

FRACTURED FAIRY TALES

PART THREE

This is one of an occasional series of selections from my collection of interesting and useful quotations — alternate title, *Oxbridge Dictionary of Misplaced Quotes* — and as such is an exercise in even-more-than-usual egotism. It is published by Jeffrey Copeland for the Southern Fandom Press Alliance and selected others on 1 June 2002 at Bywater Press, 3243 165th Ave, SE, Bellevue, Washington.

This chapbook exists because of conversation in SFPA about the boxed quotes that I use there for filler material. Surprise was expressed over the length of this collection, even though I've been gathering these from disparate sources for at least fifteen years. Indeed, it's possible to track the growth of this collection in time by noticing the release dates of movies and books that are quoted — though occasionally that just yields an observation about how behind the times I am on my current entertainment. That inspired me to devote a column in *Server/Workstation Expert* to the indexing and formatting of these as a stand-alone publication. After that, it only seemed fair to use the quotations themselves as interesting fodder for a zine. Notations appear below quotations that have been seen in SFPA, LASFAPA, or *Server/Workstation Expert*.



Today's Date: December 1, 1998

(10 weeks, 4 days; ~38 weeks gestational age)

I hope you each had a peaceful Thanksgiving, surrounded by the people that matter the most to you. (And if they couldn't be with you, remember they really would have liked to have been. It's true!) Despite the agonies of having a child in the NICU, I am still a thankful man, humbled by the mystery of life realized in the very small body and extra-large spirit of my child.

— Jason Zions, in one of his periodic reports on the health of his prematurely-born daughter Rebecca

Today's Date: December 3, 1998

(10 weeks, 6 days; ~38 weeks gestational age)

... Nothing profound to add today, just profound thanks for another day.

— Jason Zions, in one of his periodic reports on the health of his prematurely-born daughter Rebecca

I love money. I love money more than I love the things it can buy. Does that surprise you? Money: it don't care whether I'm good or not; it don't care whether I snore or not; it don't care which god I pray to.

There are only three things in this world with that kind of unconditional acceptance: dogs, donuts and money. Only money is better. You know why? Because it don't make you fat and it don't poop all over the living room floor. There's only one thing I like better: other people's money.

— trailer for the movie *Other People's Money*

“You have a deeper love of this country than any man I've ever known. And I want to know what it says to you that in the past seven weeks, 59% of Americans have begun to question your patriotism.”

“Look, if the people want to listen to—”

“They don't have a choice! Bob Rumson is the only one doing the talking! People want leadership, Mr. President, and in the absence of genuine leadership, they'll listen to anyone who steps up to the microphone. They want leadership. They're so thirsty for it they'll crawl through the desert toward a mirage, and when they discover there's no water, they'll drink the sand.”

“Lewis, we've had presidents who were beloved, who couldn't find a coherent sentence with two hands and a flashlight. People don't drink the sand because they're thirsty. They drink the sand because they don't know the difference.”

— Andrew Shepard and Lewis Rothschild in *The American President*

For the last couple of months, Senator Rumson has suggested that being president of this country was, to a certain extent, about character, and although I've not been willing to engage in his attacks on me, I've been here three years and three days, and I can tell you without hesitation, being president of this country is entirely about character.

For the record: Yes, I am a card-carrying member of the ACLU, but the more important question is, why aren't you, Bob? Now this is an organization whose sole purpose is to defend the Bill of Rights, so it naturally begs the question why would a senator, his party's most powerful spokesman, and a candidate for president, choose to reject upholding the Constitution. Now, if you can answer that question, folks, then you're smarter than I am, because I didn't understand it until a few hours ago.

America isn't easy. America is advanced citizenship. You got to want it bad, because it's going to put up a fight. It's going to say, "You want free speech? Let's see you acknowledge a man whose words make your blood boil and who's standing center stage and advocating at the top of his lungs that which you spend a lifetime opposing at the top of yours. You want to claim this is the land of the free? Then the symbol of your country cannot just be a flag, the symbol also has to be one of its citizens exercising his right to burn that flag in protest." Now show me that, defend that, celebrate that in your classrooms. Then you can stand up and sing about the land of the free.

I've known Bob Rumson for years, and I've been operating under the assumption that the reason Bob devotes so much time and energy to shouting at the rain was that he simply didn't get it. Well, I was wrong. Bob's problem isn't that he doesn't get it, Bob's problem is that he can't sell it.

We have serious problems to solve, and we need serious people to solve them, and whatever your particular problem is, I promise you, Bob Rumson is not the least bit interested in solving it. He is interested in two things, and two things only: making you afraid of it, and telling who's to blame for it. That, ladies and gentlemen, is how you win elections. You gather a group of middle-age, middle-class, middle-income voters who remember with longing an easier time and you talk to them about family and American values and character and you wave an old photo of the president's girlfriend and you scream about patriotism, you tell them she's to blame for their lot in life and you go on television and you call her a whore.

Sidney Ellen Wade has done nothing to you, Bob. She has done nothing but put herself through school, represent the interests of public school teachers, and lobby for the safety of our natural resources. You want a character debate, Bob, you better stick with me, because Sidney Ellen Wade is way out of your league.

I've loved two women in my life. I lost one to cancer, and I lost the other because I was so busy keeping my job that I forgot to do my job. Well that ends right now.

Tomorrow morning, the White House is sending a bill to congress for its consideration. It's White House resolution 455, an energy bill requiring a twenty percent reduction of the emission of fossil fuels over the next ten years. It is by far the most aggressive stride ever taken in the fight to reverse the effects of global warming. The other piece of legislation is the crime bill. As of today, it no longer exists. I'm throwing it out. I'm throwing it out and writing a law that makes sense. You cannot address crime prevention without getting rid of assault weapons and handguns. I consider them a threat to national security, and I will go door-to-door if I have to, but I'm going to convince Americans that I'm right and I'm going to get the guns.

We've got serious problems, and we need serious people, and if you want to talk about character, Bob, you better come at me with more than a burning flag and a membership card. If you want to

talk about character and American values, fine, just tell me where and when, and I'll show up.

This is a time for serious people, Bob, and your fifteen minutes are up. My name is Andrew Shepard, and I *am* the President.

— press conference in *The American President*

Our power knows no limits, yet we cannot find food for a starving child or a home for a refugee. Our knowledge is without measure, and we build the weapons that will destroy us. We live on the edge of ourselves, terrified of the darkness within. We have harmed, corrupted, ruined, we have made mistakes, and deceived.

— *The Tailor of Panama*, by John leCarré

The children will not leave unless I do. I shall not leave unless their father does, and the King will not leave the country in any circumstances whatever.

— Reported reply by Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, as to whether the princesses would leave England after the bombing of Buckingham Palace in 1940

He is the Napoleon of crime, Watson. He is the organizer of half that is evil and of nearly all that is undetected in this great city. He is a genius, a philosopher, an abstract thinker. He has a brain of the first order. He sits motionless, like a spider in the center of its web, but that web has a thousand radiations, and he knows well every quiver of each of them. He does little himself. He only plans. But his agents are numerous and splendidly organized.

— Sherlock Holmes in "The Final Problem"

this view certainly matches Moriarty, or Gingrich, or Bill Gates

Dear Editor:

I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says “if you see it in the *Sun* it’s so.” Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O’Hanlon
115 West 95th Street

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is number among the friends of the *Sun*:

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men’s or children’s, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is not a sign there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are these that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that’s no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby’s rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest me that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

— Frank P Church, editorial in the *New York Sun*, 21 September 1897.

He didn’t say “Jesus”, he said “Hey, Zeus.” My name is Zeus. . . . Yeah, Zeus, as in father of Apollo, Mount Olympus, don’t fuck with me or I’ll shove a lightning bolt up your ass: Zeus! You got a problem with that!?

— Samuel L Jackson in *Die Hard With a Vengeance*

Although plastic was brought into industrial use in 1909 by L H Baekeland of Yonkers, it was not until after World War II that the modern miracle substance was used in a wide variety of consumer goods, among them speedboats, dentures and flamingos. Previously flamingos were made of cement. Before that they were made by other flamingos.

— William E. Geist, *The New York Times*

pointed out by John McMullen

Why repeat all of this? Because there are great ideas developed in the history of man, and these ideas do not last unless they are passed purposely and clearly from generation to generation.

— Richard P Feynman, *The Meaning of It All*

Addison-Wesley, 1998, ISBN 0-201-36080-2, p4

You will enter the continent of Europe and, in conjunction with the other Allied nations, undertake operations aimed at the heart of Germany and the destruction of her armed forces.

— Gen Eisenhower's orders to take over supreme command, Europe

The mission of this Allied force was fulfilled at 0241 local time, May 7, 1945.

— Complete text of Gen Eisenhower's telegram to London and Washington on receiving Jödl's surrender.

Games are very educational. Scrabble teaches us vocabulary. Monopoly teaches us cash-flow management and D&D teaches us to loot the bodies.

— Steve Jackson

Be not disturbed about the future, for if you ever come to it, you will have the same reason for your guide which preserves you at present.

— Marcus Aurelius

Pope Reaffirms His Infallibility

— Headline from *The New York Times*, 12 January 1967

Wired magazine failed (for me) by adopting an extreme “design over readability” policy. Cynics have called this *Negropointillisme*: the deliberate casting of cybogush in deep purple, spiral microgothic text over a black-cloud background. . . . You can trace the reader-friendly debate back to William Morris's book designs “. . . associated with superb decoration and the highest standards of setting and presswork, on excellent paper; his books are undeniably beautiful objects, as long as one forgets their possible use.” (*The Cambridge History of the Bible*, edited by S L Greenslade, Cambridge, UK: CU Press, 1963, p 473).

— Stan Kelly-Bootle, *Unix Review* December 1998

SFFA207

I had been keen to hear what people thought politically. Those whom I had met did not talk about the subject, didn't seem to want to talk about it. It seemed me partly caution and partly a lack of interest, but strong opinions were just not stated. One storekeeper did admit to me that he had to do business with both sides and could not permit himself the luxury of an opinion. He was a graying man in a little gray store, a crossroads place where I stopped for a box of dog biscuits and a can of pipe tobacco. This man, this store, might have been anywhere in the nation, but actually it was back in Minnesota. The man had a kind of grey, wistful twinkle in his eyes, as though he remembered humor when it was not against the law, so that I dared go out on a limb. I said, "It looks then as though the natural contentiousness of people had died, but I don't believe that. It'll just take another channel. Can you think, sir, of what that channel might be?"

"You mean where will they bust out?"

"Where do they bust out?"

I was not wrong. The twinkle was there, the precious, humorous twinkle. "Well, sir," he said, "we've got a murder now and then, or we can read about them. Then we've got the World Series. You can raise a wind any time over the Pirates or the Yankees, but I guess the best of all is we've got the Russians."

"Feelings pretty strong there?"

"Oh, sure! Hardly a day goes by somebody doesn't take a belt at the Russians." For some reason he was getting a little easier, even permitted himself a chuckle that could have turned to throat-clearing if he saw a bad reaction from me.

I asked, "Anybody know any Russians around here?"

And now he went all out and laughed, "Course not. That's why they're valuable. Nobody can find fault with you if you take out after the Russians."

"Because we're not doing business with them?"

He picked up a cheese knife from the counter and carefully ran his thumb along the edge and laid the knife down. "Maybe that's it. By George, maybe that's it. We're not doing business."

"You think then we might be using the Russians as an outlet for something else, for other things."

