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# Order of the Iron Test Pattern



Volume 2

**Newsletter**

Number 3

**News! When it happens you'll see it happen, even if we have to make it happen!**

**Monday, April 1, 2003**



(And no! This is not a joke --- well maybe.)

**This is your Newsletter and your input is, of course, most welcome.**

(Things printed in **blue** type are links to the related subject matter.)

**We'll be at NAB 2003!**



**Providing a Thrill a Minute!**

Your Sagacious Pixel has heard your input and here's what is happening at NAB 2003. Hay! That's less than a week! First, he'll be there. Look for the fat guy in an electric scooter zipping up and down the isles bringing havoc and mayhem to one and all. Stop him and say hi. He'll have a copious number of membership applications with him for those impulse, emotional signups of unsuspecting broadcast engineers. If you have someone in mind, while at NAB (or anytime), just ask him for one.

**OITP Annual Meeting**

We've counted the votes and we'll be meeting on Tuesday at noon with the 11th Annual Lunch Gathering of the really great folks who hang out on the Internet on the broadcast.net forum. This forum is hosted by Barry Mishkind. Barry has a really cool website of old radio gear at: [www.olderadio.com](http://www.olderadio.com) where he is called "[The Eclectic Engineer](#)." These folks are a mix of radio and

TV engineers from all over the country and this will provide us with the opportunity to mix with some really great other Survivors. The broadcast.net also hosts many of the SBE websites.

## **The time and venue:**

Tuesday Noon at the Riviera Hotel Buffet Restaurant ... (just West and across the way from the Las Vegas Convention Center). Broadcast.Net have sponsors too - Prophet Systems, Shively Labs, Orban, and Sierra Automated Systems.

They tell us they have some real nice surprises to share -- both in terms of information and some neat door prizes. Some folks have asked about bringing cups/pens/t-shirts/bumper stickers/etc to swap... Feel free to do so. Some very nice exchanges have occurred... so be sure to bring something for the "pot". " We will also have some awards to give out.

There is little doubt that those who'd like to go to the OpenTV bash at Lawrey's would be more than welcomed. If anyone is interested, We'll let you know more details when we get them.

## **Awards**

### **Annual Awards**

"The Iron Angel Award." To **Garry Gramman** for being the financial Angel of the OITP from it's start until it restarted after a several year dormancy. Nominated by Bob Venderland - founder of OITP.

"The TV Equipment Grave Yard Award." To **Chuck Pharis** for hording over 127 old discarded broadcast TV Cameras and other workhorse memorabilia.

### **Founder's Award**

"The Iron Matrix Award." To **Lyle Keys**, for his contribution to the industry of the first expandable, modular, 10 x 10 matrices while at Utah Scientific. Selected and presented by the founder of the OITP, Robert N. Venderland.

### **Special Awards**

To **David Corley** of DSC labs for coming up with the only decent SD/HDTV chip chart in the world! "The Iron Chip Chart Award." Nominated by Chuck Pharis - ABC-TV video operator.

Top **Gene Pooley** for creating the Remote control and turning us into a nation of couch potatoes. "The Iron Couch Potato Award." Nominated by Larry Bloomfield - Sagacious Pixel of the OITP.

For those recipients who are not present at this fine gathering of the broadcast industry's elite engineering corps, we will have them with us on the [Taste of NAB 2003 Road Show](#) during which we will see that those less fortunate will receive them. Check out [the site](#) for a venue near you.

## **New, Upgraded or Reinstated Members**

We began posting membership activity here in the newsletter; new members, reinstatements and those who've applied for an upgrade in their dignity. Since our last newsletter, we've gone from 335 to 351 members, as of today.

**Howard Feld** has upgraded to the dignity of Commander. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is: [howief@verizon.net](mailto:howief@verizon.net). OITP Commander Feld is the owner of Howard Feld Productions, Inc. He should have received his certificate and lapel pin by now.

**Dave Allen** has upgraded to the dignity of Admiral. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is: [allend@ithaca.edu](mailto:allend@ithaca.edu). OITP Admiral Allen is Engineer-Telecom Facs person at the Roy H. Park School of Communications. He should have received his certificate and lapel pin by now.

**Dean Byrne** is a new member and has the dignity of Admiral. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is: [deanb@cc.usu.edu](mailto:deanb@cc.usu.edu). OITP Admiral Byrne is an Instructor/Video Lab Supervisor at Utah State University and his membership carries with it the endorsements of Knight of the Geosynchronous Stuff for his work in Satellite communications and Knight of the F-59 Connector his work with Cable Television. He should have received his certificate and lapel pin by now.

**Dennis Christensen** is a new member and has the dignity of Admiral. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is: [dchristensen@kirotv.com](mailto:dchristensen@kirotv.com). OITP Admiral Christensen is a Senior Broadcast Engineer with KIRO-TV in Seattle, WA and his membership carries with it the endorsements of Knight of the Wooden Tower for his years in radio (TV with out the pictures). He should have received his certificate by now.

**Mike Pruitt** is a new member and has the dignity of General. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is: [mikepruitt@earthlink.net](mailto:mikepruitt@earthlink.net). OITP General Pruitt is a Field Engineer with Lesea Broadcasting Corp. out of Indianapolis, IN. He should have received his certificate and lapel pin by now.

**Morgan E. Evans** is a new member and has the dignity of General. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is: [wild.alaska@att.net](mailto:wild.alaska@att.net). OITP General Evans is a Camera Operator with Alaska Productions, which is located in the state by the same name. He should have received his certificate and lapel pin by now.

