

# THINGS

## No One Ever Tells You

By Jim Aylward

It's always the little things.

The "check engine" light flashes, and you don't want to check the engine. You're not even sure where the engine is.

The security system beeps, and beeps, and beeps, and it's not "on." Alarming.

You're waiting for a very important phone call, so you turn off the answering machine. When the phone finally rings, it's a bored telemarketer, mispronouncing your name.

The automatic bank teller is temporarily out of service. An old man taps his cane on your passenger window and shouts "thanks!" because your shopping cart rolled up against his door. You have a new prescription bottle of expensive pills and the old empty bottle, and you very carefully toss the new bottle into the trash. Little things.

My friend, you're more than ready for some "Things No One Ever Tells You," funny bits of life and humanity sure to bring a smile to your grim-filled face.

No, not all little things are agonizing. These little things are joyful!

A convict working in the box-folding section of the Waldeck prison in eastern Germany was given a large cardboard box to assemble. He did. Then, he climbed inside and waited. A driver came along, loaded the box into his truck, and drove out of the prison.

I wonder if the convict's name was Jack?



**A Belgian woman tried to smuggle her Kurdish boyfriend into Italy by putting him into her suitcase. Customs officials noted she was struggling to carry the case, so they looked inside.**

**"Yes, officer, he's tiny...but, oh, my!"**

A rock-radio deejay, who spent 15 years broadcasting as "Weird Old Uncle Frank," wants to return to the air in San Jose, California, after his sex-change operation.

"Although I sound just like Uncle Frank, you may now call me Aunt Fran!"

A man who had been growing marijuana at a vacant house in Canton, Ohio, dug it up to take it to his own place. As he was heading there, he said to a passerby, "Would you believe I'm walking down the street in the middle of the day with this pot plant?"

The passerby said, "Would you believe I'm a cop?" and then arrested him.

The economic situation is so tough now in Argentina that the people of Junin are lending their cars to police to patrol the streets. The cops say they don't have enough vehicles or money for gas.

"Have it back by midnight, and leave the radio on Classic Tango!"

A man in Sweden gave his genetic material to two lesbians as a favor so they could have children. They had three, then they broke up. After losing his final appeal, the man now must pay child support.

"And this is the thanks I get?"

A Canadian college student is trying to make a little school money by standing on a Kelowna, British Columbia, street corner, offering people his advice. Trevor Dame wears a sign around his neck, reading "Mediocre Advice: 25 cents!"

Excellent advice is not yet available in Kelowna.

Telia, a large mobile-phone company in Sweden, appointed Anders Igel as its chief executive officer, then cut off his mobile phone because he hadn't paid his bill.

"Anders, we don't care how they do it at WorldCom. This is Telia."

Traffic cops in Chennai, India, are taking dance lessons to help them direct traffic more gracefully. Authorities also hope the dancing will allow them to feel more motivated and relaxed.

"I think Sanjay is relaxed enough now...but that tutu has got to go!"

The trick lighting failed during a play in Oldham, England, making it impossible to see the main character. The play's title? "The Invisible Man"

Many Mongolians are refusing government requests to move into permanent housing, preferring to live in yurts – portable, circular tents used since the time of Genghis Khan. These former nomads don't like modern ways and people. Munhbasatar Jalchin told of friends who "married girls who live in apartments... they were useless; they didn't even know how to light a fire!"

"She won't live in a yurt; she can't light my fire. What good is she?"

A new survey finds that nearly one in four Americans deals with stress by getting drunk.

They'll drink to that!

Ulf Buck, a blind, German psychic, predicts people's futures by running his hands over their naked buttocks.

Ah, yes...the old blind, German psychic routine!

If you dine at the Cafe Noir Bar and Lounge in Los Angeles, you get free French fries with your caviar burger. However, each burger, made with two ounces of Beluga, is \$150.

We'll make reservations when they have the "Buy One, Get One Free" sale.

A London man told police he woke up and saw a chimpanzee stealing his cell phone and bolting out his bedroom window. A few days later, police got a report of a chimp stealing a stereo from a home nearby. Police believe the burglaries are related.

As do I.

