

THINGS

No One Ever Tells You

by Jim Aylward

I was watching a 24-hour cable news network recently, and I found an interesting fact. They only reported one story during that time. It was the one about a celebrity who had been arrested and then tossed into jail, and then released and then tossed back in again. There were shots of her going in and then going out, her crying and then laughing and crying again. They showed her cell with the door sliding open and then with her door sliding closed. She was like O.J.'s Bronco. And I began to wonder: Were there no other stories – no one changing political parties, no car bombs, no one in government being accused of anything? There was only this poor blonde woman going in and out of her cell, crying, then smiling, then crying?

So, I decided, if an entire cable news network can get away with just one story all the time, why couldn't I do that with "Things No One Ever Tells You"? I could write a funny intro, and then just run the same item 35 times, sometimes in color, some reds, some blues, but always the same thing, over and over and over again.

And then I realized why I can't do that. Ever. It's because the Chairman of the Board & Editor-in-Chief won't let me.

So...

One in three corporate IT professionals admits to snooping at work by using administrative passwords to gain access to wage information, personal e-mails, and human resource files.

"And, yes, Franklin, he makes more than you do because we know you snoop!"

A British man has collected \$50,000 in winnings on a \$200 bet he made 10 years ago, when he was 90, that he would go on living to 100. Alec Holden, born April 24, 1907, admitted he had been "very careful" in the weeks leading up to his birthday. He said he reminded himself to "keep breathing" frequently.

The world's largest penis has been erected at an amusement park in Changchun, China. The thing is 30 feet tall, is mounted on an altar, and stands as a tribute to "our ancestors' pursuit of happiness and prosperity," says Shi Lixue of the China Folk Cultural Association.

They couldn't have chosen a 30-foot brain?

The newly acknowledged world's oldest man, Tomoji Tanabe of Japan, credits his longevity to never drinking alcohol, never smoking, and downing one glass of milk each day.

"I don't want to die," he said.

The Maryland Court of Appeals has ruled that police violated a man's constitutional rights when they snapped on rubber gloves and searched his buttocks for a hidden drug stash in the middle of a Baltimore car wash. The court said the cops should have conducted the search in a more discreet location.

Than the buttocks?
Oh! The car wash!

One of Germany's top weather forecasters goofed by telling more than one million viewers that clouds would be rolling into Berlin from both the east and the west. "Man, am I stupid or what?" ARD TV's Claudia Kleinert said on camera. Luckily she wasn't broadcasting live, so the segment was re-taped.

And then, of course, a technician played the wrong version on the air.

In Spain, there is news that the country's legislature may create a special commission to write lyrics for the country's national anthem, which has lacked words for more than 200 years. As one woman said, "Yes, I would like that. I never know what to do when they play the music."

A team of Argentine scientists has announced that Viagra can be a very effective drug for treating jet lag – at least in hamsters.

Yes, but maybe you don't want to know the side effects.

A Spanish quadriplegic has been charged with drunkenly attempting to drive his motorized bed along a highway to the local whorehouse. Antonio Navarro, 42, was clocked at 12 miles per hour, driving a mouth-operated motor bed customized with telephone, ashtray, and rearview mirror.

"Just because you're disabled, doesn't mean you don't have needs," said Navarro.

Britain's Ted Towl, 83, married sweetheart Hilda Clark, 73, after a courtship spanning 49 years, nine children, and 22 grandchildren. After the ceremony, Towl said, "Hilda won't be rushed into anything!"

A team of linguists has completed the 30-year process of translating the Bible into the language of Australia's Aboriginals. There are some subtle changes. The new Bible urges Christians to "want God with all their insides."

That's kind of like loving Him with all your heart.

The bus really is faster. A cat in England hops on the 331 bus in Wolverhampton three times a week, and then rides it two stops to a fish-and-chips shop. "It was strange at first, but now seems normal," says the driver, Bill Khunkun. "He's the perfect passenger. The only problem is, he never pays."

I think someone's pulling my whiskers!

An economy-class passenger on a flight from Delhi, India, died onboard, and so the corpse was moved to the less-congested first class section, to the chagrin of Paul Trinder, who had paid about \$6,000 for his nearby seat. When he complained, he said he was told to “just get over it.”

“He’s not bothering you, mister. He’s very quiet and, frankly, a whole lot more understanding than you are!”

