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MAY 2011

NIGHT WIRE

A hula dancer in traditional attire, including a feathered headdress, patterned arm bands, and a skirt with a large circular design, is captured in a dynamic pose. She is holding two large hula hoops, one in each hand, and has another hoop around her waist. The background is dark with blue light patterns.

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Ask The Attorney

Ask The Lawyer: "Legal Briefs" Courtesy Of Local Attorney / Mediator / Collaborative Settlement Advocate Jeff Pollock

Q: Due to my Easter/Passover vacation obligations, a colleague who read my Tax Tips in April volunteered these additional tax-related comments for Nightwire in May.

A. Here are some Tips for Homeowners in particular.

If you ask a group of homeowners the benefits of owning versus renting, they will likely say "the tax deductions" because homeowners who itemize their taxes are able to deduct 100% of their mortgage interest and property taxes from their income tax returns.

That means that if you're in a 28% tax bracket, Uncle Sam effectively subsidizes about a third of your borrowing costs, making your home more affordable or allowing you to buy a larger home than you could otherwise buy. Many closing cost fees are tax deductible as well, and thousands of dollars of profit or capital gains that you realize when you sell your home can be exempt from income taxes.

At tax time, it's critical to know what you're entitled to, so you can claim it. So, here are home-related income tax tips to help you avoid home ownership-related tax traps.

A) One Must Itemize to Claim Deductions

During the recent debate in DC about whether the mortgage interest deduction should be eliminated, it came out that nearly 40% of homeowners lose out on their major tax advantages every year when they fail to itemize their income taxes. If you own a home and otherwise have a fairly simple return, it might be tempting just to take the standard deduction -- and if your mortgage, property taxes and income are low enough, the standard deduction might outweigh your homeowners' deductions. Before you start filling in a 1040-EZ form, ask your mortgage company or TurboTax whether itemizing or taking the standard deduction will result in the lowest tax bill (or the highest tax refund).

B) Home Office Deductions Require Advance Planning

According to the Small Business Administration, the average home office deduction is about \$3,700. So calculate that number in regards to your tax bracket to figure what you'll save on your taxes by writing off your home office. Keep in mind that the space you designate as your home office cannot be exempted from capital gains tax when you sell your home later. The \$250,000 (single)/\$500,000 (married filing jointly) income tax exemption for capital gains is only good on your personal residence. If you foresee selling your home for much more than you bought it, discuss this with your CPA to see if the few hundred bucks you save now is worth the capital gains downside in the future.

C) Limits on Tax Relief for Loan Mods, Short Sales, and Foreclosures

It is projected that 2011 will be a peak year for foreclosures. Distressed homeowners likely to see a short sale, loan modification, or foreclosure should be aware that normally, any mortgage balance that is wiped out by one of these outcomes is taxed as what the IRS calls Cancellation of Debt Income, or CODI.

Under the Mortgage Debt Forgiveness Relief Act of 2007, the



IRS is currently not charging income taxes on CODI incurred through a loan mod, short sale, or foreclosure on most primary residences through 2012. But right now, banks are taking many months to work out mortgages in all of these ways. If you foresee any of these outcomes, don't procrastinate. Do what you can to get to closure on your distressed home/loan while you won't have income taxes to add as the insult on top of your significant housing injury.

D) Refinancing or Property Tax Appeals Can Have Income Tax Consequences

Many people are applying for lower property tax bills due to the recent decline in home values. Those who have equity have sought to refinance 8% home loans to 5% rates recently. These strategies offer large savings for the big investment in time and money. Smart homeowners who slash these costs know that property taxes and mortgage interest are also the basis for the major tax benefits of being a homeowner. So plan ahead for those deductions to go down along with taxes and interest.

E) Closing Costs Can Be Made To Be Financially Beneficial

If you bought/refinanced your home in 2010, not only are your mortgage interest and property tax deductible, but so are your closing costs. Any origination fees or discount points that were paid to your mortgage lender at closing are tax deductible, even if the seller paid your closing costs. Your HUD-1 settlement statement (that legal sized paper full of line item credits and debits that you should have received from your escrow provider or title attorney at Closing) has the info you need..

Best wishes to Nightwire readers for a happy and healthy Mothers' Day holiday.

If Nightwire Magazine readers have questions or suggestions for topics, please call Joyce at (412) 855-5536 or Atty. Pollock at (412) 421-2232.

Pittsburgh Power

Do You Feel The Power? - The Pittsburgh Power



The Pittsburgh Power has been gaining in wins and winning over the hearts of Pittsburghers. If you haven't been to a game, what are you waiting for?

Fast paced, high scoring, non stop action.... that's what the Power promises and they continue to deliver just that with an impressive inaugural season so far with a 3-3 record. Their indoor playing field, affordable ticket prices and perfect conditions make it and win-win for all fans in attendance.

It's a great place for families, dates or just a girls or guys night out! Recently we asked some fans after a game what they thought of arena football... here's what a few fans had to say...

"it's a great game... fast paced and exciting!" Joe H. - North Hills

"This was our first game, and we really enjoyed it, we are definitely hooked and already bought tickets to the next game." Geno S. - Wexford

"Loved it!" "The Black Out was really cool." - Lisa T. Oakland

"We had so much fun, can't wait till the next game...!" Marian J. - South Side

So there you have it... the fans have spoken... If you want to feel the power and join in the excitement, there are still tickets available to the remaining home games. Ticket prices as low as \$15.





Here's a lineup of promotions for the remaining home games.

May 7 – 8PM: SPOKANE SHOCK Public Safety Appreciation Night – "We will never forget" wristbands & Competition

May 14 – 7:20PM: SAN JOSE SABERCATS Hearing/Speech Awareness – Temporary Tattoos

June 4 – 7:30PM: CLEVELAND GLADIATORS Military Appreciation – Scott, Rob & Greg from The Clarks at Half-Time

June 25 – 7:30PM: MILWAUKEE MUSTANGS Kids Night - Thundersticks

July 10 – 7:30PM: ARIZONA RATTLETS Fan Appreciation Night – Free Power Bobblehead

You can purchase tickets online at www.PittsburghPowerFootball.com or by calling 888-769-2011. Feel the Power!!



Wine and Spirits Springtime Recommendations

by Christian Tripodi, Sommelier, Rivers Casino



Springtime is here and it is time to think about what to drink on your excursions. A lot of times when you are drinking we have to take into effect like what the weather is like, will you be sitting on the patio or in the restaurant, is it a celebration, and who is your company. For instance, let's say you and your date are sitting on the patio on a warm sunny springtime day, you may want to drink something lighter and refreshing; such as an Albariño from Spain or a nice light Champagne/Sparkling Wine. These wines are great afternoon treats; they are lighter in alcohol, refreshing, easy to drink wines and are very food friendly. This afternoon treat may not necessarily have to be wine but maybe a cocktail would be right up your alley.

Here at Andrew's Steakhouse in the Rivers Casino, we like to change our Wine/Cocktail List seasonally. This spring John Skelley our in-house Bartender/Mixologist at Andrew's has added a few springtime Cocktails to the list. The first drink he added was a drink from a previous issue of Nightwire that had sparked his eye. It is the Lavender Lemon Drop; this drink already has been a hit the first two days on the new menu. The second one is the Strawberry Basil Collins; this is like drinking a Strawberry Daiquiri next



Christian Tripodi, Sommelier and John Skelley, Bartender/Mixologist

to a basil garden and of course the Mojito, everybody's favorite in the spring. This is just small slither of John's arsenal of drinks that he can offer you at Andrew's Bar. In addition, we do have thirty-six wines by the glass and over 200 wines by the bottle.

We as Sommeliers, Managers, Bartenders and Servers are here for one reason, to guide the guest though an unforgettable experience.

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Andrew's Steak & Seafood...the name is as famous as the food. A high-end steakhouse that is named after several important Pittsburgh Andrews such as Carnegie, Mellon and Warhol. Andrew's is a contemporary steak and fresh seafood restaurant and offers an exclusive wine list.

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Mother's Day

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The Go Caddy Compact Tote and Water Bottle Holder with multi-compartments has a handy place for everything an active person needs to carry. People on the go who like to bring more than just a bottle of water with them now have a tote just the right size to hold all their items by their side for hands free traveling or on the go fitness. · This unisex-styled bag is just big enough to hold up to a 1.5 liter bottle of water but also has multiple compartments to hold identification, keys, cell phone, camera, maps and much more. · The pleated deep front pocket has an additional hidden security pocket for a passport or money. · The 54" easily adjustable strap allows it to be slipped over a shoulder or worn sling style for hands traveling. Family friendly caddies fit a man, woman or child. · BVT Products designed the Go Caddy™ in luxurious Microfiber because not only is it lightweight but also very durable. · An included water bottle cooler sleeve keeps those drinks nice and cold. · Packs flat for traveling. The stylish Go Caddy™ is the ideal carry all. Order today at www.thegocaddy.com for \$19.99 plus \$4.95 S\$H. Price: \$19.99



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Heavens Alchemy Perfumes

Heaven's Alchemy Perfumes (heavensalchemyperfumes.com) Heaven's Alchemy Perfumes are sensual and sophisticated, inspired by the romance, passion and beauty of the world's most captivating and romantic cities. The rich and varied scents of each of the pure, undiluted, alcohol-free, chemical-free and color additive-free perfumes has been painstakingly crafted in the traditional and ancient method from pure perfume oils. Each perfume embodies the beauty and character of a different city, utilizing ingredients native to or historically beloved in each city, as well as other ingredients that combine well with them to capture the essence, in scent, of each city. Even the gorgeous glass bottles have been designed to capture the feel and look of the cities they represent. For example, the mysterious and hypnotic "Casablanca" scent has delicate hints of Moroccan spices, vanilla and musk surrounding an intoxicating blend of flowers, including Moroccan rose, gardenia, jasmine and tuberose. The beautiful combination of Western and Eastern design motifs of its glass container evokes the European and Arabic influences in Casablanca's architecture and culture. Other scents include Kyoto, Alexandria, Athens, Dubai, Istanbul, Milan, New York,

Paris, St. Petersburg, Zanzibar and more, each capturing the essence of the namesake city. Heaven's Alchemy Perfumes are pure and undiluted, vastly different than most perfumes on the market, which generally are up to 75% alcohol. Whereas alcohol-based perfumes evaporate in a rush, obscuring the delicate nuances of a fragrance's complexity, the richness of Heaven's Alchemy perfumes can be appreciated much like fine wines. A crystal set, which comes with a crystal perfume bottle, a tasseled travel perfume, a perfumer's funnel (to fill the empty crystal bottle) and a roll-on glass perfume bottle retails for \$195 (20 ml version) or \$165 (10 ml version). Heaven's Alchemy, heavensalchemyperfumes.com, 888-927-3738



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Chicago an American rock band formed in 1967 in Chicago, Illinois. The band began as a politically charged, sometimes experimental, rock band and later moved to a predominantly softer sound, becoming famous for producing a number of hit ballads. They had a steady stream of hits throughout the 1970s and 1980s. Second only to The Beach Boys in terms of Billboard singles and albums chart success among American bands, Chicago is one of the longest running and most successful pop/rock and roll groups. Chicago re-teamed with producer Phil Ramone in October 2010 to begin work on a new album.

