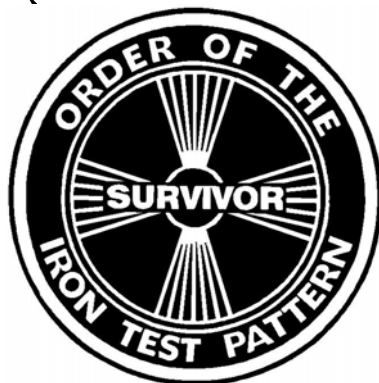


Order of the Iron Test Pattern



Newsletter

Volume 3 Number 3

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

March 15, 2004

This is your Newsletter and your input is, of course, most welcome.
(Things printed in **blue type** and **underlined** are links or navigation aids.)

Please note:

Membership in the Order of the Iron Test Pattern is for any survivor of the Broadcast industry, not just for folks in TV. We welcome survivors from Radio, Cable, Production, etc. Pass it on.

(Click on the Links below to navigate to that section of our newsletter.)

[Membership Activity](#)  [Website](#)  [Sagacious Pixel](#)

[Sponsors](#)  [Letters](#)  [News](#)  [Stories](#)

[Websites](#)  [Picture of the Month](#)  [Humor](#)



Membership Activity

Gary A. Minker is a new member and has the dignity of Commodore with the endorsement of Knight of the Wooden Tower. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is GMinker@gate.net. OITP Commodore Minker is the Owner of [Radio Works R.F. Consulting](#) in Lake Worth, FL. OITP Commodore Minker has taken out a [business card ad](#) out on our website, for which we are very grateful and will be receiving his certificate of membership shortly.

Glen Pensinger has up-graded his membership and now holds the dignity of Galactic Tycoon. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is Glen@sisu.edu. Galactic Tycoon Pensinger resides in San Francisco and has made a substantial contribution to the Order, for which we are very grateful. He will be receiving his new certificate of membership and lapel pin shortly.

J. Wayne Caluger is reinstating his membership and now holds the dignity of OITP Admiral. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is Wayne.Caluger@cmt.com. OITP Admiral Caluger is a Systems Engineer at the MTV Networks in Nashville, TN and will be receiving his new certificate of membership shortly.

Dean Tiernan is a new member and has the dignity of Brigadier with the endorsement of Knight of the Wooden Tower. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is dean@audicy.net. OITP Brigadier Tiernan is the Principal at [Tiernan Technologies](http://TiernanTechnologies.com) and lives in Los Osos, CA.

David Minott is a new member and has the dignity of General. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is Dave@domino-biz.com. OITP General Minott is [retired from CBS](#) and lives in Valley Stream, NY.

H. Darrell Blue has up-graded his membership and now holds the dignity of Galactic Tycoon. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is darrellb@kapptv.com. Galactic Tycoon Blue is the General Manager of [Apple Valley Broadcasting](http://AppleValleyBroadcasting.com) in Yakima, WA will be receiving his new certificate of membership and lapel pin shortly.

Kenneth J. Benner is a new member and has the dignity of Galactic Tycoon. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is BennerAssociates@aol.com. Galactic Tycoon Benner owns K.J. Benner & Associates, is certified by N.A.R.T.E., is a Life Member of SBE, is WOLHV, lives in Tucson, AZ, and will be receiving his certificate of membership shortly.

David Stewart is a new member and has the dignity of Commander with Knight of the Wooden Tower endorsement. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is DStewart@hispanicbroasting.com. OITP Commander Stewart is the Vice President of Engineering for [Hispanic Broadcasting](http://HispanicBroadcasting.com) in Dallas, TX, will be receiving his certificate of membership and his lapel pin shortly.

Michael Bireline is a new member and has the dignity of Commodore. We do not have an E-mail address for him. OITP Commodore Bireline is a Video Engineer with Bristol Myers Squibb in Plainsboro, NJ and will be receiving his certificate of membership shortly

Stephen Malis is a new member and has the dignity of General. If you wish to congratulate him, his E-mail address is SteveABCATL@Juno.com. OITP General Malis is an Audio Technician for ABC in Atlanta, GA. and will be receiving his certificate of membership and lapel pin shortly.

You too may qualify for an up grade in dignity. Check it out [below](#) (this is a link), then contact your [Sagacious Pixel](#) to make it happen. And remember to check for any special endorsements for experience you may have in allied occupations.

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[Links to previous editions are available on our the website; CLICK HERE to see them.](#)



Our Website

Check out the number of visitors to our website: 8040 plus. Not as good as last month, but it's over 270 more new visitors since our last edition. Remember: our counter only counts a visiting IP address once. WWW.OITP.org



From your Sagacious Pixel

Larry Bloomfield

Perhaps you're due for an upgrade in dignity. Survival time in our industry starts from when ever you began to make a contribution by working, paid or not, at some broadcast or broadcast industry related facility. Internships count too.

Dignity qualification list

| | | | |
|-------|------|--------------------|------------|
| Today | 2000 | Page | 15 minutes |
| 1999 | 1995 | Squire | 5 Years |
| 1994 | 1990 | Ensign | 10 Years |
| 1989 | 1985 | Lieutenant | 15 Years |
| 1984 | 1980 | Commander | 20 Years |
| 1979 | 1975 | Commodore | 25 Years |
| 1974 | 1970 | Brigadier | 30 Years |
| 1969 | 1965 | General | 35 Years |
| 1964 | 1960 | Admiral | 40 Years |
| 1959 | 1955 | Galactic Tycoon | 45 Years |
| 1954 | 1930 | Monochrome Mogul | 50 Years |
| 1929 | ???? | Tenacious Survivor | 75 Years |

Although we have NO initiation fees or dues, we do need to support the activities that we do: website, annual awards, etc. We do this through the sponsorship of the website pages, the business card adds on the website and the sale of membership certificates and lapel pins. Speaking of membership certificates – be it be know, shout it from the rooftops: our membership certificates come with not one, but three guarantees. We guarantee that it is a membership certificate; we guarantee that it will draw flies and we guarantee that people will look at it and say: “What in the hell is that?” We do not however promise in what order this will all happen. Get one, be it for the first time or for an upgrade in dignity, and see if this isn't all true. This isn't a money back

guarantees. Those who are dissatisfied may write or e-mail us for directions to the complaint department.

We've added two more endorsements to the list: Knight of Serendipity for those who have some unusual area that isn't covered by anything else and Knight of the Mighty Quill of those of us writers about the broadcast industry.

| | |
|--|--|
| Digital Cinema: - Knight of the Cinematic Bit-keeper | Radio: - Knight of the Wooden Tower |
| Satellite: - Knight of the Geosynchronous Stuff | Translators: - Knight of the Hip-pity-Hop Signal |
| Cable: - Knight of the F59 Connector | Sales: - Knight of the Order Pad |
| Transmitters: - Knight of the Final Amplifier | IT: - Knight of the Ones & Zeros |
| Writer: - Knight of the Mighty Quill | Unspecified: - Knight of Serendipity |

We're trying a few new things even still in this edition of the newsletter. We've put navigation links at the top so you can go directly to any section of this newsletter and other navigation links so that you can get directly back to the top without having to scroll. Any recommendations for other such improvements are most graciously welcomed. Just e-mail us: Editor@OITP.org. (See – that's a link)



NAB is just weeks away. We need your nominations for the awards we'll be giving out. No one has given us any suggestions as yet for awards. Please – nothing serious.



Negotiations are underway for where and when we can meet to make our presentations: Any suggestions? Notification will be made in a special mailing to the list and in our next – just pre-NAB newsletter. We'd like a place that is easy to get to, that has food and can accommodate the couple of dozen survivors who are crazy enough to want to see other crazy survivors.

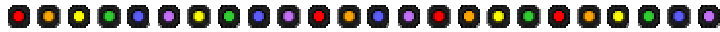


Just remember that life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming -- WOW--What a Ride!!!" That's us! Survivors of the Broadcast industry.

We need more active business card placements on the Business Card page of our website. If you or your company is in a position to put your information there, we could surly use the money and you would certainly benefit from the exposure. Contact: [Your Sagacious Pixel](#).



The Road Show, A Taste of NAB 2004 is coming together very nicely. Several of the venues will be OITP events. Check the schedule and join us even if it isn't. This is an educational event for anyone interested in the latest broadcast technology and food will be served at many of the venues. [Click here for the itinerary](#). Sure would be nice to meet some of you folks out there and be sure to wear your lapel pin proudly.

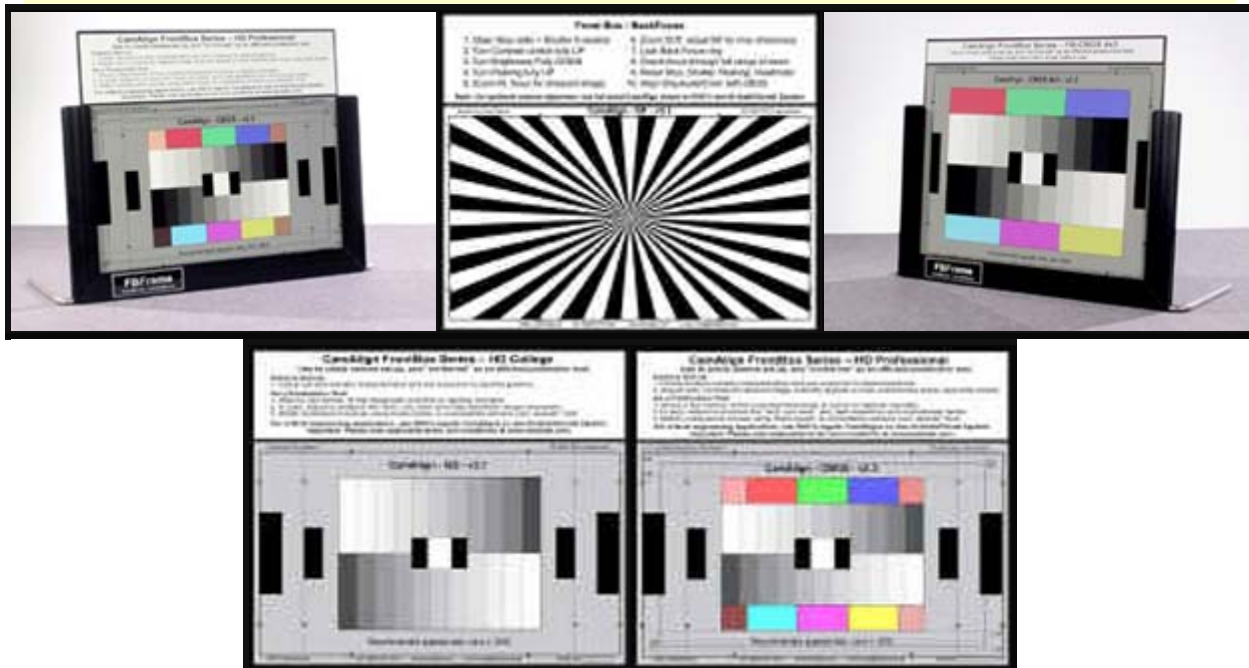


Those who make this newsletter and our website possible

Our website is sustained by sponsorship of the various pages and the business card page. The only page (so far) 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. If you need any kind of test charts, please give them a ring: they are the best in the business. Thanks Dave!

