

THINGS

No One Ever Tells You

by Jim Aylward

Is this a wonderful world or what? I just had my breakfast. A big bowl of Pebbly Smaks! And now, according to the label, Pebbly Smaks is “whole grain” and good for me. I just love that whole-grain sugar!

Yesterday, for lunch, I had sliced turkey on whole-wheat toast, and an entire package (9 ounces) of Critters, those bright yellow corn things that crunch and munch. And according to that label, they are now “all natural.”

Of course, I’m not as slim as I used to be, but then, most of us are popping buttons with our new, “healthier” lifestyles. I have a home gym I hang my shirts on, and a treadmill I haven’t tread upon in months. So I’m a little pudgy in spots, but it’s mostly whole-grain and all-natural pudge.

And I tell myself that I need a little heft to handle all of these “Things No One Ever Tells You.” See, I do all the heavy lifting in this department, digging up exclusives on the mirror that makes you look rotten no matter what you eat, Chinese buildings made of porridge, really new ways to dump your lover, warm cats that watch TV, and all those Swiss men in dog costumes lying around in the streets at night. “Things No One Ever Tells You”: Now all natural, all good for you. Bet you can’t read just one.



French scientists have developed a computer-powered mirror that will show what your face will look like in just five years, if you are a binge drinker and junk-food eater who refuses to exercise. The “mirror” programs in your extra weight, as well as the ravages of time.

“Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is not a pretty sight at all?”

In Wales, people must pay an annual fee to watch television programs. Payment is enforced by inspectors who have heard some lame excuses. One fee evader in Carmathan said his family doesn’t really watch the TV, but turns it on just to keep the cat warm.

Yes, and I understand when the cat’s all cozy, he likes to watch re-runs of “Sex and the City.”

A couple from Transylvania, who met on the Internet, has named their newborn son “Yahoo,” after the portal where their love first blossomed. The child’s full name is Lucien Yahoo Dragoman. His mother says, “We named him after my father and the Net, the beacon of my life.”

You can call him Hoo.

A married New Jersey businessman has sued the maker of an herbal penis-enlargement pill for false advertising. Michael Coluzzi, 35, says he swallowed every one of the 30 pills and “experienced no increase in size.”

Michael, the really big thing here may be the size of the small print in the ad.

A young man in Euless, Texas, robbed a store of \$200. In his haste to flee, he left his wallet on the counter. The clerk turned it over to police, who called the man and told him to come on down to the station and get it.

Much to their delight, he did.



Archaeologists in China have discovered an ancient Chinese secret for keeping buildings upright for centuries: sticky rice porridge. The Xinhua News Agency says some believe the porridge was used as mortar, and even today, the remnants are hard to remove from the old bricks.

You can huff, and you can puff, but...

Today, there are 61 people worldwide who are certified to be at least 110 years old.

Yes, but they don’t look a day over 99.

A new poll in Japan shows that 70 percent of unmarried women there prefer to stay single, and believe they can be happy living alone for the rest of their lives.

With no one to share a ham sandwich with or belittle occasionally? Come on!

A Dutch Web site is giving advice to people who want to dump their lovers. They say the fastest way for a woman to get rid of a boyfriend is to announce she’s eager to have a baby. For a man to dump a girlfriend, they advise presenting a gift of underwear – two sizes too large.

A businesswoman in Somerset, England, seeking to hire warehouse workers, tried to put an ad on the Job Center Web site. But the people in charge refused to let her use the term “hard-working” to describe the kind of people she needed. They told her it would discriminate against those who are lazy.

Sure, but if they’re truly lazy, they wouldn’t apply for the job anyway, no matter what it said.

Students at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor are being offered \$100 to clean their dorm rooms. The money is available to those who open their clean rooms to tours of prospective students and their parents. However, some students who have applied for money have been rejected. Adele Coehlo says, "They probably thought no amount of money could improve my room!"

A man in England is suing his former lover for destroying his collection of pornography. Gordon Sherring says the \$7,000 worth of adult films and magazines his ex-girlfriend tossed into the fire had "sentimental value."

"Ah, those sweet, lonely nights when I was 23, single, and could eat a full meal at midnight and never put on a pound!"

