**Inconsistencies**

**One of life’s disappointments is discovering that the person who writes advertising copy for a bank is not the person who approves requests for loans. *(Bits & Pieces)***

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**An American is a person who demonstrates against a new power plant, then goes home and flips on all the lights, turns up the air conditioner, puts a tape in the stereo, opens the refrigerator door, plugs in the coffee maker and sits down to see if the television cameras caught him protesting. *(Wendell Trogdon, in Indianapolis News)***

**An American is a fellow who drives home in a German car from a French movie, slips off his Hong Kong suit and Italian shoes, puts on his English robe and Mexican slippers and sips Brazilian coffee from Dutch china while sitting on Danish furniture. Then he writes a letter to his congressman on Canadian paper with a Japanese ball-point pen demanding that he do something about all the gold that's leaving the country. *(The Catholic Layman)***

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**John James Audubon liked birds, all right -- boiled, broiled, baked, whatever. Not only did he kill them before he illustrated them, but he ate a good many after he illustrated them. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922) inventor of the telephone, refused to keep one in his study because the ringing distracted him from his thoughts. *(Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Weird Inventions and Discoveries, p. 27)***

**At the public library, I told the reference librarian I needed information on an automatic bread-maker. It’s a machine I’m interested in buying that kneads dough and bakes bread for you, with just the touch of a few buttons,” I explained. The librarian shook her head sadly. “There is so much satisfaction in kneading the dough and watching it rise,” she replied. “Why must you young people have a machine do everything for you? Why can’t you do things the old-fashioned way?” “Can you just point me to the card catalogue?” I pleaded. “Card catalogue?” She laughed. “Nobody uses a card catalogue anymore! Let me take you to the CD-ROM.” *(September Higham, in Reader’s Digest)***

**The best known of the dandies, namely Beau Brummell, was also the most insufferable, though many of the stories about him are amusing enough -- in retrospect. He once complained of a cold caught in a country inn because he had been put into a room “with a damp stranger.” He protested that certain foods were too coarse for his palate: when asked if he never tasted vegetables, “Madam,” he answered, “I once ate a pea.” *(Sir Chas Petrie, Illustrated London News)***

**Tipping the Scales: There is a certain inconsistency in the way we insist that the butcher's scale be strictly honest, but have no objections if the bathroom scale fools around a bit. *(Lorain (Ohio) Labor Leader)***

**Why is it that most of the people who have all the answers to the teenage problem don't have any children? *(Dan Valentine)***

**Doesn't it make you a little bit uneasy that some of the colleges that are teaching our kids how to make a living are going broke? *(Funny Funny World)***

**As part of a U.S. geography class at Avella High School in Pennsylvania, we were coloring the various states on our map and noting their elevations. When our teacher stepped into the hall to confer with someone, we got a bit noisy. Returning to the class, our teacher reprimanded us. “Quiet down!” he said. “I'd like to think I'm teaching high-school sophomores, not third graders." Then, as an afterthought, he added, “Now, finish your coloring." *(Bill Ruse, in Reader's Digest)***

**A radio commercial says that a certain diet pill works three times faster than starvation. Question: Are they guessing, or did they really run these tests? *(George Carlin, in When Will Jesus Bring the Pork Chops?, p. 52)***

**They keep talking about drafting a constitution for Iraq. Why don’t we just give them ours? It was written by a lot of really smart guys, it’s worked for over 200 years, and we’re not using it anymore. *(George Carlin)***

**At the end of my first day working at a 24-hour convenience store, a customer walked in and asked, "Is this store open all day, seven days a week, 365 days a year?" "Yes," I answered, puzzled at the question. "Well, then," he continued as he walked out, "why are there locks on the doors?" (*Mary K. Boyd, in Reader's Digest)***

**Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died. *(Erma Bombeck)***

**A woman driving on a busy boulevard watched the light turn yellow and the driver in front of her stop. She hit the roof, and the horn, and screamed in frustration. Then, she saw a police officer at her side window. He ordered her to exit her car, then took her to his police car, where he made a call to the station. After several long minutes, he escorted her back to her car. He said, “I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn and screaming at the guy in front of you. Then, I noticed the ‘What Would Jesus Do’ and the ‘Follow Me to Sunday School' bumper stickers, and the Christian fish emblem on the trunk. Naturally, I assumed you had stolen the car.” *(Carla Dubbelde, in The Lutheran Witness)***

