



**Think Abouts 06**

**Condensed and annotated  
by  
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### Introduction

Welcome to this collection, one of several in a series. . .

Mostly about life, and living, but some on Nursing, Religion, etc., no jokes here though. These again are mostly from the email circuit, passed around until their origins are lost in the paperless trail!

I hope that they may cause you to pause and consider them as they did for me.

If I feel strongly enough about any essay my comments will follow it!

In thoughts we live,





## BUTT PRINTS IN THE SAND

One night I had a wondrous dream,  
One set of footprints there were seen,  
The footprints of my precious Lord,  
But mine were not along the shore.

But then some stranger prints appeared,  
And I asked the Lord, "What have we here?"  
Those prints are large and round and neat,  
"But Lord, they are too big for feet."

"My child," He said in somber tones,  
"For miles I carried you alone.  
I challenged you to walk in faith,  
But you refused and made me wait."

"You disobeyed, you would not grow,  
The walk of faith, you would not know,  
So I got tired, I got fed up,  
And there I dropped you on your butt."

"Because in life, there comes a time,  
When one must fight, and one must climb,  
When one must rise and take a stand,  
Or leave their butt prints in the sand."

Yes, I know it's kind of irreverent, but (pun intended) I love it.  
Sometimes we do need to be drop-kicked to get our acts together!

### Canadian Editorial

It will take more than evil to lower the US Flag on the greatest nation in the world!

This is excellent, true and long so take some time and please read

#### TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED STATES

This, from a Canadian newspaper, is worth sharing.

America: The Good Neighbor.

Widespread but only partial news coverage was given recently to a remarkable editorial broadcast from Toronto by Gordon Sinclair, a Canadian television commentator. What follows is the full text of his trenchant remarks as printed in the Congressional Record:



**“This Canadian thinks it is time to speak up for the Americans as the most generous and possibly the least appreciated people on all the earth. Germany, Japan and, to a lesser extent, Britain and Italy were lifted out of the debris of war by the Americans who poured in billions of dollars and forgave other billions in debts. None of these countries is today paying even the interest on its remaining debts to the United States.**

**When France was in danger of collapsing in 1956, it was the Americans who propped it up, and their reward was to be insulted and swindled on the streets of Paris. I was there. I saw it.**

**When earthquakes hit distant cities, it is the United States that hurries in to help. This spring, 59 American communities were flattened by tornadoes. Nobody helped.**

**The Marshall Plan and the Truman Policy pumped billions of dollars into discouraged countries. Now newspapers in those countries are writing about the decadent, warmongering Americans.**

**I'd like to see just one of those countries that is gloating over the erosion of the United States dollar build its own airplane. Does any other country in the world have a plane to equal the Boeing Jumbo Jet, the Lockheed Tri-Star, or the Douglas DC10? If so, why don't they fly them?**

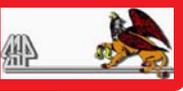
**Why do all the International lines except Russia fly American Planes?**

**Why does no other land on earth even consider putting a man or woman on the moon? You talk about Japanese technocracy, and you get radios. You talk about German technocracy, and you get automobiles. You talk about American technocracy, and you find men on the moon - not once, but several times - and safely home again.**

**You talk about scandals, and the Americans put theirs right in the store window for everybody to look at. Even their draft dodgers are not pursued and hounded. They are here on our streets, and most of them, unless they are breaking Canadian laws, are getting American dollars from ma and pa at home to spend here.**

**When the railways of France, Germany and India were breaking down through age, it was the Americans who rebuilt them. When the Pennsylvania Railroad and the New York Central went broke, nobody loaned them an old caboose. Both are still broke.**

**I can name you 5000 times when the Americans raced to the help of other people in trouble. Can you name me even one time when someone else raced to the Americans in trouble? I don't think there was outside help even during**



Our neighbors have faced it alone, and I'm one Canadian who is damned tired of hearing them get kicked around. They will come out of this thing with their flag high. And when they do, they are entitled to thumb their nose at the lands that are gloating over their present troubles. I hope Canada is not one of those."

Stand proud, America!

Wear it proudly!!

+++++

This is one of the best editorials that I have ever read regarding the United States. It is nice that one man realizes it. I only wish that the rest of the world would realize it. We are always blamed for everything, and never even get a thank you for the things we do.

I would hope that each of you would send this to as many people as you can and emphasize that they should send it to as many of their friends until this letter is sent to every person on the web. I am just a single American that has read this, I SURE HOPE THAT A LOT MORE READ IT SOON.

Candle

We are keeping this candle burning for all the people & their families who were in the planes, buildings and anywhere near the explosions of 9/11/01.

May God be with them and help them through this terrible time.

Keep The Candle Going

I asked God for water, he gave me an ocean.

I asked God for a flower, he gave me a garden.

I asked God for a tree, he gave me a forest.

I asked God for a friend, he gave me YOU.

"There is not enough darkness in the world to put out the light of one candle."

The Candle of Love, Hope and Friendship



This candle was lit on the 11th of September, 2001. Someone who loves you has helped keep it alive by sending it to you.



Don't let The Candle Of Love, Hope and Friendship die!  
 "A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle"

### Candy Game

Take this cute chocolate test to find out your true being.  
 If you were buying candy and you had your choice of the following, Which would you choose?

BABY RUTH  
 3 MUSKETEERS  
 BUTTERFINGERS  
 SNICKERS  
 HERSHEY'S  
 ALMOND JOY  
 CLARK BAR  
 GOOD 'n' PLENTY  
 ENERGY BAR  
 CHOCOLATE COATED RAISINS

OK - Now that you've made your choice, this is what research says about you!

NO ... you can't change your mind once you scroll down!  
 So think carefully, what your choice will be!

**BABY RUTH ...** Sweet, loving, cuddly. You love all warm fuzzy items. A little nutty. Sometimes you need an ice cream cone at the end of the day.

**3 MUSKETEERS ...** You are adventurous, love new ideas, are a champion of underdogs and a slayer of dragons. When tempers flare up, you whip out your saber.

**BUTTERFINGER ...** Smooth, articulate, you are an excellent after-dinner speaker and a good teacher.

But don't try to walk and chew gum at the same time.

**SNICKERS ...** Fun-loving, sassy, humorous. Everyone enjoys being around you, but you are a practical joker.

Others should be cautious in shaking hands!

**HERSHEY'S ...** Romantic, warm, loving. You care about other people and can be counted on in a pinch. You tend to melt.



**ALMOND JOY ...** Sexy, always ready to give and receive, very energetic, and really like to get into life. The opposite sex is always attracted to you.

**CLARK BAR ...** You like sports, whether baseball, football, basketball, or soccer. If you could, you would like to participate, but enjoy watching sports. You don't like to give up the remote control.

**GOOD 'N' PLENTY ...** You are a very fun loving person, who likes to laugh. You are fun to be with. People like to hang out with you. You are a very warm hearted person.

