

JUNE MOON

2020



Moon over a mosque, Khiva 1998

Robert Middleton

June and Moon are, of course, among poets' and songwriters' favourite words - not only are they evocative, but, more importantly, there are 93 other words that rhyme with them. Gus Edwards and Edward Madden were well aware of this when, in 1909, they wrote the song *By the light of the silvery moon*, made famous by Billy Murray and Ada Jones, among the most popular singers in the USA at the time, and later by Doris Day and others:

By the light of the silvery moon
I want to spoon,
To my honey I'll croon love's tune.
Honey moon, keep a-shinin' in June
Your silvery beams will bring love's dreams
We'll be cuddlin' soon ... etc. etc. etc.

By 1925, performers were beginning to tire of its marshmallow lyrics. In 1923, Murray recorded a parody:

Oh, I'm sick of all these ditties about "moon" and "spoon" and "June"
So, will you stand up, and sing for your father an old time tune!

Murray had already recorded a 'moon' song in 1909, also with Ada Jones: *Shine on Harvest Moon*. Too many moons can make you a loon.

On a more serious note, a poem by the American poet Carl Sandberg (1878-1967)

Moonset

Leaves of poplars pick Japanese prints against the west.
Moon sand on the canal doubles the changing pictures.
The moon's good-by ends pictures.
The west is empty. All else is empty. No moon-talk at all now.
Only dark listening to dark.

And of course, Shakespeare from *The Merchant of Venice*: "The moon shines bright; in such a night as this, when the sweet wind did gently kiss the trees and they did make no noise, in such a night"

So in case you are feeling increasingly lunatic in these loony times, here is another compendium to make you at least smile, if not actually LOL.

~ Robert Middleton 2020

Cartoons from *The New Yorker*

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Visit my website www.pamirs.org

All editions of Christmas Pudding and Easter Egg can be found on

<http://www.pamirs.org/Christmas-Pudding.htm>

Confinement confusion



SHOPPING



MOVIES



MAIL



WORK



MEETING



RELAX



CHAT



BILLS



SEX

embrace the future!

Yesterday my husband thought he saw a cockroach in the kitchen. He sprayed everything down and cleaned thoroughly. Today I'm putting the cockroach in the bathroom.



"Are you talking about the new normal of an hour ago, or is there a new normal right now?"



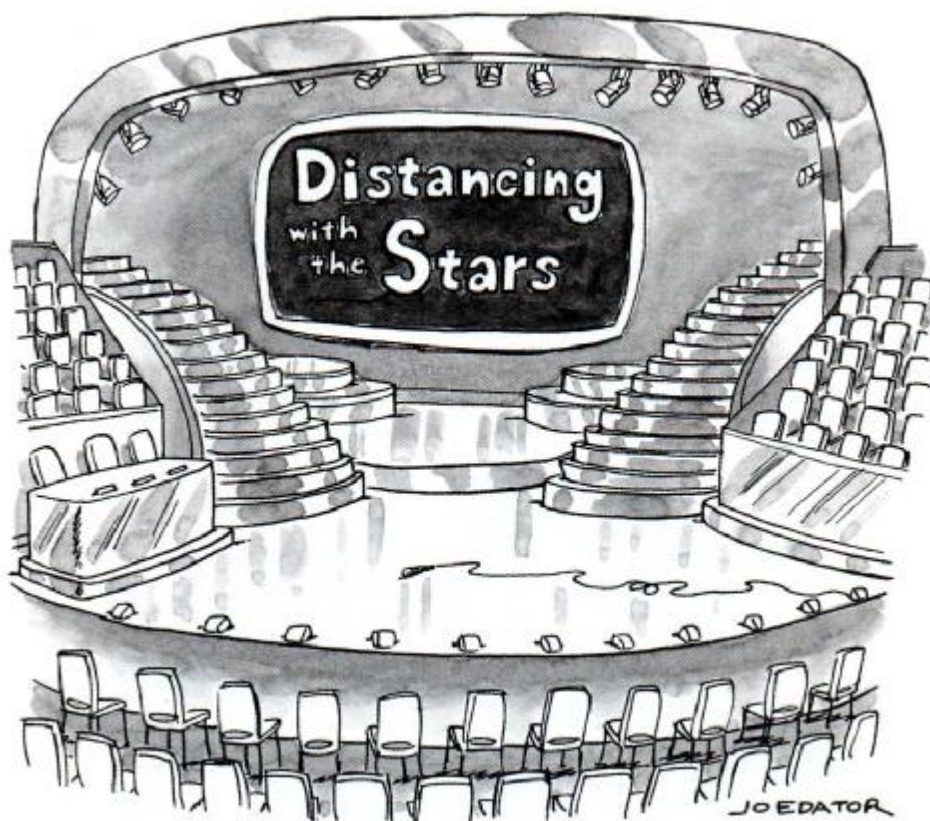
"Sorry I'm late, everyone, I have no excuse."