**The first day at my new health club I asked the young woman at the front desk, “I like to exercise after work. What are your hours?” “Our club is open 24/7, she told me excitedly, “Monday through Saturday.” *(Apryl Cavender, in Reader’s Digest)***

**It's rarely mentioned that numerous fathers not only won't eat the mushy mixtures they feed to their infants, but won't even taste the stuff. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Forty-eight percent of financial advisors in the U.S. do not have a retirement plan for themselves, a poll by the Financial Planning Association has found, and 75 percent have no succession plan for their firm. *(WSJ.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 27, 2013)***

**Football referee Jim Tunney says, "My definition of a fan is a guy who screams at you from the 60th row of the bleachers because he thinks you missed a holding call in the center of the interior line, then after the game can't find his car in the parking lot." *(Charlie Van Sickel, in Spokane, Washington, Chronicle)***

**Ulysses S. Grant, who led the Union armies to free the slaves, owned four slaves. (*L. M. Boyd)***

**Young boy to friend: “First they tell you you're guaranteed privacy under the Constitution, and then they send your report card to your parents.” *(Chon Day, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**The Harlem Globetrotters played basketball for 40 years before they ever played in Harlem. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Hewlett-Packard, which is awaiting the outcome of government investigations into its spying on board members and journalists, is co-sponsoring an annual award for “privacy innovation.” *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 6, 2006)***

**At a Hindu temple in New Delhi, India, eight people were trampled to death and 17 others seriously injured when worshippers began fighting over who should be first in line for holy water. *(Bill Flick, 1992)***

**If you tell a man there are 300 billion stars in the universe, he’ll believe you. But if you tell him a bench has just been painted, he has to touch it to be sure. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**The song “When Irish Eyes Are Smiling” was written by a German named George Graff . . . who never went to Ireland in his life. *(Uncle John’s Unstoppable Bathroom Reader, p. 452)***

**Jesse James killed a fellow in a bank robbery and, shortly thereafter, was baptized in the Kearney Baptist Church. Then he killed another man, a bank cashier, and joined the church choir and taught hymn-singing. He liked Sunday, but couldn’t always show up at church. On two Sundays, he robbed trains. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**In Notes on the State of Virginia, Thomas Jefferson describes the institution of slavery as forcing tyranny and depravity on master and slave alike. To be a slaveholder meant one had to believe that the worst white man was better than the best black man. If you did not believe these things, you could not justify yourself to yourself. So Jefferson could condemn slavery in words, but not in deeds. *(Stephen E. Ambrose, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**Little League Lions: By the time my third son started little-league football, I had become accustomed to the excesses of the coaches and wasn't too startled when the first night of practice ended with this ritual: "Are you men tough?" "Yes, sir!" "Let me hear the lions." "Grrrrr!" "Who is mean?" "We are!" After this show of fearlessness, the coach gathered the team around him. "Now, boys," he warned, "it's getting dark, so stay close to me until your mothers come to get you." *(E. Brian Martin, in Reader's Digest)***

**How come magazines have great food recipes and new diets all in the same issue? *(Bill Nedden, quoted by Alex Thien in Milwaukee Sentinel)***

**White House reporters staying at the Royal Biscayne Hotel last year were told they had to get out to make room for another group. The other group turned out to be public-relations representatives of International Telephone & Telegraph Corporation, in town for a seminar on how to improve relations with the press. *(Miami Herald, as it appeared in April, 1974 issue of Reader's Digest on page 167)***

**What people say, what people do, and what they say they do are entirely different things*. (Margaret Mead, noted anthropologist)***

**In the medical records is the case of Dr. Alice Chase who wrote several books on proper diets, including "Nutrition for Health." She died of malnutrition. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The expression “Do as I say, not as I do” took on a persona in the mid-1960s – Mr. Whipple, to be specific. This fussy supermarket manager (played by actor Dick Wilson) was famous for admonishing his shoppers by saying, “Ladies, please don’t squeeze the Charmin!” The people at Benton & Bowles Advertising figured that if, on camera, Mr. Whipple was a habitual offender of his own rule. Charmin toilet paper would be considered the cushiest on the market. The campaign included a total of 504 ads and ran from 1965 until 1989, landing it a coveted spot in the Guinness Book of World Records. A 1979 poll listed Mr. Whipple as the third most recognized American behind Richard Nixon and Billy Graham. *(Armchair Digest, in The Amazing Book of Lists, p. 90)***

