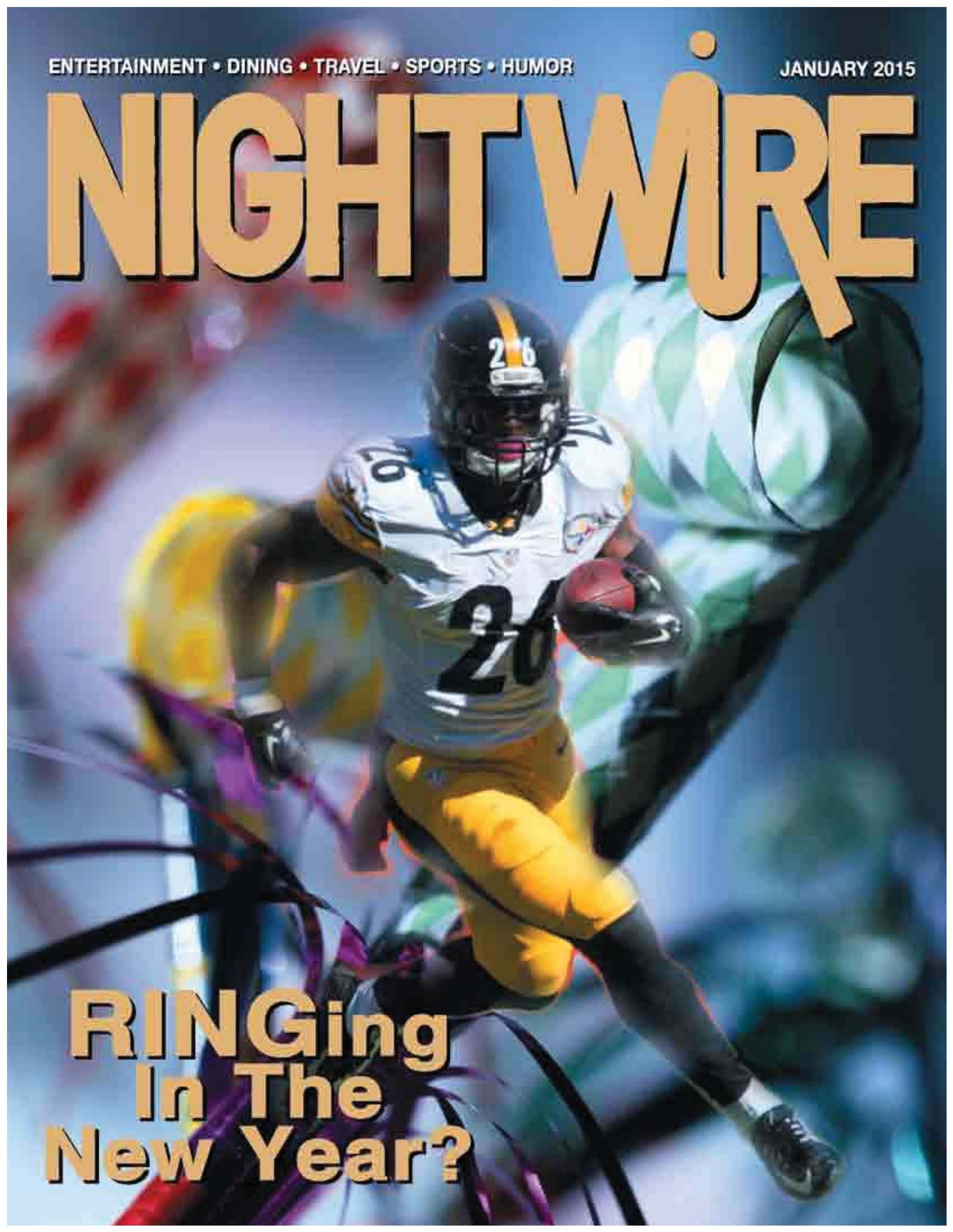


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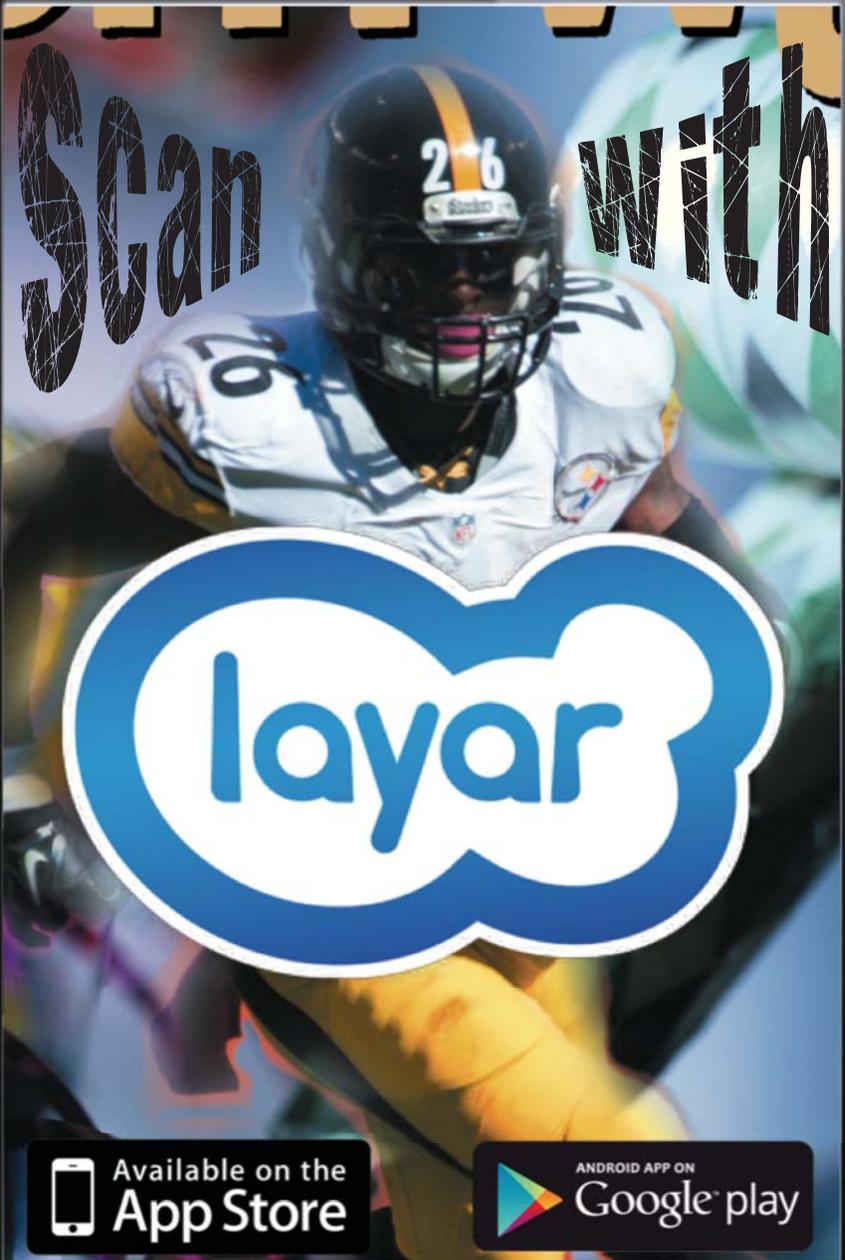
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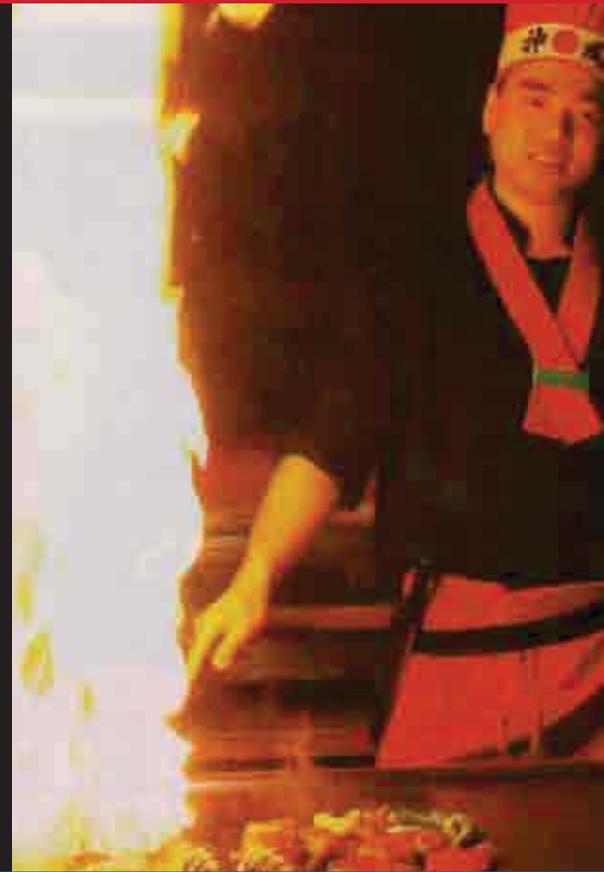
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303A Bellevue Road
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Phone: 412-755-1055
Fax: 412-755-1056
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Publisher: Joyce Campisi
Editor-in-Chief: Joyce Campisi
Executive Editor: Joseph P. Campisi, III
AR Managing Editor: Daniel M. Calig
Assignment Editor: Jennifer L. Campisi
Sports Editor: Stacy Kauffman
Director of Marketing: Lori Czekaj
Assistant to the Editor: Jess Lang
Graphic Designer: Anna Buzzelli, Casey King
Layout/Production Management: 77 Design Co.
Cover Designer: Renee Rose-Modrak
Photographer: Man Nguyen, Tom Strong,
Thomas Verscharen, Caleb Green,
Dana Meyer
Feature Writers: Brian Meyer, Suz Pisano, Lori Czekaj,
Gary S. Miliefsky, Ron Kaufman
Contributing Writers: Dottie Wilhelm, Gerry Pekol,
Lori Hon, Boris Pekol
Distribution Manager: Jeff Engbarth

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By: Stacy Kauffman Sports Feature Writer for Nightwire, Photos © Pittsburgh Pirates

NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS for Pittsburgh's Teams



The Steel City has had its share of things to cheer about in 2014 when it came to the black and gold. The blue and gold? Not so much. Despite the regular season success for the professional teams in the 'Burgh, there's much to do to compete for championships. So what should the Steelers, Pirates, Penguins and Panthers resolve to do in 2015 to take the next step? Here's a few for the suggestion box . . .

The Steelers are back in the playoffs after a two year hiatus, have one of the most prolific offenses in the NFL in terms of yardage and boast the next great set of offensive triplets in the league. Sounds like they are doing some things right in a season they had to have success in or else heads may have rolled, and they are. However, they are far from a complete football team and that could bite them in the tukas come playoff time. How do they improve?

Resolve to ramp up the pressure. The inability to disrupt the backfield has been an issue since the 2011 season. Going into the playoff clinching game against Kansas City, the defense had 24 sacks through 14 games and was at the bottom of the league in that category. Pressure doesn't always translate into sacks,

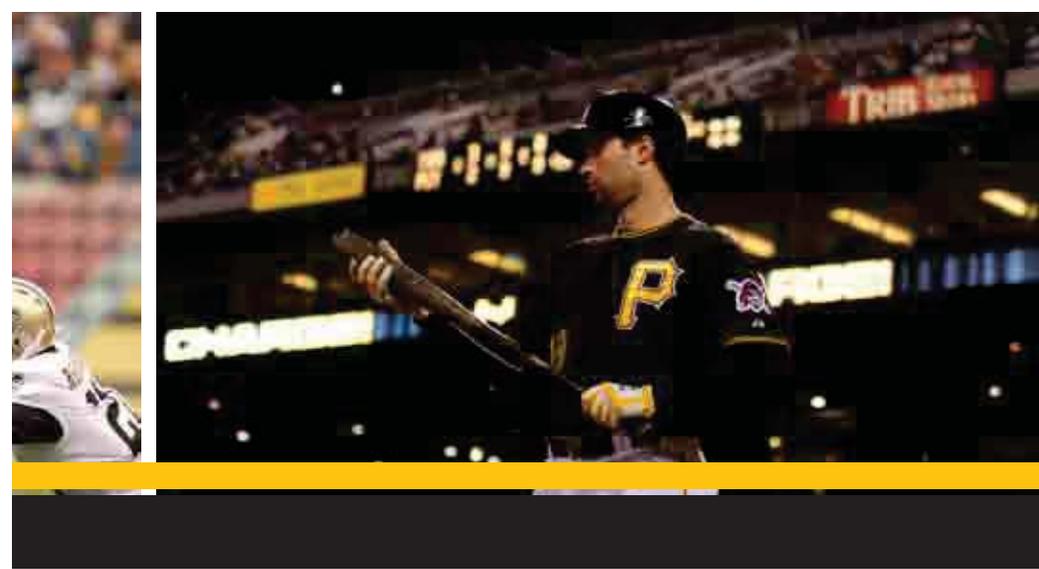
as the front seven can disrupt the quarterback with hurries and knock downs as well. Unfortunately the Steelers haven't racked up much of those either.

Against the Chiefs, they exploded for six sacks, eight hits on the quarterback and seven tackles for a loss. And yet they are still mired in the bottom of league rankings. Which brings me to my next point.

Resolve to convince James Harrison to play one more season. The defense is different with him on the field. Where will the team turn if Jason Worilds doesn't sign and Arthur Moats goes for more in free agency? Harrison leads by example and gives the rush off the edge some serious mojo. Both in production and attitude.

Resolve to have a positive turnover margin and take the ball away more than you give it away. As it stands, after week 16, the Steelers are even. They've created 18 turnovers and committed 18 turnovers. That puts them right in the middle of the NFL pack. But to succeed in the post season, ball security is paramount. As it is in every game. Providing an offense like the



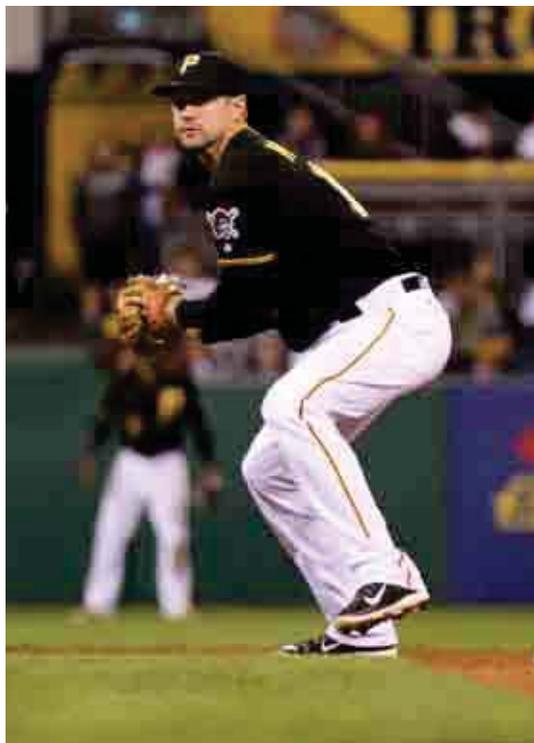


Steelers with more opportunities is a recipe for winning.

Resolve to let cooler heads prevail. Penalties are a nagging issue that has been reeled in a bit since the start of the season, but still contributes to the graying of hair around these parts. Early on, the sheer number of penalties and shenanigans after the whistle was impressive, and not in a good way. They've cut down a lot, committing just 22 penalties in their last five games after racking up 80 over the first ten. Giving free yardage and first downs to good teams is asking for an early exit from the playoffs.

Resolve to draft smart. Forget the vanity picks, okay Mike Tomlin? What do you say, Kevin Colbert? In the last two drafts they have wasted mid-round picks on guys like Dri Archer and Landry Jones. Both have spent more time inactive than on the field. There's too much talent on the board in the third and fourth rounds to ignore glaring holes on the roster. Secondary help, anyone?

The Pirates have filled the playoff void left in Pittsburgh by the Steelers the last two seasons, breaking out of the hapless and into the hopeful, averaging 91 wins in that span and reviving a sleeping giant of a baseball city. What does that mean? People care again. People care about the product on the field and what management does – and doesn't – do to improve the team. To wrap up 2014, the Pirates gave their fans a gift, the winning bid for the right to negotiate with Korean super shortstop, Jung-ho Kang. The first time in franchise history that they outbid all other vying clubs for that opportunity. If they secure a deal, Kang would be a welcome addition to a lineup that lost production from Russell Martin, hopes Josh Harrison doesn't regress too much and is at its wit's end with one Pedro Alvarez. Which is where we start.