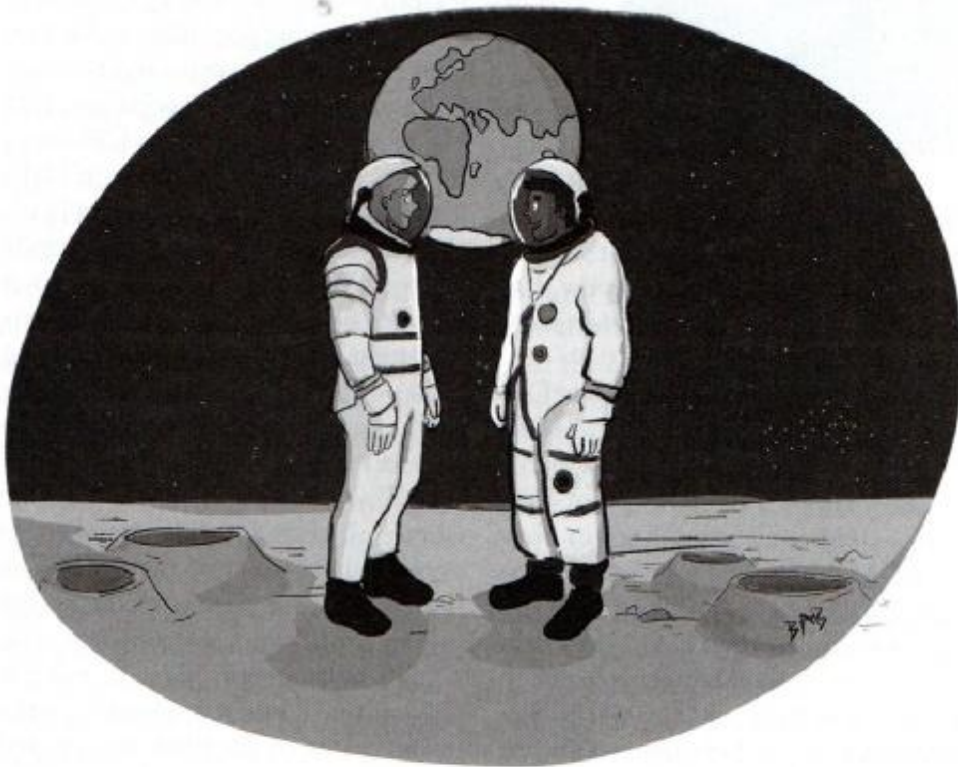


Some stay-at-home activity suggestions



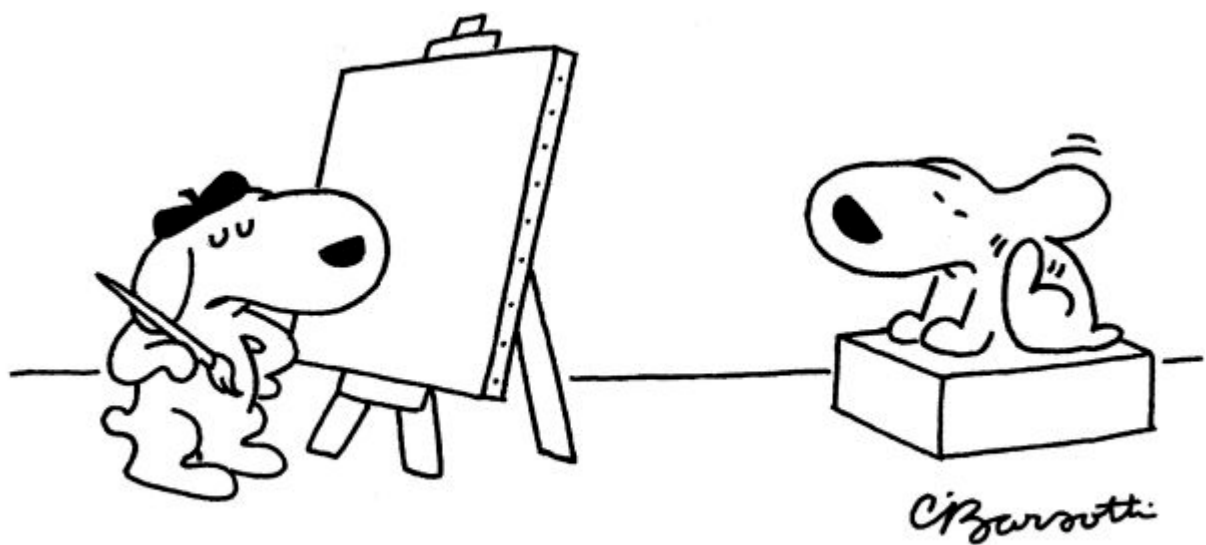
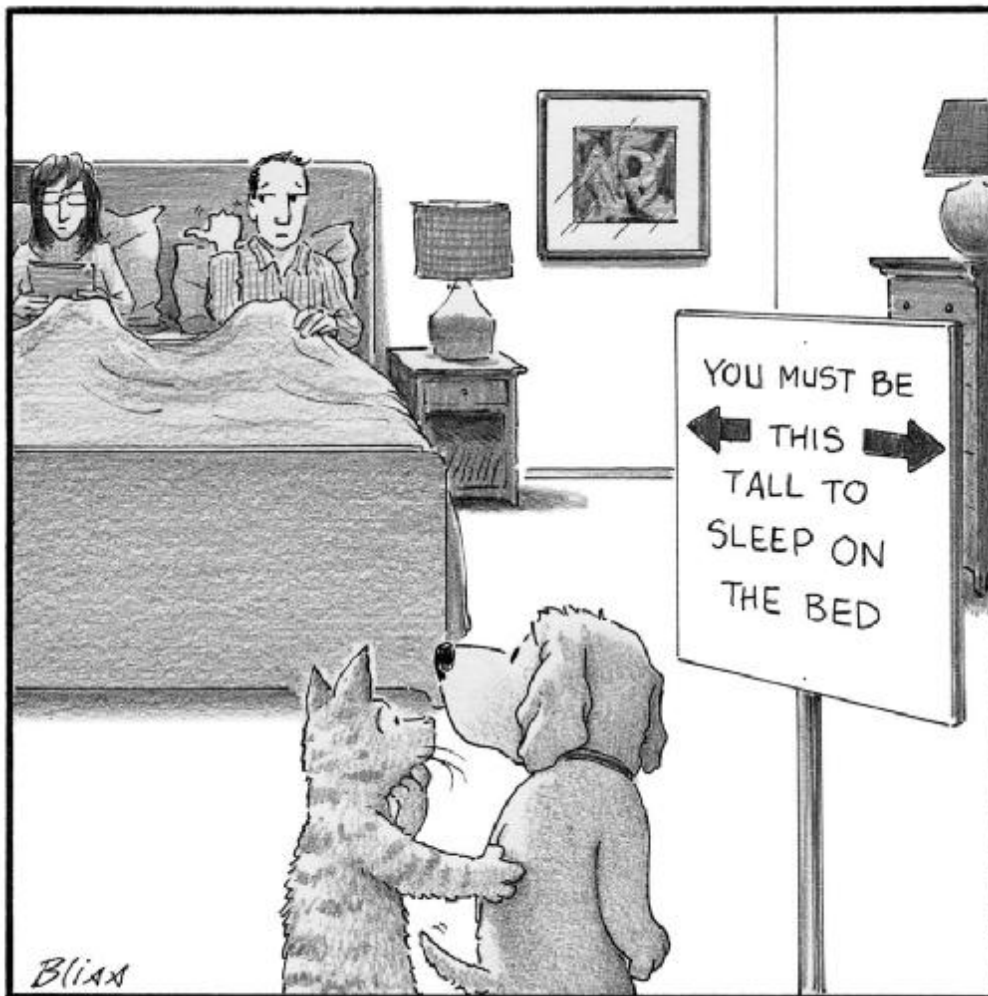
"Go to sleep. Everything will be worse in the morning."



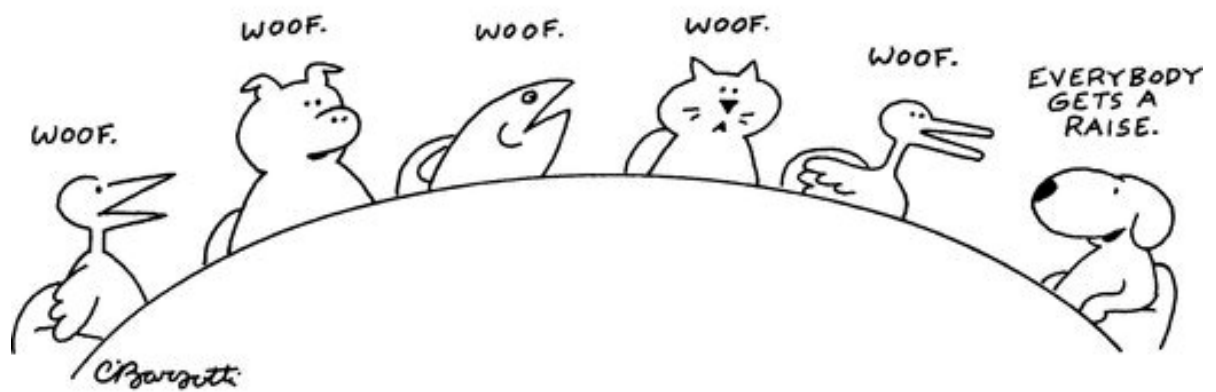
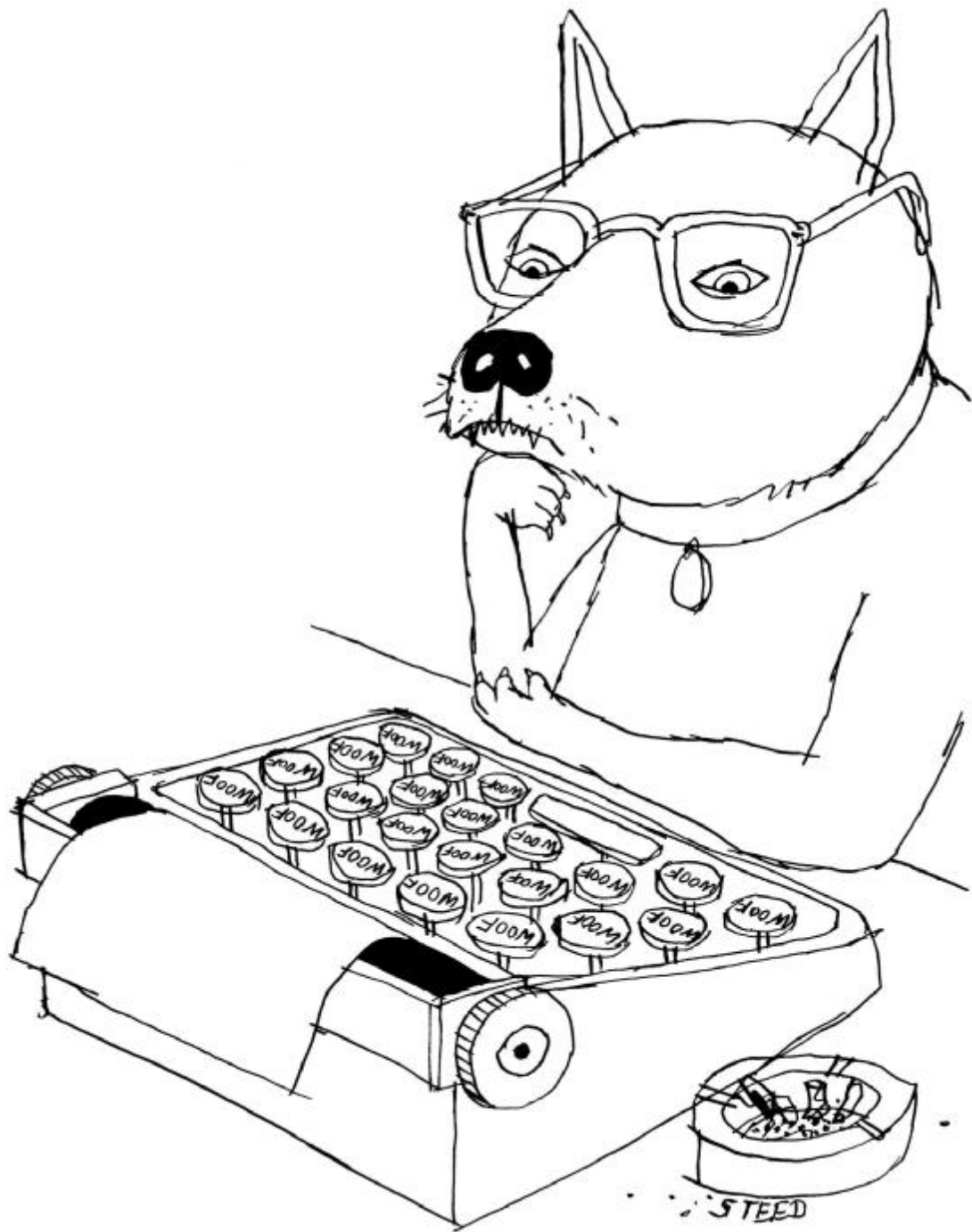


