水壶都会有盖子的。”

“或者，”从她身后传来一句风凉话，“你可以当一只煎锅。”

——乔治亚娜·格思里

我和妹妹打算帮爸妈的一张旧照片重新安个新相框，这照片是两人的最爱，60多年前拍的了，当时他们还在恋爱。我把照片从旧相框里取出来，翻到反面，想着或许能找到拍摄日期。结果没找到，反而看到妈妈亲手写的“128磅”。

——琼·泰特

70年代中期，我被派驻扎在德国，为加拿大国防部首长开车，首长

1 历史上第四头被人类捕获的逆戟鲸，是第一头捕获后仍存活长达13个月以上的食人鲸。在20世纪60年代，沙木是圣迭戈海洋世界的明星。

Canada's Chief of Defence while he attended a conference in Belgium. After the conference, I drove the general back to Germany.

At the border, German Customs asked for our passports. The officer took them and sat in his booth, staring at us for 15 minutes. The general was about to make inquiries when the customs officer finally nodded at me to drive on.

When I got home, my wife asked if there had been any problems on the trip. I started to tell her about the incident at the border when she interrupted, asking if I'd looked at my passport lately.

"Uh, no," I answered.

If I had, I would have noticed my wife's picture staring back at me: I'd accidentally grabbed her passport before leaving.

—JOE WALSH

My wife left the car unattended for only a minute, but it was long enough for our two-year-old to climb in, throw the car into reverse and crash into a lamppost. He was fine, but the car wasn't, and I had a hard time explaining who was behind the wheel to the insurance company.

After a pause, the adjuster asked,

"Do you let him drive often?"

—DON LEE

Our lease on our house was coming to an end and I was trying to decide where we should move. Since my three kids are teens, I felt they should have a say in the decision, so, over the course of a few months, I bombarded them with questions as to where they wanted to live. It became apparent that I had caused some confusion when I noticed a box I'd packed and left in the dining room. On the box I had marked CHINA in large bold letters.

当时在比利时出席一场会议。会议过后，我开车送他回德国。

在边境上，德国边防人员请我们出示护照。军官拿了我们的护照，坐在岗亭里，盯着我们看了足足有15分钟。首长正要问怎么回事，只见边防官最终向我点了点头，示意我可以走了。

回到家，妻子问一路上可有麻烦。我就把边界上发生的事跟她说了，她打断我的话，问最近我有没有看过护照。

“呃，没有，”我回答说。

如果我有看过，肯定会注意到上面是我妻子的照片：出门前，我错拿了她的护照。

——乔·沃尔什

妻子离开车才一分钟，短短的时间内，我们两岁大的孩子趁机溜上车，挂了倒挡，撞上了一根路灯柱。孩子没事，不过车子却撞坏了，我费了好大的劲儿跟保险公司解释是谁开的车。

沉默了片刻，那位理算员问道：

“你们经常让他开车吗？”

——唐·李

房租的契约快到期了，我还没打定主意搬去哪里住。三个孩子已经十几岁了，我觉得应该听听他们的意见，于是接下来的几个月里，我经常问他们一大堆关于他们想住在哪里的的问题。我看到我整理好后放在饭厅的一个盒子上孩子们写的字，才知道哪里肯定有了误会。盒子上我用大大的粗体字写了“瓷器”¹两个字。

¹ China可以解释为“瓷器”，也可理解为“中国”。

Someone had scribbled a note to the side—"NOT moving there!"

—KAREN BIRCH, CALGARY

As a flight attendant, I always give this advice: "Folks, make up your mind about what you're going to do before entering the lavatory, because once you close that door, there's no turning around."

—JULIE ELROD

With the crowded quarters in coach, I can't blame airplane passengers for asking flight attendants for free upgrades to first class. On a recent fully booked flight, a passenger stopped me with hat in hand.

"Is there any way I can get bumped up to first class?" he pleaded.

I shook my head. "Not unless we hit turbulence."

—SUZANNE RICKABAUGH

A new study says there is no connection between breathing recirculated airplane air and catching colds. There is, however, a strong connection between breathing recirculated airplane air and losing your luggage.

—GREGG SIEGEL

Did you hear that the world's biggest optimist fell out a window on the 79th floor? As he sailed past the 20th floor, he was overheard saying, "Doing okay so far!"

