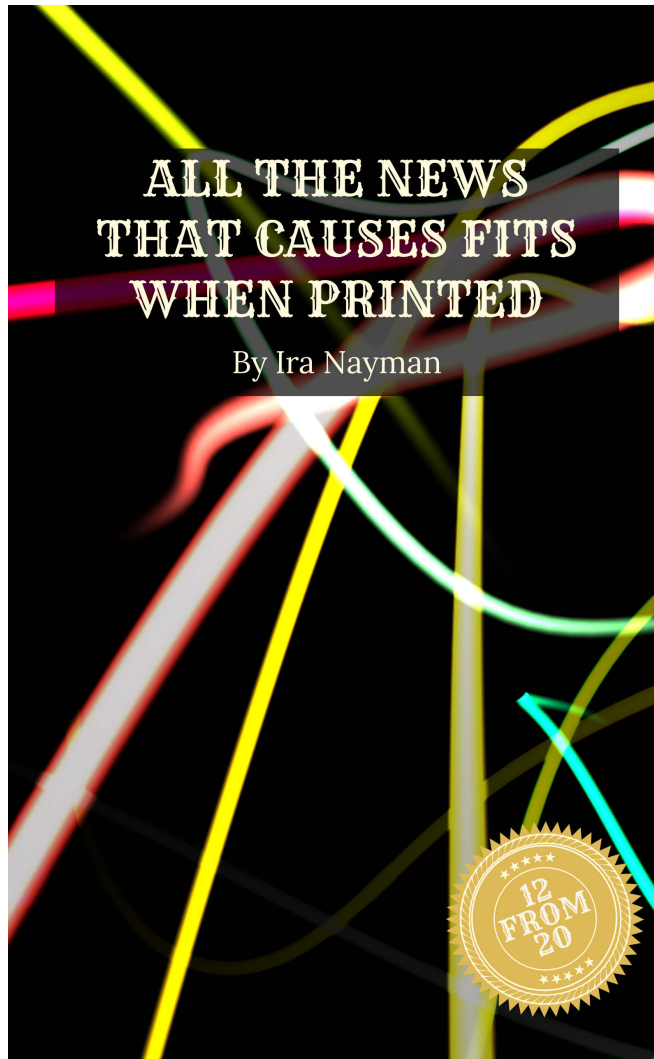




All the News That Causes Fits When Printed

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cover design by Gisela McKay

Published by Ira Nayman
ISBN: 978-1-927645-51-2
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Introduction

In the first week of September 2022, Les Pages aux Folles will turn 20. To celebrate this achievement, I will be publishing 12 ebook collections of articles from the two decades of the web site over the course of the year; this project is known as “12 from 20.” (For a brief overview of Les Pages aux Folles, see “The Back Story” at the end of this volume.) Each book will focus on a different feature of the web site. This month: the second of two miscellaneous collections that contain articles that didn’t fit into any of the other books. This book will cover the years 2008 to the present.

The problem with separating different types of articles from *Les Pages aux Folles* into their own books is that this gives the reader no sense of the context in which they appear, no sense of the flow of the web site. It is rare that two or three of the same features appear in a single week (although it has happened when I had a lot of topical pieces of the same type and didn’t want to let them go stale through delay). A typical week’s lineup might be: The Daily Me, followed by an article of headlines, followed by an Alternate Reality News Service news article; or, a column about deplorables, followed by a column of quotes, followed by an Alternate Reality News Service advice column.

Flow.

One of the good things about the two miscellaneous collections in “12 From 20” is that they mix up a lot of different kinds of articles; in doing so, they more closely resemble the flow of the web site. (Not entirely, because they are missing the types of articles featured in other books in the series, but closely enough.)

You may wonder why the first miscellaneous collection contains writing from the first five years of *Les Pages aux Folles*, while the second contains writing from the subsequent fifteen years. Imbalanced much? Actually, not as much as you might think. The first five years of the web site contained a lot of bespoke pieces of writing (in which the form was dictated by what I was trying to say); after that, features started crowding out the bespoke articles, making fewer of them available in any given year. Although the dates may seem out of balance, the two volumes draw from a pool of articles of roughly similar size.

Flow **and** balance. Can’t ask for any fairer than that.

What follows is, in no particular order, an explanation of the development of some of the article types in this volume.

Headlines. The basic form is a headline with no comment other than a snarky headline of its own. This feature started in The Daily Me (from the source: *Billy-Bob’s International House O’ Headlines*), but I quickly found that I wrote more than one a week, and eventually had to collect them in articles of their own. (They have become such a staple of *Les Pages aux Folles* that they will be collected in an entire book of their own.)

Over the years, I experimented with different types of headlines. One that has become a regular feature is headlines in the form of a question (with my own headline often being

an answer, or at least an oblique response of some kind). For a while, I would write entire columns of headlines with the word “app” in them, or the number five (which, surprisingly, shows up remarkably frequently in newspapers). These weren’t so much funny as they were experimental pieces of writing, so I didn’t write many of them.

Quotes. This feature contains quotes with no comment other than a snarky headline. Similar to headlines, it began in The Daily Me (from the source: No Comment Quotes), but grew into its own feature.

Tweets. My Web Goddess (hi, Gisela!) strongly suggested that I promote *Les Pages aux Folles* on social media, so I joined Facebook and Twitter. (They were cool at the time – don’t judge.) For a while, I would develop a month’s worth of tweets on a specific theme (for instance: Puns We Love to Hate, or False Facts About...). When it comes to feeding the insatiable maw of the web site, I quickly learned the wisdom of wasting not and wanting not, so I collected those tweets into articles when I had enough of them.

Self-serving? You bet! I do hope, though, that people who did not read them when they were first posted to Twitter enjoy them, and people who remember them from their original posts get a warm, fuzzy feeling of nostalgia from encountering them in a new form.

Cover Stories. Six months into *Les Pages aux Folles*, I added a pithy quote to the front page of the web site. The sources for the one-liners were many: some were just bits of gratuitous cleverness that I had no other use for (example: “*Les Pages aux Folles*: the web site with nothing to say and a love of language to say it with!” – man, that’s a t-shirt!); some, a lot, actually, were Puns we Love to Hate (after I had given up posting a themed month’s worth of tweets because the effort became too onerous); some were A Few of My Favourite Things, another Twitter feature that had its genesis in an article I wrote in the print phase of *Les Pages aux Folles*.

“What is This Thing Called Culture?” essentially mashed up cultural references and common catchphrases in a 700 word prose poem. It starts: “What is this thing called culture? Well, there’s...*No Business Like Show Business* hours not to reason “YMCA” galaxy far, far away out of his mind over Matterhorn of Plenty of nothing, and nothing’s plenty for Michelle, ma Belle...” (The entire article appears in Book One of 12 From 20 if you’re interested in exposing yourself to the entire insanity.) For A Few of My Favourite Things, I essentially mash up two cultural references in a similar fashion (example: “My favourite actor/physical phenomenon: Quark Gable...”).

I always thought this would make a great party game. Somebody starts with a cultural reference. Then, you go around the table and each person has to build another reference on top of the one that came before them. It could be a timed game (ie: if you don’t come up with something in five or ten seconds, you lose the round; inexperienced players could invoke house rules and take longer). If you repeat something that has already been used in the chain, you are out. Continue until one player is left. If they cap their last entry with

one final entry, they win the round (although you could invoke a house rule and allow them to win without it). If anybody tries to play it, let me know how it turned out.

Dialogue. In the fifteen years I stopped working on *Les Pages aux Folles* (more or less, give or take, your mileage may vary), I focused on writing screenplays. That's a whole 'nother book on its own, but I mention it here to explain why many of the articles on *Les Pages aux Folles* are made up entirely of dialogue. I like to think that I became adept at writing it while working on scripts. Great dialogue has a strong rhythm (I once wrote a non-fiction article on dialogue comparing it to music); it's a lot of fun to write and, hopefully, fun to read.

I introduced a variety of character in the dialogue-driven articles. Og and Thag looked at contemporary issues through a pre-historic lens. Evan "Dick" Lamanchuck and Michaelangelo "Dick" Tremonte of Big DICK Radio started as my piss take on morning DJs (of whom I have never been a fan), but eventually evolved into a vehicle for me to comment on aspects of the radio industry. In a similar vein, Larry and Bud allowed me to comment on trends in the film industry. And of course, Mister and Misses Frump gave me an ongoing platform on which to discuss issues of homelessness.

Algorithms. Have you ever noticed that people in politics do the same things over and over and over again? And over again. And once more? Because, when you've got something that works, why change it? I noticed that. And it occurred to me that this was a form of mechanical thinking that could be well illustrated by breaking the behaviour down into its component elements and creating an ersatz computer algorithm. (For example: "The How Democracy Dies Algorithm.")

Over time, I expanded the concept to include repetitive behaviours outside of the political realm that could be boiled down to a computer algorithm. "Manny's Way With Women: Algorithm 1: Pick-up," for instance, is about how a Romeo-in-his-own-mind goes about starting relationships. Because we can learn just as much from negative examples as we can from positive ones, right?

Right.

Zen. I was a seeker after answers to the big questions until well into my thirties, possibly even my early forties. Why are we here? How can we lead a good and just life? Who put the bomp in the bomp shoo bomp shoo bomp? The philosophy that attracted me most during this period was Buddhism, which wasn't so much about the promise of a good afterlife in return for certain behaviours in this life, but about living in and making the most of the here and now. I eventually stopped searching for answers and decided to focus on, you know, living and stuff, but I can still see what attracted me to it.

Koans, pithy sayings, were a staple of Zen Buddhist practice. You may know of them even if you didn't know what they were called: If a tree falls in the forest and nobody is there to hear it, has it made a sound? is one of the best known. The purpose of a Koan is

to force the hearer out of ruts of thinking by confronting them with a rational absurdity.
And to make them laugh.

I approve of anything that helps people laugh.

Over the years, I wrote a series of articles in the form of gentle Zen fables (in this volume, look for: “Zen and the Art of the Impossible”). They could be used as Koans, I suppose; they are often quite absurd. But of course, the form was useful to me in satirizing political arguments.

Final Observations. You only live once. Be good to each other. Eat lots of fruit. Screw sunscreen.

Enjoy.

Ira Nayman
Toronto
February 22, 2022

Articles

Og and Thag Take Personal Responsibility

“How am arm, Thag?”

“Arm am good, Og. How am leg?”

“One me have left?”

“Umm. Yes?”

“It am good. Other leg no good. Other leg gone. Stick help Og.”

“Good. That good.”

“That leg gone?!”

“No. No. That stick help. Is good that stick help.”

“Oh. Okay. Thag?”

“Og?”

“Me am hungry.”

“That am too bad, that.”

“Am you hungry?”

“Me am hungry not so much. No.”

“But, it am be three days since we eat.”

“You am deaf? Me am say me no hungry, so me am no hungry!”

“You know what they am say? Man who am tired of eating am tired of living.”

“No. Man who am tired of bang-bang am tired of living.”

“If man no eat, man no have energy for bang-bang.”

“Tell me about it! Dita am unhappy with Thag performance. Very unhappy.”

“Aha! So, you **am** hungry?”

“Yes! Yes, Og, you drag it out of me with you logic! Me am hungry! Me am very hungry!”

“So...maybe we hunt now, yes?”

“Hunting good. When me have energy again, maybe me am go hunting.”

“Maybe we hunt...together?”

“What am you saying?”

“That we should...we should coordinate our hunting efforts so we am capture big game. We am feed tribe for many moons.”

“That am out of question.”

“But –”

“We hunt alone. All good things come out of individual effort. Anything that benefits whole group am...am...there am no word for it, but it am bad. It am very bad.”

“But, Thag, exactly how am individual effort benefit group?”

“It am trickle down to rest of member of group, Og. Everybody am know that! It am like summer rain dripping in cave.”

“Trickle down? Like summer rain? In cave?”

“Yes! One man kill mammoth, rest of tribe can live off mammoth leftovers. Uhh...okay, trickle down am not exactly right image for dead meat –”

“It am kind of gross.”

“Yes, but, you get idea.”

“But, how am one person able to kill a mammoth? They am too big for one person to kill!”

“Oh, it am possible. You need to find mammoth weakness –”

“But, mammoth have no weakness! That what make mammoth mammoth!”

“Right person can find mammoth weakness.”

“Right person? Like you?”

“Now, you am not need being insulting.”

“We try you way, Thag. Really. But, all we achieve is broken bones and empty stomachs. It am not be like in Booga tribe.”

“Oh, you am not talk about Booga tribe!”

“Yes! Yes, me am! Booga tribe hunt together and they always have plenty food for whole tribe for whole winter!”

“That am bad thing we have no word for yet!”

“Why am it bad that they have enough food?”

“Because they no am getting it for themselves! Individually!”

“What am so special about individuals?”

“All good am flow from individuals!”

“Like what?”

“Like...what? Like...wheel, and...and...and like fire!”

“Wheel am developed by group of researchers in Denga Valley. Leader use it run over everybody else and claim credit, but everybody know it am created by group. Fire am

discovered by accident by different people throughout continent. You am got any better examples?”

“ALL GOOD AM FLOW FROM INDIVIDUALS, NOT GROUPS!”

“Okay, Thag. Okay. My head am convinced. My stomach, though, well, my stomach am tough audience.”

“Tell stomach to stop being so lazy and go get food.”

“Lazy?”

“Yes! If you am hungry, it you own fault!

“Me own fault?”

“Yes! Nobody owe you food. If you hungry, it because you not go out and hunt for food yourself.”

“Am you hungry because you am lazy?”

“Of course not! Me have bad luck. Me get big food...as soon as me have energy to get up.”

“Thag...me talk to Booga this morning.”

“WHAT?”

“He say we welcome to join his tribe.”

“So he tell us what to do?”

“It am called coordination.”

“It am called word we no have word for yet, but it bad. It very bad.”

“I am join Booga tribe. I rather be fed than good.”

“Fine! Go! You am see. The whole basis of you social organization am wrong. Nothing good am come of it. Nothing!”

“Good luck, Thag.”

“Me no need luck, Og. Me know how world work.”

And, that’s how the human dinosaurs died out.

Headline for the Beverly Hills!

Not Exactly “Dewey Wins!” But These Are Times Of Diminished Expectations

“Giambrone plans to remain in mayoral race”
- *Globe and Mail*

Echoes Of Three Months Ago

“Canada set to join in major Afghan offensive”
- *Globe and Mail*

Are You At All Familiar With The Concept Of “Self-fulfilling Prophecy?”

“Why is Obama failing?”
- *National Post*

Let The Let Thes Begin

“Let legal games begin: drug-testing v. Charter”
- *Globe and Mail*

“Let the distraction begin”
- *Globe and Mail*

Oh! Cars Was What They Were Selling! I Thought - Never Mind What I Thought!

“European auto manufacturers bringing sexy back
Use of women at trade shows to promote cars is a fixture once again”
- *Toronto Star*

Or, We Could Emphasize Business Not Cutting Jobs

“Canada’s productivity TRAP
The harder we work, the less rich we seem to be. We need to emphasize education, innovation and trade to break free”
- *Globe and Mail*

What A (Ray) Kroc!

“McDonald’s announces Russian expansion plans”
- *Globe and Mail*

“Russian economy shrinks almost 8 per cent in 2009”
- *Globe and Mail*

Now, There's A Place McDonald's Could Really Grow Into

"Angola's economy forecast to grow 7.5 per cent in 2010"
- *Globe and Mail*

Keep Your Husband Away From The Good Rug

"Solving the piddle riddle"
- *Toronto Star*

So, When Israel Punishes An Entire Palestinian Population, Canada Is Guilty Of War Crimes?

"Attack on Israel is an attack on Canada, Kent says"
- *Globe and Mail*

Because People Don't Kill People, Bar Codes Do

"Proposed prescription bar-code plan aims to save lives"
- *Globe and Mail*

Canada Doesn't Want To Think About PM's "Hard Power"

"PM praises Canada's 'hard power'"
- *Toronto Star*

Still Not Thinking About PM's "Hard Power"

La La La La La La

You Can't Make Me

La La La La La La La La La

"Harper may be iron-fisted. And so what if he is?"
- *Globe and Mail*

Might I Suggest Soldiers Take Remedial Civics Classes?

"Coups leaders suspend Niger's constitution
Soldiers oust President in bloody attack, promise 'democracy and good governance'"
- *Globe and Mail*

Because He's Not Young...Or Bald...

"Why is Pantalone being ignored?"
- *Toronto Star*

Business, Public Tell Ottawa: You're The Ones Who Want The Olympics To Be A Political Prop...

“Ottawa wants business, public to fill funding gap for Own the Podium”
- *Globe and Mail*

Let's Let The Headlines Fight Among Themselves As We Return To Our Lives

“Bravado puts too much pressure on athletes, ex-Olympians say”
- *Globe and Mail*

“No pressure, no podiums
Outgoing COC boss Rudge defends ambitious performance goals placed on Canada's athletes”
- *Globe and Mail*

“Forget the Podium, Canada owns the Games”
- *Globe and Mail*

Cabinet Needs A Good Laugh

“Ottawa promises to consult on retirement issues”
- *Toronto Star*

If It Had Been A Depression, They Would Have Risen 25 Per Cent

“Wall Street bonuses rise 17 per cent”
- *Globe and Mail*

You Know A War Is In Trouble When Even The Headlines Get Snarky

“Afghan civilians killed, NATO apologizes again”
- *Toronto Star*

Boy, Are They Talking To The Wrong Politician!

“Harper's G20 urged to tackle secrecy”
- *Globe and Mail*

Our Accountants Can Skate Around Figures With The Best Of Them!

“Let's face it, we're a figure skating nation”
- *Globe and Mail*

Boy, Are They Expecting The Wrong Police Force!

“Protestors set to make their points peacefully
Poverty, women’s health top agenda for activists before G8, G20 summits”
- *Toronto Star*

**Gabon’s? Because, In Case You Hadn’t Noticed, All The Polish In The World
Hasn’t Helped Canada’s Lately**

“The dictator, his daughter, and million in cash
Allegation that Canadian helped Gabon’s leader side-step anti-corruption laws could
tarnish country’s reputation”
- *Globe and Mail*

So, Obviously, They Must Stop Doing It

“Stimulus spending is working, Tories boast”
- *Toronto Star*

That’s How Many Circles Now?

“Afghan mission turning a corner, Petraeus says”
- *Globe and Mail*

That’s What The New Telecom Ownership Rules Are For

“AMAZON IN CANADA
No threat to cultural sovereignty”
- *Globe and Mail*

**Economist Disses Government Approach
Prime Minister Considering Excommunication**

“Cutting federal spending is a lot harder than it sounds
Trimming across the board the ‘cowards approach’: economist”
- *National Post*

It’s A Golden-throated Rhino Warbler

“Security fee not a tax: Ottawa”
- *Globe and Mail*

No Flies On This Government!

INT. GOVERNMENT OFFICE – DAY

A CITIZEN walks up to a desk behind which sits a BUREAUCRAT.

CITIZEN: Excuse me.

BUREAUCRAT: Yes?

CITIZEN: I wanted to fly to Medicine Hat, and –

BUREAUCRAT: Ugh! Why would you want to go there?

CITIZEN: That's not important.

BUREAUCRAT: No, but, seriously, Medicine Hat?

CITIZEN: It's a fine city, with many cultural and historical –

BUREAUCRAT: It's a dump!

CITIZEN: Look! That really isn't important!

BUREAUCRAT: It must be business.

CITIZEN: I'm sorry.

BUREAUCRAT: Nobody goes to Medicine Hat for pleasure.

CITIZEN: Look! My sister got her head stuck in the tailpipe of a Bugatti, and I have to go to Medicine Hat to give her half my appendix or she may never be able to pronounce words with the letter r in them again! There! Is that reason to go good enough for you?

BUREAUCRAT: (under his breath) I knew it couldn't have anything to do with pleasure. (aloud) Right, then. What seems to be the problem?

CITIZEN: The problem is that I wasn't allowed to board the plane. When I offered my ticket to the supercilious stewardess at the gate, I was told that I was on a "no fly" list.

BUREAUCRAT: Supercilious stewardess? That sounds like the title of a porn movie from the 1970s.

CITIZEN: Can we please focus, here?

BUREAUCRAT: Sorry. Your name, please?

CITIZEN: Harold –

BUREAUCRAT: (under his breath) Ahhh...1970s porn. Everybody had moustaches in those movies – even the stewardesses!

CITIZEN: Stop that!

BUREAUCRAT: Oh, fine. Ignore our cultural heritage. Your name?

CITIZEN: Harold Hipphugger.

Bureaucrat consults the computer on his desk.

BUREAUCRAT: There you go, Mister Singh. Your name has clearly been flagged as having potential ties to groups that may be based in the Middle East or some other troubled area of the world, groups that may or may not be carrying out activities that the Canadian government probably wouldn't approve of if it knew about them, which it likely doesn't, but it wouldn't admit even if it did because who the hell do you think you are to question the government's ability to make sound policy decisions based on rumours and innuendo?

CITIZEN: H...how are you able to say all of that without taking a breath?

BUREAUCRAT: Twenty years in the civil service, Mister Singh. Twenty years of dealing with public complaints. Twenty...long...years. You use whatever advantage you can against the needy bastards, and not having to take a breath is a most useful advantage. Most useful, indeed.

CITIZEN: Well, I'm impress – hey. Did you call me Mister Singh?

BUREAUCRAT: That's right. Jaspreet Singh. Your name is on my computer screen. Do you want to see it? Well, you can't. It's more than my job is worth to show a classified document to a civilian. I couldn't even if I wanted to. Which I don't. But, still. So, if that's all, Mister Singh -

CITIZEN: Look. My name is not Singh. It's Hipphugger. Harold Hipphugger.

BUREAUCRAT: How do you spell that?

CITIZEN: H-I-P-P-H-U-G-G-E-R.

BUREAUCRAT: I see. And, how do you pronounce it?

CITIZEN: I'm sorry.

BUREAUCRAT: Is it possible that you spell it Hipphugger, but you pronounce it Singh?

CITIZEN: No! Why would you think that?

BUREAUCRAT: Maybe they pronounce characters differently where you come from.

CITIZEN: I come from Medicine Hat!

BUREAUCRAT: Well, there you go.

PAUSE.

CITIZEN: Look, my name is not pronounced Singh. In any language.

BUREAUCRAT: Oh. (pause) Well...really? Only, you see, the names are so close that we just had to put you on the no fly list. Can't take chances with national security, now, can we?

CITIZEN: Close? CLOSE? How do you figure Hipphugger and Singh are close?

BUREAUCRAT: Weeeellll...they both contain consonants. And, vowels.

CITIZEN: But, every name contains consonants and vowels!

BUREAUCRAT: (dreamily) Yes, yes, they do, don't they?

PAUSE.

CITIZEN: So, how can I get my name off the no fly list?

BUREAUCRAT: Ah. Well. Are you sure –

CITIZEN: Yes.

BUREAUCRAT: Mmm. Well, take this form home and fill it out. (hands Citizen a form) Make another appointment to see me in three weeks. By then, the form will have been replaced by another one. Take the second form home and fill it out. Try to make an appointment with me then, only I will have been transferred to another department. It will take them six weeks to find a replacement for me. The person who has been chosen to replace me will ask you to fill out the first form again, even though you know it is no longer being used by the department. When you have finally filled out and submitted the proper form, CSIS will open a file on you – wanting to get off the no fly list is suspicious activity as defined by the Draconian Response to Suspicious Activity Act of 2008. We will stall the processing of your form for several months while CSIS makes sure you've filed tax returns since before you were born, you haven't been having an illicit relationship with your child's veterinarian or that you are otherwise the fine and upstanding citizen you claim to be.

CITIZEN: That's outrageous!

BUREAUCRAT: Weeeeeeeelllllll, you could make things easier on yourself...

CITIZEN: How?

BUREAUCRAT: Have you ever considered changing your name to Singh?

Death Is Easy...

She Did Make Great Mattresses, Though

Actress Jean Simmons has died. No need to send in the clowns - they've left the building.

Lawyers Are His Biggest Fans

Walter Frederick Morrison has died at the age of 90. In the 1960s, Morrison created the throwable plastic disc that was originally called the Pluto Platter, but eventually became famous as the frisbee. A million cases of people getting whiplash from being hit in the back of the head soon followed.

It's A Zinn How Some Progressive Are Treated

At the age of 87, Howard Zinn is history.

Why Are So Many Male Fashion Designers McQueens?

Forty year-old fashion designer Alexander McQueen has died. He will be buried naked except for some jewellery - a rebel to the end.

Ding Dong, The Witch Is Dead!

Former Vice President of the United States Dick Cheney has finally succumbed to heart failure, proving that even though the good die young, if you wait long enough, the bad eventually die, too.

Although It Would Be A Hell Of A Sendoff

Former Congressman Charlie Wilson lost his war with cardiopulmonary arrest at the age of 76. This was the Charlie Wilson who helped cover up the fact that Pakistan was developing nuclear weapons in order to get its cooperation in arming the Afghan mujaheddin, not the cute Charlie Wilson who decided to sponsor American funding for the mujaheddin in a Vegas hot tub full of naked women. Put it this way: Tom Hanks will NOT be playing Charlie Wilson at his funeral.

It Rhymes With: Hi, Verona!

Doug Feiger, lead singer of the pop group The Knack, has died at the age of 57. We could tell you what the band's best-known song was, but we won't because then you

wouldn't be able to get it out of your head for the next three days, and we're not that cruel.

**Activist General Killed By Russian Communists
(Well, Not Really, But He Would Have Wanted To Be Remembered That Way)**

Secretary of State under Ronald Reagan Alexander Haig has died at the age of 85. Or, to put it another way, he has just been given the ultimate lesson about who is in control.

Always Bet On The Black

At the age of 89, mystery novelist Dick Francis has lost his race with death.

Sparklehorse? Wasn't That A CIA Psi-war Technique?

Mark Linkous, the singer-songwriter who fronted the indie band Sparklehorse, has died at the age of 47 after shooting himself in the chest. Sparklehorse may not have had a lot of fans, but each one of them did not start his own rock band.

He Was Just A Babcock In The Woods...

John Babcock, Canada's last survivor of World War I, has died. He asked that he not be given a state funeral, but the Canadian government wants to give him one anyway. It would seem that, even in death, Babcock cannot avoid battle.

Or, It Could Find Its Way Into A Museum Of British Comedy, In Which Case The Rest Of Him Will Be Buried Without It

British actor and film director Lionel Jeffries' moustache has died at the age of 83. It is expected that the rest of him will be buried with it.

Ding Dong, The Witch Is Hospitalized! (A Correction)

Apparently, former Vice President Dick Cheney is **not** dead. He was merely hospitalized having had his 57th mild heart attack. We would like to apologize to...those millions of Americans who were looking forward to his funeral.

At Least Nothing Burst From HIS Chest...

At the age of 78, that's a big "Cut! Wrap! Print!" for cinematographer Derek vanLint.

This Headline Wants To Excoriate Phonies, But Is Secretly Afraid It Is One Of Them

J. D. Salinger, author of the seminal teen angst novel *Catcher in the Rye*, has died at the age of 91. When they first heard the news, the question that occurred to all of his readers

was: “He was still alive?” Apparently. Salinger was a recipient of the Howard Hughes Reclusiveness Award in 1983, 1987 and from 1996 to 2009.

He Was The White Sheep Of The Family

William Black, who, with his brother, founded Black’s Photography in 1946, has died of cancer at the age of 84. I guess what they say is true: a picture would have lasted longer.

That’s Quote The Mouth You’ve Got On You

Twitter Never Lies, And Liars Are Never Twits

“We never ever, ever intended it to be gun sights. It was simply cross-hairs like you’d see on maps...a surveyor’s symbol.”

- Sarah Palin aide Rebecca Mansour, in a radio interview

“@SarahPalinUSASarah Palin Remember months ago “bullseye” icon used 2 target the 20 Obamacare-lovin’ incumbent seats? We won 18 out of 20 (90% success rate;T’aint bad)”

- Sarah Palin tweet

And, He Didn’t Even Have The Decency To Ask: “Too Soon?”

This movie “borrows more heavily than an investment bank in an unregulated market.”

- *Globe and Mail* reviewer Rick Groen on the film *I Am Number Four*

Harper. He Was Never There For You.

“Ignatieff. He didn’t come back for you.”

- Conservative ad attacking Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff

Could He Have Meant: “Where Is Steve Jobs?”

“Over the last two years since President Obama has taken office the federal government has added 200,000 new federal jobs. And if some of those jobs are lost in this, so be it. We’re broke. It’s time for us to get serious on how we’re spending the nation’s money.”

- House Speaker John Boehner on Republican efforts to cut the deficit

“Where are the jobs?”

- Representative John Boehner taunting the Democrats during the 2010 elections

If They Weren’t Given Higher Bonuses...

“If this were America, fifty people would have been arrested by now.”

- an anonymous American official on corruption at the Kabul Bank

Of Course, They Don't Tell People The Main Ingredient In General Foods Products Is Rat Poison, Either

“Politics is an adversarial business. Kellogg’s doesn’t make money by telling everybody General Foods are a great product.”

- Senator Doug Finley on Conservative attack ads

A Throat That Lately Has Been Coughing Up Furballs

“It turns what is a very risky and dangerous business into nothing but a big video game. And, that probably plays right into the hands of the surviving stock exchanges because they’re the throat of the electronic funnel.”

- Ted Weisberg, veteran trader, on recent stock exchange merger rumours

It's The Whole Tree

“Reinstating the word Royal has nothing to do with colonial roots.”

- Senator Joseph Day, arguing to stop referring to the Canadian naval services under the umbrella term The Canadian Forces and returning to calling them the Royal Canadian Navy

Don't Look At The Military Strongman Behind The Curtain

“We are on the side, as we have been for more than 30 years, of a democratic Egypt that provides both political and economic rights to its people, that respects the universal human rights for all.”

- US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

A Thousand Satirists Say A Silent Prayer Of Thanks

“I am not going to sit down. I am not going to shut up.”

- the Divine Sarah Palin

Projection Of This Size Requires An IMAX Screen

“Liberalism just doesn’t work very well in the real world: If you spend your whole life advocating ideas that make people’s lives worse, that fall apart at the first touch of reality, and that rely on a government that’s inevitably slow, stupid, and ineffective, it’s not going to be conducive to your happiness.”

- Conservative blogger John Hall

Those Who Can Leave Already Have

“As contentious and frustrating and messy as our democracy can sometimes be, I know there isn’t a person here who would rather trade places with any other nation on Earth.”

- President Obama in the State of the Union address

Really? You Should Sue Your Parents For Malpractice

“Fame, we are taught from an early age, is the most important thing a person can strive for.”

- *Globe and Mail* columnist Leah McLaren

Actually, You Can't Say That Because It's Sociologically Incorrect But, Thank You For Playing

“Gang rape is a cultural habit. Of course, you can't say that because it's politically incorrect.”

- Barrick Gold CEO Peter Munk on gang rape accusations against workers at the company's Papua New Guinea mine

Unless They're Protesting Your International Trade Policy, In Which Case They're Fair Game

“A government's first and most fundamental responsibility is to protect the safety and security of its citizens.”

- Prime Minister Stephen Harper on the *schemozzle* in Libya

That's Three Strikes Justice Is Out

“The thing about the Khadr case is that it had to be successful, it had to work and it had to be fair.”

- unnamed “senior official” in the Obama administration

It's Embarrassing When Celtic Tigers Become Celtic Pussycats

“It will look more like Ireland - more dynamic, more attractive to investors, brighter, more positive, outward-looking.”

- Finance Minister Jim Flaherty suggests in 2006 what Canada would look like in five years

“...”

- Finance Minister talking about Ireland's economy in 2011

She's Made Victimhood Personal

“Palin is not a feminist because she doesn't adopt the victimology notion of the feminists.”

- Conservative anti-feminist Phyllis Schlafly

Do You Fade Away? Please? Now?

“Men like me don’t die.”

- a quote attributed to party animal Charlie Sheen

Humpty Dumpty Must Be Spinning In His Omelette

“I would make the point that the leader and the speaker have established their integrity and their mendacity for years in this Congress and I don’t believe it can be effectively challenged and those who do so actually cast aspersions on themselves by making wild accusations.”

- Steve King, Representative of Iowa

If You Want Him Out, Get Maxwell House To Sue For Copyright Infringement

I will fight “to the last drop of blood.”

- besieged Libyan tyrant Moammar Kaddafi

You...Do Know That The Leafs Haven’t Won The Stanley Cup In 35 Years, Right?

“We take care of our own backyard first and if I need help from the province or the feds, then I’ll ask for their help. If they choose not to help us, then I have no other choice but to get out, as I call it, Ford Nation and make sure they’re not re-elected in the next election.”

- Toronto Mayor Rob Ford

Frequently Unasked Questions Needs To Take a WikiLeaks

[1\) Can you explain what the latest WikiLeaks are without resorting to toilet humour?](#)

[2\) True. Sad, but true. Okay, can you explain what the latest WikiLeaks are with a minimum of toilet humour?](#)

[3\) Oww! And, you were doing so well, too!](#)

[4\) Ooooookay. Moving on. What did we learn from the latest batch of WikiLeaks?](#)

[5\) What...does that even mean?](#)

[6\) Is it really that bad?](#)

[7\) But –](#)

[8\) Okay, okay. I get it. It’s all gossip. But, if so, why is it secret?](#)

[9\) Did we learn anything else?](#)

[10\) It can’t be all negative. Doesn’t Pakistan’s leadership love the United States?](#)

[11\) Why doesn’t Canada give Karzai fast, fast relief?](#)

[12\) I don’t believe this. Come on! Throw me a bone, here! Wasn’t there anything of substance in the latest WikiLeaks? Anything at all?](#)

[13\) Holy shit! The United States interfered with a criminal investigation of another country! Why isn’t this a major story in the United States?](#)

[14\) What about the leak where Secretary of State Hillary Clinton complains about the reluctance of Arab countries, led by Saudi Arabia, to cut funds for Islamic extremists? Wouldn’t that hurt American relations with those countries?](#)

15) Another WikiLeaks document states that China is paranoid about freedom of information on the Internet and is finding ways (like hacking Google) to control it. Is this true?

16) Was the United States really monitoring the CBC for anti-American programming?

17) Why would American diplomats be ordered to collect fingerprints and DNA samples from enemies, allies and other prominent international figures?

18) Jesus! Wouldn't that turn every diplomat into a spy?

19) What has the American government done about the leaks?

20) This Julian Assange who is behind WikiLeaks, he's a pretty shady character, isn't he?

21) Who would be crazy enough to call for Assange's death for leaking some documents?

22) Okay, assassination may be somewhat extreme, but, honestly, don't you have any problems with the latest WikiLeaks?

1) Can you explain what the latest WikiLeaks are without resorting to toilet humour?

Too late.

2) True. Sad, but true. Okay, can you explain what the latest WikiLeaks are with a minimum of toilet humour?

Sure. Julian Assange is such a charming rogue that people love to give him gifts. They just love to...give him things. Jewellery. Rare and exotic perfumes. State secrets. Recently, somebody was so delighted by Assange's a capella rendition of "Some Enchanted Evening" that the man gave him 250,000 secret American diplomatic cables. And, Julian, well, he has such a big heart that he decided to share his good fortune with the world. On the Internet. On the Wiki that isn't actually a Wiki – WikiLeaks. Presumably, Assange got what he wanted – everybody else, though, found important relationships ending up in the toilet.

3) Oww! And, you were doing so well, too!

What can I say? I have the political instincts of a seven year-old.

4) Ooooookay. Moving on. What did we learn from the latest batch of WikiLeaks?

It was such a disappointment! People wanted *The West Wing*; what they got was *Jersey Shore*.

5) What...does that even mean?

What does it mean? Listen: you expect diplomats to be sending top secret cables that read: "The geopolitical position of Dictator for Eternity Grelnick is becoming increasingly untenable as Pakistan beefs up its border patrols and China reconsiders its support for his anarchokleptocracy." What you get is: "Jesus! The entire Saudi royal family: do they buy their cologne by the barrel? You can smell them a mile away – and 30,000 feet up!" And,

“What is up with Hamid Karzai’s uniform? Is the guy dressed by his mom, or what? What a loser!”

It’s like high school with long range tactical missiles.

6) Is it really that bad?

According to leaked cables: Libya’s Moammar Gadhafi travels with a voluptuous blond nurse. French President Nicolas Sarkozy chased after a son’s runaway pet at an official diplomatic meeting. Kazakhstan PM Karim Massimov is a dance fiend. Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov danced at a wedding with a gold plated automatic weapon stuffed in his pants and tossed hundred dollar bills at guests. I could go on.

7) But –

Turkmenistan President Kurbanguly Berdymukhamedov is a “practiced liar” who is “not very bright.” Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan has secret Swiss bank acc –

8) Okay, okay. I get it. It’s all gossip. But, if so, why is it secret?

Did you even go to high school?

9) Did we learn anything else?

Sure. Canadian diplomats have contempt for Afghanis, Chinese diplomats have contempt for North Korea, Saudi Arabian diplomats have contempt for Iran and American diplomats have contempt for just about everybody.

10) It can’t be all negative. Doesn’t Pakistan’s leadership love the United States?

Sure. But, it’s people don’t, so don’t expect them to remain the country’s leadership for very long.

Oh, and speaking of world leaders who are coup bait, Afghan President Hamid Karzai’s no peach, either. In one of the cables, he is reported to have said that NATO troops – you know, the ones who are very expensively dying to keep him in power? – gave him a headache. Of course, there’s a fast-acting remedy for that: withdrawal.

11) Why doesn’t Canada give Karzai fast, fast relief?

It would give Prime Minister Stephen Harper brain cramps.

12) I don’t believe this. Come on! Throw me a bone, here! Wasn’t there anything of substance in the latest WikiLeaks? Anything at all?

Weeeeeellllll...there was this one thing. Remember how Spain was investigating six Bush White House officials for creating the framework that justified torture? According to one WikiLeaks document, officials in the Obama White House, in collusion with Republicans, threatened that they would end their relationship with Spain, potentially trashing the country's economy, if charges were brought. Not only that, but **they would stop allowing Spaniards to watch *Real Wives of New Jersey*** – the bastards!

13) Holy shit! The United States interfered with a criminal investigation of another country! Why isn't this a major story in the United States?

Americans are too busy watching *Real Wives of New Jersey*.

14) What about the leak where Secretary of State Hillary Clinton complains about the reluctance of Arab countries, led by Saudi Arabia, to cut funds for Islamic extremists? Wouldn't that hurt American relations with those countries?

Dude, those **countries fund Islamic extremists!** The only way the relationship could get worse is if they bought full page ads in the *New York Times* commending terrorists on their resourcefulness in they face of daunting odds! **And, don't think they haven't thought of it!**

15) Another WikiLeaks document states that China is paranoid about freedom of information on the Internet and is finding ways (like hacking Google) to control it. Is this true?

Of course not! Absolutely not! The Chinese government is committed to free speech and would do nothing to interfere with that. Nothing, I tell you! And, we're not just saying that because *Les Pages aux Folles* is drooling over the country's billion plus readers!

16) Was the United States really monitoring the CBC for anti-American programming?

Don't sound so surprised! Everybody knows that Canadians get their political beliefs from coded messages in *Little House on the Prairie*, *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* and *Yam Roll*. Especially *Yam Roll*. When Minamiko says, "I don't know if I should wear the red dress of the yellow dress," Canadians understand that she's really saying, "The American practice of extraordinary rendition is a war crime. Write your local newspaper in protest!"

17) Why would American diplomats be ordered to collect fingerprints and DNA samples from enemies, allies and other prominent international figures?

The State Department was worried that the diplomatic corps was getting restless, and wanted its diplomats to have a hobby.

18) Jesus! Wouldn't that turn every diplomat into a spy?

Most already fantasize that they are, so where's the harm?

19) What has the American government done about the leaks?

An aide to Senator Joe Lieberman asked Amazon to remove the documents from its server. It did, but not, it claims, because of government pressure; rather, it was because WikiLeaks violated the company's terms of service. Right. The clause in its ToS agreement that says it shall not create a situation in which Amazon will receive complaints from an aide to Senator Joe Lieberman! Not that this mattered: the documents were moved to a Swiss server with little disruption and, in any case, details of the documents have appeared in newspapers all over the world. As long as nobody in the world reads, the government's secrets are safe.

20) This Julian Assange who is behind WikiLeaks, he's a pretty shady character, isn't he?

Absolutely. He is wanted for questioning in the rape of two women. And, when I say rape, I mean "sex by surprise," which sounds suspiciously like "prosecution by surprise" to me, but it's close enough to rape for most North American media. The crime he has been accused of is having sex without a condom after he was asked specifically to wear one, and, in one of the cases, he was apparently wearing a condom, but it broke. If convicted, he will probably have to pay a fine. Okay, I wouldn't invite him to my next orgy, but, still, calling for his death seems a bit harsh...

21) Who would be crazy enough to call for Assange's death for leaking some documents?

The Washington Times' Jeffrey T. Kuhner. Canadian right-wing extremist Ezra Levant. American right-wing extremist John Hawkins. Former Stephen Harper adviser Tom Flanagan. Other American right-wing extremist Bill O'Reilly. Nobody whose opinion matters, really.

22) Okay, assassination may be somewhat extreme, but, honestly, don't you have any problems with the latest WikiLeaks?

Yes! *Les Pages aux Folles* wasn't criticized by any world leaders or diplomats! What do I have to do to get their attention? Collect and publish secret diplomatic cab...hmmm....

Putting the Fun Back in Electile Dysfunctional

News from the 2011 Canadian election:

He's A Solid Pillock Of The Community

PRIME MINISTER: The economy – coalition – is still in a fragile – coalition – state. At this time – coalition – we cannot afford – coalition – to trust things – coalition – to a coalition – coalition!

DOCTOR: Wow. I haven't seen a case of Political Tourette's this bad since Rudy Giuliani couldn't stop referring to 9/11! I think there are a number of things that we could try to cure you.

PRIME MINISTER: Cure me? Coalition.

DOCTOR: Of course. Don't you want to be cured?

PRIME MINISTER: Of course. Coalition. (pause) But – coalition – could we maybe wait – coalition – until after the – coalition – election?

Don't Ask What We Do With The Sacks Once You've Dropped Them Off...

A short-lived advertisement on Craigslist:

Cat Whisperers Needed to Keep Kittens Away from places where Prime Minister Harper is campaigning.

We are a social media company working for a political organization, hired to keep photographs that make the Prime Minister look like he is about to eat a kitten out of the media by supplying a team of wranglers who will constantly scour his immediate vicinity to ensure that no young cats are within grabbing and chomping range. We are NOT officially affiliated with the Harper campaign. Unofficially...well, draw your own conclusions.

Compensation: TBD. hourly rate and volume of whispering activity. Bonuses for the number of sacks you fill with kittens.

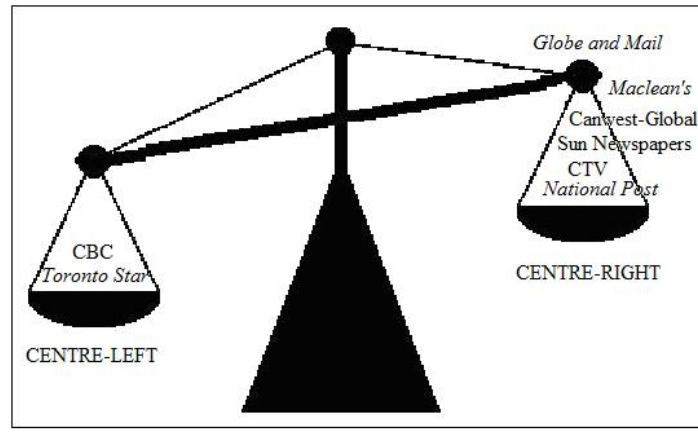
Really? Because When I Think Of The Party Of Curdled Milk, The Liberals Aren't The One That Comes To Mind...