**ENERGY BAR ...** Life is passing you by. Get a life! Go eat a plum.

**CHOCOLATE COATED RAISINS ...** You go to the bathroom often.

### Change

**“The winds and waves are always on the side of the ablest navigators.”**  
—Edward Gibbon

**“Believe that life is worth living, and your belief will help create the fact.”**  
—William James

**“”No man can produce great things who is not thoroughly sincere in dealing with himself.”**  
—James Russell Lowell

**You can't stand still:**

**“The need for change bulldozed a road down the center of my mind.”**  
—Maya Angelou

**“Changes are not only possible and predictable, but to deny them is to be an accomplice to one's own necessary vegetation.”**  
—Gail Sheehy

**“You must change in order to survive.”**  
—Pearl Bailey

**Change is the one constant in life, the only real thing that we can be sure of! To deny it is a waste of time and energy, creating conflict and frustrations. The choice to go with the flow or fight the rapids is yours...**



## CHOICES, CHOICES

At a fund-raising dinner for a school that serves learning-disabled children, the father of one of the school's students delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended.

After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he offered a question.

"Everything God does is done with perfection. Yet, my son, Shay, cannot learn things as other children do. He cannot understand things as other children do. Where is God's plan reflected in my son?"

The audience was stilled by the query. The father continued. "I believe," the father answered, "that when God brings a child like Shay into the world, an opportunity to realize the Divine Plan presents itself. And it comes in the way people treat that child."

Then, he told the following story:

Shay and his father had walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, "Do you think they will let me play?" Shay's father knew that most boys would not want him on their team. But the father understood that if his son were allowed to play it would give him a much-needed sense of belonging.

Shay's father approached one of the boys on the field and asked if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance from his teammates. Getting none, he took matters into his own hands and said, "We are losing by six runs, and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him up to bat in the ninth inning."

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three. At the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the outfield. Although no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be on the field, grinning from ear to ear as his father waved to him from the stands. In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again now with the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base. Shay was scheduled to be the next at-bat. Would the team actually let Shay bat at this juncture and give away their chance to win the game?

Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible because Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball. However, as Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher moved a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shay could at least be able to make contact. The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly to-



ward Shay. As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball to the pitcher. The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could easily have thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have been out and that would have ended the game. Instead, the pitcher took the ball and threw it on a high arc to right field, far beyond reach of the first baseman. Everyone started yelling, “Shay, run to first. Run to first.” Never in his life had Shay ever made it to first base.

He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled. Everyone yelled, “Run to second, run to second!” By the time Shay was rounding first base, the right fielder had the ball. He could have thrown the ball to the second baseman for a tag. But the right fielder understood what the pitcher’s intentions had been, so he threw the ball high and far over the third baseman’s head. Shay ran towards second base as the runners ahead of him deliriously circled the bases towards home.

As Shay reached second base, the opposing shortstop ran to him, turned him in the direction of third base, and shouted, “Run to third!” As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams were screaming, “Shay! Run home!” Shay ran home, stepped on home plate and was cheered as the hero, for hitting a “grand slam” and winning the game for his team. “That day,” said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, “the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of the Divine Plan into this world.”

And now, a footnote to the story. We all send thousands of jokes through e-mail without a second thought, but when it comes to sending messages regarding life choices, people think twice about sharing. The crude, vulgar, and sometimes the obscene pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of decency is too often suppressed in school and the workplace. If you are thinking about forwarding this message, you are probably thinking about which people on your address list aren’t the “appropriate” ones to receive this type of message.

The person who sent this to you believes that we can all make a difference. We all have thousands of opportunities a day to help realize God’s plan. So many seemingly trivial interactions between two people present us with a choice: Do we pass along a spark of the Divine? Or do we pass up that opportunity, and leave the world a bit colder in the process?

**CHOICES**

A woman came out of her house and saw 3 old men with long white beards sitting in her front yard. She did not recognize them. She said “I don’t think I know you, but you must be hungry. Please come in and have something to eat.”

“Is the man of the house home?” they asked.

“No”, she replied. “He’s out.”

“Then we cannot come in”, they replied.

In the evening when her husband came home, she told him what had happened.

“Go tell them I am home and invite them in!”

The woman went out and invited the men in”

“We do not go into a House together,” they replied.

“Why is that?” she asked.

One of the old men explained: “His name is Wealth,” he said pointing to one of his friends, and said pointing to another one, “He is Success, and I am Love.” Then he added, “Now go in and discuss with your husband which one of us you want in your home.”

The woman went in and told her husband what was said. Her husband was overjoyed. “How nice!!”, he said. “Since that is the case, let us invite Wealth. Let him come and fill our home with wealth!”

His wife disagreed. “My dear, why don’t we invite Success?”

Their daughter-in-law was listening from the other corner of the house. She jumped in with her own suggestion: “Would it not be better to invite Love? Our home will then be filled with love!”

“Let us heed our daughter-in-law’s advice,” said the husband to his wife.

“Go out and invite Love to be our guest.”

The woman went out and asked the 3 old men, “Which one of you is Love? Please come in and be our guest.”

Love got up and started walking toward the house. The other 2 also got up and followed him. Surprised, the lady asked Wealth and Success: “I only in-





vited Love, Why are you coming in?”

The old men replied together: “If you had invited Wealth or Success, the other two of us would’ve stayed out, but since you invited Love, wherever He goes, we go with him. Wherever there is Love, there is also Wealth and Success!!!!!!”

**MY WISH FOR YOU...**

- Where there is pain, I wish you peace and mercy.
- Where there is self-doubting, I wish you a renewed confidence in your ability to work through it.
- Where there is tiredness, or exhaustion, I wish you understanding, patience, and renewed strength.
- Where there is fear, I wish you love, and courage.

**Choose to have FUN**

**FUN creates ENJOYMENT  
 ENJOYMENT invites PARTICIPATION  
 PARTICIPATION focuses ATTENTION  
 ATTENTION expands AWARENESS  
 AWARENESS promotes INSIGHT  
 INSIGHT generates KNOWLEDGE  
 KNOWLEDGE facilitates ACTION  
 ACTION yields RESULTS**

**Oswald B. Shallow**

**Cool test, but WEIRD! Try it.**

**CHECK THIS OUT.....**

**This is VERY, VERY strange!! Try it!!**

**NO PEEKING AHEAD!**

**Free will or synaptic wiring, you be the judge? Do the following exercise, guaranteed to raise an eyebrow. There’s no trick or surprise. Just follow these instructions, and answer the questions one at a time and as quickly as you can! Again, as quickly as you can but don’t advance until you’ve done each of them ... really. Now, arrow down (but not too fast, you might miss something) answering each question quickly.**

**Think of a number from 1 to 10**

**>>>> > > > >>> > > >**



>>>> > > >>> > >

Multiply that number by 9

>>>> > > >>> > >

If the number is a 2-digit number, add the digits together

>>>> > > >>> > >

Determine which letter in the alphabet corresponds to the number you ended up with (example: 1=a, 2=b, 3=c, etc.)