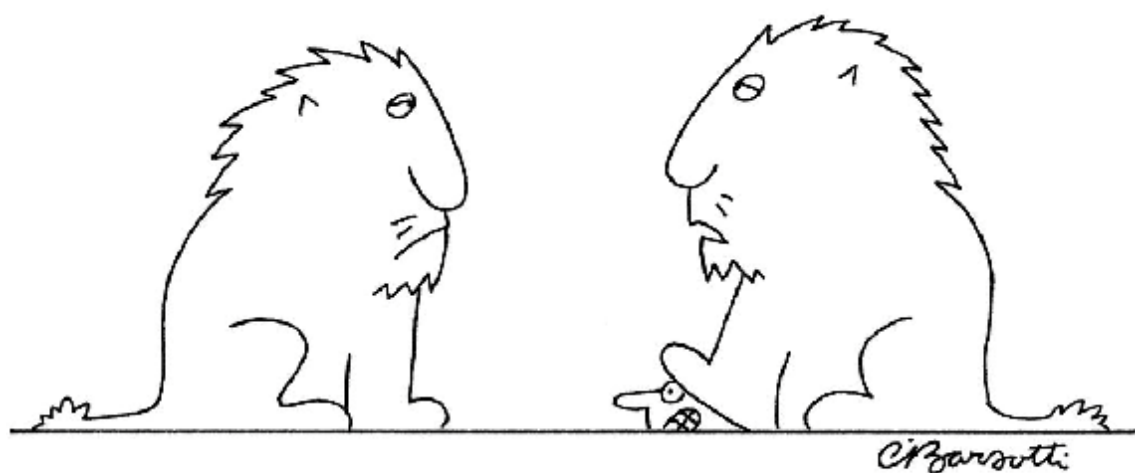
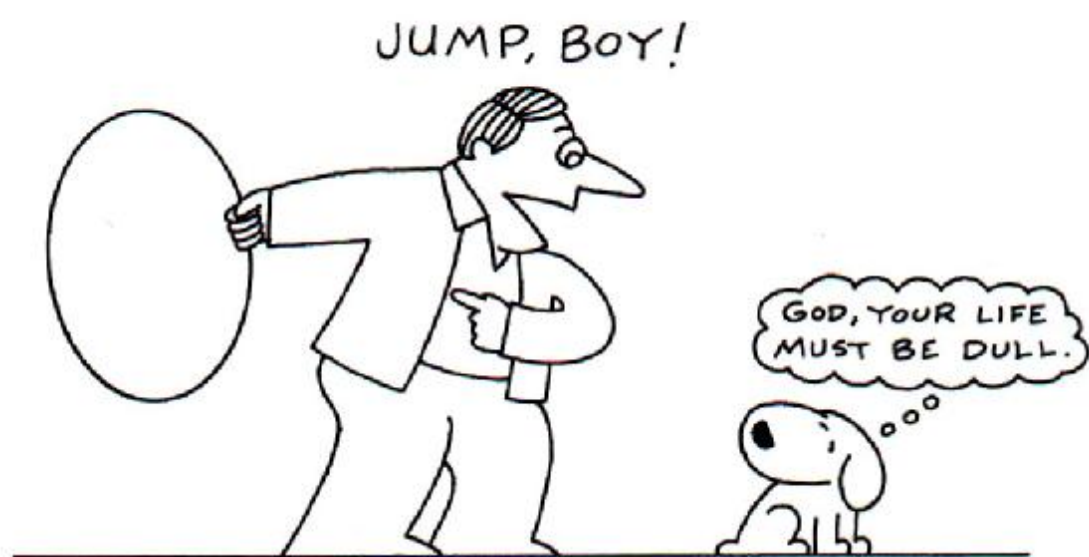
*"I can't wait to get home, run around outside,
and finally eat some fresh food."*

Animal Antics

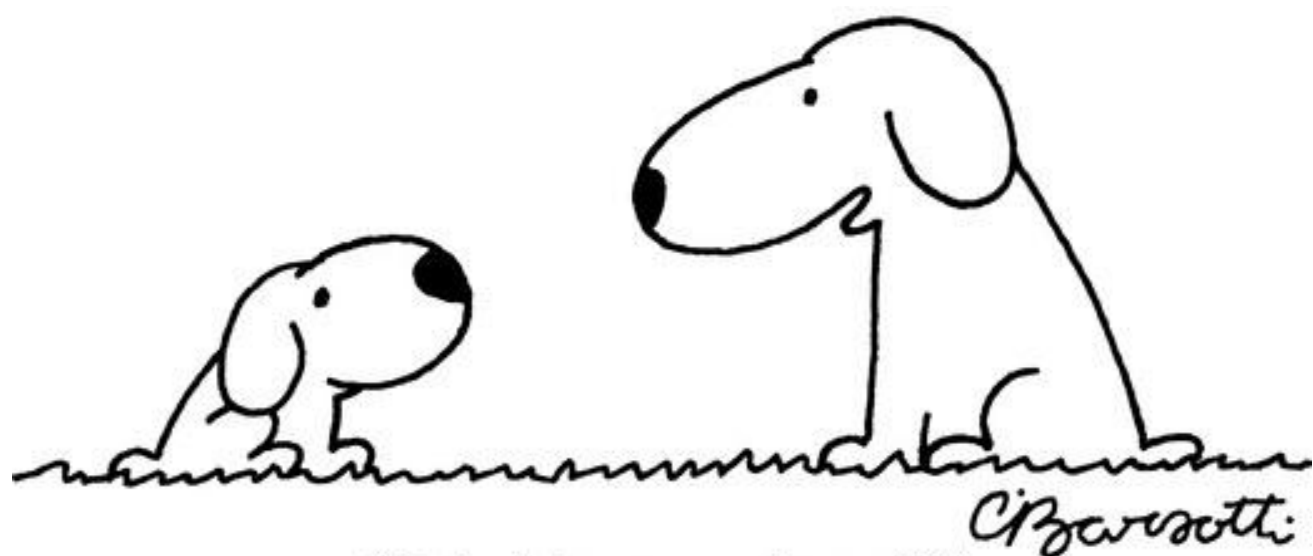


"Whenever you're ready."

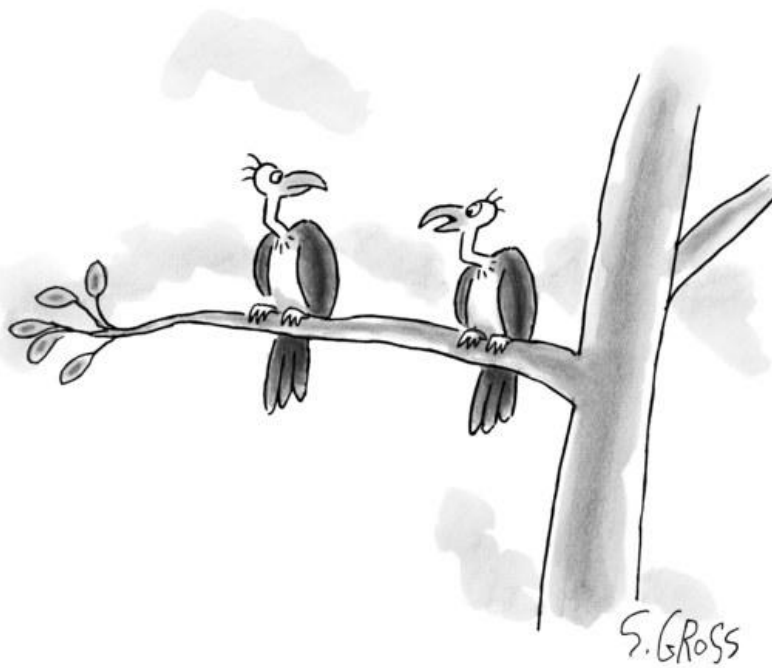




"I'd love to swap. Where's the zebra?"



"Cute is whatever you can get away with."



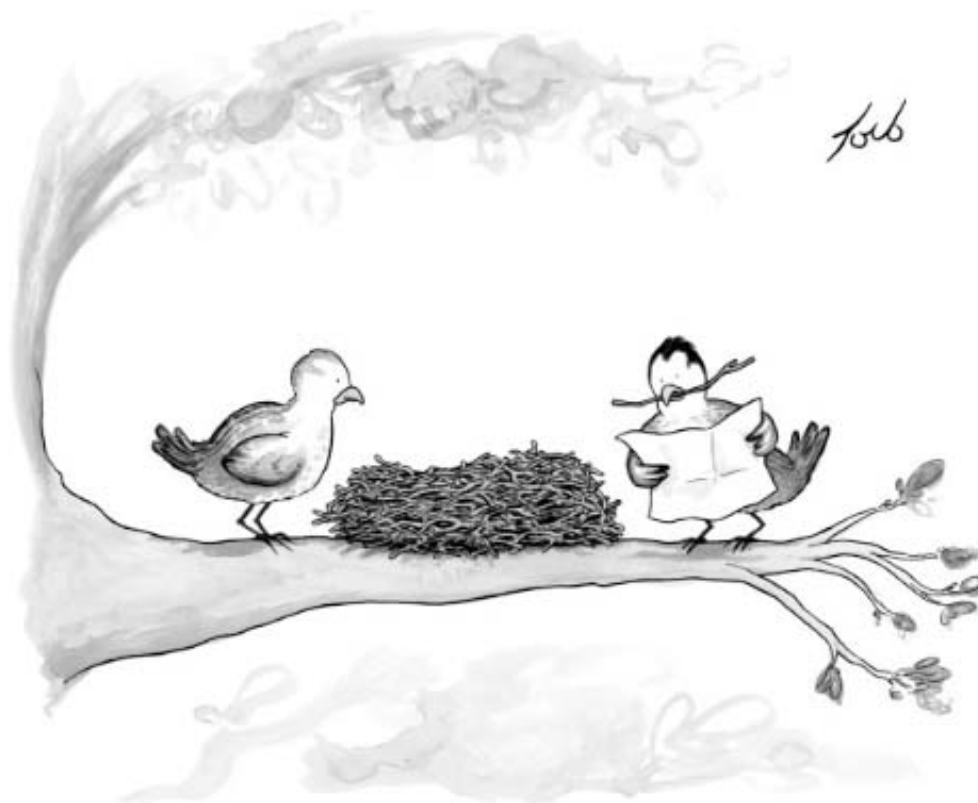
"Promise me that if I die first you won't eat me."



