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JANUARY 2012

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# RYAN MUNDY



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# Contents



## *Happy New Year from Donato's Restaurant*

David Tesone and Donato Coluccio From Donato's

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Page 3.....	Travel
Pages 4-7.....	Health
Pages 8-9.....	Entertainment
Pages 10-11.....	Ryan Mundy
Page 12.....	Savoy
Page 13.....	Health And Fitness
Pages 14-15.....	Wine and Spirits
Pages 16-17.....	Nielsen-Massey Vanillas
Pages 18-19.....	Seneca Casino
Page 20.....	Theater
Pages 21-39.....	Humor
Page 40.....	Classifieds

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**S**TA Travel has trawled the world to find the top ten travel hotspots to hit in 2012, from the full-on nightlife of Buenos Aires to chilling out with orangutans in Borneo. The list has just been published on the new STA Travel blog (<http://www.statravel.co.uk/travel-blog>) features tips and advice, plus a constant supply of travel features on destinations all over the globe.

STA Travel's blog editor Ant Stone said: "Narrowing down the top trips to 2012 wasn't easy and led to a lot of heated debate in the office, but after talking to our destination experts from all over the world we're confident that we've got a great top ten. If you've got others to add then get on the blog and join the conversation."

**1. VIETNAM:** Next year Vietnam will be firmly on the travel radar thanks to new direct flights from the UK into Ho Chi Minh or Hanoi. w

Stone said: "I'd recommend hopping on a tour of Vietnam to make sure you see everything as there's so much to pack in. From the chaos of Saigon to the imperial capital Hue to charming Hoi An. And as Bond film 'Tomorrow Never Dies' was filmed in mesmerizing Halong Bay with its 3000 monolithic limestone islands up to 100m high, so start practicing Bond-esque wry eyebrow raises and cheesy chat-up lines now."

**2. BUENOS AIRES:** Buenos Aires is famous for football (you can't stay long here without someone mentioning Diego Maradona) and steaks which are as big as your head - but there is way more to this fabulous city. It boasts stunning architecture and countryside and one of the craziest nightlife scenes in the world, however with clubs opening from 2am it's not for the faint-hearted.

"If the club scene isn't your thing then fear not - Buenos Aires is of course home of tango. Grab a group of mates and join locals and tourists alike to gawp and frankly drool at the many tango shows," added Stone.

**3. SRI LANKA:** Sri Lanka will continue to boom in 2012 despite its troubled past, thanks to affordable prices, a 2011 survey by the Post Office put it at the number one spot in its for value-for-money report. "Beautiful beaches, a rich culture and fabulous food - all at great prices, what more do you need," said Stone.

**4. BORNEO:** Borneo is one of the last tropical destinations which hasn't yet seen prices rise as tourists flock in - however this won't last for long. With its incredible wildlife - including the enigmatic orangutan - plus opportunities to go trekking through remote communities and climb south-east Asia's tallest mountain Mount Kinabalu, on top of the chance to chill out on some of the world's most beautiful beaches, there's tons to do for even the most intrepid traveler.

**5. NEW ZEALAND:** New Zealand has had a tumultuous year in 2011 thanks to the devastating earthquake, and then the high of hosting and winning the Rugby World Cup. Head down next year to get active in the world's adrenaline capital: from bungee jumping to skiing to sky diving, there are thousands of ways to get a buzz in New Zealand.

And next year there's a small chance you'll get 'spotted' to star in a Hollywood blockbuster as Peter Jackson returns to New Zealand to film the first of his two Hobbit movies. "However the exact locations are a closely guarded secret, so if you see any short hairy blokes being followed by a camera crew you'll know why," said Stone.

**6. SYDNEY & NEW SOUTH WALES:** Movie mogul Baz Luhrmann is in Sydney and New South Wales filming his latest epic, a remake of the 1920s classic "The Great Gatsby" with



the likes of Leonardo DiCaprio and Carey Mulligan, at the moment (December 2011).

"The film is due out at the end of December 2012 so head over to Sydney and its surrounds next year, take your camera, buy a cheap string of fake pearls for the 1920s vibe and create your own story," said Stone.

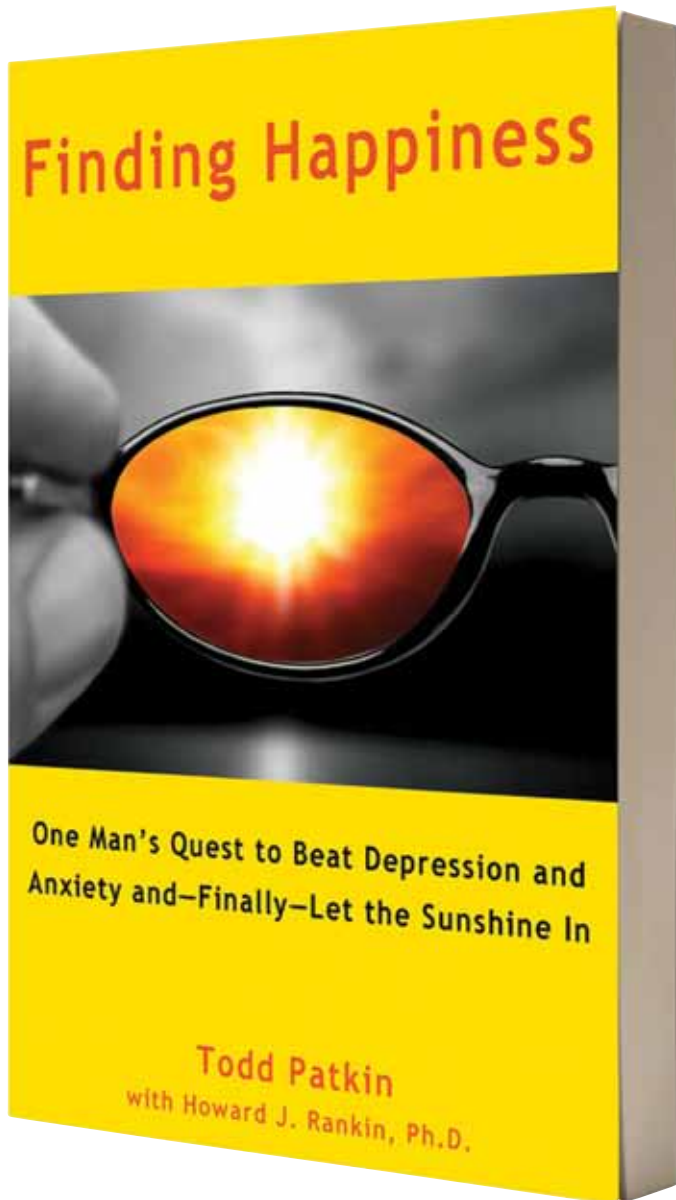
**7. THAILAND:** One of the key elements for young people on a gap year in 2012 will be adding in a volunteering or conservation project on their travels, and Thailand is one of the destinations best placed to offer a wide variety of these opportunities.

Stone said: "Following the introduction of fees for university in 2012 as young people look to alternative means of bolstering their CV and skill-set in a bid to appeal to future employers. From working with elephants in a conservation sector to helping to rebuild a school or community centre in areas still not yet rebuilt after the tsunami - there are lots of projects to get involved in."

**8. PERU:** The Inca Trail and Machu Picchu are, of course, Peru's most famous must-sees, however this fascinating country has so much more to offer. Why not join one of the many treks into the Amazon to see some of the world's greatest wildlife, accessing the Amazon from Peru is one of the best value and easiest ways, or see the country from the locals' point of view with a home-stay on Lake Titicaca.

**9. CUBA:** Soak up the music and mojitos, cigars and old cars in Havana or simply hit the pristine beaches in Cuba. "President Obama's increasingly tolerant attitude towards Cuba could mean that the time-capsule feel of this fascinating nation might be coming to an end. So get over to Cuba sooner rather than later before the American government swoop in and give its crumbling charm a make-over, so go now and soak up the incredible atmosphere before it all changes", said Stone.

**10. TORONTO:** If you arrive in Toronto and get a strange sense of deja vu then don't be alarmed... thanks to its incredible skyline it has masqueraded as New York City and Chicago among others. The city is home to the CN Tower, which may not be the tallest tower now but it is home to Edge Walk, the world's highest full-circle hands-free walk on a 1.5m wide ledge around the tower at 356m high - or 116 storey's. Stone said: "Couple this with great vintage shopping, quirky boutique hotels, parks and lakes to explore and you've got a great city break waiting to happen - which you can bet none of your mates of done before."



**1) You have to choose and prioritize happiness**—it doesn't just happen. If you subscribe to the belief that your happiness is wholly dependent on what happens to you, you'll always be dissatisfied. The truth is, your fulfillment largely depends on the choices you make: how you see the world, what you allow to influence you, what you focus on, and how you react to circumstances, regardless of whether they're good or bad. In other words, it's not what happens to you; it's how you look at what happens to you.

If you want to make a dent in your stress levels, you have to make choosing happiness a priority every day. With all of the responsibilities on our plates, nothing is likely to happen unless we specifically focus on it. So make happiness one of the two or three priorities you absolutely must accomplish each day. To remind yourself, put a note where you can see it—maybe on the refrigerator or bathroom mirror. And if that sounds selfish, it's not. If you're extremely stressed or become depressed

because of the way you're living your life, you're hurting many more people than just yourself. And what's more important than teaching your kids to be happy? Always remember that children learn by example. If they see you living a harried, stressed life, that's the pattern their lives will follow as well... and their children's after them, and so on.

**2) Striving for work/life balance is worth its weight in gold.** Times are tough, and some of us are finding it necessary to work long hours to keep our jobs and livelihoods. Others have fallen into the trap of the work-ego addiction: over time, you become hooked on the "high" you feel when you accomplish something, get a promotion, etc., and you begin to spend more and more time at the office. Whatever the reason, if extremely long hours are becoming a habit for you, break it. No matter how good your intentions are, overloading on work will cause your relationships, mindset, and even health to suffer.

You may find that normal for you maybe working seventy- or eighty-hour weeks. In your personal dictionary, 'rest' and 'relaxation' are synonymous with 'irresponsibility' and 'slacking.' Boy, are you wrong. Working as much as you do is more than the human body is designed to take continuously. If you drive yourself that hard, you'll eventually begin to run on fumes before you shut down entirely. Being firm about creating and maintaining a healthy work/life balance is no more selfish than prioritizing happiness—in this case, it's about simple self-preservation! And if you're still skeptical, remember this: no one looks back on their lives at age eighty and says, 'Gee, I wish I'd spent less time with my family and friends and more time at the office.'"

**3) We are our own worst critics.** If you're like most people, you probably tend to focus a lot of your mental energy on the things you mess up rather than on the things you do well—even though most of us do a hundred things right for every one thing we do wrong. And although you may not realize it, focusing on that one wrong thing is very dangerous, because our thoughts are incredibly powerful. Until you give yourself permission to break free of the cycle of self-blame and negativity that causes you to be stuck demanding perfection from yourself in every situation, you'll never have a chance to be a truly relaxed, content, and happy person.

It's not easy to rewire your habitual thought processes, but you need to build yourself up more and beat yourself up less. I used to expect nothing less than perfection out of myself, which was delusional! We're all human, which means that we're going to make mistakes from time to time. That doesn't mean that we're in any way unworthy or undeserving of love. In fact, learning to love myself was at the core of my own happiness journey. If you aren't satisfied with who you are, you'll always be looking outside yourself for validation...and you'll never be truly content. And like me, you might also push yourself beyond healthy limits in order to get accolades from other people."

**4) It's never too late to start living in the present.** How often do your thoughts "live" in the present? More to the point, how often are they instead fixated on your "disappointing" or "disturbing" past or spent worrying about your future? If you are like most people, your percentage of time not spent in the present is way, way too high, and thus you're missing out on life itself. If you're letting what's already happened eat away at you or fretting about what might come to pass, you're not

enjoying the blessings all around you. You're exacerbating your anxiety and unhappiness by choosing to dwell on things you can't change or control.

"I used to spend a majority of my time rehashing my past mistakes and worrying about what might happen in the future, neither of which did anything for my peace of mind or self-esteem." "In fact, these unhealthy and self-critical thoughts were a major contributor to the destruction of my life. Now that I'm making a conscious effort to live in the present, I'm actually enjoying all of the great things in my life instead of letting them pass me by unnoticed. Plus, I'm actually a lot more productive now that all of that mental space that used to be occupied with worries has been freed up!"

**5) Focusing on what you're good at is best for everyone.**

If you aren't good at something—especially if it's work-related—chances are you'll feel compelled to spend a lot of time and effort getting your skills up to par. It's natural to want to shore up your weaknesses, but the fact is, this strategy tends to cause you a lot of stress for (most likely) mediocre results. Instead of trying to be good at everything, stay in your strengths as much as possible. When you're doing what you're good at, you'll be happier and higher performing.

"As I've said, I used to be a total perfectionist." "I felt like I was a failure if I didn't excel in absolutely everything I tried. It probably won't be a surprise to hear that all I accomplished was making myself miserable when I failed to live up to my impossibly high standards. If that sounds familiar, I'd suggest focusing more time on a hobby or personal interest to start, even if you do it for only twenty minutes every other day. And if you determine that your career doesn't utilize your strengths, start looking at online job postings or for local classes in your field of interest. It's never too early—or too late—to start doing the things that make you happy."

**6) Exercise is worth its weight in therapy.** Yes, you've heard it (a million times) before, but exercise is one small change that yields really big, life-changing benefits. For starters, it will begin to make you feel more relaxed, stronger, and more capable of handling life's challenges—also, it will improve your sleep, and it's a natural anti-depressant that will help your attitude and outlook. In fact, exercise actually opens you up to future change by invigorating your mind and body.

"I'm convinced that exercise is the single most important thing you can do to improve your life right now." "Looking back, I believe that my enlightenment occurred when it did because I had broken my feet and couldn't work out. Before that point, exercise was essentially acting as a medication that helped to counteract the effects of the stressful lifestyle I was living, and after I recovered, it has continued to boost my energy and outlook. If working out is already a part of your life, great! If it isn't, commit to walking just twenty minutes every other day to start out. You don't have to join a gym, sign up for exhausting classes, and completely reorder your life to reap the benefits of this investment!"

**7) You need to feed your mind healthy "food."** When was the last time you watched the nightly news and turned off the TV feeling positive and uplifted? If anything, hearing the headlines is more likely to be depressing and discouraging. Although many of us don't want to admit it, the things we hear, read, and experience influence our own attitudes and outlooks, so it's important to consciously "feed" your mind positive materials. "It may sound hokey, but over the years I've become a big proponent of motivational books, audio recordings, and DVDs." "Whether we're at work, talking with friends, or at home watching TV or surfing the web, most of us encounter a lot



Todd Patkin

more bad news and predictions than we do good. No wonder we become negative and cynical! It's important to seek out positive things that will counteract these influences and dispel unnecessary stress. Learn new, constructive things and expose yourself to fresh ways of thinking so that you don't get stuck in a self-destructive rut."

**8) Surround yourself with positive people.** If you stop for a drink at the water cooler and find your colleagues griping about how much work they have to do and how unreasonable your boss is, you probably don't think much of it. In fact, depending on how your own day is going, you might even join in. And although you may not realize it, your attitude will start to deteriorate. The fact is, if you spend a significant amount of time around other people who are negative, your own outlook will begin to mirror theirs.

"It's much easier for others to drag you down than it is for you to build them up." "In terms of your attitude and happiness levels, you will be the average of the five people you spend the most time with, so you need to be around other people who share your commitment to happiness if you want to avoid unnecessary stress. I'm not suggesting that you completely sever relationships that aren't entirely uplifting, but gradually, you need to gravitate more toward positive people and distance yourself from those who tend to bring you down. This might mean calling a positive friend and asking to meet up for coffee or a beer, or walking away from the water cooler when your coworkers begin to gripe and complain."

**9) Invest in your relationships—especially your marriage.**



When we're driving ourselves to the brink, personal relationships are usually one of the first things to suffer. After all, the more time you spend at work, the less time and energy you have to invest in friends and family. You don't consciously realize it at first, but this gradual deterioration can leave you feeling unappreciated, angry, alone, and anxious. Remember, though, that loving, supportive relationships will majorly enhance your happiness levels, and that friends and family care about you and accept you in a way that your employer never will.

