



## Notes'n'News



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February derives its name from the Latin "Februa" signifying the purification. Several feast days, namely that of Pope Gregory II. On the 11<sup>th</sup>,

Lupercalis, on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the two St Valentines of the third century, both celebrated on the 14<sup>th</sup> gradually became merged to become Valentines Day on the 14<sup>th</sup> to celebrate lovers. The giving of flowers and other gifts traditionally marks the day.

Here in the U.S. Presidents Day, celebrated on February 20<sup>th</sup>, combines the birthdays of President Lincoln (12<sup>th</sup>) and President Washington (22<sup>nd</sup>) and Flag Day is celebrated on February 24<sup>th</sup> by the re-affirming of the pledge of allegiance.

Less *is* More...

Well, yes you've guessed it - I have been sitting by the swimming pool here, with nothing better to do than play my calculator while the ice cools my Daiquiri.

If the volume of the ice is twice the volume of the liquor, and the liquor is three times hotter than the ice, how long before I can sip a cold drink?

Of course this depends upon several factors, one of them being whether the glass is insulated from the air around it or sitting in an ice bucket, or I'm holding it in my hand. Now although I'm quite used to juggling several tasks at once, holding a glass of precious liquid and operating a calculator is not among them.

Hence I am no nearer an answer. Who cares anyway – after a few (Hic!) Daiquiris ... well...!

However using that same calculator I have proved that Less is more....

Take for instance our membership fee - \$100.00 per person. Now multiplying that by the supposed number of members nationwide – 310,000 will give us a total income to National H.Q. of 31 MILLION dollars. – And they still want more, so the fee is bound to increase again next year, right?

Still fewer members will be able to afford the increased fee and will leave the movement. So, the increase will need to be disproportionately high in order to maintain the status quo – namely the 31 Million dollars, thus putting membership out of reach of even more current members. **BUT**... If the membership fee was *reduced*... more members would stay, and more would join, swelling the coffers of the almighty gods and keep them happy. Let's take a look at some figures.

Current figures... 310,000 members @ \$100 = 31,000,000. (Enough to buy 774 up-market cars or pay 387 staff a salary of \$80,000 year or buy 103 luxury homes with change.)

However if the fee was halved – to \$50 a head we could increase our present membership by 50% so the income would be \$23,250,000 a shortfall of \$7,750,000 which would never do. We would need to recruit a bit harder.

But if they decreased the fee to \$25 we could easily increase our membership fourfold. Now, H.Q. would never go to that extreme, but if they did we could easily raise our membership to 1,240,000 giving a total income of \$31,000,000 – The Status Quo. But if they charged just \$5 more they would be able to bank an **extra** \$5,200,000 for a rainy day. **Plus** we would have more youth to work with, more adult leaders – leading to better programs – leading to more youth – putting even more money in the coffers. So there it is, proof that **less is more**. My Daiquiri is warming up again so I'll just drown my sorrows over too high a membership fee - in another cold one. Cheer's

S.M.S. (shortened form of "Short Messaging Service.")

Browsing (wasting more time) at my computer recently, I really thought I'd had one over the eight when this story really captured my interest -- it amazes me how people will adapt to their technology, rather than make their technology adapt to *them*. It's certainly nothing new: the keyboard on the computer you're sitting at right now probably has a "Qwerty" layout for the keys. That key arrangement is *anti-ergonomic* -- it was *specifically designed* to slow down typing because of the mechanical limitations of typewriters in the 1870s. Problem with the keys jamming? Anti-engineer the keyboard to slow people down, don't fix the technology to keep it from jamming! (Which, of course, they *did* do long ago -- but we're still stuck with Qwerty even though a far superior alternative has been available for decades!)

Similarly, when people have a problem communicating with "Short Message Service" on their cell phones, the solution is to alter (even destroy) the language, rather than make SMS better: Take the following message for instance...

