



Volume 1, Number 12

FINAL EDITION

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## A + B = C

I suppose most of us have built a sand castle or two in our time. Many of us had the privilege of doing so on a beach lining one of our major oceans.

Thus, many of us have experienced the spectacle of our hard work being devastated by a large wave rolling ashore and washing away our handiwork.

And in the spirit of the American tradition to persevere, we gamely begin again and rebuilt our castles, only to again see them become the victim of yet another irresistible onrushing wall of water.

Occasionally I have driven through Grafton, Illinois, and have always observed the many abandoned houses which have been left behind still bear signs of the destruction caused when the Mississippi River overflowed its banks, flooding the town.

Yet there are a number of people who have chosen to stay and rebuild, despite the knowledge that the river may rise again and repeat its tour of doom.

At what point does stubborn determination and the desire to conquer our circumstances need to give way to wisdom in action?

In our family, we have tried to teach our children a simple mathematical equation that



demonstrates how life works:  $A + B = C$ . As long as A never changes and B remains the same, C will always be C. If I want C to change then A or B MUST also be revised. If I want a different result, something in my life HAS to change.

If I keep dealing with the same problems and tackling them with the same solutions I will end

up with exactly the same issues. If I want to lose weight, I need to eat healthier or exercise more. In other words, listen to my wife!

If the waves of life keep knocking down my sand castle, then it's about time I started making smarter decisions about where I build. The waves are never going to stop. The sand will never be able to withstand their assault.

If I WANT change in my life, my life HAS to change. Period!

## In the News

From *Newser.com*:

### **ARIZONA SKI RESORT WILL MAKE SNOW FROM ... SEWAGE**

*Puts a rather unpalatable twist to the phrase, "wipeout."*

From the *Arizona Republic* in Phoenix: An Arizona woman, in despair at the re-election of Democratic President Barack Obama, ran down her husband with the family car in suburban Phoenix on Saturday because he failed to vote in the election.

*A bit extreme but I know how she feels.*

From the *Denver (Colorado) Post*: The United States Postal Service acknowledged on Friday that one of its mail carriers did not report a corpse at a Denver home because he mistook the body for a Halloween display.

*Some folks will do anything to win the town's decorating contest.*



*Y'all come back now, y'hear?*

### **SIGNS AND WONDERS:**

Submitted by Rick Morris



*Another government plan to make our lives better.*



*Go to a window and yell.*



*Honest honey! I ate a big lunch but it was at the health food store!*



Each issue will feature a look at terms which may or may not be familiar in the areas of urban slang, common tech phrases and well-known idioms.

URBAN SLANG:

**“OFF THE CHAIN”**

Means something is very good. As in, “Dude, that car is off the chain.”

TECH TALK:

**“XLNT”**

Stands for “Excellent.”

EVERYDAY PHRASE:

**“UNDER THE WEATHER”**

Meaning: Feeling slightly ill or sick.

Origin: A version of a nautical term: “under the weather bow” which is at the sharp end of a ship. It usually takes the brunt of the storm and passengers who take refuge below decks in this section of the boat often found themselves seasick.

**Hoof in Mouth Dept.**

Every issue will feature a few typos - bloopers from the published word we have come across. These are not exactly typos but they are strange conglomerates.



What is more scary--the thought of free kids or the return slot?



A church that has something for everyonE!

## Tales From the Inbox

My favorite joke and story from the multitude of last month's e-mails:

### ABSTINANCE MAKES THE HEART GROW FONDER

There were three couples, one elderly, one middle-aged and one newlywed that wanted to join a church. The church had very strict beliefs on how its members conducted their lives.

So the minister told them that, in order to be members, they must abstain from marital relations for two whole weeks. The couples each agreed to the terms and went home to face the challenge.

After two weeks, the minister asked the elderly couple if they had abstained.

"Yes, no problem!" So the minister welcomed them to the church.

Then he asked the middle-aged couple the same question.

"Well, after one week, the husband had to sleep on the couch, but we made it!" So the minister happily welcomed them to the church as well.

Then the minister asked the newlywed couple if they had abstained from relations for two weeks.

"We were unable to abstain. On the third day, my wife dropped a can of corn and when she bent over to pick it up, LUST and PASSION overcame me!"

"I'm sorry," the minister said, "but I have no choice but to say you are both banned from this church!"