**John Bredesen** is a new member and has the dignity of Galactic Tycoon. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is: [bredesenj@lanecc.edu](mailto:bredesenj@lanecc.edu). Galactic Tycoon Bredesen is the Chief Engineer at KLCC and his membership carries with it the endorsements of Knight of the Wooden Tower for his many years in radio (TV with out the pictures) and Knight of the Hippy-Hop signals for his work with translators. He should have received his certificate by now.

**Mark A. Carey** is a new member and has the dignity of General. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is: [Mark.Carey@Spacecom.com](mailto:Mark.Carey@Spacecom.com). OITP General Carey is a Staff Engineer with Space System Inc. out of Monee, IL. He should have received his certificate and lapel pin by now.

**Albert Flores** is a new member and has the dignity of Commodore. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is: [alflores@earthlink.net](mailto:alflores@earthlink.net). OITP Commodore Flores is with Pro Media Consultants out of Houston, TX. He should have received his certificate by now.

**Victoria Why Kipp** is a new member and has the dignity of Squire. If you wish to congratulate her, her E-mail address is: [vwkipp@aol.com](mailto:vwkipp@aol.com). Squire Kipp is a Technician 3 with the Educational Communication Board in Madison, WI. She should have received her certificate by now.

**Terry A. Priesont** is an up grading member and now has the dignity of Commander. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is: [Terry.Priesont@NTC.com](mailto:Terry.Priesont@NTC.com). OITP Commander Priesont is the Manager of Implementation Services for National TeleConsultants in Glendale, CA. and will be sporting one of the few remaining Commander lapel pins, which he should have received by now.

**Paul R. Brenner** is a new member and has the dignity of Commodore. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is: [PBrenner@tribune.com](mailto:PBrenner@tribune.com). OITP Commodore Brenner is the Director of Engineering at WTIC & WTXN (Tribune Broadcasting) in Hartford, CT. He should have received his certificate and lapel pin by now.

**Keith Kintner** is a new member and has the dignity of General. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is: [KMKint@uiuc.edu](mailto:KMKint@uiuc.edu). OITP General Kintner is the Assistant Director of Technology at WILL Am-FM-TV in Urbana, IL and his membership carries with it the endorsements of Knight of the Wooden Tower for his years in radio (TV with out the pictures). He will be receiving his certificate and lapel pin soon.

**Fred Baumgardner** is a new member and has the dignity of Commodore. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is [KGØKI@ARRL.net](mailto:KGØKI@ARRL.net). OITP Commodore Baumgardner is the Director of Engineering at the ComCast Media Center in Littleton, CO and his membership carries with it the endorsements of Knight of the Wooden Tower for his years in radio (TV with out the pictures). He will be receiving his lapel pin soon.

Barry Mishkind is a new member and has the dignity of General. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is [Barry@broadcast.net](mailto:Barry@broadcast.net). OITP General Mishkind is a Radio Engineer (The Eclectic Engineer) in and around Tucson, AZ and his membership carries with it the endorsement of Knight of the Wooden Tower for his years in radio (TV with out the pictures). Barry is our host this year at our annual meeting during NAB 2003.

If you don't see your name either here, the info is incorrect or you're not on [our membership page](#), - [contact us!](#)

Is it time for you to upgrade? Do you know someone who has no shame and would join our Order? [Click here for a membership application.](#)

Speaking of the website, we can link your name on the membership page to your home page website, if you wish. Just [let us know](#).

## Website Status Report

We've really done well on visitors to our website. As of this writing, the counter reads 4405. Remember that his counter service only counts an IP address once. If we could only get some of these folks to join and invest in a certificate to hang on their wall, a lapel pin to do what ever with, a drive you crazy screen saver and take out a business card ad on our business card page, we'd really be setting well. Isn't it nice to dream?


Just a reminder, several Survivors have purchase some of the few remaining lapel pins with "COMMANDER" emblazed across them, but when they're gone, we will not replace them. Want one? Order it today before stock runs out.

## In the SBE Signal

### Order of The Iron Test Pattern

**T**he Order of The Iron Test Pattern is once again active, now under the stewardship of SBE Member Larry Bloomfield. According to Bloomfield, The Order recognizes those who have "simply SURVIVED" the experience of being in and around the television and broadcast/cable industries.

The Order puts out an occasional newsletter that is a mix of humor, stories and information. There are no dues or initiation fees and most are welcome to join. For more information, visit The Order's website at [www.OITP.org](http://www.OITP.org). In addition, The Order hopes to have a presence at NAB2003.



*Used with permission from the March 2003 issue of The Signal, Society of Broadcast Engineers.*

## From your Sagacious Pixel,

Larry Bloomfield

Well not everyone will make it to NAB 2003 and that's everyone's loss, but all is not lost. As reported in our last newsletter, our sister publication, Tech-Notes will be doing their Road Show right after NAB 2003, entitled: A Taste of NAB 2003. This is an educational opportunity experience that will visit some thirty-six venues across the US this year and the **Order of the Iron Test Pattern** will certainly have a major presence along with all this technology. Perhaps we will have the opportunity to sing your praises at one of the venues near you. Check out the itinerary and see. [Click Here](#)





The Road Show is made possible through the generosity of these great companies:



We're looking for two more companies who are interested in getting their technology out to the folks who really need to know about it at the grassroots.

