

# THINGS

## No One Ever Tells You

by Jim Aylward



“Where do you get all this stuff?”

That’s what they always ask. It’s never, “Your writing is so intelligent!” or “I just love the intricacy of your thoughts!” or “The way you hang words together is so...Fitzgerald!” They never say that. What they say, over and over, is, “Where do you get all this stuff?”

Well, there’s a little, old man in a forgotten place, on an island, far removed from civilization. This old man has no worldly possessions except a hut, a George Foreman grill (it was a present), a paperback copy of *The Great Gatsby*, a tiny cot of palm fronds, a very cheap fax machine, and a used computer that’s achingly slow to operate. His only joys in life are to research these items and then develop the amusing punch lines that follow and cause a chuckle every time. I pay him a small honorarium (that’s what I call it), and, of course, I always call him “Dad.” He used to be famous years ago, but there was a scandal and he fell on hard times. I’ve used him ever since.

I think you’ll agree that Dad sent me a great bunch of stuff this time!

A political party in Japan has released a 21-page booklet on how to lure women to the polls, which includes tips on grooming, how to smile and shake hands, and, most important of all, how to sound sincere.

Well, as everybody knows, once you can learn to fake sincerity, you’ve got it made.

A Colombian businessman says he’s tired of being stopped and searched by airport security people who suspect the bulge in his pants is a weapon. Frederico Rocho says he has been ordered to drop his pants 14 times in the last year.

He does admit, however, that the first time it happened at Miami International, and security officers accused him of being a .44 Magnum, he was flattered.

A man robbed the Bank of America branch in Oroville, California, and then returned a few hours later to deposit the money into his account through the bank’s ATM.

As Uncle Vinnie used to say before they sent him away, “Rob a little, save a little, do a little time!”

**A man tried to steal a roll of copper wire from a railroad yard in Surrey, British Columbia, even though it was connected to a running generator. That resulted in a 27,000-volt electrical shock, which blew his shoes off.**

**It also gave him a new, spiky hairstyle. And a rosy glow.**

New York’s Kitano Hotel has installed heated bathroom seats in all its suites.

“Ooooh!”

A German woman called the fire department to report that her television set was in flames. When firefighters arrived, they found the set was tuned to a program showing a burning log.

Must be that new high-definition, digital TV with crystal-clear images and bold colors.

A male stripper worked a private party in Murray, Utah, and, on the way home, went into a convenience store in Orem, still wearing his costume: a pair of jeans with the seat cut out. He thought it would be fun to see how people would react.

They called the police.

Young doctors staffing the emergency room at a New Zealand hospital became flustered when a janitor suffered a heart attack and collapsed. As he lay on the floor, the interns debated what to do. They then decided to call 911.

A spokesperson for St. Paul Hospital in Auckland said, “It’s not the response we would have liked.”

Scientists at Japan’s National Science Museum did a taste test with wild crows. They found that the birds preferred meat, cake, fried foods, and mayonnaise, in that order. Vegetables came in last.

I agree. I’d never eat spinach until my Aunt Bertha put mayonnaise, lemon juice, salt, and pepper on it. After that, I said to my mother, “That’s the way I want my spinach from now on,” and my dear mother said, “Then you’ll make it yourself.”

Former model Luciana Morad has a new job hosting a chat show in her native Brazil. In one recent interview, her guest confided that she had tried to kill herself by taking an overdose. Morad leaned forward sympathetically and asked, “Did you die?”

*Boating* magazine has chosen the year’s worst names for boats. Unfortunately, they’re all real names that real people selected: Flying Seamen, Blood Vessel, and Cirrhosis of the River.

Panicked residents of Wiener Neustadt, Austria, called police to say a giant beaver was cavorting in the town square. It turned out to be an escaped kangaroo.

“Listen, I don’t care what they say. This is Austria – not Australia – and it was a really big beaver!”

A Moscow man tried to remove a stubborn paint stain from his trousers by putting them in a washing machine and then pouring in a gallon of gasoline. The explosion destroyed his apartment.