"It's never a waste of time to reach out to the people who are meaningful to you and tell them how important they are to you, or to try to address any unresolved grievances and apologize for the things you may regret." "And there's one relationship you need to focus on in particular: the one with your spouse or significant other. Put more work into this relationship than you do into anything else: your house, your car, or your job, etc. Celebrate your spouse or significant other every day. Tell her (or him!) all the time how beautiful she is and how lucky you are to have her in your life. Trust me: this can make such a great difference in your emotional health, your stress levels, and your overall happiness! I truly believe that I would not be as happy as I am today without the love of my wife, and I also believe that my illness would have been much worse without her support."

**10) Take control of what you can.** If you're reading this, chances are your life isn't exactly stress-free. It's practically impossible to live in the modern world without a million worries ranging from work deadlines to bills to clogged gutters. While you aren't omnipotent, you probably can influence at least a few of the things that are causing your anxiety. Try to eliminate or minimize situations that are stressors instead of constantly dealing with their effects. Often, it's the little things that make the biggest difference when it comes to relieving stress. "Start by identifying the two or three things that cause you the most stress on a consistent basis—maybe having a messy house is one." "Often, you'll find that there are concrete things you can do to lessen or even eliminate the pressure. For example, you might have a frank discussion with your spouse and kids regarding chores. Or, you might finally hire a cleaning person to help you once or twice a month if you can now afford it. Also, if you can't eliminate or change a stressor, such as

a job you hate but can't afford to quit, challenge yourself to handle it differently. Specifically, decide beforehand how you will react in a more enlightened way when certain stressful situations occur—actually visualize yourself handling them with poise instead of becoming outwardly or inwardly worked up. Having a game plan in place before the 'beast' rears its ugly head really can reduce your negative reactions to stressors—big time."

**11) Being friendly is a good investment.** In our culture, it's become a badge of honor to stride around with an air of importance and a stony face. After all, if you're too busy to say hello, you must be important. Yes, it's easy to become absorbed by your responsibilities—but you're not doing yourself any favors by shutting out the rest of the world. Even if you don't have time to answer all of your emails, you can still smile at people in the hall and say a friendly hello to the cashier in the grocery store. Making positive connections will bring more happiness to you and to others.

"Have you noticed that although our society is more and more 'connected' by technology, we interact less and less with other people on a meaningful, face-to-face level than ever before?" "Our plugged-in lifestyles aren't doing us as many favors as we thought they would. Even when we're not at work, we're likely to be glued to our smart phones or laptops, which amps up our stress. Make a conscious effort to unplug and make a friendly connection with another human—even a simple smile or hello is great. The fact is, everyone on Earth is carrying some sort of burden. You can't make their pain, stress, or grief just magically disappear...but you can be what I call a 'lamp-lighter'—someone who makes others feel just a little bit lighter and happier on their journey, even if only for five seconds. When you make friendliness a habit, you'll attract kindness and smiles in return...and you'll feel great about yourself for making a positive difference in the world!"

**12) Helping others is the soul food of life.** One of the (many) negative side effects of our busy lives is that we tend to think mostly about ourselves: how much work we have left on that big presentation, how we're going to find time to take the kids to sports practice and pick up groceries, and much, much more. No matter how busy you are now, consider helping others to be an integral part of the healthy work/life balance that will help you to avoid unhappiness. This will give you



perspective, make you feel good, and will prevent you from staying in the negative me-focused cycle that was making you unhappy in the first place.

“Since my illness, I’ve become very involved in philanthropy.”

“I’ve found that it really is better to give than to receive, and that reaching out a helping hand to someone who isn’t as fortunate as you tends to quash selfish impulses and highlight your own blessings. Giving of yourself doesn’t have to involve money, either—remember that your time, talents, and compassion are just as valuable as cash, if not more so. Consider visiting a disabled veteran at the VA, or simply rolling your neighbor’s trashcan up the driveway! And if you have kids, you’ll be setting a wonderful example for them. I promise you, whether you’re giving time, energy, money, or encouragement, being generous will build up your self-esteem, broaden your perspective, keep you anchored in reality, and connect you to your blessings—all components of a happy life.”

**13) It’s important to connect with something bigger than yourself.** Yes, spirituality (much like politics) is a touchy subject. But, believing in something bigger than yourself is essential to developing the kind of perspective you need to be happy. Whether you consider your Higher Power to be God, Yahweh, Allah, Buddha, Krishna, the Universe, or even just Nature or another entity, being willing and able to see and feel His (or Her, if you prefer!) presence in your life will enable you to move away from self-centeredness and focus your energy and concerns on the greater community. It’ll also provide solace and give meaning to unfortunate events and troubling life circumstances.

“Personally, I’ve been connected to the Jewish faith for my



entire life.” “But it was only after my illness that I really allowed my faith to grow. My personal belief that God exists and cares about me has changed the way I view the world—but you don’t need to espouse my beliefs, or even join an organized religion and attend services regularly. What I do hope you’ll do is make an effort to clarify your thoughts about faith and also make an effort to connect to your Higher Power, whether it’s through prayer, meditation, writing in a journal, doing random acts of kindness, or just spending time in nature. Eventually, I hope you’ll begin to see your Higher Power as a source of inspiration, renewal, strength, guidance, and aid—as I do.”

**14) A grateful heart is a happy heart.** It’s very easy to take things for granted: the information your coworker emailed you, the fact that your car is running, and even the food you’re eating for dinner. The fact is, most of us have gotten into the habit of ignoring all of the good things in our lives. Instead, we focus our mental energy on being upset about what’s wrong and what we don’t have. Yes, cultivating an “attitude of gratitude” might be a clichéd concept, but the humility that comes from knowing you owe so much to so many others will, in turn, spur you to give back more often to those less fortunate than yourself. Plus, studies have actually shown that thankful individuals are 25 percent healthier than their counterparts, too!

“To start tapping into the power of gratitude, just say ‘thanks’ to the people who help you out during your day.” “And beyond that, try to notice all of the blessings in your life. If you live in America, you have access to great education, healthcare, and the freedom to worship and work as you choose. Those are huge things to be thankful for right out of the gate! We take these ‘basics’ and much more for granted, and we often have others—whether it’s an ancestor of ours, a veteran, or a coworker—to thank for them. It’s extremely important to be aware of all of your blessings, and to honor and thank those whom you owe.”

**15) Asking for help isn’t a sign of weakness.** All of the things I’ve learned will help you to cut your stress levels, and they’ll also aid you in cultivating a more balanced, happier life. But I’m also adamant that feeling anxious, overwhelmed, or depressed are all very serious, and that you shouldn’t expect yourself to easily “fix” these issues on your own.

“If you feel that you’re in over your head, or if your best efforts aren’t working, please reach out and ask for help.” “I might never have recovered without the help of my friends, family, and medical professionals. This is all big stuff. You shouldn’t—in fact, you can’t—make big changes in your life alone. At the very least, you’ll need the support of those who love you.”

“Ultimately, I’ve learned that the quality of your life is largely up to you.” “If you’re anything like me—and if you’re honest with yourself—you’ll have to confess that a striving, stressful lifestyle is not making you happy. I’ll admit that many of the changes I’m asking you to make in order to avoid more unhappiness (and perhaps even a breakdown) go against what society says you should do if you want to be successful. But I have found out the hard way that a ‘successful’ yet stressed out and unhappy life is certainly not, in reality, a truly successful life at all.” Patkin, author of the new book *Finding Happiness: One Man’s Quest to Beat Depression and Anxiety and—Finally—Let the Sunshine In* (StepWise Press, 2011, ISBN: 978-0-9658261-9-8, \$19.95), says this pattern of stress and striving has to stop. We already live in uncertain and depressing times, and our lifestyles are driving us not toward new heights, but over the brink.

## First Night Saturday December 31, 2011



Highmark First Night Pittsburgh begins at 6:00 p.m. with the Dollar Bank Children's Fireworks Display and a performance by Jimbo and the Soupbones on the Dollar Bank Stage at Seventh Street and Penn Avenue. The First Night Parade begins at 8:00 p.m and features Flock of Cycles' bike parade, a stilt-walking band, and giant puppets created by Cheryl Capezzuti and members of the community. The evening concludes with a performance by Rusted Root on the Highmark Stage and The Countdown to Midnight and Future of Pittsburgh Grand Finale atop Penn Avenue Place and Fifth Avenue Place. The Highmark Stage, where all the First Night revelry concludes, is located on Penn Avenue next to Fifth Avenue Place. The addition of a jumbotron on Penn Avenue will enhance the experience by broadcasting these culminating events for all attendees to see.

Among 100+ events and activities held in 45 venues throughout the Cultural District, attractions include the First National Bank Family Tent featuring hands-on activities for all ages; Equitable Gas Marquee Performances with House of Soul at the Benedum Center, Cello Fury with special guests Bill Deasy and Bodiography Contemporary Ballet at the Byham Theater, and River City Brass Band at the O'Reilly Theater; and brand new projects for 2012 including Healthy Resolutions with YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh at 119 6th St. (formerly Bally's Total Fitness), the reinstated annual Resolution Sculpture created this year by local artist Wendy Osher, and a crowd-friendly mobile phone-driven interactive gaming experience presented by Pittsburgh-based Evil Genius Designs.

Today, a brand new Highmark First Night Pittsburgh website launches to provide even more event details and to allow users to sort through the schedule of events and customize plans. The new FirstNightPgh.org is also mobile-friendly and will allow smartphone users to plan on-the-go during New Year's Eve.

### **FIRST NIGHT® BUTTONS**

To join the celebration, simply purchase an all-access Highmark First Night Pittsburgh 2012 button. A First Night button costs only \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door; children age 5 and under are admitted for free. First Night buttons are available at participating Giant Eagle stores, The Box Office at Theater Square, online at [www.FirstNightPgh.org](http://www.FirstNightPgh.org), or by calling 412-456-6666.

Due to overwhelming popularity and limited seating in Cultural District theaters, a free General Admission Seating Voucher is necessary to see any performance in The Benedum Center, The Byham Theater, The O'Reilly Theater, Highmark Auditorium at Fifth Avenue Place, August Wilson Center for African American Culture, and CAPA School Auditorium. Vouchers are available at The Box Office at Theater Square beginning Thursday, December 8, 2011 and through the night of the

**T**he Pittsburgh Cultural Trust announces first-ever title sponsor for annual event: HIGHMARK® FIRST NIGHT® PITTSBURGH 2012 Region's largest New Year's Eve celebration. Rusted Root headlines Highmark First Night Pittsburgh 2012. Saturday, December 31, 2011, 6:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. midnight

In the heart of the Cultural District Celebrate New Year's Eve in the heart of downtown Pittsburgh's Cultural District at Highmark First Night Pittsburgh 2012! This family-friendly community event is produced by The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust with generous support from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, the event's long time supporter and first-ever title sponsor in 2012. Highmark First Night Pittsburgh provides the city with a chance to ring in the new year while celebrating the arts: dance, music, theater, comedy, magic, visual art and film, plus hands-on activities for children and adults.

"Highmark is proud to serve as the first title sponsor for First Night Pittsburgh," said Deborah Rice, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield's Division President and Executive Vice President of Health Services. "We hope that our contribution will enable The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust to continue providing affordable and diverse art and entertainment programming on New Year's Eve." Adds Darcy Kucenic, Director of Highmark First Night Pittsburgh for The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust: "We're grateful to Highmark for their continued support of the region's largest New Year's event that draws tens of thousands of First Night visitors to the heart of the Cultural District. The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust is proud to host this community event and to deliver high-quality performing and visual art for the city to embrace this New Year's Eve."

event. Simply show a First Night button to obtain one seating voucher per production. The Box Office at Theater Square is located at 655 Penn Avenue between the O'Reilly Theater and Katz Plaza. There will be general admission waiting lines for performances at all venues requiring vouchers. Patrons will be seated on a space-available and first-come, first-served basis once voucher holders have been accommodated. Box Office hours are Monday – Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Sunday, 12:00 p.m. noon to 6:00 p.m.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

First Night needs volunteers for numerous jobs--from button checkers to activity helpers to parade assistants. Families, co-workers, school groups and individuals of all ages are needed to help us ring in 2012 in a fun, alcohol-free, family-friendly way. To volunteer with Highmark First Night Pittsburgh, sign up at [FirstNightPgh.org](http://FirstNightPgh.org).

### **SPONSORS & MEDIA PARTNERS**

Highmark First Night Pittsburgh 2012 sponsors as of release date include: Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield as the title sponsor, Dollar Bank, Equitable Gas, First National Bank, Giant Eagle, and PNC.

Highmark First Night Pittsburgh 2012 community supporters include The Buhl Foundation, The Fine Foundation, and The Grable Foundation.

Highmark First Night Pittsburgh 2012 media partners include Trib Total Media, KDKA TV, BOB 96.9 FM, Q 92.9 FM, Radio Disney, STAR 100.7, Y108 107.9 FM, and WYEP 91.3 FM.

### **ABOUT HIGHMARK FIRST NIGHT PITTSBURGH**

Highmark First Night Pittsburgh is the largest one-day outreach event of The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. Founded in 1984, The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust has led the way for the creation and ongoing development of Pittsburgh's award-winning Cultural District. Utilizing the arts as a means for transforming a formerly blighted downtown, the Cultural Trust today welcomes over a million visitors annually to thousands of performances, gallery exhibitions and community events.



## **Mike Daisy's The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs...**

**T**he Pittsburgh Cultural Trust in association with The Andy Warhol Museum presents Mike Daisy's *The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs*, at the Byham Theater on January 21, 2012, at 8:00 p.m., as part of the Cohen & Grigsby Trust Presents series. Created and performed by Mike Daisey and directed by Jean-Michele Gregory, *The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs* dives into the epic story of real life Willy Wonka Steve Jobs, CEO of Apple. Daisey examines how Jobs' obsessions profoundly shape our everyday lives and recounts his journey to China to investigate the factories where millions are employed making iPhones and iPods. This presentation in Pittsburgh by Daisey is one of only a few select cities around the country on his tour.

Tickets are \$18-35, and may be purchased at the Box Office at Theater Square (655 Penn Avenue), online at [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org), or by calling (412) 456-6666. To purchase 10 or more tickets at special discounted rates, please call group sales at (412) 471-6930.

Daisey's journey shines a brilliant light on our love affair with our devices and the human cost of creating them. Daisey speaks of Shenzhen, China, where 52 percent of the world's consumer electronic products are manufactured, mostly by human hands. Daisey commented to *Cult of Mac*, "What I am interested in is telling the extemporaneous story, live. I am not playing any role. I'm using the tools of the theater, but I'm actually speaking as a person who has gone and done these things." After risking his own life to stand outside Foxconn and interview workers -- some of whom are 13 years old and younger -- and later meeting with union organizers to find out what life is like in a Chinese factory, Daisey shows that he "dreams of a kind of theater that takes risks and speaks the truth to power." – *Los Angeles Times*

Mike Daisey has been called "the master storyteller" and "one of the finest solo performers of his generation" by the *New York Times* for his groundbreaking monologues, which weave together autobiography, gonzo journalism, and unscripted performance. These famously hilarious and heartbreaking monologues include last season's critically acclaimed *The Last Cargo Cult*, the controversial *How Theater Failed America*, the six-hour epic *Great Men of Genius*, the unrepeatably series *All Stories Are Fiction*, the international sensation *21 Dog Years*, and his latest, *The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs*. He has performed in venues on five continents, ranging from Off-Broadway at the Public Theater to remote islands in the South Pacific, from the Sydney Opera House to abandoned theaters in post-Communist Tajikistan. He's been a commentator and contributor to *WIRED*, *Vanity Fair*, *Slate*, *Salon*, *NPR* and the *BBC*; his first film, *Layover*, was shown at the Cannes Film Festival this year, and a feature film of his monologue, *If You See Something Say Something*, was produced in 2011. He has been nominated for the Outer Critics Circle Award, two Drama League Awards, and is the recipient of the Bay Area Critics Circle Award, four *Seattle Times* Footlight Awards, the Sloan Foundation's Galileo Prize, and a MacDowell Fellowship.

# Ryan Mundy - Pittsburgh Steeler #29

By: Joyce Campisi



**Nightwire:** Favorite restaurant outside of Pittsburgh?

**Mundy:** "Del Frisco's – they have the best steaks out of all the steak houses, ate there in New York, Boston and Atlanta."

**Nightwire:** What's your favorite Night Club?

**Mundy:** "I don't go out that much especially during the season, but I have to say Savoy when I do go out."

**Nightwire:** Where is your favorite place to hang out?

**Mundy:** "I go to Savoy to chill out, it has a very nice atmosphere, that's the place to go and relax outside of my house."

