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WELCOME TO THE SHOW!

This just in. The Environmental Protection Agency early today declared (THE JOCK SHOW) to be hazardous waste. Finally, confirmation that someone is listening to the show!

PRESIDENTIAL WIT & WISDOM ([click here to buy the book](#))

(None on the weekends or holidays.)

"The value of liberty was thus enhanced in our estimation by the difficulty of its attainment." – George Washington (In a letter to the people of South Carolina, 1790)

BIBLE VERSE OF THE DAY

"Greater is he that is within you than he that is in the world." --1 John 4:4

If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother." — [1 John 4:20-21](#)

HEARTLIGHT DAILY VERSE, PRAYER & THOUGHT

(From VerseOfTheDay.com)

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. — [2 Corinthians 4:16](#)

Thought: While we joke about growing older, the challenges of aging are tough. We realize our mortality. Our bodies can betray us. We can't do what we once could do. As Christians, we know that our aging actually brings us closer to home and to the time when Jesus gives us immortal bodies not subject to decay. God can help us use these physical realities to be heavenly reminders of what is important. With the help of his Spirit, we can be transformed to be more like our Savior and to be more ready for our heavenly home!

Prayer: Almighty God, I confess that I like getting older less and less, the older I get. I am thankful, however, that each day older I get, the closer I am to coming home to you. Please help me not to become cynical, negative, or bitter as I grow older. Instead, please renew me and use me to bless others who need to find their way home to you. In Jesus' mighty name I pray. Amen.

The Thoughts and Prayers for Today's Verse are written by [Phil Ware](#). You can email questions or comments to phil@heartlight.org.

"BIRTHDAY VERSE" OF THE DAY (*The chapter and verse correspond to the month and day!*)

Romans 1:16 NIV = I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes...

TODAY IS TUESDAY – JANUARY 16, 2018

(NOTE: Some holidays may be duplicated due to various calendars reporting conflicting dates)

**WEIRD, WACKY, STRANGE, ZANY, ODD, BIZARRE, QUIRKY, UNUSUAL HOLIDAYS!
THERE ARE ONLY 343 SHOPPING DAYS [UNTIL NEXT CHRISTMAS.](#)**

Today is **CIVIL SERVICE DAY**. On this date in 1883, the Pendleton Act created the federal civil service system and the U.S. Civil Service Commission. ***I've dealt with some of the people working in Civil Service. They're not always that civil.

Today is **NATIONAL FIG NEWTON DAY**. ([audio clip](#))

Today is **INTERNATIONAL HOT & SPICY FOOD DAY**. ***ounds like someone has tried my wife's Jell-O.

Today is **NATIONAL NOTHING DAY**, a day to not celebrate anything. ***Meaning everything I just said about Civil Service, Fig Newtons, and Spicy Foods is complete balderdash.

TODAY IS ALSO...

Appreciate A Dragon Day
Civil Service Day
Fig Newton Day
Nothing Day
Religious Freedom Day
Rid The World of Fad Diets and Gimmicks Day
Without A Scalpel Day

COMING UP NEXT (*Just a list, we are not endorsing the holidays posted below. Find more holidays and link to their websites at BrownieLocks.com*)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

Cable Car Day
Hot Heads Chili Days
International Mentoring Day
Judgment Day
Kid Inventors' Day
National Bootleggers Day
Popeye Day

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

Pooh (Winnie The) Day
Thesaurus Day
Get to Know Your Customers Day

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

Bean Day
Popcorn Day
Robert E. Lee Day
Tin Can Day
Women's Healthy Weight Day
World Day of Migrants and Refugees

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

Camcorder Day
National Cheese Lovers Day
Penguin Awareness Day
Inauguration Day
National Disc Jockey Day

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

Celebration of Life Day
National Hugging Day
National Sanctity of Human Life Day (or Pro-Life Day)
Stephen Foster Day
World Religion Day
World Snow Day

MONDAY, JANUARY 22

Answer Your Cat's Questions Day
National Bible Sunday
Roe vs. Wade Day

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

National Handwriting Day
National Pie Day
Snowplow Mailbox Hockey Day

ON THIS DAY

1920: The U.S. outlawed alcohol and went "dry," a year after states ratified the 18th Amendment. Fourteen years of "prohibition" followed.

1939: The comic strip Superman made its debut.

1957: The Cavern Club opened in Liverpool. Originally a jazz club, it became famous as the first home of the Beatles.

1978: Mrs. Grace Patterson died in Joplin, Missouri, leaving her \$250,000 estate, including a 3-bedroom home and a 7-acre pet cemetery, to her cat, Charlie Chan.

1973: History's fattest lion died at age 14 at the North Yorkshire zoo in England. When he was 11 Simba had weighed 826 pounds.

1973: "Bonanza," a top western TV show, aired its final episode after 14 seasons on NBC. It starred Lorne Greene, Michael Landon, Dan Blocker, Pernell Roberts, and Victor Sen Yung. ([audio clip](#))

1976: The TV variety series "Donny & Marie" premiered on ABC. ([audio clip](#))

1987: Red M&Ms returned for the first time in 11 years after being banned because the original red dye used in the candy had caused cancer in laboratory rats.

1994: History's largest teddy bear picnic drew 16,837 teddy bears and their owners in Christchurch, New Zealand.

