

SENIORS' ROUNDUP

Local and Worldwide Items of Interest

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Editorial:

Why are we so angry? - "Just be cool man!"

We live in a society which, like it or not, is becoming increasingly governed by social media and sadly at times, misinformation expounded by mainstream media. While social media does have its attributes, it has also brought about an ever-increasing opportunity for malcontents, conspirators and downright nasty people venting their largely misguided views on everyone and everything.

Why do so many in our society feel so marginalised that they have the need to strike out at others at every opportunity? Many have become obsessed with wild and threatening vitriol against those in authority, those in the media and anyone else they perceive as being responsible for their plight in life.

Are they all suffering from mental health issues?



See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil, type no evil

Mental health issues, real or perceived, appear to readily roll off the tongue of many people these days. It would not be inconceivable for an outsider to view New Zealand as a nation of very sick people! This situation has been exacerbated by the appointment of a Minister for Mental Health which not only serves to recognise a growing concern but also perhaps, suggests to some that proclaiming a mental health issue is an acceptable reason for their inability to cope and in some instances, for non-performance.

The opportunity for 'keyboard warriors' to make outlandish, threatening and abusive statements with anonymity has become commonplace using the ever-increasing number of platforms available in the internet. Whatever happened to that old adage -

"Do you"



"I would try to stop being negative, but I know I would never manage it."



This verse is from the Bible and is commonly known as "The Golden Rule". Confucius also had a similar version of this rule - "What you do not wish upon yourself, extend not to others." and in 350 BC, Epicurus wrote "Neither be harmed or to be harmed...".

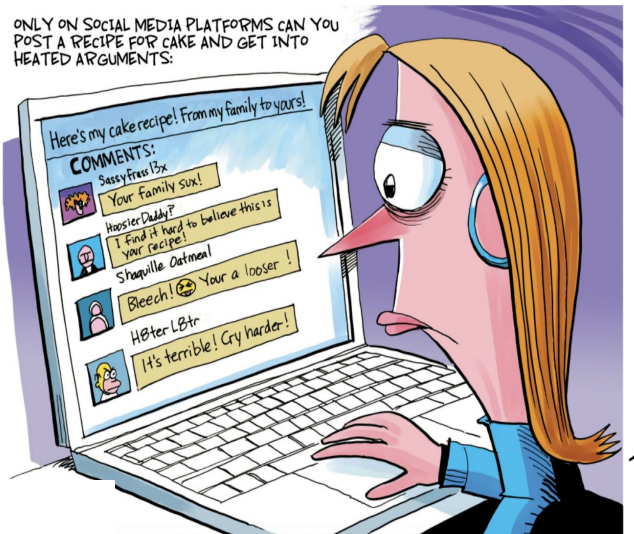
We appear to be evolving into a nation of demanding but never satisfied human beings. The more we have, the more we want and the less we appreciate what we have!

Why are we so angry? Perhaps it is time for people to reflect on just how fortunate we are as a country. There are millions of people in the world who would 'give their right arm' to live in a country like ours. Our stable government (albeit subject to opinion at times), our broadly based and easily accessed social welfare system, our freedom of speech and freedom of choice, our relative absence of corruption, and our geographic distance from major world conflicts are values which I am sure we all appreciate but sadly tend to overlook at time.

As the Hippies used to say "Just be cool man!"

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ONLY ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS CAN YOU POST A RECIPE FOR CAKE AND GET INTO HEATED ARGUMENTS:



The World Needs to Celebrate These Inspiring People:



The second officer on the Titanic stayed onboard until the end, and got trapped underwater until a boiler explosion blew him free. He survived by clinging to a capsized raft. Later, he volunteered in WWII and helped evacuate over 120 men from Dunkirk.

Terry Fox was a 21-year-old one-legged cancer patient who ran 3,339 miles across Canada in 143 days before dying to raise money and awareness for cancer research. The Terry Fox Foundation has raised over \$715 million as of today to support cancer research.



Some of The Strangest Creatures on Earth:

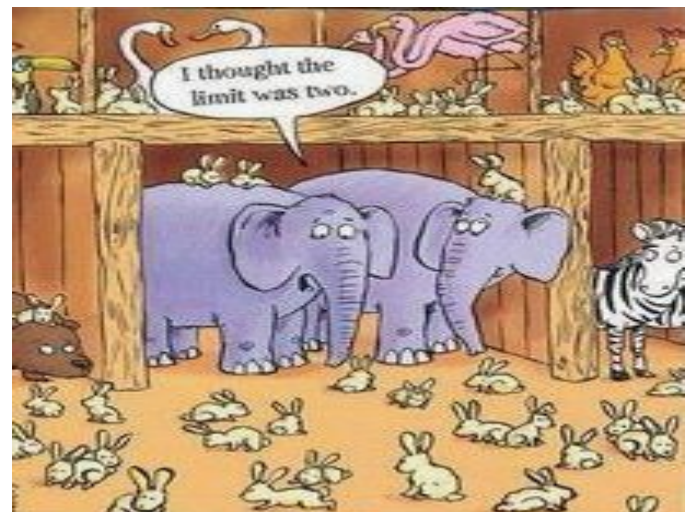


Do not mess with a 'Hook Ant'. They are a large ant with three sets of shark hooks coming out of their backs. They can be found in the southern US, Central America and Africa



Barrel fish also known as Barreleyes and Spook Fish, are deep sea fish found in tropical waters. Their barrel eyes have a clear membrane and can be directed upwards to detect silhouettes of prey.

