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# Order of the Iron Test Pattern



Volume 2

## Newsletter

Number 4

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

**April 21, 2003**

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

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



## **Been There! Done That! The OITP Annual Meeting**



For those of you who didn't make it to NAB, or if you did and didn't make it to our annual meeting, you missed a really great time. As we mentioned in our last newsletter, we actually had two events. Our first was our awards luncheon when we joined OITP General Barry Mishkind's 11th Annual Lunch Gathering of the really great folks who hang out on the Internet on the broadcast.net forum at the Rivera's Buffet. Barry proved that there is a "Free Lunch," or should I say he got Prophet Systems, Shively Labs, Orban, and Sierra Automated Systems. to pick up the tab. Many thanks.



As mentioned in our last newsletter, 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](#)." Since many of our members got their start in radio and some of the Mishkind crowd are TV folks, we rapidly discovered that we're all SURVIVORS on the same boat of broadcasting.

Your Sagacious Pixel posted a note of thanks on the Broadcast.net reflector that went something like this: "On behalf of the members of the Order of the Iron Test Pattern, I'd like to thank you, Barry, and the other

folks at the luncheon for permitting us to join you and the group. All of our folks had a grand time, as I'm thinking your guys did also." The pictures we took at the luncheon on are posted on our website in our Rogue's Gallery at: <http://www.oitp.org/rogues/roguesgallery-a.htm>.

The awards part of the luncheon served to introduce several of our members to a lot of folks who didn't have a clue as to who they were. Our illustrious founder, Robert N. (Father Bob) Vendeland presented the Founder's Award - "The Iron Matrix Award" to Galactic Tycoon Lyle Keys, for his contribution to the industry of the first expandable, modular, 10 x 10 matrices while at Utah Scientific.



Your Sagacious Pixel presented Monochrome Mogul Garry Gramman the "The Iron Angel Award." for being the financial Angel of the OITP from its start until it restarted after a several year dormancy.

OITP General Chuck Pharis got "The TV Equipment Grave Yard Award." for hording over 127 old discarded broadcast

TV Cameras and other workhorse memorabilia.



Two special awards were given out;



"The Iron Chip Chart Award" was presented to **David Corley** of DSC labs for coming up with the only decent SD/HDTV chip chart in the world! Dave's DSC labs is also the company who has been helping to underwrite our website by sponsoring the front page. Dave was nominated by Chuck Pharis - ABC-TV video operator.

The other was given to Monochrome Mogul Garry Gene Polley, “The Iron Couch Potato Award” for inventing the Remote control and turning us into a nation of couch potatoes. Gene was unable to make it to NAB, so his award has been mailed to him.



And NO! That isn't Santa Claus in "civies;" it's your Sagacious Pixel. Speaking of your Sagacious Pixel, when he'd thought all was finished and could get back to grazing; Father Bob stood up and presented him, much to the Pixel's surprise, with "The Spirit of Television Future Award" Note the Dynair name in the medallion

In addition to these awards, Barry had a number of nifty door prizes that he gave away and your most generous Order of the Iron Test Pattern, gave a set of Test Pattern nightlights away to round out the affair.



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If this wasn't enough, we had the opportunity to meet at a second event. The reasoning was that if our fellow SURVIVORS couldn't make the Tuesday luncheon, perhaps they could attend the Wednesday evening bash at Lawery's.



About a dozen and a half met and had a very sumptuous meal and fellowship. We picked up several new members while consuming the fine fair. Your Sagacious Pixel also sent an e-mail to the OpenDTV folks and their leader, Craig Birkmaier.



More pictures are on the website under the Rogue's Gallery.



## **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 351 to 368 members, as of today and more coming everyday. Nearly 100 applications were passed out during NAB and some of them have come back in.

**William E. Newbrough** is a new member and has the dignity of Galactic Tycoon. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is: [newbro@ix.netcom](mailto:newbro@ix.netcom). Galactic Tycoon Newbrough is the President of Newbrough Enterprises, Inc. and runs RF Specialties of Washington, Inc and his membership carries with it the endorsements of Knight of the Wooden Tower for his work in Radio and Knight of the Order Pad for being a salesman in our industry. He will be receiving his certificate and lapel pin sometime soon.

**Steve Lampen** is a new member and has the dignity of Brigadier. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is: [shlampen@aol.com](mailto:shlampen@aol.com). OITP Brigadier Lampen is a Technology Specialist with Belden Electronics and is based out of San Francisco and his membership carries with it the endorsements of Knight of the Order Pad for being a salesman in our industry. He will be receiving his certificate and lapel pin sometime soon.

**Ronald C. Ross** is a new member and has the dignity of General. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is: [Ron38Ross@yahoo.com](mailto:Ron38Ross@yahoo.com). OITP General Ross is Retired from Sony and lives in Chattanooga, TN. He will be receiving his certificate and lapel pin sometime soon.

**John W. Martin** is a new member and has the dignity of Commodore. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is: [jmartin@pgatourhg.com](mailto:jmartin@pgatourhg.com). OITP Commodore Martin is Chief Engineer of PGA Tours and is based out of St. Augustine, FL and his membership carries with it the endorsement of Knight of the Geosynchronous Stuff for his work in Satellite Communications. He will be receiving his certificate and lapel pin sometime soon.