1990: Massachusetts farmer Frank Montague reported that a moose had fallen in love with his cows, and that there really wasn't much anybody could do about it.

1991: Boxer George Foreman's wife Joan gave birth to yet another George, George the 5th. The couple already had three sons: George the 2nd, George the 3rd, and George the 4th. Dad is George the 1st.

1992: The Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame inducted Jimi Hendrix, Elmore James, and Johnny Cash.

1994: Rock star Bryan Adams became the first Western entertainer to perform in Vietnam since the end of the war.

1996: Jamaican authorities fired upon on Jimmy Buffett's seaplane, mistaking it for a drug trafficker's plane. U2 singer Bono was with Buffett, but neither was hurt.

2000: Disney animator Marc David died at age 86 after suffering a stroke. He created Cinderella, Bambi, Tinkerbelle, Sleeping Beauty, and Cruella de Ville.

2000: British drug maker Glaxo Wellcome agreed to buy SmithKline Beecham for \$76 billion, creating the world's largest pharmaceutical company.

2000: A Foster, Rhode Island, man was charged with drunken driving after he stopped suddenly and a truck rear-ended his van. Police said he man was taking his daughter to her driver's education class.

2005: Golden Globes were awarded to "The Aviator" as best drama and "Sideways" as best musical or comedy.

2007: A Vietnamese farmer said his pigs preferred classical music. Nguyen Chi Cong of Ho Chi Minh City said he began playing music four each morning and two hours each afternoon in his barnyard in 2001, that Beethoven,

Mozart, and Schubert had a soothing effect on the pigs, they started eating more and gaining weight faster than usual. He also felt other domestic animal might respond the same way.

2007: In Tallahassee, Florida, the duck a hunter's wife said, when she opened her refrigerator, the duck her husband killed two days earlier raised its head and looked at her. The woman said she freaked out and told her daughter to "get that duck to the hospital right now!" At last report the duck, shot in the wing and leg, was doing well at the Goose Creek Wildlife Sanctuary.

TODAY IN CHRISTIAN HISTORY

1543: British Parliament prohibits any "women or artificer's prentices, journeymen, servingmen of the degree of yeoman, or under, husbandmen or labourers to read the New Testament in English."

1545: George Spalatin, Martin Luther's close friend and go-between with Frederick The Wise, is born.

1604: Puritan John Rainolds suggests ". . . that there might be a new translation of the Bible, as consonant as can be to the original Hebrew and Greek." England's King James I granted his approval the following day, leading to the 1611 publication of the Authorized (King James) version of the Bible.

1786: The Virginia Legislature adopted the Ordinance of Religious Freedom, which guaranteed that no man would be forced to attend or support any church. This mandate later became the model for the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

1890: Moody Bible Institute in Chicago is dedicated, 17 years after evangelist D.L. Moody and college administrator Emma Dryer first discussed the idea.

1920: Largely the result of Christian activists, the Eighteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution goes into effect, prohibiting the sale of alcohol. Thirteen years later, Congress repeals the prohibition.

1982: Great Britain established full diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

HOLLYWOOD, SPORTS AND CELEBRITY FIGURE BIRTHDAYS

- actress ("ER") Yvonne Zima 29 ([audio clip](#))
- actor (Dennis Mitchell in the 1993 movie *Dennis the Menace*) Mason Gamble 32
- actress ("Charles in Charge") Josie Davis 45 ([audio clip](#))

BEE-BOP BIRTHDAYS

(Music Artist Birthdays From SongFacts.com)

1909 : [Ethel Merman](#)

1929 : G.T. Hogan

1937 : Bob Bogle ([The Ventures](#))

1939 : Ray Phillips ([Nashville Teens](#))

1942 : Bill Francis ([Dr. Hook and the Medicine Show](#))

1942 : Barbara Lynn

1944 : Ronnie Milsap

1944 : [Jim Stafford](#)

1948 : John Carpenter

1950 : Damo Suzuki

1959 : [Sade](#)

1962 : Paul Webb ([Talk Talk](#))

1966 : Maxine Jones ([En Vogue](#))

SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE (Answering questions that have plagued mankind for minutes!)

Who was more popular, the Beatles, or Elvis?

Early in their fame, the Beatles's John Lennon compared their influence and popularity to that of Jesus Christ. That was unwise, overreaching, and inappropriate, to say the least. But if a comparison to the Prince of Peace was off the mark, measuring the Beatles' success against that of a King among men would be more to the point. So how did the Fab Four stack up against Elvis? Since the decibel meter has probably not yet been built that could tell us which

induced a greater level of screaming at their concerts, we will have to rely on the relative popularity of their recordings. Who had the most consecutive top ten hits? There Elvis wins, hips down. He had 29 to the Beatles 22. But the Beatles went out on top, while Elvis was in decline before he popped one pill too many. Perhaps had they stayed together, the Beatles would have won out. Who knows? Maybe we should just let it be.

NEWS KICKERS

(None on weekends. Want a customizable version with your specific station tag, FREE? [Email me for more information!](#))

NEW NEWS KICKERS...

(Not posted on weekends and U.S. holidays.)

GM announced that next year it will have a car on the road that has no steering wheel or pedals. ***We already have that – it's called a wheelbarrow.

Virgin Galactic says they're almost ready and could be taking passengers into outer space within months. ***I say we begin a fundraising campaign for one-way tickets for Harvey Weinstein, Roy Moore, Roman Polanski, Kevin Spacey, Rosie O'Donnell, Amy Schumer, and Lena Dunham.