Of the thirty-six proposed venues (as of this writing) we have 24 confirmed and we're waiting for San Antonio, TX, -- New Orleans, LA, -- Ft. Myers, FL, -- Jacksonville, FL, -- The Tidewater (Virginia) area, -- The Washington, DC/Baltimore, MD area, -- Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN, -- Boise, ID and Washington State University to get back to us with confirmation information. That leaves two openings for the New England area the week of June 23<sup>rd</sup> and Seattle, WA (available August 6-8<sup>th</sup>) still not tied down. Most of our meetings will be in association with the local SBE Chapters and in some instances with the local SMPTE Section. IEEE is supposed to have an area interested in Broadcasting, but we've not heard from them. If you know any of these folks locally or otherwise, help us stir the pot. Have them contact

Venue bookings are coming along quite well. We've not contacted very many folks yet and the bookings are nearly a third completed already. Take a look at our website and the Taste of NAB2003 page for more details. At most of the venues we'll be part of either the SBE Chapter or SMPTE Section meeting. Want us to visit your town? Contact us: [RoadShow@Tech-Notes.TV](mailto:RoadShow@Tech-Notes.TV).

Great Tidings! **Fluke** is donating one of their Model 189 multimeters again this year as a door prize at the end of the trip. This prize is valued at nearly \$400.00. Last year's winner is Dennis Morton, Asst. Director of Engineering at Telefutura in Miami, FL. The Fluke Model 189, like last year, will be shipped from the factory directly to the luck winner.



This year we'll be adding two more door prizes. **Jensen Tools** is donating a tool kit for this year's Taste of NAB Road Show. It is reported to be worth several hundred dollars and would be a valuable addition to any engineer/technician's booty.



Wohler is donating a pen sized portable digital signal generator for this year's Taste of NAB Road Show. It's a neat device that fits into your shirt pocket.



## [A Little Bit of History](#)

(From across the ocean)

(Editor's Note: If you know of historic events, please let us know for future articles.)

British Television was of course the first in the world, and began on January 27th 1926 when John Logie-Baird first demonstrated that it was possible to transmit pictures using his mechanical scanning apparatus.

It wasn't until 1929 that the first experimental service was broadcast by the BBC in collaboration with The Baird Company. At this time transmission took place for thirty minutes per day using the Baird 30-line system.



It was around 1934 that the first simple patterns were generated to test the equipment. These consisted of a simple circle and line chart (which you will see later), which tested the picture ratio and the first wedge-shaped "frequency grating" for testing high-frequency response. It is worth bearing in mind that this could have been the time of the first "wide-screen" television, as the standard picture ratio at that time was 7:3. Unfortunately this was portrait, the image was much taller than it was wide. Early television recordings have been found and restored by Don McClean, check the [links](#) section for further information.

In November 1936, high definition television began. Baird had managed to improve his still mechanical system to 240 lines. However he faced competition from the Marconi-EMI electronic system, which provided 405 lines. The two systems were transmitted on alternate weeks, from Alexander Palace. It didn't take long for the government to decide that the 405 line system was far superior to the Baird system, and the Marconi-EMI 405 line system BBC Television Service was launched on February 8th 1937.



1937 saw the beginning of the BBC Tuning Signal. This was used to identify the station, and provide something for viewers to look at whilst waiting for the equipment to warm up. It was usually a simple pattern, which aided the viewer whilst adjusting the numerous knobs that controlled all of the fine tuning on their sets. Not that there were many viewers in 1937, it is estimated that only a few hundred people received these early transmissions.



1937 was also when the first electronically-generated test signal was broadcast. The "Art-bars" consisted of a large black cross on a white background.

Between 1939 and 1946 there was no television due to the war.

After the war, television took off again. 3350 viewers tuned in to some new tuning signals and the first BBC Clock. (There were programmes of course - I wouldn't want anyone to think that the BBC only broadcast test patterns!)

It was around this time that the BBC generated the first true "Test Card". Test Card A was designed to aid aligning studio cameras and testing response. It was also broadcast, aiding the field engineer who was setting up television sets. "Test Cards" are so called because the original ones were indeed cards, usually hand-drawn on large pieces of card. Typically they would measure 2ft by 3ft and a large camera would be placed in front. These test cards are usually referred to as "Opacities".

Later Test "Cards" were transparencies, varying in size from 1ft wide down to the 35mm slides common today.

There were also monoscopes, Cathode Ray Tubes with a metal plate onto which the image was etched. These were expensive to produce, and impossible to adjust. However, the generic term "Test Card" is used to describe all of these patterns, regardless of the medium used.

The rest? Well that's history. You will see a fair amount of that in [The Test Card Gallery](#).

For modern, up to date "Test Cards." Visit [DSC Labs](#).

## **Those who make this newsletter and the website possible**

Our website is sustained by sponsorship of the various pages and the business card page. The only page which is currently sponsored is our main page and we are really grateful to the folks at [DSC Labs](#) for their help in this area. Contact us about any of the other pages. -- [Sagacious\\_Pixel@OITP.org](mailto:Sagacious_Pixel@OITP.org).

On the business card page we have [Clark Wire & Cable](#), [McKeown Consulting](#), [AJA Video Systems](#), [Dorrough Electronics](#), [Michael Couzens - Attorney at Law](#), [Thomson Broadcast Solutions/Grass Valley](#), [BIA Finical Network](#), [Thomson Broadcast Solutions/Grass Valley](#) and [DL Creations](#) Click on any of the names (above) and it will either take you to their website or give you an e-mail to them. Check them out; use them – if and when you need their products and/or services, but most important, **let them** know you appreciate their support of OITP. So far we're just a head of the game, but we need more support if we expect to keep the website and e-mailing list-sever that goes with it. Again, if you wish to put your business card on our site, contact us. [Sagacious\\_Pixel@OITP.org](mailto:Sagacious_Pixel@OITP.org).