**John T. Devine** is a new member and has the dignity of Commander. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is: [JDevine@mail.de.state.az.us](mailto:JDevine@mail.de.state.az.us). OITP Commander Devine is a Video Production Specialist for the State of Arizona based out of Phoenix and his membership carries with it the endorsements of Knight of the Geosynchronous Stuff for his work in Satellite Communications and Knight of the Cinematic Bit-keeper for his work in Digital Cinema. He will be receiving his certificate and lapel pin sometime soon.

**Richard Rudman** is a new member and has the dignity of Admiral. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is: [rar01@earthlink.net](mailto:rar01@earthlink.net). OITP Admiral Rudman owns Remote Possibilities, which based out of Studio City, CA and his membership carries with it the endorsements of Knight of the Wooden Tower for his work in Radio. He will be receiving his certificate and lapel pin sometime soon.

**Ed Grogan** is a new member and has the dignity of General. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is: [etg@smart.net](mailto:etg@smart.net). OITP General Grogan is a Principal Engineer with the Department of Defense and lives in Columbia, MD. He will receive his certificate and lapel pin sometime soon.

**Annette Brooker-Grogan** is a new member and has the dignity of Commander. If you wish to congratulate her, her E-mail address is: [alb@smart.net](mailto:alb@smart.net). OITP Commander Brooker-Grogan is Chief of Operations for Audio-Video Freelance based out of Columbia, MD. She will receive her certificate and lapel pin sometime soon.

**Bob Drake** is a new member and has the dignity of Ensign. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is: [Bob@thebridge.FM](mailto:Bob@thebridge.FM). OITP Ensign Drake is Chief Engineer at KGBI-FM in Omaha, NE and his membership carries with it the endorsement of Knight of the Wooden Tower for his work in Radio.

**Leo Kerr** is a new member and has the dignity of Lieutenant. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is: [kerrl@si.edu](mailto:kerrl@si.edu). OITP Lieutenant is with Audio-Video Freelance and is based out of Elkridge, MD.

**Keith Reynolds** is a reinstated member and now has the dignity of Galactic Tycoon with a total of 48 years in the broadcast industry. If you wish to welcome him back, his E-mail address is: [Keith.Reynolds2@get.net](mailto:Keith.Reynolds2@get.net). Galactic Tycoon Reynolds is now retired from a plethora of employers and finds his retirement most suitable in Keizer, OR. If we had an endorsement for those involved in the various kinds of magnetic tape, we have to give it to him... Perhaps Knight of the Magnetic Patterns, but may be in another life. Keith will receive his lapel pin sometime soon.

**Roy Trumbull** is a reinstated member and now has the dignity of Admiral If you wish to welcome him back, his E-mail address is: [rtrumbull@earthlink.net](mailto:rtrumbull@earthlink.net). OITP Admiral Trumbull is now retired from KRON-TV, but you'd never know it. He is very involved in television things at Cal-State Hayward and continues to live in the thriving metropolis of El Cerrito, CA and his membership carries with it the endorsement of Knight of the Wooden Tower for his early work in Radio.

**William F. Freiburger** is up grading his dignity to that of Admiral with over 40 years of SURVIVING the broadcast industry. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is [DrDumont@Dumont.net](mailto:DrDumont@Dumont.net). OITP Admiral Freiburger is with National Mobile Television as Director of Engineering and is based out of Sommerville, NJ. He will receive his certificate and lapel pin sometime soon.

**Steven H. York** is a new member and has the dignity of Galactic Tycoon. If you wish to welcome him, his E-mail address is [syork@yorkzim.com](mailto:syork@yorkzim.com). Galactic Tycoon York is president of York Zimmerman, Inc. out of Washington, DC and his membership carries with the endorsement of Knight of the Wooden Tower for the work he's done in radio. Steve will be receiving his certificate sometime soon.

**Earl Capp Loughboro** is re-instating his membership and is up grading his dignity to that of Monochrome Mogul with over 50 years of SURVIVING the broadcast industry. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is [cappsinc@Pacbell.net](mailto:cappsinc@Pacbell.net). Monochrome Mogul Loughboro is the president and CEO of Capp's TV Electronics based out of Ventura, CA and his membership has the endorsement of Knight of the Geosynchronous Stuff for the work he has done with Satellite down link facilities. He will receive his certificate and lapel pin sometime soon.

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](#).

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### **Website Status Report**

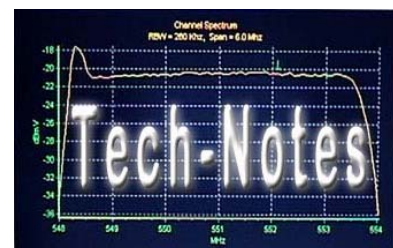
We've really done well on visitors to our website. As of this writing, the counter reads 4951; that's 547 new visitors since our last newsletter. Remember that his counter service only counts an IP address once. If we could only get some of these folks to join and invest in a certificate to hang on their 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? We still have a 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.