**Nightwire:** What's your current status?

**Mundy:** "I'm engaged to Jillian and we are getting married in April."

**Nightwire:** Do you have any pets?

**Mundy:** "No pets, I'm not an animal guy."

**Nightwire:** What's your favorite food?

**Mundy:** "Pancakes... breakfast food, I eat breakfast food every day, bacon & eggs and OJ."

**Nightwire:** What's your favorite drink?

**Mundy:** "Water – not cold water, but warm water."

**Nightwire:** What is most important to you?

**Mundy:** "Being the person that God created me to be... with all the potential I see in myself – I feel I was put into service to help people... I've played football since 92 – 19 years... although football is not the end all, I've used it to open doors to help other people."

**R**yan Mundy - #29 DB. Pittsburgh Steelers. Height: 6-1  
Weight: 209 Age: 26. Born: 2/11/1985 - Pittsburgh, PA.  
Mundy played receiver and defensive back in high school at Woodland Hills High. He graduated from Michigan in 2007 with a year of eligibility remaining. Instead of finishing his college football career at Michigan, Mundy decided to enroll at West Virginia University and join the Mountaineers football team for the 2007 season. Mundy was selected in the sixth round (194th overall) of the 2008 NFL Draft by the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Mundy sat down and gave Nightwire a personal interview and insight to his life:

**Nightwire:** What do you like to do in your free time?

**Mundy:** "Relax... really... after spending all day practicing, studying game films and lifting weights... I just like to go home relax get away and watch TV."

**Nightwire:** What's your favorite TV show?

**Mundy:** "I watch the news, CNN and the local news... I like game shows, particularly Jeopardy and I'm actually pretty good at answering the questions."

**Nightwire:** What's your favorite vacation spot?

**Mundy:** "To be honest I haven't been on too many vacations.. the places that I've been has been athletic related, I've been to New York."

**Nightwire:** What's your favorite local restaurant?

**Mundy:** "Anyone of the steak houses... Ruth Chris, Capital Grille, Hyde Park."



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**Nightwire:** We've heard that you are involved with a lot of charities, can you tell us about that?

**Mundy:** "It's called Mundy Collective – I call it a collective because there is so much stuff and so many things that I want to do. It's a vision, with a lot of events, football camps, turkey drives, it serves like an umbrella to cover numerous events and community service oriented programs."

**Nightwire:** What do you like about Pittsburgh?

**Mundy:** "I like that we get all 4 seasons.. most places like Arizona or Florida.. its 80 degrees in December. I like the way our seasons change, Fall is my favorite season. Pittsburgh has great people, I feel that the weather has a big impact.. it creates a environment, that you wouldn't be able to create without the seasons."

**Nightwire:** "What do you dislike about Pittsburgh?"

**Mundy:** "I'd have to say the airport.... there are no direct flights from Pittsburgh anymore, you have layovers in Atlanta or Chicago."

**Nightwire:** What do you think about Pittsburgh Steeler Fans?

**Mundy:** "I think their great.. they are all over the place.. they travel very well...when we travel the hotels are packed with Steeler fans in the lobby.. we definitely have the best fans in professional sports... plus the majority of our fans are pretty knowledgeable and not afraid to share their opinions... we love our fans!"

**Nightwire:** What's the craziest thing anyone ever asked you to autograph?

**Mundy:** "I don't get too many crazy things.....but, I'd have to say, terrible towels from 25 years ago... old jersey's, ones that are really very old and worn, I've autographed really old worn out terrible towels or once someone asked me to autograph a



1960 Steeler helmet... just the older torn up items, that must mean so much to those fans."

**Nightwire:** What Steeler has been the greatest influence in your career?

**Mundy:** "Ryan Clark.. and Troy Polamalu.... that's who I've learned from.. playing under them.. not only on the field but off the field.. they are both great family men... you never hear anything negative about those guys, they are really great guys, I model my career after them."

**Nightwire:** Tell me something our readers would be surprised to know about you?

**Mundy:** "I'm very artistic I went to the Rogers School for the performing arts, now called CAPA in Pittsburgh. You'll find me sitting around doodling, I'm thinking about taking up photography."

**Nightwire:** What kind of car do you drive and why?

**Mundy:** "I drive a Mercedes S-550 – that was my dream car.. the car I wanted since I first laid eyes on it.. my roommate in college, when he got signed to play in the NFL he bought that car and as I'm coming downstairs on my way to work, he had the car outside... my mouth just dropped... I blew off work that day and we went out joy riding in it for the rest of the day."

**Nightwire:** What has been the greatest moment in your career so far?

**Mundy:** "I've been very fortunate to go to 2 super bowls in my first 3 seasons.. definitely a great blessing and experience.. and just making my first start last year with the Steelers against the Jets in a regular season game."

**Nightwire:** If I could make a wish come true for you... what would that wish be?

**Mundy:** "I love where I am in life now and really don't need anything.."



# Draft House

1811 E. Carson Street • South Side



# Savoy - Enjoy The Good Life With Roger Humphries Trio Live!

Photos By Katelyn Petraitis

**J**azz lovers, it's here at last: SAVOY JAZZ! Every Monday evening Savoy will be opening the restaurant for Monday Night Jazz! Come in and enjoy some of the finest live jazz around, performed by some of the best jazz artists Pittsburgh has to offer. Plus, the kitchen is open for some amazing dining to go along with that fabulous jazz music.

Attire: Business casual (no sneakers, hats, tank tops or shorts)

Dining: Select entrée and dessert items are available along with the full lounge menu. Drink specials are all domestic beers for \$3.00 (plus tax) and a special martini called the "Jazztini" for \$8.00 (plus tax).

Hours: Restaurant is open 5pm to 10pm. Live music from 5pm to 9pm

Make Monday Night Jazz @ Savoy your special treat every week!

## Upcoming Artists

Each week Savoy will feature the Roger Humphries Trio with a special guest artist: Check out their website for their January lineup. [www.savoyppgh.com](http://www.savoyppgh.com) or call for more information: 412.281.0660 – Savoy is located in the strip at 2623 Penn Avenue – Pittsburgh, PA 15222

## New Year's Eve Bash at Savoy with DJ Biz Markie

Looking for something to do this New Year's... then look no further make reservations for Savoy's exclusive 2012 New Year's Eve Bash, featuring music by DJ Biz Markie and a special New Year's Eve Menu. Limited seating is available, and tickets are available pre-sale only. Included in the evening is a three course meal with a complimentary glass of wine or champagne & intermezzo. Guests will also receive a celebratory favor and a glass of champagne to toast for the New Year.

For New Year's Eve Lounge VIP table reservations, call 412-889-9490. For more information call 412-281-0660 or buy your tickets online at [www.savoyppgh.com](http://www.savoyppgh.com)



## Savoy Pittsburgh

[www.savoyppgh.com](http://www.savoyppgh.com) or  
call for more information: 412.281.0660

Savoy is located in the strip at  
2623 Penn Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

# Health And Fitness

By Marcy Simon



**S**o, I'm sitting here trying to ponder my New Years' resolution "get fit" and I just couldn't bear to put you all through the usual rah, rah, speech. Let's face it – we're all sick of it. Including me! So instead, here are some outstanding quotes (at least I think they are) that you can read every time your motivation to workout dims...

- "Bigger snacks mean bigger slacks." –Unknown
- "What you eat in private will show up in public." –Unknown
- "It is better to take many small steps in the right direction than to make a great leap forward only to stumble backward." –Old Chinese Proverb
- "Most people fail, not because of lack of desire, but, because of lack of commitment." –Vince Lombardi
- "When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on." –Thomas Jefferson
- Strive for progress, not perfection. –Unknown
- You want me to do something... tell me I can't do it. –Maya Angelou
- I'd rather be a failure at something I enjoy than a success at something I hate. –George Burns
- Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and

expecting different results. –Albert Einstein

- I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed. –Michael Jordan
- Clear your mind of can't. –Samuel Johnson
- AND MY MOST FAVORITE: "Fitness – If it came in a bottle, everybody would have a great body." –Cher
- Fear is what stops you... courage is what keeps you going. –Unknown
- The difference between a goal and a dream is a deadline. –Steve Smith
- Just do it.™ –Nike
- The secret of getting ahead is getting started. –Mark Twain
- It's never too late to become what you might have been. –George Elliot 25.
- Marcy Simon is the Director of the Center for Balanced Living, a health and wellness program for adults 55 and older.

# Wine and Spirits

## Ice Syrup – Icewine’s Culinary Cousin

By Michael Berlis, Niagara-On-The-Lake  
Ontario, Canada



**T**here is a new and exciting gourmet product made from Canadian Icewine grapes called “Ice Syrup”. This is made from the same juice as the world-famous Icewine, where grapes are frozen naturally on the vine, and pressed when all the natural sugars have concentrated to the middle. The yield is only about 10% that of table wine, where all the water in the grape is included. With Icewine, only a drop or so of concentrated sugar is extracted from the grape, while the water in the fruit remains behind as ice. This results in a much sweeter and thicker juice to begin with. Rather than fermenting this juice, as is done to create Icewine, local Niagara winegrower and winery owner Steve Murdza found a way to slowly evaporate more water from the juice, creating a syrup which maintains the same characteristics as Icewine.

This has not been an easy product to create, and indeed Steve has spent almost 10 years working on the process. Simply boiling the juice resulted in a dark caramelized liquid which tasted of prunes. “It smelled good and looked

nice, but when I tasted it, there was none of the taste profile I was looking for”, he said. So Murdza teamed up with the Guelph University Food Technology Department, and patented a process to reduce the liquid while leaving behind a sweet syrup. This syrup is unique, as it has a balance of sweetness and acidity. It’s this balance that makes Ice Syrup a sought-after gourmet product.

Steve Murdza, together with his business partners in the Company, Sweet & Sticky Inc., (his brother Peter Murdza, local sommelier Mike Berlis, and Inniskillin winery co-founder Donald Ziraldo), have launched two distinct Ice Syrups - a white Vidal and a red Cabernet Franc. The Vidal grape produces an Ice Syrup that has rich initial flavors of apricot and plum, followed by the balanced acidity of tangerine and citrus notes which linger on the palate. The taste profile of Cabernet Franc is quite different, with a mixture of ripe raspberries and rhubarb at the outset, and a dark berry finish.

One obviously compares Ice Syrup to another well-known syrup from Canada called maple syrup. However, while maple syrup is just sweet, this new product has the unique balance of acidity, which makes it much more versatile.







Certainly it can be poured over pancakes, but it can also be used as a drizzle on cheese, a glaze on salmon, or in a vinaigrette dressing. Master chef Susur Lee, who currently has restaurants in Toronto, New York and Washington, has endorsed the product, and uses it enthusiastically in his Asian-style cuisine. Many of the local chefs in the Niagara region are experimenting with it, and have found success with it in scallop dishes, with caramelized onions on pizza, or poured over butter tarts and ice cream. “The possibilities are endless”, says Mike Berlis, a partner in the business, and a creative cook himself. “Once people taste Ice Syrup, their eyes light up and their culinary imagination quickly focuses on all the ways it can be used to enhance their favorite dishes.” Mike has prepared entire dinners around Ice Syrup, using it with appetizers of pear, blue cheese and prosciutto, in sweet potato soup, in a salad dressing, with cranberries over lamb loin served with glazed carrots, and finally drizzled over apple strudel. “The addition of Ice Syrup as a new and local ingredient adds a unique taste to every dish, no matter how it is used.” His all time personal favorite is Cabernet Franc with chocolate dessert. “I strongly believe that chocolate is a basic food group”, he says with a smile. “I mix Cabernet Franc Ice Syrup with raspberries, and serve them over chocolate lava cake and ice cream. A glass of Cabernet Franc Icewine is the perfect accompaniment.”

Ice Syrup can be found in many stores and wineries in the Niagara region of Ontario. It can also be purchased

online through the website ([www.icesyrup.com](http://www.icesyrup.com)), and as there is no alcohol in this product, it can be easily shipped across the border. Both the Vidal and Cabernet Franc come in bottles of 200mls (about 7oz), and the suggested retail price is \$29.95(Canadian) per bottle. Like balsamic vinegar, Ice Syrup is sure to become a required ingredient in all household kitchens.

#### **Suggested uses:**

- **Mix with sparkling water to create a non-alcoholic “Icewine” spritzer.**
- **Mix with berries and pour over waffles, pancakes, or ice cream.**
- **Blend with whipped cream and add to desserts or hot chocolate.**
- **Use as a glaze on salmon, duck breast, or pork tenderloin.**
- **Drizzle over sharp cheddar cheese or blue cheese.**
- **\*Brush onto grilled fruit, such as peaches, nectarines or apricots.**
- **Use as a glaze over sweet potatoes, yams or carrots.**
- **\*Blend with cream cheese or goat’s cheese to serve on sliced pear or apple.**
- **Drizzle over foie gras or gravlax.**

# Nielsen-Massey Vanillas



**A**dd New Flavors for the New Year Nielsen-Massey Vanillas enhances dishes with dashes of vanilla, almond and peppermint

Nielsen-Massey Vanillas offers a variety of ways to wake up menus and wow holiday party guests with unique ideas such as:

- Add a splash of Pure Almond Extract to any type of nut, pumpkin or banana bread for added depth and character.
- Use Madagascar Bourbon Pure Vanilla Bean Paste to glaze crusts for fruit pies.
- Add a quarter teaspoon of vanilla to hot chocolate for a mellow flavor and warming treat.
- After the large Thanksgiving meal, add a few drops of Pure Peppermint Extract to a cup of hot water. This remedy helps soothe an upset stomach.

Adding flavor is an easy way to enhance the menu of a traditional meal such as Thanksgiving without completely changing the foods that family and friends enjoy each year.

“Home chefs who are looking for something new will embrace the added flavor to the traditional family meal,” says Beth Nielsen, chief culinary officer at Nielsen-Massey Vanillas.

“Vanilla bean paste can be added to a glaze for the meat – whether it is turkey, ham, chicken or even duck – and it will create a festive taste that presents beautifully because you can see the gourmet vanilla flakes.”

For home cooks looking to bring a new twist to the traditional Thanksgiving feast, try the vanilla-glazed duck breast recipe

below. It may even be the start to a new family tradition.

## Roasted Vanilla-Glazed Chicken Breasts with Vegetables

Serves 4

**4 chicken breasts**

**1 cup sugar**

**1 1/2 cups water**

**1 1/2 teaspoons Nielsen-Massey Madagascar Bourbon Pure Vanilla Bean Paste**

**2 cups turnips, diced (about 1 pound)**

**2 cups beets, diced (about 1 pound)**

**2 cups celery root, diced (about 1 pound)**

**1 shallot, finely diced**

**3 teaspoon fresh chervil, minced**

**1 cup sodium-reduced beef broth**

**3 teaspoon raspberry vinegar**

**3 tablespoon butter**

**Salt and pepper to taste**

### Directions

Preheat oven to 350°F. Combine water and sugar in a small saucepan. Boil 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in vanilla paste. Set aside. In an ovenproof frying pan, sear the chicken breasts in 2 tablespoons butter. Brush the chicken with the vanilla syrup and roast in oven 20 minutes, or until desired doneness. Keep warm. In separate batches, blanch the turnips, beets, and celery root in 1 quart boiling water, about 5 minutes, until tender-crisp. Drain well. Heat remaining butter over medium heat until bubbly. Add shallots and vegetables. Stir in vanilla syrup to glaze the vegetables, approximately 1/2 cup. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Transfer the chicken to a plate and keep warm. Deglaze the pan with the raspberry vinegar. Add the beef broth. Simmer and stir until the sauce is reduced by half. To serve, pool the sauce onto 4





serving plates. Top with the glazed vegetables. Slice the chicken breasts and arrange over the vegetables. Garnish with a sprinkle of chervil.

