**Almost Perfect**

**An applicant for a job admitted to the personnel manager that he had both good and bad traits. “What are they?” he was asked. “Well,” the man said, “on the good side I can do the job better than any man in the world. Twenty of the country’s largest companies are bidding for my services. I could probably double your business within a month, if you
hire me.” “That’s very impressive,” said the manager. “Now, what are your bad traits?” “Well,” replied the applicant, “there’s only one -- I have been known to exaggerate now and then....” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**If that atomic clock gains or loses more than a second every 30,000 years, it needs to be fixed. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Biological clocks of birds work almost perfectly. Even when cut off from all natural light in lab tests, they know within 15 minutes in a 24-hour period when to trip clocked feeding devices. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The world’s first “perfect book” was published in 1744 only after six proofreaders read every page 500 times. A reward of $250 was posted for each error discovered, but when the edition of Horace was finally printed, six typographical errors were found – one on the first line of the first page! *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 37)***

**Who was the most famous black American in George Washington's day? Benjamin Banneker, an astronomer, mathematician and surveyor. Both Washington and Thomas Jefferson recognized him as one of the Colonies' foremost scholars. It was Banneker who built a wooden clock, each gear carved by his own hand, that kept nearly perfect time for 50 years. *(L. M. Boyd)*
Have you read how automatic scrubbers several times a day wash down the new dairy barns? Such barns are freer of germs than some hospitals, according to those who purport to know. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The television series Dallas -- a hit in 90 of 91 countries (not in Japan). *(World Features Syndicate)***

**Diamond is the hardest known natural substance in the world. It can scratch every other material. The only thing that will scratch a diamond is called borazon. It is made up of boron and nitrogen. (The Diagram Group, in Funky, Freaky Facts, p. 52)**

**The earth is not perfectly round. Diameter at the equator is 7,926.4 miles, but the diameter from pole to pole is 7,882 miles. Technically the earth is a “triaxial ellipsoid, nearly spherical but flattened at top and bottom.” *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 166)***

**One area of skin on the human body that tends to be cleaner – hourly, daily, weekly – than any other is the face of a daily shaver. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**After spending tremendous sums of money to hire thousands of extras for a huge crowd scene in El Cid, a movie extravaganza set in the 11th century, the film editors were horrified to discover that one extra in the scene was wearing sunglasses. *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It’s a Weird World, p. 38)***

**Twenty-four-karat gold is not pure gold; there is a small amount of copper in it. Absolutely pure gold is so soft that it can be molded with the hands. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 102)***

**Grains of sand are rounded by the action of the wind, which causes abrasion by blowing the sand particles against each other and surrounding obstacles. Once a grain reaches an almost perfectly spherical shape, it may keep that shape without further wear for million of years. *(Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 327)***

**The Gregorian calendar is accurate to within half a day per 1,000 years. *(Uncle John’s Unstoppable Bathroom Reader, p. 106)***

**On January 5, 1971, the Harlem Globetrotters lost a game to the New Jersey Reds, halting a 2,495-game winning streak. Fans might have noticed that something was off with the Globetrotters. The game was being played more like a real basketball contest as opposed to a fun and showy exhibition. The Reds began to run up the score and it wasn't until two minutes remained that the Globetrotters realized they were down by 12 points. Their comeback fell short and they lost 100-99. Kids cried. Fans booed. Red's owner Red Klotz said it was "like we'd just killed Santa Claus." *(The Daily Chronicle)***

**“Joe Grover is the man for me,” said a starry-eyed young woman to her mother. “He’s nice. He’s handsome. He’s smart. He’s hard-working. He’s funny. He’s strong. He’s kind--” “He’s married,” interrupted her mother. “So nobody’s perfect!” *(Dik Browne, King Features)***

**You can't fool all the people all the time, but some highway interchanges come pretty close. *(Anna Herbert)***

**A baseball scout found a remarkable prospect: a horse who was a pretty good fielder and could hit the ball every time he was up at bat. The scout got him a tryout with a big-league team. First time up, the horse slammed the ball into far left field and just stood there at the plate. “Run!” the manager screamed. “Are you kidding?” said the horse. “If I could run, I’d be at the track.” *(Jerry Ferguson, in Midnight/Globe)***

**Horses have the largest eyes of any land mammal. Their field of vision is more than 350 degrees. Horses have a blind spot directly in front of their eyes, from about four feet away until six inches near their face. They cannot see the ground near their feet or their chests. This is why they may back away if patted between their eyes. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 166)***

**Nestle recalled more than 762,000 pounds of pepperoni Hot Pockets after receiving four complains of “extraneous” materials in the frozen sandwiches, including pieces of glass and hard plastic. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, January 29, 2021)***

 **“What a ranch you have here!” beamed the suitor of the old rancher's daughter. “Does it go all the way to that grove of trees over there where the cattle are grazing?” “Yup,” said the old rancher. “And all the way to that corral on the next hill where you see all those horses running.” “It does?” asked the suitor, his eyes gazing. “And it goes to those oil wells over to the east and to that wheat field on the west,” continued the old rancher. “In fact, young feller, there is about only one place it don't go.” “Where is that?” the calculating suitor asked. “It don’t go to my daughter,” said the old man. (Capper's Weekly)**

**Sterling silver is not pure silver. Because pure silver is too soft to be used in most tableware it is mixed with copper in the proportion of 92.5 percent silver to 7.5 percent copper. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 102)***

**Recent studies done on steel samples recovered from Titanic’s hull suggest that the iron used to construct her had a high sulfur content. Large amounts of sulfur can cause metal to become brittle when exposed to cold temperatures, such as those in the icy North-Atlantic Ocean. (*Audrey Cunningham, in Tidbits)***

**In the first three weeks it was administered, the Moderna vaccine caused only 10 confirmed severe allergic reactions out of 4 million doses – a rate of 2.5 reactions per million shots, according to a CDC study. A similar study of the Pfizer vaccine found 11 allergic reactions for every million doses. *(Los Angeles Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 5, 2021)***

**The effort to oust California Gov. Gavin Newsom ended in resounding failure this week, after the Democrat prevailed in a landslide. As The Week went to press, with some 70 percent of ballots counted, an insurmountable 64 percent of voters had said “no” to removing the governor from office. The $276 million recall vote was ordered after only 4 percent of the state’s population signed a petition. *(The Week magazine, September 24, 2021)***

**Patron: “What time do you have?” Bartender: “I don’t have a watch anymore. I bought one that was waterproof, dustproof and shockproof.” Patron: “Well, where is it?” Bartender: “It caught fire.” *(Young and Drake, King Features Syndicate)***

**A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except learning
how to grow in rows. *(Doug Larson, United Feature Syndicate)***

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