—DANIEL KING

I doubt if there's a state where my friend's parents, Bud and Beth, haven't traveled in their camper. They bought a new RV, and to

有人在盒边上贴了张便条——“不想搬去那儿！”

——卡伦·伯奇，卡尔加里

我是飞机乘务员，经常给乘客们提如下的建议：“乘客朋友们，进洗手间前请想清楚了您要干吗，因为一旦关上门，就没有回转的余地了。”¹

——朱莉·埃尔罗德

机舱里各处都很挤，乘客们要求乘务员免费帮他们换到头等舱，也情有可原。最近一次满座的旅途中，一位乘客用手中的帽子拦住我。

“有没有方法能让我升到头等舱去？”他恳求道。

我摇了摇头。“除非碰上湍流。”

——苏珊娜·里克鲍

最新的一项研究表明，在飞机内部呼吸再循环的空气与感冒没有联系。然而，在飞机内部呼吸再循环的空气却与丢行李有紧密的关系。

——格雷格·西格尔

你有没有听说全世界最乐观的人从79层楼的窗户摔了下去？经过第20层时，有人听见他在说：“到目前为止一切顺利！”

——丹尼尔·金

真怀疑我朋友的父母巴德和贝丝开着他们的露营车，还有哪一个州没去过。他们买了辆新的休闲车，为了庆祝，他们的女婿送上一块匾，

¹ 词组turn around指“改变意见”，在这个笑话里是双关，另一层意思是飞机的洗手间空间太小，进去后没地方转身。

celebrate, their son-in-law gave them a plaque to hang on the outside.

It reads “Bud, Beth and Beyond.”

—KAREN MANSOR

I recently called the library to ask what research material they had on the Renaissance artist Donatello. After giving me some book and Web titles, the librarian sheepishly added another bit of interesting information.

“I have to confess, I couldn’t remember how to spell Donatello,” she said. “So I went into our search engine and typed in Ninja Turtles.”

—RYAN JUGUETA

The biggest loser at my weight-loss club was an elderly woman. “How’d you do it?” we asked. “Easy,” she said. “Every night I take my teeth out at six o’clock.”

—CATHY J. SCHREIMA

A bicyclist came whizzing down a steep hill and smashed into a car as I stood there watching in horror. I ran over to see if I could help and discovered the wild rider was a friend of mine, an attorney.

I knew he was going to be just fine when the first words out of his mouth were, “Did the driver admit he was at fault?”

—GRETCHEN HUMPHREY

Unlike many other professionals, my parents, both mathematics professors, can’t seem to leave their work in the classroom. Recently I witnessed the following conversation.

挂在车的外面。

上面写着“巴德、贝丝和远方”。¹

——卡伦·曼苏尔

最近，我给图书馆打电话，问研究文艺复兴艺术家多那太罗²的资料他们有哪些。图书管理员给了我一些书名和网址后，还羞答答地告诉了我另一些有意思的信息。

“我得坦白，我不记得多那太罗这四个字怎么写了，”她说，“于是只好进我们的检索系统，输入‘忍者神龟’。”

——瑞安·朱盖塔

我们减肥俱乐部里，减肥最成功的是一位上了年纪的女士。“您怎么做到的？”我们问。“很简单，”她说，“每天晚上六点，我就把假牙取下来。”

——凯西·J. 施赖玛

一位骑自行车的人从一个陡峭的山坡上飕飕飞下，撞上了一辆汽车，我站在一旁看到后吓坏了，赶忙跑过去看能不能帮上什么，却发现这个疯狂的骑车手是我的一个朋友，他是律师。

听到他嘴里冒出来的第一句话，我就知道他应该没事，他说：“司机承认错在他了吗？”

——格蕾琴·汉弗莱

我爸妈都是数学教授，他们跟许多其他专家不一样，似乎没法把工作只局限在课堂上。最近，我听到了他们如下的对话：

1 Bud, Beth和Beyond押b这个音的头韵。

2 多那太罗(Donatello)：文艺复兴早期，意大利佛罗伦萨的一位雕塑家，代表作有《圣乔治像》、《大卫》等。日本动画片《忍者神龟》中有一个人物也叫多那太罗。

Mom: Has my midsection gotten larger?

