

THINGS

No One Ever Tells You

by Jim Aylward



I've been slinging words together most of my life. I wrote a book when I was 11 – in longhand. I read it out loud to my Aunt Rheta and my mother, and they laughed in all the right places.

When I was in high school, I wrote a feature article for the local newspaper about a family who moved from Italy to Massachusetts to change their lives by running a dairy farm. After that, the editor let me write my own columns of weighty thought. I was 17.

Today, all grown up and noticeably wiser (I don't write for the local paper anymore because they won't pay me anything), I'm still hard at work at the business of words. Only today, it's words about booze cook-ies, toilet paper made from train tickets, mooning opera lovers, toothless Kentuckians, and kids who refuse to grow up to be president.

Ah, the writing life! It doesn't get any better than this. Here I am: mature, seasoned, a veritable font of strange information, and, at last, an international success, thanks to "Things No One Ever Tells You." If you feel like reading this stuff aloud to your aunt or vice chairman, be my guest. It's a tradition.

A man in Kuala Pilh, Malaysia, was charging his cell phone on his bed while he slept. After a few hours, it exploded, burning his buttocks.

"911? Can you hear me now? 911? Can you hear me?"

An Israeli Olympic official went to Athens to discuss security for the 2004 games. While he was in a meeting, somebody stole his briefcase.

"See, that's what I'm talking about!"

After being released from an Atlanta jail, a man walked into the parking lot, forced two people out of their car, stole it, and drove away.

Cold. Very cold.

A man had the words "I love women" tattooed on his leg. He went in for heart bypass surgery at a hospital in Leeds, England. That required the doctors to remove a vein from the leg in question. When they were through, the tattoo read, "I love men."

Now, he doesn't wear shorts in public.

Four out of five American teenagers don't want to grow up to be president.

"Like, who really needs to do an hour of *Meet the Press* from that oval place? Know what I'm sayin'?"

A Miami man ticketed for blasting rap music in his car was sentenced to listen to opera for two and half hours. Judge Jeffrey Swartz said, "You impose your music on me, I'm going to impose my music on you."

"Yeah, two and a half hours, and not one lousy rhyme!"

A man moved to the head of a line of people waiting for cabs in Aberdeen, Scotland. The others objected, but they relented when he threatened them with his chain saw.

"Sir, we understand. You go right ahead!"

A New York psychotherapist has created a dating service for patients, which matches people with similar psychological problems. "Similarity of psychodynamics makes for good chemistry," he says.

"Doc, thanks to you, now I'm crazy in love!"

Displeased by the audience's reaction to his avant-garde production of the opera *Tristan und Isolde*, the director took to the stage of the Rio de Janeiro theater, pulled his pants down, and showed his rear to the jeering crowd.

Ah yes, the old rear jeer. They don't do that at the Met anymore.

When an employer ordered a young man to provide a urine sample for drug testing, he knew he would test positive for marijuana. He asked his uncle for some of his urine as a substitute. The uncle complied, and that sample tested positive for cocaine.

I learned that little lesson years ago. When I was about 14, my grandmother took me aside and said, "Jimmie, don't talk to strangers, and never, ever trust your Uncle Ralphie."

A police dog sent into a candy factory in Trondheim, Norway, to chase down two teenage burglars became distracted by the trail of chocolates they'd left behind. The dog gave up the chase and gorged on the goodies.

"Baaad dog!"

A New York woman accepted a date from a man she'd just met, but, just to be on the safe side, she checked his background on the Google Internet search engine. She discovered he'd been a fugitive on the run from the FBI for the past year.

Yes, but, aside from that, he was adorable.

A former construction worker in British Columbia has big plans for the \$75,000 he won in a Canadian lottery. He says he wants a new set of teeth and some comfortable walking shoes.

And he figured that out without a financial adviser or a business manager.

A thief broke into a business in Darwin, Australia, and, after stealing everything he wanted, left an unusual calling card: an image of his posterior made on the office copy machine.