### Nielsen-Massey Chewy Chocolate Gingerbread Cookies

#### Ingredients

**2½ cups unbleached all-purpose flour**  
**¼ cup high quality cocoa powder**  
**1 teaspoon ground cinnamon**  
**¼ teaspoon ground cloves**  
**¼ teaspoon ground ginger**  
**½ teaspoon salt**  
**¾ cup (1¼ sticks) unsalted butter, softened**  
**1 cup granulated sugar**  
**½ cup firmly packed light brown sugar**  
**1 tablespoon Nielsen-Massey Madagascar Bourbon Pure Vanilla Extract**  
**1 teaspoon Nielsen-Massey Pure Chocolate Extract**  
**1 egg**  
**¼ cup original unsulfured molasses**

#### Directions

Line 2 light-colored, heavy baking sheets with parchment paper, set aside. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, cocoa powder, cinnamon, cloves, ginger and salt, set aside. To a large mixing bowl, add butter, granulated and brown sugars, Madagascar Bourbon Pure Vanilla Extract and Pure Chocolate Extract; beat with an electric mixer on medium speed until creamy. Beat in egg until combined. Add molasses, beat until combined. Reduce speed to low, add dry ingredients in three batches, beating after each addition, until just combined. Divide dough into 2 even pieces, press each piece into a disk shape, wrap with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 1 hour. Preheat oven to 350°F. Working with one piece of dough at a time, place on a clean, lightly floured surface\*. Roll dough to a

¼-inch thickness. Using a 2¾-inch cookie cutter, cut desired cookie shapes. Transfer cookies to prepared cookie sheets using a thin metal spatula. Bake about 8-10 minutes, remove and place cookies on wire rack to cool. For a crispier cookie, roll dough to a 1/8-inch thickness and adjust baking time accordingly. For dusting the rolling surface and pin, in a small bowl, combine 1 tablespoon of cocoa powder with 2 tablespoons of all-purpose flour. This will help keep the cookies a nice chocolaty brown.

### Nielsen-Massey Almond Icing

#### Ingredients

**½ teaspoon Nielsen-Massey Pure Almond Extract**  
**1 tablespoon meringue powder**  
**2½ tablespoons water**  
**2¼ cups confectioners' sugar**

#### Directions

In a small bowl, whisk together Pure Almond Extract, meringue powder, water and confectioners' sugar, until smooth. Select a small round pastry tip, prepare a pastry bag and creatively pipe icing onto cooled cookies. No time to make icing? Before placing cookies in the oven, generously sprinkle chocolate gingerbread cutouts with Nielsen-Massey Madagascar Bourbon Pure Vanilla Sugar.

### About Nielsen-Massey Vanillas

Throughout its more than 100 year history, Nielsen-Massey Vanillas has earned its reputation as a manufacturer of the finest extracts in the world. The full line of Nielsen-Massey's Pure Vanilla products include: Vanilla Beans and Extracts from Madagascar, Tahiti and Mexico; sugar and alcohol-free Madagascar Bourbon Pure Vanilla Powder; Madagascar Bourbon Pure Vanilla Bean Paste; Madagascar Bourbon Pure Vanilla Sugar and Certified Organic Madagascar Bourbon Pure Vanilla Extract and Beans. Nielsen-Massey Vanillas also has a line of Pure Flavors: Pure Chocolate Extract, Pure Almond Extract, Pure Orange Extract, Pure Lemon Extract, Pure Coffee Extract, Pure Peppermint Extract, Orange Blossom Water and Rose Water. All Nielsen-Massey products are Allergen-Free and certified Kosher and Gluten-Free. The company is headquartered in Waukegan, Illinois, with production facilities in Waukegan and Leeuwarden, The Netherlands. [www.nielsenmassey.com](http://www.nielsenmassey.com) Nielsen-Massey Vanillas can be purchased at various retailers and online.

# Seneca Niagara Casino & Hotel & Seneca Allegany

## Events Center Entertainment Calendar

Just a few weeks after announcing a blockbuster lineup of entertainment for the spring, Seneca Casinos now delivers even more excitement for the coming months. Additional performers for February through June include Bobby Vinton, Rita Coolidge, Jim Messina, Grand Funk Railroad, Tommy Roe, Colin Hay and Sylvia Browne.

- Seneca Niagara Casino & Hotel welcomes back romantic crooner Bobby Vinton less than a year after a full-house performance at Seneca Niagara Events Center in March 2011. Dubbed “the all-time most successful love singer of the Rock Era” by Billboard magazine, Vinton is most famous for his hits “Roses are Red,” “Blue Velvet,” “Sealed with a Kiss” and “Mr. Lonely.” He makes his return on February 4 at 8 p.m., and tickets starting at \$30 go on sale December 21 at noon.
- Seneca Allegany Events Center welcomes two-time GRAMMY® award-winning singer Rita Coolidge for a 7 p.m. show on February 11. Known particularly for 1970s chart-topping rock, pop and R&B covers such as “(Your Love Has Lifted Me) Higher & Higher,” “We’re All Alone” and “One Fine Day,” Coolidge has since taken a liking to jazz standards with her recent release, *And So Is Love*. Tickets go on sale December 19 at noon and start at \$20.



Rita Coolidge

- Coming to the cozy 440-seat Bear’s Den Showroom at Seneca Niagara Casino & Hotel on March 9 is one of the music industry’s ultimate “utility performers,” Jim Messina. Tickets start at \$50 and are on sale now. The singer, writer, guitarist, producer and engineer worked with a variety of groups such as Buffalo Springfield, Poco, and Loggins & Messina – performing and mixing everything from country to light rock.
- Grand Funk Railroad rides the “Locomotion” into Seneca Allegany Events Center on March 10 for a 7 p.m. show. The high-energy band was one of the top rock acts of the 1970s, and hits like “We’re An American Band” and

“Some Kind of Wonderful” still play on the airwaves today. Tickets start at \$20 and go on sale December 18 at noon.



Grand Funk Railroad

- Pop-rock singer Tommy Roe will play two shows inside the Bear’s Den on April 14. Two of Roe’s singles reached No. 1 on the music charts in the 1960s: “Sheila” and “Dizzy.” Tickets start at \$40 for the 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. performances, and go on sale February 13 at noon.
- The lead singer, guitarist and main songwriter of 1980s mega-band Men at Work – Colin Hay – performs at the Bear’s Den on May 12. Tickets go on sale March 12 and start at \$35. Hay is the voice behind rock anthems “Down Under” and “Who Can It Be Now?” The Scottish-Australian musician has continued to perform on his own since Men at Work’s breakup in 1985, and released his 11th solo album, *Gathering Mercury*, earlier this year.
- A veritable “regular” to Seneca Casinos – renowned author and psychic Sylvia Browne – is lined up for an early summer appearance at Seneca Allegany Events Center. Browne last visited Seneca Allegany in August 2009 and also traveled to Seneca Niagara in March 2009 and May 2010. A sell-out is a good prediction for the show, as she is a hit with Seneca Casinos’ guests. Tickets for Browne’s 7 p.m. performance start at \$30 and go on sale April 2.
- In addition to the just-announced acts, Seneca Niagara Casino announces a date change for the Englebert Humperdinck concert in May at Seneca Niagara Events Center. The show is moved back one day from Saturday, May 19, to Friday, May 18. The time is still 8 p.m., and tickets starting at \$45 will go on sale February 20 at noon.

A listing of other previously-announced upcoming entertainment acts at the Seneca Casinos is as follows:  
**Event / Date / Time / Venue / Starting Ticket Price**

- \*Vietnamese Christmas Dance and Comedy Show, Dec. 25, 8 p.m., Seneca Niagara Casino Events Center, \$25



**The Chippendales**

- Little River Band, Dec. 31, 8 p.m., Seneca Niagara Casino Bear's Den, \$55
- Little River Band, Dec. 31, 11 p.m., Seneca Niagara Casino Bear's Den, \$55
- Lisa Lampanelli, Jan. 1, 8 p.m., Seneca Niagara Casino Events Center, \$30
- Rick Alviti, Jan. 7, 3 p.m., Seneca Niagara Casino Bear's Den, \$30
- Rick Alviti, Jan. 7, 8 p.m., Seneca Niagara Casino Bear's Den, \$30
- The Chippendales, Jan. 14, 7 p.m., Seneca Allegany Casino Events Center, \$25
- Sass Jordan, Jan. 14, 8 p.m., Seneca Niagara Casino Bear's Den, \$35
- Barbra & Frank: The Concert that Never Was, Jan. 21, 3 p.m., Seneca Niagara Casino Bear's Den, \$35
- Barbra & Frank: The Concert that Never Was, Jan. 21, 8 p.m., Seneca Niagara Casino Bear's Den, \$35
- Marc Cohn, Jan. 28, 8 p.m., Seneca Niagara Casino Bear's Den, \$50
- Three Dog Night, Jan. 29, 5 p.m., Seneca Allegany Casino Events Center, \$20
- Bill Medley of The Righteous Brothers, Feb. 12, 4 p.m., Seneca Niagara Casino Events Center, \$30
- Sha Na Na, Feb. 11, 8 p.m., Seneca Niagara Casino Bear's Den, \$45
- Kelley Hunt, Feb. 18, 8 p.m., Seneca Niagara Casino Bear's Den, \$30 (on sale Dec. 19 at noon)
- Larry Carlton Trio, Feb. 25 (rescheduled from Oct. 22), 8 p.m., Seneca Niagara Casino Bear's Den, \$45
- Regis Philbin, Mar. 2, 8 p.m., Seneca Niagara Casino Events Center, \$40
- Buckwheat Zydeco, Mar. 3, 8 p.m., Seneca Niagara Casino Bear's Den, \$35 (on sale Jan. 2 at noon)
- Abbadababra, Mar. 17, 3 p.m., Seneca Niagara Casino Bear's Den, \$35 (on sale Jan. 23 at noon)
- Abbadababra, Mar. 17, 8 p.m., Seneca Niagara Casino Bear's Den, \$35 (on sale Jan. 23 at noon)
- Travis Tritt, Mar. 25, 5 p.m., Seneca Allegany Casino Events Center, \$25 (on sale Dec. 26 at noon)
- The Moody Blues, Apr. 21, 8 p.m., Seneca Niagara Casino Events Center, \$65 (on sale Jan. 23 at noon)
- Leon Redbone, Apr. 28, 8 p.m., Seneca Niagara Casino Bear's Den, \$35 (on sale Feb. 27 at noon)
- Chicago, May 5, 8 p.m., Seneca Niagara Casino Events Center, \$56 (on sale Feb. 6 at noon)

- Englebert Humperdinck, May 18 (\*new date\*), 8 p.m., Seneca Niagara Casino Events Center, \$45 (on sale Feb. 20 at noon)
  - Loretta Lynn, Jun. 10, 5 p.m., Seneca Allegany Casino Events Center, \$35 (on sale Mar. 26 at noon)
- Tickets are available at all Seneca Casino box offices, Ticketmaster.com, all Ticketmaster locations, or by phone at 800-745-3000. \* Call 716-501-2360 for tickets to the Vietnamese show.

### **About Seneca Niagara Casino & Hotel**

Seneca Niagara Casino & Hotel is located just minutes from the world-famous Niagara Falls in Western New York, near the Canadian border. The property is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year, and self- and valet-parking are always free. Guests can enjoy 147,000 square feet of gaming space with 4,000 slot machines and 100 table games, 10 restaurants, live entertainment and a AAA Four Diamond Award-winning, 26-story hotel with 594 deluxe rooms, a spa and salon, fitness center and indoor pool. Please visit [www.senecaniagaracasino.com](http://www.senecaniagaracasino.com) for more information.

### **About Seneca Allegany Casino & Hotel**

Seneca Allegany Casino & Hotel is nestled at the foot of the majestic Allegany Mountains along the New York/Pennsylvania border and is located off exit 20 of the Interstate 86 near U.S. Route 219. The property is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year, and self- and valet-parking are always free. Guests can enjoy 2,000 slot machines and 33 table games, seven dining locations, live entertainment and a AAA Four Diamond Award-winning hotel with 212 deluxe hotel rooms, a spa and salon, fitness center and indoor pool. Please visit [www.senecaalleganycasino.com](http://www.senecaalleganycasino.com) for more information.



**Regis Philbin**

# As You Like It

Pittsburgh Public Theater

January 19- February 19, 2012

The pursuit of happiness is at the heart of Shakespeare's romantic comedy in this all-new production directed by Ted Pappas.

Pittsburgh Public Theater continues its red hot season with a glowing new production of William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, directed by Ted Pappas. *As You Like It* runs January 19 – February 19, 2012 at the O'Reilly Theater, Pittsburgh Public Theater's home in the heart of Downtown's Cultural District. For tickets call 412.316.1600 or visit [ppt.org](http://ppt.org). *As You Like It* is Presented by PNC.

This romantic comedy features smart, funny and feisty Rosalind, who is one of Shakespeare's greatest inventions. In this sparkling role, The Public is thrilled to welcome back Gretchen Egolf, who was last seen here as Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy in the world premiere of *The Secret Letters of Jackie and Marilyn*. Playing her would-be beau, Orlando, is Christian Conn, who appeared on Broadway in *Desire Under the Elms*. Making her Public Theater debut as Rosalind's cousin, Celia, is Julia Coffey.

Returning to Pittsburgh for *As You Like It* are several accomplished veterans who have performed recently at The Public: Ross Bickell (*The Royal Family*) as Duke Frederick and Duke Senior; Douglas Harmsen (*The Importance of Being Earnest*) as Touchstone; Anderson Matthews (*Superior Donuts*) as Jaques; and Noble Shropshire (*Camelot*) as Adam/Mar-Text. Also featured are Theo Allyn (Phoebe), David Bielewicz (Jaques De Boys), Alex Coleman (Corin), Don DiGiulio (Dennis), Lisa Ann Goldsmith (Audrey), Daniel Krell (LeBeau and Amiens), Chris Landis (Silvius), Lindsay Smiling (Charles, William and Hymen), and David Whalen (Oliver).



In *As You Like It*, when Rosalind is banished from the palace, she takes refuge in the Forest of Arden disguised as a boy. There she discovers a world full of colorful characters, all in riotous pursuit of happiness. With original music composed by Michael Moricz, director Ted Pappas has set his production in the Edwardian era, that short golden age at the dawn of the 20th century when social change promised to be the new fashion. Creating this stylish world is the design team: James Noone (Scenic), Gabriel Berry (Costumes), Kirk Bookman (Lighting), and Zach Moore (Sound). Randy Kovitz is the Fight Director, Ruth E. Kramer is the Production Stage Manager, and Fredric H. Orner is the Assistant Stage Manager.

## Pittsburgh Public Theater Presents

**What: *As You Like It***

**When: January 19 – February 19, 2012**

### Performance Schedule

**Tues. through Sat. at 8 pm (except Tues., Feb. 14 when the show is at 7 pm).**

**Sat. at 2 pm (except Jan. 28).**

**There will be an additional 2 pm matinee on Thurs., Feb. 16.**

**Sun. at 2 & 7 pm.**

**Opening Night is Friday, Jan. 27.**

### Ticket Prices

**\$28 to \$60.**

**\$15.75 for students and age 26 and younger with valid ID.**

**For tickets call 412.316.1600 or visit [ppt.org](http://ppt.org)**

## 2011 DARWIN AWARDS

**N**amed in honor of Charles Darwin, the father of evolution, the Darwin Awards commemorate those who improve our gene pool by removing themselves from it.

### **Natural Selection Spanks 2011 Darwin Award Nominee Confirmed True by Darwin**

15 May 2011, Brisbane, Australia | Planking! What is it? 'Planking' is the peculiar wit and skill of lying flat as a plank in unusual locations--train tracks, fire hydrants, clotheslines, motorcycles--and posting public photographs for all to admire. This Australian craze had infected poor, poor Mr. Acton B., a Brisbane resident and former planking enthusiast, who was not (yet) aware that Balconies Are the Number One Cause of Gravity-Related Darwin Awards. Not knowing, he was doomed to repeat the lesson. Planking is nothing without a photograph. For the camera, the 20-year-old stretched himself out face-down on the railing, arms by his sides, stiff as a plank, balanced on the fine line between fun... and done. Natural Selection nudged him over the line, and he fell seven stories to his death. Blessedly he was not naked. The men down under have risen to the top of the zany crop, planking naked, planking on Police cruisers, even planking across the desks on TV Network News. Other falling deaths are described as "unrelated to planking." Planking has well and truly jumped the shark.

### **Motorcycle Helmet Law, ex-Protestor 2011 Darwin Award Nominee Confirmed True by Darwin**

(July 2011, New York) Protesting motorcycle helmet laws, an Onondaga, NY man was participating in a bare-noggin protest ride when he was killed via flipping over the handlebars. The motorcycle accident injured the noggin of Mr. Contos, 55, fatally damaging a brain that was unable to determine the physics of the situation. Moreover, he'd do it again if he could, according to his elder brother. He would have wanted it that way. Certain laws have physics on their side, obviously, and the laws say one's body cannot walk away from a high-speed physical impact. Laws not subject to repeal. Unprotected--you squash like a bug. Protected--you eat squash for dinner. Since properly padded and protected men can walk away from a 90-mph crash, protection is prudent when you increase {mass x speed} above a critical threshold. Prudent, but should protection be mandatory? Robert Frost says, "I hold it to be the inalienable right of anybody to go to hell in his own way." Police said Phil "hit his brakes, fishtailed and went out of control, flipping him over the handlebars." What we, the Darwin Awards committee, would like to know--and news reports don't explain--is just how he went over the handlebars?

