

APPENDIX

Data 1

Argentina

An elderly couple goes to Burger King, where they carefully split a burger and fries. A trucker takes pity on them and offers to buy the wife her own meal.

"It's all right," says the husband. "We share everything."

A few minutes later, the trucker notices that the wife hasn't taken a bite. "I really wouldn't mind buying your wife her own meal," he insists.

"She'll eat," the husband assures him. "We share everything."

Unconvinced, the trucker implores the wife, "Why aren't you eating?"

The wife snaps, "Because I'm waiting for the teeth!"

Australia

A polar bear walks into a bar and says, "Give me a scotch and . . . Coke."

"Why the long pause?" asks the bartender.

"I don't know," says the bear. "I've always had them."

Brazil

Tired of waiting at the back of the line to get on Noah's Ark, a flea jumps from one animal to another as she moves closer to the front. She leaps and leaps until she lands on the back of an elephant. The pachyderm turns to its mate and says testily, "I knew it! Here they go with the pushing and shoving!"

China

My cousin always "borrows" money from her older brother's piggy bank, which drives him crazy. One day, she found the piggy in, of all places, the refrigerator. Inside was this note: "Dear sister, I hope you'll understand, but my capital has been frozen."

Croatia

A concerned police officer approaches a boy crying in front of a newsstand.

"What's wrong?" he asks.

But will they laugh in Africa?

Asians like their humour straightforward, Americans go for the big guffaw, and Brits serve it up dry. So what does what we laugh at say about us?

By RORY EVANS

POR SAMANTHA BROWN. She may be known to TV viewers as the smiling, perk-tastic host of "Great Weekends" on Discovery Travel and Living, but to one particular Chinese film crew,

she was simply the flustered Westerner trying to explain her way out of a joke that went over as flat as a *mu shu* pancake. Wherever she goes, she tries to warm up to her freelance crew with a little humour. After all, laughter is the great unifier, right? "I said to them, 'Whenever kids in the US

Data 2

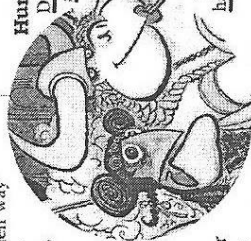
Unimpressed, the boss says to Morton, "I bet you don't know the pope." Morton shrugs. "We play golf together."

The gauntlet has been tossed, and the boss pays their way

to the Vatican. During the Benediction, Morton slips away.

Sure enough, he reappears - side by side with the pope.

Two Chinese tourists tap the boss on the shoulder and ask, "Who's the guy in white standing with Morton?"



Hungary

Doctor: Have you taken my advice and slept with the window open?

Patient: Yes.

Doctor: So your asthma disappeared completely?

Patient: No, but my watch, TV, iPod and laptop have.

India

A business executive visits his dear Chinese friend in the hospital. "Li kai yang qi guan," says the sick man feebly. The executive desperately wants to help him, but he doesn't speak Mandarin. "Li kai yang qi guan!" says the patient, as he draws his last breath.

Germany

Wandering around a fairground, a man enters a fortune-teller's tent for a laugh. "I see you're the father of two," says the seer, gazing into her crystal ball.

men," sketch features four gentlemen reminding about how poor they were growing up, telling about their families' increasingly squalid and outlandish accommodations: "There were 150 of us living in a shoe box in the middle of the road," one says.

"Cardboard box; you were lucky," says the next. "We lived for three months in a rolled-up newspaper in a septic tank."

Never once do these men's faces betray them (replay it yourself on YouTube). Like their forebears, they are pure pomposity

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Data 3

sitting on the stairs crying. "What's the matter, honey?" she asks him.

"It's my father," the boy sobs. "He hit his finger with a hammer."

"Then why are you crying?"

"Because first I laughed!"

Slovenia

As they leave the courthouse, a lawyer turns to his grim-looking client and says, "Janez, what's wrong? You were acquitted."

"I know, but now I'm really in trouble," says Janez. "I just rented out my apartment for three years."

Sweden

Visiting the countryside on a hunting trip, the well-dressed man from Stockholm takes aim and shoots a duck. But the fowl drops into a farmer's field, and the farmer claims it.