"I didn't think that at all, sir, but I bet I'm going to. Why, I remember when people took everything out on Mr Roosevelt. Andy Larsen got red in the face about Roosevelt one time when his hens got the croup. Yes, sir," he said with growing enthusiasm, "those Russians got quite a load to carry. Man has a fight with his wife, he belts the Russians."

"Maybe everybody needs Russians. I'll bet even in Russia they need Russians. Maybe they call it Americans."

He cut a sliver of cheese from a wheel and held it out to me on the knife blade. "You've give me something to think about in a sneaking kind of way."

"I thought you gave it to me."

"How?"

"About business and opinions."

"Well, maybe so. Know what I'm going to do? Next time Andy Larsen comes in red in the face, I'm going to see if the Russians are bothering his hens. It was a great loss to Andy when Mr Roosevelt died."

Now I don't say that an awful lot of people have this man's sense of things. Maybe they don't, but maybe they do—also in their privacy or in non-business areas.

— John Steinbeck, *Travels with Charley*, 1962

Microsoft didn't want a lot of other companies writing code that could compete. It wanted to keep the barriers to entry very high. The idea, in fact, was to keep raising the bar, putting in more layers of software and APIs, which developers would then have to support. Microsoft wanted to make it so gnarly that anybody who couldn't devote a team of one hundred programmers to every Windows application would be out of the game.

— Jennifer Edstrom and Marlin Eller, *Barbarians Led By Bill Gates*

By February 1990, Eller's group was partially staffed. They were already working on their first demo, and their mission was clear: Kill GO Corp. Raikes had said as much. Squashing the competition was not a written policy, but something woven into the ethos of Microsoft. Everyone knew that the company's bread and butter came from DOS, and, eventually, they would realize it would come from Windows. The abiding rule was to kill anyone trying to take that revenue away. The number one mission of Microsoft was to not let anyone else poach on its core asset—the operating systems business. And GO was looking like a serious threat.

— Jennifer Edstrom and Marlin Eller, *Barbarians Led By Bill Gates*

On Wednesday morning, my daughter will be undergoing surgery to help her to avoid the problem which her doctors believe is causing her breathing troubles. (Phew. You may need to parse that one twice.) As a consequence, I'll be at the hospital all day and will be unavailable. Assuming all goes well, I'll be back in on Thursday and should catch up then.

There's little point in trying to reach my by cell phone, since the part of the hospital where I hang out forbids their use. Frankly, I can't imagine anything happening here that is more immediate, more short-term, and more important than my kid. :-)

— Jason Zions, in one of his periodic reports on the health of his prematurely-born daughter Rebecca, 21 Dec 98

Today's Date: December 23, 1998

(~14 weeks, one week past original due date)

When we last saw our intrepid heroine, her doctors were trying to figure out why she had trouble breathing. About a week ago, they finally decided to do a barium swallow and see what was happening in the top part of her digestive system, under the theory that she was having trouble with reflux. Sure enough,...

So, this afternoon (12/23/98), they're going to perform a Nissen Fundoplication on our poor little child. Basically, they take the very top of her stomach and the bottom of her esophagus and wrap them together; the result functions much like the u-trap under a sink, i.e. it becomes a mechanical "one-way" valve. No burping, no vomiting, no nothing; food checks in but it don't check out...

The bad news: she's too small to do the plication laparoscopically, so she'll have a spectacular set of scars. Add to it the scar from the g-tube (my cuz says it'll look kinda like a round burn, like from a cigarette) and anyone who sees this kid naked will have me arrested for child abuse. And I gotta tell you, it feels like it. Sure, when she's 30 and married she'll forgive me. When she's 13 and wanting to wear a bikini, or 16 and *really* wanting to wear one, I expect to be roundly and soundly cursed. C'est la vie.

Keep the faith, and keep putting one foot in front of the other. That's what I do.

— Jason Zions, in one of his periodic reports on the health of his prematurely-born daughter Rebecca

Traveling about, I early learned the difference between An American and The Americans. They are so far apart that they might be opposites.

— John Steinbeck, *Travels with Charley*, 1962

The subjects of [the Senate's] jurisdiction are offenses which proceed from the abuse or violation of some public trust. They are of a nature which may with peculiar propriety be denominated *political*, as they relate chiefly to injuries done immediately to the society itself. The prosecution of them, for this reason will seldom fail to agitate the passions of the whole community and to divide it into parties, more or less friendly or inimical to the accused. In many cases, it will connect itself with the pre-existing factions, and will enlist all their animosities, partialities, influence and interest on one side or on the other; and in such cases there will always be the greatest danger that the decision will be regulated more by the comparative strength of parties than by real demonstration of innocence or guilt.

— Alexander Hamilton, *The Federalist Papers*, No 65, 1788

(Interesting, as an aside, that Hamilton was killed in a duel by the Burr when Burr was Vice President, and Burr was not impeached even though he'd been indicted for murder ... because it wasn't an abuse of the public trust. In essence, it was a private crime.)

If the reader examines my work too carefully, he may discover that I'm only a journalist. This means that when it comes to knowing what I'm talking about, I'm no different than the next person; I just get paid for the talking.

— P J O'Rourke, *Eat the Rich*

p.xviii

(1) Use mathematics as a shorthand language, rather than as an engine of inquiry. (2) Keep to them until you have done. (3) Translate into English. (4) Then illustrate by examples that are important in real life. (5) Burn the mathematics.

— P J O'Rourke in *Eat the Rich*, quoting Todd G Buchholz in *New Ideas from Dead Economists*, quoting Alfred Marshall, a mathematical economist from the late nineteenth century

SFFA222

In the old days the soda pop tasted like soap, the soap lathered like toilet paper, the toilet paper could be used to sand furniture, the furniture was as comfortable as a pile of canned goods, the canned goods had the flavor of a Solzhenitsyn novel, and a Solzhenitsyn novel got you arrested if you owned one.

— P J O'Rourke, in *Eat the Rich* on Russia under Brezhnev

p.127

What are we doing here? We are reaching for the stars!

— Teacher-Astronaut Christa McAuliffe, asked about her mission on *Challenger*

I want to say again to the American people how profoundly sorry I am. . . . I believe any person who asks for forgiveness must be prepared to give it.

— President William Jefferson Clinton, 12 Feb 1999, after the end of his impeachment trial

The following bits of idiocy from Dan Quayle are from *rec.humor.funny* in the third quarter of 1991.

Why wouldn't an enhanced deterrent, a more stable peace, a better prospect to denying the ones who enter conflict in the first place to have a reduction of offensive systems and an introduction to defensive capability. I believe that is the route this country will eventually go.

— Vice President Dan Quayle

Republicans understand the importance of bondage between a mother and child.

— Vice President Dan Quayle

Mars is essentially in the same orbit. . . somewhat the same distance from the Sun, which is very important. We have seen pictures where there are canals, we believe, and water. If there is water, that means there is oxygen. If oxygen, that means we can breathe.

— Vice President Dan Quayle

Hawaii has always been a very pivotal role in the Pacific. It is *in* the Pacific. It is a part of the United States that is an island that is right here.

— Vice President Dan Quayle, Hawaii, September 1989

What a terrible thing to have lost one's mind. Or not to have a mind at all. How true that is.

— Vice President Dan Quayle, winning friends while speaking to the United Negro College Fund

You all look like happy campers to me. Happy campers you are, happy campers you have been, and, as far as I am concerned, happy campers you will always be.

— Vice President Dan Quayle, to the American Samoans, whose capital Quayle pronounces "Pogo Pogo."

Quayle stumbled in response to a question about his opinion of the Holocaust. He said it was "an obscene period in our nation's history." Then, trying to clarify his remark, Quayle said he meant "this century's history" and added a confusing comment. "We all lived in this century, I didn't live in this century," he said.

— Vice President Dan Quayle

We expect them [Salvadoran officials] to work toward the elimination of human rights.

— Vice President Dan Quayle

El Salvador is a democracy so it's not surprising that there are many voices to be heard here. Yet in my conversations with Salvadorans... I have heard a single voice.

— Vice President Dan Quayle

I believe we are on an irreversible trend toward more freedom and democracy – but that could change.

— Vice President Dan Quayle

One word sums up probably the responsibility of any vice president, and that one word is "to be prepared."

— Vice President Dan Quayle

If we do not succeed, then we run the risk of failure.

— Vice President Dan Quayle, to the Phoenix Republican Forum, March 1990

It's rural America. It's where I came from. We always refer to ourselves as real America. Rural America, real America, real, real, America.

— Vice President Dan Quayle

Target prices? How that works? I know quite a bit about farm policy. I come from Indiana, which is a farm state. Deficiency payments – which are the key – that is what gets money into the farmer’s hands. We got loan, uh, rates, we got target, uh, prices, uh, I have worked very closely with my senior colleague, (Indiana Sen.) Richard Lugar, making sure that the farmers of Indiana are taken care of.

— Vice President Dan Quayle, on being asked to define the term “target prices.” Quayle’s press secretary then cut short the press conference, after two minutes and 30 seconds.

I not going to focus on what I have done in the past what I stand for, what I articulate to the American people. The American people will judge me on what I am saying and what I have done in the last 12 years in the Congress.

— Vice President Dan Quayle

I want to be Robin to Bush’s Batman.

— Vice President Dan Quayle

SFFA217b

We should develop anti-satellite weapons because we could not have prevailed without them in *Red Storm Rising*.

— Vice President Dan Quayle

The US has a vital interest in that area of the country.

— Vice President Dan Quayle, Referring to Latin America.

Japan is an important ally of ours. Japan and the United States of the Western industrialized capacity, 60 percent of the GNP, two countries. That’s a statement in and of itself.

— Vice President Dan Quayle

Who would have predicted. . . that Dubcek, who brought the tanks in Czechoslovakia in 1968 is now being proclaimed a hero in Czechoslovakia. Unbelievable.

— Vice President Dan Quayle (Actually, Dubcek was the leader of the Prague Spring.)

May our nation continue to be the beakon of hope to the world.

— The Quayle’s 1989 Christmas card. [Not a beacon of literacy, though.]

Well, it looks as if the top part fell on the bottom part.

— Vice President Dan Quayle, referring to the collapsed section of the 880 freeway after the San Francisco earthquake of 1989. [this may be a joke; the source is unclear, but it’s still funny]

... getting [cruise missiles] more accurate so that we can have precise precision.

— Vice President Dan Quayle, referring to his legislative work dealing with cruise missiles

I can identify with steelworkers. I can identify with workers that have had a difficult time.

— Vice President Dan Quayle, addressing workers at an Ohio steel plant, 1988

[I will never have] another Jimmy Carter grain embargo, Jimmy, Jimmy Carter, Jimmy Carter grain embargo, Jimmy Carter grain embargo.

— Vice President Dan Quayle, during the Bentson debate

Certainly, I know what to do, and when I am Vice President – and I will be – there will be contingency plans under different sets of situations and I tell you what, I’m not going to go out and hold a news conference about it. I’m going to put it in a safe and keep it there! Does that answer your question?

— Vice President Dan Quayle, when asked what he would do if he assumed the Presidency, 1988

Lookit, I’ve done it their way this far and now it’s my turn. I’m my own handler. Any questions? Ask me ... There’s not going to be any more handler stories because I’m the handler ... I’m Doctor Spin.

— Vice President Dan Quayle, responding to press reports his aides having to, in effect, “potty train” him.

I would guess that there’s adequate low-income housing in this country.

— Vice President Dan Quayle

Verbosity leads to unclear, inarticulate things.

