

THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE GYRO CLUB OF SHERWOOD PARK



VOLUME: 50 EDITION: 9 DATE: JANUARY 3, 2023 EDITOR: Scott Brisbin

I WAS JUST THINKING: Today my pharmacist asked me when my birthday was. I'm pretty sure she's going to get me something.

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The Club's Grand Poobahs:

President: **Nestor Slipchuk**

Vice President: **Don Greig**

Past President: **Bruce Copeland**

Treasurer: **Ted Ewanchuk**

Secretary: **Ray Davis**

Club. Admin. **Ray Davis**

Registrar: **Dorne Hunt**

Directors: **Gordon Stewart; Paul West; Sid Slade; Ted Ewanchuk**

Bulletin Editor: **Scott Brisbin**

Webmaster: **Ray Davis**

EDITOR'S RANT

It's a brand-new Year, filled with potential. So much of it and how it affects us personally will depend on what we make it. If we allow ourselves, our thoughts and our perspectives to be governed by the mainstream media and the world's political forces, we will likely spend much of the year in terror and depression. But there is so much more to our world that often doesn't reach us because those in power find it harder to control the people when we are optimistic, feeling blessed and glad to be alive.

With the exception of token "feel good" pieces at the end of news casts, we are hard pressed to find much cause for optimism by listening to or reading the news we have been used to having provide us with a view of the "real world". Decades ago, the tabloids used to hang on the credo, "If it bleeds, it leads". Sensationalism and negative, sometimes even hurtful stories sold papers. Today that mindset has infected to varying degrees almost all publicly consumed media. The advent of technological advances, from computers, to the internet, to Artificial Intelligence have made major changes to the game. There are, of course, a few exceptions to this huge generalization but most of us have never heard of them.

I am determined to have a go at developing and nurturing a more positive outlook as we start the new year. Obviously, this is far too broad a topic to explore in one rant so this will be an ongoing exploration. Our sources for potential perceptual

Rant contd.

changes might be roughly divided into geographic categories: huge global, human species types of issues; regional/local issues; personal/friends and family issues.

While global issues rarely can be significantly influenced by those of us who consider ourselves mere mortals, we can have a greater impact on our lives and perceptions the smaller and more immediate our perceived sphere of influence becomes. The further we zoom in to more local and personal stories, the better our chances are of maintaining joy and a healthy attitude toward life. Maybe the effort to seek out and become more aware of positive and encouraging perspectives worth sharing from our larger world will in some small way support the dissemination of more a balanced outlook that serves the greater good.

Let's start with a few examples of items I ran across this week that might fall into the positive global/species news category.

* Malaria has a history of killing over 100,000,000 people, mostly children. Apparently, a new vaccine has just come available last month that could save the next 100,000,000 of our global citizens.

* While acknowledging the flaws in much our current attempts at climate control, the world's use of solar and wind energy sources rose 58% in 2023 and doubled over the last 18 months. Time will tell if it has any true positive influence on our planet but so far it offers a positive hint.

* Deforestation in the Amazon dropped 53% this past year since the election of Brazil's new leader who has a different view for the future of the country and the world.

There are so many things that can be cause for viewing our lives with more optimism. I plan to touch on more of those, especially at the local and personal levels in future rants. I came across a comment yesterday that seemed to summarize what I am leading up to in my quest for positivity. ***Optimism doesn't need to be simply a reaction to things you see around you. It can be a choice by which you navigate the world around you. It is up to us to choose the positive or the negative. Could 2024 be the year when we start choosing the positive?***

....To be continued in the coming months.



...but I think that may be part of my plan

DARTS Tuesday, January 9th

The venue has changed from the original plan. It will be at **Oscars Pub**, 221 Chippawa, Sherwood Park, and will commence at 5:30 PM. If you possess a set of darts, please bring them along. Food and beverages will be ordered by each individual from the menu or server. The club will give each attendee \$20 toward their tab.

Terry Baer is the go-to guy for this event. Please contact him immediately if you have not already indicated your plan to attend.