Clenzo Thompson, 45, was arrested in New York City after allegedly robbing the same Commerce Bank branch twice in three days. The first robbery ended when the chemical dye in the money bag exploded and spooked him. The second money bag exploded too, and in a previous robbery, Thompson was caught after he accidentally dropped his ID on the bank floor.

Maybe industrial plastics would be a better fit?

The office of Federal Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt called the office of Senator Craig Thomas to schedule a meeting. Thomas had died three days earlier, a fact widely reported.

“Well, then ... our condolences.”

They take their karaoke seriously in the Philippines. The Philippine Star reports that a security guard at a club in San Mateo was so annoyed about Romy Balifgula’s performance that he shot him dead on the stage. The guard said the performer was off key, and he just couldn’t stand it.

Warning: In the Philippines, please do not sing “My Way” your way.

According to a tally by three University of Indiana scholars, Fox News host Bill O’Reilly’s daily commentaries contain an average of 8.88 instances of name-calling per minute, or one insult every 6.8 seconds. It’s his sandbox.

An Internet global study of fetishism from Italy’s University of Bologna finds that feet and shoes are the world’s most popular objects of desire. Neither breasts nor legs nor buttocks were selected by more than 4 percent of those surveyed, and just two people indicated a thing for pacemakers.

It was not disclosed whether the two had yet found each other.

Here’s one way to avoid telling your parents you dropped out of college: Audley Young made a bomb and phoned in a threat to scuttle the commencement address at the University of California-Riverside. He didn’t want his mother to know he wasn’t graduating. He hoped the ploy would cancel the graduation thing for good, and that “his mother would return home, and everything would be as it once was,” police said.

It wasn’t.

A German court has very seriously denied a man’s claim that his health insurance should have covered the cost of a hairpiece. The court ruled that baldness is too common to be considered a disease, and that “the hair’s protective function against the sun and the cold can easily be replaced by a hat.”

Tell that to your sideburns and your self-esteem.

Pornography for the blind? SoundsDirty.Com has been launched for the visually impaired. Founder Lloyd Chambers says, “We have heard all the jokes about going blind when you do certain things, but this is totally serious.”

I have a punch line to this item I’ll be glad to send you if you’ll contact me at PlainBrownWrapper.com.

A group of Danes started a lobbying group for those who don’t like to get up early in the morning. The group, the B Society, has signed up thousands in its fight for the layouts of the world. The group asks, “Why are we still rising with the first cockerel crow, or when the cows need milking, when less than 15 percent of people work in agriculture?”

I will rise, but I may not shine.

An English judge, hearing a case against three alleged cyber-terrorists, stunned prosecutors when he said he didn’t know what a Web site was. Judge Peter Openshaw said, “I don’t understand the language,” that prompted officials to bring in an expert to explain the ins and outs of the Internet.

Since that experience, the judge has bought himself a computer and a cable TV contract, and now he just loves “Pimp My Ride”.

Canadian nutritionist, Udo Erasmus, claims that rubbing oil from Chinese water snakes into swollen joints may help ease arthritis pain.

Yes, but getting the oil from the snakes could be painful in a different way.

Some men would give away the farm for a larger penis. But in Serbia, men are getting a bargain, giving away their prized cows for a more mammoth member. The country’s top plastic surgeon is now accepting bovine exchange for his services. “The price of the operation, around \$800, is almost exactly what a good cow is worth,” the doctor says. “Of course, some want to add 10 centimeters, and that is just not possible. At least not for one cow.”

“Doctor, I have three cows, and a secret wish!”

Edwin C. Bliss, author of *Getting Things Done*, says, of all the time-saving techniques developed, perhaps the most effective of all is frequent use of the word “no.”

Worried that chimps, baboons, and gorillas are becoming sick and aggressive due to excess boredom, German zoo officials have hired professional clowns to keep them amused. One clown, Christina Peter, makes games and puzzles for the monkeys, “and they seem to be enjoying it,” she says.

I have to make my own puzzles, and I think that’s even more boring.

Geary Bakeries of Rathby, England, and Everard’s Brewery of Leicester have combined forces to produce beer-flavored bread.

Now you can live by bread alone!

Next time you’re in Tucson, Arizona, notice there are no potholes. You may indeed find holes in the street, but in Tucson they’re called “pavement deficiencies”.

I don’t know. It looks like a hole to me. ●