Losses

**The Brooklyn Dodgers and Cincinnati Reds played in the longest scoreless tie in baseball, 19 innings at Ebbets Field, on September 11, 1946. *(Norm Clarke, in Rocky Mountain News)***

**The longest fight in the history of boxing took place in New Orleans on   
April 6-7, 1893. Andy Bowen and Jack Burke fought for 110 rounds--seven hours and 19 minutes -- only to have the referee break up the light and declare it “no contest.” *(Timothy T. Fullerton, in Triviata, p. 85)*  
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**Chewing burns calories. Celery offers few. It has been calculated that if you devote at least 16 minutes to the eating of one eight-inch stalk of   
celery, you’ll use more energy than you’ll gain. *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 248)***

**Some foods are so low in calories that it takes more calories to chew and   
digest them than the foods contain in the first place. Celery is among the foods with “negative calories.” *(James Meyers, in Mammoth Book of Trivia, p. 255)***

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**Americans lost about $30 billion worth of cell-phones last year, according to a new industry study. On average, consumers lose their phones once a year. *(USA Today, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 6, 2012)***

**The longest completed chess match on record, to date, took place in Baku, U. S. S. R., in 1945. The match -- which ended in a draw -- took 21 1/2 hours and consisted of 171 moves. *(Denver P. Tarle, in A Treasury of Trivia, p. 50)***

**In every election cycle, several self-made multimillionaires “anoint themselves as saviors of the political system” and run for office, said Joanna Weiss. “And every cycle, most of them lose.” This year was no different, with former eBay CEO Meg Whitman attempting to buy the California governor’s race with a new American record of $142 million of her own money – and losing by 13 points to Jerry Brown. Several other rich candidates also lost, including former World Wrestling Entertainment chief Linda McMahon, who blew $46.6 million on a U.S. Senate race in Connecticut, and former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, who squandered $5.5 million on a California Senate race. Why do wealthy candidates then lose? Their success in the business world leads them to launch their political careers by seeking plum, high-profile jobs like U.S. senator or governor, rather than something lower in the pecking order. Then, facing experienced opponents and a lot of media scrutiny, the neophytes often perform badly. And many voters are turned off “at the prospect of rich people buying elections.” In running for high office in this country, lots of money is necessary – but it’s not sufficient. *(The Week magazine, November 19, 2010)***

**In the game of life it’s a good idea to have a few early losses, which relieves you of the pressure of trying to maintain an undefeated season. *(Bill Vaughan, in Bits & Pieces)***

**Seismologists after serious study have concluded earth’s orbit would be   
utterly unaffected even if all the people worldwide were to jump up and down at the same time. Good. *(L. M. Boyd)*  
$600 million: Amount spent by Cairn Energy, a Scottish oil-and-gas exploration company, to drill in the Arctic; it found no oil. *(Time magazine, December 19, 2011)***

**It’s time to kill the penny: “Should we make cents?” asked John Fund. Our friends in Canada no longer think so. The Canadians have decided to stop minting pennies next year on the grounds that the coins have become “a nuisance.” The U.S. should follow suit. Each penny costs more than a cent to mint, so the U.S. Treasury loses more than $100 million a year on the coin’s production. Many people no longer value them, so many of the 4.3 billion pennies the Treasury churns out every year end up being thrown in jars or lost down the backs of sofas. Drop a penny on the street, and no one even bothers picking it up. Pennies are also a waste of time. An MIT scientist has calculated that we each spend 2.4 hours a year counting out pennies in stores. Supporters of the penny warn that eliminating the coin will cause retailers to round up prices to the nearest five cents. Even if that were true in every case, consumers would lose all of $18.25 a year. So let’s consign this grubby little coin to history. When one cent has become essentially worthless, a penny saved is no longer a penny earned. *(The Week magazine, April 13, 2012)***

**Then there’s Harry Richards. In 1970, he came up with a marketable idea, even opening a shop at 1402 South Main in Normal, Illinois, to promote his newfangled idea – the Pock-It-Burger. What Richards invented according to library files, was a dough mold that left a “pocket” in the bun, so the burger wouldn’t slip and, gadzooks, the mustard and pickle wouldn’t even ooze out, either. The rest of the story? It took Richards 17 years to conceive his “hamburger of the future” and about two years to go out of business. *(Bill Flick, in The Pantagraph, 1989)***

**It cost Rep. Terry Bruce nearly $800,000 to lose his bid for re-election in   
Illinois’ redrawn 19th District -- probably one of the most expensive   
primaries ever by a losing candidate, says one election expert. *(Rocky Mountain News, 1992)***

**In Crofton, Maryland, a 14-year-old boy was charged with armed robbery after he walked up to the drive-through window at a bank, flashed a gun and demanded the teller hand over a lollipop. *(Bill Flick, in The Pantagraph, 1992)*Bad week for: Phil Pring and Ben Cummings, British contestants in the Atlantic Rowing Race, who had rowed 2,500 miles from the Canary Islands to the West Indies over 76 days, only to run aground on a coral reef less than one mile from the finish line. *(The Week magazine, April 2, 2010)***

**In San Jose, California, a German tourist who spoke no English spent an entire day driving in taxicabs looking for the street of his daughter’s home, only to eventually realize it was San Jose, Costa Rica -- and not California -- where his daughter lives. *(Bill Flick, in The Pantagraph, 1993)***

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