Monday was not only Martin Luther King Jr. Day, it was also fee-free day at all 400 of our country's national parks. ***Entry to our national parks was free at last, free at last, thank God almighty, entry was free at last.

Scotland may hold another Independence vote. ***And if they still don't agree, they'll move on to "Rock, Paper, Scissors". (If it works, maybe we can convince California to do the same thing in the U.S.)

Police in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada are asking drivers to slow down. Poor weather conditions caused 191 collisions on Thursday. At one point the police tweeted: "Edmonton is not a level in Mario Kart. Our roads are not race tracks. There is no winner. And if you slip off the road, a Koopa won't lift your vehicle and put you back on track within seconds. It's about safety, patience, and planning."

Moby claims that C.I.A. agents asked him to spread rumors about a Trump/Russia connection. ***When asked why he is revealing this fact, he responded that he is in desperate need to be relevant again.

Huma Abedin and Anthony Weiner have withdrawn their divorce case. ***So apparently it's not just Anthony; they are both completely nuts.

They're saying that this year's flu is the worst strain we've seen in 13 years. ***This is what happens when we're told we have to share.

Tonya Harding's agent has quit after Tonya demanded journalists pay fines if they dare ask about the kneecapping Nancy Kerrigan suffered ahead of the 1994 Winter Olympics. ***That's what people know you for, Tonya. It's like interviewing Ronald McDonald and being told not to mention French fries.

NEWS KICKER EVERGREENS...

(Not posted on weekends and U.S. holidays.)

(PERENNIAL) This Valentine's Day score extra points and bonus antioxidants: Pairing strawberries with chocolate boosts the nutritional value of both. In a Brigham Young University study berries dunked in dark chocolate boasted an antioxidant content that exceeded the sum of antioxidants from the individual ingredients. The researchers say certain antioxidants react synergistically with each other, creating additional disease fighting power. But be sure to seek out high-cacao chocolate: strawberries dipped in 54 percent cacao dark chocolate failed to produce the effect. (Men's Health) ***This study bought and paid for by Sherrie's Berries!

Some of your coworkers are disgusting. Why? Because a third of workers take their phone to the bathroom with them so that they can text, Facebook and play games. ***Only a third? That seems kinda low to me. I guess saying that out loud confirms I'm disgusting.

Dr. Stephen Pretlove says that if you want to rid your bedroom of dust mites, you might want to leave your bed unmade. The good doctor points out to the BBC that mites "survive by taking in water from the atmosphere using small glands on the outside of their body." He explains that "something as simple as leaving a bed unmade during the

day can remove moisture from the sheets and mattress so the mites will dehydrate and eventually die.” ***Just to be safe, I’m also not picking up my dirty socks or washing any dishes. You know... to be consistent.

In case you haven’t heard, those funny-looking swirly fluorescent light bulbs may not be as environmentally friendly as everyone thought. They do last longer and use less energy but they also contain enough mercury to contaminate up to 6,000 gallons of water beyond safe drinking levels – which could cause kidney and brain damage. However, experts say fluorescent bulbs are still better for the environment as they are more energy efficient. ***Sure, you may die of mercury poisoning – but that’s good for the planet.

Preventing obesity and smoking can save lives, but it doesn't save money, according to researchers. It costs more to care for healthy people who live years longer. The researchers found that from age 20 to 56, obese people racked up the most expensive health costs. But because both the smokers and the obese people died sooner than the healthy group, it cost less to treat them in the long run. ***And there’s your solution to the health care crisis. Encourage smoking and cake-eating in the 1st grade.

If your desk is messy and your boss looks bewildered, just say this: "People with untidy workspaces think outside the box." You’d be telling the truth. While neat desks are linked with many positive behaviors, such as generosity, a messy desk appears to promote creative thinking and new ideas. (HealthDay News)

AS THE JUNGLE TURNS

(Not updated on weekends and U.S. holidays.)

[CLICK HERE](#) TO DOWNLOAD TUESDAY’S EPISODE

OPEN: And now, FancyMonkey.com, (Show Name), and (Station Call Letters) bring you another inspiringly inspiring inspirational story in the never-ending deep-jungle soap-opera saga that is As the Jungle Turns!

CLOSE: So Gruffy’s going on a picnic... I’m thinking Millard’s going to want to go too. So what’s the big deal with that? We’ll find out next time, As the Jungle Turns!

****You may simulcast “As the Jungle Turns” on the Internet stream of your live broadcast only. Any other Internet use of “As the Jungle Turns” in whole or part including podcasting of your live broadcast is a violation of copyright law. Thank you for your cooperation on this vitally important issue. If you have any questions, please [e-mail](#) us and ask about “Jungle Jam & Friends the Radio Show” usage.*

MOMENT OF DUH

money!

The people in Nice, France are either really nice, or extremely naive. In 2002 the Euro entered Europe. When it first happened some people were a bit confused about it. On the first day the new money was legal tender a man purchased a number of drinks by giving the owner of the establishment what he told him was one of the new Euro bills. The owner accepted the bill and brought the man his drinks. It was only after he had left that someone noticed he had paid not with a new Euro bill but with a bill from the European version of the Monopoly board game.