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### **From your Sagacious Pixel,**

Larry Bloomfield

Well not everyone made it to NAB 2003! In fact, attendance was defiantly down. NAB put out a press release saying there were 89,000 in attendance. The cabdrivers and your Sagacious Pixel say you can take at least 10% off that figure to be more accurate. Fear Not! The Tech-Notes Road Show is all but on the road. It all begins Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> in Medford, OR. We've been told there is a great deal of interest and plans are afoot to ensure the attendees are not disappointed and we'll even try to exceed their expectations. Word has it that they may form an SBE chapter while we're there. The same thing is planned for our meeting in Helena, MT.



As of this writing, the Road Show is confirmed in 33 of the proposed 36 venues and all ten of the underwriters have been secured. We're still trying to find a interest in what we have to bring in the Washington, DC/Baltimore area, New England and Boise, ID.

We've been able to secure additional door prizes that will be drawn for at the end of the Road Show in August. We've even been able to continue the concept of a free lunch and have local partners who will be picking up the bill for vittles at some of the venues. This is a national Road Show and perhaps we will have the opportunity to sing your praises at one of the venues near you, so why not plan to attend. There is no charge. Check out the itinerary and see. [Click Here](#).

You can bet the farm that we'll be talking up the Order of the Iron Test Pattern at any given opportunity and applications will be close by for the interested. The Road Show is made possible through the generosity of great companies such as AJA, Clark Wire and Cable, ESE, Evertz, Sundance Digital, Leader Instruments, Larcen, Wohler, JamPro and Quartz. Links to these fine folks are on the Tech-Notes website: <http://www.tech-notes.tv/2003/2003-1.htm>.

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 us.



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 several 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 four hundred plus dollars and would be a valuable addition to any engineer/technician's booty.



Sencore and Wohler are each putting up a PenPal pocket SDI test signal generator. This little puppy is worth around a grand. (\$1000.00). Yes, that's two of them.

Cooper Tolls is donating a Weller "WSL" Digital Soldering station worth in the neighborhood of \$400 plus.



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## **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-server 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).

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## Letters from our fellow survivors

Just looked at your website and thought I might tell you that I worked for Ampex Corp. from 1958-1965. In 1960, I helped design and traveled with the Ampex Videotape Cruiser for 6-months across the country. This was the first time the Ampex VR1000 (or any vcr for that matter) was mobile.



One of our first stops was Hoover Dam where we set up the two RCA cameras on the roof and a cow-catcher on the front of the bus and recorded images in motion. On our way to Los Angeles for an SMPTE convention, I managed to dub Grofe's Grand Canyon Suite on the audio tracks and we created quite a stir in LA among TV engineers and others.

That tape got out of our hands somehow, but a year or so ago, to my amazement, I caught a snippet of it on a British TV program about the history of Television.

In 1961 I videotaped the Eichmann Trial in Jerusalem, Israel, and also was a project engineer and demonstrator of the Pilot Landing Aid Television (PLAT) system now installed on all aircraft carriers in the fleet.

The important thing about the Eichmann Trial was that all four Marconi MKIV cameras had to be concealed from view so that no one in the courtroom would know they were there. They didn't get that right for the OJ Simsone trial, did they?

I had some real adventures on aircraft carriers in those days. All told I was at sea for a total of two months over a year or so on several different carriers. And.... we were using Mark IV cameras too. I can remember Charlie Ginsburg and others at Ampex clearly saying there would be no way in the future to reduce the size of the videotape down from 2 inches. Now, just look at the mini-palm cameras on the market 40 years later.

I was product manager for the importation of the Marconi Mark IV 4 1/2" image orthicon camera with its beautiful panchromatic images. Color came on the scene around that time and the product did not have a long life.



I produced the first color TV recordings of a Saturn V launch at Cape Canaveral with the prototype Ampex color recorder, and was privy in the labs one afternoon to watch a frozen puff pastry come to life in stop motion using the first prototype of the Ampex stop-motion system.

Many memories for sure.....

Regards,

Charles

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Lyle led the development of the first expandable 10 x 10 router at his second company, TeleMation, not US. Our Esteemed Ex-Meritus (he and the Iron Angel hired the TM Director of Engineering to build an expandable 10 x 10 router for Dynair), LOK and the senior staff of US all know this. So, if this is a US promotion I don't want to interfere.

Brigadier Don Reynolds

(Editor's note: Our mistake. We stand corrected.)

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(Received before NAB) Thanks for the Award! Dam it... now I HAVE to come!!! HA! Got to work on the speech...

"Good evening ladies and germs",,,,,,,just flew in, and BOY are my arms tired".....mmmmmmm

Looking forward to seeing you again. I'll be there for just Tuesday as I can't get off work the rest of the week. Fly in/fly out!

David Corley will be THRILLED to get his award too!

You are doing a fantastic job on the OITP newsletter!

I would like to write a very short article each month about vintage TV equipment with a photo or two for the newsletter. I'll send you a sample next month. (We waiting)

See ya soon!

Chuck Pharis

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Nice News Letter. I just read it. Other than an "r" (that is not needed) in my last name and two "o's" instead of two "l's" in Polley, you did good! This should be a fun lunch and I look forward to it.