— Vice President Dan Quayle

The real question for 1988 is whether we’re going to go forward to tomorrow or past to the – to the back!

— Vice President Dan Quayle

We will invest in our people, quality education, job opportunity, family, neighborhood, and yes, a thing we call America.

— Vice President Dan Quayle, 1988

We’ll let the sun shine in and shine on us, because today we’re happy and tomorrow we’ll be even happier.

— Vice President Dan Quayle, 1988

We're going to have the best-educated American people in the world.

— Vice President Dan Quayle

This election is about who's going to be the next President of the United States!

— Vice President Dan Quayle, 1988

Don't forget about the importance of the family. It begins with the family. We're not going to redefine the family. Everybody knows the definition of the family. [Meaningful pause] A child. [Meaningful pause] A mother. [Meaningful pause] A father. There are other arrangements of the family, but that is a family and family values.

— Vice President Dan Quayle

I've been very blessed with wonderful parents and a wonderful family, and I am proud of my family. Anybody turns to their family. I have a very good family. I'm very fortunate to have a very good family. I believe very strongly in the family. It's one of the things we have in our platform, is to talk about it.

— Vice President Dan Quayle

I suppose three important things certainly come to my mind that we want to say thank you. The first would be our family. Your family, my family – which is composed of an immediate family of a wife and three children, a larger family with grandparents and aunts and uncles. We all have our family, whichever that may be . . . The very beginnings of civilization, the very beginnings of this country, goes back to the family. And time and time again, I'm often reminded, especially in this Presidential campaign, of the importance of a family, and what a family means to this country. And so when you pay thanks I suppose the first thing that would come to mind would be to thank the Lord for the family.

— Vice President Dan Quayle

Today's Date: January 27, 1998

Today's Weight: Roughly 8 lbs. 8 oz.

The Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away.

On Monday, we moved Rebecca from the NICU into the Graduate nursery.

On Tuesday, my maternal grandmother passed away.

Today, on a warm winter's day, with a chill wind blowing, we interred her remains next to those of her husband, my grandfather, who died when I was only a few months old. I never knew him, just of him. Someday, I'll try to explain to my daughter who her great grandmother was. It's not going to be easy; either there are no words, or there are too many.

So. First one foot, then the next. We keep stepping along, since there really isn't any alternative.....

It's been a long month. Sorry I haven't been writing; between two weeks of crappy health (some sort of virus), insane office workload, and spending as much time with Jennifer and Rebecca as I could, the email thing slid down the priority list. Since sending email is as much therapy for me as it is informative for you, I'll try to keep up as we move into the next phase of things.

— Jason Zions, in one of his periodic reports on the health of his prematurely-born daughter Rebecca

I think of a great quote from Mozart. A student wrote to him and asked how to write a symphony. Mozart wrote back suggesting he try a simpler musical form. Student wrote back saying, "But you were writing symphonies at my age." Mozart replied, "But nobody had to tell me how to do it."

provided by Ann Harwell on Liz's quiltart mailing list.

Everyone's sex life is a surprise. Kinsey and Pomeroy once drove from Indiana all the way into the Southwest to collect the history of a man who had kept careful records. He was a college graduate with a responsible Government job. His grandmother had taken his heterosexual virginity, his father his homosexual virginity, and he had had sex with 17 of his 33 family members. His sexual relations extended to some 200 preadolescent females, 600 preadolescent males and many species of animals. He told the two researchers that he could masturbate from flaccidity to ejaculation in ten seconds. They didn't believe him. Calmly, he demonstrated. He was 63 years old. Who knows what our neighbors do?

— Richard Rhodes, "The Age of the 30-Minute Orgasm", *Playboy*, August 1982

pointed out by John McMullen; The full *Playboy* reference is, vol. 29 no. 8, pp 130, 180-186; ; contrast with the Brendan Gill quote about sex lives

I love being a writer. What I can't stand is the paperwork.

— Peter DeVries

quoted by Dan Simmons in *Hyperion*

Americans are considered crazy anywhere in the world.

They will usually concede a basis for the accusation but point to California as the focus of the infection. Californians stoutly maintain that their bad reputation is derived solely from the acts of the inhabitants of Los Angeles County. Angelenos will, when pressed, admit the charge but explain hastily, “It’s Hollywood. It’s not our fault — we don’t ask for it; Hollywood just grew.”

The people in Hollywood don’t care; they glory in it. If you are interested, they will drive you up Laurel Canyon “— where we keep the violent cases.” The Canyonites — the brown-legged women, the trunks-clad men constantly busy building and rebuilding their slap-happy unfinished houses — regard with faint contempt the dull creatures who live down in the flats, and treasure in their hearts the secret knowledge that they, and only they, know how to live.

Lookout Mountain Avenue is the name of a side canyon which twists up from Laurel Canyon. The other Canyonites don’t like to have it mentioned; after all, one must draw the line somewhere!

— “—And He Built a Crooked House”, by Robert A Heinlein, 1940

Explicit liber Regis Quondam, graviter et laboriose scriptus inter annos MDCCCCXXXVI et MDCCCCXLII, nationibus in diro bello certantibus. Hic etiam incipit, si forte in futuro homo superstes pestilenciam possit evadere et opus continuare inceptum, spes Regis Futuri. Ora pro Thoma Malory Equite, discipuloque humili ejus, qui nunc sua sponte libros deponit ut pro specie pugnet.

Here ends the book of the Onetime King, written with much toil and effort between the years 1936 and 1942, when the nations were striving in fearful warfare. Here also begins — if perchance a man may in future time survive the pestilence and continue the task he has begun — the hope of the Future King. Pray for Thomas Malory, Knight, and his humble disciple, who now voluntarily lays aside his books to fight for his kind.

— T H White, afterword of *The Book of Merlyn*

(*The Book of Merlyn* was intended as the fifth book of *The Once and Future King*, but has been little published.)

SFFPA208

Never forget that it is a waste of energy to do something twice, and if you know exactly what is to be done, you need not do it yourself at all.

— “Doc” Smith, *The Skylark of Space*

Dog fouling of the footway is an offence. Please do not take your dog into this pedestrian area if it is likely to offend.

— Remarkably genteel sign in a British park as reported by Janice Gelb

I repeat ... that all power is a trust; that we are accountable for its exercise; that, from the people, and for the people, all springs, and all must exist.

— Benjamin Disraeli, *Vivian Grey*, 1826

Yes, I am a Jew, and when the ancestors of the right honorable gentleman were brutal savages in an unknown island, mine were priests in the temple of Solomon.

— Benjamin Disraeli, reply to a taunt by Daniel O’Connell

Man is only truly great when he acts from the passions.

— Benjamin Benjamin Disraeli, *Coningsby*, 1844

Property has its duties as well as its rights.

— Benjamin Disraeli, *Sybil*, 1845

compare with

For of those to whom much is given, much is required.

— John F Kennedy

A conservative government is an organized hypocrisy.

— Benjamin Disraeli, speech on agricultural interests, 17 March 1845

SFFA208

How much easier it is to be critical than to be correct.

— Benjamin Disraeli, speech, 24 January 1860

COLUMN5/99

Is man an ape or an angel? I, my lord, I am on the side of the angels. I repudiate with indignation and abhorrence those newfangled theories.

— Benjamin Disraeli, speech at Oxford Diocesan Conference, 25 November 1864

He was to people all over the world what a baseball player was supposed to be like. If you said to God, “Create someone who was what a baseball player should be,” God would have created Joe DiMaggio. And he did.

— Tommy Lasorda, eulogizing the Yankee Clipper

SFFA208

Regarding the Micro\$oft trial, someone who shall remain nameless said: “It’s so characteristic of them to not prepare their case meticulously, but rather ship first and try to debug in the field. . .”

— David Lesher (wb8foz@nfk.com) in rec.humor.funny, 17 Feb 1999

After Microsoft lawyers presented a doctored video taped demo at their antitrust trial, and were immediately caught out by the prosecutors.

Message-Id: <Sd90.ea0@netfunny.com>

I was on my way home last night, when I found myself behind a car with the license plate “NT GURU”.

I figured the car would just stop working with no warning, or turn blue and crash violently. I quickly passed him.

— Michael Kain in `rec.humor.funny`, 18 Feb 1999

Message-ID: <Sd91.72ee@netfunny.com>

And speaking of the substitution of the artificial for the natural, I was at Disneyland on Christmas Eve, largely to spend time with a friend who was in town and was going to The Park anyway. One of the new attractions is their high speed rocket cars (and why Warner Brothers hasn't filed a looks-and-feels suit on behalf of the Batmobile, I can't imagine), which, naturally, has an ungodly long line to get to it. I wasn't particularly whelmed by the ride, but in order to manage the line, Disney has wound the line through what used to be the cyclorama cinema-in-the-round, with models of various other Disney vehicles under blacklight, plus, in the theater itself, projected films of Ol' Walt telling us what a perfect world the future will be, once the face of the planet is covered with freeways and sliding beltways, and various other technological conveniences designed to keep you from ever having to either walk, or have nasty, social intercourse with your grubby fellow Americans ever again. With this, I was properly horror-struck, so I suppose in some sense, the thrill ride worked.

— Ulrika Anderson O'Brien, in `rec.arts.sf.fandom`, 15 Feb 1999

Message-id: <19990215122808.12567.00000022@ngol01.aol.com>

If God created us in his own image we have more than reciprocated.

— Voltaire

pointed out by John McMullen

... I do not speak (or more, precisely read) Picture, so I do not like interfaces that require me to. In fact I favor a Verbal Language Amendment, saying that machines have to tell us in words, as well as pictures, what they do. The problem is pretty much solved for computer interfaces on both sides of the Great Divide, but now we've got to get after the pictograms on things like photocopiers. I've finally used them enough that I've memorized most of the symbols by brute force, but they still don't make sense to me: I know *that* the kindergarten representation of coitus means that the power switch is on, but I can't tell why.

— Arthur D Hlavaty in `rec.arts.sf.fandom`, 17 Feb 1999

Message-ID: <7af6cg\$hbr\$2@news.panix.com>

Peter Hentges <peter_hentges@adc.com> wrote:

That, I think, sums up how most Mac users (myself included) view working with Windows.

It is the hundreds of little things that are a pain in comparison to using the Mac.

And as a Windows user, I feel the same about Mac. In my more lucid moments I realize that taking offense at these is like getting angry at the people who can't recognize a dog when they see one, so they call it a “chien.”

— Arthur D Hlavaty, in `rec.arts.sf.fandom`, 23 Feb 1999

Message-ID: <7aurjm\$71u\$3@news.panix.com>

“Voici mon secret. Il est tres simple: on ne voit bien qu’avec le coeur. L’essentiel est invisible pour les yeux,” dit le renard.

— *Le Petit Prince*, Antoine de Saint Exupery

(Here is my secret. It is very simple: one must see well with the heart. The essentials are invisible to the eyes.)

The avalanche has already started. It is too late for the pebbles to vote.

— Ambassador Kosh in *Babylon 5* episode “Believers”

[Bill] Gates sees the personal computer as a tool for transferring every stray dollar, deutsche mark and kopeck in the world into his pocket. . . Steve Jobs sees the personal computer as his tool for changing the world.

— Robert X Cringely, *Accidental Empires*

SFFA215SFFA220

I guess I’m just an actor who can’t say no. Besides, there’s nothing cooler than being a Jedi knight.

— Scottish actor Ewan McGregor on why he agreed to make the fourth and fifth *Star Wars* movies

Now, if you’re finished hosing down the decks with testosterone, I suggest you come with me: I may have found a way to get us off this planet.