GUEST SPEAKER NIGHT: January 24th

President Nestor Slipchuk has arranged for Brin Ilnicki from the Beaver Hills Biosphere Project to be held at the Headquarters Restaurant. Beaver Hills was designated as a biosphere in 2016 by UNESCO. This is a "global recognition of a collective commitment by the communities within a region to celebrate and advance knowledge, culture, nature and economy together". Ours is very close by. Look for more information on this in the coming week or so.

I found that I have been happier since I changed from coffee in the morning to orange juice. My doctor explained that it's the vitamin C and natural sugars but I really think it's the Vodka

On our way to church, we asked our grandchild why is it important to be quiet in church. She said "Because there are people sleeping!"

Last Meeting PRESIDENT'S CHRISTAS PARTY

.On December 21st fifty six attended the President's Christmas Party at the Broadmoor Country Club. The dinner was preceded by a brief business session, during which one new Gyro, **Blair Gallant and his wife, Claire** underwent formal induction into the club. Welcome Blair and Clair. Another new member, Barry Thomlinson was unable to attend due to a previous commitment. District Governor Dunc Mills gave us an update on the District VIII convention scheduled for June 19 / 20 in Lacombe. The convention is being organized by the District as no club volunteered to host. **Bill Austin** led us all in "Cheerio". **Ken Lesniak** paid tribute to those Gyros who have left us followed by Grace. Everyone dug into a delicious Keto-free meal preceded and followed by socializing and beverages. President Nestor spoke eloquently about the importance of friendship in our troubled world.

As Nestor wound down his speech, the crowd was surprised by the sound of jingle bells and the appearance of Santa Claus. Attendees were a bit confused when he arrived wearing a disheveled Santa black top with lights, red fir trimmed shorts over black tights, and red shoes. The beard wasn't his but several in the crowd the shorts were indeed Dunc's. How they seemed to know Dunc owned a pair of fur trimmed Boxers is still a matter of innocent conjecture. Santa kept everyone in good spirits and handed out gifts to all in attendance. He also oversaw the draw for the the winner of the 2023, \$270, 50/50 prize. Ray Davis held the lucky ticket and, maintaining the long-standing tradition, promptly donated it to the Christmas Bureau, As befits the average age of the club, everyone had headed home by 900 P.M.

Thanks certainly go to our **president, Nestor Slipchuk**, for hosting a first class event and to our evening's conductor, to **Milt Lanes** for maintaining order and letting Nestor take all the credit, and to Deputy Governor **Ted Ewanchuk** who took on the role of Santa's helper.



CHRISTMAS PARTY contd.



AGING GYROS

Our January Birthday Boys starting the year off right include:

Don Greig (5th); **Augie Annicchiario** (8th); **Gord Stewart** (8th);

Bruce Schelske (13th). If you are the guys holding off the snow until after your birthdays, enough is enough. We want some white on that greenish brown that Christmas served us. Enjoy your special day and may it launch you into a great new yea.



HEALTH AND WELFARE:

Rikke Dootjes reported that **Jim Roberts** has passed away.

Jim was a charter ember of our Sherwood Park Gyro and was considered one of our founding members. He was a very active Gyro over the years and ultimately became a president of Gyro International.

Your editor is still pretty much one-eyed. Six weeks post-op after cataract surgery on the eft eye and it remains almost constantly uncomfortable and providing unsatisfactory vision. Fortunately the right eye is performing well.



BOWLING NIGHT December 7th

There were eighteen Gyro bowlers and a handful of non-participating cheer leaders who showed up late in the afternoon at the Sherwood Parl Bowl to, with a few exceptions and for the second straight year, prove the incompetence of our group of seniors can be. We used to demonstrate slightly better form when we played ten pin for a number of years, but five pin, for most of us brought back memories long buried over the past half century or more. The exhumation of those memories was not pretty but it sure was fun. In typical senior fashion, a few of us had not even finished half of our last game when we were asked to wrap it up so the real bowlers (league, custom shirts, etc.) could reclaim the allies for their intended purpose. We retired to the back room and consumed large amounts of pizza and assorted beverages before awarding the coveted Bowling Trophy to our new member, **Barry Thomlinson**. **Art Merrick** was the runner up. Barry now knows about the Gyro tradition that any trophy winner has to keep the trophy at home from the coming year and must also pay to have their name engraved to join the long list of previous winners. There aren't as many repeat winners that way. Kudos go to **Milt Lane** for organizing the event, **George Ward** who served as Milt's able assistant, and to **Sid Slade** for tallying up the huge score. Some even reached three figures!