Resolve to get the best out of Pedro Alvarez. El Toro's time is most likely coming to a close with the Buccos, whether via trade or free agency after the 2016 season. If the Pirates are planning to trade Alvarez this year, they will want to get the most for their trouble and right now his value is very low. Last year the Pirates were successful



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despite Pedro on the field and at the plate, thanks mostly to Josh Harrison, but as we saw in the 2013 NLDS, Alvarez's power can carry the team and change the game. Gotta have pop in a postseason lineup.

Resolve to win the National League Central. This one goes without saying and is on the list of goals each and every year. With back-to-back wild card berths, the Pirates have tasted playoff baseball. Why chance your October with a one game, win and you're in, lose and you're out, situation? The last two years, the Pirates have blown late leads in a number of games. They turned wins into losses and in a competitive division, that cost them big time. With Jason Grilli jettisoned and both Mark Melancon and Tony Watson firmly in place for this season, along with newcomer Antonio Bastardo, the bullpen looks poised to protect leads.

Resolve to continue to invest in the product on the field. If the Neal Huntington gets a deal done with Kang and once arbitration eligible players settle, the payroll will be sniffing the 100 million dollar mark. Largest in team history. The fans are supporting the team and ownership has a responsibility to put money back into it. If the Pirates are in contention at the trade deadline and there's an opportunity to get a guy that will put them over the top, DO IT.

The Penguins are chugging along as usual, not letting a new GM, new coaching staff, new system and new players deter



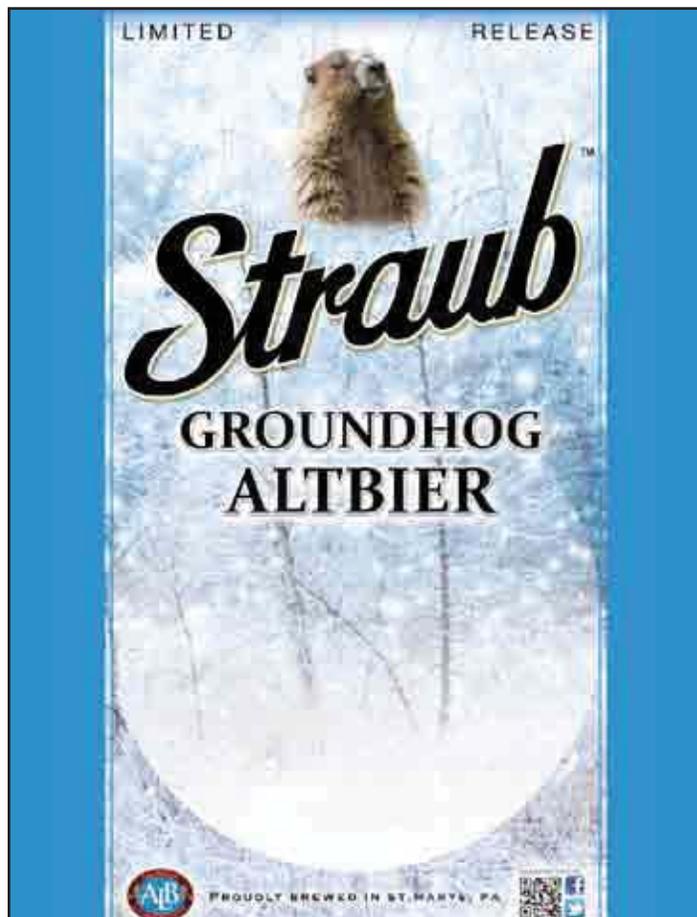
their dominance in the regular season. Through 32 contests, the Pens are trailing only Anaheim in points and rank third in goals per game as well as goals against per game. Such a balanced approach will suit them well come playoff time. We all know that's what really matters when talking about the Penguins. Just ask Dan Byslma. So what will contribute to postseason success?

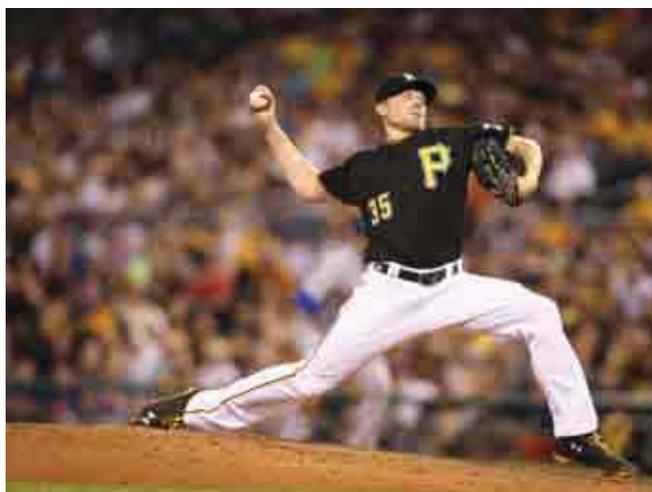
Resolve to stay healthy. Not even halfway through the season and the Penguins have 112 man games lost due to injury and illness. They have been victims of an unusual mumps outbreak that has plagued several teams this year and have also dealt with other non hockey related ailments such as blood clots and a cancer diagnosis. As much as they are winning with depth right now, you need your experienced horses in the grueling second season of the NHL.

Resolve to rediscover the power play. After coming out of the special teams gate strong to start the season scoring 21 power play goals in their first 13 games, they have languished since, going five for 51 with the man advantage.

Resolve that Marc Andre Fleury will bring his A game to the playoffs. He is having a banner year, posting career bests in goals against average, save percentage and shutouts to this point of the season. Fleury is at or near the top of the NHL in most categories and looks as comfortable as ever in net. A solid presence in the cage allows the team to play confident and unafraid. Fear equals failure in the postseason.

The Panthers. When it comes to the big two sports at the University of Pittsburgh, football and men's basketball, there is a proverbial hump that seems to be more like a mountain.





A mountain of mediocrity. To traverse said hump, the programs have to do similar things and different things alike.

In basketball, it's not about the regular season, similar to the Penguins. It's all about the NCAA tournament. March Madness has certainly been maddening for Jamie Dixon since the last second defensive breakdown in the Elite Eight versus Villanova. To find success in the tournament, Pitt has to recruit THE MAN. Back in 2009, they had DeJuan Blair and Sam Young. Two legitimate NBA players at the time. Final Four teams typically have guys on the floor with talent that translates into the next level. Four year starters are nice. Top end talent is better.

This applies to the football team too. Besides resolving to hire a coach that will stay around for more than three years, once that guy is in place, in addition to getting more athletic on the defensive side of the ball, he must recruit a stud quarterback. Pitt has had incredible talent at the running back and wide receiver

positions over the years. Talent that DOES translate to the next level. See Larry Fitzgerald and LeSean McCoy. Why hasn't the team capitalized? They never have more than a game manager at quarterback. When is the last time you could say the Panthers had a star signal caller? Dan Marino? John Congemi? Regardless, it's been way too long.

For the fans, resolve to be good to each other and enjoy the success that Pittsburgh sports bring to the table. Not many cities can watch winning play year round. You live in one of them.

Stacy Kauffman, Sports Feature Writer for Nightwire Magazine can be heard on weekends on 93.7 The Fan, has appeared on numerous sports media outlets including Fox Sports Pittsburgh, CBS and ESPN Radio. She can be reached on Twitter @SportsnWhatnot or at sportsnwhatnot@gmail.com



Year Round Hoppy IPA's

For Cold Winter Months

by Brian Meyer

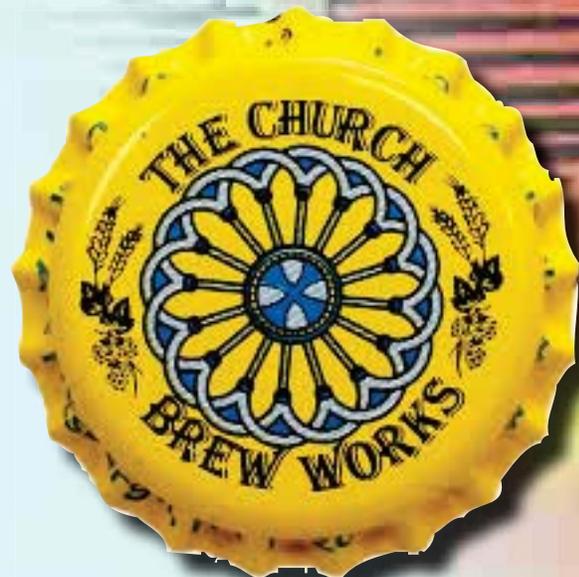
Much like the sky at 6 PM in the middle of winter, beers in the winter tend to be dark and cold. This doesn't mean that every beer available in the colder months must be this way though. While there's a huge variety of darker beers available that range in taste from bitter to sweet to weird and wild, you'll also find an abundance of hoppy IPAs, too. Fresh, crisp, and with a healthy dose of bitterness these IPAs do their own job of pushing the winter blues away and bring with them thoughts of warmer months.

To help you see how amazing a great IPA can be in the wintertime, we worked with our friends at Frank B. Fuhrer Wholesale to come up with a list of some of the best IPAs you can get. While these aren't exactly what's known as a Winter IPA, these beers are available all year so the ones you start liking when it's cold out will still be available when things warm up. These standards of the hophead's world are each uniquely bitter and all are very different from one another, making your choice simple: get one of each and call it a winter.

21st Amendment Brewery - Brew Free or Die IPA

Since 2000 San Francisco-based 21st Amendment Brewery has been producing some of the best beers in the country. The brewery is named after one of our favorite amendments, the one that allowed the US to drink once again after the tough years of Prohibition. The guys at 21st Amendment decided they wanted to do things a little differently than the rest of the craft breweries that were opening their doors and from day one every beer they produced was canned instead of bottled.

The can helps to protect the beer from oxygen that can seep around a cap and most importantly it keeps light from striking the beer, which causes a beer to skunk and a flavorful hop profile to be squashed. Cans cost less to ship, get cold quicker, and store in our fridge more easily.

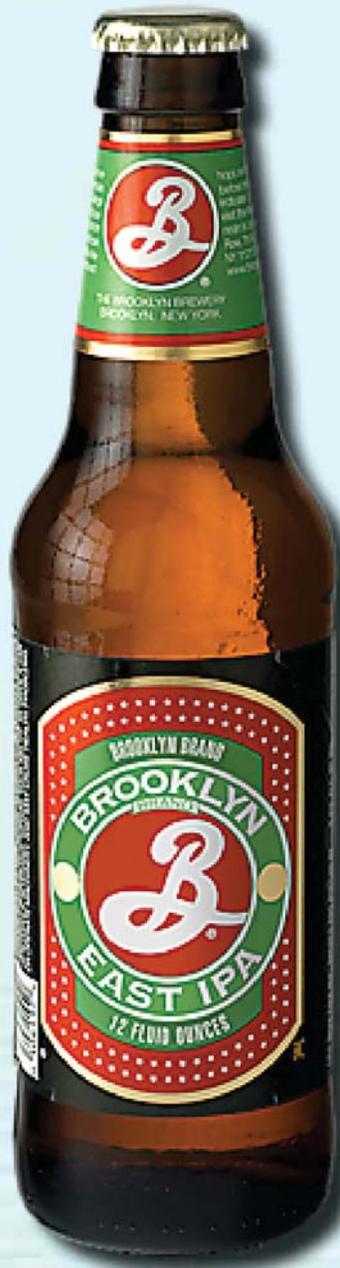


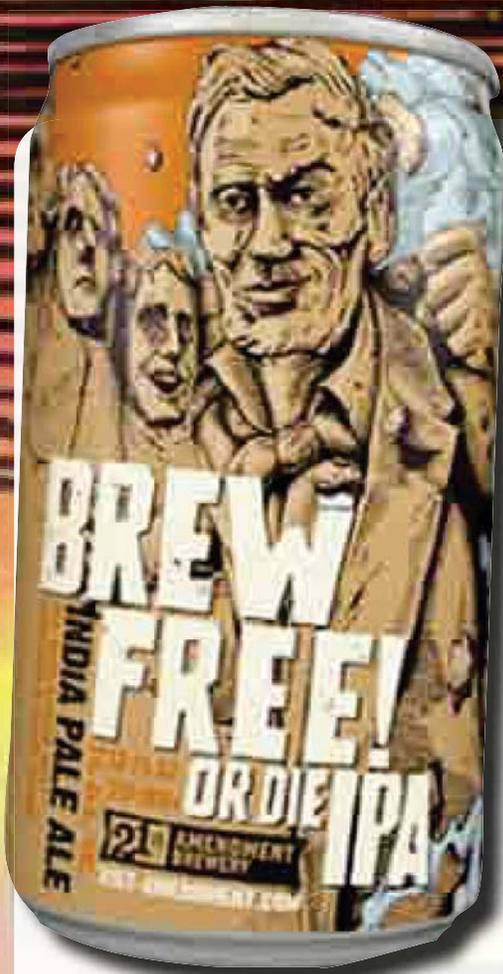
21st Amendment's featured year-round IPA is a perfect example of a west coast IPA in every way. Brew Free or Die IPA is a 7% ABV American IPA that's brewed with two-row Pale malt with Munich and Light Crystal to give the final beer some serious character. Columbus hops are used for bittering, and Cascade and Centennial hops are used to finish the beer out and give it that amazing west coast IPA profile you love. Brew Free or Die IPA is 21st Amendment's best-selling beer for a very good reason, and all it takes is one to see what we're talking about.

Brooklyn Brewery - East IPA

When it comes to IPAs, there are two main categories: American and English. Generally each is brewed with hops and malts from their respective countries and for the most part, American IPAs tend to be hugely bitter with a ton of hop character while English IPAs tend to be more balanced and focused on the malt with enough hops present to even things out.

Brooklyn Brewery out of, you guessed it, Brooklyn, New York didn't like this exacting split and decided to do something about it. Their 6.9% ABV East IPA is a combination of American and English IPAs with a definite favoring to the English side. Brooklyn combines American hops





like Centennial and Willamette with British beauties East Kent Golding and Northdown to give you a beer that's firm with its bitterness but still clean, drinkable and perfect for pairing.

Church Brew Works - Thunderhop IPA

So what happens when a church stops being a church? Well, you can go the 21 Jump Street route and turn it into a secret base for your undercover police force,

or you can make it into one

of the most interesting breweries you'll find anywhere. The Church Brew Works, located on Liberty Avenue just up from the main street of Lawrenceville makes some pretty great beer in an environment that's amazing to see. With beer brewed on the now defunct pulpit to a confessional that now houses their liquor, The Church Brew Works is a site to behold for sure.

One of the most popular year-round beers from Church is their Thunderhop IPA. This beer that draws its name and logo from another type of god Zeus is something the God of Thunder would be proud to share a name with. Thunderhop features intense bitterness with a slight malty backbone. Far from balanced, this hugely hoppy 6.5% ABV beer uses nearly 3 pounds of Australian Galaxy and American Chinook per barrel, which means you'll get a heavy dose of pine, citrus, and earthy aromas and flavors.

Deschutes Brewery - Fresh Squeezed IPA

If only it were as easy as squeezing hops to get an IPA out we'd all have hop fields in our back yards. While it's definitely not as easy as squeezing an orange for orange juice, Deschutes Brewery's Fresh Squeezed IPA tastes like that's exactly how it was made.

Finally available year-round, this IPA from the Oregon brewer features a distinct citrus profile that's thanks to the

Citra, Mosaic, and Nugget hops that are used in the brewing process. These three hops combined give Fresh Squeezed that fresh off the bine taste and profile that makes it refreshing, no matter what the temperature is outside.

Coming in at 6.4% ABV, Fresh Squeezed IPA has just enough alcohol to make you nice and warm but is low enough to allow you to have a few.

Deschutes Brewery was founded all the way back in 1988 when craft brewing was just known as making great beer and the popularity of craft beer we have today wasn't even a dream. Since then Deschutes has been making some of the best beer in the country using fresh ingredients and a dedication to great craft beer.

Flying Dog Brewery - Raging Bitch IPA

If you're a sucker for a good story then the founding of Flying Dog Brewery is one you need to know. Founded in 1990 by George Stranahan in Aspen, Colorado, the Flying Dog Brewpub took its name from an expedition Stranahan took in 1983 to climb the famous and deadly K2 in the Himalayas. The entire party returned unharmed and upon enjoying a drink at their hotel he saw a painting with what looked like a flying dog in it. This story stuck with George and when it came time to found his brewpub he realized there couldn't be a better name or story to go behind it.

Flying Dog made their move to their current home in Frederick, Maryland in 2008 and since then has been producing some of the best beer available. One last interesting piece of the Flying Dog story is the label artwork. Stranahan was good friends with the Hunter Thompson, the author and Gonzo journalist as well as Thompson's friend and artist Ralph Steadman. The artwork for Flying Dog labels may be thought of as an interpretation or imitation of his artwork, but in actuality Steadman has created the artwork for each Flying Dog label.