## **Sv Me Fm Hl!** (Save me from hell!)

2 BZ 4 church? (Too busy for church?) No problem: thanks to cell phone "Short Message Service", church can come to you. To help, a religious group has "translated" the Lord's Prayer into SMS shorthand. "Our Father, who art in heaven" is delivered as "dad@hvn" while "hallowed be thy name" becomes "urpsphl." The entire prayer fits the SMS limit of 160 characters -- with 3 to spare. The group's spokesman says the prayer is "an experimental form of virtual worship." (London Times) ...*Which is pretty much what all prayer is, if you think about it.*

The full translation is fairly interesting:

<b>Original (sort of ! the true original was in Aramaic)</b>	<b>SMS Version</b>	<b>English Translation</b>
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.	dad@hvn, urpsphl. we want wot u want &urth2b like hvn. giv us food &4giv r sins lyk we 4giv uvaz. don't test us! save us! bcos we kno ur boss ur tuf &ur cool 4 eva! ok?	Dad at heaven, you're special. We want what you want and Earth to be like heaven. Give us food and forgive our sins like we forgive others. Don't test us! Save us! because we know you're boss, you're tough, and you're cool forever! OK?

(The SMS translation was written by Matthew Campbell, a history student at York University. Its translation back to English was written by Randy Cassingham. The story can be found at [www.thisistrue.com](http://www.thisistrue.com) but you will have to subscribe to the site.)

## This Months Campfire collection...

### Cheer's, Yells & applause

**Match Applause...** Pretend to light a match on the seat of your pants, say Yeeoooooooww!!

**Hankey approval...** Drop hankey, applause only while hanky is in the air

**Supersonic...** Silently wave arms, open mouth as if cheering... wait several moments, then yell loudly...

**Round of applause...** Clap in a circle

**Give a big hand...** Hold up hand

**Ketchup bottle...** slap back of other hand

**politician applause...** pat your self on the back

**Seal of approval...** put elbows together, clap, and Arf Arf Arf

**Cheese applause...** Grate, grate, grate...GRRRREAT!

**Leaky tire applause...** HISS...

**Cookie...** Crummy, crummy, crummy... Oh CRUMBS!

**Ghost applause...** Boo...

**Arizona applause...** Yucca, yucca, yucca...

**Oil refinery applause...** Crude, crude, crude...

**Good Turn Cheer...** Stand up, run around in a circle, and sit back down.

**Rattlesnake Applause...** Hisssssssss...

**Canned Laughter...** Laugh when lid is removed from a can, and stop when lid is closed.

**Flea Clap...** Applaud by clicking the nails of the thumb and finger together.  
**Doctor...** Open mouth, stick out tongue, say Ahhhhhhhhh!  
**Hand and Foot...** Applaud with striking hand on foot.  
**Mosquito...** Rapidly slap face, neck, shoulders.  
**Slow Motion Applause...** Cheer and applaud in slow motion.  
**The Uncoordinated Applause...** Clap hands, but miss completely.

## Two songs to learn

### SHE SAT ON A HILLSIDE

1. She sat on a hillside and strummed her guitar, strummed her guitar, strummed her guitar.  
She sat on a hillside and strummed her guitar, strummed her gui-ta-a-a-ar.
2. He sat down beside her and smoked his cigar...(Repeat as above)
3. He said that he loved her but, oh! How he lied... (Repeat as above)
4. They were to be married but somehow she died... (Repeat as above)
5. He went to her funeral but just for the ride... (repeat as above)
6. He went to her grave site and laughed 'til he cried... (repeat as above)
7. The grave stone fell over and squish-squash he died... (repeat as above)
8. She went up to heaven and fluttered and flied... (repeat as above)
9. He went down below and sizzled and fried... (repeat as above)
10. The moral of this song is: don't tell a lie... D-o-n-'t t-e-l-l a L-i-e...

### I MET A BEAR

[Tune: Sipping Cider through a Straw]

1. The other day, [echo] I met a bear, [echo] Out in the woods, [echo] away out there. [Point.] [echo] (continue to echo throughout)
2. He looked at me, I looked at him, He sized up me, I sized up him.
3. He says to me, "Why don't you run?" "Cause I can see, you have no gun."
4. I says to him, "That's a good idea." "Now legs get going, get me out of here!"
5. I began to run, away from there, But right behind me was that bear.
6. And on the path ahead of me, I saw a tree, Oh glory be.
7. The lowest branch was ten feet up, I'd have to jump and trust to luck.
8. And so I jumped into the air, But I missed that branch away up there.
9. Now don't you fret, and don't you frown, I caught that branch on the way back down.
10. That's all there is, there ain't no more, Unless I meet that bear once more.

### Skit #1

The Check-up. Cast: Doctor and patient.