TOP TEN

TOP TEN COMMENTS OVERHEARD AT YOUR LAST POTLUCK

10. Oh, what an interesting texture!
9. I didn't know there were that many shades of green!
8. Oh, Fred, don't get worked up, she told you it was a new Band-Aid! Besides, you love potato salad!
7. Trudy, your egg salad bust of the preacher is very, um, uh, er...creative!
6. Jim, saying in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, doesn't excuse your double dipping!
5. You say missionaries gave you this recipe?!
4. What do you mean the dog wouldn't eat it?!

3. I didn't think you could deep fry that!
2. If Jell-O and vegetables were meant to exist together, Bill Cosby would have been a vegetarian!
1. Was that SUPPOSED to be crunchy?

THE FILES OF LAW & DISORDER

If you believe that crime pays, it might also be a good idea to pay attention.

FILE #1: After a customer accidentally left behind a credit card, two Cincinnati convenience store clerks decided to treat themselves to a shopping spree. Without ever leaving their own store, Stephanie Moore and Maria Smith rang up some \$1,900 on such big ticket items as cartons of cigarettes, motor oil, toilet paper, cases of soda and lottery tickets. Despite the fact that they worked at the store, they somehow failed to realize that store surveillance cameras were watching as they used the card and their friends went in and out of the store carrying bags filled with the stolen goods. All are now facing charges.

FILE #2: What kind of neighbors do you have? Folks in Houston, Texas were so fed up with one of their neighbors that they took action! Fed up with 28 year old Richard Milva's parties late at night, friends coming and going all hours of the night, and his persistence in being a pain that they bulldozed his house to the ground while he was out of town. Police still have no idea which of the neighbors did the dirty work, and apparently, all of the neighbors seem to be happy that it was done. The investigation continues.

FILE #3: An Irish woman was so fed up with her husband's snoring that she took extreme action this week and shot him! Sylvia O'Doyle of Belfast, Ireland finally "cracked" after listening to her husband snore for the past 10 years. She says their bed shook, their windows rattled, and "Patrick" sounded like a freight train rumbling through the bedroom every night for 10 years! Everything they tried came up short so she took out her gun one morning around 3am and shot him. Good news – he's be okay, she's in jail Better news – she won't hear him snoring anymore.

STRANGE LAW: In Oklahoma people who make "ugly faces" at dogs may be fined and/or jailed.

THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON DRUGS

"This Is Your Brain On Drugs" is about people doing dumb things under the influence, but addiction is no laughing matter. If you or someone you know needs help, there's a toll free number you can call 1-800-438-0380. That's the Addiction Hope and Help Line at 1-800-438-0380.

Can you buy a car... with crack?

Authorities arrested a man they said tried to trade his father's car for \$50 worth of crack cocaine. Deputies arrested the 39-year-old man after his 74-year-old father reported that his Lincoln had been stolen. When deputies arrived at the father's home, they saw the son walking up the street. They determined that the car had been sold for drugs.

Deputies later saw someone else driving the Lincoln, and pulled it over. The driver fled the moving car, which hit two parked cars. Deputies caught the driver, who was arrested on suspicion of evading an officer and resisting arrest. The son was arrested on suspicion of car theft.

PHONER PHUN

What's your nickname – and how did you get it? Anyone ever get a truly embarrassing name that's impossible to shake?

BIBLE BRAIN BUSTER!

QUESTION: Who suggested that it is not wise to spend too much time at your neighbor's house?

ANSWER: Solomon (Proverbs 25:17 = Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbour's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee.)

QUESTION IMPOSSIBLE

(This one might work better if you post the question to your website for people to see and ponder over – then at the end of your show give the answer live on the air and post it to your website next to the question – or at the bottom of the webpage.)

QUESTION: A man gave his young son the following challenge. He offered his son \$1000 if the son could accomplish the following task. The father gave his son ten envelopes and a thousand dollars, all in one dollar bills. He told his son, "Place the money in the envelopes in such a manner that no matter what number of dollars I ask for, you can give me one or more of the envelopes, containing the exact amount I asked for without having to open any of the envelopes. If you can do this, you will keep the \$1000." When the father asked for a sum of money, the son was able to give him envelopes containing the exact amount of money asked for. How did the son distribute the money among the ten envelopes? It IS possible, and it's NOT a trick!
ANSWER: The contents of the ten envelopes (in dollar bills) should be as follows: \$1, \$2, \$4, \$8, \$16, \$32, \$64, \$128, \$256, \$489.

QUESTION: In 1979 a Baden, Pennsylvania banker was sentenced to three years in prison for misappropriating bank funds and for doing this to his delinquent customers. What was he doing to them?
ANSWER: He was spanking delinquent customers.

TRUE OR FALSE

Pay attention! If our next player doesn't answer all ten T/F questions correctly we start all over from question #1! First person to answer question #10 correctly is our winner!