Just like their story and the artwork applied to each can and bottle, if you're looking for something different in the world of IPAs, then we've got just the



While there's a huge variety of darker beers available that range in taste from bitter to sweet to weird and wild, you'll also find an abundance of hoppy IPAs, too.

dog for you. Raging Bitch is a combination of an American IPA and a Belgian pale ale that works amazingly well.

Starting on the American side of things, Flying Dog uses Warrior, Columbus, and Amarillo hops for a strong hop profile and bitterness. This combined with the Caramel malt that they use for a specialty malt gives the beer a hefty profile and medium mouthfeel that helps to support the huge 8.3% ABV.

As for the Belgian side, strong Belgian yeast is used to give the beer a unique funk that can only come from the Belgians. When you pour this beer expect to see a big fluffy head of white

foam and a cloudy complexion. Bitter, fruity, and a little funky, Raging Bitch is always interesting from the order to the last sip.



Left Hand Brewing - 400 Pound Monkey

If you like your IPAs a little more balanced, then the wildly named 400 Pound Monkey is perfect for you. This beer from Left Hand Brewing is an English-style IPA that comes in at 6.8% ABV and features an earthy, herbal hop profile that's balanced out with bready malt.

The brewers at Left Hand use Magnum, Boadicea, and Sovereign hops to make 400 Pound Monkey a beer that's less a hop bomb and more a medley of flavors that give their thanks to the small cone-shaped flowers. Pale 2-row, Crystal, and Munich malts as well as malted wheat give this beer a medium body and mouthfeel that make the tastes stand out all that much more.

Long Trail Brewing Company - Limbo Double IPA

By now you probably think everything that can be done to make an IPA unique has been done. There's black IPAs, white IPAs, Belgian IPAs, and even Lambic IPAs (not common, but they exist) out there, making the IPA a pretty tried and true style.

While there's a lot that's already been done and just about every hop that's been used, there's always room for something new. Take for example Limbo IPA from Long Trail Brewing Company. Limbo is new in two ways. First, it's made



using a brand new breed of hops coming from Australia and the Pacific Northwest and second, it started its life on Long Trail's Pilot Facility brewery.

This beer is hugely bitter and nicely warming at 7.6% ABV. Limbo has a great floral and resinous hop aroma with a little caramel from the malt hiding in there as well. On first taste you'll notice some roasted malts and a floral hop presence that finishes with a nice dose of bitterness.

Rogue Brewing - Brutal IPA

Listed as a non-traditional IPA, this big citrusy beer uses Alluvial hops right from their own Rogue Farms, Brutal IPA is actually a somewhat misnamed beer. While there is definitely a healthy dose of bitterness in Brutal, the beer is actually pretty well balanced with 2-row, Carawheat, and C15 malts as well as Dare and Risk malts from the Rogue farms. These give the beer a medium body and help to balance out the citrus hop flavors to leave you with an amazing beer that's far from brutal, in a very good way.

Brutal is described as a cross between a Very Extra Special Bitter and an American IPA, giving the beer a robust and complex taste that's bitter, full of hop aroma and flavor, and all around great. Brutal is a great beer for dabblers in the hop world as well as full-blown hopheads alike, just don't let the name scare you.

Southern Tier Brewing Company - 2XIPA

When people think about beers that are great for colder months, two things come to mind: dark and strong. While 2XIPA

from Southern Tier in Lakewood, New York might not be dark, it makes up for that in its 8.2% ABV.

2XIPA is one seriously bitter beer but because of this, the brewers at Southern Tier made it with an extra-strong malt backbone so it can easily stand up against the citrus and piney hops that come along with the bitterness.

This beer features four different types of hops and two types of malt for a medium body and a flavor that shouts grapefruit, bitter lemon, and a slightly sweet bread. To help stave off the cold, this beer is best drunk at about 45-50*, so you don't have to hold onto an icy glass while enjoying it.

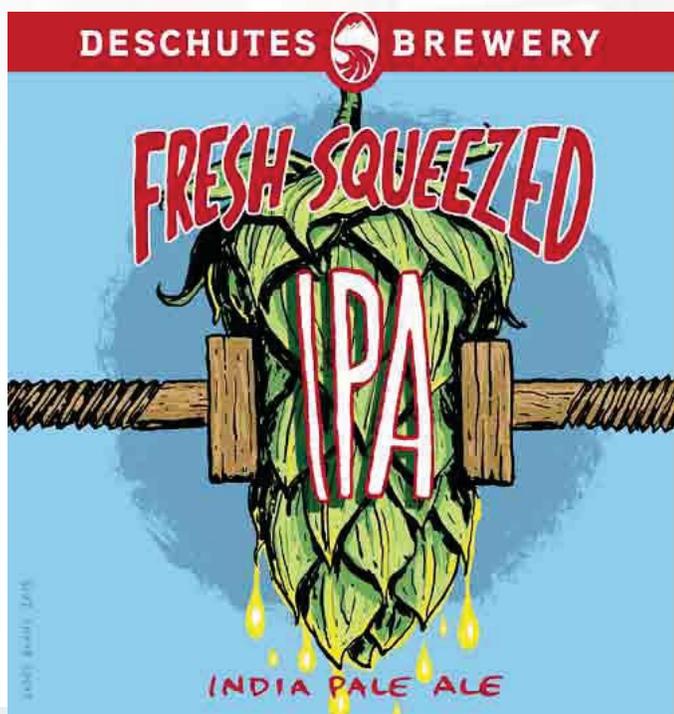
Yards Brewing - IPA

Our last IPA in this list of year-round IPAs that are great for the winter months comes by the way of Philadelphia. Yards Brewing believes that the home of modern brewing, England, still makes amazing styles of beer and as such should still be consumed. While hugely hoppy and big beers from the west coast are great, sometimes a well-balanced IPA that follows the traditions of our British beer ancestors is a good thing.

While far from a traditional English IPA, Yard's version uses malts from England along with Chinook and Amarillo hops from the US, this beer comes in at a surprising 7% ABV and is both robust as well as balanced, giving it a truly unique flavor.

Yards IPA is slightly fruity, very aromatic, and bitter enough to match the slightly higher alcohol content. Launched all the way back in 1998, this beer is one that will be around for quite some time.

Each of these IPAs are available year-round in bottles and on draft and are proudly distributed in the Pittsburgh area by Frank B. Fuhrer Wholesale.



East End Brewing: 10 Years and Still Going Strong

by Brian Meyer, photos Dana Meyer

East End Brewing recently celebrated their 10th anniversary and to the joy of every fan of the brewery, founder Scott Smith planned a week of events to celebrate the occasion. Each event, while as weird and unique as a long underwear bike ride ending at the brewery to as high class as a beer and cheese pairing, each featured the outstanding beers brewed in the building on Julius Street. While the week of festivities might be over, the beer is a far cry from running out any time soon. With demand growing and the guys at East End brewing at near full capacity, it's a good time to have a good beer from East End Brewing and like Scott suggests, you should probably get one of those good beers for a good friend, too.

Year-Round Beers

Before getting to the amazing events that made up Scott's Week of Shenanigans, it's probably best to get to the heart of the celebration, which is obviously the beer. East End Brewing (EEBC) prides itself on a solid lineup of year round beers as well as an ever-changing list of seasonal and rotating rarities. For starters, hands-down the most popular beer in EEBC's lineup is Big Hop.

Big Hop IPA - This 5.8% ABV American IPA features a healthy dose of Centennial and Cascade hops that give the beer a huge hop flavor and aroma without making it overly bitter. The beer is expertly balanced between malty and bitter, and if you



question why it's the most popular beer from the brewery, just check out your local craft beer bar and try a pint, as it's also the most heavily distributed beer from East End Brewing in the Pittsburgh area.

If you're lucky and catch it on draft, East End produces a fresh hop version of this beer every fall called Big Hop Harvest. This version is slightly higher in ABV at 6.4% and features tons of fresh hop aroma and flavor.

Fat Gary Nut Brown Ale - While the actual Fat Gary (yep, he's a real guy) wasn't in attendance for the 10th anniversary festivities with Harris Grill (more on that in a little bit), his namesake beer most definitely was. Fat Gary Nut Brown Ale is a deep brown with a toasted malt character and a nutty, somewhat sweet taste that is a very sessionable 3.8% ABV. Fat Gary is just about the perfect beer to have on draft while watching the Pens play and since it's lower in alcohol and not in taste, you can enjoy a few of them during the game.

Monkey Boy Hefeweizen - While you might think hefeweizens are only for the summer months, East End's Monkey Boy will quickly change your mind. The 5% ABV year-round hefeweizen features a distinct ester profile that gives the beer slight banana flavors while finishing crisp and delicious. Like other hefeweizens, Monkey boy doesn't have any actual bananas in it, just some hard-working German yeast that give Monkey Boy a taste that'll remind you of summer all year long.

Black Strap Stout - Colder months call for darker beers, or so the belief goes. If you're one of the dark beer fans when the temperature drops, then Black Strap Stout is the beer you want to ask for the next time you're snowed in at the bar. Brewed with black strap molasses and brown sugar, Black Strap Stout features tastes of dark chocolate and a hint of black coffee.

At 6.2% ABV, Black Strap Stout is a little more bitter than you'd probably expect, but in a very good way. The beer is well balanced and finishes with a slight bit of sweetness paired with a distinct American hop profile.



We love Pittsburgh Craft Beer almost as much as you do.

Check out PittsburghCraftBeers.com for all the best on local craft beer, breweries, bars, and everything else beer related in the 'burgh.

PittsburghCraftBeers.com

Seasonal Beers

East End also has a solid lineup of beers that come out only once a year but when you see them on draft, make sure you try them first, as they're usually produced in smaller batches than the year-round beers so they come and go a little more quickly than you'd like.

Snow Melt Winter Ale – Available starting in November each year, Snow Melt is a dark and malty 7% ABV winter warmer that's brewed to keep you warm, even with a beer that's cold. Malty, hoppy, and all-around amazing, Snow Melt is one of the best winter beers you'll have all year, from Pittsburgh or anywhere.

Monkey Girl – The darker sibling of Monkey Boy, this 4% ABV dunkelweizen, or dark wheat beer, has a fruity aroma that features the same banana esters as Monkey Boy, but with a darker color and a slightly more malty taste. Perfect for the colder months as much as the warmer ones, Monkey Girl isn't the easiest beer to find, but if your local craft beer bar doesn't get it on tap, they can always get the bar to request it from their distributor.

Along Came a Cider – Not every seasonal beer has to be a beer, so to speak. Take Along Came a Cider, a 5% all-Pennsylvania apple cider made at East End Brewing. This cider is like biting into a fresh cut apple and just like the real thing, it's tart yet sweet with a surprisingly dry finish.

East End Brewing's 10th Anniversary Party

In 2004 two things happened, and Pittsburgh is all the better for both. East End Brewing Company opening their doors being the first and Harris Grill serving their first customer being the second. Since then both companies have grown to be outstanding examples of a brewery and a restaurant in their respective areas. Today, each is thriving and since both opened in the same year, it should be no surprise that both Harris Grill and East End Brewing are celebrating their 10th anniversaries this year. To celebrate this feat and to kick off EEBC's Week of Shenanigans, they joined forces and threw one heck of a party at the brewery. There were party hats, great beer, and about 200 of their closest friends to celebrate and enjoy some great food paired with amazing beer.



There was even cake and an...interesting...rendition of Happy Birthday.

The idea was simple: Harris Grill chose 5 of their favorite dishes from their menu and East End paired each with one of their beers. Everyone in attendance got a cool 10th anniversary glass that's shaped like a can to put their beer in, and six stations in both the new brewpub and throughout the brewery to get said beer and the food to go with it.

Each pairing was thoughtfully planned and while there was quite a bit of bacon in attendance (as you'd expect from Harris Grill), there were great vegetarian options, too.

The party wrapped up with a joint cutting of the cake with the people behind both Harris Grill as well as East End's very own Scott Smith and thankfully everyone walked away with as many fingers as they came into it with. Everyone had some cake and a little more beer and the night ended on a very high note, as any night that ends with cake and beer rightfully should.

As for the food and beer pairings, they included:

- Mac & Cheese with Black Hop IPA
- Pierogis with Monkey Girl Dunkelweizen
- Lettuce Wraps with Along Came a Cider
- The Garden Weasel Veggie Sandwich with Big Hop Harvest IPA
- Pork Shank Reduction with Fatter Gary Imperial Nut Brown Ale
- Black Strap Stout Muffin with Nunkin

Each pairing was great, and I see a few of them getting recreated at Harris Grill in the near future for sure, even if it's not official.

While you can get all of these beers at the brewery and glasses of them at the newly-licensed brewpub at East End Brewing, the closer option is to get your East End Brewing fix at your local craft beer bar where you'll find their year-round beers fairly frequently and the seasonal beers every now and then. It's been a great 110 years and from all of us at Nightwire Magazine, we wish Scott and everyone else at East End Brewing another 10 and then some.

East End Brewing is proudly distributed in the Pittsburgh area by Vecenie Distributing Co. and can be found on draft in your favorite craft beer bars throughout the city and surrounding areas.

HORNITOS® - Reposado Tequila

Hornitos® Reposado Tequila is a 100% blue agave tequila that's just the thing for kicking your night into high gear. Unlike other Reposados, Hornitos® is rested for two to four months in large oak barrels, rather than small individual barrels. This reduced wood contact allows for a livelier agave taste and paler color, making the perfect combination of smooth taste and tequila edge. Using the cocktail below, your readers can experience Hornitos® Reposado in a delicious New Year's cocktail, The Resolution. Please see recipes below:



The Resolution

- 1 ½ parts Hornitos® Reposado Tequila
- ½ part apricot liqueur
- ½ part honey
- ¾ part lemon
- ¾ part egg white

Preparation: Add all ingredients into a mixing glass. Shake without ice for approximately 10-12 seconds. Double strain into a cocktail glass. Garnish with cinnamon.

Hornitos® Plata Tequila is a premium tequila that isn't afraid to act like one. Made from the flesh of the blue agave, it is authentic and fresh while maintaining its tequila edge. Double distilled, Hornitos® Plata Tequila exudes smoothness with hints of clove and floral spices. Your readers can pick up a bottle of Hornitos® Plata from the nearest liquor store for just \$19.99 and mix up the Noches Calientes and New Year's Salute cocktails. Please see recipes below:



Noches Calientes

- 2 parts Hornitos® Plata Tequila
- ¼ part Honey
- ¼ part Agave
- 1 Lemon Wedge
- 1 piece of Cinnamon
- 2 Cloves
- 4 parts Hot Water

Preparation: Add all ingredients to a coffee cup or heatproof glass. Stir and let steep for one minute. No ice



New Year's Salute

- 1 part Hornitos® Plata Tequila
- ½ part Coconut Water
- ½ part Almond Milk

Preparation: Add all ingredients to a shaker over ice to chill. Shake, strain and pour into a shot glass rimmed with cinnamon and sugar. Serve in a shot glass

Hornitos Reposado is available anywhere between \$19.99 and \$21.99

Contrary to popular belief, tequila is not cactus juice. The spirit is distilled from blue Weber agave. (And for the record, it should never come with a worm in the bottle.)

Just like Champagne or cognac, tequila can only be made in a specific region: the Mexican state of Jalisco and some surrounding areas. The area's volcanic soil is perfect for growing agave. The forbidding plant, which has sharp thorns and long, thick leaves, takes between eight and 12 years to reach maturity before it can be harvested.

MUSIC - Drowning Clowns



DROWNING CLOWNS
NEW YEAR CELEBRATION
SINGLE RELEASE PARTY
FRIDAY JAN 2 2015

MR. SMALLS THEATRE
DOORS - 6:30 SHOW - 7:00
21+ - FREE UNDER 21 - \$2

DROWNING CLOWNS with special guests:
THESE LIONS **LONE WOLF CLUB**
THE BLACK SIX **WORKING BREED**
TOM PAPPAS **GUY RUSSO**

Pittsburgh hometown hero band Drowning Clowns is helmed by Mike Speranzo, owner of beloved venue and recording studio Mr. Small's and features a who's-who list of Pittsburgh local legends including Liz Berlin from multi-platinum band Rusted Root. They have a show coming up at Mr. Smalls Theater, Friday, January 2 at 8pm.

Who: With diverse influences ranging from Pink Floyd to Tom Waits, Modest Mouse and beyond, Drowning Clowns creates a genre-jumping sound "as varied as the acts that pass through their venue...a culmination of decades of experience in the industry." (Relix Magazine)

What: New Year's celebration and single release party for Drowning Clowns' new single, "Holds You Down." The show is part of the Revival Concert Series presented by Creative. Life.Support, a non-profit organization co-founded by Speranzo and Berlin supporting music education and action sports culture.

Where: Mr. Smalls Theatre, 400 Lincoln Avenue, Millvale, PA 15209

When: Fri., 1/2 8 p.m.