"Looks a little like Trevor, doesn't it?"



Tired of the soft-focus, “pink ribbons and angels” aesthetic of many cancer-support groups, Angela Allen came up with Cranky Chic Chemo Caps: knit hats with militant slogans like “Chemo Sucks” and others too pithy for this column. The cancer caps can be ordered from www.deviantgoods.com.

A new study finds that 36 percent of Americans feel guilty if they're not doing something productive.

“Did you change the cat's litter box yet?”

A survey in Great Britain found that 65 percent of those asked couldn't name the American city in which the musical *Chicago* is set.

“But that's a trick question, isn't it?”

A woman in northern China failed to pay her electric bill, so she was disconnected. In response, she went to the power company and stripped naked in front of the staff. They restored her electricity.

“See you next month?”

Ukrainian police arriving at the scene of a burglary found the villains already lying down on the floor with their hands behind their heads. The police were puzzled until the homeowner's pet parrot spoke.

“Stop or I'll shoot! Stop or I'll shoot!”

A Davenport, Iowa, man tried to prove he was innocent of indecent exposure because his manhood isn't large enough to be seen from 35 feet away. The *Quad-City Times* reported the man's wife told the judge her husband isn't well-endowed. She said there's no way the letter carrier could have seen him from the mailbox.

If that's the case, why was he going around nude?

An Englishwoman was fined for trying to register her cattle to vote. Ananova.com says this is the second year in a row that Brenda Gould has tried to register Henry and Sophie Bull as voters.

Asked if Henry and Sophie were Labor or Conservative, Brenda said they were “udder” – er, “other.”

Some 213,000 Kentucky residents, age 65 and over, are toothless.

“I'll have the whipped T-bone, please, and could you mash the fries?”

Teachers in Austria were offered a sweet pension deal by the government. All those over 50 who retire immediately will get 80 percent of their pay for the rest of their lives.

There's now a severe shortage of teachers in Austria.

A driver in New Zealand with the license plate “2DRUNK” was pulled over and arrested for drunken driving.

The judge said he was asking for it.

Two of Tokyo's leading subway operators have announced they'll supply toilet tissue to hundreds of underground lavatories for the first time in 30 years. The paper had been withdrawn because of rampant pilferage. Teoi Subway says its product will be made from recycled train tickets.

I don't think there will be any more pilferage.

Police say a woman stole 50 antique glass eyes from a hospital in Owensboro, Kentucky.

Her name? Melissa Jane Wink.

Schools in Nashville, Tennessee, have stopped posting honor rolls so as not to hurt the feelings of underachievers.

“Us underachievers are people too! Remember that!”

The introduction of alcohol-flavored cookies in Australia has prompted criticism that they start children on the path to drunkenness. In response, the company that makes the goodies claims that, in order to get intoxicated on its Kahlúa Slices or Tia Maria Tim Tams, someone would have to consume his or her body weight in cookies in one hour.

“So, Mate, all we need is 150 pounds of Tim Tams and one little hour of your miserable life!”

Frustrated that he was unable to teach his parrot to say words like “hello” and “goodbye,” a man in Zhengzhou, China, called the bird an idiot and a host of other insulting names. The bird quickly learned those words and now calls the man those things every time he walks by.

“Idiot! Birdbrain! Featherweight!”

Dairy farmers in Russia have added chocolate to their cows' diet. They think the milk tastes richer.

I might drink more of it if they fed the cows doughnuts ... and gin. Well, they're on my seven-point program for healthy living. No, you don't want to know the other five points.

When a police officer in Wageningen, Holland, went into a house to investigate a complaint, somebody stole his cell phone from his patrol car. He immediately called his cell phone and heard it ring in the pocket of a man standing nearby.

“Cell phone? No, Officer. This is the latest thing: Ring-a-Ding-Ding pants!” ●