Doctor examines the patient then scribbles out a prescription:

"Take one of these yellow pills every morning with two glasses of water.  
Take one of these purple pills every noon with two glasses of water, and  
Take one of the red pills every evening with two glasses of water"

Patient: "Holy Cow, Doc, give it to me straight. What's wrong with me?"

Doctor: "Your dehydrated."

### Skit #2

The Bacon Tree. (Cast: The General, The sergeant, Three Squadies)

One of the characters sets the scene. The army is bivouacked somewhere in the wilds of Canada.

The General instructs the Sergeant to send a squadie out to reconnoiter the forest. The scout is sooner out of sight when he screams, staggers back on stage, announces, "Sergeant, it's a bacon tree." And dies.

Unable to understand the message, the general and the sergeant send out another Squadie. The scene repeats until all scouts are dead.

Finally the sergeant goes out himself. Again, a scream. The sergeant mortally wounded, drags himself back on stage and declares "General, Its not a bacon tree at all, it's a Ham Bush.

### **The Legend of Lady Godiva...**

Away back in eleventh century Britain, Leofric, the earl of Marcia, was determined to raise taxes in the city of Coventry, to supplement his extravagant lifestyle. His wife, the very lovely Lady Godiva, became very upset when she heard of her husbands' plan, which would put many of the townsfolk below the poverty line. Secretly she met with the towns' elders and together they hatched a plot that would appeal to her husband's lascivious desires. When the time came, she would ride through the town naked on condition that at the appointed hour all of the townsfolk would hide behind locked doors so as not see her nakedness. Anyone who broke this rule would have his eyes put out. This was agreed by all.

On the appointed day, Lady Godiva approached her husband saying, "Look, the people cannot afford new taxes, if you will agree not make the raise, I will ride through the town without a stitch of clothing on my person, and not a single person will notice the display. The ruse worked. Leofric announced that he would not raise the taxes if Godiva could ride through the town Naked – but unnoticed by the townsfolk.

At two of the clock on the appointed day, Lady Godiva removed her clothes, including the hursac, a linen sack that hung from the forehead, used to keep the abundance of hair in check. Allowing her long tresses to cover her maidenhood, she rode through the town on her husbands white gelding.

Only one man dared to peep. He was Tom, the tailor who had crept to a window in order to thread a needle. However, Tom had his eyes put out as per the agreement, and has ever since been known as "Peeping Tom"

(From the 'hursac' or Hairsack, we now have the terms Haversack and Knapsack both meaning a small cotton bag worn over the shoulder(s) to carry essentials such as when hiking)

**Menu for Camp.** Not all food needs to be "hot" at camp, especially at lunchtime on a hot steamy day. **Try these.**

This month a delicious, easy recipe for One pot Garden Pasta Toss, Turkey and Ham Pine-berry Sandwiches, and a Zesty Fruit Punch.

Garden Pasta Toss.

3 cups uncooked bow-tie pasta. 3 quarts water, 1 cup broccoli flowerets, 2 small carrots finely sliced, 1, 14oz can artichoke hearts, quartered and drained. 1-cup cherry tomatoes halved. 4 green onions sliced. ¼teaspoon dried oregano, ¼ teaspoon dried basil, ½ cup Italian Parmesan dressing. Shredded Parmesan cheese (optional)

Method. Cook pasta in 3 quarts boiling water in a Dutch oven, about eight minutes. Add broccoli and carrots cook for six minutes more. Drain. Return pasta to Dutch oven stir artichokes and next four ingredients. Add dressing, tossing to coat. Cover and chill two hours. Sprinkle with shredded cheese if desired. Serve with half an apple, sliced, and celery sticks with cream cheese, and warmed slices of buttered French bread.

### Turkey, Ham and Pine-berry Sandwiches.

1, 3oz package light cream cheese, softened. 1/3<sup>rd</sup> Cup drained, crushed pineapple. 12 slices Fresh raisin bread. 6 slices Turkey Breast, 6 slices cooked Ham, 6 tablespoons Cranberry/Orange relish, drained. Mint leaves for garnish.

(Cran/Orange relish. Half can of whole cranberry sauce and One large Orange, pared and finely chopped. Discard excess orange juice, Mix thoroughly.)