— Maureen Robinson (Mimi Rogers) in *Lost in Space*

I poo-pooed the popular theory that the excesses of the Sixties had a corrupting influence. . . but I would have to admit that some of the more extreme manifestations of the Sixties may have inspired emulation by those weakest and most corruptible: the Republican Right.

— Arthur D Hlavaty

Derogatory Reference 92

SFFA215

As I find myself complaining about current political events, I am reminded of those who warned me that if I lived long enough, I would eventually become a cranky old conservative. Since that’s pretty much what happened to my musical tastes, I worried about that possibility, but now (at age 56) I doubt it.

What I have become instead is a cranky old liberal. I still believe that consenting adults should be allowed to engage in whatever sex they like as long as they do not frighten the horses (I now add, “or break the sprinkler system”). I still think that black people are as good as white people (which isn’t saying much). I’m still fanatically in favor of the First Amendment. And I still think we should feed the hungry and shelter the homeless, even if we have to get the money for it by that form of armed robbery known as taxation. After all, their lives may not have cosmic significance, but they have feelings. They can hurt.

— Arthur D Hlavaty

Derogatory Reference 92

Imagine that piano keys stand for the electromagnetic spectrum. We have one octave if we confine ourselves to the visual. You can imagine how dull Mozart would be if he had to stay in one octave.

— Robert B Leighton, explaining why infrared astronomy is interesting.

in “Other Octaves”, an oral history, *Engineering & Science*, 1998, nr 4

On the other hand, the classics have always been the means to acquire the trivium—writing, logical, and rhetorical skills. Oxford has traditionally prepared the ruling class for government service, and knowing antiquity and its literature was not nearly so important as learning to communicate with one’s future colleagues and constituents.

— Shirley Gray, on how education works at Oxbridge

in “These Ruins are *Still* Inhabited”, an article written about her husband Harry’s appointment to Oxford’s visiting Eastman Professorship, *Engineering & Science*, 1998, nr 4

I instinctively like to acquire and store up what promises to outlast me.

— Colette

Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans, born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage, and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this nation has always been committed, and to which we are committed today at home and around the world.

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

— John F Kennedy, Inaugural address

I cannot forecast to you the action of Russia. It is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.

— Winston Churchill, radio address 1 Oct 1939

You will make all kinds of mistakes; but as long as you are generous and true, and also fierce, you cannot hurt the world or even seriously distress her. She was made to be wooed and won by youth.

— Winston Churchill, *Roving Commission: My Early Life*, 1930

I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat. . . . Victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival.

— Winston Churchill, first statement as Prime Minister, House of Commons, 13 May 1940

I do not resent criticism, even when, for the sake of emphasis, it parts for the time with reality.
— Winston Churchill, House of Commons, 22 January 1941

Forgive your enemies, but never forget their names.
— John F Kennedy

SFFA219

Always forgive your enemies — nothing annoys them so much.
— Oscar Wilde

Whatever is not nailed down is mine. Whatever I can pry loose is not nailed down.
— Collis P Huntington, Railroad Magnate

SFFA209

The enemy advances, we retreat; the enemy camps, we harass; the enemy tires, we attack; the enemy retreats, we pursue.
— Mao Tse-Tung

Nothing in life is so exhilarating as to be shot at without result.
— Winston Churchill

The Malakand Field Force, 1898

There's a truism that the road to Hell is often paved with good intentions. The corollary is that evil is best known not by its motives but by its *methods*.
— Eric S Raymond

We're in a very lucky point in time as designers. The conventions aren't set, and there's so much flux. I'm enjoying a need from my clients that's much higher than it ever was in print.
— Print hack designer Roger Black, explaining why he can charge clients more for shoddy Web work than he can for good print work, *Business Week*, 12 May 1999

pointed out (and commentary) by Owen Thomas at <http://www.ditherati.com>
SFFA209

High school is closer to the core of the American experience than anything else I can think of.
— Kurt Vonnegut, Jr, in the introduction of *Our Time is Now: Notes from the High School Underground*, edited by John Birmingham

Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger; anger leads to hate; hate leads to suffering. I sense much fear in you.
— Yoda to Anakin Skywalker in *The Phantom Menace*

Hey: it's what passes for philosophy on Dagobah.
SFFA210

Let us change our traditional attitude to the construction of programs. Instead of imagining that our main task is to instruct a *computer* what to do, let us concentrate rather on explaining to *human beings* what we want a computer to do.

— Donald E Knuth, *Literate Programming*, 1984

Were an opinion a personal possession of no value except to the owner; if to be obstructed in the enjoyment of it were simply a private injury, it would make some difference whether the injury was inflicted only on a few persons or on many. But the peculiar evil of silencing the expression of an opinion is, that it is robbing the human race; posterity as well as the existing generation; those who dissent from the opinion, still more than those who hold it. If the opinion is right, they are deprived of the opportunity of exchanging error for truth: if wrong, they lose, what is almost as great a benefit, the clearer perception and livelier impression of truth, produced by its collision with error.

— John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*

They claimed to be pensioned-off teachers from the same high school in the middle west. . . . They had obviously discovered the consolations of alcohol and cynicism late in life.

— Kurt Vonnegut, Jr, *The Sirens of Titan*

There's a story around about how they tried cleaning out a few memories completely. The poor people who had that done to them couldn't walk, couldn't talk, couldn't do anything. The only thing anybody could think of to do with them was to housebreak them, teach them a basic vocabulary of a thousand words, and give them jobs in military or industrial public relations.

— Kurt Vonnegut, Jr, *The Sirens of Titan*

SFFA224

There is no reason why good cannot triumph as often as evil. The triumph of anything is a matter of organization. If there are such things as angels, I hope that they are organized along the lines of the mafia.

— Kurt Vonnegut, Jr, *The Sirens of Titan*

“It doesn't make any sense, sir. Why? Why do I deserve to go? Why not any of these guys? They all fought just as hard as me.”

“Is that what they're supposed to tell your mother when they send her another folded American flag?”

“Tell her that when you found me, I was here, and I was with the only brothers that I have left. And there was no way I was going to desert them. I think she'll understand that. There's no way I'm leaving this bridge.”

— Pvt Ryan and Capt Miller in *Saving Private Ryan*

The situation has developed not necessarily to Japan's advantage.

— Emperor Hirohito, radio address announcing surrender, 15 August 1945.

There are nine points on which a gentleman must take care: when observing, to see clearly; when listening, to hear distinctly; in his expression, to be amiable; in his attitude, to be deferential; in his speech, to be loyal; when on duty, to be respectful; when in doubt, to ask questions; when angry, to ponder the consequences; when gaining an advantage, to consider whether it is fair.

— Confucius

The odd and curious thing is this: the animated cartoons I directed are now the facts—my report cards. The varied memories of their origins are often, and perhaps rightly so, fictional.

— Chuck Jones, *Chuck Amuck*

Jones, Chuck: *Chuck Amuck*, Farrar Straus Giroux, 1989, ISBN 0-374-12348-9
SFFA217b

For me the startling, unbelievable matter is this: when I was nineteen years old, somebody offered to pay me to draw. For over fifty years and over 250 films, other somebodies have, amazingly, persisted in continuing to reward me for doing what I love to do.

— Chuck Jones, *Chuck Amuck*

SFFA226

From: “De banaan wordt bespreekbaar,” cultuurverandering in ambtelijk en politiek Groningen door Tom Pauka en Rein Zunderdorp (Nijgh en van Ditmar, 1988)

(Translated: “The banana becomes open to discussion,” cultural changes in administrative and political Groningen (city in Netherlands) by Tom Pauka and Rein Zunderdorp (Nijgh and van Ditmar, 1988))

Red-tapism:

Take a cage with apes. In the cage we hang a banana on a string, and put stairs under it. Before long an ape goes to the stairs towards the banana, but as soon as it even touches the stairs, all apes are sprayed with water. After a while the same ape or another one makes another attempt, with the same result: all apes are sprayed. If later another ape tries to climb the stairs, the others will try to prevent it.

Now we take one ape from the cage and put in a new one. The new ape sees the banana, and wants to climb the stairs. To his horror all other apes attack him. After another attempt he knows: if he wants to climb the stairs, he is beaten up. Then we remove a second ape and replace it by another new one. The newcomer goes to the stairs and gets beaten up. The previous new ape takes part in the punishment with enthusiasm.

A third old ape is replaced by a third new one. The new one makes it to the stairs and get beaten up as well. Two of the apes who beat him, have no idea why you may not climb the stairs. We replace the fourth old ape, and the fifth, etc. until all apes which ones have been sprayed with water have been replaced. Nevertheless, no ape ever tries to climb the stairs.

“But Sir, why not?” “Because that’s the way we do things here, lad.”

— wsinrb@eutrc3.UUCP (R.Bieling) in rec.humor.funny, 29
Jun 1989

Students often feel that education is something that is done to them, rather than something they are actively doing for themselves because they are not encouraged to think critically.

— Randall D Beer, *et al*, “Using Autonomous Robotics to Teach Science and Engineering”, *Communications of the ACM*, June 1999

vol 42, nr 6, pg 86, also pull quote on pg 88

Overseeing and kicking off (and designing) a system that works as well as evolution does is a nontrivial accomplishment, in fact one that could be called the work of a creative genius. As they say in business school, if you organize it right, you don't have to micromanage.

— Arthur D Hlavaty in *rec.arts.sf.fandom*, 14 Aug 1999 on Kansas' board of education making the teaching of evolution optional.

Subject: Re: Kansas - return to the dark ages.
Message-ID: <7p3rqe\$kg9\$3@news.panix.com>

Evolution does not exclude a Designer who created a world that ran well enough by itself; the business schools tell us that one who designs well enough needn't micromanage. It does not leave out a Designer who influences us in other ways. It merely disproves one particular theistic model, one that I'm not terribly fond of.

(One approach I find completely unacceptable is the idea that God created fossils and such for the sole purpose of tricking those who think for themselves instead of following orders. I find that sort of thing, like torturing people eternally for doing things One has designed them to want to do, conduct unbecoming a deity.)

— Arthur D Hlavaty

Derogatory Reference 93, part I, electronic edition

Belgian politician Bert Anciaux recently said during an interview: “I refuse to answer questions about my sex life. That is strictly private. And my wife doesn't want anything to do with it either.” [Source: TV Ekspres. My translation.]

— from *rec.humor.funny*, 1 Apr 1999, Dirk van Deun

Message-id: <Sdbb.25dc@netfunny.com>
This joke's link: <http://www.netfunny.com/rhf/jokes/99/Apr/freudian.html>
Subject: Freudian slip ?

Eloquence of the Brits. . .

The contrast between British and European football was thrown into sharp focus yesterday. Asked what he thought about former Spurs boss Christian Gross, Frenchman David Ginola told *The Sun*:

“When we were together every day it was like being with a woman you don’t love anymore. You have to eat with them in the kitchen. There is silence and sometimes there is rows. When you get a new manager it is like being with a new woman.”

Asked exactly the same question, sometime England keeper Ian Walker said that Gross was: “A Wanker.”

— from `rec.humor.funny`, 3 Apr 1999, Ian Williams

Subject: Footie

Message-id: <Sdbd.e75@netfunny.com>

This joke’s link: <http://www.netfunny.com/rhf/jokes/99/Apr/footie.html>

The following are selections from:

Date: Fri, 09 Apr 1999 07:40:06 -0600

From: Beth Vornbrock <beth@interix.com>

Subject: humor

A university professor set an examination question in which he asked “What is the difference between ignorance and apathy.” The professor had to give an A+ to a student who answered; “I don’t know, and I don’t care.”