*"Papa Bear was too much, Mama Bear wasn't enough,
and I always had to be just right."*



"He's an indoor cat."



"There's always one annoying piece left over."

Office Life - didn't you miss it?



"Does this desk make my job look big?"

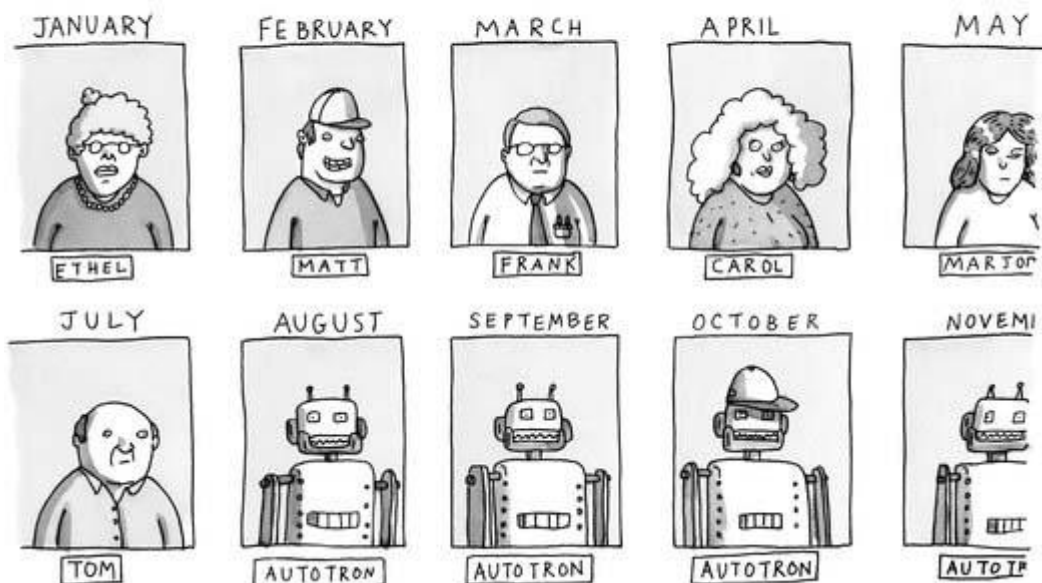


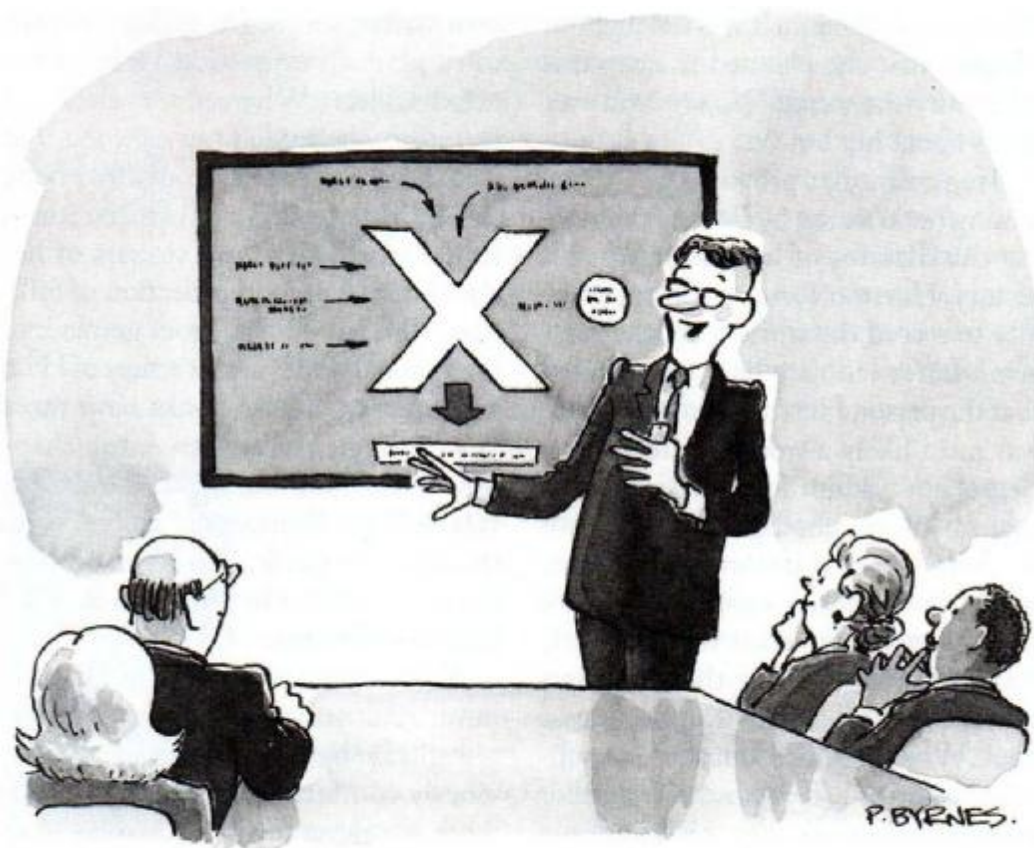
"We want to include you in this decision without letting you affect it."



"We realize it's a win-win, Jenkins—we're trying to figure out a way to make it a win-lose."

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH





*"Enhanced branding metrics drive robust solutions
for scalable monetization of jargon."*



*"Is that legal? Can the old man force me to take
a performance-enhancing drug?"*



"Hey, I like nuts, too. All I'm saying is maybe diversify your portfolio."



"Firkins, when you're done with those photocopies, remove the new guy from his packaging, will you?"

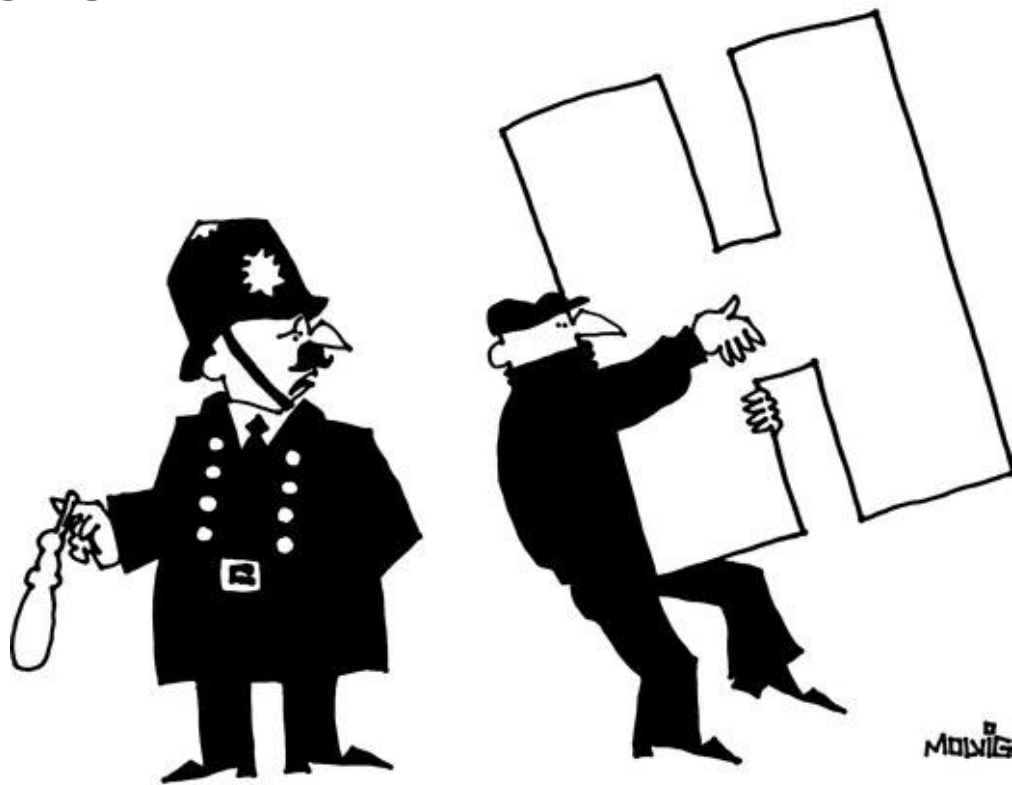


"So that's our offer: blood, toil, tears, sweat, and dental."