Since both want it, the farmer suggests settling the dispute with an old-fashioned hick-kick. "I kick you as hard as I can in the crotch, then

you do the same to me," he explains. "Whoever screams the least gets the bird."

The city man agrees. So the farmer winds up and delivers a crushing blow to the man's privates, and he collapses to the ground. Twenty minutes later, when he finally manages to stand, he gasps, "My turn."

"Nah," says the farmer, turning away. "You can keep the duck."

Switzerland

Wife: Honey, did you notice? I bought a new toilet brush. Husband: Yes, I did. But I still prefer the paper.

Spain

A beggar approaches a grandmother at the beach with his hands out.

"Please, señora," the poor man pleads. "I haven't eaten all day."

"Good," says the grandmother.

"Now you won't have to worry about cramps when you go for a swim."

politicians would never start a speech with a joke the way Americans do," Wong explains. "And no-one ever tells a joke about Chinese politicians. An innocuous cartoon of former president Deng Xiaoping made big news; the whole country was shocked."

In the US, Wanda Sykes can stand within metres of President Obama and crack jokes about him, but comics in other countries would be risking their lives. In 2006, Walid Hassan, star of the Iraqi TV news/comedy show "Caricature," was

their parents are sort of idiots - like Homer and Marge. And everyone is secretly convinced that they're either too smart, like Lisa, or too cool, like Bart, for their family. Still, people are protective of their families, which is why the bonds on the show bend but never break."

Exasperation with one's government also has universal comedic appeal, but the right to openly mock or satirise is decidedly not universal. "Chinese

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"Superman isn't out yet!"
"I'll handle it," the cop assures him. "Hey, Superman!" he shouts.
"Come on out! We won't hurt you!"

Czech Republic

A man calls a radio deejay and says, "I've found a wallet with a hundred thousand koruny inside. There's also a card that says 'Jan Ziegler, Seifert Street 3, Prague.'"
"So?" says the deejay. "What do you want us to do?"
"Would you be so kind as to play the man a song?"

Canada

A man says to a friend, "My wife is on a three-week diet."
"Oh, yeah? How much has she lost so far?"
"Five weeks."

Finland

Hannu wants everything to be perfect for his anniversary trip to the hotel where he and his wife honeymooned 30 years earlier. So he gets there a day early to make all the arrangements. That night, he e-mails her but misspells the address and it goes to a recent widow.
The next day, the widow's son finds his mother passed out in front of her computer. On the screen is this e-mail: "My darling wife, I've just gotten here and everything's set for your arrival tomorrow. I hope your trip down here will be as pleasant as mine. P.S. It's really hot!"

France

President Sarkozy visits a steel factory. To the boss's surprise, the president greets an employee, Morton, with a warm hug. The same thing happens when Barack Obama visits, and again during Vladimir Putin's tour.

dig a hole in their backyard, their mothers ask if they're digging to China. So what did your mothers ask you?" she recalls.
"They just stared at me. So I was, like, 'You know, digging ... pretending to shovel the ground, trying to explain it -- and well, once you have to explain a joke ...'"

That kind of DOA joke is a hazard that travellers rarely prepare for -- even as they pack portable hotel burglar alarms and water-purification pills. "American humour does not export well. It's wordplay, or too

Juvenile, or topical humour that just gets a blank stare in response," says Roger Axtell, who wrote the book *Do's and Taboos of Humor Around the World*.

Brits, on the other hand, go for deadpan delivery, probably because they assume the world sees them as a bunch of insufferable prigs, so why not flaunt it? says Jessica Milner Davis of the Australian Humour Studies Network.

No comics kept that stiff upper lip stiffer than Monty Python. Their "Four Yorkshire-

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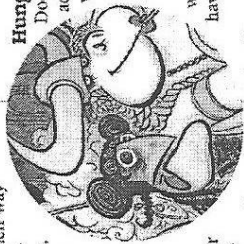
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and pride. "As long ago as the 18th century," says Milner Davis. "Lord Chesterfield wrote to his son, 'I heartily wish that you may often be seen to smile but never heard to laugh. How low and unbecoming a thing is laughter! Not to mention the disagreeable noise that it makes, and the shocking