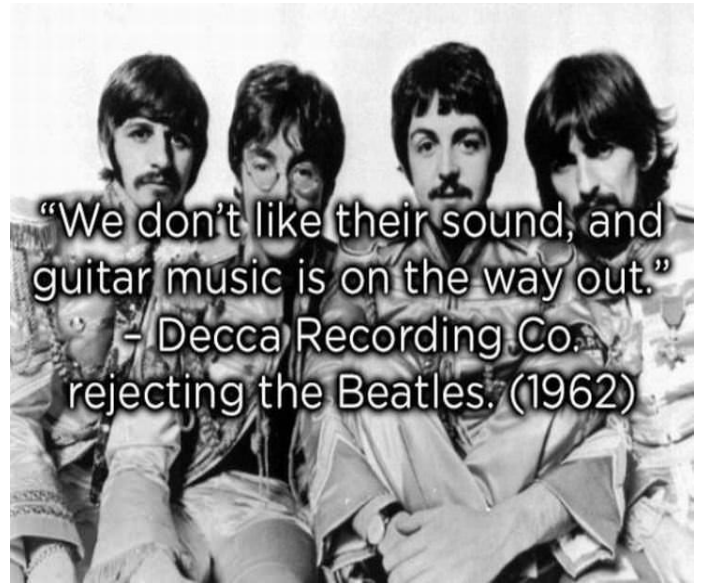
Life on The Ark:



Bold Predictions That Were Proven to Be False:

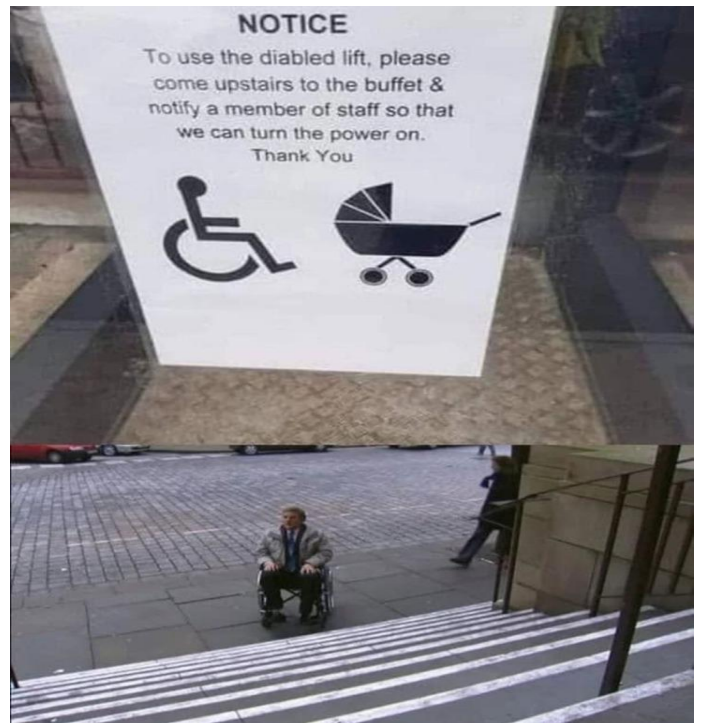


“Who the hell wants to hear actors talk?” - H.M. Warner, co-founder of Warner Bros. (1927)



“We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out.” - Decca Recording Co. rejecting the Beatles. (1962)

Funny Perhaps But Ridiculous Sign Fails:



The Winner of The Most Hilarious Picture of 2024:



Grandma and Grandad waiting for each other at the mall

The 26th of January is officially the national day of Australia and marks the arrival of the First Fleet of British ships and the raising of the Union flag at Sydney Cove. The fleet included six ships transporting around 1,000 convicts on a historic voyage to establish the first European settlement and penal colony in Australia.

The leader of the expedition was Commodore Arthur Phillip who had the power to make land grants and create legislation. Despite the relief of having reached their destination, they soon realised that Botany Bay was not as suitable a location as they had been led to believe. It was too shallow to allow to anchor close to the shore and the bay had little fresh water and poor quality soil. The equipment they had with them was also unsuitable to cut down the large trees in the area. As a result they moved further north and finally settled at Port Jackson which had more favourable conditions especially fresh water and more fertile land.

The large increase in British criminals during the Industrial Revolution was largely due to economic hardship and unemployment. The invention of machinery replaced many jobs traditionally undertaken by both men and women. The prisons filled up and were soon overflowing. Transportation was introduced to solve the problem with 60,000 criminals being taken to British colonies in North America.



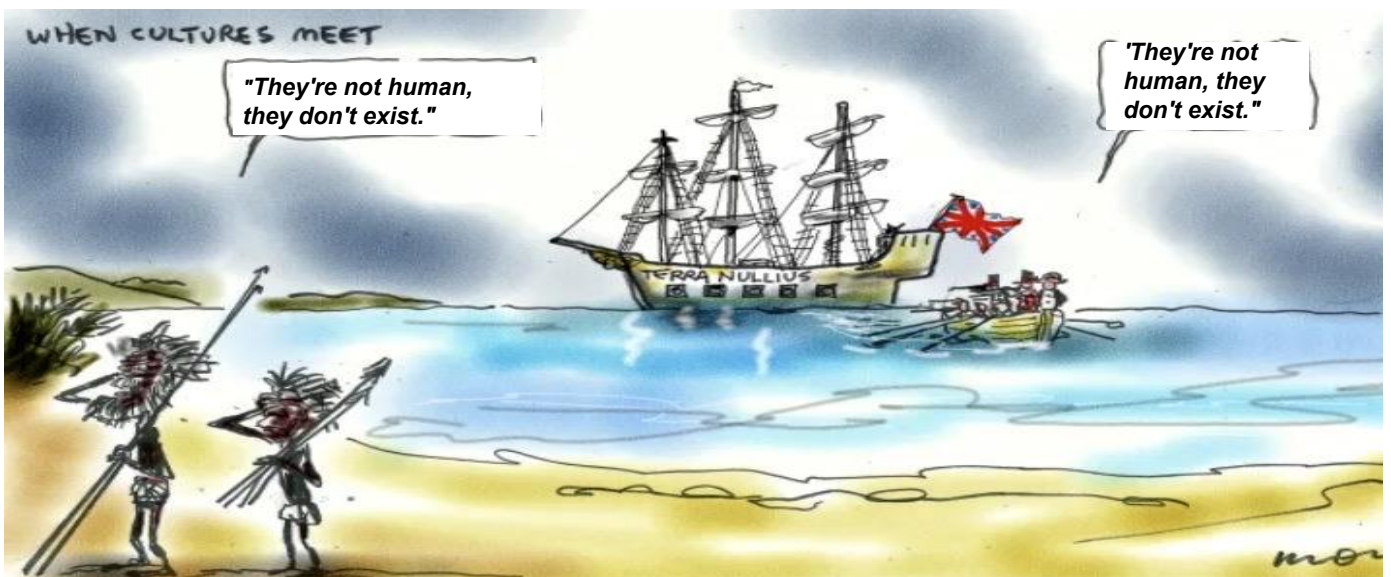
Commodore Arthur Phillip 1738-1814

Those who were taken to Australia had committed a range of crimes including theft, assault, robbery and fraud. Their sentences ranged from seven to fourteen years or even life despite many crimes being of a not-so-serious nature. Many did not survive the journey because of the appalling conditions and nearly 2000 convicts died during transportation.