— Richard Pratt, Pacific Computer Weekly, 20 July 1990

Any sufficiently advanced bug is indistinguishable from a feature.

Early to bed and early to rise probably indicates unskilled labour.

— John Ciardi

If you’re traveling at the speed of light and you turn on your headlights, does anything happen?

I haven’t lost my mind, I have it backed up on tape somewhere.

Radioactive cats have 18 half-lives.

I am not arguing with you - I am telling you.

— James Abbott McNeill Whistler

Beware of programmers with screwdrivers.

I've never met a human being who would want to read 17,000 pages of documentation, and if there was, I'd kill him to get him out of the gene pool.

— Joseph Costello, President of Cadence

The primary purpose of the DATA statement is to give names to constants; instead of referring to π as 3.141592653589793 at every appearance, the variable PI can be given that value with a DATA statement and used instead of the longer form of the constant. This also simplifies modifying the program, should the value of π change.

— FORTRAN manual for Xerox computers

The genius of you Americans is that you never make clear-cut stupid moves, only complicated stupid moves which make the rest of us wonder at the possibility that we might be missing something.

— Gamel Abdel Nasser

It is practically impossible to teach good programming style to students that have had prior exposure to BASIC; as potential programmers they are mentally mutilated beyond hope of regeneration.

— Edsger W Dijkstra

Life is the whim of several billion cells to be you for a while.

END VORNBROCK HUMOR BITS

We must provide every person who comes to us with opportunities for human connection, for companionship, for friendship, and we must help them discover anything and everything that lifts their spirits up from the mundane, up from the day-to-day, toward hope and faith. No one of us can befriend every person who shows up at any of our churches or fellowships, even the smallest. But in even the largest of our churches, we can be sure that small-group opportunities are offered so that people may find islands of calm and safety in the presence of others. Then, friendships may come into being and isolation may be bridged into community.

— Bob Hill, Unitarian-Universalist Association Southwest District
quoted by Jon Durbin, 11 Apr 1999

When you work for one of our churches, you are doing something that matters. You are helping provide way-too-busy people an opportunity to find each other in community and to take the time to slow down and pay attention to what really matters.

Don't think that when you are hosting a potluck dinner, chairing a canvass drive, or putting out the Sunday signs that you are doing something mundane and unconnected to Being. You are not.

At any moment, any one of us may have the most profound need for spiritual depth and for human connection. We do our church work so that those needs may be met, for ourselves and for others, so that attention may be paid.

— Bob Hill, Unitarian-Universalist Association Southwest District
quoted by Jon Durbin, 11 Apr 1999

What is needed is a realization that power without love is often reckless and abusive, and love without power is often sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love.

— Martin Luther King, Jr

I have yet to see any problem, however complicated, which, when you looked at it in the right way, did not become still more complicated.

— Poul Anderson

from a posting in `rec.arts.sf.fandom` in Apr 1999, identified as being quoted in *New Scientist*, 25 Sept 1969

I for one think it has been so overhyped that if I am not disappointed by it, I will be disappointed.

— Arthur D Hlavaty in `rec.arts.sf.fandom`, 10 May 1999, on *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace*

Message-ID: <7h6iv3\$14u\$2@news.panix.com>

From: Jason Zions <jazz@interix.com>

Subject: FW: The Darth Vader Graduation Speech

Date: Wed, 26 May 1999 11:42:03 -0700

Sorry, I have no author or attribution information to give for this. But it's funny if you remember the ersatz-Vonnegut speech (actually a column by a Chicago area newspaper writer) which has been recast as a heavy-rotation radio mix.

- Jason

Everybody's Free (To Embrace The Dark Side)

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Vassar College class of '99... embrace the Dark Side. If I could offer you only one tip for the future, The Dark Side would be it. The long-term benefits of The Dark Side have been proved by the Dark Lords of The Sith, whereas the rest of my advice has no basis more reliable than my own meandering cruelty and conquests.

I will dispense this advice now...

Enjoy the power and beauty of your planet. Oh, nevermind, you will never understand the power and the beauty of your planet until after the Empire has destroyed it in a futile attempt to find the Rebel Base. But trust me, in twenty years, you will look back at photos of your home and recall, in away you can't grasp now, how blissfully ignorant you were, and how fabulous your planet really looked before it was a pile of burning space rubble. Your planet is not as dull as you imagine.

Don't worry about the Rebellion - or worry, but know that worrying is as effective as trying to make the Kessel run in a landspeeder. The real troubles in your life are apt to be things that never crossed your twisted mind. The kind that fire a direct hit into your reactor core at 4 PM on some idle Tuesday.

Do in one Death Star officer every day.

Scheme.

Don't disobey the Emperor's orders; don't put up with people who disobey yours.

Hate.

Don't waste your time on Stormtroopers. They can't hit the broad side of a barn.

The battle is long and in the end, it's only with yourself. And your idiot son.

Remember the prophecies of the Emperor; ignore the whinings of your bratty upstart farmboy of a son. If you succeed in doing this, tell me how.

Keep your old light saber, but change your costume slightly with every sequel.

Destroy.

Don't feel guilty if you have no misgivings about joining the Dark Side. The most interesting people I know didn't have any respect at 22 for their victim's lives. Some of the most interesting 40-year olds I know *still* don't.

Have plenty of minions.

Be kind to your right hand, you'll miss it when it's gone.

Maybe you'll marry, maybe you won't. Maybe your son will join you, maybe he won't. Maybe you'll convince your daughter to become a dark Jedi and assist you in your campaign of hatred and destruction; maybe she'll become a rebel leader and marry a scruffy-looking nerf herder.

Whatever you do, don't congratulate yourself too much, or berate yourself either. Your destiny is half chance. So is everybody else's.

Enjoy the Force. Exploit it every way you can. Don't be afraid of it or what other people think of your "sorcerer's ways." The ability to destroy a planet is insignificant next to its power.

Kill. Even if you have no one to kill but a meaningless extra.

Listen to what the Emperor has foreseen, even if you don't follow his prophecies.

Do not take your mask off, it will only make you feel ugly. And vulnerable.

Get to know your parents. You'll never know when they'll turn out to be your arch enemies.

Be nice to your siblings. They are your best link to your Jedi lineage and the ones most likely to become Jedi in the future.

Understand that lackeys come and go. But with a precious few, you should keep from crushing their tracheas. Work hard to bridge the gaps in geography and lifestyle, for as the more desperate you become, the more you will need to send bounty hunters to do your dirty work for you.

Live on Dagobah once, but leave before you get foot rot.

Live on Tatooine once, but leave before you get heat stroke.

Travel. Preferably in your own custom TIE Fighter.

Accept certain inalienable truths: rebellions will rise, the Imperial Senate will have to be disbanded, you too will get old. And when you do, you'll fantasize that when you were young, rebels were easily crushed, the Imperial Senate was subservient, and citizens respected their Emperor.

Respect your Emperor.

Don't expect your son to rule the galaxy with you. Maybe he'll give in to his anger, maybe he'll strike you down, but you'll never know when he'll whine pleadingly and you'll find yourself turning to the Light Side and saving his sorry butt.

Don't strike down your old Jedi Master, or he will become more powerful than you could possibly imagine.

Be careful whose advice you buy, but be patient with those who supply it, or I'll crush your throat. Advice is a form of nostalgia. Dispensing it is a way of fishing your humanity from the depths of sin, wiping it off, putting black body armor over the ugly parts and redeeming it for more than its worth.

But trust me on the Dark Side.

The following are from:

From: egon@tradeservices.com (Cole Tuininga)

Message-ID: <Se09.826@netfunny.com>

Date: Fri, 18 Jun 1999 19:30:00 PDT

Newsgroups: rec.humor.funny

Subject: Famous Dog Quotes

This joke's link: <http://www.netfunny.com/rhf/jokes/99/Jun/dogs.html>

If your dog is fat, you aren't getting enough exercise.

Some days you're the dog; some days you're the hydrant.

Whoever said you can't buy happiness forgot about puppies.

— Gene Hill

In dog years, I'm dead.

I think this may be Groucho Marx

To his dog, every man is Napoleon; hence the constant popularity of dogs.

— Aldous Huxley

A dog teaches a boy fidelity, perseverance, and to turn around three times before lying down.
— Robert Benchley

Did you ever walk into a room and forget why you walked in? I think that's how dogs spend their lives.
— Sue Murphy

I loathe people who keep dogs. They are cowards who haven't got the guts to bite people themselves.
— August Strindberg

No animal should ever jump up on the dining room furniture unless absolutely certain that he can hold his own in the conversation.
— Fran Lebowitz

Ever consider what they must think of us? I mean, here we come back from a grocery store with the most amazing haul – chicken, pork, half a cow. They must think we're the greatest hunters on earth!
— Anne Tyler

I wonder if other dogs think poodles are members of a weird religious cult.
— Rita Rudner

My dog is worried about the economy because Alpo is up to 99 cents a can. That's almost \$7.00 in dog money.
— Joe Weinstein

If I have any beliefs about immortality, it is that certain dogs I have known will go to heaven, and very, very few persons.
— James Thurber

You enter into a certain amount of madness when you marry a person with pets.
— Nora Ephron

Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful.
— Ann Landers

Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea.
— Robert A Heinlein

In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him.
— Bruce Dereke

Of all the things I miss from veterinary practice, puppy breath is one of the most fond memories!
— Dr. Tom Cat

There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face.
— Ben Williams

When a man's best friend is his dog, that dog has a problem.
— Edward Abbey

Cat's motto: No matter what you've done wrong, always try to make it look like the dog did it.

Money will buy you a pretty good dog, but it won't buy the wag of his tail.

No one appreciates the very special genius of your conversation as the dog does.
— Christopher Morley

A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself.
— Josh Billings

Man is a dog's idea of what God should be.
— Holbrook Jackson

The average dog is a nicer person than the average person.
— Andy Rooney

He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion.

If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you; that is the principal difference between a dog and a man.
— Mark Twain

Things that upset a terrier may pass virtually unnoticed by a Great Dane.
— Smiley Blanton

I've seen a look in dogs' eyes, a quickly vanishing look of amazed contempt, and I am convinced that basically dogs think humans are nuts.
— John Steinbeck

END DOG JOKES

The difference between an amateur and a professional is that the professional doesn't wait to be in the right mood.

— William Arthur Herring

the last is from....

Date: Mon, 12 Jul 1999 19:11:53 -0500

From: Duschack <duschack@execpc.com>

To: Quilt Art <quiltart@quilt.net>

Subject: a depressingly accurate definition of professional

We know what happens in mummy pictures: a bunch of adventurers find a hidden burial site marked with a hieroglyphic inscription that reads "Do Not Disturb," and, having mistaken it for a sign saying "My Room Is Ready for Cleaning Now," they duly get their comeuppance from what appears to be a giant sports injury.

— Anthony Lake reviewing *The Mummy* (1999) in *The New Yorker*

pointed out by Janice Gelb in `rec.arts.sf.fandom`, 20 Jul 1999

Words. What wretched, pale, wintry little things they are, really. Bah.

— Ulrika Anderson O'Brien in `rec.arts.sf.fandom`, 28 Jul 1999

in a note of sympathy for Martin Hoare on the death of his wife

And [Gov. George W Bush] says to me, "I value you as a person and I value you as a human being, and I want you to know, Glen, that what I say publicly about gay people doesn't pertain to you,"

— Rep. Glen Maxey, Texas' only openly gay legislator

Liz found this in from `seattle.politics`, 25 Aug 1999

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.