"Sorry, boys, but we're cutting back on bean counters till we have more beans."

Language etc.



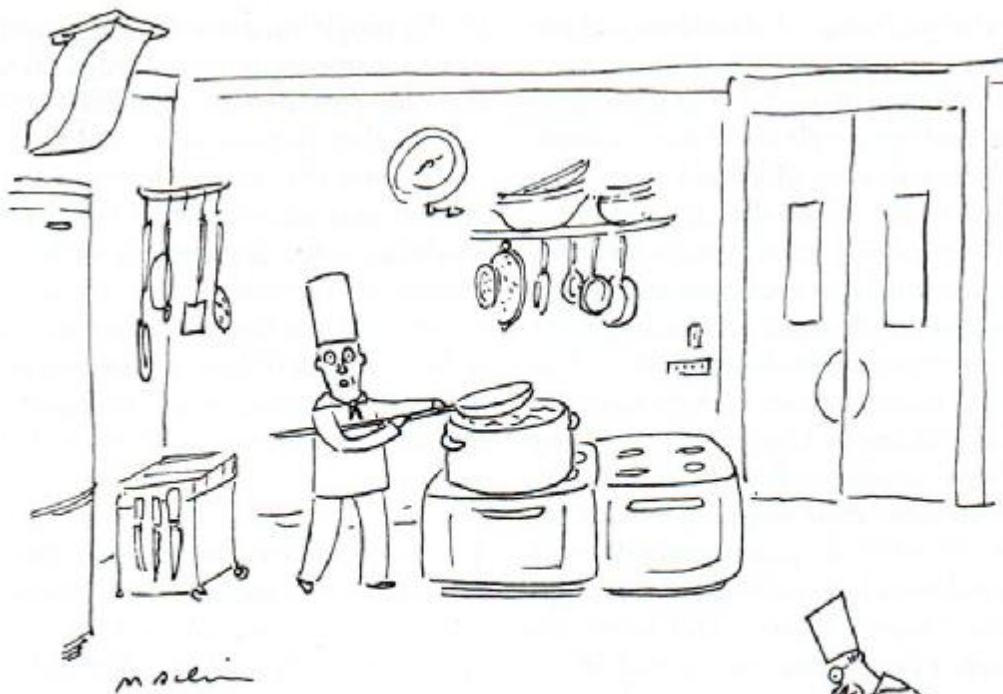
"And wot 'ave we 'ere, guv'nor?"



"Don't embarrass me again, spell-checker."



"We found a dangling participle in your carburetor, Professor."



"Sorry—we're making alphabet soup and we've run short of let



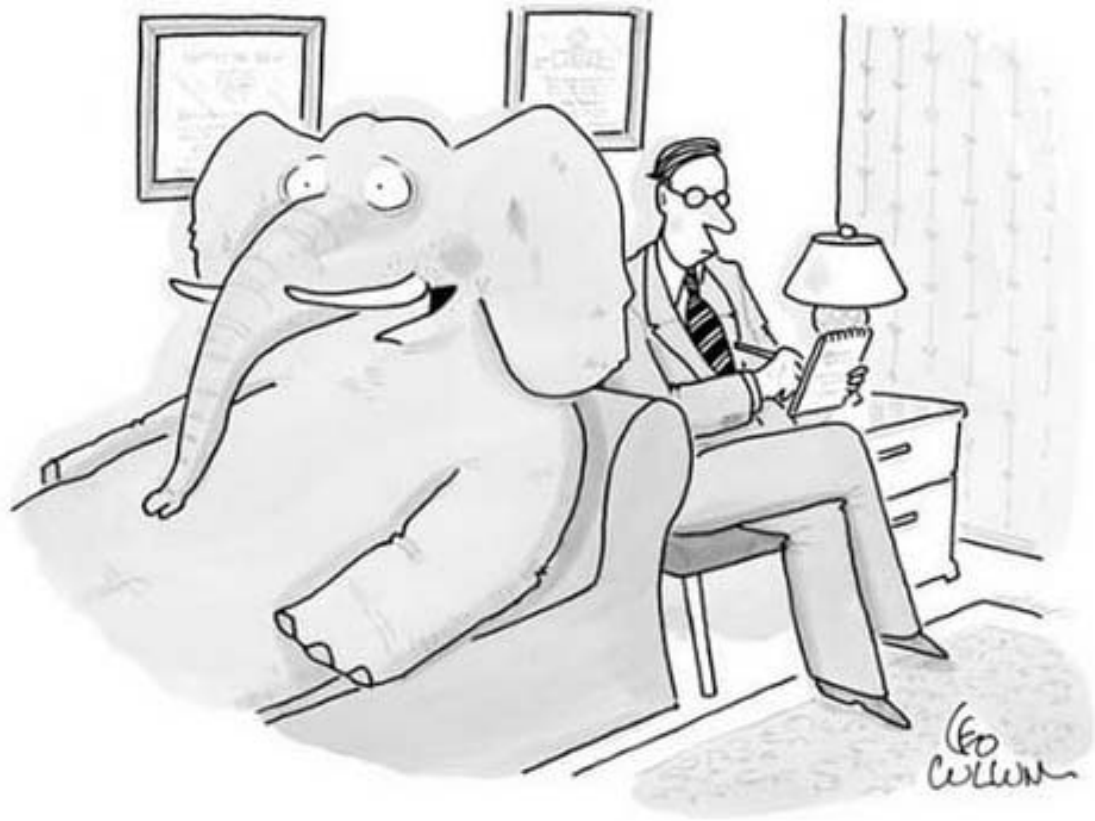
Doctors (please stay healthy)



"I forget. If I have an adverse reaction, do I call my doctor or my lawyer?"



"We found this in your brain."



"I'm right there in the room and no one even acknowledges me."



"So—what seems to be the problem?"



"It's a simple stress test - I do your bloodwork, and send it to the lab, and never get back to you with the results."



"Of course, this could also be confirmation bias from me wanting you to get sick."



"I just want to know if I'm healthy enough for bacon."



"This is going to be a little invasive."

Food and Drink - Enjoy (with as much moderation as you can manage)



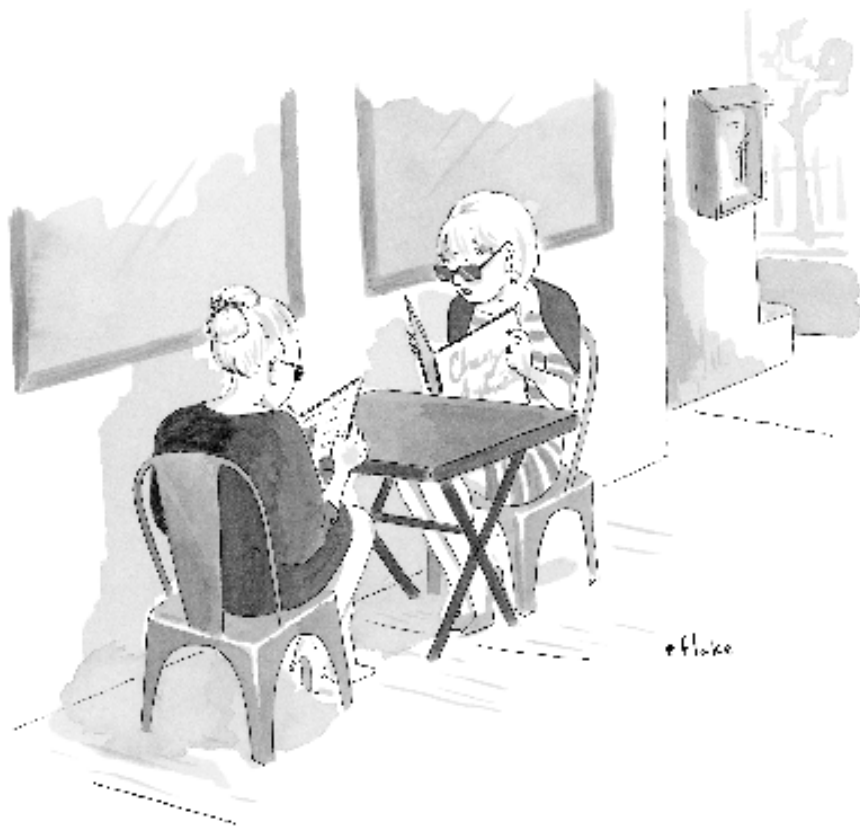
"Tonight, the part of the sea bass will be played by the chicken."



"Of course I drink during the day—I'm way too tired to drink at night."



"Give me the menus—you've kept the chef in suspense long enough."



"I can't have anything that's a food."





"I'm taking a wine course but not for credit."

God and Co.

ANOTHER WAY TO KEEP AN EMPTY
SEAT BESIDE YOU ON THE TRAIN.