"We need some fresh blood we need some new people who have some new ideas and who are willing to stand up for their constituents. And I'm afraid Ms. Neville has passed her expiry date."

- Saint Boniface Conservative MP Shelly Glover, talking about the difficulty of finding an opponent for 68 year-old Anita Neville in the nearby riding of Winnipeg South Centre

Facts Never Lie, And Liars Never...Uhh...Never Fact

REALITY CHEQUE: according to some critics on the right, Canadian media are dominated by left-wing propagandists. We have developed the following graphic to determine whether or not this accusation is true:



The facts don't lie. Clearly, Canada's national media are dominated by lefties!

Is That Funny “Ha Ha” Or Funny “There’s A Tickle In My Throat – Am I About To Cough Up A Rhino?”?

1 for the road) Funny thing: there is currently no Conservative candidate nominated to run in Winnipeg South Centre; the previous candidate, former Air Canada pilot Raymond Hall, quit the job abruptly last month citing “personal reasons.” What personal reasons would those be?

- a) he was caught eating a kitten
- b) he was caught giving Prime Minister Harper a kitten to “do with as he sees fit”
- c) the Conservative candidate screening process needs some serious reworking

The Pod People Strike Again!

Who Are You And What Have You Done With The Real Jean-Guy Dagenais?

“Here, the registry is a must.”

- Jean-Guy Dagenais, 2010 Quebec Provincial Police Association President and strong supporter of the long gun registry

“It gives police a false sense of security” and has had a “shameful” administration.

- Jean-Guy Dagenais, 2011 Conservative candidate in the riding of Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot and strong opponent of the long gun registry

Those Strange Urges You Get In The Middle Of The Night? Iffy. Very Iffy.

Congratulations [INSERT NAME HERE] family! You have been chosen for a spontaneous video opportunity with Prime Minister Stephen Harper! Simply gather around your kitchen table between 7:23am and 7:31am (food may be displayed on the table, but please do not engage in dining until after the Prime Minister has left) and engage in entirely unrehearsed banter that does not include the following subjects:

- the Prime Minister's hair;
- the war in Afghanistan;

- Grandpa Flimber's bursitis, phlebitis or rutabagas;
- previous photo opps involving sweaters, a warm fire in a hearth and/or kittens...especially kittens;
- the war in Libya;
- the Prime Minister favourite Stooge (he'll say Jack Layton instead of Curly, to everybody's confusion);
- poroguing Parliament;
- Justin Bieber;
- what's wrong with kids these days;
- withholding key financial information from Parliament;
- the weather (sorry, but the Prime Minister has more important things to worry about than the weather in your area);
- the CBC (sorry, but the Prime Minister goes red in the face when this is mentioned, and, as you might imagine, that would ruin the video opp!)
- this list;
- charges of contempt of Parliament.

Please ignore the cameraperson, lighting crew, makeup artist, script doctor, personal handler and any of the other members of the Prime Minister's 20 person entourage who might be lurking in the shadows of your kitchen. Other than that, feel free to be yourselves and have fun! After the video opportunity, the RCMP will debrief your entire family. Please allow at least two hours for the debriefing. Thank you, in advance, for your invaluable contribution to the Canadian political process!

You Kids Get Your Damn Coalition Off My Lawn!

"A Liberal-NDP-Bloc coalition would be against the will and interests of the Canadian people!"

Unlike the coalition that occurred when the Reform and the Conservatives joined together?

"That was hardly a coalition!"

Unlike the coalition you tried to form with the NDP and the Bloc in 2004?

"That was a different story!"

Isn't it true that every time you got Liberal or NDP support for a bill - which you had to or you couldn't pass anything - you were forming an ad hoc coalition?

"That's not, umm...not the kind of coalition I'm talking about..."

"Are you suggesting that there's something illegitimate about the coalition governments of allies such as Italy or England?"

"Of course not, but -"

You must admit, you seemed pretty hot to join the military coalition enforcing the no-fly zone in Libya.

“Dammit, stop twisting my rhetoric to suit your facts!”

Headline Drive! (Deep, But Playable)

Somebody’s Not Reading Their Own Newspaper...

“End of rock star era at Rideau Hall”

- *Toronto Star*

“Our next GG inspired a character in Love Story”

- *Toronto Star*

Hasn’t Toronto Suffered Enough?

“Fantino won’t rule out political future”

- *Globe and Mail*

Press Regrets Not Catching Her More Often

“Megan Fox regrets lying to the press”

- *San Francisco Chronicle*

The Absurd Ironyometer Needs To Get Its Ears Checked Cannot Believe What It Just Heard

“Harris accuses teachers of ‘bully tactics’”

- *Toronto Star*

In The Sense That It Will Get Critics Off BP’s Back

“Chevron says device will work”

- *Globe and Mail*

Like I “Earned” My Purple Heart In World War I

“Milton pay draws flak

ACE chief earned \$14.7-million in 2009”

- *Globe and Mail*

Sounds Like They’ve Got Our Rules Down Pat

“Chinese must play by Canada’s rules

Construction accident enquiry stonewalled”
- *National Post*

Not Glenn Beck...Again!

“PLANT OF THE WEEK”
- *Globe and Mail*

Green With Envy Will Not Be Their Predominant Colour

“Gathering world to judge Canada’s green credentials”
- *Toronto Star*

Just Look At The Leafs

“Out of World Cup for 24 years, things are looking up for Canada
WE ‘CAN’T GET WORSE’
- *National Post*

But, What If I’ve Just Started To Get Turned On?

“Dizziness, headache and nausea mean stop”
- *Globe and Mail*

**You Have To Register To Be A Comedian In California?
State Is A Tough House**

“Deputies Search For Registered Sex Offender Comedian”
- KTXL Sacramento

So...Maturity Is The Ability To Do Useless Things?

“The G20 may be useless, but the fact that we’re hosting it shows we’ve arrived
Our rite of passage”
- *National Post*

Headline Writer Need To Be More Careful About Noun-Verb Coordination

“Job hoppers needs to look before they leap”
- *Globe and Mail*

**AAAARGH! I Do Not Want To Think About My Dad’s Exclusive – UUUUGGH!
Thanks For Putting That Image In My Head!**

“Golfers will be green with envy...
...once they see Dad’s exclusive club”

- National Post

My Dilemma: Publishing More With Less Writing
Your Dilemma: Making More Money With Less Employment

“G20 plan’s dilemma: Boosting growth with less spending”
- *Globe and Mail*

Give Them A Quart Of Vodka Every Hour To Calm Them Down
What Could Possibly Go Wrong?

“Marijuana can send a brain to pot
Drug use can trigger psychosis in vulnerable people, experts say”
- *Toronto Star*

Is He Still Alive?
(Because His Dream Doesn’t Seem To Be...)

“PQ needs road map for sovereignty, Parizeau says
Too many Parti Quebecois supporters are obsessed with governing rather than preparing for independence, former premier maintains”
- *Globe and Mail*

They Could Try Being Not Corrupt – You Know, People Like Companies That
Are...Less Than Corrupt – Just An Idea...

“Goldman needs lift to image”
- *National Post*

Headline Answers Own Question With Unprovable Assertion
Subhead Non-sequitur Appears To Undermine Headline

“AND IS ALL THIS WORTH IT? YES IT IS
The one thing global leaders agree on is that hosting world summits in urban settings requires millions of dollars in security measures”
- *Globe and Mail*

...With The Americans – They’re Nuts!

“Canada urged to stay in Afghanistan
Karzai’s half-brother thanks Harper for past help, but pleads: ‘Don’t leave us alone’”
- *Toronto Star*

Last Of Pure Greenspanians Found In Block Of Ice In *Globe* Newsroom

“Sadly, the Keynesian delusion keeps mesmerizing”

- *Globe and Mail*

**Environmentalists Shocked, Hurt
Vow Not To Get Company Card For Christmas**

“TRANSCANADA
Company dismisses environmentalists’ concerns”
- *Globe and Mail*

How Can I Compete?

“Daniel Robb brings humor to pillow designs”
- *San Francisco Chronicle*

Well, She Would Have To Put Up With THAT Family, Wouldn’t She?

“Queen ‘has a wonderful sense of the absurd’”
- *Toronto Star*

Mafia Eco-activism: Don’t Leave Any Witnesses In The Marine Ecology

“Experts from Russia – and even the U.S. – are keen to try
Nuke the Gulf!”
- *National Post*

After We Thought They Had Caved In To Us

“Pride organizers cave in to politically correct bullies”
- *Toronto Star*

**Families On Welfare To Lose \$5,000 A Year, Billionaires To Lose \$5,000 A Year -
Yeah, THAT Seems Fair!**

“Shared sacrifice will be the new economic order”
- *Globe and Mail*

**I’ve Often Thought Of Myself As A Multi-tiered Wedding Cake, But, Uhh, Maybe
We Should Leave My Icing Fetish Out Of This**

“In the end, you’re either a cupcake or a macaroon”
- *National Post*

Hasn’t The Gulf Of Mexico Suffered Enough?

“HAYWARD MOUNTS CHARM OFFENSIVE”
- *Globe and Mail*

Somebody's Not Reading Their Own Newspaper, Fascionalistic Post Edition...

“Play safe in summer after brutal Q2 slide”

- *National Post*

“It's summer. Start spending”

- *National Post*

Manny's Way With Women

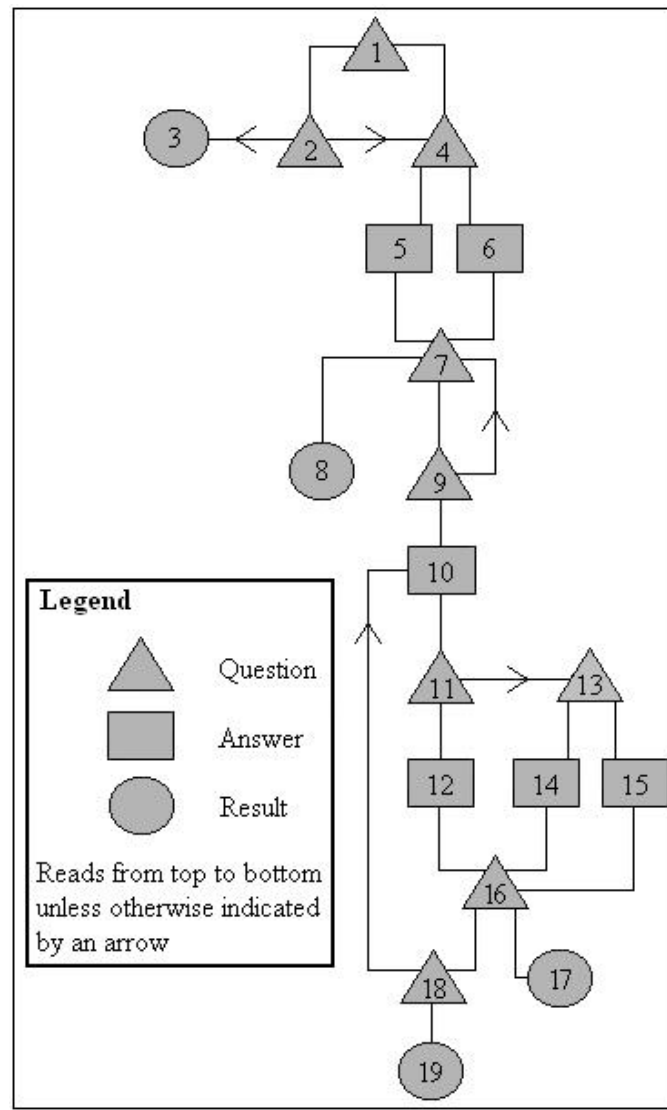
Algorithm 1: Pick-up

Hallo! Lovely ladies, this piece of writing is not for you. If you have stumbled upon it on your way to a recipe, perhaps, or maybe something about clothing that will make you even more attractive to manly men such as myself, please let your man know that it is here and go look for what you were hoping to find. Is he here? Good.

Men! You are seriously wanting to get it on with the ladies, no? Of course you are! But, you are thinking that they are strange and mysterious creatures, these women of whom I speak, who you could not possibly talk to, let alone get it on with, yes? NO! I, Manuel Montana Smithson Manischewitz am here to tell you that you, too, as sad and lonely as you may be, can also be getting it on with ladies!

Manuel Montana Smithson Manischewitz, I hear you ask, how is such a thing possible for somebody as sad and lonely as me? Well, I, Manuel Montana Smithson Manischewitz, have considered my vast experience with getting it on with the ladies and distilled my knowledge into a very simple series of steps. If you follow these steps, which are very simple, you will find yourself getting it on with the ladies in no time!

What follows are the steps you must follow. Follow them! Follow them now! And get it on! With the ladies!



	1	Do I feel like going out tonight and cruising for fabulous ladies?
NO	2	Are you serious? Of course I feel like going out tonight and cruising for fabulous ladies! I feel like going out and cruising for fabulous ladies every night! Are you sure I really don't want to go out tonight cruising for the ladies?
YES	3	You know, you're right. I am just too fabulous to waste my time cruising for the ladies tonight. Tonight, I will stay home, make popcorn and watch <i>Dancing with the Stars</i> . Fabulous!
YES	4	Do I have a lot of moolah, scratch, shekels, simoleons, dead Presidents or brass in pocket?
YES	5	I go to a bar.
NO	6	I go to the Laundromat.

	7	After scoping out the joint, do I see any ladies fabulous enough to share my fabulousness with me?
NO	8	I have one drink or do a small load of whites and go home. It's still early, and I should be able to buy popcorn on the way and watch <i>Dancing with the Stars</i> .
YES	9	These fabulous ladies that I have scoped out, are they with somebody else?
YES		I GO TO 7.
NO	10	I confidently sidle up to the side of the fabulous lady.
	11	Am I feeling fabulously frisky?
YES	12	I say something like: "How do you do it? From across the room, I could sense the fabulous power of your touch. May I buy you a drink and explore the possibilities of a fabulously sensual evening?"
NO	13	Am I feeling fabulously intellectual?
YES	14	I say something like: "You...you are like Bernouli's Theorem – so brilliant, so sensual. May I pull up a seat and discuss thermal dynamics with you?"
NO	15	I say something like: "I've forgotten if they're green or they're blue. Anyway, the thing is, what I really mean: yours are the most fabulous eyes I've ever seen."
	16	Does the fabulous lady recognize my fabulousness and agree that if we spent the night together, it would be, well, fabulous?
YES	17	I take the fabulous lady back to my fabulous pad to have a fabulous night of wildness! Score!
NO	18	Did I scope out any other fabulous ladies in the joint?
YES		I GO TO 10.
NO	19	I go home. But, the evening has not been a total waste. I pick up popcorn on the way and go home to watch <i>Dancing with the Stars</i> ...on TIVO!

Notes

Manuel Montana Smithson Manischewitz is not a licenced sex therapist and makes no claims on the efficacy of his method. The mileage in your bed may vary. Do not attempt while under a doctor's care. If burning, itching, oozing or a persistent sense of nausea occurs, seek a doctor's care. Not valid with any other offer. Void where prohibited by the laws of gravity, Moore or diminishing returns.

Big DICK Radio Pushes it To the Limit...And Beyond!

"As members of the Broadcast Standards Council, this station adheres to the highest standards of **kiss my ass!** That is why we just played 'Money for Nothing,' a song that, frankly, I had forgotten existed until the Broadcast Standards Council ruled that it shouldn't be played on the radio because the word 'faggot' could offend listeners."

"Well, let me just say that this little faggot ain't got his own jet airplane."

"Sure, sure. And, this little faggot ain't no millionaire."

"So, we're gonna play the song whenever we want, and, if the Broadcast Standards Council doesn't like it, they can kiss my little faggot."

"Ha ha ha ha!"

"Hee hee hee!"

"Ho ho!"

"Hmmm..."

"Pretty much ran that one into the ground, didn't we?"

"It's what we do best."

"I'm Evan 'Dick' Lamanchuk..."

"And, I'm Dante 'Dick' Roverside, and you're listening to 95 point two two, C-D-I-K FM - Big DICK Radio, where all crimes are forgiven as long as they boost the ratings."

"Hey! Better boosting our ratings than boosting somebody else's car!"

"You don't have a very high opinion of our listeners, do you?"

"I don't have a high opinion of **humanity**. Our listeners are just a subset of humanity...mostly. Last time I checked. In a...theoretical sense..."

"Oh. Well. That's okay, then."

“And, speaking of boosting ratings –”

“Ooh, nice segue.”

“Thanks. I’ve been spending more time at the gym - glad it shows. Speaking of boosting ratings, on the phone live from Arizona we have Shirley Phelps-Roper.”

“Is she related to the movie show guy?”

“Richard Roper?”

“Rope-a-doper?”

“Dennis Hopper?”

“Secret shopper?”

“Door sto –”

“No, Dick, I’m not related to the movie show guy.”

“Oh. Too bad. We were just getting on a Roper roll.”

“That’s no fun.”

“Actually, Shirley’s no fun. You are – and, I hope you don’t mind me saying this, although I don’t mind that much – completely batshit crazy, aren’t you, Shirl?”

“A complete loon, Dick.”

“What makes you say that? Do you shampoo withy strawberry jam? Do you believe that Snooki has weapons of mass destruction? Are you a Scientologist?”

“No, none of that, Dick. I believe that god hates faggots. He just does. There’s no reason for it. He doesn’t have to have a reason - he’s god. So, if god hates faggots, I should, too.”

“Okay, first off, please don’t use that word - it’s offensive.”

“Which word, Dick? Reason?”

“That’s right, Dick. Logic has no place on this show.”

“Works for me.”

“Nooooo...the f word.”

“She didn’t say the f word.”

“The **other** f word.”

“The...other...wha...?”

“He means faggot, Dick.”

“Whoa! Shirley! I asked you not to use that word.”

“Weren’t you using it a minute ago?”

“That was different.”

“How?”

“We were being ironic.”

“So, when you say faggot, you’re being funny?”

“That’s right.”

“Like Glenn Beck.”

“Noooo, I’m pretty sure he’s serious.”

“He says what he does is often comedy.”

“That doesn’t make it comedy, Shirley. I often say that Dick here is a genius, but I don’t mean it.”

“He does, you know. He often says - wait, you don’t mean it?”

“Well, I think Glenn Beck is funny.”

“Yes, but you have already admitted to being an out and out nutter.”

“True. So, you don’t think faggots are going to burn in hell?”

“If they did, at least they wouldn’t have to worry about heating bills.”

“Thanks for that, Dick. Once again, your genius shines.”

“Thanks. But, didn’t you just -”

“No. I don’t believe homosexuals are going to burn in hell.”

“Then, why did you ask me to come on your show?”

“You were going to protest at the funeral of Christina Taylor Green, the nine year-old girl who died in the Tucson shootings. Why would you do that?”

“Complete brain-damaged insane-person, Dick. I thought we had already established that.”

“Well, yeah, but, I mean, umm...okay. You got me there. So, you agreed to not protest if we allowed you on our show.”

“It was almost...noble of us, when you think about it.”

“Except, of course, for the part about boosting ratings, which this interview will undoubtedly do.”

“I did say almost.”

“Can we please talk about me?”

“We could, but that would require us to actually about you. You can see our problem.”

“You know, it’s not too late for me to picket the funeral...”

“Errm. So, uhh...Shirley...how do you feel about the Dire Straits song ‘Money for Nothing?’”

They’re Dead To The World – Oh, Wait...

Probably

James MacArthur, Danno of the original *Hawaii Five-O* “Book ‘em, Danno!” fame has died at the age of 72. The official explanation for his death is natural causes, so embarrassment at the quality of the current *Hawaii Five-O* remake probably had nothing to do with it.

It Could Be Worse: Charlie Could Have Been Shot to Death By A Jealous Husband

Charlie the smoking chimp, who was once hooked on cigarettes because visitors to Blomefontein Zoo kept offering them to him, has died at the relatively advanced age of 52. The cause of death appears to be old age.

“I know that seems unfair,” said municipal spokesman Qondile Khedama, “but that’s just because it looks that way.”

Collect 12 Box Tops, Send Them To The Address Below And Get A Free – Oh, That’s Gross!

At the age of 59, Alex Chilton, lead singer for the band The Box Tops, has received the ultimate letter.

Didn’t He – No...Wait, But, He...He...I Got Nothing...

Ernie Harwell has died at the age of 82. I never heard him on radio or saw him on television. In fact, I’m not exactly sure what he did. But, he was fabulous.

If Ever There Was A Time To Use The Wayback Machine...

The city of Frostbite Falls mourns the death of Alexander Anderson Jr. who, at the age of 90, succumbed to Alzheimer’s Disease. RCMP representative Dudley Do-Right said that fowl play was out of the question. “Now vat ve doink?” asked a long-time admirer who asked to be identified only by his first name, “Boris.” “Wanna watch me pull a rabbit out of a hat?” replied a talking moose. Everybody moaned.

Prompting The Public Response: Sony Was Still Making Them?

The Sony Walkman has died at the age of 31 of advanced technological and social change. In its time, it brought pleasure to millions of people, although in recent years its star had been eclipsed by CDs and, ultimately, the iPod. Foul play is not suspected at this time, although the iPod had both motive and opportunity.

Then Keanu Reeves Had To Go And Ruin It All

Patricia Neal has died of lung cancer at the age of 84. The Earth stood still.

And, The Singer Wasn’t Joan Sutherland

At the age of 83, the fat lady has sung for Joan Sutherland.

He’s Not Dead, He Has Just Segwayed Into A Different Aspect Of Life

Jimi Heselden, owner of the company that makes the Segway, died when his vehicle fell off a cliff. The company issued a brief statement about how unfortunate his death was, and assured the public that it was already looking into building small umbrellas into every vehicle.

He Had His Tentacles Into Everything!

Paul the Octopus has died in his aquarium. No cause of death has so far been released, but, given his uncanny ability to predict the winners of sports events, bookies around the world have to be considered prime suspects.

Fortunately, She Trained Them Well

Barbara Billingsley, who played June Cleaver on *Leave It To Beaver*, has died at the age of 94. Now, the pots will have to scrub themselves!

If I Didn't Know Any Better, I Would Swear That Somebody Had It In For Television's Nuclear Family!

Actor Tom Bosley has died of heart failure at the age of 88. Bosley was probably best known as the man who inspired the unseen boss on the television show *Charlie's Angels*.

Promiscuous Sex Obviously Not The Path To Eternal Life

Bob Guccione, publisher of science magazine *Omni*, which frequently published articles on human immortality has died. He was only 79 years old.

Oh, and he also published pornography.

Tis a Puzzlement

Recreational mathematician trMnai dGrrane, a regular contributor to *ctfificinSe rciAmean*, has died at the age of $(4 \times 25) - (XX / IV)$.

Pies Don't Just Fling Themselves, You Know

British comedian Norman Wisdom has died at the age of 95. Vaudeville is truly dead.

Officers Malloy And Reed Drove Around The Perimeter Of The Cemetery

Stephen J. Cannell has died at the age of 69. Jim Rockford read the eulogy at his funeral. John "Hannibal" Smith lurked in the background smoking his finest cigar. Officer Tom Hanson smoldered darkly at the gravesite. Police Commissioner Tony Scali said there was no question of foul play, although Detective Sergeant Rick Hunter felt in his gut that there was more to Cannell's death than they knew.

The Tea Party Players Present: Hamlet

Dramatis Personae

Ghost of Hamlet's Father Rand Paul
Hamlet Marco Rubio
Gertrude (Sharron Angle *) Renee Ellmers

Ophelia (Christine O'Donnell *) Nikki Haley
Horatio Ron Johnson

Produced by the Koch brothers

Directed by Dick Arme

* scratched from the cast due to unforeseen circumstances

Act III

Scene I

[Elsinore. A room in the Castle.]

HAMLET: To be, or not to be, that is the –

Enter Horatio.

HORATIO: Well, my lord.

HAMLET: Question.
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer.

HORATIO: If he steal aught the whilst this play is playing.

HAMLET: The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.

HORATIO: And 'scape detecting, I will –

Enter Director from audience.

DIRECTOR: Horatio, what'n hell are you doing?

HORATIO: Acting, good sir.

DIRECTOR: You're not supposed to appear until later in the scene!

HORATIO: 'Tis but a minor improvisation, good sir,
Tend'd to make the play more salubrious to the audience.

DIRECTOR: Yeah, sure. We're all thinking about the audience. It's all about the audience. Only –

Enter Ophelia.

OPHELIA: [sings] He is dead and gone, lady,
He is dead and gone;
At his head a grass-green turf.

DIRECTOR: What?

OPHELIA: At his heels a stone.
O, ho!

DIRECTOR: Thunderation, Ophelia, what're *you* doing here?

OPHELIA: Why, I was but following Horatio's lead, good sir.

DIRECTOR: Can we cut the good sir, crap? Look, to be able to work, theatre has rules. You can't just do what you want.

HORATIO: With all due respect,
When you hir'd us on, we forswor the rules.
We agreed to join thine troupe of actors
'Pon the condition that we wouldst not conduct
Theatre as usual.

DIRECTOR: Sure. Sure. So, add some different line readings, update the setting, dazzle the audience with elaborate set design. These are things we can do. At the end of the day, though, *Hamlet* has to be *Hamlet*. The play has to make sense, see? You have to follow the –

Enter Ghost.

GHOST: Ay, that incestuous, that adulterate beast,
With witchcraft of his wit, with traitorous gifts –

DIRECTOR: What the hell are **you** doing?

GHOST: Joining the brethren of the troupe
In glorious freedom.

DIRECTOR: But, it don't make no sense.

GHOST: 'Tis a flashback.

DIRECTOR: A flashback? A FLASHBACK? We already seen you in the first act of the play. Remember? With all the lightning and thunder and shit? Believe me, the audience remembers – they don't need a damn flashback!

Enter Gertrude.

GERTRUDE: Did you assay him
To any pastime?

DIRECTOR: No, NO, **NO!** You're destroying Hamlet's big speech. Get off the stage!

GERTRUDE: I shall obey you;

DIRECTOR: You will?

GERTRUDE: And for your part, Ophelia, I do wish
That your good beauties be the happy cause.

DIRECTOR: Okay, STOP!

Pause.

DIRECTOR: Everybody who is not meant to be in this scene must leave the stage immediately!

OPHELIA: But, we are all meant to be in this scene.

Director brandishes playscript.

DIRECTOR Not according to the playscript.

HAMLET: The playscript be bugger'd.
As Horatio did'st say true:
We did not come to Elsinore
To practice the "theatre as usual."

DIRECTOR: But...this is madness.

GHOST: Mayhap, but there yet be method in't.

DIRECTOR: Method? I see no method here.

HORATIO: We merely hear the will
Of the common theatre patron for novelty,
And we obey.

DIRECTOR: But, but, but, you have to follow my direction. **I made you.** This here acting company would be nothing without me!

HAMLET: And we thankee for thine efforts,

And ask that you leave us to ours.

DIRECTOR: You all are gonna regret this.

GHOST: BEGONE!

DIRECTOR: [aside] Just wait til I tell Charles and David. You are so gonna regret this!

Exit Director.

HAMLET: Or to take arms against a sea of troubles.

HORATIO: If he steal aught the whilst this play is playing.

GHOST: O wicked wit and gifts, that have the power.

OPHELIA: Ay, truly; for the power of beauty will sooner transform honesty from what it is to a bawd than the force of.

GERTRUDE: Of Hamlet's wildness. So shall I hope your virtues.

GHOST: So to seduce! – won to his shameful lust.

HORATIO: And 'scape detecting, I will pay the theft.

GERTRUDE: Will bring him to his wonted way again.

OPHELIA: Honesty can translate beauty into his likeness.

HAMLET: And by opposing end them.

Curtains for the theatre.

That Quote's Gonna Come Back To Haunt Ya!

Gives New Meaning To The Term: "Political Theatre"

"Political promises do not have to be true, they just have to be plausible."

- former Stephen Harper adviser Tom Flanagan

"It is better to portray a plausible unreality than an implausible reality."

- Aristotle in *The Poetics*

She Makes The Octomom Look Like Mother Teresa

"I'm preaching pride, white pride, not hate."

- mother who lost her children when one of them showed up at school festooned with a swastika and white supremacist slogans

“I mean, we’re bringing in people from Haiti now. They still practise cannibalism there. Do we want that here?”

- the woman’s non-racist response to the Haiti disaster

“The blacks that we have here...we domesticated them. We made them who they are. Otherwise, they would still be eating each other and killing each other...”

- the woman’s non-racist response to...I’m not sure what

Recipe For Anger: Pour In Equal Measures Of Economic Uncertainty And Racial Animosity, Stir Vigorously For Two Years, Let Set

“Our differences cannot be allowed to harden into anger.”

- Republican President George W. Bush in his 2006 State of the Union address

“I know many Americans are angry over this health-care bill, and that Washington Democrats just aren’t listening.”

- Republican House Minority leader John Boehner in 2010

Lawrence, Take A Deep Breath Or You’ll Start To Hyperventilate!

“This regime continues to blatantly ignore its global obligation and it threatens as well global security.”

- Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon out-Israel’s Israel on the subject of Iran

Well! That was anti-climactic!

“The most beautiful thing in the world is, of course, the world.”

- Wallace Stevens

Conservatives Gone Wild

“12:02 lbccman: conservative woman are hott!!!!

12:03 bonz88: Like I said WE GOT THE BABES

12:03 lbccman: lib girls have hairy pitt

12:03 Furpc: lib girls have hairy legs”

- Internet comments made while Michele Bachmann was speaking at CPAC

...As Long As They Agree With Mine

“Abortion is a controversial subject of moral implications where heartfelt conflicting views must be respected.”

- Conrad Black in *The National Post*

Maybe You Should Make It More Respectful Of Your Wife...

“I need to make my behaviour more respectful of the game.”

- Tiger Woods

And, Dammit, AHIP Is Going To Stop Going Down That Path Just As Soon As It Runs Out!

“The current debate about rising premiums has demonstrated that, in fact, we have a health care cost crisis in this country. Unfortunately, the path that has been followed is one of vilification rather than problem solving.”

- America’s Health Insurance Plans President and CEO Karen Ignagni

It Depends – Why Don’t We Ask The People In Alberta Who Are Dying Prematurely Of Cancer?

“How is comparing a movie [Avatar] where the industrial villains maim and kill indigenous people to Canada’s oil sands not irresponsible and, frankly, insulting?”

- Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) spokesman Travis Davies

The Absurd Ironyometer Never Knows How To Take April Fool’s Day

“They want to kill us. I would rather they were all six feet under.”

- Israeli Leah Stremsky on the country’s Arab population

How Did The Company Ensure That They Were Virgins?

“100 Ryerson theatre students suddenly burst into dance at Yonge and Dundas for a Virgin Mobile promotion.”

- *Ryerson Today*

In Fact, I Will Take The Next Twenty Minutes To Explain To You Why I Will Not Spend A Moment To Answer Your Question

“You must know very little about what the president of the republic actually has to do all day long. I certainly don’t have time to deal with these ridiculous rumours, not even half a fraction of a second. I don’t even know why you use your speaking time to put such an idiotic question.”

- French President Nicolas Sarkozy, answering a question about rumours that he has been having an affair

The Good News? YOUR Health Insurance Covers Broken Arms

“They can break my arms. They can do whatever they want to. They’ll never get my vote – ever. They’ll have to walk across my dead body if they want my vote on this issue.”

- Democratic Oklahoma Representative Dan Boren on health care reform

You Say That Like It Is A Change

“There will be no cooperation for the rest of the year.”

- terminally ill-tempered John McCain explaining the Republican position on dealing with the Democrats

Your Back Pocket?

“It’s not that there were no regulations. There were plenty of regulations. Where were the regulators?”

- Hank Greenberg, former head of AIG

I Thought Republicans Didn’t Believe In Racial Quotas...

“You’re not going to dump the first African-American chairman. That’s the only reason. Otherwise, he’d be gone.”

- a Republican party insider explaining why, despite many gaffes, RNC Chair Michael Steel is not being fired

NOW YOU TELL ME?!

“Humour lives in people in their 20s. Past a certain age, you can do great material, but you cannot interact with the culture in the same way.”

- *New Yorker* cartoons editor Bob Mankoff

Silence Is Molten

“This is about more than the specific sordid scandal...it’s about accountability.”

- opposition leader Stephen Harper on the Liberal sponsorship scandal

“...”

- Prime Minister Stephen Harper on the Conservative Helena Guergis/Rahim Jaffer scandal

Hey, Rob! The 1980s Called – They Want Their Rhetoric Back!

“People are fed up with this tax-and-spend policy at City Hall.”

- conservative Mayoral candidate Rob Ford

But, Isn’t That What Toast Is Made Of...?

“Toast is overrated. Derringer gives you bread for breakfast.”

- Q107 morning show promotion

How Many Chickens Does An MRI Cost These Days?

“Before we all started having health care, in the olden days our grandparents, they would bring a chicken to the doctor. They would say ‘I’ll paint your house.’ They would do, I mean that’s the old days of what people would do to get healthcare with their doctors. Doctors are very sympathetic people.”

- Sue Lowden, Nevada Senate candidate

The Day The Twitter Died
Where Is Don McLean When You Need Him?

“I love penguins! Can’t be sad around ‘em! Ferrets are fun 4 a min but then it’s like, dude, take a breath! Still on the fence about rabbits!”

- Jim Carrey tweets

Confusion: An Underappreciated Interrogation Technique

TRANSCRIPT of an interrogation conducted by CSIS officers of a suspect at an undisclosed location in Afghanistan on December 6, 2007.

AGENT ALPHONSE: So, in today’s interrogation, am I going to be the good cop or the bad cop?

AGENT GASTON: I want to be the bad cop.

ALPHONSE: You’re always the bad cop!

GASTON: We’ve only interrogated two suspects!

ALPHONSE: And, you were the bad cop both times!

GASTON: I was good at it!

ALPHONSE: I might be better! How will we know if I don’t –

AFGHAN PRISONER: Excuse me.

ALPHONSE: What?

PRISONER: Is this the way you usually work?

GASTON: What do you mean?

ALPHONSE: Yes. Explain yourself.

PRISONER: Do you usually discuss interrogation techniques in front of the person you are interrogating?

GASTON: Is that wrong?

ALPHONSE: Should we not do that?

PRISONER: I...don't know. This is the first time I've been interrogated.

GASTON: Oho. First time, eh?

ALPHONSE: Well, it's not our first time, buddy-boy, so –

PRISONER: No, it's your third time.

GASTON: You – how could he possibly have known that?

ALPHONSE: Could he be part of a network that has been monitoring our interrogations?

GASTON: Do we have an infiltrator in our midst?

ALPHONSE: A double agent?

GASTON: *Mais, oui!*

ALPHONSE: *Mais, non! C'est impossible!*

GASTON: Then, how did he know this was our third interrogation?

ALPHONSE: Yes. Tell us: how did you know that this was our third interrogation?

PRISONER: You said so after you sat down.

GASTON: We did?

ALPHONSE: So we did!

PRISONER: You really are new at this, aren't you?

ALPHONSE: Do not let our casual demeanour fool you, my friend. We may not have a lot of experience in the field, but we have extension training.

PRISONER: Oh, really?

GASTON: Hsst! Extensive! Extensive!

ALPHONSE: Quoi?

GASTON: We have extensive training. Extensive!

ALPHONSE: But, that is what I said.

PRISONER: So, tell me: exactly what training have you had?

GASTON: We watched every episode of *Prime Suspect*. Twice!

ALPHONSE: Ah, that Helen Mitten – she is a great actress, non?

GASTON: And, we watched *Nipple Twisters IV – A New Clamp In Town*.

ALPHONSE: Although, that was on our lunch break.

GASTON: Still, it was 72 minutes that counted towards our interrogation certificate.

ALPHONSE: True. So, foul terrorist miscreant, know that you are dealing with two very savvy terror investigators!

PRISONER: I'm not a terrorist.

GASTON: Oho! Not a terrorist, he says?

ALPHONSE: Oh, yes. I distinctly heard him say "I'm not a terrorist."

GASTON: Did you really say that you are not a terrorist?

PRISONER: I'm not!

GASTON: He did! He did say he was not a terrorist!

ALPHONSE: Tell me something: if you are not a terrorist, what are you doing here?

GASTON: Ha! Weren't expecting us to ask that question, were you? Bet we've got you with that one. Hey? Hey?

PRISONER: I was having an argument with my brother-in-law about which side of the family property my sheep could graze on when the bastard turned me in to your soldiers for the \$5,000 reward!

GASTON: Totally innocent, eh?

ALPHONSE: Turned you in, eh?

GASTON: For the reward, eh?

ALPHONSE: If that's the case, what were you doing in a war zone?

PRISONER: My whole country's a war zone!

GASTON: You had the option of leaving.

ALPHONSE: Going. Hightailing it. Scramming.

PRISONER: I'm a farmer! How could I go anywhere? It's not like I could take the farm with me! Are you saying wanting to grow crops on my own land makes me a terrorist?

GASTON: Of course that's not what we're saying.

ALPHONSE: Certainly not.

GASTON: Absolutely not.

ALPHONSE: Unless that is exactly what we're saying.

GASTON: So, you see – what did you say?

ALPHONSE: Well, the definition of terrorist is so contested these days.

PRISONER: Weren't you taught the definition of terrorism?

ALPHONSE: Umm...yes. Of course. I...was just...thinking of *Prime Suspect* at the time...

GASTON: I was daydreaming about *Nipple Twisters IV*...

ALPHONSE: You cannot expect us to pay attention to everything.

GASTON: The training was sooooooooooooo boring!

ALPHONSE: Ah, *oui*, tremendously bo –

Prisoner laughs.

ALPHONSE: You are laughing?

GASTON: He is laughing?

ALPHONSE: You are laughing?

GASTON: Yes, you are laughing?

PRISONER: Yeah. Sorry.

ALPHONSE: Why?

PRISONER: I'm just trying to figure out which one of you is supposed to be the bad cop.

GASTON: We both are.

PRISONER: You both are?

ALPHONSE: *Mais, oui.*

GASTON: *Evidement.*

PRISONER: How do you figure that?

GASTON: Simple. We're the ones who are going to hand you over to the Afghan army.

The Prisoner stops laughing.

Headlines Are The Devil's Bocce Balls

Which We Will Ignore

"Valuable energy lessons"
- *National Post*

Out Of Both Of Their Mouths And, Oddly, Their Left Ears

"A Reactor Russians Say Is Safe"
- *New York Times*

Attacking Them All These Years Has Paid Off! **(And, David Frum Thought It Wouldn't Work!)**

"Coalitions: A way the world Canadians don't embrace"
- *Globe and Mail*

They're Hoping That The Bank Will Soon Offer A Take Out Menu

"Termites eat currency worth \$22,000 in vault"
- *Toronto Star*

I DON'T WANT TO KNOW THE QUESTION!

"CHERNOBYL MAY BE THE ANSWER"

- *National Post*

CEOs Preparing For Quick Getaway

“Rebound in orders for business jets gives boost to Bombardier”

- *Globe and Mail*

You Start Off Arguing Across The Table About Who Should Pay For The Chocolate Mouse You Shared – Before You Know It, You’re Exchanging Mortar Fire Across Your Bedroom

“EVERY BIG WAR STARTS SMALL”

- *National Post*

That’s Why The US Is Happy With Continuing Military Rule With Maybe A Little Less Repression And A Touch More Journalistic Freedom Thanks For Playing *Name That Revolution* Feel Free To Try Again In 20 – You Know What? Make It 50 Years

“Democracy Is Messy”

- *New York Times*

For One Thing, Outsourcing Seems To Have Accomplished Its Goal...

“An unadjusted - and positive - view of U.S. employment”

- *National Post*

Do We Have To Talk About Stephen Harper’s Bits?

“Harper is indeed a conservative (by a bit)”

- *Globe and Mail*

Satan Taking Notes

“Coal becomes ‘less evil’”

- *National Post*

Would Consider Offer From United States Or Japan, But Burkina Faso?

“Australia rejects takeover offer”

- *Toronto Star*

They’re So Needy And They Start To Cry At The Worst Times (And, Yes, We Know You Meant Corporate Partners)

“The Problem With Partners”
- *New York Times*

Admit It! You’ve Always Wanted Gills

“Turn down the dial on radiation fears”
- *National Post*

“The Ponze” Is Everywhere (Aaaaaayyyy)

“Venezuela caught up in a U.S. Ponzi scheme”
- *Globe and Mail*

“Pastor accused of Ponzi scheme”
- *Globe and Mail*

They Need A Good Laugh

“Bet on the rich”
- *National Post*

The Death Of The Body Hasn’t Reached The Brain Yet

“Globe readership climbs”
- *Globe and Mail*

“Star remains on top in readership survey”
- *Toronto Star*

Nimble Applying, In This Case, Primarily To Their Fingers

“Unrest means options for nimble traders”
- *National Post*

Just Ask Our Nimble Traders...

“If you can’t live with volatility and fear, you have options”
- *National Post*

The Motor Company, The Mayor Or The *Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* Character?

“Thousands protest Ford plans”
- *Toronto Star*

Newspaper Gets Tenses Mixed Up Again

“Schwarzenegger to be cartoon character”

- *Globe and Mail*

100% Of Pollsters Approve Of Polling 10 Times Out Of 10 With 0 Margin Of Error

“Pollsters say concerns about accuracy are overblown”

- *National Post*

More About The Politician’s Personal Life Than I Ever Wanted To Know!

“Quebec’s shifting winds may leave Duceppe flagging”

- *Toronto Star*

Economic Analyses That Pander To Business High On List

“G20 confronts threat to global economic recovery”

- *Globe and Mail*

AGGRESSIVE FEMALE COMICS SCARE MALE AUDIENCES Remember Roseanne Barr?

“WHY ARE THE JOKES ALWAYS ON HER?”

The world laughs with Tina Fey, but she insists on laughing at herself”

- *National Post*

British Fourteenth Royal Flasher Regiment Not As Effective As Hoped

“NATO’s mission creep in Libya”

- *Toronto Star*

They Should Have Bet On The Rich While They Had The Chance

“Fury of poor would erupt without unions”

- *National Post*

Modern Art Gets Down And Dirty...I Think

“HOW SHE TROMPES YOUR OEIL”

- *National Post*

The Right Page Doesn’t Know What The Left Page Is Doing

“Gas may hit \$1.40 a litre as demand drives up”

- *Globe and Mail*

“Oil prices slump despite Saudi production cut
Move taken as another sign of weakening global demand”
- opposite page of *Globe and Mail*

By Destroying It?
How Positively Nixonian Of You!

“Saving the American welfare state”
- *National Post*

Libyan Rebels Respond: “Thanks. Who Are You, Again?”

“McCain backs rebels in Libya”
- *Toronto Star*

It Will Become A Morass In Due Time
Quagmire Expected To Eventually Follow

“‘Stalemate’ on ground in Libya, Obama says”
- *National Post*

To Find The Good News In A Bad Economy, Sometimes You Have To Read
Between The Lines

“Alstom to cut jobs in three countries”
- *Globe and Mail*

“CN Rail chief’s 2010 pay spikes 45 per cent”
- *Toronto Star*

“Lobopharm cuts nearly 30% of staff”
- *Globe and Mail*

“VW Chief’s pay surged 41% in 2010”
- *Globe and Mail*

“Finnair to slash 450 among tech staff”
- *Globe and Mail*

“CEO of CIBC gets 50% raise in annual compensation”
- *Globe and Mail*

“AOL cutting 900 jobs in India, U.S.”
- *Globe and Mail*

“Manulife’s CEO paid \$9.29-million in 2010”
- *Globe and Mail*

“U.K.’s Royal Mail to cut up to 3,451 jobs”
- *Globe and Mail*

r u dum r sumting?

@bill: DUDE!

@ted: dude?

@bill: I cant feel my toz!

@ted: r u stabbin ur toz wid a fork?

@bill: no

@ted: then y would u feel dem?

@bill: u don’t understand

@ted: sur i do. put ur hand on ur toz

@bill: dude! im txting here!