>>>> > > >>> > >

Think of a country that starts with that letter

>>>> > > >>> > >

Remember the last letter in the name of that country

>>>> > > >>> > >

Think of the name of an animal that starts with that letter

>>>> > > >>> > >

Are you thinking of Kangaroos in Denmark?

>>>> > > >>> > >

If not, you're among the 2% of the population whose minds are different enough to think of something else. 98% of people will answer with kangaroos in Denmark when given this exercise.

### Cool Women

They smile when they want to scream.

They sing when they want to cry.

They cry when they are happy and laugh when they are nervous.

They fight for what they believe in.

They stand up for injustice.

They don't take "no" for an answer when they believe there is a better solution.

They go without new shoes so their children can have them.

They go to the doctor with a frightened friend.

They love unconditionally.

They cry when their children excel and cheer when their friends get awards.

They are happy when they hear about a birth or a new marriage.

Their hearts break when a friend dies.

They have sorrow at the loss of a family member, yet they are strong when they think there is no strength left.

They know that a hug and a kiss can heal a broken heart.

Women come in all sizes, in all colors and shapes.

They'll drive, fly, walk, run or e-mail you to show how much they care about you.

The heart of a woman is what makes the world spin!

Women do more than just give birth.

They bring joy and hope.

They give compassion and ideals.

They give moral support to their family and friends.

Women have a lot to say and a lot to give.



## Daddy's Day at School

Her hair was up in a ponytail  
Her favorite dress tied with a bow.  
Today was Daddy's Day at school,  
And she couldn't wait to go.

But her mommy tried to tell her,  
That she probably should stay home.  
Why the kids might not understand,  
If she went to school alone.

But she was not afraid;  
She knew just what to say.  
What to tell her classmates  
Of why he wasn't there today.

But still her mother worried,  
For her to face this day alone.  
And that was why once again,  
She tried to keep her daughter home.

But the little girl went to school,  
Eager to tell them all.  
About a dad she never sees,  
A dad who never calls.

There were daddies along the wall in back,  
For everyone to meet.  
Children squirming impatiently,  
Anxious in their seats.

One by one the teacher called,  
A student from the class.  
To introduce their daddy,  
As seconds slowly passed.

At last the teacher called her name,  
Every child turned to stare.  
Each of them was searching,  
For a man who wasn't there.

"Where's her daddy at?"  
She heard a boy call out.  
"She probably doesn't have one"  
Another student dared to shout.

And from somewhere near the back,



She heard a daddy say,  
“Looks like another deadbeat dad,  
Too busy to waste his day.”

The words did not offend her,  
As she smiled up at her Mom.  
And looked back at her teacher,  
Who told her to go on.

And with hands behind her back,  
Slowly she began to speak.  
And out from the mouth of a child,  
Came words incredibly unique.

“My Daddy couldn’t be here,  
Because he lives so far away.  
But I know he wishes he could be,  
Since this is such a special day.

And though you cannot meet him,  
I wanted you to know.  
All about my daddy,  
And how much he loves me so.

He loved to tell me stories,  
He taught me to ride a bike.  
He surprised me with pink roses,  
And taught me to fly a kite.

We used to share fudge sundaes,  
And ice cream in a cone.  
And though you cannot see him,  
I’m not standing here alone.

“Cause my daddy’s always with me,  
Even though we are apart  
I know because he told me,  
He’ll forever be in my heart”

With that, her little hand reached up,  
And lay across her chest.  
Feeling her own heartbeat,  
Beneath her favorite dress.

And from somewhere in the crowd of dads,  
Her mother stood in tears.  
Proudly watching her daughter,  
Who was wise beyond her years.



For she stood up for the love  
Of a man not in her life.  
Doing what was best for her,  
Doing what was right.

And when she dropped her hand back down,  
Staring straight into the crowd.  
She finished with a voice so soft,  
But its message clear and loud.

“I love my daddy very much,  
He’s my shining star.  
And if he could, he’d be here.  
But heaven’s just too far.

You see he was a fireman  
And died just this past year  
When airplanes hit the towers  
And taught Americans to fear.

But sometimes when I close my eyes,  
It’s like he never went away.”  
And then she closed her eyes,  
And saw him there that day.

And to her mother’s amazement,  
She witnessed with surprise.  
A room full of daddies and children,  
All starting to close their eyes.

Who knows what they saw before them,  
Who knows what they felt inside.  
Perhaps for merely a second,  
They saw him at her side.

“I know you’re with me Daddy,”  
To the silence she called out.  
And what happened next made believers,  
Of those once filled with doubt.

Not one in that room could explain it,  
for each of their eyes had been closed.  
But there on the desk beside her,  
Was a fragrant long-stemmed pink rose.

And a child blessed, if only for a moment,  
By the love of her shining bright star.



And given the gift of believing,  
That heaven is never too far.

### Dalai Lama

This is what The Dalai Lama has to say on the millennium, which begins 01/01/2001. All it takes is a few seconds to read and think about.

Instructions for Life in the new millennium from the Dalai Lama:

1. Take into account that great love and great achievements involve great risk.
2. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
3. Follow the three Rs: Respect for self, respect for others, responsibility for all your actions.
4. Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck.
5. Learn the rules so you know how to break them properly.
6. Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.
7. When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.
8. Spend some time alone every day.
9. Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values.
10. Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
11. Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll be able to enjoy it a second time.
12. A loving atmosphere in your home is the foundation for your life.
13. In disagreements with loved ones, deal only with the current situation. Don't bring up the past.
14. Share your knowledge. It's a way to achieve immortality.
15. Be gentle with the earth.
16. Once a year, go someplace you've never been before.
17. Remember that the best relationship is one in which your love for each other exceeds your need for each other.
18. Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.
19. Approach love and cooking with reckless abandon.

I'm sure I've probably included this one elsewhere, but I feel it's worth sharing several times. Little bits of wisdom from a Holy man, of whatever religion are pearls of truth.

### Day after Christmas

It was the day after Christmas at a church in San Francisco. The minister of the church was looking over the manger scene when he noticed that the baby Jesus was missing from among the figures. Immediately he turned and went outside and saw a little boy with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure



of the little infant, Jesus.

So he walked up to the boy and said, “Well, where did you get Him, my fine friend?” The little boy replied, “I got him from the church.” “And why did you take him?” The boy said, “Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to the little Lord Jesus and I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas I would give him a ride around the block in it.”

Ah, for the innocence of youth. When dealing with young ones adults tend to think from their experiences, judging the actions instead of finding out the motivations behind the actions first.

### Diversity

The following story shows us the side of diversity that we are all working for. It is a pleasant twist to see that there are companies and individuals who face discrimination head on, if only one small step at a time - but still force the right for every human being regardless of race color, creed or religion to have equality in life. Enjoy reading the positive side of diversity ... I applaud British Airways for their action in this situation.