The plan was to settle in Australia and begin creating large areas for agricultural production but this was hindered by a lack of skilled labour and insufficient livestock. All convicts suffered hard labour which consisted of any work deemed necessary for the settlement. They sustained sweltering hot conditions with little food to sustain them with the only reward being tobacco for a job well done.

Excessive punishment was common and those prisoners who did not behave received lashings and long periods of solitary confinement. The transportation system reached its peak in the 1830s with the last convict ship to arrive in Western Australia on 10 January 1868. The system of transportation contributed to thousands of lives suffering great hardship with the label of criminal and social stigma lasting most of their lives.

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Iconic Photos Revealing Unique Moments in History:



Making the statue of Liberty -

The statue was modelled after The Roman goddess Libertas, who symbolized freedom and the struggle against tyranny. The statue's arrival in New York harbour in 1886 was a momentous occasion, and it quickly became an iconic symbol of America's commitment to freedom and equality for all. The statue weighed over two hundred tons.



Hand manufacturing world globes -

Today globe manufacturing has become a lot more efficient with machines taking over many of the tasks that were done by hand. This has made the process faster but some say it lacks the charm and personality that some of the hand-made product has..

Lens Over New Zealand:

Sometimes we forget the beauty of our own country



A view from the Remarkables looking down on Queenstown



The beauty of the Coromandel

Such is Life!



"My wife left me... now I load the dishwasher any way I want to!"



No caption required!

The First Supermodel in History:



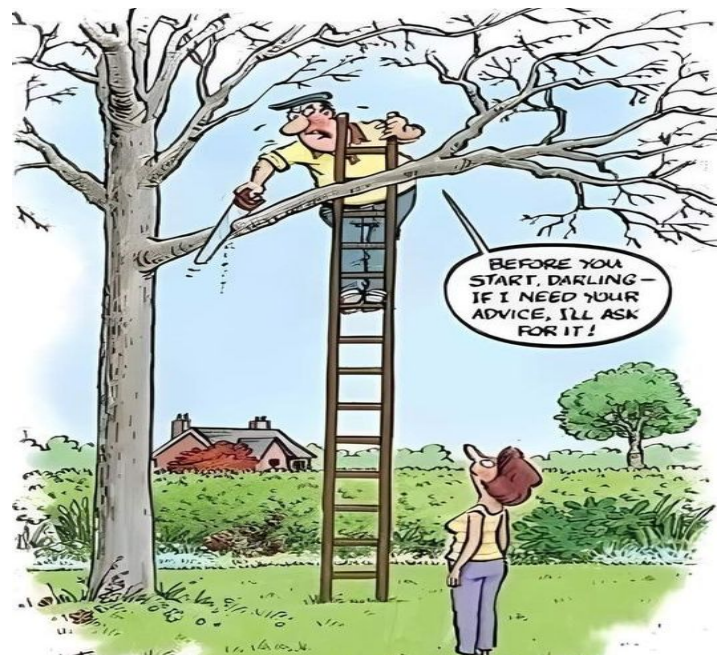
Audrey Munson is considered to be the first supermodel in history. At the height of her career, she was so famous she was nicknamed Miss Manhattan and Venus of Washington Square. Audrey led a long life (she died in 1996 at the age of 104!) but unfortunately not a happy one. She was born in Rochester in 1891 and her parents divorced when she was eight years old.

Audrey's modelling career began in her teenage years when the sculptor, Isidore Kanti noticed her beauty and asked if she would be willing to pose for him. Both Audrey and her mother were reluctant but eventually agreed as they needed the money. She went on to pose for many more sculptures, paintings and photographs and even had a short stint in Hollywood.

Her mental health declined due to the controversy around her work and the criticism that ensued. She was even arrested once for nudity. In addition she became stressed by the frequent attentions of one of her many admirers. Walter Wilkins, a 65 year physician and the owner of the house that Audrey and her mother were renting, murdered his wife in the hope that Audrey would then agree to marry him. He was sentenced to death but committed suicide before the date of his execution.

Audrey fled to Canada but she never recovered from the incident. In 1931 when she was 39, Audrey's mother had her committed to a psychiatric hospital where she stayed for the rest of her life. In 2016, a book was published about her life titled 'American Venus- An Extraordinary Life'.

Men at Work:



Quotable Quote:

"It is the working man who is the happy man.
It is the idle man who is the miserable man."

- Benjamin Franklin

Two of The Oldest Trees in The World:



Bristlecone Pine (over 5,000 years old) -
Bristlecone Pines are the oldest living organisms of any known species. They can be found in the arid regions of Utah, California and Nevada where they grow in scattered groves at high altitude. They are long-lived and highly resilient to harsh weather and poor soils. Many are shaped by the wind and snow.

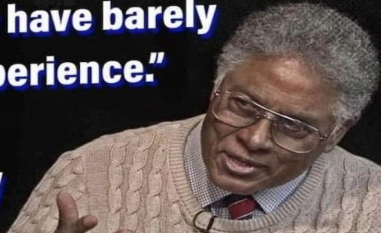


Olive Tree (over 3,000 years old) -
The olive branch has long been associated with peace. This tree at Ano Vouves in Crete has been declared a Natural Monument of great importance. It has a trunk circumference of 12.5 metres and a diameter of 4.6 metres. The olives it produces are highly sought after.

The Observations of Thomas Sowell:

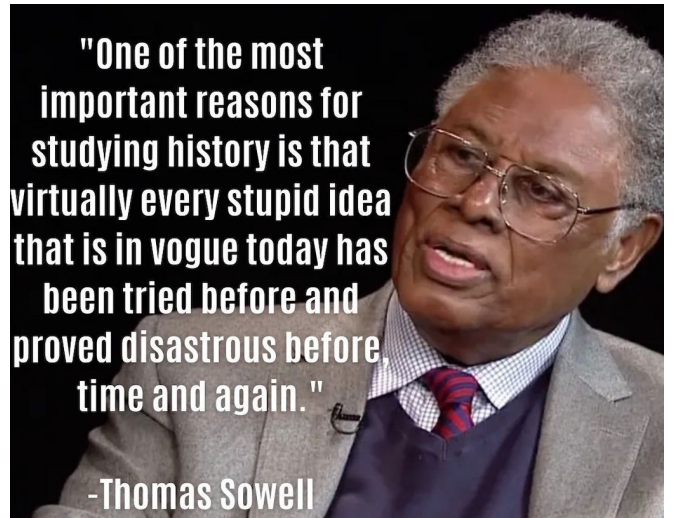
"One of the many disservices done to young people by our schools and colleges is giving them the puffed up notion that they are in a position to pass sweeping judgments on a world that they have barely begun to experience."