DSC Labs

have test patterns in both 16:9 and 4:3 aspect ratios for all occasions.



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If you'd like to do something similar on another page, contact us. Sagacious Pixel@OITP.org.

Between the page sponsors and our business card page, we continue to flourish. Please support them by using their products and/or services. If nothing else, send them an e-mail and let them know you appreciate what they are doing for us all.



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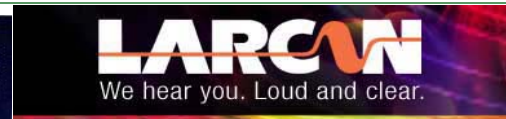
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If you wish to put your business card on our site, contact us. Sagacious.Pixel@OITP.org.



Letters from our fellow survivors

E mail address error in Jan news letter

From: John Malarkey jcmalark@verizon.net

I am a new member and in the Jan. news letter my e mail address is not right. It should read jcmalark@verizon.net An easy slip, or I may have sent it in wrong! No big deal... glad to be part of the gang.

John Malarkey (the great elf)



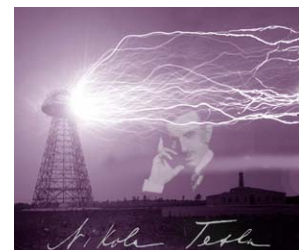
Did You Know

From: Jim Mendrala j.mendrala@ieee.org



Did You Know....That most school children are still being taught that Marconi is the "Father of Radio" when in fact it was Nikola Tesla.

Nikola Tesla demonstrated in 1853 a "wireless transmitter and receiver" in St. Louis, MO, 2 years before Marconi's first demonstration. In 1944 the



U.S. Supreme court awarded Nikola Tesla the patent on "Radio" by declaring that Marconi's patents infringed on Tesla's.

.... That this error is still being perpetuated by the Smithsonian Institution today?

.... In 1956 a new unit of magnetic flux density in the metric system the "Tesla" was named in honor of Nikola Tesla?

Jim



From: Gregory Chambers gchambers@wsiltv.com

Hey, mucho better! I read the first 20 pages (40%) of this issue. Yes, I'd already seen most of the rest. I especially liked the stories from other engineers. Of course, I have several of my own. After more than 31 years of small-market (and not so small) broadcasting, how could I not? Perhaps I shall regale (read that "bore") you all with some of old codger memories soon. Turning half a century and getting letters from AARP brings cause for reflection don't cha know?

Okay, so here's one for starters. During 1978-79 I was CE (later also GM) of Grenada Television in the West Indies. The Prime Minister was Sir Eric Matthew Gairy. Strange, even for a politician; he believed in UFO's and that trees had souls. However, he was a snappy dresser. We were to do an interview at his mansion. Upon arrival I asked what I thought was a servant (due to his sloppy attire) where the PM would be sitting for the interview so we could set up. He said "I guess I'll sit here." and plopped down behind a desk. Luckily, he thought it was hilarious. I had a much more subdued reaction.

Yes, folks, there's more where those came from.

Keep up the good work. Good to talk with you on the phone the other day.

Greg



Cheese from Heaven

From: J. Carl Cooper carl@pixelinstruments.tv

A Mexican family crosses the border to the Land of Milk and Honey where the streets are supposed to be paved with gold. But the husband can find no work. His family is hungry, so he takes a walk to a quiet place at the foot of a big hill, kneels at the base of a tree, and begins to pray: Sweet Jesus, please show me a way to feed my family..." Eyes closed, the Mexican does not see the Black man coming over the top of the hill, who is struggling with a broken grocery sack and loses a wheel of his cheese. When the Mexican man opens his eyes, the large wheel of cheddar cheese from the Black man's grocery bag rolls down the hill and lands at the Mexican's feet! "Oh, thank you Lord, thank you!" he cries, grabs the cheese, and runs straight home. Upon returning home, he gives the cheese



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to his wife and instructs her to make nachos. "But wouldn't you rather have cheese enchiladas and burritos and other things?" she inquires. "No," the husband says, "Jesus sent this to me with a message...As I ran home, I kept hearing a voice from Him yelling, 'THAT'S NACHO CHEESE! THAT'S NACHO CHEESE! '.



Photographer's dilemma & T-shirt wisdom

From: Sue Clark sclark@core.com

First Here's a dilemma for you....

With all your honor and dignity what would you do? This test only has one question, but it's a very important one. Please don't answer it without giving it some serious thought. By giving an honest answer you will be able to test where you stand morally. The test features an unlikely, completely fictional situation, where you will have to make a decision one way or the other.



Remember that your answer needs to be honest, yet spontaneous. Please scroll down slowly and consider each line - this is important for the test to work accurately.

You're in Florida, in Miami, to be exact... There is great chaos going on around you, caused by a hurricane and severe floods. There are masses of water all around you.

You are a CNN photographer and you are in the middle of this great disaster. The situation is nearly hopeless. You're trying to shoot very impressive photos. There are houses and people floating around you, disappearing into the water. Nature is showing all its destroying power and is ripping everything away with it.

You see a woman in the water, she is fighting for her life, trying not to be taken away by the masses of water and mud. You move closer. Somehow the woman looks familiar. Suddenly you realize... it's Hillary Clinton!

At the same time you notice that the raging waters are about to take her away, forever.

You have two options. You can save her ...or... you can take the best photo of your life.

So you can save the life of Hillary Clinton, or you can shoot a Pulitzer Prize winning photo of the storm, and then make a unique photo displaying the death of one of the world's powerful women.

And here's the question (please give an honest answer): Would you select color film, or rather go with the simplicity of classic black and white?



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And now for some T-shirt wisdom

A Washington Post columnist runs a column each summer listing interesting t-shirts observed at the Ocean City, Maryland beach.

- I childproofed my house, but they still get in.
- On the front - 60 is not old. On the back - If you're a tree.
- I'm still hot. It just comes in flashes.
- At my age, "getting lucky" means finding my car in the parking lot.
- My reality check just bounced.
- I'm not 50. I'm \$49.95 plus tax.
- Annapolis--A drinking town with a sailing problem.
- I need somebody bad. Are you bad?
- Physically pffffffft!
- Buckle up. It makes it harder for the aliens to snatch you from your car.
- I'm not a snob. I'm just better than you are.
- It's my cat's world. I'm just here to open cans.
- Earth is the insane asylum of the universe.
- Keep staring....I may do a trick.
- We got rid of the kids. The cat was allergic.
- Dangerously under-medicated.
- My mind works like lightning. One brilliant flash, and it's gone.
- Every time I hear the word "exercise", I wash my mouth out with chocolate.
- Cats regard people as warm-blooded furniture.
- In God we trust. All others we polygraph.
- Live your life so that when you die, the preacher will not have to tell lies at your funeral.
- Life is short, make fun of it.



Actual Analogies and Metaphors Found in High School Essays

1. Her face was a perfect oval, like a circle that had its two sides gently compressed by a Thigh Master.

2. His thoughts tumbled in his head, making and breaking alliances like underpants in a dryer without Cling Free.

3. He spoke with the wisdom that can only come from experience, like a guy who went blind because he looked at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it and now goes around the country speaking at high schools about the dangers of looking at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it.

4. She grew on him like she was a colony of E. coli and he was room-temperature Canadian beef.

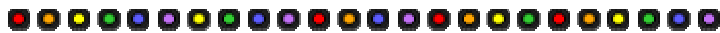
5. She had a deep, throaty, genuine laugh, like that sound a dog makes just before it throws up.



6. Her vocabulary was as bad as, like, whatever.
7. He was as tall as a six-foot-three-inch tree.
8. The revelation that his marriage of 30 years had disintegrated because of his wife's infidelity came as a rude shock, like a surcharge at a formerly surcharge-free ATM.
9. The little boat gently drifted across the pond exactly the way a bowling ball wouldn't.
10. McBride fell 12 stories, hitting the pavement like a Hefty bag filled with vegetable soup.
11. From the attic came an unearthly howl. The whole scene had an eerie, surreal quality, like when you're on vacation in another city and Jeopardy comes on at 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30.
12. Her hair glistened in the rain like a nose hair after a sneeze.
13. The hailstones leaped from the pavement, just like maggots when you fry them in hot grease.
14. Long separated by cruel fate, the star-crossed lovers raced across the grassy field toward each other like two freight trains, one having left Cleveland at 6:36 p.m. traveling at 55 mph, the other from Topeka at 4:19 p.m. at a speed of 35 mph.
15. They lived in a typical suburban neighborhood with picket fences that resembled Nancy Kerrigan's teeth.
16. John and Mary had never met. They were like two hummingbirds who had also never met.
17. He fell for her like his heart was a mob informant and she was the East River.
18. Even in his last years, Grand pappy had a mind like a steel trap, only one that had been left out so long, it had rusted shut.
19. Shots rang out, as shots are wont to do.
20. The plan was simple, like my brother-in-law Phil. But unlike Phil, this plan just might work.
21. The young fighter had a hungry look, the kind you get from not eating for awhile.
22. He was as lame as a duck. Not the metaphorical lame duck, either, but a real duck that was actually lame. Maybe from stepping on a land mine or something.
23. The ballerina rose gracefully en pointe and extended one slender leg behind her, like a dog at a fire hydrant.

