

THINGS

No One Ever Tells You

By Jim Aylward

I believe that nutrition is very important. Healthy foods – natural foods – and whole grains are a part of my daily diet. But I still need Cheese Doodles. They help my attitude.

If I go a day without those crunchy, cheesy corn things in my life, I'm depressed – in a funk. A Cheese Doodle or two, and I'm restored. The sun is high, and so am I. The lakes and the rivers flow effortlessly; the news is tilted toward funny. I laugh at the slightest thing. I'm even amused by pompous politicians with down-home accents (who might talk like anybody else if I yelled, "Fire!") and those endless TV commercials for prescription drugs with deadly side effects ("May cause heart attacks, itchy rash, or sudden death"). One Cheese Doodle or two, and I think the world is really a great place after all.

I admit it: I ate a lot of Cheese Doodles as I prepared these "Things No One Ever Tells You." Perhaps you can tell.

A mother of four children was forced to spend two nights in a Santiago, Chile, jail because she kept "a sloppy garden."

I'm so glad my grandmother taught me weeding and deadheading. Through all of these years, they've kept me out of the slammer.



The University of Iowa lost millions due to state budget cuts. The professors decided to counteract the shortfall by holding a bake sale.

"Yes, the oatmeal cookies are \$3,000 a dozen, but we give you 13! The strawberry shortcake is just \$2,000 a slice!"

While surgeons in a hospital in Kjellerups, Denmark, were removing a mole from a man's buttock, the electric knife being used somehow ignited a spark. The man's privates had been swabbed with antiseptic, and so they were singed by the resulting flare-up.

"You may experience a slight burning sensation for the next several years, but..."

A man near San Francisco is facing a \$1,000 fine and possible imprisonment for voter fraud. For more than two years, he had his toy poodle registered as a Republican.

India is being exposed to the Washy Talky, a very verbal washing machine that speaks in both English and Hindi. Electrolux says the new smart machine says things like, "Drop detergent, close lid, and relax!"

Uh, huh. When it's smart enough to recite Robert Frost, let me know.

Vienna has a new orchestra that turns vegetables into musical instruments. Members of the First Viennese Vegetable Orchestra are accomplished at instruments like the carrot flute, the pumpkin harp, and of course, the ever-popular leek violin. Spokesperson Mathias Meinharter, who plays a trumpet carved from a cucumber and a bell pepper, says the orchestra plays everything from marches to African music.

"Oh, man, that zucchini wails!"

A Lincoln, England, couple fell in love while playing a cow in a show. *The Sun* newspaper says they're getting married. The groom-to-be, Kevin Blackburn, doesn't mind that he met his bride when she was playing a cow's rear end. He says, "It was love at first sight!"

The city of Honolulu miscounted the sewer-valve repair kits in inventory. The number listed on the city records was 19,998. The number the city actually has is two. Officials blamed an antiquated inventory system for the problem.

Let's see: What comes after two? 73?

A 16-year-old girl tried to rob the HSBC bank in Rochester, New York, but her handwriting was so bad that the teller had trouble reading what she had written on the note and had to show it to another teller. By the time they figured it out and handed her a bag of money, it was closing time, and the employees were locking the doors. She was trapped in the foyer and arrested.

"Well, first we had to translate, 'Gib me all yur mummy,' then it was three o'clock!"

A tanker truck filled with wine went out of control while rounding a curve on Highway 16, east of Petaluma, California, rupturing the tank and releasing a river of wine onto the road. One policeman said, "I think it was chardonnay."

I detect a heady, crisp, but somewhat petrol-like exhilaration.

New Zealand's broadcast minister has now decided that one out of every five songs played on the radio there has to be Kiwi in origin.

Well, the good part is, that will cut down on all those boy bands they keep foisting on us.

When a college professor in Ottawa read the essays his students had submitted, he found that 31 of them had committed plagiarism. The subject of the papers was ethics.

A *National Science Week* experiment challenged three competitors to predict the best buys on the London Stock Exchange. They were a financial analyst, an astrologer, and a five-year-old girl. The little girl won. The financial expert came in third.

"Debbie, honey, want to help Daddy make a lot of money?"

Guards at the open-air Village Museum in Bucharest have been caught accepting bribes from people who want to have sex in the facility's ornate cottages. The amount? \$3.