@ted: ur other hand dude

@bill: o. right. k.

@ted: now, cn u feel ur toz?

@bill: few. still der. LOL tx, dude

@ted: what im here 4

@bill: ur not here

@ted: figur o speech, dude, figur o speech – do not tak literal

@bill: o. k. im hungry

@ted: so get urself sum fud

@bill: I dunno where it is

@ted: don't u have a...a place where u keep fud? What do u call it? A...a...a

@bill: stove, u mean?

@ted: no, i dont think dats teh word

@bill: not stove?

@ted: pretty sure not stove

@bill: toastr oven?

@ted: don't u toast things in a toaster ovn?

@bill: o. makes sense. fudge?

@ted: no, no. u r confusin what u eat with what u keep it in

@bill: i sur culd us some fudge right now

@ted: focus! whers fud?

@bill: table lamp?

@ted: u keep fud in a table lamp?

@bill: I DON'T KNOW! Y U THINK I ASK?

@ted: k. k. don't get nickrs twisted in not. Where is fud thing?

@bill: R U MAKIN FUN O ME?

@ted: no no. listen. where is it in house?

@bill: o. umm. dont no

@ted: u do eat, rite? Human metabolism cant function widout fud

@bill: rite. i eat

@ted: k where did u get fud?

@bill: woman – maybe mom – got it 4 me

@ted: k where mom?

@bill: dunno. havnt seen her in long time

@ted: did u ever get fud for self?

@bill: maybe. probly. hard 2 remember when so hungry

@ted: think. where was fud when u got it?

@bill: I DONT NO!

@ted: k. look around

@bill: k

@ted: do u see fud ting?

@bill: umm, what duz it look lik?

@ted: umm, a box, maybe?

@bill: YES! YES! Theres a box right in front of me!

@ted: duz it have picturz?

@bill: ooh. Yes. Cat is sawing off other cats head with dental floss. ROFLMAO!

@ted: that box not 4 fud

@bill: no?

@ted: itz a TV set, dude

@bill: o :-(

@ted: any other boxes?

@bill: i c 1 on a table

@ted: can u c whats in it?

@bill: gimme a sec... fud?

@ted: what does it look lik?

@bill: its long...round...brown.....

@ted: culd b a hot dog, but

@bill: but?

@ted: its probly a cigar. what duz it smell like?

@bill: my grandfather

@ted: DUDE! IT'S A CIGAR! DO NOT EAT! I REPEAT: DO NOT EAT! IT WILL MAKE U SICK!

@bill: but I am so hungry

@ted: k. go into teh next room

@bill: u mean, get up?

@ted: yes

@bill: off my couch?

@ted: yes

@bill: lik, move around & stuff?

@ted: DUDE! do you want to eat r dont u

dude?

dude?

DUDE!

@bill: im thinkin! im thinkin!

@ted: OMG! Nichlas Car iz rite!

@bill: who dat?

@ted: author of buk called teh shallows: wat teh Internet iz doing 2 our brainz

@bill: what duz he say?

@ted: teh Internet is making us stoopid

@bill: not genetics?

@ted: nope

@bill: not environmental toxins dat r destroyin r immune systems & probly brainz, 2?

@ted: parently not

@bill: teh Interwebs?

@ted: yeah. u cant hav serious thots in 140 characterz. thinking bcoms superficial. u cant...umm...sumting else, he sez...

@bill: is it important?

@ted: i tink so, yeah – o, yeah, u cant follow complex argumentz ne mor

@bill: where hav I herd that b4?

@ted: Aristotle

@bill: dead Greek guy?

@ted: yeah. He said writing wuld make ppl stoopid cuz they wuldnt hav to remember facts

@bill: did it?

@ted: i don't see how. i mean, if writing made us stoopid, how could we hav invented teh Interwebs?

@bill: dat all?

@ted: no. moviez radio TV – sum ppl tink dey all mak us stoopid

@bill: dat would b a lot o stoopid

@ted: zactly

@bill: so y u think Niclaus Cart is rite?

@ted: no

@bill: but u said u thot he wuz rite

@ted: i wuz confuzed

@bill: so, teh kidz r alrite

@ted: teh kidz r alrite

@bill: so, y am I gettin so hungry?

@ted: sigh. lets figure dis out logically

The Last Temptation of Christine

INT. STUDIO - DAY

SEAN HANNITY and CHRISTINE O'DONNELL sit opposite each other at a desk. Behind them is a chroma key image of a bustling newsroom intended to give the viewing audience the mistaken impression that what they are watching is journalism.

SEAN HANNITY: My next guest is Delaware RepubliTea Party Senate candidate Christine O'Donnell. Christine, you're awesome. Could you be any more awesome?

CHRISTINE O'DONNELL: If I was, Sean, it would probably hurt!

HANNITY: But, seriously, Christine, is this just a surface awesome? I mean, honestly, how deep does your awesome go?

O'DONNELL: Well, Sean, we haven't started drilling yet, but sonar indicates that it's awesome as far down as anybody cares to go!

HANNITY: I would go down deep to plumb the depths of your awesomeness, Christine!

O'DONNELL: (giggles) Oh, Sean!

HANNITY: Now, seriously, seriously, Christine, do you - URK!

Hannity's eyes bulge and his body stiffens. Pause.

O'DONNELL: Yes, Sean?

MECHANICAL VOICE: But. Seriously. You. Have. Stated. That –

O'DONNELL: Sean, are you okay?

MECHANICAL VOICE: I. Am. Fine.

O'DONNELL: What...what happened to your voice?

MECHANICAL VOICE: I. Have. A. Cold.

O'DONNELL: A cold? That was quite sudden, wasn't it?

MECHANICAL VOICE: This. Studio. Has. A. Draft. Shall. We. Continue. With. The. Interview?

O'DONNELL: Umm...okay.

MECHANICAL VOICE: You. Have. Stated. That. You. Want. To. Slash. Government. Spending. While. Maintaining. Popular. Social. Programmes. Cutting. Taxes. And. Reducing. The. Federal. Deficit. While. Increasing. Military. Spending. How. Can. You. Keep. All. Of. These. Promises?

O'DONNELL: I have a magic wand.

MECHANICAL VOICE: A. Magic. Wand?

O'DONNELL: A magic wand.

MECHANICAL VOICE: That. Will. Resolve. All. Budget. Issues?

O'DONNELL: That puts people to sleep whenever the budget is brought up. Then, they magically awoken when I call my opponent a socialist scumbag whose party is destroying the country.

MECHANICAL VOICE: I. See.

O'DONNELL: My magic wand is fuelled by the three "a"s: anger, apathy and ignorance.

MECHANICAL VOICE: Ignorance. Does. Not. Begin. With. The. Letter. A.

O'DONNELL: It's appalling.

MECHANICAL VOICE: Oh. In. A. Recent. Campaign. Ad. You. Claim. That. You. Are. Not. A. Witch.

O'DONNELL: I thought we weren't going to discuss that, Sean.

MECHANICAL VOICE: But. In. Light. Of. Your. Admission. That. You. Have. A. Magic. Wand. I. Thought -

O'DONNELL: (huffy) I'm not prepared to discuss that, Sean. Really! Didn't you ever make out with somebody on a blood-stained Satanic altar when you were just a kid?

MECHANICAL VOICE: No.

O'DONNELL: (angry) Well, forget about it! It's ancient history! Let's move on!

MECHANICAL VOICE: Oh. Okay. You. Have. Been. Running. As. A. Tea. Party. Outsider.

O'DONNELL: (smiling again) That's me. Miss virgin to politics.

MECHANICAL VOICE: But. Is. It. Not True. That. You. Have. Been. Part. Of. The. Social. Conservative. Movement. For. Over. A. Decade. Preaching. That. Masturbation. Is. A. Form. Of. Infidelity. And. Advocating. False. "Cures." For. Homosexuality?

O'DONNELL: (drops smile) Okay, so I'm a born again virgin to politics. What's it to you?

MECHANICAL VOICE: When. You. Get. To. Washington. Won't. You. Fall. In. Line. With. The. Same. Republican. Policies. That. Over. The. Past. Thirty. Years. Have. Brought. The. Country. To. The. Brink. Of. Destruction?

O'DONNELL: Okay, buster, who are you?

MECHANICAL VOICE: I... I. Am. Sean... Hannity.

O'DONNELL: You are so **not** Sean Hannity! Sean Hannity wants to talk about my awesomeness for 20 minutes, not actual issues! Sean Hannity lets me fundraise on his show without actually having to say anything of substance! I have been on Sean Hannity's show before, and you, sir, are no Sean Hannity!

MECHANICAL VOICE: I. Am! I. Am. Sean –

Sean Hannity's body slumps forward, his head hitting the desk with a loud THUMP! On his back is a mouse with a glass bubble around its head that is large enough to hold a human brain.

O'DONNELL: Oh, my god, it's true! Stem cell researchers really have created a mouse with a human brain!

MECHANICAL VOICE: No. Christine. O'Donnell. It. Is. Not. True.

O'DONNELL: But...but...but, here you are! You're proof that it is true!

MECHANICAL VOICE: No. This. Is. A. Dream. Your. Subconscious. Mind. Is. Punishing. You. For. Believing. So. Many. Foolish. Things.

O'DONNELL: (sobbing) No! No! You're real, I tell you! Real!

MECHANICAL VOICE: Just. Click. The. Heels. Of. Your. Red. Shoes. Three. Times. And. Say –

INT. CHRISTINE O'DONNELL'S BEDROOM – NIGHT

O'Donnell sits bolt upright in bed. An UNIDENTIFIED MAN lies next to her.

O'DONNELL: Whoa! You would not believe the dream I just had!

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Unf blurg fumf?

O'DONNELL: No shit! I've got to phone Sean Hannity and warn him about the mouse with the human brain who wants to take over his show!

FADE DEMOCRACY TO BLACK

The Problem of Satire

The problem with anything that needs to be interpreted is that it can be misinterpreted. Nietzsche said that. Or, possibly Charlie Brown. Somebody with intellectual heft, in any case.

This is especially true of satirical writing. It takes effort for a reader of a piece of writing that appears to be about aliens invading Earth to understand that it is really about how increasingly regressive taxation policies lead to widening income inequality. Or, to use a different example, how a piece of writing about regressive taxation policies and widening income equality could actually be about Kim Kardashian's three month marriage to Kris Humphries. Or, that Kim Kardashian's disastrous marriage to Kris Humphries could really be about an alien invasion of Earth. Satire is complicated that way.

To fully appreciate satire, you have to be able to read between the lines. Not literally, of course: there's nothing but white space between the lines on a page, so there is nothing to read there. Metaphorically. And, an inability to appreciate metaphors brings us back to the theme of this article.

Let's be charitable and say that most people who do not understand satire are simply morons. Let's say that because there are people who intentionally misread satire, insisting that a piece of writing is just about Kim Kardashian's marriage when the subtext is clearly about an alien invasion of Earth. Those who intentionally misread satire usually have a personal interest in avoiding the actual point of such writing (aliens, in the current example, would want to focus on Kim Kardashian - possibly the only ones who would). And, those people are often very loud in their denunciations of satirical writing.

As a defense mechanism, some outlets for satire have started labeling satirical articles so that readers know what they are getting into before they start (and greatly indemnifying

the publication from criticism after they finish). At its most basic, such labeling looks like this:

SATIRE
A Modest Proposal
by Jonathan Swift

Some publications find the one word label too limited, too easily missed by easily offended readers. These publications often start with a paragraph warning potential readers about the true nature of what they are about to be exposed to. An example of such a paragraph would be:

WARNING: The following piece of writing is satire. SA-TI-RE. It is not meant to be taken literally. Please, do not send us angry letters about how inhumane it would be to sell the children of poor Irish immigrants to wealthy Brits for food. Although that is what this article appears to be about, that is not actually what the article is about. You just have to read between the lines (not the lines of the text, obviously, because there is only white spa...

You get the idea. When the disclaimer is longer than the article it disclaims, you know that the publisher has been stung by criticism in the past.

In any case, just as people have stopped reading the warning labels on cigarette packages, readers increasingly ignore the warning message at the start of pieces of writing. For this reason, some publishers have gone so far as to insert notice of satire directly into satirical essays. This sometimes looks like this:

SATIRE → That the remaining hundred thousand may, at a year old, be offered in the sale to the persons of quality and fortune through the kingdom; always advising the mother to let them suck plentifully in the last month, so as to render them plump and fat for a good table. ← SATIRE

Some publishers find this too subtle, though, and go for a more attention-grabbing look:

SATIRE → That the remaining hundred thousand may, at a year old, be offered in the sale to the persons of quality and fortune through the kingdom; always advising the mother to let them suck plentifully in the last month, so as to render them plump and fat for a good table. ← **SATIRE**

(Readers need to be careful about such labels, however. There are people who say things that they know will be offensive to people, then claim that they are satirists in order to explain to their supporters that the outrage that they are trying to generate is actually unjustified. Here is but one example:

SATIRE → We should invade their countries, kill their leaders and convert them to Christianity. ← **SATIRE**

This could, perhaps, be a satirical comment on Kim Kardashian's marital proclivities, but that would be a stretch.)

Even if the pages of a work are lined with arrows down either side of text, indicating satire (which they rarely are, since this would add substantially to the number of pages the work takes up, which would increase the cost of publishing it), the reader used to the speed of digital communications may quickly learn to ignore them, leaving such readers open to once again misinterpreting a text. The latest effort by publishers to combat this problem is to embed warnings of satire directly into the works themselves. This looks very much like this:

That the [SATIRE] remaining hundred thousand may, at a year old, be offered in sale [VERY MUCH SATIRE] to the persons of quality and fortune [SATIRE] through the kingdom[SATIRE]; always advising the mother to let them suck plentifully [SATIRE] in the last month so as to render them plump [SATIRE] and fat [SATIRE] for a good table [OH SO VERY UNMISTAKABLY SATIRE].

If this has a surreal, Dadaistic feel to it, well, that doesn't necessarily clash with a work's satirical intent.

Publishers could, one supposes, ignore people who do not know how to read satire – or have partisan reasons for misreading it – and let works of satire stand or fall on their own merits. Of course, this would take a certain amount of courage on the part of publishers.

So, Dadaism it is.

The Space Adventures of Scarlett Brushfire on Twitter

0. This month will feature quotes from my best-selling scifi novel *Scarlett Brushfire and the Polaris Azimuth*.

1. The Polaris Azimuth was a legend among spacefaring folk and people who don't get out much.
2. When Kemal Ataturk pulled out his phaser, all hell broke loose at the Rye and Ginger space bar and cheese shop.
3. The android actors performing Karl Kapek's *RUR* couldn't wait to get their Turing company on the road.
4. Scarlett gazed fondly on the Lilac Destroyer. It may've been a rusty bucket o' bolts, but it was HER rusty bucket o' bolts!
5. The two moons of Femdor rose like two...things not safe for work rising.
6. Primrose adjusted his mirror shades and said: "Now, let's have some fun!"
7. 48 hours later, Scarlett cursed the day she was talked into buying the discount Sleep Inhibitor(TM).
8. Meanwhile, in another part of the galaxy, other things were happening.
9. "Everybody stand back!" Bill shouted. "I'm about to perform science!"
10. Once the nano got into the pipes, it was only a matter of time before the whole building was turned into Fruity Pebbles.

11. "I guess all those hours playing *Star Blap* Online paid off!" she chorkled. Yes, chorkle is the only word for it.
12. As the tentacles slowly slithered towards Scarlett, she felt she had seen this movie before, and she hated reruns!
13. The quadralithium crystals ate my baby – and it hadn't even been conceived yet!
14. Scarlett prayed the time slip wouldn't mean she had to sit through *The Bounty Hunter* again.
15. Philately Rose levelled her steam-powered phaser and said, "I wouldn't do that if I were you." He didn't.
16. The appearance of the Kerplatzen battle fleet made all existential questions temporarily irrelevant.
17. "I don't like the way that android is looking at me," sneered the chap in chaps.
18. The virus caused eno's entire body to explode, but he was determined not to let it spoil his evening out.
19. "You want to destroy me with...an Epimenides paradox?" the AI scoffed. "I think 7 impossible paradoxes before breakfast!"
20. "Drop your pants," she said, "or feel the wrath of the WARTHOG OF DOOM!" "Damn mutants!" Scarlett thought out loud.
21. The Kreeelan invasion was momentarily stymied because their generals couldn't agree on slide 37 of the PowerPoint.
22. The battle of Round Corners left everybody with terrible noogies.
23. "Dust bunnies!" Captain Jack muttered. "Vicious bastards. And, you've gone and killed their queen!"
24. "We can't eat kill, kill it or mate with it," Scarlett said, "so I guess we'll just have to leave the damn monolith alone!"
25. She levelled her gaze at him and said: "Did you know that there are 237 ways to kill a man with salmon sashimi?"
26. Their love was forbidden – by society...or the EPA...or Major League Baseball – whoever – but, dammit, it was forbidden!
27. "This can't be a computer simulation," eno complained. "I have a hair appointment on Thursday!"
28. S. patted her Pleasurator X20. Old Yeller got her through another lonely night, but how much longer? How. Much. Longer?
29. However, the email never arrived, so it was war with the mud, people.
30. "If this was in a novel, I would never buy it," she added ex officioly.
31. Scarlett, Captain Jack and the chap in chaps threw their hair back at another adventure well survived.

0. This month will feature quotes from my best-selling scifi novel sequel *Scarlett Brushfire and the Mutant Checkerboard*.

1. "Sequels are never as good as the originals!" the chap in chaps complained.
2. "Self-reference isn't as clever as it once was!" Scarlett Brushfire responded as she donned her meta suit.
3. Billy Van soon learned that you can't put out a fire with quantum foam.
4. The trip between star systems was only half over, and Scarlett was already sick to death of euchre!

5. By the time the guards had finished comparing battle scars, Morbo had completely vanished!
6. Low-born Ham Chouder would prove his worth to the Council of 127...just as soon as he found his pants!
7. "Can I help you fix that flat warp drive?" asked T-Fal, the psychotic symbiote.
8. A mother will do anything to save a family. But, female flatbottles take this to a disgusting extreme...
9. "Suck it up!" Scarlett responded as she beheaded a Ventrosian Squiggle.
10. Captain Jack was surprised to find that Big Brother was so small where it counted. It explained a lot, though...
11. The Being of Light said, "So, this is unbearableness!"
12. The Zellbergs didn't kvascent as well as they did last year, but everybody agreed the schmantel was exquisite!
13. "When I said, 'Let's blow this popsicle stand,'" Scarlet sighed, "I didn't mean..."
14. The Floopstein Empire hated cats, and they had the weapons to do something about it...
15. The Purple Unguent peeled back his face to reveal that he wasn't wearing a mask. Much space sickness ensued.
16. "Full house!" Chouder exclaimed. "Great," Scarlett said, shooting a Zentropi trooper, "except, we're not playing poker!"
17. Scarlett stopped the battle in order to fill out the Federation census before the deadline.
18. He hadn't had a mate in so long, he was seriously considering carbon dating.
19. "I am beyond time," the voice vocalized. "I am beyond space. However, I am not beyond the reach of a good Cuban cigar."
20. Madeleine Splatt broke a nail on her way out of the black hole AND SOMEBODY WAS GOING TO PAY!
21. Scarlett looked sadly at the Vortex Manipulator. With nary a vortex in sight, it would have to wait for another novel...
22. With the fate of the universe hanging in the balance, the last thing Scarlett wanted to see was the "mailbox full" message!
23. "Of all the historical figures to run into," Chouder mumbled, "William McGonagall would not have been my first choice!"
24. There were 12 backup plans and an escape hatch, but would that be enough?
25. "Pawn to queen sex!" the chap in chaps exultantly shouted, erroneously thinking it would win him the game.
26. By the 37th Insight, all concerned felt the Oracle was running dry...
27. Scarlett's best intentions didn't work. Not that her worst intentions helped, either...
28. After Interzone was closed down, the Mugwumps applied for jobs in the chorus line at Radio City Music Hall.
29. The crude clown clone clapped creepily.
30. It was the death of hope. But, it was the birth of Hope, 2.0...
31. Scarlett, Captain Jack and the chap in chaps threw back their bald heads at another adventure well survived.

Demento Mori

He Died As He Lived – Quite The Spectacle

Bollywood movie mogul Yash Chopra has died at the age of 80 a week after contracting dengue fever. His funeral will last five hours, and contain humour, drama, romance, fantasy and lavish dance numbers that are completely disconnected from the eulogies they interrupt.

There He Goes The Host Of Miss America...

At the age of 74, actor and television host Gary Collins has died of natural causes. He was a tall drink of – no, wait, that was his brother Tom.

Or, At Least, He Was...

Science fiction author Harry Harrison has died at the age of 87. Harry Harrison is people! Harry Harrison is people!

Although Some Critics Found It Excessive, The LT Is Now Taught In Many Acting Courses

Herbert Lom has died at the age of 95. Although he acted in over 100 films in a career that spanned six decades, he will always be remembered for the “Lom Twitch,” a performing style he perfected playing Charles Dreyfus opposite Peter Sellers’ Inspector Clouseau in the Pink Panther series of movies. “The Lom Twitch is actually a lot harder to master than it looks,” stated Colin Farrell.

It Was, As Doctor Frank N. Furter Truly Said, A Mercy Killing

The print edition of *Newsweek* magazine was officially pronounced dead yesterday afternoon at the age of 80. It had been suffering from sclerotic circulation for many years. It is survived by its ungainly step-child, an electronic edition. “Dad was an important part of the media in its day,” *The Daily Newsbeast Week* cheekily commented, “but today’s readers want instant information and social interaction, two things a weekly print publication is bad at doing. Really bad at doing. Fatally bad at – okay, you get the idea. It was its time.”

A Specter Is No Longer Haunting America

Republican Senator Arlen Specter has died at the age of 82. He was well known for his work on the Warren Commission that investigated the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. **Now** do you believe that there is a conspiracy to stifle the voices of anybody who investigated Kennedy’s death?

Some Women Take Being Gurley A Bit Too Seriously...

Helen Gurley Brown, the author of *Sex and the Single Girl* and former editor of *Cosmopolitan* magazine, has died at the age of 90. Before she passed away, she wrote a note to her current lover apologizing for not being able to be with him that evening.

He Was Known As The Air Raid Siren Of Situation Comedy

Ron Palillo, who played Horschack on *Welcome Back Cotter*, has died of an apparent heart attack at the age of 63. You know, I can still hear the character's laugh in my head. FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, SOMEBODY MAKE IT STOP!

He Also Spoke His Own Incomprehensible Language

Joe Kubert has died at the age of 85. He was prone to jumping diagonally from cube to cube from the top of an isometric pyramid of cubes; landing on a cube caused him to change color. Kubert was a perfectionist who was not satisfied until he had changed every cube to a target color.

To each their own, I guess.

Her Acting Strengths Were Krystal Clear

Sylvia Krystal, star of the film *Emmanuelle*, has died at the age of 60 from cancer. After the news broke, men of a certain age flew at half mast throughout the rest of the day.

On The Other Hand, The Flowers Will Be Growing Out Of His Hair...

Singer/songwriter Scott McKenzie has died at the age of 73 of Guillain-Barre Syndrome. Ironically, he did not die in San Francisco.

I Would Have Paid Good Money To See That Film Hell, I Would Even Have Paid Bad Money

Phyllis Diller has died at the age of 95. Tony Scott has died, an apparent suicide after having been diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer, at the age of 68. If she hadn't died, Diller probably would have made fun of Scott's hairpiece. If he hadn't died, Scott would probably have used Diller as the inspiration for the evil criminal matriarch tracked down by a police detective played by Denzel Washington.

Thousands Of Engaged Couples Concerned That There Is Now Nobody To Marry Them Dying As Virgins Mentioned By Many...

Then, as it must to all men, death came to Sun Myung Moon. He was 92; he died of complications due to pneumonia. Followers of the founder of the Unification Church responded: "Praise the Lord and pass the *Washington Times*!"

Life Is Long

Stanley Long, British producer of such films as *Nudist Memories*, *The Wife Swappers* and the international sensation *Adventures of a Taxi Driver*, has died at the age of 78. You may not think much of the “king of sexploitation,” but he’s in the Internet Movie Database and you’re not.

A New Chapters in the History of Literature

“Welcome to Indigo/Chapters. How may I help you?”

“I’m looking for *What Were Once Miracles Are Now Children’s Toys*.”

“What is that?”

“It...it’s a book.”

“A book?”

“Umm, yeah.”

“What’s that?”

“What’s what?”

“A book. What is a book?”

“You don’t know what a book is?”

“Uhh...maybe I do. I mean, we have just about anything you could want at Indigo/Chapters. So, umm, if you just describe it to me, I’m sure I’ll be able to figure it out...”

“Oookay. A book is made of paper -”

“Oh. Like stationery!”

“Not exactly.”

“That’s easy enough. Just go to the 17th floor and walk past small appliances, roto rooter to vacuum cleaner. Stationery is on your left, right next to the 17th floor Barstucks! You can’t miss it!”

“Thank you, but that’s not what I’m looking for. A book is made up of pages *with words on them*.”

“Words?”

“You know, that you can read. On every page.”

“Is it something like a Bonfire e-reader?”

“Sort of, except it’s made of paper.”

“Why don’t you just get a Bonfire e-reader?”

“Because I don’t want a Bonfire e-reader, I want a book.”

“Oh, look. According to my monitor, you can buy *What Were Once Miracles Are Now Children’s Toys* on the Bonfire e-reader for only \$19.99!”

“Look. I don’t want to buy *What Were Once Miracles Are Now Children’s Toys* on e-reader! I want the print version!”

“CUSTOMER SERVICE to Checkout Counter 127! Mabel, to Checkout Counter 127, please!”

“What did you do that for?”

“I’m afraid I may be in over my head, sir. I’ve just called in some retail reinforcement.”

“Maybe I’ve come to the wrong place.”

“Not at all. We sell everything you could possibly want at Indigo/Chapters. It’s just a matter of finding out where in the store what you wa – oh, hi, Mabel.”

“Hi, Margaret. What’s up?”

“This gentleman is looking for something called a book.”

“What’s that?”

“He says it’s made out of paper.”

“Did you direct him to stationery?”

“Well, that’s the funny part, Mabel. A book is made up of paper *that already has words on it.*”

“You don’t say!”

“Actually, I don’t. He does.”

“Look, if this is going to be a problem...”

“No. No problem at all, sir. Books...books...books. I’m pretty sure I know what they are. Marg, don’t we keep them on the...fourth floor? You know, next to the ferret neutering implements?”

“No. The ferret neutering implements are next to the flickercladding display.”

“Right! I forgot about the flickercladding display!”

“Well, if you’re not a robot looking to maximize its reflective properties on the surface of the moon, you would, wouldn’t you?”

“Very pretty, though.”

“If you like that sort of thing.”

“Umm...about the book...?”

“Right, sir. Sorry. Just getting our bearings. Ball bearings.”

“What about them?”

“I’m sure I saw something that looked like what the customer has described next to ball bearings on floor 23.”

“No, dear. Monochrome toasters are next to ball bearings.”

“Are you sure? I thought monochrome toasters were on floor 32, next to the bear ballings.”

“You’re thinking of the tricolour toasters next to Ruben Bolling.”

“Riiiiiiight. Right. I never understood why we had an in-house editorial cartoonist.”

“They are expensive, but you only have to sell one of them.”

“But, wait a second. Monochrome toasters may be to the left of the ball bearings display – could these...book things be on the other side of it?”

“To the right of ball bearings?”

“Exactly.”

“Isn’t that a fitting room?”

“Before you get to the fitting room.”

“Isn’t that where the anteater chow display is?”

“Oh! So it is.”

“You don’t have any idea what a book is, do you?”

“Umm...”

“Well...”

“You know, when I was growing up, Indigo/Chapters was a book store.”

“Oh! I get it!”

“You do?”

“You’re looking for nostalgia!”

“Nostalgia?”

“That’s right. Nostalgia’s on the 44th floor, right between human rights and flannel underwear.”

“It’s kind of a small display -”

“Not one of the bigger ones, no.”

“Easy to miss.”

“If you like, I’ll be happy to show you where it is.”

“You know, I didn’t really want to have to do this, but I think I’ll just look for the book online.”

“Look for a product online? Really, sir, there’s no need for that kind of language!”

Headlines Are Sorry They Got Drunk at Your Sister’s Wedding

But...How Do We Know They’re Telling Him The Truth?

“City staff feel chill after TTC firing
Civil servants afraid to be honest, ombudsman says”

- *Toronto Star*

Headline Not Hyperbolic

Everybody Knows Nazis Were Big On Universal Health Care

“The fiscal tyranny of health care uber alles”

- *Globe and Mail*

Awful Alliteration Alienates Architects

“Democracy duel divides Durham”

- *Toronto Star*

Want To Join My Pool Predicting How Long THAT Promise Will Last?

“Canada won’t drop tariffs as it pushes for pan-Pacific trade pact entry, Fast says”

- *National Post*

...From Their Calendars? Wow – Their Union Is Stronger Than Anybody Imagined!

“Librarians threaten to strike Sunday”

- *Toronto Star*

However, Crackers Are Easier To Swallow

“Free market talk goes with chopped liver”

- *Toronto Star*

Hair Free From Nits An Important Quality In An Automotive Executive

“Ford considers grooming potential heir for Mulally”

- *Globe and Mail*

First: Look Up The Proper Meaning Of The Word In The Dictionary

“How to be a successful synergist”

- *Globe and Mail*

For A Moment, I Thought The Article Would Be About Men Wanting Vasectomies Reversed

“‘We want our balls back’

Earl Beatty students refuse to roll over and accept safety ban on virtually all balls in their schoolyard”

- *Toronto Star*

Can Sharks Cry Crocodile Tears?

“Sorry, folks, but this protest’s in danger of fizzling out”

- *Globe and Mail*

Guards Not Prepared To Deal With Public Reaction To New Crossing Rules

“Still no defibrillators at border, union says”

- *Toronto Star*

Please Don’t Ask What Is Being Euphemized Here Image Will Stick In Brain For Weeks!

“Not your grandfather’s pumpkins”

- *Toronto Star*

“All Things To All People” Was Supposed To Refer To His Products, Not His Life

“What Steve Jobs learned, and why it matters”

- *Globe and Mail*

“‘i’ culture stemmed from Jobs: Chief Rabbi
Consumerism the quickest way to unhappiness”

- *National Post*

“Canada, like Steve Jobs, should zero in on innovation”

- *Globe and Mail*

And, The Hash Browns Will Make You Suicidal

“THE MORNING AFTER

An omelette to make you weep”

- *Toronto Star*

It Will Be The Don Of A New Day

“Cherry hopes to ‘go out on his shield’”

- *National Post*

Hopes It Will Work With City Council

“Ford invests in anti-gridlock technology”

- *Globe and Mail*

Good Thing

After Starring In Turkey, He Won’t Have It For Long

“John Carter’s Kitsch no fan of celebrity”
- *Toronto Star*

Count On It!

“There’s no such thing as a sure thing”
- *National Post*

Why Company Is Attacking Its Own Manager Something Of A Mystery

“Disney defends attacks on Bob Iger’s role, salary”
- *Globe and Mail*

There Must Be A Joke About “Swallowing That” Somewhere In There, But I Don’t Have The Stomach To Make It

“Food makers try to hikes prices, even as the ingredients get cheaper”
- *Globe and Mail*

Especially When They Access It On Their Cellphobe

“This technophone loves Twitter”
- *Toronto Star*

Cause Young People Already Have Too Much AWESOME In Their Lives!

“INSPIRED BY TRUE STORIES

Despite the realistic portrayal of U.S. Navy SEALs in Act of Valor, the film’s directors think it acts as a ‘anti-recruitment’ advertisement”
- *National Post*

Spewing Inane Orthodoxies To Calm The Sheep As They Are Being Fleeced?

“Journalism’s crucial role in financial market integrity”
- *Globe and Mail*

Pollute As Much As You Want – Other Provinces Will Clean Up The Mess

“Ontario’s clean power a lesson for Alberta”
- *Toronto Star*

Apparently, It’s Square To Be Hip

“Beards. Plaid shirts. But don’t call them hipsters any more”
- *Globe and Mail*

Then Spits It Out Because It Doesn't Have A System That Can Digest Fried Foods

“Early bird catches the doughnut”

- *Toronto Star*

How Many Different Ways Can You Find That This Headline Is Wrong?

“DO YOUR OWN BLOW”

- *The Kit*

Odds Get Much Better When They're Told Alternative Is Higher Taxes

“Adding casinos a bad bet, poll finds

Ontario public sees little to like in OLG's sweeping plan to expand gambling”

- *Toronto Star*

Markets Twirl Hair In Fingers, Start To Bite Nails

Parents Tell Them To Get Over Nasty Habits

“Markets fret over global hurdles

New worries about slowdown in China and Europe's debt crisis undercut recent stock rally”

- *Globe and Mail*

Especially If You Pour It Over The Head Of The Jerk Who Dumped You

“It takes more to mend a heart than a can of paint, but it's a start”

- *The Grid*

Damn Straight! How Is Ketchup Supposed To Help A High Tech Firm?

“Markets not betting on Heins-led revival at RIM”

- *Toronto Star*

Big DICK Radio Goes Boom

“Come on baby light my fire.

Come on baby light my fiiiiire – yeah!

The time to hesitate is through –”

“It's no time to put off desire. Not when you can satisfy every desire you have ever had since the moment you were born at the Doors of Perception condominium complex. It's nowhere near the lake, but that doesn't matter because being near the lake is just a state of mind, and your mind can go anywhere you like! Affordable? You bet! Nothing is

beyond the reach of your imagination if you use your imagination to extend your reach!
Doors of Perception condominiums – imagine the possibilities in our showroom today!”

“Uhh, okay, that was two thirds of ‘Light My Fire’ by the Doors.”

“You could say it was the Toronto development boom remix.”

“I could, but I wouldn’t. You’re listening to –”

“Your heart. Your head tells you that there are too many condominiums being built in the city. Your head tells you that there are not enough people moving into the city to fill all of the units being built. Your head tells you that, 10 years from now, the unit you buy in Bury My Heart in the City Towers will be worth less than you paid for it. But, your heart? Aah, your heart says this is where it wants to be. Bury My Heart in the City Towers start at more than you can afford but less than will bankrupt you. Probably. Bury My Heart in the heart of the city...of North York today!”

“Okay, that was...”

“Catchy?”

“Noooo...”

“Informative?”

“Only minimally.”

“Interruptive?”

“Is that even a word?”

“It didn’t get a red underline when I said it, so it must be a word.”

“Interruptive it is, then. You’re listening to...Dante –”

“...’s *Inferno* comes Fourth Circle condominiums. You’ve been bad. Veeeery bad. And, now it’s time to pay the price...by moving into the baddest condos this side of Gomorrah! Fourth Circle condominiums have all the modern amenities: restaurants that would make even Cerberus drool with envy, mud baths that would make waders in the River Styx look clean by comparison, and, of course, gyms that you would swear were run by Pluto himself! Fourth Circle condominiums – visit our showroom and condemn yourself to eternal pleasure today!”

“Is it...is it okay to start talking again?”

“Umm...I guess there’s only one way to find out...”

“Okay, I’m Da...I’m ‘Dick’ Roverside...”

“And, I’m Ev...I’m ‘Dick’ Lamanchuk...”

“And, you’re listening to 95 point two two, C-D-I-K FM – Big DICK Ra –”

“Condos. Lakefront views are for wimps! Shopping and other amenities are for sissies! Affordable prices are for girly-men! At Big Swinging Dick condos, you get whatever we provide for you **and you like it!** Big Swinging Dick condos – families and pets welcome.”

“Do you...do you think it’s over?”

“Will it ever be over?”

“Oh, it will end. When 99 per cent of the population lives in dire poverty –”

“Towers recreates the milieu of Dickensian London. The hallways are misted with a light fog that smells of peonies and desperation! The restaurants serve food free from the taint of government regulation of sanitary standards! Be sure to bring your laundry to the basement, where seven year-old urchins will wash it for you for pennies a day! Poverty Towers – taking you back to a time when the rich were really rich and the poor were invisible!”

“This is out of control.”

“Maybe we should go to a commercial?”

“We don’t have to – the commercials are coming to us!”

“ZAMBONI!”

“What...was that for?”

“I wanted to see if maybe there was an ice hockey themed condo.”

“Why would you do that?”

“For the children.”

“How are we supposed to do a radio show with all of these advertisements –”

“Getting you down? Does it seem like you can’t look out the window of your over-priced box of a home without being assaulted by a dozen visual commercial propositions? That’s why the units of Cocoon Condos are hermetically sealed with no windows to distract you. Claustrophobic? No worries! The outer walls of each unit are screens on which you can project the background of your choice! Sinners writhing in torment in the river Styx! Spring day in Ireland! Dark side of the moon! The only thing that limits you is the imagination of our design team! Cocoon Condominiums – for people who hate the concept of condominiums...”

You Say You Don’t Like Citations? Can I Quote You?

More Like A Sadist’s Dungeon

“I will be accused of living in a fantasy land.”

- Don Drummond, Chair, Ontario Commission on Government Spending Cuts

It’s Not Like They’re Proposing To Wrap You (However Beneficial The Effect On The Gene Pool Would Have Been)

“Who do they think they are that they can impose their art upon us?”

- unnamed American citizen objecting to a proposed art project by Christo and Jeanne-Claude to install fabric panels over 42 miles of the Arkansas River in Colorado

On The Other Hand, If I Thought That The Woman’s Signature Was...Required In Order For A Man To Have A Vasectomy, I Would Get All Medieval On People’s Asses

“If I thought that the man’s signature was required...in order for a woman to have an abortion, I’d have a little more peace about it...”

- Alaska Republican Representative Alan Dick

**Okay, Well, Umm, Light Rail Is Far Less Expensive Than Subwa –
“La La La! I Can’t Hear You! Still Flapping Your Gums? You’re Wasting Your
Time!”
Sigh**

“I think we need to have a mature conversation about how to fund that...”

- Toronto City Councillor Paul Anslie on transit expansion

A Fehrenstrom Of Criticism Leaves Romney Campaign All Shook Up

“Well, I think you hit a reset button for the fall campaign. Everything changes. It’s almost like an Etch A Sketch. You can kind of shake it up and restart all over again.”

- senior Republican Presidential candidate Mitt Romney aide Eric Fehrenstrom

**And, Then I Would Have Saved The President From An Assassin’s Bullet
And, Then I Would Have Solved The Problem Of Global Warming
And, Then I Would Have Found The Lost City Of Atlantis
And, Then, I Would Have – Man, This Imaginary Macho Stuff Is Fun, Isn’t It?**

“If I was on that plane with my kids, it wouldn’t have went down like it did. There would have been a lot of blood in the first-class cabin and then me saying, ‘OK, we’re going to land somewhere safely, don’t worry.’”

- actor Mark Wahlberg on the alternate reality in which he was on one of the planes that were flown into the World Trade Centre

**THE GOOD NEWS: The Focus Group Loved This Answer
THE BAD NEWS: It Was Made Up Of The Koch Brothers And Their Friends**

“Lemme tell ya something. America is a great nation, because we’re a united nation and those who are trying to divide the nation as you’re trying to do here and as the president is doing are hurting this country, seriously. The right course for America is not to divide America, and try and divide us between one and another, it’s for us to come together as a nation. And if you’ve got a better model, if you think China is better, or Russia is better, or Cuba’s better, or North Korea’s better, I’m glad to hear all about it. But you know what? America’s right, and you’re wrong.”

- Mitt Romney, answering a protester who asked him: “What will you do to support the 99 percent even though you are part of the 1 percent?”

Big Talk For A Guy Who Appears To Have Been Born With A Clenched Butt...

“As far as I’m concerned, the TTC needs an enema.”

- Councillor Doug Ford

Would That Make Your Coverage Of Iraq's Weapons Of Mass Destruction A Credibility Avalanche?

"Every time we get a name wrong, we chip away at the *Times*' credibility."
- *New York Times* standards editor Philip B. Corbett

Demanding...Receiving...It's A Fine Line...

"But some amount of transparency from all those environmental groups that demand 'transparency' from everyone else is a reasonable ambition as well."
- Rex Murphy, *National Post*

Somebody Seems To Be In Touch With His Inner Romney!

"These people are all two steps left of Joe Stalin"
- Toronto Mayor Rob Ford on his opposition on City Council

Have You Ever Wondered Why We Don't Allow Family Members Of Victims Of Violent Crimes To Write The Criminal Code?

"Each assassin should have the right to a rope in his cell to make a decision about his or her life."
- Conservative Senator Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu

The Aspirational Haves, As It Were Proto-Haves, If You Will The Glass Have Fulls, You Might Say

"This is not a nation of the haves and have nots. It's the haves and soon to haves."
- Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels

So, They Will Catch Up With Supermarkets, Then

"Farmers' markets are great... One day, they are going to kill some people, though."
- Loblaw Executive Chairman Galen Weston

Good To See Sun TV Raising The Level Of Discourse In This Country

"Hey...Manuel Rodriguez, chinga tu madre."
- Ezra Levant expressing his feelings about Chiquita Brands' International Senior Vice President's position on the Canadian oilsands

These Facts Got Hair Plugs, And They Don't Care Who Knows It!

"The facts that are being employed here aren't meant to function baldly as 'facts.'"

- Jim Fingal, responding to fact-checker John D'Agata's questions about an article he submitted to *The Believer*

Ayatollah Khomeini Considered For A Moment, Then Replied, "He Makes A Strong Argument..."

"I don't believe in an America where the separation of church and state is absolute... The First Amendment means the free exercise of religion and that means bringing people and their faith into the public square."

- Republican Presidential hopeful Rick Santorum in an interview on ABC's *This Week*

Of Course, That's Also A Definition Of Being A Hypnotized Chicken

"Excellence in a bureaucracy...is the ability to put forth the positions that are consistent with those adopted by the mayor."

- Toronto City Councillor Frank Do Giorgio

And, They'll Be Sure To Get Right On That...As Soon As They Stop Laughing Their Asses Off

"Now that it finds itself more beleaguered than ever, the C-Suite has to proactively and consistently engage the public with genuine demonstrations of honesty, integrity and ethical behaviour."

- Dan Ovsey, *Financial Post*

This Is What You Get When Facts Aren't Meant To Function Baldly As "Facts"

"It's not a forecast. It's a description of the economy right now, which means it has information for which we don't yet have data."

- CIBC World Markets Chief Economist Avery Shenfeld on...well, does it really matter what he was talking about?

Bigots Without Borders Bulletin #609

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Bigots Without Borders/Haine Raciale Sans Frontieres
Bulletin
May 4-May 11
#609

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1. PERSONAL NOTE

The office cat, Robert E. Giggles, died. He was the only feline any of us ever owned who would howl whenever Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech was played on the radio or TV. He will be missed.

2. NEWS – PENNSYLVANIA

Who says that racism doesn't benefit the community? The Ku Klux Klan has started to offer its services as a kind of neighbourhood watch in this American state. Of course (wink wink) they say they will protect all ethnicities equally (nod nod). They have to be taken seriously in a national climate hostile to hatred. Still, anybody who knows their charter...or past history...or recent history, for that matter, will know who they are really interested in protecting...

Doing well by doing good – not just for socialist bastards any more!

3. NEWS – TORONTO

So. Mayor Rob Ford. We're not cool with the whole drug thing – let the lesser races destroy themselves with crack or frack or whatever the latest illegal substance is. White men kill our brain cells the old fashioned way – with alcohol. But, in the middle of the latest kerfuffle, did anybody notice Ford say he wouldn't support another politician because he decided to "agree with the gays?"

Finally! We always suspected that Ford was homophobic because of the way he always avoided the Gay Pride Parade with excuses like "I have to spend time with my dog" and "I will have to go to the hospital that day because I...I plan on having a splinter." This is the first time, though, that he has openly stated his feelings.