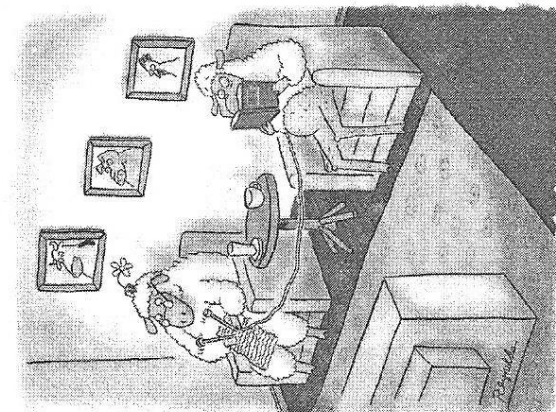
Germans, too, tend to be reserved in public. Ambush them with humour and risk the cold shoulder -- as Joe Sharkey, a travel writer, witnessed in the Food court of

men" sketch features four gentlemen reminiscing about how poor they were growing up, telling about their families' increasing squalor and outlandish accommodations: "There were 150 of us living in a shoe box in the middle of the road," one says.

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LAUGHTER, THE BEST MEDICINE



A drunk guy slides up to a man who is looking under the bonnet of his car. "What's the matter, mate?" he asks. "Piston broke," says the driver. "Yeah?" replies the drunk, wandering off. "Me, too," TRACY DAVIDSON

LIL' GREEN MAN

How can you tell the leprechaun is having fun? He's Dublin over with laughter. **Funnier** Did you hear about the little green man who went to jail? **Yeah, he was a lepre-con.** **Funnier** Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun? **They're always a little short.**

A WOMAN RUBBED A lamp and out popped a genie. "Do I get a wish?" "Yep, what will it be?" "See this map? I want these countries here to stop fighting." "They've been at war for thousands of years." **D. RICHARDS**

FARTING-TELLERS are so easy to buy clothes for—they're all mediums. **FRED HECKALEY**

Clearly the van ahead of me belonged to a window-replacement company with a future. Newly printed on the side was a smashing offer: **"Free slingshots for all children 12 and under."** **PAUL MORESE**

My doctor wrote out a prescription for bronchitis for me. "This is Zithromax," he said as he wrote on a pad, then said, "Myphenzadine." "What's Myphenzadine?" I asked. He looked confused for a second, then enunciated slowly, "My pen is dying." **JASON ARMSTRONG**

Our neighbour's surname is Saint James, which I never thought about until I glanced at their cars. The plate on her station wagon read "Saint," while his red Corvette brags "Sinner." **ERIK BIRK**

A friend of mine, a harried mother of four, had to renew her vehicle registration as one of her many chores she had one day.

Mission accomplished, she left the license office and placed the sticker on the rear plate of her car. Then she stood up and said with satisfaction, "There, all done for another year!"

To which an elderly gentleman watching replied, "Yes, but that's my car." **THOMAS GIBSON**

On a brutally humid day, I walked past a miniature golf course and saw a dad following three small children from hole to hole. "Who's winning?" I asked.

"I am," said one kid. "Me," said another. "No, me," yelled the third. Sweat dripping down his face, the dad gasped. "Their mother is." **TOM LAPPAS**

Service in the restaurant was abysmally slow. My husband was starting to flip out, so I tried to distract him with small talk.

"You know," I said, "our friend Christi should be having her baby anytime now."

"Really?" my husband snapped. "She wasn't even pregnant when we walked in here." **MAURICE MORRISON**



Data 8

The starlet hands the lawyer \$5. Now it's her turn. "What goes up a mountain on three legs and comes down on four?"

The lawyer is dumbstruck. He scans the internet, flips through his pocket encyclopedia, and texts every scientist he can find. No dice. Hours later, he wakes up the starlet, hands her \$50, and asks, "So what's the answer?"

Without a word, she hands him \$5 and goes back to sleep.

Norway

A woman rubs a lamp and out pops a genie. "You're a kind lady, so I'll grant you one wish," the genie tells her.

"See this cat? I'd rather have a strong, handsome man," she says.

The genie agrees and - poof! - the cat turns into a Brad Pitt clone. The woman leaps into his lap.

"Do you have anything to say before we make love?" she asks.

"Yes," he says. "I bet you wish you hadn't had me neutered last week."