— Edmund Burke

These next set of Phil Spector quotes are from *Esquire*, September 1999, page 193.

One positive thing about old age is that you can remember everything that happened, even if it didn't happen.

— Phil Spector

Now that the impeachment nonsense has faded into history, I wouldn't mind getting my hands on that bloated, sexist, prissy, pompous, unsmiling, and unthinking accuser and huge bantam cock of a man, Henry Hyde, who offers the quintessential proof that it is far better to keep your mouth shut and let everyone think you're stupid than to open it and leave no doubt.

— Phil Spector

If the average man is made in God's image, then Mozart was plainly superior to God.

— Phil Spector

Love is an obsessive delusion that is cured by marriage.

— Phil Spector

contrast with Steve Carnes above

Great minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, and small minds discuss people.

— Phil Spector

As a director I worked parallel to Friz Freleng for almost twenty-five years. He was, and is, stimulating, irritating, loyal, cynical, wise, funny, stubborn, pragmatic, explosive, intelligent, impatient with stupidity, generous with everything he could think of to improve another director's pictures... hopeful but not demanding that you would do the same for him, irritating (this time because he could detect real weakness in a storyboard with bewildering insight and never hesitated to state it), a superb draftsman though he did not know it then and does not know it now, insane, to be sure, what else?—and yet one of the sanest men I have ever know—and the funniest—and the most innocent of his own talent.

— Chuck Jones, *Chuck Amuck*

Today, many Americans who live in cities, or now even suburbs, live in little fortresses and leave their homes at night with some fear. Nothing can deprive people of their freedom more effectively than the fear of losing their own lives. It envelops their minds and confines them to narrow spaces where they can be free of fear. Despite America's vast territory, each citizen is living and working within increasingly narrow confines to protect his or her personal well-being... To any Asian, it is obvious that this is an enormous reduction in freedom.

A clear American paradox is that a society that places such a high premium on freedom has effectively reduced the physical freedom of most Americans, especially those who live in large cities. They live in heavily fortified homes, think twice before taking an evening stroll around their neighborhoods, and feel increasingly threatened by random violence when they are outside. They have to carefully map out routes for travel, even in their cars, to ensure they make no wrong turns in Miami, New York, or Chicago.

— Kishore Mahbubani, Singaporean diplomat

quoted by TR Reid in *Confucius Lives Next Door*, Random House, 1999, ISBN 0679-45624-4

Democracies are only beginning to learn that too much freedom is dangerous. But they are not yet ready to do anything about it.

The rights of the citizens are so honored that they can form armed militia with the expressed intention of overthrowing the Government by violence. Since all they have done is to wear uniforms and carry arms, including machine guns, in countries where there is no dress code and everyone has a right to carry arms, they cannot be considered as breaching the law...

Whether the West admits it or not, David Koresh and the Jones cult were the products of the Western form of democracy. So also is the recent bombing in Oklahoma. The Michigan Militia Corps has as yet done no real harm. But you can bet that sooner or later they will be using those guns which they democratically own.

Liberal democracy may be good for religious deviationists and cultists. The innocent victims may not think so. They have a right to their lives, too.

For Asians, the community, the majority comes first. The individual and the minority must have their rights, but not at the unreasonable expense of the majority. The individuals and the minority must conform to the mores of society. A little deviation may be allowed, but the unrestrained exhibition of personal freedom which disturbs the peace and threatens to undermine society is not what Asians expect from democracy.

— Malaysian president Mahathir

quoted by TR Reid in *Confucius Lives Next Door*, Random House, 1999, ISBN 0679-45624-4

The Coyote is a history of my own frustration and war with all tools multiplied only slightly. I can remember that my wife and daughter would start to weep bitterly and seek hiding places whenever they saw me head toward the tool drawer, if only to hang a picture. I have never reached into that devilish drawer without starting a chain of errors and disasters of various but inevitable proportions. Like any other man, I would rather succeed in what I can't do than do what I have successfully done before. I have never reached into that drawer without encountering one of those spiny things you stick flowers in. We don't keep that thing in that drawer, but it is always there. I count it a good day when I get only one spine under a fingernail. I tried to get the spiny thing out of the drawer once, but found out that the last time, when it had stuck to four fingers at once and been in fact lifted a few inches out of its nest in the resulting shriek, it had fallen on a tube of glue, puncturing the tube and affixing itself to the drawer for all time. I have tried lackadaisically from time to time to remove it, and have succeeded in breaking a rattail file, a kitchen knife, three fingernails, a nailfile, a pair of manicure scissors, an eggbeater (in one of my more fanciful efforts), and a window, when the tail of the rattail file separated from the rattail file.

— Chuck Jones, *Chuck Amuck*

Here were some of the rules we obeyed in the Coyote-Road Runner series:

Rule 1. The Road Runner cannot harm the Coyote except by going “Beep-Beep!”.

Rule 2. No outside force can harm the Coyote—only his own ineptitude or the failure of the Acme products.

Rule 3. The Coyote could stop anytime—*if* he were not a fanatic. (Repeat: “A fanatic is one who redoubles his effort when he has forgotten his aim.”—George Santayana.)

Rule 4. No dialogue ever, except “Beep-Beep!”

Rule 5. The Road Runner must stay on the road—otherwise, logically, he would not be called Road Runner.

Rule 6. All action must be confined to the natural environment of the two characters—the southwest American desert.

Rule 7. All materials, tools, weapons, or mechanical conveniences must be obtained from the Acme Corporation.

Rule 8. Whenever possible, make gravity the Coyote’s greatest enemy.

Rule 9. The Coyote is always more humiliated than harmed by his failures.

— Chuck Jones, *Chuck Amuck*

... while McMurphy laughs. Rocking farther and farther back against the cabin top, spreading his laugh out across the water. Laughing at the girl, at the guys, at George, at me sucking my bleeding thumb, at the captain back at the pier, and the bicycle rider, and the service station guys, and the five thousand houses, and the big nurse and all of it. Because he knows you have to laugh at the things that hurt you, just to keep yourself in balance, just to keep the world from running you plumb crazy. He knows there’s a painful side. He knows my thumb smarts, and his girlfriend has a bruised breast, and the doctor is losing his glasses, but he won’t let the pain blot out the humor, no more’n he’ll let the humor blot out the pain.

— Ken Kesey, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*

this version is transcribed from the recorded book – it should be fixed from a printed copy

Time as he grows old teaches all things.

— Aeschylus

Go, sir, gallop, and don’t forget that the world was made in six days. You can ask me for anything you like, except time.

— Napoleon Bonaparte

(attributed)

You write to me that it’s impossible; the word is not French.

— Napoleon Bonaparte, letter to General Lemarois, July 9, 1813

contrast to “Inconceivable? I do not think that word means what you think it means.” from *The Princess Bride*.

You must remember this, a kiss is still a kiss, / A sigh is just a sigh; / The fundamental things apply, / As time goes by.

— Herman Hupfeld, *As Time Goes By*, 1931

It's still the same old story, / A fight for love and glory, / A case of do or die! / The world will always welcome lovers, / As time goes by.

— Herman Hupfeld, *As Time Goes By*, 1931

A bad book is just as much of a labor to write as a good one; it comes as sincerely from the author's soul.

— Aldous Huxley, *Point Counter Point*, 1928

There is no substitute for talent. Industry and all the virtues are of no avail.

— Aldous Huxley, *Point Counter Point*, 1928

This country is geology by day and astronomy by night.

— J B Priestly, *Midnight on the Desert*, 1937

It is better to know some of the questions than all of the answers.

— James Thurber

When a just man dies, / Lamentation and praise, / Sorrow and joy, are one.

— W H Auden, "Elegy for John F Kennedy"

Some books are undeservedly forgotten; none are undeservedly remembered.

— W H Auden, *The Dyer's Hand*, 1962

The presumption of innocence is not just a legal concept. In commonplace terms it rests on that generosity of spirit which assumes the best, not the worst, of the stranger.

— Kingman Brewster

SFFA212

I believe that the Earth is good. That people, untortured by circumstance or fate, are also good. I do not believe the people of the world are my enemies, or that animals, including snakes, are, or that Nature is. Whenever I experience evil, and it is not, unfortunately, uncommon to experience it in these times, my deepest feeling is disappointment. I have learned to accept the fact that we risk disappointment, disillusionment, even despair, every time we act. ... The alternative, however, not to to act, and therefore to miss experiencing other people at their best, reaching toward their fullness, has never appealed to me.

— Alice Walker, *Anything We Love Can Be Saved*

Footnotes are used for parenthetical remarks. Lies are sometimes spoken to simplify or shorten the discussion... and the footnotes — usually, but not always — restore the truth.

— Ken Lunde, *CJKV Information Processing*

O'Reilly, 1999, ISBN 1-56592-224-7

Compare with Knuth from *T_EXbook* introduction

If kids in Kansas aren't being taught properly about science, they won't be able to keep up with children taught competently elsewhere. It's called survival of the fittest. Maybe the Board of Education needs to learn about natural selection.

— John Rennie, editor-in-chief, *Scientific American*, October 1999

p124, "Commentary"
SFFA212

Cubem autem in duos cubos, aut quadratoquadratum in duos quadratoquadratos, et generaliter nullam in infinitum ultra quadratum potestatem in duos eiusdem nominis fas est dividere... Cuius rei demonstrationem mirabilem sane detexi hanc maginis exiguitas non caperet.

It is impossible for a cube to be written as a sum of two cubes or a fourth power to be written as the sum of two fourth powers or, in general, for any number which is a power greater than the second to be written as a sum of two like powers... I have a truly marvelous demonstration of this proposition which this margin is too narrow to contain.

— Annotation in the margin of Pierre de Fermat's copy of Diophantus' *Arithmetica*

SFFA212

I think I'll stop here.

— Andrew Wiles, at the Isaac Newton Institute, 23 June 1993, after proving Fermat's Last Theorem

SFFA212

God exists since mathematics is consistent, and the Devil exists since we cannot prove it.

— André Weil, in response to Gödel's theorems of undecidability

*** Lovett reads at Texas fund-raiser

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - Lyle Lovett didn't sing a single note on stage at the Empire Theater. He read instead. Lovett read for 30 minutes from the short stories of the late Texas writer William Goyen at a benefit attended by 500 people. Actor Tommy Lee Jones, who recommended Lovett for the event, introduced him and told the audience, "The key to understanding Lyle Lovett is that he still lives in a house that his grandparents built in Klein, Texas." He added: "Lyle is an original, although he's thoroughly a Texan. And aren't those the same things?" The soft-spoken Lovett said he was happy to help a good cause - the San Antonio Public Library Foundation. "Well, they asked. And everybody was real nice about it," he said.

— AP wire, 5 Nov 1999

If this isn't Texas in a nutshell, I don't know what is.
SFFA212

I've never understood why women love cats. Cats are independent, they don't listen, they don't come in when you call, they like to stay out all night, come home and expect to be fed and stroked, then want to be left alone and sleep. In other words, every quality that women hate in a man, they love in a cat.

— Unknown, from `rec.humor.funny`, 13 Nov 1999

Message-id: <Se9d.2a0e@netfunny.com>
From: nathanr@sympatico.ca (Nathan D Richards)

This [invention] is anathema to those who guard their works jealously, including the industry's notorious girl-with-the-most-cake. "The worst part of Microsoft is not their bad-boy monopoly behavior," Joy says. "The real problem is they build low-quality products, and that innovation is not a core value."