FUTURE MEETING CHANGES

Don Greig sent me the following note with a request that it be included in the next bulletin:

At the club's AGM meeting in September there were several meeting locations on the schedule that had ?? as the location. The reason being we had hoped the German Canadian Cultural Association room would be available for in house meal service for these meetings; unfortunately this is not likely in the near future.

With Nestor's approval the following meetings have been booked at Headquarters.

Jan-24-2024 Speaker Rick Craddock and Nestor Slipchuk chairmen

Mar-06-2024 Poker John Williams chairman

Mar-20-2024 Brewery Tour Ian Bannatyne chairman

Apr-10-2024 Speaker Ken Lesniak chairman

Additionally Please Note:

Jan-10-2024 Darts, Terry Bajer chairman. This meeting has already been booked at Oscars Pub in Sherwood Park, 221 Chippewa Rd. starting at 5:30 PM. On Tuesday, January 9th There is a separate Dart room that has been booked where we also have room to eat and drink. The reason for the date change is that the room is booked on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

May-22-2024 Auction, Ted Ewanchuk chairman. This meeting has been tentatively booked at Headquarters but may change to Smillie's in Sherwood Park as they have a bigger room to display the silent auction items. Members will be notified when this change is official.

Should the chairmen of the meetings involved wish to have their meeting at another location than at Headquarters, please tell me and the booking at Headquarters will be cancelled. It is up to you as chairman to do the necessary booking for your meeting at another location that is not Headquarters; if you need assistance, please contact me at 780 729-4145.

Thankyou,

Don

MEANWHILE IN CANADA



Meanwhile In Alberta
@MeanwhileinAB

Prairie language 101:

The other day = Could be yesterday or 1998

Yeah no = No

Yeah no for sure = Definitely

Oh, it's going = *desperate cry for help*

Watch for deer = I love you

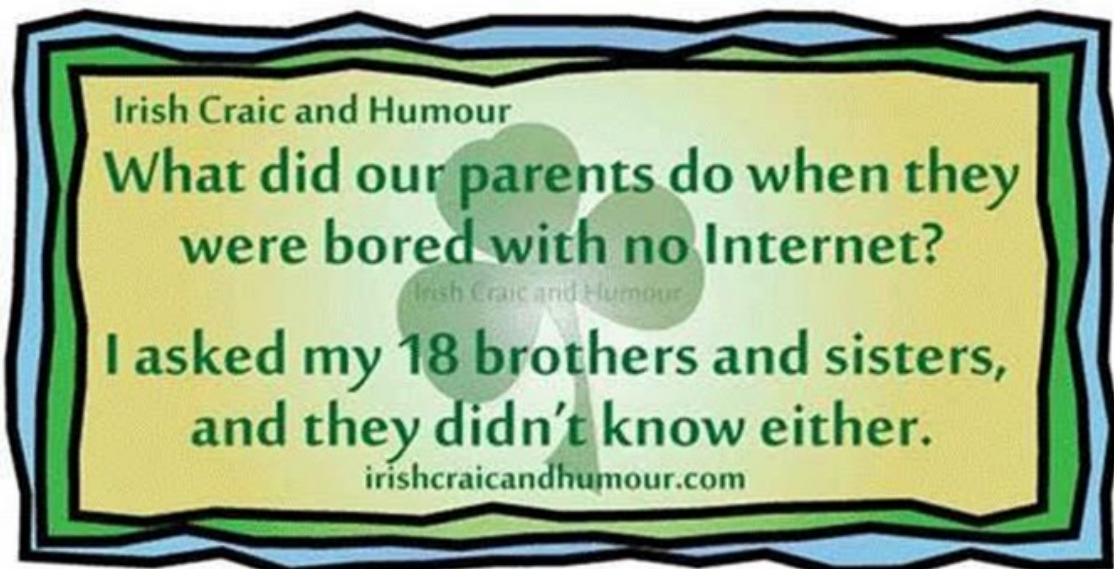
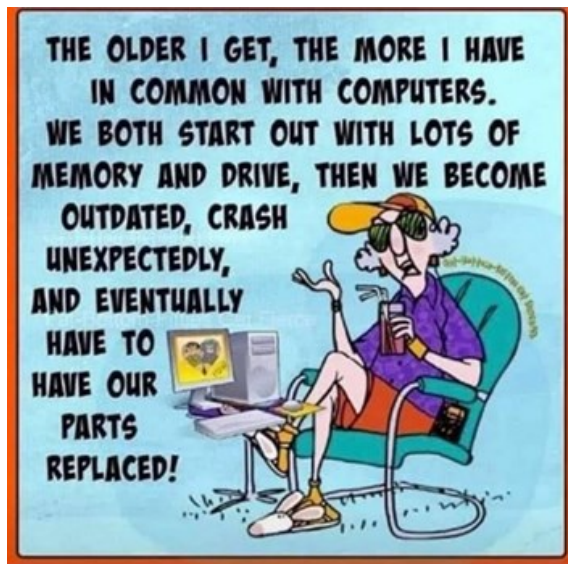