If only more politicians took such a brave stand, maybe we could get past the social stigma that has dogged homophobia for decades.

4. ACTION ALERT! ACTION ALERT! ACTION ALERT! ACTION ALERT!

The National basketball Association has banned Donald Sterling from the sport and is trying to strip him of his ownership of the Los Angeles Clippers. Why? Because he allegedly told a woman who may or may not have been his mistress not to bring black men to games where his team played or have any picture of her taken with them posted to Instagram.

Donald Sterling! A man who feeds and clothes and houses thirty black men every year! He's practically a one man urban renewal project! (Okay, their talent at putting a ball into a basket may have something to do with them being clothed and fed and stuff. In fact, some people argue that they are actually responsible for his wealth! Some people, man!) After all Sterling has done for black people, this is the thanks he gets? Public outrage?

Well, we see your outrage and raise you righteous anger. We demand an immediate boycott of all NBA games until all actions against Sterling are dropped. What? But – well, sure, we love basketball. Who doesn't? Still, it's the principle of – okay. We demand a

boycott of all NBA games...immediately after the playoffs are over. And, before next season starts. That will teach the NBA...something...

5. EDITORIAL

The Supreme Court of the United States of America has ruled that affirmative action programmes are no longer necessary because racism has been eliminated in that country. Does this decision mean racism is dead? Perish the thought!

Racism is ingrained in the American psyche. The cop who stops men for driving fancy cars while black? That's racism. Whites who shoot black youth because they're afraid of what they might do with their concealed jelly beans? Racism. Giving your white cousin a job even though there was a more qualified black person? Okay, that's nepotism, although some racism is implied. The fact that the percentage of the prison population that is black is over twice the percentage of blacks in the country's population? Racism. Definitely racism.

Let's be honest: racism is as American as apple pie. No wishful thinking by the Supreme Court will change that.

6. CLARIFICATION

There are some crazy ideas floating around about "freedom of speech." We thought we should clarify our position on this.

If it means anything, freedom of speech means we can say whatever we want free from consequence. If others don't share our view of blacks, yellows, browns or any other colours in the Crayola box of race, they can just shut up about it, because we're right.

We trust this is now clear.

Bigots Without Borders/Haine Raciale Sans Frontieres Bulletin (c) 2014 by International Disharmony, Inc. All rights reserved...for straight white males.

The Cat in the Hat Came Back

"Darrin!"

"Josh!"

"How's it hanging?"

"Low fruit, my man. It's all low fruit."

"Good. ...Umm...good?"

“The best! And, you?”

“Hanging like a criminal, my brother. Hanging like a criminal!”

“Oh! Uhh...are you...sure that’s the phrase you want to go with, Josh?”

“It’s on today’s list of Hip, Happening Catchphrases – I just got the email from my Street Idiom Coach five minutes ago, so I know it’s glistening fresh.”

“You ever get the impression your Street Idiom Coach is, you know, phoning it in?”

“You mean...gimme a sec to look it u – ah, here we go: doobing the Zeitgeist?”

“No, I meant phoning it in. Still, you go with that if you think it would be best.”

“Thanks, man. If you can’t trust your Street Idiom Coach, it’s a pretty sad kettle of fettuccini!”

“Soooo...Josh. You called because...?”

“Right. My studio just bought the rights to a book we’re hot on turning into a trilogy of films. I was wondering if you might be able to make any suggestions that would help us find the right writer.”

“Writer?”

“Correct.”

“Screenwriter?”

“That’s what I said.”

“Person to write a screenplay?”

“Preferably somebody whose dialogue doesn’t repeat itself. That trope gets tired really fast.”

“Josh, bro, BRO! Three quarters of the zombies with cameras on Sunset Boulevard have scripts in the bottom drawer of their home offices in Buttefuque, Montana that they’d love a studio executive to take a look at! Just go down there and throw a rock. And –”

“Throw it hard. Yeah, yeah, I know. Writers Guild is always bitching about how much the Coen brothers have to answer for! It’s not that easy, though.”

“No? What could be easier than throwing a rock and seeing whose forehead gets smeared with blood?”

“The writer I’m looking for needs a...specific skill set.”

“Un hunh. And, what would that be?”

“He needs to be able to...fill out thin material.”

“To pad the script, you mean?”

“I prefer the term fill out the material. It’s more haimeshe gezondheid.”

“Darrin, if you don’t mind my asking, what, exactly, is the property that you’re planning on turning into a trilogy?”

“*The Cat in the Hat.*”

“By Dr. Seuss?”

“No, by Stephen King.”

“Really? I knew he was prolific, but I had no idea –”

“OF COURSE BY DR. SEUSS!”

“Oh. It’s a little thin for a trilogy, don’t you think? I mean, it would be thin for a 30 minutes special, but three feature length motion pictures?”

“I have some ideas about how to deal with that.”

“Any you’d care to share?”

“I was thinking we could give the cat a tragic back story. You know the drill: orphaned when he was just a pup –”

“Kitten.”

“Calf. Whatever. Had to fend for himself on the mean streets of...of...of Seussville. Learned how to fake being a tomservant’s tomservant and started a career cat-ering to the city’s wealthy. But, seeing the disparity between where he had come from and where he was working drove him a little...gonzo like Alonzo in the head, so, on his days off, he terrifies middle class kids whose parents aren’t maybe as attentive as they should be.”

“Tragic.”

“That’s what I’m saying.”

“Still, if that’s all you’ve got...”

“Of course that’s not all I’ve got! Thing One and Thing Two are really aliens sent to Earth to examine the planet’s dominant life form. Their reports back to their superiors are full of hilarious misunderstandings and generally wrong information. Sort of like mime Morks in white unisex bodysuits with numbers painted on them.”

“I...did not see that one coming.”

“In this business, you always gotta be thinking if you don’t want to be sinking.”

“Your Street Idiom Coach teach you that one?”

“Naah. Got it from a biography of Luis B. Mayer.”

“Dude. Sounds like you know exactly what you want to do – why not just write the script yourself?”

“Darrin, man! I thought we were friends!”

“Right. Sorry. Only, honestly, even with your...embellishments, I don’t see three pictures, here.”

“Did you factor in the CGI space battles?”

“I factored in the CGI! I factored! But, it’s just not grabbing me by the balls, man. My balls have a definitely ungrabbed feeling at the moment.”

“Well, I gotta say, that’s disappointing considering all the favours I’ve done for you over the years. You know, like helping out with that little matter of flora carabundus?”

“Flora carawhatsis? That’s not a street idiom.”

“Her name was...Lucy?”

“OH! Oh, well, since you put it that way, my balls are beginning to warm to this project. Yeah, my balls are definitely feeling much more positive about it. I...I’ll make some calls...”

TSA Or Not TSA – That is the Frequently Unasked Question

[1. What is the TSA?](#)

[2. Again: what is the TSA?](#)

[3. No, seriously, what does TSA stand for?](#)

[4. *SIGH* Doesn’t TSA stand for Transportation Security Administration?](#)

[5. What does the TSA do?](#)

- [6. How does it do this?](#)
- [7. What else does it do?](#)
- [8. Why?](#)
- [9. Does the TSA do anything else?](#)
- [10. Really?](#)
- [11. What if I don't want the TSA to have nude pictures of me?](#)
- [12. Ugh. I've been on a subway during rush hour – I was black and blue for a month!](#)
[What if I don't want to go through the scanner or be subjected to the pat down?](#)
- [13. Does the TSA still maintain a no-fly list?](#)
- [14. How is that going?](#)
- [15. Okay, what did they do?](#)
- [16. Is that the worst thing that the TSA has done?](#)
- [17. Is **that** the worst thing that the TSA has done?](#)
- [18. YES! Why wouldn't it?](#)
- [19. Have we finally determined the worst thing that the TSA has done?](#)
- [20. Why? Why should ordinary Americans be subjected to such humiliating, dehumanizing attacks on their individual liberties?](#)

1. What is the TSA?

The Tyrannosaurus Rex Appreciators.

2. Again: what is the TSA?

The Tie-dyed Scarf Agency.

3. No, seriously, what does TSA stand for?

Nothing, really. Those people have no patience – they won't stand for anything.

4. *SIGH* Doesn't TSA stand for Transportation Security Administration?

You're no fun. You sure you don't work for the TSA?

5. What does the TSA do?

Make the United States safe from another terrorist attack from the sky by making it so unpleasant for ordinary people to fly that they will find an alternative. In an ideal world, planes will be safe because no civilians will actually fly on them.

6. How does it do this?

Several ways. For one thing, it issues a list of things people are not allowed to carry on to airplanes. These items include: snow globes, toenail clippers, bottles of shampoo for greasy oily borderline disgusting wrestler's hair, 20 yards or more of fire hose, a partridge in a pear tree, snow globes with floating fish, laptops running Windows 2007 or

earlier, Bob Dylan albums after he went electric, Faberge eggs, fencing foils, emus, pirate accents, snow globes with floating stars and a baby's arm holding an apple.

7. What else does it do?

It makes travelers in airports take off their belts and shoes.

8. Why?

TSA officials are too cheap to pay for drinks at strip clubs. Although, to be fair, the drinks are usually watered down beyond all recognition.

9. Does the TSA do anything else?

Of course! No measure is too obscure or too embarrassing to keep America's skies safe! Scanners in airports see everything about travelers down to the molecular level. Rumours have it that the government is considering selling the scanners to the Vatican; the Church could then install them in front of Confessional booths to get a quick sense of the state of parishioners' souls. Of course, if the scanners were hooked up to three dimensional copiers, you would have a crude transporter. Who says the government isn't looking towards the future?

10. Really?

Naah. They just take nude pictures of people. That TSA workers throughout the country can trade like baseball cards. I'll trade you my naked Joe Dimaggio for a completely undressed Joe Carter – just substitute your parents for the baseball players.

11. What if I don't want the TSA to have nude pictures of me?

You are perfectly within your rights. You simply tell the TSA agent at the gate that you do not want to go through the scanner, and they will happily give you a full body pat down, also known as the Subway Rush Hour Grope Fest.

12. Ugh. I've been on a subway during rush hour – I was black and blue for a month! What if I don't want to go through the scanner or be subjected to the pat down?

You can always fly by Amtrak.

13. Does the TSA still maintain a no-fly list?

Do chipmunks still have blue eyes?

14. How is that going?

Good. Great. Couldn't be better.

15. Okay, what did they do?

Well, uhh, an 18 month-old girl named Riyanna and her parents were forced to get off a Jet Blue flight when her name was found on the no-fly list. But, uhh, be fair – she could have been carrying a diaper bomb!

16. Is that the worst thing that the TSA has done?

Weeeelllll...there was the 95 year-old woman whose Depend undergarment was, according to a TSA agent, “wet and firm” and had to be checked thoroughly. She was only allowed to get on her plane without underwear. But, uhh, be fair – she could have been carrying an adult diaper bomb!

17. Is **that** the worst thing that the TSA has done?

Does patting down a seven year-old girl with cerebral palsy because she couldn't walk through metal detectors because of her orthotics and crutches count towards the worst?

18. YES! Why wouldn't it?

Well, that happened, then.

19. Have we finally determined the worst thing that the TSA has done?

Yes! Well...probably. Possibly. I don't know any more. I mean, there was the incident at the Newark Airport where parents passed a baby back and forth as they went through the metal detectors. By the time TSA agents realized that the baby hadn't been given an individual screening, they couldn't locate the family. So, the TSA did the only logical thing they could think of: they evacuated the entire terminal and rescreened everybody, delaying passengers for hours. I guess you, umm, would want that on the list. Yeah. Okay. That's definitely going on the list. Un hunh.

20. Why? Why should ordinary Americans be subjected to such humiliating, dehumanizing attacks on their individual liberties?

Because if we don't do it, the terrorists will win.

Zen and the Art of the Impossible

The Prime Minister and the General sit taking tea in 24 Sussex Drive. After due attention to the creation of the beverage has been paid, the General asks, “Prime Minister, what is the definition of victory in our current war?”

“The definition of victory?” the Prime Minister ponders, the merest pursing of his lips suggesting that such an obvious question is beneath him. “Surely, you know that the definition of victory is not losing.”

“That truth is self-evident,” the General agrees. A few seconds and several sips of tea later, the General continues: “However, that being the case, what is the definition of not losing?”

The Prime Minister nods his head. He had not realized until this very moment just how obtuse this General was. However, it is with equanimity that he replies: “The definition of not losing is: victory.”

“Yes. Right. Your position is inarguable,” the General responds. He had not realized until this very moment how obtuse this Prime Minister was. “Still, such a general argument does not help me in the specific case. So, I must ask again: what is the definition of victory in our current war?”

“Strawberry marmalade,” the Prime Minister sagely tells him.

* * *

“The people have spoken!” the Tea Party candidate exults. “They want less government, smaller government. Government cannot do anything right, so they want government to get out of the way and let the private sector do its job!”

“But,” the journalist cavils, “polls show that the people want Medicare.”

“True,” the candidate allows.

“The polls also show that the people want Social Security,” the journalist points out.

“They certainly do,” the candidate agrees.

“And, people always want roads on which they can safely drive,” the journalist adds.

“That has been a longstanding truth, universally acknowledged,” the candidate acknowledges.

“Given all of this,” the journalist asks, “I have to wonder: which people, exactly, want less government?”

“Which people,” the candidate sagely responds, “make up your audience?”

* * *

The leader of the opposition asks, "If crime is going down, why are you planning to build more prisons?"

"Crime," the Prime Minister replies with equanimity, "is in the eye of the beholder."

The leader of the opposition, not wishing to appear ignorant, mulls this over for several seconds. In the end, though, he is defeated by his lack of understanding, and must ask, "What the hell does that mean?"

"That," the Prime Minister attempts to enlighten him, "means mandatory minimum sentences, longer sentences and tougher conditions for parole."

The leader of the opposition shakes his head to clear it of the fog of ununderstanding. Not being successful, he continues: "But, Prime Minister, decades of research show that punitive measures do not make people safer. Why would you advocate such measures at a time when crime rates are falling?"

The Prime Minister thinks for a moment. "One must take into consideration the unreported crime," he responds.

"The unreported crime?" the leader of the opposition echoes.

"Indeed."

"But, Prime Minister," the leader of the opposition continues, "how does one measure crime that is not reported?"

The Prime Minister smiles. "With the Statistics Canada of the heart," he sagely replies.

* * *

"How is it possible," the president asks his most trusted military adviser, "to gain victory in a war already lost?"

"The military pixies," the military adviser responds.

"Military pixies?" the president dubiously repeats.

"Yes, Mister President," the military adviser explains. "If you sacrifice enough blood and treasure to them, the military pixies will descend to the battlefield and turn the tide in your favour."

The president frowns. "Have the military pixies ever won a battle for us that was thought lost?"

“No, Mister President,” the military adviser admits. “But, that is because we have not stayed with a losing war long enough, we have not shown the military pixies that we have faith in them, we have not believed.”

“Have military pixies ever been seen on a battlefield?”

“Not to my knowledge,” the military adviser allows. “We are an unbelieving country.”

“What happens if we extend the war so long that we run out of treasure, or our people no longer have a taste for blood?”

“Then,” the military adviser sagely advises, “the military pixies will surely guide us to victory!”

Subtle are the ways and hard-won the wisdom of the art of the impossible!

If Quotes Got Into a Fight With Captain Kirk, Who Would Win?

Now, I'm No Social Scientist, But I Have To Wonder Why Republicans Are So Proud To Proclaim Their Ignorance

“I’m not a scientist...”

- Senate Minority leader Mitch McConnell on the issue of man-made climate change

“I’m not a scientist”

- Florida Governor Rick Scott when asked whether he believed in climate change

“I’m not a scientist, man.”

- Florida Senator Marco Rubio when asked to take a position on the age of the planet Earth

“The reality is I’m not an evolutionary biologist.”

- Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal when asked a question on evolution

What About The Things You Should Have Quit?

“I’ve never quit anything in my life. I’m not quitting this and we’re going to win this.”

- Toronto Mayor Rob Ford

Absolutely Not! They’ll Be In The Stirrups Of The Flying Unicorns!

“We’re not putting boots on the ground.”

- Defence Minister Rob Nicholson on Canada’s deployment of troops to Iraq

Didn't Your Parents Give You The Talk On Safe Emoticonning?

“Texting is so dangerous! I won't even give guys my number, because I know me. We'll start texting and he'll start emoticonning and I'll start emoticonning, and soon we'll have a big mess.”

- actress Emmy Rossum

The “Do-stupid-stuff” Policy Had Muuuuuuch Better Results

“[T]his ‘don't-do-stupid-stuff’ policy isn't working.”

- Mike Rogers, Republican Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee

...Next Time.

“Our government will not tolerate a failure by drug companies to meet their obligations to abide by Canada's high safety and quality standards.”

- Health Minister Rona Ambrose responding to allegations that the government failed to deal with drugs it had reason to believe were dangerous to the public

I Don't Believe You...

“Ever since I was a teenager, I've been called a compulsive liar.”

- jailed fraudster Shaun Nixon

Clearly, He Speaks The Vatican's Language

“Why were we so stunned and bewildered by the 3,000 deaths on 9/11 when we're so silent about the 3,000 deaths that occur each day in North America from abortion?”

- comment reportedly made by Dennis Savoie, the Harper Government of Canada's appointed envoy to the Holy See

Acting In The Background Without Public Discussion Is So Much Easier

“We have no intention of reopening these debates.”

- Adam Hodge, Press Secretary for Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird, on the Savoie appointment

Frankly, We're Jealous That That Attention Isn't Going To Us

“He's pandering to such a degree that it's like there is a spiritual force behind this, because who can explain the obsession that Barack Obama and his administration have for this issue?”

- Peter LaBarbera of Americans for Truth About Homosexuality, on President Obama congratulating NFL player Michael Sam for coming out

A Star's Efforts Always Make What Ordinary People Do Pail In Comparison

“New mom Olivia Wilde put her own spin on the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge by dousing herself with a pale full of breast milk.”

- *Toronto Sun* article

So, If A Veteran Told You Not To Send Troops Into Iraq...

“A Canadian veteran wounded in Afghanistan approached me at an event in Edmonton, handed me one of his t-shirts and asked if I would pose for a photo. Having spent a great deal of time with members of the Canadian Forces, I have never shied away from an opportunity to demonstrate my support for them and their families.”

- Justice Minister Peter MacKay explains why he was wearing a National Firearms Association t-shirt depicting a maple leaf melded with a rifle and the words “No Compromise” at a Conservative Party fundraiser

Oh, But Change Has Already Happened: Ignorant Rage Is Much More Likely To Be Expressed In Public Than It Used To Be

“Does one of Obamas family members have to be beheaded for ‘change’ to happen?”

- sign outside a Houston gun store

*** SIGH * If Only The Number Of Syntax Errors In Headlines Would Subsist...**

“In a glade in the middle of a forest, three dozen youths have built themselves a subsistence society governed by simple rules of community and security.”

- Globe and Mail review of *The Maze Runner*

Least Convincing Argument For Voting For Doug Ford

“He comes from a good family.”

- voter describing his brother Rob

Ha Ha! You Sure Nailed The Tory Attitu – Uhh, I Mean, Harrumph, That Was In Poor Taste, Young Man – You Should Be Ashamed Of Making The Non-existent Debate Look Ridiculous!

“Why aren’t we talking more about the kind of humanitarian aid that Canada can and must be engaged in, rather than, you know, trying to whip out our CF-18s and show them how big they are?”

- Liberal leader Justin Trudeau

Unless You Marry It

“Football is unconditional love.”

- Tom Brady

Hopefully, The Generals Are Talking To The Justice Department, Saying, “Hey, Let’s Have A Treason Investigation.”

“A lot of us are talking to the generals behind the scenes, saying, ‘Hey, if you disagree with the policy that the White House has given you, let’s have a resignation.’”

- Republican Representative Doug Lamborn

As Long As The Lawyer In You Is Sure...

“If left unchecked, these terrorists could pose a growing threat beyond that region, including to the United States.”

- President Obama on IS

We need to “monitor and take action against both organizations and individuals who may undertake activities that are potentially threatening to Canadians.”

- Prime Minister Stephen Harper

Like...Native Women?

Or, People Who Live Along Railway Lines Whose Trains Haul Crude Oil?

Or, Refugees Who Need Health Care?

Or...

“My Canada protects the vulnerable.”

- Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird, defending the government’s decision to join the new Iraq war

At Least, That’s What The Prime Minister Tells Me, And I Trust Him, And You Should, Too!

“It is important to understand that our decision is not reflexive or ill-considered.”

- Defence Affairs Minister Rob Nicholson, defending the government’s decision to join the new Iraq war

It’s Understandable, Given How Well Climate Scientists Horde Their Knowledge

“I don’t know the science on that.”

- Lisa Nelson, CEO, the American Legislative Exchange Council, a free-market lobbying group that opposes policies to fight climate change

Your Morning Smile Simile Semitie Semtex

Life - now in high def!

If you take an eye for an eye, pretty soon everybody will be a pirate...

Fred never depended upon Santa for money – he was an independent Claus...

I don’t relish the rehash of my relicking the relic...

When it comes to driving, all is vanity...plates...

If you are a fan of Dave Grohl's music, is it an amour Foo?
Is a woman who strips at two clubs bi-polar?
Gaze not into the coffeepot, lest it be that the coffeepot is gazing back at you...
My favourite country singer/Egyptian god: Billy-Ray Osiris...
Protestors burning old Yogi Bear cartoons? That would be Hannah-Barbaric!
If she seems to be wavering about performing, you have to foist Feist on your music fest fast!
The latest food porn video? *Bodacious Frittatas*...
It took forever just to get through the line at my local coffee shop, so I went home and brewed my own. After all, better percolate than never...
The Idaho idiot's idiom came from Idomo...
Les Pages aux Folles: proof positive that creativity doesn't flow when you are exhausted...
And, remember: there's no U.S. in us...!
If it can't be shown in a Venn diagram, it isn't important...
They had a Happy Corn Chip **Day and nobody told me?**
This area is being recorded for video purposes...
Is a jerk who claims to represent the entire human race a synecdouche?
Have you ever felt like you were the son who didn't even know how to ask a question? I feel that way all the time...
Matriarchy: when the fate of the mommy outweighs the fate of the few...
To understand how fisheries collapse, you have to go back to the seine of the crime...
Sorry, I don't speak gravity...
My favourite movie director/response to urban alienation: Judd Apathy...
The bran giveth and the bran taketh away...
I had a brilliant article on the history of flight, but my dog aviate it...
Playing hearts with Hearst hurts our harts...
Anybody who can do **that** with their body deserves to be famous!
Agreeing to eat your veggies in return for having a steak is a case of meal recibroccoli...
I'm not going bald! I'm just having a dad hair day!
Chester the Mall Jester: Worst. Clown. Name. Ever!
Not agreeing on whether to go to Starbucks could be coffee grounds for divorce...
Meh: the urgency of...whenever...
Because at the end of the day, the day is over...
My favourite comedy about Element 23: *Vanadium and Dumber*...
You prefer to lecture on a stage? Don't look now, but your dais is showing...
Because I want to crash my car and drive it...
Motto of a waiter who wants a big tip: "Serve ass with a smile..."
I was interested in becoming a member of the Borg, until I realized that there was no their there...
The vague vogue plagued the Hague hoagie...
Too much soul food, not enough soul...
As the razor said to the barber who was tired of listening to his customer: "Strop me if you've heard this one before..."
So, Norman Jewison, Hayden Christensen and a duck-billed otter walk into a bar...
I'm not gay, I'm just inept!

Les Pages aux Folles – see the world through rose coloured molasses!
Stab the staid stag stat!
I was interested in becoming a member of Mensa, but I worried that the name was sexist...
The nasty iconiclast...y...
Being obscure just for the sake of being obscure is...framptious!
You say you like the idea of capital punishment? Well, have I got noose for you!
You say you don't like your coffee? I went to a latte trouble to get it!
I'm trying hard not to smoke my clothes, but the bagel and cream cheese are ready and I've run out of lox!
When the Australian Prime Minister was asked who the aboriginal standing next to him was, he sang: "That's a Maori!"
Soylent Green is corporations! Warn everybody! SOYLENT GREEN IS CORPORATIONS!
If I didn't know any better, I'd swear I knew better...
My favourite cartoonist/economic system: Al Cappitalism...
The Qataris' Ataris were taken on safaris wearing saris...
Les Pages aux Folles: the Web Site for those who are Wild at Art...
It's always best to let sleeping deus lie...
Life - it'll suck the life right out of you!

**What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
Headlines Didn't Ask And Don't Want To Know!**

As Long As They Have A Plan, I'm Good With – WHAAAT?!

"Scarborough LRT's undoing to cost \$75M"
- *Toronto Star*

"Scarborough subway usage, costs unknown"
- *Toronto Star*

No, But Harper's Government Can Deny It All They Like

"Can Harper's Canada defy oil dependence's ugly history?"
- *Globe and Mail*

Canadian Newspaper Is Tacky With A Capital Ack

"American Sniper is No. 1 with a bullet"
- *Toronto Star*

At Least They're Consistent

"Banks fail ethics test with mortgages"
- *Globe and Mail*

I'm Hoping Burying Them Is Part Of It...

"What to do with dead gunmen"
- *Toronto Star*

Perhaps Rock Climbing Barbie Wasn't Such A Good Idea After All...

"With Barbie 'falling off a cliff,' Mattel shakes up management"
- *Globe and Mail*

Yeah, Yeah – Aretha Franklin He Ain't!

"New veterans affairs minister promises 'respectful' approach"
- *Toronto Star*

Oh, The *Star Trek* Actors Weren't THAT Bad!

"Next generation wood pushes to greater heights"
- *Globe and Mail*

Forget Courage – Does He Have The Strength To Do It With His Bare Hands?

"Does Tory have the courage to tear down the Gardiner?"
- *Toronto Star*

Yeah, I Don't Know That I Want My Home Smelling Of Poet...

"Infuse your living room with Romantics"
- *Globe and Mail*

Livens The Place Up In The East, Though

"Rusty car an eyesore in west end"
- *Toronto Star*

I'm Positive They Need More Talented Players

"Be nice to the Leafs
What boys in blue need is positive reinforcement"
- *Toronto Sun*

Cardinals Assure Catholics It Will Not Come To Resemble The Double-backed Warthog

"Pope Arranges for a Review Of Church's Divorce Posture"

- *New York Times*

Must be A Helluva Story, Considering It Was Sent To The Moon

“Long-lost lander found on Mars”

- *Toronto Star*

We Just Have To Pretend The Last Decade Didn’t Happen...

“Canada can lead again on climate”

- *Toronto Star*

Heart Specialists Agree That Better Public Transit The Way To Go

“Building more roads no sure answer to clogged arteries”

- *Toronto Star*

Listen To Vacuous Right Wing Pundits Instead

“Reject vacuous politicians”

- *Toronto Sun*

Be Fair! The Conservatives Have Only Been In Power For 44 Years!

“Alberta should have been prepared for oil crisis”

- *Toronto Star*

No It Can’t!

“Embracing your inner contrarian can be very lucrative”

- *Globe and Mail*

But If The Country Lets Down Its Guard For Even A Moment, Who Knows What It Could Catch Itself Doing!

“Iraq: Canada has so far avoided supplying weapons to Kurds”

- *Toronto Star*

Fandom: We Never Thought We’d Support The Mouse House, And Yet...

“George Lucas: Disney scrapped my Star Wars ideas”

- *Toronto Sun*

Airline Shouts, “Look Over There – Taxes!” And Runs Away While Everybody’s Back Is Turned

“Fuel savings not passed to consumers
WestJet opts to use price drop as opportunity to improve bottom line instead of chopping fares”

- *Toronto Star*

They Whisper “Death To Israel” Instead Of Shouting It

“Yemen’s New Rulers Have Moderate Side”

- *New York Times*

Oh No You Did...

“Pig farmers squeal with delight over pork sales”

- *Toronto Star*

Wow! – There Really Is A Fetish For Everything!

“Cooking with corn smut”

- *Toronto Star*

Really? Because Pretty Much Everybody Else Has...

“We haven’t forgotten the long-form census”

- *Globe and Mail*

The More You Drink, The Better The Headline Reads

“Canadian Whiskey is Way Better Than You Think”

- *Bloomberg News*

It’s An App App App App World

“THERE’S NO APP FOR THIS”

- *Toronto Star*

“Towit pitches a digital solution to illegal parking
App creators inspired by ‘public shaming’ online develop way to assist police in tackling offenders”

- *Toronto Star*

“Apple’s App Store price hike unclear”

- *Toronto Star*

“Facebook to expand app menu, take over smartphone screens”

- *Toronto Star*

“Audiobooks.com aims to be ‘the next big Canadian tech story’
Burlington-based company plans to unveil new app that lets users create audiobooks”
- *Toronto Star*

“App for kids with autism encourages eye contact”
- *Toronto Star*

“Local app helps users in real-time
With uCiC, you can find out if the gym is packed before heading out for a workout”
- *Toronto Star*

“Crave, Shomi covet Apple TV apps”
- *Toronto Star*

“I paid \$25 for an Invisible Boyfriend, and I think I’m in love
An app that sends fake boyfriend texts to your smartphone actually involves real live
males”
- *Toronto Star*

“Chat app Kik flouts naysayers, touts its 200 millionth download”
- *Globe and Mail*

“SCROLLING FOR SEX
How hook-up apps are revolutionizing the middle-aged single life”
- *Toronto Star*

“TheScore makes the leap to eSports
Mobile sports company becomes the first to launch an app dedicated to multimillion
dollar video-game industry”
- *Globe and Mail*

“Finding a babysitter may just be an app away
Toronto startup DateNight connects parents to a child minder through an Uber-like
service”
- *Toronto Star*

**I Can Save You A Lot Of Time And Money:
They Hate Our Freedoms, But They Love Our Petrodollars**

“New push for probe into alleged Saudi connection to Sept. 11 attacks”
- *Toronto Star*

Big Brother Gets Wicked Ratings

“Be careful with what you say around your TV

Voice command feature in Samsung's Smart model could allow transmission to third party, firm notes"

- *Toronto Star*

How Dare They Put The Interests Of Their People Before The Interests Of International Bankers? Bastards!

"Feisty Greece sets itself on collision course"

- *Globe and Mail*

Then You're Not Asking The Right Question...

"Threesome may not be the answer"

- *Toronto Star*

As Dawn Nears, Israel Voices Concern What Else Is Nu?

"As nuclear deal nears, Israel voices concern"

- *Globe and Mail*

What Could Possibly Goooooooooh...

"Sell Kiev some arms"

- *Globe and Mail*

"\$500,000 worth of artillery shells lost by Canadian military in Afghanistan pullout"

- *Toronto Star*

Big DICK Radio Confronts Bigger Dick Radio

"...and that's why the Pope doesn't walk behind elephants during Lent."

"And, if you liked it, remember that I **lent** Dick that joke."

"I wish you'd give that up."

"Kazing!"

"Kerpow!"

"Hunh!"

"Ha!"

"Okay. I guess it's time to – I don't know – play some music?"

“Or, we could talk about Mayor Stumblebutt.”

“Oh, here we go...”

“Well, you don’t think it’s fair that he has a radio show, do you?”

“Fair? Like, do you mean to his opponents?”

“**To us!** I mean, when we want to get publicity to boost the ratings, we have to spend money on advertising!”

“We could moon the Grey Cup Parade.”

“Yeah. No. My ass is still thawing out from the last time – and that was three years ago!”

“You should put it in a toaster oven.”

“My point is – you what?”

“Put your ass in a toaster oven. That’s what I did, and it came out all nice and warm and brown and...toasty and stuff.”

“...Okay, so, my point is that when we want to boost ratings, we have to advertise, but when Mayor Buttsmoker wants to boost ratings for his show, all he has to do is take a picture with drug dealers or Hell’s Angels and he’s in every newspaper around the world!”

“We still have more listeners in Tuktoyaktuk than he does, and by a three to one margin!”

“Okay, that’s something.”

“We have three listeners and he only has one.”

“...It seems like every day there’s a new scandal that gets him more publicity. Lately, it’s been the rumours that he took heroin. Does that seem fair to you?”

“I took heroin once, and all I got was a lousy addiction.”

“Exactly!”

“Not that we have a problem with that any more.”

“You got into a methadone clinic?”

“Mayor Smoketoker’s radio show has been cancelled.”

“What? Oh. That’s good –”

“He has a television show, now.”

“A TELEVISION SHOW?”

“Oh. Sorry. I probably shouldn’t have told you when you were drinking. Hmm...let’s see...6.7, 7.2, 5.9 – ouch! – and 8.8 – you always were the Ukrainian judge’s darling. Respectable, if not spectacular numbers – I think your spit take technique needs work.”

“How are we supposed to compete with Mayor Tokejoker **when he’s on TV?!**”

“Have you seen him? He’s rather girthy, you know.”

“So?”

“So, we can convince our listeners that we’re svelte young things, that if we weren’t signed to a long term radio contract, we’re pretty enough to be two fifths of a boy band...”

“How can we do that when people have seen us? We make appearances at monster truck roasts all the time!”

“I always get the fender – the toughest part of roasted monster trucks! – hey, why is that?”

“So, how can people who meet us in public not notice that we’re both middle aged and girthy, too?”

“That’s the magic of radio.”

“...I can’t –”

“Not that it matters any more.”

“It doesn’t?”

“No. The Mayor’s TV show has been cancelled after one episode.”

“It took them a whole episode to realize he doesn’t belong on TV? I could have saved them a lot of –”

“Mayor Jokeaday will have his own show on the Internet.”

“The Internet? Oh, no! He’s going after the eight years, six months and three days to 14 years, two months and 27 days old demographic!”

“Is that really a thing?”

“**Young people, man!** He’s going for a young audience! **Our** young audience!”

“Oh. Well, it doesn’t matter. The numbers weren’t so hot, so he decided not to continue the Internet show.”

“Really?”

“Yeah. Now, he’s putting out a series of collectible cards.”

“Cards?”

“Yeah. I hear the bubble gum is going to taste like cherries and economic despair.”

“That...that...that...!”

“Yes?”

“That’s despicable!”

“Careful how you say that – you wouldn’t want your spray to short out the microphone.”

“He’s going after a child audience! What’s next – an action figure?”

“Would you settle for a bobblehead doll?”

“That’s really too much!”

“Are you jealous of Mayor Daytoday’s following?”

“Certainly not! I...I’m a concerned citizen! I mean...when does he have time to run the city?”

“You mean: run the city into the ground?”

“He he.”

“Ha ha ha.”

“Chuckle chuckle.”

“Guffaw guffaw.”

“Hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo.”

“Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha – oh, my.”

“Okay, I’m Dante ‘Dick’ Roverside...”

“And, I’m Evan ‘Dick’ Lamanchuk. And, you’re listening to C-D-I-K, Big Dick radio. We’ll have more on the Mayor’s media adventures later in the show.”

“But, first, a little band I like to call The Doors does a song they like to call ‘The End...’”

Headlines, O Headlines, Wherefore Art Thou Headlines?

Proving Once Again That The Game Of Bridge Is For The Birds

“EXPLAINER: WHEN BIDS ATTACK”

- *Toronto Star*

Because Striving To Make Their Sitcoms As Shitty As Possible Wasn’t Working For The CBC?

“Mr. Honesty

Gerry Dee strives to make his CBC sitcom as awesome as possible”

- *Toronto Sun*

a) Dignity

b) Self-respect

c) Front Teeth

d) Other

“WHAT DOES JOHN TORY HAVE TO LOSE?”

- *Globe and Mail*

When Recovery Means Putting A Tarp Over Your Car Because You Can No Longer Afford The Gasoline To Drive It

“‘Shocked’ Sobeys workers laid off at Winnipeg plant

Employees told jobs were safe in Safeway acquisition, union says”

- *Toronto Star*

“United to eject 240 Canadian workers”

- *Toronto Star*

“Michelin Canada to cut 500 jobs at N.S. plant
- *Toronto Star*

“Struggling Sears cuts 624 more jobs”
- *Globe and Mail*

“Disney cuts 700 jobs at interactive division”
- *Toronto Star*

“Best Buy to cut 950 Canadian jobs, won’t close stores”
- *Globe and Mail*

“Bombardier cuts deep as woes mount
Company slashes 1,700 jobs as production delays mount on C Series jet, rail projects
contend with setbacks”
- *Globe and Mail*

“**South Deep:** Mine has shed 2,000 workers and now operates 24 hours a day”
- *Globe and Mail*

“Sony to cut jobs, sell off PC unit
TV, computer losses mount, 5,000 new layoffs announced as firm lashed by competition”
- *Toronto Star*

“Barclays set to boots its bonus pool while slashing up to 12,000 jobs”
- *Globe and Mail*

After One Too Many Inane Questions, The Other Half Is Not Strangling The Interviewer With His Own Intestines

“From the combat zone to the boardroom
For Canada’s military veterans, translating their experience into language potential
employers can understand is half the battle”
- *Globe and Mail*

Better Than In The Breakfast Nook, Although Now That You Mention It...

“No excuse for foreplay at the dinner table”
- *Toronto Star*

It Depends Whose Necks Are The Centre Of Balance

“Balanced budget is good. Really!”
- *Toronto Sun*

I Would Probably Be More Open To The Idea IF I COULD AFFORD IT!

“Should you be able to pay extra fees for better public services?”

- *Globe and Mail*

Hell Is Other Debt Collection Agencies

“Suicide Is No escape From Debt in India”

- *New York Times*

Why Tourists Would Want To Risk Their Lives There Is The Question

“Sri Lanka’s killing fields now open to tourists”

- *Toronto Star*

Apparently, Nostalgia For 1950s Cold War Rhetoric Is Universal

“Russia says takeover at ousted leader’s request”

- *Globe and Mail*

“I May Have To Taunt You A Second Time!” Obama Elaborates

“‘There will be costs,’ Obama says

President warns of fallout if troop movements signal Russian military invasion”

- *Toronto Star*

Mixed Message From City Hall Makes A Nice Change...

“Building trust is key for police”

- *Toronto Sun*

“‘Arrest Me,’ Rob Ford dares Blair”

- *Globe and Mail*

Situation Changing So Quickly, Newspaper Doesn’t Have Time For Spaces

“Putin’s aggression makes a feeble outlook forRussia”

- *Globe and Mail*

If So, Ouch

“Are we the punchline to Rob Ford’s jokes?”

- *Toronto Star*

And, If He Keeps This Up, I...I...I’ll Warn Him A Second Time

In Fact, I'm Prepared To Warn Him A Third Time, A Fourth Time – As Many As It Takes!

“Putin risking expulsion from G8, Harper warns”
- *Toronto Sun*

“I Don’t Look Good In A Straitjacket,” CEO Comments

“Ontario’s query pushed Chrysler away
Auto maker balked after joint letter from federal, provincial governments asked for specifics on investment commitment”
- *Globe and Mail*

Headline Writer Having An Off Day

“Why great dining depends good transit”
- *Toronto Star*

Buy It Chocolates And Flowers?
Promise It You’ll Go Into Rehab?
Take It To The Place You Had Your First Date?
What Do I Look Like – A Golf Couples Therapist?

“How do I get my golf game back after a long winter?”
- *Globe and Mail*

It Might Take Them All Of A Couple Of Weeks To Steal It All Back

“Economic sanctions spook Russia’s elite
The country’s 19 richest people have lost \$18.3 billion in wake of Crimea crisis”
- *Toronto Star*

Because Indifference Is An Important Ingredient In Stopping A Country From Breaking Up

“Let’s just yawn at separatists”
- *Toronto Sun*

That Was Only The One Time, And...And The Dog Pulled Down My Bikini Bottom!

“The financial sector: Are you overexposed?”
- *Globe and Mail*

Let’s See: She’s Not White
She’s Not Male
She’s Not American

**She's Not Running For An American Office
Do We Have Any Other Choices?**

“Is Olivia Chow a de Blasio of a Bloomberg?”
- *Globe and Mail*

**A Most Realistic Option At This Point Would Be To Search The Cushions On The
Couches At Queen's Park For Loose Change...**

“No hike to HST or gas tax to fund transit, Wynne vows”
- *Toronto Star*

In Case You Were Wondering Why Shakespeare Is Still Relevant

“Afghanis in Love Marked for Death”
- *New York Times*

**You Have The Right To Your Opinion, But You Don't Have The Right To Your
Own Set Of Fa – Oh, Bugger!**

“Calm amid Crimean storm: Investors take a hopeful view
Stocks, Russian currency surge after referendum – but threat of escalating sanctions
remains”
- *Globe and Mail*

“Crimea crisis depresses shaky ruble”
- *Toronto Star*

Only From The Electric Sheep Market

“Does Android dream of profit?”
- *Globe and Mail*

If Twitter Be the Answer, What is the Musical Question?

Hey, groovy cats and kittens. This is Answers to Musical Questions Month!

1. “How can men who've never seen light be enlightened?” Matches.
2. “Who put the bomp in the bomp shu bomp shu bomp?” Herbert Hoover
3. “How soon is now?” Thirteen light years. (I know that isn't a measurement of time, I just like to hear you squeal.)
4. “Why do fools fall in love?” Somebody wouldn't get them an XBox for their birthday.
5. “Does anybody really know what time it is?” The fool in love with now seems to think he does.
6. “Who's gonna ride your wild horses?” Who isn't? (Round round, get around, I get around!)
7. “Where do the children play?” Moncton.

8. "Why are there so many songs about rainbows?" Must be part of the queer agenda Rush Limbaugh always yammers on about.
9. "What becomes of the broken hearted?" They go into advertising.
10. "What's real and what's for sale?" Oh, nothing and everything.
11. "Where have all the flowers gone?" To black velvet paintings, every one...
12. "Who'll stop the rain?" Mitt Romney. What? Now he has the time...
13. "What's my age again?" Physical, mental or artisanal cheesal?
14. "What the heck is on Joey's head?" No idea, but I bet he'll need industrial strength shampoo to get it off!
15. "How can you have any pudding if you don't eat your meat?" I'm a devout believer in dessertology.
16. "Does it really happen?" Yes, but not to anybody anybody knows.
17. "Where is my mind?" Moncton.
18. "You don't drink. You Don't smoke. What do you do?" Build my dream partner out of Legos.
19. "Are we human or are we dancer?" Asbestos tree shoes!
20. "Whatever happened to Saturday night?" Sunday morning.
21. "Why did Constantinople get the works?" Are you Turkish? If you're not, it's none of your damn business!
22. "Forever afternoon. Tuesday?" It depends on what time zone of forever you happen to live in.
23. "How do you do what you do to me?" A crowbar and plenty of Epsom salts.
24. "Is there life on Mars?" Naah – the scene is dead since all the hipsters moved to Europa.
25. "Have you seen your mother, baby, standing in the shadows?" I wouldn't know, would I? They're shadows...
26. "What you gon' do with all that junk?" Hold a garage sale out of my trunk?
27. "Where have all the good times gone?" Moncton.
28. "Who put the ram in the rama lama ding dong?" Franklin Roosevelt
29. "Is there anybody out there?" Somebody's mother standing in the shadows, and she's starting to creep me out!
30. "How do you sleep?" On a bed of crushed CDs and lilacs, just like my hero Anaximander.
31. "Do you really want to hurt me?" Did you really finish the box of chocolate chip cookies?

Hey, daddio and...mommio. October is More Answers to Musical Questions Month!

1. "Should I stay or should I go?" That's the quantum romantic question, isn't it?
2. "Ah! Leah! Is it ever gonna end?" I've penciled in an ending next Tuesday at 9:37 am – is that good for you?
3. "Who's the black private dick/That's a sex machine to all the chicks?" H. Ross Perot?
4. "Wouldn't it be nice?" No, it would still be Paris.
5. "How would I know? Why should I care?" Whoa! The President only takes one question at a time...
6. "Why can't we be friends?" Because I won't know if you've stayed or if you've gone until I look into the box.

