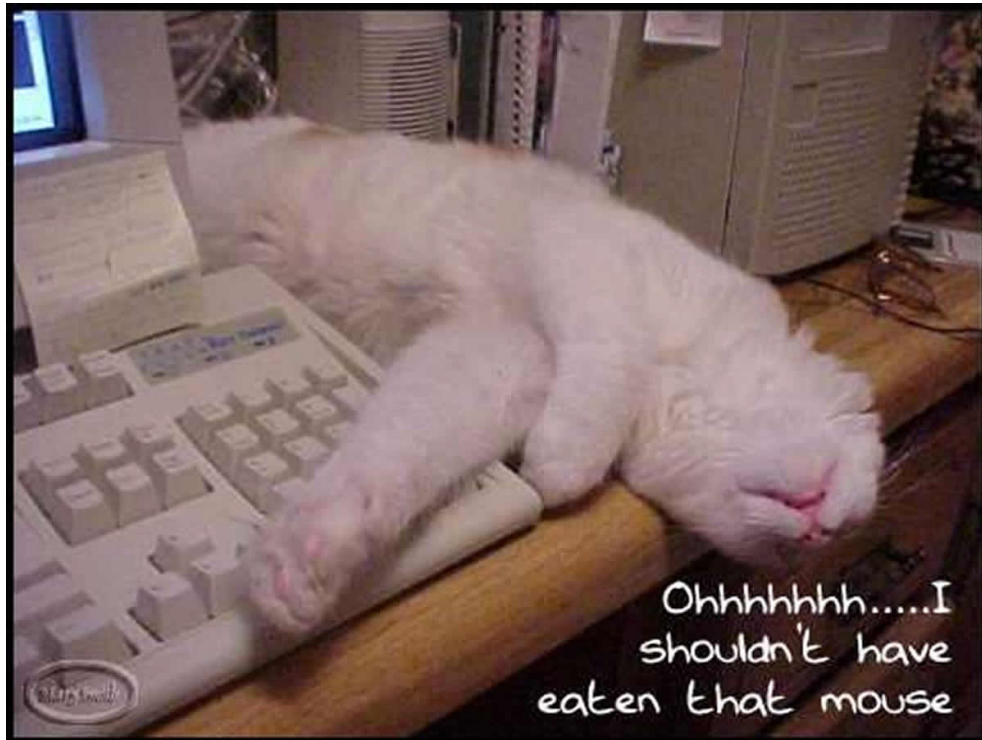


Share



Stories

Poems

Humor

Factoids

Many years ago, in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled "Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden"and thus the word GOLF entered into the English language.

Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than for the U.S. Treasury.

Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear better.

Coca-Cola was originally green.

It is impossible to lick your elbow.

The State with the highest percentage of people who walk to work: Alaska

The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28%

The percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%

The cost of raising a medium-size dog to the age of eleven: \$6,400

The average number of people airborne over the US any given hour: 61,000

Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.

The world's youngest parents were 8 and 9 and lived in China in 1910.

The youngest pope was 11 years old.

The first novel ever written on a typewriter: Tom Sawyer.

The San Francisco Cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments.

$111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle.

If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle.

If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.



Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until 5 years later.

Q. Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of what?

A. Their birthplace

Q. Most boat owners name their boats. What is the most popular boat name requested?

A. Obsession

Q. If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter "A"?

A. One thousand

Q. What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers, and laser printers all have in common?

A. All invented by women.

Q. What is the only food that doesn't spoil?

A. Honey

Q. Which day are there more collect calls than any other day of the year?

A. Father's Day

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. Hence the phrase "goodnight, sleep tight."

It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month...which we know today as the honeymoon.

In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts.. So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them "Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down. It's where we get the phrase "mind your P's and Q's"

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.

And Finally . . .

At least 75% of people who read this will try to lick their elbow.



And Now . . .

You Know the Rest of the Story

Here is a true story by Paul Harvey. You will be surprised who this young man turns out to be.

Years ago a hardworking man took his family from New York State to Australia to take advantage of a work opportunity there. Part of this man's family was a handsome young son who had aspirations of joining the circus as a trapeze artist or an actor. This young fellow, biding his time until a circus job or even one as a stagehand came along, worked at the local shipyards which bordered on the worse section of town. Walking home from work one evening this young man was attacked by five thugs who wanted to rob him. Instead of just giving up his money the young fellow resisted. However, they bested him easily and proceeded to beat his body brutally with clubs, leaving him for dead. When the police happened to find him lying in the road they assumed he was dead and called for the Morgue Wagon.