Philippines

Joe, Mike, Mary and Tom were talking about their dream jobs. "I want to be a lawyer," Joe began, "so that I can defend my countrymen."

"I want to be a congressman," said Mike, "so I can draft laws to benefit my countrymen."

"I want to be a doctor," said Mary, "so that I can cure my countrymen."

"How about you, Tom? What would you like to be?" asked Joe.

Tom thought a moment and replied, "I'd like to be a countryman."

Submitted by *John Carlo B. Trinidad*

Poland

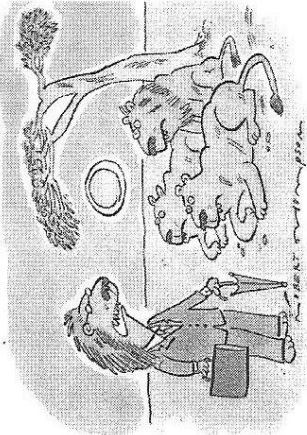
Nearing the end, Stanislaw is surrounded by loved ones. As the final moment approaches, he gathers all his strength and whispers, "I must tell you my greatest secret."

His family urges him to go on.

like the US and another country gets you angry, you unleash your army. If you're a polite and unpowerful country like Canada and another country makes you mad, you say they're all overweight hillbillies or their money is impossible to tell apart."

If you want taboo-busting, look no further than Japan. In public, they strictly follow propriety and protocol - and avoid humiliation. "The Japanese have a special phrase, *warai no ba*, for appropriate

Data 9



husband shook his head and remarked, "He almost made it." *Party Winkler*

For her 40th birthday, my wife said "I'd love to be ten again."

So that Saturday we had a heating stack of chocolate chip pancakes, her favourite childhood breakfast.

Then we hit the playground and a merry-go-round. We finished the day with a banana split.

"So, how did you enjoy being a kid for a day?" I asked.

"Great," she said. "But when I said I wanted to be ten again, I meant my dress size."

*Sebastian E.,
on Classified.Gay*

My four-year-old son, Jacob, could hardly wait for his first day of school. He waited anxiously with his mother, Katherine, for the bus to arrive. When the doors of the bus opened he ran from her and started climbing into the bus.

With tears in her eyes, Katherine said,

"I've had the call of the city"

photo, the caption read, "This year's Perfect Attendance Awards go to Ann Stein and Bradley Jenkins. Not present for photo: Bradley Jenkins."

Ashley DeBecker

"What about a kiss?" Jacob stopped, retraced a few steps, and then promptly kissed the bus driver before he sat down.

Peter Loebnitz

We were eating at one of the trendier restaurants in town when my friend pointed to the menu and told the waitress, "I'll have the #24."

"Jim," I whispered, "that's the price, not the meal number."

"Oh," he said. "Then give me the #12."

Alan Saffiras

Our local newspaper lists recipients of school awards. Beneath one

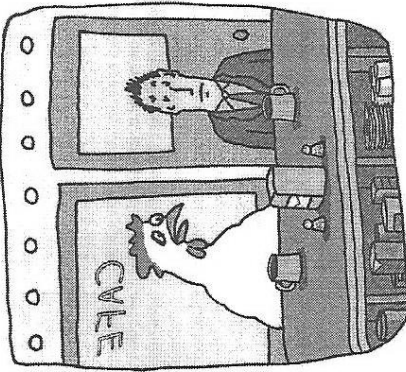
Bonny, a colleague of mine, told me about her weekend spent babysitting her grandkids.

Her grandson Logan wanted to show her how well he dived off the "big" diving board at the pool. So she watched as he climbed up the ladder, got into position and jumped off bellyflop. She cringed

Laugh!

IT'S REALLY THE BEST MEDICINE

Data 10



JOE, JERRY AND Louis are caught robbing a bank. The judge sentences them to ten years in prison but allows them anything they want before being locked away. Joe: "I'll take a ten-year supply of books." Larry: "Give me a ten-year supply of whiskey."

Louis: "I want a ten-year supply of cigarettes." Ten years later, the men are released. Joe appears from his cell spewing facts and quotes. Next is Larry, who staggers out drunk. Last is Louis. He pokes his head out and asks, "Anybody got a light?"

If all the nations in the world are in debt, where did the money go?