### **Hotter Copper Whopper 2011 Darwin Award Nominee Confirmed True by Darwin**

(3 July 2011, Leeds, UK.) Thief! How, many, thieves, have, to die, to prove that you shouldn't steal copper wire? Besides the risk, it's not right to cause thousands of dollars worth of

damage, for hundreds of dollars in profit. HEY YOU IMMORAL IDIOTS, It makes bad environmental sense to destroy more than you recoup. Angry lecture! Copper Kills! CE Electric UK recently began marking the copper using 'SmartWater' technology to deter malicious, costly vandalism. American Electric Power is converting from copper grounding wire to copper-clad steel wire that has little scrap value and is tougher to cut. Knowing that species evolve, why are we so dumb? Like Darwin's Finches, humans are filling the 'new islands' (evolutionary niches) created by our civilization, and our mutations are being tuned by each self-limiting step we take. Which brings me to a Leeds teenager, who at 16 became a deceased Darwin Award winner by making one such self-limiting step. Copper theft is a killer, and also a nuisance. CE Electric UK has dealt with 279 incidents in the last year in West Yorkshire. They plead, "We are pleading with thieves to think about the consequences and how much they are risking for such a small return. DANGER OF DEATH signs are posted for a reason!" Stealing copper? Fast track train to Charles Darwin's heavenly estate. "Welcome home, Leeds teen. You were old enough to know better!" Sometimes a friend has to cram life into too few years, but we comfort ourselves knowing that his destiny was to serve as a warning to others. (3 July 2011, Leeds, UK.) Thief! How, many, thieves, have, to die, to prove that you shouldn't steal copper wire? Besides the risk, it's not right to cause thousands of dollars worth of damage, for hundreds of dollars in profit. HEY YOU IMMORAL IDIOTS, It makes bad environmental sense to destroy more than you recoup. Angry lecture! Knowing that species evolve, why are we so dumb? Like Darwin's Finches, humans are filling the 'new islands' (evolutionary niches) created by our civilization, and our mutations are being tuned by each self-limiting step we take. Which brings me to a Leeds teenager, who at 16 became a deceased Darwin Award winner by making one such self-limiting step. Copper theft is a killer, and also a nuisance. CE Electric UK has dealt with 279 incidents in the last year in West Yorkshire. They plead, "We are pleading with thieves to think about the consequences and how much they are risking for such a small return. DANGER OF DEATH signs are posted for a reason!" Stealing copper? Fast track train to Charles Darwin's heavenly estate. "Welcome home, Leeds teen. You were old enough to know better!" Sometimes a friend has to cram life into too few years, but we comfort ourselves knowing that his destiny was to serve as a warning to others. Copper Kills! CE Electric UK recently began marking the copper using 'SmartWater' technology to deter malicious, costly vandalism. American Electric Power is converting from copper grounding wire to copper-clad steel wire that has little scrap value and is tougher to cut.

### **Wedding Jitters 2011 Darwin Award Nominee**

(India) In 2004 a pre-wedding henna party was underway when a prowler with the appearance of an undead ghoul broke into the home of Indra Vegas, 23, a well-known red-headed stripper in downtown Delhi. While most of the party reacted with confusion as the prowler lurched forward, in a cloud that reportedly reeked of "tear gas," Vegas approached the zombie and whacked its temple with her 5" stiletto heel. According to an eyewitness report, this dispatched the prowler, successfully halting a Class I invasion. What makes this story

worthy of Darwin's notice however, is the subsequent actions of Vegas. She put the stiletto-heel shoe back on and went on to accidentally infect her sister-in-law, with what one neighbor described as a 'mis-step.' The name and whereabouts of the sister-in-law have not been released to the press. The woman, infected with a strange painful lassitude, passed into a "deep sleep" and was placed in a bedroom. The photographer, Timothy Caes, 16, stated that the party was discussing who should report the deceased prowler to police, when a second ghoul emerged from the bedroom and began to savagely bite Vegas. Mr. Caes, the primary source of this report, is a local student who was not known to the group. He states that subsequent to this savage attack, Vegas inexplicably turned and began to menace him. Mr. Caes was able to subdue the reanimated zombies by bashing them several times with a tripod, knocking them to the floor and halting their wails. That was enough. The sudden silence provoked a stampede of human chaos from the room, and what was effectively a herd of vertical bayonet's put an end to what was ultimately recorded as a "schizophrenic episode" on the part of the deceased. Indra Vegas, who began her 15 minutes of fame by saving her friends, ended her life with yet another boneheaded move involving high heels. Women, high heels? Between you and me, put those things in your trash. High Heels = Natural Selection in Action.

## Unemployment:

Sven and Ole worked together and both were laid off, so off they went to the unemployment office. Asked his occupation,

Ole said, "Panty stitcher; I sew the elastic onto cotton panties." The clerk looked up panty stitcher. Finding it classified as unskilled labor, she gave him \$300 a week in unemployment pay. Sven was asked his occupation. "Diesel fitter," he replied. Since diesel fitter was a skilled job, the clerk gave Sven \$600 a week. When Ole found out, he was furious. He stormed back into the unemployment office to find out why his friend and coworker was collecting double his pay. The clerk explained that panty stitchers were unskilled and diesel fitters were skilled labor. "What skill?" yelled Ole. "I sew the elastic on, and Sven pulls on it and says, 'Yep, diesel fitter.'"

## For Golfers:

A nun walks into Mother Superior's office and plunks down into a chair. She lets out a sigh heavy with frustration. "What troubles you, Sister?" asked the Mother Superior. "I thought this was the day you spent with your family." "It was," sighed the Sister. "And I went to play golf with my brother. We try to play golf as often as we can. You know I was quite a talented golfer before I devoted my life to Christ." "I seem to recall that," the Mother Superior agreed. "So I take it your day of recreation was not relaxing?" "Far from it," snorted the Sister. "In fact, I even took the Lord's name in vain today!" "Goodness, Sister!" gasped the Mother Superior, astonished. "You must tell me all about it!" "Well, we were on the fifth tee...and this hole is a monster, Mother -540 yard Par 5, with a nasty dogleg left and a hidden green... and I hit the drive of my life. I creamed it. The sweetest swing I ever made. And it's flying straight and true, right along the line I wanted...and it hits a bird in mid-flight not

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100 yards off the tee!" "Oh my!" commiserated the Mother. "How unfortunate! But surely that didn't make you blasphemous, Sister!" "No, that wasn't it," admitted Sister. "While I was still trying to fathom what had happened, this squirrel runs out of the woods, grabs my ball and runs off down the fairway!" Oh, that would have made me blasphemous!" sympathized the Mother. "But I didn't, Mother!" sobbed the Sister. "And I was so proud of myself! And while I was pondering whether this was a sign from God, this hawk swoops out of the sky and grabs the squirrel and flies off, with my ball still clutched in his paws!" "So that's when you cursed," said the Mother with a knowing smile. "Nope, that wasn't it either," cried the Sister, anguished, "because as the hawk started to fly out of sight, the squirrel started struggling, and the hawk dropped him right there on the green, and the ball popped out of his paws and rolled to about 18 inches from the cup!" Mother Superior sat back in her chair, folded her arms across her chest, fixed the Sister with a baleful stare and said... "You missed the f\*\*\*\*\*g putt, didn't you?"

### Black Panties:

Anna had lost her husband almost four years ago. Her daughter was constantly calling her and urging her to get back into the world. Finally, Anna said she'd go out, but didn't know anyone. Her daughter immediately replied, "Mom I have someone for you to meet." Well, it was an immediate hit. They took to one another and after dating for six weeks, he asked her to join him for a weekend in Vermont.. Their first night there, she undressed as he did There she stood nude, except for a pair of black lacy panties; he was in his birthday suit. Looking her over, he asked, "Why the black panties?" She replied: "My breasts you can fondle, my body is yours to explore, but down

there I am still mourning." He knew he was not getting lucky that night. The following night was the same--she stood there wearing the black panties, and he was in his birthday suit--but now he was wearing a black condom .. She looked at him and asked: "What's with the black condom?" He replied, "I want to offer my deepest condolences." \_.\_.\_.\_.\_.\_.\_.\_.\_.

### Question and Answer Attorney Jokes

Q: How can you tell if a lawyer is well hung?

A: You can't get a finger between the rope and his neck!

Q: If you are stranded on a desert island with Adolph Hitler, Attila the Hun, and a lawyer, and you have a gun with only two bullets, what do you do?

A: Shoot the lawyer twice.

Q: What do you call 5000 dead lawyers at the bottom of the ocean?

A: A good start!

Q: How can you tell when a lawyer is lying?

A: His lips are moving.

Q: What's the difference between a dead dog in the road and a dead lawyer in the road?

A: There are skid marks in front of the dog.

Q: Why won't sharks attack lawyers?

A: Professional courtesy.

Q: What do you have when a lawyer is buried up to his neck in sand?

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A: Not enough sand.

Q: Why did God make snakes just before lawyers?

A: To practice.

A command was given to a dog: "SPEAK!"

The dog said in return: "Not without my lawyer present!"

Q: Why are there so many lawyers in the U.S.?

A: Because St. Patrick chased the snakes out of Ireland.

Q: What's the difference between a lawyer and a herd of buffalo?

A: The lawyer charges more.

## Actual Stupid Questions Asked by Attorneys

Taken from real court records:

Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, in most cases he just passes quietly away and doesn't know anything about it until the next morning?

Q: What happened then?

A: He told me, he says, "I have to kill you because you can identify me."

Q: Did he kill you?

Q. Was it you or your brother that was killed in the war?

Q. The youngest son, the 20-year-old, how old is he?

Q: She had three children, right?

A: Yes.

Q: How many were boys?

A: None.

Q: Were there any girls?

Q. Were you alone or by yourself?

Q: I show you Exhibit 3 and ask you if you recognize that picture?

A: That's me.

Q: Were you present when that picture was taken?

A: Were you present in court this morning when you were sworn in?

Q: You say that the stairs went down to the basement?

A: Yes.

Q: And these stairs, did they go up also?

Q: Now then, Mrs. Johnson, how was your first marriage terminated?

A: By death.

Q: And by whose death was it terminated?

Q: Do you know how far pregnant you are now?

A: I'll be three months on March 12th.

Q: Apparently then, the date of conception was around January 12th?

A: Yes.

Q: What were you doing at that time?

Q. Do you have any children or anything of that kind?

Q. Was that the same nose you broke as a child?

Q: Mrs. Jones, do you believe you are emotionally stable?

A: I used to be.

Q: How many times have you committed suicide?

So, you were gone until you returned?

You don't know what it was, and you didn't know what it looked like, but can you describe it?

Q: Have you lived in this town all your life?

A: Not yet.

Q. A Texas attorney, realizing he was on the verge of unleashing a stupid question, interrupted himself and said, "Your Honor, I'd like to strike the next question."

Q: Do you recall approximately the time that you examined that body of Mr. Huntington at St. Margaret's Hospital?

A: It was in the evening. The autopsy started about 5:30 P.M.

Q: And Mr. Huntington was dead at the time, is that correct?

A: No, you idiot, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was performing an autopsy on him!

## You Won't Go to Jail

A man who had been caught embezzling millions from his employer went to a lawyer seeking defense. He didn't want to go to jail. But his lawyer told him, "Don't worry. You'll never have to go to jail with all that money. And the lawyer was right. When the man was sent to prison, he didn't have a dime.

## Consultation Fees

A lawyer's dog, running around town unleashed, heads for a butcher shop and steals a roast. The butcher goes to the



lawyer's office and asks, "if a dog running unleashed steals a piece of meat from my store, do I have a right to demand payment for the meat from the dog's owner?" The lawyer answers, "Absolutely." "Then you owe me \$8.50. Your dog was loose and stole a roast from me today." The lawyer, without a word, writes the butcher a check for \$8.50. The butcher, having a feeling of satisfaction, leaves. Three days later, the butcher finds a bill from the lawyer: \$100 due for a consultation.

### Excess Billing Hours

A lawyer died and arrived at the pearly gates. To his dismay, there were thousands of people ahead of him in line to see St. Peter. But, to his surprise, St. Peter left his desk at the gate and came down the long line to where the lawyer was standing. St. Peter greeted him warmly. Then St. Peter and one of his assistants took the lawyer by the hands and guided him up to the front of the line into a comfortable chair by his desk. The lawyer said, "I don't mind all this attention, but what makes me so special?" St. Peter replied, "Well, I've added up all the hours for which you billed your clients, and by my calculation you must be about 193 years old!"

### Ounces of Brain for Sale

A man went to a brain store to get some brain to complete a study. He sees a sign remarking on the quality of professional brain offered at this particular brain store. He begins to question the butcher about the cost of these brains. "How much does it cost for engineer brain?" "Three dollars an ounce." "How much does it cost for programmer brain?" "Four dollars an ounce." "How much for lawyer brain?" "\$1,000 an ounce." "Why is lawyer brain so much more?" "Do you know how many lawyers we had to kill to get one ounce of brain?"

### What Type of Tracks?

Two lawyers were out hunting when they came upon a couple of tracks. After close examination, the first lawyer declared them to be deer tracks. The second lawyer disagreed, insisting they must be elk tracks. They were still arguing when the train hit them.

### Lawyers Give Irrelevant Information

Two women are on a transcontinental balloon voyage. Their craft is engulfed in fog, their compass gone awry. Afraid of landing in the ocean, they drift for days. Suddenly, the clouds part to show a sunlit meadow below. As they descend, they see a man walking his dog. One of the flyers yells to the figure far below, "Where are we?" The man yells back, "About a half mile from town." Once again, the balloonists are engulfed in the mist. One flyer says to the other, "He must have been a lawyer." The other says, "A lawyer! How do you know that?" The first says, "That's easy. The information he gave us was accurate, concise, and entirely irrelevant."

### The Devil's Offer

The devil visited a lawyer's office and made him an offer. "I can arrange some things for you," the devil said. "I'll increase your income five-fold. Your partners will love you; your clients will respect you; you'll have four months of vacation each year and live to be a hundred. All I require in return is that your wife's soul, your children's souls, and their children's souls rot in hell for eternity." The lawyer thought for a moment. "What's the catch?" he asked.

### You've Changed My Mind

Lawyer: "Now that you have been acquitted, will you tell me truly? Did you steal the car?" Client: "After hearing your amazing argument in court this morning, I'm beginning to think I didn't."

### Get Money to Heaven

A stingy old lawyer who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness was determined to prove wrong the saying, "You can't take it with you." After much thought and consideration, the old ambulance-chaser finally figured out how to take at least some of his money with him when he died. He instructed his wife to go to the bank and withdraw enough money to fill two pillow cases. He then directed her to take the bags of money to the attic and leave them directly above his bed. His plan: When he passed away, he would reach out and grab the bags on his way to heaven. Several weeks after the funeral, the deceased lawyer's wife, up in the attic cleaning, came upon the two forgotten pillow cases stuffed with cash. "Oh, that darned old fool," she exclaimed. "I knew he should have had me put the money in the basement."

### Want to Go into Space?

NASA was interviewing professionals to be sent to Mars. Only one could go and couldn't return to Earth. The first applicant, an engineer, was asked how much he wanted to be paid for going. "A million dollars," he answered, "because I want to donate it to M.I.T." The next applicant, a doctor, was asked the same question. He asked for \$2 million. "I want to give a million to my family," he explained, "and leave the other million



for the advancement of medical research.” The last applicant was a lawyer. When asked how much money he wanted, he whispered in the interviewer’s ear, “Three million dollars.” “Why so much more than the others?” asked the interviewer. The lawyer replied, “If you give me \$3 million, I’ll give you \$1 million, I’ll keep \$1 million, and we’ll send the engineer to Mars.”

### Lawyer’s Personal Injury

A golfer hooked his tee shot over a hill and onto the next fairway. Walking toward his ball, he saw a man lying on the ground, groaning with pain. “I’m an attorney,” the wincing man said, “and this is going to cost you \$5000.” “I’m sorry, I’m really sorry,” the concerned golfer replied. “But I did yell ‘fore’.” “I’ll take it,” the attorney said.