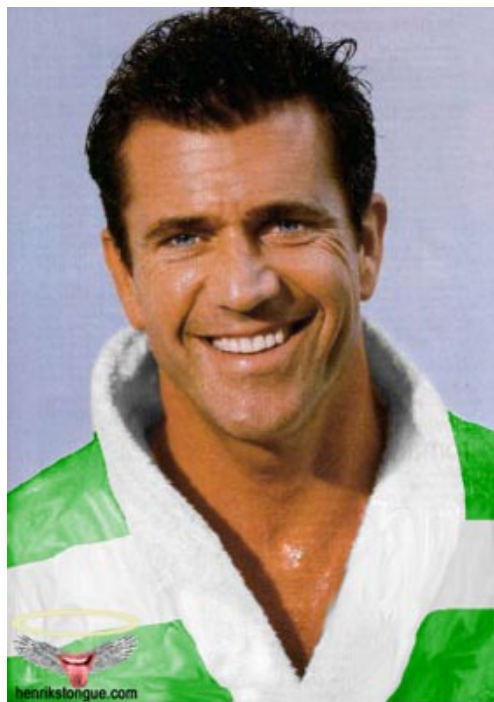
On the way to the morgue a policeman heard him gasp for air, and they immediately took him to the emergency unit at the hospital. When the man was placed on a gurney a nurse remarked to her horror, that this young man no longer had a face. Each eye socket was smashed, his skull, legs, and arms fractured, his nose literally hanging from his face, all his teeth were gone, and his jaw was almost completely torn from his skull. Although his life was spared, he spent over a year in the hospital. When he finally left, his body may have healed but his face was disgusting to look at. He was no longer the handsome youth that everyone admired.

When the young man started to look for work again he was turned down by everyone just on account of the way he looked. One potential employer suggested to him that he join the freak show at the circus as "The Man Who Had No Face". And he did this for a while. He was still rejected by everyone and no one wanted to be seen in his company. He had thoughts of suicide. This went on for five years. One day he passed a church and sought some solace there. Entering the church he encountered a priest who had seen him sobbing while kneeling in a pew. The priest took pity on him and took him to the rectory where they talked at length. The priest was impressed with him to such a degree that he said that he would do everything possible for him that could be done to restore his dignity and life, if the young man would promise to be the best Catholic he could be, and trust in God's mercy to free him from his torturous life. The young man went to Mass and communion everyday and after thanking God for saving his life, asked God to only give him peace of mind and the grace to be the best man he could ever be in His eyes. The priest, through his personal contacts was able to secure the services of the best plastic surgeon in Australia. There would be no cost to the young man as the doctor was the priest's best friend. The doctor too was so impressed by the young man, whose outlook now on life, even though he had experienced the worst, was filled with good humor and love. The surgery was a miraculous success. All the best dental work was also done for him. The young man became everything he promised God he would be.



He was also blessed with a wonderful, beautiful wife, many children, and success in an industry which would have been the furthest thing from his mind as a career, if not for the goodness of God and the love of the people who cared for him. This he acknowledges publicly. The young man, Mel Gibson. His life was the inspiration for his production of the movie "The Man Without A Face". He is to be admired by all of us as a God fearing man, a political conservative, and an example to all as a true man of courage.

And now, you know the rest of the story.



Think You Know Everything?

A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.

A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.

A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.

A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.

A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

A snail can sleep for three years.

Al Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.

All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.

Almonds are a member of the peach family.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.

Butterflies taste with their feet.

Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds. Dogs only have about 10.

"Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".

February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.

In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.

If the population of China walked past you, in single file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.

If you are an average American, in your whole life, you will spend an average of 6 months waiting at red lights.



It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.

Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors.

Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.

No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.

On a Canadian two dollar bill, the flag flying over the Parliament building is an American flag.

Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.

Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

"Stewardesses" is the longest word typed with only the left hand; lollipop"with your right.

The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.

The Bible does not say there were three wise men; it only says there were three gifts.

The cruise liner, QE2, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns.

The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.

The sentence: "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet.

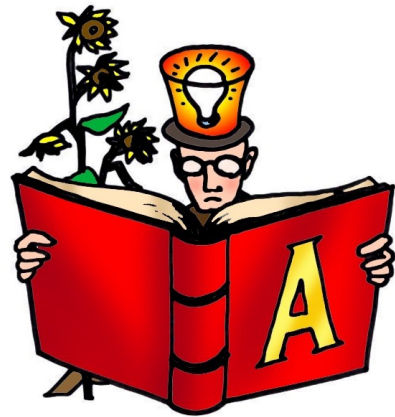
The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid.

The words 'racecar,' 'kayak' and 'level' are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left (palindromes).

There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.

There are more chickens than people in the world.

There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.



There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: "abstemious" and "facetious."

There's no Betty Rubble in the Flintstones Chewables Vitamins.

Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.

"TYPEWRITER" is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.

Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks; otherwise it will digest itself.