Robert N. Vendeland

(Editor's note: That's why you make the big buck – to catch these mistakes)

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## Food for thought – Short and Sweet – It says it all!



IT IS THE SOLDIER, not the reporter,  
Who has given us freedom of the press.

IT IS THE SOLDIER, not the poet,  
Who has given us freedom of speech.

IT IS THE SOLDIER, not the campus organizer,  
Who has given us freedom to demonstrate.

IT IS THE SOLDIER, not the lawyer,  
Who has given us the right to a fair trial.

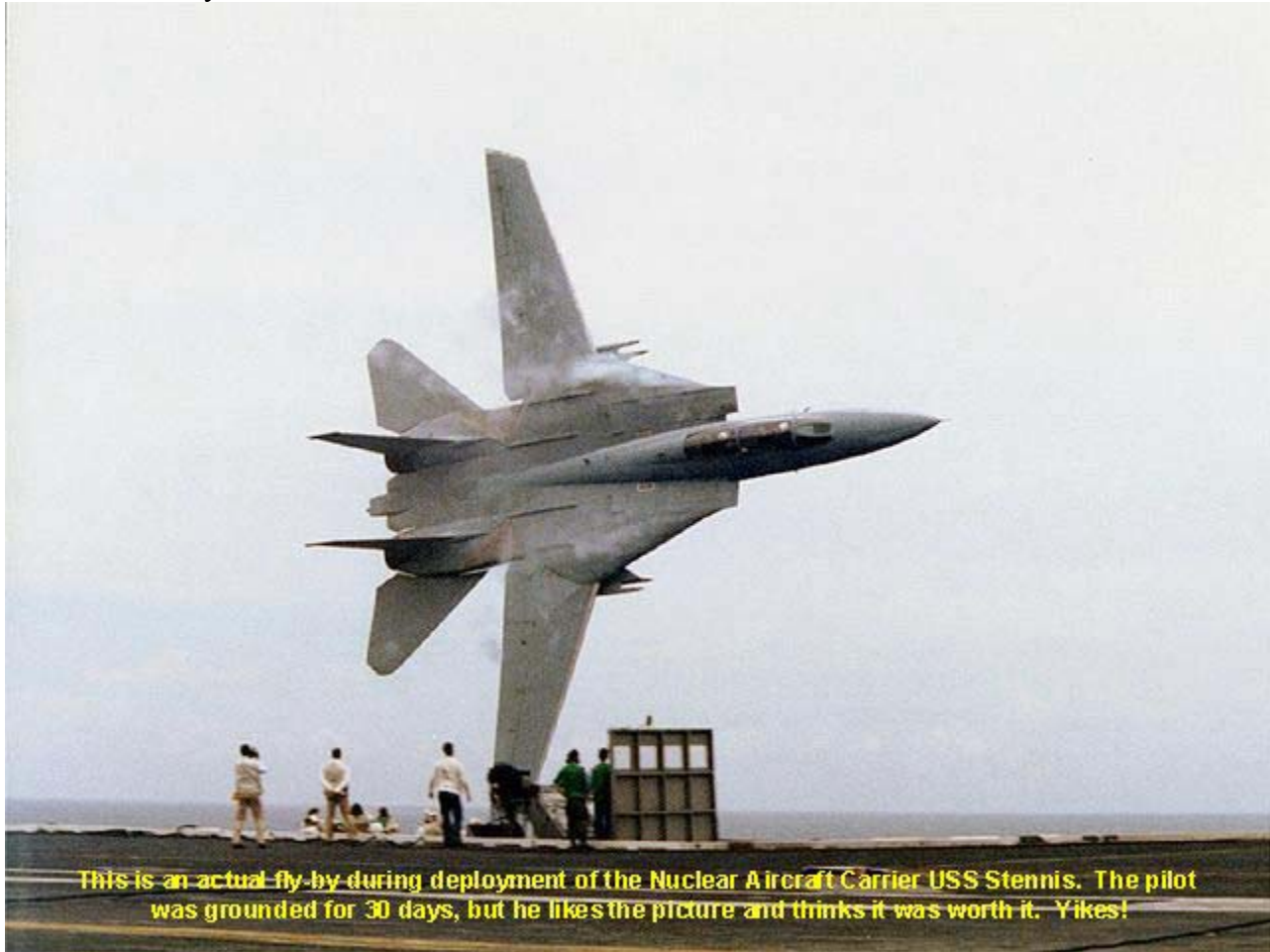
IT IS THE SOLDIER, who salutes the flag,  
Who serves under the flag and,  
Whose coffin is draped by the flag,  
Who allows the protester to burn the flag.

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

Quote of the day: "You know the world is going crazy when the best rapper is a white guy, the best golfer is a black guy, the Swiss hold the America's Cup, France is accusing the US of arrogance, and Germany doesn't want to go to war."