1. The waterbed was invented by the ancient Chinese. (False, it was invented in 1832 by Scottish surgeon Neil Arnott as a way of improving patients' comfort.)
2. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone to help his wife. (True. His wife was deaf, so was his mother. He was originally an instructor for deaf children)
3. Clara Peller made the catch-phrase "Gag Me With a Spoon" popular in the 1980s. (False, Clara Peller appeared in commercials for Wendy's and made the phrase "Where's the beef?" popular.)
4. The loose skin hanging from the neck of a chicken is known as a "Wattle". (True. That's wattle with two "T"s. Waddle with two "D"s is the way a duck walks!)
5. Over half the cost of every bottle of beer sold in America goes to state and federal taxes. (False. But it's still high at 43%)
6. It takes a lobster seven years to grow to be one pound! (True. No wonder they're so expensive!)
7. Most people in China don't eat cheese. (True. It's just not a big thing over there)
8. In the classic arcade video game Donkey Kong, logs floating in a river sometimes mysteriously turned into hungry alligators. (False, that's a description of Frogger)
9. The English founded Plymouth, Massachusetts first. (False, they first founded Jamestown, Virginia)
10. Bruce Lee got mad and left Hollywood for Hong Kong after he didn't get the lead part in the "Kung Fu" TV show. (True)

TABLOID MATCH GAME

You have to match the blank in the tabloid headline with the word or phrase that has been removed!

VP JOE BIDEN FALLS FOR _____ SCAM (NIGERIAN MONEY)

WASHINGTON, DC — The Vice President is out \$800,000 after he fell for a well-known Internet scam.

Vice President Joe Biden reportedly said that he simply became curious when he received an e-mail promising him \$20.5 million if he would only help out a long-lost relative identified as J.B. Biden with a little money up front.

Biden's intern told WVN about the scammers' ability to identify his relative by initials and that was what convinced the Vice President it was legitimate.

"That's what him hooked," She said. "He wanted to help out a relative he had never met, who wouldn't do that?"

THE WAY TOO EARLY IN THE MORNING TO UNDERSTAND THE PUNCHLINE EVEN AFTER TWO CUPS OF COFFEE JOKE OF THE DAY

JOKE #1

The Wednesday-night church service coincided with the last day of hunting season. Our pastor asked who had bagged a deer. No one raised a hand. Puzzled, the pastor said, "I don't get it. Last Sunday many of you said you were missing because of hunting season. I had the whole congregation pray for your deer." One hunter groaned, "Well, it worked. They're all safe."

JOKE #2

This guy loved living in Staten Island, but he wasn't crazy about the ferry. If you missed a ferry late at night, you had to spend the next hour or so wandering the deserted streets of lower Manhattan.

So, when he spotted a ferry no more than fifteen feet from the dock, he decided he wouldn't subject himself to an hour's wait. He made a running leap and landed on his hands and knees, a little bruised maybe, but safe on deck. He got up, brushed himself off, and announced proudly to a bystander, "Well, I made that one, didn't I?" "Sure did," the bystander said. "But you should have waited a minute or two. The ferry is just about to dock."

JOKE #3

Over the years, Mary and her husband had usually managed to decode the cute but confusing gender signs sometimes put on restaurant restroom doors (Buoys and Gulls, Laddies and Lassies, etc.), but every so often they would get stumped.

Recently Mary's husband wandered off in search of the men's room and found himself confronted by two marked doors. One was labeled "Bronco," and the other was designated "Cactus."

Completely baffled, he stopped a restaurant employee passing by. "Excuse me. I need to use the restroom," he said. Gesturing toward the doors, he asked, "Which one should I use?"

"Actually, we would prefer you to go there," the employee said, pointing to a door down the hall marked MEN. "Bronco and Cactus are private dining rooms."

USELESS FACTS

A sheep, a duck, and a rooster were the first passengers in a hot air balloon. ***You'd think they'd give the one animal without wings a parachute – but naaaaaa...

In 1968, Steve McPeak traveled from Chicago to Los Angeles on a unicycle. The trip took him six weeks.

***But he did get great gas mileage.

FEATURED FUNNIES

IDIOTS AND GEOGRAPHY

After interviewing a particularly short-spoken job candidate, I described the person to my boss as rather monosyllabic. My boss said, "Really? Where is Monosyllabia?" Thinking that he was just kidding, I played along and said that it was just south of Elbonia. He replied, "Oh, you mean over by Croatia?"

IT MUST BE TRUE BECAUSE I HEARD IT ON THE RADIO!

How can a zoo keep a giraffe from having baby giraffes?

Shavit, the giraffe, is on the pill. Zoo keepers in Jerusalem are putting their frisky female on birth control. Shavit has had two babies in four years. While the little giraffes are cute, officials of the Biblical Zoo say they don't have room for any more. The vets have a unique way to deliver the birth control hormones. They're using a dart to inject the drug. ***MARLAR: Far be it from me to tell the zoo how to take care of its animals, but it seems to me that the whole reason for this – overcrowding in the zoo – could be taken care of in a less violent way. How about getting rid of the male giraffe? That way you have one less animal in an already overcrowded zoo, and the female doesn't have any more baby giraffes! Wouldn't that be more pleasant than being shot at with sharp metal objects every month?

INSPIRATIONAL INSPIRATION

THINK, BELIEVE, DREAM AND DARE

An eight-year-old boy approached an old man in front of a wishing well, looked up into his eyes, and asked: "I understand you're a very wise man. I'd like to know the secret of life."

The old man looked down at the youngster and replied: "I've thought a lot in my lifetime, and the secret can be summed up in four words.

The first is think. Think about the values you wish to live your life by.

The second is believe. Believe in yourself based on the thinking you've done about the values you're going to live your life by.

The third is dream. Dream about the things that can be, based on your belief in yourself and the values you're going to live by.

The last is dare. Dare to make your dreams become reality, based on your belief in yourself and your values."