According to Billboard, Chicago was the leading U.S. singles charting group during the 1970s. They have sold over 38 million units in the U.S., with 22 gold, 18 platinum, and 8 multi-platinum albums. Over the course of their career they have charted five No. 1 albums, and have had 21 top ten hits.

Despite the personnel changes over the years, the group is still active four decades after its founding. They are one of the few major rock groups that have never broken up or even taken an extended hiatus. As of June 2010, four of the six surviving founding members (major songwriters Lamm and Pankow, plus Loughnane and Parazaidler) remain

providing continuity, while Jason Scheff has been with the band 25 years, Tris Imboden 20 years, and Keith Howland 15 years.

Chicago Statistics:

- Record sales of 100,000,000+
- 21 Top 10 singles
- 5 consecutive Number One albums
- 11 Number One singles
- 5 Gold singles
- An incredible 25 of their 32 albums have been certified platinum

To date, Chicago is the first American band to chart Top 40 albums in five decades – a landmark accomplishment. Chicago's live 2005 DVD of their epic performances with Earth, Wind & Fire were certified platinum in less than two months.

Drusky Entertainment will present Chicago at the Trib Total Media Amphitheatre, One Station Square West Lot on Tuesday, May 24, 2011- Doors open at 6PM – Show: 7:30PM – All Ages – Tickets are \$47-\$76 Advance/\$51-\$80 Door. Tickets can be purchased at www.druskyentertainment.com or call 1-800-745-3000

Music

Elvis Costello



Elvis Costello has followed his musical curiosity in a career spanning more than 30 years. He is perhaps best known for his performances with The Attractions, The Imposters and for concert appearances with pianist Steve Nieve. However, he has also entered into acclaimed collaborations with Burt Bacharach, The Brodsky Quartet, Paul McCartney, Swedish mezzo-soprano Anne Sofie von Otter, guitarist Bill Frisell, composer Roy Nathanson, The Charles Mingus Orchestra, record producer and songwriter T Bone Burnett and Allen Toussaint.

During his career Costello has received several prestigious honors, including two Ivor Novello Awards for songwriting, a Dutch Edison Award with The Brodsky Quartet for 'The Juliet Letters', the Nordoff-Robbins Silver Clef Award, a BAFTA for the music written with Richard Harvey for Alan Bleasdale's television drama series 'G.B.H.' and a Grammy for "I Still Have That Other Girl" from his 1998 collaboration with Burt Bacharach, 'Painted From Memory'.

Elvis Costello and The Attractions were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2003. During the same year he was awarded ASCAP's prestigious Founder's Award. There have also been a number of Grammy nominations for his recent albums 'When I Was Cruel' and 'The Delivery Man'.

Elvis Costello and the Imposter will be appearing at the Trib Total Media Amphitheatre, One Station Square on Thursday, June 16, 2011 – show time 7:30PM – tickets are available at www.druskyentertainment.com

<p>TRIB TOTAL MEDIA AMPHITHEATRE</p> <p>WITH A SPECIAL GUEST</p> <p>TUE · MAY 24 · 7:30PM</p>	
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<p>TEXT "CONCERTS" TO 76274 FOR A CHANCE TO WIN FREE TICKETS! DRUSKYENTERTAINMENT.COM</p>	

Theater

West Side Story



The Broadway touring production of the smash hit revival of WEST SIDE STORY comes to Pittsburgh's Benedum Center, May 17-22, 2011. This production is part of the PNC Broadway Across America-Pittsburgh series, a presentation of The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Pittsburgh Symphony and Broadway Across America.

Tickets (\$24-\$66) are available at the Box Office at Theater Square (655 Penn Avenue), by phone (412) 456-6666 or online at www.pgharts.org. For group discounts, please call 412-471-6930.

The new Broadway cast album of WEST SIDE STORY won the 2010 Grammy Award for Best Musical Show Album. The Bernstein and Sondheim score is considered to be one of Broadway's finest and features such classics of the American musical theatre as "Something's Coming," "Tonight," "America," "I Feel Pretty" and "Somewhere."

Directed by its two-time Tony Award-winning librettist Arthur Laurents, WEST SIDE STORY features the original Jerome Robbins choreography restaged by Tony Award nominee Joey McKneely (The Boy from Oz, The Life). This new revival of WEST SIDE STORY, broke box office records when it previewed and opened to critical acclaim at the Palace Theatre on Broadway in 2009. WEST SIDE STORY is written by three theatrical luminaries: two-time Tony Award winner Arthur Laurents (book) and multiple Tony and Grammy Award winners Leonard Bernstein (music) and Stephen Sondheim (lyrics) in his Broadway debut.

WEST SIDE STORY is produced by Kevin McCollum, James L. Nederlander, and Jeffrey Seller with Terry Allen Kramer, Sander Jacobs, Roy Furman / Jill Furman Willis, Freddy DeMann, Robyn Goodman / Walt Grossman, Hal Luftig, Roy Miller, The Weinstein Company and Broadway Across America.

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust is a non-profit organization whose mission is the cultural and economic development of Pittsburgh's 14-block Cultural District through public and private support. The Trust presents and encourages diverse performing and visual arts programs within the District, and is an impetus for additional development in downtown Pittsburgh. In addition to the PNC Broadway Across America-Pittsburgh series, The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust presents Pittsburgh Dance Council, Trust Presents, Pittsburgh International Children's Theater and Children's Festival, CD Live, JazzLive, First Night Pittsburgh, Gallery Crawl, and Three Rivers Arts Festival, among other Cultural District and arts events. The Trust owns Theater Square and the Cabaret at Theater Square; James E Rohr Building & Arts Education Center; the Benedum Center for the Performing Arts; Byham, O'Reilly, and Harris Theaters; visual arts galleries: Wood Street Galleries; SPACE, at 812 Liberty Avenue and 937 Liberty, a multipurpose performance and exhibit space, among other downtown arts facilities.



"...EDGY, YET ELEGANT..."

-PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW

"...A GORGEOUS STYLING AND RELAXATION PLACE..."

-PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE



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-NANCY BRAUN, NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BALAYAGE EXPERT

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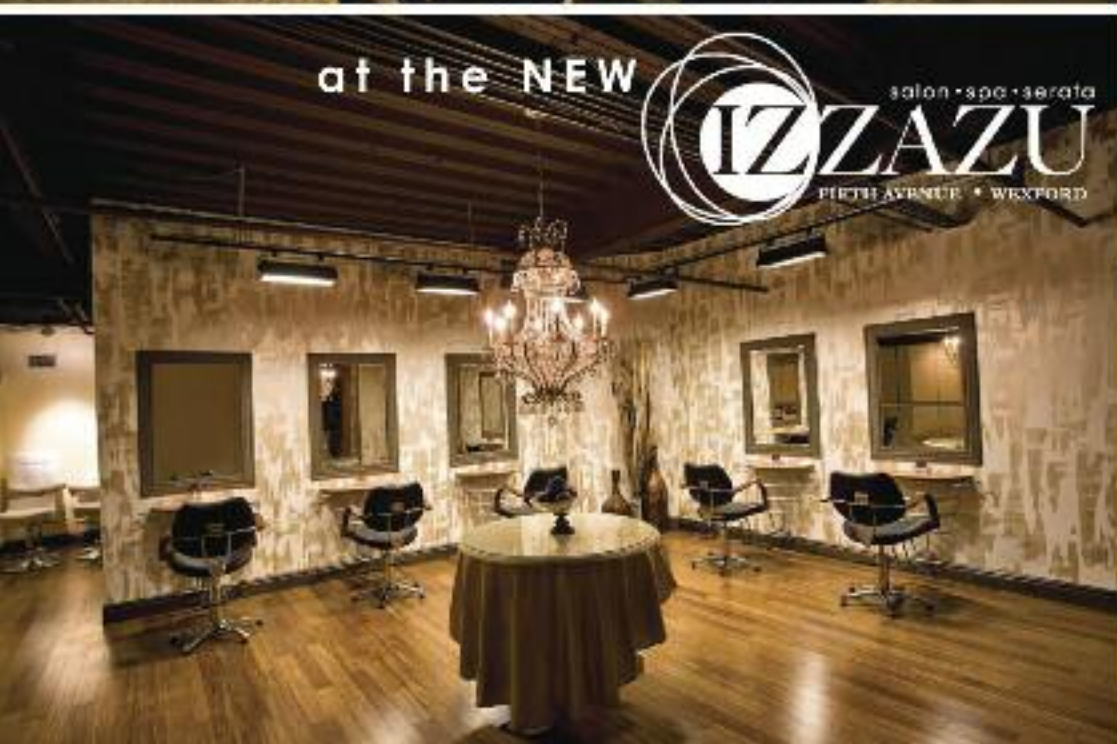
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-JOHN VELLA, IZZAZU ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



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Travel Dollywood Vacations



Dollywood Vacations offers all-inclusive Smoky Mountains vacation planning, whether it's an action-packed family trip to the mountains or a relaxing girls' getaway.