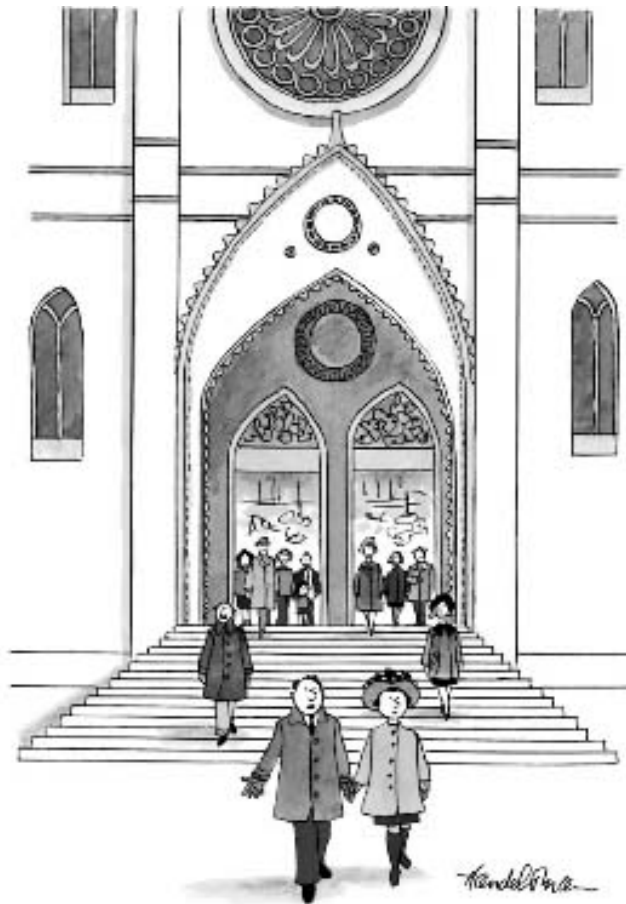


"Switching to drones has made having to be everywhere at once much more manageable."



"What is the name of your first pet?"





"How can I love my enemies when I don't even like my friends?"





"Wear a helmet."



"Look you're bored, I'm bored - why don't you let me go down there and shake things up a bit?"



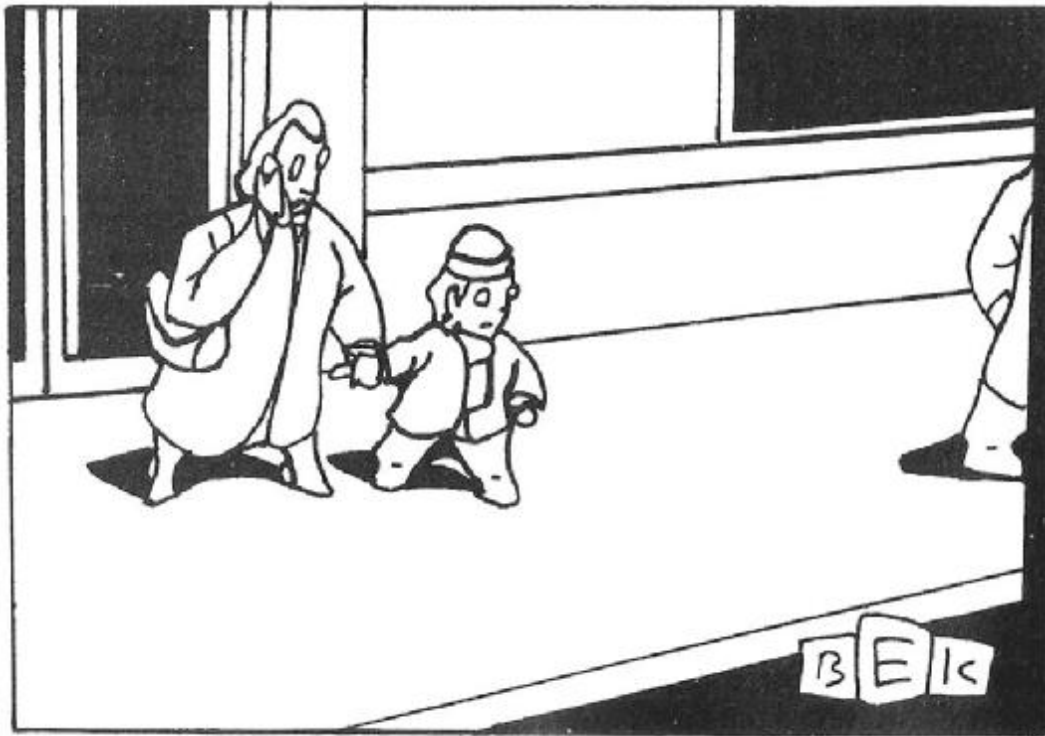
"I miss the sunsets."



Kanin

"If you laugh at all of God's jokes, he's never going to learn what's funny."

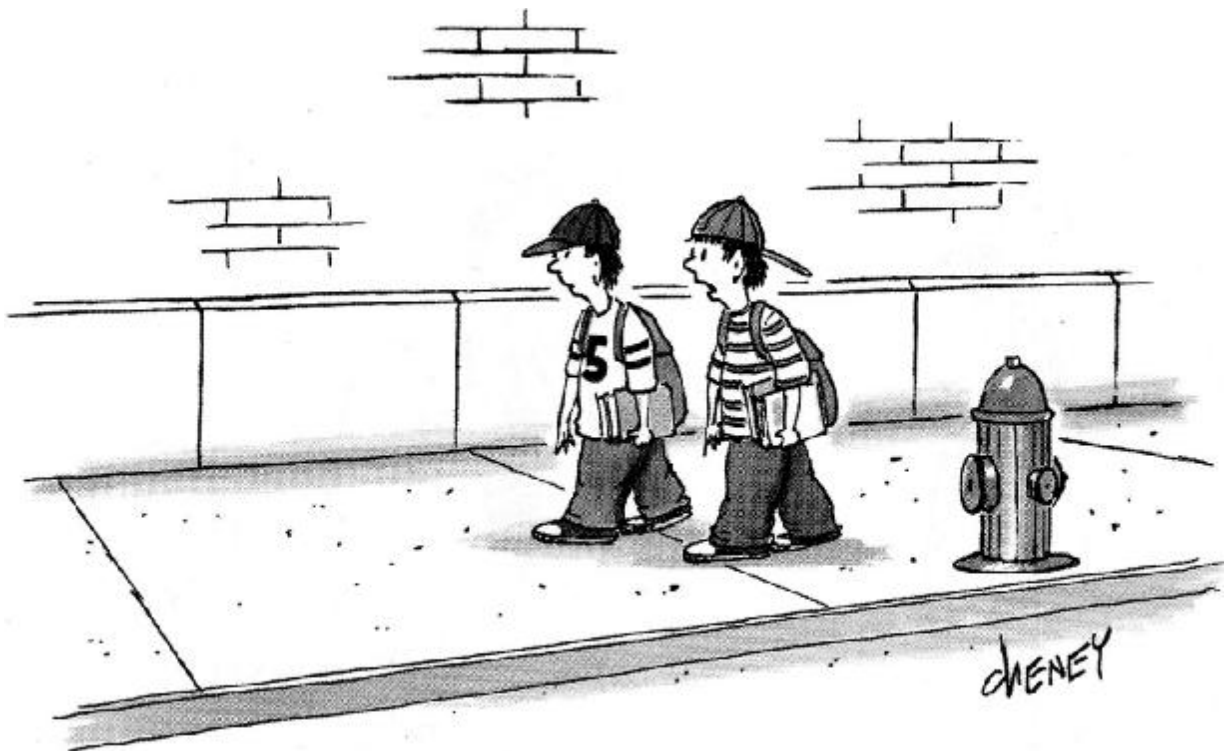
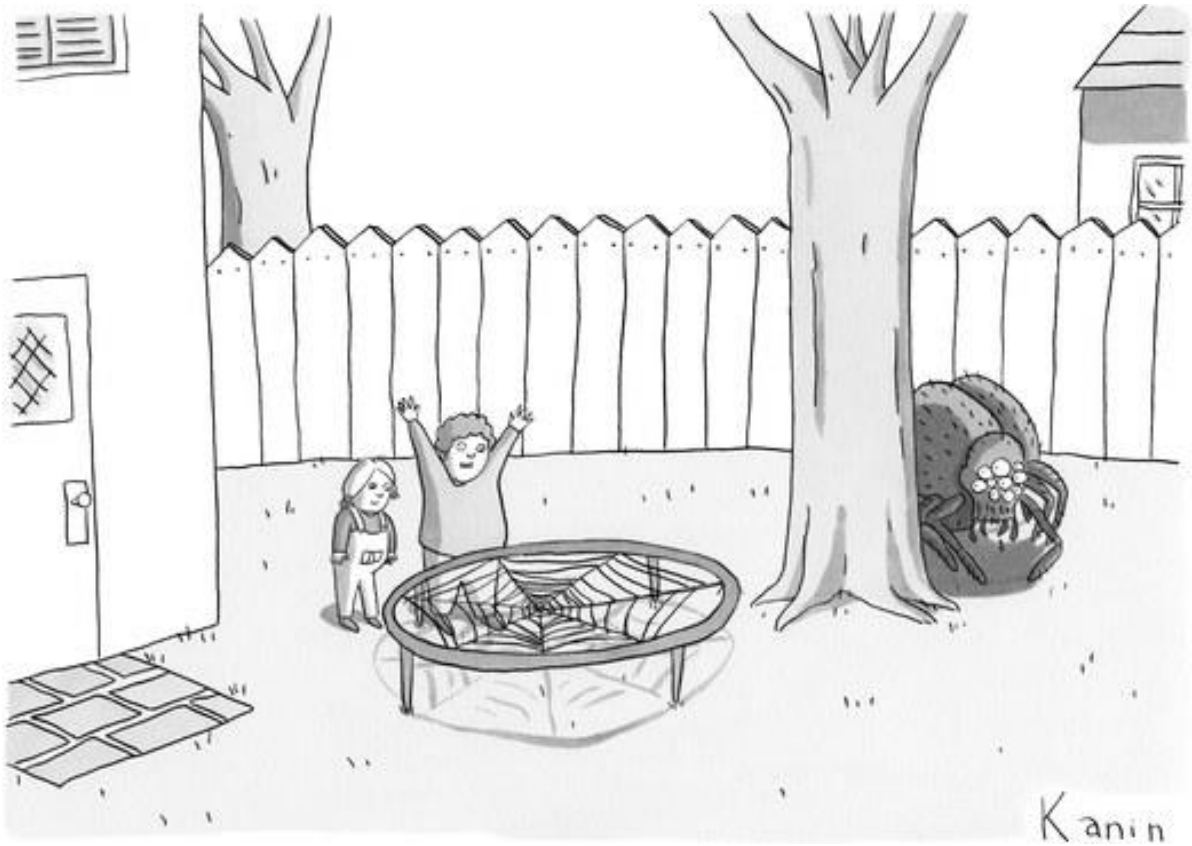
Kids (better get used to them being at home)