And with that, Walter E. Disney said to the little boy, "Think, Believe, Dream, and Dare."

DRIVE TIME DEVOTIONAL **EXCEEDINGLY ABUNDANTLY**

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us. —Ephesians 3:20

At times we feel as if we could impress God with all we are trying to do for Him and His church. Yet God has yet to be impressed with even the most grandiose human aspirations (Ps. 8:3-4). You will never set a goal so big or attempt a task so significant that God does not have something far greater that He could do in and through your life. Saul of Tarsus worked harder than anyone else to impress God with his efforts, only to discover that his greatest achievements were but rubbish compared to God's will for his life (Phil. 3:7-8). Our problem is that we become too easily enamored with our own plans. If we are attempting to do noble or difficult things, we assume that we must be experiencing the maximum potential for our lives and that God must, therefore, be pleased with us. Until we have heard from God, we cannot even imagine all that our lives could become or all that God could accomplish through us. We need to remind ourselves that the Father sees the "big picture," that His power far exceeds our limited imagination. We must set aside our own agenda, however lofty. We must never become satisfied with our own dreams, for they are finite at best. When we follow God's direction we will witness things happening in our lives that can only be explained by His powerful presence. How could we be satisfied with anything less?

LEFTOVERS **GREEN BEANS MEAN MORE GREENBACKS**

Want to make more money? Eat more green beans! A new study out of Washington shows that people who eat green beans at least three times a week earn more money than people who don't. Researching can't explain the connection between green beans and earning power, but they say it definitely exists.

LIFE... LIVE IT **MEN ARE HUGGING MORE**

Real men hug each other, and they're doing it more often than ever, say experts on social customs and good manners. "If you are greeting someone in a casual scenario, I don't think a hug is out of place," says Jason Tesauro, the author of "The Modern Gentleman." "Saying goodbye is always safer because you've built up a fellowship." Men often hug at emotional moments during sports events, weddings and funerals, says professor Mark Mormon of Baylor University in Waco, Texas. "But if you are in the office, hugging generally doesn't work because there isn't a lot of emotion there," says Mormon. And most men aren't comfortable hugging for more than a second or two. If you're thinking of joining the group hug, consider these options:

- *The quickie* -- Two men shake hands and then use the free hand to clasp the other's shoulder or gently pat near the shoulder blade.
- *The shoulder-pad bump* -- Two men shake hands, then, without letting go, lean into each other and bump chests while their free hands pound each other heartily on the back.
- *The slip and slide* -- Two men stand side-by-side and briefly drape closer arms over the other's shoulder or behind the other's back while they tap each other's chests with the farther hands.
- *The rapper hit* -- Two guys meet with a fancy handshake, then step in to briefly bump their inside shoulders.

JUST FOR FUN **CARJACKER WANNABEE**

He's probably the worst carjacker ever born!

David Thompson may stand 6-feet and weigh over 200 pounds but nevertheless he wins the award of worst (and wimpiest) carjacker of all time! First he went after 65-year-old Richard Gambardella's 1996 Chrysler in a parking lot but the old man successfully fought him off and drove away. So next David went after a hatchback with 7-year-old Peter McKasty and his 9-year-old sister sitting inside but Peter grabbed David's long mane of hair, yanking it and screaming in his ear until he let the kids go. Police are calling it the case of the persistent carjacker and old Dave's been charged with a string of felonies and misdemeanors. While Mr. Gambardella could not be reached for comment,

little Peter had some choice words for his attacker and said, "I was thinking he was an idiot." ***MARLAR: Question... sure, we got the highjacker - but where's the adult that left a 7-year-old and a 9-year-old in the car by themselves?!?!

FUN LIST

TREAT HER RIGHT

In the world of romance, one single rule applies: Make the woman happy. Believe it or not, women keep scores of how their men are treating them. Do something she likes, and you get points. Do something she dislikes and points are subtracted. You don't get any points for doing something she expects. Sorry, that's the way the game is played. Here's a guide to the point system:

Simple Duties:

- You make the bed. (+1)
- You make the bed, but forget to add the decorative pillows. (0)
- You throw the bedspread over the rumpled sheets. (-1)

- You leave the toilet seat up. (-5)
- You replace the toilet paper roll when it's empty. (0)
- When the toilet paper roll is barren, you resort to Kleenex. (-1)
- When the Kleenex runs out, you use the next bathroom. (-2)

- You go out to buy her extra-light panty liners with wings. (+5)
- In the snow. (+8)
- But return with beer. (-5)

- You check out a suspicious noise at night. (0)
- You check out a suspicious noise and it's nothing. (0)
- You check out a suspicious noise and it's something. (+5)
- You pummel it with a six iron. (+10)
- It's the cat. (-10)

Party:

- You stay by her side the entire party. (0)
- You stay by her side for a while, then leave to chat with a college drinking buddy. (-2)
- Named Tiffany. (-4)

Her Birthday:

- You take her out to dinner. (0)
- You take her out to dinner and it's not a sports bar. (+1)
- Okay, it is a sports bar. (-2)
- And it's all-you-can-eat night. (-3)
- It's a sports bar, it's all-you-can-eat night, and your face is painted the colors of your favorite team. (-10)

A Night Out:

- You take her to a movie. (+2)
- You take her to a movie she likes. (+4)
- You take her to a movie you hate. (+6)
- You take her to a movie you like. (-2)
- If it contains the word "Death" or "Blood" in the title. (-3)
- Which features cyborgs that eat humans. (-9)
- You lied and said it was a foreign film about orphans to get her to agree to go with you. (-15)

Your Physique:

- You develop a noticeable potbelly. (-15)
- You develop a noticeable potbelly and exercise to get rid of it. (+10)
- You develop a noticeable potbelly and resort to loose jeans and a baggy Hawaiian shirt. (-30)
- You say, it doesn't matter, because she has one too. (-800)

The Big Question: She asks, do I look fat?