Dollywood Vacations is your premier destination for accommodations and entertainment. This cabin resort is located just outside the city limits of Gatlinburg, which makes it convenient to all the attractions in town.

These fabulous cabins offer a variety of luxurious amenities, including indoor and outdoor hot tubs, Jacuzzis, gas fireplaces, game rooms and more, Dollywood Vacations' cabins provide the perfect backdrop for a relaxing getaway. With accommodations for as few as two and up to as many as 30, Dollywood Vacations can plan the perfect honeymoon or a family reunion in the Smoky Mountains.

Popular with families, the cabin game rooms are filled with

everything from big screen televisions to pool tables provide great entertainment without ever leaving Dollywood Vacations' luxury cabins.

For those who enjoy cooking, Dollywood Vacations' luxury cabins offer fully equipped gourmet kitchens, perfect for whipping up a delicious dinner or a yummy batch of cookies!

At Dollywood Vacations you will experience sweeping mountain vistas, breath taking views and luxury cabins all nestled in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, offering the perfect combination of seclusion and convenience.

Let Dollywood Vacations show you how easy it is to relax in the beauty of the mountains and experience the best of the area. Dollywood Vacations combines both together by offering luxurious surroundings and special rates on the most popular attractions, like Dollywood, Dollywood's Splash Country, and Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede dinner attraction. This is a great experience for all who come and visit.

As a guest at Dollywood Vacations you will be afforded the opportunity to buy the exclusive Dollywood Vacations pass, which provides unlimited admissions to the park for the length of your stay, and free reserved parking. Dollywood is the number one attraction in Tennessee, with 150 acres that showcases more than 40 rides and attractions, including Thunderhead, twice named the world's number one wooden coaster and the all new for 2011 Barnstormer. Their Mystery Mine coaster, was named Theme Park Insider's 2007 Best New Attraction. This theme park also won the Golden Ticket Award for Best Shows, because of the world-class live entertainment which features country, bluegrass, southern gospel, popular, and Appalachian music.





There are no other Gatlinburg cabin resorts except Dollywood Vacations that include one free admission to Dollywood's Splash Country for every person in your party. Plus it also includes free parking when you visit. They also offer the best prices on Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede dinner attraction which feeds you an unbelievable meal while you enjoy a show featuring live horses, and friendly competition for the whole family. To book your vacation call Dollywood Vacations Lodging: Toll Free 866-857-2123 or you can visit them online at www.dollywoodvacations.com



Travel

Dollywood Splash Country

Thrill Rides + Water Playground = Family Fun Activities



Featuring more than 23 water adventure slides and thrill rides - from the daring drops of Big Bear Plunge, a white water rafting ride, to the twisting turns of the Mountain Scream body slide ride, discover family fun water rides and attractions at Dollywood's Splash Country. Toss in two interactive children's playground areas, the Lazy River and Little Creek Falls, and you'll find family fun activities for everyone. Below is a description of just a few of these thrill water attractions.

Bear Mountain Fire Tower is where a four-alarm soaking awaits you and your family. Climb throughout this multi-level interactive attraction as you explore the seven slides, water cannons and sliding poles. But listen carefully, because when the bells sound, the gigantic bucket above is about to unleash 1,000 gallons of water! It's really buckets of fun for the entire

family.

Big Bear Plunge - take the "plunge" on this extreme white water rafting adventure ride that takes you banking through dark caverns with winding bends and steep drops reminiscent of challenging river expeditions. You'll crash through a wall of water just before sliding down the bumpy cliff that sends you splashing into the pool below.

At the Butterfly be prepared for steep drops at Dollywood's Splash Country as you plunge down two 55-foot-long extreme slides on the Butterfly. The adventure ends in the Butterfly Pool, a landing zone with the wings of a butterfly to catch you.

The Cascades™, an 8,000-sq.-ft. lagoon-style pool, features more than 25 interactive elements. Slides weave throughout the giant rock grotto while refreshing 20-foot-tall sprays rise from the pool's geyser. Relax in the contoured seating area or in a chaise lounge chair situated on the 24,000-sq.-ft. deck space. Children can explore hidden misters, bubblers and slides in secret coves around the pool's perimeter.

Downbound Float Trip - Here you will experience the scenic beauty of the Smoky Mountains while floating down the relaxing 1,500-foot "river." Cool off as you float beneath the cascading 200-foot waterfall that drenches and refreshes.

Thrills are on the rise at Dollywood's Splash Country with Fire Tower Falls, the water parks' tallest and fastest slides ever! Rising 70 feet into the air, these exhilarating twin free-fall slides propel riders on 280-foot tracks for an exhilarating journey! A 140-foot water-filled lane awaits riders at the end, bringing this fast-action experience to an end with a major splash!

Mountain Twist - Enjoy a slow climb to





the top, because it's a fast-moving trip down hill on the Mountain Twist. Hold on tight as you maneuver 42 feet of incredible twists and turns on either of the three single-person mat slides!

Mountain Waves - Catch a wave in the heart of the Smokies at the Mountain Waves 25,000-square-foot wave pool. Soak up the sun poolside or tackle a wave--it's all of the fun the beach has to offer--without any sand between your toes!

Raging River Rapids - The white waters of the Great Smoky Mountains hold endless adventure, and you can experience it--along with a good soaking--with your family on the 700-foot Raging River Rapids. Each raft holds up to five people (combined weight of riders cannot exceed 800 pounds), but there's no limit to the fun on this exciting ride.

Slick Rock Racer, a multi-lane mat slide spans 300 feet and features four water-drenched lanes, each side by side. Positioned belly down on mats, each rider travels head first on a channel which includes an initial dip to build speed. Multiple

bumps along the length of the slide allow riders to gain additional momentum which propels them to the finish. This attraction can accommodate approximately 600 guests an hour.

It's a rush of white water fun on Swift Water Run, Dollywood's Splash Country's thrill ride. Hold on tight as the current rushes 'round and 'round through the corkscrew tunnel before a breathtaking splash sends you sailing down the chute. It's twists and turns like you've never seen before on Swift Water Run!

White River Falls - The many rivers in the Great Smoky Mountains are a playground for nature lovers. But you can enjoy the same experience on Wild River Falls as four daring slides invite the whole family to twist and turn as the cool water sends you sliding in the warm sunshine or dare to navigate the dark tunnels!



Cirque

Totem May 12 - May 29



Cirque du Soleil Share the excitement of the return of Cirque du Soleil in Pittsburgh with its latest Big Top production. Totem premieres May 12, 2011 and runs through May 29 Under the Blue-and-Yellow Grand Chapiteau at 20th Street & A.V.R.R. in the Strip District. Totem is Cirque du Soleil's latest touring show, created and directed by previous collaborator Robert Lepage (Kà). Cirque du Soleil describes Totem's theme as the evolution of mankind from its primordial, amphibian state toward the aspiration of flight, taking inspiration from many of mankind's founding myths.

Set and technical information

Cirque du Soleil used interactive projection technologies to enhance and provide variety to the types of scenes created for Totem, including swamps, starry nights, lakes, volcanoes, and other natural environments. The kinetic images are created with the help of infrared cameras; the projection system can dynamically create projections, making it seem as if they are reacting to the artists' movements in both real-time and pre-recorded sequences. One of the major elements for the set is the large turtle carapace, which functions as both a decorative piece as well as acrobatic equipment. When not in use, the shell is tilted or raised completely to the top of the tent or

arena. It weighs 2,700 pounds, has two horizontal bars, and is covered in a non-slip finish. Another major component of the set is the "scorpion bridge", which functions as an entrance at times. It is made of 10,000 pounds of steel and has eight mineral oil hydraulic motors which allow it to move in three dimensions—extending, retracting, curling, etc. Underneath said bridge is housing for a laser, speakers, lighting equipment, and cameras. Movement of the scorpion bridge is controlled by an operator who uses four infrared cameras. Of final note, the marsh reeds at the back of the stage are actually inflatable, which allows for easier transport between performance locations.

Equipment and props which are not part of the set have been just as carefully planned out and created. The unicycles are 7 feet tall, but are very light for better maneuverability. Similarly, the perch poles are made of duralumin, the largest of which is 33 feet tall. In total summation, Totem utilizes 65 tractor-trailer sized containers to transport its 1,200 tons of equipment from site to site.

According to Melanie Lalande, Artistic Director for Totem there are fifty-two performing artists from 18 countries. The Cirque casting department travels all over the world to



ultimately find the finest and best talent in the world. The total number of people, who travel with Totem is 150. There is a full kitchen and the chefs daily create 3 meals a day for people from 18 different countries. Their meals are very high quality, healthy, delicious and nutritious.

From concept to design it took approximately 2 years and another 6 months to get ready for the show. There was a team of 24 people working together to design Totem.

Melanie is the talent and brains behind the scenes with her staff of eleven she orchestrates Totem like a sports game, from lighting to sound, she does it all making Totem one super spectacular flawless show.

Costumes

As Totem's storyline includes the evolution of mankind, inspiration for the 779 costume elements came directly from nature. Costume designer Kym Barrett primarily focused on how to treat various fabrics rather than the materials themselves in order to replicate the elements found in nature. Such treatments included advanced printing techniques, fluorescent pigments, and utilizing mirror fragments and crystals for adornment. Below is more detailed information about specific costume pieces and the wardrobe collection as a whole.

The Crystal Man's stretch velvet leotard is encrusted with nearly 4,500 reflective components; 4,001 are mirror fragments. This costume is the show's heaviest, weighing eight pounds.