"That's okay," said the husband, "We understand. We were banned from the supermarket, too."

*--From Lucy Caruthers*

### A ROSE TO REMEMBER ME

On the day after Jack Benny's death in December, 1974, a single long-stemmed red rose was delivered to Mary Livingstone, Jack's wife of 48 years.

When the blossoms continued to arrive, day after day, Mary called the florist to find out who sent them.

"Quite a while before Jack passed away," the florist told her, "He stopped in to send a bouquet. As he was leaving, he suddenly turned back and said, "If anything should happen to me, I want you to send Mary a single rose every day."

There was complete silence on Mary's end of the line, then weeping, she said, "Goodbye." Subsequently, Mary learned that Jack had actually included a provision for the flowers in his will, one perfect red rose daily for the rest of her life.

*--From The Jack Benny Fan Club*



# Begging the Question

This month's query (answer on page six):

By what nickname did Barney call Aunt Bee's pickles on *The Andy Griffith Show* episode *The Pickle Story*?



## Last month's query:

William Daniels played a mommy's boy turned superhero in what 1967 sitcom?

**ANSWER:** Captain Nice. First answer by Google Queen Eleanor Luebbert of Jacksonville, Illinois.

## ROGER'S HALL OF FAME

Saluting people who made a difference in my life.

### *Kymerly Baylor Deem*

When one gets right down to it, no one has ever impacted my life in such a positive and glorious way as has my beloved wife.

It is the difference between knowing the tune and words of a song and perceiving its depths. She brought substance to that unknown person I always imagined in the love songs I grew up listening to.

I always wanted most of all a partner that could make me laugh. Beautiful would have been an added bonus. Kindness and strength would have been even better.

The Lord blessed me by giving me a woman that totally embodies all of these traits and so much more. Thank you, Jesus, for Kymerly.



# PHOTOSHOP TILL YOU DROP

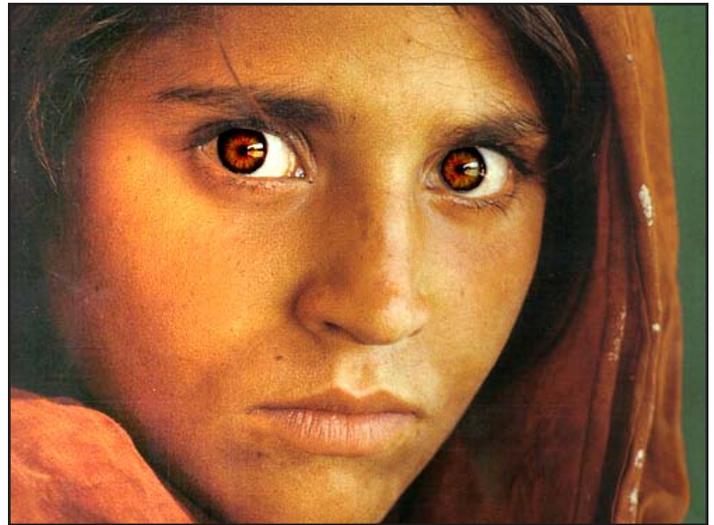
In each addition I will feature an image which has been altered through the use of the Photoshop computer program. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to identify how the picture has been changed. Answer at the bottom of the page.

*Last Month:*



*Bob Schieffer was moderator for the last debate, not Jim Lehrer (he did the first debate with podiums). First spotted by Dave Cox of Bement, IL.*

*This Month:*



*Something has been changed in this photo of the famous National Geographic Afghan girl. Can you spot it?*

## End of Document Stuff No One Ever Reads

*The Help Desk* was a project for 2012 to serve as an outreach for me during a year of transition in my life. As I now end publication and prepare to step forward into what God has for us, I offer my thanks to you all for your interest in this effort.

### THE HELP DESK STAFF

Admiral Roger Deem ..... Perpetrator  
Kymberly Deem... Star of my Love Songs  
Composing ..... Larry Banillo  
Proofreading ..... Ray Charles  
Twinkie Executioner ..... Michelle Obama  
Lawsuits ..... U. Cassius Meine



*"Since Noon Today"*

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[www.admiralent.net](http://www.admiralent.net)

Trivia Question Answer: Barney called Aunt Bee's pickles kerosene cucumbers.  
Photoshop Photo: The Afghan girl has magnificent green eyes, not brown.

### Answers to Trivia & Photoshop Questions