

Volume One

“Cry chiasmus...



And let loose the

blogs of words!”

**Ugh**

...chiastic quotes and  
rhetorical notes from  
the fractured mind of...

**Grok**



Roger J. Burke

## Forward:

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## **INTRODUCTION**

I love words.

More particularly, I'm fascinated by homophones and homonyms. In the English language, there are probably more of those types of words than in any other language -- largely because English steals from all other languages and adapts the words for its own.

Very early in my childhood, I discovered these treasures when one of my brothers related a joke:

*Two people are scrubbing a floor, using soap and brushes etc. One person stops, looks around and says: "Where's the soap?" The second, without pausing, responds: "Yes, you're right!" And, carries on working.*

The rest is...hysterical, as my partner and wife likes to say!

Over the years, I dallied around with them, constructing curious and sometimes very tortuous sentences for my own enjoyment. Some were quite good, others downright awful...

About ten years ago, after nearly boring to death one of my long suffering friends, I was told to go away and make up a game -- if I could (I was told a lot of other things too, but there's no need to go into those). I'd never thought of that before, and it sounded like a jolly good suggestion.

Well, after reading a few dictionaries, I did eventually construct a word game based upon homophones and homonyms. I called it Word Master and decided to advertise it on my website. Co-incidentally, I also thought that, having amassed a database of these words, it *might* be a good idea to compile an actual dictionary; such a book might even be a help to those playing Word Master.

So, I did...

You can find that dictionary now on another of my websites called Roger's Reference. Throughout all of this time, I continued my experiments with quirky sentences, using the same words with two or more meanings. But, I still really didn't know what I was doing (some would argue that I *still* don't).

Be that as it may, as luck would have it (can I fit in another cliché here?), in June 2001 I stumbled upon the linchpin to all of my endeavors when I clicked on a website called [www.chiasmus.com](http://www.chiasmus.com). In the following pages, I've penned a few notes about what "chiasmus" is, together with a short piece about homophones and homonyms.

To gain a much fuller appreciation of the power of chiasmus, you owe it to yourself to visit [www.chiasmus.com](http://www.chiasmus.com), a tour de force from Dr. Mardy Grothe, and a present master in the use of chiasmus. It was, in fact, because of Mardy's website that I first thought about writing this book.

Now, you can blame me for all of the chiastic quotes (except two) in this book ...all born from the feverish machinations of my so-called mind! That said, any originality of course, has its roots in the totality of my readings and experiences over 45 years; the words are mine, but the inspiration comes from sources too numerous to list. Reading my favorite quotations, however, I'm sure you'll have some clues...

Probably to the dismay of some people, I've taken many a well-known saying and revised it to fit my chiastic experiments. And, if perchance, one of my concoctions closely parallels a pithy quote *you* have devised, then all I can say is: 'Great minds think alike.' or 'Small minds seldom differ.' Take your pick. ;-))

For me, one of the best aspects is that I get to rabbit on about all those taboo topics that people studiously avoid in most social settings: you know--politics, religion, lawyers, society, war, food, relationships and such like. The one heading you won't find, however, is 'Sex'...

*Why go where too many have already gone?*

In reading through my offering, you'll notice that I just can't take *most things* seriously, myself included; it's one of my many faults. However, with such topics, it's very difficult *not* to offend someone.

However, if you find some of these chiastic concoctions useful, then by all means quote me. If, by doing so, I've made you and others have a chuckle *or even a good laugh*, then I'm content--I've done my job.

So then...here is my very best collection of chiastic quotes and rhetorical notes...

Oh, all right...here's a good collection of quotes and notes to choke on...

Well, look, this is my first collection of quirky sentences and fractured notes that you can browse through...you tell *me* what you think of them (the email address is below).

I hope you enjoy reading them much more than I enjoyed writing them. ;-))

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ARW' with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

[wordmaster@rogersreference.com](mailto:wordmaster@rogersreference.com)  
<http://rogersreference.com>

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## **CHIASMUS**

Like myself, you've seen it often: the situation in language where two or more words are used in different senses within two phrases which are, in turn, within the same sentence.

Moreover, the positioning of the words must be in reverse order, when comparing both phrases.

A very easy and well-known example is from Cicero, an ancient Roman senator. He is the first recorded to say: "**I eat to live, not live to eat.**" For many years, when I first said that to somebody long ago, *I thought that I had been the progenitor of that particular bon mot.* Such is the arrogance of youth! Only much later, did I find out that Cicero had beaten me by 2000 years.

I could copy that quote of Cicero's very easily by saying this: "**I drink to live, not live to drink!**" and in a sense, it is just that -- a slavish copy. Yet, at another level, that statement means something *very* different to Cicero's dictum. I'd like to offer it to Alcoholics Anonymous as a suggestion for a motto, but I'm not sure whether that august and worthy body would be offended...

Chiasmus has a long history, appearing in many languages and going back well over 2000 years. So, there is a lot to learn, and a lot from whom to learn. And, one of the first and best places to start is at Dr. Mardy Grothe's website.

Briefly though, you'll find that there are a number of types of chiasmus, with implied chiasmus and double-chiasmus being just two. From my own experience and from repeated reviews of Mardy's website, it's clear to me that just about any topic can be treated chiastically--*it's just a matter of finding the right mix of words.*

Fortunately, I've inadvertently helped myself to find those mixes because I've realized, at long last, that my fascination and foibles with homophones and homonyms, over the previous 20 years, fit in very nicely with the whole concept of chiasmus.

**In truth, homophones and homonyms are the backbone of good--even great--chiasmus.**

Hence, it's to that topic of homophones and homonyms which I would now like to turn...albeit briefly.

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## **HOMOPHONES & HOMONYMS**

At my website Roger's Reference (<http://rogersreference.com>) I have quite a long discussion on this topic, so central to the whole theme of the website. You can read that page here: <http://rogersreference.com/rrhomonyms.htm> .

So...I won't cover that ground here--I've already muddied it sufficiently, I reckon

The really important things to know, about these types of words, are:

- They generally come under the rubric of "words that sound the same"; and
- Each one has two or more different meanings.

**It matters little apparently, that no dictionary that I've read can agree on the precise definition for each type.** For example, no two dictionaries have the same definition for "homophone" or "homonym". It is puzzling, to say the least, to find that even language experts and professionals cannot seem to agree on common definitions for *word classifications*.

I mean, there's no trouble with such classifications as "noun", "verb", "adjective" and others. With the others up for grabs, so to speak, it's little wonder that confusion persists. **And, the irony is that the confusion persists in the precise areas that require the most clarification.**

On the web and other places, there are people arguing about the precise definitions of homophone and homonym. I've asked many people to give me their understanding; *so far, there is very little congruence between anybody I've asked*. The best that I get back is "words that sound the same". So...I can live with that!

What I do not accept though--nor does any dictionary in my possession--is the premise that homophones include such contractions as "they're", "we'll", "you're" etc. No dictionary I've read refers to such contractions as being valid homophones. *Nor should they*.

Moreover, you'll note that the acceptable phrase above is "words that sound the **same**". From my observations, however, it seems as though even more confusion exists: that word "**same**" does *not* mean "**similar**". For example, the words "**affect**" and "**effect**" are often included--wrongly, in my opinion--in homophone lists; while they sound *similar*, they are not the *same*. I can accept the obvious fact that regional differences will result in different *accents*; but, that's as far as it should go.