CANADIAN

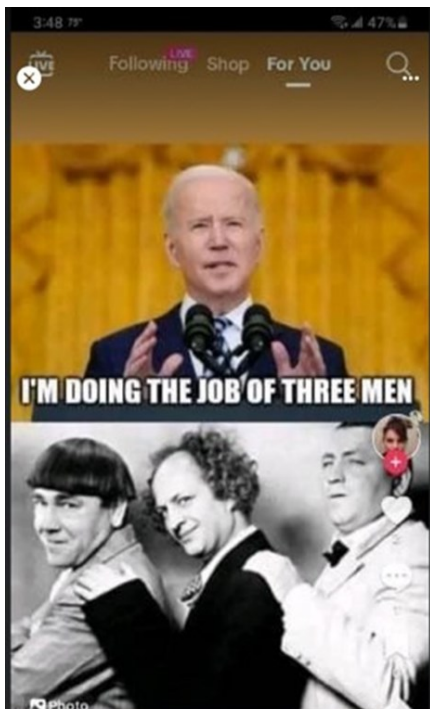
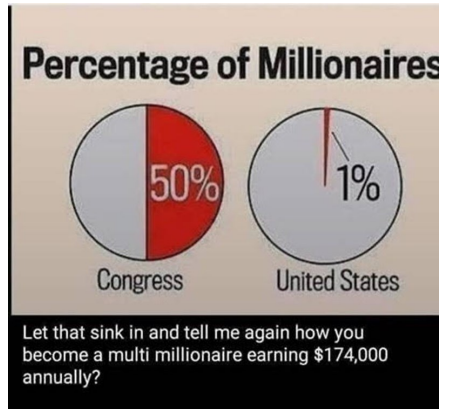
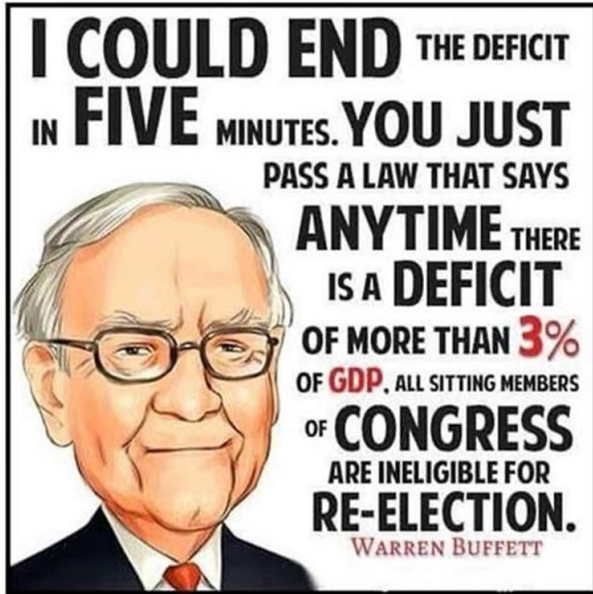