A badge of distinction



## Letters from our fellow survivors



I've just read your latest epistle -- very good and interesting. A thought has occurred to me! After reading the archives: I started in television design in 1937 at EKCO Radio in England for a year and then spent some time killing Germans until 1945, which is a total of 59 years. Does that make me a Moldy Mogull?



See you in Vegas, John Battison

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Hi there,

Good to see that you guys are meeting at NAB. Wish that I were going so I could meet a lot of you gentlemen in person. I'd love to hear some of the Stories that I'm sure you'll exchange over those days... hopefully I'll make it out next year.



I have a strange request for you. I have recently been working on some audio humor stuff, somewhat in the vein of old time radio but with some Firesign Theatre style comedy thrown in for good measure. I've found a few LP's of 60's era production elements that are perfect. Especially ones that I found that are like "instant commercials" - they're 30 second tracks with a pre-recorded announcer at the beginning with some generic message, a music bed that each individual station was supposed to talk over, then music at the end.

These tracks are really a lot of fun and lend themselves to my style of comedy. The thing is that these records are a bit hard to find. I've managed to scrape together about a dozen but would love to find some more. Do you know of anyone that might have a box of these types of records lying around? Since I've begun my search, I've heard a couple stories of people who "just threw out" a box of 200 because they didn't think that anyone cared anymore.

I've been cleaning up these records with their years of dust, then re-recording them into the computer so that I further fix up the sound digitally... these tracks have never sounded so good! I don't have a great of money to spend on such a project, but I could certainly pay for shipping.

Any leads that you might have would be very much appreciated. If I can get enough raw materials, I think that I could come up with an album's worth of good funny stuff.

Thanks a million for your help. By the way, I found out what the testing instrument was that I asked you about and you were kind enough to run a picture of. It is for video testing by TV repairmen. That strange connector is for plugging right into the picture tube of old televisions. I think that we're talking some scary voltages here...

Again, thanks and keep up the good work!  
director- The Vantage Point

editing - graphics - 3D - CD-rom multimedia

773.465.5158

[www.thevantagepoint.net](http://www.thevantagepoint.net)

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## Anti-War Protesters

Received from one of our Fellow Survivors who works in Washington, DC  
(He has asked to remain anonymous).

*(Editor's note: This may be offensive to some, but we will gladly give equal space to other points of view.)*

To nobody's surprise there were protesters today in DC, they attempted to disrupt the metro system and block the Key Bridge, a leading artery into DC from Northern Virginia. I got hosed twice because I come in from No Va on the metro and it is raining hard which makes traffic worse any way. My commute was long and arduous and only caused further resentment for protesters (but that isn't the point of this thread).



Anyway, I'll get to the point.

I got off my train in Rosslyn because I had to use the bathroom and the train was moving quite slowly. When I was getting back on the train, there were protesters on the train platform handing out pamphlets on the evils of America. I politely declined to take one. An elderly woman was behind me getting off the escalator and a young (20ish) female protester offered her a pamphlet, she politely declined.

The young protester put her hand on the old woman's shoulder as a gesture of friendship and in a very soft voice said, "Ma'am, don't you care about the children of Iraq?"

The old woman looked up at her and said, "Honey, my first husband died in France during World War II so you could have the right to stand here and bad mouth your country. And if you touch me again, I'll stick this umbrella up your ass and open it."

I'm glad to report that loud applause broke out among the onlookers and the young protester was at a total loss for words.

Three cheers for that sweet, elderly lady!!!

## **Quotes, A Little Humor (Very little) & More**



If you missed Andy Rooney on Sunday night (March 23, 2003) --- read on!

You can't beat the French when it comes to food, fashion, wine or perfume, but they lost their license to have an opinion on world affairs years ago.

They may even be selling stuff to Iraq and don't want to hurt business.

The French are simply not reliable partners in a world where the good people in it ought to be working together. Americans may come off as international jerks sometimes but we're usually trying to do the right thing.

The French lost WW II to the Germans in about 20 minutes. Along with the British, we got into the war and had about 150,000 guys killed getting their country back for them.

We fought all across France, and the Germans finally surrendered in a French schoolhouse. You'd think that school building in Reims would be a great tourist attraction but it isn't. The French seem embarrassed by it.

They don't want to call attention to the fact that we freed them from German occupation.

I heard Steven Spielberg say the French wouldn't even let him film the D-Day scenes in "Saving Private Ryan" on the Normandy beaches. They want people to forget the price we paid getting their country back for them.

Americans have a right to protest going to war with Iraq. The French do not. They owe us the independence they flaunt in our face at the U.N.

I went into Paris with American troops the day we liberated it, Aug. 25, 1944. It was one of the great days in the history of the world.

French women showered American soldiers with kisses, at the very least. The next day, the pompous Charles de Gaulle marched down the mile long Champs Elysee to the Place de la Concorde as if he had liberated France himself. I was there, squeezed in among a hundred tanks we'd given the Free French Army that we brought in with us. Suddenly there were sniper shots from the top of a building.

Thousands of Frenchmen who had come to see de Gaulle scrambled to get under something. I got under an Army truck myself. The tank gunners opened fire on the building where the shots had come from, firing mindlessly at nothing. It was a wild scene that lasted, maybe, 10 minutes.

When we go to Paris every couple of years now, I rent a car. I drive around the Place de la Concorde and when some French driver blows his horn for me to get out of his way, I just smile and say to myself, "Go ahead Pierre, be my guest. I know something about this very place you'll never know."

The French have not earned their right to have an opinion about President Bush's plans to attack Iraq. I on the other hand... have.