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24. It was an American tradition, like fathers chasing kids around with power tools.
25. He was deeply in love. When she spoke, he thought he heard bells, as if she were a garbage truck backing up.
26. Her eyes were like limpid pools, only they had forgotten to put in any pH cleanser.
27. She walked into my office like a centipede with 98 missing legs.
28. It hurt the way your tongue hurts after you accidentally staple it to the wall



NEWS

The Holy Grail!!!!!!

From: Chuck Pharis chuck@pharis-video.com



I just got the HOLY GRAIL! I won't take a lot of time here telling you the whole story, as I plan to put all the information and photos on the web site in about a week or so. BUT, here is the "short version"

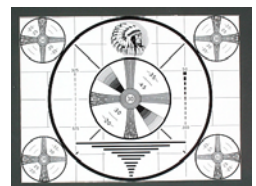
"In 1970 RCA was closing its Harrison, NJ factory and offices. The building was demolished and a strip mall is now at that location. this painting and artwork were found as the building was being razed in an obsolete files dumpster that was on site."

????? What painting and art work?????

The above was sent to me by a demolition crew member who found the ORIGINAL Indian Head Test Pattern art work in a dumpster while tearing down the RCA Harrison Factory in NJ. in 1970. He put it in a closet for 34 years, and just found it a few weeks ago. Wondering what the heck it was. He typed "indian head test pattern" on the internet and came up with my web site! The words "Indian Head Test Pattern" were written in pencil on the artwork. He offered it for sale to me, and after I got off the floor, I sent him a certified check ASAP! I did not pay that much! The package came today, and after I got off the floor again, I took some photos.

Here is what I got:

1. The ORIGINAL hand drawn art work for the Indian Head (Dated 1938) !!! and Signed by the artist!!!!!!!
2. The ORIGINAL "copy ready" art work with the Indian Head mounted on a art cart ready to shoot.



3. The FIRST copy of the ORIGINAL Indian Head Test Pattern chart!!!!

OHMYGOD!!!! I am not kidding! This is the REAL stuff!!!! I had no idea the pattern was first drawn in 1938!!!! The set is in very good condition!

Since I have a working RCA TK-1 Indian Head Test Pattern Generator, I now feel I have the complete set!



This is a "one of a kind" piece of rare art work!

I have many more photos, and will have them all up on the Web site in about a week or two. Check the site after March 20th. <http://www.pharis-video.com>

Now what I need to do is find out who owns the rights to it? I know someone has the copyrights. It would be fun to make copies from the original art work, and sell them framed and numbered!

By the way, larger photos with more resolution will be on the web site. Feel free to download them for your viewing pleasure! If you plan to publish them, you MUST contact me first!!!!

(Editor's Note: *When asked when about the opening of his museum, Pharis send us the following.*)

It's going to be a while. I don't have a building big enough to put all the goodies in! I now have 145 cameras, and tons of related gear. I am going to build a 16X20' building in the back yard to store some of the stuff in. The garage is now full, and my wife says if I don't make room in there for her car, I will be sleeping in the garage soon!

Can't wait for the Road Show!

See ya,
Chuck Pharis

(Editor's Note: *Pharis has promised to have the real thing on display at our Road Show in Los Angeles.* http://www.tech-notes.tv/2004/07_Los_Angeles.htm.)



SYMBOL ADDED TO MORSE CODE

From: The Associated Press

Morse code is entering the 21st century -- or at least the late 20th.



The 160-year-old communication system now has a new character to denote the "@" symbol used in e-mail addresses.

In December, the International Telecommunications Union, which oversees the entire frequency spectrum, from amateur radio to satellites, voted to add the new character.

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The new sign, which will be known as a "commat," consists of the signals for "A" (dot-dash) and "C" (dash-dot-dash-dot), with no space between them. The new sign is the first in at least several decades, and possibly much longer. Among ITU officials and Morse code aficionados, no one could remember any other addition.

"It's a pretty big deal," said Paul Rinaldo, chief technical officer for the American Radio Relay League, the national association for amateur radio operators. "There certainly hasn't been any change since before World War II."

The change will allow ham radio operators to exchange e-mails more easily. That is because -- in an irony of the digital age -- they often use Morse to initiate conversations over the Internet.

"People trade their e-mail addresses a lot," said Nick Yocanovich, a Morse code enthusiast who lives in Arnold, Md.

Morse code uses two audible electrical signals -- short "dots" and slightly longer "dashes" -- to form letters, numbers and punctuation marks. Created in the 1830s by Samuel F.B. Morse, who invented the telegraph, the electronic signaling system spread across the world, and until the past few decades, it was used widely by the public, industry and government.

"It was the beginning of the Information Age," said Gary Fowlie, Chief of Media Relations and Public Information for the ITU, which has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. When Morse died in 1872, more than 650,000 miles of telegraph wire circled the globe. By the early 20th century, Morse messages were being sent wirelessly, via radio.

Perhaps the most famous Morse communication is the international distress signal S-O-S. It consists of three dots, three dashes, and three more dots. But with the proliferation of digital communications technologies such as cell phones, satellites and the Internet, Morse code has lost its pre-eminent place in global communications. "There's really no reason to use it anymore," said Robert Colburn, research coordinator for the History Center of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Today it's largely the province of ham radio operators, including 700,000 in the United States. While not all of them communicate regularly in Morse, almost all are familiar with it. Some ham operators wouldn't mind more changes to spice up the language. While Morse code has a period, a question mark, and even a semicolon, it offers no simple way to articulate excitement. "I was hoping they'd add a character for the exclamation point," said Yocanovich, who is active in the International Morse Preservation Society. "It expresses an emotion that's difficult to get across any other way."



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Surviving the Broadcast Industry

(Stories from today's broadcast engineers)

(Editor's Note: *Most of these contributors are not members of the OITP, but should be.*)

Measuring DA's with GPS.

From: Rockwell Smith rockwell@rmci.net

In one station's case, 5 radials went across a commercial airport when it was built. The airport occupied land between 1 and 7 miles from the station. Talk about screwing up a proof....and needing a pile of hoop jumping to make measurements once the area is secured.

Yes, and that's a real big problem here in Florida, what was written up 20 years ago as "4 miles down the dirt road to a 90 deg left turn proceed 150' to the 4th large oak tree on the left side" Most often now days would be written up and on the roof of the 4 story condo building #47, 22' from the east edge" that is if you wanted the exact same point.

Just keep in mind when repeating proofs from before GPS and precision mapping, you need to use the point measured on the original proof.

In 1996 and '97, in Idaho, I had the dubious pleasure (as I know many of you have also done...) of trying to re-create a proof originally done in 1950. This was driven by a need to replace all the feed-lines and sample lines on a 4-tower DA. My first clue that I had an interesting task ahead was just finding the monitor points: Such things as "third telephone pole from the intersection." 20 years ago the phone poles were removed and the lines went underground. Since the original proof, an airport was built, the freeway was built, and the population of Boise went from 28,000 to 150,000 and so on.

I did, at least, have the original topos that were used in 1950. Using these along with newer maps I was able to get to at least 75 or 80% of the original points, and was able to collect sufficient data to assure the pattern was restored sufficiently to re-license the station.

Since then I have made it standard practice, at least for the monitor points, to add updated notes to the descriptions so some else could at least find them, as well as I have also added the coordinates from a GPS to all recently measured points. And photos. It was partly the photos from 1950 that helped confirm I had located the correct MP's. With the actual marks for the points gone, I could at least see by the background I was looking in the same direction from the same spot where the photo was taken. And yes, lots of questions from land owners. And was followed by military helicopters as I worked my way across the army's tank training area....

Ah, yes, lots of fun.
Rockwell Smith



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Close calls

From: Bob Newberry bnewberry@wbrc.com



Many years ago while serving as a Navy ET, I was working with another ET in a dark radar room full of Marines students learning to call out ground controlled approaches to pilots. I was holding the red flashlight while the other tech was reaching in the power supply drawer trying to get a voltage reading on one of the HV supplies when he brushed against 450 volts. The meter flies one way and he goes sailing the other way. Without missing a beat, the old Gunny Sergeant instructor keys his mic and tells all his students, "See there? That's why you better not open up any drawers on this equipment!". After a brief pause they go back to work and I help my stunned buddy out of the room.

Bob Newberry



What's the strangest.....

From: Edd Monskie emonskie@hallradio.com

About 3 years ago I was called around 4 AM that one of the FM's was off the air. Main TX was off but we got the Aux on. Since we were in the middle of the book, I got up and headed toward the site, knowing the questionable condition of the aux. The site was on a mountain top and there was an old studio/office building there also that we had shut down and were preparing to demolish.

As I drove up to the building I noticed that a light was on inside. I had been there two days before and thought maybe I had left a light on. When I drove around back I noticed other lights on and windows open in the office building. I knew I had not left it in that condition.

I parked out back with my headlights on the building and called the police. About 6 cops showed up, surrounded the building and found the back door broken open. They entered the building, fully drawn weapons. After hearing some voices out they came with a woman in handcuffs.

The cops eventually brought me in to identify what was ours and what was hers. Apparently her boyfriend broke into the building and left her there. She had taken up residence and set up one of the offices as her office. She was a bit mentally challenged. She was found sitting at her desk reading her bible.

As we went through her belongings, the stench was so bad the cops and I were all gagging. An 8" blade was found in her backpack. The boyfriend was picked up a few weeks later. He was convicted on a number of burglaries and is still serving time. She skipped town after a family member posted bail and still is out there somewhere.

In the old control room there was a transmitter extension panel still connected to the main transmitter. When they were trying to remove it to steal it, they knocked the main transmitter off starting the whole story.

About 3 weeks later, I got called again in the evening about being off the air. As I drove up the driveway there was a car parked outside the office building. I backed down, and again called the police. Most of the same cops arrived.

This time the building was still locked. I let them in and as they were beginning to search, I heard a vehicle coming down the gravel road behind us leading to some cell sites. As the car came near the building with its light off, it was surrounded by cops with shotguns.

Turned out a couple having an affair had left her car at our building and they we up the hill in his truck to have their tryst. She was too drunk to drive so the cops made her leave her car there and warned her that if she moved the car before sunrise, they would arrest her. I finished my work which involved changing a bad final, then left the site before sunrise. I wonder how she explained that to her husband!