Quite clearly though, some words can be pronounced in different ways. A case in point: the word "**aunt**" can be pronounced two ways, whereas "**ant**" has only one way. All of my regular dictionaries recognize that fact, so those two words form a valid homophone pair. There are *many* other examples, and you can find them all in my specialized dictionary at Roger's Reference.

Chiasmus works best, I think, when homonyms are used; there is never any disagreement on pronunciation, by definition. Homophones work well also, but are limited more by the need for visual effect. Together, as I said, they form the core of what makes chiasmus intellectually stimulating and, I would hope, always outrageously funny!

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**CHIASTIC QUOTES & RHETORICAL NOTES... "The limits of my language are the limits of my world." L. Wittgenstein 1889-1951**

**PREAMBLE:**

Just a few (more) words before you get started. There are ten sections covering these topics: **Food, Just Crazy, Law, Literature, Philosophy, Politics, Relationships, Religion, Society and War.** They're in alphabetical order...I ply no favorites.

At the top of each starting page, you'll find my all time favorite one-liners.

Well, OK, some of them are more than one line. They're there because I think they're cool, and also because each covers, more or less, all I have to say about that particular topic.

**Perhaps I should have stopped there...?**

But, no...

Each section also has a short piece like this, on what I think about each of those headings; but you don't have to read that part at all. In fact, you could probably have more fun picking out the spelling errors; *you'll probably learn more too.* ;-)

I am, however, always trying to ensure that my words and thoughts on paper are understood, unequivocally; hence the starting bits, like this page. So, you see, I just *had* to do it.

With regard to all the chiasmic quotes, I always try to avoid being didactic. I much prefer experimenting with humor and satire, so please remember that I'm *just playing around* with words.

Sometimes, the mix produces a view with which I agree, or at least I have some sympathy for it; with others, they're just quaint quotes, many of which amused me and, I hope may amuse you. If, in the process of reading, *you* find a new way to use a few words, well, that's a plus too.

Anyway, I hope you *do* have a few chuckles...

---

**FOOD... "I eat to live, not live to eat" - Cicero, Roman senator, 106-43BC.**

It's a favorite topic for many people and that's a good enough reason for including it, don't you think?

There are other reasons, of course, the first of which is directly related to the above quote. I have a confession: *I hate food*. It's an interruption. It consumes my valuable time. It's tiresome...all that chomping and chewing. *And I hate shopping carts*.

Unfortunately, it's necessary for me...like telephones, automobiles and computers. But, I don't have to like it. I may feel like shredding my computer some days, but I still have to eat food.

Apart from the fact that I need it to stay alive, I'm sure the only other reason we have food is to make certain that we have conversation. Now, I ask you: if it weren't for food and meal times, who *would* you talk to? Who *ever* talks to you on a commuter bus or train?

Now, I know there are some who will not allow food and conversation to mix, but where I come from...well, an election convention is like a morgue in comparison (hmmm, leaving aside, for the moment, the contentious thought that most political types are brain dead)!

Consider this also: the act of eating is so...*invasive*. Have you *ever* seen an X-ray of your throat and stomach, as the food descends to its hell? I know that now, hitech equipment can show it all in bright technicolor, but I think I'll pass. Before I pass out...

But, food can be sooo *funny*...as anybody who saw the 1963 version of "*Tom Jones*" with Albert Finney would agree. And, of course, who has not seen the way food has been used so often in slapstick comedy? It's probably the comedy tool most used in film, theatre, and the arts in general.

So, while my chiastic observations here have no direct visual impact, I hope that I have encouraged--if not a few chuckles--then at least a smile or two...

26-Nov-01

**If too many cooks spoil the broth,  
do too many broths spoil the cook?**

*Too much of anything, I'm told, dulls the senses.  
Now, did Casanova say that?*

30-Nov-01

**Hey...with food prices today, even just buying  
a basket of bread...you get hit right in the  
bread-basket, sheesh!**

*So, who said "Go eat cake!" ?*

08-Dec-01

**"Parting is such sweet sorrow" it is said;  
surely the sorrow, for some,  
is parting with sweets!**

*Have you got a sweet tooth also? ;-)*

16-Dec-01

**Yes, OK, but for sea food lovers,  
is the oyster their world?**

*Hamburgers don't quite cut it, do they?  
Remember what happened to Mac The Knife?  
Food for sea, see the food. ;-)*

16-Dec-01

**For some people, a great thought of food  
is great food for thought.**

*Food, glorious food...how grate thou art!*

16-Dec-01

**If you're eating over at the neighbor's,  
just be sure you're not over-eating or just  
over, eating!**

*Don't make a meal of your welcome, yes?*

16-Dec-01

**Many people seem to place  
a great store in food...  
and not just because there's  
great food in the store!**

*I suppose oral gratification wins out, sometimes,  
hmmm!*

18-Dec-01

**Mantra for those who are weight challenged:  
"No want, no waist"**

*Y'know, you can't wait around too long, and waste  
time...'Waste not, want not' as they say, hmmm?  
;-)*

19-Dec-01

**Is food your god? Some would say:  
Better that God is your food!**

*How can you eat to your heart's content  
anyway...gotta come back for more every time,  
right?*

23-Dec-01

**Freudian slip at table  
(when trying to be polite about foul food):  
"Ah...food for the dogs!"**

*And, you just know that dogs will eat anything,  
right?*

25-Dec-01

**If you go out for a hamburger meal,  
better not to make a meal out of it, hmmm?**

*Why do I always feel that a day out at that place is  
like junior Animal House?*

27-Dec-01

**Cooking with noodles means  
using your noodle while cooking.**

*Just don't put your head in the water, right?*

28-Dec-01

**Good food is as much a conversation piece,  
as good conversation is food for peace.**

*It's pretty hard to have a war while you're eating  
and talking together, hmmm? Just don't have food  
fights, OK? ;-)*

29-Dec-01

**When my wife cooks steak, I have very little  
stake in what she cooks! And I'm too chicken  
to complain about chicken!**

*Actually, I may be mad to eat beef these days,  
what do you think? ;-(*

30-Dec-01

**Food and wine go together--  
unless you're a kid.  
Then, the whine comes before the food.**

*Hey, kids...veggies have a bad rap, y'know. So,  
wrap up your veggies, hmmm.*

30-Dec-01

**A good body of food is usually  
food good for the body, yes?**

*My, my...what would we do without a need for  
food? Well, I wouldn't have to wash up dishes, for  
starters ;-)*

31-Dec-01

**Hey guys, pepper your talk with 'hot tomatoes'  
if you have to, but don't talk with a mouthful  
of hot tomatoes and pepper, OK.**

*Maybe it's bad manners to do both...in a manner of  
speaking, hmmm.*



---

***JUST CRAZY... "Ya gotta be crazy to read anything from Roger Burke"***  
***Sherry Burke, circa 2001.***

Well, this is where I have my catch-all. Instead of calling it "Miscellaneous" or "Other", I figured this is where I'll put those quotes that just won't fit, no matter how hard I try...

And, seeing as how some of them are a bit what you might call, "Odd" or "Peculiar" or "Just Plumb Crazy", I figured that's what I should call it.