STEVEN WRIGHT

I asked my dad why he's stayed with his new wife for so long, and he said, "Cause she's a good cook." He's had three heart attacks since they met. She's not a "good

"I never hear from my friends who move to Buffalo"

cook." She's an "OK assassin."

TOMMY POH-BAGIN, [news.com.com](http://news.com.com.com/news.com.com)

"Read all about it!" yelled the newsboy hawking his papers on the corner. "Fifty people swindled! Fifty people swindled!"

Curious, a business man bought a paper. "Hey," he said, "there's nothing in here about 50 people being swindled!"

Two men went bear hunting. While one stayed in the cabin, the other went looking for a grizzly. He soon found one. Taking aim, he fired his rifle, nicking the bear. Enraged, it charged the hunter, chasing him back to the cabin. As the hunter reached the open

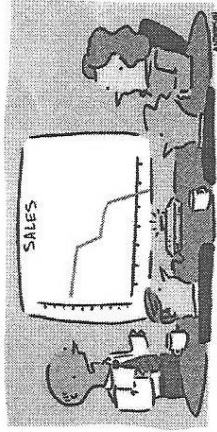
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@Work

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK



"Technically, sales are off the charts."

ACUSTOMER walked into our insurance office looking for a quote. But first I had to lead her through a litany of questions, including: "Marital status?" "Well," she began, "I guess you could say we're happy - as happy as most other couples nowadays."

SHIRLEY WALKER

Yeah, Right . . .

Some people concoct crazy stories for skipping work. Here are a few, collected by hiring managers:

- Employee's dog was stressed out after family reunion.

- Employee said he had a heart attack that morning but that he was "all better now."

- Employee contracted mono after kissing a mailroom intern at the company holiday party.

- Employee didn't want to lose his parking space in front of his house. From careerbuilder.com

Here's a scary headline: "Air Traffic Controllers Can Apply for Job in Braille."

From thisguyonthemoon.com

Before the stopper could pay for her groceries with a cheque, I needed her address. "What's your street

name?" I asked. "I don't have a street name," she said. "I go by Juanita."

AMANDA CARPENTER

A customer at our bookstore asked me, "Do you have the original book *Romeo and Juliet*? My daughter needs it for school, and all I can find is the play."

ADRIE WESTON

When a water main broke, a customer called my friend at the utility office with this question: "The water in my toilet is brown. Do you think it's safe to drink?"

DAVID KEELEY

A teller at our credit union was assisting a member with a loan application. "Do you have references?" she asked. The member replied, "Do they have to be living?"

HOLITA MCCARTER

Your favourite new joke might be worth \$55. Go to pg or rdasia.com/jokes for details.

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Q: Why are coins made out of metal?
A: Because change is so hard.

KAZUHISA BOCK

A new study revealed that one out of every five people snores in a separate study, scientists found that four out of five people suffer from insomnia. **BUZZ NUTTLEY**

A piece of rope walks into a pub. The barman says, "You were in here the other week causing trouble. Go on, get out."

The rope shuffles through the door. Outside, he winds his top half round his bottom half, rubs his head against a lamppost then goes back into the pub. "Didn't I throw you out?" asks the barman. "Nah," says the rope. "I'm a frayed knot."

STUART COLLINSON

A farmer offers to help a driver get his car out of a mud hole for 20 dollars. "Yours is the tenth car I've rescued today," he says.

"Wow," says the driver. "When do you work your land? At night?" "No, night is when I fill the hole with water."

What would you call a long row of floppy-eared mammals, all slowly hopping backwards together into the distance?

A receding hare-line.

ELSPETH MCVIE

Susan was desperate for a few days off from work. But she knew that the boss wouldn't let her take a vacation. So she got a crazy idea. She hung upside down on the ceiling until the big guy noticed and asked her what she was doing. "I'm a light bulb," she told him.

"You are clearly stressed-out," said the boss, looking concerned. "Go home and take it easy for a couple of days." Susan jumped down and headed for the door. Her co-worker Janice seized the opportunity and followed Susan.

"Where do you think you're going?" the boss hollered after her. "I'm going home, too," Janice said. "I can't work in the dark."