"I'm taking him to his class for things kids used to learn on their own"



"I don't blame you for everything—I blame Dad for some things, too."



"So many toys—so little unstructured time."



"Now that the kids are in jail, maybe we can take that vacation we always wanted."



"I'm at that point in my life when I don't want my parents to tell me what to do but I still want to blame them for it."



*"I'm sorry, but so far medical science hasn't
come up with a cure for adolescence."*



FIRST DAY BACK TO VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Marriage and Love (we need all we can get)



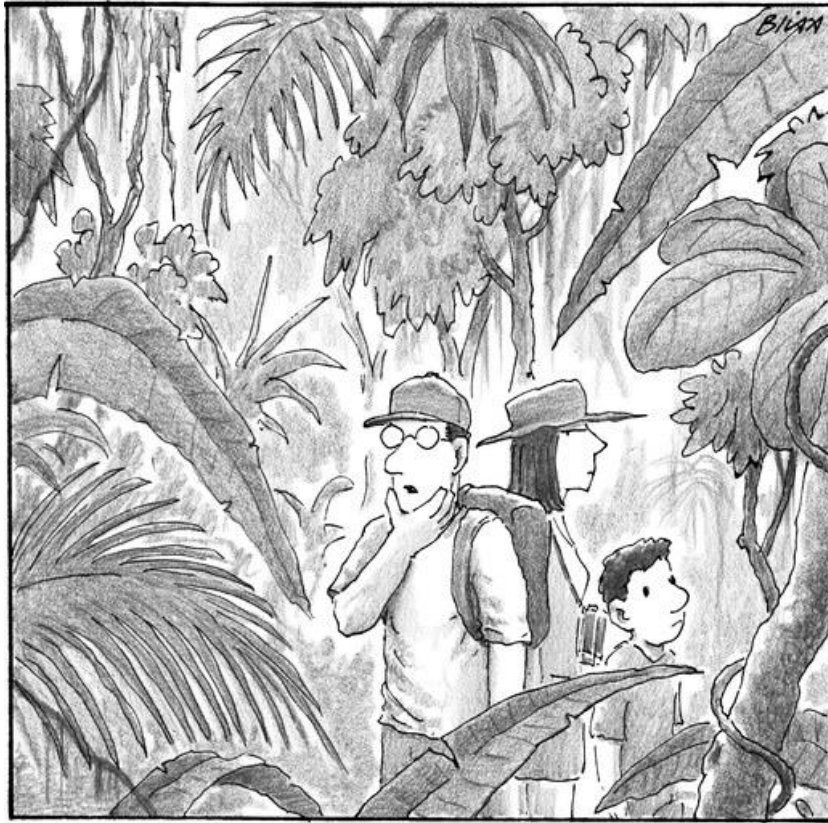
"Can we talk through a decision that I've already made?"



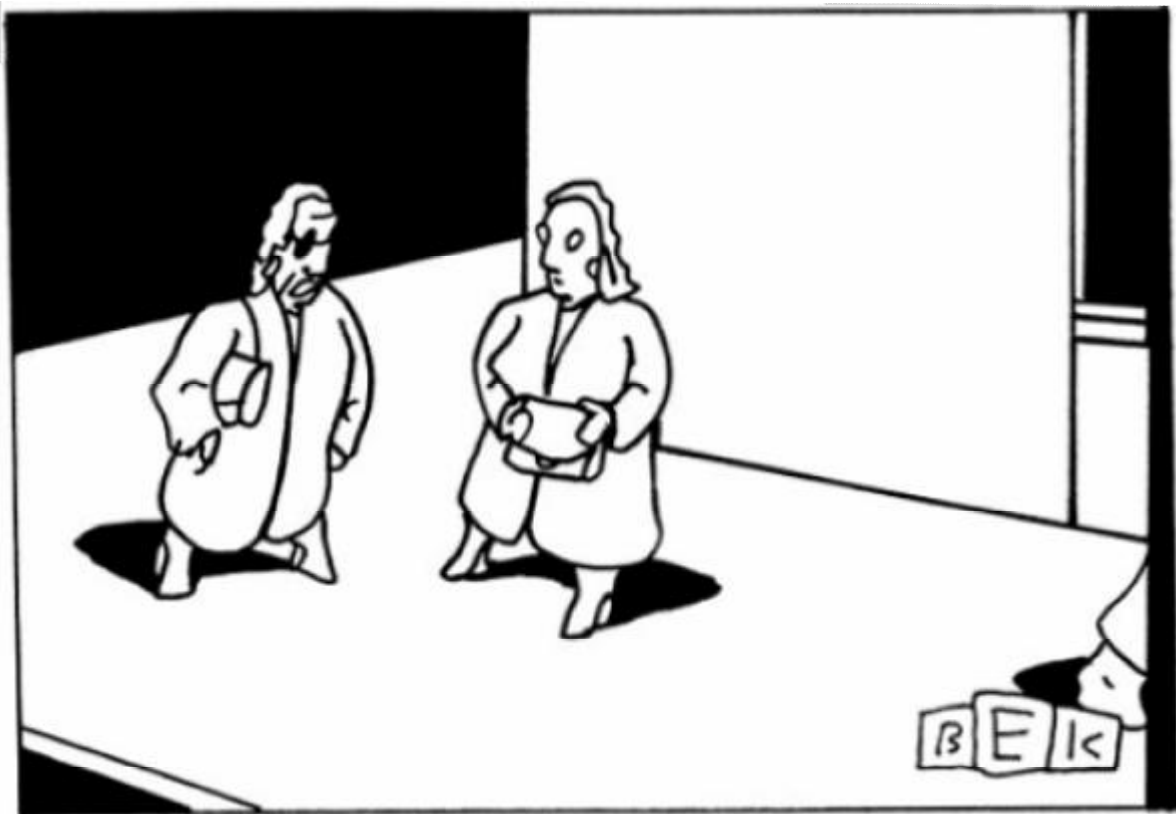
"He's going to be O.K., but he still wants you to remarry."



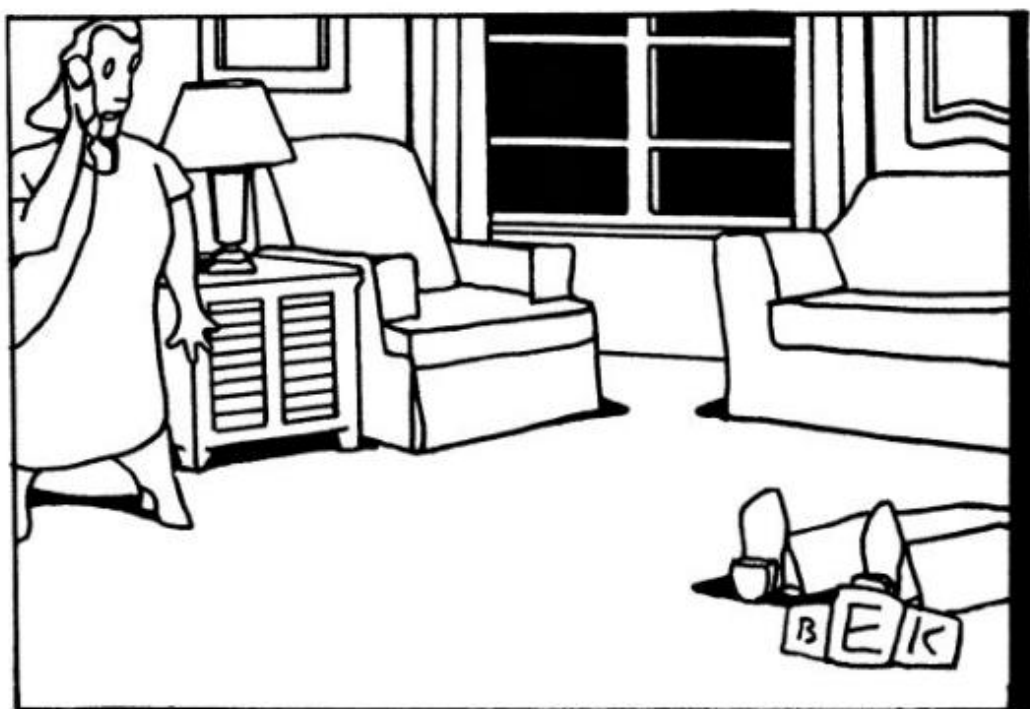
"Technically, we have an open marriage, but so far there's just Michael and me."