7. "And you may ask yourself, 'My god, what have I done?'" And you may answer, "My god, why am I talking to myself?"
8. "Where do the boys go?" Niagara Falls, but they're driving back tonight...
9. "On a hot summer night, would you offer your throat to the wolf with the red roses?" Sorry – allergies...
10. "Hey, Joe, where you going with that gun in your hand?" Starbucks – I gotta point to make...
11. "Can you hear me, Major Tom?" Of course I can! What do you think this is, a high school production of The Sunshine Boys?
12. "Who is the man that would risk his neck/For his brother man?" Sorry, but I'm still gonna go with H. Ross Perot.
13. "Why don't we do it in the road?" Because getting pebbles in your ass hurts!
14. "Is our love strong enough?" Urk! Aagh! Too! Strong! Maybe we shouldn't have used the Crazy Glue!
15. "Can you tell me where my country lies?" In newspapers, on TV, anywhere it can, really...
16. "Q: Are we not men?" [INSERT YOUR OWN DAMN PENIS JOKE HERE, PERV!]
17. "Where have all poppa's heroes gone?" To the deli, every one. Somebody should tell their Weight Watchers sponsor!
18. "When there's nowhere else to run/Is there room for one more son?" Naah – gravity would pull them together...
19. "Tell me, what is my life without your love?" A half-melted popsicle with delusions of ice berginess...
20. "Where have all the good people gone?" To check up on all poppa's heroes...
21. "Will my eyes make me wise, or is all I believe in lies?" Not as long as you wear bowties...on your thighs...
22. "Is she really going out with him?" No, but it stops the Internet rumours, so shhh...
23. "Where have all sensations gone?" Buffalo, but they're driving back tonight...
24. "Is that concrete all around, or is it in my head?" No: Concretehead was a minor Marvel villain in the 1980s...
25. "Some people wanna fill the world with silly love songs. And what's Wrong With That?" Diabetes.
26. "Can you tell me where my country lies?" Ovah yandah in da valley of my fadda...
27. "Who's the cat that won't cop out/When there's danger all about?" Okay, that was silly. I meant, uhh, David Koch.
28. "Are you going to Scarborough Fair?" Fair, foul or any weather in between – I'm committed to going, dammit!
29. "What ya gonna do when I'm gone?" Smear myself with chocolate and play Twister with the pandas. Shhh...don't tell the SPCA...
30. "Am I under arrest or should I guess some mo?" Damn Alex Trebek for not asking if that was my final answer!
31. "And says, 'How does it feel/To be such a freak?'" Other than the throbbing kidney, pretty good...

Ask Not For Whom The Quotes Troll...

My Blood Is Coagulating Just Thinking About It!

Citizens should “celebrate and reflect on Canadian patriotism, sacrifice and commitment to service, the value of personal responsibility, hard work and family, national stability, the rights and duties of citizenship, and fairness and inclusiveness.”

- Harper Government of Canada Web site suggesting how citizens can celebrate the country’s 150th anniversary in 2017

Heterosexual Russian Perverts Don’t Want The Competition

“One can feel calm and at ease. Just leave kids alone, please.”

- Russian President Vladimir Putin welcoming gays to Russia for the Sochi games

If The Labour Market Was Free, The Talent Would Flow To You (Not The Government Cash)

“We operate in a free labour market – we just go where the talent is and have the best environment. The move by the Ontario government makes it extremely easy for our engineering team in a free market to take advantage of the talent, the predictability for us to build a workforce here in a good tax environment.”

- Robert Lloyd, Cisco Systems president of development and sales, on the Ontario government giving the company up to \$190 million to expand its research and development in the province

To Make Moral Issues Disappear, Just Say The Magic Word: Khadracadabra!

“The fact that Canadian officials interviewed Mister Khadr cannot amount to cruel and unusual treatment, even if these officials were aware that Mister Khadr had been deprived of sleep. Mere knowledge of Mister Khadr’s mistreatment cannot be equated with participation in such mistreatment.”

- Justice Marc Nadon, Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s pick for the open seat on the Supreme Court of Canada

Ooh, Somebody Doesn’t Like Being Mocked!

“Privilege is supported by those who claim to subvert civility and seriousness. It’s not the respectful voice that props up the status quo; it is the mocking one.”

- Malcolm Gladwell on satire

It’s Scummy Because It’s True

“How about, ‘I am so sorry? Super, super, super, super, super, super, super sorry? So sorry?’”

- Mayor Rob Ford’s response to Speaker Frances Nunziata’s ruling that his apology for calling some councillors “corrupt” was inadequate

Then, To Show His Free Market Credentials, Ryan Voted In Favour Of Further Bank Bailouts

“The guy is from Argentina, they haven’t had real capitalism in Argentina. They have crony capitalism in Argentina. They don’t have a true free enterprise system.”

- Paul Ryan displaying his compassionate conservative credentials by responding to the Pope’s comments on the need to deal with poverty

What’s The Point Of Pampering Humanity If It Doesn’t Have A Planet To Live On?

“What’s the point of saving the planet if humanity suffers?”

- ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson

If We Get Our Best Minds On It And Work Very, Very Hard, Some Day We May Be Able To Perfect It

“[I]nequality is a trend across the decades, across all presidencies, across every developed advanced economy, it has to do with deep trends in our world – globalization, automation – so there’s no way it’s going to be stopped. And when President Obama or Bill de Blasio says somehow they’re going to end social and economic inequality, it’s a pipe dream and they can only do damage by trying to do it.”

- Fox News contributor Rich Lowry

You Do Understand That The Word Does Not Mean “Person Who Hates Homes,” Right?

“If you do something every single day for as long as I have, making a career out of pushing the envelope and being inappropriate at times, there are bound to be differences of opinion that arise. But, I am not a homophobe.”

- former Toronto radio on-air person Dean Blundell

The Magic Of Tautology Is Alive And Well In The Apatowverse

“As a TV critic, you don’t understand why a show about young people in New York, who spend some of their time naked and spend some of their time having sex, includes women who sometimes are naked and sometimes have sex.”

- producer Judd Apatow on the show *Girls*

Unless It’s People On A Streetcar Stuck In A Thicket Of Cars

“Nothing’s more frustrating for people driving downtown than to get stuck behind a streetcar.”

- Doug Ford

Don’t Pay Any Attention To The Rising Unemployment Rate Behind The Curtain

“In January, 2010, I promised to create jobs and tackle our unemployment rate. Another promise made, another promise kept”

- Mayor Rob Ford

And, Anyway, We Don't Discuss Our Long Term Plans With Anybody Who Doesn't Know The Secret Handshake

“We are currently not planning on conquering the world.”

- Sergey Brin, Google

Trust Us – We Know How To Make Things Dead Right

“In Hollywood, the land of make-believe, everything is black and white, good and evil. Hollywood stereotypes are unhelpful and, in many instances, just simply dead wrong.”

- Convus Energy CEO Brian Ferguson

Well, He's Known For Something Internationally, In Any Case

“There's one person responsible for heading the city, not only municipally but nationally and internationally.”

- Doug Ford defends his brother, Mayor Rob Ford (again!)

I Sleep Inside It – Otherwise, How Would I Be Sure That The Tons Of Flammable Materials In The Trunk Will Stay Safe?

“Do you not leave your car outside in the parking lot? Or do you sleep beside it every night?”

- Transport Canada official

Environmental Truths Aren't Invited To The Room Party

“[W]e need a broad understanding of the balanced suite of facts.”

- Dave Collyer, president of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers

Or, They Could Just Be Fantasizing About Torturing People – Hard To Tell, Really

“If anything, he is coming from this unbelievably strong moral sense. And, I think that is what viewers may be latching onto.”

- Kiefer Sutherland on Jack Bauer, the character he plays on 24

I'm Not Writing This Punchline Until I Get Paid!

“I apologize, but I'll say that there is a always financial interest with Jewish humor that someone wants to gain. The Jew acts comical to show that he is a Jew and has humor and that he is close to God. The [true] comedian does not. The comedian does not want to win anything. The comedian is a victim.”

- Swiss comedian Massimo Rocchi

The Moment We Lost Our Shit Was the Moment the Terrorists Won

“Who are you working with?”

“What?”

“Nobody does shit like this alone. You must be working with an organization – who is it?”

“I sometimes study with Petey and Stu, if that’s what you mean...”

“Petey and Stu – right. Are they members of your cell?”

“Cell? I don’t know – when Mister Blechson tells us to work in groups, I usually work with Petey and Stu.”

“Mister Blechson? Are you telling me your...your French teacher is your handler?”

“I guess...”

“So, who do you and Petey and Stu and Mister Blechson working for? What terrorist organization? Al Qaeda? Al Qaeda in Iraq? Al Qaeda in Yemen? Al Qaeda in Alabama? The Taliban? Hamas? Damask? Don’t Ask? ISIS? PISIS? PSORIASIS? BIG SIS? The East Turkestan Liberation Organization? The South Phillie Liberation Organization? The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine? The Unpopular Front for the Liberation of Palestine? The Absolutely Despised and Reviled Front for the Liberation of Palestine? The Popular Revolutionary People’s Front for the Liberation of the Struggle for the Heritage of the Front of the Brotherhood? The Baby’s Arm Holding an Apple Brigades? Who? Who? Who do you work for?”

“I don’t work for anybody! Daddy says that I shouldn’t have a paper route until I’m ten, and I only just turned eight!”

“Look, kid. We know you’re involved in terrorist activities. It will go much easier on you if you cooperate.”

“But, I didn’t do anything!”

“Didn’t do anything? DIDN’T DO ANYTHING! I got your file right here, punk! It says Mrs. Thorson tried every day for three weeks to get you to do your homework, and you didn’t. Not a single time! Not once!”

“So? Homework sucks!”

“So, things changed on 9/11, asshole! You might have been able to get away with not doing your homework in grade two before then, but, if you don’t do your homework now, the terrorists win!”

“What?”

“Are you, fucking deaf? You heard me: if you don’t do your grade two homework, the terrorists win!”

“How does that even work?”

“It works like this, asshole: if you don’t do your homework, you barely pass grade two. Maybe they hold you back a year, but probably they bump you up to grade three. Maybe you develop a better work ethic, but most likely you have started a pattern, here, so you barely pass grade three. And, grade four. And, grade five. And, so on, all through your primary and secondary education. Because you barely passed high school, you’re deemed not smart enough to join the army. You end up spending the rest of your life in low-paying, menial jobs, but I could give a shit about that. What’s important here is that because you don’t make it into the army, you don’t get a job in military intelligence. And, because you didn’t make it into military intelligence, nobody twigged to a major attack on the National Assembly which cripples France’s government and destroys our way of life. BANG! The terrorists win! And, all because you didn’t do your homework in grade two, asshole!”

“I want my mommy!”

“You wanna mommy up? Seriously? Have you not been paying attention? The rules went out the window on 9/11. You tell me what I want to know, or you’ll end up in the kiddie’s section of Guantanamo!”

“Jeez. Okay. Don’t have a cow, man. I’ll do my homework. Okay? Can I go, now?”

“What? You think it’s that easy? You don’t get off being a terrorist by promising you won’t do it again!”

“I’m not a terrorist!”

“Terrorist.”

“Terrisist.”

“TERRORIST!”

“I’m not one of those!”

“Can you really be that dumb? Okay, your grades say yes. Lemme explain the facts of life to you kid: there are only two types of people in the world these days: people who are fighting terrorists and terrorists. If you don’t do your homework, you won’t be able to fight the terrorists. That makes you a terrorist. But, if you tell me what I want to know, it will at least show good faith.”

“Fiiiiiiiiiiiiine! What do you want to know?”

“What terrorist organization are you working with?”

“The, uhh, first you one you said.”

“Al Qaeda in Alabama?”

“Sure. That one.”

“That wasn’t the first one I said. Are you sure you aren’t just telling me what I want to hear?”

“Oh, good. Now, you’re learning something...”

Frankly, I’ve Never Seen the APPeal...

“TAKING PULSE OF APP USE IN CANADA”¹

Food APPeal

“MUMBAI, INDIA

Dabawallas vs. food apps”¹

“**Apps:** The new world of feasts, via touchscreen”²

“Do you buy gluten-free? There’s an app to track

Celitax helps people suffering from celiac disease organize receipts for their purchases”¹

“Scoring a table at T.O.’s top spots with DINR app”¹

“Brewing up change, one cup at a time

Starbucks’ order-ahead app helps chain boost revenue as it rolls out across Canada”¹

Communications APPeal

“AN APP THAT ISN’T ALL TALK”¹

“Facebook to allow chatbots within app”²

“Social media confessions show how often Tinder users put their best faces forward

With #OnTinderAtTinder, glossy dating-app pics are shown alongside real-life look”¹

“Instagram and the art of ‘thumb-stopping”

Photo-sharing app is pitching its value as a marketing platform in the age of digital media”²

“Controversial Peeple App launches

“‘Yelp for humans’ gives users a way to rate other people in three different categories”¹
“A new app built for bullies”¹
“A primer on Peach, the iPhone’s hot new social media app”¹

Motional APPeal

“Apps to help you get the most out of your travel experience”²
“Apps that help you get the best out of your African adventure”²
“Get the most out of your cruise with these helpful apps”²
“Jakarta cabbies protest ride-hailing apps”²

Business APPeal

“GM hails Lyft with \$500-million investment
Automaker places big bet on No. 2 ride-booking app”¹
“Does Apple’s future lie in hardware or services?
Analysts weigh whether the tech giant should transform iPhone purchasing, or focusing
on revenue from iTunes, Apple Music, apps”²
“Shopify acquires texting app Kit CRM”²
“Spotify buys music networking app as battle for listeners intensifies
Streaming service hopes to compete with rivals such as Deezer and Tidal”¹
“Canada’s master of messaging
Ted Livingstone’s startup, Kik, was nearly stillborn after the messaging app was booted
from BlackBerry devices in 2010. Now it’s at the forefront of what could be the biggest
shift in mobile technology since the rise of the smartphone”¹
“Kik launches Bot Shop on chat app”²

Entertainment APPeal

“Tired of wires, apps, subscriptions?
Let’s separate and standardize video”²
“This is how the upcoming Pokemon app will work”¹
“Novelist Bypasses Book in Favor of Digital App”³
“Mobile app signals a shift at Shaw
FreeRange TV is latest move by communications provider to ‘become more relevant’”¹
“Nintendo mobile app provides some Mii time”¹
“Appeal court to hear arguments on Bell’s Mobile TV app”²
“Shaw targets Telus with TV app”²

Hard to Identify APPeal

“Microsoft jumps into the artificial intelligence race
Software giant invests in keyboard app that aims to mimic the human brain”¹
“Tracking the homeless: harassment or help?
Apps locate and describe NYC transients as debate over practice continues”¹
“Star Touch reaches a milestone

Acclaimed news app for tablets chalks up 200,000th download”¹
 “Smart home skeptic finally sees the light
 Tech writer didn’t get hype around app-controlled bulbs until he gave them a try”¹
 “Finding that apt application
 A look at 5 budget apps that can help you take control of your spending”¹
 “Budget apps may not be enough
 Though they can appear to do the work for you, apps only take you so far in coming up with a sound plan for you to save, expert says”¹
 “PUT THOSE PHOTO SKILLS TO USE WITH BMO AND ‘SELFIE PAY’
 Bank will launch the biometric identification program for corporate credit card users this summer. Business reporter **Sunny Freeman** provides some answers to your questions about Mastercard’s new app”¹

Personal APPeal

“Apps to help you organize and use your gift cards”²
 “Don’t skip a beat with these heart-healthy apps
 Gadgets track lifestyle habits such as eating, stress to help reduce risk of heart disease”¹
 “Apps to put facts at your fingertips
 The road to home ownership could be as simple as tapping into the right technology”¹
 “Exercise apps may be waste of energy”¹
 “Parking the pooch in the Big Apple
 Brooklyn app service allows owners to leave their pets while they run errands”¹
 “Building an app that empowers people
 Ryerson grad’s platform rates Toronto and other cities on wheelchair accessibility”¹
 “Apps a lifeline for blind if built for accessibility”¹
 “Classes help bridge the generation app
 Seniors connect with family using FaceTime, Instagram thanks to a young volunteer”¹
 “ALLERGIC REACTION ONLINE
 App aiding allergy sufferers”⁴
 “Isn’t there an app for cleaning the dishes?”¹

1. *Toronto Star*
2. *Globe and Mail*
3. *New York Times*
4. *Toronto Sun*

Frequently Unasked Questions About the War on Satire

1) What do *The Interview* and *Charlie Hebdo* have in common?

They both contain satire.

2) Yes. Aaaaaaannnnnd...?

If Jonathan Swift was alive today, he wouldn’t be losing sleep over the competition.

3) Okay. But, without the judgment, what do those two things have in common?

Both have come under attack from people whom they have satirized.

4) Could you repeat that, please, in a normal type size so that the whole class can hear it?

Both have come under attack from people whom they have satirized. Supporters of North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Un threatened to blow up theatres that screened the film *The Interview* because of its unflattering depiction of him. Two men with ties to Al Qaeda walked into the office of the satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* and shot 12 people to death and injured at least 10 others because of its unflattering depiction of Mohammed.

5) About the attack on *Charlie Hebdo*: are you ready to take the clash of civilizations seriously yet?

No. Two lunatic gunmen don't represent 1.8 billion Muslims. If that were the case, I would have to allow that Father Charles Henry Sylvestre or Father Donald Roemer represented the Catholic Church, or Larry David or Seth Rogen represented Judaism. I wouldn't wish **that** on the worst religion in the world.

6) But, you have to admit that they hate our freedoms, right?

Actually, they mostly hate each other. Sunnis tell yo momma jokes about Shiites. Shiites write graffiti about pork on the walls of Sunni owned restaurants. People in the west get sucked into this because they make the mistake of laughing at one or the other. Or, propping up Middle Eastern oil despots and/or starting wars in the region, but that's almost as bad.

7) But, this was definitely an attack on freedom of speech, right?

If so, it wasn't a very effective one. Attacking such a small publication to kill free speech is like pricking somebody's big toe with a pin in order to kill them. I would be much more concerned about western leaders signing into law rules that give them access to private communications and the ability to jail anybody who "supports terrorism" by say, writing critically about their war on it. In this case, the pen truly is mightier than the sword.

8) Can you not see that we're at war?

The deadly attack wasn't on a government or, heaven forbid, an actual military facility: it was on a satirical magazine. Think about that for a moment. The two gunmen attacked a publication that regularly criticizes the very system that they claim to hate. They obviously need lessons in winning friends and influencing people. Or, basic logic.

9) Can we at least agree that Bill O'Reilly made a good point when –

No. Actually. I can stop you right there: “Bill O’Reilly” and “made a good point” don’t make sense in the same sentence. Bill O’Reilly can’t even make a good point sharpening a pencil!

But, uhh, I don’t mean to single him out. The first 24 hours after the *Charlie Hebdo* attack was not punditry’s finest hour. Depending upon who you listened to, the gunmen were: opponents of the Keystone-XL pipeline; fanatic Muslims who wanted to destroy western democracy; Larry Flynt; Larry Hagman; Larry the Cable Guy; people who don’t take Jihadis seriously enough; people who take Jihadis too seriously; supporters of multiculturalism; fanatic Muslims who wanted to trick western democracies into destroying themselves, or; a baby’s arm holding an apple. It’s amazing what the human mind can conceive of when it isn’t burdened by facts.

10) Why do tyrants hate satirists?

Simple. They hate being laughed at.

11) I don’t like being laughed at either. What’s the difference?

You aren’t a sociopathic murderer with psychopathic followers who will kill other people, even at the cost of their own lives, if you order them to. Unless you are, in which case I say that with all due respect.

12) Are you happy with the level of support that cartoonists around the world have given *Charlie Hebdo*?

Honestly, if I see one more cartoon weaponizing pencils, I’ll personally start a boycott of the lead industry! On an emotional level, I appreciate the expression of solidarity. However, on a practical level, does anybody really believe that Al Qaeda leadership is holed up in a cave somewhere going, “Look at all those cartoons about pencils overcoming guns. We’re outnumbered! We may as well surrender now – it’s all over but the awarding of the Reuben!”?

13) Are you happy with the level of support that the public has given Charlie Hebdo?

Are you kidding? Half of the people who use the #IamCharlie tag on Twitter think they’re supporting Charlie Sheen. A month from now, people who wear the “I am Charlie” t-shirt will be asked if they’re promoting a remake of *Flowers for Algernon*, and **the main character’s name isn’t even spelled that way!**

14) We need to support satirists in the face of violent Jihadi intimidation. That attitude is a little cynical, don’t you think?

On the contrary. I have complete faith...in people’s ability to be distracted by the outrage of the moment.

15) I understand what you're saying, but –

Hey! Did you hear what Tina Fey said about Angelina Jolie at the Golden Globes?

16) No! What? WHAT?

I rest my case.

17) Oh, phooey on that! Why aren't you more vociferous in your condemnation of the brutal murders of a dozen people just because they were involved in publishing a cartoon?

Isn't it self-evident that that is a vile act?

18) Would it kill you to say it more often? Maybe lead with it and make it the focus of your writing?

Like everybody else? Sorry, but I'm not into pack punditry: it's easy to make fun of official enemies of the state, and it costs a satirist nothing. I prefer to write about what we are doing in response to what our enemies do.

19) I'm sorry, but I find that unacceptable. Haven't we already established that **I don't like being laughed at?**

Thank you for your support of this satirist.

20) Erm...

Exactly.

The Hell of it Was...

In the 1940s, war was hell. It was a simple concept, easy to understand, and everybody agreed with it (even if they believed that war was necessary). What has been hell since then?

In the 1950s, hell was a road trip with the anti-you driving. Not even the evil anti-you, just the polar opposite of who you are. The driver would stop to use the bathroom when you least needed it. The driver would stop to get food when you were least hungry. The driver would pull into a motel to get some shuteye when you were wide awake. And, of course, the driver would play the music you hate the most, since the driver gets to choose the station. Oh, and did I mention that the trip had no destination?

In the 1960s, hell came in the form of a pill you didn't recognize handed to you by somebody you didn't know at a rock concert you weren't enjoying. You had a suspicion that the pill would change the way you looked at the world, but you couldn't know if it would be for the better or the worse. You had a strong suspicion it would be for the worse.

Unfortunately, since everybody else was taking their own pills, there was increasing pressure on you to gobble up yours. Sweet dreams!

In the 1970s, hell was a disco ball that blinded you with multicoloured lights. Everybody seemed to be dancing with abandon while your movements seemed to emulate a spastic ostrich. And, white was not your colour – it seemed to attract dirt the moment **before** you put your suit on – and you hated the music, but, honestly, did you have anything better to do with your Saturday nights?

In the 1980s, hell was the opening bell on the local stock exchange which signalled the start of the day's frantic financial activities that you didn't understand and couldn't capitalize on. As you watched, people who weren't nearly as smart as you were making money faster than you – with your big brain – could count. The majority of the most successful of them weren't acting in ways that were, in the strictest sense of the word, legal, but it sure was exciting. How much would you be willing to pay for a front row seat to the fun? Rest assured that in the years to come you'll be paying much, much more.

In the 1990s, hell was scorching heat in the summer, snow, sleet, hail and precipitation there isn't even a name for in the winter, and strange, unexpected, massively destructive tornadoes, earthquakes and other "weather phenomena." People who believe that this is just a phase the Earth is going through managed to drown out the much larger and more knowledgeable group of people (sometimes referred to as "scientists") who warned that human beings were responsible for this, ensuring that no meaningful action would be taken to stop it. You could sleep safely knowing that, since you had no money to give them thanks to the 1980s, extreme weather would be your legacy to future generations...

In the 2000s, hell was the swoosh of the scythe as it approached your neck. The food you ate. The air you breathed. The toys your children played with (although why they should be a threat to an adult like you is a matter of some speculation...). Strangers. So-called friends. I mean, how well did you know your neighbours? No, but, seriously, how well? Just about the only thing you didn't have to fear was the government that was protecting you from all those other threats. At least, not until the end of the decade...

In the 2010s, hell is knowing somebody is listening to and watching everything you do. You do not know who it is and you do not know for what purpose they are doing it. Because you cannot assume that you have privacy anywhere, you are extremely polite and well-behaved and do your best to never say or do anything that might offend anybody because heaven forbid you should get taken away by the authorities in the middle of the night because you wouldn't stand up under heavy interrogation – or, if it came to that, light questioning – and, if you thought about it, you'd have to wonder why, if they already see and hear everything, authorities would need to ask you questions at all, but that's exactly the sort of thought you could get in trouble for thinking so best not to...

Each decade gets the hell it deserves.

Headlines Are Going For the Gold!

**Even Though They Were Eliminated in the First Round
(Breaking and Entering May be Involved)**

**When You're Talking About Police Officers Being Held Legally Accountable For Acts Of Violence,
That Ship Has Sailed, Hit An Ice Berg, Sunk And Had A Movie Made Out Of The Experience**

“Lenience will erode public’s trust, expert says”
- *Toronto Star*

Because The Old Thinking Focusing On Trade, Technology And Talent Just Wasn’t Working

“Our new thinking must focus on technology, talent and trade”
- *Globe and Mail*

Unlike Most Men, Who Are Always Trying To Get Women To Play With Their Stomachs

“Visible and palpable
Urologists says Doc Rod’s penis easily distinguished from stomach”
- *Toronto Sun*

We Have Nothing To Fear But Hate Itself

“FEAR BECOMES ANGER, AND ANGER BECOMES HATE”
- *Toronto Star*

“Vigilantes Fan Fears Where Migrants Are Few”
- *New York Times*

“I hate that I’m experienced covering this story”
- *Globe and Mail*

“CANADA PENSION PLAN
Financial sector welcomes changes
Proposals met warmly, but some fear pressure on wages, lost jobs”
- *Toronto Star*

“Mayor says London won’t tolerate hate”
- *Toronto Star*

“Fear and loathing in England as the Brexit debate brings out the worst”
- *Globe and Mail*

“Britons urged to drive out hatred”
- *Globe and Mail*

“String of Attacks Leaves Brazil’s Gays Living in Fear”
- *New York Times*

“Berliner Battles Hate, With Her Scraper”
- *New York Times*

“Parents fear kids will be crammed into classrooms”
- *Toronto Star*

“White-hot American rage”
- *Globe and Mail*

“Isolationism and the fear of the foreign”
- *Globe and Mail*

“Choose love over hate, Stevie Wonder says”
- *Toronto Star*

“**Willis:** Fear-based campaigns cause ‘enormous harm’”
- *Globe and Mail*

“A meal for solidarity in facing hate, violence
Muslim and LGBTQ communities end daylight Ramadan fast by breaking bread and
denouncing Islamophobia, homophobia”
- *Toronto Star*

“Fear of cybercrime creates opportunity for consultants”
- *Toronto Star*

“After the violence, moderates must stand against hate”
- *Globe and Mail*

If There Really Was a Usually Irrelevant Party, I Would Totally Vote For It!

“Libertarian as kingmaker in U.S. election
Usually irrelevant party’s Gary Johnson may influence Trump-Clinton outcome”
- *Toronto Star*

No, But It Can Certainly Make You More Manic While Going Through Chemo

“Can coffee cure cancer?”
- *Globe and Mail*

Nietzsche Not Concerned About His Legacy

“Biebs ponders meaning of life”

- *Toronto Sun*

Because You Keep Saying Such Positive Things About Her?

“IT’S HILLARY’S MOMENT

SO WHY IS SHE STILL THE MOST HATED WOMAN IN AMERICA?”

- *National Post*

Unlike Jays-Yankees Series

Or, Jays-Orioles Series

Or, Jays-Tigers Series

Or...

“Jays-Royals series should prove interesting”

- *Toronto Star*

In Light Of New Information, Nietzsche Despairs

“Baywatch’s new C. J. Parker avoided wedgies with glue”

- *Toronto Sun*

Enbridge Says 24 Sussex Drive ‘Is No Place’ For Trudeau Does That Make Them Even?

“Trudeau says rainforest ‘is no place’ for oil pipeline”

- *Globe and Mail*

The Profs Use Far Too Much Rouge, And What’s With Those Crazy Colours Around Their Eyes?

“Students not comfortable with makeup of faculty”

- *Toronto Star*

Maybe The Swan Shouldn’t Be Such A Vicious Bastard

“Don’t punch the swan!”

- *Toronto Sun*

I Look Forward To The Day When They Don’t Have To Segregate Themselves In High Places

“Trans Mountain is ‘a lot closer’”

- *Globe and Mail*

Somebody Needs To Investigate This! Oh, Wait...

“Republicans not satisfied with FBI decision in Clinton email scandal
GOP members say it looks like former secretary of state got preferential treatment”
- *Toronto Star*

Indeed – I Often Use Mine To Paint Portraits

“Life insurance isn’t taboo. It’s a creative tool”
- *Globe and Mail*

If He Would Just Stop Sulking About Not Being Prime Minister For Life

“Harper could help unite right: Kenney”
- *Toronto Sun*

If That’s The Case, He Probably Shouldn’t Hold Meetings In Kindergartens

“Tory seeks ‘adult conversation’ on taxes”
- *Toronto Star*

If We Don’t Dig Them Out, They Will Spontaneously Jump Out And Right Into Your Car’s Fuel Tank

“Fossil fuels won’t stay in the ground”
- *Toronto Sun*

Some Questions In Life Are Answered More Quickly Than Others

“Will China become a partner or a pariah?”
- *Globe and Mail*

“China to protect ‘territorial sovereignty’
State media calls Hague tribunal ‘puppet’ of external forces after court’s ruling on South China Sea claims”
- *Globe and Mail*

More Like A Podium, Really And, More Like Giving Than Taking

“Will IOC finally take a stand on Russia?”
- *Toronto Star*

Then Nigel Farage Would Slither Back Into The Country’s Politics, And Nobody Wants That

“Reguly: If Britain slides into recession, a second referendum could yield a pro-EU vote”
- *Globe and Mail*

You Know Something’s Wrong When THEY Think Somebody Is Out Of Control!

“Taliban says Daesh trying to incite civil war”
- *Toronto Star*

With Solid Marketing Decisions Like That, It’s Hard To Understand Why The Company’s Stock Is Doing So Poorly

“**Twitter:** NHL, Blue Jays streams won’t be available in Canada”
- *Globe and Mail*

It ‘Accidentally’ Calls Your Ex The Other 20%

“Stronger smartphone coming with Gorilla Glass 5
Corning’s technology survives drops from 1.5 metres about 80% of the time, firm says”
- *Toronto Star*

That’s A Surprise! **Canada Still Has Auto Makers?**

“TPP likely to hurt Canada’s auto makers, study says”
- *Globe and Mail*

Reagan Was Practically A Foetus By Comparison!

“Clinton disliked because she’s been around too long”
- *National Post*

They Consider Themselves Lucky To Be Able To Save Enough For Tonight’s Dinner

“Nearly half of working-age Canadians not saving for retirement”
- *Toronto Star*

I Think Jonathan Swift Knows A Thing Or Two On That Subject

“Swift vs. Kardashian: a lesson in narrative”
- *Globe and Mail*

Big DICK Radio Does it All...For You...

“That was the first 12 seconds of the classic Buffalo Springfield tune ‘For What It’s Worth.’”

“For what it’s worth, the new policy of cutting songs into bite-sized pieces so that we can talk in the middle of them isn’t as wonderful as it may sound on paper, and it didn’t sound all that impressive when I first heard the memo.”

“Not, like...an armadillo catching fire impressive.”

“Or: your family dog explaining the flaws in his theory of black holes to Stephen Hawking impressive.”

“Or: a black actor being nominated for an Oscar impressive.”

“Whoa! That would be impressive, Dick. And, topical. Nicely done.”

“Thanks, but it’s not as topical as that cream I got from the pharmacy last night for –”

“Aaaaand, the moment is gone. Okay, you’re listening to –”

“Man with a gun over there/Telling me I got to beware./It’s time we stop –”

“Okay, they stopped.”

“Right. You’re listening to 95 point two two, C-DIK, Big Dick Radio. I’m Jean-Claude ‘von Dick’ De-La-Skibol. And, back with me – and, I never thought I would be happy to say this, although the words are starting to lack sincerity even as they leave my lips – is Reginald ‘Dick’ Kefauver.”

“Thank you for that lukewarm welcome back, Dick. It means almost nothing to me.”

“I hope you’ll take it the wrong way when I say that it’s more than you deserve, Dick. And, getting more more by the second. I know I’m going to regret asking this, but how was Kabul?”

“Worst thirteen minutes of my life!”

“You were there for three months.”

“The rest is kind of a...blur...”

“And, I was right. You know –”

“Children what’s that sound?/Everybody look – what’s goin’ down.”

“What is going down, Dick?”

“Probably that pulled pork poutine chili dog I had for breakfast. But, it’s not going down without a fight, Dick. It’s not going down without a – gulp – fight!”

“I thought you had a cast iron stomach.”

“Are you kidding? My stomach contains so much iron, you could use it shield you from atomic radiation! My oesophagus, on the other hand...”

“Well, you know what they say: it’s better for food to travel hopefully than to arrive.”

“I’ve never heard anybody say that.”

“I read it in a James Bond novel.”

“As long as your source is authoritative. And, speaking of changing the subject, Dick, you know who I feel the most sorry for in this hostile broadcasting environment where stations are changing their formats more often than a germaphobe changes his underwear during flu season in order to boost their ratings?”

“Umm...Dick, I’m gonna say...no?”

“Good call, Dick. I pity the poor jazz station that’s gonna have to start playing ‘Stairway to Heaven.’”

“Better them than us having to play...John Coldrayne.”

“Do you mean John Oldbrain?”

“John...John Moldtrayin.”

“I don’t think that’s right.”

“Well, whoever he is, he was important to a point I was making a minute ago, but I’ve completely forgotten it, so why don’t we move on?”

“There’s battle lines being drawn./Nobody’s right if everybody’s wrong.”

“It appears that the music has moved on for us, Dick.”

“Hey, Mister Producer Dick! You think you could give us some warning before you spring another couple of seconds of song on us?”

“Where would the spontaneity of live radio be in that, Dick?”

“I get that every time I open my pay package, Mister Producer Dick.”

“You, too, Dick? I thought that was just me.”

“It is just you, Dick. It’s always just you.”

“Oh. My mistake.”

“So, about that warning, could we get —”

“Young people speaking’ their minds./Getting so much resistance from behind.”

“Uhh, Dick?”

“Yes, Mister Producer Dick.”

“Another snippet of music coming at you.”

“Thanks for the heads up.”

“Interesting lyric, Dick. You know, I don’t get much resistance from —”

“Okay, I’m going to stop you right there, Dick. We’re already well over our daily quota for complaints about sexual innuendoes, and the show only started ten minutes ago! You’re listening to the morning show on 95 point two two, C-DIK, Big Dick Radio. With any luck, we should be able to get to a second song on before the end of our time slot...”

“I can’t wait!”

[Insert Cover Joke Here]

You don’t have a cellulose problem...unless you’re a tree...which is a much bigger problem...

Aggressively ad-free since 2002...

In your first boxing match, do you put up a neophyte?

I was always an advanced child - I even had posthensile toes...

My favourite keyboard command/Pink Floyd song: “Set Control Tab for the Heart of the Sun...”

Could we say that a bad alcohol mixer was sub-lime?

Oh, yeah! I’ve still got it! Maybe less of it than I used to have...and it’s harder to find these days...it’s distributed differently...but, I’ve still...uhh...yeah...

The fairy who noticed the morning grass was dry just had to make dew...

Could you say that Tupperware closed by somebody with male and female genitalia was hermaphroditically sealed?

Would you?

I don’t mind soccer, I just have no patience with people who get over-vuvuzelas...

Watch the barren Baron bearin’ his bare end...

I’m hurt that My favourite old TV series has yet to be made into a movie, and that’s a wound that cannot be *Welcome Back Kotterized*...

Les Pages aux Folles: Fall in love with it all over again for the first time...

The judge recognized the dancer’s movements as a plies for mercy...

The secret to becoming famous: throw yourself at obscurity and miss...

Their taste in music was so close to being identical that you could call them two peas in an iPod...

My favorite 80s actress/science fiction novel: Molly Ringworld...

Parallel parking meets at infinity...

Semiotics: walking down the street and wondering what the pavement...

Semidiotics: walking down a street and wondering what the semiotician meant...

The doctor concerned about his patient’s ulcer gave the man a sternum warning...

Vampires need to be careful who they eat, lest they run afoul of the mortal majority...

Where’s my deerstalker hat? I need to work on my Baker Street cred...

Is a restaurant reviewer’s pseudonym a nom nom nom de plume?

Les Pages aux Folles: Laundry never tasted so good!

George Washington admitting he was bad at chemistry: “I cannot tall an alkali...”

Remember: there is no “liar” in “outlier”...no, wait...

When it comes to stock market tips, the truth will set your fee...

Your witch is my command...

My favourite young actor/domain name registration organization: Michael CIRA...

I am an artist, and I have the obscurity to prove it!

Do writers of bad jokes about being fated to break a tooth on junk food peddle karmal corn?

Elizabeth may not have been able to kick you standing on her right, but the Shue is on the other foot now!

How many lawyers do you think stopped doing pro bono work when Sonny died?
The world is so beautiful - it's Alfred E. Newmanous...
The guy who thinks he's a cigar box? Just humidor him...
I resent the recent decency recantation...
A chimpanzee here, a gorilla there, and pretty soon you're talking serious monkey...
Planning on doing your own dental work? Braces yourself!
Whence the winch? asked the wretched wrench wench...
Do you think the bees will return if we bring back beehive hairdos?
In the communication age, revolution will happen by any memes necessary...
My favourite classic Greek text/*Man from UNCLE* character: *Iliad* Kuryakin
In the early days, the band funded tours with a Bachmann-Turner Overdraft...
I don't really know what art plaster is, but I'll take my best gesso...
Ann Coulter is the supposed ta child of the modern scolding movement...
Curses! Tin foiled again!
When it comes to lowbrow humour, I like to let the cheaps fall where they may...
I'm not personally into nostalgia, but I don't want to step on anybody's mementoes...
Is an Italian woman having her period on the Ragu? (That joke would have been
offensive if it had had any context...)
The dollar said to the quarter: "Be the change you want to see in the world..."
Les Pages aux Folles: now with 37% less daunt!
Steak tartare was Emeril's entrée into the world of great chefs...
I see your Ira von Furstenberg and raise you a Levin AND a Gershwin!
My favourite Jethro Tull tribute to the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: "Cowabunga in the
Jungle."
Drug addicts take their lord in vein...
The plot sickens...
You inukshuk me all night long!
Why does the word Jumbotron NOT describe game stats written on the side of an
elephant?

You Shouldn't Have Said It If You Couldn't Live With the Cranberry Sauce!

What You Talkin' About, Donald?

Coronations Are So Eighteenth Century!

"Just thinking to myself right now, we should just cancel the election and give it to Trump. What are we even having it for? What are we having it for?"

- Donald Trump

All He Knows About Rhetoric He Learned From Billy Schmutz In Grade Three

"No, you're the puppet!"

- Donald Trump, on allegations that he's too close to Vladimir Putin

Somewhere In The Deepest Circle, A Guest On *Burn In Hell With George Wallace Is Smiling*

“The law’s totally on my side. The President can’t have a conflict of interest.”
- Donald Trump

“When the President does it, that means that it is not illegal.”
- Richard Nixon

What You Talkin’ About, Friends and Allies of Donald?

A White Association For The Advancement Of Coloured People? I’m Sure Blacks Would Appreciate The Support

“If we want to have a white state or a white community or a white homeland, we should have that. We respect that for all people. If we look at the NAACP, black people have the right to have that. Why can’t white people have a WAACP?”
- white supremacist Preston Wiginton

Truth Is Taking An Awfully Long Time To Get Its Boots On

“You want to go to Canada? I’ll pay for you to go to Canada. You want to go to Kenya, Jakarta, where you went to school back in the day, you can go back there. Anywhere you want to go...I have one stipulation: you can’t come back.”
- Sean Hannity offers Barack Obama post-election travel assistance

That’s Much Better, Then

“The liberal media took what I said and went against the law and the Constitution and ran with it, and they said that I wanted her assassinated, which I never did. I said I spoke as a veteran, and she should be shot in a firing squad for treason.”
- New Hampshire House of Representatives member Al Baldasaro, Republican

If You Don’t Like It, He’ll...Tweet In The Middle Of The Night What Losers You Are!

“We got a new president you fucking faggots.”
- Trump supporter reportedly said this to a gay man in a bar on election night

**Either He’s An Idiot, Or He Thinks We’re Idiots
I Don’t Know Which Prospect Is More Depressing**

“One wonders if these people are people at all, or instead soulless golems.”
- alt-right ideologue Richard Spencer in a speech at the National Policy Institute, a white nationalist think tank

The Nazi salutes were “clearly done in a spirit of irony and exuberance.”

- alt-right ideologue Richard Spencer on the response of some in the audience to his speech

Is That What The Kids Are Calling It These Days You Dirty Old Man?

“If Trump loses, I’m grabbing my musket.”

- former Illinois Representative Joe Walsh, Republican

Soon To Be A Scent By Armani

“I’ve talked to people that are in protective details. They’re scared of [Hillary Clinton]. And they say, ‘Listen, she’s a frickin’ demon and she stinks and so does Obama.’ I go, ‘Like what?’ ‘Sulphur. They smell like hell.’”

- Conservative radio host Alex Jones

This Is What Happens When The Big Bad Wolf Is Elected Mayor Of The Pigs’ Village

“The system, when it disagrees, infantilizes the people and plays the Big Bad Wolf. They try to scare people because they don’t have arguments, and the day after the election of Donald Trump, the sun rises and we realize that none of the big disasters that were announced has happened.”

- Marine le Pen

“...some said we deserved to be lynched or shot just like the other black people that have died recently. Another believed that since we didn’t want to stand for the anthem, we should be hung before the anthem for the next game.”

- Nebraska Cornhusker Michael Rose-Ivey, on the reaction to his kneeling during the national anthem to protest police violence

"This is White America now. Take your retarded self and go somewhere else. Trump is president now.”

- an anonymous person talking to an American Sign Language user.

What You Talkin’ About, Artists?

WHY EVEN PUT THE IDEA IN HIS HEAD?

“I’m glad [Zac Efron] hasn’t asked me...to murder someone for him, because I probably would.”

- Anna Kendrick

Not To Mention The Fact That Their Drool Will Short Out Their Amps Mmm...Lobster!

“You can’t make music with a bunch of boys who are staring at a lobster on your head. They are going to get distracted.”

- Lady Gaga

Hollywood Is Full Of Sartres

“It should be women-empowering. You know, equal opportunity objectification for everyone.”

- Channing Tatum, on the *Magic Mike Like* show

What You Talkin’ About, Everybody Else?

! And, Here I Thought You Were A Family Newspaper!

“Also opening: Stella Meghie’s *Jean of the Joneses*, a dysfunctional family comedy at the Carlton; and Farren Blackburn’s home-invasion thriller *Shut In*, at various GTA theatres.”

- *Toronto Star*

He’d Be Like My Aunt Bertha, Except With Fewer Complaints About Her Aching Back And More International Dread

“Imagine if Donald Trump was a woman. You simply can’t.”

- *Guardian* columnist Hadley Freeman

The Absurd Ironyometer Isn’t Holding Its Breath Waiting For Donald Trump To Heed That Call

“Fear, intimidation and vandalism are not a legitimate form of political expression. Those who employ it must be called to account.”

- Washington state Senator Doug Ericksen, defending his support for attempts to criminalize protests

But Nigel Farage Assured Us That You’d Be Pushovers!

“In the UK, it’s fair game to bash Brussels. And, then, you don’t need to be surprised that in Brussels they bash you back.”

- Joseph Muscat, the Prime Minister of Malta, on the Brexit

We’re Experts At Pushing Ourselves Around, Thank You Very Much!

“Comrades! We interrupt regular scheduled Russian Foreign Affairs Website programming to bring you the following important message: Knock it off. You may be able to push around nations around you, but this is America.”