Are You a Nice or Naughty Customer?: Eight Ways to Be a Better

by Ron Kaufman



Especially during the busy holiday season, customers wait on hold for an eternity. Complaints go unanswered. Salespeople and customer service providers seem more like Scrooge than Santa's helpers. If you think customer service has taken a nosedive, you're right, says Ron Kaufman—but there's a lot you can do to change that. Read on for his tips for being a better customer.

Fueled by caffeine and desperation, you brave the holiday crowds to buy this season's "it" toy for your child. After waiting 15 minutes for a parking space and racing through the aisles, you grab the last one on the shelf. Then, you wait another 20 minutes in the checkout line. As you hand the toy to the cashier, you notice she doesn't smile at you, and then she just hands you the bag and receipt. Why didn't she ask if I wanted paper or plastic, or thank me for my purchase? you wonder irritably. As you head for the decoration-festooned exit, you think, Well, she was unfriendly...when did customer service get so terrible?

It's true, says Ron Kaufman: As the way our society does business has changed, customer service in general has fallen into crisis mode. But in the case of the rude cashier, ask yourself this: Did you look her in the eye? Did you say "good morning"? Did you say "please" or "thank you"? In short, how much of the bad service experience do you have to own?

"Often, we get poor service because we're poor customers—and that's especially likely to happen during the hectic, stressful holiday shopping season," says Kaufman, author of the New

York Times bestseller *Uplifting Service: The Proven Path to Delighting Your Customers, Colleagues, and Everyone Else You Meet* (Evolve Publishing, 2012, ISBN: 978-0-9847625-5-2, \$14.95, www.UpliftingService.com). "When we're rude or impersonal to service providers, we get rude and impersonal treatment back. This creates low expectations on both sides, which affects our next service interactions."

In other words, bad customer behavior breeds bad customer service, which breeds bad customer behavior...and so on. To break the cycle and do your part to create uplifting service, be what Kaufman calls a "service champion"—someone who takes responsibility for uplifting other people's experience, even when those other people are serving you.

Read on for proven steps you can take to be a better customer and enjoy receiving better service this holiday season—and throughout the year:

Be appreciative and polite. Remember, there is a fellow human being on the other end of your phone call, the receiving side of your email, or just across the counter. "Begin each interaction with a quick, 'Hi. Happy holidays. Thank you for helping me. I really appreciate it,'" advises Kaufman. "This takes about two seconds and can dramatically improve the mood of a service provider."

Get your service provider's name and use it. You can make this short and friendly by first offering your name and then asking, "Who am I speaking with, please?" Or if you are face-to-face, simply ask, "May I know your name?" "Once you know it, repeat it with a smile in your voice," says Kaufman. "This creates a personal connection and makes it much harder for a service provider to treat you like an anonymous account holder or policy number."

Be upbeat. Many service providers face an endless onslaught of customers during the holiday shopping rush. The routine can become tiresome. "When an energetic and smiling customer appears, that person often enjoys special care and treatment in return," notes Kaufman. "What you send out does come back. Attitudes—positive and negative—really are contagious."

Provide information just the way they want it. Many service providers need your data in a sequence that fits their forms, screens, and procedures. "Have all your information ready to go, but give it in the order they prefer," advises Kaufman. "Saying, 'I have all my information ready. Which would you like first?' lets the provider know you are prepared and will be easy to work with. The time you take getting everything in order will

Customer This Holiday Season—and Get Better Service in Return

save time in the service conversation, too.”

Confirm next actions. Repeat what your service provider promises to do. Confirm dates, times, amounts, responsibilities, and commitments. “This helps you move together through the service process, catching any misunderstanding and correcting it along the way,” says Kaufman. “Be sure you both understand what will happen next: what they will do, what you will do, and what both parties have agreed to going forward.”

When appropriate, commiserate. Sometimes service providers let their frustration show. A slow computer, a previous customer, high call volume, pressure from a manager, or some unwelcome personal event may have upset them. “When you hear an upset tone, be the one to soothe it,” suggests Kaufman. “You might say, ‘I’m sure this time of year is crazy for you. I really appreciate your help.’ This brief moment of empathy can be an oasis in their world.”

Show your appreciation. A sincere “thank you” is always appropriate. “If your service provider deserves more, give more,” says Kaufman. “A nicely written compliment can make a huge difference in someone else’s day, or even career. And who knows? The person you praise today may serve you again tomorrow.”

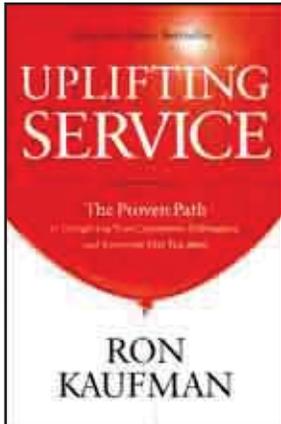
Spread the word. They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and in uplifting service that’s certainly true. The next time you receive uplifting service at your favorite coffee shop, at the hardware store, at the post office, wherever you are, ask the service provider if you can take their picture and then ask for their manager’s name and contact information. “Send the picture to the service provider’s manager with a message that reads, ‘This person’s service makes me admire and appreciate your organization,’” says Kaufman. “Expressing your satisfaction to their manager in this way will speak volumes to the service provider and will inspire not only the service you receive in the future, but the service they provide to all of their customers.”

“Keep in mind that while this advice will help you get better service from service providers, much of it can also be used to experience more joy and satisfaction from your relationships with your colleagues, friends, and other loved ones,” notes Kaufman. “Remember as you make the rounds of cocktail parties and potlucks: What goes around really does come around.

“When you treat someone well, whether it’s your spouse, a vendor at work, or the person you meet at the coffee shop in the morning, he or she is more likely to step up and treat you well, too,” he adds. “We all live and work in a whole world of

relationships based on service. As you uplift and upgrade the service you provide, the world will uplift you.”

About the Author:



Ron Kaufman is a popular keynote speaker and is the author of the New York Times bestseller *Uplifting Service: The Proven Path to Delighting Your Customers, Colleagues, and Everyone Else You Meet* (Evolve Publishing, 2012, ISBN: 978-0-9847625-5-2, \$14.95, www.UpliftingService.com). He is the world’s premiere thought leader, educator, and motivator for uplifting customer service and building service cultures in many of the world’s largest and most respected organizations, including Singapore Airlines, Nokia Siemens Networks, Citibank, Microsoft, and Xerox. He is the founder of UP! Your Service, a global service education and management consultancy firm with offices in the United States and Singapore.

Ron is a columnist at Bloomberg Businessweek and the author of 14 other books on service, business, and inspiration. Ron has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, and USA Today.

With powerful insights from working with clients all over the world in every major industry for more than 20 years, Ron is an inspiration to leaders and managers in his high-content, high-energy speeches and impactful, interactive workshops. He is rated one of the world’s “Top 25 Who’s Hot” speakers by Speaker magazine. He is passionately committed to uplifting the spirit and practice of service worldwide.

About the Book:

Uplifting Service: The Proven Path to Delighting Your Customers, Colleagues, and Everyone Else You Meet (Evolve Publishing, 2012, ISBN: 978-0-9847625-5-2, \$14.95, www.UpliftingService.com) is available at bookstores nationwide and all major online booksellers.

CYBER TIPS

10 Tips to Safeguard Your Information By: Gary S. Miliefsky



We've all lost our identity at least three times, with more than 930 million records breached, lost or stolen to hackers and cyber criminals, says consumer advocacy non-profit Privacy Rights Clearinghouse.

Why don't we do all we can to stay safer online?

According to StaySafeOnline.org, more than a quarter of Americans say they lack the information necessary.

So, here it is – everything you need to know to enjoy the shopping experience without losing your privacy and identity or putting your children's safety at risk:

- Assume you've already been compromised. Whether it's your baby monitor, your SmartTV, the Webcam on your laptop or apps you installed on your smartphone or tablet, your antivirus is not enough protection. It's time to take those devices' and apps' privacy policies, and the permissions you grant them, much more seriously.
- Change your passwords – all of them. Now. And do it as frequently as you can tolerate. Also, if you don't want to change it often, then use any unique characters you can think of, such as a dollar sign (\$) or exclamation mark (!), or replace an "oh" with a "zero" (0). This goes a long way in preventing attacks against your password.
- Turn off wireless and geolocation services. Protect your smartphones and tablets by turning off WiFi, Bluetooth, NFC and GPS, except when you need them. That way, if you are at a local coffee shop or in a shopping mall, no one can spy on you using nearby (proximity) hacking attacks and they can't track

where you were and where you are going on your GPS.

- Assume most of your apps are creepware. Do you really need them? Delete all of the apps you aren't using too often. Replace apps that ask for too many permissions and take advantage of too many of your privacy settings -- like GPS, phone and sms logs, personal identity information – with similar apps that don't.
- Opt out of sharing your information. Opt out of every advertising network that you can. Visit the National Do Not Call Registry and register your smartphone and home phone numbers at www.donotcall.gov. If you use a Google email account and have an Android phone, even with your GPS off, it's tracking your every move. (Log in to maps.google.com/locationhistory/b/0 and see for yourself.) Go into your smartphone or tablet settings and turn this feature off. In your Android phone, go to Settings, then Location, select Google Location Reporting and set Location History to off. The same holds true for the Apple iPhone, iPad and iTunes. You need to find the location and privacy settings and turn off access under Settings, then Privacy then Location.
- Your browser is a double agent – keep it clean. It is spying on you for advertisers unless you block and remove cookies and delete the cache frequently. In your web browser settings, delete your history, all cookies and passwords and the cache. You should do this frequently so you don't leave personal





information sitting around on your computer, smartphone or tablet.

- Remove third-party Facebook plugins. Third-party plugins are mini applications designed to eavesdrop on your behavior in Facebook and possibly grab information about your habits within that social network. Some websites you visit will require you to log in using Facebook, and then you have to trust them to connect to your Facebook account. This is very risky. Read their privacy policy and make sure they are a legitimate business before you risk doing this.
- Only shop on the websites of companies you already trust. If you don't know where the merchant is located, don't shop online there. If they don't have a corporate address or are located in another country, it is risky for you and you may never see the goods you think you purchased. Also, if their shopping cart experience is not an HTTPS browser session, then everything you type in, your name, address and credit card information, is going over the internet unencrypted -- in plain view.
- Turn off geotagging – your photos are full of information. Twitter and Instagram as well as your iPhone will give away your location. Most people

don't realize Twitter and Instagram both use geotagging for everything you send out. Geotagging stores the latitude and longitude of your tweet or image. Pictures you take on an iPhone usually store geotagging information, as well. The less information you give out about where you are located, the safer you are.

- Don't use cash or debit cards – use credit cards, wisely. Credit cards allow you to travel with less cash, and if you're purchasing online, it's safer to give your credit card than your debit card information. The same holds true when you visit your local retail outlet. The reason? If you experience identity theft, credit card laws allow you to keep all of your credit, with no responsibility during an investigation. With a debit card, your bank can tie up your money in the amount equivalent to the fraudulent transactions for up to 30 days.

About Gary S. Miliefsky

Gary S. Miliefsky is CEO of SnoopWall (www.snoopwall.com) and the inventor of SnoopWall spyware-blocking technology. He is a founding member of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and serves on the advisory board of MITRE on the CVE Program, and is a founding board member of the National Information Security Group. He's also the founder of NetClarity, Inc., an internal intrusion defense company, based on a patented technology he invented.

Give the Gift of Love in 2015



Say hi to Bruno. He is a very friendly rot mix around 10 years old who is looking to find a home to retire in. He is doing well with the other dogs here but we are not sure about his feelings towards cats or small children. Bruno is up to date on his vaccinations and has been micro-chipped.

Hi my name is Socrates. I am a playful little 3 1/2 month old male with a fun personality. I like to run around with my friends, and I'm looking for mischief to get into! I would likely be great in any family, even if you have a dog or small children. I am neutered, microchipped, and current on all of my vaccinations.



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PIPPIN

January 20-25, 2015, Benedum Center PNC Broadway Across America-Pittsburgh

PIPPIN is Broadway's high-flying, death-defying hit musical! Full of extraordinary acrobatics, wondrous magical feats and soaring songs from the composer of *Wicked*, PIPPIN will lift you up and leave you smiling. This unforgettable new production is the winner of four 2013 Tony Awards® including Best Musical Revival. Hailed as "an eye-popping, jaw-dropping extravaganza" (NY1), it's unlike anything Broadway has ever seen! Come experience PIPPIN, one young man's journey to be extraordinary. Direct from an acclaimed run at Boston's American Repertory Theater, this captivating new production is directed by Tony winner Diane Paulus (*Hair* and *The Gershwins' Porgy & Bess*). It features sizzling choreography in the style of Bob Fosse and breathtaking acrobatics by Les 7 Doigts de la Main, the creative force behind the nationwide sensation *Traces*. PIPPIN is noted for many Broadway standards including "Corner of the Sky," "Magic To Do," "Glory," "No Time at All," "Morning Glow," and "Love Song." Join us... for a magical, unforgettable new PIPPIN. This production is part of the PNC Broadway Across America-Pittsburgh series, presented by the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Pittsburgh Symphony and Broadway Across America. In Pittsburgh, PIPPIN will play Tuesday, January 20 through Sunday, January 25, 2015, with performances Tuesday through Thursday at 7:30 p.m.; Friday at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.; Sunday at 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tickets (\$27-\$72) are available at the Theater Square Box Office, 655 Penn Avenue, and online at TrustArts.org/broadway.

Creating Worlds Together:

A talk with Diane Paulus & Scott Pask about PIPPIN. Director Diane Paulus and set designer Scott Pask have a long history of collaborating on theater productions. As you read this interview with Paulus and Pask, think about how they each approached the material before setting foot in the rehearsal room. What about PIPPIN interests them as artists? How has their experience working as a team contributed to this production?

Question: What was your first experience with PIPPIN?

Diane Paulus: I saw PIPPIN in the 1970s, when it was on Broadway. I saw it three times. I remember loving it as a twelve-



year-old. I got the soundtrack and then proceeded to grow up on the music. Like *HAIR*, it's one of the shows that I know backwards and forwards from listening to the soundtrack. Now that I've spent years with the material, really looking at the story and the book, I have come to understand what a powerful piece of theater it is. It deals with an incredibly serious subject: how far would we go to be extraordinary? Will you burn yourself alive to be extraordinary? This question is deeply relevant to our lives today. It can be relevant to anyone, from an 18-year-old trying to figure out the meaning of their life, to a middle-aged person trying to assess what they've achieved in their life. How hard are we going work to be extraordinary?

Scott Pask: I think PIPPIN comes to know what responsibility means to him and what his choices are.

DP: What I love about PIPPIN is that all of this is expressed through a theatrical metaphor. The show is a play within a play. It's about a troupe of players who are enacting this ritualized performance with the main character. In the world of the play, to be extraordinary is to perform "the grand finale." It uses theater as a metaphor for examining one's own life.

Q: This idea of the primal, dark, intense nature of PIPPIN's journey, when coupled with the persistent metaphor of theater in the show, really highlights the risk and the danger involved in live performance.

DP: Our interest in taking PIPPIN into the world of Les 7 Doigts de la Main, with their incredible acrobatic feats, takes danger to an even more palpable place: will you literally jump through a hoop of fire? Will you walk a high wire? Circus artists are, by nature, defying their bodies. They challenge themselves to be truly extraordinary. What I love about 7 Doigts is that they approach acrobatics in a way that's virtuosic, but also emotional. Their work is people-based.

Q: You and Scott also worked with world-class acrobats on Cirque du Soleil's *Amaluna*, recently. Are there any lessons from that experience that you'll be carrying to PIPPIN?

DP: Working on *Amaluna* was just such an amazing opportunity





for Scott and me to increase our experience of what is possible in the theater. It certainly enriched my perspective on the traditional form of circus. At the A.R.T., where I am Artistic Director, we stress to our audiences that theater is not just a play on the stage—you have to expand your definition of theater further and further. With PIPPIN, the idea of circus enters the equation.

SP: I hesitate to define this PIPPIN as strictly circus; I am also thinking of historical environments related to traveling troubadours, old medicine shows, and medieval morality plays.

DP: PIPPIN almost has the structure of a morality play, where a central figure progresses through a series of difficult trials.

SP: I'm even inspired by the liturgically based pageant plays that are put on in churches today, such as the ones that I went to in my youth and informed work I did on Book of Mormon. With all these traditions, there's the idea of a traveling troupe. It's in motion, it isn't rooted; in a way, it's like a tumbleweed of a production. It rolls through town and keeps rolling.

