

"Sanity and happiness are an impossible combination." ~ Mark Twain

#### WHAT IS REALITY

E! has a show they call "Reality Hell" in which people are duped into believing they're being considered for a role in a reality show while they're actually being filmed for a reality show about people being duped into believing they're going to be on a reality show. Well, one of these "contestants" is suing(!) E! because they tricked her into believing she was ... oh, well, you get the picture.

According to the L.A. Times, Malena Brush claims she suffered "mental and emotional anguish, fright, horror, nervousness, grief, anxiety, worry, shock, humiliation, embarrassment and fear" – not to mention serial redundancy – when she learned that she was NOT in reality being considered as a participant in an "all-girl band" show where all the other contestants in reality were actually (gasp) actors! Actors? In a reality show? Now that's deception...

"A suicide hotline is where they talk to you until you don't feel like killing yourself. Exactly the opposite of telemarketing." ~ **Woody Allen**  THROUGHOUT THE 'PLANET,' CLICKING **DARK RED** WORDS OPEN THE WEB SITE IN QUESTION.

#### JUST ASKING

What do you do when you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant? If a parsley farmer is sued can they 'garnish' his wages? Would a fly without wings be called a 'walk?' Why do they lock gas station bathrooms? Are they afraid someone will clean them? If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked? Can vegetarians eat animal crackers? If the police arrest a mime, do they tell him he has the right to remain silent? Why do they put Braille on the drive-through bank machines? How do they get deer to cross the road only at those yellow road signs? What was the best thing before sliced bread? One nice thing about egotists - they don't talk about other people. Does the Little Mermaid wear an 'algebra?' Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery? How is it possible to have a civil war? If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do the rest drown, too? If you ate both pasta and antipasto, would vou still be hungry? If you try

to fail and succeed ... which have you done? Whose cruel idea was it for the word 'lisp' to have 'S' in it? Why are hemorrhoids called

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Thanks to Kathy Fields Lander, we taped a PSA last weekend for California OneCare.



XI

'hemorrhoids' instead of 'assteroids?' Why is it called 'tourist season' if we can't shoot at them? Why is there an expiration date on 'sour cream?' Can an atheist get insurance against acts of God?

What is the difference between Bird Flu and Swine Flu? For bird flu you need tweetment and for swine flu you need oinkment. ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

#### **GEOGRAPHY OF A WOMAN**

**Between 18 and 22**, a woman is like Africa: half discovered, half wild, fertile and naturally beautiful. **Between 23 and 30**, a woman is like Europe: well developed and open to trade, especially for someone of real value.

**Between 31 and 35**, a woman is like Spain: very hot, relaxed, and convinced of her own beauty. **Between 36 and 40**, a woman is like Greece: gently aging but still a warm and desirable place to visit. **Between 41 and 50**, a woman is like Great Britain with a glorious and all conquering past.

**Between 51 and 60**, a woman is like Israel; she's has been through war, doesn't make the same mistakes twice and takes care of business. **Between 61 and 70**, a woman is like Canada: self-preserving, but open to meeting new people.

*After 70*, she becomes Tibet: wildly beautiful with a mysterious past and the wisdom of the ages, an adventurous spirit and a thirst for spiritual knowledge. And...

#### MAP OF A MAN

Between 1 and 90, men are like the citizens of Iran: ruled by their nuts...

## DON'T BE SO PUSHY

The man gets up and goes to the door where a drunken stranger, standing in the pouring rain, is asking for a push. 'Not a chance,' says the husband. 'It's 3 o'clock in the morning!' He slams the door and returns to bed.

'Who was that?' asks his wife. 'Just some drunk guy asking for a push,' he answers. 'Did you help him?' she asks. 'No, I did not; it's 3 in the morning and it's pissing rain!'

'Well, you have a short memory,' huffs his wife. 'Can't you remember about three months ago when we broke down, and those two guys helped us? I think you should go help him, and you should be ashamed of yourself!' The man does as he is told, gets dressed, and trudges out into the howling storm. He calls out into the dark, 'Hello, are you still there?'

'Yes,' comes back the answer. 'Do you still need a push?' calls out the husband, already soaked to the bone. 'Yes, please!' comes the reply from the dark. 'Where are you?' asks the shivering man.

'Over here -- on the swing!' replies the drunk.

"A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good." ~ Ambrose Bierce

## ANIMAL PLANET

They've found another giant rat near Sumatra, and this one is so big (3 pounds) it warranted an editorial in the L.A. Times about endangered species. Besides the 'Bosavi Woolly Rat' – a distant relative of our Norwegian rat, which isn't really from Norway – the BBC biologists also found a fanged frog and a fish that grunts. What? No giant walking catfish?

And to top that big story, the Bangkok paper Pattaya Mail reported that a circus dwarf named Od died last week 'when he bounced sideways from a trampoline and was swallowed by a yawning hippopotamus waiting to appear in the next act.' Apparently, Hilda the bored Hippo's gag reflex kicked in, causing her to ingest the mini-man while a packed tent applauded at the clever 'gag.' And what's even weirder, the same thing happened in 1994 to an Austrian dwarf named Franz Dasch! Hey – wait a minute. D'ya think this is just another Internet hoax? Naaaah. It's just too yummy not to believe... View it.

