



Volume 1, Number 6

June 2012

## *Sorry--that's not MY job!*

This has long been one of my favorite internet images--the winner of the "Not My Job Award" - highway lines painted over the top of an unsuccessful jaywalking armadillo. The worker thought he was being paid only to paint the lines, not remove an animal carcass so he reasoned he would just paint over it.

Of course, it seems ridiculous, yet how often have I been guilty of the same kind of thing? Sometimes it seems a natural response to simply leave work for the next guy who comes along.

Take shopping carts. It's annoying the way sometimes the one you grab first is stuck tight to the next one in the stack. Don't we always just leave it and find one that will come loose? Meanwhile, the problem still exists and we have now passed the buck to someone else.

A shopping cart is no big deal but our reaction to this situation might be.



How about our Christian walk? Do we pitch in and help when problems arise or do we just leave the mess for the next person to clean up? When someone is in need of prayer, do I interrupt my busy schedule to pray or just expect someone else to carry the ball?

Isn't this exactly what happens in the parable Jesus told of the Good Samaritan?

Don't we inwardly smirk just a bit at those two who passed the injured man by and view ourselves in our minds as the Samaritan in that story? Yet what are we really doing?

I find I sometimes need to remind myself I was not put on this planet to follow my own hectic pursuits but to be God's hands in the lives of others.

Maybe a situation has no more import than a stuck shopping cart. But if our hearts and minds are set on being Christ to the world, then no task is too insignificant to demonstrate God's love for others.

## In the News

Headline from the *Cascade Pioneer* in Cascade, Iowa:

### **MAN ARRESTED FOR DUI WITH ZEBRA AND PARROT IN FRONT SEAT**

*Who was (or should have been) driving?*

From a report on *Newser.com*:

How to steal a 10-ton bridge: Just pretend you've been hired to demolish it. That's what a gang of metal thieves allegedly did in the Czech Republic recently, showing employees at a depot forged paperwork and telling them the bridge over unused railroad tracks needed to come down.

The thieves then dismantled the bridge and 650 feet of track, which the spokesperson estimates to be worth millions. "It was only after they had gone that checks were made and we realized we'd been had," he says.

*Troubled waters--and no bridge.*



*I think I either need to get out a little more often or stay home, lock the doors and hide under the bed!*

### **SIGNS AND WONDERS:**



*G-R-A-C-E is a four letter word? How about M-A-T-H?*



*Down the road at the next sign: Public Beach - May encounter sand.*



*You know--it's worth the extra expense to get the boneless kind.*



# Say WHAT?

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:

### “iPAUSE ”

The period of time between when the light turns green and the driver in front of the line looks up from his iPod or iPhone and pulls away. This is usually preceded by several people behind honking their horns.

## TECH TALK:

### “I <3 U”

Translated as “I Love You.” Note how the less-than symbol and the three form a small sideways heart. Clever, these textists!

## EVERYDAY PHRASE:

### HAT TRICK

Meaning: The achievement of a positive feat three times during a game (such as hockey), or other achievements based on threes.

Origin: The term was first used in 1858 in cricket to describe H.H. Stephenson's feat of taking three wickets in three balls. A collection was held and he was presented with a hat bought with the proceeds.

## Hoof in Mouth Dept.

Every issue will feature a few typos - bloopers from the printed word we have come across.

- From the *Dayton Daily News*, Dayton, Ohio: "Women's whine and cheese party set."

*Husbands attend at their own risk.*

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- From a grocery store ad insert: "Seedless Elves, 4/99 cents"

*Hey--finding seedy elves is easy!*

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- A classified ad I'd answer fast: "GET IT WHILE IT'S HOT! Used Porta-Potty, Great Deal, needs some T.L.C."



*Buy the entire business and receive a free dinner with John Kerry.*

## Tales From the Inbox

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

### A Mayonnaise Adventure

Most people don't know that back in 1912, Hellman's mayonnaise was manufactured in England. In fact, the Titanic was carrying 12,000 jars of the condiment scheduled for delivery in Vera Cruz, Mexico, which was to be the next port of call for the great ship after its stop in New York.

This would have been the largest single shipment of mayonnaise ever delivered to Mexico. But as we know, the great ship did not make it to New York. The ship hit an iceberg and sank, and the cargo was forever lost. The people of Mexico, who were crazy about mayonnaise, and were eagerly awaiting its delivery, were disconsolate at the loss.

Their anguish was so great, that they declared a National Day of Mourning, which they still observe to this day.

The National Day of Mourning occurs each year on May 5th and is known, of course, as...

Sinko De Mayo.

*--From Derrick Walker*



### A Pair of Shoes

As Gandhi stepped aboard a train one day, one of his shoes slipped off and landed on the track. He was unable to retrieve it as the train was moving.

To the amazement of his companions, Gandhi calmly took off his other shoe and threw it back along the track to land close to the first.

Asked by a fellow passenger why he did so, Gandhi said, "The poor man who finds the shoes lying on the track," he replied, "will now have a pair he can use."

*--From Jenn Norris*

## Grave Matters



# Begging the Question

This month's query (answer next month):

What U.S. President had the nickname Old Kinderhook?



## Last month's query:

Name three of the first five condensed soups to be manufactured by the Campbell's Soup Company.

**ANSWER:** Chicken, Tomato, Vegetable, Consomme and.....  
.....OXTAIL! Yum! First one to answer correctly was Jim Bowman of Jacksonville, Illinois.

## ROGER'S HALL OF FAME

Saluting people who made a difference in my life.

### *Rev. Ron Colton*

Rev. Ron came to my church when I was ten and was my confirmation pastor and friend.

He was so approachable for kids--I appreciated the fact he always gave me his complete attention. Most adults didn't--unless I was acting up!

Today, 40+ years later, he continues to inspire me with his unique blend of Christianity, American spirit and service. He sowed seed into my young life which he continues to cultivate even today.

God bless you, Ron, and keep after those pesky Democrats!



# PHOTOSHOP TILL YOU DROP

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

## *Last Month:*



*This stamp was actually part of a pair. There was no white border on the right hand side of this particular stamp. First person to correctly guess (again) was the eagle-eyed Martha Morris of Chapin, IL.*

## *This Month:*



*Sorry to rub it in but ex-Cardinal Albert Pujols has a problem because something in this photo is not right. Which Cardinal fan will be the first to say?*

## End of Document Stuff No One Ever Reads

*The Help Desk* is published electronically once a month for the first 12 months of the year. It is distributed via e-mail free of charge to everyone with a genuine desire to increase their e-mail account spam levels.

Story/photo contributions are encouraged with appropriate credit given. Financial donations not accepted to eliminate the possibility of higher taxation. Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental. Except in cases where they are not.

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