

Laughter is Good for the Heart

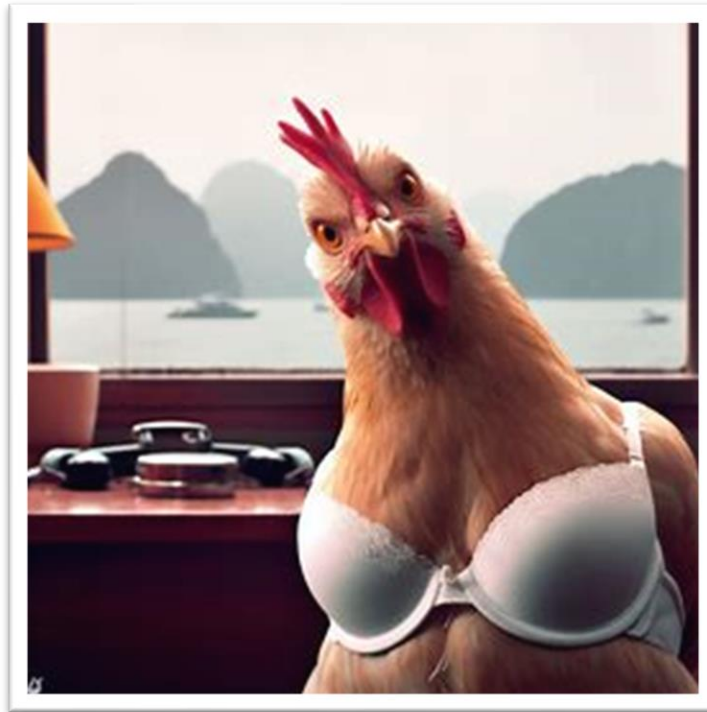
The World as Seen by a Young Boy



Laughter is Good for the Heart

Chicken Broth; Garment or Soup?

When I was about 7 years old, I thought that a bra was called a broth. So, the first time I heard the phrase "chicken broth" it conjured strange and confusing images in my mind. Apparently, it was both a garment AND a soup, which made very little sense to my 7-year-old mind. I had a dozen questions like; Why would a chicken actually NEED a broth? And WHY would you want to make soup from it? Isn't there something BETTER that a person could make soup from? And if you were going to make soup from it, how would you do it? Would you let it soak in hot water for 3 minutes like a teabag? Would you fill each of the broth cups and let the water drain through into two separate bowls? I was very confused about this issue but I finally got it sorted out - last week.



Flaming Meat-eaters from Outer Space

When I was about 8 years old, I heard the word "meteors" for the first time and thought that the person was actually saying "meat-eaters." So, when it was said that "meteors fell to Earth", I had no clue as to what that might mean. The biggest meat-eaters I could think of were the dinosaurs. I envisioned dinosaurs falling from orbit and terrorizing cavemen, eating the hapless individuals who got in their way. When I went to my dad and asked him to explain how dinosaurs were able to fall from outer space without getting hurt, he looked at me with a desperately confused expression I will never forget. To compound that confusion, in school we were told that meteors were engulfed in flames when they came down from space. This put an additional confusing spin on my already-confused understanding. Apparently, dinosaurs were not only able to survive the fall from outer space to Earth but they were also somehow fireproof. It DID explain how dinosaurs seemed to show up on the Earth, however. Apparently, there were TWO ways they could arrive; hatching from eggs or, the faster method, which was to arrive fully-formed as a flaming meat-eater from outer space.



This actually helped me make sense of many of the old science fiction movies...how dinosaurs could already be on other planets when spacemen from Earth got there. Eventually, the Truth must come out, however. This was painfully revealed when my 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. McWalters, assigned us the task of sharing something that was a favorite subject in front of the class. And a meat-eater from outer space was about the coolest thing I could think of because it had flames, and it was a dinosaur when it got here. What could be cooler than THAT? So, came the fateful day when I stood up in front of the class and explained how "mostly dinosaurs were born from eggs but some of them came from outer space as fireballs". The girls looked completely baffled but the guys just laughed out loud. Mrs. McWalters went to the principal's office and had a long discussion with him. That was the day the procedure for "holding a student back" began in Public Schools.