Dad: Yes.

Mom: Since exactly when?

Dad: I don't know. It's a continuous function. But it became statistically significant about six months ago.

—PRIYANKA BASAK

Scary business headline:

"Air Traffic Controllers Can Apply for Job in Braille"

—THISISPLYMOUTH.CO.UK

Fred comes home from his usual Saturday golf game. "What a terrible day," he tells his wife. "Harry dropped dead on the tenth tee."

"Oh, that's awful!" she says.

"You're not kidding," says Fred. "For the whole back nine, it was hit the ball, drag Harry, hit the ball, drag Harry..."

—CRAIG CHEEK

The flight I was piloting to Cleveland was overbooked. So the gate agent came aboard with an offer. In exchange for deplaning, two volunteers would get free hotel rooms, meal vouchers and tickets on the next morning's flight. When nobody volunteered, I decided to try a little levity.

"Ladies and gentlemen," I said over the PA, "if it helps, I'm not a very good pilot."

A loud voice from the back yelled, "Then YOU get off!"

—QUINCY NELSON

妈妈：我的中腹部是不是变大了？

爸爸：是的。

妈妈：确切什么时候开始的？

爸爸：我不知道。是个连续函数，但是大约半年前才开始有统计学意义。

——普里亚卡·巴斯卡

吓人的商界热点新闻：

“招聘空中交通管制员，可以用布莱叶文¹申请”

——THISISPLYMOUTH.CO.UK

弗雷德从例常的周六高尔夫球赛上回到家。“今天太背了，”他大声跟妻子说，“哈里死在了第十个球上。”

“噢，太不幸了！”²她说。

“你不是开玩笑吧，”弗雷德说，“前面整整九个球，都是击球，拖住哈里，击球，拖住哈里。”

——克雷格·奇克

由我当飞行员、飞往克利夫兰的飞机超过了最大载客量。于是登机口管理人来到机舱里，想出一个方法，给两名自愿下飞机的乘客提供免费住宿、免费餐饮，以及次日清晨的机票。可是没有人自告奋勇下飞机，于是我决定吓吓他们。

“女士们、先生们，”我对着扩音器说，“说这话不知道能不能帮上忙，其实我不是个好的飞行员。”

后面传来一个很响的说话声：“那么你下去！”

——昆西·纳尔逊

1 布莱叶文：盲人点字符号，发明人为布莱叶。

2 妻子以为，哈里在打第十个球时去世了。

My grandfather hates television. Ask him and he'll tell you that the tube is stultifying and addictive. The plug-in drug, he calls it.

Not long ago, Grandpa discovered my five-year-old brother, Frankie, watching TV with his nose practically on the screen. Appalled, he called me over.

"Look!" he shouted, pointing to Frankie. "Now he's snorting it."