Needless to say the office building was soon demolished after that.

Edd Monskie
VP/Engineering
Hall Communications, Inc.



FUNNY--comparing computer to cars
From: Jerry Mathis thebeaver32@hotmail.com

A friend sent me this. It is too good not to share....

For all of us who feel only the deepest love and affection for the way computers have enhanced our lives, read on. At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, "If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25.00 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon".

In response to Bill's comments, General Motors issued a press release

If GM had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics:

1. For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash twice a day.
2. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car.
3. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull over to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this.
4. Occasionally, executing a maneuver such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.

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5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive - but would run on only five percent of the roads.
6. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single "This Car Has Performed An Illegal Operation" warning light.
7. The airbag system would ask "Are you sure?" before deploying.
8. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio antenna.
9. Every time a new car was introduced car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.
10. You'd have to press the "Start" button to turn the engine off.

Jerry Mathis
LifeTalk Radio



Websites to Visit

A very funny song ...

<http://www.semmel.us/mansong.html>

For those of you with an interest in astronomy, the Hubble group has posted their deepest view into the Universe yet (watch for line wrap):

<http://www10.ksc.nasa.gov/mirrors/stsci/hubbledev/newscenter/newsdesk/archive/releases/2004/07/image/index.html>



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Picture of the Month



The Sheriff not to mess with!



Some humor or attempts at it

*(For those who don't like this section, now is the time to hit the delete key.
There is at least one thing in here that is guaranteed to offend at least someone.)*

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Despite how you may have personally felt about the issue, there was a good logical reason for removing the Ten Commandments monument from the Alabama Supreme Court building.



You cannot post things like "Thou Shalt Not Steal," "Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery", and "Thou Shall Not Lie" in a building full of lawyers, judges politicians.

It creates a hostile work environment.



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Fast-Food story

From: Tony Dinkel tonydinkel47@hotmail.com

My favorite FF story is where a two-way radio tech approaches the drive-up window where you personally order (not like the new ones with the speaker). He gives his order and holds down the mic key to a 460 Mhz 100W tx. The register locks up. And yet



In the 70's I had a pretty neat ham phone patch running on 440 out here. My girlfriend and I were having lunch between her classes in La Palma at a Carl's Jr. She was fairly impressed with my Motorola HT220 and enjoyed both me calling her and calling her friends on it. I have to admit, it was pretty unique for the era to hear dial tone or a ring tone in a public place, even though it didn't play Bach or Wagner. It looked interesting too, sort of 70's high tech with its little keypad and yellow

"Dial 1 first" sticker.

Anyway, the order taker spots it and asks out of the blue...what's that? Acting on impulse, Diane grabs it off my belt, declares "Its a telephone!!!" and then proceeds to key it and hit the star for dial tone. Kaching, kaching, kaching. The cash drawers on all three registers pop open. The two closest to us ring up \$147 and \$55 totals. We were kind of giggling about it when the manager comes over and says something like..."I don't know what that thing is but I want it and you out of my store immediately!" Well excuse me! I think we did you a favor by finding out that your pos system is a pos in the presence of a 5 watt field. Needless to say we left without delay, found another restaurant and left the radio in the car. I spent the rest of our "date" trying to explain to her why it happened.

Then there's the story about my car, that had a Kaar DT-76 150 watt vhf radio in it and what it did to antilock braking systems in taxicabs on Las Vegas Blvd at SAROC in 1976. For a different time...
TD



Fast-Food story

From: Kennneth Locke kenlocke@sbcglobal.net

Also, since we are on the subject...



I pulled into a McD's with my 2m HT (with wide receive) on their headset freq... And placed my order thru the speaker stand. And at the end (yes, after she hit total And gave me my total) I said why don't I just make that a value meal (I would save 79 cents) she did it, but was talking to the runner in the PRIVATE mode (no pl tone) (the person that bags the food for her) and said "I'd like to kick right in the slat's". Well when I got to the window, her manager and two employees were standing in the cubical with her and I asked in a somewhat louder than normal voice... "What's a slat??" the order taker Turned about 5 shades of red and eyes got as big as 50 cent coins as if she were Saying to herself "did I press the wrong button on my headset and is he going to Get me in trouble with my manager??" I didn't, but after the manager left the cubical I showed her my radio, and told her to be careful when using those things, you never know who's listening...

LOL

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More Food Service?!?! The last straw !!!

So I walk into the FF joint, and just as the gal behind the counter steps up to take my order, she puts her hand to her mouth as a "hold your thought" gesture. She pauses, and tells me, "I'll be with you as soon as we finish the EAS Monthly Test !"

It was a Rich experience.
Kenneth Locke



The Eight Biggest Tech Flops Ever

Jim Louderback - ExtremeTech

"Upon us all, just a little rain must fall." - Led Zeppelin

So it is with technology. Some of the greatest flops of all time have come from high tech. Millions of dollars and countless person-hours have been wasted creating products so bad, so misguided, and so difficult to use that entire companies have been destroyed.



What distinguishes a simply bad product from the truly awful? Sometimes it's a dreadful user interface. Other times it's a product that successfully addresses a particularly daunting problem - yet one shared by relatively few people. And often competitive or financial pressure forces new products to market before they're ready - full of bugs and horribly unusable. Still other times, the products arrive too early. Eventually they become a success, but often after the founding company has been ruined.

Silicon Valley - and other technology centers -suffer from a unique form of groupthink. Powerful engineers with good ideas lead many startups, but lack a lick of marketing sense, especially when it comes to what consumers want. Whole companies can delude themselves into thinking they're changing the world - when all they're delivering is simply a left-handed bread box no one needs.

The Internet bubble produced huge numbers of examples of these, like the misguided Pets.Com and its bedraggled sock puppet. How could they possibly imagine that anyone would pay \$20 to ship a \$10 bag of dog food? Remember eToys? WebVan? Kosmo?

But those blunders pale when compared to the industry's biggest catastrophes. Here's my unscientific list of the biggest consumer technology calamities of all time.

PCjr: It all started here, with the product they called "the peanut." IBM was still riding the incredible success of its IBM PC. The PCjr. was its entry into consumer computing. Alas, this circa-1984 PC was junior in every way. The terrible keyboard featured stiff little keys that felt like pushing on chiclets and the system lacked expandability - relying on sidecar-style modules to add features. My notoriously cheap grad school roommate actually bought one, but even at the \$1,000 price (business PCs were selling for \$5,000 at the time), it was terrible. Home PCs would eventually take off, but

IBM never did recover from the Junior. This was the first big bomb in consumer computing, and probably still ranks as the worst.

Go: No, not the Internet site, though that also failed. This Go was the hottest thing going in 1992, when it hoped to create the next step after personal computers and Windows. The company spent millions to develop a completely new operating system called Penpoint, based on handwriting, not keyboards. Unfortunately the software was buggy, the computers lacked the horsepower to translate handwriting to characters, and the devices were way overpriced. The tremendous failure of pen computing was shared by contemporaries like Momena - who burned through 40 million bucks in 1992 while building a mostly useless \$5,000 portable computer, and EO - a pen-based phone sold by AT&T and heavier than many notebooks today. It's worth noting that Microsoft's Pen Computing for Windows did no better, though Microsoft is still around to take another shot at this field. More on that later.

Magic Cap: I went to the launch of this early, cutesy yet cumbersome PDA; I remember feeling like it was Brezhnev addressing the politburo. Corporate agents strategically planted about the room led the crowd in rousing applause after every third sentence. I swear at one point they started doing the wave. General Magic, founded by refugees from Apple, failed with its first products, but with backers like AT&T and Sony, it had enough investor money to eventually get a product out the door. Only it wasn't a PDA but a pseudo-friendly, agent-based voice mail system. That, too, ended up on the scrap-heap of history - a neat sounding product that, in the end, was much too buggy to be useful. Consultant Richard Dougherty's reconstructed diary presents a [fascinating look at how the company blew it](#).

Bob: Microsoft called this 1995 effort to replace the Windows GUI a social interface, but it was more of a social disease. Bob was represented by a round, yellow smiley face wearing geek glasses, and carried the tagline "Have a Nice Computer." It featured a cartoony series of rooms that gave users access to common programs like e-mail, word processing and games - and featured a digital pal to help you get around. The ideas were blatantly ripped off from Magic Cap, the digital pals - a dog, wizard, etc - were obnoxious, and users rebelled against the kiddie-style interface. The product was good for Bill Gates ([news](#) - [web sites](#)), though. His future wife, Melinda, was the product manager. And to prove that no bad idea ever really goes away, Bob lives on in today's Office products. Do you hate Clippy - the obnoxious animated talking paper clip? His predecessor made his first appearance as a Bob agent. Surprisingly, there's a [detailed Bob Wikipedia entry](#) if you want to know more.

Iomega Klik! Drive: In 1999, just as recordable CDs started getting really cheap and popular, Iomega released its own proprietary way to write nearly 40 gigabytes of data to a removable disk. Hyped as both a replacement for the floppy, and a portable storage device for Digital Cameras, it was just too expensive to compete with either CDR or flash memory. The blanks alone cost around \$10. Worse, the Klik drive was doomed by a problem with Iomega's popular Zip drives. Those devices had an annoying habit of spectacularly failing - taking a user's data along to the grave, as well. Before failing, the drives emitted an ominous clicking noise, quickly dubbed the "Click of Death." The Klik! drive didn't have the Click of Death, but it quickly followed the Zip drive into hell.

Data Play: Four years ago, this CD replacement was touted as the future of digital music. About the size of a quarter, it could hold 2/3rds of a typical CD. Data Plays were rewritable, and easily swappable. The technology was, in fact, tremendous. But it was also late to market. By the time the first Data Play-based music player hit the streets, solid-state and hard-drive players had already swept through like wildfire - and neither required users to carry around a pocket-full of easy-to-lose music disks. Worse, its bigger cousin, the recordable CDs, had plummeted to about fifty cents each - versus about \$6 for a Data Play disk. Neat technology, but overwhelmed by the incredible price drops of flash memory, and the tremendous storage advance of tiny hard drives. Unlike many other failures, this one's still happening - you can purchase your very own Data Play on eBay for about \$165.