In this section, I've been rather liberal with many common proverbs and expressions; in my own small way, I may have even liberated some of them! ;-)) Sherry, au contraire, would say that I've hopelessly mangled them.

You be the judge but, if you feel that you'd rather pass over this section for now, I fully understand.

*You may want to come back to it later, however...*

14-Nov-01

**Some say there ain't enough hours every day.  
I wouldn't know -  
I'm in too much of a daze every hour.**

*Hey, lookit...busy days, dizzy times, tizzy  
rhymes, OK!*

22-Nov-01

**All types of snow have their measure of  
flakes, of course; but then...all types of flakes  
have their measure of snow too, don't they?**

*If you catch my drift...oh, ouch again!*

25-Nov-01

**If you're talking turkey, don't get caught  
eating crow--you won't have much to crow  
about, if you look like a turkey, too!**

*As somebody said before...say what you  
mean and mean what you say, yes?*

26-Nov-01

**Now, I know that walls have ears--  
but do ears have whorls?**

*Sorry, I'm not sure if I heard that right...try it  
again.*

26-Nov-01

**You have entitlement to your opinions,  
of course; however,  
do your opinions give you any entitlement?**

*Only this: you may voice your opinion, of  
course...but, your opinion may have no  
voice!*

26-Nov-01

**A roomy house  
can often make a person feel too cold;  
but a cold house  
can make a person feel rheumy too!**

*So, break a window if you have to!*

26-Nov-01

**If you can see two sides to every coin,  
are there more than  
two coigns to every sea side?**

*Well, if the view fits, you can see it I guess.*

26-Nov-01

**In a crowded waiting room,  
is there too much rheum waiting?**

*As you know, if you want to get sick, go to a  
hospital!*

26-Nov-01

**Doctors, with no patience, soon run out of  
patients; however, patients, waiting for  
doctors, soon run out of patience too!**

*Oh the waitin', anticipatin', irritatin', waste  
of...good sleepin' time! ;-)*

26-Nov-01

**A good lookout  
can often result  
in an outlook not so good!**

*Well, watch out for the barbarians at the  
gate, hmmm.*

28-Nov-01

**If you like to step out dancing,  
once in a while,  
do try to avoid dancing out of step,  
won't you!**

*My feet are all like thumbs, hmm-mm...how  
'bout you? Sing to the tune of "I love New  
York in June", if you want ;-).*

28-Nov-01

**A debt may be too long out-standing  
simply because it's too little standing out.**

*Remember...watch the pennies before they  
drop, er, out of sight!*

28-Nov-01

**If you're game to play  
just be sure  
you're playing the game!**

*Most games are boring...get on with life, I  
say.*

30-Nov-01

**When holding your own,  
make sure it's your own holdings!**

*Just remember, to each his own, OK!*

30-Nov-01

**When you're out getting the whey...it can be  
tricky getting out of the way, hmmm?**

*It's a cow of a job, and you have to watch  
their step, sometimes, right!*

02-Dec-01

**Shame on any movie director  
who takes out  
the out-takes!**

*Jackie Chan...where are you, when I need  
you?*

02-Dec-01

**In the garden, I have only impatience with  
the Impatience in the garden!**

*One must weed out flowers that flower like  
weeds, yes?*

02-Dec-01

**When you're out, drinking about, such a bout  
of drinking out may in fact take you out!**

*Who needs a hangover, anyway?*

08-Dec-01

**Proposed slogan for auto breakdown service:  
"When the towing gets rough,  
the rough get towing!"**

*It's a tough job, but somebody's gotta do it,  
hey!*

09-Dec-01

**I've heard it said, "After death, the doctor",  
meaning that help comes too late.  
Hmmm, need it be said also,  
"After the doctor, death"?**

*Sheesh, who needs reminding of that?*

13-Dec-01

**It's never too late to learn, I know...but, just  
make sure you never learn too late!**

*Too late the hero, maybe...but then, some  
heroes are too late.*

13-Dec-01

**Look, I can accept there is nothing certain  
but death and taxes.  
The real problem is:  
death and taxes have nothing certain about  
them.**

*So...how much tax? Exactly what is death?*

14-Dec-01

**A day is not 'built' simply  
to roam around in, surely?**

*Hmmm, remember the lucky ol' son, nothing'  
to do?*

16-Dec-01

**I love listening to a babbling brook,  
but I'll brook no babbling from others!**

*Look, I just can't stop...I just keep going on,  
and on, and on, and on, and...*

17-Dec-01

**If you're habitually 'tight'  
while hanging on a train,  
better train yourself to hang on tight.**

*Is this what's called being driven to  
distraction?*

18-Dec-01

**If you're quick to take up a dangerous game,  
better be game...and be quick on the up-take!**

*I could say 'Nothing ventured, nothing  
gained'...but, I won't. ;)*

19-Dec-01

**Are all the free things in life best?**

*You know...like colds, 'flu, bad weather,  
objectionable people, sunburn, your parents,  
bugs and insects, sunsets, earthquakes, the  
universe...good grief, where does it all end?  
;-)*

24-Dec-01

**A desperate, self-reflective moment:  
"I'm dying for my drink...  
and I'm drinking to my dying."**

*One day at a time...gives you time for one  
more day.*

24-Dec-01

**I drink to live...not live to drink.**

*Now, that might be a problem...down in  
Cicero, or Las Vegas, or Kings Cross...*

28-Dec-01

**Well, yes, laughter is the best medicine...  
but does  
Medicine sometimes get the best laughter?**

*Just don't die laughing, I guess...or maybe,  
that's not such a bad idea, hmmm? Well,  
when you gotta go, exit laughing I say...*

28-Dec-01

**For all those who spend too a long time  
in front of mirrors:  
A watched boil never tops.**

*Darn little things never have a chance, do they? Get the dirt outta that squirt! Oh, ugh! ;-)*

29-Dec-01

**Everyone likes a sale,  
but the sale may not be to everyone's liking.**

*Maybe it's all the pushing and shoving of everybody trying to beat each other to the punch...or sale item!  
Sherry Burke, 12/20*

31-Dec-01

**The last days of the year  
can produce a daze that lasts!**

*Just hope it doesn't go on too long. I'd like to see the end of daze, y'know...*



---

**LAW... "They say lawyers and leeches are the same. I disagree...leeches leave some blood behind!" Anonymous**

The legal profession comes in for a lot of hard knocks, as you know, so I'm not about to mess around with tradition. Like used-car salesmen (oops--salespersons), there has always been, it seems, a plethora of jokes about how they both like to deceive and take money from you...

Well, you know the old saying: "Where there's a joke, there's a liar." *Oh, sorry, I just made that up...;-)*

Now, I know that it's a tough job, and yes, somebody's gotta do it, but going to see a lawyer must be up there with a visit to your dentist (actually, I happen to like going to *my* dentist). Both take your money, of course, but the lawyer gets his teeth into you while the dentist gets your teeth out of you!

Let us not forget though that both are noble and necessary professions; but it's *precisely* for that reason that both *are* easy pickings, even while they're picking it up easily from the rest of us.

I think that's a fair exchange...for an exchange of fare, don't you?