- You hesitate in responding. (-10)

- You reply, "Where?" (-35)
- Any other response. (-20)

Communication: When she wants to talk about a problem:

- 1) You listen, displaying what looks like a concerned expression. (0)
- 2) You listen, for over 30 minutes. (+5)
- 3) You listen for more than 30 minutes without looking at the TV. (+100)
- 4) She realizes this is because you have fallen asleep. (-20)

MORE SHOW PREP STUFF...

TV OR NOT TV

Your kid's watching TV might not be such a bad thing after all.

New research suggests that watching TV before taking a test could actually help improve your grades. Research at Reading University in the UK showed that watching some TV shows before taking a test actually helped improve test scores as opposed to last minute studying. Students who watched a talk show before a test improved their score by six points compared to those who continued to study. A documentary brought an increase of four points, and the TV show "Friends" brought an increase of 1 point. Professor Keith Warwick said that watching television just before an exam warms up the brain without stretching it too much and said that it could mean the difference between passing and failing or an A grade or B grade. ***MARLAR: So forget about those educational instruction tapes and spending a fortune on a nice desk and computer for your kid – just stick them in front of SpongeBob!

OTHER STUFF I WANT TO CRAM INTO TODAY'S PREP

(Not posted on weekends and U.S. holidays.)

The time of day most babies are born is during business hours on weekdays. The myth that babies are born in the middle of the night has been busted. Well, sort of. The reason most babies are now born during morning or midday working hours is due to the increase in scheduled cesarean-sections and induced births, according to HealthDay News. But when babies were born at home or at other non-hospital sites and allowed to arrive on their own schedule, 90 percent made their appearance in the wee hours of the morning, between 1am and 6am.

A statue has become a haven of warmth for the homeless population in a South Carolina town. Generous residents are leaving coats, gloves, scarves and hats on a life-sized statue of William Whitner, who brought electricity to the city. Carey Jones, the president of a nonprofit that helps preserve and revitalize the city's historic district, started the trend by placing a jacket on the statue and asking others to help on social media.

<http://www.mor-tv.com/article/statue-gives-homeless-the-gift-of-warmth/14961221>

When you get that mid-afternoon slump, eat a small piece of unsweetened, high-cacao chocolate to improve your attention. It's the perfect little rejuvenator, according to researchers from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. The study led by Larry Stevens, who is a professor of psychological sciences, the team recruited 122 volunteers between the ages of 18 and 25 years old. After they consumed a 60 percent cacao confection compared with five control conditions, each participant underwent electroencephalography, or EEG. This procedure takes images of the brain while it is performing a cognitive task and measures the brain activity. The serving size of the chocolate was based on each participant's weight. The chocolate was packaged in such a way so no one knew the brand or type of chocolate being consumed. The results: The brains of those who consumed the 60 percent cacao chocolate were more alert and attentive. "Chocolate is indeed a stimulant, and it activates the brain in a really special way," explained Stevens. One big gotcha: To experience the brain rejuvenating benefit, you must eat unsweetened chocolate with high cacao content -- in other words, dark chocolate. A regular milk chocolate bar packed with high sugar and milk won't have the same effect.

Onions regularly make cooks tear up the minute the vegetable is sliced open. But, no longer! Here comes the "Sunion," a sweet, crunchy new crossbreed of onion that won't make you cry when slicing and dicing it. According to reports, the Sunion was developed through a natural breeding program started by farmers in the 1980s. According to The Washington Post, the onions are sweet enough to eat "like popcorn" and have no strong aftertaste. For now, Sunions are only being grown in Nevada and Washington, and are expected to be available starting in March.

<http://on.today.com/2mv6wAX>

Stuck in traffic? Keep your cool. A study from Taiwan suggests that running your car's air conditioner can help your heart. When people kept the air on during their two-hour commute, their heart-rate variability, a measure of cardiovascular health, was as much as 32 percent better than that of people who rolled their windows down instead.

Study author Kai-Jen Chuang, Ph.D., says AC filters out exhaust particles, pollutants that can cause a cascade of internal inflammation. Over time, this inflammation can disrupt your heart's electrical signals.

SOUL-GLO

(Feel-good stories! Only posted as new stories come available. Not posted on weekends and U.S. holidays.)

A Georgia man who was adopted when he was just 3 months old has been reunited with his long-lost brother — who lives just 15 minutes away, attends the same university and has the same major. Kieron Graham, 20, was able to track down his brother after his adoptive mother gave him an Ancestry.com DNA kit as an early Christmas present a few weeks ago. The online genealogy company sent him an email just last week saying it was likely he was related to a Vincent Ghant, 29. Soon after, the two men met at a local tea shop and realized they both attend Kennesaw State University, and are both majoring in political science. <http://on.today.com/2BrRHJ7>

TOTALLY OUTRAGEOUS!

