

LIGHTENing Bolts

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A semi-monthly bi-annual somewhat regular amuse-letter to help you lighten up with humor

Humor at Work – April Fool’s Day

John was a nurse. Jef and I were “Mental Health Workers” which in psychiatric hospital terms meant glorified aides. We loved our work and made the best of it to the point of executing some pretty funny practical jokes.

Once when Jef got a phone call, he picked up the receiver and discovered, too late, that someone had put KY Jelly in the earpiece of the phone. Harmless yet humorous fun.

On another occasion, John was told he had a phone call. He picked up the phone and said, “Hello...lo...lo. Hello...lo...lo. Who...ooo...ooo...is...z...z...this...iss...iss?” Then he realized that someone had patched the phone into the hospital-wide PA system. Public yet humorous fun!

The best and most elaborate joke was at my expense. I don’t have time to go into it here but suffice it to say that it involved apple juice and all too realistic specimen jar. The point of these examples is that the fun we had with each other contributed to our wanting to be at work. We never compromised the integrity of our work but we made the process of our work more enjoyable.

I am honored to roll out my new email newsletter during National Humor Month. This month is set aside to respect all things humorous and it begins appropriately with April Fools Day. The origin of this “ha-ha-holiday” is not totally clear. It has been suggested that during the 1500’s, a new calendar was introduced for the Christian world. Prior to that, New Year’s had been celebrated in late March and early April. Since communication was not quick during the 16th Century, those people who unknowingly still celebrated the New Year in April were labeled “fools”. I don’t think we need a holiday to justify enjoying humor. Humor works every day. But April Fools Day is nice reminder to let our “fool”ishness come out and play.

In honor of National Humor Month, welcome to LIGHTENing Bolts. Please enjoy the information contained in this amuse-letter and make sure to celebrate each day with a little humor.

“Every man is a fool for at least five minutes every day. Wisdom consists in not exceeding the limit.” –Ralph Waldo Emerson

Humor Resources

To help you with your own search to put a little humor in every day, I direct you to the ultimate of all humor websites: Humor Links. Below is the link to the site. There is definitely something for everyone. Enjoy.

www.humorlinks.com

Humor in Real Life

You probably read about the protests at the Masters Golf Tournament this year. USA Today newspaper listed the many different groups that had filed for a permit to protest. Among them was the People Against Ridiculous Protests (PARP). The group canceled their planned protest and the founder of the group indicated that they had made their point just by getting their name in the paper!

According to another article in USA Today, Ireland plans to ban smoking in pubs and workplaces next year. One patron of a pub in Dublin said, "What will they do next – ban the drink from the pub because the alcohol's no good for you? None of us would ever get to heaven if we didn't die."

Just Humor

Witty internet witticisms sent in by an admirer:

A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.

Business conventions are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.

You know you're old when you reach down to get the wrinkles out of your panty hose and realize you're not wearing any.

No one ever says, "It's only a game" when their team is winning.

I've reached the age where happy hour is a nap.

Humor in the News

A study reported in the March 4, 2003 indicates that happy adults with heart disease are 20% more likely than equally ill, dour patients to stay alive for 11 years. Beverly Brummett of Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C. reported her study at the American Psychosomatic Society Meeting.

Archived Articles

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Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry. - Mark Twain

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Ronald P. Culberson, MSW, CSP, Director of Everything! at FUNsulting, etc., works with organizations that want their people to lighten up as well as to focus on what really matters. He is a Certified Speaking Professional (CSP), the highest earned award from the National Speakers Association, and is one of less than 450 individuals worldwide who have received this designation. He is a humor expert and has provided entertaining and informative programs to over 50,000 people in more than 500 associations, government agencies, non-profit organizations and Fortune 500 companies. To find out more about programs, services and products visit our website at www.funsulting.com or call (703) 742-8812.

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