09-Sep-01

**The prosecutor has the burden of proof;  
the victim has the proof of the burden.**

*And, justice for all?*

26-Nov-01

**Lawyers and devils are interesting  
counterpoints:  
the former are concerned  
about the soul of your possessions,  
the latter  
about the possession of your soul.**

*Or, should that be the other way around?*

24-Dec-01

**Politicians and lawyers  
have this much in common:  
one is always hiding the truth,  
the other is always giving the truth a hiding.  
Which is which?**

*Now, are we getting closer to the truth  
about why so many flit between those  
careers, so easily?*

25-Dec-01

**When you have an exchange of fare  
with a lawyer,  
is it always a fair exchange?**

*How do you get a rise out of a lawyer? Oh,  
I dunno...you be the judge, OK!*

25-Dec-01

**A gangster's mouthpiece must have a large  
client base  
these days, I reckon,  
and s/he must have a few base clients, too.**

*Those types of lawyers tend to be a bit off-  
base, yes?*

27-Dec-01

**Just remember...  
don't make book on a judge for his cover.**

*Better get a good mouthpiece first...then  
get him to do the negotiations...*

27-Dec-01

**A resort where you last courted secretly  
may eventually lead  
to an open court of last resort.**

*Well, what d'you know...when you vacate  
the hotel, the vacation may come back to  
haunt you...ooops!*

28-Dec-01

**Judge to convict, at start of sentence:  
"Better do time now."  
Convict, at end of sentence, to judge:  
"Time to do better now."**

*Problem is..."better" in what sense?*

29-Dec-01

**Judging some criminals  
can often result in  
some criminal judging...**

*Just hope that you're never unjustly  
jailed...you may never get out...;-)*

29-Dec-01

**Suggested maxim for lawyers:  
"The case is on--on with the case!"**

*Ready, aim...liar! ;-)*

29-Dec-01

**When you present your case to your lawyer,  
is s/he always on your case...  
or, just on your case?**

*Well, just in case you're wondering, I  
reckon you have to get onto his/her case,  
y'know.*

29-Dec-01

**Used car salesmen and lawyers seem to learn  
from each other:  
one steers you to a bum car,  
the other gives you a few bum steers.**

*Just don't employ a used car sales guy  
who moonlights as a lawyer ;-)*

30-Dec-01

**Judges, who sometimes joke,  
usually avoid light sentences;  
jokers, who sometimes judge,  
usually keep sentences light.**

*Yessir...some things you just don't joke  
about...it's pretty tough to choose the best  
joke, hmmm? I mean, it's no laughing  
matter, right?*

31-Dec-01

**Don't prosecute your defense until  
you have a defense against prosecution.**

*So...remember the last boy scout, be  
prepared. Better be safe than sorry,  
hmmm?*



---

**LITERATURE... "To be or not to be, that is the question" W.Shakespeare et al, 1564-1616**

There are many great lines that could adorn the top, but I settled upon one of the most oft-quoted sentence of all time. That's pretty safe, I thought, and I've always liked it.

I'm no expert at literature at all, but I do know that there is fiction and non-fiction. I am hopeless at the former, but I *can* string words together...and make some sense, I hope.

It's a tough life as a writer--that much I am discovering as I delve deeper into the writer's life. For some strange reason though, I've found that the production of chiasmic quotes is fun...not at all like work. I guess my mind must truly be bent in that direction...or *some* direction.

Browse through the following. You tell me...

02-Aug-01

**A good newspaper should  
simply have all the news fit to be printed,  
not printed simply to fit.**

*Hmmm...think of those tabloids!*

10-Sep-01

**Insight into chiasmus keeps chiasmus in sight!**

*Now, does that incite you?*

26-Nov-01

**When you copyright your work,  
make sure you work with the right copy.**

*Well, if somebody's gonna plagiarize you,  
make sure it's the good stuff, right? ;-)*

18-Dec-01

**Well, you know what Caligula said, years ago,  
in one of his many mad moments:  
"A kingdom, a kingdom...  
a kingdom for my horse!"**

*With due deference to Shakespeare, of  
course...but Caligula did decree his horse,  
Incitatus, as a consul of Rome, after all!*

22-Dec-01

**When using a chiasmic statement,  
is the statement always chiasmic?**

*Now, Patricia Jay (my mother-in-law)  
asked me that...now you know how I'm  
being punished! ;-)* It is very cool...it's  
chiasmic and self-referential!!

25-Dec-01

**In my opinion, any novel should be novel!**

*Now, I hope that's not a new idea to you.  
Nothing novel in that, anyway! ;-)*

27-Dec-01

**Suggested maxim for new writers:  
"I'll be damned if my writing is  
writing that's just damned!"**

*Everybody wants to be appreciated...even  
new authors!*

27-Dec-01

**Publishers' maxim? :  
Don't make book on a new novel...  
it may not be a novel book!**

*Now, just what does a writer have to do to  
get published?*

28-Dec-01

**Is a figure of speech ever  
a speech about a figure?**

*Famous sayings from famous people can  
often say it all, yes?*

29-Dec-01

**A good book is like a good friend:  
treat both well and be well treated by both.**

*The more you know about them, the more  
you understand...and enjoy.*

30-Dec-01

**Are all actors merely directors?  
Are all directors merely actors?**

*The lines get pretty blurred, I know -  
especially on the morning after ;-)*

30-Dec-01

**Writers of real horror,  
that makes you faint,  
often feint about  
where the horror really is...yes?**

*Although the mystery sometimes, for me, is  
trying to find anything horrific in the first  
place. The truth is always worse, hmmm?*

31-Dec-01

**Is a ghost story best written by  
a ghost writer or  
a writer about ghosts?**

*Is that a pretty scary thought? Maybe I  
should ask our resident ghost, hmmm?  
(Oh, yes, we do have one!)*



---

**PHILOSOPHY... "Know thyself." Plato, circa 428-347BC**

I remember a philosophy lecturer at university telling us that "Philosophy is dead!" He said it in such a way that you were sure there was an exclamation mark at the end--one half expected a spontaneous imitation of phonetic punctuation a la Victor Borge...

But no. Despite his assertion, we still managed to wade through that course, thus confirming that, while Philosophy *may* be dead, the students were still suffering. By the end, I almost wished it *were* dead...

However, the years have taught me that a love of knowledge is either a deep pit of dark frustration or a mountain peak of benign beauty; I'm still not sure which.

But, I press on, learning and observing what I can easily accommodate and sometimes even formulating a few tentative conclusions. The following quotes come no where near such an ideal, of course, but some may contain a glimmer or two of rational enquiry...what say you?