DP: It's written into the script that the Players travel and perform the show, *The Life and Times of PIPPIN*. I think that when "the circus comes to town," you don't know where they're from and you don't know who they are; they might seem kind of dangerous, freaky, from another world. We're interested in drawing on that imagery and those feelings associated with the circus in giving an identity to the players in PIPPIN. The idea is to take what we all know and love about PIPPIN— which includes Bob Fosse's choreography— and tell the story as powerfully as we can. Chet Walker, our Fosse specialist working on the show, said to me that Bob Fosse was inspired by the circus, as well as the films of Federico Fellini; that was a world he was interested in, though he never truly went there because he made his work with dancers, not circus artists. But there is an impulse built into what he created that points toward that aesthetic...

Q: How long have you been collaborating?

DP: We started as assistants together, when we were both in grad school.

SP: 15 years, I think. We worked on the original Donkey Show, the Lower East Side Projects with her Project 400 group, a couple of

operas, HAIR in Central Park, Broadway and London, then Cirque du Soleil. We've had a long and really great collaboration.

Q: What makes it great?

SP: I think Diane's got a great creative vision. She's incredibly articulate and has an insight into the work she tackles that's inspiring to be around. It's a sort of incisive, almost surgical glance towards what she wants to achieve with a piece of work and what its goals are. There is an incredible amount of tenacity to her vision. It's fantastic to see how she can liberate a show, like HAIR, from so many preconceived ideas...people are shocked to see it laid bare, laid open and almost reinvented.

DP: What I adore about working with Scott is that he's a thinker—a theater thinker. Of course, his job is to translate ideas into a physical space, but he is a partner in conceptualizing the show. In all the shows that we've done together, Scott and I always talked about creating the world of the production. In *The Donkey Show*, it was an immersive nightclub environment. In HAIR, we started with Central Park as the backdrop to our world. When we moved indoors, The Hirschfeld Theater was the site of the "be-in." In *Amaluna*, it was about the immersive environment of a community of women celebrating a ritual, which the audience is invited to. Everything Scott and I work on together is about worlds, environments, and architectural thinking; we don't create design that feels separate from you, as an audience member. We have a shared interest in the physical, spatial and theatrical possibilities that an immersive experience can offer.

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Pittsburgh Public Theater Presents The Second City's N'at's All Folks!

Chicago's famed comedy troupe The Second City returns to The Public with N'at's All Folks!, their first show about Pittsburgh since 2008's Three Rivers Runs Through It. The irreverent celebration will include Steel City politics, hilarious commentary on our world-famous accent n'at, sports, and more black and gold humor. In addition to the local angle, The Second City will perform favorites from their repertoire of fast-paced sketch comedy, wacky songs, and trademark improv.

N'at's All Folks! runs Jan. 6 - 10 at the O'Reilly Theater, Pittsburgh Public Theater's home in



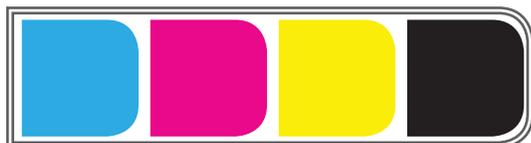
the heart of Downtown's Cultural District. For tickets call 412.316.1600 or visit ppt.org.

The Second City has launched the careers of Tina Fey, Stephen Colbert, Steve Carell, Bill Murray, Gilda Radner, and many more. Their touring shows feature the next generation of the comedy world's best and brightest. The cast for N'at's All Folks is Marlana Rodriguez, Alan Linic, Lisa Beasley, John Thibodeaux, Liz Reuss, and Scott Morehead plus Music Director and onstage accompanist Dane Halvorson. The show was directed by Anthony LeBlanc and Scott Flores-Deter is the Stage Manager.

A cash bar will be open in The Public's main lobby. Show Times: Tues., Jan. 6 at 7 pm. Wed., Jan. 7 at 8 pm. Thurs., Jan. 8 at 8 pm. Fri., Jan. 9 at 8 pm. Sat., Jan. 10 at 5:30 and 9 pm.

Ticket Prices: \$30 - \$50 with tickets for students and age 26 and younger available for \$15.75. Cabaret tables onstage with seating for four and cash bar service are available for \$220. Discounts for groups of 10+ are available by contacting Katie Conaway at 412.316.8200 ext. 704 or kconaway@ppt.org.

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2014 Darwin Nominees

"Darwin Awards: We watch the watchman watch the watchmen." Natural selection deems that some individuals serve as a warning to others. Who are we to disagree? The next generation, ever and anon, is descended from the survivors.

Banana Bandido

2014 Darwin Award Nominee

(27 June 2014, Costa Rica) A banana plantation was the setting for a Friday evening robbery in Limón. Villegas, 30, lived (note past tense) in the same building as the farm's cafeteria before his fatal slip-up. He was in the process of breaking into the cafeteria via the roof when a security guard heard suspicious noises and fired his 12-gauge shotgun toward the rustling sounds.

A shotgun fires shells that contain several small, round projectiles called shot. 12-gauge shotguns such as those used by Banana Security are large weapons likely to be loaded with buckshot rather than birdshot, and buckshot can kill or seriously damage a human body. However the intruder or intruders were not immobilized and the warning shot was answered with return fire, causing the security officer to take refuge behind a wall and fire again! Thud, someone hit the ground! Another shot from the bandido or bandidos!

All this commotion on the roof of Banana Farm Café seems outlandish to me, but I suppose bananas are big business in Limón. When the dust cleared two robbers were still standing, and a third robber was discovered lying dead two hundred yards away. That man was Villegas.

The big surprise came when they turned over Villegas and realized that the fatal wound--a shot to his buttocks--was caused by his own handmade weapon! So you see, dear readers, crime pays and D-I-Y guns also pay, in spades.

The Doors-Break On Through

2013 Darwin Award Nominee

(1) A vodka-swilling pill-popping airline customer.

(2) A potted plant made of plastic.

(3) Airport security video showing the former climbing the latter. And then came the elevator...

(16 March 2013, Florida) The death of a man who fell down an elevator shaft at Tampa International Airport last year was ruled accidental -- if one considers forcing open the elevator doors, jumping toward the cables, and wrapping your arms and legs around them to slow your descent "an accident." The man lost his grip (friction is a bitch) and fell headfirst down the shaft from the seventh floor, resulting in a quick and painless death: the medical report describes the trauma as "complete dislocation of cervical vertebrae 5 and 6, with spinal cord laceration," meaning he broke his neck.

Pill-popping vodka-swilling Chad Wolfe, 31, was resting in peace (or "sleeping it off") when the Estate of Chad Wolfe decided to dig up his grave eighteen months later by filing a lawsuit. Evidently a hanging Chad demands a legal enquiry. According to the Estate of Chad Wolfe, the cause of his death was a malfunctioning elevator and airport authorities as well as the elevator manufacturer should have prevented it.

At the time, Chad was behaving like a impatient drunken gorilla. He was physically strong; forcing open elevator doors is no problem for a man who can climb potted plants. He was also high as a kite with the fantastical belief that he could grab the elevator cables in free-fall and slide down to the first floor like a movie hero. Eighteen months later Chad is portrayed as the blameless victim of doors that opened too easily.

It is reasonable that elevator doors should open with a determined effort, otherwise people are physically trapped inside elevators when the power fails. It is unreasonable to protect idiots from themselves no matter the extreme. And idiots are made, not born -- the person in question had voluntarily swallowed a mix of decision-impairing substances bringing his BAC to 0.17% with a Xanax chaser. Unfamiliar with Xanax, this writer thumbed through the Urban Dictionary and found Xanax described as one of the more addictive benzos with withdrawal effects including psychosis and epileptic-type seizures.

Summary? A DARWIN AWARD is granted to Chad Wolfe, while a STELLA AWARD for legal stupidity is awarded to the Estate of Chad Wolfe.

TITLE SUGGESTIONS FROM FANS --

- "Hanging Chad." -Tracey G.
- "Hanging Chad Falls - Legal Challenge Attempts To Overturn Result." -David M.
- "The Doors: Break On Through To The Other Side." -Kim A.

- "Mad" Chad - Dead Sad Lad. -Cindy S.G.
- "An Open And Shut Case On A Sliding Scale Of 7-1." -Katherine H.
- "Friction Is A Bitch." -Wendy Northcutt

- "The Wolfe Of Fall Street."-Paul B.
- "Die Hard With A Xanax." -Avery Roff-Nichols
- "Cable Guy Faces Reality." - Wayne D.P.
- "Superhero Tryouts: Day One." -Thomas H.I.
- "Determined Descent" -Akane T.
- "Crash Landing Inside The Airport." -Marathon Maine-iac
- "Flamboyant Folly Falls Flat!" -Sibusiso N.
- "Drunken Degenerate Drops Dead." -Tim A.
- "Drug Binge Ends In Heavy Comedown At Breakneck Speed." -Barry McC.
- "Gravity And Friction Implicated In Death, Blind Lady Judges Them Innocent." -Talvald Farseer

- "Please mind the gap." -Nikolaj N.
- "No brains, no headache." -Chris K.
- "Xanax. Once you pop you cannot stop... being an idiot." -Martin S.
- "Drunk on vodka, you say? 'What would Putin do?'" -Daniel B.
- "Shafted." -Claire B. and Sonia N.B.

Continued Next Page



Some Finnish

2013 Darwin Award Nominee

(13 September 2013, Finland) Two brothers-in-law were united by a common interest that is shared by a small but regrettably significant proportion of the population: collecting war weapons. By the date of their deaths, they had collected over 100 frag grenades, bazookas, fuse materials and ammunition from the forests of Lapland. The men enjoyed collecting the weapons as trophies, yet had no training in the handling and disposal of explosives! One can see how this is all going to end.

Around 6pm On A Friday Night The 24- And 27-Year-Old Men Were Both In The Garage With Their Antique Weapons Collection. The Older Man Had Finished Defusing A Grenade And Was carefully removing the payload. The object of his attention was not a small Hand Grenade But Rather A Large 75-Mm Anti-Tank Grenade, 42 Centimeters (17 Inches) Long! Ironically The Attempt To Render It Harmless resulted in the opposite outcome. In the northern town of Kemi the peace of the garage was shattered by a small explosion. The man holding the grenade died in the ambulance, and the other survived with serious injuries.

In the aftermath of the explosion 200 people within a 150-meter perimeter surrounding the garage were evacuated to a school, and then dozens of kilograms of explosives were safely removed by the Peräpohjolan Police Department. Evacuees returned to their homes with gratitude for their lives. If more war weapons had been set off in a chain reaction then there would have been victims and damaged buildings up to 300 meters away from the garage!

Thankfully it was not a full detonation; rather than explode the old explosive material combusted and burned. Since no bystanders were injured, this is a wonderfully apt nomination for Darwin Award plus Honorable Mention. "In Finland you do not disassemble bomb, bomb disassemble you

Crispy Copper Fries

2014 Darwin Award Nominee

"Winner of the 2012 Hide And Seek Tournament."

(19 May 2014, Arizona) The mummified remains of a man discovered in a Tucson manhole tell their own poignant story. In May the manhole was opened to investigate a fluctuation in electrical power. According to records kept by Tucson Electric Power the manhole had not been opened in the past five years, so the team that entered the underground high-voltage vault was quite surprised to find the desiccated remains of a man slumped near cut copper wires. In his shriveled hand was -- can you guess? -- a bolt cutter.

Crime pays so little, and costs so much. This nominee not only failed and fried but also, nobody noticed, making his death both stupid and sad. An autopsy confirmed the obvious conclusion that electrocution was the likely cause of death. The date of death was set at somewhere between one and two years previous to the discovery.

The mummy was carrying ID for a 51-year-old man, and DNA testing is underway to verify the identity of the crispy copper critter.



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Man Customizes Car Ignition Sequence To His Peril 2014 Darwin Award Nominee

(18 February 2014, United Kingdom) Scott McKimmie's purple Volkswagen Cabriolet would not be considered roadworthy by most people, but to a handy mechanic a flaw can be considered a security feature. Early on Tuesday morning outside The Phoenix pub in Corby, the 39-year-old started the 1998 Cabriolet in his usual unusual way -- he put the car in gear and reached beneath the hood (the 'bonnet') and touched two wires together to create an ignition spark.

Unfortunately Scott failed to remember that he had not set the handbrake. To make matters worse he had modified the purple VW to run with a fast idle to prevent stalling. As black wire touched red wire the engine turned over and started, and the car lurched forward and knocked him over. Due to the fast idle the vehicle continued on its merry way, inflicting 36 "separate injuries" on the unfortunate man as -- like the Duracell/Energizer bunny -- it kept going and going.

As demonstrated in a police investigation video shown to the court, the engine modifications allowed the car to move forward without stalling when it was in first, second or third gear! Coroner Anne Pember recorded a verdict of accidental death with this summary: "It is quite clear that the cause of this tragedy was the unusual starting method Mr. McKimmie used to start his car."

Resurrection FAIL 2014 Darwin Award Nominee

(17 September 2014, Pakistan) Two correspondents nominated the gullible acolyte who volunteered to be killed and resurrected by a holy man--and not a holy man who was experienced with the procedure, but a beginner who thought he'd give it a whirl!

For five years a popular Sufi had been performing miracles for villagers in Mubarakabad. Now he was ready to increase the stakes to a full resurrection. But he was not interested reviving any old corpse--the novice naturally preferred to breathe life back into fresh meat. So the Sufi put Word out to his followers that he wanted to kill and revive a faithful man--a faithful married man--a married man with children! The Sufi seemed to be stacking the deck to resurrect a person with a strong incentive to return, a person with no desire to malingering in death. And in the grip of an overwhelmingly obvious Darwin Moment, 40-year-old Muhammad Niaz stepped up and volunteered to be murdered the very next day.

Lest anyone claim that Muhammad was mentally ill, which would disqualify him from a Darwin Award, please remember that resurrection by saints is an idea that is popular in Christianity as well. Bible verse Matthew 10:8 says that Jesus commanded his acolytes, "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons," and Catholic saints have been recorded as performing the miracle of raising the dead.

On Tuesday the idea was announced, on Wednesday the follower was killed, and on Thursday the overly optimistic Sufi was behind bars for murder. Generally no Darwin Awards are given for murder, but in this case the acolyte volunteered for the scheme and earned his just reward.

Delhi Sandwich 2014 Darwin Award Nominee

India zoo gains a meal, loses a patron...

(23 September 2014, India) Life of Pi move over, Maqsood has a tale to tell. This 19-year-old factory worker joined a White tiger for lunch yesterday in the cat's Delhi zoo home. After being cautioned twice to not climb over the fence enclosing the tiger enclosure, Maqsood climbed over the fence a third time and then swam across the moat over to Tiger Island.

Never pet a kitty that isn't yours. The White tiger "went tiger" on the intruder and mauled him to death, subsequently dragging the body around the island for two hours until the animal was finally scared into a cave and the body was retrieved.

Parents of the tiger's visitor said the boy was mentally ill and addicted to bhang, a preparation of cannabis leaves and seeds that is smoked, chewed, eaten, or infused and drunk to obtain mild euphoria. Yet many normal young men are emotionally troubled and enjoy cannabis--and would be shocked and embarrassed were their parents to refer to them as mentally ill addicts.

In some countries such as the United States of America the animal would have been destroyed to satisfy angry citizens; however, in India the killer tiger was characterized as acting in line with its nature and the animal will suffer no punishment for the day's excitement.

The misadventure of Maqsood brings to mind a pair of India men who brought Marigold Garlands to a Bengal tiger at the Calcutta Zoo on New Year's Day, 1996.

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CARLOS

Say hi to Carlos. He is a 3 year old am/staff mix looking for the right family to spend his life with. He is a very sweet and energetic dog that loves people. He has been good with the other dogs here at the shelter but we do not know his feelings towards cats. Carlos is up to date on his vaccinations and has been micro-chipped and neutered.

Hi, my name is Samantha. I am a sweet girl who is very shy; I was brought to the shelter when my owner went to a nursing home. Probably a quiet home would be best for me, with no other animals or small children. I am spayed and microchipped, and current on all of my shots. Come on in and visit me!



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Potato Prostitute

Two little potatoes are standing on the street corner. One is a Prostitute. How can you tell which one is the prostitute?It's the one with the little sticker that says... I - DA - HO

O x y m o r o n s

1. Is it good if a vacuum really sucks?
2. Why is the third hand on the watch called the second hand?
3. If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?
4. If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?
5. Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?
6. Why does "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?
7. Why does "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?
8. Why do "tug" boats push their barges?
9. Why do we sing "Take me out to the ball game" when we are already there?
10. Why are they called "stands" when they are made for sitting?

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11. Why is it called "after dark" when it really is "after light"?
- 12.. Doesn't "expecting the unexpected" make the unexpected expected?