Nice Toque, Bud	These aren't cheese curds!	That ref sucks	I can see yer gitch	Sweet
But it's a dry cold	Give 'er	Yeah, no	It's the Humidity	Thank You
Sorry	Tabarnak	MiC	That actor is Canadian	Needs more Duct tape
Yes, please	It's slippery today	It's about 2 hours away	Double double	Merde
Lousy trade	Beauty Day	That's not syrup	Screech	Storm Chips

COMPUTER CONFUSION



MEANWHILE NOT IN CANADA



**"You can't get rich in politics unless you're a crook."
-- Harry S. Truman**



THOSE WERE THE DAYS

Historic Edmonton

The JOHNSTONE WALKER Department store closed in 1974. It was demolished in 1979. The site is now a small park.



North West Mounted Police with cannons at the sports grounds in the river flats, Edmonton, Alberta. Edmonton Public School is on the hill; brewery in Rosedale is on right. The cannons were used in the Northwest Rebellion of 1885. Cannons are 9 pdr rifled muzzle loading with caissons. One is at Fort Edmonton Park presently, one is at Fort Battleford Historical Park, and one is at the Parade Square, RCMP Museum in Regina.



High tech street light maintenance 1900's

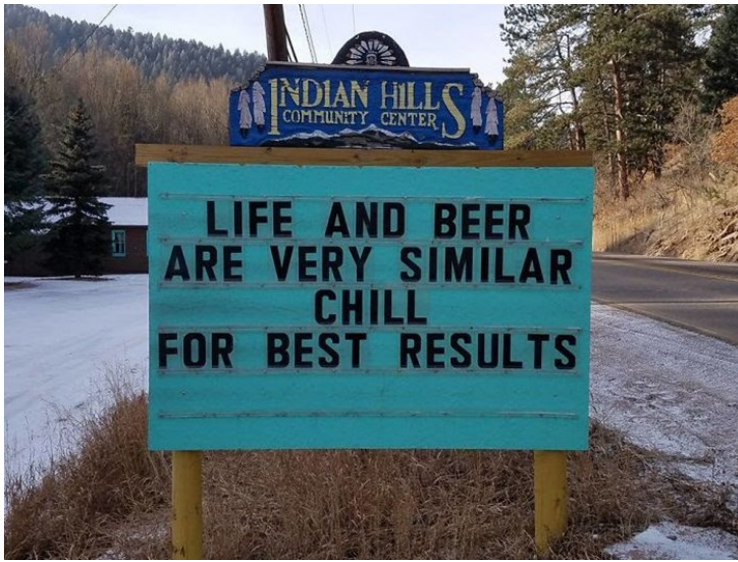
Check out this mail carrier! In 1910, W.R. Day (also known as Buffalo Bill) raised these two moose, Pete and Nellie, and then broke them to drive his mail cart. He would transport mail and supplies to Edmonton and St. Albert from as far away as Wabasca. This is a photo by J.H. Gano of Mr. Day and his two-wheeled cart in 1911.