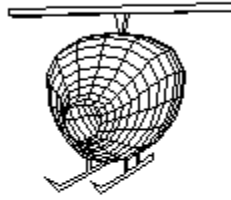
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Dedicated to Garry Gramman, all you "flyers" and want-a-bee pilots -- enjoy!  
Blue water Navy truism:

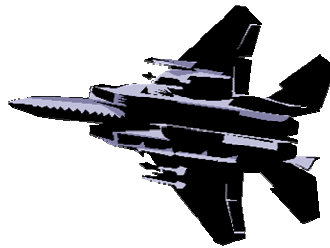


Observation: There are more planes in the ocean than there are submarines in the sky.

If the wings are traveling faster than the fuselage, it's probably a helicopter –



and therefore, unsafe. When one engine fails on a twin-engine airplane, you always have enough power left to get you to the scene of the crash.



What is the similarity between air traffic controllers and pilots?  
If a pilot screws up, the pilot dies; if the ATC screws up, the pilot dies.



Never trade luck for skill.

The three most common expressions (or famous last words) in aviation are:  
"Why is it doing that?", "Where are we?" and.....





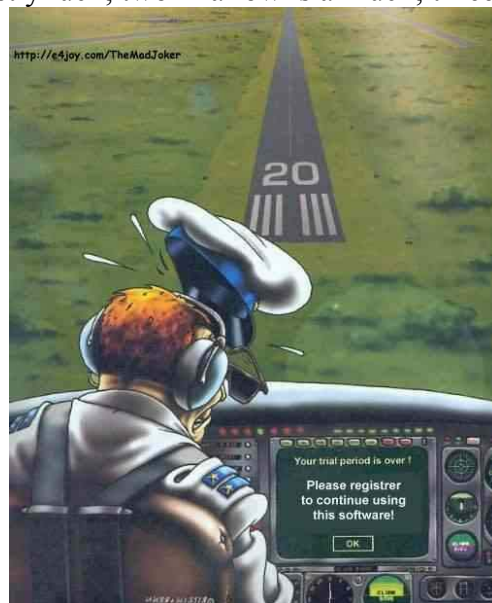
" Ooh Sh.....t!"

Weather forecasts are horoscopes with numbers.

Progress in airline flying; now a flight attendant can get a pilot pregnant.

Airspeed, altitude or brains: Two are always needed to successfully complete the flight.

A smooth landing is mostly luck; two in a row is all luck; three in a row is prevarication.



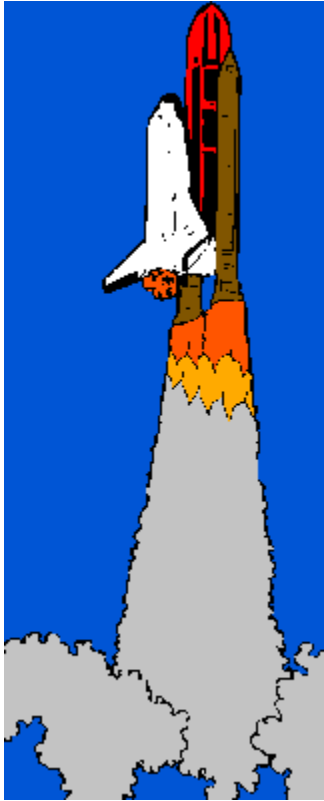
I remember when sex was safe and flying was dangerous. Mankind has a perfect record in aviation ... we never left one up there! Flashlights are tubular metal containers kept in a flight bag for the purpose of storing dead batteries. Flying the airplane is more important than radioing your plight to a person on the ground incapable of understanding it or doing anything about it. When a flight is proceeding incredibly well, something was forgotten. Just remember ... if you crash because of weather, your funeral will be held on a sunny day. Advice given to RAF pilots during W. W. II: When a prang (crash) seems inevitable, endeavor to strike the softest, cheapest object in the vicinity ...as slowly and gently as possible.



The Piper Cub is the safest airplane in the world; it can just barely kill you. (Attributed to Max Stanley, Northrop test pilot)

A pilot who doesn't have any fear probably isn't flying his plane to its maximum.





(Jon McBride, astronaut): If you're faced with a forced landing, fly the thing as far into the crash as possible. (Bob Hoover - renowned aerobatic and test pilot): If an airplane is still in one piece, don't cheat on it; ride the bastard down.

(Ernest K. Gann, author & aviator): Though I Fly Through the Valley of Death I Shall Fear No Evil For I am at 80,000 Feet and Climbing (sign over the entrance to the SR-71 operating location Kadena, Japan): You've never been lost until you've been lost at Mach 3.

(Paul F. Crickmore - test pilot): Never fly in the same cockpit with someone braver than you. There is no reason to fly through a thunderstorm in peacetime.

(Sign over squadron ops desk at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, 1970): The three best things in life are:  
a good landing,  
a good orgasm,  
and a good bowel movement. The night carrier landing is one

of the few opportunities in life where you get to experience all three at the same time.

(Author unknown, but someone who's been there) "Now I know what a dog feels like watching TV."

(A DC-9 captain trainee attempting to check out on the 'glass cockpit' of an A-320) If something hasn't broken on your helicopter ...it's about to.



## Basic Flying Rules



1. Try to stay in the middle of the air.
2. Do not go near the edges of it.
3. The edges of the air can be recognized by the appearance of ground, buildings, sea, trees and interstellar space. It is much more difficult to fly there.
4. You know that your landing gear is up and locked when it takes full power to taxi to the terminal.

