

THINGS

No One Ever Tells You

by Jim Aylward

When a politician says he's not influenced by ratings, he probably means his ratings are the wrong kind – the kind near the bottom.

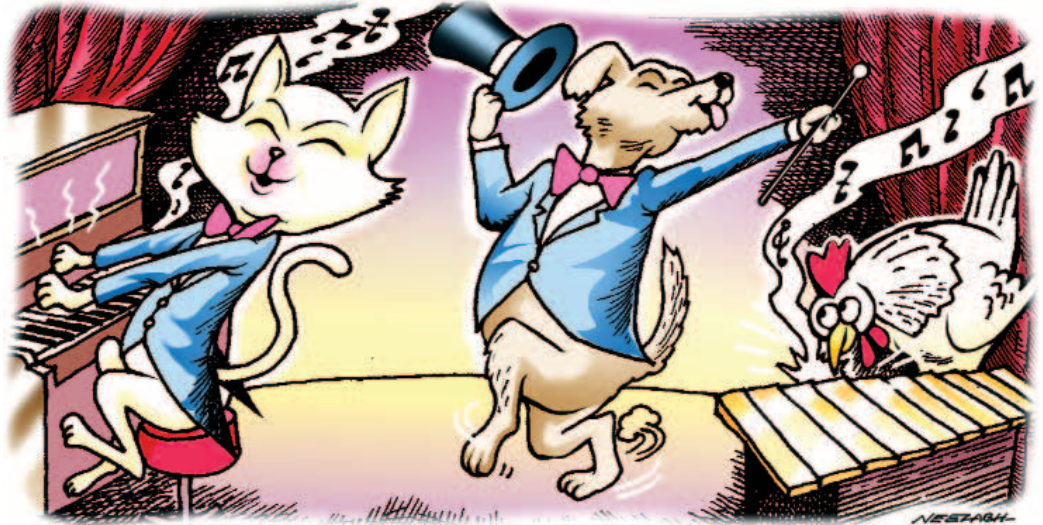
When a little film wins the Academy Award and is on cable TV one month later, it means the producers were shocked it won anything.

Things today are not always what they appear to be. We have frauds all around now: phonies and hypocrites with very large podiums, straight-faced liars, crying dogooders, sanctimonious spin-meisters, and of course, the formerly convicted telling us what we should believe. And, according to this new round of "Things No One Ever Tells You," we have drivers now reading porno novels as they cut us off on the highways, lying lovers on the Web, and men who want to be women – and then men again. Never mind!

Read on. Enjoy. But maintain a healthy skepticism. Unfortunately, these "Things" are absolutely true.

A woman was arrested in Brisbane, Australia, after she stole toys, electronics, and beauty products from a department store. While she was in the booking room of the police station, she stole the digital camera that had been used to take her mug shot.

"Judge, is there a pill for this?"



A German company has opened a "fame" academy to teach pets how to sing, dance and play flute. The Scheuerhof Animal Academy accepts students from any species, says teacher Vivian Theby. Her success stories so far include a cat named Fuchs, who plays piano; a dog, Bellos, who can dance; and Katie, the chicken who plays xylophone. "If Katie hits the right note with her beak, she gets food," says Theby.

Yes, but it's chicken feed.

A woman convict in Argentina was mistaken for a male and sent to a men's prison. She didn't protest. After her gender was discovered a month later, she was removed to a women's jail. She asked to be transferred back to be with the men.

"I wish I could quit you!"

In a new study from *Bestlife* magazine, 20 percent of American teenagers think they know more about sex than their parents.

Yes, but only 2 percent could explain the missionary position.

Fur-lined underwear has been banned in Uzbekistan. The government says fur-lined undergarments inspire unbridled fantasies in citizens.

"Honey, my fantasies are bridled. It's just that I'm so damned cold!"

Barbara King, 35, was arrested in Largo, Florida, on a warrant for forgery and prescription fraud. When police knocked on her door, a man told them she wasn't home, but a four-year-old girl standing alongside, said, "Mommy's in the closet!"

And she was!

Scottish researchers have discovered that ovulating women are attracted to men with deep voices. Tenors can still apply if they have deep pockets.

Due to a misprinted phone number in a New Jersey Catholic university admissions application, students looking for help with the form got an offer to talk to "hot and horny girls!" Seton Hall University says they meant 973, not 937.

Well, when you need help, you need help.

For some reason, Harlequin Romance novels conducted a survey of bad pick-up lines. Some of the best of the worst? From Australia, "Well, here I am! What were your other two wishes?" From Brazil, "Memorize my name. You'll be shouting it all night long!" In Canada, they say, "Do you have a Band-Aid? Because I scraped my knees when I fell for you!" Maybe the ultimate good-bad line is from Japan: "I'm not actually this tall. I'm sitting on my wallet!"

A British man has been fined \$200 for walking into a hair salon, asking to borrow a broom, and then taking off all his clothes while he swept the floor. Andrew Clarke, 36, told magistrates he performed the stunt to raise money for charity. Emily Harris, 19, one of the staff, said, "He didn't even do a good job!"

Yes, Emily, but he did it with panache.

A man was summoned to court in Edinburgh, Scotland, to answer a charge that he is the so-called "Naked Rambler." He walked into court nude.

Case closed.