On a British Airways flight from Johannesburg. A middle-aged, well-off, white South African lady has found herself sitting next to a black man. She called the cabin crew attendant over to complain about this arrangement: “What seems to be the problem Madam?” asked the attendant. “Can’t you see?” She said “You’ve sat me next to a kaffir. I can’t possibly sit next to this disgusting human. Find me another seat!” “Please calm down Madam.” The stewardess replied. “The flight is very full today, but I’ll tell you what I’ll do, I’ll go and check to see if we have any seats available in club or first class.” The woman cocks a snooty look at the outraged black man beside her (not to mention many of the surrounding passengers). A few minutes later the stewardess returns with the good news, which she delivers to the lady, who cannot help but look at the people around her with a smug and self satisfied grin: “Madam, unfortunately, as I suspected, economy is full. I’ve spoken to the cabin services director, and club is also full. However, we do have one very nice seat in first class.” The stewardess continues ... “It is most extra ordinary to make this kind of upgrade, however, and I have had to get special permission from the captain. But, given the circumstances, the captain felt that it was outrageous that someone be forced to sit next to such an obnoxious and uneducated person therefore he has given his full approval for such a seat change to occur.”

With which, the stewardess turned to the black man sitting next to the woman, and said: “So if you’d like to get your things, Sir, I have your new seat ready for you ...” At which point, apparently the surrounding passengers stood and gave a standing ovation while the black guy walks proudly up to the front of the plane.

The lesson to be learned:



people will forget what you said  
people will forget what you did  
but people will never forget how you made them feel.

Do not undermine your worth

Do not undermine your worth  
by comparing yourself with others.  
It is because we are different  
that each of us is special.

Do not set your goals  
by what other people deem important.  
Only you know what is best for you.

Do not take for granted  
the things closest to your heart.  
Cling to them as you would your life,  
for without them, life is meaningless.

Do not let your life slip through your fingers  
by living in the past, nor for the future.  
By living your life one day at a time,  
you live all the days of your life.

Do not give up when you still have something to give.  
Nothing is really over until the moment you stop trying.

Do not be afraid to encounter risks.  
It is by taking chances  
that we learn how to be brave.

Do not shut love out of your life  
by saying it is impossible to find.

The quickest way to receive love is to give love;  
The fastest way to lose love is to hold it too tightly.

Do not dismiss your dreams.  
To be without dreams is to be without hope;  
To be without hope is to be without purpose.

Do not run through life so fast that you forget  
not only where you have been, but also where you are going.

Life is not a race, but a journey  
to be savored each step of the way.

Amen.....



### Never lie to your mother.

John invited his mother over for dinner. During the meal, his mother couldn't help noticing how beautiful John's roommate Julie was. She had long been suspicious of a relationship between John and his roommate, and this only made her more curious. Over the course of the evening, while watching the two interact, she started to wonder if there was more between John and the roommate than met the eye. Reading his mom's thoughts, John volunteered, "I know what you must be thinking, but I assure you, Julie and I are just roommates."

About a week later, Julie came to John and said, "Ever since your mother came to dinner, I can't find the beautiful silver gravy ladle. You don't suppose she took it, do you?" John said, "Well, I doubt it, but I'll write her a letter just to be sure." So he sat down and wrote:

Dear Mother, I'm not saying you 'did' take a gravy ladle from my house, and I'm not saying you 'did not' take a gravy ladle. But the fact remains that one has been missing ever since you were here for dinner.

Love, John

Several days later, John received a letter from his mother which read:

Dear Son, I'm not saying that you 'do' sleep with Julie, and I'm not saying that you 'do not' sleep with Julie. But the fact remains that if she was sleeping in her own bed, she would have found the gravy ladle by now.

Love, Mom.

This one is a cross over between a joke and thoughtful, it's told as a joke but it has a life lesson embedded in it. What part of your life are you ashamed of enough to lie about it? Live your life fully, if there is a part you are uncomfortable enough to hide it or lie about it, then maybe that is a part you either need to change or accept fully.

### Don't talk: act!

"Don't talk about what you have done or what you are going to do—do it and let it speak for itself."—Martin Vanbee

"Action is the foundational key to all success."—Tony Robbins

"Leadership is action, not position."—Donald H. McGannon

### Douglas Adams quotes

This has been repeated from last year in light of Douglas Adams' death. The author of the Hitchhikers Guide To The Galaxy, died of a heart attack, aged 49. "He was a gifted writer; a one-off talent who managed to combine fantasy and humanity in books which enthralled generations of readers. We'll miss him enormously."

"He hoped and prayed that there wasn't an afterlife. Then he realized there



was a contradiction involved here and merely hoped that there wasn't an afterlife. "

"The ships hung in the sky in much the same way that bricks don't."

"Time, we know, is relative. You can travel light years through the stars and back, and if you do it at the speed of light then, when you return, you may have aged mere seconds while your twin brother or sister will have aged twenty, thirty, forty or however many years it is, depending on how far you traveled. This will come to you as a profound shock, particularly if you didn't know you had a twin brother or sister."

"[His] study was a total mess, like the results of an explosion in a public library."

"There is a theory which states that if anyone discovers exactly what the Universe is for and why it is here, it will instantly disappear and be replaced by something even more bizarre and inexplicable. There is another which states that this has already happened."

"A common mistake people make when trying to design something completely foolproof is to underestimate the ingenuity of complete fools."

"For a moment, nothing happened. Then, after a second or so, nothing continued to happen."

"Human beings, who are almost unique in having the ability to learn from the experience of others, are also remarkable for their apparent disinclination to do so."

"I don't believe it. Prove it to me and I still won't believe it."

"If human beings don't keep exercising their lips, he thought, their mouths probably seize up. After a few months' consideration and observation he abandoned this theory in favor of a new one. If they don't keep on exercising their lips, he thought, their brains start working."

"Time is an illusion. Lunchtime doubly so."

"You live and learn. At any rate, you live."

"The History of every major Galactic Civilization tends to pass through three distinct and recognizable phases, those of Survival, Inquiry and Sophistication, otherwise known as the How, Why and Where phases.

For instance, the first phase is characterized by the question, 'How can we eat?' The second by the question, 'Why do we eat?' And the third by the question, 'Where shall we do lunch?'"



## DRINKING FROM MY SAUCER

I've never made a fortune  
and it's probably too late now.  
But I don't worry about that much,  
I'm happy anyhow.

And as I go along life's way,  
I'm reaping better than I sowed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer,  
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

Haven't got a lot of riches,  
and sometimes the going's tough.  
But I've got loving ones around me,  
and that makes me rich enough.

I thank God for his blessings,  
and the mercies He's bestowed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer,  
'cause my cup has overflowed.

O, Remember times when things went wrong,  
My faith wore somewhat thin.  
But all at once the dark clouds broke,  
and sun peeped through again.