— Bill Joy, Sun Microsystems Chief Scientist, quoted in "The Esquire Twenty-One", *Esquire*, November 1999

SFFA212

A man with wings large enough and duly attached might learn to overcome the resistance of the air, and conquering it succeed in subjugating it and raise himself upon it.

— Leonardo daVinci

SFFA212

It is a fearful thing to love that which death can touch.

— Epitaph quoted by Spaulding Gray in his monologue "Morning, Noon and Night"

The idea is to die young as late as possible.

— Ashley Montagu

Hostility towards Microsoft is not difficult to find on the Net, and it blends two strains: resentful people who feel Microsoft is too powerful, and disdainful people who think it's tacky. This is all strongly reminiscent of the heyday of Communism and Socialism, when the bourgeoisie were hated from both ends: by the proles, because they had all the money, and by the intelligentsia, because of their tendency to spend it on lawn ornaments. Microsoft is the very embodiment of modern high-tech prosperity—it is, in a word, bourgeois—and so it attracts all of the same gripes...

Nothing is more annoying to sophisticated people to see someone who is rich enough to know better being tacky—unless it is to realize, a moment later, that they probably know they are tacky and they simply don't care and they are going to go on being tacky, and rich, and happy, forever. Microsoft therefore bears the same relationship to the Silicon Valley elite as the Beverly Hillbillies did to their fussy banker, Mr. Drysdale—who is irritated not so much by the fact that the Clampetts moved to his neighborhood as by the knowledge that, when Jethro is seventy years old, he's still going to be talking like a hillbilly and wearing bib overalls, and he's still going to be a lot richer than Mr. Drysdale.

— Neal Stephenson, "In the Beginning was the Command Line", 1999

You land a million planes safely and you have one little mid-air and you never hear the end of it.

— Anonymous air traffic controller quoted in *Pushing Tin*

quote actually appears in the opening credits

A cheap shot is a terrible thing to waste.

— Jo Haemer

Androids may well dream of electronic sheep. I, on the other hand, dream of $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ inch rectangles of infinity.

— Bill Bowers, *Outworlds 70*

An atheist staring from his attic window is often nearer to God than the believer caught up in his own false image of God.

— Martin Buber

We Americans are the only ones who didn't get creamed at some point during all of this. [That is, the upheavals of the twentieth century] We are free and prosperous because we have inherited political and values systems fabricated by a particular set of eighteenth-century intellectuals who happened to get it right. But we have lost touch with those intellectuals, and with anything like intellectualism, even to the point of not reading books any more, though we are literate. We seem much more comfortable with propagating those values to future generations nonverbally, through a process of being steeped in media. Apparently this actually works to some degree, for police in many lands are now complaining that local arrestees are insisting on having their Miranda rights read to them, just like perps in American TV cop shows. When it's explained to them that they are in a different country, where those rights do not exist, they become outraged. Starsky and Hutch reruns, dubbed into diverse languages, may turn out, in the long run, to be a greater force for human rights than the Declaration of Independence.

— Neal Stephenson, "In the Beginning was the Command Line", 1999

Windows 95 and MacOS are products, contrived by engineers in the service of specific companies. Unix, by contrast, is not so much a product as it is a painstakingly compiled oral history of the hacker subculture. It is our Gilgamesh epic.

— Neal Stephenson, "In the Beginning was the Command Line", 1999

SFFA213COLUMN2/00

"You mean there's a catch?"

"Sure there's a catch," Doc Daneeka replied. "Catch-22. Anyone who wants to get out of combat duty isn't really crazy."

There was only one catch and that was Catch-22, which specified that a concern for one's own safety in the face of dangers that were real and immediate was the process of a rational mind. Orr was crazy and could be grounded. All he had to do was ask; and as soon as he did, he would no longer be crazy and would have to fly more missions. Orr would be crazy to fly more missions and sane if he didn't, but if he was sane he had to fly them. If he flew them he was crazy and didn't have to; but if he didn't want to he was sane and had to. Yossarian was moved very deeply by the absolute simplicity of this clause of Catch-22 and let out a respectful whistle.

"That's some catch, that Catch-22," he observed.

"It's the best there is," Doc Daneeka agreed.

— *Catch-22*, Joseph Heller

“I’m nuts. Cuckoo. Don’t you understand? I’m off my rocker. They sent someone else home in my place by mistake. They’ve got a licensed psychiatrist up at the hospital who examined me, and that was his verdict. I’m really insane.”

“So?”

“So?” Yossarian was puzzled by Doc Daneeka’s inability to comprehend. “Don’t you see what that means? Now you can take me off combat duty and send me home. They’re not going to send a crazy man out to be killed, are they?”

“Who else will go?”

— *Catch-22*, Joseph Heller

In those twenty more years we will all look pretty bad in the newspaper pictures and television clips, kind of strange, like people in a different world, ancient and doddering, balding, seeming perhaps a little bit idiotic, shrunken, with toothless smiles in collapsed, wrinkled cheeks. People I know are already dying and others I’ve known are already dead. We don’t look that beautiful now. We wear glasses and are growing hard of hearing, we sometimes talk too much, repeat ourselves, things grow on us, even the most minor bruises take longer to heal and leave telltale traces.

— *Closing Time*, Joseph Heller

Be well, do good work, and keep in touch.

— Garrison Keillor’s signoff for his radio program *Writer’s Almanac*

I have been invited to say something about how dancers feel about Fred Astaire. It’s no secret that we hate him. He gives us complexes because he’s too perfect. His perfection is an absurdity.

— Mikhail Baryshnikov

Here, instead, the dominance is inside the minds of people who buy software. Microsoft has power because people believe it does. This power is very real. It makes lots of money. Judging from recent legal proceedings in both Washingtons, it would appear that this power and this money have inspired some very peculiar executives to come out and work for Microsoft, and that Bill Gates should have administered saliva tests to some of them before issuing them Microsoft ID cards.

— Neal Stephenson, “In the Beginning was the Command Line”, 1999

We have uniformly rejected all letters and declined all discussion upon the question of when the present century ends, as it is one of the most absurd that can engage the public attention, and we are astonished to find it has been the subject of so much dispute, since it appears plain. The present century will not terminate till January 1, 1801, unless it can be made out that 99 are 100... It is a silly, childish discussion, and only exposes the want of brains of those who maintain a contrary opinion to that we have stated.

— *The (London) Times*, December 26, 1799

Forwarded by Liz from
From: adg@pobox.com
Sent: Saturday, January 01, 2000 7:49 PM
Subject: London Times, 12/26/1799: More on Y2K for the Y2K Morons

Education is when you read the fine print. Experience is what you get if you don't.

— Pete Seeger

The man who sets out to carry a cat by its tail learns something that will always be useful and which never will grow dim or doubtful.

— Mark Twain

Sable sauntered in to the Burger Lord. It was exactly like every other Burger Lord in America. [footnote] But not like every other Burger Lord across the world. German Burger Lords, for example, sold lager instead of root beer, while the English Burger Lords managed to take any American fast food virtue (the speed with which your food was delivered, for example) and carefully remove them; your food arrived after half an hour, at room temperature, and it was only because of the strip of warm lettuce between them that you could distinguish the burger from the bun. The Burger Lord pathfinder salesman has been shot twenty-five minutes after setting foot in France. [end footnote]

— Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett, *Good Omens*

The people involved in the crypto debate are all intelligent, honorable and pro-escrow, but they never possess more than two of these qualities at once.

— Kenneth Neil Cukier, quoted by Simon Singh in *The Code Book*

In October 1993, he received the following e-mail from someone in Latvia on the day that Boris Yeltsin was shelling the Latvian Parliament building: “Phil, I wish you to know: let it never be, but if dictatorship takes over Russia, your PGP is widespread from Baltic to Far East now and will help democratic people if necessary. Thanks.”

— An e-mail to Philip R Zimmerman quoted by Simon Singh in *The Code Book*

Another class who are great supporters of street music consists of ladies of elastic virtue and cosmopolitan tendencies, to whom it affords a decent excuse for displaying their fascinations at their open windows.

— Charles Babbage in a political snit against street musicians and organ grinders

quoted by Simon Singh in *The Code Book*, and isn't that just a perfect Victorian description of a hooker?

In a start-up society, huge sums can fall on innocent parties, almost by accident.

— Bruce Sterling, "The Manifesto of January 3, 2000"

<http://www.bespoke.org/viridian/index.asp?t=140>

One problem with traditional cultural movements is that they have way too much culture and not enough people with revolvers.

— Bruce Sterling, "Viridian Design Speech", October 14, 1998

<http://www.bespoke.org/viridian/index.asp?t=13>
SFFA215

I'm not whiny; I'm just high-strung.

— Allie Copeland, Christmas break 1999

Golf and toilet seats are actually the most patented areas in general. It must be because both are common to the human experience, except golf.

— David Levy

"Looking for Trouble: How an inventor gets his best ideas", *The New Yorker*, Dec 6, 1999, p78

It's ludicrous to have these interlocking bodies and not interlock them. Please remove your clothing now.

— Former demon Anya Emerson (née Anyanka) to Xander Harris in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* episode "The Harsh Light of Day"

Buffy the Vampire Slayer acting credits:

Buffy Ann Summers	Sarah Michelle Gellar
Alexander "Xander" LaVelle Harris	Nicholas Brendon
Willow Rosenberg	Alyson Hannigan
Cordelia Chase	Charisma Carpenter
Anya Emerson/Anyanka	Emma Caulfield
Angel/Angelus	David Boreanaz
Daniel "Oz" Osborne	Seth Green
Rupert Giles	Anthony Stewart Head
Spike	James Marsters
Riley Finn	Marc Blucas

The twentieth century featured any number of -isms. They were fatally based on the delusion that philosophy trumps engineering.

— Bruce Sterling, “The Manifesto of January 3, 2000”

<http://www.bespoke.org/viridian/print.asp?t=140>

I have a dream, that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

— Martin Luther King, Jr

The real reason Holmes never told Watson what he was thinking is because he didn't have the solution figured out yet.

— Elizabeth Peters, *Die for Love*

SFFA215

In my universe, people often suffer because of stupid things they've done. But at least I have the human decency not to tell them that it's proof that there is a loving god.

— Kevin J Maroney in `rec.arts.sf.fandom`

Note seen on an office whiteboard: “Postulate God. Then, \exists free will $\iff \exists$ quantum mechanics.”

xref andre weil above

“If you wish to become a piranha woman you must first take his body and then take his life. What is your decision?”

“I refuse to kill another human being in cold blood. However, in deference to your cultural imperatives, I would be willing to have sex with him.”

“Forget it. If you want your cake, you have to eat it too.”

— Dr Kurtz to Dr Hunt in *Cannibal Women in the Avocado Jungle cf Death*

The Rev Billy Graham tells of a time early in his career when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy told him, Rev. Graham thanked him and said, “If you'll come to the Baptist church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to Heaven.” But the boy turned him down flat. “I don't think I'll be there,” the boy said. “You don't even know your way to the post office.”

Personally, I think government is a tool, like a hammer. You can use a hammer to build or you can use a hammer to destroy; there is nothing intrinsically good or evil about the hammer itself. It is the purposes to which it is put and the skill with which it is used that determine whether the hammer's work is good or bad. If hammers were cursed as often and as vigorously as government, no doubt some Tim McVeigh would have parked a loaded Ryder truck outside a hammer factory by now. Cussing government in a democracy is a peculiar thing to do: it is, after all, us.