PAA Photo #: A11262

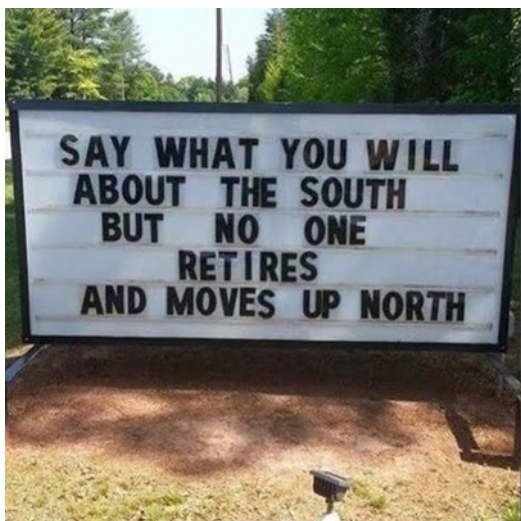
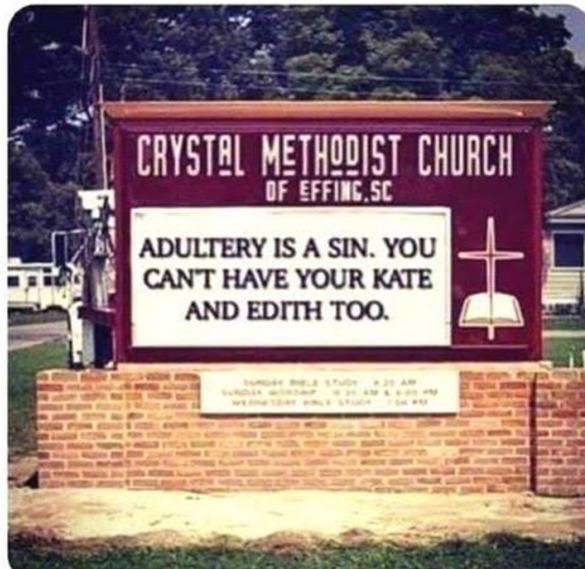
Driving Two Moose (Pete and Nellie) at Edmonton Exhibition (1911)



SIGNS OF OUR TIMES



Not sure which is more funny; the church name, the city or the message. 😂



AGING GRACELESSLY

"One for the road" means peeing before you leave the house

LET'S RUN AWAY... I'M NOT GOING TO END UP IN A HOSPICE AND YOU IN A SHELTER



You'll like this one! It's made from an anti-diuretic hybrid grape and reduces the number of trips people your age go to the toilet during the night. It's called PINO MORE!

Things I'm Super Good At

1. Forgetting someone's name 10 seconds after they tell me.
2. Buying produce...and throwing it away two weeks later.
3. Digging through the trash for the food box I just tossed, because I already forgot the directions.
4. Making plans. And then immediately regretting making plans.
5. Leaving laundry in the dryer until it wrinkles. Then turning on the dryer to dewrinkle. Then forgetting it again.
6. Calculating how much sleep I'll get if I can just "fall asleep right now".

"OLD" IS WHEN..... Your sweetie says, "Let's go upstairs and make love," and you answer, "Honey, I can't do both!"

"OLD" IS WHEN..... Your friends compliment you on your new alligator shoes and you're barefoot.

"OLD" IS WHEN..... A sexy babe catches your fancy and your pacemaker opens the garage door.

"OLD" IS WHEN..... Going bra-less pulls all the wrinkles out of your face.

"OLD" IS WHEN..... You don't care where your spouse goes, just as long as you don't have to go along.

"OLD" IS WHEN..... You are cautioned to slow down by the doctor instead of by the police.

"OLD" IS WHEN..... "Getting a little action" means I don't need to take any fiber today.

"OLD" IS WHEN..... "Getting lucky" means you find your car in the parking lot.

"OLD" IS WHEN..... An "all nighter" means not getting up to go to the bathroom.

T'WAS THE SEASON



The longer Grandma waited to update her eyeglass prescription, the more entertaining the Christmas stories got

As the year comes to an end, I urge you to take care of yourself and avoid accidents because spare parts for old models like you are no longer in stock.



IT'S A CHURCH CHOIR, ED. THEY DON'T TAKE REQUESTS

MEANWHILE IN CANADA



Meanwhile in Canada

@MeanwhileinCana

Quit saying bad things about our wildlife!

Racoons are clever

Squirrels are resourceful

Deer are gentle

Geese

Foxes are beautiful



The restrooms at Home Depot suck.



A FEW WEEKS LATE, BUT

Don't worry folks. We've got this. For the 48 hours surrounding the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, all federal flags will have their customary lanyards replaced with slinkys. Bouncing resolutely up and down between full and half staff -- it's a made in Canada solution.

THINKING ABOUT HEALTH IN 2024



Doctor: Due to new privacy regulations we can no longer use patient names in the waiting room...

