

THINGS

No One Ever Tells You

by Jim Aylward

Life is not as easy as it used to be. It used to be basic. Now it's digital. Sliced ham used to be wrapped in butcher paper. Now it's plastic, and the opening is smaller than the ham, so if you get it out, you can't get it back in.

Years ago, to open a package you just took a knife to it. Today it says, "Easy Open!" and you end up taking a knife to it. "Peel Here!" and it won't. "Reseal!" and it doesn't. But it's digital or plastic. Even micro-plastic, whatever that is.

As expressed in this new "Things No One Ever Tells You," today we're smearing caviar on our faces instead of eating it. We're putting erotic sculptures in towns without sewers, we're drinking cleaning products because they look like sodas, we're driving through barriers because our cars tell us to do it, and we're having chest pains trying to get tech-support people to explain to us why their products don't work. Whatever happened to the little old man in the repair shop who told us it would be ready Thursday?

Oh, well, there's still the humor in it all.

Isn't there?

When Alfredo Martinez, 37, of Nevada realized he was drunk, he asked his son to drive him home from the bar. His son, however, is only seven years old. Police stopped the car because it was weaving badly across several lanes. "Hey, Billy, want to sip the foam off Daddy's beer?"

Tax collectors in the Indian city of Patna are using teams of singing, dancing eunuchs to humiliate delinquent business owners. The shame of having sari-clad she-males in full makeup dancing in front of your establishment seems to be a powerful incentive to settle one's tax bill.

"I'll pay! I'll pay! But please stop singing 'Let Me Entertain You!'"

In case you're wondering, Fabuloso is a cleaning product in lime green, purple, blue, and red. The Mexican product is not a soft drink, contrary to the assumption of 94 individuals last year.

"It has a piquant flavor, a little like Early Emergency Room!"

Americans now receive more than 114 million pieces of junk mail annually. That's up 15 percent over five years ago.

Well sure, but the junk mail people really care. They send stuff family and friends would never send. I like it when they're concerned about my sexual health.

Salon facials available now in New York City include one at the Nabi Med Spa that uses stem cells from pregnant cows to rejuvenate damaged skin for \$250. And another routine from La Prairie firms your face through direct application of caviar for \$270.

"Hey, Fish-face!"

A South African man tried to use a medical note to get a week off from work. The note was stolen from a doctor's office, but didn't deliver the expected result. It turned out it was from the Johannesburg office of his girlfriend's gynecologist. It said he had to have a week off because he was pregnant.

It was a very large scam. An outfit in northeastern China raised \$379 million from gullible members of the public by promising big profits from a project to breed ants, a project that went nowhere. In the southern region of Guangxi, black ants are sold by the bagful to be steeped in tea, or soaked in liquor as a remedy for arthritis.

I prefer to soak Prednisone in tea for my arthritis. Ants make me so...antsy.

Researchers at San Diego State University say if you exercise regularly and vigorously, you can stall mental retardation.

That can start, they say, when you're an old fool of 25.

An Indiana woman failed her driver's test when she stepped on the accelerator instead of the brake while trying to park. She crashed directly into the license bureau. Jessica Krasek, 20, drove through the front of the bureau, tearing out a large window, and knocking down a brick wall.

A spokesperson said, "I think it's fair to say the customer did not meet the required criteria."

Sam Duncan of North Carolina was elected to a seat on a county board despite having died a month before the election.

"Sam's dead?"

A British evolutionary therapist has predicted that the human race will eventually evolve into two groups: a tall, intelligent, symmetrically featured "genetic elite," and a sub-race of squat, hideous morons.

And the morons will all have their own TV shows interrupting the elite and demanding the answers they want.

A Greyhound bus traveling on an interstate highway in Ohio suddenly released the contents of the toilet. It poured through the sun-roof of a Ford Explorer next to it. Robert Stokes, his wife Angela, and their three children were drenched with the stuff.

Shortly thereafter the Stokes' attorney received an emergency phone call.

It's spicy, but not that spicy. According to a survey, nearly two-thirds of Britons think the fiery Italian sauce, Arrabiata, is a sex infection. It's not.

The smoked turkey leg at the Magic Kingdom in Florida has nearly a day's worth of fat, and 1,093 calories. "Yes!"

The average executive spends 50 percent of his time doing regular work, 25 percent doing future-oriented work, 15 percent doing organizational work, and 1 percent non-productive work. That means goofing off.