Andy Rooney-

## **Politically incorrect? Maybe...**

But as long as we're on the subject of France, An earthquake was reported there on February 14, 2003.

It was reported that severe earthquakes have occurred in 10 different locations in France. The severity was measured in excess of 10 on the Richter scale. The cause was the 56,681 dead American soldiers buried in French soil rolling over in their graves. According to the American Battle Monuments Commission there are 26,255 Yankee dead from World War I buried in 4 cemeteries in France. There are 30,426 American dead from World War II buried in 6 cemeteries in France. These 56,681 brave American heroes died in their youth to liberate a country which is guilty of shameful unspeakable behavior in the 21st century. May the United States of America never forget their sacrifice as we find ways to forcefully deal with the Godforsaken unappreciative, forgetful country of France!



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## **And here's a few quotable quotes with respect to France.**

Going to war without France is like going duck hunting without your accordion." Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. Secretary of Defense

"As far as I'm concerned, war always means failure." Jacques Chirac, President of France  
"... as far as France is concerned, you're right." Rush Limbaugh

"They've taken their own precautions against al-Qa'ida. To prepare for an attack, each Frenchman is urged to keep duct tape, a white flag, and a three-day supply of mistresses in the house." Argus Hamilton

"Somebody was telling me about the French Army rifle that was being advertised on eBay the other day -- the description was, 'Never shot. Dropped once.' " Rep. Roy Blunt (MO)

"The French will only agree to go to war when we've proven we've found truffles in Iraq." Dennis Miller

"What do you expect from a culture and a nation that exerted more of its national will fighting against Disneyworld and Big Macs than the Nazis?" Dennis Miller

Raise your right hand if you like the French ... raise both hands if you are French.

"You know why the French don't want to bomb Saddam Hussein? Because he hates Americans, he loves mistresses and wears a beret. He is French, people!" Conan O'Brien

"I don't know why people are surprised the French don't want to help us get Saddam out of Iraq. After all, France wouldn't help us get the Germans out of France." Jay Leno

Q. What did the mayor of Paris say to the German Army as they entered the city in WWII?  
A. Table for 100,000 monsieur?

"The last time the French asked for 'more proof' it came marching into Paris under a German flag." David Letterman

"Do you know how many Frenchmen it takes to defend Paris? It's not known, it's never been tried." Rep. R. Blount (MO)

"Do you know it only took Germany three days to conquer France in WWII? And that's because it was raining." John Xereas, Manager, DC Improv.

"It is important to remember that the French have always been there when they needed us."

Enough?

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## One Wish

A man walking along a California beach was deep in prayer. Suddenly the sky clouded above his head and in a booming voice the Lord said, "Because you have TRIED to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish." The man said, "Build a bridge to Hawaii so I can drive over anytime I want."



The Lord said, "Your request is very materialistic. Think of the enormous challenges for that kind of undertaking. The supports required to reach the bottom of the Pacific! The concrete and steel it would take! It will nearly exhaust several natural resources. I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of something that would honor and glorify me."

The man thought about it for a long time. Finally he said, "Lord, I wish that I could understand my wife! I want to know how she feels inside, what she's thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says 'nothing's wrong', and how I can make a woman truly happy." The Lord replied, "You want two lanes or four on that bridge?"





Two small post offices in Texas recently had to remove a sign "in God we Trust"...even tho' it appears on the money used to buy stamps. My correspondent suggested that everyone should write "In God we Trust" on the backs of our letters. Seems a good idea. IN GOD WE TRUST.



John Battison

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Gentlefolk,

For those of you concerned about alien abductions, I present the following web site for your consideration. <http://www.stopabductions.com/>



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### **Powell Quote:**

When in England at a fairly large conference, Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if our plans for Iraq were just an example of empire building by George Bush.

He answered by saying that, "Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return." It became very quiet in the room.



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### **A gallon of gas**

You think a gallon of gas is expensive? This will make you smile at the Pump!!!! This makes one think, and puts things in perspective.

Diet Snapple 16 oz \$1.29.....	\$10.32 per gallon
Lipton Ice Tea 16 oz \$1.19.....	\$ 9.52 per gallon
Gatorade 20 oz \$1.59.....	\$10.17 per gallon
Ocean Spray 16 oz \$1.25.....	\$10.00 per gallon
Brake Fluid 12 oz \$3.15.....	\$33.60 per gallon
Vick's Nyquil 6 oz. \$8.35.....	\$178.13 per gallon
Pepto Bismol 4 oz \$3.85.....	\$123.20 per gallon
Whiteout 7 oz \$1.39.....	\$25.42 per gallon
Scope 1.5 oz \$0.99.....	\$84.48 per gallon

and this is the REAL KICKER...



Evian water 9 oz for \$1.49..... \$21.19 per gallon  
\$21.19 FOR WATER!.....and the buyers don't even know the source.

So, the next time you're at the pump, be glad your car doesn't run on water, Scope, or Whiteout, or God forbid PEPTO BISMOL or NYQUIL!!!!

Just a little humor to help ease the pain of your next trip to the pump...!

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As a follow up to our last newsletter where in we told you how to give a Cat a pill, he is:

## **HOW TO BATHE A CAT**



1. Thoroughly clean toilet.
2. Lift both lids and add shampoo.
3. Find and soothe cat as you carry him to bathroom.
4. In one swift move, place cat in toilet, close both lids and stand on top, so cat cannot escape.
5. The cat will self agitate and produce ample suds.  
(Ignore ruckus from inside toilet, cat is enjoying this)
6. Flush toilet 3 or 4 times. This provides power rinse, which is quite effective.
7. Have someone open outside door, stand as far from toilet as possible and quickly lift both lids.
8. Clean cat will rocket out of the toilet and outdoors, where he will air dry quickly.