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## Being too forthcoming



The parish priest was being honored at a dinner on the twenty-fifth anniversary of his arrival in that parish. The mayor, a member of the congregation, was chosen to make a presentation and give a speech at the dinner, but he was delayed in traffic. When the guests started becoming restless, the priest decided to say a few words while they waited.

"You will understand," he said, "the seal of the confessional, can never be broken. However, I got my first impressions of the parish from the first confession I heard here. I can only hint vaguely about this, but when I came here twenty-five years ago I thought I had been assigned to a terrible place. The very first chap who entered my confessional told me how he had stolen a television set, and when stopped by the police, had almost murdered the officer. Further, he told me he had embezzled money from his place of business and had an affair with his boss's wife. I was appalled. But as the days went on I knew that my people were not all like that, and I had, indeed, come to a fine parish full of understanding and loving people..."



Just as the priest was finishing his talk, the mayor arrived full of apologies at being late. He immediately began his speech.

"I'll never forget the first day our parish priest arrived in this parish," he said. "In fact, I had the honor of being the first one to go to him in confession."



## Ah yes! The Darwin Awards!

For those of you not familiar with the Darwin awards, they are awarded annually for the most extreme act of (occasionally terminal) stupidity - they are now in for 2002....If you haven't seen them yet, enjoy.



First Place - The 2002 Darwin Award Winner:

When his 38-caliber revolver failed to fire at his intended victim during a hold-up in Long Beach, California, would be robber James Elliot did something that can only inspire wonder: He peered down the barrel and tried the trigger again. This time it worked.....

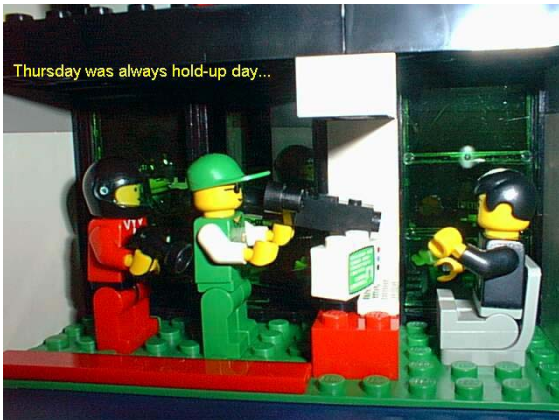
And now, the honorable mentions:

The chef at a hotel in Switzerland lost a finger in a meat cutting machine and, after a little hopping around, submitted a claim to his insurance company. The company, suspecting negligence, sent out one of its men to have a look for himself. He tried the machine out and lost a finger. The chef's claim was approved.

A man who shoveled snow for an hour to clear a space for his car during a blizzard in Chicago returned with his vehicle to find a woman had taken the space. Understandably, he shot her.

After stopping for drinks at an illegal bar, a Zimbabwean bus driver found that the 20 mental patients he was supposed to be transporting from Harare to Beltway had escaped. Not wanting to admit his incompetence, the driver went to a nearby bus stop and offered everyone waiting there a free ride. He then delivered the passengers to the mental hospital, telling the staff that the patients were very excitable and prone to bizarre fantasies. The deception wasn't discovered for 3 days.

An American teenager was in the hospital yesterday recovering from serious head wounds received from an oncoming train. When asked how he received the injuries, the lad told police that he was simply trying to see how close he could get his head to a moving train before he was hit.



A man walked into a Louisiana Circle-K, puts a \$20 bill on the counter, and asked for change. When the clerk opened the cash drawer, the man pulled a gun and asked for all the cash in the register, which the clerk promptly provided. The man took the cash from the clerk and fled, leaving the \$20 bill on the counter. The total amount of cash he got from the drawer? \$15. (If someone points a gun at you and gives you money, was a crime committed?)

A thief burst into a Florida bank one day wearing a ski mask and carrying a gun. Aiming his gun at the guard, the thief yelled, "FREEZE, MOTHER-STICKERS, THIS IS A \*\*\*\*-UP!" For a moment, everyone

was silent. Then the snickers started. The guard completely lost it and doubled over laughing. It probably saved his life, because he'd been about to draw his gun. He couldn't have drawn and fired before the thief got him. The thief ran away and is still at large... In memory of the event, the banker later put a plaque on the wall engraved with the words, "Freeze, mother-stickers, this is a \*\*\*\*-up!"

Seems this Arkansas guy wanted some beer pretty badly. He decided that he'd just throw a cinderblock through a liquor store window, grab some booze, and run. So he lifted the cinderblock and heaved it over his head at the window. The cinderblock bounced back and hit the would-be thief on the head, knocking him unconscious. Seems the liquor store window was made of Plexiglas. The whole event was caught on videotape.

As a female shopper exited a New York convenience store, a man grabbed her purse and ran. The clerk called 911 immediately, and the woman was able to give them a detailed description of the snatcher. Within minutes, the police apprehended the snatcher. They put him in the car and drove back to the store. The thief was then taken out of the car and told to stand there for a positive ID. To which he replied, "Yes, officer, that's her. That's the lady I stole the purse from."