LAURA ROSSO

What's that word... stuck searching for that perfect word? Just make one up like The Washington Post did. They combined the beginning and end to make a byphenated word.

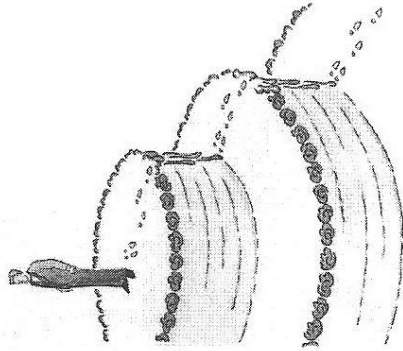
Pre-jected: When she's decided she's just not into you, even before you mention your bottle cap collection.

Privi-tufah: Rejoicing when you reach the front of the restroom line.

Tumble-folded: What a bachelor's laundry is.

Smorgas-wear: Elastic-waist pants.

Data 13



pilot. "How often do you replace the rope?" The pilot helpfully replied, "Every time it breaks." **MICHAEL WASSMER**

After a fruitless year of entering an online competition, I suddenly drew a blank on my password. I chose the new-password option on the website and waited for the company to email me. An hour later, I got it. The password they gave me: loser01. **KATHLEEN SLACK**

New to the country— sides, our minister asked a parishioner to show him around the area. **After a harrowing drive** along a muddy trail, the minister's car slid across a road and into a pit. **With both men OK** the shaken minister asked his passenger, "Should we pray?" **The parishioner** grumbled, "How do you think we got this far?" **BETTY STARKS-CASE**

Emerging from a swish department store restroom, my mother looked rather bemused. Her handbag was consider-

ably heavier than when she went in, even though she had only popped in and placed the bag in an empty basin while she used the loo. **Of course, an automatic tap sensor was a new experience for her.** **C. YOUNG**

Leave it to my husband to make me feel good about my body. He was marveling at a football player who was 1.75 metres tall and weighed 115 kilograms when I commented, "That'll be me if I keep eating what

I've been eating." "No, not you," my beloved assured me. "You'll never be 1.75 metres tall." **ELLEN BREUNIG**

My sight-impaired friend was in a grocery store with her guide dog when the manager asked, "Is that a blind dog?" **My friend said, "I hope not, or we're both in trouble."** **SHE YOUNG**

Your favourite new joke might be worth \$45. Go to p.9 or rdaily.com/jokes for details.



FELING LISTLESS. I bought some expensive "brain-stimulating" pills at the health food store. But it wasn't until I got home that I read the label.

"This is just rosemary extract," I complained to my husband. "I can't believe I spent all that money for something that I have growing like wild in the yard!"

"See?" he said. "You're smarter already."

SUSANNE HISBEE

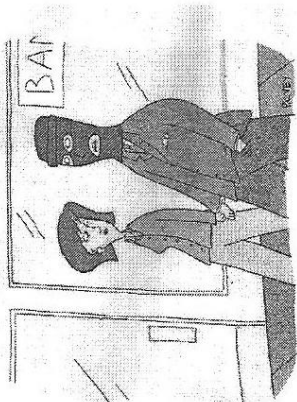
A woman walked into the elevator tossing her keys up in the air and catching them.

After one too many tosses, she dropped the keys, and we watched as they disappeared into the crack between the open doors and the floor.

I felt terrible for her. Or I did until she cried, "Oh not 'Nor again!"

WILEY DRAVELL

During my uncle's wake, I saw two friends of his peer into the open casket. "Doesn't Stanley



"I'm just going to step into the bank to get some money for dinner"

look good?" said one. "He should," said the other. "He just got out of the hospital."

MARY KINNEY

Seen on the bathroom door of an upscale spa: "Caution! Toilets flushed with reclaimed water. Do not drink!"

BOBBE BITE

We received a questionnaire from the local authority about the coming year's council tax. It asked us whether we would like a 3%, a 6% or a 9% increase, with

ANGELA ROHRBUSH

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With a party going on in the apartment above his, my friend could forget about getting any sleep.

The next day, he spotted the offending party guest.

"Didn't you hear me pounding on the ceiling?" he asked.

The woman smiled pleasantly. "That's OK. We were making a lot of noise ourselves."