### I Just Managed to Settle an Account!

A young attorney who had taken over his father’s practice rushed home elated one night. “Dad, listen,” he shouted, “I’ve finally settled that old McKinney suit.” “Settled it!” cried his astonished father. “Why, you idiot! We have been living off of that money for five years!”

### An Honest Lawyer

An independent woman started her own business. She was shrewd and diligent, so business kept coming in. Pretty soon she realized she needed an in-house counsel, and so she began interviewing young lawyers. “As I’m sure you can understand,” she started off with one of the first applicants, “in

a business like this, our personal integrity must be beyond question.” She leaned forward. “Mr. Peterson, are you an ‘honest’ lawyer?” “Honest?” replied the job prospect. “Let me tell you something about honest. Why, I’m so honest that my dad lent me fifteen thousand dollars for my education and I paid back every penny the minute I tried my very first case.” “Impressive. And what sort of case was that?” He squirmed in his seat and admitted, “My dad sued me for the money.”

### Did You Make a Donation?

At the United Way in a fairly small town a volunteer worker noticed that the most successful lawyer in the whole town hadn’t made a contribution. This guy was making about \$600,000 a year so the volunteer thought, “Why not call him up?” He calls up the lawyer. “Sir, according to our research you haven’t made a contribution to the United Way, would you like to do so?” The lawyer responds, “A contribution? Does your research show that I have an invalid mother who requires expensive surgery once a year just to stay alive?” The worker is feeling a bit embarrassed and says, “Well, no sir, I’m...” “Does your research show that my sister’s husband was killed in a car accident? She has three kids and no means of support!” The worker is feeling quite embarrassed at this point. “I’m terribly sorry...” “Does your research show that my brother broke his neck on the job and now requires a full time nurse to have any kind of normal life?” The worker is completely humiliated at this point. “I am sorry sir, please forgive me...” “The gall of you people! I don’t give them anything, so why should I give it to you!”

### Can I Take His Place?

An attorney telephoned the governor just after midnight, insisting that he talk to him regarding a matter of utmost urgency. An aide eventually agreed to wake up the governor. “So, what is it?” grumbled the governor. “Judge Garber has just died” said the attorney, “and I want to take his place.” The governor replied: “Well, it’s OK with me if it’s OK with the undertaker.”

### Lawyers on a Flight

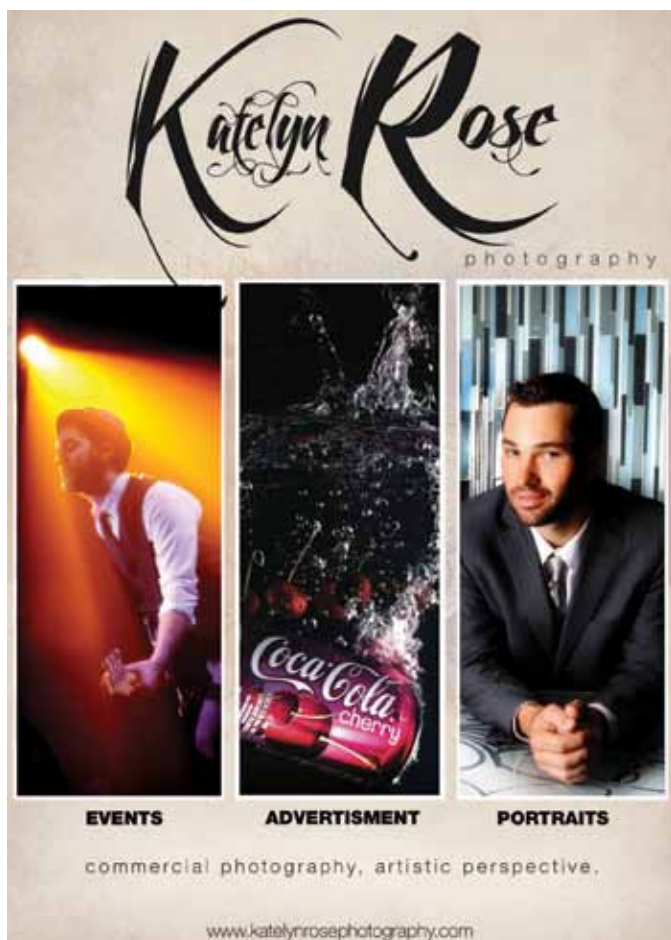
An airliner was having engine trouble, and the pilot instructed the cabin crew to have the passengers take their seats and get prepared for an emergency landing. A few minutes later, the pilot asked the flight attendants if everyone was buckled in and ready. “All set back here, Captain,” came the reply, “except the lawyers are still going around passing out business cards.”

### How’s Business?

Two lawyers met at a cocktail party late one night. “How’s business?” asked the first. “Rotten,” replied the other. “Yesterday, I chased an ambulance for twenty miles. When I finally caught up to it, there were already two other lawyer hanging on to the bumper.”

### Trying to be Impressive

A young lawyer, starting up his private practice, was very anxious to impress potential clients. When he saw the first visitor to his office come through the door, he immediately picked up his phone and spoke into it, “I’m sorry, but my caseload is so tremendous that I’m not going to be able to look into your problem for at least a month. I’ll have to get back to you then.” He then turned to the man who had just



walked in, and said, "Now, what can I do for you?" "Nothing," replied the man. "I'm here to hook up your phone."

## I Want to Take Money with Me

As Mr. Smith was on his death bed, he attempted to formulate a plan that would allow him to take at least some of his considerable wealth with him. He called for the three men he trusted most--his lawyer, his doctor, and his clergyman. He told them, "I'm going to give you each \$30,000 in cash before I die. At my funeral, I want you to place the money in my coffin so that I can try to take it with me." All three agreed to do this and were given the money. At the funeral, each approached the coffin in turn and placed an envelope inside. While riding in the limousine back from the cemetery, the clergyman said, "I have to confess something to you fellows. Brother Smith was a good churchman all his life, and I know he would have wanted me to do this. The church needed a new baptistery very badly, and I took \$10,000 of the money he gave me and bought one. I only put \$20,000 in the coffin." The physician then said, "Well, since we're confiding in one another, I might as well tell you that I didn't put the full \$30,000 in the coffin either. Smith had a disease that could have been diagnosed sooner if I had this very new machine, but the machine cost \$20,000 and I couldn't afford it then. I used \$20,000 of the money to buy the machine so that I might be able to save another patient. I know that Smith would have wanted me to do that." The lawyer then said, "I'm ashamed of both of you. When I put my envelope into that coffin, it held my personal check for the full \$30,000."

## What is Two Plus Two?

An engineer, a physicist, and a lawyer were being interviewed for a position as chief executive officer of a large corporation. The engineer was interviewed first, and was asked a long list of questions, ending with "How much is two plus two?" The engineer excused himself, and made a series of measurements and calculations before returning to the board room and announcing, "Four." The physicist was next interviewed, and was asked the same questions. Again, the last question was, "How much is two plus two?" Before answering the last question, he excused himself, made for the library, and did a great deal of research. After a consultation with the United States Bureau of Standards and many calculations, he also announced, "Four." The lawyer was interviewed last, and again the final question was, "How much is two plus two?" The lawyer drew all the shades in the room, looked outside to see if anyone was there, checked the telephone for listening devices, and then whispered, "How much do you want it to be?"

## Proverbs and First Grade

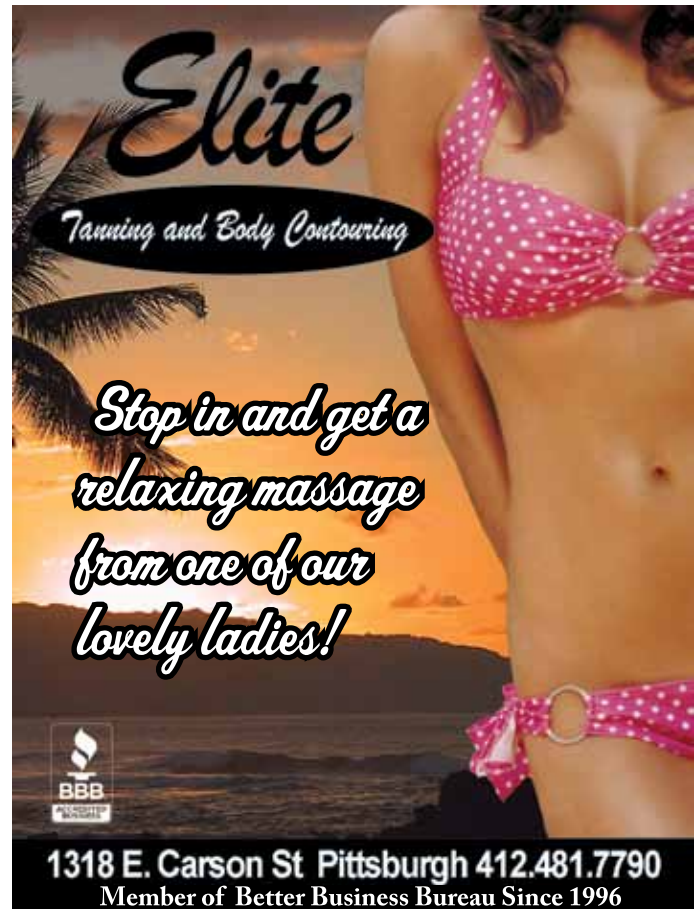
A first grade school teacher had twenty-six students in her class. She presented each child the 1st half of a well-known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb. It's hard to believe these were actually done by first graders. Their insight may surprise you. While reading, keep in mind that these are first-graders, 6-year-olds, because the last one is a classic.

1. Don't change horses...Until they stop running!
2. Strike while the...bug is close.
3. It's always darkest before...Daylight Saving Time.
4. Never underestimate the power of...termites.
5. You can lead a horse to water but...how?
6. Don't bit the hand that...looks dirty.
7. No news is...impossible.

8. A miss is as good as a...Mr.
9. You can't teach an old dog new...math.
10. If you lie down with dogs, you'll...stink in the morning.
11. Love all, trust...me.
12. The pen is mightier than the... pigs.
13. An idle mind is...the best way to relax.
14. Where's there's smoke there's...pollution.
15. Happy the bride who...gets all the presents.
16. A penny saved is...not much.
17. Two's company, three's...the Musketeers.
18. Don't put off till tomorrow what...you put on to go to bed.
19. Laugh and the whole world laughs with you,cry and... you have to blow your nose.
20. There are none so blind as..Stevie Wonder.
21. Children should be seen and not...spanked or grounded.
22. If at first you don't succeed... get new batteries.
23. You get out of something only what you...see in the picture on the box.
24. When the blind lead the blind...get out of the way.
25. A bird in the hand...is going to poop on you.
26. Better late...than pregnant.

## Warning: Scam Against Older Men

Women often receive warnings about protecting themselves at the mall and in dark parking lots, etc. This is the first warning I have seen for men. I wanted to pass it on in case you haven't heard about it. A 'heads up' for those men who may be regular customers at Lowe's, Home Depot, Costco, or even Wal-Mart. This one caught me totally by surprise. Over the last month I became a victim of a clever scam while out shopping. Simply



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going out to get supplies has turned out to be quite traumatic. Don't be naive enough to think it couldn't happen to you or your friends. Here's how the scam works: Two nice-looking, college-aged girls will come over to your car or truck as you are packing your purchases into your vehicle. They both start wiping... your windshield with a rag and Windex, with their breasts almost falling out of their skimpy T-shirts. (It's impossible not to look). When you thank them and offer them a tip, they say 'No' but instead ask for a ride to McDonald's. You agree and they climb into the vehicle. On the way, they start undressing. Then one of them starts crawling all over you, while the other one steals your wallet. I had my wallet stolen Oct. 4th, 9th, 10th, twice on the 15th, 17th, 20th, 24th, & 29th. Also Nov. 1st & 4th, twice on the 8th, 16th, 22nd and very likely again this upcoming weekend. So tell your friends to be careful. What a horrible way to take advantage of us older men. Warn your friends to be vigilant. Wal-Mart has wallets on sale for \$2.99 each. I found even cheaper ones for \$.99 at the dollar store and bought them out in three of their stores. Also, you never get to eat at McDonald's. I've already lost 11 pounds just running back and forth from Lowe's, to Home Depot, to Costco, Etc. So please, send this on to all the older men that you know and warn them to be on the lookout for this scam. (The best times are just before lunch and around 4:30 in the afternoon.)

## Don't Eat Chicken Sandwiches

A little boy and a little girl attended the same school and became friends...Every day they would sit together to eat their lunch. They discovered that they both brought chicken sandwiches every day! This went on all through the fourth and fifth grades, until one day he noticed that her sandwich wasn't a chicken sandwich. He said, 'Hey, how come you're not eating chicken, don't you like it anymore?' She said 'I love it but I have to stop eating it.' 'Why?' he asked. She pointed to her lap and said 'Cause I'm starting to grow little feathers down there!' 'Let me see' he said. 'Okay' and she showed him. He looked and said, 'That's right. You are! Better not eat any more chicken.' He kept eating his chicken sandwiches until one day he brought peanut butter. He said to the little girl, 'I have to stop eating chicken sandwiches, I'm starting to get feathers down there too!' She asked if she could look, so he showed her! She said, 'Oh, my God, it's too late for you! You've already got the NECK and GIZZARDS!!!'

## New Year Nerd Resolutions

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP IF YOU'RE A NERD

1. I resolve... I resolve to... I resolve to, uh... I resolve to, uh, get my, er... I resolve to, uh, get my, er, off-line work done, too!
2. I will stop checking my e-mail at 3:00 in the morning... 4:30 is much more practical.
3. When I hear a funny joke I will not reply, "LOL... LOL!"
4. I will stop sending e-mail, ICQ, Instant Messages and be on the phone at the same time with the same person.
5. I will try to figure out why I \*really\* need 9 e-mail addresses.
6. I will stop sending e-mail to my roommate.
7. I will not buy magazines with AOL disks bound in just to get another 1.44MB disk.
8. I resolve to work with neglected children... my own.

9. I will answer my snail mail with the same enthusiasm I answer e-mail.
10. When I subscribe to a newsgroup or mailing list, I will read all the mail I get from it.
11. I will stop using, "So, what's your URL?" as a pickup line.
12. No more downloads from alt.binaries.\*
13. I resolve to back up my new 400 GB hard drive daily... well, once a week... monthly, perhaps...
14. I will spend less than five hour a day on the Internet.
15. I will limit my top ten lists to ten items.
16. I will read the manual... just as soon as I can find it.

## New Year Resolutions for Pets

1. I will not eat other animals' poop.
2. I will not lick my human's face after eating animal poop.
3. I do not need to suddenly stand straight up when I'm lying under the coffee table.
4. My head does not belong in the refrigerator.
5. I will no longer be beholden to the sound of the can opener.
6. Cats: Circulate a petition that sleeping become a juried competition in major animal shows.
7. Come to understand that cats are from Venus; dogs are from Mars.
8. Take time from busy schedule to stop and smell the behinds.
9. Hamster: Don't let them figure out I'm just a rat on steroids, or they'll flush me!
10. Get a bite in on that freak who gives me that shot every year.
11. Grow opposable thumb; break into pantry; decide for MYSELF how much food is \*too\* much.
12. Cats: Use new living room sofa as scratching post.
13. January 1st: Kill the sock! Must kill the sock!
14. January 2nd - December 31: Re-live victory over the sock.
15. The garbage collector is NOT stealing our stuff. AND the FINAL New Year's Resolutions Made by Pets...
16. I will NOT chase the stick until I see it LEAVE THE IDIOT'S HAND

## Cookie the Cat's Resolutions

1. I will not demand to get out the minute after I come in and visa versa.
2. I will not scratch wallpaper, curtains, furniture, clothing or my scratch pad.
3. I will not annoy the dog next door (unless I'm in a bad mood)
4. I will come when my human calls me (occasionally) and the Number One New Year Resolution for Cookie is...
5. I will not sleep more than 23 hours per day.

## Years of New Years Resolutions:

I have worked tirelessly in setting New Year's Resolutions every January 1st. While I'm not always the best at keeping them, I'm consistent, and I'm sure this year will be better than ever before. I don't like to brag, but I thought maybe you'd enjoy seeing the progress I've made.

RESOLUTION #1:

2006: I will read at least 20 good books a year.

2007: I will read at least 10 books a year.