The Ann Arbor News crime column reported that a man walked into a Burger King in Ypsilanti, Michigan, at 5 a.m., flashed a gun, and demanded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order. When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast. The man, frustrated, walked away.

Kentucky: Two men tried to pull the front off a cash machine by running a chain from the machine to the bumper of their pickup truck. Instead of pulling the front panel off the machine, though, they pulled the bumper off their truck. Scared, they left the scene and drove home. With the chain still attached to the machine. With their bumper still attached to the chain. With their vehicle's license plate still attached to the bumper. They were quickly arrested.

A 5-STAR STUPIDITY AWARD WINNER! When a man attempted to siphon gasoline from a motor home parked on a Seattle street, he got much more than he bargained for. Police arrived at the scene to find a very sick man curled up next to a motor home near spilled sewage. A police spokesman said that the man admitted to trying to steal gasoline and plugged his siphon hose into the motor home's sewage tank by mistake. The owner of the vehicle declined to press charges, saying that it was the best laugh he'd ever had.

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FOR ALL YOU LEXOPHILES ( LOVERS OF WORDS )

1. A bicycle can't stand alone because it is "two-tired".
2. What's the definition of a will? (It's a dead giveaway).
3. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
4. A backward poet writes inverse.



5. When an actress saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye...
6. She had a boyfriend with a wooden leg, but broke it off.
7. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
8. If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.
9. With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
10. Those who jump off a Paris bridge are in Seine.
11. When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds.
12. The man who fell into an upholstery machine is now recovered.
13. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
14. You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
15. When you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.
16. Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
17. The short fortuneteller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
18. A lot of money is tainted. 'Taint yours and 'taint mine.
19. A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
20. Marathon runners with bad footwear suffer the agony of defeat.
21. Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.

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### It pays to be faithful

Marty wakes up at home with a huge hangover. He forces himself to open his eyes, and the first thing he sees is a couple of aspirins and a glass of water on the side table. He sits down and sees his clothing in front of him, all clean and pressed. Marty looks around the room and sees that it is in a perfect order, spotless and clean. So's the rest of the house. He takes the aspirins and notices a note on the table "Honey, breakfast is on the stove, I left early to go shopping. Love you."



I'm married!"

So he goes to the kitchen and sure enough there is a hot breakfast and the morning newspaper. His son is also at the table, eating. Marty asks, "Son, what happened last night?"

His son says, "Well, you came home after 3 A.M., drunk and delirious. You broke some furniture, puked in the hallway and gave yourself a black eye when you stumbled into the door."

Confused, Marty asks, "So why is everything in order and so clean, and breakfast is on the table waiting for me?"

His son replies, "Oh that! Mom dragged you to the bedroom, and when she tried to take your pants off, you said, 'Lady, leave me alone,

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To all cat lovers, have a chuckle today!!!



Calling in sick to work makes me uncomfortable. No matter how legitimate my illness, I always sense my boss thinks I am lying.

On one occasion, I had a valid reason, but lied anyway because the truth was too humiliating. I simply mentioned that I had sustained a head injury and I hoped I would feel up to coming in the next day. By then, I should think up a doozy to explain the bandage on my crown.

The accident occurred mainly because I conceded to my wife's wishes to adopt a cute little kitty. Initially the new acquisition was no problem, but one morning I was taking my shower after

breakfast when I heard my wife, Deb, call out to me from the kitchen.

"Ed.....the garbage disposal is dead. Come reset it."

"You know where the button is." I protested through the shower. "Reset it yourself."

"I am scared!" she pleaded. "What if it starts going and sucks me in?" (Pause) "C'mon, it'll only take a second."

So out I came, dripping wet and buck naked, hoping to make a statement about how her cowardly behavior was not without consequence. I crouched down and stuck my head under the sink to find the button. It is the last action I remember performing.



It struck without warning, without respect to my circumstances.

Nay, it wasn't a hexed disposal drawing me into its gnashing metal teeth.

It was our kitten, clawing playfully at the dangling objects she spied between my legs. She had been poised around the corner and stalked me as I took the bait under the sink.

At precisely the second I was most vulnerable, she leapt at the toys I unwittingly offered and snagged them with her needle like claws, while rising upwardly at a violent rate of speed, with the full weight of a kitten hanging from my masculine region.

Wild animals are sometimes faced with a "fight or flight" syndrome. Men, in this predicament, choose only the "flight" option. Flying straight up, the sink and cabinet bluntly impeded my ascent. The impact knocked me out cold.

When I woke up my wife and the paramedics stood over me. Having been fully briefed by my wife, the paramedics snorted as they tried to conduct their work while suppressing hysterical laughter.....

At the office, colleagues tried to coax an explanation out of me. I kept silent, claiming it was too painful to talk about. "What's the matter, cat got your tongue?"

If they only knew.

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This is something to think about when negative people are doing their best to rain on your parade. So remember this the next time someone who knows nothing and cares less makes your life miserable.

A New York woman was at her hairdresser's on Park Avenue getting her hair styled prior to a trip to Rome with her boyfriend. She mentioned the trip to the hairdresser, who responded, "Rome?"