"Sorry, Aylward. I can't talk to you now. I'm way behind in my non-productive work, and I'll be in the field all day today!"

Two crooks who broke into a Romanian woman's apartment found she was already so broke they had to take pity on her. The two masked men left Filofteia Stefan, 86, the equivalent of \$2 after going through her home in Constanta and finding less than a dollar in her pocket book. They gave her all their spare change and left without taking anything.

"Didn't she remind you of Mom?"

A new study of office workers finds the use of jargon lowers employee morale. Workers say they are most depressed by terms like "getting one's ducks in a row," and "thinking outside the box."

I had a boss once who would hold me by my elbows each morning when I first came in, and say, "Jim, we're going to win!" And I would say, "Yes, if we can only get our ducks in a row!"

When Peruvian officials set out to spread the wealth, they didn't mean mayors should spend it on luxurious town halls with heated swimming pools. And they most certainly didn't think the wind-swept hamlet of Huayre, which still lacks paved streets and even a sewer system, would end up with an erotic sculpture park. Mayor Wenceslao Alderete hopes to attract tourists by gracing the village's central plaza with outsized images of genitalia.

"Well, I tell you, at first I thought it was lovely vegetables, but then Edgar explained to me what it really was, and I said, 'Oh, my!'"

Steve Wynn, the Las Vegas casino magnate, accidentally stuck his elbow through Picasso's *Le Reve*, the cubist masterpiece he had arranged to sell only the day before for \$139 million.

I would tell you what Steve said when he realized what he had done, but then you probably know what he said. You would have said it too.

An 80-year-old German motorist drove through a barrier at a construction site and into a pile of sand because his on-board navigation system told him to.

Have you heard about the new car that can parallel park itself? I'm waiting for the one that does alternate side of the street parking in New York City in a snow storm. I'm a tough customer.

Nice guys not only finish last, they die first. Professor John Brantner, of the University of Minnesota, says those who survive longest in this old world are the fault finders.

"Thank you, God!"

Women have thinner ear drums than men do. They're able to hear higher notes.

Anything you can hear she can hear higher!

Jan Kamp, 58, of California, tried to shoot her husband in the head through the back of his reclining chair. The chair absorbed most of the force, and Norman Kamp, 67, was only slightly hurt. He followed his wife into the kitchen and complained, "You shot me!"

"Now, all our new recliners are wife-proof!"

A Malaysian court has given office workers the green light to step outside, or even meet at the water cooler inside, to talk trash, after a court ruled it was okay to use derogatory and vulgar language about their bosses, as long as it's done behind their backs.

"Well, as far as I'm concerned, he's a complete and total ... oh, hello Mr. Dummy!"

A prisoner went on a crash diet so he could escape from the hospital in a maximum-security prison in Sydney, Australia. He fasted and used laxatives to drop 30 pounds. Then he squeezed his 123-pound body through a hole he had chiseled with a butter knife. When he was recaptured three days later, his lawyer said, "He committed this offense in a vain hope to show authorities he can survive outside."

Now, that's a good lawyer.

A \$94 million Caravaggio painting was discovered in a storeroom at England's Hampton Court Palace.

The queen thought it was presumptuous?

In a recent election in Fresno, California, two competing school board candidates on the ballot were named Suzanne Dias.

I'm ready to announce now that Suzanne Dias was the winner.

A new study from Britain finds that the average man spends a full year of his life staring at women in a slack-jawed trance of frustrated desire.

"Wha?"

A British study reveals that the average woman today spends two years of her life checking her image in mirrors and store windows. Men, who take quicker peeks, spend only six months per lifetime seeing how they look.

And, when a man peeks, he stands tall, pulls in his stomach, and always hopes to see his teen self looking back at him.

Eighty-five percent of consumers today say they have sworn, shouted, cried, smashed items, or experienced chest pains while waiting for help on tech-support call lines.

"I need the serial number of the product, place of purchase, date of purchase, hour of purchase, and the last four digits of your most recent blood count!"

Police in Madison, Wisconsin, said Milo G. Chamberlain's blood alcohol level was .425, which, they say, is normally attainable by those who are dead or in a coma. He was arrested, quite conscious, causing a disturbance at a Marathon gas station, where he reportedly got into a fight with a gas pump.

"I'll show you who's boss, you octopush!" ●
