**It’s All Relative!**

**In recent decades, accidents involving deer have killed as many Americans as terrorist attacks. *(The Week magazine, May 27, 2011)***

**The number of American’s killed in all the wars since 1775 is 1.17 million, according to government statistics. The number of Americans killed by firearms, including suicides, since 1968 is 1.38 million. *(The Guardian.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 4, 2013)***

**A bad day on earth is better than a good day anywhere else that we know of. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot Shots)***

**A barber gave a haircut to a priest one day. The priest tried to pay for the haircut but the barber refused, saying, “You do God's work.” The next morning the barber found a dozen Bibles at the door to his shop. A policeman came to the barber for a haircut, and again the barber refused payment, saying, “You protect the public.” The next morning, the barber found a dozen doughnuts at the door to his shop. A lawyer came to the barber for a haircut, and again the barber refused payment, saying, “You serve the justice system.” The next morning, the barber found a dozen lawyers waiting for a haircut. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**It’s funny that “being in hot water” means trouble, when being out of it is the most miserable thing that can happen to you when you’re in the shower. *(Beryl Pfizer, in Ladies’ Home Journal)***

**Insanity is relative. It depends who has who locked in what cage. *(Ray Bradbury)***

**A salesman was chatting with the owner of a motel. “Business is terrible,” said the motel owner. “Really bad.” “But every time I drive by here you have the ‘no vacancy’ sign on,” said the salesman. “That’s true,” replied the motel owner. “But I used to turn away 30 to 35 people a night. Now, I only turn away ten or 15.” *(Ohio Motorist)***

**If the Keystone XL pipeline were approved, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates, the additional carbon dioxide emissions produced from burning that oil would be only 0.286 percent of total CO2 emissions in the U.S. Ten times that much greenhouse gas is released into the atmosphere each year by cow burps and flatulence. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 16, 2014)***

**Good week for: You, after an asteroid the size of a 10-story building whizzed past Earth at a distance of 44,000 miles – a close call in astronomic terms. A similar-size asteroid that exploded over Siberia in 1908 flattened 500,000 acres of trees. *(The Week magazine, March 13, 2009)***

**U.S. military deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan now exceed the death toll of September 11, which killed 2,973 victims in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. The 2,974th military fatality occurred in Iraq last week. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 6, 2006)***

**I encouraged my wife, a neophyte golfer, to enter a women’s golf tournament, but she demurred, saying, “All that exercise is too tiring.” I suggested that she rent an electric golf cart. She returned the first evening, completely exhausted. “Do you mean you rode in a cart the whole day and you’re still tired?” I asked. She looked me square in the eye and said, “Have you ever gotten in and out of a cart 156 times?” *(Harley A. Schroeder, in Reader’s Digest)***

**The other day a friend told me: “I had a fight with my mother, so I’ve decided to go home to my husband.” *(Dianne Smith, in Reader’s Digest)***

**In Budapest, a man goes to the rabbi and complains, “Life is unbearable. There are nine of us living in one room. What can I do?” The rabbi answers, “Take your goat into the room with you.” The man is incredulous, but the rabbi insists. “Do as I say and come back in a week.” A week later the man comes back looking more distraught than before. “We cannot stand it,” he tells the rabbi. “The goat is filthy.” The rabbi then tells him, “Go home and let the goat out. And come back in a week.” A radiant man returns to the rabbi a week later, exclaiming, “Life is beautiful. We enjoy every minute of it now that there's no goat -- only the nine of us.” (George Mikes, in How to Be Decadent)**

**There were “no champagne toasts” at Google last week when the tech giant reported quarterly revenues of $10.6 billion, said Claire Cain Miller in The New York Times. It was Google’s best quarter ever, but Wall Street analysts had expected better and sent the company’s shares tumbling 9 percent. Suddenly Google looks a bit mortal,” said analyst Colin Gillis. Wall Street’s concerns center on the company’s long-term ad strategy. Last quarter, even as the number of clicks on Google’s ads rose by an impressive 34 percent, the average amount advertisers paid for each of those clicks dropped by 8 percent. The price drop was partly due to the shift toward mobile ads, which cost advertisers less. But analysts fear it may be a sign of sliding profit margins for Google. *(The Week magazine, February 3, 2012)***

**A big lumberjack and a small lumberjack were cutting down a tree with a two-man saw. As they pulled the saw back and forth, a man even bigger than the big lumberjack came walking through the woods. The man watched the lumberjacks for a while, then went over and knocked down the big lumberjack, saying, “If that little fella wants the saw, you give it to him!” (Glen Cummins, in Reminisce magazine)**