The foot juggling duo's lycra body stockings are each adorned with 3,500 crystals, and each headpiece has another 1,000.

The hoop dancer's costume is inspired by not one traditional Native American tribe, but by several. For instance it includes a Hopi cross and headdress.

Mother's Day Humor

BY NIGHTWIRE

Celebrate Mother's Day with your Dear Mother

Mother's are everything for us when we are small...our lives revolved around her. For everything that we needed we called our mothers. To protect us from all perceivable dangers we wanted her around us. To kiss away our wounds we ran to her and for a warm hug and love we looked for her. She was the focal point of our lives, the greatest human being in the world or should we say divinity on earth. On the special occasion of Mother's Day don't forget to pay tribute to your mother – Mothers Day is the perfect day to celebrate the joys of having a mother. It is the time to make amends for not being able to spend quality time with her. So turn your wrongs right by making all efforts to give a perfect Mothers Day to your mother. Think about her likes and dislikes about gifts and idea on celebration and act accordingly. Strive to make Mothers Day absolutely hassle free for your mother and take the responsibilities on yourself for a day. Pamper her a little on this special day of hers just as she pampers you all the year round. Give her a warm hug and a big kiss as you wish her a Happy Mothers Day!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY.....

from NIGHTWIRE MAGAZINE!!

We Hope You Enjoy our Mother's Day humor.....

Mother's Day Quotes

"The hand that rocks the cradle usually is attached to someone who isn't getting enough sleep."- John Fiebig

"I'd like to be the ideal mother, but I'm too busy raising my kids."- Unknown

The mother of three notoriously unruly youngsters was asked whether or not she'd have children if she had it to do over again. "Yes," she replied. "But not the same ones."- David Finkelstein

A little boy forgot his lines in a Sunday school presentation. His mother was in the front row to prompt him. She gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it did not help. Her son's memory was blank. Finally, she leaned forward and whispered the cue, "I am the light of the world." The child beamed and with great feeling and a loud clear voice said, "My mother is the light of the world." - Bits and Pieces, 1989

A teacher gave her class of second graders a lesson on the magnet and what it does. The next day in a written test, she included this question: "My full name has six letters. The first

one is M. I pick up things. What am I?" When the test papers were turned in, the teacher was astonished to find that almost 50 percent of the students answered the question with the word Mother- Unknown

My Mother Taught Me

To Value A Job Well Done

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

Time Travel

"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

Logic

"Because I said so, that's why."

Foresight

"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

Irony

"Keep crying and I'll give you something to cry about."

Osmosis

"Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

Stamina

"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

Weather

"This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."

Hypocrisy

"If I told you once, I've told you a million times. Don't exaggerate!"

Circle Of Life

"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

Behavior Modification

"Stop acting like your father!"

Envy

"There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."

Anticipation

"Just wait until we get home."

Roots

"Do you think you were born in a barn?"

Wisdom of Age

"When you get to be my age, you will understand."

Receiving

"You are going to get it when you get home!"

Medical Science

"If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to freeze that way."

How To Become An Adult

"If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."

Genetics

"You're just like your father."

Wisdom

"When you get to be my age, you'll understand."

Justice

"One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you"

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Stages of Motherhood

Here is a light hearted presentation of what we all think about our moms, at different points of our lives. Don't get surprised because we all have the same tendency towards our mothers!

4 Years Of Age - My Mommy can do anything;

8 Years Of Age - My Mom knows a lot! A whole lot

12 Years Of Age -My Mother doesn't really know quite everything.

14 Years Of Age -Naturally, Mother doesn't know that, either

16 Years Of Age -Mother? She's hopelessly old-fashioned

18 Years Of Age -That old woman? She's way out of date

25 Years Of Age -Well, she might know a little bit about it

35 Years Of Age -Before we decide, let's get Mom's opinion

45 Years Of Age -Wonder what Mom would have thought about it

65 Years Of Age -Wish, I could talk it over with Mom

Your Really a Mom When

- You count the number of sprinkles on each kid's cupcake to make sure they are equal.
- You want to take out a contract on the kid who broke your child's favorite toy and made him/her cry.
- You have time to shave only one leg at a time.
- You hide in the bathroom to be alone.
- Your child throws up and you catch it.
- Someone else's kid throws up at a party and you keep eating.
- You consider finger paint to be a controlled substance.
- You mastered the art of placing food on a plate without anything touching.
- Your child insists that you read "Once upon a Potty" out loud in the lobby of the doctor's office and you do it.
- You hire a baby sitter because you haven't been out with your husband in ages, then you spend half the night talking about and checking on the kids.
- You hope ketchup is a vegetable because it's the only one your child eats.
- You find yourself cutting your husband's sandwiches into unusual shapes.
- You fast-forward through the scene when the hunter shoots Bambi's mother.
- You obsess when your child clings to you upon parting during his first month at school, then you obsess when he skips in without looking back.
- You can't bear to give away baby clothes--it's so final.
- You hear your mother's voice coming out of your mouth when you say, "Not in your good clothes."
- You stop criticizing the way your mother raised you.
- You read that the average-five-year old asks 437 questions a day and feel proud that your kid is "above average."

Mother's Dictionary of Meanings

Dumbwaiter: One who asks if the kids would care to order dessert.

Feedback: The inevitable result when the baby doesn't appreciate the strained carrots.

Full Name: What you call your child when you're mad at him.

Grandparents: The people who think your children are wonderful even though they're sure you're not raising them right.

Hearsay: What toddlers do when anyone mutters a dirty word.

Independent: How we want our children to be for as long as they do everything we say.

Puddle: A small body of water that draws other small bodies wearing dry shoes into it.

Show Off: A child who is more talented than yours.

Sterilize: What you do to your first baby's pacifier by boiling it, and to your last baby's pacifier by blowing on it and wiping it with saliva.

Top Bunk: Where you should never put a child wearing Superman jammies.

Two-Minute Warning: When the baby's face turns red and she begins to make those familiar-grunting noises.

Whodunit: None of the kids that live in your house.

Child Sent to Bed

A small boy is sent to bed by his mother... [Five minutes later] "Mom..." "What?" "I'm thirsty. Can you bring me a glass of water?" "No. You had your chance. Lights out." [Five minutes later] "Mom..." "WHAT?" "I'm THIRSTY...Can I have a glass of water??" "I told you NO! If you ask again I'll have to spank you!!" [Five minutes later] "Momm..." "WHAT??!!" "When you come in to spank me, can you bring me a glass of water?"

Mother's Day Thoughts and Quotes

The advice your son rejected is now being given by him to
Continued Next page

Mother's Day Humor

BY NIGHTWIRE

your grandson. Working mothers are guinea pigs in a scientific experiment to show that sleep is not necessary to human life. Parents often talk about the younger generations as if they didn't have anything to do with it.

Things Mom Would Never Say

- "How on earth can you see the TV sitting so far back?"
- "Yeah, I used to skip school a lot, too"
- "Just leave all the lights on ... it makes the house look more cheery"
- "Let me smell that shirt -- Yeah, it's good for another week"
- "Go ahead and keep that stray dog, honey. I'll be glad to feed and walk him every day"
- "Well, if Rahul's mamma says it's OK, that's good enough for me."
- "The curfew is just a general time to shoot for. It's not like I'm running a prison around here."
- "I don't have a tissue with me ... just use your sleeve"
- "Don't bother wearing a jacket - the wind-chill is bound to improve"

Grandma on the Plane

For two solid hours, the lady sitting next to a man on an airplane had told him about her grandchildren. She had even produced a plastic-foldout photo album of all nine of the children. She finally realized that she had dominated the entire conversation on her grandchildren. "Oh, I've done all the talking, and I'm so sorry. I know you certainly have something to say. Please, tell me... what do you think of my grandchildren?"

We have new Babies

For weeks a six-year old lad kept telling his first-grade teacher about the baby brother or sister that was expected at his house. One day the mother allowed the boy to feel the movements of the unborn child. The six-year old was obviously impressed, but made no comment. Furthermore, he stopped telling his teacher about the impending event. The teacher finally sat the boy on her lap and said, "Tommy, whatever has become of that baby brother or sister you were expecting at home?" Tommy burst into tears and confessed, "I think Mommy ate it!"

Best Place for Sibling

When Joey had a new sister, he became envious of the attention she was getting. One day while his mother was nursing the baby, Joey was getting unyielding about being on

mom's lap. Mom wasn't able to deal with both children at that time and told Joey to go wait for her. He then asked his mom:

"Mommy, can you please put Jenny back in your tummy now?"

My Teacher is Thankful

Son: "Mom, teacher was asking me today, if I have any brothers or sisters who will be coming to school."

Mom: "That's nice of her to take such an interest in you. So what did she say when you told her that you're the only child, my dear?"

Son: "She just said..." "Thank goodness!"

It's Time to go to School

One early morning, a lady went in to wake up her son. "Wake up, son. It's time to go to school!"

Son: "But why Mom? I don't want to go."

Mom: "Give me two reasons why you don't want to go."

Son: "Well, the kids hate me for one, and the teachers hate me, too!"

Mom: "Oh, that's no reason to not to go to school. Come on now and get ready."

Son: "Give me two reasons why I should go to school."

Mom: "Well, for one, you're 52 years old. And for another, you're the Principal!"

