

“C’est La Vie!”



“Say What?”

Collected by

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This document is approximately 3,495 words long.

Additional humor is available on my personal website.

Unless otherwise noted, the sources of the items in this collection are unknown.

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caveat lector

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According to Baldy Sayings, these sentences were taken from letters received by a local welfare department on applications for support.

From Baldy Sayings
901 Arendell Street
Morehead City, NC 28557

1. I am forwarding my marriage certificate and six children. I have seven, but one which was baptised on a half sheet of paper.
2. I am writing the Welfare Department to say that my baby was born two years old. When do I get my money?
3. Mrs. Jones has not had any clothes for a year and has been visited by the clergy regularly.
4. I cannot get sick pay. I have six children. Can you tell me why?
5. I am glad to report that my husband who was missing is dead.
6. This is my ninth child. What are you going to do about it?
7. Please find for certain if my husband is dead. The man I am now living with can't eat or do "anything" until he knows for sure.
8. I am very annoyed to find you have branded my son illiterate. This is a dirty lie, as I was married a week before he was born.
9. In answer to your letter, I have given birth to a boy weighing ten pounds. I hope this is satisfactory.
10. I am forwarding my marriage certificate and three children, one of which is a mistake as you can see.
11. My husband got his project cut off two weeks ago and I haven't had any relief since. What are you going to do about it?
12. Unless I get my husband's money pretty soon I will be forced to lead an immortal life.
13. You have changed my little boy to a little girl. Will this make any difference.
14. I have no children yet as my husband is a truck driver and works day and night.
15. In accordance with your instructions, I have given birth to twins in the enclosed envelope.
16. I want my money as quick as I can get it. I've been in bed with the doctor for two weeks and he doesn't do me any good. If things do not improve, I will have to send for another doctor.

Drive carefully; 90% of the people in the world are caused by accidents.

The above is a public service announcement of this institution.

C'est La Vie! Say What?

I don't remember where I came across this letter. According to my notes, it's a rejection slip from a Beijing (Peking) economic journal, received by a British writer.

We have read your manuscript with boundless delight. If we were to publish your paper it would be impossible for us to publish any work of a lower standard. And as it is unthinkable that, in the next thousand years, we shall see its equal, we are, to our regret, compelled to return your divine composition, and beg you a thousand times to overlook our short sight and timidity.

I received these from my sister Nancy. I don't know where she got them.

Many people who experienced automobile accidents were asked to summarize exactly what happened in a few words or less¹ on insurance or accident forms. The following quotes taken from these forms were eventually published.

- Mary Thomas: Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have.
- George Smitt: The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intentions.
- Luther Moorese: I thought my window was down, but found out it was up when I put my hand through it.
- Paul Azzi: I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way.
- Dennis Terry: A truck backed through my windshield into my wife's face.
- Cathy Jenson: A pedestrian hit me and went under my car.
- Vernon Sanders: The guy was all over the road; I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him.
- David Stanberg: I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the bar.
- Tom McLaughlin: In my attempt to kill a fly, I drove into a telephone pole.
- Larry McKowell: I had been driving my car for forty years when I fell asleep at the wheel.
- Patty O'Leary: To avoid hitting the bumper of the car in front, I struck a pedestrian.
- McCarty McHenry: I told the police that I was not injured, but on removing my hat, I found that I had a skull fracture.
- Antony Davidson: I was sure the old fellow would never make it to the other side of the roadway when I struck him.
- Frank DeSilva: The pedestrian had no idea which direction to go, so I ran over him.
- Jerry DeCoste: I saw the slow-moving, sad-faced old gentleman as he bounced off the hood of my car.

¹ I can't help but wonder what's less than a few. Oh, well, that's the way it was when she gave it to me, so that's the way I printed it here.

Here's a dandy letter that might be real useful to you someday. Just fill in the date, your name, etc.

Dear Sir

In response to your recent inquiries, we must regretfully inform you that we cannot answer all of your questions. Indeed, we cannot answer any of them. The answers we might give only serve to raise a whole new set of questions, whereby we are more confused than ever. However, we feel we are now confused on a higher plane and about more important subject matter. Thank you for your inquiries, and if we may be of further service, please do not hesitate to call on us.

These bits of wisdom from the mouths of babes (youngsters, not sweeties) came from an unidentified newspaper clipping.

Children have thoughts all their own, even though they sometimes misspell words when writing them down.

Here are a few of their pristine observations on wildlife, first aid, and other subjects, taken from Pacific Search by Frank Hubbard, information officer of the Department of Fish and Game:

1. The cuckoo does not lay its own eggs.
2. The human is more intelligent than the beast because the human brain has more convulsions.
3. Dew is formed on leaves when the sun shines on them and makes them perspire.
4. Vegetable propagation is the process by which one individual manufactures another individual by accident.
5. To see if a limb is broken wiggle it back and forth.
6. For fainting rub the person's chest, or if a lady rub her arm above the hand.
7. To remove dust from the eye pull the eye over the nose.
8. For head colds use an agonizer to spray nose until it drops into throat.
9. For snake bite bleed the wound and rape the victim in a blanket for shock.
10. For asphyxiation apply artificial respiration until the patient dies.