- 13.. Why are a "wise man" and a "wise guy" opposites?
14. Why do "overlook" and "oversee" mean opposite things?
15. Why is "phonics" not spelled the way it sounds?
16. If work is so terrific, why do they have to pay you to do it?
17. If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?
18. If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?
19. If you are cross-eyed and have dyslexia, can you read all right?
20. Why is bra singular and panties plural?
21. Why do you press harder on the buttons of a remote control when you know the batteries are dead?
22. Why do we put suits in garment bags and garments in a suitcase?
23. How come abbreviated is such a long word?
24. Why do we wash bath towels? Aren't we clean when we use them?
25. Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?
26. Why do they call it a TV set when you only have one?
27. Christmas - What other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of your socks?
28. Why do we drive on a parkway and park on a driveway ?
I dunno, why do we?

Divorce Court

A man and his wife were in a court for their divorce case. The Problem was who should get custody of the child. The wife screamed and jumped up and said: "Your Honor. I brought The child into the world with all the pain and labor. The child should be in my custody." The judge turned to the husband and said: "What do you have to Say in your defense?" The man sat for a while contemplating. ..then slowly rose. "Your Honor... If I put a dollar

in a Pepsi Vending Machine and a Pepsi Comes out... Whose Pepsi is it... The machine's or mine?"

And the Moral of the Story Is.....

A modern day cowboy has spent many days crossing the Texas plains without water. His horse has already died of thirst. He's crawling through the sand, certain that he has breathed his last breath, when all of a sudden he sees an object sticking out of the sand several yards ahead of him. He crawls to the object, pulls it out of the sand and discovers what looks to be an old briefcase. He opens it and out pops a genie. But this is no ordinary genie. She is wearing a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) ID badge and a dull gray dress. There's a calculator in her pocketbook. She has a pencil tucked behind one ear. 'Well, cowboy,' says the genie.. You know how I work.....You have three wishes.' 'I'm not falling for this.' said the cowboy... 'I'm not going to trust a FEMA genie.' 'What do you have to lose? You've got no transportation and it looks like you're a goner anyway!' The cowboy thinks about this for a minute and decides that the genie is right. 'OK! I wish I were in a lush oasis with plenty of food and drink.' ***POOF*** The cowboy finds himself in the most beautiful oasis he has ever seen. He is surrounded with jugs of wine and platters of delicacies. 'OK, cowpoke, what's your second wish.' 'My second wish is that I was rich beyond my wildest dreams.' ** *POOF*** The cowboy finds himself surrounded by treasure chests filled with rare gold coins and precious gems. 'OK, cowpuncher, you have just one more wish. Better make it a good one!' After thinking for a few minutes, the cowboy says... 'I wish that no matter where I go, beautiful women will want and need me.' ***POOF*** He was turned into a tampon. Moral of the story: If the government offers to help you, there's going to be a string attached.





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When Grandma Goes To Court

Lawyers should never ask a Mississippi grandma a question if they aren't prepared for the answer. In a trial, a Southern small-town prosecuting attorney called his first witness, a grandmotherly, elderly woman to the stand. He approached her and asked, Mrs. Jones, do you know me? She responded, why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've know you since you were a boy, and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realize you'll never amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you. The lawyer was stunned. Not know what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, Mrs. Jones, do you know the defense attorney? She again replied, why yes, I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster too. He's lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone, and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. Not to mention he cheated on his wife with three different women. One of them was your wife. Yes, I know him. The defense attorney nearly died. The judge asked both counselors to approach the bench and in a very quiet voice, said, If either of you idiots asks her if she knows me, I'll send you both to the electric chair.

Penguins

Did you ever wonder why there are no dead penguins on the ice in Antarctica? Where do they go? Wonder no more!! It is a known fact that the penguin is a very ritualistic bird that lives an extremely ordered and complex life. The penguin is very committed to its family and will mate for life, as well as

maintaining a form of compassionate contact with its offspring throughout its life. If a penguin is found dead on the ice surface, other members of the family and social circle have been known to dig holes in the ice, using their vestigial wings and beaks, until the hole is deep enough for the dead bird to be rolled into and buried. The male penguins then gather in a circle around the fresh grave and sing: "Freeze a jolly good fellow." "Freeze a jolly good fellow." "Then they kick him in the ice hole." You really didn't really believe that we knew anything about penguins, did you?

Blonde Joke

A man went into the office kitchen one morning and found a beautiful blond woman painting the walls. She was wearing a fur coat and a nice denim jacket. Thinking this was a bit strange, he asked her why she was wearing such nice clothes rather than overalls. The blonde simply sighed and showed him the instructions on the tin, "For best results, put on two coats."

The Maid

A guy dials his home phone number and a strange woman answers. The guy says, "Who is this?" "This is the maid," answers the woman. "We don't have a maid," says the man. The woman says, "I was hired this morning by the lady of the house." The man says, "Well, this is her husband. Is she there?" The woman replies, "She is upstairs in the bed room with someone who I figured was her husband." The guy is fuming and says to the maid, "Listen, would you like to make \$50,000?" The maid says, "What will I have to do?" The man tells her, "I want you to get my gun from the desk, and shoot the witch and the jerk she's with." The maid puts the phone down and the man hears footsteps and then two gun shots. The maid comes back to the phone, "What do I do with the bodies?" The man says, "Throw them in the swimming pool." Puzzled, the maid answers, "But you don't have a pool." The man pauses for a moment and says, "Ummmm... Is this 555-3248?"

Death of a Consultant

A consultant dies on in a fishing accident on his 40th birthday and finds himself greeted at the Pearly Gates by a brass band. Saint Peter runs over, shakes his hand and says, "Congratulations!" "Congratulations for what?" asks the consultant. "We are celebrating the fact that you lived to be 160 years old," Saint Peter exclaims. "But that's not true," says the consultant. "I only lived to be 40." "That's impossible," says Saint Peter, "we added up your time sheets."

Pricey Parrots

A man goes into a pet shop to buy a parrot. The shop owner points to three identical looking parrots on a perch and says, "The parrot to the left costs \$500." "Why does the parrot cost so much?" the customer asks. The owner says, "Well, it knows how to use a computer." The customer asks about the next parrot and is told, "That one costs \$1,000 because it can do everything the other parrot can do plus it knows how to use the UNIX operating system." "Naturally, the increasingly startled man asks about the third parrot and is told, "That one costs \$2,000." Needless to say this begs the question, "What can IT do?" The owner replies "To be honest I've never seen it do a thing but the other two call him boss!"

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Golf Score

"What's your golf score?" the country club interviewer asked the prospective new member. "Well, not so good," replied the golfer. "It's 69." "Hey, that's not bad. In fact, it's very good." "Glad you think so," the golfer confided. "I'm hoping to do even better on the next hole."

Caught in the Act

A guy came home early and found his wife in bed with another man. "What the hell are you doing?" shouted the irate husband. "See," the wife said to the man lying beside her. "Didn't I tell you that he doesn't know a thing about sex?"

Golf Accident

A man staggers into an emergency room with two black eyes and a five iron wrapped tightly around his throat. Naturally, the doctor asks him what happened. "Well, I was having a quiet round of golf with my wife when she sliced her ball into a pasture of cows. We went to look for it and while I was rooting around I noticed one of the cows had something white at its rear end. I walked over and lifted up the tail and sure enough, there was my wife's golf ball... stuck right in the middle of the cow's butt. "That's when I made my mistake." "What did you do?" asks the doctor. "Well, I lifted the tail and yelled to my wife, 'Hey, this looks like yours!'"

Doctor's Orders

A middle management executive has to take on some sport by his doctor's orders, so he decides to play tennis. After a couple of weeks his secretary asks him how he's doing. "It's going fine," the manager says. "When I'm on the court and I see the ball speeding toward me, my brain immediately says, 'To the corner! Back

hand! To the net! Smash! Go back!" "Really? What happens then?" the secretary asks. "Then my body says, 'Who? Me? You must be kidding!'"

New Signs

A shopkeeper was dismayed when a brand new business much like his own opened up next door and erected a huge sign reading, "BEST DEALS." He was horrified when another competitor opened up on his right, and announced its arrival with an even larger sign reading, "LOWEST PRICES." The shopkeeper panicked, until he got an idea. He put the biggest sign of all over his own shop. It read: "MAIN ENTRANCE."

Juror Screening

Judge: "Is there any reason you could not serve as a juror in this case?"

Juror: "I don't want to be away from my job for that long."

Judge: "Can't they do without you at work?"

Juror: "Yes, but I don't want them to know that."

Afternoon Quickie

It was obvious to Mom and Dad that the only way to pull off a Sunday afternoon quickie without their 9-year-old son hanging around was to send him out on the balcony. So they ordered him to report on all the neighborhood activities. The boy began his commentary, "There's a car being towed from the parking lot," he said. "An ambulance just drove by. It looks like the Andersons have company," he called out. "Max is riding a new bike and the Coopers are having sex." Mom and Dad shot up in bed. "How do you know that?" the startled father asked. "Their kid is standing out on the balcony too."



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Late Night Phone Call

A married couple was asleep when the phone rang at 2:00 in the morning. The blond wife picked up the phone, listened a moment and said, "How should I know, that's 200 miles from here!" and hung up. The husband said, "Who was that?" The wife said, "I don't know, some woman wanting to know 'if the coast is clear.'"

Going to the Pub

A man comes in to the room and says to his wife, "I'm going to the pub. Get your coat on." The wife, overjoyed that he has included her in his activity replies, "Does that mean that you are taking me with you, darling?" The husband replies, "No, I'm turning the heating off."

Filling the Tank

Little Johnny catches his parents going at it. He says, "Hey, Dad! What are you doing?" His father says, "I'm filling your mother's tank." Johnny says, "Oh, yeah? Well, you should get a model that gets better mileage. The milkman filled her this morning."

Hell on Earth

One evening, a young lady came home from a date rather sad. She told her mother, "Anthony proposed to me an hour ago." "Then why are you so sad?" her mother asked. "Because he also told me he is an atheist. Mom, he doesn't even believe there's a hell." Her mother replied, "Marry him anyway. Between the two of us, we'll show him just how wrong he is."

Terrible Tee Shot

A man steps up for a tee shot with a row of trees on his right side. He slices it wildly and it heads off in the direction of the trees. He gets another ball and continues playing. About 15 minutes later a highway patrolman approaches him. "This your ball?" asks the policeman. "Yes, I think it is." "Well," says the officer, "it went over the trees and through the window of a house. It hit a cat and the cat ran out the front door. A school bus was driving by at the time and the driver, while trying to miss the cat, hit a tree. The bus exploded in flames, and there were no survivors." "Gee, I'm sorry," said the golfer. "Is there anything I can do?" The policeman replied, "Well, you might try keeping your left arm a little straighter and start your downswing with your hips."

White Gloves

A guy wanted to buy a gift for his girlfriend's birthday. As they had only started dating, after careful consideration, he decided a pair of gloves would strike the right note: personal, but not too personal. Accompanied by the girlfriend's younger sister, he went to Dillard's and bought a pair of white gloves. The sister purchased a pair of panties for herself. During the wrapping, however, the clerk got the items mixed up and the sister got the gloves and the girl friend got the panties. The guy sent the package to the girl friend with the following note: I chose these because I noticed you are not in the habit of wearing any in the evening. If it had not been for your sister, I would have chosen the long ones with the buttons, but she wears the short ones that are easier to remove. These are a delicate shade, but the sales clerk that helped me has a pair that she has been wearing for the past three weeks and they are hardly soiled. I had her try yours on for me and she looked really smart. I wish I was there to put them on for you the first time, as no doubt other hands will come into contact with them before I have a chance to see you again. When you take them off, remember to blow in them before putting them away as they will naturally be a little damp from wearing. Just think how many times I will kiss them during the coming year. I hope you will wear them for me Friday night. All my love.

Soy Beans

Going through his wife's bedroom drawers, a farmer discovered three soy beans and an envelope containing 30 dollars in cash. He confronted his wife, who promptly confessed. Darling, over the years I haven't been completely faithful to you. But when I fool around, I put a soy bean in the drawer to remind me of my indiscretion." The farmer admitted that he hadn't always been faithful either and, therefore, was inclined to forgive her. "Where did the 30 dollars come from?" he asked. "Oh that," his wife replied. "When soy beans hit 10 dollars a bushel, I sold out."

Sex Before Marriage

Two clergymen were discussing the present sorry state of sexual morality. "I didn't sleep with my wife before we were married," one clergyman said self-righteously. "Did you?" "I'm not sure," said the other, "what was her maiden name?"



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Like Father, Like Son

Three gentlemen are golfing one day. They come to a difficult par with a water trap just after the tee. The first golfer hits his ball right into the water. To retrieve it, he approaches the water and extends his golf club. The water parts, he takes his next shot and it lands on the green. The second golfer hits his ball toward the water, but rather than sink, the ball floats on top of the water. The golfer walks across the water and hits the ball onto the green. The third golfer hits the ball directly into the water, where it quickly starts to sink. As the ball sinks, a fish grabs the ball in its mouth. At that very moment, a hawk plucks the fish out of the water and begins to carry it aloft. As the bird soars higher, a bolt of lightning startles the bird, which then drops the fish into a nearby tree. When the fish hits a branch of the tree, the ball pops out, rolls down across the green and right into the hole. Moses turns to Jesus and says, "You know, I hate golfing with your Father."

Street Light

Late at night, a drunk was on his knees beneath a street-light, evidently looking for something. A passer-by, being a Good Samaritan, offered to help. "What is it you have lost?" he asked. "My watch," replied the drunk. "It fell off when I tripped over the pavement." The passer-by joined in the search but after a quarter of an hour, there was still no sign of the watch. "Where exactly did you trip?" asked the passer-by. "About half a block up the street," replied the drunk. "Then why are you looking for your watch here if you lost it half a block up the street?" The drunk said: "Because the light's a lot better here."

Caught Speeding

An elderly couple was driving cross-country, and the woman was driving. She gets pulled over by the highway patrol. The officer says, "Ma'am, did you know you were speeding?" The woman turns to her husband and asks, "What did he say?" The old man yells, "HE SAYS YOU WERE SPEEDING." The patrolman says, "May I see your license?" The woman turns to her husband and asks, "What did he say?" The old man yells, "HE WANTS TO SEE YOUR LICENSE." The woman gives him her license. The patrolman says, "I see you are from Arkansas. I spent some time there once, had the worst sex with a woman I have ever had." The woman turns to her husband and asks, "What did he say?" "HE THINKS HE KNOWS YOU," the old man yells.

Blonde Joke

A blonde was down on her luck. In order to raise some money, she decided to kidnap a kid and hold him for ransom. She went to the playground, grabbed a kid, took him behind a tree, and told him: "I've kidnapped you." She then wrote a note saying, "I've kidnapped your kid. Tomorrow morning, put \$10,000 in a paper bag and put it under the pecan tree next to the slide on the north side of the playground. Signed, A Blonde." The blonde then pinned the note to the kid's shirt and sent him home to show it to his parents. The next morning the blonde checked, and sure enough, a paper bag was sitting beneath the pecan tree. The blonde opened the bag and found the \$10,000 with a note that said, "How could you do this to a fellow blonde?"



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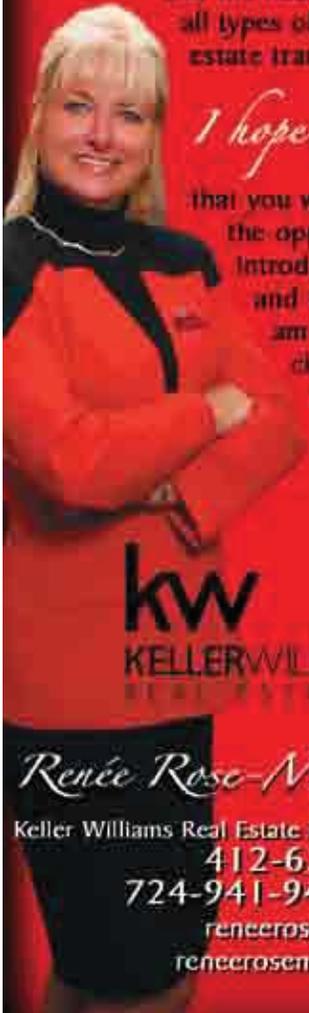
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Stuffed Toys

Harry met Sandy at a nightclub one evening, and she finally invited him back to her apartment to spend the night. Her roommate was out of town, so this was the perfect opportunity. The couple went back to her house, and after a few minutes the pair proceeded into Sandy's bedroom. When Harry walked through the door he immediately noticed all of these stuffed animals. There were hundreds of them — stuffed toys on top of the wardrobe, stuffed toys on the bookshelf and stuffed toys on the window sill. There were more on the floor, and of course, stuffed toys all over the bed. They cleared off the bed, jumped in, and went at it. Later, after the sex, Harry turned to Sandy and asked, "Well ... How was I?" Sandy replied, "Well, you can pick anything from the bottom shelf."