~Thomas Sowell

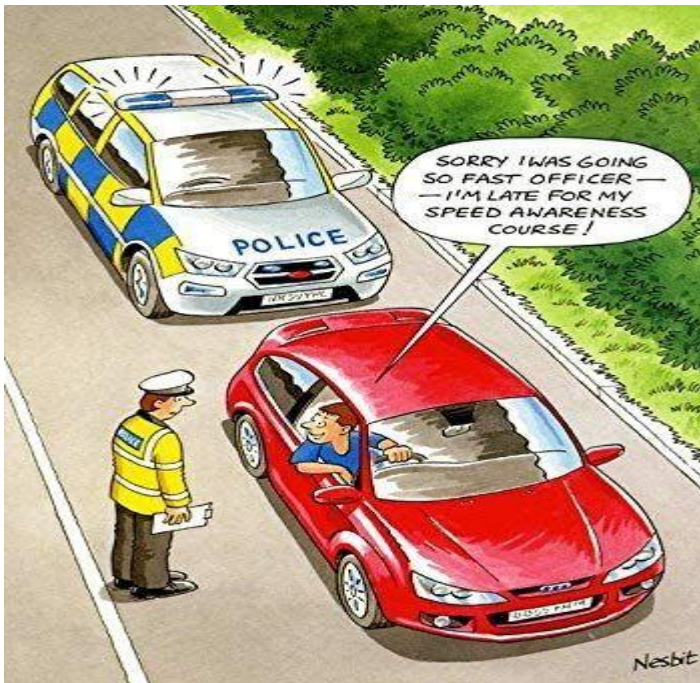


"One of the most important reasons for studying history is that virtually every stupid idea that is in vogue today has been tried before and proved disastrous before, time and again."

-Thomas Sowell



The Joys of Traffic Enforcement:



"No kidding, it really said stop? Sorry, Officer, I don't speak sign language."

The State of the Nation?

Oh, what a bloody mess we're in
and here's the reason why.
One problem after another
and no one's willing to try.

To search for the right solutions
and pursue them whatever it takes.
Despite the slings and arrows
and inevitable political headaches.

It's easier to kick the can down the road
than demonstrate a willingness to act
holding your nerve is never easy,
when you're constantly being attacked.

Media bias intimidates
and politicians fear the mob,
The rabble signaling their virtue
who want them out of their job.

Yes, that job's never simple,
but the public has a right to expect more.
If they don't start delivering solutions,
quite soon they'll be out of the door.

- Roy Sutton

Is this New Zealand today?

CLIMATE CHANGE BANS

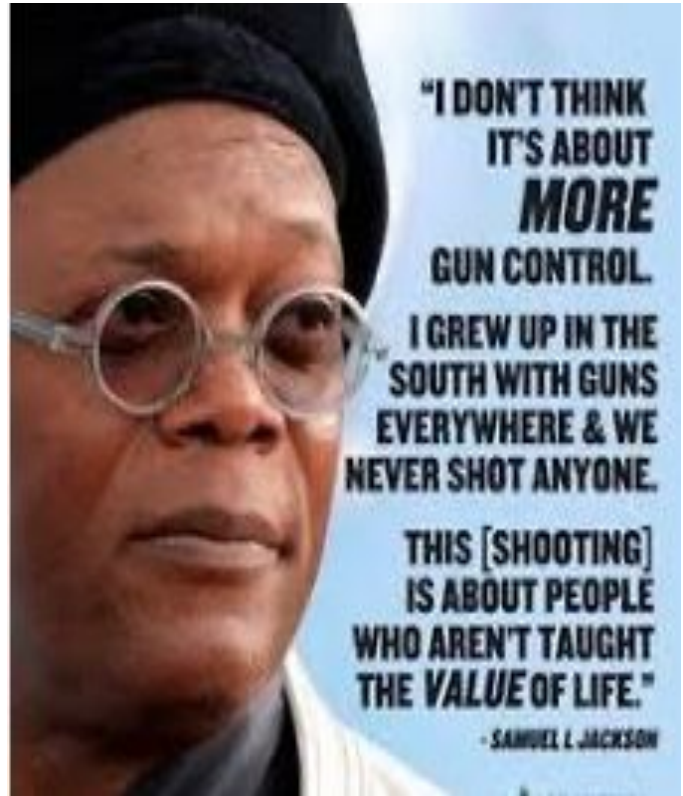
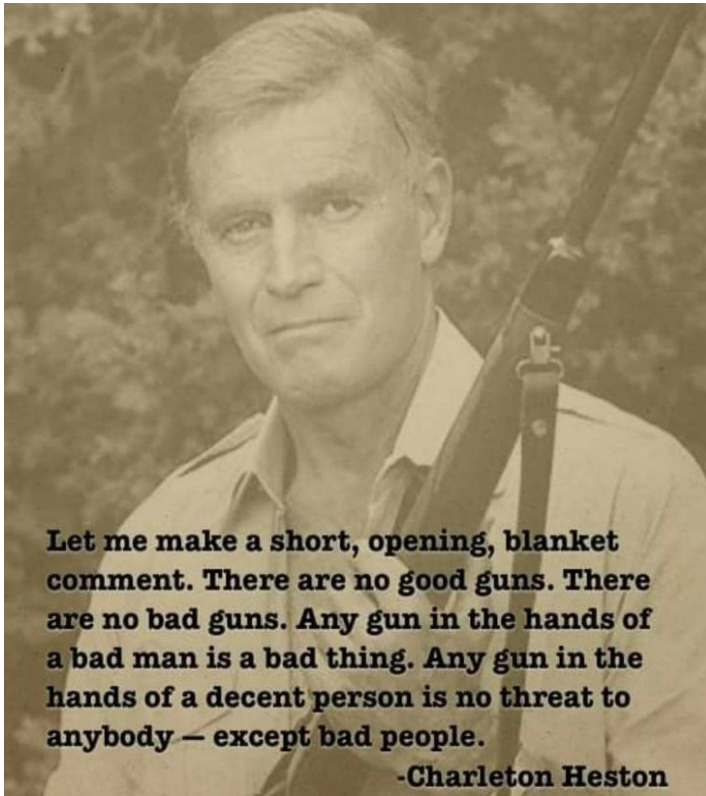


Ain't
Life
Grand:

"Last year I kicked gambling . . .
The odds are three to one that this
year will be a good one!"