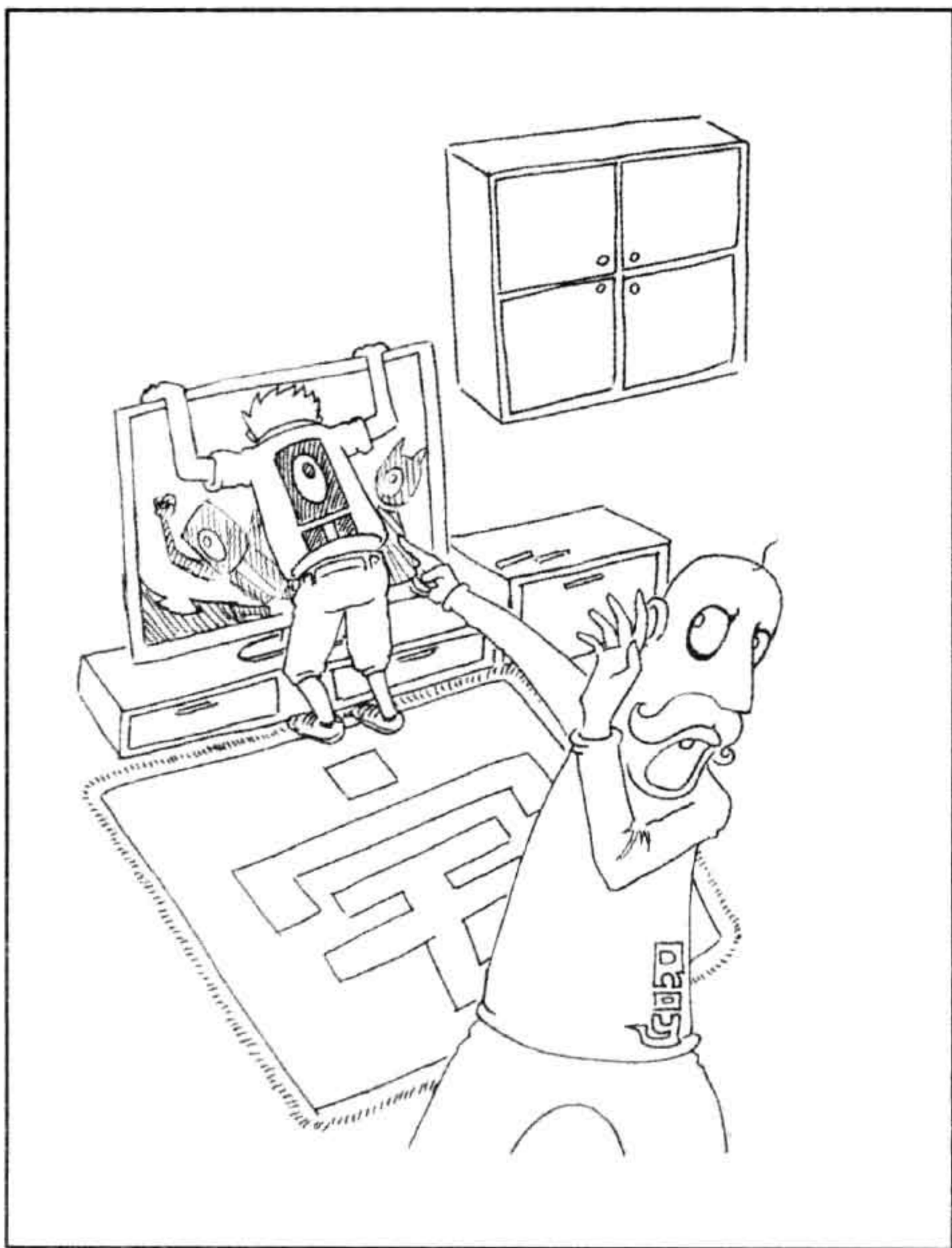
—WENDY DAVIS

爷爷不喜欢电视。问他他会说，这电子管让人变得愚笨，还能上瘾。他管它叫通了电的毒品。

不久前，爷爷发现我五岁大的弟弟弗朗基在看电视，鼻子都快凑到电视机上了。他大为惊愕，就把我叫到一边。

“看吧！”他指着弗朗基叫道，“现在他在吸了。”

——温迪·戴维斯



Harry asks his friend Larry to help him with something. "I think the blinker signal on my car is broken," he says. "Stand behind the car. When I turn it on, tell me if the blinker's working."

Larry situates himself behind the car while Harry gets in the driver's seat and hits the blinker.

"Is it working?" he yells back.

"Yes!" says Larry. "No! Yes! No! Yes! No..."

"I am a Yankees fan," a first-grade teacher explains to her class. "Who likes the Yankees?"

Everyone raises a hand except one little girl. "Janie," the teacher says, surprised. "Why didn't you raise your hand?"

"I'm not a Yankees fan."

"Well, if you are not a Yankees fan, then what team do you like?"

"The Red Sox," Janie answers.

"Why in the world are you a Red Sox fan?"

"Because my mom and dad are Red Sox fans."

"That's no reason to be a Red Sox fan," the teacher replies, annoyed. "You don't always have to be just like your parents. What if your mom and dad were morons? What would you be then?"

"A Yankees fan."

—TOM ZAHN

Grandpa is a late convert to the technological age. The other day, he called my father to complain that he couldn't use his printer: "The screen says 'Warming Up.' "

Dad ran over there, only to find half the printer melted. "What happened?" he asked.