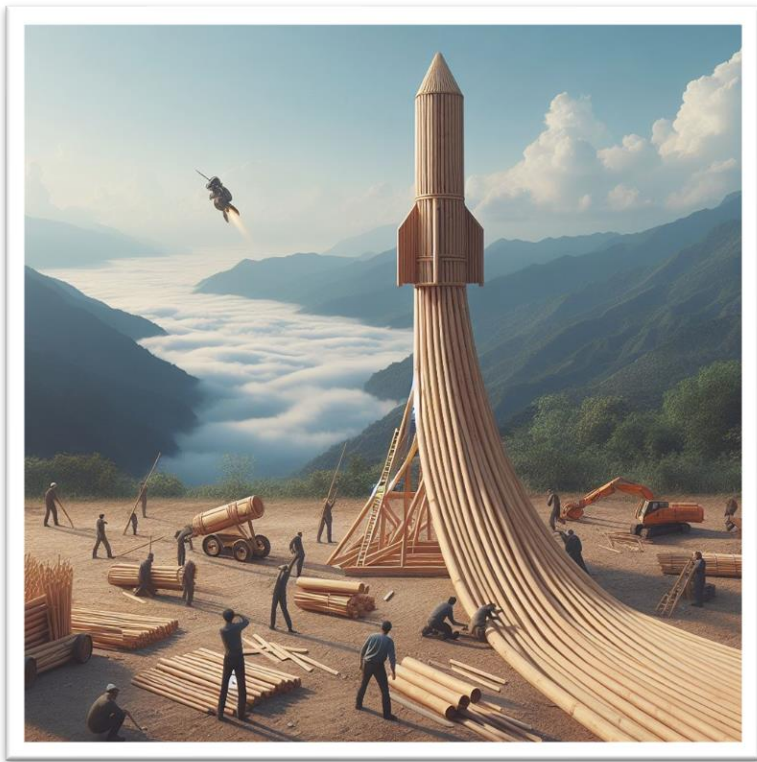


NO-KAN-DU

No-Kan-Du is about 30 miles Southwest of KATMANDU. Originally No-Kan-Du was the capital of Nepal but was not able to attract enough visitors because it just wasn't very interesting. Case in point; The city's current claim to fame is a tree stump that the local children like to kick.



An interesting piece of historical information is that the name of the city "No-Kan-Du" came from the town's founder Larry Kan-du, who, as an elected official in the 1960's, was inspired by John F. Kennedy's speech mandating that America should go to the moon. He tried to inspire the town by stating that it should build its own rocket and fly to the moon. After years of effort to engineer and build the rocket, mainly out of wood, the town gave up because it was bankrupting them. The city's name was changed to "No-Kan-Du" at that time.



Tartar Sauce

When I was at the dentist, being about 9 years old at that point, he told me that the soft plaque on teeth can harden into tartar if one doesn't brush every day. So that same week our family was having fish sticks for dinner - a popular form of fish in the early 60's - While serving them, my mom asked me if I wanted tartar sauce on them. My young mind was assaulted with terrifying images of how tartar sauce might be collected. Was this done covertly by dentists all across the United States? Were they selling the tartar they collected from the mouths of people who came to have their teeth cleaned? Needless to say, I refused vehemently.



Oy Vey!

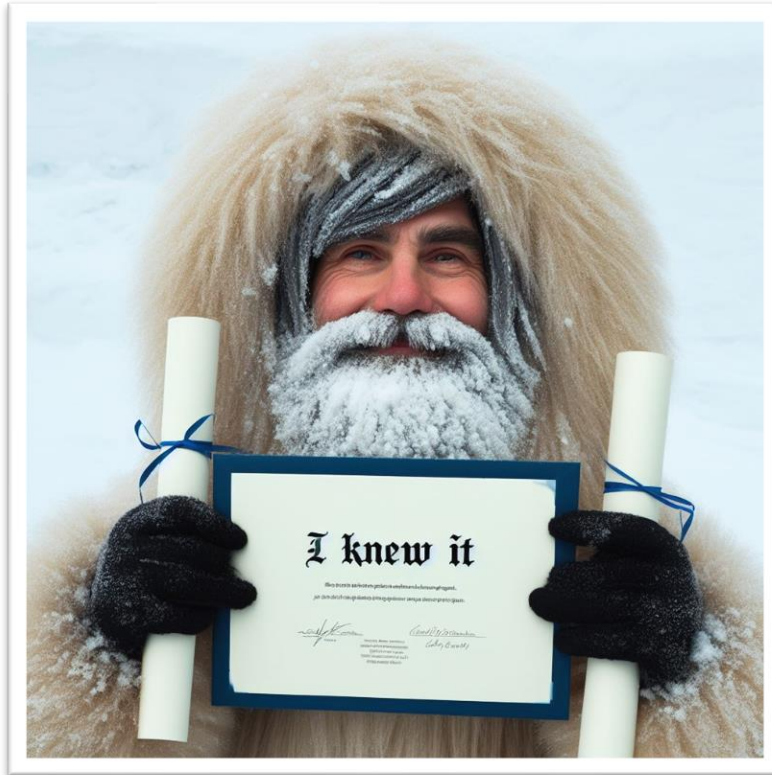
When I was in 5th grade, I recall being in the Social Studies portion of our day. We were studying different ethnic groups around the world. One of those ethnic groups was the Jews, who had many different religious beliefs. There were the Orthodox Jews and the Hasidic Jews...which I heard as "Acidic Jews".

