

Humor Me

By Ronald P. Culberson

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“Stupid *Is* is Not Necessarily as Stupid *Duhz*”

I was listening to radio “therapist” Dr. Laura (not for advice but rather hoping she would launch into a tirade at one of her callers) while she was counseling a young girl suffering from anorexia. Dr. Laura implored the girl to go see a doctor because her lack of nutrition was surely destroying her body. She described a specific blood test the girl needed from her doctor.

“Don’t worry, the blood test won’t hurt a bit,” Dr. Laura said, “but you *will* need to fast the night before.”

Fast? Like not eat? SHE’S ANOREXIC!!! Duh.

There’s nothing more baffling than the incompatibility of intelligence and common sense. Have you ever noticed that some people are smart as a whip (Although I’ve never understood that analogy. Or is it a metaphor?) but can’t figure out how to get the safety cap off a bottle of aspirin? That’s the essence of what experts call *communus sensicus interruptus* which is Latin for “duh.” And there’s certainly no shortage of duh in our world.

My friend Shirley is a brilliant engineer but is famous for her *uncommon* sense. Once she took her cat white water rafting only to discover that when the raft pulled ashore for their first time that day, the cat shot off into the woods like...well...a cat out of water. The cat was never seen again. Apparently exposure to the elements, ferocious forest animals and no ability to survive in the wild was a better option for “Kitty Bee” than getting back into that flippin’ boat. Duh.

We saw Shirley recently. She’s older and wiser and we assumed that her common sense gland had now fully developed. Wrong. She explained to us that she had hired someone to clean her house. Problem was, she could never get the house “ready” for the cleaning person. So, she hired *another* cleaning person to straighten up the house the day before the real cleaning person arrived. Apparently she got the idea from the pre-heat button on the stove. Duh.

I met a federal employee at a convention who had driven two colleagues to the conference in a government car. As is often the case with unfamiliar cars, she pulled up to the gas pump only to discover that the tank was not on the driver’s side, as she had assumed, but was on the passenger side instead. So, she pulled out, did a *left hand* U-turn and eased back up next to the pumps.....on the same side of the car! What’s

worse, she didn't discover her error until she was out of the car with the gas pump in hand looking for the tank. Duh.

Sometimes, especially if they're really talented, these duh-ites can slip up on you unless you're paying close attention. I was listening to WINC Radio in Winchester, VA when the disc jockey said, "The high today will be 38. It's currently 40 in the WINC listening area." I thought maybe he was using the metric system. But alas it was just another example of the destructive power of duh.

Then there was the State Trooper who pulled over a drunk driver early one morning because he was driving erratically. Since it was the end of the shift and the Trooper didn't want to do a lot of paperwork, he asked the female passenger if she could drive the drunk man home. She readily agreed, stepped onto the shoulder, walked around the car and got into the *back* seat. Apparently, she was drunker than the driver. They both went to jail. Double duh.

I wonder how some people survive when their duh-ness is so overwhelming. I guess if it wasn't for those of us with intelligence *and* common sense, the world would be in chaos.

Yesterday, my son called from school.

"Dad, I left my backpack at home. Can you bring it to school?"

After explaining to him that he needs to be more responsible and that I won't always be around to bring him his backpack (which by the way is the *required* parental response), I put the breakfast dishes away, brushed my teeth and gathered my things so that I could drop off his backpack on my way to a meeting.

Just as I pulled into the elementary school parking lot, I was struck by a sudden moment of enlightenment. My son goes to middle school.

Duh.

Until next time, just humor me.

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Ron Culberson, MSW, CSP, CPAE is a speaker, humorist, and author of four books including Do it Well. Make it Fun. The Key to Success in Life, Death, and Almost Everything in Between. His mission is to change the workplace culture so that organizations are more productive and staff are more content. He shows people how to have more FUN while preserving the integrity of the work they do and the lives they lead. For more information, visit www.RonCulberson.com.