Inflatable Dolls

Two elderly gentlemen, who had been without sex for several years, decided that they needed to visit a cat-house for some tail. When they arrived, the madam took one look at them and decided she wasn't going to waste any of her girls on these two old men. So she used "blow-up" dolls instead. She put the dolls in each man's room and left them to their business. After the two men were finished, they started for home and got to talking. The first man said, "I think the girl I had was dead. She never moved, talked or even groaned. How was it for you?" The second old man replied, "I think mine was a witch." The first man asked, "How's that?" "Well," said the second man, "when I nibbled on her breast, she farted and flew out the window!"

School Play

One afternoon, Christopher's father picked him up early from school to take Chris to a dental appointment. Knowing that the parts for the school play were supposed to be posted today, the father asked his son if he had gotten a part. Christopher enthusiastically announced that indeed he had gotten a part. Chris proudly exclaimed, "I play a man who's been married for 20 years." "That's great, son. Keep up the good work, and before you know it, they'll be giving you a speaking part."

Farmer's Last Will and Testament

I Leave:
To my wife: My overdraft at the bank. Maybe she can explain it.

To my son: Equity on my car. Now he will have to go to work to meet the payments.
To my banker: My soul. He has the mortgage on it anyway.
To my neighbor: My clown suit. He will need it if he continues to farm as he has in the past.
To the farm credit corporation: My unpaid bills. They took some real chances on me. I want to do something for them.
To the junk man: All my machinery. He's had his eyes on it for years.
To my undertaker: A special request. I want six implement dealers and six fertilizer dealers for pallbearers. They are used to carrying me.
To the weatherman: Rain, hail and snow for the funeral please. No sense in having good weather now.
To the grave digger: Don't bother. The hole I'm in now should be big enough.
And lastly
To the monument maker: Set up a jig for the epitaph. "Here lies a farmer who has now properly assumed all of his obligations."

Holy Advice

A businessman was in a great deal of trouble. His business was failing, he had put everything he had into the business, he owed everybody— it was so bad he was even contemplating suicide. As a last resort he went to a priest and poured out his story of tears and woe. When he had finished, the priest said, "Here's what I want you to do: Put a beach chair and your Bible in your car and drive down to the beach. Take the beach chair and the Bible to the water's edge, sit down in the beach chair, and put the Bible in your lap. Open the Bible; the wind will rifle the pages, but finally the open Bible will come to rest on a page. Look down at the page and read the first thing you see. That will be your answer that will tell you what to do." A year later the businessman went back to the priest and brought his wife and children with him. The man was in a new custom-tailored suit, his wife in a mink coat, the children shining. The businessman pulled an envelope stuffed with money out of his pocket, gave it to the priest as a donation in thanks for his advice. The priest recognized the benefactor, and was curious. "You did as I suggested?" he asked. "Absolutely," replied the businessman. "You went to the beach?" "Absolutely." "You sat in a beach chair with the Bible in your lap?" "Absolutely." "You let the pages rifle until they stopped?" "Absolutely." "And what were the first words you saw?" "Chapter 11."





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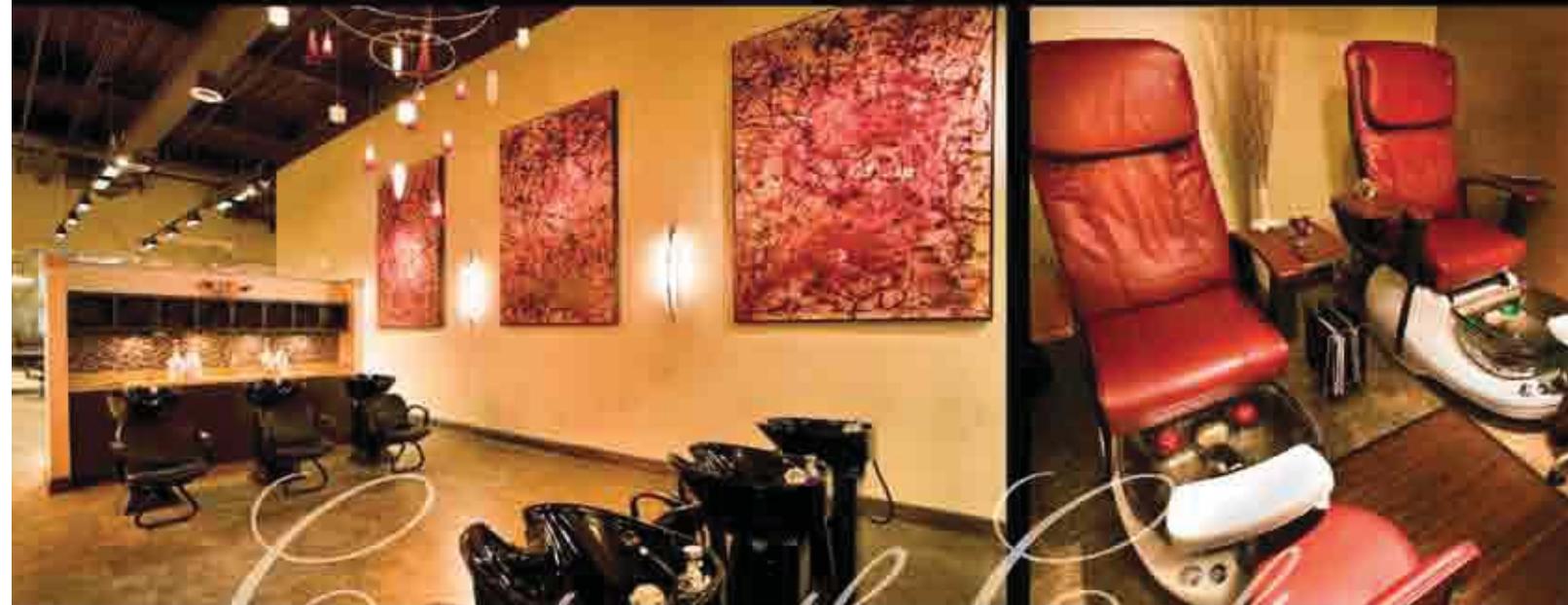
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10 Reasons to Ask for a Raise

You take your paycheck to the bank and the teller bursts out in hysterical laughter.

- The Red Cross calls and offers you emergency assistance.
- Your only charge cards are for the Salvation Army, ARC, and DAV thrift stores.
- You work full time and you still qualify for food stamps.
- You empty out your piggy bank and then cook the bank and serve it for your Easter ham.
- All you can think about morning, noon and night is clipping grocery coupons.
- You file your income taxes and the IRS returns them stamped, "Charity Case — Return To Sender."
- You set the world record for mailing \$1.00 rebate requests.
- You pay all your bills, put your remaining \$1 bill into your billfold and it goes into shock.
- You get arrested for taking the coins out of the fountain in the mall.

400 Bricks

Put 400 bricks in a closed room. Put your new hires in the room and close the door. Leave them alone and come back after 6 hours. Then analyze the situation:

- If they are counting the bricks, put them in the Accounting Department.
- If they are recounting them, put them in Auditing.
- If they have messed up the whole place with the bricks, put them in Engineering.
- If they are arranging the bricks in some strange order, put them in Planning.
- If they are throwing the bricks at each other, put them in Operations.
- If they are sleeping, put them in Security.
- If they have broken the bricks into pieces, put them in Information Technology.
- If they are sitting idle, put them in Human Resources.
- If they say they have tried different combinations, they are looking for more, yet not a brick has been moved, put them in Sales.
- If they have already left for the day, put them in Marketing.
- If they are staring out of the window, put them in Strategic Planning.
- If they are talking to each other, and

not a single brick has been moved, congratulate them and put them in top management.

- Finally! If they have surrounded themselves with bricks in such a way that they can neither be seen nor hear what you say to them. Put them in Congress!

Hard Work

Rossi was the manager of an upscale men's wear store in a wealthy section of town and was interviewing Abe for the recently advertised salesman role. Rossi looks at Abe's resume and notices that Abe has never worked in retail before. Rossi says to Abe, "Wow... for someone with no retail experience, you are certainly asking for a high salary." "Well I suppose I am," Abe replies, "but you must understand that the work is so much harder when you don't know what you're doing."

2 Times 2

Several scientists were all posed the following question: "What is 2 x 2?" The engineer whips out his slide rule (so it's old) and shuffles it back and forth, and finally announces "3.99". The physicist consults his technical references, sets up the problem on his computer, and announces "it lies between 3.98 and 4.02". The mathematician cogitates for a while, then announces: "I don't know what the answer is, but I can tell you, an answer exists!". Philosopher smiles: "But what do you mean by 2 x 2?" Logician replies: "Please define 2 x 2 more precisely." The sociologist: "I don't know, but it was nice talking about it". Behavioral Ecologist: "A polygamous mating system". Medical Student: "4" All others looking astonished: "How did you know?" Medical Student: "I memorized it."

Best "Out of Office" Automatic e-mail Replies

- I am currently out at a job interview and will reply to you if I fail to get the position. Be prepared for my mood.
- You are receiving this automatic notification because I am out of the office. If I was in, chances are you wouldn't have received anything at all.
- Sorry to have missed you, but I am at the doctor's having my brain and heart removed so I can be promoted

- to our management team.
- I will be unable to delete all the unread, worthless emails you send me until I return from vacation. Please be patient and your mail will be deleted in the order it was received.
- Thank you for your email. Your credit card has been charged \$5.99 for the first 10 words and \$1.99 for each additional word in your message.
- The e-mail server is unable to verify your server connection and is unable to deliver this message. Please restart your computer and try sending again. (The beauty of this is that when you return, you can see how many in-duh-viduals did this over and over.)
- Thank you for your message, which has been added to a queuing system. You are currently in 352nd place, and can expect to receive a reply in approximately 19 weeks.
- Hi, I'm thinking about what you've just sent me. Please wait by your PC for my response.
- I've run away to join a different circus.
- I will be out of the office for the next 2 weeks for medical reasons. When I return, please refer to me as 'Loretta' instead of 'Bob'

New Task Codes (part 1)

Dear Valued Staff Member
It has come to our attention recently that many of you have been turning in time sheets that specify large amounts of

Miscellaneous Unproductive Time (Code 5309). To our department, unproductive time is not a problem.

What is a problem, however, is not knowing exactly what you are doing with your unproductive time. The newly installed Activity Based Costing Financial System requires additional information to achieve its goals. Attached below is a sheet specifying a tentative extended job code list based on our observation of employee activities. The list will allow you to specify with better precision what you are doing during your unproductive time. Please begin using this job code list immediately and let us know about any difficulties you may encounter.

Many Thanks
Finance Dept.

Extended Task Code List
Explanation:

- 5000 Surfing the Net.
- 5001 Read/Writing social E-Mail
- 5002 Sharing social E-Mail (see codes #5003, #504)
- 5003 Collecting jokes and other humorous material via E-Mail
- 5004 Forwarding jokes and other humorous materials via E-Mail
- 5005 Faxing jokes and other humorous material to friends not on E-Mail
- 5316 Meeting
- 5317 Obstructing communications at meeting
- 5318 Trying to sound knowledgeable while in meeting
- New Task Codes (part 2)
- New activity task codes continued...

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- 5319 Waiting for break
- 5320 Waiting for lunch
- 5321 Waiting for end of day
- 5322 Vicious verbal attacks directed at co-worker
- 5323 Vicious verbal attacks directed at co-worker while co-worker is not present
- 5393 Covering for incompetence of co-worker friend
- 5400 Trying to explain concept to co-worker who is stupid
- 5401 Trying to explain concept to co-worker who is not interested in learning
- 5402 Trying to explain concept to co-worker who hates me
- 5481 Buying snack
- 5482 Eating snack
- 5500 Filling out time sheet
- 5501 Inventing time sheet entries
- 5502 Waiting for something to happen
- 5503 Scratching oneself
- 5504 Sleeping
- 5505 Feeling bored
- 5600 Bitching about lousy job (see code #5610)
- 5601 Bitching about low pay (see code #5610)
- 5602 Bitching about long hours (see code #5610)
- 5603 Bitching about Boss (see code #5610)
- 5604 Bitching about co-worker (see codes #5322, #5323)
- 5605 Bitching about personal problems
- New Task Codes (part 3)
- New activity task codes continued...
- 5610 Searching for new job
- 5640 Miscellaneous unproductive bitching
- 5701 Not actually present at job
- 5702 Suffering from eight hour flu
- 6102 Ordering out
- 6103 Waiting for food delivery to arrive
- 6104 Taking it easy while digesting food
- 6200 Using company resources for personal profit
- 6201 Stealing company goods
- 6202 Making excuses after accidentally destroying company goods
- 6203 Using company phone to make long distance personal calls
- 6206 Gossiping
- 6207 Planning a social event
- 6210 Feeling sorry for myself
- 6221 Pretending to work while boss is watching
- 6222 Pretending to enjoy my job
- 6223 Pretending I like my co-workers
- 6224 Pretending I like important people when in reality they're jerks
- 6238 Miscellaneous unproductive fantasizing
- 6601 Running my own business on company time

- 6602 Complaining
- 6603 Writing a book on company time
- 6604 Planning a holiday on company time
- 6611 Staring into space
- 6612 Staring at computer screen
- 6613 Transcendental meditation
- 7281 Extended trip to bathroom (at least 10 Min.)
- 7400 Talking with divorce lawyer on phone
- 7401 Talking with plumber on phone
- 7402 Talking with dentist on phone
- 7403 Talking with doctor on phone
- 7404 Talking with masseuse on phone
- 7405 Talking with house painter on phone
- 7406 Talking with personal therapist on phone
- 7407 Talking with miscellaneous paid professional on phone
- 7408 Talking with mistress/toy boy on phone (see code #7400)
- 7931 asking co-worker to aid in an illicit activity
- 8000 Recreational drug use

Working for the Federal Government

You know you work for the federal government when...

The process becomes more important than the product.

- You don't see anything wrong with attending a meeting on a subject you know nothing about.
- You feel you contributed to the meeting just by being there.
- You stop raising issues/problems because you know you will be the one answering them.
- You fly first class across the country to attend a conference with 100+ people to discuss the fact that the project does not have enough money.
- You work for an acronym, on an acronym, and your job title is an acronym.
- You understand the rationalization of an acronym composed of acronyms.
- You know that the location of a meeting is directly related to its importance.
- You've sat at the same desk for 3 years, done the same thing for 3 years, but have had 3 different business cards.

Things to Ponder

- A gross ignoramus-144 times worse than an ordinary ignoramus.
- A photographic memory but with the lens cover glued on.
- A prime candidate for natural de-selection.
- Bright as Alaska in December.
- One-celled organisms out score him in IQ tests.
- Donated his brain to science before he was done using it.
- Fell out of the family tree.
- Gates are down, the lights are flashing, but the train is going nowhere.
- Has two brains, one is lost and the other is out looking for it.
- He is so dense, light bends around him.

- If brains were taxed, he'd get a rebate.
- If he were any more stupid, he'd have to be watered twice a week.
- If you give him a penny for his thoughts, you'd get change.
- If you stand close enough to him, you can hear the ocean.
- It is hard to believe that he beat out 1,000,000 other sperm.
- One neuron short of a synapse.
- Some drink from the fountain of knowledge, he only gargled.
- Takes him 1 1/2 hours to watch the 60 minutes program.
- Was left on the Tilt-A-Whirl a bit too long as a baby.
- Wheel is turning, but the hamster is dead.

Funny Work Evaluations (part 1)

Works well only when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap.

- His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of morbid curiosity.
- I would not allow this employee to breed.
- This employee is really not so much of a has-been but more of a definite won't be.
- Since my last report, he has reached rock bottom and has started to dig.
- When she opens her mouth, it seems that this is only to change whichever foot was previously in there.
- He would be out of his depth in a parking lot puddle.
- This young lady has delusions of adequacy.
- She sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them.
- This employee should go far-and the sooner he starts the better.
- This employee is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.
- Not the sharpest knife in the drawer.
- Got into the gene pool while the lifeguard wasn't watching.
- A room temperature IQ.
- Got a full 6-pack, but lacks the plastic thingy to hold it all together.

Having a Baby

A man calls his boss and says, "I have to take a day off work, because my wife and I are having a baby." "Oh, ok." The next day the man comes to work and his boss says, "Is it a boy or a girl?" The man says, "I dunno, I'll tell you in 9 months."

Chapter 11

The job notice posted at the Memphis State University placement office advertised for someone to set up a bookkeeping system for a local dinner theater that was filing for bankruptcy. When an eager first-year accounting student inquired, the interviewer told him that the company needed an advanced student capable of handling Chapter 11 proceedings. "I'm sure I could do it," the student proclaimed confidently. "My class is already up to chapter fourteen."

Why Girls Are Like Finals

- You'd rather get an easy one.
- You get in a lot of trouble if you get caught cheating on one.
- If you are drunk when you do one, it takes a lot longer to finish.