Internet Appliances: Who needs a PC? Why not just stick a low-cost internet terminal in the kitchen, the den and the kid's room? For a few reasons, as it turns out. PC component prices plunged during the Internet Appliance heyday, so a full PC wound up costing just a few dollars more than the truncated Appliances. Plus, Americans are conditioned to want more and more features - even if they never use them. A computer that just surfs the Internet seemed woefully inadequate compared to a PC that could play games, balance your checkbook, edit movies and let you write the great American novel. Even if all you ever did with it was surf the 'net. Famous internet terminal flops include 3Com's Audrey, the I-opener from Netpliance and Sony's eVilla - which shipped for less than two months. Even Oracle's Larry Ellison and TV reporter Gina Smith couldn't save the NIC - also known as the New Internet Computer

WebTV: A type of internet appliance that used a TV, instead of a monitor, to display web pages. Initially popular with the tech-averse when it shipped in 1996, Microsoft would buy the company for \$425 million a year later. But when sales stalled at around a million users, someone woke up and realized that low-resolution TVs are lousy at displaying emails and web pages. Microsoft has since renamed WebTV MSN TV, but it's not any better. If you're reading this on a WebTV - or an MSN TV -- I'm sorry for calling your kid ugly, but get yourself a real computer. You'll like it a whole lot better.

For more on notable tech flops in history, see PC Magazine's story, ["The Bad, The Ugly, and the Just Plain Dumb"](#) - part of [The 20th Anniversary of the PC special issue.](#)

(Editor's Note: *Jim Louderback is the Editor-in-Chief for Internet sites at Ziff Davis Media, which runs the popular technology sites PCMag.com and eWeek.com, along with print magazines like PC Magazine, eWEEK, Electronic Gaming Monthly and Computer Gaming World. Jim's first adventure with computers began with playing Star Trek during high-school on a PDP-11. Since then he's developed applications and installed networks for many Fortune 500 companies. For the last 12 years he's been reporting on the technology industry in print, radio, television and the Web.)*



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A must read

From: Charlene Wilson picwilson@yahoo.com

And they call some of these people "retarded". A few years ago, at the Seattle Special Olympics, nine contestants, all physically or mentally disabled, assembled at the starting line for the 100-yard dash. At the gun, they all started out, not exactly in a dash, but with a relish to run the race to the finish and win. All, that is, except one little boy who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times, and began to cry. The other eight heard the boy cry. They slowed down and looked back. Then they all turned around and went back.....every one of them.



One girl with Down's syndrome bent down and kissed him and said, "This will make it better." Then all nine linked arms and walked together to the finish line. Everyone in the stadium stood, the cheering went on for several minutes. People who were there are still telling the story,

Why? Because deep down we know this one thing: What matters in this life is more than winning for ourselves. What matters in this life is helping others win, even if it means slowing down and changing our course. If you pass this on, we may be able to change our hearts as well as someone else's. "A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle" So, what ya gonna do?



New Political Bumper Sticker

The hottest selling new political bumper sticker comes from New York State:

"RUN HILLARY RUN"

Democrats put them on the rear bumper.

Republicans affixed them to the front bumper

MORE TOP BUMPER STICKERS:

1. Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just don't have film.
2. He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
3. A day without sunshine is like, well, night.
4. On the other hand, you have different fingers.
5. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
6. Back up my hard drive? How do I put it in reverse?
7. I just got lost in thought. It was unfamiliar territory.
8. When the chips are down, the buffalo is empty.
9. Seen it all, done it all, can't remember most of it.
10. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
11. I feel like I'm diagonally parked in a parallel universe.
12. He's not dead, he's electroencephalographically challenged.

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13. She's always late. Her ancestors arrived on the June flower.
14. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say will be misquoted then used against you.
15. I wonder how much deeper the ocean would be without sponges?
16. Honk if you love peace and quiet.
17. Pardon my driving, I am reloading.
18. Despite the cost of living, have you noticed how it remains so POPULAR?
19. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
20. Political correctness means always having to say you're sorry.



Mayonnaise Jar And Beer

From: Dr. Peter D Martelly, MD peterofski@comcast.net

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar.....and the beer.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls.

He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was. So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls.

He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was. The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else.

He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes." The professor then produced two cans of beer from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things--your family, your children, your health, your friends, your favorite passions--things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else--the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house, and fix the disposal.

Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the beer represented. The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of beers."



A standard Martian brain

From: Albertv albert@verbrugh.net

Both the hardware and operating software onboard Spirit and Opportunity are very similar to those used in the highly successful Pathfinder mission, which dropped a lander and the small Sojourner rover onto red planet.

At the nerve center of each MER rover is a 6-by 9-inch electronics board containing one computer responsible for every process that goes into a mission, whether it be monitoring spacecraft health in transit, deploying parachutes during landing or roving about the red planet. The computer, called a RAD6000, is a tried and true component for NASA space mission that has formed the brains of past Mars missions in the, as well as the recent Stardust comet encounter.

"This has become a real workhorse for space missions," Scuderi said. "We currently have about 150 of these [computers] in space today."

RAD6000 microprocessors are radiation-hardened versions of the PowerPC chips that powered Macintosh (news [http://us.rd.yahoo.com/DailyNews/manual/http://search.yahoo.com/bin/search?cs=nw&p=Macintosh](http://us.rd.yahoo.com/DailyNews/manual/http://us.rd.yahoo.com/DailyNews/manual/http://search.yahoo.com/bin/search?cs=nw&p=Macintosh))

computers in the early 1990s, with 128 megabytes of random access memory (RAM) and capable of carrying out about 20 million instructions per second. A critical feature of the spaceworthy chips -- developed jointly by BAE systems, JPL and the Air Force Research Laboratory -- is the radiation shielding, which uses a series of resistors and capacitors to ground harmful radiation before it can damage onboard electronics.

"In space, there are tons of high-energy particles, X-rays, gamma rays, you name it," Scuderi told /SPACE.com/. "If [a computer] is not protected against them, they could create short circuits, create fake bits or burn up electronics."

Since the MER rovers are much larger than Sojourner, with missions planned to last almost three times as long, JPL engineers added another 256 megabytes of "flash" memory - the same type used to store pictures in digital cameras - to hold more mission data. Altogether, each MER robot has more than 1,000 times the memory capacity as Sojourner.

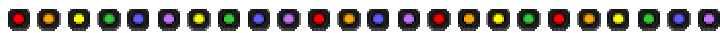
The operating systems running on Spirit and Opportunity are based on a flexible commercial platform initially chosen by JPL engineers for its reliability.

"[JPL] needed the tools to be able to develop their mission software on a system from someone with a proven track record," explained Steven Blackman, director of business development for aerospace

and defense for the software company Wind River. The Alameda, California-based company developed the VxWorks real-time operating system used in aboard the MER rovers, as well as other NASA and European Space Agency missions.

In addition to VxWorks' reliability, the system allows users to add software patches -- such as a glitch fix or upgrade -- without interruption while a mission is in flight. "We've always had that [feature] so you don't have to shut down, reload and restart after every patch," Blackman said, adding that some commercial desktop systems require users to reboot their computers after a patch.

http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=&e=3&u=/space/20040128/sc_space/thinkingonmarsthebrainsofnasasredplanetrovers



Some Pratt-cal Things

From: Jim Pratt jpratt@stny.rr.com

EXCERPTS FROM A DOG'S DAILY DIARY:

8:00 a.m. Oh, boy! Dog food! My favorite!
9:30 a.m. Oh, boy! A car ride! My favorite!
9:40 a.m. Oh, boy! A walk! My favorite!
10:30 a.m. Oh, boy! Getting rubbed and petted! My favorite!
11:30 a.m. Oh, boy! Dog food! My favorite!
Noon- Oh, boy! The kids! My favorite!
1:00 p.m. Oh, boy! The yard! My favorite!
4:00 p.m. Oh, boy! To the park! My favorite!
5:00 p.m. Oh, boy! Dog food! My favorite!
5:30 p.m. Oh, boy! Pretty Mums! My favorite!
6:00 p.m. Oh, boy! Playing ball! My favorite!
6:30 a.m. Oh, boy! Watching TV with my master! My favorite!
8:30 p.m. Oh, boy! Sleeping in master's bed! My favorite!



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EXCERPTS FROM A CAT'S DAILY DIARY:

Day 183 of My Captivity: My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. They dine lavishly on fresh meat, while I am forced to eat dry cereal. The only thing that keeps me going is the hope of escape, and the mild scolding I get from ruining the occasional piece of furniture.

Tomorrow I may eat another house plant. Today my attempt to kill my captors by weaving around their feet while they were walking almost succeeded; must try this at the top of the stairs. In an attempt to disgust and repulse these vile oppressors, I once again induced myself to vomit on their favorite chair, must try this on their bed.

Decapitated a mouse and brought them the headless body, in an attempt to make them aware of what I am capable of, and to try to strike fear into their hearts. They only cooed and condescended about what a good little cat I was. Hmmm, not working according to plan...

There was some sort of gathering of their accomplices. I was placed in solitary confinement throughout the event. However, I could hear the noise and smell the food. More importantly, I overheard that my confinement was due to my power of "allergies." Must learn what this is and how to use it to my advantage.

I am convinced the other captives are flunkies and maybe snitches. The dog is routinely released and seems more than happy to return. He is obviously a half-wit. The bird, on the other hand, has got to be an informant, and speaks with them regularly. I am certain he reports my every move. Due to his current placement in the metal room, his safety is assured. But I can wait - It is only a matter of time.....



What Kind Of Man Would Do Such A Thing?

This story was told by the Sergeant Major of the Army, at a Soldiers Breakfast held at Red Arsenal, AL, and recorded by Chaplain James Henderson, stationed there.

At Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington DC recently the Sergeant Major of the Army, Jack Tilley, was with a group of people visiting the wounded soldiers. He saw a Special Forces soldier who had lost his right hand and suffered severe wounds of his face and side of his body. The Sergeant Major of the Army wanted to honor him and show him respect without offending, but what can you say or do in such a situation that will encourage and uplift? How do you shake the right hand of a soldier who has none?

There was a man in that group of visitors who had his wife with him to visit the wounded. He seemed to know exactly what to do. This man reverently took the soldier's stump of a hand in both of his hands, knelt at the bedside and prayed for him. When he finished the prayer, he stood up, bent over the soldier and kissed him on the head and told him that he loved him.