"A professional is someone who can do his best work when he doesn't feel like it." ~ Alistair Cooke

### **HOW BAD IS IT?**

The economy is so bad that I got a pre-declined credit card in the mail. It's so bad, I ordered a burger at McDonalds and the kid behind the counter asked, 'Can you afford fries with that?'

CEOs are now playing miniature golf and if the bank returns your check marked 'Insufficient Funds,' you ask if they meant you or them. The economy is so bad Hot Wheels and Matchbox stocks are trading higher than GM and McDonalds is selling the 1/4 ouncer. The economy is so bad parents in Beverly Hills fired their nannies and learned their children's names. Yesterday, a truckload of Americans was caught sneaking into Mexico.

How bad is it? Motel Six won't leave the light on anymore, the Mafia is laying off judges, Exxon-Mobil laid off 25 Congressmen and Dick Cheney took his stockbroker hunting.

And finally... Congress says they are looking into this Bernard Madoff scandal. Great! The guy who made \$50 Billion disappear is being investigated by the people who made \$1.5 Trillion disappear!

"Banking establishments are more dangerous than standing armies." ~ Thomas Jefferson

## WALTER'S BIG BANG

Planeteer Roger Steffens and his co-author Peter Simon won the Silver Medal for best music book of 2007 during last summer's National Book Expo here in L.A. Steffens passes along this story about his friend:

Simon is the brother of Carly and Joanna, known as Joey, who was Walter Cronkite's (much younger) companion during the final years of his life. A couple of years ago, when the late broadcast dean was 90, Peter and his wife were invited to dinner at Walter's home on Martha's Vineyard, where they all lived. As they sat on the veranda sipping cocktails late in the day, suddenly BOOOOOOM!!!, a huge explosion went off and everyone jumped up in their chairs except Walter, who remained sanguinely staring at the sea.

They all looked at him as, in his most stentorian baritone replete with measured pauses, Walter announced, "That was the Edgartown canon. It fires every day at sunset." Then, turning to his lady, he continued, "Joey fires my canon every night at eight."

"Politics is the act of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, misdiagnosing the problem and applying the wrong remedies." ~ **Groucho** 

#### **HAPPY 5770**

Sayings of the Jewish Buddhist:

The Torah says: Love your neighbor as yourself. The Buddha says, there is no self. So, maybe we're off the hook. But if there is no self, whose arthritis is this? Be here now. Be someplace else. Is that so complicated? The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single Oy. And remember, wherever you go, there you are. Your luggage is another story.

Be aware of your body. Be aware of your perceptions. Keep in mind that not every physical sensation is a symptom of a terminal illness. Breathe in. Breathe out. Breathe in. Breathe out. Forget this and attaining enlightenment will be the least of your problems. Let your mind be as a floating cloud. Let your stillness be as a wooded glen. And sit up straight. You'll never meet the Buddha with such rounded shoulders.

There is no escaping karma. In a previous life, you never called, you never wrote, you never visited. And whose fault was that? Accept misfortune as a blessing. Do not wish for perfect health, or a life without problems. What would you talk about? Drink tea and nourish life; with the first sip, joy; with the second sip, satisfaction; with the third sip, peace; with the fourth, a Danish.

Zen is not easy. It takes effort to attain nothingness. And then what do you have? Bupkis. The Tao does not speak. The Tao does not blame. The Tao does not take sides. The Tao has no expectations. The Tao demands nothing of others. The Tao is not Jewish. Deep inside you are ten thousand flowers. Each flower blossoms ten thousand times. Each blossom has ten thousand petals. You might want to see a specialist. "I hope you have a healthy body and happy everyday." ~ Chinese Rugrats fan

## IT'S A TURN ON

Okay, we all know what the 'red light district' is. It's the notorious area of town where men go to visit 'ladies of ill-repute,' and such neighborhoods have been historically in existence long before the term was coined, so why is it called a 'red light district?'

Well, says Mr. Eddie 'Know-it-all' Deezen, when railway workers visited 'women of the night' they would hang their red lanterns outside the brothel so they could be easily tracked if needed for an emergency.

Thus – the Red Light District. Now you don't have to do that 'hands on' research.



# CLICK THE WORD TO GO TO THE SITE

"The strongest bond of human sympathy, outside of the family relation, should be one uniting all working people, of all nations, and tongues, and kindreds." ~ Abraham Lincoln

## MAKE A HOT DATE WITH FIRESIGN

It won't cost you \$63,000 like it did to party with Palin. You don't have to bid on eBay and yet you can still be among the happy bozos filling the seats at the Barnsdall Gallery Theatre Oct. 14-17 to see 'Forward into the Past' if you just direct your tweets **here**.



Thank me – and you're welcome... ... And **here's** a wonderful interview Tommy Garret just posted for his Canyon News column, since, after all, the Kentucky Colonels do live in Benedict Canyon:

"Dachshunds are ideal dogs for small children, as they are already stretched and pulled to such a length that the child cannot do much harm one way or the other." ~ Robert Benchley

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"Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious" ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

# "Politics is the entertainment branch of industry." ~ Frank Zappa

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