2008: I will read 5 books a year.

2009: I will finish The Pelican Brief  
2010: I will read some articles in the newspaper this year.  
2011: I will read at least one article this year.  
2012: I will try and finish the comics section this year.

**RESOLUTION #2:**

2006: I will get my weight down below 180.  
2007: I will watch my calories until I get below 190.  
2008: I will follow my new diet religiously until I get below 200.  
2009: I will try to develop a realistic attitude about my weight.  
2010: I will work out 5 days a week.  
2011: I will work out 3 days a week.  
2012: I will try to drive past a gym at least once a week.

**RESOLUTION #3:**

2006: I will not spend my money frivolously.  
2007: I will pay off my bank loan promptly.  
2008: I will pay off my bank loans promptly.  
2009: I will begin making a strong effort to be out of debt by 2010.  
2010: I will be totally out of debt by 2011.  
2011: I will try to pay off the debt interest by 2012.  
2012: I will try to be out of the country by 2013.

**RESOLUTION #4:**

2009: I will try to be a better husband to Marge.  
2010: I will not leave Marge.  
2011: I will try for a reconciliation with Marge.  
2012: I will try to be a better husband to Wanda.

**RESOLUTION #5:**

2009: I will stop looking at other women.  
2010: I will not get involved with Wanda.  
2011: I will not let Wanda pressure me into another marriage.  
2012: I will stop looking at other women.

**RESOLUTION #6:**

2009: I will not let my boss push me around.  
2010: I will not let my sadistic boss drive me to the point of suicide.  
2011: I will stick up for my rights when my boss bullies me.  
2012: I will tell Dr. Hodger and the group about my boss.

**RESOLUTION #7:**

2009: I will not get upset when Charlie makes jokes about my baldness.  
2010: I will not get annoyed when Charlie kids me about my toupee.  
2011: I will not get angry when Charlie tells the guys I wear a girdle.  
2012: I will not speak to Charlie.

**RESOLUTION #8:**

2009: I will not take a drink before 5:00 p.m.  
2010: I will not touch the bottle before noon.  
2011: I will not become a "problem drinker".  
2012: I will not miss any AA meetings.

**RESOLUTION #9:**

2002: I will see my dentist this year.  
2003: I will have my cavities filled this year.  
2004: I will have my root canal work done this year.

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2005: I will get rid of my denture breath this year.

## RESOLUTION #10:

2009: I will go to church every Sunday.

2010: I will go to church as often as possible.

2011: I will set aside time each day for prayer and meditation.

2012: I will try to catch the late night sermon on TV.

## Resolutions You Can Actually Keep:

Are you sick of making the same resolutions year after year and yet you never keep them? Here are some resolutions that you can actually accomplish! Enjoy! :-)

10. Read less.
9. I want to gain weight. Put on at least 30 pounds.
8. Stop exercising. Waste of time.
7. Watch more TV. I've been missing some good stuff.
6. Procrastinate more.
5. Drink. Drink some more.
4. Start being superstitious.
3. Spend more time at work.
2. Stop bringing lunch from home: I should eat out more. And last but not least...
1. Take up a new habit: maybe smoking!

## Tiger Woods

A couple was on their honeymoon, lying in bed, about ready to consummate their marriage, when the new bride says to the

husband, "I have a confession to make, I'm not a virgin." The husband replies, "That's no big thing in this day and age." The wife continues, "Yeah, I've been with one guy." "Oh, yeah? Who was the guy?" "Tiger Woods" "Tiger Woods, the golfer?" "Yeah" "Well, he's rich, famous and handsome. I can see why you went to bed with him." The husband and wife then make passionate love. When they are done, the husband gets up and walks to the telephone. "What are you doing?" asks the wife. The husband says, "I'm hungry, I was going to call room service and get something to eat." "Tiger wouldn't do that." "Oh yeah? What would Tiger do?" "He'd come back to bed and do it a second time." The husband puts down the phone and goes back to bed to make love a second time. When finished, he gets up and goes over to the phone. "Now what are you doing?" she asks. The husband says, "I'm hungry so I was going to get room service to get something to eat." "Tiger wouldn't do that." "Oh yeah?" What would Tiger do?" "He's come back to bed and do it again." The guy slams down the phone, goes back to bed, and makes love one more time. When they are finished he's tired and beat. He drags himself over to the phone and starts to dial. The wife asks, "Are you calling room service?" "No!! I'm calling Tiger Woods, to find out what the par is for this damn hole."

## All Engineers Go to Heaven

About 9:30 on a Friday night Bill the mechanical engineer was working on the gears for a draw bridge when the pinion slipped and Bill was crushed... Instantly Bill is standing among the clouds at the Pearly Gates and St. Peter greets him. "welcome my son, what is your name" "Bill Johnson, Mechanical Engineer" St. Peter looks over the big book, and can't find Bill's name. "Sorry Bill, you're not in the book" "you sure, I thought all engineers go to heaven". "not in the book...", as St. Peter points to the elevator. Bill gets in and takes the long ride down. The doors open and Bill is overcome by the heat, humidity and sulfur stench... he looks at one of the minions and asks, "is it ALWAYS like this?" About a week later God is working in His office and He notices that all the gages for hell are reading wrong, Temp is a sublime 72°F, humidity is a sweet 40%, and airborne noxious gasses are under 10ppm... God mashes the intercom button to the Pearly Gates, "Peter, we have a problem, can you step into My office?". St. Peter comes in and asks what could possibly be wrong in heaven. "you didn't by chance send an engineer down to hell sometime last week did you?" "as a mater of fact we had a ME show up late Friday... his name wasn't in the book Boss..." "you know the rules, all engineers go to heaven, oh my son we are in a pickle now" God gets on the red phone to hell and has the devil on the line. "Louie, you didn't by chance get an engineer dropped off down there some time late last Friday, did you?" "why as a mater of fact, we did. "well, just a little paperwork snafu, we are going to need him back, you know the rules" "you are not getting Bill back..." "What?! Bell, buddy, you have to send him back, the rules clearly state that all engineers go to heaven." "Look, that Bill guy is amazing, he got the AC units working, told us we needed a scrubber, not even sure what that is but it takes the stink out of the air, he's working on the sewer system next week, forget it, you are not getting Bill back." "Look, pal, you are in breach of contract, all engineers go to heaven, don't make me sue!!!!" "Yeah, right.... where are you going to get a lawyer?"

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## Joke of the Day

I went grocery shopping recently while not being altogether sure that course of action was a wise one. You see, the previous evening I had Prepared and consumed a massive quantity of my patented "You're definitely Going to \$h!t yourself" chili. Tasty stuff, albeit hot to the point of being painful, which comes with a written guarantee from me that if you eat the next day both of your a\$\$ cheeks WILL fall off. Here's the thing. I had awakened that morning, and even after two cups of Coffee (and all of you know what I mean) nothing happened. No "Watson's movement 2". Despite habanera peppers swimming their way through my intestinal tract, I appeared to be unable to create the usual morning symphony referred to by my next door neighbors as thunder and lightning. Knowing that a time of reckoning had to come, yet not sure of just when, I bravely set off for the market; a local Wal-Mart grocery store that I often haunt in search of tasty tidbits. Upon entering the store at first all seemed normal. I selected a cart and began pushing it about dropping items in for purchase. It wasn't until I was at the opposite end of the store from the restrooms that the pain hit me. Oh, don't look at me like you don't know what I'm talking about. I'm referring to that "Uh oh, gotta go" pain that always seems to hit us at the wrong time. The thing is this pain was different. The habaneras in the chili from the night before were staging a revolt. In a mad rush for freedom they bullied their way through the small intestines, forcing their way into the large intestines, and before I could take one step in the direction of the restrooms which would bring sweet relief, it happened. The peppers fired a warning shot. There I stood, alone in the spice and baking aisle, suddenly enveloped in a noxious cloud the likes of which has never before been recorded. I was afraid to move for fear

that more of this vile odor might escape me. Slowly, Oh so slowly, the pressure seemed to leave the lower part of my body, and I began to move up the aisle and out of it, just as an elderly woman turned into it. I don't know what made me do it, but I stopped to see what her reaction would be to the malodorous effluvium that refused to dissipate, as she walked into it unsuspecting. Have you ever been torn in two different directions emotionally? Here's what I mean, and I'm sure some of you at least will be able to relate. I could've warned that poor woman but didn't. I simply watched as she walked into an invisible, and apparently indestructible, wall of odor so terrible. That all she could do before gathering her senses and running, was to stand there blinking and waving her arms about her head as though trying to ward off angry bees. This, of course, made me feel terrible, but then made me laugh. Big mistake! Here's the thing. When you laugh, it's hard to keep things "clamped down", if you know what I mean. With each new guffaw an explosive issue burst forth from my nether region. Some were so loud and echoing that I was later told a few folks in other aisles had ducked, fearing that someone was robbing the store and firing off a shotgun. Suddenly things were no longer funny. IT was coming, and I raced off through the store towards the restrooms, laying down a cloud the whole way, praying that I'd make it before the grand mal assplosion took place. Luck was on my side. Just in the nick of time I got to the john, began the inevitable "Oh my God", floating above the toilet seat because my ass is burning SO BAD, purging. One poor fellow walked in while I was in the middle of what is the true meaning of "Shock and Awe". He made a gagging sound, and disgustedly said, "Son of a birch!", then quickly left. Once finished I left the restroom, reacquired my partially filled cart intending to carry on with my shopping when a store



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employee approached me and said, "Sir, you might want to step outside for a few minutes. It appears some prankster set off a stink bomb in the store. The manager is going to run the vent fans on high for a minute or two which ought to take care of the problem." That of course set me off again, causing residual gases to escape me. The employee took one sniff, jumped back pulling his shirt up to cover his nose and, pointing at me in an accusing manner shouted, "IT'S YOU!", then ran off returning moments later with the manager. I was unceremoniously escorted from the premises and asked none too kindly not to return. Home again without having shopped, I realized that there was nothing to eat but leftover chili, so I consumed two more bowls. The next day I went to shop at Giant Eagle. I can't say anymore about that because we are in court over the whole matter. They claim they're going to have to repaint the store.

## Best 'Headache' Joke Ever!!!!

A husband emerged from the bathroom naked and was climbing into bed when his wife complained, as usual, 'I have a headache. 'Perfect,' her husband said.' I was just in the bathroom powdering my penis with crushed aspirin. You can take it orally, or as a suppository, it's up to you.'

## Abacadabra

A man walks into a bar with a paper bag. He sits down and places the bag on the counter. The bartender walks up and asks what's in the bag. The man reaches into the bag and pulls out a little man, about one foot high and sets him on the counter. He reaches back into the bag and pulls out a small piano, setting it on the counter as well. He reaches into the bag once again and pulls out a tiny piano bench, which he places

in front of the piano. The little man sits down at the piano and starts playing a beautiful piece by Mozart! 'Where on earth did you get that?' asks the bartender. The man responds by reaching into the paper bag. This time he pulls out a magic lamp. He hands it to the bartender and says: 'Here, rub it.' So the bartender rubs the lamp, and suddenly there's a puff of smoke and a beautiful genie is standing before him. 'I will grant you one wish - just one wish - each person is only allowed one!' The bartender gets really excited. Without hesitating he says, 'I want a million bucks!' A few moments later, a duck walks into the bar and is soon followed by another duck, then another. Pretty soon, the entire bar is filled with ducks and they keep coming! The bartender turns to the man and says, 'You know, I think your genie's a little deaf. I asked for a million bucks, not a million ducks.' 'Tell me about it!' says the man, 'do you really think I asked for a 12-inch pianist?'

## Off to Vegas

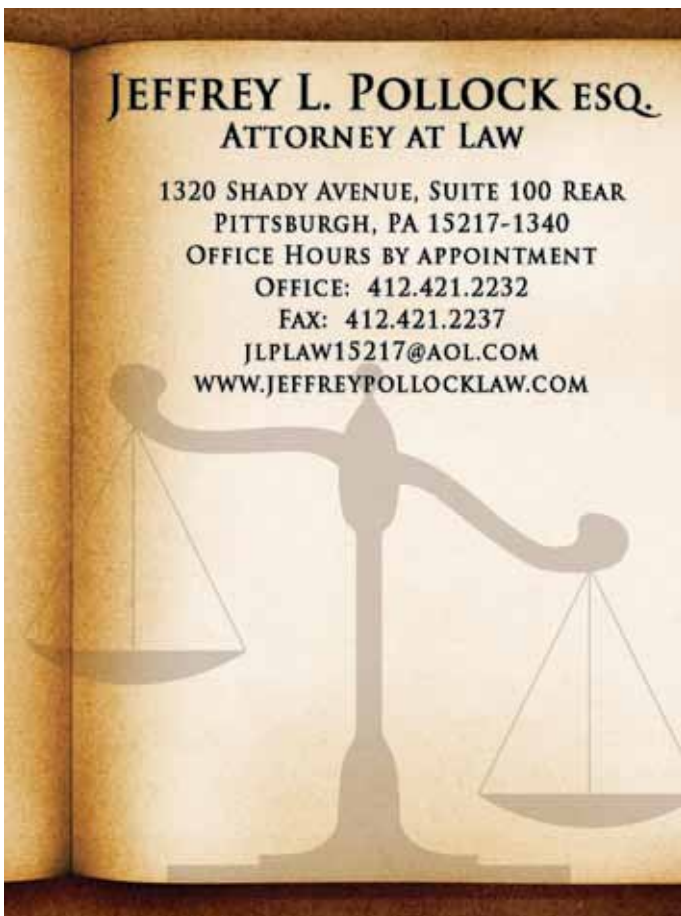
A man came home from work one day to find his wife on the front porch with her bags packed. "Just where the heck do you think you're going?" said the man. "I'm going to Las Vegas", said the wife, "I just found out I can get \$400.00 a night for what I give you for free!" The man said, "Wait a minute!" and then ran inside the house only to come back a few minutes later with his suitcase in hand. "Where the heck are you going?" said the wife The man said, "I want to see how you're gonna live on \$800.00 a year!"

## Don't Mess with Old Farts

A farmer went out one day and bought a brand new stud rooster for his chicken coop. The new rooster struts over to the old rooster and says, 'OK old fart, time for you to retire.' The old rooster replies, 'Come on, surely you cannot handle ALL of these chickens. Look what it has done to me. Can't you just let me have the two old hens over in the corner?' The young rooster says, 'Beat it: You are washed up and I am taking over.' The old rooster says, 'I tell you what, young stud. I will race you around the farmhouse. Whoever wins gets the exclusive domain over the entire chicken coop.' The young rooster laughs. 'You know you don't stand a chance, old man. So, just to be fair, I will give you a head start.' The old rooster takes off running. About 15 seconds later the young rooster takes off running after him. They round the front porch of the farmhouse and the young rooster has closed the gap. He is only about 5 feet behind the old rooster and gaining fast. The farmer, meanwhile, is sitting in his usual spot on the front porch when he sees the roosters running by. The Old Rooster is squawking and running as hard as he can. The Farmer grabs his shotgun and- BOOM - he blows the young rooster to bits. The farmer sadly shakes his head and says, 'Dammit.....third gay rooster I bought this month.' Moral of this story? .... Don't mess with the OLD FARTS - age, skill, wisdom, and a little treachery always overcome youth and arrogance!

## Birds and the Bees

A mother is in the kitchen making dinner for her family when her daughter walks in. "Mother, where do babies come from?" The mother thinks for a few seconds and says, "Well dear, Mommy and Daddy fall in love and get married. One night they go into the bedroom, they kiss and hug and have sex. The daughter looks puzzled so the mother continues, "That means the daddy puts his penis in the mommy's vagina. That's how you get a baby, honey. The child seems to comprehend. "Oh , I see, but the other night when I came into your room you had daddy's penis in your mouth. What do you get when you do that?" "Jewelry, my dear, Jewelry."



## For the Engineers...

### Understanding Engineers - Take One:

Two engineering students were walking across a university campus when one said, "Where did you get such a great bike?" The second engineer replied, "Well, I was walking along yesterday, minding my own business, when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike, threw it to the ground, took off all her clothes and said, "Take what you want." The second engineer nodded approvingly and said, "Good choice; the clothes probably wouldn't have fit you anyway."

### Understanding Engineers - Take Two:

To the optimist, the glass is half full.

To the pessimist, the glass is half empty.