Stir together cream cheese and pineapple. Spread two teaspoons cream cheese mixture on each bread slice. Top 6 bread slices with Turkey slices. Spread cran/orange relish over turkey and add Ham slices and remaining bread slices. Cut sandwiches in half cornerwise. Garnish with mint leaves or sprigs. Serve with chilled watermelon slices.

### Zesty Fruit Punch.

32 ounce bottle Fruit Punch. 6-oz can frozen limeade concentrate, partially thawed. 6oz can frozen Orange juice concentrate, partially thawed. 1 small jar maraschino cherries. Stir first three ingredients together and serve over crushed ice and maraschino cherries. Don't forget the straws.

**Natures Miracles...** Some program material to use or adapt for use in a number of badges.

Long before man invented the wheel, nature was busy producing many of the wonders we erroneously attribute to Man. Let's take a peek at a few of them...

**AIR CONDITIONING.** Modern technology cools many homes. But for thousands of years termites have built air-conditioned nests, and still do. Bearing in mind that these tiny creatures are totally blind, how can this be?

Millions of termite workers coordinate their efforts to build their nest inside a hollow mound. From the nest warm air rises up through this hollow mound and escapes through the porous sides. Tiny openings in the base of the mound allow cool, fresh air to enter and circulate around the nest. In hot weather cool water is drawn up from underground to assist in the cooling of the nest, evaporating out of the top portion of the mound.

**AIRPLANES.** The design of airplane wings has benefited over the years from the study of the wings of birds. The curvature of the bird's wings gives the lift needed to overcome the downward pull of gravity. But when the wing is tilted up too much, there is a danger of stalling. To avoid this, the bird has on the leading edges of its wings rows or flaps of feathers that pop up as wing tilt increases. These flaps maintain lift by keeping the main airstream from separating from the wing surface. At the tips of wings of both birds and

airplanes, eddies form and they produce drag. Birds minimize this in two ways. Some birds, swifts and albatross have long slender wings with small tips, and this design eliminates most of the eddies. Other birds like the big hawks and vultures, have broad wings that would make big eddies, but this is avoided when they spread out, like fingers, the pinions at the ends of their wings. This changes the blunt ends into several narrow strips the break up the eddies. Airplane wings however still fall far short of the engineering marvels found in the wings of birds.

**ANTIFREEZE.** Humans use glycol in car radiators as antifreeze to cool the engine. But certain microscopic plants use chemically similar glycerol to keep from freezing in Antarctic lakes. It is also found in insects that survive in temperatures of 4 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. There are fish that produce their own antifreeze, enabling them to survive in the frigid temperatures of the Antarctic Ocean. Some trees survive temperatures of 40 degrees below zero Fahrenheit because they contain "Very pure water," without dust or dirt particles upon which ice crystals can form.

**AQUALUNGS.** Man straps tanks of air to his back and can remain under water for an hour or so. Certain water beetles do it more simply and stay submerged far longer. They grab an air bubble and submerge. The bubble serves as an aqualung. It takes in carbon dioxide from the beetle and diffuses it into the water, and takes oxygen dissolved in the water for the beetle to use.

**COMPASSES.** About the 13<sup>th</sup> century C.E. men began using a magnetic needle floating in a bowl of water – a crude compass. But it was nothing new. Bacteria contain strings of magnetic particles just the right size to make a compass. These guide them to their preferred environments. Magnetite has been found in many other organisms – birds, bees, butterflies, dolphins, mollusks, and others. Experiments indicate that homing pigeons return home by sensing the earth's magnetic field. This is now also the accepted theory of the way migrating birds keep track of direction.

**DESALINATION.** Men build huge factories to remove salt from seawater. Mangrove trees have roots that suck up seawater, but filter it through membranes that remove the salt. Sea birds such as Gulls, Pelicans, Cormorants, Albatross and Petrels, drink seawater and by means of glands in their heads remove excess salt that gets into their blood, as do Penguins, Sea Turtles, and Sea Iguana's.

**And Finally...**

**Bumper Sticker's of the year...**

"If you can read this, thank a teacher – and since it's in English, thank a soldier!!"

"When we were young, we went skinny dipping – Now we just Chunky Dunk"

"Why is it that our children cannot read the bible in school – but criminals can - in prison?"

"Why do I have to swear on the bible in court – when the Ten Commandments cannot be displayed outside it!!"