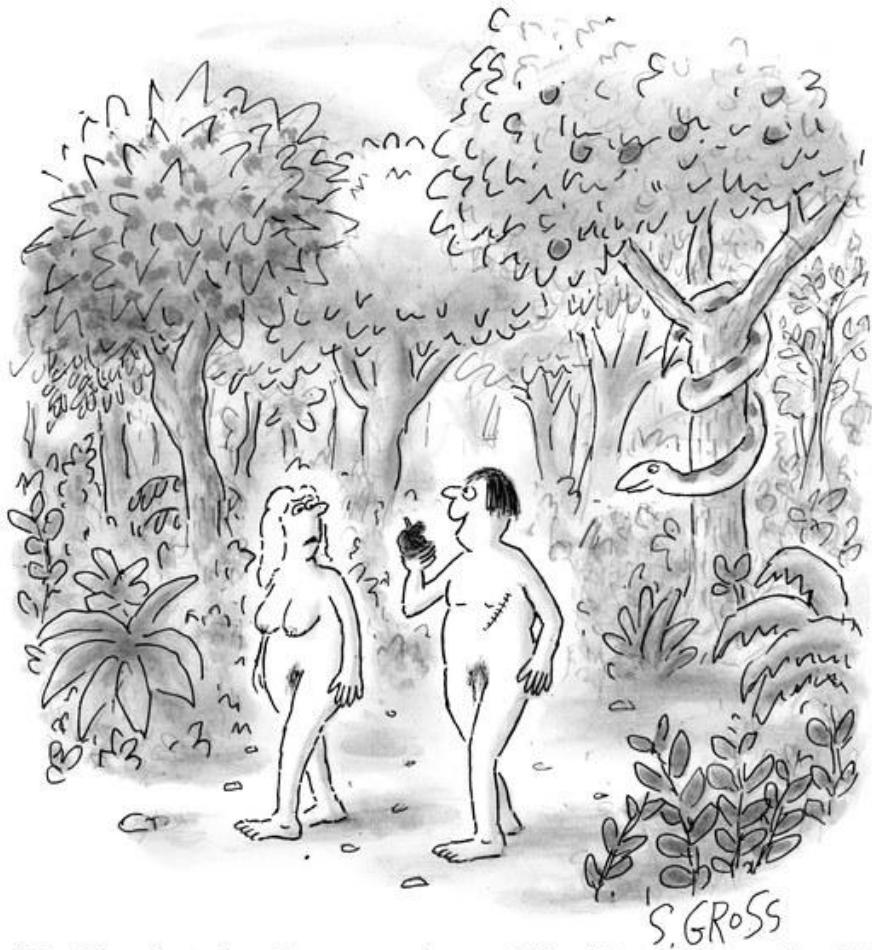
"O.K., I admit it, we're lost, but the important thing is to remain focussed on whose fault it is."



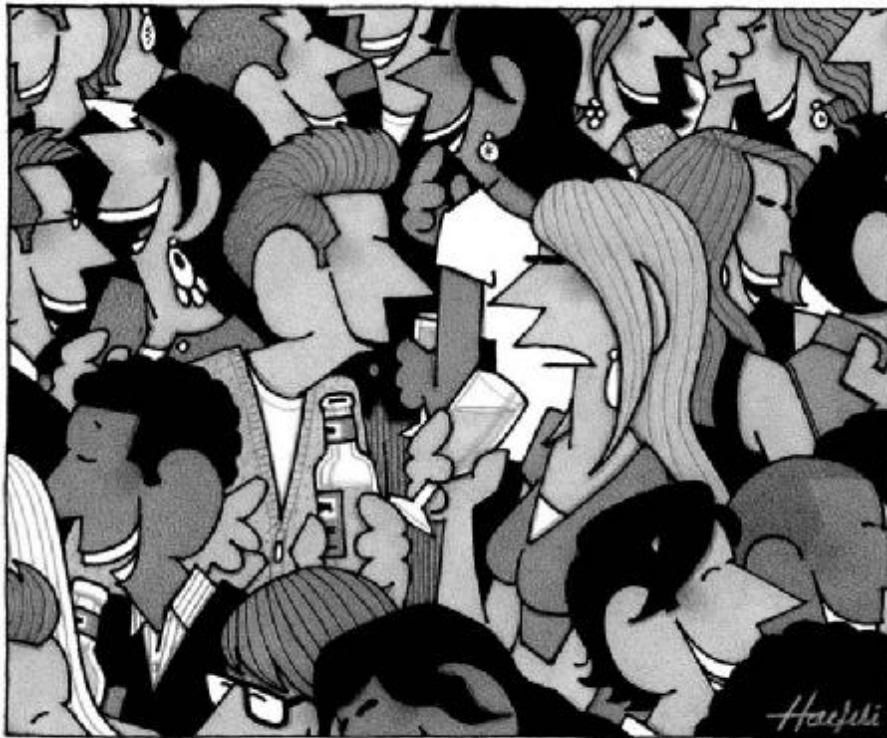
"He died after a long battle with me."



"It's so silly. Now I can't even remember why I killed him."

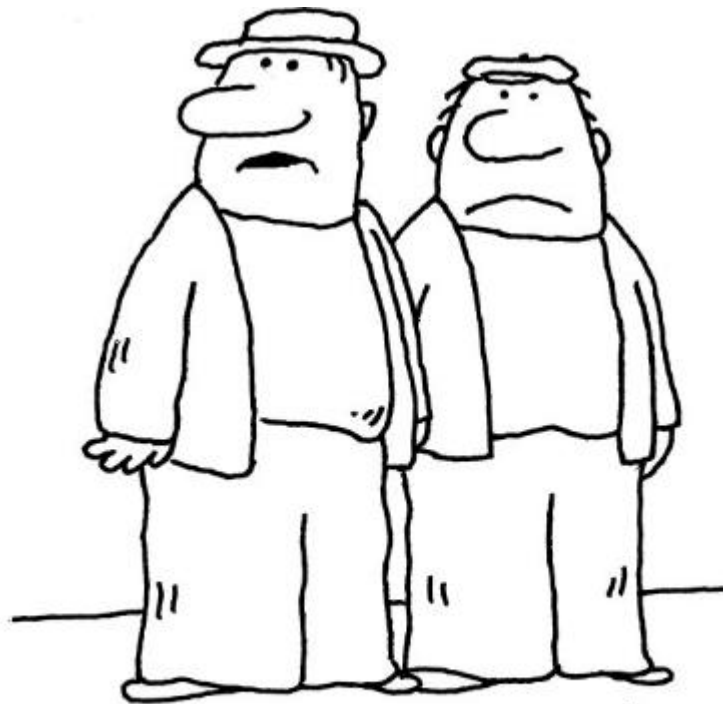


"Hey! I just figured out how we can have a child without using another rib."



"By 'lighten up' do you mean 'dumb down'?"

Modern Living - we need a reboot



C. Borsatti

"There, there it is again—the invisible hand of the marketplace giving us the finger."



Sipress

"I'm listing my deadlines by due date so I can miss them in chronological order."



"Can I get back to you when there's someone to overhear me?"



"It was the unsubstantiated rumors that attracted me to you in the first place."



"I used to call people, then I got into e-mailing then texting and now I just ignore everyone."





"It's the only exercise I get."





"Alexa, play As time goes by."



"And just like that, Facebook is giving us ads for used cars, optometrists and couples' counselling"

Politics - heaven help us



"Life, liberty and the pursuit of something a little more like Canada."



"It's a good speech—just a couple of points that need obfuscation."



"On the upside, your name recognition is excellent with people who hate you."



"Great news, Sire, they couldn't find any evidence of wrongdoing"



"I have the new list of approved tweets."



"True, it's been revealed that I have a second family, but, I assure you, I am a decent second-family man."

Some Good Advice

1. Stay in touch and be healthy.
2. Send *June Moon* to all your friends; there will be no print edition.
3. Look up back numbers of *Christmas Pudding*
<http://www.pamirs.org/Christmas-Pudding.htm>
4. Greet everyone with a wave and a smile.
5. Practice random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty.
6. And don't forget to take a subscription to *The New Yorker*:
<https://www.newyorker.com/>

COVID COSPLAY



Congratulations Barbara and Tara