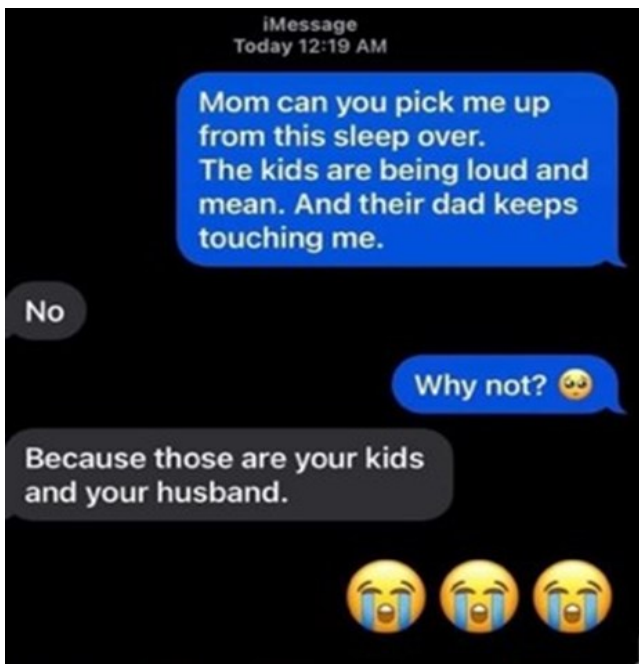


Will the patient with the itchy vagina please follow me...

STARTING YOUR DAY WITH AN EARLY MORNING RUN IS A GREAT WAY TO MAKE SURE YOUR DAY CAN'T GET ANY WORSE THAN IT STARTED

My favorite part of attending a marathon is watching the reaction of runners who grab my plastic cup of vodka.

GYRETTE GIGGLES



KID'S KOMEDY

HOW

One Sunday morning, the priest noticed Little Johnny was staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. It was covered with names, and small American flags were mounted on either side of it. The seven-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the priest walked up, stood beside the boy, and said quietly, "Good morning, Little Johnny." "Good morning, Father," replied the young man, still focused on the plaque. "Father Scott, what is this?" Little Johnny asked. "Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service." Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Johnny's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which service, the 9:45 or the 11:15?"



"This is my grandpa. He's going to explain why this country is going to hell in a handbasket."

FI



Yesterday, I was cooking dinner, and my son came up to me and said, "One day I will work and help you with the bills, the groceries, and the house expenses." My eyes started to tear up. My baby will be 32 next month.

W



So cool, the Tooth Fairy was drunk last night!!!

ANXIETY MEDICINE

In these uncertain times it is easy to let your anxiety start to creep up. Perhaps while we are in various states of armed combat, political strife and major health issues, some images from our amazing world will help



This is what an eight-ton Orca jumping 20 feet out of the water looks like



This is what an oasis in Libya looks like.

Hmmmm....

Theme parks can snap a crystal-clear picture of you on a roller coaster going 70 mph, but bank cameras can't get a clear shot of a robber standing still.

Facial recognition software can pick a person out of a crowd but the vending machine at work can't recognize a dollar bill with a bent corner.

I never make the same mistake twice. I do it like, five or six times, you know, to make sure.

If you see someone buying candy, popcorn and a soda at the movies, he is a drug dealer. There's no other explanation for that type of income.

Dr. Oz says rubbing coffee grounds on your naked body will get rid of cellulite. Apparently you can't do this in Starbucks. And now the cops are here...

Do not vaccinate health care workers first. If it fails, we're all in trouble. Vaccinate the politicians first. If we lose a few of them, it won't matter.

Some people seem to have aged like fine wine. I aged like milk ... I got sour and chunky.

Vegetarians live up to nine years longer than meat-eaters. Nine horrible, worthless, bacon-less years.

