

THINGS

No One Ever Tells You

By Jim Aylward

It happens every so often. Someone tries to contact this department of **LEADERS Magazine** and discovers I'm not in the office in New York. I'm not even in New Jersey. I'm in an undisclosed location for my own protection. If it's good enough for Washington, it's just fine with me.

Actually, it's nice here. The office has old photos of me, heavily retouched. One is so retouched, I don't have a nose. There is a typewriter, however. That's right. A typewriter. Well, it puts letters together, graduating into real words, so it's practical and inexpensive. No frills. There is a bed with a lot of pillows on it, and an old cat who seems to think it belongs to him. "Move over," I say, and he does. He knows where the cod, sole, and shrimp come from.

And there is a never-ending supply of **Things No One Ever Tells You** – odd, often weird information other publications just won't touch. This time around I can offer you the lick of a magic cow. (The *Wall Street Journal* wouldn't even put it on page 16.) There is the bar that was converted into an alcohol treatment center. (The *New York Times* passed on that one.) And, among many others, skunks who stamp their feet and monkeys with noses covering their chins. (Even *National Geographic* wasn't interested.)

Yes, this may be the only magazine column around today without a Web site for contact. There is no www.jimaylward.com.

If you really want to get in touch with me, maybe first you should contact a magic cow.

During a rock concert in Kristiansand, Norway, a young couple climbed on stage, tore off their clothes, and showed the audience what sex is really all about. They said they were doing it to save the rainforest.

I think it's best you don't know their plans to prevent global warming.

Those who apply for a driver's license in Turkmenistan now have to pass a 16-hour test demonstrating their knowledge of the "sacred" writings of President Saparmurat Niyazov. The new decree, said the state news agency, will "ensure that further drivers are educated in the spirit of high moral values."

"Amen to that! And move that hunk of junk outta my way!"

A woman won the Husband Calling Contest at a county fair in Aberdeen, South Dakota, by ripping off her blouse and singing "Baby, My Sweet Baby."

Last year's champ, Krysti Mikkonen, says she won her contest by just cracking open a beer and saying, "Dinner's ready!"

Women in Japan can snuggle up to the "Boyfriend Pillow." The 39-pound sleeping partner comes with two dress shirts to iron. One model acts as an alarm clock. Ananova.com says the man-replacing pillow is so popular now, the maker has had to start a waiting list for new customers.

"My Boyfriend Pillow is perfect. He doesn't get fat. He doesn't get antsy or depressed. And he never minds when I punch the stuffing out of him."



A 43-year-old woman in Essen, Germany, got angry with her husband during an argument. She decided to march out into the street with her hammer and smash his blue car into bits.

She did that to the windshield, headlights, and outside mirrors before realizing it was the next-door neighbor's blue car.

Actor Denzel Washington was out with friends when a homeless man asked him for some money. Denzel gave him a \$100 bill.

The man was so touched he grabbed a passerby and said, "Will Smith just gave me 100 bucks!"

A Minneapolis firefighter was fired for taking too many sick days. He fought for a year and a half to get his job back, and finally was reinstated with 18 months back pay.

On the day he was to return to work, he called in sick.

Rich? Then you automatically drive faster than everybody else. A new study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration finds nearly 60 percent of the wealthy admit they most always drive 10 miles over the speed limit.

Rich and fast, baby! Rich and fast!

A woman competing in the Miss Norway beauty contest was confronted with evidence that she had appeared in porno films in the United States. She said it was not her fault. It was her twin sister.

"That damn Elsa! She just won't quit!"

Some three dozen destitute refugees fled their North African country for a better life, crossing the Strait of Gibraltar on a raft heading for Europe. They washed up on a nudist beach in southern Spain.

"I told you there was a better life! Now do you believe?"

Topeka, Kansas, officials wanted a new slogan for their city, and so invited the public to submit ideas to the local newspaper. Among the suggestions: "Topeka, it's not as bad as you think!"; "City of morons"; and "Topeka, you won't get a lot of unwanted relatives visiting you."