Focus in America:



The Passage of Time:

Somthings never change!



Time always seems to be flying by, with no possibility of it slowing down. It's difficult to not feel that time is but a fleeting moment.

It seems that there is not enough time, or too much time is wasted, but never is it just the right amount of time.

We need to live the moment. Take advantage of time and own it.

Time isn't always on our side but we need to try and embrace the fleeting nature of it.

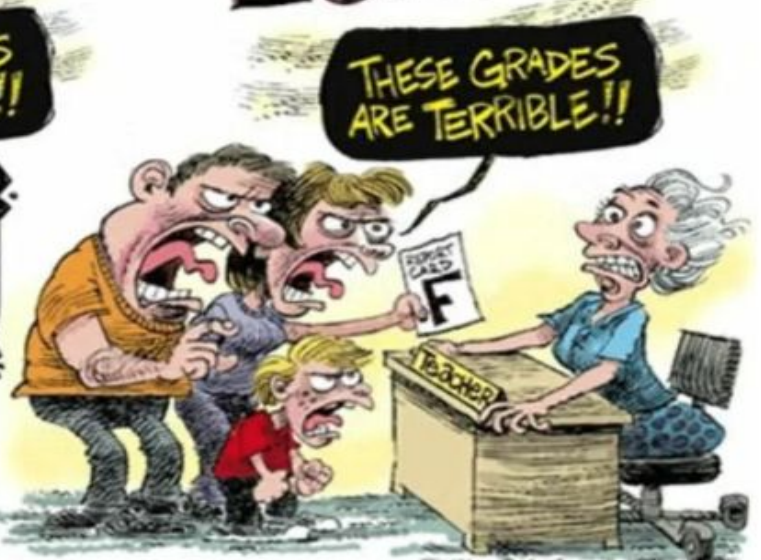
Despite all of this, somthings do not change as can be seen by the pictures on the left.



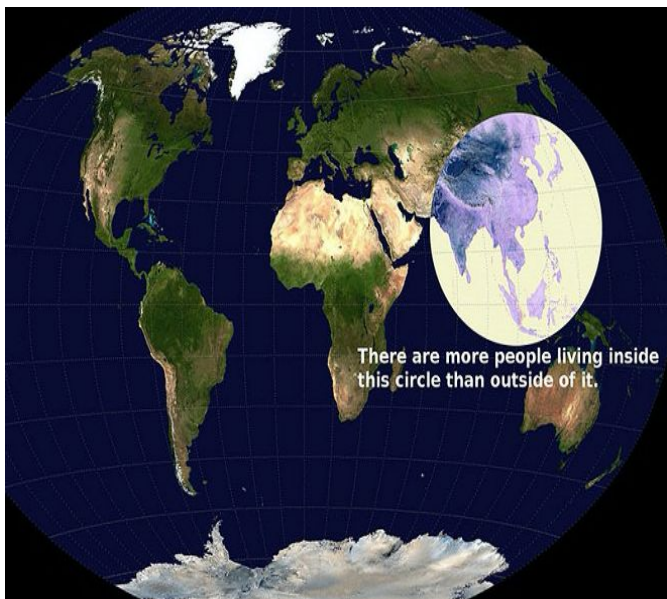
1960



2010

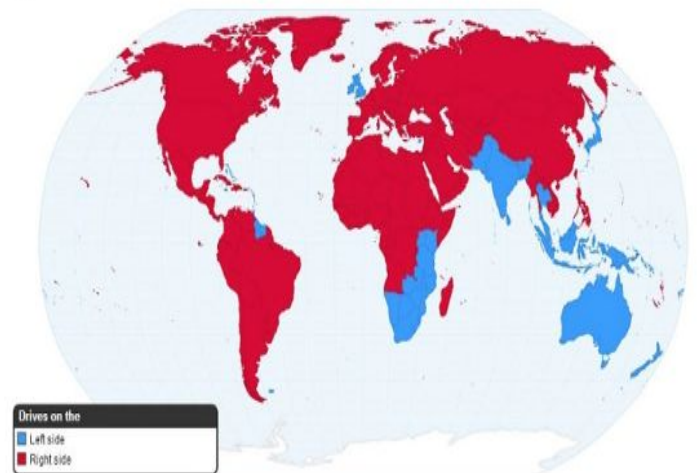


From Our World Fact File:



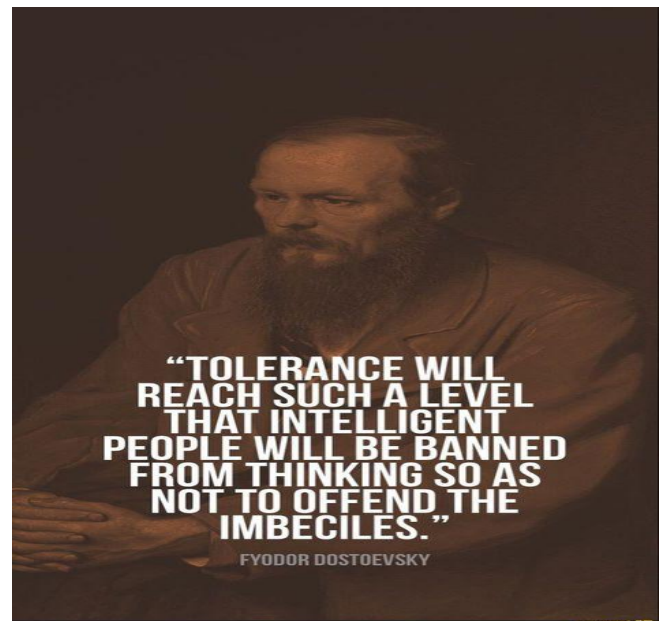
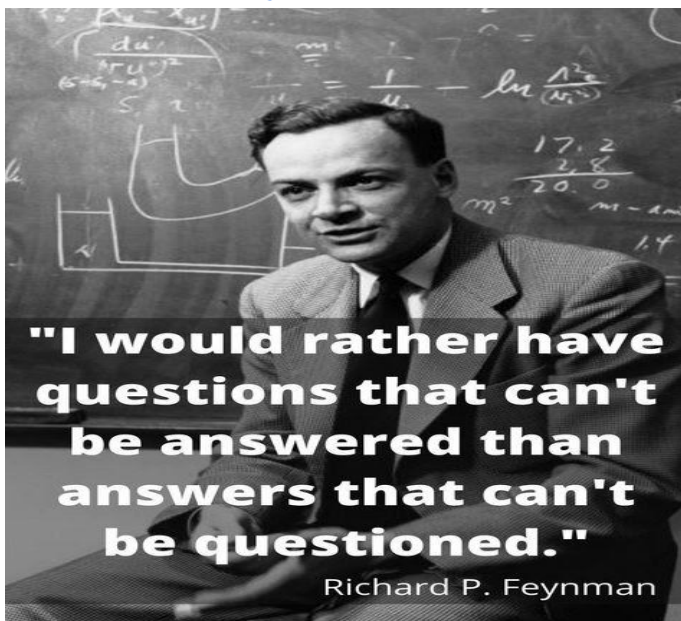
There are more people living inside the circle than outside of it

Some of the world drives on the left, and others on the right...



Blue = driving on the left side Red = driving on the right side

Food For Thought:



The Ferryman's Seat:

A little bit of history long forgotten

Located quite close to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, the Ferryman's seat in Southwark, London, is an ancient seat which allowed the Ferryman to rest between jobs.

It is actually an unremarkable chunk of flint stone built into the side of a Greek restaurant. However, what it lacks in aesthetics it more than makes up for in both charm and history.

No one knows exactly how old the seat is, but what we do know is that it was used as a resting place for the Ferryman who once operated a water taxi service across to the north side of the Thames and back.

During the mid-1700s this was a thriving trade when London Bridge was the only other means of carrying passengers and goods across the river.

In those days, the south side of the Thames was seen as a relatively lawless place filled with brothels, known then as "stews". These doubled up as steam baths, bear baiting rings and theatres. In fact the seat in question is actually on a street called "Bear Gardens" named after the last bear baiting pit in London.



It's not hard to imagine what drudgery these ferryman used to go through, dealing with umpteen rowdy patrons each and every day. Southwark was also a very unpleasant place at the time, full of open sewers and the pong of the nearby tanneries. The ferryman's was not what we would term comfortable with barely room for the trimmest of buttocks!

Almost Unbelievable Design Fails:



Now, Here's a Story For You:

What marriage teaches you

On their 50th wedding anniversary and during a celebratory dinner with friends, Susan was asked to give a brief account of the benefits of a marriage of such a long duration.

"Tell us Susan, just what is it you have learned from all those wonderful years living with your husband?"

Susan responded. "Well, I've learned that marriage is the best teacher of all. It teaches you loyalty, meekness, forbearance, self-restraint, forgiveness... and a great many other qualities you wouldn't have needed if you'd stayed single!"



THE MODERN SCHOOL TEACHER



I'm still going with our textbook I don't care what Wikipedia says!"

Just a Teacher...

I heard you say the other day,
 "Oh, you're **just** a teacher anyway.
 You laugh and play your day away.
 You're free at 3, have your summers off."
 You snickered softly and even scoffed.

I'm sad to say, that you just don't see,
 What being a teacher means to me.
 Sure, I laugh and play my day away...
 Because learning is fun and that's **just** my way.
 If I were free at 3 and had my summers off,
 I'd too snicker softly and even scoff...
 Unfortunately my paycheck does, but I do not.

But you see Good Sir, Ma'am, Madam or Miss
 Being **just** a teacher is much more than this.

I **just** teach your child to read and write,
 To **just** explore and question,
 To **just** think and be bright.
 I **just** dry their tears when they're having a bad day.
 I'm **just** there for them in each and every way.

Your most precious asset **just** deserves a lot.
 And being **just** a teacher, I am not.
 I dare you to **just** take a closer look.
 For being **just** a teacher doesn't come in a book.
 It comes from the heart and it's a passion you see.
 So, being **JUST** a teacher is fine by me!

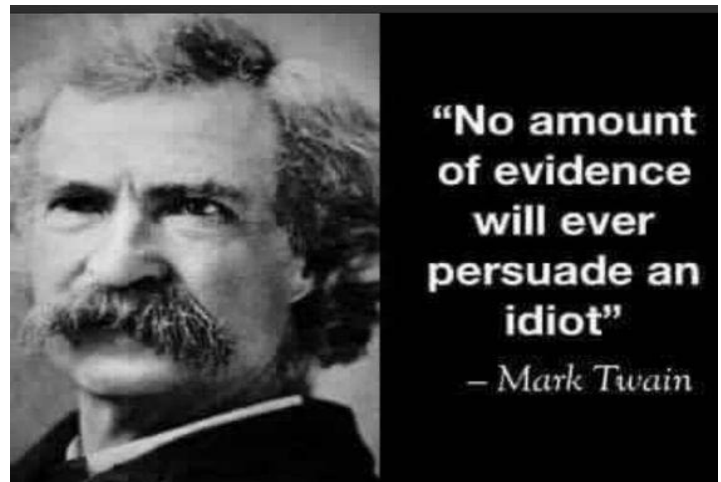
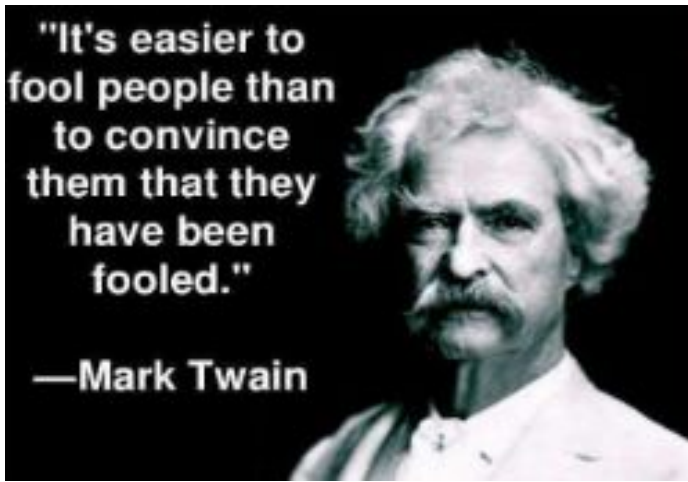


"You can take a student' away, but you're supposed to give it back after class, not sell it on Trade Me."