Bored with her life, a 52-year-old woman in Marseilles, France, found a fantasy love on the Internet. The lover called himself the Prince of Pleasure. They got to know each other over six months of very personal messages. Knowing the man was young, she sent him a photo of a good looking, younger woman instead of her own. She finally arranged a meeting at a faraway beach after dark to consummate their passion.

The Prince of Pleasure turned out to be her own son.

Peaches Honeyblossom Geldof, daughter of Sir Bob Geldof, sister to Fifi Trixibelle and Pixie Frou-Frou, and half-sister to Heavenly Hirani Tiger Lily, has pleaded with celebrities to stop giving their children ridiculous names. Peaches Honeyblossom says, "My weird name has haunted me all my life."

And I thought Edgar was bad. That's my middle name, but you can call me Ed.

A man in California stole a car that had a disposable camera in the front seat. So he took a couple of pictures of himself—one inside and one outside the car. When he abandoned the vehicle, he left the camera on the seat. He was arrested soon after, still wearing the same clothes he had on in the photos.

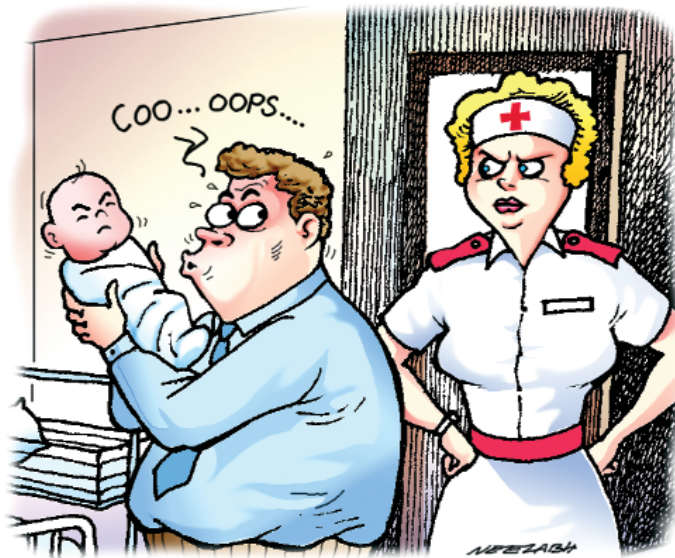
"You look great in the shot, sir, but you're under arrest!"

Firefighters in Shimohetsugi, Japan, had a cookout at their fire station as part of an awareness promotion.

The station burned to the ground.

Bosses around the United States figure that about 36 percent of their employees are surfing the Web for a new job. Actually, Salary.com reports that 79.4 percent are doing it.

Years ago, when I was very young, I walked out of jobs. One boss said to me, "If you walk out on me now, I'll see to it you never work in the transportation business again!" I said to him, "What makes you think I want to work in the transportation business?"



A Maryland judge has ruled that "mooning" – exposing one's buttocks in the direction of an intended viewer – is a constitutionally protected form of free speech.

"Who do you think you are? A journalist?"

A man in Bochum, Germany, fled from a cab to beat the fare after the driver took him to his destination. The man waited for awhile, then called another cab to take him somewhere else. To his surprise, the same driver came to pick him up.

"Remember me?"

Some 15 percent of U.S. employees tell researchers that at least once in the past year, they drank on the job, felt the effects of drinking at work, or showed up with a hangover.

"I'll have the Super Pain Relief latte, please, and the Executive Icepack!"

In 2001, a British convict serving a life sentence for attempted murder and kidnapping had a sex change operation and was transferred to a women's prison. Now, he has asked to become a man again so he can go back to the men's prison.

"Never mind!"

Officials at the YMCA in Ann Arbor, Michigan, have banned breast-feeding at the swimming pool.

Evidently, it distracts the lifeguards.

To preserve and respect the dignity of newborns, the neonatal unit of Calderdale Royal Hospital, Halifax, England, has officially banned visitors cooing at infants. Official Debbie Lawson says cooing should be a thing of the past. "These are little people with the same rights as you and me!"

"Oo doesn't want to be cooed at? Poor baby!"

A man in Freiburg, Germany, had a romantic liaison with his mistress, Uta, in the presence of the family parrot, who could perfectly imitate the man's voice. His wife became suspicious when the bird started moaning, "Uta! Oh, Uta!" in ecstasy.

Divorce proceedings have begun.

Surveillance cameras at a Canadian museum are really doing the job. The cameras revealed thieves breaking in and stealing the surveillance cameras.

To support a rate increase, Yankee Gas Services in Connecticut says they need more money, because too many customers have lowered their bills by heeding calls to conserve energy.

Huh?

A plumber's mix-up in Norway left a tavern's beer supply connected to the water pipes in the upstairs apartment. Home-maker Haldis Gundersen said, "I turned on the tap and beer came out! We thought we were in heaven!"

The worst jobs in *Popular Science's* annual listing include researchers who catch orangutan urine and human lab rats who have pesticides sprayed into their eyes for \$15 an hour.

And I thought selling hearing aids to people who don't want them was tough.

A driver was spotted swerving all over Route 840 in Tennessee, forcing others off the road and narrowly avoiding several crack-ups. It wasn't his cell phone that was distracting him. He was trying to read a pornographic novel as he drove.

Police said he didn't remember much after "her hot breath."

A river in Montenegro burst its banks, and as a result, a Serbian man caught eight trout in his basement.

Mile Tutic says, "It's great! I can go fishing anytime I want!" ●