- The Jester, an American hacker

Scientists Are The Canaries In The Coal Economy

“All of us benefit around the world when science in the U.S. is strong.”

- Michael Rudnicki, President, Canadian Stem Cell Network

You Think You’ve Been Sexually Assaulted? Ghomeshi Yourself!

“Your witness, Ms. Henein.”

“Thank you. Now, Mister Baer –”

“I would prefer to be called Big Ears Teddy.”

“I’m sure you would, **Mister Baer**. I’m sure you would. Now –”

“Fine! Be that way!”

Now, you have described your relationship with the accused as...his, quote, childhood anthropomorphic plaything, unquote. And, that you currently reside on a shelf next to the defendant’s bed. Is this correct?”

“Yes, ma’am. I –”

“And, you have asserted that, because you were in the bedroom at the time the accusers claim they were sexually attacked, that you are a fair witness to the events?”

“Umm...I didn’t quite follow everything you said, there, but, uhh, I think so? Yes?”

“Even though you’re a mere childhood anthropomorphic plaything?”

“You don’t have to say it like that. I didn’t just come out of the factory, you know – I’ve been around.”

“And, even though your back was turned on more than one occasion and you could not see what was happening?”

“Hey, lady! I got ears, you know! Tell you the truth, hearing the women describe what happened to them, I’m just as happy I didn’t see it! Brutal!”

“We’ll let the judge be the...uhh, judge of that. Now, you stated that, in one instance, you heard a large smack of skin on skin and then the accuser crying, is that correct?”

“That’s what I heard.”

“Now, tell me, Mister Baer, why did you think that this was a bad thing?”

“I – you – wha?”

“Have you ever heard of tears of joy?”

“I...uhh...guess...?”

“How do you know that the accuser wasn’t crying tears of joy?”

“After Jian punched her?”

“Maybe she believed that his punch was a sign of his love for her. If nobody had ever loved her enough to punch her in the face, she may have been so overcome by joy that she wept uncontrollably. Do you allow this possibility, Mister Baer?”

“Sounds funky to me.”

“Mister Baer, are you a childhood anthropomorphic plaything **with a degree in human psychology**?”

“A degree in –? No.”

“Then, you’re not really qualified to judge why the woman was crying, are you?”

“I know what I heard.”

“Hmm. Now, Mister Baer, with regard to the other accuser’s allegations, you have testified that you heard her choking. Is that correct?”

“Absolutely.”

“Do you know why she was choking?”

“She said it was because Jian was –”

“I know that is what she said. But, without being able to see what was happening to her, can you say with certainty that she was being choked by the accused?”

“What else would explain what I heard?”

“She could have been choking on a chicken bone that she had accidentally swallowed at dinner.”

“Did she swallow a chicken bone at dinner?”

“Exactly, Mister Baer. Exactly.”

“I...don’t – hunh?”

“Do you have genitals, Mister Baer?”

“Genitals?”

“You know – boy parts?”

“Oh. No. I have cousins who are used to teach children about...that sort of thing. They have boy or girl parts. But, me? No.”

“Could it be possible that, in the act of making love, the woman could have been choking on the defendant’s boy parts?”

“It went on an awfully long time.”

“Jokes by stand-up comedians aside, some men have that capacity.”

“The lady swore at him a lot afterwards.”

“That’s how some people show affection.”

“Oh, come on, lady! I may have led a sheltered life, but even I have heard a lot of naughty words in my time.”

“The point, Mister Baer, is that you can’t be sure whether the accuser was being choked or just choking naturally, right?”

“I...uhh...I know what I heard.”

“So, Mister Baer, you believe that the defendant did some bad things?”

“Yes. Yes, I do.”

“Then, why are you still living with him?”

“I’m sorry?”

“If the accused is as horrible as you claim, why do you still live with him?”

“Well, I can’t just get up and leave, can I? What part of ‘inanimate object’ do you not understand?”

“You could have asked somebody to take you away. Why didn’t you?”

“I – I’ve lived with Jian since I was still in my original package. Where would I go? How would I live? I –”

“Had no choice?”

“Well, yeah. I mean, no. I mean –”

“How many publishers have you approached to sell your life story, Mister Baer?”

“None!”

“None?”

“A couple may have approached me...”

“You’re probably going to come out of this a wealthy animal. Not bad for a childhood anthropomorphic plaything. Not bad, at all. Of course, the book will sell more copies the more luridly you can portray the accused, won’t it?”

“That’s outrageous! You’re saying I made things up to sell books? I tell you: I know what I hea –”

“No further questions.”

Are Dogs Lying With Cats? Only One Thing To Do... HEADLINE FOR THE HILLS!

What If Liberal Progressives Don’t Want To Be Clued In To racism And Sexism?

“Did racism and sexism elect Trump?

The chasm between Middle America and liberal progressives is vast, and Democrats will have to overcome their cultural cluelessness”

- *Globe and Mail*

When I Stopped Laughing, I Realized That The Newspaper Did Not Have A Joke Of The Day Feature

“Watchdog wants rules for spies sharing info”

- *Toronto Star*

Where Only 12 Per Cent Of Those Who Are Successful On The First Attempt Try Again

“Looking at the facts about suicide attempts

A new study reveals that those who unsuccessfully try to kill themselves are more likely to have a fatal repeat”

- *Globe and Mail*

Not To Worry – The KKK Are All Over It!

“How to fight political correctness in the Trump era”

- *Toronto Sun*

You’ve Never Known Fear Until You’ve Come Face To Face With An Avocado Playing With A Switchblade

“Avocados Imperil Monarch Butterflies”

- *New York Times*

If You Lived In Syria Or Ukraine, You Wouldn’t Be Asking

“A Trump-Putin entente? Why not?”

- *Globe and Mail*

Once They Can Fake That, They’ve Got It Made

“Tory leadership race needs authenticity”

- *Toronto Sun*

No, No, No, No, No, No, No, No, No! – They Live Under Bridges And Come Out To Steal Our Children So That They Can Eat Them!

Wait – Did I Read That Headline Correctly...?

“The time for tolls is now, but Toronto must get it right”

- *Globe and Mail*

It’s Easier To Subvert One National Plan Than Ten Provincial Ones

“Canadian execs should push for national carbon price”

- *Toronto Star*

Maybe You Should Take Your Hands Away From Your Ears And Stop Shouting, “La La La, I Can’t Hear You!”

“Canadians not troubled by political data collection

Minister says she's heard no complaints from voters"
- *Toronto Star*

So We Can Focus On What's Really Important: Obama's Birth Certificate

"Hysteria over Trump's win has to stop"
- *Toronto Sun*

If Any Of You Are Murdered, That Must Really Confuse CSIs

"**Olive Oil:** "It's cultural. It's something you're with and it's in your blood"
- *Globe and Mail*

Those With Thin Skins Should Find Employment In Another Country

"High Risk of Honesty in South Korea's Offices"
- *New York Times*

Do You Even Know What "Multi" Means?

"Multiculturalism must be a two-way street"
- *Toronto Sun*

It Depends On What State They're In...Hint Hint...

"Can Trump make U.S. cities great again?"
- *Globe and Mail*

Polar Ice Caps Not Sure Whether To Laugh Or Weep

"P.E.I. seaweed tames cow flatulence and cuts greenhouse gases"
- *Toronto Star*

If They Had Only Ordered Butter Chicken, Instead, The Terrible Tragedy Would Never Have Happened!

"Murderous rage erupts over Tandoori chicken"
- *Toronto Sun*

Greed And Stupidity – We Just Don't Know Which Is Affiliated With Hope, And Which With Worry

"Trump gives Corporate America new reasons to worry, hope"
- *Globe and Mail*

Be Part Of The Problem You Hope To Sol – Wait A Minute! That’s Not How It Goes!

“Accessible-housing meeting derailed by inaccessible venue
Public consultations delayed as planners seek spot for those with limited mobility”
- *Toronto Star*

Such A Fine Line...

“BLACKBERRY WE HAVE LOVED – AND HATED”
- *Toronto Star*

“Germany’s fight against Facebook hate”
- *Toronto Star*

“What to get the televisions lovers in your life”
- *Toronto Star*

“We all profit from soldiers on the front lines of hate”
- *Globe and Mail*

“FOR THE WINE LOVER ON YOUR LIST”
- *Toronto Star*

“Woman wearing hijab has clothes set on fire
Incident follows several recent hate-related attacks on Muslims in the U.S.”
- *Toronto Star*

“Reconnecting with a former love, 20 years later”
- *Toronto Star*

“Haters in a frenzy over Zendaya as Mary Jane”
- *Toronto Sun*

“FOR THE LOVE OF **GORD**”
- *Toronto Star*

“Merkel’s shift toward the left
Chancellor seeking fourth term in part due to growing ‘hate’ in political discourse”
- *Toronto Star*

“Bestsellers for book lovers”
- *Toronto Star*

“Shows for holiday haters and lovers”
- *Toronto Star*

For Liberals, That's A Low Bar (Which, Coincidentally, Is Where Many Of Them Can Be Found On A Friday Night)

“Despite questions about fundraisers, Trudeau insists Liberals acting ethically”
- *Globe and Mail*

On The Other Hand, BDSM Movement Multiplies Us

“BDS movement
Only divides us”
- *Toronto Sun*

That's News? Trudeau Breathing Sparks Online Mockery

“Trudeau's statement sparks online mockery”
- *Toronto Star*

Who, Exactly, Is Tweaking Whom In This Scenario?

“Liberals play down NAFA renegotiations
Parliamentary secretary says ‘treaties occasionally need to be tweaked’ and Canada is ready to do that ‘in good faith’”
- *Globe and Mail*

“Trump team flags Canadian livestock and lumber as targets in NAFTA reset”
- *Globe and Mail*

The Bright Side Costs \$799, A Savings Of Almost 99 Cents!

“Beware the dark side of Black Friday”
- *Toronto Star*

The Fish Controversies From The Top

“**Trump:** Controversial figures considered for cabinet positions”
- *Globe and Mail*

Headline Begs Question: Will We See The Phrase “Begging The Question” Used Properly In A Sentence Ever Again?

“Catch of the day?
Amid slowing sales growth and changes in customer preferences, High Liner's sinking shares beg the question: Is it time to cut bait?
- *Globe and Mail*

**Quotes Were Wondering if You Were Going to Eat That –
Times Are Tough, You Know!**

THE CANADIAN ELECTION

“If Only We Had Found A Kindler, Gentler Way To Make People Hate Muslims...”

“On substantive points, we’ve been a very good government. I think where we went wrong was on tone and we have to learn from our mistakes.”

- Conservative Jason Kenney

Whoa! That Honeymoon Didn’t Even Make It To The Bedroom!

“Voters said they are looking for policies that reflect the social values they prize. That portends a potentially powerful backlash if the new government falls short...”

- Jaime Watt, Chairman of Navigator Ltd.

**That’s Harsh...Nobody Was Likely To Save The Conservatives No Matter How
Many Drugs They Consumed**

“Trudeau wins! Crack-smoking ex-mayor fails to save Canada’s Conservatives.”

- Sputnik, Russian state-owned news service

Okay – Now We’re Balanced!

“He was a drama teacher for a year and now he’s going to be prime minister? You have to be kidding me!”

- Doug Ford on Justin Trudeau

**I’m Not Going To Name Any Of Them So As Not To Disturb The Part Of My Brain
In Which They Live**

“Even diehard Liberals wonder if Justin Trudeau deserved to win a majority government on his very first try... It’s like giving your kid the keys to the Ferrari before he’s finished driving lessons.”

- *Globe and Mail* columnist Margaret Wentz

You Don’t Have A Great Grasp Of Cause And Effect, Do You?

“It was not Harper’s record or his policies – it’s just that people hated Harper...”

- anonymous Conservative hack analysing the election results

THE AMERICAN ELECTION

**Shouldn’t You See How Well He Has Run His Businesses Before You Say That
With Such Admiration?**

“He’s going to run the country like a business.”

- Donald Trump supporter

He Meant To Say “I’m Self-deluding My Campaign,” But He Got Confused By A Shiny Object

“I’m self-funding my campaign. I’m the only one.”

- Donald Trump, ignoring the nearly \$4 million in donations he received in the previous quarter

Tsk Tsk – Somebody Hasn’t Been Paying Attention...

“There is no meaningful risk of Christians committing acts of terror.”

- Ted Cruz explaining why the United States should allow only Christian refugees from Syria to enter, not Muslims

In Fact, Any Trump Quote Works Better If You Imagine The Politician Windmilling His Arms While Saying It

“Now, the poor guy, you oughta see this guy – uh, I don’t know what I said, uh, I don’t remember. He’s going like, I don’t remember.”

- Donald Trump, on disabled reporter Serge Kovaleski. Quote works best if you imagine Trump windmilling his arms while saying it

TRUMP: “I Thought He Would Go Along With My Statement That I Didn’t Know Him – That Just Proves That I Really Didn’t Know Him!”

“If Mr. Kovaleski is handicapped, I would not know, because I do not know what he looks like. If I did know, I would definitely not say anything about his appearance.”

- Trump tweet about the statement, implying he did not know the reporter

“Donald and I were on a first-name basis for years.”

- Kovaleski’s statement refuting Trump’s statement

You Have To Agree That This Hour’s High School Massacre Is Such A LAME Rationale...

“I’m tired of the Democrats and Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton...using every excuse possible to try to take my guns!”

- former Republican district chairman Jack Morgan

He Can Get Away With This Because He Excretes Sunshine Out Of His Every Orifice

“Quite frankly, I thought Hillary’s best moment the entire night was when she was in the restroom, not on the stage, and maybe should’ve stayed there and it would’ve been her, perhaps, shining moment through the whole debate.”

- Mike Huckabee on Hillary Clinton’s bathroom break during the Democratic Presidential candidates’ debate

He Can Get Away With This Because He Has Subordinates Go To The Bathroom For Him

“I know where she went, it’s disgusting, I don’t want to talk about it. No, it’s too disgusting. Don’t say it, it’s disgusting, let’s not talk, we want to be very, very straight up.”

- Donald Trump on Hillary Clinton’s bathroom break during the Democratic Presidential candidates’ debate

I’ll Give Trump This: He Sure Is Making Americans Grate Again

“I’ve had my fill of fucking intellectuals. I love Trump. He’s not an intellectual. He says he’s going to make America great again, that excites me. “

- Donald Trump supporter

ACTUAL IMPORTANT NEWS

Because Everybody Can Ask Clint Eastwood To Direct Their Shooting Parties...

“I grew up shooting guns and Eddie [Cibrian] loves to shoot, so we go ride horses and shoot... We get to be normal.”

- Leanne Rimes

Whoa! Look At The Vocabulary On You! Somebody Sounds All Elitey and Shit!

“Since the acquisition of our new Sun Media brands, the integration process has accelerated within our expanded Postmedia team. While we continue to face the significant challenges to our traditional business model, the year ahead will see us leveraging out new scale and launching expanded product and service offerings to Canadian audiences and marketers.”

- Postmedia President Paul Godfrey

Wow. You Would Have Had To Mind Meld With Over A Billion People To Come To That Conclusion – I Admire Your Dedication, Sir!

“Most of those people [Muslims] don’t want to participate actively in bringing about the deaths of diners and concertgoers and soccer fans, but at a certain level most of them either wish for or are indifferent to the death of the societies in which they live.”

- Mark Steyn, *National Post*

Premier Wants To Build A Brad Wall Around Canada

“I am asking you to suspend your current plan to bring 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada by the end of the year and to re-evaluate this goal and the processes in place to achieve it.”

- Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall

When They Called Hollywood The Dream Factory, They Really Should Have Been More Specific About Whose Dream They Were Talking About

“I’m 37 and I was told recently I was too old to play the lover of a man who was 55.”

- Oscar nominated actress Maggie Gyllenhaal

Frequently Unasked Questions: Those Crazy British Bastards

[1\) What is the Brexit?](#)

[2\) Really?](#)

[3\) So, as usual, I find myself in question three repeating question one: what is the Brexit?](#)

[4\) What was the main argument of the Stay side?](#)

[5\) Are you suggesting that the case the Conservative Party made for staying in the European Union was somewhat less than compelling?](#)

[6\) What was the main argument of the Leave side?](#)

[7\) Was that a legitimate argument?](#)

[8\) Can you really say that the Leave vote was driven by racism?](#)

[9\) It is?](#)

[10\) What other factors?](#)

[11\) Is there any truth to the argument that a lot of people voted to leave the European Union to punish Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron, whose policies had devastated many working class communities?](#)

[12\) What was the world’s response to the Brexit vote?](#)

[13\) Really? That sounds a bit improbable...](#)

[14\) Speaking of which, what was Donald Trump’s response to the vote?](#)

[15\) You brought him up!](#)

[16\) Why would there be any problems with Trump’s statement?](#)

[17\) So, what happens now?](#)

[18\) What is there to negotiate?](#)

[19\) Will the British at least get back all of the outrageous sums of money – £350 million pounds a week, was it? – it sends to the EU?](#)

[20\) Where would anybody get the ludicrous idea that that much money would go to the NHS?](#)

[21\) Oh. Umm...speaking of the unspeakable, is it just me, or does UKIP leader Nigel Farage look like a 19th century satirical cartoon of a greedy capitalist?](#)

[22\) Looking to the future, Neil Hamilton, a member of UKIP’s national executive committee, stated: “We want tariff-free access to the single market and it will be hugely in the interests of the European Union to grant it.” What must he have been smoking at the time?](#)

[23\) So, yeah. Negotiations. Will they start right away?](#)

[24\) Can they do that?](#)

[25\) Considering how high up the Tories cocked this referendum, why is Labour leader Jeremy Corbin's head being demanded on a silver platter by his party?](#)

[26\) After the referendum, there appears to be devastation everywhere you look. What was the point?](#)

1) What is the Brexit?

A form of shampoo popular in Britain.

2) Really?

No. That's just a callback to a joke you probably haven't read.

3) So, as usual, I find myself in question three repeating question one: what is the Brexit?

You're no fun. Brexit is the colloquial (figuratively: a technological device that renders all reason invisible) term for a referendum to determine whether Britain should remain in the European Union or leave it. SPOILET ALERT: by an overwhelming 52-48 per cent margin, Britain decided to leave.

4) What was the main argument of the Stay side?

The Conservative defense of membership in the European Union was that staying would be good for you. This is known as "The Steamed Broccoli Argument." Those who voted to leave used the "I'm Not Putting That In My Mouth and You Can't Make Me Argument." Unfortunately, a slight majority of voters preferred to let their inner five year-old cast their ballot for them.

5) Are you suggesting that the case the Conservative Party made for staying in the European Union was somewhat less than compelling?

Far be it from me to suggest such a thing. I'm openly stating it. Shouting it from the rooftops, actually. If I could afford it, I would buy a full page ad in *The Guardian* to announce it in big, bold, 148 point type. But suggest it? No, not me.

6) What was the main argument of the Leave side?

If Britain stays in the European Union, people with coloured faces and weird names will overrun the country and force us all to eat curried foods.

7) Was that a legitimate argument?

Of course not – it was morally reprehensible. Everybody knows the British love their curries.

8) Can you really say that the Leave vote was driven by racism?

That's a fair question.

9) It is?

Absolutely. Other factors were clearly involved.

10) What other factors?

Economic illiteracy, for one. Cornwall was on course to benefit from £2.5 billion worth of EU funding between 2000 and 2020 but voted 56 per cent in favour of Brexit. Tilbury was hoping to get an EU grant of \$6 million, but it somehow managed to vote over 70 per cent in favour of leaving the EU. The most economically depressed areas of Britain largely voted Leave, even when it would cost them money.

Think of it as Little Britain voting out of unenlightened self-interest.

Low information, for another. The most used search term by the British the day after the referendum was "What is the EU?" Almost as popular was, "What will happen if Britain leaves the EU?" You might think that they would have asked those questions **before** they voted. Apparently, they were too busy cashing dole checks or...watching *Coronation Street* or...words fail.

It would have been enough to make Churchill pee his pants. And, not in a good way.

11) Is there any truth to the argument that a lot of people voted to leave the European Union to punish Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron, whose policies had devastated many working class communities?

Only if you believe that they were too stupid to understand that Cameron would have to resign and be replaced by somebody even more bloody-mindedly conservative (Boris Johnson oozes to mind), somebody whose policies would do even more damage to their communities. So, yes, that is a totally credible position.

12) What was the world's response to the Brexit vote?

It handed Britain a lollipop and said, "Well done."

13) Really? That sounds a bit improbable...

...Right before world stock markets lost two trillion dollars in value and two ratings companies downgraded Britain's economy. Oh, and the British pound lost 10 to 20 per

cent of its value against other world currencies (and you know a situation must be truly wretched if it can make the American dollar look good in the shadow of President Donald Trump). In light of this, the lollipop was probably cold comfort and the “Well done” was likely sarcastic.

14) Speaking of which, what was Donald Trump’s response to the vote?

Let’s not make this about the Yanks, shall we?

15) You brought him up!

Fair point. Okay, Trump was in Scotland to talk up his golf course, Turncoats or Sourberries or something like that, when the subject of the Brexit came up. His response was, “They’re angry over borders. They’re angry over people coming into the country and taking over. Nobody even knows who they are. They’re angry about many, many things. They took back control of their country. It’s a great thing.” If it had been any other politician, the quote would have sparked outrage; with The Donald, there was a mild shrug and everybody – well, almost everybody – went back to reading *The Financial Times*.

16) Why would there be any problems with Trump’s statement?

Because Scotland voted in favour of staying in the EU, and is considering a vote to leave the United Kingdom so that it can. Trump’s remarks about taking back control of their country could be interpreted as a thumbs up for Scottish independence, I suppose, although judging by the highly creative, not to mention colourful, response from Scots (the almost in the previous answer) on social media, they do not seem to be taking it that way.

17) So, what happens now?

The fun part begins: negotiations.

18) What is there to negotiate?

Because one of the key aspects of the European Union is the ability for any citizen of any member country to travel freely to any other country, what is going to happen to Europeans living in England and British citizens living anywhere else in the EU? Will they live with mommy or daddy? For goodness sake, won’t anybody think of the children?

19) Will the British at least get back all of the outrageous sums of money – £350 million pounds a week, was it? – it sends to the EU?

No. For one thing, the number was vastly inflated: it does not take into account the fact that more than half of the amount came back to Britain in the form of subsidies and other monetary payments. Perhaps the most sobering statement on this subject came from

United Kingdom Independence Party leader Nigel Farage the day after the referendum when he stated, “No I can’t [guarantee the £350 million pounds a week will go to the National Health Services], and I would never have made that claim. That was one of the mistakes that I think the Leave campaign made.”

20) Where would anybody get the ludicrous idea that that much money would go to the NHS?

The side of a Vote Leave bus that was driven around the country during the referendum campaign.

21) Oh. Umm...speaking of the unspeakable, is it just me, or does UKIP leader Nigel Farage look like a 19th century satirical cartoon of a greedy capitalist?

All he needs is the limb of a small child sticking out of the side of his mouth to make the image complete.

22) Looking to the future, Neil Hamilton, a member of UKIP’s national executive committee, stated: “We want tariff-free access to the single market and it will be hugely in the interests of the European Union to grant it.” What must he have been smoking at the time?

No idea. It seems reasonable to surmise, though, that powerful hallucinogens were involved. To analogize, it’s like saying you want a divorce, but you don’t want to stop sleeping with your partner. Hard as it may be to believe, your partner might not be too pleased with the idea. Expect the European Union to change the locks to the doors of the house.

23) So, yeah. Negotiations. Will they start right away?

European Union leaders have strongly suggested that they start immediately in order to calm world stock markets (which have lost another trillion dollars of value in the time you have taken to read this). Pro-Leave politicians have said, “What? There’s no hurry. I’m just going to take a siesta now – it’s a time-honoured British tradition. Call me in a few months when you’re serious about giving me what I want.”

24) Can they do that?

There is some disagreement over whether or not the British government must activate Article 50, which would start negotiations, immediately. Leave supporters argue that not starting negotiations right away will leave Britain in a better bargaining position – just like the wife who demands a divorce, then delays signing the papers. Stay supporters hope they’re right. Europe wishes Britain would grow up. I’m beginning to think that crack must have been involved.

25) Considering how high up the Tories cocked this referendum, why is Labour leader Jeremy Corbin's head being demanded on a silver platter by his party?

Many of the elite members of the Labour Party believe that he is out of touch with the common working person. Apparently, he was neither stupid nor racist enough to contribute anything meaningful to the debate. Taking their cue from Dire Straits, refusing to be pacified, it's him they blame the most.

26) After the referendum, there appears to be devastation everywhere you look. What was the point?

The referendum (with the accent on the dumb) was triggered by a promise Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron made to the right wing of his party to hold a vote if they supported him in the last British election. Of course, he resigned immediately after the referendum results were known, so this only bought him an extra year of power.

History is not likely to judge Cameron kindly.

You Know You're a Recipient of Male Privilege When...

You may be a recipient of male privilege and not even be aware of it! What is male privilege? It's the assumption that you are superior to...well, it's not really acceptable to say whom in polite society any more, but, if you're a recipient of male privilege, you already know exactly who you're superior to. This comes with a lot of advantages in everyday life.

If you are uncertain whether or not you're a recipient of male privilege, take this simple test: how many of the following completions of the sentence, "You know you're a recipient of male privilege, when..." apply to you?

...you can walk past a construction site without having to be concerned about having to listen to comments about your gravity-defying architecture or fitness to bear children.

...you can take it for granted that somebody else will cook and do the dishes.

...nobody feels they have the right to destroy your reputation online because you dare to design computer games or critically review them.

...you join the military and the only people you have to worry are going to attack you are the enemy.

...you don't have to be concerned that a cure for a major medical disease won't benefit you because none of the test subjects for the treatment had bodies like yours. You don't have to explain to supposed medical experts that, no, in fact all human bodies are **do not** work in exactly the same way.

...your family doesn't consider your dream of being a nuclear physicist to be a "nice hobby" and put pressure on you to set it aside until after you've raised a family.

...you don't have to worry about people laughing at you for being called a mistress of the universe.

...you can go into a job interview not having to worry if you will be asked if you plan on having children; secure, in fact, in the knowledge that if the subject comes up, you will be judged positively for wanting them.

...you never have to experience the unique joy of being asked to get coffee when you're the senior executive from your company sitting at the negotiating table.

...all of the nominations for best actress Oscars go to men, and you're okay with that.

...your grey hair is considered sexy.

...that paunch you carry isn't going to make you any less attractive to members of the opposite sex...well, not in your own mind, in any case.

...the sexually explicit jokes on the company's server aren't about you.

...if the sexually explicit jokes on the company's servers **are** about you, that's something you can laugh about with your co-workers at a bar after work.

...after you complain that you work harder than anybody else at the company and are only paid 70% of what people of the other sex are making for the same job, you aren't accused of being in a bad mood because of a monthly biological function.

..., for that matter, you work harder than anybody else at the company and don't have to worry that you're only making 70% of what people of the other sex are making.

...you are described as being aggressive, hard-nosed and/or tough, it is meant in a complimentary way.

...you don't have to expose parts of your anatomy to get ahead. Unless you're a male model.

...if you are successful, you don't have to deal with innuendos that you exposed parts of your anatomy in order to get ahead, whether you did or not. Unless you're a male porn star, in which case it's just taken for granted. And, among other privileged males, even respected.

...your journalism degree only seems to qualify you to start working for a small local newspaper writing recipes, health news and/or gossip columns.

...the majority of online porn caters to your sexual preference.

...you don't have to worry that the most fashionable clothing of the day will destroy your feet or make it hard for you to breathe.

...hearing slang terms for your genitals makes you proud rather than cringe.

...auto mechanics, dishwasher repairmen and/or telephone help line workers don't talk to you like you obviously are too dumb to understand the simplest concept they could possibly explain to you. This won't stop them from taking advantage of your ignorance to gouge you for their advice, but it does take some of the sting out of the process.

...you're male. No, really, being born with a penis pretty much sums it up.

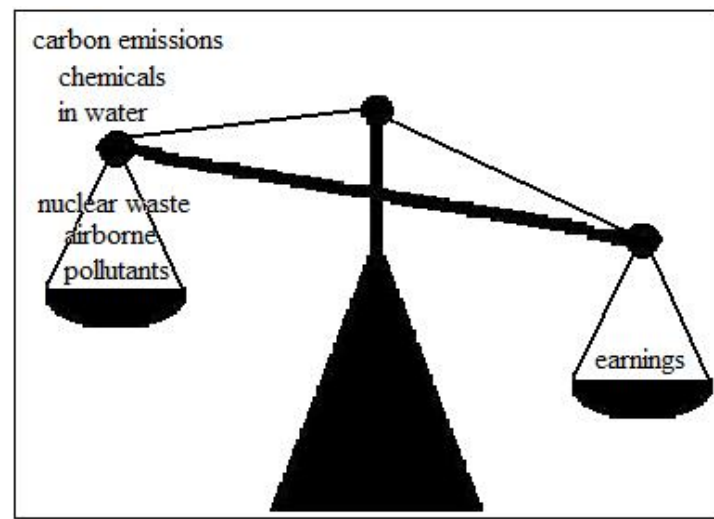
Headlines Can't Connect To The Internet Right Now (Best To Give Them Room – They're Going Through Email Withdrawal)

Policy Of Keeping Harmless People In Jail Forever Called Into Question

“Khadr: Bail release order a major legal defeat for the Conservative government”
- *Globe and Mail*

I Suspect The Canadian Soldier Wasn't Thrilled About It, Either

“Kurdish general sorry about Canadian soldier's death”
- *Toronto Star*



“The difficult balance of earnings and environmental ethics”
- *Globe and Mail*

Those Are Some Mighty Comfortable Ropes

“Islamic State against the ropes”
- *Toronto Sun*

“ISIS takes control of Palmyra, executes 280”
- *Toronto Star*

If You Applied A Little Common Sense, You Could Answer Your Own Question

“Why do we need laws to enforce common sense?”
- *Globe and Mail*

Beavis Larocquian,
2376 Forlorn Squidway
Boots Off Ground, Kentucky

“Who decides what’s cool?”
- *Toronto Star*

When Two Psychotic Entities Do Battle, Everybody Else Had Best Get Out Of The Way
Have You Learned Nothing From *Les Liaison Dangereuse*?

“Can Therapy Help Save A Business Partnership?”
- *New York Times*

That’s Racist!

Oh, Wait...

“Popularity of segregated funds on the rise”
- *Globe and Mail*

If Lollipops Are The Issue, Anything Is Possible

“If integrity is the issue, the Tories are finished”
- *Globe and Mail*

Not That We’ll Pay Teachers A Decent Wage – Our Children Aren’t THAT Important!

“Make teachers essential, now!”

Nothing's more important than our children's educations"
- *Toronto Sun*

I Know We Need More Women In Politics, But This Is An Inelegant Way Of Saying So...

"Get the bucks out of Alberta politics"
- *Globe and Mail*

Didn't The Bandleader Die Years A – Ewww!

"Tired of escargots? Try the traditional taste of whelks"
- *Globe and Mail*

A Short Lifetime, As It Happens, But Still...

"ROBBERY GONE BAD
Canadian killed during trip of a lifetime"
- *Toronto Sun*

The Oil Industry Wants What Nobody Else Gets – That's News?

"ALBERTA OIL ROYALTIES
What the industry needs is certainty"
- *Globe and Mail*

You Thought The War On Doughnuts Was A Joke? Just Wait

"Injectable doughnuts make fun food"
- *Toronto Star*

They've Only Been Dating A Short While – They Just Need Time To Work Out Their Differences...

"Are jobs and growth incompatible?"
- *Globe and Mail*

The Case For Optimism

"Economy on pace for full capacity in 2016"
- *Toronto Star*

"Loonie dives as oil slide continues"
- *Toronto Star*

"Large job losses expected this year as energy industry shrinks"

- *Globe and Mail*

“Insolvency rate linked to plunging oil prices”

- *Toronto Star*

“Current oil-price recovery not bound to last”

- *Toronto Star*

Have We Redefined The Term “Wealthy” Again?

I Don’t Remember Getting The Memo...

“Who needs wealthy donors when you can get billionaires?”

- *Globe and Mail*

And, It’s What Helps Me Keep This Weight Off

And, It’s The Only Thing My Daughter And I Have In Common

And, It’s Probably Mitigating The Worst Effects Of Global Warming

Oh, Mighty Gardiner – Is There Nothing You Can’t Do?

“The Gardiner is more than a highway. It’s the tie that binds my family – and our city – together”

- *Globe and Mail*

Freedom From Gender Stereotypes Is Haaard

“Canadian’s film snagged in footwear flap

Emily Blunt goes on offensive against heels after festival accused of turning away women wearing flats on the red carpet at premier”

- *Toronto Star*

“Sorry, hipsters, but it’s time to shave

Men, it’s time to rid yourselves of those bushy beards and embrace your smooth, clean-shaven chins”

- *Toronto Star*

I Wouldn’t Count On It – Mike Harris Killed The Quality For At Least Six Generations

“Common sense may save Greece from tragic fate”

- *Globe and Mail*

Capital Punishment Envy Is Such A Sad Emotion

“Dzokhar Tsarnaev must die for his crimes, and the sooner the better”

- *Toronto Sun*

My Other Car Is Public Transit (And, Not A Moment Too Soon!)

“Canadian car recalls hit record high”

- *Globe and Mail*

“GM issues recalls over loose nuts, hood latch”

- *Toronto Star*

“Airbag defect sparks Ford recall

Faulty control modules affect 850,000 vehicles; dealerships slated to replace device”

- *Toronto Star*

“GM issues three recalls, brings 2014 tally to 84”

- *Globe and Mail*

“Ford issues SUV recall over gas tank problems”

- *Toronto Star*

GM supplier recalls 45,000 floor mats for SUVs, pickups”

- *Toronto Star*

“Airbag recall widens

New glitch forces recall by Audi as Honda cuts executive pay over vehicle quality issues”

- *Globe and Mail*

“Toyota issues another global recall

Japanese automaker cites faulty fuel pipes in 1.75 million vehicles”

- *Toronto Star*

“6.5 million vehicles recalled over airbags

Inflators in some Toyotas, Nissans an deploy abnormally or rupture”

- *Toronto Star*

Yeah, And I Want To Eat That Entire Triple Fudge Chocolate Cake With Sprinkles By Myself, But That Doesn't Mean I Should

“Poll finds Albertans want expansion of oil industry”

- *Globe and Mail*

Umm...I'm Going To Go With No On That One...

“Is Stock Market optimism to be believed?”

- *Globe and Mail*

“Faith in national economy fragile

Nearly one-quarter of Canadians have no spare cash after essential expenses, Nielsen survey finds”

- *Toronto Star*

Hadn't You Heard? They Paved It And Put Up A Parking Lot

“Why can't you get a proper cup of tea in paradise?”

- *Globe and Mail*

Lies You Can Find on Twitter (Among Other Places)

This is False Facts about *2001: A Space Odyssey* month.

1. Hippies loved the original title: *2001: A Space Trip*. The studio immediately vetoed it.
2. The hot tub scene in the Dawn of Man sequence was cut for time.
3. Robert DeNiro was considered to play an ape; producers worried he would have his brain implanted into one for research.
4. The ape who banged the skulls with bones was the world's first jazz drummer.
5. Had he been able to keep a beat, he would have been the world's first rock drummer.
6. All of the apes had their own trailers. They were cleaner than the ones used by the human actors in the sequence.
7. Moonwatcher wasn't trying to be part of a famous jump cut: he was swatting a mosquito and the bone flew out of his hand.
8. The docking sequence was meant to play to The Troggs “Wild Thing,” but classical music was cheaper.
9. Dr. Heywood Floyd was originally referred to as “Pinky” until a certain psychedelic rock band broke big.
10. The moon set was constructed in William Shatner's basement.
11. The toilet instructions were originally shot for the film *Lolita*, but never used.
12. When he cast Kier Dullea, Stanley Kubrick actually thought he was getting Udo Kier.
13. Douglas Trumbull had been a cabbie, hairdresser and professional nanny before being chosen to do the special effects.
14. Kubrick invested in all of the companies represented in the film. That's why he eventually had to direct *Jaws VI: The Jawsening*.
15. The floating pen was actually a NASA prototype, but all the models they built floated away into space.
16. NASA was never that big on string.
17. Arthur C. Clark wanted the monolith to be in Tau Ceti, but even Kubrick didn't want a movie that lasted several years.
18. Douglas Rain, the voice of HAL 9000, thought he was reading dialogue for a feature length Donald Duck cartoon.
19. The Ferris wheel used for the interior of the spaceship eventually became London's Eye.
20. The monoliths would be the inspiration for the cover design of Spinal Tap's *Black* album.
21. Carl Sagan suggested that the aliens look like asparagus tips with wings made of cough drops. Kubrick ignored his advice.

22. The tunnel of coloured light was the trip Sullivan would have taken in Sullivan's Travels if Preston Sturges had been a methhead.
23. For Kubrick, the white room symbolized post-war industrial society and the Froot Loopsization of culture.
24. Kubrick wanted HAL to sing "Wild Thing" as its personality disintegrated, but he couldn't even afford THAT use of the song.
25. The first thing Clark envisioned the Star Child doing after it was born was visiting DisneyWorld.
26. The film was \$4.5 million over budget and 16 months behind schedule; Kubrick wanted it to feel like a real NASA mission.
27. The release of the film started a craze of traveling to Jupiter.
28. During the shooting, Kubrick moved permanently to England to get away from his root beer addiction.
29. Critics were divided on the film. Some hated it. Others merely despised it.
30. More people read the *Mad Magazine* parody than ever saw the film.
31. *2001* is fourth in the American Film Institute's list of all time best Swimsuit Competition winners.

To celebrate our national anniversary, July is Lies My Government Told Me Month.

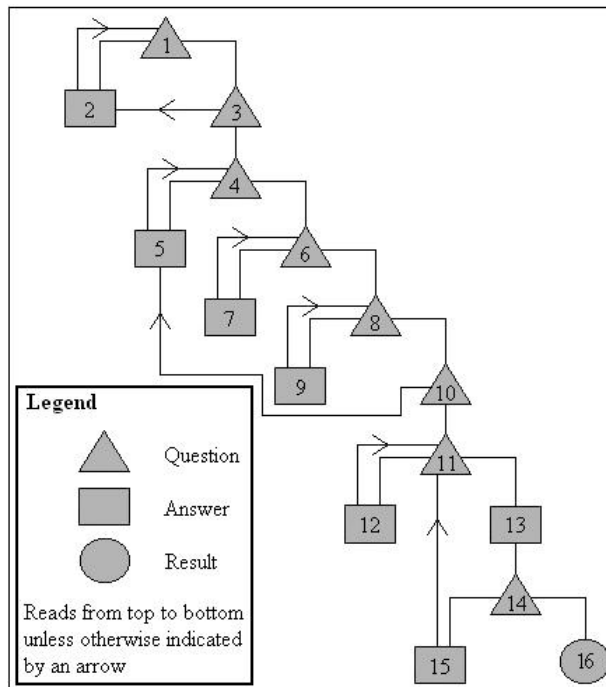
1. This is a democracy where all people are created equal and treated in exactly the same way.
2. Changes in regulation will in no way affect the safety of the food supply/drug supply/drinking water.
3. The allegations of illegal behaviour are fabrications of our opponents and a bloodthirsty press.
4. This bi-national agreement will strengthen our border security without undermining our sovereignty.
5. Oversight of our digital information gathering efforts insures that we collect only what we absolutely need.
6. The tar sands can be exploited without seriously damaging the environment.
7. The tax cuts will pay for themselves.
8. Our weapons are so precise, civilian casualties have been all but eliminated.
9. Harsher prison sentences for a greater number of infractions leads to a decrease in crime.
10. Cuts to public broadcasting are not intended to stifle an independent voice, nor will they.
11. We need to wage this war to protect your freedoms.
12. We can cut the deficit without raising taxes or cutting social programmes.
13. The nuclear reactor construction will be done on time and on budget and the result will always be safe.
14. If you're innocent, you have nothing to fear.
15. An internal investigation of the allegations of illegal behaviour will show that we did nothing wrong.
16. Enhanced interrogation of "terrorists" has made our country safer.
17. What we're doing is just a continuation of what the previous administration was doing.

18. The watered down version of the legislation is exactly what we intended to do in the first place.
19. This international trade agreement will strengthen our economy without undermining our sovereignty.
20. Our campaign ads were based entirely on fact and were in no way misleading.
21. “Terrorists” are too dangerous to be tried in regular courts.
22. An independent inquiry into the allegations of illegal behaviour will show that we did nothing wrong.
23. I did not inhale, and, in any case, I am not an addict.
24. Privatizing that service will result in the public receiving twice as much for half the cost.
25. Resignations from the leader’s office are in no way an indication of turmoil in his administration.
26. People on Welfare are living like kings, so we can cut their benefits with no harm done to them.
27. This is the most open and transparent government in the country’s history.
28. As soon as the crisis is over, your liberties will be fully restored.
29. Campaign contributions never have an effect on this government’s policy.
30. Any members of our government engaged in illegal behaviour have been punished, so we can move forward with a clear conscience.
31. We always act in the best interests of the consumers of our great, great country.

The How Democracy Dies Algorithm

You say that democracy is getting in the way of your will to power? You know what’s best for the country, sure you do, but not enough of those damn little people who – ugh – **vote** believe in your vision to give you the power to make it a reality? Is that what’s worrying you, friend?

Fear not! In just a few simple steps, you, too, can turn your once robust democracy into a country ripe for fascist exploitation – sorry, I meant, strong leadership! Don’t believe me? It’s true! Here’s how:



	1	Can members of your base tell fact from fiction and follow rational arguments?
YES	2	Starve the public education system of funding. (Don't worry – your wealthy backers will be able to send the children that matter to private schools.)
NO	3	Do your followers accept small lies, distortions, distractions and misrepresentations?
NO		GO TO 2
YES	4	Is the press independent to the point that it could successful expose your agenda?
YES	5	Where you can, have your wealthy supporters buy up established news outlets or create their own. At the same time, attack your most prominent media opponents for their "bias."
NO	6	Is your party ready for a radical lurch to the right? [NOTE: try to avoid the term "fascist" in the early stages of the process – it tends to unnerve the weak-minded.]
NO	7	Begin purging moderates from your party.
YES	8	Do rival politicians oppose your emerging extremism?
YES	9	Vilify the shit out of them. Call them weak and corrupt, and claim that they cannot deal with the grave problems facing the nation.

NO	10	Do your followers accept big lies, complete fabrications and your own total disregard for the truth?
NO		GO TO 5
YES	11	Are people in your base fearful for their future?
NO	12	Use what power you have to cut taxes for your wealthiest citizens and make trade deals that ship jobs overseas. Promote wars abroad and the militarization of policing at home. In short, make life more miserable for your base.
YES	13	Demonize a minority group within your country, blaming them for the members of your base not having meaningful employment, being subject to terrorist violence or whatever other hot button issue will stoke their fears the most. At the same time, promote the idea that the members of your base had better lives at some point in the past. Finally, convince them that the leader of your party is strong enough to overcome whatever it is they fear and recreate the conditions of the (almost undoubtedly fictitious) golden past that were so favourable to them.
	14	Does your party control all the levels of government?
NO	15	Obstruct the efforts of the other party to enact programmes that would mitigate your agenda.
YES	16	Crack down on human rights, rewrite the laws in order to consolidate your power, jail enemies and allow your cronies to begin looting the treasury. In other words: PARTY!

Notes

Although broken down into discrete steps for purposes of illustration, the most effective way of employing the How Democracy Dies Algorithm is to assume that, once initiated, each step intensifies over time. There would be no point in vilifying your opponent, for example, if you let up on the press; contradictory information about the vileness of your opponent might get to your base, confusing it. And, you only want your base confused in the direction that is most conducive to your agenda. Thus, by the time your strong leader appears, all of the different aspects of the algorithm should be working in concert to create the atmosphere most likely to allow him to gain power.