Cultural Exegesis of the Abercrombie & Fitch Quarterly Catalog

by Cindy Tutsch

The Abercrombie and Fitch Quarterly is a catalog/magazine published by the upscale retailer (A&F) that is incredibly popular among the 15- to 19-year-old demographic,¹ along with hordes of preteen girls already hooked on the Abercrombie and Fitch label. Though the catalog carries a warning on the wrapper—"Due to mature content, parental consent suggested for readers under eighteen"—it is displayed right next to the store's cash register, effectively marketing pubescents as well as the alleged demographic. Some analysts claim A&F's biggest market is young teens and preteens, as any visit to a mall or middle school will attest.

The cover of a recent issue showed German model Heidi Klum nude on the front cover next to a naked man. The first half of the catalog features naked and near-naked very young, all-White models (who are not necessarily modeling clothes found later in the catalog) fondling and groping each other and themselves in sexually explicit positions. The middle of the catalog shows a few pages of clothes (sans models) followed by music, movie, video, and "hotspot" reviews. "Drinking 101" is a typical short article. It features drink recipes and a cutout quick-reference guide to cocktails, though few A&F patrons are legally old enough to drink. Recent interview features include Heidi Fleiss, Hollywood madame, and Larry Flynt, founder of *Hustler* magazine.

When challenged concerning their discriminatory racial stereotyping in the

recent T-shirts featuring Asian-Americans as coolies, laundrymen, and rickshaw drivers— and labeling such as "Two Wongs Can Make It White"— A&F spokespersons called it "harmless fun." Kevin Lee refutes that rebuttal in his compelling article titled "Pimped by Abercrombie and Fitch: How the Whiter-Than-Thou Clothing Giant Is Selling Asian Self-Hate and Shame."²

A&F also denies inciting any problems with their thong panties for little girls. (A&F has withdrawn this product under public pressure.) Though A&F claims the undergarments are not for girls under 10, many outraged mothers say they fit 7-year-olds. It appears that A&F strives for the sexualization of even the youngest generations,³ recognizing that "brand loyalty" will pay future profits. The indifference of A&F's spokespersons to the critics' charge of marketing premature sexuality to innocent children for profit is striking and disturbing.

The greatest needs of today's youth in their fragmented and sometimes frightening world include the need to be loved and the need for acceptance. A&F exploits those needs for profit through multimillion-dollar false advertising that implies promiscuous sex, drinking, and reckless partying will fulfill these needs. "The ages between 12 and 18 are an especially vulnerable period in a person's life. Teens are beginning to assess and affirm their most basic values as they struggle to become adults. To exploit this period is to show no care outside of making a profit."⁴



What Can We Do?

How can we equip youth to think critically about the messages advertising giants foist on them? To facilitate cultural analysis and a higher level of thinking, I might ask my youth groups the question posed by the *Jewish World Review*—"Why would a clothing store try to sell clothes by showing pictures of naked people?"—and guide them toward A&F's bottom line: exploitation of young America for the purpose of sales.

I might share the quote from Laura Perachio, professor of marketing and consumer behavior at the University of Wisconsin: "Companies are more apt to try radical attention-getters when business is hurting, which could be true of Abercrombie, whose earnings have flattened out, with stock down sharply."

I might also encourage my youth group to discover the focus of A&F's marketing angle, which could include the following: celebration of Whiteness, celebration of drinking, celebration of rebellion, celebration of irresponsible and uncommitted sex, celebration of mindless (noncerebral) fantasy (note A&F T-shirt that reads "What do I care if I'm late to class, he's wearing Abercrombie!").

We might discuss the issues of self-esteem and the dangerous message inherent in the quarterly's pages—"only this is beautiful, and this is all there is to being desirable."⁵ In a culture that values sports heroes, physical beauty, vulgarity, trash talk, and consumerism while often devaluing the aged, academic pursuits, loyalty, servant leadership, and selfless compassion for the poor, A&F's priorities are particularly troubling.

Our youth group might also discuss the

concept that pornography "degrades everyone who participates in it—the models, the producers and the buyers."⁶ When pornography is used as an advertising tool, it demeans customers by assuming that they are incapable of being marketed by subtlety or cognition and can be enticed only by ablatantly sexual campaign.⁷

I might also invite my youth group to discuss this paragraph: "Sex sells. . . . Virtue tends to lose to vice, particularly among those who view the vice as compellingly forbidden. . . . Escapist art now comes in a clothing catalog, and instead of inspiring the mind to deep thoughts, it inspires the viewer to find his Visa card" "while A&F executives smile all the way to the bank."⁸

Other Suggestions

The Pittsburgh Coalition Against Pornography suggests the following thesis for Bible study:

Through the content of its advertisements and programs, the media drives young people's economic decisions, shapes their values and standards, and keeps their focus on themselves, thereby driving a wedge between young people and God's plan for their lives.