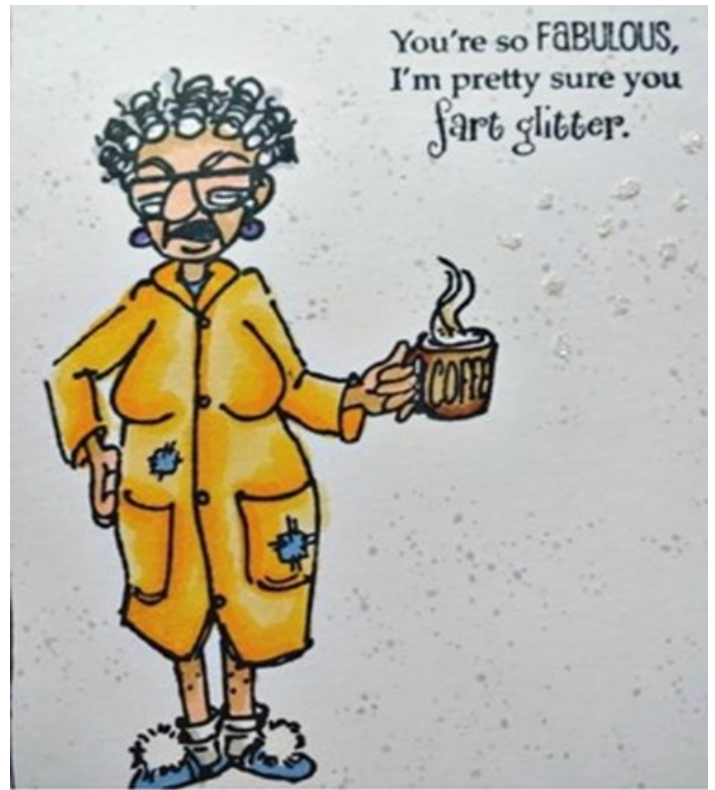
ANIMAL INSTINCTS



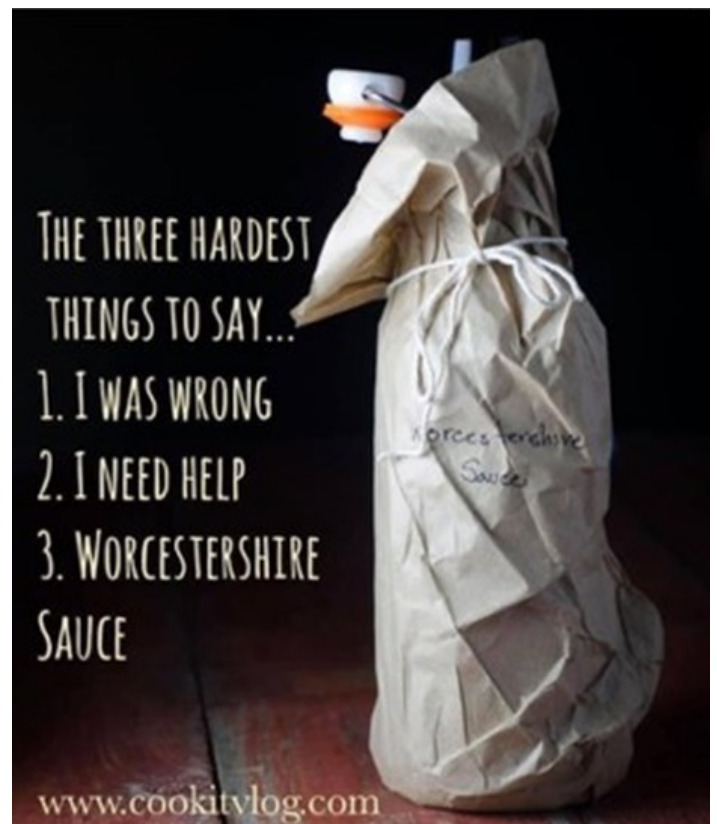
Before you go into the living room...
Butterscotch and I would just like to say,
that we love you very, very much.



SNICKERS AND GUFFAWS



Exclusive New Year's Card 2023



GYRO FRIENDSHIP PICTURE OF THE WEEK



AND THE LAST WORD....

As the year comes to an end, I urge you to take care of yourself and avoid accidents because spare parts for old models like you are no longer in stock.

Oldtimers