So Lord, help me not to gripe,  
about the tough rows that I've hoed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer,  
"Cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage,  
When the way grows steep and rough.  
I'll not ask for other blessings,  
I'm already blessed enough.

And may I never be too busy,  
to help others bear their loads.  
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer,  
"Cause my cup has overflowed.

## A LITTLE SMILE

This little smile somehow found its way  
Onto your screen to  
brighten your day. ; -)

Please Pass It On



### Eleanor Roosevelt wrote:

Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.

To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart.

Anger is only one letter short of danger.

If someone betrays you once, it is his fault; if he betrays you twice, it is your fault.

Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people.

He who loses money, loses much; he, who loses a friend, loses much more;

He, who loses faith, loses all.

Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art.

Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.

### Friends

Friends, you and me - you brought another friend - and then there were 3.

We started our group - our circle of friends – and like that circle - there is no beginning, nor an end.

Yesterday is history - tomorrow is a mystery - today is a gift, why it's called the present.

### Engineering Solution

The following is an actual question given on a University of Washington midterm exam:

“Is Hell exothermic (gives off heat) or endothermic (absorbs heat)? Support your answer with a proof.”

Most of the students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law (gas cools off when it expands and heats up when it is compressed) or some variant. One student, however, wrote the following:



First, we need to know how the mass of Hell is changing in time. So, we need to know the rate that souls are moving into Hell and the rate they are leaving. I think that we can safely assume that once a soul gets to Hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving.

As for how many souls are entering Hell, let's look at the different religions that exist in the world today. Some of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to Hell.

Since there are more than one of these religions and since people do not belong to more than one religion, we can project that all people and all souls go to Hell. With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in Hell to increase exponentially.

Now, we look at the rate of change of the volume in Hell because Boyle's Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in Hell to stay the same, the volume of Hell has to expand as souls are added.

This gives two possibilities:

1) If Hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter Hell, then the temperature and pressure in Hell will increase until all Hell breaks loose.

2) Of course, if Hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in Hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until Hell freezes over.

So which is it?

If we accept the postulate given to me by Ms. Therese Banyan during my Freshman year, "That it will be a cold night in Hell before I sleep with you," and take into account the fact that I still have not succeeded in having sexual relations with her, then: (2) cannot be true, and thus I am sure that Hell is exothermic.

This student got the only A.

### English 101

This little treatise on the lovely language we share is only for the brave. It will make you crazy, if you think about it too long!

It was passed on by a linguist, the original author unknown. Peruse at your leisure, English lovers.

Reasons why the English language is so hard to learn:

1) The bandage was wound around the wound.



- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- 13) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
- 18) After a number of injections my jaw got number.
- 19) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
- 20) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- 21) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

Let's face it - English is a crazy language.

There is no egg in eggplant nor is there ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple.

English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France.

Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?

If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth?

One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? One index, 2 indices? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend.

If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane.

In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?



You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which, an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all.

That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

P.S. Why doesn't "Buick" rhyme with "quick"?

It's no wonder foreigners have such a problem learning our language, then we throw in local colloquialisms and idioms.

### Facts

Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim or handle of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. "Wet your whistle," is the phrase inspired by this practice.

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes...when you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. That's where the phrase, "good night, sleep tight" came from.

### Faith and an Empty Chair

A man's daughter had asked the local minister to come and pray with her father.

When the minister arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows. An empty chair sat beside his bed. The minister assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his impending visit. "I guess you were expecting me," he said. "No, who are you?" Said the father. "I'm the new minister at your church," he replied. "When I saw the empty chair, I figured you knew I was going to show up." "Oh yeah, the chair," said the bedridden man. "Would you mind closing the door?"

Puzzled, the minister shut the door. "I have never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the man. "But all of my life I have never known how to pray. At church I used to hear the preacher talk about prayer, but it went right over my head." "I abandoned any attempt at prayer," the old man continued, "until one day about four years ago my best friend said to me," "Joe, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus. Here is what I suggest. Sit down in a chair; place an empty chair in front of you and in faith, see Jesus on the chair. It's not spooky because He promised; "I'll be



with you always.” Then just speak to him and listen in the same way you’re doing with me right now.’ “So, I tried it and I’ve liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I’m careful though if my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she’d either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm.”

The minister was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old guy to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with him and returned to the church. Two nights later the daughter called to tell the minister that her daddy had died that afternoon.

“Did he die in peace?” He asked. “Yes, when I left the house about two o’clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me he loved me and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him dead, but there was something strange about his death. Apparently, just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on the chair beside the bed. What do you make of that?” The minister wiped a tear from his eye and said, “I wish we all could go that way.”

Pass this inspirational story on and believe not only in faith but in the power of his presence and prayer.

[Beautiful simple story on faith, do you have enough faith to fill your chair?](#)

### Fascinating facts about Lincoln and Kennedy

Abraham Lincoln was elected to congress in 1846.  
John F. Kennedy was elected to congress in 1946.

Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860.  
John F. Kennedy was elected President in 1960

The names Lincoln and Kennedy each contain seven letters.

Both were particularly concerned with civil rights.

Both wives lost their children while living in the White House.

Both Presidents were shot on a Friday.

Both were shot in the head.

Lincoln’s secretary was named Kennedy.  
Kennedy’s secretary was named Lincoln.

Both were assassinated by Southerners.

Both were succeeded by Southerners.



Both successors were named Johnson.

Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Lincoln, was born in 1808.  
Lyndon Johnson, who succeeded Kennedy, was born in 1908.

John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated Lincoln, was born in 1839.  
Lee Harvey Oswald, who assassinated Kennedy, was born in 1939.

Both assassins were known by three names.

Both names contain fifteen letters.

Booth ran from the theater and was caught in a warehouse.

Oswald ran from a warehouse and was caught in a theater.

Booth and Oswald were assassinated before their trials.

### The Father's Eyes

Bob Richards, the former pole-vault champion, shares a moving story about a skinny young boy who loved football with all his heart. Practice after practice, he eagerly gave everything he had. But being half the size of the other boys, he got absolutely nowhere. At all the games, this hopeful athlete sat on the bench and hardly ever played.

This teenager lived alone with his father, and the two of them had a very special relationship. Even though the son was always on the bench, his father was always in the stands cheering. He never missed a game. This young man was still the smallest of the class when he entered high school. But his father continued to encourage him but also made it very clear that he did not have to play football if he didn't want to. But the young man loved football and decided to hang in there.

He was determined to try his best at every practice, and perhaps he'd get to play when he became a senior. All through high school he never missed a practice nor a game, but remained a bench warmer all four years. His faithful father was always in the stands, always with words of encouragement for him.