Funny Mother's Day Quotes

- "Mothers know why animals eat their young." - Author Unknown
- "Mothers are all slightly insane." - J.D. Salinger
- "I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them." - Phyllis Diller
- "It takes a woman twenty years to make a man of her son, and another woman twenty minutes to make a fool of him." - Helen Rowland
- "The most remarkable thing about my mother is that for thirty years she served the family nothing but leftovers. The original meal has never been found." - Calvin Trillin
- "All women become like their mothers. That is their tragedy. No man does. That's his." - Oscar Wilde
- "A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie." - Tenneva Jordan
- "There is only one pretty child in the world, and every mother has it." - Chinese Proverb
- "You don't really understand human nature unless you know why a child on a merry-go-round will wave at his parents every time around - and why his parents will always wave back." - William D. Tammeus.
- "My mother's menu consisted of two choices: Take it or leave it." - Buddy Hackett
- "Any mother could perform the jobs of several air-traffic controllers with ease." - LisaAlther
- "My mother had to send me to the movies with my birth certificate, so that I wouldn't have to pay the extra fifty

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cents that the adults had to pay." - KareemAbdul-Jabbar

- "My mother had a great deal of trouble with me, but I think she enjoyed it." - Mark Twain

Mother's Day Jokes

- While assembling furniture, Mary asked her roommate's five-year-old son to bring her a screwdriver. "Do you want a 'Daddy' screwdriver or a 'Mommy' screwdriver?" the little boy asked. Confused with the question, Mary said, "Bring me a 'Mommy' screwdriver." The child came back and handed her a butter knife.
- A mother and her young son returned from the grocery shop and began putting away the groceries. The boy opened the box of animal crackers and spread them all over the table. "What are you doing?" his mother asked. "The box says you can't eat them if the seal is broken," the boy explained. "Therefore I'm looking for the seal", he cutely said.

How To Know Whether Or Not You Are Ready To Be A Mother

Mess Test:

Smear peanut butter on the sofa and curtains.

Place a fish stick behind the couch and leave it there all summer.

Toy Test:

Obtain a 55 gallon drum of LEGOs (if LEGOs are not available, you may substitute roofing tacks). Have a friend spread them all over the house. Put on a blindfold. Try to walk to the bathroom or kitchen. Do not scream (this could wake a child at night).

Grocery Store Test:

Borrow one or two small animals (goats are best) and take them with you as you shop at the grocery store. Always keep them in sight and pay for anything they eat or damage.

Dressing Test:

Obtain one large, unhappy, live octopus (they turn bright red when they are unhappy). Stuff into a small net bag making sure that all arms stay inside.

Feeding Test:

Obtain a large plastic milk jug. Fill halfway with water. Suspend from the ceiling with a stout cord. Start the jug swinging. Try to insert spoonfuls of soggy cereal (such as Fruit Loops or Cheerios) into the mouth of the jug, while pretending to be an airplane. Now dump the contents of the jug on the floor.

Night Test

Prepare by obtaining a small cloth bag and fill it with 8-12 pounds of sand. Soak it thoroughly in water. At 8:00 p.m. begin to waltz and hum with the bag until 9:00 p.m. Lay down your bag and set your alarm for 10:00 p.m. Get up, pick up your bag, and sing every song you have ever heard. Make up about a dozen more and sing these too until 4:00 a.m. Set alarm for 5:00 a.m. Get up and make breakfast. Keep this up for five years. Look cheerful.

Physical Test

Obtain a large beanbag chair and attach it to the front of your

clothes. Leave it there for 9 months. Now remove ten of the beans.

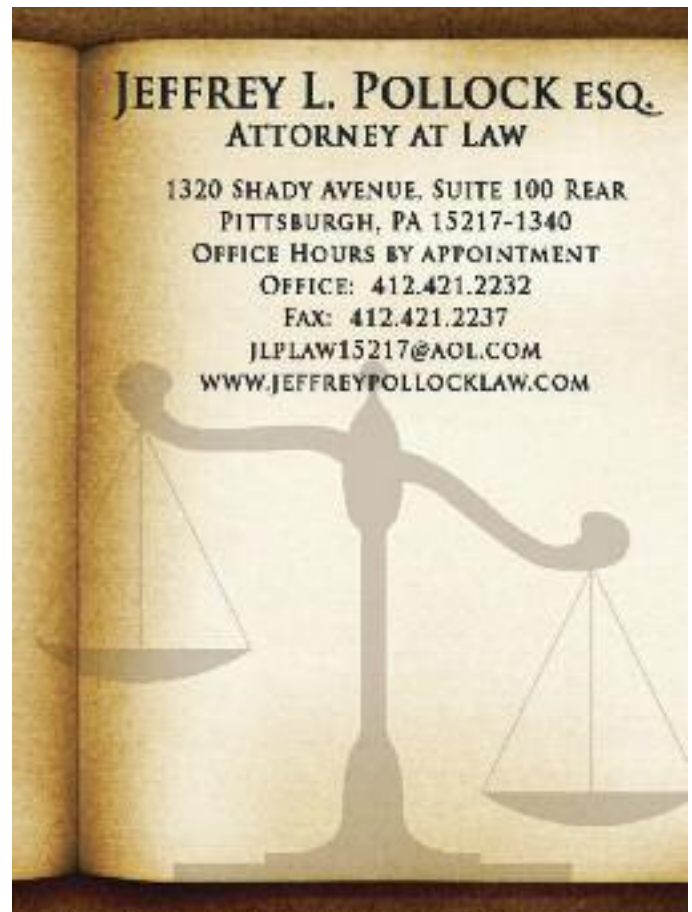
Final Assignment

Find a couple who already have a small child. Lecture them on how they can improve their discipline, patience, tolerance, toilet training and child's table manners. Suggest many ways they can improve. Emphasize to them that they should never allow their children to run wild. Enjoy this experience. It will be the last time you will have all the answers.

Things I've Learned from my Children

- If you spray hair spray on dust bunnies and run over them with roller blades, they can ignite.
- A 3 year-old's voice is louder than 200 adults in a crowded restaurant.
- If you hook a dog leash over a ceiling fan, the motor is not strong enough to rotate a 42-pound boy wearing Batman underwear and a superman cape. It is strong enough however to spread paint on all four walls of a 20 by 20 foot room.
- You should not throw baseballs up when the ceiling fan is on.
- When using the ceiling fan as a bat, you have to throw the ball up a few times before you get a hit.
- A ceiling fan can hit a baseball a long way.
- The glass in windows (even double pane) doesn't stop a baseball hit by a ceiling fan.
- When you hear the toilet flush and the words "Uh-oh", it's

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already too late.

- Brake fluid mixed with Clorox makes smoke, and lots of it.
- A six year old can start a fire with a flint rock even though a 36-year-old man says they can only do it in the movies.
- A magnifying glass can start a fire even on an overcast day.
- A king size waterbed holds enough water to fill a 2000 sq foot house 4 inches deep.
- Legos will pass through the digestive tract of a four year old. Duplos will not.
- Play Dough and Microwave should never be used in the same sentence.
- Super glue is forever.
- No matter how much Jell-O you put in a swimming pool you still can't walk on water.
- Pool filters do not like Jell-O.
- DVR's do not eject PB&J sandwiches even though TV commercials show they do.
- Garbage bags do not make good parachutes.
- Marbles in gas tanks make lots of noise when driving.
- You probably do not want to know what that odor is.
- Always look in the oven before you turn it on.
- Plastic toys do not like ovens.
- The fire department in Austin has a 5-minute response time.
- The spin cycle on the washing machine does not make earthworms dizzy. It will however make cats dizzy
- Cats throw up twice their body weight when dizzy.

Principles of Motherhood

1. Motherhood ~~ If it was going to be easy, it never would have started with something called labor!
2. Shouting to make your children obey is like using the horn to steer your car, and you get about the same results.
3. To be in your children's memories tomorrow, you have to be in their lives today.
4. The smartest advice on raising children is to enjoy them while they are still on your side. 5. Avenge yourself ~~~ Live long enough to be a problem to your children.
6. The best way to keep kids at home is to make the home a pleasant atmosphere ~~ and to let the air out of the tires.
7. The right temperature in a home is maintained by warm hearts, not by hot heads.
8. Raising a teenager is like nailing Jell-O a tree.
9. Parents: People who bare infants, bore teenagers, and board newlyweds.
10. The joy of motherhood: What a woman experiences when all the children are finally in bed.
11. Life's golden age is when the kids are too old to need baby-sitters and too young to borrow the family car.
12. Any child can tell you that the sole purpose of a middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.
13. Grandparents are similar to a piece of string ~ handy to have around and easily wrapped around the fingers of grandchildren.
14. A child outgrows your lap, but never outgrows your heart.
15. God gave you two ears and one mouth ... so you should listen twice as much as you talk. 16. There are three ways to get something done: Do it yourself, hire someone to do

it, or forbid your children to do it.

17. Adolescence is the age when children try to bring up their parents.
18. You know the only people in this world who are always sure about the proper way to raise children? Those who've never had any.
19. Cleaning your house while your kids are at home is like trying to shovel the driveway during a snowstorm.
20. Oh to be only half as wonderful as my child thought I was when he was small, and half as stupid as my teenager now thinks I am.
21. There are only two things a child will share willingly: communicable diseases and his mother's age.
22. Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps the kids in touch.
23. Adolescence is the age at which children stop asking questions because they know all the answers.
24. An alarm clock is a device for awakening people who don't have small children.
25. Why is it that our children can't read a Bible in school, but they can in prison?
26. How do you cope when the apple of your eye becomes a bone in your throat?
27. No wonder kids are confused today. Half the adults tell them to find themselves; the other half tell them to get lost.
28. The persons hardest to convince they're at the retirement age are children at bedtime.
29. Kids really brighten a household; they never turn off any lights.

Famous Quotes about Mother's

Give her a day, and then in return Momma gives you the other 364. - Will Rogers

The angels, whispering to one another, can find, among their burning terms of love, none so devotional as that of "Mother." - Edgar Allan Poe

Who ran to help me when I fell, And would some pretty story tell, Or kiss the place to make it well? My Mother. - Ann Taylor

Did you ever meet a mother who's complained that her child phoned her too often? Me neither. - Maureen Lipman

A mother's love for her child is like nothing else in the world. It knows no law, no pity, it dares all things and crushes down remorselessly all that stands in its path. - Agatha Christie

Jewish Mother's

MONA LISA'S JEWISH MOTHER:

'After all the money your father and I spent on braces, this you call a smile?'

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS' JEWISH MOTHER:

Continued Next page

'I don't care what you've discovered, you didn't call, you didn't write.'