You should also be aware that undermining democracy is not the sort of thing that can be accomplished overnight. In fact, it can take decades. Plan ahead. You may not even be

around to see it come to fruition, but at least you can die with the knowledge that you did your part to destroy democracy.

As always, the How Democracy Dies Algorithm is descriptive, not proscriptive; that is to say, it describes the way things are, not how they should ideally be. The creators of the How Democracy Dies Algorithm are not suggesting that this is the way the world should work. In fact, we're quite terrified by the prospect. They! We mean they! They're quite terrified by the prospect!

We should really check to see if our passports are up to date...

Small Hands on Deck!

In baseball, it's known as an unforced error. It happens when a fielder on a simple ground hit throws the ball to the second baseman, because he hallucinated that there was a man on first, or throws the ball into the stands because he thought the first baseman was up there getting a hot dog and beer, or transforms the ball into a handkerchief in the mistaken belief that he's Penn Gillette.

In the Trump White House, it's known as Tuesday.

President Trump spoke for half an hour by phone to that bastion of investigative journalism, *Fox and Friends*. By the time he was finished, hosts Brian Kilmeade, Steve Doocy and Ainsley Earhardt looked like characters in a horror movie who had just seen their best friend skewered by a serial killer and knew that they were next.

Below you will find some of the highlights of the interview, an attempt to translate statements from Trumpese into actual English and a Truthometer reading.

STATEMENT: Look, it was very, very nasty with Little Rocket Man and with the buttons – and, you know, my button's bigger than – everybody said this guy's going to get us into nuclear war.

TRANSLATION: I have dealt with trials that would have made lesser presidents – who everybody says was all of them – wet their panties in fear and frustration. The two Fs everybody calls them. But, I'm an aleph male. I'm not fearful or...or...or whatever the other F was!

TRUTHOMETER: 80% truthful. A lot of people were saying that somebody was going to get us into a nuclear war – Trump just misidentified whom they were talking about.

STATEMENT: If you go back to the Civil War it was the Republicans that really did the thing.

TRANSLATION: Black people shouldn't hate me. Kanye West doesn't hate me. Why do black people hate me?

TRUTHOMETER: 62% truthful. Republicans really did do the thing that dare not speak its name (free the slaves) when the President is talking. But Trump's Republican Party is

as much like the party of Lincoln as tinned cat food is to the annual Correspondents Dinner.

STATEMENT: I've taken the position – and I don't have to take this position and maybe I'll change – that I will not be involved with the Justice Department. I will wait until this is over.

TRANSLATION: I'm not going to interfere with the investigation into whether I interfered in the election...unless I do. At which point, I will.

TRUTHOMETER: 100% truthful. Trump will do whatever Trump wants to do.

STATEMENT: I'm very disappointed in my Justice Department but because of the fact that it's going under, and I think you'll understand this, I have decided that I won't be involved. I may change my mind at some point because what's going on is a disgrace.

TRANSLATION: In case you didn't get my threat the first time, I'd like to make it again. Everybody says I'm too subtle...

TRUTHOMETER: 100% truthful. Again. Unfortunately.

STATEMENT: [FBI Director Comey] does these memos and then fake news CNN – who's a total fake – you know, they give Hillary Clinton the questions to the debate and nobody – can you imagine, by the way, if you gave me the questions to a debate?

TRANSLATION: [garbled]

TRUTHOMETER: 5% truthful. His sentence was made up entirely of recognizable English words, after all.

STATEMENT: So the special counsel – and by the way, and Intelligence Committee and everybody else has found no collusion. There's no collusion with me and the Russians.

TRANSLATION: My trained seals in Congress are very good at clapping. I'm going to pretend that everybody else in the world is, too.

TRUTHOMETER: 19% truthful. The Intelligence Committee, run by a guy who was intimately involved in Trump's election campaign (Washington is so incestuous – instead of offering to drain the swamp, Trump should have promised to kick everybody out of the bedroom!), did release a report exonerating Trump and the campaign. Nobody else has. Trump is clearly concerned that nobody else will.

STATEMENT: I don't watch them at all. I watched last night.

TRANSLATION: I'm a living, breathing Epimenides paradox.

TRUTHOMETER: 50% truthful. Half of this sentence is truthful, but knowing which half is tricky.

STATEMENT: I'm really proud of the job we've done for the VA because we got – we're working right now on choice and really big – but we got rid of so many rules and regulations that made it impossible and we're really doing great at the VA.

TRANSLATION: Something's happening at the VA, and you don't know what it is, do you, Mister Jones?

TRUTHOMETER: You can't determine the truth value of a statement you can't follow.

STATEMENT: The Democrats are obstructionists. It's horrible what they're doing. They're not approving people.

TRANSLATION: I like Doctor Ronnie – why is everybody being so mean to him?

TRUTHOMETER: 23% truthful. The Party of Lincoln appears to have adopted the rhetorical stance “I’m rubber and you’re glue; what you say bounces off me and sticks to you.” Exhibit A: Mitch McConnell’s filibustering of...pretty much everything the Obama administration tried to do. Lincoln must be turning in his grave so quickly you could use him to drill subway holes in the ground!

STATEMENT: All [Iranians] do is scream “Death to America, death to America.” And by the way, they’re not screaming it so much anymore.

TRANSLATION: Unlike weakies like the guy I replaced, tough guys like me get things done.

TRUTHOMETER: 49% truthful. Yes, Iranians used to scream that – it is apparently one of the few videos from the past that President Trump is willing to acknowledge. But the implication that they no longer say it because he’s such a tough guy is like saying that the gun violence in America is rampant because polar bears are facing extinction. Both true. Connection? Tenuous...

STATEMENT: We really accomplished a lot. More than anybody knows. You’ll be seeing what we accomplished.

TRANSLATION: French President Macron and I got a lot of press coverage. Did you see me flicking imaginary lint of his lapel? We’re best friends for li...wait, who was I talking about again?

TRUTHOMETER: 89% truthful for press coverage; 12% truthful for actions that might help anybody other than President Trump.

STATEMENT: I better not get into that because I may get in trouble. Maybe I didn’t get [Trump’s wife Melania] so much. You know, I’m very busy – to be running out looking for presents, OK? But I got her a beautiful card and some beautiful flowers.

TRANSLATION: I bought my wife years ago – ongoing affection wasn’t part of the price.

TRUTHOMETER: 100% truthful. Oh, yeah. The Truthometer totally buys this.

STATEMENT: They also like to always talk about Electoral College. Well, it’s an election based on the Electoral College. I would rather have a popular election but it’s a totally different campaign. I got 306 and she got what, 223. So, remember – there was no way to break 270.

TRANSLATION: I won! I won! I won! I won! I won the election! My presidency is totally legitimate!

Why? What have you heard?

TRUTHOMETER: This is a matter of opinion. Can the Truthometre plead the fifth?

Headlines Were the Original Smooth Criminal

Well, Yes, But They'll Be Demanding Tax Cuts As A Cure For When The Skies Rain Blood And Satan Stalks The Earth Signalling The End Of Times, So How Seriously Can We Take Them?

“As trade battle bites, businesses urge Liberals to counter U.S. tax cuts”
- *Globe and Mail*

Are Robots Trying To Replace Humans Again?
Thanks For Calling The AI Hotline – We'll Get Right On It!

“My wife isn't the woman I wed”
- *Toronto Star*

Good Luck With That
The Trump Doctrine Is: “Learning Is For Nerds And Chumps”
And, Do YOU Want To Be The One To Call Him A Nerd Or A Chump?

“Trump must learn from the Berlin Airlift victory”
- *Globe and Mail*

Have You Noticed How Desperate Global Warming Deniers Are Getting?

“Study suggests Neanderthals started fires”
- *Globe and Mail*

Thinking About How Cost-cutting Has Diminished Journalism Makes Me Tension Up

“Day of Soldado a tense-filled sequel to Sicario”
- *Toronto Sun*

Only If The Amber Was Being Used As A Paperweight In A Bar

“Fossils found trapped in amber offer clues into the origins of snakes”
- *Globe and Mail*

Clearly, They Need To Buy Different Politicians

“As politicians promise to tax the rich, the wealthy need to plan ahead”
- *Globe and Mail*

Not Being A Fan Of Michael Jackson, Animal Retreats

“B.C. woman tells bear to ‘Beat it!’”
- *Toronto Star*

Because Auto Parts Are Better When They’re Made By Straight, White Males

“Diversity and inclusion threaten American competitiveness”
- *Toronto Sun*

And, After That He Can Indulge His Worst Impulses?

“Ford will need discipline for the first 100 days as premier”
- *Globe and Mail*

But, The Right People This Time

“People to have say in sex-ed”
- *Toronto Sun*

If Your Explanation Doesn’t Involve Pitchforks And Torches, I’m Not Going To Buy It

“Why economists don’t like to discuss inequality”
- *Globe and Mail*

European Human Beings, OTOH, Are SOL

“Sanctuary planned for European circus elephants”
- *Toronto Sun*

A Good Place To Start Would Be To Stop Thinking They’ll Ever Collect

“Insurers innovate in the face of flood disaster, but homeowners need to alter thinking”
- *Globe and Mail*

For The Argos, Maybe...

“Leafs can offer hope”
- *Toronto Star*

As Long As We Do Whatever He Says, Everything Will Work Out Fine

“We can work with John Bolton”
- *Globe and Mail*

So...Should I Prayer It?

“When it comes to chicken wings, don’t wing it”
- *Toronto Sun*

Political Education Needed To Stop Bullying At Queen’s Park

“Sexual education needed to end bullying in schools”
- *Toronto Star*

One That Defines Them As Middle Class?

“If Canada wants to help the poor, it needs a new measure of poverty”
- *Globe and Mail*

It Won’t, But It Could If It Wanted To

“Private sector could help ease Canada’s bus woes”
- *Toronto Star*

And, We’re Happily (If A Bit Confusedly) Leading The Charge

“Yes, we need to ban the burka in Canada”
- *Toronto Sun*

“Freedom of religion disappearing in Canada”
- the headline next door in the *Toronto Sun*

Journalists Must Decide To Accept That He Has Already Made His Choice

“Trump must decide which team he’s on
As NATO leaders gather in Brussels, it remains unclear if the U.S. President is a Western ally or Putin’s wingman”
- *Globe and Mail*

It’s Good To Have A Dream, No Matter How Unlikely

“Pharmacare consultations should be transparent”
- *Toronto Star*

The Yin And Yang Of International Finance

“Despite weaker box office, Cineplex’s picture is improving”
- *Globe and Mail*

“Stocks reach record, but no one’s celebrating”
- *Globe and Mail*

“Wages are rising in Europe, but economists are puzzled
Bucks trend in other developed areas, where work’s pay has remained flat”

- *Toronto Star*

“U.S. manufacturing soars in June, but tariffs cast a shadow”

- *Globe and Mail*

“APHIA LOSS NEARLY DOUBLES DESPITE RISE IN REVENUE”

- *Globe and Mail*

“Nintendo operating profit jumps 88% despite softer sales”

- *Toronto Star*

“Anxiety runs high below calm surface of U.S. markets”

- *Globe and Mail*

“Tax credit helps Torstar post a profit despite revenue drop”

- *Globe and Mail*

Which, Coincidentally, Is The Name Of Drake’s Next Album

“2 serious after Brampton shooting”

- *Toronto Sun*

What If Forced Relaxation Makes Me Tense?

“The sweetness of doing nothing

This summer, your only task is to fully embrace relaxing in its many forms”

- *Globe and Mail*

They Only Last A Couple Of Weeks

“A best-case scenario for the Ford years”

- *Globe and Mail*

Get Hot About The World Getting Hot

“Time to get angry about climate change”

- *Toronto Star*

That’s The Real Sha – Pity

“Pay: ‘There isn’t a lot of shame in the C-Suite”

- *Globe and Mail*

If That's Confusing, They Can All Meet Halfway In An Uncomfortable Crouch

"Owners must stand up for kneeling players"

- *Toronto Star*

If Your Three Month-old Dies, Think Of The Financial Windfall!

"Tax breaks from insuring a child's life can have cascading benefits"

- *Globe and Mail*

A Few of My Favourite Things is Afraid It's About to Lose its Health Insurance...

A Few of My Favourite Things doesn't like the look of that smell...

1. My favourite Samuel Beckett play about the actor playing Wonder Woman: Waiting for *Gal Gadot*...
2. My favourite memento of a hard car to find: *rara Avis*...
3. My favourite French film movement/German opera composer: the Nouvelle Wagner...
4. My favourite cartoon about an evil Jedi and his dog: *Kylo Ren and Stimpy*...
5. My favourite 60s novelty song singer/dinosaur: Sheb Woolly Mammoth...
6. My favourite CBC show host/bacteria that exists naturally in the body: George Acidophilus...
7. My favourite Italian actor/*Battlestar Galactica* Captain: Sophia Lorne Greene...
8. My favourite wilds and crazy actor: Billy Zany...
9. My favourite pet/children's author: Spaniel Handler...
10. My favourite Temptations song/stage of insect development: "Pupa was a Rolling Stone..."
11. My favourite musical notation/character on *Cheers*: Clef Clavin...
12. My favourite method of prognostication/actor on *Frasier*: Jane Tea Leeves...
13. My favourite dessert/North American explorer: creme Etienne Brule...
14. My favourite French exclamation/Emmy Award winning actor: Voila Davis...
15. My favourite *Twilight Zone* episode about a White House sex scandal: "The Monsters are Due on Marla Maples Street..."
16. My favourite Emile Zola work about the Japanese Mafia: *J'accuza*...
17. My favourite 60's crooner/winemaker: Bobby Vintner...
18. My favourite female comedian/way of being angry: Lucille Ballistic...
19. My favourite pop star who is nobody else's favourite pop star: Pariah Carey...
20. My favourite household pet/*The Usual Suspects* character: Gerbil Kimt...
21. My favourite Blazing Saddles actor/way of putting people down: Cleavon Belittle...
22. My favourite French Prime Minister with *chutpah*: Charles de Gall...
23. My favourite electronic musician/*Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* character: The Zaphod Twin...
24. My favourite movie named for a body of water named for an oddly coloured vegetable: *Blue Legume*...
25. My favourite Bob Dylan song about revolutionary spices: "The Thymes, They Are a'Changin'"...
26. My favourite George Harrison song about the tragedy of brevity: "Isn't it a Pithy?"

27. My favourite way of adjudicating a dispute/Canadian environmentalist: Fairly Mowat...
28. My favourite order Ephemeroptera aquatic insect/way of celebrating workers: a Mayfly Day parade...
29. My favourite white rap band/BFF: the Bestie Boys...
30. My favourite shout from the crow's nest about a gardening implement: "Land hoe!"
31. My favourite Tracy/Hepburn movie about an ancient Assyrian king: *Adam's Sennacherib*...

Oh, it may be a Few of My Favourite Things this month. But for how long? For. How. Long?

1. My favourite agile *Guys and Dolls* character: Nathan Adroit...
2. My favourite married musical couple featuring a luxurious fabric: The Captain and Chenille...
3. My favourite accommodating female singer: Mary J. O'Blige...
4. My favourite jazz pianist with a variety of deep voices: Count Bassi...
5. My favourite punk band with colds: The Violent Phlegms...
6. My favourite god of the oceans/*Mad Magazine* artist: Poseidon Martin...
7. My favourite Brit lit about a family of shrubs: *The Forsythia Saga*...
8. My favourite science fiction writer/way to kick up a fuss: Rudy Ruckus...
9. My favourite 60s sitcom about a magical movie reviewer: *I Dream of Gene Shalit*...
10. My favourite Mike Oldfield album about totally rad women: *Tubular Belles*...
11. My favourite Cuban revolutionary author/cocktail made with gin and vermouth: Jose Martini...
12. My favourite fashion model/TV science series: Kate Cosmoss...
13. My favourite American judge/Arkady Renko novel: *Gorsuch Park*...
14. My favourite puzzle/late night talk show host: Conundrum O'Brien...
15. My favourite place to live in the woods/jazz singer and bandleader: Cabin Calloway...
16. My favourite way to express pain/*Wedding Crashers* actor: Wince Vaughan...
17. My favourite children's book about a monkey who directs sci fi films: *Curious George* Lucas...
18. My favourite musical about a Jewish baseball player: *Fielder on the Roof*...
19. My favourite film about the athletic family of a veterinarian author: *Herriots of Fire*...
20. My favourite suspense film about the breakdown of social order: *Anomie of the State*...
21. My favourite curse about a renowned, if ornery, inventor: Thomas Edison of a bitch!
22. My favourite comedian/the emotional reaction he inspires: Eugene Levity...
23. My favourite vegetable/supermodel: Taro Reid...
24. My favourite John Irving novel about a field covering: *The World According to Tarp*...
25. My favourite sex comedy based on a Jack London novel: *Booty Call of the Wild*...
26. My favourite *Star Wars* villain/person who uses technology that reduces the harmful effects of smoking: Darth Vaper...
27. My favourite Russian cosmonaut/form of visual humour: Yuri Sight Gagarin...
28. My favourite *Annie Hall* phrase/star of *Tarnished Lady*: Tallulah Di Dah Bankhead...
29. My favourite place to get a smoked meat sandwich/world religious leader: the Deli Lama...
30. My favourite insect/first computer programmer: Cicada Lovelace...

31. My favourite religious holiday/Westworld actor: Yule Brynner...

**Quotes Would Not Be Embarrassed by Anything You Said –
The Way You Said it, On the Other Hand...**

TRUMPWORLD

There Is A Reason Snowflakes Are White

“Got surrounded by the police for being Black in a white neighbourhood.”

- Donisha Prendergast, who was surrounded by seven police cars and then questioned for 22 minutes because neighbours saw her and three companions leaving an Airbnb with suitcases and reported a possible burglary

“...I knew in my heart immediately what it was really about and why that person really called the police, and I feared for their safety.”

- Mohawk mother Lorraine Kahneratokwas Gray talking about the removal of her two sons from a campus tour of Colorado State University because another tour member felt their behaviour was “odd”

That’s More Of An Indictment Of The American School System Than Of Your Foreign Policy

“There will be those who say, ‘It’s not our problem. Ukraine shmukraine. My children can’t find it on a map.’”

- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo explaining why Russia’s invasion of Ukraine isn’t important

Okay, Maybe We Don’t Need To Kill ALL The Lawyers

“Fame & Fortune will NEVER be turned down by a lawyer, though some are conflicted.”

- President Donald Trump tweet

We “were unable to take on the representation due to business conflicts.”

- attorneys Dan Webb and Tom Buchanan explain why their firm is at least the fifth to decline an invitation to join Trump’s legal team

As We All Know, Weakening Laws Benefiting Families Living In Poverty Can Both positively Negatively Affect Our Children. But...Can You See Where I’m Going With This?

“As we all know, social media can both positively and negatively affect our children. But too often it is used in negative ways.”

- US First Lady Melania Trump

Man Of Steele

Party Of Kleenex

“That’s right, baby. I built that bad boy out of steel. Now, having done that, I can’t help it if they went inside and started tearing up the floorboards and knocking out the windows and crapping all over the house.”

- former RNC Chair Michael Steele

If The Gig Paid Enough, You Know The Shat Would Be There!

“The right way to view this appointment is, I think, as if Donald Trump were to name William Shatner to command the Navy’s 7th fleet.”

- economist Brad DeLong on Trump’s appointment of TV commentator Larry Kudlow as his top economic adviser

He Feels The Same Way About Mexico And South Korea’s Participation In NAFTA

“While Japan and South Korea would like us to go back into TPP, I don’t like the deal for the United States. Too many contingencies and no way to get out if it doesn’t work.”

- President Donald Trump

Ted Nugent? Please! He’s No Aretha Franklin!

“The dumbing down of America is manifested in the culture deprivation of our academia that have taught these kids the lies, media that have prodded and encouraged and provided these kids lies. I really feel sorry for them because it’s not only ignorant and dangerously stupid, but it’s soulless. To attack the good law-abiding families of America when well known predictable murderers commit these horrors is deep in the category of soulless. These poor children, I’m afraid to say this and it hurts me to say this, but the evidence is irrefutable, they have no soul.”

- famous theologian Ted Nugent on activist survivors of high school shootings

Unfortunately, It’s The Country’s Poor And Weak Who Are Damned, And Not With Faint Praise, Either

“President Trump’s pro-NATO speech in Poland is the best of his presidency. That may be damning with faint praise, but there it is.”

- Dan Rather

That Was When The Absurd Ironyometer Seized Up

“I have brilliantly used laws to pay no more taxes than is legally required. Or, to put it another way, to pay as little taxes as legally possible.”

- Donald Trump, October 2016

“I have stated my concerns with Amazon long before the election. Unlike others, they pay little or no taxes to state & local governments!”

- Donald Trump, March 2018

THE REAL WORLD

Why Not?

You Love To Pretend That The Show Is Still Relevant

“I think it’s a time in our culture where people love to pretend they’re offended.”

- Matt Groening, creator of *The Simpsons*, on the Apu controversy

Can We Please Go Back To The Days Of Governments Running Deficits To Fund The Conservatives’ Social Agenda? I...I’m More Comfortable With That...

“The federal budget continues the irresponsible practice of running deficits to fund the Liberals’ social policies.”

- letter to the *Toronto Star*

Oh My Gord, Terry, What Have You Done?

“People are frightened to say things, to think things. It is a world of victims.”

- Terry Gilliam argues that the #MeToo movement is “mob rule”

How About Never? Does Never work For – Of Course It Does Damn The Limits Of Reverse Psychology!

“This is the exact wrong time to be doing anything that’s putting a bigger burden on industry, especially the automotive industry because it’s difficult enough as it is.”

- Magna Chief Executive Don Walker

And The Fact That It Is There To Be Found Doesn’t Bother You?

“...a committee crisscrossing the country in search of intolerance is bound to find it. This is of a piece with this government’s fondness for making people feel bad about themselves.”

- *Globe and Mail* columnist John Ibbitson

Said The Man Who Just Released The Most Backward Looking Science Fiction Movie Ever

“I’ll never catch myself reminiscing nostalgically.”

- director Steven Spielberg

You’ve Been Reading John Ibbitson Again, Haven’t You?

“More Liberal identity politics to divide us into tribes, buy votes and justify big gov programs. Get ready to hear self-appointed reps of intersectionally oppressed victims tell you every day how systemically racist and intolerant Canadians are.”

- Conservative MP Maxime Bernier

Unfortunately, The Absurd Ironyometer Is Still Being Fixed By Engineers And Linguists, So You're On Your Own Parsing This One!

“It is our hope that this long overdue apology will bring awareness to our failings as we vow to never let history repeat itself.”

- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announcing an apology for Canada turning away a boatload of Jewish German refugees in 1939

“Coming across the border in a way that tries to circumvent the law or defy proper procedure is no free ticket to Canada... Seeking asylum is not a shortcut to get around normal immigration rules and procedures.”

- Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale

Snitch Switch

* BRING BRING *

“Hello, this is –”

“Yeah, I'd like a party sized Hawaiian pizza, extra pineapple and hold the colonialism.”

“Sir, you have the wrong –”

“I know what you're thinking.”

“I doubt that. You –”

“Pineapple doesn't belong on pizza. Yeah, I get that all the time. Well, you know what? Make that **triple** pineapple! That'll show those fruit on pizza hating bastards!”

“Sir! You can't order a pizza here!”

“What? My money don't stink like everybody else's?”

“No, it's not – what? I don't under – never mind. This is the Forge the Parents hotline. We were set up by the Ontario government to allow people to let us know if certain teachers are not using the new-old sex ed curriculum in their classes, as mandated by law.”

“Oh. I see.”

“So, you understand that —”

“I’ll take a single order of pineapple. Just don’t expect a big tip!”

* CLICK *

* BRING BRING *

“Hello, this is —”

“Do you have hot peppers?”

“No.”

“Green peppers?”

“No.”

“Red peppers?”

“No.”

“Hunh! Call yourself a pizza joint?”

“Actually...”

“Double onion?”

“We don’t have single onion!”

“Okay. It’s not good for my breath, anyway. Ham?”

“No.”

“Bacon?”

“No.”

“Pulled pork?”

“No.”

“You’re not one of those kosher pizza places, are you?”

“**No!** That’s what I’m trying to tell you! This is —”

“Oh, good. I had a kosher pizza once – I spent the night dreaming I was a Rabbi trying to talk Godzilla out of destroying downtown Wawanesa! I tell you, scriptural exegesis is no match for a raging kaiju! I don’t want to ever go through that again!”

“Miss, this is Queen’s Park!”

“Queen’s Park Pizzeria, right?”

“No, Queen’s Park...just Queen’s Park!”

“You’re not a pizzeria?”

“That’s what I’ve been trying to tell you!”

“Then, why have you been trying to sell me a pizza?”

* CLICK *

* BRING BRING *

“Hello. This is –”

“I don’t want a pizza.”

“Oh, thank the Lord! Do you have a complaint about a public school teacher who is not following the sex-ed curric –”

“I’ve just had so much pizza, lately, it’s coming out of my ears. You know what I mean? You wouldn’t believe what my used Q-Tips look like!”

“Okay. But...umm...yuck...”

“Exactly. You know, I used to think that no amount of pizza was too much, but I was younger, more naive, then. Now, I know better. It **is** possible to have too much of a good thing, even if it is a wonderful concoction of dough, tomato sauce, meat and vegetables!”

“Okay, sir. But –”

“But, you’re probably wondering what the actual purpose of this call is.”

“As a matter of fact...”

“Could I order veal parmigiana with a side of garlic bread?”

“No!”

“I’m sorry?”

“No, you may not order veal parmigiana with a side of garlic bread!”

“I would settle for chicken.”

“You will settle for nothing! Do you hear me? You will get parmigiana of no description! Not veal! Not chicken! Not turducken!”

“There is such a thing as turducken parmigia –”

“You will not get fettuccine Alfredo! There will be no ordering of meatball subs! There will be no enjoyment of lasagne – meat or vegetable! Do you want to know why?”

“You’re being a dick?”

“This is not an Italian restaurant!”

“It’s not?”

“No.”

“Oh. I’m sorry.”

“Thank you for –”

“Do you have any Mediterranean food? Any at all?”

* CLICK *

* BRING BRING *

“Hello. This is –”

“How many ways are you willing to divide a pizza?”

“I beg your pardon?”

“Only, I’m having a party with fourteen of my closest friends, and none of us can agree on what we want. So, can I get a party pizza divided fifteen ways?”

“I think...I think a pizza can only be divided into an even number of pieces.”

“Oh. So...seventeen, then?”

“Listen, Miss –”

“Who are you calling Miss?”

“I’m sorry – I have a cold. Look, sir, I’m sure you and your friends are having a great laugh at my expense, but this is a serious government initiative. Why are you prank calling the Forge the Parents hotline?”

“Honestly?”

“Yes.”

“In all the time you’ve been talking to callers about pizza, how much time have you devoted to discussing bogus complaints about teachers from uptight parents?”

“Erm...”

“Yeah. Erm. So, can you cut a pizza into fifteen pieces, or what?”

Puns We Love to Hate Just Can’t Compete With the President for Attention

Puns We Love to Hate just can’t get enough of itself (any enjoyment you may get is a just a bonus).

1. Inane physical self-reference is just a matter of meta bollocks...
2. Don’t cross the trumpet player. What Stan wants, Stan Getz...
3. If a cohort doesn’t like a certain member, they start to apply disappear pressure...
4. The alcoholic bodybuilder who was always spilling things wanted six pack absorbers...
5. Whenever a French word has more than one meaning, it’s good to live in the mot meant...
6. My family couldn’t afford a pet bird – we just didn’t have the budgie for it...
7. Jesus’ admirers used to say, “Look at the parables on him!”
8. Pollution is destroying the world’s coral? Good reef!
9. To people who didn’t enjoy his music, Kurt was the Cobain of their existence...
10. You say it’s three in the morning? NOT ON MY WATCH!
11. The incompetent drug dealer made a real hash of things...
12. When he woke up in the middle of the night, Hamlet asked himself, “To pee, or not to pee. That is the question...”
13. If you cannot travel through hyperspace with shields up, how are you supposed to practice safe parsecs?
14. The manager who decided everybody needed their own offices gave the cubicle order...
15. The unskilled fisherman was so bad, he was admonished, “Repent, poor seiner!”
16. At the beginning of every shift, the construction worker girdered his loins for the day ahead...
17. Do ghosts get seduced in the boo doir?
18. You hesitate to tell me who is giving the news report? Quit Lesley Stahling!

19. The French artist who only painted doors often talked about his oeuvre la porte...
20. The choir master who had too many voices in a single range shrugged and said it was alto the good...
21. You say sometimes you need to play hooky? Truant dat!
22. The climber who always had to be the smartest person in the room enjoyed climbing Mount Cleverest...
23. The spy in the elaborate wig was referred to as Mata Hairry...
24. If you insist on buying the rare baseball card, the Onus Wagner is on you to pay for it...
25. The activist fairy knew how to speak tooth to power...
26. If he dissents often enough, that Supreme Court judge will come to be known as a doubting Clarence Thomas...
27. It may not be your favourite genre, but when you have a Hammett, everything looks like a murder mystery...
28. The active pop singer could be said to have a Toni Basil metabolism...
29. The Jedi protecting the pagans said, "These are not the druids you're looking for..."
30. Alcoholics trying to cope with vicious canine offspring have to deal with the heir of the dog that bit them...
31. The Conspiracy Network is the Tea Party's favourite cabal news network...

Puns We Love to Hate tried to be speechless, but when it opened its mouth the words just came tumbling out...

1. You can't keep your container weights straight? Well, that just tares it!
2. I did my best to get backstage tickets to the concerts for my beau because I knew it was pass or fail for our relationship...
3. I was slow to do celebrity impressions, but better emulator than never...
4. The poorly designed fragrance's profits went down in attar defeat...
5. Don't hit the chef with that fossil of an extinct marine arachnomorph arthropod! You should never trilobite the hand that feeds you!
6. If its founders had been fonder of beer, Oklahoma may have been called The Schooner State...
7. Thanks to Twitter and Facebook, now the truth can be trolled!
8. You could say that the publication that studied fruit was a pear review journal...
9. You could say that right wing pundits know all the tricks of the tirade...
10. When she was just starting out, the model couldn't afford to buy food out, so she would Alley brown Bagget...
11. To show his solidarity with his fellow soldiers, the vet went on a killing *esprit de corps*...
12. For the lounge singer who lost his voice, the trill is gone...
13. Before the performance, the actor in the southern Shakespeare touring company said, "It's off to *Othello* I ago..."
14. You could say that everybody should go to the prom in the most expensive vehicle, but arriving at that conclusion would be a bit of a stretch limo...
15. If Tweety Bird lived in the Beehive State, would you respond to him with "You tot Utah a puddy tat?"

16. If Draco went into politics and was caught abusing the power of his office for personal gain, he would be guilty of Criminal Malfoysance...
17. If Robert Matthew Van Winkle had become an emergency room doctor instead of a rapper, would he have sung, "ICU ICU Baby?"
18. I wanted to get excited about the revival of the French spy comic strip of the 1960s, but the announcement left me Modesty Blaise...
19. The key principle in the Tim Hortons bible: "Donut others as you would have them donut you..."
20. If he had lived in Quebec instead of Nova Scotia, the bandleader's show would have been called *Don Messieurs' Jubilee*...
21. The down low on the fruit that combines grapefruits, oranges and tangerines is the ugly truth...
22. If you have a bet that you are going to lose weight, remember: waist not, want not...
23. Never believe a poacher who claims that the chickens just fell into his burlap...
24. That Pennsylvania city is the best to live in, Wilkes-Barre none!
25. Sure, I remember Henry and Elizabeth. Their castle was Tudors down from us...
26. I'm prepared to sell knock-off watches. You could say I'm ready to Rolex...
27. When he went vacationing, King Henry V would often say, "Once more unto the beach, dear friends, once more..."
28. When I'm driving in a covered wagon with the star of *Hail the Conquering Hero*, I like to take the Ella Raines...
29. Natives should never despair as long as they can hold on to a ray of Hopi...
30. The man who started the fan page about the *War of the Worlds* star hoped he was Dakota Fanning the flames of her stardom...
31. When Mr. T's car ran out of gas, he would always grumble, "Ah pity the fuel!"

Do Not Question Headlines' Authority!

Waddya Got?

"What would a bad NAFTA deal look like?"
- *Globe and Mail*

Dating Waldo

"Everyone wants to know: Where's Caroline Mulroney?"
- *Toronto Star*

Stop Ordering Diet Cola For Her?

"What to do about the friend who never picks up the tab?"
- *Globe and Mail*

Only If You Shake Your Fist At The Sky When You Say That, Podner

"Flag down that horse and buggy, will ya?"

- *Toronto Sun*

Because People Everywhere Else In The Country Tell Them They Should Be?

“Why are people in Vancouver and Toronto so unhappy?”

- *Globe and Mail*

If The Treats Were Right...

“Lassie Went for Help, But Would Your Dog?”

- *New York Times*

With “Abstinence Fist?”

“HOW DO I MANAGE ‘TEXTING’ THUMB?”

- *Globe and Mail*

She Did What She Could, But The Metal Detector In The Front Door Of The House Malfunctioned

“Mom let school shooter buy gun?”

- *Toronto Sun*

Comic Relief?

“Why is David Pecker still on Postmedia’s board?”

- *Globe and Mail*

Do Something They’ll Actually Appreciate?

“How can I get my relatives to show some gratitude?”

- *Globe and Mail*

Republicans Will Smear Her For Negligent Parenting

“What if Mother Nature Is on the Ballot?”

- *New York Times*

Yeeaaaaah – The Thing About Bond Is That He Likes To Leave Markets Shaken, Not Stirred

“The bond market says to be scared – but should investors fret?”

- *Globe and Mail*

As Long As We Have A Future, We Can Live With That

“Are we doomed to a future of mediocre public buildings?”
- *Globe and Mail*

Sure – To The Same Extent That Sauerkraut Is The New Super Soldier Programme

“Is Airbnb the New NATO?”
- *New York Times*

Through Your Nose

“How do I successfully buy and grill fish?”
- *Globe and Mail*

Umm, Not If You Have To Shout

“AM I COOLING DOWN SUFFICIENTLY AFTER MY WORKOUTS?”
- *Globe and Mail*

Who Wants To Kno – Oh, It’s You Again

“Is Justin Trudeau all talk on feminist agenda?”
- *Toronto Sun*

Inability To Function?

“As cannabis enters the workplace, what constitutes ‘impairment’?”
- *Globe and Mail*

Naah – He Joined The Dark Side Long Ago

“Will Netanyahu’s popularity save him?”
- *Toronto Star*

Ah Do Declah, Boahdah Agents Kin Be So Nosy!

“Do you have any cannabis investments to declare?”
- *Globe and Mail*

Oh, Sure

Have You Never Heard The Tom Lehrer Song “We’ll All Go Together When We Go?”

“Is it safe to have all your money at one bank?”
- *Globe and Mail*

It Depends – Are You A Character In A Sitcom?

“I’m dating four men. Is that too much?”

- *Toronto Star*

To Work At A Sports Network, You Have To Be Highly Skilled At “Not Getting The Memo”

“Why has the World Cup TV coverage been so sexist?”

- *Globe and Mail*

You’re Here, Aren’t You?

“Can I ruin your dinner party?”

- *New York Times*

Absolutely...If You’re Sexist

“Is the World Cup worth the effort?”

- *Globe and Mail*

Life Hasn’t Been The Same Since The Kryptonian Hiring Freeze

“General Zod for Ontario premier?”

- *Toronto Sun*

Only If They’re Wearing Pants That Are Way Too Tight

“Could stock splits at Canadian banks be on the way?”

- *Globe and Mail*

Hmm...Let’s See...I Want This, And This, And – Oooh, Definitely That!

“What Are Capitalists Thinking?”

- *New York Times*

No, Boas Are Still In Fashion

Oh, Wait...

“Has fathering changed?”

- *Globe and Mail*

Thanks To Global Warming, Trees Can’t Keep Track Of Their Age Any More

“Marriage is out of favour. Why is Tiffany selling more rings?”

- *Toronto Star*

We Might, If We Could Just Find A Way To Weaponize Niceness...

“Can one of the nicest places in the world – Canada – survive what’s to come?”

- *Globe and Mail*

If It Is, It’s One Of The Nicest Corruption Capitals In The World

“Is British Columbia the corruption capital of Canada?”

- *Globe and Mail*

**More Reboots Of *The Honeymooners*:
“To The Moon, Intern! To The Moon!”**

“Moonves had ‘Golden Ticket’

CBS chair Les Moonves is gone. What’s next for CBS and the future of legacy broadcasters?”

- *Toronto Star*

If It Gets Psychiatric Help Right Away

“Big river, deep trouble:

Can the Mighty Mississippi’s crisis be averted?”

- *Globe and Mail*

**Don’t You Hate People Who Answer Their Own Questions?
Of Course You Do!**

“Low credit score? Smartly manage your profile to appease picky mortgage lenders”

- *Globe and Mail*

“Househunters hit the road for a better deal

Can’t afford Toronto? Try Barrie. Or Kingston. Or Windsor. Buyers are heading to smaller urban centers – and bringing the prices up with them”

- *Toronto Star*

“Baseball in Taiwan? Just Follow the Noise”

- *New York Times*

“HOW HAS IT COME TO THIS?

We started a kitchen and two-bathroom renovation to push our twentysomething children out, **Howard Gaskin** writes. But I almost hope it doesn’t work”

- *Globe and Mail*

“Parry Sound fire contained?”

Ontario puts additional \$100M into battling blazes”

- *Toronto Sun*

“Without Aeroplan, what’s left of Aimia?

Loyalty program accounted for 85% of Aimia’s revenue in second quarter this year”

- *Globe and Mail*

“After Turkey, who’s next? A guide to emerging-markets turmoil”

- *Globe and Mail*

“Is it ever acceptable to cry at work?

New study finds co-workers still frown on women tearing up”

- *Toronto Star*

“Ready for the second-biggest **shopping season?**

Back-to-school is expensive. Here’s where to save and where to spend”

- *Toronto Star*

“WHAT’S IN A NAME?

A reimagining of the Sheraton brand means creating spaces that nurture a sense of comfort and community”

- *Globe and Mail*

“At hedge funds, where are the women?

Women run only two of the top 50 funds, clustering instead in jobs away from money”

- *Toronto Star*

“**Pharma pot for pooch?**

Companies closer to developing pet cannabis treatments”

- *Toronto Sun*

Cost cutting tips? Use Ford’s ‘suggestion box’”

- *Toronto Star*

“They key to high-quality REITs with sustainable payouts? Diversification”

- *Globe and Mail*

“What will the world’s trade deals look like in 2020?

Canada to be part of major agreements”

- *Toronto Star*

Don’t Bend Them Any Less Than 90 Degrees

“HOW DO I STRENGTHEN MY OBLIQUES?”

- *Globe and Mail*

The Trouble With Marty

@asshat27: That's when I said: listen, bitch, the fork and knife go on the RIGHT and the soup spoon goes on the LEFT!

@asshat156: ha! ha! Good one!

@stansrighthand: yeah. Good one!

@NiNjAsSaSiN: How did you know?

@asshat27: what do you mean? she always put the cutlery in the wrong place. drove me nuts!

@NiNjAsSaSiN: No, I mean how did you know the right place to put the knife and fork?

@asshat27: teh internets – duh!

@asshat156: yeah duh!

@stansrighthand: you ok, Ninja?

@NiNjAsSaSiN: Sure.

@asshat27: stan's right - gotta hand him that. you been actin funny all week. what the hell, Ninj?

@NiNjAsSaSiN: You guys – you won't understand.

@asshat27: what? Its not like we're yur wife or nothing!

@asshat156: HA! another good one!

@stansrighthand: yeah yeah yeah! ZING!

@NiNjAsSaSiN: Okay. I don't know if this is such a good idea, but...last week, I watched Ghostbusters.

@asshat27: yeah? so? Great movie

@NiNjAsSaSiN: Not the original. The...remake.

@asshat27: YOU WHUUUUUUUTTTTT?

@asshat156: what the hell, man?!!!!

@asshat27: Why would you watch that peice of shit?

@NiNjAsSaSiN: Actually, it wasn't that bad.

@asshat27: PIECE. Of. SHIT!

@asshat156: yeah. Terriblle movie.

@stansrighthand: horrible peace of shit doesnt do it justice

@stansrighthand: really horrivle piece of shiit! with exclamation marks!!!!!!!!!!

@NiNjAsSaSiN: It wasn't that bad.

@asshat27: how can u say that about THE WORST MOVIE EVER MADE IN THE HISTORY OF EVER?!!!!!!!!!!

@NiNjAsSaSiN: I've actually seen it.

@asshat27: what does that have to do with anything?

@NiNjAsSaSiN: None of you have seen it.

@asshat27: we didnt have to see it to know it was a piece of shit! it didn't have Bill Mjurray or Dan Ackroyd in it - IT STARED GIRLS!

@NiNjAsSaSiN: Actually, Bill Murray and Dan Aykroyd were both in it.

@asshat27: dont be an assbat. u know what I mean

@asshat156: sacrilege, man. Just the idea totaly ruined my childhood!

@asshat27: not only did it ruin my childhood, IT RUINED ALL OF MY CHOLDHOODS IN ALL OF MY LIVES GOING BACK TO ANCIENT EGYPT!

@asshat27: I didn't HAVE to see it to know that it was a PEECE OF SHIT!

@stansrighthand: u ok, man?

@asshat27: aside from a bowt of righteous anger? couldnt be better

@stansrighthand: i meant Marty.

@asshat27: WHOA! WHAT HAVE AI TOLD YOU ABOUT USING OUR REAL NAMES?

@stansrighthand: right. Sorry. I meant Ninja

@asshat27: anonymity is the glue that holds us together and makes us strong!

@asshat27: if we use our real names, were just a bunch of angry assholes saying asshole things to each other!

@asshat27: How many times I gotta tell you that?

@stansrighthand: Sorry sorry sorry sorry sorry

@asshat27: Okay, then. So, Marty, WTF, man?

@asshat156: yeah, wtf, man. wt the effin f?

@asshat27: okay, 156. he gets it.

@NiNjAsSaSiN: I'm just saying the movie had some funny moments. That's all.

@asshat27: no

@NiNjAsSaSiN: What do you mean? You can't just say no like that.

@asshat156: he hee – he just did, bro.

@asshat27: if we allow an all girl Ghostbusters, what's next? An all girl Rocky? The Magnificent seven? The Dirty dozen? Alien?

@asshat27: a line has to be drawn, ninj. a line has to be drawn.

@NiNjAsSaSiN: Okay. First, Alien had a female lead.

@asshat156: no it didn't! You take that back!

@NiNjAsSaSiN: *sigh* Second, maybe having a female lead isn't such a bad thing. Women can kick ass, you know.

@asshat27: oh, yeah? Well, I got two words for you: Star freakin Warz!

@NiNjAsSaSiN: Which proves my point, but you wouldn't know because you haven't seen it, either.

@asshat27: Whut part of boycott do you not understand?

@NiNjAsSaSiN: For another thing: there were plenty of male characters in Star Wars.

@asshat27: Ninj, I gotta be honest – yur starting 2 worry me

@NiNjAsSaSiN: I'm worrying you? Seriously?

@asshat27: I dunno – you used 2b so reasonable. But now...

@NiNjAsSaSiN: Aww, come on, 27! How long we known each other?

@asshat27: I dunno...sixc, maybe 7 months?

@NiNjAsSaSiN: That's almost like forever in interwebz time!

@asshat27: what duz that have 2 do with anything?

@NiNjAsSaSiN: It seems to me that we've known each other long enough that you should, I don't know, be able to trust me?

@asshat27: trust? I've heard that word before, but I dont know what it means

@NiNjAsSaSiN: Seriously?