10-Sep-01

**When does the abuse of use  
become the use of abuse?**

*Now, is that a paradox?*

14-Sep-01

**While I always want what I need,  
do I always need what I want?**

*Not too deep perhaps, but...*

17-Sep-01

**To be heard, the herd is not where to be!**

*What was that song... "Go your own way"?*

05-Oct-01

**The philosopher's puzzle:  
The more I think I learn, the less will I know.  
The more I think I know, the less will I learn.**

*OK, who's for Knowledge... anyone?*

14-Oct-01

**Which is more important:  
Answer the question...or question the answer?**

*Whew! Why all the questions, anyway?*

13-Nov-01

**If I knead my wants,  
do my wants then each become a need?**

*Hmmm, there are the 'needy', of course...but, who or where are the 'wanty'?*

23-Nov-01

**In life, when given the benefit of the doubt,  
is there ever any doubt about the benefit?**

*Well, if there's doubt, there's no doubt  
about it, hmmm?*

26-Nov-01

**Be sure you leave your mark on the world,  
or the world will leave its mark on you.**

*Mark you, that is not always the easiest to  
do, right?*

26-Nov-01

**How can we use our beliefs  
to change the world for the better?  
Better to start with the belief  
that the world can be changed.**

*The Power of one makes you one with  
Power.*

09-Dec-01

**There's an old saying:  
"A word is enough for a wise man."  
Perhaps also,  
a man's word is enough for the 'whys'?**

*Well, we all know that honesty is the best  
policy...*

11-Dec-01

**Patience is a virtue, as the saying goes...  
but, do I still have virtue if I have no patience?**

*I dunno...ask a doctor, maybe? :-)*

11-Dec-01

**I know that beauty is in the eye of the beholder,  
but, does my eye always behold beauty?**

*Hmmm, there is beauty all around, but...*

11-Dec-01

**If you yearn for  
the simple pleasures of life,  
perhaps you should lead  
a life of pleasurable simplicity.**

*KISS!*

12-Dec-01

**In wine there is truth,  
and in truth, there is often a whine.**

*So, I guess the truth really hurts,  
sometimes.*

20-Dec-01

**When does just a difference of opinion  
become opinion with a difference?**

*Hmmm, in my view, I think it's possible  
that maybe there could be something that  
perhaps results in a seemingly, er...well,  
way of looking at things, y'know...? Is  
that how you feel, too?*

21-Dec-01

**For some, the fear of heights may be  
the height of their fears.**

*Well, if you keep your feet on the ground,  
and you're down to earth...can't be all that  
bad, hmmm?*

22-Dec-01

**We have our fantasies as much as  
our fantasies have us!**

*And...I'm not talking about politicians ;-)*

22-Dec-01

**In the cosmos, does chaos rule because  
there are no rules for chaos?**

*Gawd only knows...what d'you think?*

28-Dec-01

**The maid of your dreams is where  
dreams are made!**

*As long as it doesn't turn into a  
nightmare, hmmm?*

29-Dec-01

**Hypocrites abuse honesty.  
Should those honest abuse hypocrisy?**

*I'd be a hypocrite if I said no, to be honest  
with you...I think.*



---

***POLITICS... "America has the best politicians money can buy."  
Will Rogers, 1885-1935***

It is said often that humans are political animals. From what I have learned of the animal world, y'know, I reckon that *other* animals are more political. What humans are, is more selfish.

That selfishness, I think, is carried over into our politics, at all levels. The general view is that, once elected, a politician thinks only of his/her own re-election. That is patently wooly-headed thinking, but has some justification.

What is certain, I think, is this: a person enters politics to gain power to do something. Now, I don't mind those who want power, provided it's generally power for the good of all.

*But, don't expect bags of money, pots of dough!* If a person wants power *and* money, then go into business for Pete's sake, and make a million! Don't expect the taxpayer to keep paying, and paying, and paying for higher and higher salaries.

I saw a joke that defined 'politics' thus: the first part (poli) is a Greek root word meaning 'many'. A tic is a blood sucking insect. Put the two together and you have 'many blood sucking insects'. Now, that may be unkind and unfair, because I'm sure there are many political types who try to do a good job.

Trouble is, those who are corrupt already are always seeking ways to do a job on *them*. Perhaps it's just the nature of the beast? If so, it hasn't a just nature--as the misery of the world continually attests

All of *that* makes for the easiest pickings when thinking of political jokes and quotes. *In this particular category, I take no prisoners...*

01-Sep-01

**Whereas political parties  
may have many principles,  
political principals  
certainly have many parties.**

*And then some! ;-)*

03-Sep-01

**Sometimes,  
you may well fly in the face of convention,  
but don't ever face a convention on the fly!**

*You may be left speechless...ouch!*

26-Nov-01

**Many politicians  
spend a lot of time out running each other;  
some, at the same time,  
are running out on each other!**

*So, that's why politics can be so  
confusing...you never know who's coming  
or going, right?*

26-Nov-01

**Do the CIA and FBI  
try to spy out for each other?  
More likely,  
each tries to out spy the other!**

*The blind leading the blind, perhaps? Like  
Spy Vs Spy, remember?*

29-Nov-01

**When politicians are out pressing the flesh,  
how much of that is just fleshing out the press?**

*Well, they're always good at looking for  
ways to look good, hmmm?*

29-Nov-01

**When politicians are out speaking to voters,  
voters should be speaking out to the politicians.**

*Oh, when polling day is here again, da-  
dat-da da-da-dum-dum...mmm...hmmm!*

10-Dec-01

**In a democratic society,  
the opportunity for equality  
(which fortunately does exist)  
should result in equality of opportunity  
(which unfortunately does not exist).**

*Ideally, the latter should exist don't you  
think, hmmm?*

20-Dec-01

**Y'know...I've noticed that people help  
themselves best when they help each other;  
on the other hand, politicians appear to help  
each other best when they help themselves.**

*"Ain't that a shame...you're the one to  
blame!" -- with apologies to the great Fats  
Domino.*

21-Dec-01

**Politicians seem to like it  
when people take them seriously;  
seriously though, I'll bet they like it more  
when they take in the people.**

*If you don't beat up on politicians, they'll  
beat up on you, right?*

22-Dec-01

**It's often difficult  
backing out of messy politics,  
especially when you're  
out backing the wrong "horse".**

*Horse trading is only good when you're  
trading real horses, I think.*

22-Dec-01

**Politicians fare quite well on public money,  
don't they?  
Although, public money for those on welfare  
is not quite as fair, is it?**

*Well, now, our elected officials are  
very...busy. They keep busy telling us so!*

22-Dec-01

**I wouldn't make book on any politician  
who just wants a book made about  
himself...would you?**

*I guess if they can't make enough money  
in their political career, maybe some think  
they can make money out of it, hmmm?*

22-Dec-01

**Moreover, they keep saying that  
they're trying to relieve the unemployed;  
I reckon  
the unemployed just want to be relieved of  
them, hmmm?**

*But, if we didn't have politicians to joke  
about, who'd be our best butt of a joke  
then?*

22-Dec-01

**Perhaps I over state my critical view of politics;  
but for me, politics is always in a critical state.**

*Some would say moribund, others just  
plain doornail dead!*

22-Dec-01

**While the politicians just dole out the work,  
the unemployed work out the dole.**

*Now, was it one of the unemployed that  
said, "Take this job and shove it" ?*

23-Dec-01

**I think the office of prime minister should be  
occupied only by a minister in his/her prime,  
hmmm?**

*Yes, OK, but who is a prime candidate,  
that's the question?*

24-Dec-01

**A lot of smart business people fall over themselves to jam their money into political pockets; for the latter though, it's just money for jam! So, who's out-smarting who?**

*Man, how that jam spreads on those junkets too...mmm-hmmm!*

24-Dec-01

**Oh, it's easy to poke fun at a politician's life, I know; but then, they have a life of fun with such an easy poke...er, don't they?**

*"Who wants to be a...poli-millionaire?" I Don't! But, I'll take the million ;-)*