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A powerful expression of love and Christ-like example, for one of our wounded heroes! What kind of a man would do such a thing? The wounded man's Commander-in-Chief, George W. Bush; President of the U S A



THE BRICK

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar.

He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something.

As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag's side door!

He slammed on the brakes and backed the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown.

The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him up against a parked car shouting, "What was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing? That's a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?"

The young boy was apologetic. "Please, mister ... please , I'm sorry but I didn't know what else to do," He pleaded.

"I threw the brick because no one else would stop..." With tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car.

It's my brother," he said. "He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up."

Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me."

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a linen handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay..

"Thank you and may God bless you," the grateful child told the stranger.

Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk toward their home.

It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door. He kept the dent there to remind him of this message:

"Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!"

God whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we don't have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at us. It's our choice to listen or not.



More Interesting Home Remedies

Did you know?

Drinking two glasses of Gatorade can relieve headache pain almost immediately--without the unpleasant side effects caused by traditional pain "relievers."

Did you know that Colgate toothpaste makes an excellent salve for burns.

Before you head to the store for a high-priced inhaler filled with mysterious chemicals, try chewing on a couple of curiously strong Altoids peppermints. They'll clear up your stuffed nose.

Achy muscles from a bout with the flu? Mix 1 Tablespoon of horseradish in cup of olive oil. Let the mixture sit for 30 minutes, then apply it as a massage oil, for! instant relief for aching muscles.

Sore Throat?? Just mix 1/4 cup of vinegar with 1/4 cup of honey and take 1 Tablespoon six times a day. The vinegar kills the bacteria.

Cure urinary tract infections with Alka-Seltzer. Just dissolve two tablets in a glass of water and drink it at the onset of the symptoms. Alka-Seltzer begins eliminating urinary tract infections almost instantly--even though the product was never been advertised for this use.

Eliminate puffiness under your eyes.....All you need is a dab of preparation H, carefully rubbed into the skin, avoiding the eyes. The hemorrhoid ointment acts as a vasoconstrictor, relieving the swelling instantly.

Ho! nay remedy for skin blemishes.....Cover the blemish with a dab of honey and place a band-aid over it. Honey kills the bacteria, keeps the skin sterile and speeds healing. Works overnight.

Listerine therapy for toenail fungus....Get rid of unsightly toenail fungus by soaking your toes in Listerine mouthwash. The powerful antiseptic leaves your toenails looking healthy again.

Easy eyeglass protection....To prevent the screws in eyeglasses from loosening, apply a small drop of Maybelline Crystal Clear nail polish to the threads of the screws before tightening them.

Coca-Cola cure for rust...Forget those expensive rust removers. Just saturate an abrasive sponge with Coca Cola and sc! rub the rust stain. The phosphoric acid in the coke is what gets the job done.

Cleaning liquid that doubles as bug killer....If menacing bees, wasps, hornets or yellow jackets get in your home and you can't find the insecticide, try a spray of Formula 409. Insects drop to the ground instantly.

Smart splinter remover.....just pour a drop of Elmer's Glue all over the splinter, let dry, and peel the dried glue off the skin. The splinter sticks to the dried glue.

Hunt's tomato paste boil cure.... Cover the boil with Hunt's tomato paste as a compress. The acids from the tomatoes soothe the pain and bring the boil to a head.

Balm for broken blisters.....To disinfect a broken blister, dab on a few drops of Listerine....a powerful antiseptic & Heinz vinegar to heal bruises... Soak a cotton ball in white vinegar and apply it to the bruise for 1 hour. The vinegar reduces the blueness and speeds up the healing process.

Kills fleas instantly. Dawn dish washing liquid does the trick. Add a few drops to your dog's bath and shampoo the animal thoroughly. Rinse well to avoid skin irritations. Goodbye fleas

Rainy day cure for dog odor...Next time your dog comes in from the rain, simply wipe down the animal with Bounce or any dryer sheet, instantly making your dog smell springtime fresh.

Eliminate ear mites.....All it takes is a few drops of Wesson corn oil in your cat's ear. Massage it in, then clean with a cotton ball. Repeat daily for 3 days. The oil soothes the cat's skin, smothers the mites, and accelerates healing.

Vaseline cure for hair balls.....To prevent troublesome hair balls, apply a dollop of Vaseline petroleum jelly to your cat's nose. The cat will lick off the jelly, lubricating any hair in its stomach so it can pass easily through the digestive system.

Quaker Oats for fast pain relief....It's not for breakfast anymore! Mix 2 cups of Quaker Oats and 1 cup of water in a bowl and warm in the microwave for 1 minute, cool slightly, and apply the mixture to your hands for soothing relief from arthritis pain.



And Now...Pithy Sayings

I once had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue: "No good in a bed, but fine up against a wall".
~Eleanor Roosevelt

Last week I stated this woman was the ugliest woman I had ever seen. I have since been visited by her sister ...and now wish to withdraw that statement.
~Mark Twain

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and have the two as close together as possible.
~George Burns

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Santa Claus has the right idea ...visit people only once a year.

~Victor Borge

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.

~Mark Twain

What would men be without women? Scarce, sir ... mighty scarce.

~Mark Twain

My wife is a sex object. Every time I ask for sex, she objects.

~Les Dawson

By all means marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher.

~Socrates

I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury.

~Groucho Marx

My wife has a slight impediment in her speech. Every now and then she stops to breathe.

~Jimmy Durante

The male is a domestic animal which, if treated with firmness and kindness, can be trained to do most things.

~Jilly Cooper

I never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back.

~Zsa Zsa Gabor

Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar, and fat.

~Alex Levine

Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first.

~Mark Twain

My luck is so bad that if I bought a cemetery, people would stop dying.

~Ed Furgol

Money can't buy you happiness, but it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery.

~Spike Milligan

What's the use of happiness? It can't buy you money.

~Henny Youngman

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I am opposed to millionaires, but it would be dangerous to offer me the position.
~Mark Twain

Until I was thirteen, I thought my name was 'shut up.'
~Joe Namath

Youth would be an ideal state if it came a little later in life.
~Herbert Henry Asquith

I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap.
~Bob Hope

A woman drove me to drink ... and I hadn't even the courtesy to thank her.
~W.C. Fields

I never drink water because of the disgusting things that fish do in it.
~W.C. Fields

It takes only one drink to get me drunk. The trouble is, I can't remember if it's the thirteenth or the fourteenth.
~George Burns

We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress.
~Unknown

Don't worry about avoiding temptation... As you grow older, it will avoid you.
~Unknown

Maybe it's true that life begins at fifty. But ...everything else starts to wear out, fall out, or spread out.
~Unknown

Doctor to patient: I have good news and bad news. The good news is that you are not a hypochondriac.
~Unknown

The cardiologist's diet: If it tastes good ... spit it out.
~Unknown

By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere.
~Unknown

It's hard to be nostalgic when you can't remember anything.
~Unknown



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A little laughter for you today! Enjoy!

1. Jesse Jackson, Jim Baker and Jimmy Swaggert have written an impressive new book. It's called "Ministers Do More Than Lay People."
2. Transvestite: A guy who likes to eat, drink and be Mary.
3. The difference between the Pope and your boss: The Pope only expects you to kiss his ring.
4. My mind works like lightning. One brilliant flash and it is gone.
5. The only time the world beats a path to your door is if you're in the bathroom.
6. I hate sex in the movies. Tried it once. The seat folded up, the drink spilled and that ice, well, it really chilled the mood.
7. It used to be only death and taxes were inevitable. Now, of course, there's shipping and handling, too.
8. A husband is someone who, after taking out the trash, gives the impression that he just cleaned the whole house.
9. My next house will have no kitchen --just vending machines and a large trash can.
10. A blonde said, "I was worried that my mechanic might try to rip me off. I was relieved when he told me all I needed was turn signal fluid."
11. I'm so depressed. My doctor refused to write me a prescription for Viagra. He said it would be like putting a new flagpole on a condemned building.
12. My neighbor was bitten by a stray rabid dog. I went to see how he was and found him writing frantically on a piece of paper. I told him rabies could be cured and he didn't have to worry about a will. He said, "Will? What will? I'm making a list of the people I want to bite!"
13. Definition of a teen-ager? God's punishment for enjoying sex.
14. As we slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.
15. I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose-fitting clothing. If I HAD any loose-fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up in the first place!
16. When I was young we used to go "skinny dipping." Now I just go "chunky dunk."
17. The early bird still has to eat worms.
18. The worst thing about accidents in the kitchen is eating them.

19. Don't argue with an idiot; people watching may not be able to tell the difference.
20. Wouldn't it be nice if whenever we messed up our life we could simply press 'Ctrl Alt Delete' and start all over?
21. Stress is when you wake up screaming and then you realize you haven't fallen asleep yet.
22. My wife says I never listen to her. At least I think that's what she said.
23. Just remember, if the world didn't suck, we'd all fall off.
24. Why is it that our children can't read a Bible in school, but they can in prison?
25. If raising children was going to be easy, it never would have started with something called labor.
26. Brain cells come, and brain cells go, but fat cells live forever.



Dump this if you hate puns!

For all you 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. In democracy it's your vote that counts; In feudalism it's your count that votes.
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. Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft and I'll show you A-flat minor.
11. When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
12. The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully 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. Local Area Network in Australia: the LAN down under.
16. He often broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
17. Every calendar's days are numbered.
18. A lot of money is tainted. 'Taint yours and 'taint mine.
19. A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
20. He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
21. A plateau is a high form of flattery.
22. The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
23. Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.

24. When you've seen one shopping center you've seen a mall.
25. Those who jump off a Paris bridge are in Seine.
26. When an actress saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.
27. Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.
28. Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
29. Acupuncture is a jab well done.
30. Marathon runners with bad footwear suffer the agony of defeat.



And now for some Biblical "Mom-isms!"

Top Ten Bible Countdown . . .