"Why would anyone want to go there?" "It's crowded, dirty and full of Italians." "You're crazy to go to Rome." "So, how are you getting there?"

"We're taking Continental," was the reply. "We got a great rate!"

"Continental?" exclaimed the hairdresser. "That's a terrible airline." "Their planes are old, their flight attendants are ugly, and they're always late." "So, where are you staying in Rome?"

"We'll be at this exclusive little place over on Rome's left bank called Teste."



"Don't go any further," "I know that place." "Everybody thinks its gonna be something special and exclusive, but it's really a dump, the worst hotel in the city!" "The rooms are small, the service is surly and they're overpriced." "So, whatcha doing when you get there?"

"We're going to go to see the Vatican and we hope to see the Pope."

"That's rich," laughed the hairdresser. "You and a million other people trying to see him." "He'll look the size of an ant." "Boy, good luck on this lousy trip of yours," "You're going to need it."

A month later, the woman again came in for a hairdo. The hairdresser asked her about her trip to Rome.

"It was wonderful," explained the woman. "Not only were we on time in one of Continental's brand new planes, but it was overbooked and they bumped us up to first class." "The food and wine were wonderful, and I had a handsome 28-year-old steward who waited on me hand and foot." "And the hotel -- it was great!" "They'd just finished a \$5 million remodeling job and now it's a jewel, the finest hotel in the city." "They, too, were overbooked, so they apologize and gave us their owner's suite at no extra charge!"

"Well," muttered the hairdresser, "that's all well and good, but I know you didn't get to see the Pope."

"Actually, we were quite lucky, because as we toured the Vatican. A Swiss Guard tapped me on the shoulder and explained that the Pope likes to meet some of the visitors and if I'd be so kind as to step into his private room and wait, the Pope would personally greet me." "Sure enough, five minutes later, the Pope walked through the door and shook my hand!" "I knelt down and he spoke a few words to me."

"Oh, really...What'd he say?"

He said, "Where'd you get the crappy hairdo?"

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Even if you're not a grandparent you will enjoy this ...

A teacher asked her young pupils how they spent their vacation. One child wrote the following:

We always spend our vacation with Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live here in a big, brick house, but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Florida and now they live in a place with a lot of other retarded people.

They live in a tin box and have rocks painted green to look like grass. They ride around on big tricycles and wear name tags because they don't know who they are anymore.

They go to a building called a wrecked center, but they must have got it fixed because it is all right now. They play games and do exercises there, but they don't do them very well.

There is a swimming pool too, but they all jump up and down in it with their hats on. I guess they don't know how to swim.



At their gate there is a dollhouse with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes they sneak out. Then they go cruising in their golf carts.

My grandma used to bake cookies and stuff, but I guess she forgot how. Nobody there cooks, they just eat out. And they eat the same thing every night: Early Birds. Some of the people can't get past the man in the dollhouse to go out, so the ones who get out bring food back to the wrecked center and call it pot luck.

My Grandma says Grandpa worked all his life to earn his retardment and says I should work hard so I can be retarded one day, too.

When I earn my retardment I want to be the man in the dollhouse. Then I will let people out so they can visit their grandchildren

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Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft.  
Today, it's called golf.

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Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

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The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

-----  
Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

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How old would you be if you didn't know how old you are?

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When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.

-----  
You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

-----  
One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.

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One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been.  
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Ah, being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

-----  
Old age is when former classmates are so gray and wrinkled and bald, they don't recognize you.

-----  
If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you are old.

-----  
First you forget names, then you forget faces. Then you forget to pull up your zipper, then .... Oh my goodness you forgot to pull your zipper down!

-----  
If you jog in a jogging suit, lounge in lounging pajamas, and smoke in a smoking jacket, WHY would anyone want to wear a windbreaker??

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And best of all.... I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

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1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE.

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

2. My mother taught me RELIGION.

You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

3. My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL.

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

4. My mother taught me LOGIC.

Because I said so, that's why."

5. My mother taught me MORE LOGIC.

"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."

6. My mother taught me FORESIGHT.

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

7. My mother taught me IRONY.

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

8. My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS.

"Shut your mouth and eat your supper."





9. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONIST.  
"Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"
10. My mother taught me about STAMINA.  
"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."
11. My mother taught me about WEATHER.  
"This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."
12. My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY.  
"If I told you once, I've told you a million times. Don't exaggerate!"
13. My mother taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE.  
"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."
14. My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION.  
"Stop acting like your father!"
15. My mother taught me about ENVY.  
"There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."
16. My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION.  
"Just wait until we get home."
17. My mother taught me about RECEIVING.  
"You are going to get it when you get home!"
18. My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE.  
"If you don't stop crossing your eyes, They are going to freeze that way."
19. My mother taught me ESP.  
"Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"
20. My mother taught me HUMOR.  
"When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."
21. My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT.  
"If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."
22. My mother taught me GENETICS.  
"You're just like your father."

23. My mother taught me about my ROOTS.

"Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"

24. My mother taught me WISDOM.

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

25. And my favorite: my mother taught me about JUSTICE.

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

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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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