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This next piece was given to me by a mathematician. I don't know what else to say about it.

Little Polly Nomial

Once upon a time, little Miss Polly Nomial went for an excursion into the Non-Euclidean Woods, which were dense with natural logs and steep gradients. As little Polly expanded her surface functions among the column vectors, she became aware of an imaginary series in her domain. She rotated around her vertical axis and saw curly Pie, who was following in the undefined regions of the natural logs. "Oh, Epsilon!" she shouted in a complex contraction of her hyperbolic curves. "It's Pie, and he's non-linear on no good!" "Ho, ho, my little Polly," said Pie. "It's time you were operated upon and your limits defined." "No, no!" shouted Polly, "I'm saving myself for Mr. Right Hand Rule!" But, she saw that it was no use. Pie was approaching with his power series expanded and Polly knew that she was about to be factored to her most basic functions. Pie began to exercise her significant regions and points of inflection. Poor Polly was totally irrational and sine curved around Pie shouting, "i i i i!" Pie was a smooth operator and his series drove Polly asymptotically to her limits. She broke in a complex series of verbal Fourier transformations and transient motions. Later, as they lay in the matrix of the Non-Euclidean Woods, Polly realized that functions that do not lend themselves to operations are useless to mathematics, and cause tensions among the operators. Functions are most interesting at the limits, and Polly vowed to spend the rest of her range coshing other functions in the art of complex operations for the betterment of all.

Here's one I came across at work.

Early Retirement Program

As a result of automation, as well as a declining workload, management must necessarily take steps to reduce the work force. A plan has been developed which appears the most equitable under the circumstances.

Under the plan, older employees will be placed on early retirement, thus permitting the retention of employees who represent the future of the company. The program to phase out older personnel by the end of the current fiscal year, to be placed into effect immediately, will be called Retire Aged Personnel Early (RAPE).

Employees who are RAPED will be given an opportunity to seek other jobs within the company, provided that while they are being RAPED they request a review of their employment status before actual retirement takes place. This phase of the operation is called the Survey of Capabilities of Retired Early Workers (SCREW).

All employees who have been SCREWED, but RAPED anyway, may apply for an additional Study by Higher Authority Following Termination (SHAFT). Program policy dictates that employees may be RAPED once and SCREWED twice, but may be SHAFTEd several times, depending upon available resources.

How about a little ethnic humor?

The Italian

Onea day Ima go toa Detroita toa da biga hotel. Ina da morning, I goa down to eta breakfasta. I tella da waitress I wanna two pissa toast, ashe bringa me only aonea pissa. I tella her I wanna two apissa, she saya you go toa da toilet. I say, you no understand, I wanna two apiss ona my plate. She say, you better not piss ona your plate, you sonna ma bitch.

I later go eta lunch ata Draka Restaurant. The waitress ashe bringa me a spoona and aknife, buta no fock. I tella her I awanna fock. She tella me everybody awanna fock. I tella her you donta understand. I wanna fock ata lunch. She say, you better not afock ata lunch, you sonna ma bitch.

So I gona back ato my room ina Hotel, and there isa no ashit ona the bed. I calla down, ana tella him, I wanna shit. He tella me to go to the toilet. I say, ayou no understand, I wanna shit ona da bed. He say, you better not shit onna da bad, you sonna ma bitch.

I go then to checka outa the bigga hotel, anna da man say "Peace to you." I say, "pessa onna you too, you sonna ma bitch, Ima go backa to Italia."

Will somebody please tell me if anybody knows who wrote this?

This is a story about four people, named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done, and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody, when actually Nobody accused Anybody.

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The following 25 thoughts were downloaded from Packet Radio N0ARY, Message number 6404; From: KF4OJ; Tuesday, January 24, 1995.

25 Thoughts To See Hams Through Almost Any Crisis

1. Indecision is the key to flexibility.
2. You can't tell which way the train went by looking at the track.
3. There is absolutely no substitute for genuine lack of preparation.
4. Happiness is merely the remission of pain.
5. Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.
6. Sometimes too much to drink isn't enough.
7. The facts, although interesting, are irrelevant.
8. The careful application of terror is also a form of communication.
9. Someone who thinks logically is a nice contrast to the real world.
10. Things are more like they are today than they ever were before.
11. Anything worth fighting for is worth fighting dirty for.
12. Everything should be made as simple as possible, but no simpler.
13. Friends may come and go, but enemies accumulate.
14. I have seen the truth and it makes no sense.
15. Suicide is the most sincere form of self-criticism.
16. If you think that there is good in everybody, you haven't met everybody.
17. All things being equal, fat people use more soap.
18. If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.
19. One-seventh of your life is spent on Monday.
20. By the time you make ends meet, they move the ends.
21. Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.
22. There is always one more imbecile than you counted on.
23. This is as bad as it can get, but don't bet on it.
24. Never wrestle with a pig. You both get dirty, and the pig likes it.
25. The trouble with life is that you're halfway through it before you realize that it's a "do it yourself" thing.