When the young man went to college, he decided to try out for the football team as a "walk-on". Everyone was sure he could never make the cut, but he did. The coach admitted that he kept him on the roster because he always puts his heart and soul to every practice, and at the same time, provided the other members with the spirit and hustle they badly needed. The news that he had survived the cut thrilled him so much that he rushed to the nearest phone and called his father. His father shared his excitement and was sent season tickets for all the college games. This persistent young athlete never missed practice



during his four years at college, but he never got to play in the game.

It was the end of his senior football season, and as he trotted onto the practice field shortly before the big play off game, the coach met him with a telegram. The young man read the telegram and he became deathly silent. Swallowing hard, he mumbled to the coach, “My father died this morning. Is it all right if I miss practice today?” The coach put his arm gently around his shoulder and said, “Take the rest of the week off, son. And don’t even plan to come back to the game on Saturday.

Saturday arrived, and the game was not going well. In the third quarter, when the team was ten points behind, a silent young man quietly slipped into the empty locker room and put on his football gear. As he ran onto the sidelines, the coach and his players were astounded to see their faithful teammate back so soon. “Coach, please let me play. I’ve just got to play today.” Said the young man. The coach pretended not to hear him.

There was no way he wanted his worst player in this close playoff game. But the young man persisted, and finally feeling sorry for the kid, the coach gave in. “All right,” he said. “You can go in”. Before long, the coach, the players and everyone in the stands could not believe their eyes. This little unknown, who had never played before was doing everything right. The opposing team could not stop him. He ran, he passed, blocked and tackled like a star. His team began to triumph.

The score was soon tied. In the closing seconds of the game, this kid intercepted a pass and ran all the way for the winning touchdown.

The fans broke loose. His teammates hoisted him onto their shoulders. Such cheering you never heard!

Finally, after the stands had emptied and the team had showered and left the locker room, the coach noticed that the young man was sitting quietly in the corner all alone. The coach came to him and said, “Kid, I can’t believe it. You were fantastic! Tell me what got into you? How did you do it?”

He looked at the coach, with tears in his eyes, and said, “well, you knew my dad died, but did you know that my dad was blind?” The young man swallowed hard and forced a smile, “Dad came to all my games, but today was the first time he could see me play, and I wanted to show him I could do it!”

Like the athlete’s father, God is always there cheering for us. He’s always reminding us to go on. He’s even offering us His hand for He knows what is best and is willing to give us what we need and not simply what we want. God has never missed a single game. What a joy to know that life is meaningful if lived for the Highest. Live for HIM for He’s watching us in the game of life.

**Whose watching you...make ‘em proud!**



## RIGHT NOW:

somebody is very proud of you.  
 somebody is thinking of you.  
 somebody is caring about you.  
 somebody misses you.  
 somebody wants to talk to you.  
 somebody wants to be with you.  
 somebody hopes you are not in trouble.  
 somebody is thankful for the support you have provided.  
 somebody wants to hold your hand.  
 somebody hopes everything turns out all right.  
 somebody wants you to be happy.  
 somebody want you to find him/her.  
 somebody wants to give you a gift.  
 somebody wants to hug you.  
 somebody thinks you ARE a gift.  
 somebody admires your strength.  
 somebody is thinking of you and smiling.  
 somebody wants to protect you.  
 somebody can't wait to see you.  
 somebody loves you for who you are.  
 somebody treasures your spirit.  
 somebody is glad that you are their friend.  
 somebody want to get to know you better.  
 somebody wants to be near you.  
 somebody wants you to know they are there for you.  
 somebody would do anything for you.  
 somebody want to share their dreams with you.  
 somebody is alive because of you  
 somebody needs your support.  
 somebody will cry when they read this.  
 somebody needs you to have faith in them.  
 somebody trusts you.  
 somebody hears a song that reminds them of you.

**SOMEBODY NEEDS YOU TO SEND THIS TO THEM**

## Fog Index

Did you realize that there is a Fog Index used in communication?

It is a mathematical formula for the readability of text (but, can be applied to any medium):

Choose a sample 100-125 words long.

Count the words and sentences. Count the independent clauses as separate sentences. Divide the word count by the sentence count.

Count words of three or more syllables. Divide by the length of the passage to get the percentage. Add this to the average sentence length.



Multiple the total by 0.4.

(Product: the grade level needed for easy comprehension, or the Fog Index.)

For a general audience 10 is about right! Many magazines are 10-12, most best-sellers are 8-10.

### For those current and former Chicagoans...

World War II produced many heroes. One such man was Lieutenant Commander Butch O'Hare. He was a fighter pilot assigned to an aircraft carrier Lexington in the South Pacific.

One day his entire squadron was sent on a mission. After he was airborne, he looked at his fuel gauge and realized that someone had forgotten to top off his fuel tank. He would not have enough fuel to complete his mission and get back to his ship. His flight leader told him to return to the carrier.

Reluctantly he dropped out of formation and headed back to the fleet. As he was returning to the mother ship, he saw something that turned his blood cold. A squadron of Japanese bombers were speeding their way toward the American fleet. The American fighters were gone on a sortie and the fleet was all but defenseless. He couldn't reach his squadron and bring them back in time to save the fleet. Nor, could he warn the fleet of the approaching danger.

There was only one thing to do. He must somehow divert them from the fleet. Laying aside all thoughts of personal safety, he dove into the formation of Japanese planes. Wing-mounted 50 caliber's blazed as he charged in, attacking one surprised enemy plane and then another. Butch weaved in and out of the now broken formation and fired at as many planes as possible until finally all his ammunition was spent.

Undaunted, he continued the assault. He dove at the planes, trying to at least clip off a wing or tail, in hopes of damaging as many enemy planes as possible and rendering them unfit to fly. He was desperate to do anything he could to keep them from reaching the American ships. Finally, the exasperated Japanese squadron took off in another direction.

Deeply relieved, Butch O'Hare and his tattered fighter limped back to the carrier. Upon arrival he reported in and related the event surrounding his return. The film from the camera mounted on his plane told the tale. It showed the extent of Butch's daring attempt to protect his fleet. He had destroyed five enemy bombers. That was on February 20, 1942, and for that action he became the Navy's first Ace of WWII and the first Naval Aviator to win the Congres-



sional Medal of Honor. A year later he was killed in aerial combat at the age of 29. His home town would not allow the memory of that heroic action die. And today, O'Hare Airport in Chicago is named in tribute to the courage of this great man.

So the next time your in O'Hare visit his memorial with his statue and Medal of Honor. It is located between terminal 1 and 2.

Story number two:

Some years earlier there was a man in Chicago called Easy Eddie. At that time, Al Capone virtually owned the city. Capone wasn't famous for anything heroic. His exploits were anything but praiseworthy. He was, however, notorious for enmeshing the city of Chicago in everything from bootlegged booze and prostitution to murder.

Easy Eddie was Capone's lawyer and for a good reason. He was very good! In fact, his skill at legal maneuvering kept Big Al out of jail for a long time. To show his appreciation, Capone paid him very well. Not only was the money big; Eddie got special dividends. For instance, he and his family occupied a fenced-in mansion with live-in help and all of the conveniences of the day. The estate was so large that it filled an entire Chicago city block. Yes, Eddie lived the high life of the Chicago mob and gave little consideration to the atrocity that went on around him.