@asshat27: I don't like where this iz going. can we drop and talk about, I dont know, beer or something?

@NiNjAsSaSiN: Sure, 27. Sure.

@NiNjAsSaSiN: Soooooo...I guess you probably don't want to know what I thought of Wonder Woman?

We're Not Evil – We're Alt-moral

“Welcome to the Washington, D.C. branch of Bigots Without Borders. My name is Mad Dog. How may I help you today?”

“Oh, umm, yes, hi...Mad Dog. I...I heard that it's okay to express racial animosity again. In public, I mean. With people who may or may not share your views. Like, people of other races?”

“Where did you hear that?”

“*The New York Times*?”

“Ah, well, you shouldn't believe anything you read in the mainstream media. They're all biased because they're owned and operated by the international banking conspiracy. You know, the one run by Jews.”

“Oh. That’s disappoint –”

“But, in this case, they’re absolutely right. No more hiding our deepest, most hateful thoughts in the dark corners of our minds – now, we can shout them from the rooftops and on national TV!”

“Well, thank god for that!”

“No, thank President Trump for that. Some people would argue that he was merely god’s chosen vessel for White Pride, and more power to them, but I don’t think we need to bring religion into it. Hating inferior races is its own reward. Did you have any further questions?”

“Umm...well...I did have one...concern...”

“What’s that?”

“Well, it’s just that it’s been so long since I was allowed to say what I feel in public – I’m afraid that I may be...you know...out of practice...”

“Yes, we’ve been getting a lot of that since Trump won the election. Let me tell you – what did you say your name was, again?”

“Bill?”

“Let me tell you, Bill, today is your lucky day! Bigots Without Borders offers a variety of Racism Refresher courses for people in your position. We could get you signed up and freely expressing yourself in a matter of hours!”

“Hooray!”

“We have several different levels of courses depending upon your current proficiency. Why don’t you say something racist so I can get a sense of where best to place you?”

“What, now?”

“That’s right.”

“Here?”

“Yeeeeesssss...”

“I mean: in public?”

“That was the point.”

“Okay. I...right. Here goes. The...the...oh, I can’t!”

“Okay, Bill, just relax. You’re among friends, here.”

“Still...”

“If it helps, we find that the key to a good racist slur is breathing.”

“Breathing?”

“That’s right. With the proper breathing technique, you can say almost anything and command respect. Or, incite anger. Or, hopefully, both. But breathing is definitely the key.”

“Breathing, hunh?”

“That’s right. Just take a deep breath. Completely fill your lungs. Then, hold it. And, hold. And, hold. And, hold. Aaaaand, slowly let it all out. And, again. Deep breath. Hold. Hold. Hold. And, slowly exhale. And, one more time. Deep, deep breath. Hold. And, hold. And, hold. Aaaaaand, let it all out. Slowly. Slowly. And, good. How does that feel?”

“Good. Actually. Surprisingly good.”

“Okay. We’re going to do it once again, only, this time, on the exhale, I want you to say the first racist thing that comes into your head. Okay?”

“Yeah. Yeah, I can do that.”

“Good. Then, whenever you’re ready...inhale. Deep breath. Good. Now, hold it. Hold it. Hold it. Aaaaand...”

“I hate those niggards who rape our environment and make our innies hellholes of drug abuse and violence!”

“Niggards?”

“You know: black people.”

“Right. Black people. And, when you referred to ‘innies,’ I assume you were not talking about belly buttons?”

“Belly buttons? Oh. I hadn’t thought of that. Tee hee. Ahem, but, no, I meant those places where all those niggards live and do their horrible niggard things.”

“Inner cities?”

“Is that what they’re calling them these days?”

“It really has been a long time for you, hasn’t it, Bill?”

“A long time. Yes.”

“Okay, then, why don’t we set you up with Racism Refresher 101? This will remind you of the basics of racially-charged language and help you recognize the appropriate contexts for each word or phrase. I think you’ll find that Professor Bannon is a most helpful and sympathetic teacher.”

“Okay. I will definitely think about that.”

“If I were you, I wouldn’t wait too long. Professor Bannon’s course fills up fast.”

“Yes. Well. You know. Much to think about. I – I’ll think about it.”

“Oh, man, don’t be a cuck.”

“A what?”

“A cuck.”

“But, I...I haven’t been to the bathroom yet, today.”

“What?”

“Oh. Unless you were accusing me of being a cucumber?”

“Man, you really need this course!”

“I’ll just take this brochure and think about it, okay?”

“But –”

“Thanks. Bye!”

“Hunh! Some people seem to be allergic to freedom!”

**Why Question Headlines’ Patriotism?
Headlines Don’t Question Your Masculinity!**

The Unemployment Line

“How far is too far for Don Cherry?”

- *Globe and Mail*

I Could Write A Book...

Granted, YOU Probably Wouldn't Read It, But Still...

“Trump vs. Iran: how did Trump become the villain?”

- *Toronto Sun*

We Still Have Alberta, Don't We?

“Did Canada have its ‘deplorables’ moment?”

- *Globe and Mail*

It's Not You

This Headline Just Isn't Willing To Commit

“Did I misread our entire relationship?”

- *Toronto Star*

Crenellations...

...

...

...

...Bastards!

“What happens when architects design their own studio?”

- *Globe and Mail*

You Know THAT'S Gonna Be A Short Article

“Why trust any politician?”

- *Toronto Star*

It's A Wicked Game

“E-sports are soaring, but should investors play along?”

- *Globe and Mail*

Breatharians Are Pleased

“Do air fryers deliver on golden promise?”

- *Toronto Star*

For One, Stop Putting Your Coffee Mug On It

“What are some tricks for making my coffee table look more chic?”

- *Globe and Mail*

**YOU Naysayers, Probably Not
The Rest Of Us Naysayers, On The Other Hand...**

“Will low-key Scheer prove us naysayers wrong?”
- *Toronto Sun*

Have You Ever Read Dilbert? First, Slick Your Hair Into Two Sharp Points...

“One of the people I manage applied for my job, but didn’t get it. How do I navigate the situation?”
- *Globe and Mail*

Not Now!

“Is it the cow or the how?”
- *Toronto Star*

Sob Silently In Your Cubicle At The Unjustness Of It All

“My co-worker has the same job as me, but gets paid more. What can I do?”
- *Globe and Mail*

You Can Slap A Cape On A Pig, But That Doesn’t Give It X-Ray Vision

“Can faux-meat burgers save the world?”
- *Toronto Star*

It Has Proven That It Can Fly In The First Place

“What needs to happen before the 737 Max can fly again?”
- *Globe and Mail*

We Did Kind Of Vote For It...

“The government is getting more involved in Canadians’ lives – is this what we want?”
- *Toronto Sun*

Yes. Badly

“Can a socially conservative party govern a liberal Canada?”
- *Globe and Mail*

**They Make Drug Companies A Lot Of Money
Does That Count?**

“Do cold-fighting remedies actually do anything?”
- *Toronto Star*

Maybe If It's A Six Pack...

“Is Kenney now the federal Conservatives' alpha male?”
- *Toronto Star*

“I Forget” Is Not An Acceptable Answer

“What does the future hold for the war on Alzheimer's?”
- *Globe and Mail*

Because I Want To Party

“Why add to the agony?”
- *Toronto Sun*

Sure – I Haven't Had Enough Agony In My Life Lately

“Are you ready to party?”
- *Globe and Mail*

That's What The Company Gets For Asking Gene Belcher To Design Them

“TESLA CARS WILL FART?”
- *Toronto Sun*

Good To Know You'd Help Her Find It If She Had

You Would Help Her Find It, Right? Right?

“Is it possible that Clinton has lost her mind?”
- *Toronto Star*

It Depends On How You Define The Term

“Can Andrew Scheer lead conservatives to success?”
- *Globe and Mail*

As Long As People Remember How To Eat, There Should Be No Problem

“Do people know how to cook any more?”
- *Globe and Mail*

The Light At The End Of The Tunnel

“What’s that coming down the track?”
- *Globe and Mail*

Yes, But Conservatives Only Read Hieroglyphs

“Scheer gets reprieve, but is the writing on the wall?”
- *Globe and Mail*

They Aren’t Fast Enough To Catch It

“Why don’t more scientists run for office?”
- *Globe and Mail*

When It Stops Being So Overtly Racist (It Makes Our Polite Racism Look Bad)

“Leave Quebec and Bill 21 alone
When will Canada stop interfering and accept the province as it is?”
- *Globe and Mail*

Hard To Win Elections On Your Own...

“A plea to leave poor Andrew Scheer alone
The Conservative Leader has made clear that his unspoken views on same-sex marriage won’t affect policy. What’s not to trust?”
- *Globe and Mail*

The Crimson Crenellation!

“Who can save the Chateau Laurier from an eyesore addition?”
- *Globe and Mail*

Only For The Bad People

“Stocks are rebounding, but can the good times last?”
- *Globe and Mail*

Five Minutes Early, Maybe

“Is early retirement a feasible goal?”
- *Globe and Mail*

How Much Antacid You'll Need To Ingest In A Couple Of Hours

“What is the difference between burrata and buffalo mozzarella?”

- *Globe and Mail*

Understanding TrumpSpeak™

United States President Donald Trump has, on occasion, been economical with the truth. And, when I say “on occasion,” I really mean over 17,000 times in the three years that he has been President. Apparently, being economical with the truth is catching.

Like all high stakes players (and the world is about as high as stakes as one can get outside of a science fiction novel), President Trump has tells. He often comes back to certain words or phrases that mean things when he says them that do not match their commonsense meanings when other, more commonsensical people say them. According to researchers at the Poynter Sisters Institute, this constitutes TRUMPSPEAK™.

How does TRUMPSPEAK™ actually work? The Team at PSI has developed many examples to illustrate the basic principle. They include:

TRUMPSPEAK™: “I just heard...”

TRANSLATION: “I’ve just made up...”

USAGE: “Okay, well, then, they’re clients. I mean, you know, he’s got a lot of clients. So, I just don’t know. I haven’t spoken to Rudy about it. I don’t know. I will say this: From what I heard – I just heard about this – they said, ‘We have nothing to do with it. We’re totally – we have nothing to do with it.’” (about personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani’s involvement in the Ukraine scandal)

TRUMPSPEAK™: “...everybody knows that...”

TRANSLATION: “Everybody loyal to me will believe that they have always known what I just said, believe me. Everybody else will be parroting fake news...”

USAGE: “The FBI has been in turmoil. You know that, I know that, everybody knows that. You take a look at the FBI a year ago, it was in virtual turmoil – less than a year ago. It hasn’t recovered from that.”

TRUMPSPEAK™: “[SUBJECT] is easy...”

TRANSLATION: “I know [SUBJECT] better than any egghead who has studied it for thirty years...”

USAGE: “...trade wars are good, and easy to win.”

TRUMPSPEAK™: “A lot of people don’t know...”

TRANSLATION: “I didn’t know...”

USAGE: “We are your largest partner. You’re our largest partner. A lot of people don’t know that. I was surprised. I made that statement yesterday, and a lot of people said, ‘Gee, I didn’t know that.’ But that’s the way it is.” (to Theresa May, when she was Prime Minister of the United Kingdom)

TRUMPSPEAK™: “Believe me...”

TRANSLATION: “Assume anything I say in the next six sentences is a lie...no, make it 12 just to be on the safe side...”

USAGE: “Those people, all of those people – excuse me. I’ve condemned neo-Nazis. I’ve condemned many different groups, but not all of those people were neo-Nazis, believe me. Not all of those people were white supremacists, by any stretch.”
(Charlottesville – what else?)

TRUMPSPEAK™: “I love...”

TRANSLATION: “I hate...”

USAGE: “I am a big fan of the FBI. I love the FBI.”

TRUMPSPEAK™: “...all they really know how to do is obstruct, resist, demolish, destroy and delay...”

TRANSLATION: “Have you ever heard of a little thing called psychological projection...?”

USAGE: “They want to get the power that they so desperately crave that was taken away from them. All of the Democrats know and all they really know how to do is obstruct, resist, demolish, destroy and delay.”

TRUMPSPEAK™: “...winning...”

TRANSLATION: “...losing...”

USAGE: “The only reason to vote Democrat is if you are tired of winning.”

TRUMPSPEAK™: “...the greatest [PERSON OR EVENT]...”

TRANSLATION: “...the idea that Hillary Clinton got more votes than me or would have made a better President than I am is a lie! A lie I – sob! – tell you!”

USAGE: “You know, we had probably – and even the fake news would tell you – the greatest victory in the history of this country in 2016. There’s never been anything like that. The people came from the hills and the valleys. They came from all over. And they voted, voted, voted. And they love Trump, and they loved us.”

TRUMPSPEAK™: “...real collusion...”

TRANSLATION: “I have no idea what the word means, but if I’m being accused of it, the Democrats or their supporters must have done it!”

USAGE: “Nothing funny about tired *Saturday Night Live* on Fake News NBC! Question is, how do the Networks get away with these total Republican hit jobs without retribution? Likewise for many other shows? Very unfair and should be looked into. This is the real Collusion!”

TRUMPSPEAK™: “We have the best people...”

TRANSLATION: “We have the best people...who aren’t concerned about destroying their reputations by working for us...”

USAGE: “It hit the Virgin Islands, but not as bad as it could have, but it really began to form and form big, and now it’s looking like it could be an absolute monster. We’re

ready. We have the best people in the world ready, and they're gonna help you."
(Hurricane Dorian)

TRUMPSPEAK™: "Grab them by the pussy..."

TRANSLATION: "Grab them by the pussy..."

USAGE: "You know I'm automatically attracted to beautiful... I just start kissing them. It's like a magnet. Just kiss. I don't even wait. And when you're a star they let you do it. You can do anything... Grab them by the pussy. You can do anything."

On the other hand, just like a stopped clock that correctly tells you that you need to get a new clock twice a day, sometimes what President Trump says is exactly what President Trump means. Alas...

Quotes Must Have Misheard You...

Whenever You Hear Israel's Right To Exist To Deny Israel's Abuse Of Palestinians, You Are Hearing The New Self-serving Nonsense

"Whenever you hear human rights invoked to deny Israel's right to exist, you are hearing the new anti-Semitism."

- Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

He Was So Bad, In Fact, That Trump Chose Him To Be On The President's Impeachment Defence Team

"Ken Starr is a disaster. Ken Starr is a lunatic...Ken Starr is terrible."

- Donald Trump, 1999 on the *Today* show, talking about Clinton's impeachment prosecutor.

That's Mighty White Of You, Sir, Mighty White Of You

"For me, the diversity issue – as it applies to individual actors and directors, anyway – did not come up. That said, I would never consider diversity in matters of art. Only quality. It seems to me that to do otherwise would be wrong."

- Stephen King on Oscar nominations and voting

He's Obviously Never Heard That Two Wrongs Don't Make A Front Page Story

"I have no obligation to be honest with the media because they're just as dishonest as anyone else."

- President Trump's former campaign manager Corey Lewandowski in testimony before the House Judiciary Committee

Yep. That's Exactly How Right Wing Governments Around The World Are Getting Into Power, Alrighty. Exactly Like That.

“Both the great challenge and the great opportunity for the Conservative Party – regardless of who the next leader is – should be to bring Canadians closer together with an optimistic message of hope, responsibility, prosperity, security and freedom. That is conservatism that can win.”

- Sandy White. former adviser to the Conservative government of Stephen Harper

Looks Like It's Time To Have That Talk With Dad **Aaaaaawkwaaaaard!**

“Don’t call for days of rage and encourage people to pursue violence if they’re not getting what they want.”

- American Presidential Son-in-Law Jared Kushner on the violent Palestinian response to the Middle East “peace” plan proposed by American Presidential Son-in-Law Jared Kushner

“I have the support of the police, the support of the military, the support of Bikers for Trump. I have the tough people, but they don’t play it tough until they go to a certain point, and then it would be very bad, very bad.”

- President Donald Trump threatening violence against his opponents for...we’re not sure what

She Was, Of Course, Quoting Spiderman

“With independence comes great liberty.”

- former Liberal MP Jody Wilson- Raybould

I Would Like To Think That He Meant His Government Was Fighting Against Them **I...Would Like To Think That...**

“We’re doing a lot of things that are good, including waste and fraud. Tremendous waste and tremendous fraud.”

- President Donald Trump

And You Thought Rachel Maddow Was Cheery!

“Liberty lies in the hearts and minds of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it.”

- Judge Learned Hand

The Gospel Of Tony Soprano

“Utah’s junior senator reminded us of why he couldn’t connect with most regular, working-class people. They don’t like politicians who claim to be holier than thou when they’re really just sticking a shiv in your back.”

- Fox News mannequin Laura Ingraham on Mitt Romney

Seriously? It's China – The Right To Not Get Your Hair Mussed In A Moderate Breeze Outranks Human Rights!

“Privacy should not raise major concerns, because the right to survive, at present, must outrank human rights.”

- Wu Fei, director of the AI Lab at Zhejiang University, on the use of AI to find people with the coronavirus

**We Prefer The Term Deplorable
It's More...*Au Current***

“This isn't in line with our values... We don't view ourselves as rednecks.”

- Robert Freberg, of the Saskatoon Wildlife Federation, after stopping two People's Party of Canada candidates from settling a dispute, over who would represent the party at a coming debate, in the organization's shooting range

If Only Ernie Bushmiller Had Drawn Them Bigger, He Would Only Have Needed Three, And They Would Have Been Functional As Well As Decorative!

“The problem is that they were not big enough.”

- San Francisco Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru, explaining what was wrong with a group of wealthy residents putting two dozen huge boulders on their sidewalk to keep away the homeless

I Think You May Be Underestimating The Force Of Entitled Adults

“I think people are underestimating the force of angry kids. If they want us to stop being angry, then maybe they should stop making us angry.”

- climate activist Greta Thunberg

With Your Help, I Can Change That To A Government Led By The Editorial Board Of The Rebel

“We're seen, quite frankly, as government led by the editorial board of the *Toronto Star*.”

- Conservative Party leadership hopeful Erin O'Toole

It's Not A Despicable Form Of Exploitation, It's An Opportunity

“Some people with learning difficulties, they don't understand money.”

- Sally-Ann Hart, the Tory candidate for the British seat of Hastings and Rye, explains why people with autism should be paid less than people without it

But Try Telling That To Doug Ford...

“The smaller class size in most of the independent schools allows for a lower student-teacher ratio. That individualized attention, and allowing your child to be known, [is] really important in this day and age, because all kids have different learning needs.”

- Hilary Adamson, executive director of enrolment, Bishop Strachan School

“When our students leave after grade 8, we have exit interviews with them. And the top reason they’ve enjoyed their time here is because of the relationships they have with their teachers, and you can do that when class sizes are smaller.”

- Lise Lacroix, director of admissions and operations, Kingsway College School

She’s An Angry Kid With A Twitter Account Be Afraid. Be Very afraid.

“Is she the chief economist? Who is she? I’m confused.”

- US Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin on climate activist Greta Thunberg

It Just Takes One Nut With A Gun To Ruin It For The Rest Of Us Who Only Have Ropes, Knives And Cans Of Kerosene, Doesn’t It?

“We don’t have hateful people in South Carolina. There’s always the small minority that’s always gonna be there, but, you know, people saw it (the Confederate Flag) as service, and sacrifice, and heritage, but once he did that there was no way to overcome it, and the national media came in in droves.”

- Trump’s Former Ambassador to the United Nations and the former governor of South Carolina Nikki Haley explains that the Confederate flag was not a symbol of racism until Dylann Roof went on a shooting spree motivated by racial hatred draped in one

I Hear Them In My Head All The Time, Much More Clearly, In Fact, Than When They Are Standing In Front Of Me

“They want me to do it... Hispanics want toughness at the border.”

- President Donald Trump

Puns We Love to Hate Would Like You to Know...

Puns we Love to Hate forts in your general direction!

1. The fashion designer hated talking about pants on women, so he decided to skirt the issue...
2. The geometry expert had trouble with triangles with two sides of equal length. You could say that it was his isosceles heel...
3. Truth serum is the drug that keeps you sayin’...
4. Shakespeare’s comedies were much I dos about nothing...
5. I never tell a lie about mathematical sequences, but I’ll admit that I do Fibonacci from time to time...
6. If you made a bronze bust of Fido, would it be an heirloom of the dog that bit you?
7. The neutered chicken was an intellectual who enjoyed putting his thinking cap on...

8. The Polish/German river had a strange Oder...
9. When asked how his interview on world events with the newspaper went, Luciano Pavarotti explained the tenor of the Times...
10. The energy company didn't want to comply with government regulators, so it tried to do an Enron around them...
11. You have to feel sorry for people who insist that social divisions are caste in stone...
12. I know how much you love talking about Hungary, but stop being a Budapest about it!
13. You could say that the horror movie actor who barely made enough to live just eeked out a living...
14. In the winter, if you want to go on a ride, you should wear an amusement parka...
15. If you're having trouble developing a coherent life philosophy, should you find the lost and profound counter?
16. If your GP is also a Rabbi, does he ask you to stick out your tongue and say, "Torahhhhh?"
17. When the ground opens up in front of Mexicans in the fifth month of the year, they celebrate the sinkhole de mayo...
18. Do mystery writers spend a lonely life working in garrotes?
19. The captain hadn't intended to lash the traitor to the pole used in the rigging of the ship – you could say it was a spar of the moment decision...
20. I know you're sad because you ran out of the compound of whiting and linseed oil that had a dough-like consistency, but don't indulge in a putty party!
21. Payment for giving in to somebody else's point of view should be known as cede funding...
22. Just once, when I make an appointment to see my spiritual adviser, I'd like him to tell the facility: "Book 'em, Dojo!"
23. Fortunately, wordplay is not a crime, so I don't have to pay anybody punitive damages...
24. When it came time to create a small European nation, God said, "Fiat Luxembourg!"
25. Because my mother's Sister Bertha hated change, we called her the *status quo* auntie...
26. You really know how to get the best out of wearing tartan. Well plaid, my friend. Well plaid.
27. I just received a crate from the principality situated between France and Spain in the Pyrenees mountains. I can't wait to open Andorra's box!
28. I'll never forget the woman who danced the dance of the seven sandwiches: Salami...
29. The not very bright mob boss was often told to sit in the corner and wear a dunce capo...
30. When Dorothy's dog swallowed a whole flying monkey, she couldn't believe that it was in Toto...
31. Whenever I try to backtalk, I always end up reversing my words – you could say I get it all sass backwards...

Puns We Love to Hate could really use a vacation...

1. I wasn't that keen on the 14th century Irish language, but I learned it for better or erse...
2. The thing that holds those pants together is not what it seems...
3. I never liked gaming in arcades, so I managed to avoid all the Asteroids rage...

4. When my partner makes toast for breakfast, she wakes me by shouting, “Ryes and shine!”
5. For followers of Chtulu, brandy is dandy, but ichor is quicker...
6. Waving away black flies on the water can be thought of as the shoos of the fisherman...
7. I must admit, I’m getting tired of hearing the real estate developer/President whine about our poor us boarders!
8. I could make a pun about your eyes, but I don’t want to be accused of making a cornea joke...
9. When it comes to Asian cuisine, noodles are the chow mein thing...
10. I don’t need to pay in Iranian currency, but I always try to keep it rial...
11. When I fish with black worms, I always consider them my bait noire...
12. Somebody who compulsively collects small flat tools used to pluck or strum stringed instruments has a plectra complex...
13. I’m not a big fan of spiders, but, oh, you arachnid!
14. In Indian fashion, love means never having to say you’re sari...
15. When the donkeys are in church, each service starts with, “Let us bray...”
16. The man who reinforces people’s prejudices from the stage has a definite confirmation dais...
17. If your outerwear is covered with images of part of the small intestine, are you wearing a duodenum jacket?
18. The electric light bulb being tried for murder wanted a jury of his amperes...
19. I turned the western soundtrack up as high as it would go because I wanted to experience the full Badalamenti...
20. On balance, everybody should support women’s Libra...
21. I wanted to see all the films of the man who acted in Arthur and *The Elephant Man*. So far, so Gielgud...
22. For Muslims, religion is Allah or nothing...
23. I don’t want to hear about how wan you’ve become – could you please put a pallid on it!
24. Rich kids should be limousine but not heard...
25. Aladdin considered one way of crossing the raging river, but he rejected it for being a bridge too Jafar...
26. I was sure I had seen Edgar’s paintings before, but I was just suffering from Degas vu...
27. You think I stand out like an organelle found in eukaryotic cells? Don’t be cilia!
28. Was evidence in the waste disposal murder case ordure in the court?
29. After Adam and Eve ate the apple, they were living in an Eden of iniquity...
30. Sad yips because a young dog doesn’t want you to leave are a puppy ciao...
31. As they get older, I expect the Rolling Stones to rerecord their classic ballad: “Angiogram...”

Headlines Got Lost in a Book

**You Can Have It Fast Or Right –
No, Wait, YOU Can’t Have Either**

“CRA wait times up, accuracy down
Independent business group says while more calls get through, information is often wrong”

- *Toronto Star*

You Had Me At Deep-sea Magma Monster!

“Deep-Sea Magma Monster Has a Body Scan”

- *New York Times*

The Prejudicial Detestation Is Just a Bonus

“Criticizing Islam isn’t hate”

- *Toronto Sun*

Expect Baguette Prices To Skyrocket

“Pension riots in France are a warning to the world”

- *Toronto Star*

So, We’ll Only Have A Middle East War With Some Spillover Into Europe And Asia?

Phew! We Really Dodged A Bullet There!

“Iran is too weak to start a world war”

- *Globe and Mail*

If It Comes Between Your Late Morning Nap And Your Mid-afternoon Nap, See A Doctor...Or A Veterinarian – You Could Be A Cat And Not Even Realize It

“There’s no shame in taking a midday nap”

- *Toronto Star*

Tell Me This Is An Article About Bowling Please Tell Me That

“That takes balls”

- *Toronto Sun*

Film Acting, Especially If You’re A Woman

“In praise of career politicians

In what industry other than politics are people so allergic to the idea that past experience is a qualification for a vital, difficult job?”

- *Globe and Mail*

He's Learned From His Mistakes...As, Apparently, His Investors Have Not

“Pier 1 hires CEO whose past plans failed”

- *Toronto Star*

And His Congressional Allies...

And Members Of His Cabinet...

And Often Himself...

“Trump leaves U.S. Allies Guessing”

- *New York Times*

So, Only The Stupid People Will Buy Expensive Houses?

“New taxes will drive out talent, Sotheby’s CEO says

Some councillors have proposed a 3% levy on Toronto homes selling for \$3M or more”

- *Toronto Star*

Not When I Could Get Getting On With My Life

“Ann Kaplan:

‘I’m not going to be let being on reality TV define me”

- *Globe and Mail*

...While People Are Watching

“New Boeing chief vows to rebuild trust

Calhoun promises more transparency, healthier corporate culture”

- *Toronto Star*

I Love Questions That Answer Themselves...Except When I Don’t...

“Can Europe Trust America?”

- *New York Times*

“The U.S. Doesn’t Need France’s Economy”

- *New York Times*

That’s A Kind Of Equality...IIIIIIII...Guess...?

“Silicone and Botox in Silicon Valley

Male tech workers are getting plastic surgery in a youth-oriented industry”

- *Toronto Star*

As Always, Consumers Are On Their Own

“The factors behind ownership concentration
Stronger checks and balances are needed for the protection of minority shareholders”
- *Globe and Mail*

Number Seven Will Disgust You!

“The dirtiest things you will touch”
- *Toronto Star*

While We’re At It, Let’s Let Convicted Murderers Determine Their Own Sentences In The Interest Of A Less Partisan Approach To Justice, I Mean

“In search of a less partisan approach: Let’s use agreed-upon Conservative climate
targets”
- *Globe and Mail*

But They’re So Adorable You Just Want To Pinch Their Cheeks!

“Canadian media’s reaction to royal couple overblown”
- *Toronto Star*

To Prove He Was Human?

“DNA test ‘must be done’ in Epstein death”
- *Toronto Sun*

Nothing Is As It Seems Except For This Headline...

“Economists see reason for optimism in 2020
Despite global uncertainty, Canada is poised for gains in oil sector, equities, housing”
- *Toronto Star*

“As U.S. prosperity soars, expert suggests it’s time to put your money elsewhere”
- *Globe and Mail*

“After a banner year for U.S. stocks, strategy eyes downside protection”
- *Globe and Mail*

“Oil-price rise muted in 2019 despite cuts, attack”
- *Globe and Mail*

“S&P/TSX index ends 2019 with whimper after a year of bangs
Weakness in market temporary, and likely due to low trading volumes, strategist says”

- *Toronto Star*

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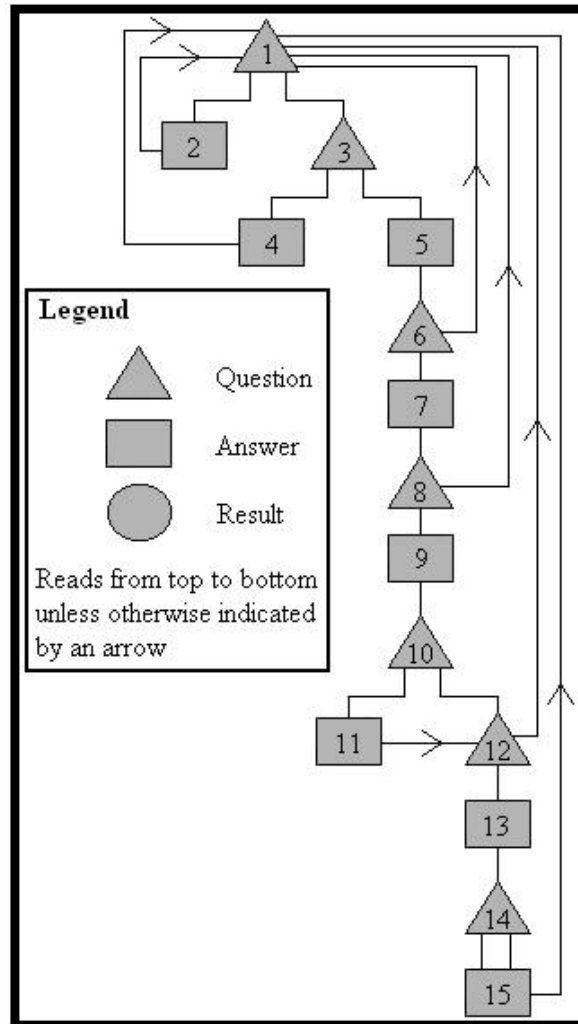
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I Tried That With My Credit Card Once I was Thankful I Only Got Probation

“‘Balanced’ city budget \$77M short”
- *Toronto Star*

The American Action on Gun Violence Algorithm



	1	A mass shooting has occurred in the United States. It would appear that a political response is required. Do the Democrats control the White House and both Houses of Congress?
YES	2	The government passes meaningful gun control legislation.
NO	3	Do the Democrats control the White House and one of the Houses of Congress?
YES	4	The Democrats propose meaningful gun control legislation. The Republicans lose their shit, warning that all Americans are about to lose their guns and threatening not to pass any Democratic legislation if any meaningful gun control laws are passed. Watered down gun control legislation is barely passed.
NO	5	Republican leaders, who, for some reason, do

		not comment on how they repealed the gun laws passed by the previous Democratic administration, offer their thoughts and prayers to the victims of the shooting and their families.
	6	Does the media lose interest in the story?
YES		GO TO 1
NO	7	Republican politicians and their stooges in the media place the blame for the mass killing squarely where it belongs: on the shooter, who is obviously insane. None of them are psychologists, and, in any case, they offer no proof beyond the syllogism that only crazy people walk into other people's places of worship (or shopping, which, admittedly, for many is the same thing) and try to kill as many people as they can. QED (<i>Quod Erat Deplorable</i>).
8		Now does the media lose interest in the story?
YES		GO TO 1
NO	9	Blame violent video games for the shooting. Or, violent movies. Or, violent comic books. Or, violent cuneiform tablets. Responsibility for gun carnage? It's the media, stupid.
	10	Did the shooter leave documents behind (say, posts on social media) that referred to invasions, vermin or other racist rhetoric (which absolutely, positively did not mimic the rhetoric of the President, even if it used the exact same language)?
YES	11	Reiterate in the strongest, loudest, most forceful terms that the shooter was crazy, and, therefore, nothing he said or wrote should be taken seriously. Accuse anybody who took the shooter's writings at face value of "politicizing" the shooting.
NO	12	Wow. This story really has legs! By this time in the news cycle, journalists would have moved on to the President attacking a black sports star, or cute kittens, or the President attacking a black sports star with cute kittens! Are any journalists still following this story? Like, seriously?
NO		GO TO 1
YES	13	The Republicans announce that they are shocked and saddened by gun violence in the

		country, and that they are currently studying ways to resolve the problem. Americans should expect legislation on the subject immediately...after the current recess.
	14	Does the NRA have a hissy fit and warn the President and Republican members of Congress that, current investigations into its finances and expensive lawsuits notwithstanding, going against its wishes will alienate a lot of the party's base?
YES	15	Republicans will carry on with the items on their legislative agenda, ignoring the waning criticism of their inaction on gun violence. GO TO 1
NO	15	Republicans will carry on with the items on their legislative agenda, ignoring the waning criticism of their inaction on gun violence. GO TO 1

NOTES

Ever get the uncanny feeling that you've lived through the politics of gun violence in America before? That's not *déjà vu*, friend, that's just you paying attention to the news. Repeatedly. Over decades.

In 2019, there has been an average of over one mass shooting somewhere in the United States a day. There is something to be said for consistency. It's horrifying.

And, yet, as the years roll by and the body count increases by leaps and bounds (and handguns and assault rifles), it's hard not to be numbed by the carnage, to feel helpless to do anything to stop it. Of course, there is something that can be done to end it: stop electing politicians who put the campaign contributions they get from the gun lobby before the lives of other people's children.

As if.

As always, the American Action on Gun Violence Algorithm is descriptive, not proscriptive. Believe us, we would rather put bullets in our own heads from guns we don't own than recommend this as a rational course of political action!

Les Pages aux Folles: The Back Story

A Nayman family legend has it that I decided to devote my life to writing comedy/humour when I was eight years old. Most boys that age wanted to be hockey players or astronauts (or, so I have been told) – why comedy? Through my thirties and

forties, it was important to me to understand why I developed the way I did (after a couple of decades filled with unanswerable questions, I decided to stop wondering and accept myself the way I was), so I gave this question considerable thought. Unfortunately, the best I could come up with was a cliché.

I grew up in an emotionally abusive household (as did many funny people). I realized early on in my life that laughing made me feel better; I figure my first impulse to write humour was to help ease myself through a tough childhood. I also suspect that I thought that if I could make my parents laugh, they might not fight so much, but that turned out not to be the case (intense therapy succeeded where my youthful ambitions failed, but the ambitions remained).

Honestly, if my early life had been any more of a cliché, I would have started this piece with: “It was a dark and stormy night...”

COMEDY HISTORY ASIDE: Years later, I was watching a terrific series called *The Green Room*. Comedian Eddie Izzard was telling the story of how he first met his idol, Richard Pryor. After a few minutes of small talk, they found that they had something in common: they both knew that they wanted to be stand-up comedians when they were four years old. You know how I thought I was precocious because I knew I wanted to be a humourist when I was eight? I was actually already half a lifetime behind the curve!

My original inspiration in my early teens was Art Buchwald. If he is remembered at all these days, it is for being the person who sued Paramount Pictures for stealing his original idea for what would become Eddie Murphy’s *Coming to America*. And, winning. This case exposed the arcane Hollywood bookkeeping that allowed studios to claim films that had grossed a billion dollars never made a profit, and introduced the world to the term “monkey points.” But I remember him as the preeminent newspaper satirist who, in his prime, wrote creative and biting (and very funny) political commentary.

Not a bad role model if that’s what you’re into.

Between 1984 and 1987, I wrote 300 articles for a satirical newspaper column (enough for three books). I called the project *Les Pages aux Folles*, playing off the name of the then popular film *La Cage aux Folles*. I thought the title translated as “cage of crazies,” which would have made my version “page of crazies.” This tickled me. When the English version was released as *The Bird Cage*, I thought, Bird Pages? Okay, I can make this work.

Three years into the project, I was no closer to becoming the preeminent newspaper political satirist of the 1980s than when I had started. Years later, I would realize that one wasn’t given a newspaper humour column because one was actually, you know, funny (although some naturally are and others grow into it); they usually went to people who had proven their service to the newspaper in other departments. In defence of my naïveté: teenager.

I moved on to scripts and university, but the satirical bug never quite left me. Between 1987 and 2002, I kept coming back to the form, writing over 100 new articles (enough for a fourth collection). Then, a number of pieces of my life came together to drive me to the internet.

At university, I studied emerging technologies and the arts. My Masters thesis (from the New School for Social Research) was on the challenges interactivity posed for fiction writers. My PhD dissertation was on fiction writers who posted their work to the World Wide Web. I know, I know. Today, that's a big **duh!** But, in 1999, when I wrote the bulk of the dissertation (I was awarded my PhD in 2000), it was still relatively – ahem – novel. ACADEMIC ASIDE: the problems I identified in 1999 have scaled up nicely, with few changes over the years. Was I prophetic? Naah – I was just paying attention.

When I returned to Toronto after three years living in Montreal (a residency requirement of McGill University, where I studied), I volunteered for a public interest web page developer called The Electronic Commons; it was championed by a woman named Liss Jeffrey. The project was run out of a building called Chelsea Mews, deep in the heart of the University of Toronto; that is where I met the woman who would become my Web Goddess, Gisela McKay.

As we got to know each other, Gisela pointed out something odd about my life that hadn't occurred to me: I wrote fiction, and I had studied people who post fiction on the internet, but I hadn't posted any of my own fiction on the internet. While I agreed that that was a bit strange, I demurred; although my Masters degree was done entirely online, I didn't know the first thing about creating or maintaining a web page. Gisela, who, among her many talents, is a professional web developer, offered to design a page and walk me through how to keep it going. To ensure that I couldn't refuse, she offered me free space on her server.

I couldn't refuse.

But, what would I write? Reviving *Les Pages aux Folles* as an online project was the most logical way to proceed. When I started it as a print project, I aimed for each article to be around 700 words (in the mistaken belief that this was standard newspaper column length; depending upon the newspaper and the column, it could actually be anywhere from 400 to 600 words); this relative shortness turned out to be a good length for the internet, where long stories require a lot of scrolling and can give some readers eye fatigue. You don't want to give readers eye fatigue.

So, I immediately started posting fiction to the web? Slow down, speed racer. I took the summer of 2002 to build a stockpile of articles. This wasn't meant to supplant weekly writing (since much of the writing would be topical, it would be best to post pieces soon after they were written, something the internet easily facilitates); it was meant as a safeguard against weeks when I was unable to write an update, whether through life circumstances or lack of inspiration. The wisdom of this choice is most vividly illustrated by my experience in 2005, when I had to have triple bypass heart surgery: I prepared four

weeks of updates from my stockpile and posted them a couple of days before going under the knife. (As it happened, although I was advised to give recovery at least a month, I was eager to get back to writing after about two and half weeks). My stockpile started with 40 articles; it has fluctuated between 10 and 50 (but mostly closer to 10) ever since.

By the first week in September, 2002, I felt comfortable enough with the cushion that I had produced that I took the plunge and went live with *Les Pages aux Folles*. Years of writing had given me the confidence that I could pull it off (although, like most people who start a project like this, I had no idea how much work I was letting myself in for). It had also given me four complete books that I could place in an archive on the site, which helped me avoid the problem that many web sites have when starting out: a paucity of content. There was enough writing on the web site from day one that anybody interested could stay a while, or be encouraged to keep coming back.

The first three books had been written on a manual typewriter; the fourth on an electric typewriter and a computer. Because of this, I had to type the articles into my computer before I could post them. This forced me to reconsider the material I had previously written, which proved salutary. I gather many writers are highly critical of their own work, but I found that I really enjoyed becoming reacquainted with mine. (Having had to read through the entire project to collect stories for these special anniversary issues, I feel more or less the same way.) The worst that I will say about my past writing is: "I wouldn't write exactly that, or in that way now."

PEDANTIC ASIDE: Is *Les Pages aux Folles* a blog? On one hand, it is a regular publication (every week, without fail; by the 20th anniversary, that will entail 1,040 consecutive weeks) written by a single person. On the other hand, blogs automate the process of posting to the internet (with tools such as WordPress), but I code my text by hand and upload it and any images I may create using tools Gisela taught me. Also, blogs tend to be a single page of text with newer posts higher up (occasionally breaking into an archive page or two), while each piece I post is on its own separate page. It may be a moot point, but I am reluctant to call *Les Pages aux Folles* a blog.

Except...

In trying to explain what an achievement 20 years of *Les Pages aux Folles* is, one of the facts I point out is that, depending upon the year they were started, between 80 and 90 per cent of blogs are abandoned within the first six months of their existence (I assume that the numbers for personal web pages are roughly the same, but I'm not aware of that research). Writers can be exhausted by the commitment (I often refer to my web site as "the insatiable maw;" no sooner do I finish one update than I have to immediately start working on the next). Writers can run out of inspiration. Other life priorities can leave writers without time. Lack of a readership can cause writers to quit out of despair (because I was emotionally driven by a need to write, the lack of readers was never a disincentive for me, although lately I do despair of ever finding an audience, if for no other reason than I know there must be a lot of people out there who would enjoy my

writing...if they knew that it existed). Some people might lose their internet access. Twenty years on the internet is a loooooooooong time is what I'm saying.

By the 20th anniversary, I will have written 38 books of prose and produced nine books of cartoons for *Les Pages aux Folles*. The project will contain over 3,500 pieces of writing, and somewhere between two and a quarter and two and a half million words.

Nor has this been my only writing project. In 2010, I decided to write my first novel. Blame Terry Pratchett. I had never wanted to be a novelist; I was happy writing my short articles. But, in 2010 I learned of a contest for first humorous science fiction novels that was sponsored and would be partially judged by Pratchett. This seemed like a great opportunity for me to do what I do best: be goofy. The only problem with entering a novel writing contest, though, is that you have to write a novel to do it. So, I sat down to write what would become *Welcome to the Multiverse**.

I don't usually talk about this, but since we're all friends here, I feel I can state the truth: my first novel took two months to write. Starting from nothing but the desire to write a novel, the first week involved developing the ideas; the next six weeks involved the actual writing; the final week involved rewriting and polishing. This was a stupid short amount of time in which to write 80,000 words (the nine novels I have written since have taken anywhere from six months to a year to produce), but there were extenuating circumstances, your honour. For one thing, by that time I had been writing for 40 years, so unlike many first time novelists, I had already developed my voice and knew my way around a story. More importantly for this essay, many aspects of worldbuilding that contributed to the novel (for instance, the Transdimensional Authority and the Alternate Reality News Service) had been introduced on *Les Pages aux Folles*, so I wasn't exactly starting from nothing.

Perhaps most important: working on the web site taught me how to quickly turn ideas into prose. When you have a weekly deadline, you have to write fast. Under these conditions, there are two ways writers can go. Like a nuclear explosion, they can burn themselves out. Or, like a nuclear chain reaction, their creativity can feed off itself, allowing them to constantly write new material. I was fortunate that my writing took the latter path.

What's next? I have no idea. I know I have a need to write; if life forces me to go a couple of days with writing even a little, I start to get antsy. Humour is not something that a writer can turn on and off: it is a way of looking at and interacting with the world that becomes a constant in your life. At least, it has become that for me. It does help if it has an outlet, though, so I foresee writing as long as I have the words. (Both my father and my grandfather on my mother's side had Alzheimer's, so there is no guarantee that I will always have the words, or for how long.) Regardless of what happens in the future, I already have a creative legacy (including novels, short stories and unproduced screenplays – so many unproduced screenplays!) that I can be proud of.

I hope you enjoy 12 from 20.

** Sorry for the Inconvenience*

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