(Only posted as stories come available. Not posted on weekends and U.S. holidays.)

A Louisiana teacher was handcuffed and forcibly removed from a school board meeting for questioning the superintendent's pay raise. On Monday, the Vermilion Parish (La.) School Board met to approve Superintendent Jerome Puyau's new contract. Deyshia Hargrave disagreed with the board's decision to give him a raise, saying teachers and other employees have not received raises in several years. At one point, an officer with the Abbeville City (La.) Marshal's Office approached Hargrave and told her to leave the room. A video showed Hargrave asking why she was being removed. The officer then escorts her out of the room. The video next shows Hargrave in handcuffs on the floor of the hallway, then being brought to a parking lot and placed in a police vehicle.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2018/01/10/louisiana-teacher-handcuffed-pay-raise-question/1019777001/>

AND I LEAVE YOU WITH THIS THOUGHT

Would someone please explain the concept of housecleaning to me? Robin wants me to help her clean the house this weekend, but what's the point? We have to do it again six months later!

THE TICKET Movie Reviews with MARIE ASNER

Marie Asner has been reviewing films for over 35 years. Her outlets include radio, print and Internet. For more in-depth movie reviews of the following films, visit www.Tollbooth.org. Ratings from 1 (Low) to 5 (High).

JANUARY 12, 2018...

The Commuter---Liam Neeson begins the year with an action thriller that gives one pause for thought about the hazards of riding a train. Derailments, come to mind, but criminal activity? How does one become accidentally involved? Wait and see. Also in the cast are Vera Farmiga and Patrick Wilson. "The Commuter" is rated PG 13. Rating of 2 for Liam Neeson fans.

Paddington Bear 2---A week without a horror film opening and here comes London's favorite bear (mine, too) as little Paddington goes into action when he wants to buy a special birthday present for Aunt Lucy who will be 100 years old. Paddington does odd jobs, but becomes involved with something different. Hmm, this begins to sound like Liam Neeson in "The Commuter." Back to Paddington, who is voiced by Ben Winshaw. Also in the cast are Hugh Grant and Hugh Bonneville ("Downton Abbey.") "Paddington Bear 2" is rated G. Rating of 3 for little bear fans.

Proud Mary---No, this movie is not a musical, it stars Taraji P. Henson as a hit woman for the Boston mob. Ms. Henson finds herself with problems when suddenly there appears a boy while she is at "work." Hmm. The cast includes Neal McDonough, Danny Glover and Jahi DiAllo Winston. "Proud Mary" is rated PG 13. Rating of 2 for fans.

The Post---This is a Steven Spielberg film and it shows from beginning to end. The sets, actors, music---all combine to make an interesting---but slow-paced---film about the famed newspaper, "The Washington Post." There is always a battle between the Post and the "Times", neck and neck for the scoop and wondering what is legal to print and what isn't. This is where high-priced lawyers come in. The film centers on leaked government papers during the Nixon Administration that came to be called The Pentagon Papers. What to do with such high profile---and secret information? Put it to bed, or run with it? Meryl Streep is publisher Katharine Graham, who, as a woman operating the family newspaper, runs into opposition about her judgement and skills as a manager. Tom Hanks plays Ben Bradlee, her editor, and they go back and forth about the information. We all know what happened, and the getting-there could

be interesting, but we are treated to parties (Katharine's place for information) and backroom meetings (Ben's place of information.) Cue the music, as John Williams is at the helm there and you know beforehand what is going to happen because of the sound level. Also in the cast are Sarah Paulson, Bob Odenkirk, Tracy Letts, Bradley Whitford and Matthew Rhys. "The Post" is rated PG 13. Rating of 2 and good cast but methodical, almost documentary production..

JANUARY 19, 2018...

12 Strong is an action thriller of military forces in the Middle East. Stars Chris Hemsworth.

Den of Thieves has Gerard Butler after a gang of bank robbers.

Forever My Girl is a romance about a country western singer coming home. Stars Alex Roe.

Maze Runner: Death Cure is a continuation of the series this time trying to find a cure for a deadly disease. Stars Thomas Brodie-Sanster.

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Best and Worst Films of 2017 compiled by Marie Asner Arranged in Alphabetical Order

Ten Best Films of 2017---

Blade Runner
Darkest Hour
Dunkirk
Hostiles
Maudie
Phantom Thread
The Shape of Water
Three Billboards in Ebbing, Missouri
Wind River
Wonder Woman

Extra:

I. Tonya
Jane (documentary)
Lady Macbeth
The Man Who Invented Christmas

Ten Worst Films of 2017---

Group One: Basic Plot Horror Film

Book of Henry
Jigsaw
The Bad Batch

Group Two: Science Fiction/Fantasy

Alien Covenant
Flatliners
Geostorm
Get Out
Guardians Of The Galaxy: Part Two
King Arthur
Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets

Group Three: The Rest

Baywatch
mother!
Pitch Perfect 3
The Disaster Artist
The Florida Project
The Snowman

Trip to Spain
Woodshock

WARNING: Don't believe anything you read on the Internet or email (including stuff you read here) unless you can confirm it with another source, and/or it is consistent with what you already know to be true. The opinions in this publication are not necessarily those of Darren Marlar, Marlar House Productions, or any company or organization affiliated with aforementioned. (Regardless of how stupid you may think those opinions are. So there - nyah!)

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