10. Samson! Get your hand out of that lion. You don't know where it's been! (Judges 14:5-8)
9. David! I told you not to play in the house with that sling! Go practice your harp. We pay good money for those lessons!
8. Abraham! Stop wandering around the countryside and get home for supper!
7. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego! Leave those clothes outside, you smell like a dirty ol' furnace!
6. Cain! Get off your brother! You're going to kill him some day!
5. Noah! No, you can't keep them! I told you, don't bring home any more strays!
4. Gideon! Have you been hiding in that wine press again? Look at your clothes! (Judges 6:11)
3. James and John! No more burping contests at the dinner table, please. People are going to call you the sons of thunder! (Mark 3:17)
2. Judas! Have you been in my purse again?!
1. Jesus! What do you think... you were born in a barn?

Until next time, keep in good humor, Jim



Not the Brightest Pub of the Litter

From: Bill C. Bean bill.c.bean@exgate.tek.com

I CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT:

Police say a man tried to rob a pharmacy in Neillsville, Wisc., using the time-honored ruse of pretending his finger was a gun. Except the man, wearing a mask, didn't feel the need to hide the fake gun in his pocket -- he held his finger up to pharmacist Bill Weiler. "I kind of chuckled," Weiler said, asking "This is a robbery?" The man then "pushed me and said, 'Yeah, this is a robbery'." He wrestled with the man and, in the scuffle, pulled off his mask. He recognized the robber as Joel D. Peterson, 30, who had earlier allegedly tried to fill forged prescriptions. (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel) ...Which Weiler knew were forged because there's no such thing as "Smart Pills".



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From the mouth of Babes

Jesus' Dad's Name

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?"

One child answered, "Mary."

The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?"

A little kid said, "Verge."

Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?"

The kid said, "Well, you know they are always talking about Verge n' Mary."



KIDS IN CHURCH

3-year-old, Reese: "Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen."

A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

A. Sunday school class was studying the Ten Commandments. They were ready to discuss the last one. The teacher asked if anyone could tell her what it was. Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shall not take the covers off the neighbor's wife."

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."

One particular four-year-old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

A Sunday school teacher asked her children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5 and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'" Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand. "Daddy, what happened to

him?" the son asked. "He died and went to Heaven," the Dad replied. The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"

~~~~~  
A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and aid, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"



### **Once a Marine, always a Marine.**

As the crowded airliner is about to take off, the peace is shattered by a five-year-old boy who picks that moment to throw a wild temper tantrum.

No matter what his frustrated, embarrassed mother does to try to calm him down the boy continues to scream furiously and kick the seats around him.

Suddenly, from the rear of the plane, a man in a Marine uniform is seen slowly walking forward up the aisle.

Stopping the flustered mother with an upraised hand, the courtly, soft-spoken Marine leans down and, motioning toward his chest, whispers something into the boy's ear.

Instantly, the boy calms down, gently takes his mother's hand, and quietly fastens his seat belt. All the other passengers burst into spontaneous applause.

As the Marine slowly makes his way back to his seat, one of the cabin attendants touches his sleeve. "Excuse me, sir," she ask quietly, "but could I ask you what magic words you used on that little boy?"

The Marine smiles serenely and gently confides, "I showed him my pilot's wings, service stars, and battle ribbons, and explained that they entitle me to throw one passenger out the plane door, on any flight I choose."

Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark and Professionals built the Titanic.



### **No kidding.**

There's nothing worse than a snotty doctor's receptionist who insists you tell her what is wrong in a room full of other patients. I know you all have experienced this, and here's the way one old guy handled it.

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An 86-year-old man walked into a crowded doctor's office. As he approached the desk, the receptionist said, "Yes sir, what are you seeing the doctor for today?" There's something wrong with my dick," he replied.

The receptionist became irritated and said, "You shouldn't come into a crowded office and say things like that."

"Why not? You asked me what was wrong and I told you," he said.

The receptionist replied, "You've obviously caused some embarrassment in this room full of people. You should have said there is something wrong with your ear or something and then discussed the problem further with the doctor in private." The man walked out, waited several minutes and then reentered. The receptionist smiled smugly and asked, "Yes?" There's something wrong with my ear," he stated.

The receptionist nodded approvingly and smiled, knowing he had taken her advice.

"And what is wrong with your ear, Sir?" "I can't p ss out of it," the man replied.

The doctor's office erupted in laughter.



### **Gun Fighter**

From: Ray Erickson [rayw0ltn@oregonfast.net](mailto:rayw0ltn@oregonfast.net)

There was a young cowboy who wanted more than anything to be the greatest gunfighter in the world. He practiced every minute of his spare time, but he knew that he wasn't yet first-rate and that there must be something he was doing wrong.

Sitting in the saloon one Saturday night, he recognized an elderly man seated at the bar who, in his day, had the reputation of being the fastest gun in the West. The young cowboy took the seat next to the old-timer, bought him a whiskey, and told him the story of his great ambition. "Do you think you could give me some tips?" he asked.

The old man looked him up and down and said, "Well, fer one thing, yer wearing your gun too high. Tie the holster a lil' lower down on your leg."

"Will that make me a better gunfighter?" asked the young man. "Sure will," said the old-timer. The young man did as he was told, stood up, whipped out his .44 and shot The bow tie off the piano player. "That's terrific!" he yelled, "Got any More tips for me?"

"Yep," said the old man, "Cut a notch out of your holster where the hammer hits it. That'll give you a smoother draw."

"Will that make me a better gunfighter?" asked the younger man. "You bet it will," said the old-timer.

The young man took out his knife, cut the notch, stood up, drew his gun in a blur, and shot a cufflink off the piano player. "Wow!" said the cowboy, "I'm learnin' somethin' here. Got any more tips?"

The old man pointed to a large can in a corner of the saloon. "See that Axle grease over there? Coat your gun with it." The young man went over to the can and smeared some of the grease on the barrel of his gun. "No," said the old-timer, "I mean smear it all over the gun, grip and all." "Will that make me a better gunfighter?" asked the young man. "No," said the old timer, "but when Wyatt Earp finishes playin' the piano, he's going to shove that gun up your ass, and it won't hurt as much



## **KENTUCKY PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER EXAM**

From: Floyd Farrar [farrfl@comcast.net](mailto:farrfl@comcast.net)

We are sick and tired of hearing about how dumb people in the South are. We challenge any so-called smart Yankee to take this exam administered by the University of Kentucky Engineering Department:

1. Calculate the smallest limb diameter on a persimmon tree that will support a 10-pound possum.
2. Which of these cars will rust out the quickest when placed on blocks in your front yard? A '65 Ford Fairlane, a '69 Chevrolet, a '67 Chevelle, or a '64 Pontiac GTO.
3. If your uncle builds a still that operates at a capacity of 20 gallons of shine produced per hour, how many car radiators are required to condense the product?
4. A woodcutter has a chainsaw that operates at 2700 RPM. The density of the pine trees in the plot to be harvested is 470 per acre. The plot is 2.3 acres in size. The average tree diameter is 14 inches. How many Budweisers will be drunk before the trees are cut down?
5. If every old refrigerator in the state vented a charge of R-12 simultaneously, what would be the percentage decrease in the ozone layer?
6. A front porch is constructed of 2 x 8 pine on 24-inch centers with a field rock foundation. The span is 8 feet and the porch length is 16 feet. The porch floor is 1-inch rough sawn pine. When the porch collapses, how many hound dogs will be killed?
7. A man owns a Tennessee house and 3.7 acres of land in a hollow with an average slope of 15%. The man has five children. Can each of his grown children put a mobile home on the man's land and still have enough property for their electric appliances to sit out front?
8. A 2-ton truck is overloaded and proceeding 900 yards down a steep slope on a secondary road at 45 MPH. The brakes fail. Given average traffic conditions on secondary roads, what is the probability that it will strike a vehicle with a muffler?

9. A coal mine operates in a NFPA Class 1, Division 2 Hazardous Area. The mine employs 120 miners per shift. A gas warning is issued at the beginning of the 3rd shift. How many cartons of unfiltered Camels will be smoked during the shift?

10. At a reduction in the gene pool variability rate of 7.5% per generation, how long will it take a town that has been bypassed by the Interstate to breed a country-western singer?



### **Be careful what you tell your children**

From: Marian Johnson [marian@yellowcraftpages.com](mailto:marian@yellowcraftpages.com)

These days, school educators recognize that they cannot teach children everything, but must, rather, teach them how to find out everything. Research is an important skill which can cross over into various areas of life.

Dear Mr. Cameron:

As a courtesy, we are sending you a copy of this letter we recently wrote to your 15 year old daughter in response to a query we received from her.

Dear Ms. Cameron:

Thank you for your letter. Yes, we are pleased to report, your father's old high school is still standing and our library was able to find yearbooks dating "all the way back" to his graduation. In fact, a few teachers even remember your father, which I will get to in a moment.

In answer to your first question: In every picture extant of your father he is well shod, wearing what I believe were called "earth shoes" back then. Also, the weather here is moderate, with snow generally lasting from December until March - hardly the entire school year. Thus his descriptions of the conditions under which he "struggled" to school in the morning do, as you suggested, seem a bit exaggerated. In fact, our bus logs are (remarkably) still intact, revealing that not only was your father a registered passenger, but that his parents paid the extra ten dollars a month for door-to-door delivery.

I am sure there were days when your father was very "sharply dressed," as you state he puts it, but in every single photograph I was able to uncover he is wearing exactly the same thing: bell bottom blue jeans with white strings trailing from the edges onto the floor, horizontal rents in the knees, and no belt buckle. His T-shirt displays a message easily communicated with hand gestures. His hair hangs past his shoulders and looks as if it was exposed to a lot of wind -- perhaps he rode the school bus with the window open.

As to academics and "concentrating on the basics," one must remember the times. The "basics" back then may very well have embraced some of your father's elective subjects, which included "Personal Citizenship," "Ecology," and one which apparently was called "Relevance." We have no record of what, if anything, was taught in these classes. What records we do have show that your father did

indeed take Geometry, just as he claims. In fact, he took it his sophomore year, repeated it his junior year and repeated the course again his senior year - Geometry was required for graduation.

Now as to Mr. Muggins, who had your father in a class called "Problems of Modern Relationships." Mr. Muggins does not wish to dispute the claim that your father always had his homework done early, he merely wants to point out that no matter when it was done, it was always handed in late. In fact, your father sticks out in Mr. Muggins' mind as having the most outrageous excuses for being unprepared, including having to evacuate his home because it was infected with the China Syndrome.

Your father was not, sad to say, President of the Student Council. Perhaps he is confusing student government with a social group called "The Slackers," which Mr. Muggins recalls was a group of boys who sat in the hallway and made loud groaning noises whenever an attractive girl strode past. Your father was assistant vice president of the club, and, to our knowledge, is the only past member not currently serving time in a federal penitentiary.

One thing IS completely verifiable: your father's name is, indeed, carved above the door to the school. Please advise that, now that we have noticed it, we will need to have it sanded out and refinished, at a cost of approximately three hundred dollars. We would appreciate it if your father would agree to pay for the damage without our having to engage lawyers.

The honor roll to which he apparently referred is not above the door, it hangs outside my office. I will leave unanswered the question as to whether his name is upon it.

Thank you very much for your letter, which we found most amusing. Be sure to tell your father hello from Mr. Muggins.



## **Riverside Revival**

From: Charlene Wilson [pjcwilson@yahoo.com](mailto:pjcwilson@yahoo.com)

A southern Baptist minister was completing a temperance sermon. With great emphasis he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river." With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river." And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he said, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river."

Sermon complete, he then sat down. The song leader stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn #365, Shall We Gather at the River."



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## KIDS IN CHURCH

3-year-old, Reese:

"Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen."

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After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."

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I had been teaching my three-year old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer for several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end of the prayer: "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some E-mail. Amen."

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and one particular four-year-old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

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A Sunday school teacher asked her children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