- The less they have on them the better.
- If you have more than one scheduled at the same time, you have a problem.
- Nothing about them makes any sense.
- They just lie there and you have to do all the work.
- When you are done you get up and leave.
- Good curves make for a more enjoyable experience.

Career Change

A gynecologist had a burning desire to change careers and become a mechanic. So he found out from his local tech college what was involved, signed up for evening classes and attended diligently, learning all he could. When time for the practical exam approached, he prepared carefully for weeks, and completed the exam with tremendous skill. When the results came back, he was surprised to find that he had obtained a mark of 150%. Fearing an error, he called the instructor, saying, "I don't want to appear ungrateful for such an outstanding result, but I wondered if there had been an error which needed adjusting." The instructor said, "During the exam, you took the engine apart perfectly, which was worth 50% of the total mark. You put the engine back together again perfectly, which is also worth 50% of the mark. I gave you an extra 50% because you did all of it THROUGH the muffler..."



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Doctor's Visit

An older couple, both 67, went to a sex therapist's office. The doctor asked, "What can I do for you?" The man said, "Will you watch us have sexual intercourse?" The doctor looked puzzled, but agreed. The doctor examined them and then directed them to disrobe and go at it. When the couple finished, the doctor reexamined them and, upon completion, advised the couple, "There's nothing wrong with the way you have intercourse." He then charged them \$32. This happened several weeks in a row. The couple would make an appointment, have intercourse with no apparent problems other than the lack of vigor which is to be expected in 67 year olds, get dressed, pay the doctor, and then leave. Finally after almost two months of this routine, the doctor asked, "Just exactly what are you trying to find out?" The old man said, "Oh, we're not trying to find out anything. She's married and we can't go to her house. I'm married, so we can't go to my house. The Holiday Inn charges \$60. The Hilton charges \$78. We do it here for \$32 and I get \$28 back from Medicare."

Reasons it's Great Being a Guy (part 1)

Your butt is never a factor in a job interview.
Your orgasms are real. Always.
Your last name stays put.
The garage is all yours.
Nobody secretly wonders if you swallow.
Wedding plans take care of themselves.
You don't have to curl up next to a hairy butt every night.
Chocolate is just another snack.
You can be president.
You can wear a white shirt to a water park.
Foreplay is optional.
Reasons it's Great Being a Guy (part 2)
Car mechanics tell you the truth. You don't give a rat's ass if someone notices your new haircut. The world is your urinal.
Hot wax never comes near your pubic area. You never have to drive to another gas station because this one's just too icky. Same work... more pay. Wrinkles add character. You don't have to leave the room to make emergency crotch adjustments. Wedding Dress \$2000; Tux rental \$100. 'Enough said...If you retain water, it's in a canteen. People never glance at your chest when you're talking to them. Princess Di's death was just another obituary. The occasional well-rendered belch is practically expected. New shoes don't cut, blister, or irreparably mangle your feet. Porn movies are designed with you in mind. Your pals can be trusted never to trap you with: "So, notice anything different?"

The Graveyard

Three rednecks, Bubba, Earl and Jeb, were stumbling home late one night and found themselves on the road that led past the old graveyard. "Come have a look over here", says Bubba, "It's Zeb Jones' grave, God bless his soul, he lived to the ripe old age of 87." "That's nothing", says Earl, "here's one named Butch Smith. It says here that he was 95 when he died." Just then, Jeb yells out, "But here's a fella that died when he was 145 years old!" "What was his name?" asks Bubba. Jeb lights a match to see what else is written on the stone marker, and exclaims, "Miles, from Georgia."

Birds and the Bees

A father asked his 10 year old son if he knew about the birds and the bees. "I don't want to know!" the child said, bursting into tears. "Promise me you won't tell me." Confused, the father asked what was wrong. "Oh dad," the boy sobbed, "when I was 6 - I got the there's no Santa speech". At 7, - I got the there's no Easter Bunny speech. When I was 8, you hit me with the there's no Tooth Fairy speech. If you tell me that grown-ups don't really have sex, I'll have nothing left to live for."

College Graduate

A young man hired by a supermarket reported for his first day of work. The manager greeted him with a warm handshake and a smile, gave him a broom and said, "Your first job will be to sweep out the store." "But I'm a college graduate!!" the young man replied indignantly. "Oh, I'm sorry about the misunderstanding," said the manager. "Here, give me the broom - I'll show you how."

Raw Materials

In school one day the teacher decided in science class she would teach about materials. So she stood in the front of the class and said, "Children, if you could have one raw material in the world what would it be?" Little Richie raised his hand and said "I would want gold; because gold is worth a lot of money and I could buy a Porsche." The teacher nodded and called on little Susie Marie. Little Susie said "I would want platinum because platinum is worth more than gold and I could buy a Corvette." The teacher smiled and then called on Little Johnny. Little Johnny stood up and said, "I would want silicone." The teacher said, "Why Johnny?" He responded by saying, "Because my mom has two bags of it and you should see all the sports cars outside our house!!"

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Whale Lesson

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. "Whales can't swallow people," the teacher said. "Even though they are large mammals, their throats are very small." "But Jonah was swallowed by a whale," the little girl replied. "That just can't be," the teacher said. "It's physically impossible." "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah," said the little girl. The teacher looked down at her, smiled and asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?" The little girl replied, "Then you ask him."

How Golf is Like Urinating

1. Keep your back straight, knees bent, and feet shoulder-width apart.
2. Form a loose grip.
3. Keep your head down.
4. Avoid a quick backswing.
5. Stay out of the water.
6. Try not to hit anybody.
7. If you are taking too long, you should let others go ahead of you.
8. You shouldn't stand directly in front of others.
9. Be quiet while others are about to go.
10. Keep strokes to a minimum.

Studying vs Sex

The top 10 reasons why studying is better than sex:

10. You can usually find someone to do it with.
9. If you get tired, you can stop, save your place and pick up where you left off.
8. You can finish early without feelings of guilt or shame.
7. When you open a book, you don't have to worry about who else has opened it.
6. A little coffee and you can do it all night.
5. If you don't finish a chapter you won't gain a reputation as a "book teaser."
4. You can do it, eat and watch T.V. all at the same time.
3. You don't get embarrassed if your parents interrupt you in the middle.
2. You don't have to put your beer down to do it.
1. If you aren't sure what you're doing, you can always ask your roommate for help.

Two Reasons

Early one morning, a mother went in to wake up her son. "Wake up, It's time to go to school!" "But why, Mom? I don't want to go." "Give me two reasons why you don't want to go." "Well, the kids hate me for one, and the teachers hate me, too!" "Oh, that's no reason not to go to school. Come on now and get ready." "Give me two reasons why I should go to school." "Well, for one, you're 52 years old. And for another, you're the Principal!"



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Out of College

You know you've been out of college too long when...

- Your potted plants stay alive.
- You keep more food than beer in the fridge.
- 6:00 AM is when you get up, not when you go to sleep.
- You hear your favorite song on the elevator at work.
- You carry an umbrella.
- You watch the Weather Channel.
- Your friends marry and divorce instead of hook up and break up.
- You go from 130 days of vacation time to 14.
- Jeans and a sweater no longer qualify as "dressed up."
- You're the one calling the police because those damn kids next door don't know how to turn down the stereo.
- Older relatives feel comfortable telling sex jokes around you.
- You don't know what time Taco Bell closes anymore.
- Your car insurance goes down and your car payments go up.

Out of College (part 2)

- You know you've been out of college too long when...
- You feed your dog Science Diet instead of McDonald's.
- Sleeping on the couch is a no-no.
- You no longer take naps from noon to 6:00 PM.
- Dinner and a movie - the whole date instead of the beginning of one.
- MTV News is no longer your primary source of information.

- You go to the drugstore for ibuprofen and antacids, not condoms and pregnancy test kits.
- A \$4.00 bottle of wine is no longer "pretty good stuff."
- You actually eat breakfast foods at breakfast time.
- Grocery lists are longer than Macaroni & Cheese, Diet Pepsi, and Ho-Hos.
- "I just can't drink the way I used to" replaces "I'm never going to drink that much again."
- Over 90% of the time you spend in front of a computer is for real work.
- You don't get liquored up at home to save money before going to a bar.

Fascinate

The teacher wants her students to make a sentence with the word 'fascinate'. The first little girl raises her hand and says, 'My family and I went to the zoo and I found it fascinating.' That's very good but I want the word fascinate.' Another one says, 'My father and I went to the movies and I was fascinated.' That's also very good but I want the word fascinate.' Little Johnny raises his hand but the teacher hesitates because he has a foul mouth and usually says nasty things but she figures he can't very well mess up this word. 'Go ahead Johnny', she says. Johnny says, 'My sister has a sweater with ten buttons but her boobs are so big she can only fasten 8.'



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The Barometer Question

Story of a Physics student who got the following question in an exam: "You are given an accurate barometer, how would you use it to determine the height of a skyscraper?" He answered: "Go to the top floor, tie a long piece of string to the barometer, let it down 'till it touches the ground and measure the length of the string". The examiner wasn't satisfied, so they decided to interview the guy: "Can you give us another method, one which demonstrates your knowledge of Physics?" "Sure, go to the top floor, drop the barometer off, and measure how long before it hits the ground....." "Not, quite what we wanted, care to try again?" "Make a pendulum of the barometer, measure its period at the bottom, then measure its period at the top....." "..Another try ?...." "Measure the length of the barometer, then mount it vertically on the ground on a sunny day and measure its shadow, measure the shadow of the skyscraper....." "....and again?...." "walk up the stairs and use the barometer as a ruler to measure the height of the walls in the stairwells." "...One more try?" "Find where the janitor lives, knock on his door and say 'Please, Mr. Janitor, if I give you this nice Barometer, will you tell me the height of this building ?"

Reasons to Allow Drinking at Work

1. It's an incentive to show up.
2. It reduces stress.
3. It leads to more honest communication.
4. It reduces complaints about low pay.
5. It cuts down on time off because you can work with a hangover.
6. Employees tell management what they think, not what management wants to hear.
7. It helps save on heating costs in the winter.
8. It encourages carpooling.
9. It increases job satisfaction because if you have a bad job, you don't realize it.
10. It eliminates vacations because people would rather come to work.
11. It makes fellow employees look better.
12. It makes conversations easier.
13. It promotes honesty.
14. It makes the cafeteria food taste better.
15. Bosses are more likely to hand out raises when they are wasted.
16. Salary negotiations are a lot more profitable.
17. Suddenly, farting during a meeting isn't so embarrassing.

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Blond Cowboy

The sheriff of a small town walked out into the street and saw a blond cowboy coming down the walk with nothing on but his cowboy hat, gun and boots. The sheriff arrests him for indecent exposure. As he is locking him up, he asks, "Why in the world are you dressed like this?" The cowboy says, "Well it's like this Sheriff... I was in the bar down the road and this pretty little redhead asked me to go out to her motor home with her... and I did. We went inside and she pulled off her top and asked me to pull off my shirt. so I did... Then she pulls off her skirt and asks me to pull off my pants so I did... Then she pulls off her panties and asks me to pull off my shorts, so I did... Then she gets on the bed and looks at me kind of funny and says, 'Now go to town cowboy... ' So here I am."

Fred and Harry

Two friends, Fred and Harry were golfing one fine day. Toward the end of the golf course, Fred hit his ball into the woods. Harry, laughed and poked fun, but then somehow managed to hit his ball into the woods, just a few yards beyond where Fred hit his. Fred looked for a long time, getting angrier every minute. Finally, in a patch of pretty yellow buttercups, he found his ball. Instead of just continuing the game, he took his club and thrashed every single buttercup in that patch smashing the weeds to pieces. All of a sudden, in a flash and puff of smoke, a little old woman appeared. She said, "I'm Mother Nature! Do you know how long it took me to make those buttercups?! Just for that, you won't have any butter for your popcorn the rest of your life... better still; you won't have any butter for your toast for the rest of your life..... as a matter of fact, you won't have any butter for anything the rest of your life!" Then POOF!...she was gone. After Fred got a hold of himself, he hollered for his friend, "Harry!....Harry!...where are you?" Harry yells, "I hit my ball in these damn pussy willows!" Fred screams back....."DON'T SWING! FOR GOD'S SAKE, DON'T SWING!

Government Worker's Three Wishes

One day a government worker was digging through his office drawers when suddenly he came upon a magic lamp. Since he'd heard these jokes before, he knew that he had to rub the lamp and make the genie come out. So he rubbed the lamp and out popped a genie. The genie asked, as genies will, "What is your first wish?" The government worker thought about it for a second, and then replied, "I would like to be rich!" So the genie granted him his wish, and poof the man was surrounded by piles of money rivaling the heaps of even Martha Stewart and Bill Gates. Since the government worker knew the whole wish process, the genie didn't even have to ask for number two before he said, "My second wish is to be on an island with beautiful women surrounding me and obeying my every command!" And poof, he was there. Then the government worker decided on his third wish, "I don't want to do any work ever again!" and poof — ubiquitous ironic twist — he was back in his office.

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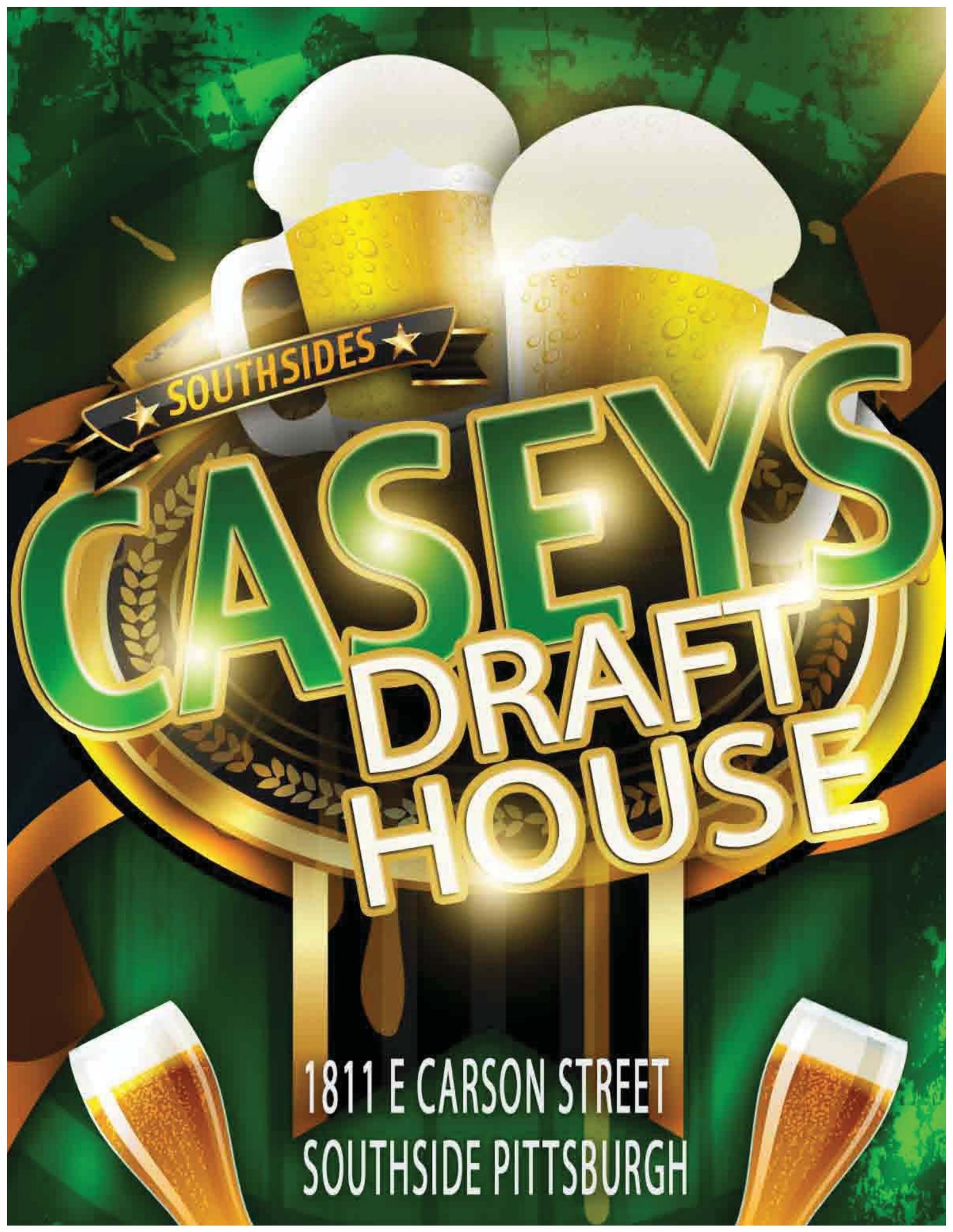
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