MICHELANGELO'S JEWISH MOTHER:

'A ceiling you paint? Not good enough for you the walls, like the other children? Do you know how hard it is to get that schmutz off the ceiling?'

NAPOLEON'S JEWISH MOTHER:

'You're not hiding your report card? Show me! Take your hand out of your jacket and show me!'

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S JEWISH MOTHER:

'Again with that hat! Why can't you wear a baseball cap like the other kids?'

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S JEWISH MOTHER:

'Next time I catch you throwing money across the Potomac , you can kiss your allowance good-bye!'

THOMAS EDISON'S JEWISH MOTHER:

'Okay, so I'm proud that you invented the electric light bulb. Now turn it off already and go to sleep!'

PAUL REVERE'S JEWISH MOTHER:

'I don't care where you think you have to go, young man, midnight is long past your bedtime!'

ALBERT EINSTEIN'S JEWISH MOTHER:

'Your senior photograph and you couldn't have done something with your hair?'

MOSES' JEWISH MOTHER:

'Desert, schmesert! Where have you really been for the last forty years?'

BILL GATES' JEWISH MOTHER:

'It would have killed you to become a doctor?'

BILL CLINTON'S JEWISH MOTHER:

'Well, at least she was a nice Jewish girl.'

The Old Man and the Alligator

An elderly man in Florida had owned a large farm for several years. He had a large pond in the back. It was properly shaped for swimming, so he fixed it up nice with picnic tables, horseshoe courts, and some orange, and lime trees. One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the pond, as he hadn't been there for a while, and look it over. He grabbed a five-gallon bucket to bring back some fruit. As he neared the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee. As he came closer, he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his pond. He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end. One of the women shouted to him, 'we're not coming out until you leave!' The old man frowned, 'I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the pond naked..' Holding the bucket up he said, 'I'm here to feed the alligator.' Some old men can still think fast.

God Is Missing

Two little boys, ages 8 and 10, are excessively mischievous. They are always getting into trouble and their parents know if any mischief occurs in their town, the two boys are probably involved. The boys' mother heard that a preacher in town

had been successful in disciplining children, so she asked if he would speak with her boys. The preacher agreed, but he asked to see them individually. The mother sent the 8 year old in the morning, with the older boy to see the preacher in the afternoon. The preacher, a huge man with a deep booming voice, sat the younger boy down and asked him sternly, "Do you know where God is, son?" The boy's mouth dropped open, but he made no response, sitting there wide-eyed with his mouth hanging open. So the preacher repeated the question in an even sterner tone, "Where is God?!" Again, the boy made no attempt to answer. The preacher raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face and bellowed, "WHERE IS GOD?!" The boy screamed & bolted from the room, ran directly home & dove into his closet, slamming the door behind him. When his older brother found him in the closet, he asked, "What happened?" The younger brother, gasping for breath, replied, "We are in BIG trouble this time!" "GOD is missing, and they think WE did it!"

A Man and His Beer

Man sitting at home on the verandah with his wife and he says, "I love you." She asks, "Is that you or the beer talking?" He replies, "It's me..... talking to the beer."

Inner Peace

- If you can start the day without caffeine,
- If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
- If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,
- If you can eat plain food every day and be grateful for it,
- If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,
- If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,
- If you can conquer tension without medical help,
- If you can relax without liquor,
- If you can sleep without the aid of drugs, then you are probably the family dog!!

Martial Bliss

Bill and his wife Blanche went to the state fair every year, and every year Bill would say, "Blanche, I'd like to ride in that helicopter." Blanche always replied, "I know, Bill, but that helicopter ride is fifty bucks, and fifty bucks is fifty bucks!" One year Bill and Blanche went to the fair, and Bill said, "Blanche, I'm 75 years old. If I don't ride that helicopter, I might never get another chance." To this, Blanche replied, "Bill that helicopter ride is fifty bucks, and fifty bucks is fifty bucks." The pilot overheard the couple and said, "Folks I'll make you a deal. I'll take the both of you for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and don't say a word I won't charge you a penny! But if you say one word it's fifty dollars." Bill and Blanche agreed and up they went. The pilot did all kinds of fancy maneuvers, but not a word was heard. He did his daredevil tricks, but still not a word... When they landed,

Continued Next page

the pilot turned to Bill and said, "By golly, I did everything I could to get you to yell out, but you didn't. I'm impressed!" Bill replied, "Well, to tell you the truth I almost said something when Blanche fell out, but you know, fifty bucks is fifty bucks!"

Your Duck is Dead

A woman brought a very limp duck into a veterinary surgeon. As she laid her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest. After a moment or two, the vet shook his head and sadly said, "I'm sorry, your duck, Cuddles, has passed away." The distressed woman wailed, "Are you sure?" "Yes, I am sure. Your duck is dead," replied the vet.. "How can you be so sure?" she protested. "I mean you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something." The vet rolled his eyes, turned around and left the room. He returned a few minutes later with a black Labrador Retriever. As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked up at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head. The vet patted the dog on the head and took it out of the room. A few minutes later he returned with a cat. The cat jumped on the table and also delicately sniffed the bird from head to foot. The cat sat back on its haunches, shook its head, meowed softly and strolled out of the room. The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck." The vet turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys and produced a bill, which he handed to the woman. The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "\$150!" she cried, "\$150 just to tell me my duck is dead!" The vet shrugged, "I'm sorry. If you had just taken my word for it, the bill would have been \$20, but with the Lab Report and the Cat Scan, it's now \$150."

An Uneventful Ride?

An attractive lady from Seattle was driving through a remote part of Texas when her car broke down. A local on horseback came along and offered her a ride to the nearest town. She climbed up behind him on the horse and they rode off. The ride was pretty uneventful except that every few minutes the guy would let out a "Whoop" so loud that it would echo from the surrounding hills. When they arrived in town, he let her off at the local service station, yelled one final "Yahoo" and rode off. "Hey, what did you do to get him so fired up?" asked the service station attendant. "Nothing," shrugged the woman, I merely sat behind him on the horse, put my arms around his waist, and held onto his saddle horn so I wouldn't fall off. "Lady," the attendant said, "that guy was riding bareback..."

Trust Mom

Ben invited his mother over for dinner. During the meal, his mother couldn't help noticing how beautiful Ben's roommate was. She had long been suspicious of a relationship between Ben and his roommate and this only made her more curious. Over the course of the evening, while watching the two interact, she started to wonder if there was more between Ben and the roommate than met the eye. Reading his mom's thoughts, Ben volunteered, "I know what you must be thinking, but I assure you, Allison and I are just roommates." About a week later, Allison came to Ben and said, "Ever since your mother came to dinner, I've been unable to find the beautiful silver gravy ladle. "You don't suppose she took it, do you?" Ben said, "Well, I doubt it, but I'll write her a letter just to be sure." So he sat down and wrote: "Dear Mother, I'm not saying you 'did' take a gravy ladle from my house, and I'm not saying you 'did not' take a gravy ladle. But the fact remains that one has been missing ever since you were here for dinner." Several days later, Ben received a letter from his mother which read: "Dear Son, I'm not saying that you 'do' sleep with Allison, and I'm not saying that you 'do not' sleep with Allison. But the fact remains that if she was sleeping in her own bed, she would have found the gravy ladle by now. Love, Mom"

Great Surprise!

"Howdi, is this the FBI?" "Yes. What do you want?" "Well, you see I'm calling about my neighbour Billy Bob Jenkins. The thing is, he's hiding a stash of marijuana inside his firewood..." "Sir, thank you very much for your call." The following day, a crack squad of FBI agents descended on Billy Bob's house. Bursting into his shed, they find the stash of firewood. Using axes, they burst open every single piece of wood, but find no marijuana. They swore at Billy Bob and left... The phone then rings inside Billy Bob's house: "Hey there Billy Bob...Did the FBI come?" "Yeah!" "Did they chop your firewood?" "Yep." "Happy Birthday, Buddy"

Monk

This little fella joins the lazaratian Monks order and takes a vow of silence. However, he's promised by the head Monk that he can speak two words per year. After the first year the head Monk asks him his two words for the year. He replies ... "More Blankets" After his second year the head Monk asks him again his two words for the year. He replies ... "More Food" After the third year the head Monk asks him his two words for the year. He replies ... "I'm Leaving" The Head Monk says ... "Thank God...you've done nothing but moan since you got here!

Russian Roulette

An African ambassador visited Russia and was entertained by his opposite number, the Russian ambassador. For three days,

Continued Next page

the African ambassador was wined, dined, and generally treated to the best hospitality that Russia had to offer. On the last day of his visit, the Russian ambassador said, "As your stay is coming to an end, it's time for you to play our traditional game, Russian roulette. One of the six chambers of this gun is loaded - you spin the cylinder, point the gun at your head, and pull the trigger." This phased the African slightly, but he was a proud man of a warrior people, and to show fear would be unthinkable. Both men took their guns, spun, and pulled the triggers. Both chambers were empty, and both ambassadors breathed a sigh of relief. The African ambassador was impressed with the courageous game, and thought hard about the subject before the Russian Ambassador was due to visit his country the next year. When the visit came, the African ambassador treated the Russian with all hospitality, until the final day of his stay. Leading him to a private room in the palace, the African ambassador spoke, "Now, time for you to sample our game, African roulette". He then led the Russian into the room, the only occupants of which were six stunning and naked women. The African ambassador said, "These women are the most beautiful members of one of our tribes. Any one of them will give you a oral sex - take your pick". The Russian was not entirely averse to this idea, but he couldn't see the connection with Russian Roulette. He said, "Well, ok, great, but where's the roulette part? Where's the danger?" With a big grin on his face, the African ambassador answered: "One of them is a cannibal."