Eddy did have one soft spot, however. He had a son that he loved dearly. Eddy saw to it that his young son had the best of everything; clothes, cars, and a good education. Nothing was withheld. Price was no object. And, despite his involvement with organized crime, Eddie even tried to teach him right from wrong.

Yes, Eddie tried to teach his son to rise above his own sordid life. He wanted him to be a better man than he was. Yet, with all his wealth and influence, there were two things that Eddie couldn't give his son. Two things that Eddie sacrificed to the Capone mob that he could not pass on to his beloved son: a good name and a good example.

One day, Easy Eddie reached a difficult decision. Offering his son a good name was far more important than anything he could lavish on him. He had to rectify all the wrong that he had done.

He would go to the authorities and tell the truth about Scar-face Al Capone. He would try to clean up his tarnished name and offer his son some semblance of integrity. To do this he must testify against The Mob, and he knew that the cost would be great. But more than anything, he wanted to be an example to his son. He wanted to do his best to make restoration and hopefully have a good name to leave his son.



So, he testified. Within the year, Easy Eddie's life ended in a blaze of gunfire on a lonely Chicago street. He had given his son the greatest gift he had to offer at the greatest price he would ever pay.

I know what you're thinking. What do these two stories have to do with one another?

Well, you see, Butch O'Hare was Easy Eddie's son.

For what it's worth....

The following was written by Joyce Minor, Assistant Director of Development and Alumni Relations, University of Alabama School of Law...

I grew up in rural America in the '50's and '60's. On any given day, you could walk through the high school parking lot and observe that half the vehicles parked there were trucks with windows rolled down and doors unlocked. Most of them carried, as standard equipment, an FFA sticker (Future Farmers of America for you city folks) and a gun rack with at least one gun, usually loaded. You could make the same observation at any of the four high school campuses in our county.

Amazingly, I do not ever recall reading or hearing about mass shootings in any of those high schools. What has changed in America is not the accessibility of guns, but the character of man.

On the wall in my parents home is a plaque awarded to my father in recognition of service for 27 years on the local school board. He told me that for years, a standard requirement on every Teacher's contract was membership in a local church. I remember starting every school day with the pledge and a prayer. I remember when girls who got pregnant in high school were ashamed, when abortions were illegal, when the divorce rate was not 50% because couples stayed together for the kid's sake, when there were no X-rated movies, when milk cartons didn't have missing kids faces on them and I didn't know anyone personally who used drugs. I remember when kids were taught respect for authority and accountability to God. I hear people say that the good old days weren't always so good but please don't tell me you think these are better.

Last night I attended a high school football game that was covered by local and national news. The news coverage was not about the football teams, but about the defiance of a court order by one brave little Texas town to preserve the right to pray before a football game. The more this country struggles to free itself from religion, the more we become entangled in the consequences.

If people are taught that they came from slime, the obvious questions and



consequences must follow;

What is the purpose of my existence [hopelessness]?

Who made you the boss of me [lawlessness]?

Why are your rules good and mine bad [relativism]?

What does it matter how I live if I came from slime and return to slime [immorality and inhumanity]?

I realize that in any given poll, the vast majority of Americans claim to believe in God. I claim to believe that running is good for me but that does not make me a runner. Putting on my running shoes and running makes me a runner. The climbing abortion rate, murder rate, divorce rate, alcoholism and drug abuse rate, child and spousal abuse rate contradict that claim and prove that actions speak louder than words. It is an observable truth that the best time you will ever make on any American City freeway is on Sunday morning because there are no traffic jams getting to church.

For those who believe that separation of church and state is not enough, that the world would be better off with no church at all, ask yourself this question; How many hospitals, universities, orphanages, homeless and abuse shelters have been founded by the ACLU or American Atheist Society? It is the inclusion of the word Catholic, Baptist, Presbyterian, Christian, etc., in the name of so many of these institutions that proves by actions, not just words, who really cares for the suffering of mankind and desires to make the world better.

The question that people should be asking is not “Why does God allow tragedies?” But “When will we realize that no nation, in the history of the world, has ever separated itself from God and evolved to a better society?” Of course, to answer, you would have to know history. Most people, it would seem, prefer People magazine.

I could go on and on about this basic subject, what has gone WRONG with this country, our youth? I feel it started with the automobile, which caused people moving ‘away!’ Which lead to the destruction of the ‘porch’ philosophy as we moved further away from core families. Extended families were not at hand to help raise children, added with the advent of women leaving the home to work, creating less and less guidance. Leaving the burden on the school systems, until we took the rights of schools to punish away from them. I youth is growing up with peers and TV as their primary inputs. Is it then any wonder we have what we have?

### What’s Your Idea Of A Friend?

In kindergarten, your idea of a good friend was the person who let you have the red crayon when all that was left was the ugly black one.

In first grade, your idea of a good friend was the person who went to the bathroom with you and held your hand as you walked through the scary halls.



In second grade, your idea of a good friend was the person who helped you stand up to the class bully.

In third grade, your idea of a good friend was the person who shared their lunch with you when you forgot yours on the bus.

In fourth grade, your idea of a good friend was the person who was willing to switch square dancing partners in gym so you wouldn't have to be stuck do-si-do-ing with Nasty Nicky or Smelly Susan.

In fifth grade, your idea of a friend was the person who saved a seat on the back of the bus for you.

In sixth grade, your idea of a friend was the person who went up to Nicky or Susan, your new crush, and asked them to dance with you, so that if they said no you wouldn't have to be embarrassed.

In seventh grade, your idea of a friend was the person who let you copy the social studies homework from the night before that you had.

In eighth grade, your idea of a good friend was the person who helped you pack up your stuffed animals and old baseball but didn't laugh at you when you finished and broke out into tears.

In ninth grade, your idea of a good friend was the person who would go to a party thrown by a senior so you wouldn't wind up being the only freshman there.

In tenth grade, your idea of a good friend was the person who changed their schedule so you would have someone to sit with at lunch.

In eleventh grade, your idea of a good friend was the person who gave you rides in their new car, convinced your parents that you shouldn't be grounded, consoled you when you broke up with Nick or Susan, and found you a date to the prom.

In twelfth grade, your idea of a good friend was the person who helped you pick out a college/university, assured you that you would get into that college/university, helped you deal with your parents who were having a hard time adjusting to the idea of letting you go.

At graduation your idea of a good friend was the person who was crying on the inside but managed the biggest smile one could give as they congratulated you.