Yes, but the stain came out.

A majority of Brits consider the beer widgee, a little device that ensures a frothy head on any canned beer, "the greatest invention of the last 40 years." They say it's better than the Internet, mobile phones, even transplant surgery.

I'm glad to hear they have their priorities right.

A husband and wife from Ploiesti, Romania, each decided to indulge in hanky-panky for a few days. They made up stories about where they were going. As it turned out, they both went to the Black Sea resort of Mamaia. While walking along the beach, talking on their cell phones, they bumped into each other.

"No! No! No! The question is, what are you doing here?"

A man went to a car dealership in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, and chose a \$729,000, red Ferrari F50 to test-drive.

So far, he hasn't come back.

A publicly funded support group in Australia was supposed to be producing pamphlets featuring health-care advice for prostitutes. Instead, the pamphlets were telling them how to keep customers happy.

Among the "health" tips: "Never wear shoes in bed" and "Always act like you enjoy it."

A Brazilian man went to a clinic for an ear checkup and ended up with a vasectomy after mistakenly believing the doctor had called his name.

Well, at least he found out that he really does have a hearing problem.

Static electricity can cause people to spontaneously combust while pumping gas.

"Ethel, my legs ache. Can you get out and fill the tank, please?"



**A utility company in Vladivostok, Russia, has decided to kidnap the pets of those with overdue electric bills, and to hold them for ransom until the customers pay up. The company's boss, Nilia Tkachyov, says, "Let the father answer his daughter's question as to why her favorite cat was taken away!"**

**"Daddy, it's dark in here, and I want Boris back!"**

A marriage in Saudi Arabia ended in such bitterness, the wife told the husband he was so unattractive that no one would ever marry him again. In response, he married four women on the same day and then spent his honeymoon near where his ex lived, so she would know about it.

"Nyah, nyah, nyah, nyah, nyah!"

A 102-year-old widower in Calabria, Italy, has been on the lookout for another woman to marry. This will be his third. He says he's mystified why he hasn't been able to find a willing woman. After all, as he puts it, he has a house, a pension, and, "I still haven't called it a day on 'certain activities'!"

But Tony, a lot of those young, 90-year-old women have.

A Tokyo dominatrix, who decided to become a mental-health counselor, treats her patients using the S&M techniques of her former profession. She insists that it helps cure depression.

"But Mistress Nursie, it smarts!"

The University of Colorado marching band completed an alcohol-awareness program as required in an effort to discourage underage drinking.

The next night, 21 band members were arrested at a party for the very same offense.

An 81-year-old woman in Thunder Bay, Ontario, drove her car over a steep embankment into a shallow river.

Unfortunately, she was taking her driver's test at the time.

"I didn't pass, did I?"

Scientists at Kansai University in Japan have developed "painless injection needles" modeled on a mosquito's stinger.

"Arm, did you hear that?"

**Two teenagers were fooling around at work in a department store in Wooster, Ohio, when one of them thought it would be fun to see if he could fit inside a four-by-two-foot safe. It turns out he could.**

**But he couldn't get out after he got in.**

Evidently, it's not easy being in real estate today. A study of realtors by eHouseGuide.com found that, while they were showing homes, they walked in on couples coupling, marijuana growing in closets, 90 tanks of snakes, burglars burgling, and men without pants, shirts, or anything. They also found architectural oddities, such as the house without any bathrooms.

"Well, there's a darling, little place out back in a nature setting that's simply exquisite!"

Singer Alanis Morissette ended her concert in Lima, Peru, by shouting, "Thank you, Brazil!"

Alanis, if it's Tuesday, this must be Belgium.

In keeping with the custom, guests at a wedding in Kraljevo, Serbia, celebrated the joyous occasion by firing guns into the air. That brought down a small two-seater airplane passing over at the time.

"Glad you could drop in! Say hi to Rick and Lucy!" ●