A Message from God

An atheist professor was teaching a college class and he told the class that he was going to prove that there was not a God. He said, "God if you are real, then I want you to knock me off this platform. I'll give you 15 minutes!" Ten minutes went by. He kept taunting God, saying, "Here I am God, I'm still waiting." He got down to the last couple of minutes and a Huge 250-pound rugby player happened to walk by the door and heard what the professor said. The rugby player walked into the classroom and in the last minute, he walked up, hit the professor full force, and sent him flying off the platform. The professor got up, obviously shaken and said, "Where did you come from, and why did you do that?" The football player replied, "God was busy; He sent me!"

Blonde Jokes

Q: Why did the blonde try and steal a police car?

A: On the back she saw "911" and thought it was a Porsche.

Q: What does Star Trek's Dr Bones McCoy say before he performs brain surgery on a blonde?

A: Space. The final frontier.....

Q: What did the blond do when she missed the 66 Bus?

A: She took the 33 bus twice instead.

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Q: Why do ya reckon Blonds don't have elevator jobs?
A: Cos they've no idea of the route.

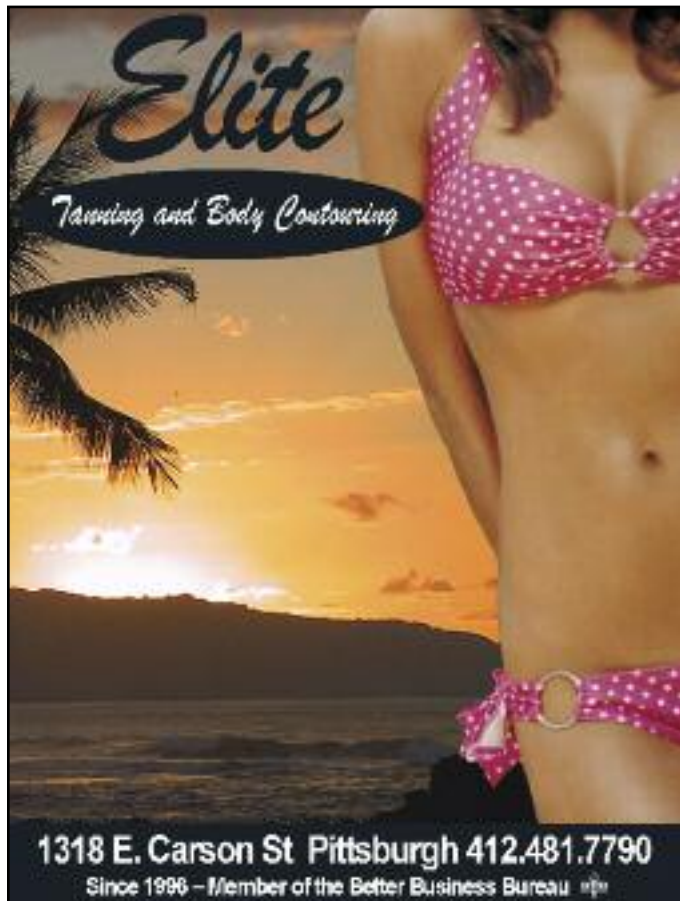
Q: How do you make a blonde's eyes Twinkle?
A: You shine a torchlight in her ear.

Q: Did you hear about the blond Bear?
A: Got stuck in a hunter's trap, chewed off it's 2 paws and 1 leg, and was still stuck.

Q: How does a stereotypical blonde spell Farm?
A: E-I-E-I-O.

Q: How do you measure their intelligence?
A: Stick a tire pressure gauge in their ear.

It's with great tragedy that I report my blonde next door neighbor tried to kill her toy poodle. She tried putting batteries



in it.

To amuse a Blonde for hours, give her a sheet of paper with 'Please turn over' scribbled on both sides.

Q: What is the difference between a smart blonde and a UFO?
A: There have been sightings of UFOs.

Q: What do you call a swimming pool full of blondes?
A: Frosted Flakes.

Q: What do you call a blonde holding a brief case, up a tree?
A: The Branch Manager.

Q: What job function does a blonde have in an M&M factory?
A: Proof-reading.

Q: How do you know when a blonde has been making chocolate chip cookies?
A: You find M&M shells all over the kitchen floor.

Q: Why do blondes love lightning?
A: They reckon somebody is taking their photo.

It's with tremendous sadness that I report a local blond girl has lost 95% of her brains....yes, her husband just died.

Q: What's brown, red, black and blue?
A: A Brunette who's been telling one too many blonde jokes.

NEWSFLASH: Blonde girl fired from Banana plantation for throwing out all the bent ones.

Q: Why couldn't the blonde manage to make Ice-Cubes?
A: She couldn't find the recipe.

Wedding and Marriage Jokes

Marriage is not a word. It's a sentence....(a life sentence!).

Marriage is a 3-ring circus - engagement ring, wedding ring and Suffering.

Continued Next page

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A happy marriage is a matter of give and take; the husband gives and the wife takes.

A woman was telling her friend , "It was I who made my husband a millionaire." "And what was he before you married him?" asked the friend. The woman replied, " A multi-millionaire".

There was this woman who had an artist paint a portrait of her covered with the most amazingly beautiful and expensive jewels.Her explanation - "If I die and my husband re-marries, I want his next wife to go crazy looking for the jewels."

Getting married is very much like going to a restaurant with friends. You order what you want, and when you see what the other fellow has, you wish you had ordered that.

Love is one long sweet dream, and marriage is the alarm clock.

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Q: Why are husbands like lawn mowers?

A: They're hard to get started, emit foul odors, and don't work half the time!

*Husband to wife: Why do you keep reading our marriage license? Wife to Husband: I'm looking for a loophole

*The definition of a perfect Wife? - one who helps the husband with the dishes...

*The Minister noticed the bride was in distress so asked what was wrong. She replied that she was awfully nervous and afraid she would not remember what to do. The Minister told her that she only needed to remember 3 things. First the aisle, because that is what you'll be walking down. Secondly, the alter because that is where you will arrive. Finally, remember hymn because that is a type of song we will sing during the service.While the bride was walking in step with the wedding march, family and friends of the groom were horrified to hear her repeating these 3 words ...Aisle, alter hymn (I'll alter him)

*Men are like chocolate bars.... sweet, smooth, and they usually head right for your hips.

*A little kid asks his Dad, "Daddy, how much does it cost to get married?" "No idea," replied the Father, "I'm still paying for it..."

*There was this lover who said that he would go through hell for her. They got married - now he is going through Hell!!!!

*I've got a good friend who married a Doctor. One day he told her: "You need to do something to spice up our love-making". Soon thereafter, he came home and found her in bed with another man who is also an M.D. "Why?" asked her husband. "You said I needed to do something to spice up our love-making; I just wanted to get a Second Opinion", she replied...

*Q: Why do brides wear white?

A: To blend in with everything else in the kitchen.

*One day a man inserted an 'advert' in the local classifieds: "Wife wanted".Next day he received a hundred letters. They all

Continued Next page

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said the same thing: "You can have mine."

*What makes men chase women they have no intention of marrying? - Well, it's the same urge that makes dogs chase cars they have no intention of driving

*Marriage - an institution in which a man loses his Bachelor's Degree and the woman gets her Masters.

*After a lengthy quarrel, a wife said to her husband, "You know, I was a fool when I married you." The husband replied: "Yes, dear, but I was in love and didn't notice it."

Funny Celebrity Quotes

[On Clint Eastwood running for Mayor] What makes him think a middle-aged actor, who's played with a chimp, could have a future in politics?

-- Ronald Reagan

An open marriage is nature's way of telling you that you need a divorce.

-- Ann Landers

The first thing men notice about a woman is her eyes. Then, when her eyes aren't looking, they notice her breasts.

-- Conan OBrien

I used so much hairspray that I feel personally responsible for global warming.

-- Dusty Springfield

I've never been to an Al-Qaeda Christmas party, but I have seen the invites. No music, no dancing, but we promise the fastest game of pass the parcel you've ever seen.

-- Omid Djalili

Pick Up Lines

- Apart from being sexy, what do you do for a living?
- Baicarumba...are those real?
- Be unique and different, just say yes.
- Can I flirt with you?
- Damn girl, you have more curves than a race track.
- Do you know karate? Cos damn it honey, your body is really

kickin.

- Excuse me. I'm from the FBI, the Fine Body Investigators, and I'm going to have to ask you to assume the position.
- Gee, that's a nice set of legs, what time do they open?
- Honey, I'm new in this town - do ya think I could have directions to your house.
- I hope you know CPR, cause you take my breath away!
- I've got the ship, you've got the harbor ... what say we tie up for the night?
- I've just moved you to the top of my 'to do' list.
- If you don't wanna have kids with me, then why don't we just practice?
- Screw me if I am wrong, but haven't we met before?
- That outfit would look great in a crumpled heap next to my bed.
- Were you arrested earlier? It's gotta be illegal to look that good.
- Damn, if being sexy was a crime, you'd be guilty as charged!
- Do you want to see something swell?
- Do you work for UPS / ParcelForce? I could have sworn I saw you checking out my package.
- Have I seen you before? Oh, yeah, I remember - it was in the dictionary under the word FANBLEEDINGTASTIC!
- Hey I'm looking for treasure, Can I look around your chest?
- Hi, will you help me find my lost puppy? I think he went into this cheap hotel room across the street.
- I have 4 words for you "Hol I Day Inn".
- If I flip a coin, what do you reckon my chances are of getting head?
- Is your name Summer? 'Cause you are as hot as hell.
- Screw me if I'm wrong, but I could swear you were Julia Roberts.
- The word of the day is "legs." Let's say we head back to your place and spread the word.
- You've been a bad, bad girl. Now go to my room!

Funny Insults

Sure, I've seen people like you before - but I had to pay an admission...

Hi there, I'm a human being! What are you?

I've seen more life in a down and out's vest.

You're red shirt goes well with your eyes...

Save your breath...You'll need it to blow up your date.

Shouldn't you have a license for being that ugly?

Calling you an idiot would be an insult to all the stupid people.

Folk clap when they see you...but they clap their hands over their eyes.