Isn't that more an insult than a bribe?

An Italian court has ruled that a wealthy father must continue to pay for his son's support, even though the young man is in his 30s, has a law degree, and has turned down several job offers.

If I were his daddy, I'd send him to his villa, cut off his cable TV, unplug his PC, and withhold all 100 percent durum semolina until further notice.

A 15-year-old in Cambridge, New Zealand, was suspended from school after writing an essay about having an erection in front of his classmates. He says he was only following the topic he was given: "How Does Your Body Betray You?"

Yes, Josh, but I suggest you look up the meaning of the word "subtlety."

A deputy sheriff, parked on the roadside in Florida, took off after a speeding car, followed it into the woods, and then got his vehicle stuck in a bog. The speeder stopped to help, apologized, and said he had fled because his driver's license had been suspended and he didn't want to get arrested.

He was arrested immediately.



Officials in Bangkok have decreed that people are no longer allowed to leave their pets unattended in public places. The new law was written to include cats, dogs, water buffalo, and elephants.

"But Captain, my water buffalo is on a leash!"

Lertrak Panjanawaporn correctly answered 16 questions in a row to win Thailand's version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" The show's shocked producers couldn't believe the Bangkok street vendor could be so smart. It turns out that, due to a computer glitch, the correct answers were highlighted on her viewing screen.

So maybe she isn't so smart, but she isn't stupid, either!

A Japanese bank robber gave up a heist before he finished it, had his victims call the police, and then waited patiently to be arrested. He said he decided to quit when he realized he had left his mask at home and was therefore easily identifiable.

His doctor told him he was just suffering from Lone Ranger Syndrome, and that after 21 sessions, he would have him up on his horse again – and away he'd go, go, go.

Police in Osaka, Japan, who broke up a prostitution ring were surprised to find the women they arrested were 40 to 70 years old. An official said the middle-aged customers preferred older women because "it was easier to talk to them."

"Well, you see, Mama, I have this peculiar personality conflict that some young women can't understand."

A British pilot and a female cadet reportedly had a sexual encounter in the back of a Lynx helicopter aboard the Royal Navy warship *HMS Cumberland* while the vessel was at sea.

The cadet, they say, was on a "familiarization cruise."

An attorney in Bethesda, Maryland, has invented a cube survival kit. Christopher Ryan's kit includes a rearview mirror, earplugs, an "I'm busy!" sign, a white-noise machine, and a poster that simulates an office window with a really great view.

"Honey, I'm home!"

The price of a dancing-chicken, singing telegram has gone up. Last year in the United States, it was \$85. This year it's \$95.

Sure, but when your chicken dances with a top hat and cane, you have to pay extra.



A Florida man placed a personal ad for a love interest, describing himself as a bon vivant who "enjoys Mediterranean food, the poetry of Keats and Kavafy, and Baroque music." He didn't mention that he makes his home at the state penitentiary for the murder of his two ex-girlfriends.

"I never said I was perfect!"

A new study shows that 60 percent of rural Chinese residents never brush their teeth. They scratch them with a twig or rinse them with strong tea.

"Jenkins, make a note. Let's do research on introducing Twig Tea Toothpaste. If we can sell green ketchup – and we can – we can sell anything!"

It's the newest Japanese food treat: A Shimonoseki restaurant, Kujiraya, is packing them in now with its whale burger, served with barbecue sauce between two rice cakes.

I love a good, crunchy whale burger – and magnum of extra-strength antacid.

Police investigating a report of a man carrying a dead woman into his Munich apartment discovered the corpse was really just the man's new silicon sex doll. He owns four others. A police spokesperson said that, when they knocked on his door, the suspect told them he had just been testing out his new acquisition.

Silvia Umile, a fortune-teller in Las Heras, Argentina, accused a local woman of sneaking into her dreams at night and stealing her powers to predict lottery numbers. Authorities have thus far declined to file charges.

Don't you just hate it when local women steal into your dreams at night?

To keep employees happy, some British companies today have been giving workers fancy job titles instead of more pay. A receptionist was renamed "head of verbal telecommunications." A window washer became an "optical illuminator enhancer."

I asked LEADERS for a raise. Now, I'm executive vice president of amusing trivia. ●