To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

### Understanding Engineers - Take Three:

A priest, a doctor, and an engineer were waiting one morning for a particularly slow group of golfers. The engineer fumed, "What's with those guys? We must have been waiting for fifteen minutes!" The doctor chimed in, "I don't know, but I've never seen such inept golf!"

The priest said, "Here comes the greens keeper. Let's have a word with him." He said, "Hello, George! What's wrong with that group ahead of us? They're rather slow, aren't they?"

The greens keeper replied, "Oh, yes. That's a group of blind fire fighters. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play for free anytime."

The group fell silent. The priest said, "That's so sad. I think I will say a special prayer for them tonight." The doctor said, "Good idea. I'm going to contact my ophthalmologist colleague and

see if there's anything he can do for them." The engineer said, "Why can't they play at night?"

### Understanding Engineers - Take Four:

What is the difference between mechanical engineers and civil engineers? Mechanical engineers build weapons and civil engineers build targets.

### Understanding Engineers - Take Five:

The graduate with a science degree asks, "Why does it work?"

The graduate with an engineering degree asks, "How does it work?"

The graduate with an accounting degree asks, "How much will it cost?"

The graduate with an arts degree asks, "Do you want fries with that?"

### Understanding Engineers - Take Six:

Three engineering students were gathered together discussing the possible designers of the human body. One said, "It was a mechanical engineer. Just look at all the joints." Another said, "No, it was an electrical engineer. The nervous system has many thousands of electrical connections." The last one said, "No, actually it had to have been a civil engineer. Who else would run a toxic waste pipeline through a recreational area?"

### Understanding Engineers - Take Seven:

Normal people believe that if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Engineers believe that if it ain't broke, it doesn't have enough features yet.

### Understanding Engineers - Take Eight:

An engineer was crossing a road one day, when a frog called



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out to him and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess." He bent over, picked up the frog and put it in his pocket. The frog spoke up again and said, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a beautiful princess, I will stay with you for one week." The engineer took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it and returned it to the pocket. The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a Princess, I'll stay with you for one week and do ANYTHING you want." Again, the engineer took the frog out, smiled at it and put it back into his pocket. Finally, the frog asked, "What is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess and that I'll stay with you for one week and do anything you want. Why won't you kiss me?" The engineer said, "Look, I'm an engineer. I don't have time for a girlfriend, but a talking frog, now that's cool."

## The Week before the Honeymoon...

The groom-to-be is out on the golf course takes a high speed ball right in the crotch. Writhing in agony, he falls to the ground. As soon as he could manage, he took himself to the doctor. He said "How bad is it doc? I'm going on my honeymoon next week!" The doctor told him, "I'll have to put your willie in a splint to let it heal and keep it straight. It should be okay next week." He took four tongue depressors and formed a neat little 4-sided splint, and taped it all together; ... an impressive work of art. The guy mentions none of this to his girl, marries her and they go off on their honeymoon. That night in the motel room, she rips open her blouse to reveal her beautiful breasts. She said, "You're the first; no one has EVER touched these." He immediately drops his pants and replies, "Look at this, ....still in the CRATE!"

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3. Lovemaking can burn up those calories you piled on during that romantic dinner.
4. Sex is one of the safest sports you can take up. It stretches and tones up just about every muscle in the body. It's more enjoyable than swimming 20 laps, or jogging 20 blocks and you don't need special sneakers!
5. Sex is an instant cure for mild depression. It releases endorphins into the bloodstream, producing a sense of euphoria and leaving you with a feeling of well-being.
6. The more sex you have, the more you will be offered. The sexually active body gives off greater quantities of chemicals called pheromones. These subtle sex perfumes drive the opposite sex crazy!
7. Sex is the safest tranquilizer in the world. IT IS 10 TIMES MORE EFFECTIVE THAN VALIUM.
8. Kissing each day will keep the dentist away. Kissing encourages saliva to wash food from the teeth and lowers the level of the acid that causes decay, preventing plaque build-up.
9. Sex actually relieves headaches. A love making session can release the tension that restricts blood vessels in the brain.
10. A lot of lovemaking can unblock a stuffy nose. Sex is a natural antihistamine. It can help combat asthma and hay fever. The original copy of this is in a room in the basement of the Dwight House Pub in Ireland. It has been sent around the world nine times. Now that you have read it....sex has been sent to you. The 'Irish Sex Fairy' will visit you within four days, provided you, in turn, share it with others. If you don't, then you will never receive good sex again for the rest of your life. You will eventually become celibate, and your genitals will rot and fall off. This is no joke! Share this with as many people you think need sex (who doesn't?).

## Blonde Joke

A blonde woman was speeding down the road in her little red sports car and was pulled over by a woman police officer who was also a blonde. The blonde cop asked to see the blonde driver's license. She dug through her purse and was getting progressively more agitated. 'What does it look like?' she finally asked. The policewoman replied, 'It's square and it has your picture on it.' The driver finally found a square mirror in her purse, looked at it and handed it to the policewoman. 'Here it is,' she said. The blonde officer looked at the mirror, then handed it back saying, 'OK, you can go. Sorry, I didn't realize you were a cop.'

## New chicken recipe

Here is a chicken recipe that also includes the use of popcorn as a stuffing. Imagine that! We thought it was perfect for people who just are not sure how to tell when poultry is thoroughly cooked, but not dried out.

### BAKED STUFFED CHICKEN

- 6-7 lb. Chicken
- 1 cup melted butter
- 1 cup stuffing (Pepperidge Farm is good.)
- 1 cup uncooked popcorn (ORVILLE)



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Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Brush chicken well with melted butter, salt, and pepper. Fill cavity with stuffing and popcorn. Place in baking pan with the neck end toward the back of the oven. Listen for the popping sounds. When the chicken's ass blows the oven door open and the chicken flies across the room, it's done.

**A TEST FOR OLD KIDS**

The answers are on page 38

1. After the Lone Ranger saved the day and rode off into the sunset, the grateful citizens would ask, Who was that masked man? Invariably, someone would answer, I don't know, but he left this behind. What did he leave behind?\_\_\_\_\_.
2. When the Beatles first came to the U.S. in early 1964, we all watched them on The \_\_\_\_\_ Show.
3. "Get your kicks, \_\_\_\_\_."
4. "The story you are about to see is true. The names have been changed\_\_\_\_\_."
5. "In the jungle, the mighty jungle, \_\_\_\_\_."
6. After the Twist, The Mashed Potato, and the Watusi, we "danced" under a stick that was lowered as low as we could go in a dance called the "\_\_\_\_\_."
7. "N\_E\_S\_T\_L\_E\_S", Nestle's makes the very best..... \_\_\_\_\_."
8. Satchmo was America's "Ambassador of Goodwill." Our parents shared this great jazz trumpet player with us. His name was \_\_\_\_\_.
9. What takes a licking and keeps on ticking? \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Red Skelton's hobo character was named \_\_\_\_\_ and Red always ended his television show by saying, "Good Night, and \_\_\_\_\_".
11. Some Americans who protested the Vietnam War did so by burning their\_\_\_\_\_.
12. The cute little car with the engine in the back and the trunk in the front was called the VW . What other names did it go by? \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.
13. In 1971, singer Don MacLean sang a song about, "the day the music died. This was a tribute to \_\_\_\_\_.
14. We can remember the first satellite placed into orbit. The Russians did it. It was called \_\_\_\_\_.
15. One of the big fads of the late 50's and 60's was a large plastic ring that we twirled around our waist. It was called the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Nymphomaniac Convention**

A man boarded an airplane and took his seat. As he settled in, he glanced up and saw the most beautiful woman boarding the plane. He soon realized she was heading straight towards his seat. As fate would have it, she took the seat right beside his. Eager to strike up a conversation he blurted out, "Business trip or pleasure?" She turned, smiled and said, "Business. I'm going to the Annual Nymphomaniacs of America Convention in Boston." He swallowed hard. Here was the most gorgeous woman he had ever seen sitting next to him, and she was going to a meeting of nymphomaniacs. Struggling to maintain his composure, he calmly asked, "What's your business role at this convention?" "Lecturer," she responded. "I use information that I have learned from my personal experiences to debunk some of the popular myths about sexuality." "Really?" he said.



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“And what kind of myths are there?” “Well,” she explained, “one popular myth is that African-American men are the most well-endowed of all men, when in fact it is the Native American Indian who is most likely to possess that trait. Another popular myth is that Frenchmen are the best lovers, when actually it is men of Jewish descent who are the best. I have also discovered that the lover with absolutely the best stamina is the Southern Redneck” Suddenly the woman became a little uncomfortable and blushed. “I’m sorry,” she said, “I shouldn’t really be discussing all of this with you I don’t even know your name.” “Tonto,” the man said, “Tonto Goldstein, but my friends call me Bubba!

**Gramps**

There was a family gathering, with all generations around the table. Mischievous teenagers put a Viagra tablet into Grandpa’s drink, and after a while, Grandpa excused himself because he had to go to the bathroom. When he returned, however, his trousers are wet all over. “What happened, Grandpa?” he is asked by his concerned children. “Well,” he answered, “I don’t really know... I had to go to the bathroom...So I took it out and started to pee, but then I saw that it wasn’t mine, so I put it back.”

**ANSWERS: To Quiz from page 37.**

1. The Lone Ranger left behind a silver bullet.
2. The Ed Sullivan Show
3. On Route 66
4. To protect the innocent.
5. The Lion Sleeps Tonight
6. The limbo
7. Chocolate
8. Louis Armstrong
9. The Timex watch
10. Freddy, The Freeloader,and “Good Night,and may God Bless.”
11. Draft cards (Bras were also burned.)
12. Beetle or Bug
13. Buddy Holly
14. Sputnik
15. Hoola-hoop

**Little Joanie’s at it again.....**

A new teacher was trying to make use of her psychology courses. She started her class by saying, “Everyone who thinks they’re stupid, stand up!” After a few seconds, Little Joanie stood up. The teacher said, “Do you think you’re stupid, Little Joanie?” “No, ma’am, but I hate to see you standing there all by yourself!”

\* \* \* \* \*

Little Joanie watched, fascinated, as her mother smoothed cold cream on her face. “Why do you do that, mommy?” she asked. “To make myself beautiful,” said her mother, who then began removing the cream with a tissue. “What’s the matter?” asked Little Joanie. “Giving up?”

\* \* \* \* \*

The math teacher saw that little Joanie wasn’t paying attention in class. She called on her and said, “Joanie! What are 2 and 4 and 28 and 44?” Little Joanie quickly replied, “NBC, FOX,

ESPN and the Cartoon Network!”

\* \* \* \* \*

Little Joanie’s kindergarten class was on a field trip to their local police station where they saw pictures tacked to a bulletin board of the 10 most wanted criminals. One of the youngsters pointed to a picture and asked if it really was the photo of a wanted person. “Yes,” said the policeman. “The detectives want very badly to capture him.” Little Joanie asked, “Why didn’t you keep him when you took his picture ?”

\* \* \* \* \*

Little Joanie attended a horse auction with her father. She watched as her father moved from horse to horse, running his hands up and down the horse’s legs and rump, and chest. After a few minutes, Joanie asked, “Dad, why are you doing that?” Her father replied, “Because when I’m buying horses, I have to make sure that they are healthy and in good shape before I buy. Joanie, looking worried, said, “Dad, I think the UPS guy wants to buy Mom .”

**The Anniversary Gift**

Ed was in trouble. He forgot his wedding anniversary. His wife was really angry. She told him, “Tomorrow morning, I expect to find a gift in the driveway that goes from 0 to 200 in less than 6 seconds.” “. . .AND IT BETTER BE THERE!” The next morning Ed got up early and left for work. When his wife woke up she looked out the window and sure enough there was a box gift-wrapped in the middle of the driveway. Confused, the wife put on her robe and ran out to the driveway, and brought the box back in the house. She opened the box and found a brand new bathroom scale. Ed has been missing since Friday. Please pray for him.

**Funniest jokes of the world**

A scientific survey in 2002 attempted to find the funniest joke in the world. Thousands of people from dozens of countries voted on thousands of jokes. Each country had a different favorite. Overall, the number one and number two funniest jokes in the world, based on votes, are:

**The funniest joke in the world:**

A couple of New Jersey hunters are out in the woods when one of them falls to the ground. He doesn’t seem to be breathing, his eyes are rolled back in his head. The other guy whips out his cell phone and calls the emergency services. He gasps to the operator: “My friend is dead! What can I do?” The operator, in a calm, soothing voice, says: “Just take it easy. I can help. First, let’s make sure he’s dead.” There is a silence, then a shot is heard. The guy’s voice comes back on the line. He says: “Okay, now what?”

**The Second Funniest Joke ever:**

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson goes on a camping trip. After a good dinner and a bottle of wine, they retire for the night, and go to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes wakes up and nudges his faithful friend. ‘Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see.’ I see millions and millions of stars, Holmes,” replies Watson. “And what do you deduce from that?” Watson ponders for a minute. “Well, astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo, I deduce that the



time is approximately a quarter past three. "Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are a small and insignificant part of the universe. What does it tell you, Holmes?" Holmes is silent for a moment. "Watson, you idiot!" he says. "Someone has stolen our tent!"

### **The Funniest Joke in England and the United Kingdom:**

A woman gets on a bus with her baby. The bus driver says: "That's the ugliest baby that I've ever seen. Ugh!" The woman goes to the rear of the bus and sits down, fuming. She says to a man next to her: "The driver just insulted me!" The man says: "You go right up there and tell him off – go ahead, I'll hold your monkey for you."

### **The Funniest Joke in the U.S.**

The American data proved to be somewhat strange. Dave Barry is a well known humorist whose columns are syndicated in many American newspapers. In January 2002 he kindly devoted an entire column to Laugh Lab. At the end of the column he urged readers to submit jokes that simply ended with the punch line: 'There's a weasel chomping on my privates.' Within just a few days we had received over 1500 'weasel chomping' jokes. One weasel joke scored very highly in the USA and almost became the funniest joke in America. Here it is: At the parade, the Colonel noticed something unusual going on and asked the Major: "Major Barry, what the devil's wrong with Sergeant Jones' platoon? They seem to be all twitching and jumping about." "Well sir," says Major Barry after a moment of observation. "There seems to be a weasel chomping on his privates."

### **The Funniest Joke in Canada**

When NASA first started sending up astronauts, they quickly discovered that ballpoint pens would not work in zero gravity. To combat the problem, NASA scientists spent a decade and \$12 billion to develop a pen that writes in zero gravity, upside down, underwater, on almost any surface including glass and at temperatures ranging from below freezing to 300 C. The Russians used a pencil.

### **The Funniest Joke in Austria**

This woman rushed to see her doctor, looking very much worried and all strung out. She rattles off: "Doctor, take a look at me. When I woke up this morning, I looked at myself in the mirror and saw my hair all wiry and frazzled up, my skin was all wrinkled and pasty, my eyes were bloodshot and bugging out, and I had this corpse-like look on my face! What's WRONG with me, Doctor!?" The doctor looks her over for a couple of minutes, then calmly says: "Well, I can tell you that there ain't nothing wrong with your eyesight...."

### **The Funniest Joke in Belgium.**

Why do ducks have webbed feet?  
To stamp out fires.  
Why do elephants have flat feet?  
To stamp out burning ducks.

### **The Funniest Joke in Germany**

A general noticed one of his soldiers behaving oddly. The soldier would pick up any piece of paper he found, frown and say: "That's not it" and put it down again. This went on

for some time, until the general arranged to have the soldier psychologically tested. The psychologist concluded that the soldier was deranged, and wrote out his discharge from the army. The soldier picked it up, smiled and said: "That's it."

### **The funniest kids joke ever, perfect for every four year old:**

Knock knock.  
Who's there?  
Poop!

(Yes, that's the whole joke. Subtle, yet multi-layered, it works on so many levels for all ages- as long as they are four. Skeptical? Try it on any four year old. Note that the word "poop" may be replaced by any number of equally hilarious substitutes limited only by imagination and the vocabulary of the target audience).

### **A Little Laugh**

98% of Americans say, "Oh shit" before going into a ditch on a slippery road. The other 2% are from Pennsylvania, Minnesota and West Virginia and they say, "Hold my beer and watch this shit."

### **Grandparents and Grandchildren**

She was in the bathroom, putting on her makeup, under the watchful eyes of her young granddaughter as she'd done many times before. After she applied her lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Grandma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!"

---

My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, "62." He was quiet for a moment, and then he asked "Did you start at 1?"

---

After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"

---

telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like: "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

---

My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo while I asked, "No, how are we alike?" You're both old," he replied.

---

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