KARLA WATKIN

I was leafing through one of my hunting catalogues when I found something that made me laugh.

"Look," I said to my wife, "what I've always wanted: A camouflage toilet seat."

"Get it," she said. "Then you'll have an excuse for when you miss."

MICHAEL KREZLER

The first time my son was on a bike with training wheels, I shouted, "Step back on the pedals and the bike will brake!"

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"After this procedure, nobody will be commenting on what a big nose you have"

He nodded, but still rode straight into a bush. "Why didn't you push back on the pedals?" I asked, helping him up.

"You said if I did, the bike would break."

WILLIAM B.

"Are you all right?" my seatmate on the plane asked, after noticing tears roll down my cheeks.

"I'm flying my

husband's ashes for burial," I explained, "and it just struck me that this would be our last trip together."

"I know how you feel," she said. "I had my horse for 20 years and just put him to sleep last week."

FANNY MAE O'NEIL

Having avoided the bathroom scale for a few years, my husband

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AFTER STANDING in line at the department of motor vehicles for what felt like aeons, my brother finally got to the counter. As the clerk typed his name into the computer, she said, "That's odd."
"What's wrong?" James asked.
"My computer says you're deceased."

Surveying his surroundings, James muttered, "Great. I died and went to hell!"

PAE BUNBERSON

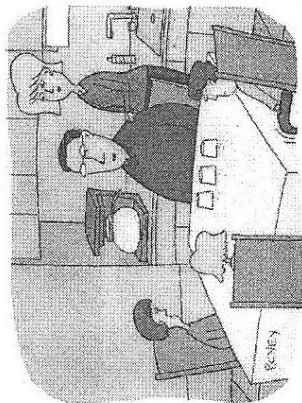
My sister-in-law, a professional storyteller, was in Europe speaking at various libraries. Later, she called her mother and told her that she'd just given a speech for 250 librarians.

"Great," said her mother. "And how much is that in American money?"

DAVID BUNBERSON

Five months pregnant and ravenous, I decided a second helping of dinner was in order.

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"Whoever guesses which cup the university tuition is under, gets it"

Of course, as soon as I spooned more food onto my plate, my husband had something to say about it.

"Remember, I'm eating for two," I reminded him.

"True," he said. "But how many are you expecting for?"

HOPA DUBSON-HUMBER

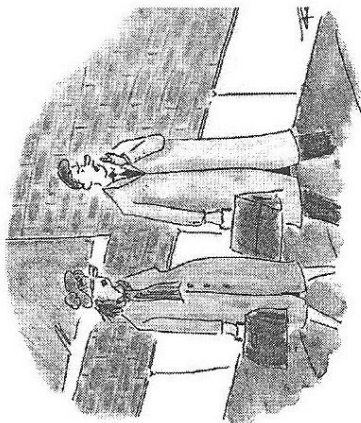
I walked into the music store to buy a CD of Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto. I found the hip-hop, R&B, country, and jazz sections, but no area where I

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The highlight of our zoo trip was a peacock showing off its plumage. My four-year-old son was particularly taken with it. That evening, he couldn't wait to tell his father: "Dad, guess what! I saw a Christmas tree come out of a chicken!"

Carol Howard



"it's not lip balm - it's 'manstick'"

My friend was at the beauty parlour when she overheard another woman rattle on to the manicurist about the sad state of her marriage.

"Things have gotten so bad," she said. "I think I might ask for a divorce. What do you think?"

"That's a serious matter," came the reply. "I think you should consult another manicurist."

Natalie Isaacs

When my daughter, Tiffany, was five years old, I gave her a scratch card. She started scratching the silver panel excitedly with a coin. When she was done, she stopped to

look at the card. She sighed then she continued scratching. She looked at the card again. "Mum," Tiffany said, "can you help me?" I looked at the card. "Sorry, dear," I said. "You didn't win."

Jeremiah Chua

My mother was complaining bitterly about how nosy her neighbours were and how you couldn't do

anything without them knowing.

It looked like we'd have to listen to this rant for quite a while, but she soon became distracted. Someone was walking down the street and she had to look out of the window to see who it was.

Jodie Houghton

Driving in Ohio, we spotted a sign that said "Wildlife Refuge". Seeing a dead deer lying in front of it, my

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