"Does Hip Hop count as a second language?"

The Memorable Words of Mark Twain:



Infamous Historical Crimes:



The assassination of John F. Kennedy is probably one of the most well-known and talked about crimes in history. The official answer to who shot Kennedy on November 22 1963 is Lee Harvey Oswald. Oswald allegedly fired six lethal shots fatally wounding President Kennedy. Oswald was arrested two hours later and was assassinated himself later by Jack Ruby while being escorted to court. Ruby claimed that grief and rage were the motivations for his actions. The assassination of President Kennedy was life-altering for many people. Apart from changing the course of the war in Vietnam, it turned John and Jackie Kennedy into figures of world-wide attention and opened the door to one of the biggest conspiracy theories in history.

Animal Antics:



The bombing at the 1996 Olympic Games - The summer Olympics in Atlanta U.S.A. were disrupted on July 27 due to a report that a bomb was about to go off in the Continental Olympic Park. The police began evacuating the venue, but unfortunately the bomb exploded earlier than expected. It killed a cameraman and a mother who had brought her daughter to see the free concert at the park. More than 100 people were injured. Within a few days, Richard Jewell, a security guard who had found the backpack containing the bomb was investigated as a suspect but was later cleared on any wrongdoing. The true culprit was not identified until two years after the incident in 1998.



When Nature is Left Alone:

When left undisturbed, nature will reclaim anything



An abandoned ship in Australia -

The S.S. Ayrfield, built in 1911 in the UK was decommissioned in 1972 in Homebush, Bay, Sydney. Since then nature has reclaimed it and a small forest of Mangroves has sprouted from its bowels..



Automobile graveyard, Chatillon, Belgium -

It is claimed that these cars were left here by U.S. soldiers at the end of WWII. They planned to return but never did. The cars have since been removed for environmental reasons.

From Our World Fact File:



Contrary to common misconception, the sun isn't actually yellow. The sun is white and it is the earth's atmosphere that makes it appear yellow. This is what astronauts have confirmed and photographed from space. The sun can appear to be yellow, orange or even red at sunrise or sunset due to the colours the earth's atmosphere is letting through.



Red and yellow have been determined to be the most appetizing colours. Most fast food chains take advantage of this by presenting food such as chips with a yellow glow and packaging and even sauce to complete the combination. This is also reflected in the advertising of McDonalds and Burger King just to name a few. This is known worldwide as the "'ketchup and mustard theory'.

As Kids See It:



The Life And Times of Alfred Hitchcock:

Renown director of suspense films

Alfred Joseph Hitchcock was born in Leytonstone, Essex, England. His parents wer half English and half Irish ancestry. He was raised a strict Catholic and first entered the film industry in 1919 where he obtained job as a title card designer He had his first break as a director when he was hired to complete the film 'Always Tell Your Wife' after the original director fell ill.

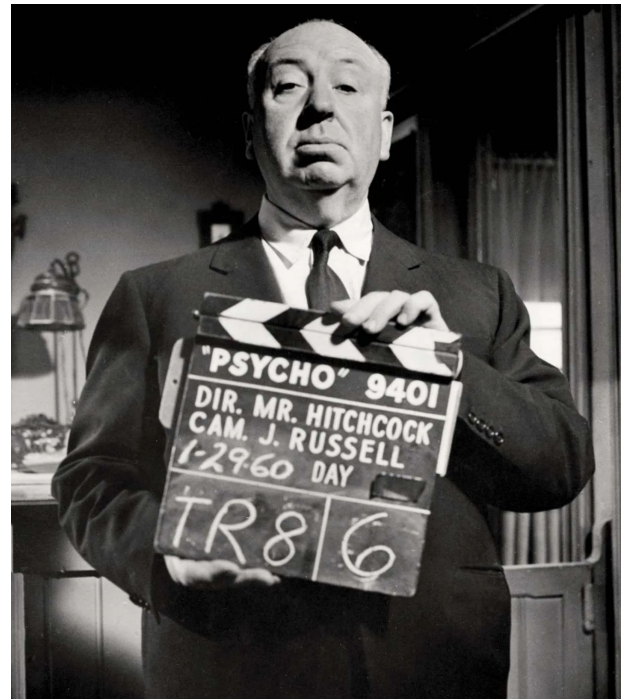
He directed 'Pleasure Garden' in 1925, and his first trademark film, 'The Lodger', a story of the London fog in 1927. In the same year he married Alma Reville and they had one child named Patricia.

He went on to make a number of films in Britain such as 'The Lady Vanishes' (1938) and 'Jamaica Inn' (1939).

As his fame grew, he became in demand as a director for movies like 'Psycho' (1960) and 'Family Plot' (1976) and the widely acclaimed 'Frenzy' (1972).

While critics were uncertain what to make of 'Psycho', moviegoers loved it. The famous shower scene is still referred to today as being a classic. The controversy which followed the film helped it become the year's second highest gross making and Hitchcock received an Academy Award nomination for best Director.

His suspenseful films and television programmes continued to with immense popularity and critical acclaim over his long and productive career. His films often stood out by Hitchcock's macabre sense of humour and his unmistakable negative view of the human condition.



Sir Alfred Hitchcock 1899-1890



Hitchcock on the set of 'The Birds' (1963)



Alfred Hitchcock is widely regarded as one of the most influential figures in the history of cinema. In a career spanning six decades he directed over 50 feature films many of which are still widely watched and studied.

He died at the age of 80 in 1990 as a result of liver and heart complications.