An elderly American tourist got lost in a Bavarian forest because he was using a travel guide that had been printed in 1914.

"You mean all that stuff about where the kaiser lives doesn't apply?"



Sick people in a small village in northern Cambodia are being licked by a magic cow and cured of their ailments. The cow's owner charges 500 riel for four licks, and he says, "The cow won't lick people who don't put in their money."

That's one very smart cow.

Cops who patrol seaside resorts in Romania say they're sickened by the sight of old women going topless on the beaches. They want a ban on women over 60 stripping in public.

"I'm 59, honey, and I've only got another year to do this!"

Skunks don't always spray their victims. When they feel they're in danger, at first they growl. If that doesn't work, then they stamp their feet. Then, as a last resort, they go for the spray.

"Okay! Okay! Stop stamping your feet! You've made your point!"

A chain of restaurants in Guizhou province, China, has been doing box-office business serving homemade soups and stews. Customers can't get enough of them. One of the secret ingredients officials discovered was opium.

"It's just a hint of something. Bay leaf?"

The proboscis monkey has an unusually long nose. It's so long that it droops down over the animal's chin.

"Doctor, we have a proboscis monkey here who wants plastic surgery."

An ear, nose, and throat doctor in England was accused of misconduct for examining the breasts of a 23-year-old Swedish patient who had come to him for treatment of dizziness. He told a disciplinary hearing that he had to check her breasts, that it was indeed necessary.

Yes, indeed.

Thanks to "title creep," the federal bureaucracy in the United States has created 47 executive titles in recent decades, including deputy associate secretary, deputy assistant secretary, and principal deputy assistant secretary.

Longer titles. Less outsourcing. It works. Sort of.

A woman in Taman Molek, Malaysia, was walking to a rally to protest the epidemic of purse snatching there, when someone snatched her purse.

"See? That's what I'm talking about!"

A Texas couple photographed themselves in the nude and then took the film to a local store to have the pictures developed. The workers in the photo lab became so fond of the photos, they made 150 copies for themselves and for friends.

"Well, the lighting was exceptional! The contrast was divine!"

In 1985, the most popular waist size for men's trousers was 32 inches. In 2003, it was 36 inches.

If I were you, I'd leave that shirt out. No belt.

Germans are now allowed to stick their tongues out in their passport photos. If they want to. A 30-year-old man from Arnsberg brought about the court ruling when he appealed a local decision to refuse him a passport because he had his tongue sticking out. The court said there was nothing prohibiting him from doing that.

"Well, it was a warm day. And I was panting?"

An employee of the Alabama Department of Transportation installed "spyware" on his supervisor's computer and proved that he spent 10 percent of his time working, 20 percent checking his stocks, and 70 percent playing solitaire. The employee was fired. The boss, however, is still there.

Lesson learned.

In Independence, Missouri, they had a very special wedding recently.

Katie Boring married Nathan Bland.

The South Seven Bar in Omaha, Nebraska, is being converted into an alcohol treatment center.

"You know sumptin'? This place seems just like déjà vu."

Most worms have no legs, but some worms actually have five pairs of legs.

"Willard is exceptional, Mother, but remember, he's still a worm!"

A Russian man, headed into the Crimean region of Ukraine, was stopped by border guards who found a lot of vodka in the trunk of his car. He said it was just for his personal use while he was on vacation. His vacation was four days, and he had 63 quarts of clear stuff.

The Vlad knows how to vacation!

A 29-year-old Indiana man came home from work early one day to find his wife in bed with some other guy. Divorce proceedings followed, in which the wife got the home and most of the money involved. Two days after the divorce was final, the man won \$1 million in the Indiana State Lottery.

"Bonnie? Yeah. What do you want now?"

A team of researchers working at the Primate Research Institute of Kyoto University, Japan, has found that chimps who were shown videos of other chimps yawning would yawn in response.

Just like the team in Promotion and Development. ●