To attract voters' attention at a rally in the Czech Republic town of Valasske Mezirici, Christian Democrats were offering free shots of plum brandy in the town square. Communist-party officials noted this and countered by getting five women to hand out campaign literature naked from the waist up.

Which gets your vote: plum brandy or plumb naked?

The police station in Mareeba, Australia, is so crowded that officers are being forced to detain prisoners by telling them not to move from a square painted on the jailhouse floor.

"Dis is mine, man. Get yur own square!"

Cell-phone engineers in England say they have invented a tooth implant that's a fully functional telephone. The Tooth Phone receives radio signals, and the user hears via sound transferred to the inner ear by bone resonance.

Yes, but I hate to dial the thing.

LaFlora Williams, a 58-year-old California woman, has just invented the "Secret Bra Pouch," which lets a woman hide cash and credit cards inside her bra. She's currently working on a men's version that fits inside his trousers.

I have a Mae West-like punch line here, but then you probably know what it is.

A Colombian mountain climber, freezing in a blizzard in the South American Andes, tried to call for help on his cell phone, but discovered he had used up all his prepaid minutes. He thought he was doomed, when the phone rang. It was a telephone-company salesperson asking if he wanted to buy more time.

"Wait a minute now... you offered me a better rate last time!"



**A man showed up at the Azteca pastry shop in Mexico City at 8 A.M., pulled a knife, and demanded a chocolate cake. He came back the next day at the same time and did the same thing. And the next day. And the next. At this point, employees decided to call the police in case he did it again. He did, and he was arrested.**

**"Your honor, the knife was just to slice the cake, and I assumed they were putting it on my tab!"**

Lucia Fernanda Flores, a 17-year-old student, is getting national attention as a "performance artist" in Santiago, Chile, by walking around the streets without clothes. She strolls the city wearing only sunglasses and a backpack, as photographers jockey to get the best shots of her "visual-arts project."

Don't you just love modern art?

The Guinness Book of World Records has declared a 116-year-old woman in Beijing, China, the world's oldest person. Du Pinhua says she has lived so long because she didn't start eating meat until she was 110.

Let me get this right, now... if I don't start anything until I'm 110, I live longer?

With a password belonging to his friend's mother, a 13-year-old boy bought a helicopter, a jet airplane, motorcycles, and a pickup truck, using a computer at his junior-high-school science class in Ohio. The total cost was \$2 million.

Yes, but on his Dad's easy credit-card plan, the minimum monthly payment is only \$22.50!

A man in Portugal who wanted to see some nude women called several and offered them free mammograms via a satellite that he said was passing overhead. All they had to do was stand at their front windows naked. Five of the women did it.

Hey, a free mammogram? You know how much those things cost?

A woman in England returned a parrot to the pet shop where she bought it because the previous owners had kept the bird in their bedroom, where it learned to imitate the sounds of sexual passion.

Tough enough to hear it from the next apartment, let alone from a yellow bird with a big beak.

A 78-year-old former Ohio preacher was sent to jail for swindling 800 people out of \$2.3 million in a phony stock scam. The attorney for the victims told the court the man didn't display the humility one might expect from a man of the cloth, saying he once "informed me that he was God."

In Ohio?

The shaman and spiritual leader of the Camaiura tribe in the Amazon jungle said he underwent plastic surgery because a spirit came to him in a dream and "told me to change my face."

Well...if you'd seen him before...

Temple authorities say 70 Buddhist monks at the North Taing Kosang pagoda in Phnom Pehn, Cambodia, have been gambling, watching porno flicks, visiting houses of prostitution, and stealing chickens from homes in the neighborhood.

So much for serenity.

A bunch of people convicted of driving while intoxicated in Iowa were ordered to attend a 48-hour retreat at which they were to learn the virtues of abstaining from booze. Somehow the stuff was smuggled in, and everyone got roaring drunk.

"I think I missed the point, but it was a hell of a party!"

There's a shortage of "buxom wenches" at a Canterbury Tales tourist exhibit in England, and bosses are thinking of hiring men to do the job.

"Hi, I'm Rod! I'll be your buxom wench tonight!"

**Five guards were overseeing 31 convicts on a work detail in northeastern Uganda when a rabbit ran by. All the guards chased after it.**

**All the prisoners immediately escaped.**