Sincerely,



The Dog

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## **25 THINGS YOU SHOULD HAVE LEARNED BY MIDDLE AGE:**

1. If you're too open-minded, your brains will fall out.
2. Don't worry about what people think; they don't do it very often.
3. Going to church/temple/mosque doesn't make you religious any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
4. It ain't the jeans that make your butt look fat.
5. Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.
6. My idea of housework is to sweep the room with a glance.
7. Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.
8. It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.



9. For every action, there is an equal and opposite Government program.
10. If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip.
11. Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.
12. A conscience is what hurts when all of your other parts feel so good.
13. Eat well, stay fit; die anyway.
14. Men are from earth. Women are from earth. Deal with it.
15. No man has ever been shot while doing the dishes.
16. A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand.
17. Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.
18. Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.
19. Junk is something you've kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it.
20. There is always one more imbecile than you counted on.
21. Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.
22. By the time you can make ends meet, they move the ends.
23. Thou shalt not weigh more than thy refrigerator.
24. Someone who thinks logically provides a nice contrast to the real world.
25. If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before.

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## **WORDS WOMEN USE TO CONFUSE MEN**

### **FINE**

This is the word women use to end an argument when they feel they are right and you need to shut up. Never use "fine" to describe how a woman looks - this will cause you to have one of those arguments.

### **FIVE MINUTES**

This is half an hour. It is equivalent to the five minutes that your football game is going to last before you take out the trash, so it's an even trade.

### **NOTHING**

This means "something", and you should be on your toes. "Nothing" is usually used to describe the feeling a woman has of wanting to turn you inside out, upside down, and backwards. 'Nothing' usually signifies an argument that will last "Five Minutes" and end with 'Fine'.

### **GO AHEAD (With Raised Eyebrows)**

This is a dare. One that will result in a woman getting upset over "Nothing" and will end with the word "Fine".



#### GO AHEAD (Normal Eyebrows)

This means "I give up" or "do what you want because I don't care" You will get a "Raised Eyebrow Go Ahead" in just a few minutes, followed by "Nothing" and "Fine" and she will talk to you in about "Five Minutes" when she cools off.

#### LOUD SIGH

This is not actually a word, but is a non-verbal statement often misunderstood by men. A "Loud Sigh" means she thinks you are an idiot at that moment, and wonders why she is wasting her time standing here and arguing with you over "Nothing".

#### SOFT SIGH

Again, not a word, but a non-verbal statement. "Soft Sighs" mean that she is content. Your best bet is to not move or breathe, and she will stay content.

#### THAT'S OKAY

This is one of the most dangerous statements that a woman can make to a man. "That's Okay" means that she wants to think long and hard before paying you back for whatever it is that you have done. "That's Okay" is often used with the word "Fine" and is in conjunction with a "Raised Eyebrow".

#### GO AHEAD.

At some point in the near future, you are going to be in some mighty big trouble.

#### PLEASE DO

This is not a statement, it is an offer. A woman is giving you the chance to come up with whatever excuse or reason you have for doing whatever it is that you have done. You have a fair chance with the truth, so be careful and you shouldn't get a "That's Okay".

#### THANKS

A woman is thanking you. Do not faint. Just say you're welcome.

#### THANKS A LOT

This is much different from "Thanks." A woman will say, "Thanks A Lot" when she is really ticked off at you. It signifies that you have offended her in some callous way, and will be followed by the "Loud Sigh." Be careful not to ask what is wrong after the "Loud Sigh," as she will only tell you "Nothing"

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### **Settling it with a Dog Fight!**

George Bush and Saddam Hussein decided to settle the war once and for all. They sat down and decided to settle the whole dispute with one dog fight. They would have 5 years to breed the best fighting dog in the world, and whichever side's dog won would be entitled to dominate the world.

Saddam found the biggest, meanest Doberman and Rottweiler female dogs in the world and bred them with the meanest Siberian wolves. They selected only the biggest and strongest puppy from the litter, and removed his siblings, which gave him all the milk. After 5 years, they came up with the biggest, meanest dog the world had ever seen. Its cage needed steel bars that were 5" thick and nobody could get near it.



When the day came for the dog fight, Bush showed up with a strange looking animal. It was a 9-foot-long Dachshund. Everyone felt sorry for Bush because there was no way that this dog could possible last 10 seconds with the Iraqi dog.

When the cages were opened up, the Dachshund came out of its cage and slowly waddled over towards Saddam's dog. Saddam's dog snarled and leaped out of its cage and charged the American Dachshund-but when it got close enough to bite, the Dachshund opened its mouth and consumed Saddam's dog in one bite!

There was nothing left of his dog at all. Saddam came up to Bush, shaking his head in disbelief. "We don't understand how this could have happened. We had our best people working for 5 years with the meanest Doberman and Rottweiler female dogs in the world and the biggest, meanest Siberian wolves."

"Yes," said Bush. "But we had the best plastic surgeons working for 5 years to make that alligator look like a weenie dog."



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## Planning their wedding



Jacob, age 92, and Rebecca, age 89, are all excited about their decision to get married. They go for a stroll to discuss the wedding and on the way they pass a drugstore. Jacob suggests they go in. Jacob addresses the man behind the counter: "Are you the owner?"

The pharmacist answers, "Yes."

Jacob: "We're about to get married. Do you sell heart medication?"

Pharmacist: "Of course we do."

Jacob: "How about medicine for circulation?"

Pharmacist: "All kinds."