Continued Next page

You're about as much use as a Betamax video recorder

All day I thought of you....I was at the zoo.

I'd love to ask how old you are, but unfortunately I know you can't count that high.

You should learn from your parents mistakes - try using some birth control.

He does the work of three men: Curly, Larry and Moe

Next time you shave, try standing an inch or two closer to the blade.

If I was as ugly as you were, I wouldn't say Hi to folk, I'd say BOO!

You've got the perfect weapon against muggers - yer face.

You got a face only a mother could love...unfortunately she too hates it!

I heard that you went to the haunted house and they offered you a job.

Listen, are you always this stupid or are you just making a special effort today?

Sure, I'd love to help you out...now, which way did you come in?

Anybody who told you to be yourself simply couldn't have given you worse advice...

I heard you were so cool that you began teaching remedial classes at Cucumber college.

Well, they do say opposites attract ..so I sincerely hope you meet somebody who is attractive, honest, intelligent, and cultured.

I heard that you changed your mind. So, what did you do with the diaper?

Why don't you slip into something more comfortable...like a coma.

You started at the bottom...and it's been downhill ever since!

I heard that you were a Ladykiller. They take one look at you and die of shock.

Is your name Maple Syrup? - Well, it damn well should be, you sap!

Continued Next page

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"Citation 123, if you quit calling me Center, I'll quit calling you twin Cessna."

"About three miles ahead, you've got traffic 12 o'clock, five miles."

"If you hear me, traffic no longer a factor."

"I am way too busy for anybody to cancel on me."

"You're gonna have to key the mic. I can't see you when you nod your head."

"It's too late for Louisville. We're going back to O'Hare."

"Put your compass on 'E' and get out of my airspace."

"Don't anybody maintain anything."

"Climb like your life depends on it...because it does."

"If you want more room, captain, push your seat back."

"For radar identification, throw your jumpseat rider out the window."

"Hello flight 56, if you hear me rock your wings.." "OK TOWER, IF YOU HEAR ME ROCK THE TOWER!!"

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Pilot One Liners

Q: What is the ideal cockpit crew?

A: A pilot and a dog...the pilot is there to feed the dog, and the dog is there to bite the pilot in case he tries to touch anything.

Q: How many pilots does it take to change a light bulb?

Continued Next page



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A: Just one. He holds the bulb and the world revolves around him.

Q: How do you know if a pilot is at your party?

A: He'll tell you.

Q: How do you know when you are half way through a date with a pilot?

A: Because he says: "Thats enough about flying, let's talk about me"!

Q: What's the purpose of the propeller?

A: To keep the pilot cool. If you don't think so, just stop it and watch him sweat!

Airline Safety

Occasionally, airline attendants make an effort to make the "in-flight safety lecture" and their other announcements a bit more entertaining. Here are some real examples that have been heard or reported:

- There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways out of this airplane..."
- After landing: "Thank you for flying Delta Business Express. We hope you enjoyed giving us the business as much as we enjoyed taking you for a ride."
- As the plane landed and was coming to a stop at Washington National, a lone voice came over the loudspeaker: "Whoa, big fella. WHOA!"
- After a particularly rough landing during thunderstorms in Memphis, a flight attendant on a Northwest flight announced: "Please take care when opening the overhead compartments because, after a landing like that, sure as hell everything has shifted."
- From a Southwest Airlines employee.... "Welcome aboard Southwest Flight XXX to YYY. To operate your seatbelt, insert the metal tab into the buckle, and pull tight. It works just like every other seatbelt, and if you don't know how to operate one, you probably shouldn't be out in public unsupervised."
- In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, oxygen masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face.
- If you have a small child traveling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are traveling with two or more small children, decide now which one you love more.
- Weather at our destination is 50 degrees with some broken clouds, we'll but try to have them fixed before we arrive. Thank you, and remember, nobody loves you, or your money, more than Southwest Airlines."
- "Your seat cushions can be used for flotation, and in the

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Humor

BY NIGHTWIRE

event of an emergency water landing, please take them with our compliments."

- Once on a Southwest flight, the pilot said, "We've reached our cruising altitude now, and I'm turning off the seat belt sign. I'm switching to autopilot, too, so I can come back there and visit with all of you for the rest of the flight."
- "Should the cabin lose pressure, oxygen masks will drop from the overhead area. Please place the bag over your own mouth and nose before assisting children or adults acting like children."
- "As you exit the plane, make sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses."
- "Last one off the plane must clean it."
- And from the pilot during his welcome message: "We are pleased to have some of the best flight attendants in the industry... Unfortunately, none of them are on this flight...!"
- Heard on Southwest Airlines just after a very hard landing in Salt Lake City: The flight attendant came on the intercom and said, "That was quite a bump and I know what ya'll are thinking. I'm here to tell you it wasn't the airline's fault, it wasn't the pilot's fault, it wasn't the flight attendants' fault...it was the asphalt!"
- Overheard on an American Airlines flight into Amarillo, Texas, on a particularly windy and bumpy day. During the final approach the Captain was really having to fight it. After an extremely hard landing, the Flight Attendant came on the PA and announced, "Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Amarillo. Please remain in your seats with your seatbelts fastened while the Captain taxis what's left of our airplane to the gate!"
- Another flight attendant's comment on a less than perfect landing: "We ask you to please remain seated as Captain Kangaroo bounces us to the terminal."
- An airline pilot wrote that on this particular flight he had hammered his ship into the runway really hard. The airline had a policy which required the first officer to stand at the door while the passengers exited, smile, and give them a "Thanks for flying XYZ airline." He said that in light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment. Finally everyone had gotten off except for this little old lady walking with a cane. She said, "Sonny, mind if I ask you a question?" "Why no Ma'am," said the pilot, "what is it?" The little old lady said, "Did we land or were we shot down?"
- After a real crusher of a landing in Phoenix, the Flight Attendant came on with, "Ladies and Gentlemen, please remain in your seats until Capt. Crash and the Crew have brought the aircraft to a screeching halt against the gate. And, once the tire smoke has cleared and the warning bells are silenced, we'll open the door and you can pick your way through the wreckage to the terminal."

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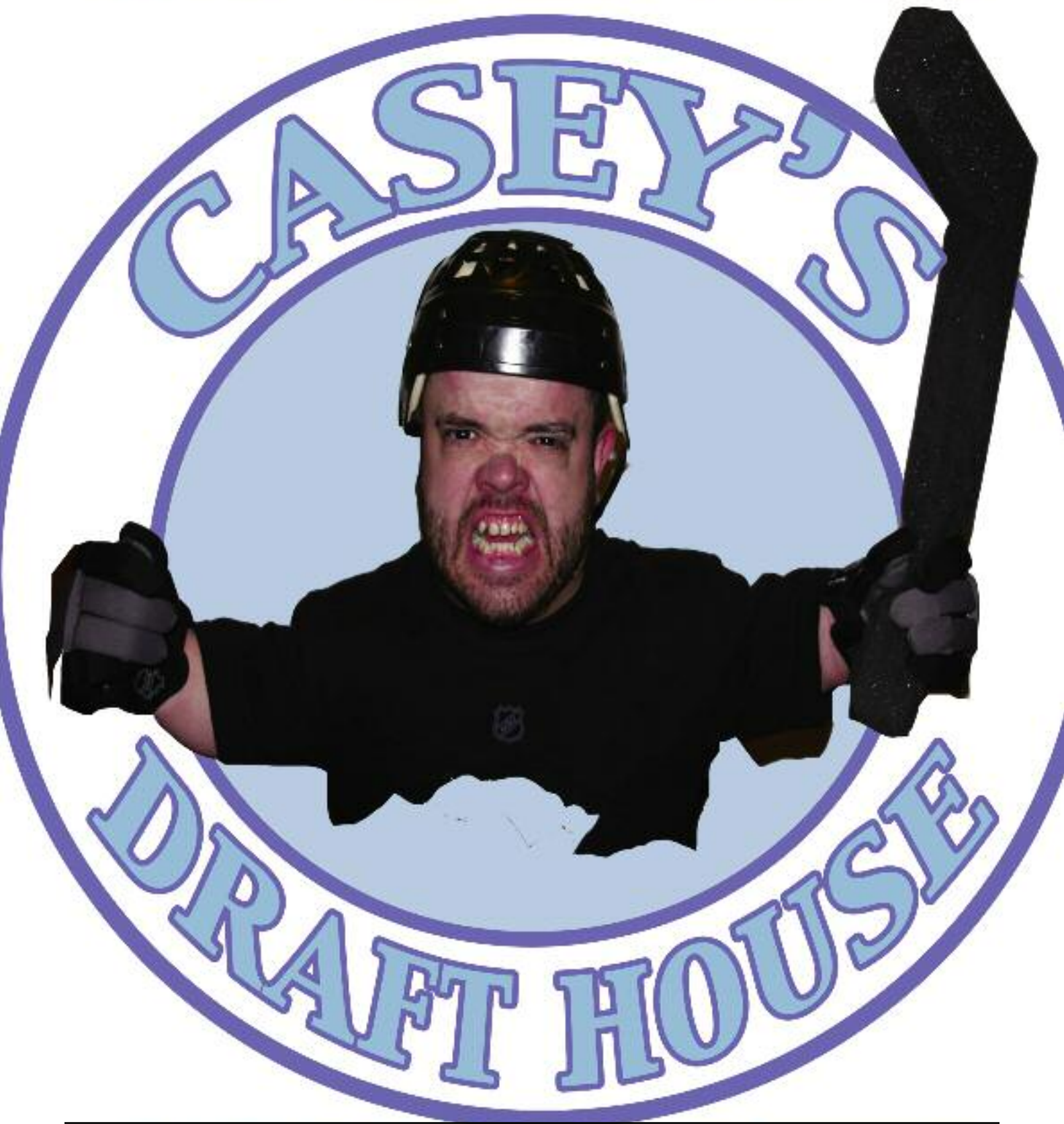
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