The summer after twelfth grade your idea of a good friend was the person who helped you clean up the bottles from that party, helped you sneak out of the house when you just couldn't deal with your parents, assured you that now that you and Nick or you and Susan were back together, you could make it through anything, helped you pack up for university and just silently hugged you as you looked through blurry eyes at 18 years of memories you were leaving behind, and finally on those last days of childhood, went out of their way to give you reassurance that you would make it in college as well as you had these past 18 years, and most importantly sent you off to college knowing you were loved.

Now, your idea of a good friend is still the person who gives you the better of the two choices, holds your hand when you're scared, helps you fight off those who try to take advantage of you, thinks of you at times when you are not there, reminds you of what you have forgotten, helps you put the past behind you but understands when you need to hold on to it a little longer,



stays with you so that you have confidence, goes out of their way to make time for you, helps you clear up your mistakes, helps you deal with pressure from others, smiles for you when they are sad, helps you become a better person, and most importantly loves you!

Pass on to those friends of the past, and those of the future...and those you have met along the way...

Thank you for being a friend. No matter where we go or who we become, never forget who helped us get there.

There's never a wrong time to pick up a phone or send a message telling your friends how much you miss them or how much you love them.

You know who you are, pass it on to someone who you want to remind.

So send this to all your friends and maybe those who aren't but just watch and see who sends it back.

If you love someone, tell them. Remember always to say what you mean.

Never be afraid to express yourself. Take this opportunity to tell someone what they mean to you. Seize the day and have no regrets.

Most importantly, stay close to your friends and family, for they have helped make you the person that you are today and are what it's all about anyway.

Pass this along to your friends. Let it make a difference in your day and theirs.

The difference between expressing love and having regrets is that the regrets may stay around forever.

### Friends Sayings

“If you live to be a hundred, I want to live to be a hundred minus one day, so I never have to live without you.”— Winnie the Pooh

“True friendship is like sound health; the value of it is seldom known until it is lost.” — Charles Caleb Colton

“A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.”

“Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow.

Don't walk behind me, I may not lead.

Walk beside me and be my friend.” — Albert Camus

“Strangers are just friends waiting to happen.”

“Friends are the Bacon Bits in the Salad Bowl of Life.”

“Friendship is one mind in two bodies.” —Mencius

“Friends are God's way of taking care of us.”

“If you should die before me, ask if you could bring a friend.” —Stone Temple Pilots



**“I’ll lean on you and you lean on me and we’ll be okay.” —Dave Matthews Band**

**“If all my friends were to jump off a bridge, I wouldn’t jump with them, I’d be at the bottom to catch them”**

**“Everyone hears what you say.  
Friends listen to what you say.  
Best friends listen to what you don’t say.”**

**“We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a little of each other everywhere”— Tim McGraw**

**“My father always used to say that when you die, if you’ve got five real friends, then you’ve had a great life.”—Lee Iacocca**

**“Hold a true friend with both your hands.” —Nigerian Proverb**

**“A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words.”—Unknown**

### Friendship

**People come into your life for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. When you figure out which it is, you know exactly what to do.**

**When someone is in your life for a REASON, it is usually to meet a need you have expressed outwardly or inwardly. They have come to assist you through a difficulty, to provide you with guidance and support, to aid you physically, emotionally, or spiritually. They may seem like a godsend, and they are. They are there for the reason, you need them to be. Then, without any wrong doing on your part or at an inconvenient time, this person will say or do something to bring the relationship to an end.**

**Sometimes they die. Sometimes they walk away. Sometimes they act up or out and force you to take a stand. What we must realize is that our need has been met, our desire fulfilled; their work is done. The prayer you sent up has been answered and it is now time to move on.**

**When people come into your life for a SEASON, it is because your turn has come to share, grow, or learn. They may bring you an experience of peace or make you laugh. They may teach you something you have never done. They usually give you an unbelievable amount of joy. Believe it! It is real! But, only for a season.**

**LIFETIME relationships teach you lifetime lessons; those things you must build upon in order to have a solid emotional foundation.**



Your job is to accept the lesson, love the person/people (any way); and put what you have learned to use in all other relationships and areas of your life. It is said that love is blind but friendship is clairvoyant.

Thank you for being a part of my life....

### FRIENDS

We might be best friends one year,  
pretty good friends the next year, and  
don't talk that often the next year.

So, I just wanted to say,  
even if I never talk to you again in my life,  
you are special to me and you have made a difference in  
my life, I look up to you, respect you, and truly cherish you.

Send this to all your friends, no matter how often you talk, or how close you are, and send it to the person who sent it to you. Let old friends know you haven't forgotten them, and tell new friends you never will. Remember, everyone needs a friend, someday you might feel like you have NO FRIENDS at all, just remember this e-mail and take comfort in knowing somebody out there cares about you and always will.

### Friends 101

Read Each One Carefully and Think About It a Second or Two

1. I love you not because of who you are, but because of who I am when I am with you.
2. No man or woman is worth your tears, and the one who is, won't make you cry.
3. Just because someone doesn't love you the way you want them to, doesn't mean they don't love you with all they have.
4. A true friend is someone who reaches for your hand and touches your heart.
5. The worst way to miss someone is to be sitting right beside them knowing you can't have them.
6. Never frown, even when you are sad, because you never know who is falling in love with your smile.
7. To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the



world.

8. Don't waste your time on a man/woman, who isn't willing to waste their time on you.

9. Maybe God wants us to meet a few wrong people before meeting the right one, so that when we finally meet the person, we will know how to be grateful.

10. Don't cry because it is over, smile because it happened.

11. There's always going to be people that hurt you so what you have to do is keep on trusting and just be more careful about who you trust next time around.

12. Make yourself a better person and know who you are before you try and know someone else and expect them to know you.

13. Don't try so hard, the best things come when you least expect them to.

**REMEMBER: WHATEVER HAPPENS, HAPPENS FOR A REASON.**

True friends: How many people actually have 8 true friends?  
Hardly anyone I know! But some of us have all right friends and good friends!!!

### Time and Friends

Imagine there is a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400.

It carries over no balance from day to day.

Every evening deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day. What would you do?

Draw out every cent, of course!!!!

Each of us has such a bank. Its name is TIME.

Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds.

Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose.

It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft.

Each day it opens a new account for you.

Each night it burns the remains of the day.

If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours.

There is no going back. There is no drawing against the "tomorrow."

You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness, and success!

The clock is running. Make the most of today.

To realize the value of ONE YEAR, ask a student who failed a grade.



To realize the value of ONE MONTH, ask a mother who gave birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of ONE WEEK, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of ONE HOUR, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.

To realize the value of ONE MINUTE, ask a person who missed the train.

To realize the value of ONE-SECOND, ask a person who just avoided an accident.

To realize the value of ONE MILLISECOND, ask the person who won a silver medal in the Olympics.

Treasure every moment that you have! And treasure it more because you shared it with someone special, special enough to spend your time.

And remember that time waits for no one.

Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery.

Today is a gift. That's why it's called the present!!!

And speaking of time, I've run out on another volume. I am glad to end this one on a timely note...