— Molly Ivins, *You Got to Dance with Them What Brung You*,
Introduction

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SFEA217c

If it weren't for the automatic teller machine and the self-cleaning garlic press, we'd have no evidence of progress at all — and I know people who think ATM's are part of a plot to prevent people from getting to know one another.

— Molly Ivins, "Folks Aren't Really Good at Heart? I'm Not Giving Up", reprinted in *You Got to Dance with Them What Brung You*

p12, originally from Ft Worth *Star-Telegram*, 7 May 1995

We will serve no group or party but will hew hard to the truth as we find it and the right as we see it. We are dedicated to the whole truth, to human values above all interests, to the rights of humankind as the foundation of democracy, we will take orders from none but our own conscience, and never will we overlook or misrepresent the truth to serve the interests of the powerful or cater to the ignoble in the human spirit.

— Editorial policy of *The Texas Observer*

quoted by Molly Ivins, in "To Observe and Protect", reprinted in *You Got to Dance with Them What Brung You* p43, originally from Ft Worth *Star-Telegram*, 20 July 1997

An accumulated tale of cover-up, blackmail, suborned testimony, hush money, espionage, sabotage, use of federal powers for the harassment of "enemies," and a program by some fifty hired operators to pervert and subvert the campaigns of Democratic candidates by "dirty tricks," or what in the choice language of the White House crew was referred to as "ratfucking." The final list of indictable crimes would include burglary, bribery, forgery, perjury, theft, conspiracy, and obstructing justice.

— Barbara Tuchman's description of Richard Nixon's legacy

quoted by Molly Ivins, in "Remembering Dick", reprinted in *You Got to Dance with Them What Brung You* p226, originally from *The Progressive*, June 1994

When it came to the "memorials preferred" on the obit form, we put in her favorite causes, but if you truly wanted to memorialize my mother, you would eat a piece of fudge today, hug someone you love, and be blindingly pleasant to a total stranger.

— Molly Ivins, in "The Good Mother Who Put a Shoe in the Icebox",
reprinted in *You Got to Dance with Them What Brung You*

p245, originally from Ft Worth *Star-Telegram*, 9 January 1997

I find good people good, And I find bad people good, If I am good enough, Enough of a father, enough of a son.

— *Tao Te Ching*

from Witter Bynner's translation *The Way of Life According to Lao Tzu*; quoted by Tim O'Reilly

Television: A medium. So called because it is neither rare nor well done.

— Ernie Kovacs

In the republic of mediocrity, genius is dangerous.

— Robert S Ingersoll

The purpose of a programming system is to make a computer easy to use. To do this, it furnishes languages and various facilities that are in fact programs invoked and controlled by language features. But these facilities are bought at a price: the external description of a programming system is ten to twenty times as large as the external description of the computer system itself. The user finds it far easier to specify any particular function, but there are far more to choose from, and far more options and formats to remember.

— Fred Brooks, *The Mythical Man-Month*

used by Knuth in *The T_EXbook*
SFFA214COLUMN8/01

Lord, grant me the serenity to accept that which I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to hide the bodies of the people I had to kill because they pissed me off.

— Sign in Bad Girls Antiques, North Bend, Washington

The principle of generating small amounts of *finite* improbability ... were well understood — and such generators were often used to break the ice at parties by making all the molecules of the hostess's undergarments leap simultaneously one foot to the left, in accordance with the Theory of Indeterminacy.

Many respectable physicists said that they weren't going to stand for this, partly because it was a debasement of science, but mostly because they didn't get invited to those sorts of parties.

— *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy*

SFFA214

It was fabulous. Huge, built of limestone no doubt dug out of these very mountains, with turrets and gables and all sorts of solemn Victorian doodads. Rocky Point was a house built to be haunted. Looking at the place, I could understand for the first time in my life why people who had, say, tens of millions of dollars felt it necessary to press on until they had hundreds of millions and then billions of dollars. They did it so that when there was chance to buy something like Rocky Point, they could write a check and have it.

— *Killed on the Rocks* by William L DeAndrea

SFFA214 SFFA221

The following lump are from Arthur Hlavaty's quote file...

Animal testing is a terrible idea; they get all nervous and give the wrong answers.
— Stephen Fry

COLUMN9/00

Before I got glasses, I thought Monet was the world's only realist landscape painter.
— Jo Walton

Canada is a country so square that the female impersonators are women.
— (unknown)

Every geek thinks the circus couldn't run without him.
— Donald E Westlake

Finally, I am becoming stupider no more.
— Paul Erdős's epitaph

The generation of random numbers is too important to be left to chance.
— Robert R Coveyou, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Getting people horny *is* redeeming social importance.
— Paul Krassner

Harold Bloom is fictional on his grandfather Leopold's side.
— Arthur D Hlavaty

He makes you feel more danced against than with.
— (unknown)

He was happily married, but his wife wasn't
— Victor Borge

I am sitting in the smallest room of my house with your review before me. Soon it will be behind me.
— Max Reger, German composer

I have prayed but one prayer: "Lord, make my enemies ridiculous." And it was granted.
— Voltaire

I shake my tits a lot. If you don't want to listen, you can just watch.
— Bette Midler

If I hadn't had them, I would have had some made
— Dolly Parton

I should like to thank you: grammatical correctness as ambiguity.
— Arthur D Hlavaty

I was hired when television was desperate enough to scrape the top of the barrel.
— Gore Vidal

I'm so happy you found a way out of this business
— Marilyn Monroe to Grace Kelly

If you have a squeaking codpiece, you had better have a really big sword.
— Dave Barry

The inventor of Haiku must have had seven fingers on his middle hand.
— (unknown)

Is Calvin a stuffed boy when there are other tigers around?
— (unknown)

It's not real work unless you would rather be doing something else.
— Sir James M Barrie

The map is not the territory, but you can't fold the territory and put it in the glove compartment.
— Arthur D Hlavaty

Genius makes no mistakes. His errors are volitional and are the portals to discovery.
— James Joyce

Never hold discussions with the monkey when the organ grinder is in the room
— Winston Churchill

No point mentioning the bats, I thought. The poor bastard will see them soon enough
— Hunter Thompson

Of course I'm crazy, but that doesn't mean I'm wrong. I'm mad but not ill.
— Robert Anton Wilson

OK, I'm weird! But I'm saving up to be eccentric.
— (unknown)

Once the game is over, the king and the pawn go back in the same box.
— (unknown)

One should respect public opinion insofar as is necessary to avoid starvation and keep out of prison, but anything beyond this is voluntary submission to an unnecessary tyranny
— Bertrand Russell

Opera is where someone is stabbed to death, and instead of bleeding, he sings.
— (unknown)

Puritanism: the fear that someone somewhere is happy.
— H L Mencken

The right brain leaps; the left brain walks to catch up.
— (unknown)

The Right's view of government and the Left's view of big business are both correct
— Robert Anton Wilson

Russia got rid of the Communists; we can get rid of the Republicans.
— Rudy Rucker

Same-sex porn is good training in clear writing because the pronouns don't help tell who's doing what to whom.
— Arthur D Hlavaty

A scholar's ink lasts longer than a martyr's blood
— Irish proverb

The sermon was like a donkey's penis, long but vigorous.
— Sydney Smith

Sex between a man and a woman can be wonderful, if you get between the right man and woman.
— (unknown)

Star Trek fandom is like a gourmet club devoted to Big Macs.
— Marty Cantor

Statistically speaking, we are the people most likely to harm our children. No wonder we're scared
— Jon Carroll

Television changed the American child from an irresistible force to an immovable object.
— (unknown)

That's the kind of woolly-headed, liberal thinking that leads to being eaten.
— Buffy Summers

Arthur Hlavaty supplies the previous version, imdb.com provides the next:

It's fuzzy-minded liberal thinking like that that gets you eaten.
— Principal Snyder, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*

The three unstealable secrets of good sex are: like yourself, like the other person, like what you're doing.
— Arthur D Hlavaty

There is nothing more vengeful than a horny celibate.
— Baba Ram Dass

Think of hummingbirds as flying penises of flowers.
— (unknown)

Those who engage in the business known as gambling are despised by those who engage in the gambling known as business.
— Mark Twain

To explain responsibility to advertising men is like trying to convince an eight-year-old that sexual intercourse is more fun than a chocolate ice cream cone.
— Howard Luck Gossage

To give an accurate and exhaustive account of that period would require a far less brilliant pen than mine.
— Max Beerbohm

And what is the purpose of being really intelligent if not to have the substance of what you want without mistaking it for the shadow?
— Robert Sheckley

Too bad the people who know how to run things are busy driving cabs and cutting hair.
— George Burns

Under capitalism, man exploits man. Under communism, it's the exact opposite.
— (unknown)

We want better reasons for having children than not knowing how to prevent them.
— Dora Russell

When they circumcised him, they threw away the wrong bit.
— David Lloyd George

End Hlavaty quotes....

[George Bernard] Shaw's judgements are often scatterbrained, but at least he has brains to scatter.
— Max Beerbohm

Americans have a perfect right to exist. But he did often find himself wishing Mr Rhodes had not enabled them to exercise that right at Oxford.
— Max Beerbohm, *Zuleika Dobson* (1911)

Only mediocrity can be trusted to be always at its best.
— Max Beerbohm

Anything that is worth doing has been done frequently. Things hitherto undone should be given, I suspect, a wide berth.
— Max Beerbohm

Strategy is buying a bottle of fine wine when you take a lady out for dinner. Tactics is getting her to drink it.
— Frank Muir

Muir (1920-1998) was a British writer and broadcaster

An inordinate fondness for beetles.
— J B S Haldane, when asked what inferences could be drawn about the nature of God from a study of His works.

“Do you pray for the senators, Dr Hale?” “No, I look at the senators and I pray for the country.”
— Edward Everett Hale

Every man has a House of Lords in his own head. Fears, prejudices, misconceptions — those are the peers, and they are hereditary.
— David Lloyd George

What is our task? To make Britain a fit country for heroes to live in.
— David Lloyd George

speech following the Armistice, Wolverhampton, 24 Nov 1918

There is no reason to assume that the universe has the slightest interest in intelligence — or even in life. Both may be random accidental by-products of its operations like the beautiful patterns on a butterfly's wings. The insect would fly just as well without them.

— Arthur C Clarke

from *The Lost Worlds of 2001*

I have only one purpose, the destruction of Hitler, and my life is much simplified thereby. If Hitler invaded Hell I would make at least a favourable reference to the Devil in the House of Commons.

— Winston Churchill

The Grand Alliance

SFFA216

But I wasn't kissing her. I was whispering in her mouth.

— Chico Marx, when his wife caught him with a chorus girl

SFFA216

The world would not be in such a snarl, had Marx been Groucho instead of Karl.

— Irving Berlin's 75th birthday telegram to Groucho Marx, 1966

Whoever named it necking was a poor judge of anatomy.

— Groucho Marx

SFFA216

Since my daughter is only half-Jewish, could she go in the water up to her knees?

— Groucho Marx, on being excluded from a beach club on ethnic grounds

Nixon is the kind of politician who would cut down a redwood tree and then mount the stump for a conservation speech.

— Adlai Stevenson

This isn't going to be a good country for any of us to live in until it's a good country for all of us to live in.

— Richard Nixon

Do you realize the responsibility I carry? I'm the only person standing between Nixon and the White House

— John F Kennedy, to Arthur Schlesinger

You don't set a fox to watching the chickens just because he has a lot of experience in the hen house.

— Harry S Truman, when Richard Nixon was nominated as president in 1960.