24-Dec-01

**One of the constituents of political life necessitates putting some life into the political constituents.**

*So, when it's election time, have you gone fishing...or are you just fishing?*

24-Dec-01

**OK, OK...I hack away at the politicians; but you can't call me a political hack...no way!**

*So...why am I coughing and hacking, hacking and coughing?*

24-Dec-01

**Politicians are a real puzzle:  
at times, you'll hear a lot of cross words  
while at others,  
they'll get their words crossed a lot.**

*But then, politicians are people too,  
y'know...just like kids! ;-)*

24-Dec-01

**No, I'm not party to any party.  
I'm too liberal for the Liberals and  
I'm too much of a labor for Labor.  
Nobody can stand me,  
so I won't stand for any of them!**

*This way, by taking no sides, no side can  
take me!*

31-Dec-01

**When the politician speaks,  
the bureaucrat turns off;  
when the bureaucrat speaks,  
the politician oft turns.**

*And, never the twain meet. When the  
arrogant and the incompetent vie for  
power, nobody wins...least of all Joe  
Citizen.*

31-Dec-01

**Politicians and bureaucrats  
are often at loggerheads:  
the first always argues about the win,  
the second always wins the argument.**

*With all those figureheads in government,  
we know who the real heads of those  
figures are, hmmm?*



---

***RELATIONSHIPS... "Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar." S. Freud, 1856-1939***

As I have said elsewhere, the potential for confusion between people is, in the first instance, always greater than the opposite.

Only when we persevere with *conversation* do we perhaps arrive at the truths that help to help us communicate effectively. Conversation is so important, and yet most people pay only lip service to it...

When we speak from the heart, instead of just the mouth, we are more vulnerable, yes. But, by doing so, we are always much closer to our own personal truths and those of others.

Here are some of my recent observations.

19-Aug-01

**Good fences make good neighbors  
but, if I were a jewel thief,  
good neighbors might also make good fences!**

*Shhh, don't tell, OK...*

03-Sep-01

**Time flies when you're having fun...  
but fun flies also, when you don't have time.**

*Then, it's just work, right?*

04-Sep-01

**You may have the party of your life at times,  
but are you always the life of the party?**

*Boring, boring..?*

06-Sep-01

**The grass is always greener  
on the other side of the hill.  
Does that mean the hill is always grassier  
on the other side of the green? ;-)**

*Ask any golfer, perhaps?*

08-Sep-01

**It's great to be  
the life and soul of the party,  
but is it not better to be  
party to the soul of life?**

*Life is what you make it, after all.*

10-Sep-01

**Count your true friends wisely,  
for it's true friends upon whom you must count.**

*So...who can you trust?*

03-Nov-01

**Too many roomers about a house  
may result in a few rumors too;  
there again, too many rumors about a house  
may result in too few roomers!**

*Oh...is that like Animal House meets Bates  
Motel?*

11-Nov-01

**With the rites of marriage,  
couples enjoy certain rights;  
only later, maybe those rights become  
merely a marriage of rites...**

*Ho-hum, when boredom sets in, the set  
becomes boring...or somethin'!*

18-Nov-01

**In all your amorous adventures,  
when wanting to find the right moment...  
you may, in fact, find it wanting.**

*So, s/he who hesitates is...maybe thankful,  
yes? ;-)*

28-Nov-01

**It does a power of good  
for yourself to have knowledge;  
but, it takes a knowledge of yourself  
to do a power of good for others.**

*Too often, we just say "No"...instead of  
"Know thyself".*

28-Nov-01

**Don't confuse the convenience of marriage  
with a marriage of convenience.**

*Well, sometimes, some things just aren't  
convenient, are they?*

28-Nov-01

**If you're always out-hitting your team-mates  
with your skill,  
don't be forever hitting out at them,  
for their lack of skill.**

*Always do your best, but don't be a pest!*

29-Nov-01

**If a person is going out a lot, is s/he necessarily  
out-going?**

*Maybe that depends on where s/he's  
been...*

30-Nov-01

**When getting some light on the subject,  
you may find that the subject is light on...**

*Sadly, in the cold light of day, all is not what  
it seems...often.*

30-Nov-01

**So...what price your "Brief Encounter"?  
Perhaps you'll know  
when you encounter your brief!**

*Or...ask "Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice"  
maybe?*

03-Dec-01

**If s/he says s/he's just out walking,  
s/he may in fact be walking out.**

*So...walk the walk and talk the talk, yes?*

04-Dec-01

**As Time always marches on for all of us,  
it's a pity we're not all sometimes  
marching together in time.**

*"Y'know, I just wish I had the time!" - hey, we  
hear it all the time, right?*

08-Dec-01

**If it's success in life you'd be after,  
make sure you put  
a bit o' life into your success!**

*Whatever you do, do it well...*

08-Dec-01

**There is a saying:  
"A guilty conscience needs no accuser."  
I rather think that  
a guilty accuser kneads no conscience!**

*And, s/he knows it too...that's the really sad  
part.*

09-Dec-01

**For yourself and others,  
enjoy the present, for sure;  
but also, present yourself for others to enjoy.**

*Don't be a sour-puss...put on a happy face!*

09-Dec-01

**In conversation,  
few words are best, mostly;  
but also, the best words are mostly few,  
in conversation.**

*Then, you just might have the last word...*

12-Dec-01

**All is fair in love and war,  
but does anyone love warfare?**

*Perhaps...can life in the raw turn to war?*

12-Dec-01

**The master of the house  
may want a marriage made in heaven,  
but I doubt he'll get  
heaven with marriage to a maid!**

*An occasion when the master hasn't got it all  
made, hmmm.*

13-Dec-01

**Is it worse to make  
an appearance merely to judge,  
than to judge merely by appearances?**

*So, who cares already...does it matter,  
either way?*

18-Dec-01

**Unfair heart always loses fainted lady.**

*Seems like some guys like to faint about  
their true intentions, hmmm?*

19-Dec-01

**Man is not bred by living alone.**

*A bit of cheese and cake really goes a long  
way, hmmm?*

22-Dec-01

**Who can really complain  
about having a wealth of children?  
After all, children are our real wealth.**

*And, they're cheaper by the dozen too, so  
I'm told...*

25-Dec-01

**A man annoys a woman in two ways:  
firstly, by his absence when he's present and  
secondly, by his presents when he's absent.**

*Hmmm...like being between a rock and hard  
place?*

29-Dec-01

**Frantic second thought before his wedding:  
"To be or be two?  
THAT'S NO QUESTION! AARGH!"**

*With apologies to Will, but some guys just  
don't get it, do they? Do they?*

30-Dec-01

**Don't family ties  
sometimes  
tie families in knots?**

*Extended families are great...but probably  
best when they stay extended. And, let it  
be said, we are just good friends. ;-)*



---

**RELIGION... "Religion is the opium of the masses." Karl Marx 1818-1883**

It's a shame about religion.

It's got a lot going for it, yet the thing that spoils it, is the presence of all those people who just want to twist it to suit their own ends.

We all have to believe in *something*, that much is certain. The problem is, of course, that too many think that *their* certainty is the only one that is worth bothering about...

I prefer to accept uncertainty as the only certainty - by doing so, it's so much easier to adjust when things change.