Contrast the biblical principle of stewardship of God's resources with the economics of media manipulation by looking at the amount of money available for teens to spend, the network of companies positioned to direct the flow of teen spending, and the marketing tools these companies use.⁹

Examining with teens the manipulative techniques of corporate America and



its impact on the values of our current culture is only one phase of the battle to save our youth for heaven. I maintain that the most effective way to combat the destructive impact of Abercrombie and Fitch is to make known "the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:16).

If we work with simplicity, humility, and the power of the Holy Spirit, identifying sin as the evil that betrayed our closest Friend, I believe we will have success that goes far beyond mere market analysis. I want our youth to know peace and meaning through a life given in unselfish service to Jesus. I want my focus to be on Christ and Him crucified—the wonders of eternal life—and not so much on our jaded society. I want our youth to have a passion for lost youth, a passion to help the poor, a passion to hasten the coming of Jesus.

I believe that the most effective way to encourage our youth to be "in the world" but not "of the world" is to provide them service and evangelism opportunities. In an environment of united prayer, praise, and work for others, the Holy Spirit can make progress in changing our hearts. Only Jesus can keep us faithful in a degraded culture exposed to the machinations of the one who comes to us with "great wrath," knowing "his time is short" (Rev. 12:12, NIV).

- 1 Erin Boyington. "Sex Sells," Spokesman - Review, Feb. 3, 2003, p. B-1.
- 2 See www.hardboiled.org/5.5/55-08-af.html.
- 3 Boyington, p. B-7.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 Laura Vanderkam, "Abercrombie & Fitch in the Unreal World." www.shethinks.org/articles/an00169.cfm.
- 9 [www.pittsburghcoalition.com/abercrombie.html#bible study](http://www.pittsburghcoalition.com/abercrombie.html#bible%20study).

Courtesy of: Tutsch, Cindy
Adventist Review
November 20, 2003



Laus Deo

On the aluminum cap atop the Washington Monument in Washington, DC are two words: Laus Deo. No one can see these words. In fact ... most visitors to the monument have no idea they are even there and ... for that matter ... probably couldn't care less! But there they are ... 555 feet, 5.125 inches high ... perched atop the monument to the father of our nation ... overlooking the 69 square miles which comprise the District of Columbia ... capital of the United States of America. Laus Deo! Two seemingly insignificant, unnoticed words ... out of sight and, one might think, out of mind ... but very meaningfully placed at the highest point over what is the most powerful city in the world. And what might those two words ... comprised of just four syllables and only seven letters ... mean? Very simply ... "Praise be to God!" Though construction of this giant obelisk began in 1848 when James Polk was President of the United States, it was not until 1888 that the monument was inaugurated and opened to the public. It took 25 years to finally cap the memorial with the tribute Laus Deo! Praise be to God! From atop this magnificent granite and marble structure ... a visitor can take in the beautiful panoramic view of the city with its division into four major segments. And from that vantage point one can also easily see the original plan of the designer, Pierre Charles l'Enfant. A perfect cross imposed upon the landscape ... with the White House to the north ... the Jefferson Memorial to the south ... the Capitol to the east ... and the Lincoln Memorial to the west. A cross ... you say? How interesting! And ... no doubt ... intended to carry a meaning for those who bother to notice. Praise be to God!



Within the monument itself are 898 steps and 50 landings. As one climbs the steps and pauses at the landings, the memorial stones share a message. On the 12th landing is a prayer offered by the City of Baltimore; on the 20th is a memorial presented by some Chinese Christians; on the 24th a presentation made by Sunday school children from New York and Philadelphia quoting Proverbs 10:7, Luke 18:16 and Proverbs 22:6. Praise be to God!

When the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid on July 4th, 1848, deposited within it were many items including the Holy Bible presented by the Bible Society. Praise be to God! Such was the discipline, the moral direction, the spiritual mood given by the founder and first President of our unique democracy ... "one nation, under God." I am awed by Washington's prayer for America.

Have you never read it? Well, now is your opportunity ... read on! "Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United states at large." "And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean



ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." Laus Deo! As you might have guessed ... I kind of like the idea that our Pledge of Allegiance includes the phrase "under God." It is clear when one studies the history of our great nation that Washington's America was one of the few countries in all the world established under the guidance, direction and banner of Almighty God, to whom was given all praise, honor and worship by the great men who formed and fashioned her pivotal foundations. And ... when one stops to observe the inscriptions found in public places all over our nation's capitol ... one will easily find the signature of God. We are a nation under God!!! Laus Deo!!! Praise be to God!!!

"Unless the Lord builds the house its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. (Psalm 127: 1)