"I don't know," said Grandpa. "But even the space heater didn't

哈里请朋友拉里帮个忙。“我车子的闪光灯好像坏了，”他说，“你站在车后，我打开灯，你告诉我有没有坏。”

拉里在车后找了个位置站好，哈里坐进驾驶室，打开闪光灯。

“这灯工作吗？”他朝后面喊。

“是！”拉里说。“不！是！不！是！不……”

“我是扬基队的球迷，”一年级老师在班上讲，“有谁喜欢扬基队？”

所有学生都举手了，只有一个小女孩没举。“贾妮，”老师吃惊地问，“你为什么不举手呢？”

“我不是扬基队的球迷。”

“好吧，如果你不是扬基队的球迷，那么你支持哪个队呢？”

“红袜队，”贾妮回答。

“那你为什么是红袜队的球迷呢？”

“因为我妈妈和爸爸都是。”

“那也不是喜欢红袜队的理由啊，”老师生气地回答说，“你不用什么都跟你爸妈一样。如果你爸妈是傻瓜呢？你是什么？”

“扬基队的球迷。”

——汤姆·察恩

爷爷最近才归顺科技时代。前两天，他给爸爸打电话，抱怨打印机用不了：“屏幕显示‘待热’。”

爸爸跑去爷爷家，发现半个打印机已经熔化了。“怎么回事？”他问。

help.”

—AARON ATHERTON

As the teleconference with our London branch concluded, my British colleague suggested that we continue our meeting the next day.

“Sorry,” I said. “Tomorrow’s July 4th, and the office will be closed.”

“Ah, yes, Independence Day,” he said. “Or as we refer to it over here, Thanksgiving.”

—DALE JENKINS

I had to voice my concern when a coworker said she found dates using the Internet.

“Don’t worry about me,” she said. “I always insist we meet at a miniature golf course.”

“Why there?” I asked.

“First, it’s a public spot,” she said. “Second, it’s in broad daylight. And third, I have a club in my hand.”

—LINDA AKINS

Why is Cinderella bad at sports?

Because she has a pumpkin for a coach, and she runs away from the ball.

—SEAN MCELWEE

Following his motivational talk at a Weight Watchers meeting, my father noticed one client’s small son climbing onto a scale.

“Don’t go on that, Joey,” warned the boy’s slightly older brother.

“It makes people cry.”

—CARTER DICKERSON

“我也不知道，”爷爷说，“取暖器也没帮上忙。”

——亚伦·阿瑟顿

与英国分公司的远程会议快结束时，英国同事建议第二天会议继续。

“抱歉，”我说，“明天是七月四日，公司放假。”

“啊，是啊，独立日呢，”他说，“或者用我们的说法，感恩节。”

——戴尔·詹金斯

同事说她在网上找男朋友，我不得不表示担心。

“不用担心我，”她说，“每回我都要求在一家小型高尔夫球场碰面。”

“为什么在那儿？”我问。

“首先，那是公共场合。”她说，“第二，光天化日之下。第三，我手里握着球杆。”

——琳达·埃金斯

灰姑娘为什么不擅长体育？

因为她的教练是只南瓜，并且球一来她就跑。¹

——肖恩·麦克尔威

在减肥中心的会议上，爸爸说完一番激励人心的话后，发现一位客户的小儿子爬到了体重秤上。

“别去那上面，乔伊，”比他稍大一点的哥哥提醒他。

“那东西能把人弄哭。”

——卡特·迪克森

¹ coach既可以指马车，也可以指教练；ball既可以指舞会，也可以指球。童话故事里，灰姑娘坐着南瓜马车离开了舞会。

My husband was booking a business flight when the reservation clerk gave him a choice of seats: behind the bulkhead or in Shakespeare's chair.

A seasoned traveler, my husband was confused. "Shakespeare's chair? What's that?"

"You know," said the operator. "2B."

—HOLLY RIDLEY

My mother lacks a green thumb, but she keeps at it. Pointing one day to a line of new plants by the kitchen window, my sister whispered to me, "Look—death row."

—MICHAEL KNIGGE

As a new member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, I attended a ceremony where a light lunch was served. Ready to leave, I walked towards the garbage can to throw out my plate and some leftover turkey. Our commanding officer happened to be standing near the garbage can and jokingly said to me, "Eat your meat; it's good for you."