Two young women in Weisbaden, Germany, approached an 81-year-old man with an offer: "Let's get naked and pose for some sexy photos." The old man decided it was a good thing, but once his trousers were down, they grabbed his wallet and ran away.

Well, when you're a man, and you're 81, you're ever hopeful. And grateful. And often times, dumb.

A remote Louisiana town became the last place in America to get telephone service. Elaine Edwards says she had her new telephone for just 15 minutes when she got her first call.

It was somebody trying to sell her something.

A devout Baptist couple in Somerset, England, bought a DVD of the old movie, "The Pajama Game," or so they thought. It turned out to be an Italian porno flick, "Breasts of Passion." The man said he and his wife were so horrified they watched it to the very end, "because we couldn't believe what we were seeing!"

That's like the couple who thought they were watching "Fiddler On The Roof" and found out it was "Fiddlin' On The Roof."

A man from Putne, Kentucky, who got religion and turned his adult-novelty store into a Christian bookshop, has gone out of business.

Vladimir Putin's government has announced it will arm the nation's mailmen with revolvers. The nation's dogs are nervous.



A driver in Wauwil, Switzerland, was horrified when he ran over a dog lying in the road in the dark. It turned out to be a man in a dog costume on his way home from a drunken party. The man is okay.

The dog costume is not.

A new survey from TooTimid.com finds that only 57 percent of those polled think about their partner while indulging in bedroom antics. Some 18 percent are imagining an ex, 15 percent think about a coworker, and 10 percent have a celebrity on their minds.

"Honey, you heard wrong. I never said "Nicolette." I said "nicotine." I gotta quit smoking, you know? It's always on my mind!"

An Italian man given six months to live went to court to collect his insurance payments.

The judge told him to come back for a ruling in 14 months.

The Mayor of Moscow has proposed fining the city's Weather Bureau every time they get a forecast wrong.

I predict a lot more "partly" days from now on.

Texas' Austin High School replaced sweets in the school's vending machines with yogurt and health snacks. Students are now involved in a giant black-market operation. Some have earned as much as \$200 a week selling chocolate goodies.

"Psst! Kit Kat bar?"

A police officer in Bolinas, Sweden, robbed a bank, and then returned an hour later to investigate the robbery. He told reporters it would be a tough case to crack.

"Whoever did this was very clever, very devious."

Some 30 percent of Filipinos surveyed by the government say they are unaware that having sex can lead to pregnancy.

No. They were not asked about the stork.

Six men robbed a drug store in Rio de Janeiro and made off with a bag of cash and enough erectile dysfunction medicine to last each of them two months.

I have enough funny punch lines for this to last two months or more, but who's counting?

Russian scientists say they have developed a new pill that "prolongs drunkenness and enhances intoxication."

"I'll have a Vodka Lampshade, please. Heavy on the foolishness!"

A group of people climbed up to the Aspen Highlands Ski Area in Colorado for an avalanche class.

They were hit by an avalanche.

The Mexican government has cracked down on the privileges usually afforded to high-profile inmates like wealthy drug lords in the nation's prisons. Officials have banned flat-screen TV, pizza deliveries, and long visits from lovers. The prisoners are outraged.

"Hey! You're treatin' us like...prisoners!"

Looking toward insurance compensation, a White Plains, New York, man claimed he was blinded in the right eye in a cruise ship accident in 1985. He also said he was blinded in the same eye on another cruise in 1992, and in 1997, and again in 2002.

I'm noting a pattern here, right?

A man in Focsany, Romania, bought identical gold bracelets for his wife and his mistress. He had them personalized and initialed. Then he mixed them up. He left the mistress' bracelet for his wife to find, and gave his wife's bracelet to the mistress. Both women have left him.

So he waits a bit, and then he finds another Gina and eventually another Sofia, and it all works out.

Handwriting expert Sheila Kurtz says some 90 percent of doctors can actually write legibly.

If they want to.

A mobile-camera van set up to catch speeders on the roadways of Trefonen, England, was pulled over for speeding.

"License and registration. Oh, it's you blokes!"

A woman got out of jury duty in Cincinnati by telling the judge that she couldn't serve because she had to take her son to the doctor. She had already filled out a questionnaire stating she had no children.

The judge noticed.

Some 52 percent of women in Iceland own vibrators. A new survey says that's more per capita than any other country.

Location, location, location. ●