**The U.S. won 104 medals at the Olympic Games, the most of any country – but on a per capita basis, we ranked just 50th in the world, with one medal per 3.4 million residents. First was tiny Grenada, which won a medal for every 104,000 residents. Jamaica, with 12 medals, was second on a per capita basis. (New York Daily News, as it appeared in The Week magazine, August 24-31, 2012)**

**A woman was introducing a young man to another woman at the hospital-nursery window. “Meet my son, the father,” she said. (Porges, in Saturday Review)**

**A reporter asked Mickey Mantle how much he thought he’d be making if he were playing baseball now. “Oh, about $500,000,” Mantle said. “But, Mick,” replied the surprised reporter, “guys these days are making $7 million.” “Yeah,” Mantle answered, “but I’m 60 years old.” (Quoted by Tom FitzGerald in San Francisco Chronicle, as it appeared in Reader’s Digest, October, 1992)**

**In the U.S. military, a woman is more likely to be raped by a fellow service member than killed in action. An estimated 19,000 service members were raped in 2010. (CNN.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 24, 2012)**

**When I called my friend at his dorm room, I was somewhat surprised by his answering-machine message: “Hi, this is Dave,” it began. “If it's the phone company, I sent the money. If it's Mom or Dad, please send money. If it's a friend, you still owe me money. If it's financial aid, you didn't loan me enough money. If it's a female, leave a message . . . and don't worry, I've got plenty of money!” *(Emily Fasnacht)***

**God sees light. Darkness has no existence in the realm of the spirit. Darkness is relative to the position of the earth with respect to the sun. *(George M. Lamsa, in Old Testament Light, p. 4)***

**Prosperity, like adversity, is a relative thing, and it is measured by degrees. Our ancestors felt prosperous with fewer material possessions than we own and were not less happy because they worked harder for what they got. We measure physical wealth by comparison. But we are richest when we share the intangibles of faith, courage and vision, because we lose nothing in the giving or getting. *(A. M. Sullivan, in Dun’s Review)***

**In April, 25 U.S. active-duty soldiers committed suicide, almost half the number (51) that were killed in Afghanistan. *(Time.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 27, 2011)***

**When Ara Parseghian was being interviewed for the post of head coach of the Notre Dame football team, the priest was filling in a questionnaire with Parseghian’s vital statistics. As he hesitated on one of the beginning lines, Parseghian asked, “Are you having difficulty spelling Parseghian?” “No,” came the reply. “I’m having difficulty spelling Presbyterian.” *(CBS)***

**Years ago I was riding on a train and smoking a strong-smelling cigar. The lady sitting next to me asked, “Will you please put out that cigar?” I did. I was wearing a new pair of shoes that were killing my feet. So I took off one shoe and began massaging my foot. The lady next to me said, “Will you please light that cigar?” *(George Kottwitx, in Reminisce magazine)***

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**Success is relative: It is what we can make of the mess we have made of things. (*T. S. Eliot)***

**Success is relative: the more success, the more relatives. *(Bits & Pieces)***

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**If you were standing on Pluto, the most distant planet in our solar system, the sun, would appear no larger or brighter in the sky than the brightest star does in our sky. *(Denver P. Tarle, in A Treasury of Trivia, p. 60)***

**The current, John Roberts-led U. S. Supreme Court is actually less activist than any Supreme Court in the last 60 years, if activism is defined by a willingness to strike down laws. The Warren court (1953-69 invalidated laws in 7 percent of its cases; the Burger court (1969-86) in 9 percent; the Rehnquist court (1986-2005) in 6.4 percent; and the Roberts court (since 2005) in just 4 percent.** ***(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 25, 2013)***

**Two workman watched with awe the performance of a huge steam shovel which took up tons of earth in one bite. Said one of them, “If it wasn’t for that blasted scoop, five hundred of us might be working with shovels.” “Yes,” was the reply of the other, “and if it wasn’t for shovels, a million of us might be working with spoons.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

Last year, for the first time ever, America’s annual wine consumption surpassed that of France, but it took a U.S. population almost five times as large as France’s to do so. *(Chicago Tribune, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 17, 2011)*

**In the U.S. military, a woman is more likely to be raped by a fellow service member than killed in action. An estimated 19,000 service members were raped in 2010. (CNN.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 24, 2012)**

**To be counted among the world’s richest 1 percent, a single individual has to earn just $34,000 a year. Members of the planet’s true middle class, meanwhile, live on just $1,225 a year. *(CNN.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, January 20, 2012)***

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