I took a few steps backward to figure out what to do when the member standing next to him said, "Sir, she only has two months service. If you told her to, she would eat her plate!"

—DIANE MACDONALD

Canada Post has just issued a stamp to commemorate jury duty. It's being sold in packs of 12 with two alternates.

—BEN WALSH

During the January playoffs, my husband lapses into a football-fan coma. Once, I left him to watch our 13-month-old daughter. "Honey, put

丈夫在订商务舱时，订票员给了他两个选择：舱壁后面的位置呢，还是莎士比亚的位置。

丈夫经常飞去各地，可谓经验老道，可还是很困惑。“莎士比亚的位置？那是什么？”

“哦，就是，”订票员说，“2B。”¹

——霍利·里德利

妈妈不善于园艺，可仍不放弃。有一天，姐姐指着厨房窗边一排新买的植物，悄悄跟我说：“看——死囚区。”

——迈克尔·克尼格

作为加拿大皇家骑警队的新成员，我参加了一个仪式，活动结束后提供简餐。我准备离开了，就走到垃圾桶边，打算把餐盘和剩余的火鸡肉倒掉。我们的指挥官正好站在垃圾桶边，他开玩笑地跟我说：“把肉吃了，对身体好。”

我后退几步，正想着要怎么办时，站在他边上的警官说：“长官，她才来两个月呢。如果你要她把餐盘吃了，她都会照做的！”

——戴安娜·麦克唐纳

加拿大邮政新发行了一款邮票，以纪念陪审职责。卖的时候是12张一包，外加两张候补的。

——本·沃尔什

一月份进入决赛阶段，丈夫陷入了球迷痴狂的状态。有一次，我把

1 莎士比亚的戏剧《哈姆雷特》中有一句著名的台词，哈姆雷特王子在思索着生命的意义时发出感叹：“To be or not to be?”（生存呢，还是灭亡？）座位2B的发音与to be一致，所以戏称2B为莎士比亚的位置。

Izabelle down for her nap," I said. "But not for more than an hour."

When I got back, he was watching a game and the baby was napping. "When did she go to sleep?" I asked.

Still staring at the screen, he mumbled, "Halfway through the third quarter."

—NORA BRYSON

Everyone in our neck of the woods knows that trailer parks and tornadoes are not a good mix. So my brother-in-law wasn't the least bit surprised when the lead story on our local news was about a tornado wiping out a mobile-home factory.

"Look at that," he said. "Got them in the larval stage."

—PETE MAY

One of the players on our junior high football team never saw action in a game. But my brother, the assistant coach, liked the kid and always gave him pep talks.

"Remember, Ben," he told him, "everyone on this team has an important role. There is no I in team."

"True," said the boy. "But there is a *Ben* in bench."

—ALICIA ELLEY

I'm not into exercising. Yesterday my wife said, "Let's walk around the block." I said, "Why? We're already here."

—COMIC WENDELL POTTER

13个月大的女儿交给他照看。“亲爱的，待会哄伊莎贝拉睡会午觉，”我说，“但别让她睡超过一小时。”

我回到家，丈夫正在看比赛，宝宝还在睡觉。“她什么时候睡的？”我问。

他的眼睛一眨不眨地盯着屏幕，嘴里嘟囔着：“第三节的后半段。”

——诺拉·布赖森

住在我们这一带的人都知道，活动屋停驻场碰上龙卷风可就麻烦了。所以，我姐夫看到地方报纸的头条新闻时一点也不吃惊，上面说一场龙卷风把一个活动屋工厂给吹走了。

“看呐，”他说，“还是幼虫呢，就被灭了。”

——皮特·梅

我们初中足球队里有个球员，从来没上过场。不过我那当助理教练的弟弟却很喜欢那孩子，经常说些话鼓励他。

“本，记着，”弟弟这么跟他说，“球队里的每一个人都有重要的作用。球队里没有我。”

“没错，”这男孩说，“但是板凳里有个本¹啊。”

——艾丽西亚·埃利

我不喜欢运动。昨天妻子说：“我们绕街区一圈散散步吧。”我说：“为什么？我们已经在这里了嘛。”

——喜剧演员温德尔·波特

¹ 板凳是bench，前三个字母是ben，做人名时叫“本”。