The Fable of the Golden Goddess

as retold by Sam Aurelius Milam III

Once upon a time, long long ago, the Gods decided to have an Orgy. This Orgy lasted quite a long time, not just because of the Stamina of the Gods, but because They measure time differently than men. Eventually though, it ended, and the Gods retired to their Chambers to rest.

Early the next morning, the great Norse God Thor, Mightiest of Thunder, reclined in His bed recuperating from the Orgy when there appeared in His doorway a beautiful and voluptuous Golden Goddess. Thor was mightily surprised, for She was unfamiliar to Him. How had He missed Her at the Orgy? Ah well, many Pantheons had been there, and Thor quickly decided to correct His oversight.

He sat up in bed, expanded His chest, and struck a Pose. "Hi!" He said with dramatic enthusiasm, using His deepest Voice. "I'm Thor!"

"You're thore!" She exclaimed. "I'm tho thore I can hardly Pith!"

The following dialog was downloaded from Packet Radio N0ARY, Message number 6411; From: KF40J; Tuesday, January 24, 1995.

Heard on the VHF radio:

First voice: Our radar has you on a collision course with us. You should alter course 10 degrees south.

Second voice: We have you on our radar. Suggest you alter course 10 degrees north.

First voice: We have Admiral Collins on board. Strongly suggest you bear 10 degrees south. This is a battleship.

Second voice: This is Tyrone Walterman. Still suggest you bear 10 degrees north. This is a lighthouse!

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A friend of mine gave me this attempt at basic truth. He got it from the packet, via ham radio

Basic Truth

by A. N. Other

The chairman of the Palomar Repeater Club, an amateur radio group, has discovered what makes integrated circuits work. He says that smoke is the thing that makes IC's work, because every time you let the smoke out of an IC, it stops working. He claims to have verified this with thorough testing.

I was flabbergasted! Of course! Smoke makes all electrical things work. Remember the last time smoke escaped from your Lucas voltage regulator? Didn't it quit working? I sat and smiled like an idiot as more of the truth dawned on me. It's the wiring harness that carries the smoke from one device to another in your car. And when the harness springs a leak, it lets the smoke out of everything at once and then nothing works. The starter motor requires large quantities of smoke to operate properly. That's why the wire going to it is so big.

Feeling very smug, I continued to expand my hypothesis. Why are Lucas electronics more likely to leak than say, Bosch? Hmm. AHA! Lucas is British. Things British always leak! British convertible tops leak water. British engines leak oil. British displacer units leak hydrostatic fluid. And British tyres leak air. Naturally, British electronics leak smoke!

Note: Another interesting theory is described on page 4 of the July 1996 issue of the Frontiersman. The name of the item is Darkness Upon the Face of the Deep: A New Theory of Illumination. An additional comment on that theory appeared on page 3 of the August 1996 issue, at the last letter to the editor.

I received this by e-mail from Robert Hayton, of San Jose, California. He said that the originator of the e-mail, but not necessarily the author of the item, is Kurt Williams <will9550@uidaho.edu>:

Five Reasons Why Computers Must Be Female

5. Nobody but their creator understands their internal logic.
4. Even your smallest mistakes are immediately committed to memory for future reference.
3. The native language used to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.
2. The message, "Bad command or filename," is about as informative as, "If you don't know why I'm mad at you, then I'm certainly not going to tell you."
1. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.

These Light Bulb Jokes were sent to me by e-mail by Robert Hayton, of San Jose, California

Light Bulb Jokes II

Q: How many Microsoft tech support people does it take to change a light bulb?

A: We have an exact copy of the light bulb here, and it seems to be working fine. Can you tell me what kind of system you have? Okay. Now exactly how dark is it? Okay, there could be 4 or 5 things wrong. Have you tried the light switch?

Q: How many Microsoft technicians does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Three. Two to hold the ladder and one to hammer the bulb into a faucet.

Q: How many Microsoft vice presidents does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Eight. One to work the bulb, and seven to make sure that Microsoft gets \$2 for every light bulb ever changed anywhere in the world.

Q: How many Microsoft testers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: We just determine that the room is dark. We don't actually change the bulb. Since we have a dead-bulb result on file from a previous test, rest assured that Development is working on a bug fix.

Q: How many Microsoft shipping department personnel does it take to change a light bulb?

A: We can change the bulb in 7 to 10 working days. If you call before 2 PM, and pay an extra \$15, we can get the bulb changed overnight. Don't forget to put your name in the upper right hand corner of the light bulb box.

Q: How many Windows users does it take to change a light bulb?

A: One. But they'll swear up and down that it was JUST as easy as it would be for a Mac user.

Q: How many Microsoft managers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: We've formed a task force to study the problem of why light bulbs burn out, and to determine what, exactly, we as supervisors can do to make the bulbs work smarter, not harder.

Q: How many Microsoft engineers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: None. Bill Gates will just redefine Darkness(TM) as the new industry standard.

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