Jacob: "Medicine for rheumatism, scoliosis?"

Pharmacist: "Definitely."

Jacob: "How about Viagra?"

Pharmacist: "Of course."

Jacob: "Medicine for memory problems, arthritis, jaundice?"

Pharmacist: "Yes, a large variety. The works."

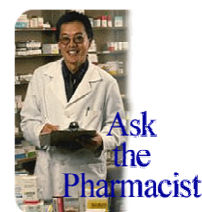
Jacob: "What about vitamins, sleeping pills, Geritol, antidotes for Parkinson's disease?"

Pharmacist: "Absolutely."

Jacob: "You sell wheelchairs and walkers?"

Pharmacist: "All speeds and sizes."

Jacob says to the pharmacist: "We'd like to register here for our wedding gifts, please."



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## Wal-Mart Wine List

BENTONVILLE, ARK (AP) -- Some Wal-Mart customers soon will be able to sample a new discount item -- Wal-Mart's own brand of wine. The worlds largest retail chain is teaming up with E&J Gallo Winery of Modesto, Calif., to produce the spirits at an affordable price, in the \$2-5 range. While wine connoisseurs may not be inclined to throw a bottle of Wal-Mart brand wine into their shopping carts, there is a market for cheap wine, said Kathy Micken, professor of marketing at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. She said: "The right name is important."



So, here we go: The top 12 suggested names for Wal-Mart Wine:

12. Château Traileur Parc
11. White Trashfindel
10. Big Red Gulp
9. Grape Expectations
8. Domaine Wal-Mart "Merde du Pays"
7. NASCARbernet
6. Chef Boyardeaux
5. Peanut Noir
4. Château des Moines
3. I Can't Believe It's Not Vinegar!
2. World Championship Riesling

And the number 1 name for Wal-Mart Wine ...

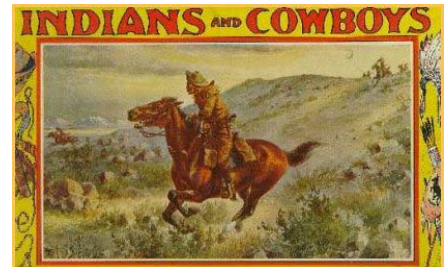
1. Nasti Spumante

And who says they don't know wine in Arkansas?

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## **Cowboys and Who?**

Three strangers strike up a conversation in the passenger lounge in the Stillwater, Oklahoma airport, awaiting their flight. One is an American Indian passing through from Watonga, another, a cowboy on his way to Oklahoma City for a stock show. The third passenger is a fundamentalist Arab student, newly arrived at Oklahoma State University from the Middle East to study petroleum engineering.



Their discussion drifts to their diverse cultures. Soon the two Westerners learn that the Arab is a devout, radical Muslim. The conversation falls into an uneasy lull. The cowboy leans back in his chair, crosses his boots on a magazine table, tips his big sweat-stained hat forward over his face.

The wind outside blows tumbleweeds, and the old windsock flaps; but no plane comes. Finally, the American Indian clears his throat and softly he speaks, "Once, my people were many, now we are few." The Arab student raises an eyebrow and leans forward, "Once my people were few," he sneers, "and now we are many." "Why do you suppose that is?"

The Oklahoma cowboy shifts his toothpick to one side of his mouth and from the darkness beneath his Stetson says in a drawl....

"That's 'cause we ain't played Cowboys and Arabs yet."

# Archives

## **Fact or fiction -- but who really cares?**

If you yelled for 8 years, 7 months and 6 days you would have produced enough sound energy to heat one cup of coffee.  
(Hardly seems worth it.)

If you farted consistently for 6 years and 9 months, enough gas is produced to create the energy of an atomic bomb.  
(Now that's more like it!)

The human heart creates enough pressure when it pumps out to the body to squirt blood 30 feet.  
(O.M.G.!!)

A pig's orgasm lasts 30 minutes.  
(In my next life, I want to be a pig.)

A cockroach will live nine days without its head before it starves to death. (Creepy.)  
(I'm still not over the pig.)

Banging your head against a wall uses 150 calories an hour.  
(Do not try this at home..... maybe at work.)  
The male praying mantis cannot copulate while its head is attached to its body. The female initiates sex by ripping the male's head off.  
("Honey, I'm home. What the....?!")

The flea can jump 350 times its body length. It's like a human jumping the length of a football field.  
(30 minutes... lucky pig... can you imagine??)

The catfish has over 27,000 taste buds.  
(What could be so tasty on the bottom of a pond?)

Some lions mate over 50 times a day.  
(I still want to be a pig in my next life...quality over quantity)

Butterflies taste with their feet.  
(Something I always wanted to know.)

The strongest muscle in the body is the tongue.  
(Hmmmmmm.....)

Right-handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed people.  
(If you're ambidextrous, do you split the difference?)

Elephants are the only animals that cannot jump.  
(OK, so that would be a good thing....)

A cat's urine glows under a black light.  
(I wonder who was paid to figure that out?)

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.  
(I know some people like that.)

Starfish have no brains.  
(I know some people like that too.)

Polar bears are left-handed.  
(If they switch, they'll live a lot longer.)

Humans and dolphins are the only species that have sex for pleasure.  
(What about that pig??)

Now that you've smiled at least once, it's your turn to spread the stupidity and send this to someone you want to bring a smile to (maybe even a chuckle)...in other words send it to everyone.

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## **A Bricklayers accident report**

*This is a bricklayer's Accident report, which was printed in the newsletter of the Australian equivalent to the Workers Compensation board and is a true story. Had this guy died, he'd have received a Darwin Award for sure.*

Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to your request for additional information in Block 3 of the accident report form. I put poor planning as the cause of my accident. You asked for a fuller explanation and I trust the following details will be sufficient.