11-Sep-01

**A Passion Play  
is perhaps the God-given Word,  
but word play  
is certainly a God-given passion!**

*Words can be very like the Sword, no?*

02-Dec-01

**When priests are around,  
casting out more devils from poor souls,  
devils are out,  
casting around for more souls from poor priests.**

*I had a devil of a time with that one...;-)*

13-Dec-01

**There's no rest for the wicked, right...  
so, is there anything wicked left for the rest?**

*Hey, man, when's it's cool, it's hot...but, if  
it's too hot, stay cool! :-)*

14-Dec-01

**With so much temptation all around,  
I'm sure the road of good intentions  
must have been paved in hell!**

*So hard to stay on the straight and  
narrow, yes?*

20-Dec-01

**In these times, just seems more and more  
like a God-eat-God world out there!**

*Why is it that nobody goes to war in the  
name of the Devil? Or, do they, hmmm?*

20-Dec-01

**Perhaps all things wait for He who comes?**

*Well, the world is waiting for the Son rise,  
hmmm?*

21-Dec-01

**Maybe life is God's joke on humanity?  
Hmmm...maybe humanity's joke is Godless life?**

*I joke, therefore I'm human. Ah-ha, now  
I've got it!*

23-Dec-01

**A religion's ideals  
do not necessarily produce  
an ideal religion.**

*Y'know, I've always felt that ideals are  
great, so long as people aren't involved.*

25-Dec-01

**The Catholic mass is surely not just  
for the mass of Catholics?**

*Seems a bit narrow minded...not very  
catholic also!*

27-Dec-01

**Seems like organized religion and showbiz  
both have a bottom line:  
one with the taking of souls,  
the other with the sole takings.  
Now...which is which?**

*Well...they're both entertaining, they both  
make money, they both get the crowds  
in...gee, it's hard to say, hmmm?*

27-Dec-01

**Perhaps Mass is the opium of the Christian religions?**

*With all that incense and smoke around, it often becomes a very heady experience, hmmm.*

28-Dec-01

**The enemies of religion are not necessarily religious enemies.**

*But then, they might be zealots of a different type, perhaps?*

28-Dec-01

**The enemies of religion say that religions cause wars; but hang on, wars caused by religion are only between religious enemies, yes?**

*I think we should give religion a break...hmmm, yes, have a religious break. A long break. ;-)*

29-Dec-01

**Suggested mantra for priests and pastors:  
"Trust in God because God's in trust."**

*There's no justice in this world and trust me, it could be a lot worse, y'know...there could be nothing in trust, nix, nada. Maybe it is worse? I can think of worse mantras, too!*

29-Dec-01

**Suggested response from the not-so-faithful:  
"In God we trust, but with only wee trust in  
God."**

*"Ya gotta have faith, ya just gotta"...didn't  
some Hollywood actor have a line like  
that? ;)*

30-Dec-01

**What do organized religion and the Mafia  
have in common?  
Well, in the former,  
a godfather steels a person against evil;  
in the latter,  
a person steals for an evil godfather.**

*Look, I'd rather do without both...although  
a contract with God is so much easier to  
break, as many know, and there's no  
immediate downside...right? ;)*

30-Dec-01

**Some say that God is dead.  
Well...I think the dead and God  
would have some say about that?**

*And I don't have a cold in the nose, OK!*



---

***SOCIETY... "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Jesus Christ, circa 30AD.***

As Wittgenstein said, "You can't have a language of one." So, I guess, you can't have a society of one, either. Anyway, *those* types are all in the funny farms, just plain bonkers.

Like it or not, we're social creatures and we like congregating. So, we like organizing things and people, and then making organizations, associations and many other '*shuns*'.

Throw in all the different types of families, clans and tribes...and you have a complete recipe for continual disaster...or a continual recipe for complete disaster? ;-(

Thus, the perpetual comedy of relationships is here to help us put some sanity back into our daily communion with the rest of society...

When we started the conversation, way back when, the confusion also started; with the rituals of society, it all went nuclear--with a bang, of sorts. Here's some thoughts why...

07-Oct-01

**If the public wants privacy,  
why is privacy so public?**

*Hmmm, some have very public privacy,  
don't they!*

26-Nov-01

**Is the sport of kings also the king of sports?**

*I wouldn't bet on it, would you?*

26-Nov-01

**The business of management is  
the management of business.**

*That is, when they're not out giving  
themselves big pay rises and bonuses,  
hmmm?*

26-Nov-01

**A sales convention is where  
sales people are out selling each other,  
or maybe...selling out each other!**

*Stay alert...watch your back...watch the  
corners...watch your watch...watch out!*

26-Nov-01

**In times past,  
most miners were often many feet under ground;  
in contrast,  
many minors were often ground under most feet!**

*Even today, too often we forget that kids  
are people too, hmmm?*

28-Nov-01

**Salespeople are often out,  
knocking on doors to open,  
while doors are sometimes  
knocking out salespeople, to close!**

*Now you know why the revolving door  
was invented...*

30-Nov-01

**There are those who complain about not getting  
their due, and think it's a world of injustice;  
perhaps the real injustice of the world, is simply  
those who don't get what's due to them.**

*Count your blessings, and so forth...*

02-Dec-01

**Those doing their time for something, have time  
for doing what they have to; others, with time for  
doing anything they want, are instead doing  
nothing with their time!**

*Time is...a stitch in your side??*

02-Dec-01

**While the referee is counting out the boxer,  
the manager may be out counting the money.**

*So, who's out cold...and, out in the cold?*

02-Dec-01

**Which is more repugnant:  
the boxer taking the dive or  
the manager diving at the take?**

*No final bell yet for the noble sport,  
hmmm...*

03-Dec-01

**There's nothing like a good workout  
when you're out of work!**

*So...when you're out to get fit, you can  
get fit while you're out, hmmm?*

03-Dec-01

**When you're farming out work for the locals,  
just make sure  
they don't work at out-farming for themselves.**

*Be fair to the workers...they'll be fair to  
you.*

08-Dec-01

**Whereas a green wound is soon healed,  
a green heel is soon wounded.**

*All heels come to heel eventually, we  
hope, right?*

08-Dec-01

**A company is manned  
by the keepers it knows,  
or perhaps a company keeps  
the men that it knows?**

*But, of course, a man is known by the  
company he keeps, hmmm?*

09-Dec-01

**Fortune favors fools, so they say.  
But, y'know, maybe fools favor fortunes.**

*Ya gotta have rocks, feller, in yer head to  
think of money only!*

12-Dec-01

**Some people like to live life on the edge;  
those wiser know  
that the edge of life is where all live.**

*Well, there are only two certainties, after  
all -- and it's too taxing to think about the  
other!*

13-Dec-01

**Some would say: "Never pardon offenders".  
Better to say, I think: Pardons never offend.**

*Well...maybe...ask a person unjustly  
jailed, I guess.*

13-Dec-01

**It's not that  
fundamental needs never change that's important,  
it's that  
fundamental change generates new needs.**

*I know what I want...but, what do I really  
need?*

16-Dec-01

**Cops who take on 'after hours work'  
may be on the take!**

*And, then there's lawyers, and politicians,  
and judges, and doctors, and  
bureaucrats, and...*