**And He Couldn't Dance, Either: Famed for his musical extravaganzas and elaborate choreography, Busby Berkeley never took a dancing lesson in his life. *(Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 9)***

**Would you encourage any child of yours to become a nurse? Pollsters put the query to nurses and 77 percent said no. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**When a colleague was in the hospital recuperating from surgery, the nurse came into his room to give him an injection. She jabbed him with the hypodermic, and he almost passed out in agony. "What was that?" he gasped. "A painkiller," she told him. *(E. E. Edgar, in Reader's Digest)***

**At ceremonies commemorating the hundredth anniversary of Harry S. Truman's birth, the White House counsel during the Truman Administration was reminiscing. He recalled being at a White House banquet one night when one of the guests turned to the woman seated next to him. “Did I get your name correctly?” he asked. “Is your name Post?” “Yes, it is,” the woman answered. “Is it Emily Post?” “Yes," she replied. “Are you the world-renowned authority on manners?” the man asked. “Yes,” Mrs. Post said. “Why do you ask?” “Because," the man said, “you have just eaten my salad.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents erected a display stand at the Institute of Personnel Management Conference in Harrowgate, England. It collapsed. *(Denver P. Tarle, in A Treasury of Trivia, p. 3*8)**

**The Red Cross ran a Sako Arms Factory in Finland until the 1960s. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A young worker who had been loafing for most of the past year approached an older man just before he was to be reviewed for a raise. "Do you think," he asked anxiously, "that if I really work hard for the next two weeks, I'll get a raise?" "Son," the older worker replied, "you make me think of a thermometer in a cold room. You can make it register higher by holding your hand over it, but you won't be warming the room." *(Bits & Pieces)***

**On a can of room freshener: "Bring the clean, natural freshness of a country meadow indoors. Freshens the air in your home with a clean, back-to-nature scent-as refreshing as the summer grass and fragrant flowers of a country meadow. "Warning: Inhaling the contents can be harmful or fatal." *(William R. Connell, in Reader's Digest)***

**The radio station in my city ran a contest to find out what everyone was doing to save energy. The prizes? Electrical appliances. *(Dorothy Sutcliffe, in Reader's Digest)***

**A man who's based in Kansas City was told, while visiting his firm's office at Little Rock, to go on to Fort Worth to attend a seminar. In Fort Worth he learned that the seminar had been called off -- and nobody had thought to notify him. The seminar topic: Communications. *(George Dolan, in Fort Worth Star-Telegram)***

**Everybody sets out to do something, and everybody does something, but most people don't do what they set out to do. *(George Moore)***

**That writer of children's stories, Dr. Seuss -- how many children did he have? None. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Free American slaves were shipped to Africa in 1822 to found the state of Liberia. They divvied up available land. What many did next was capture slaves of their own to work that land. So writes author Brian Schwartz in "A World of Villages." *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The U.S. Congress is one of the few indoor workplaces in the U.S. where it is still legal to smoke. Congress is exempted from workplace laws that govern the rest of the country. *(Los Angeles Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 3, 2006)***

**All too many students are over-read and under-done. *(Eric Butterworth, in Spiritual Prosperity, p. xvii)***

**I went by a house, somebody was swearing awful. I said to the son – “Who was that swearing so bad at your house as I passed?" Said he – “It was Pa, he was late for Sunday School and couldn't find his Bible!" *(Rev. Leon Hill, in O for the Life of a Preacher, p. 32)***

**Teenagers are people who express a burning desire to be different by dressing exactly alike. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**While a woman in Ogden, Utah, was attending a meeting of the Weight Watchers Club, someone broke into her car and stole six dollars' worth of chocolate chips and caramels. *(Floyd Kalber, NBC, as it appeared in the April, 1979 issue of Reader's Digest on page 146)***

**Wine tasters never drink the wine they taste. They sip it, swish it about, gargle it, and then spit it out. Swallowing wine is believed to dull the palate, not to mention the brain. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 61)***

**Orville Wright declined to fly in airplanes during the last 33 years of his life. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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