I am a bricklayer by trade. On the day of the accident, I was working alone on the roof of a new six-story building. When I completed my work, I found that I had some bricks left over which, when weighed later were found to be slightly in excess of 500lbs. Rather than carry the bricks down by hand, I decided to lower them in a barrel by using a pulley, which was attached to the side of the building on the sixth floor. Securing the rope at ground level I went up to the roof, swung the barrel out and loaded the bricks into it. Then I went down and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow descent of the bricks. You will note in Block 11 of the accident report form that I weigh 135 lbs.

Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rapid rate up the side of the building. In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel, which was now proceeding downward at an equally impressive speed. This explained the fractured skull, minor abrasions and the broken collar bone, as listed in section 3 of the accident report form.

Slowed only slightly, I Continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold tightly to the rope, in spite of beginning to experience pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of bricks hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Now devoid of the weight of the bricks, that barrel weighed approximately 50 lbs. I refer you again to my weight. As you can imagine, I began a rapid descent, down the side of the building. In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, broken tooth and several lacerations of my legs and lower body. Here my luck began to change slightly. The encounter with the barrel seemed to slow me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell into the pile of bricks and fortunately only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, as I lay there

on the pile of bricks, In pain, unable to move, I again lost my composure and presence of mind and let go of the rope and I lay there watching the empty barrel begin its journey back down onto me. This explains the two broken legs.

I hope this answers your inquiry.

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## **A Rose by any other name is still a Rose**

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house and, after eating; the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two elderly gentlemen were talking and one said, "Last night we went out to a new restaurant, and it was really great. I would recommend it very highly."

The other man said, "What was the name of the restaurant?"

The first man knitted his brow in obvious concentration and finally said to his companion, "Aahh, what's the name of that red flower you give to someone you love?"

His friends replied, "A carnation??"

"No, no. The other one," the man said.

His friend offers another suggestion, "The poppy?"

"Nahhhh," growled the man. "You know ... the one that's red and has thorns."

His friend said, "You mean a rose?"

"Yes, yes. That's it. Thank you!" the first man said. He then turned toward the kitchen and yelled, "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?"

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## **Tech Suport**



**Tech  
Support**

Dear Tech Support:

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0 and noticed a slowdown in the performance of the flower and jewelry applications that had operated flawlessly under the Boyfriend 5.0 system. In addition, Husband 1.0 un-installed many other valuable programs, such as Romance 9.9, but installed undesirable programs such as NFL 7.4, NBA 3.2 and NHL 4.1. Conversation 8.0 also no longer runs and



Housecleaning 2.6 simply crashes the system. I've tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems, but to no avail. What can I do?

Signed,  
Desperate

Dear Desperate:

First, keep in mind that Boyfriend 5.0 was an entertainment package, while Husband 1.0 is an operating system. Try to enter the command

C:/ITHOUGHTYOULOVEDME and install Tears 6.2. Husband 1.0 should then automatically run the applications Guilt 3.3 and Flowers 7.5. But remember, overuse can cause Husband 1.0 to default to such background applications as Grumpy Silence 2.5, Happy Hour 7.0, or Beer 6.1. Please remember that Beer 6.1 is a very bad program that will create Snoring Loudly.WAV files. DO NOT install Mother-in-law 1.0 or reinstall another Boyfriend program. These are not supported applications and will crash Husband 1.0. They could also potentially cause Husband 1.0 to default to the program: Girlfriend 9.2, which runs in the background and has been

Known to introduce potentially serious viruses into the Operating System. In summary, Husband 1.0 is a great program, but it does have a limited memory and can't learn new applications quickly. You might consider buying additional software to enhance his system performance. I personally recommend Hot Food 3.0 and Single Malt Scotch 4.5 combined with such applications as that old stand-by Lingerie 6.9 (which has been credited with improved performance of his hardware). Good Luck.

Tech Support

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## **Words for Writers Who Play with Them**

1. A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.
2. A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
3. Dancing cheek-to-cheek is really a form of floor play.
4. Sea captains don't like crew cuts.
5. Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
6. Condoms should be used on every conceivable occasion.
7. Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.
8. When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
9. A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.
10. A will is defined as a dead giveaway.
11. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
12. In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes.
13. She had a boyfriend with a wooden leg, but broke it off.



14. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
15. If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.
16. With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
17. Show me a piano falling down a mineshaft, and I'll show you A flat minor.
18. The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.
19. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blown apart.
20. You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
21. Local Area Network in Australia: the LAN down under.
22. He often broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
23. Every calendar's days are numbered.
24. A lot of money is tainted - It taint yours and it taint mine.
25. A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
26. He had a photographic memory that was never developed.
27. The short fortuneteller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
28. Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
29. Once you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.
30. Those who jump off a Paris bridge are in Seine.
31. When an actress saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.
32. Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.
33. Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
34. Acupuncture is a jab well done.
35. Marathon runners with bad footwear suffer the agony of defeat.
36. The poor guy fell into a glass grinding machine and made a spectacle of himself.
37. When he grabbed himself in the butt, it was a site to behold.
- And finally,
38. The end of these moronisms is but a period away.
- 39.



Well that's about it for this time. Don't forget to check out the industry news in the Tech-Notes: <http://www.tech-notes.tv/> the latest edition has just been posted.

As we said earlier on, stay tuned – things can only get better! – But only with your help. Tell a friend or associate about us.

Until next time --FADE TO BLACK! ☺ .

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