19-Dec-01

**Is the habit as much a drug,  
as the drug is a habit?**

*Y'know, I do have a habit of asking too  
many questions, don't I?*

20-Dec-01

**Some people like to work until they drop;  
others simply like to drop the work.**

*Work? Work? What's that? Hey, it's just  
another four-letter word...*

21-Dec-01

**Some say: Don't bother with those on welfare--  
they fare well, anyway;  
but, surely only the well-to-do do well?**

*I reckon most people would like to say  
farewell to welfare...don't you think?*

21-Dec-01

**With so many Ph.Ds on the dole these days,  
it looks like education for the masses  
just produces masses of education.**

*So they say, get educated and you're  
set...maybe that's what you do, you just  
set?*

22-Dec-01

**If you're employed under  
some wise guy or know-all,  
maybe you'll just stay under-employed?**

*I suppose that's better than being over-  
employed, hmmm? Or, is it?*

22-Dec-01

**Smoking has always been a dying industry;  
yet, that industry of the dying is smokin' along...  
still jes' smokin' along!**

*And, it ain't out of breath, too! ;-(*

24-Dec-01

**The fiery union boss might say:  
"Strike while the iron is hot."  
Wise management should say:  
"Iron it out before the strike is hot."**

*Don't do the strike thing...do the right thing!*

24-Dec-01

**Y'know, we should be able to work out  
good management of unions,  
in a good union with management...surely?**

*There are too many divisions about what people think union really means.*

24-Dec-01

**Daylight saving has nothing to do  
with saving daylight!  
It should be called 'daylight beating',  
because it has everything to do  
with beating the daylights  
out of all those who complain  
about saving daylight.**

*Why don't we just take back the night, then?*

25-Dec-01

**Money corrupts...  
but corrupt money corrupts absolutely!**

*Money and power go together...but which do you think comes first?*

26-Dec-01

**Does the misery of the world  
no' prick your conscience?  
Och, well, no' if ye have  
the conscience of a prick, Ah s'pose.**

*Best said with a Scots accent, imitating  
Billy Connolly perhaps. And, you can use  
virtually any appropriate word as a  
substitute for 'world' ;-)*

26-Dec-01

**Why is it that a strong few  
can spend millions in a week,  
while the many weak  
are still millions strong and spent?**

*Funny thing is, most of them few are  
trying to spend their way out of debt.*

31-Dec-01

**When paying taxes, what is worse:  
the interest on our taxes or  
the tax on our interests?**

*Taxes? I don't mind them...it's the minds,  
who tax us, that bother me.*



---

**WAR... "Nobody ever won a war by dying for his country." Gen. George S. Patton, 1885-1945.**

What can one say about war that has not already been said?

Instead I'd just like to point out that, despite what many think, throughout history the periods of peace between humans obviously exceeded the periods of actual fighting. It is my contention--well founded I think--that people would always much rather live peacefully than engage in deadly physical combat. A few nanoseconds of *rational* reflection should bring that point home...

The incongruities of war are well documented. And that's why it's so easy to make jokes--cruel or otherwise--about the misery of the human condition. It's a way, obviously, of shielding ourselves from war's horrors.

*Peace is the natural state of humankind; that's what makes war itself the cruelest joke of all...*

26-Sep-01

**It is sometimes said:  
The first casualty of war is truth.  
Surely it's more important to remember this:  
The first truth of war is casualties.**

*The bereaved have always known  
this...we should never forget  
Remembrance Day!*

28-Nov-01

**When you're fighting in close quarters,  
there's no quarter with close infighting!**

*And, who knows better than a corporate  
cast-off? Just recall what happened to  
Julius Caesar...and the Ides of March,  
already!*

16-Dec-01

**Suggested song title  
for Army Master Sergeants:  
"Ah Got The Take In Blues Every Intake,  
An' Ah Jest Cain't Take It In Anymo' !"**

*Well, lissen up, y'all, y'hear, Ah say,  
whatcha doin' there, boy..;-)*

21-Dec-01

**The soldiers' maxim:  
"If you hit the ground running,  
running to ground will avoid getting hit."**

*Y'know, that sounds like some corporate  
types I once knew well. ;-)*

22-Dec-01

**War is always good business for those  
who make it  
a business of going to a good war.**

*Is war good for business when it's really  
bad, though...hmmm?*

22-Dec-01

**Seems like the more there is an arms race,  
the more there is a race for alms.**

*Well, let's not beat around the bush--pass  
around the prosthetic legs, and hands,  
and feet...oh, and the arms too, of course!*

22-Dec-01

**Is a war that is just, so called...just...war?**

*War is such a dead end, don't you think?  
Why do so many think it is a viable  
course?*

23-Dec-01

**In war, general incompetence is perhaps  
the hallmark of incompetent generals!**

*Maybe that's why a lot of generals want to  
become politicians? ;-)*

24-Dec-01

**I don't know...  
just with the state of terrorism these days,  
seems like  
a lot of countries are just terrorist states.**

*What's the old saying: 'Set a thief to catch  
a thief!' Maybe set a terrorist to catch a  
terrorist?*

25-Dec-01

**In Hollywood, they think Star Wars  
is a new sitcom about wars between stars.**

*Yeah, but in Hollywood, they've got the  
budget for that, right? Who's got the  
other budget?*

27-Dec-01

**Suggested maxim for all generals:  
"The prosecution of war is good for the forces  
when the forces of good prosecute the war."**

*Trouble is, most go to war for all the  
wrong reasons...and everybody thinks  
they're the good guys!*

27-Dec-01

**For industrialists, the business of a good war  
is to ensure that war is good for business.**

*And, now that we have a world wide war  
on terror, well...now we know who the  
real profit makers will be.*

28-Dec-01

**The end of war is a time for celebration;  
but at times,  
what starts as a celebration may end in war.**

*Seems like the end of every war just sets  
up the conditions for the next.*

29-Dec-01

**Rumors of war are  
sometimes  
just a war of rumors.**

*Now, that's one kind of war we could die for, right? Bring on the empty words, not loaded guns, hmmm?*

29-Dec-01

**War is...hellishly profitable:  
some make arms for money,  
others make money from alms.**

*What a business...get the money both ways. Wow...diabolically clever, huh?*

29-Dec-01

**Bombs that are fail-safe  
are only safe when they fail!**

*Let's face it...the only good bomb is a dead one. ;-)*

30-Dec-01

**These days, it seems generals  
like to be politically correct.  
I've noticed that politicians  
like to be correct about their generals too.**

*If you're gonna go to war, better make sure, ya gotta back door, to avoid any furore! And generals make such convenient scapegoats...right?*

30-Dec-01

**When generals elect to go to war,  
politicians generally go to war with the electors.**

*But, if you lock yourself in, you'll be boxed  
in for the next election...for sure. ;-)*

31-Dec-01

**Generals and politicians:  
the first group always wages war,  
the second always has a war on wages.**

*But, not their own wages of course...only  
those of the workers. Politicians just get  
increases, hmmm?*

31-Dec-01

**If mindless grunts are  
religious cannon fodder,  
are religious canons  
mindless fodder for grunts?**

*'God is with you!'...'Allah is Great!'...'Might  
is Right'...'Right is Might'...so, where's the  
beer? Or, should that be 'bier'?*