~~~~~

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. See those men standing by the door? They're hushers."

~~~~~

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'" Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

~~~~~

A father was at the beach with his children when the four- year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand. "Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked. "He died and went to Heaven," the Dad replied. The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"



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More things to Ponder

From: Floyd Farrar farrfl@comcast.net

Does a clean house indicate that there is a broken computer in it?

Why is it that no matter what color of bubble bath you use the bubbles are always white?

Why doesn't toothpaste ever go rotten?

Is there ever a day when mattresses are NOT on sale?

Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with the hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?

How come when you first pull the drapery cord the drapes always move the wrong way?

Why do people keep running over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner reach down, pick it up, examine it then put it down to give their vacuum one more chance?

Why is it that no plastic garbage bag will open from the end you first try? How do those dead bugs get into closed light fixtures?

Why do we wash BATH towels? Aren't we clean when we use them? If not then what was the purpose of the bath?

Considering all the lint you get in your dryer if you kept drying your clothes would they eventually just disappear?

When we are in the supermarket and someone rams our ankle with a shopping cart then apologizes for doing so, why do we say 'Its all right'? It isn't all right, so why don't we say, 'That hurt, you stupid idiot'?

What is the point of brick wallpaper?

Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?

Is it true that the only difference between a yard sale and a trash pickup is how close to the road the stuff is placed?

Why do old men wear their pants higher than younger men?

Why is it that inside every older person is a younger person wondering what the heck happened?

Why are the needy only thought of during the holidays? Aren't they just as needy throughout the rest of the year?

How come we never hear any father-in-law jokes?

If an optimist fell from a ten story building would he yell out to his friends 'All right so far' as he passed each floor?

Life is not about how fast you run, or how high you climb, but how well you bounce.



Japanese error messages

From: Goran Tomas goran.tomas@post.hinet.hr

They sound much nicer :-))

1. The Web site you seek cannot be located, but countless more exist.
2. Chaos reigns within. Reflect, repent, and reboot. Order shall return.
3. Program aborting: Close all that you have worked on. You ask far too much.
4. Windows NT crashed. I am the Blue Screen of Death. No one hears your screams.
5. Yesterday it worked. Today it is not working. Windows is like that.
6. Your file was so big. It might be very useful. But now it is gone.
7. Stay the patient course. Of little worth is your ire. The network is down.
8. A crash reduces your expensive computer to a simple stone.
9. Three things are certain: Death, taxes and lost data. Guess which has occurred?
10. You step in the stream, but the water has moved on. This page is not here.
11. Out of memory. We wish to hold the whole sky, but we never will.
12. Having been erased, the document you're seeking must now be retyped.
13. Serious error. All shortcuts have disappeared.
14. Screen. Mind. Both are blank.

Regards,
Goran Tomas



Bananas

From: JIM WELMAN welmansmtn@oregonfast.net

After reading this, you'll NEVER look at the Banana in the same way again!!!!)

Doctors - Home Remedy:

Want a quick fix for flagging energy levels there's no better snack than a banana. Bananas contain three natural sugars -- sucrose, fructose and glucose -- combined with fiber one banana gives an instant, sustained and substantial boost of energy. Research has proven that just two bananas provide enough energy for a strenuous 90-minute workout. No wonder

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the banana is the number one fruit with the world's leading athletes. But energy isn't the only way a banana can help us keep fit. It can also help overcome or prevent a substantial number of illnesses and conditions making it a must to add to your daily diet.

Depression: According to a recent survey undertaken by MIND amongst people suffering from depression, many felt much better after eating a banana. This is because bananas contain tryptophan, a type of protein that the body converts into serotonin known to make you relax, improve your mood and generally make you feel happier.

PMS: Forget the pills -- eat a banana. The vitamin B6 it contains regulates blood glucose levels, which can affect your mood.

Anemia: High in iron, bananas can stimulate the production of hemoglobin in the blood and so helps in cases of anemia.

Blood Pressure: This unique tropical fruit is extremely high in potassium yet low in salt making it the perfect to beat blood pressure. So much so, the US Food and Drug Administration has just allowed the banana industry to make official claims for the fruit's ability to reduce the risk of blood pressure and stroke.

Brain Power: 200 students at a Twickenham (Middlesex) school were helped through their exams this year by eating bananas at breakfast, break and lunch in a bid to boost their brain power. Research has shown that the potassium packed fruit can assist learning by making pupils more alert.

Constipation: High in fiber, including bananas in the diet can help restore normal bowel action, helping to overcome the problem without resorting to laxatives.

Hangovers: One of the quickest ways of curing a hangover is to make a banana milkshake, sweetened with honey. The banana calms the stomach and, with the help of the honey, builds up depleted blood sugar levels, while the milk soothes and re-hydrates your system.

Heartburn: Bananas have a natural antacid effect in the body so if you suffer from heartburn, try eating a banana for soothing relief.

Morning Sickness: Snacking on bananas between meals helps to keep blood sugar levels up and avoid morning sickness.

Mosquito bites: Before reaching for the insect bite cream, try rubbing the affected area with the inside of a banana skin. Many people find it amazingly successful at reducing swelling and irritation.

Nerves: Bananas are high in B vitamins that help calm the nervous system.

Overweight and at work?: Studies at the Institute of Psychology in Austria found pressure at work leads to gorging on comfort food like chocolate and crisps. Looking at 5,000 hospital patients, researchers found the most obese were more likely to be in high-pressure jobs. The report concluded

that, to avoid panic-induced food cravings, we need to control our blood sugar levels by snacking on high carbohydrate foods every two hours to keep levels steady.

Ulcers: The banana is used as the dietary food against intestinal disorders because of its soft texture and smoothness. It is the only raw fruit that can be eaten without distress in over-chronic ulcer cases. It also neutralizes over-acidity and reduces irritation by coating the lining of the stomach.

Temperature control: Many other cultures see bananas as a 'cooling' fruit that can lower both the physical and emotional temperature of expectant mothers. In Thailand, for example, pregnant women eat bananas to ensure their baby is born with a cool temperature.

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD): Bananas can help SAD sufferers because they contain the natural mood enhancer, tryptophan.

Smoking: Bananas can also help people trying to give up smoking. The B6, B12 they contain, as well as the potassium and magnesium found in them, help the body recover from the effects of nicotine withdrawal.

Stress: Potassium is a vital mineral, which helps normalize the heartbeat, sends oxygen to the brain and regulates your body's water-balance. When we are stressed, our metabolic rate rises, thereby reducing our potassium levels. These can be rebalanced with the help of a high-potassium banana snack.

Strokes: According to research in 'The New England Journal of Medicine' eating bananas as part of a regular diet can cut the risk of death by strokes by as much as 40%!

Warts: Those keen on natural alternatives swear that, if you want to kill off a wart, take a piece of banana skin and place it on the wart, with the yellow side out. Carefully hold the skin in place with a plaster or surgical tape!

So you see, a banana really is a natural remedy for many ills. When you compare it to an apple, it has four times the protein, twice the carbohydrate, three times the phosphorus, five times the vitamin A and iron, and twice the other vitamins and minerals. It is also rich in potassium and is one of the best value foods around.

So maybe its time to change that well-known phrase so that we say, "A Banana a day keeps the doctor away!"



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Man charged for...uh...watching TV while driving

From: John Golitsis john@nbtelectronics.com

Andre Gainey found out the hard way that in the state of New York it's illegal to drive while watching porn.

Police said the 35-year old man from Clifton Park, New York, was watching a adult movie called "Chocolate Foam" on Tuesday night while driving his Mercedes Benz in the town of Schenectady when he was spotted by an officer at a stop light.

Police spokesman Pete Frizoni said detectives pulled Gainey over when they saw the movie playing on screens embedded in the car's headrests. When they confronted him, they saw another screen in the passenger-side visor was facing Gainey, allowing him to watch the movie while driving.

The case is thought to be the first of its kind in New York, said Joe Pichi, a spokesman for the for the state's Department of Motor Vehicles.

"Our biggest problem is illegal cell phone use while driving," Pichi said. "Drivers should be driving."

Gainey was charged with a public display of offensive material, driving with a suspended license and driving while watching a television. He compounded his legal woes by giving a false name when he was fingerprinted, prompting police to add a charge of forgery. He is scheduled to appear in court on March 17.



3 reasons not to mess with a child

Source Unknown

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah". The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?" The little girl replied, "Then you ask him"

The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture. "Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, 'There's Jennifer, she's a lawyer,' or 'That's Michael, He's a doctor.' A small voice at the back of the room rang out, "And there's the teacher, She's dead. "

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching." Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching



A case of mistaken identity



Larry Bloomfield, a student in Mrs. Stone's class at Lewis County Central Elementary School, models the newest classroom accessory -- hissing cockroaches! The students are having a good time taking care of the critters, which were donated to the class by Assistant Principal Matt Stanfield. (October 29, 2002, Lewis County Central Elementary photo)



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/> 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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