**Famous, But Still Real**

**You know President Calvin Coolidge didn't say much, so people thought him quite a formal fellow. He was in fact, a practical joker. At his White House desk, he'd ring for his staff, then hide in the closet. There, too, he'd sit from time to time with his bare feet in a waste basket. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Nothing makes a man strong like a cry for help. (Phil Barnhart)**

**The Dalai Lama may be an enlightenment being, but he’s also something of a regular Joe. The Tibetan Buddhist leader sneaks chocolate chip cookies when he’s supposed to be fasting and uses an air gun to scare away irritating birds. While he meditates, he likes to have a radio on in the background, playing news from the BBC World Service. His Holiness also admits that mosquitoes have caused him to question the fundamental Buddhist prohibition against taking life. “When I’m trying to sleep,” he said, “that loud buzzing and their bites really annoy me." (The Week magazine, July 15, 2005)  
During one of the last major offensives of World War II, Dwight Eisenhower was walking near the Rhine and came upon a GI who seemed depressed. “How are you feeling, son?” he asked. “General,” the young man replied, “I'm awful nervous.” “Well,” Eisenhower said, “you and I are a good pair then, because I'm nervous too. Maybe if we just walk along together, we'll be good for each other.” No sermon. No special advice. But what words of encouragement! (Mark R. Littleton, in Reader's Digest)**

**After a long, formal reception at Buckingham Palace, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth withdrew with regal farewells, but a page failed to close the double doors properly. The lingering guests suddenly got a glimpse of the king and queen, who, thinking they were alone, went hand in hand, laughing and skipping down the corridor like a couple of teen-agers allowed out on their own. (Ann Morrow, in The Queen Mother)**

**During exam week about a decade ago at New York's Hunter College, the administration decided to offer a midnight breakfast to students who were staying up late to study for their finals. Donna Shalala, president of the college at the time, went right along with the idea. She put on an apron and was on hand to dish out eggs to the undergraduates. President Shalala answered an emphatic “no” to people who asked her whether this would undermine her authority. “It humanizes the institution,” she said. “It makes us seem real. I think knowing that someone cares that you do well on your exams is the message I should get across.” (Bits & Pieces)**

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