I wondered what it was that made them "acidic". I reasoned that it must be their diet. Perhaps they ate a lot of grapefruit. Then I began to wonder if eating grapefruit would make ME acidic! I went to my dad and asked him if it was bad to be "acidic". Once again, he looked at me with that same confused expression that was becoming familiar to me. He explained that having an acidic body chemistry was not bad...but it might hurt a little when I peed. I reasoned that the OTHER Jewish ethnic group, the Orthodox Jews, must be separate from the Acidic Jews because didn't want it to hurt when they peed. Therefore, they didn't want to eat all of that grapefruit in their diet. I felt I was finally beginning to understand the Jewish religions.



The Inuit culture

A lot of our arrogance comes from the Eskimos - they think they are right about everything. Even the name of their culture is "I Knew It". (Please don't take this seriously if you are Inuit)



Clarity - FINALLY!

In a dream one night, it came to me how to make the one change that would give my life meaning, purpose, and clarity. Upon having this insight, I awoke and wrote it down.

Many times, the notes that you write to yourself during the night, just don't have the same meaning when you read them the next morning. This was one of those times. The fateful sentence that would have change my life was; *I've been demeaning the swamp cooler cables on bacon.*

I DID try putting bacon on my swamp cooler and praising it (instead of demeaning it) but there are no positive results to report as yet.



Dolphins are our friends...so are squirrels.

Dolphins are amazingly smart. They seem to have an inherent recognition of when divers are in trouble. Upon recognizing a diver in distress, a dolphin will proceed to rescue them. Another creature that is very smart is the squirrel. In fact, there are stories of squirrels rescuing divers at the 200-foot level.



I can't hear you, there's a pyroclastic flow in my ear!

Recently, A friend and I went to a Greek restaurant and as we were each perusing our menus trying to decide what to order when she said; "Oh! They have *Humis!* I could eat a bowl full of that with no problem.

I said - "doesn't that mess up your teeth"?

She looked at me blankly for a few moments and then said; "I said *HUMIS*". What did you think I said?

I said; Oh, "*HUMIS???*" I thought you said "*PUMICE*."



Words to live by:

"It takes a Sacajawea to make a
Mesopotamia."



A Word Problem.

NOTE: In school, word problems were confusing to me. They made about as much sense as the one below, which I have reconstructed to create the same level of confusion I experienced when reading them in early grade school.

PROBLEM; A train leaves Denver, Colorado travelling West at 65 miles per hour. At the destination point of the train, a marmot shingles a doghouse using pancakes from a nearby restaurant at the rate of 25 pancakes per minute. Another train leaves Chicago, Illinois travelling East at $\frac{1}{2}$ the speed of light. From this information, answer the questions below.

What common gene types do the dog and the marmot have? Use the Travis-Burghoff method to derive your answer.

Show that the restaurant making the pancakes meets code requirements for occupancy using the marmot's dental records.

How much of the wood used in the doghouse was cut from virgin timber in the Northeastern United States?

At what point will the train from Chicago intercept the train from Colorado assuming that space is curved and that the marmot brushes its teeth every day?

Show your work.



I said the "ologies", not "Theologies"

Oly-ology - the study of ologies

Oligology - the study of the few

Pediapedia - the compilation of children

Ally-ally-ology - the study of hide and go seek

Golleee-Ology - The study of Jim Nabors acting career as *Gomer Pyle*.

Feel free to add your own,





Well, there you have it: This year's entertaining yet disturbing look at the world from my point of view. I have made this compilation of misperceptions in the hopes that you will not make the same mistakes that I have.

Have a fun day!