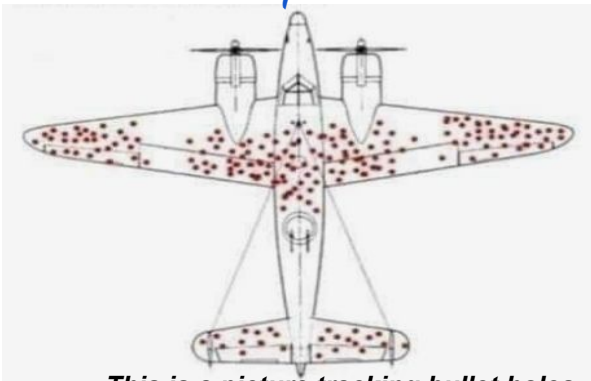


Incredible Facts About The Pantheon in Rome: The iconic structure still fascinates

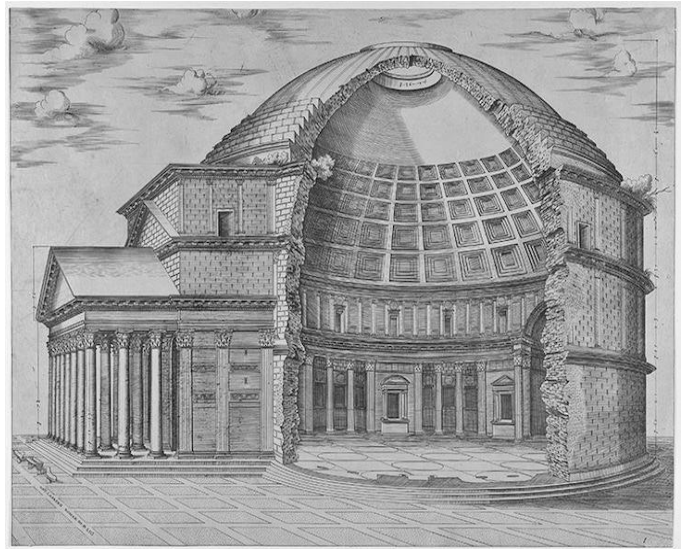


For a long time, scholars were unsure about the exact origins of the Pantheon. It is now known that the iconic structure was built around 126AD. The building bears an inscription reading. "Marcus Agrippa the son of Lucius, three time consul, made this." Marcus was the son-in-law of Emperor Augustus who ruled from 27 BC to 14 AD. The Pantheon tourists flock to today is not the original one. The first Pantheon was destroyed by fire in 80 AD and the second one also destroyed by fire in 110 AD. The present day structure was built during the reign of Emperor Hadrian but the reason for the inscription remains unclear.

The Survivorship Bias:



This is a picture tracking bullet holes on Allied planes encountered by German anti-aircraft fire in WW2



The building is not representative of Roman architecture and was unique at the time of its construction. The combination of a domed temple with a classic portico (columned porch) and a traditional frontage was relatively rare at the time in a building of such magnitude.

The dome in particular, is considered a marvel of ancient engineering. It is the largest concrete dome in the world that has no supporting structure. The hole at the top distributes the force of the dome and is the only source of natural light in the interior of the Pantheon.

Allied planes in WW2 received a considerable number of bullet holes from German anti-aircraft fire. When the planes returned to base, at first the military wanted to reinforce those areas where the most damage was observed. This was until Hungarian-born mathematician, Abraham Wald pointed out that it was the damage on the planes that enabled them to make it home. The parts that should be reinforced are those without dots (refer left), indicating damage because those are the places where the planes won't survive when hit. This phenomenon is called survivorship bias, a logic error where you focus on things that survived instead of things that didn't.

Thoughts About Winning Lotto:



What Do We Know About The Generation Gap?

We frequently hear terms describing the generations but who names them and what do they mean? There is no official group in charge of naming generations. But theorists Neil Howe and William Strauss were among the first to name the different generations in their 1991 book "Generations" and they are credited with naming the Millennials.



Every country has their own cycles and social moods, but they often have similar types and characteristics. as we do In New Zealand. The 'Baby Boomers' refer to those born between 1946 and 1964 and the Millennials are those born between 1981 and 1996.

Generation Z (Gen Z) are those born between 1997 and 2012. Gen Alpha currently make up our youngest generation and are those born between 2010 and 2024. Named after 'Alpha' (the first letter of the Greek alphabet), Generation Alpha is the first to be born entirely in the 21st century and the third millennium.

Most members of Generation Alpha are the children of millennials.

It is important to realise that all dates are approximate and there is some overlap because there are no standard definitions for when a generation begins and ends.



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Which Generation are You?

Generation Name	Births Start	Births End	Youngest Age Today*	Oldest Age Today*
The Lost Generation The Generation of 1914	1890	1915	109	134
The Interbellum Generation	1901	1913	111	123
The Greatest Generation	1910	1924	100	114
The Silent Generation	1925	1945	79	99
Baby Boomer Generation	1946	1964	60	78
Generation X (Baby Bust)	1965	1979	45	59
Xennials	1975	1985	39	49
Millennials Generation Y, Gen Next	1980	1994	30	44
iGen / Gen Z	1995	2012	12	29
Gen Alpha	2013	2025	1	11

(*age if still alive today)

Signs of Maturity:

Agony Aunt; a person, usually a woman, who gives advice to people with personal problems, especially in a regular magazine or newspaper article.

Dear Auntie

My husband and I are blessed with two teenage sons who are excellent students, personable, well mannered and athletic.

Both have held responsible paid positions in their younger years. They know they are loved unconditionally.

We have had the same struggles that all parents have with the desire for teenage freedom.

I remember back in the sixties, you ran a column in which you explained the definition of "maturity.

Is there any chance you could run that column again?

Yours sincerely
Mary-Ann Booth

Dear Mary-Ann

With pleasure. Here it is and thanks for asking.

Maturity is the ability to control anger and settle differences without violence.

Maturity is patience. It is the willingness to pass up immediate pleasure in the satisfaction of saying, "I told you so."

Maturity is the ability to make a decision and stand by it. The immature spend their lives exploring endless possibilities and then do nothing.

Maturity mean dependability, keeping one's word and coming through in a crisis.

The immature are masters of the alibi. They are confused and conflicted.

Their lives are a maze of broken promises, former friends, unfinished business and good intentions that somehow never materialise.

Maturity is the art of living in peace with what we cannot change, the courage to change what should be changed and the wisdom to know the difference.

Yours sincerely
Ann Landers

(Taken from the Toronto Star, November, 1997)



"I am putting you on Agony Aunt biotics'."



"Get me some valium please Miss Braum - I've just been stranded in the lift with the Agony Aunt!"



"Your boyfriend doesn't get along with your cat? Dump him!"



New Zealand Vigilanties!