

PICK OF THE BUNCH

HILLARY S. STUFF

TUMBLE-DRIED & SCRAMBUBBLED

SPIN DOCTOR

"I just hopped in there, playing hide-and-seek with the kids," said fun-loving 30-year-old Robin Toom. The place he decided to hide: the washing machine at his sister's place in Townsville, Queensland.

The kids found him quickly enough – and he found something too: he was stuck!

"I couldn't stop sweating in there," confessed good old Uncle Rob. "They had to bring me a fan." After 20 minutes, the family gave up and called in the Fire Brigade rescue-squad, who finally got him out.

And straight into the dryer he went ...



SIGNZ #1

On Town Hall noticeboard: "*Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm in the Conference Centre. Please use the large double door at rear.*"

HEAR ABOUT ...?

... the young lady who was engaged to a man with a wooden leg? She broke it off.

GREETING CARD REJECT #1

Looking back o'er the years
We've been together,
I can't help but wonder ...
(inside card)
What was I thinking?

A SIPLEING TSET

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I aulaclyt uesdnortod waht I was rdanieg The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mind. Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch taem at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn 't mttar in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Such a cdonition is arppoiterly cllaed Typoglycemia.

Amzanig huh? Yaeh, and yuo awlyas thought splaing was ipmorantt.

HEAR ABOUT ...?

... the old lady who asked her lawyer to prepare a will and said she had two final requests? First, she wanted to be cremated, and second, she wanted her ashes scattered over *The Warehouse*.

"*The Warehouse*?" the lawyer queried. "Why *The Warehouse*?"

"So I can be sure my daughter will visit me twice a week."

DERE TEECHA

These (believe it or not) are real excuse-notes from real parents, explaining why their kids weren't at school. Really ...

- My son is under a doctor's care and should not take P.E. today. Please excuse him.
- Please excuse Jennifer for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the Sunday paper out of the letterbox, and when we found it on Monday, we thought it was Sunday.
- John has been absent because he had two teeth taken out of his face.
- Please excuse Roland from class for a few days. He fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip.
- Lisa wasn't at school today because she missed her bust.

SIGNZ #2

In a public park: "*Please don't throw stones at this sign.*"

LIFE IS AN ENDLESS STRUGGLE FULL OF FRUSTRATIONS AND CHALLENGES, BUT EVENTUALLY YOU FIND A HAIR STYLIST YOU LIKE.



PETROL PRICES ARE SO HIGH THAT WHEN MY WIFE PULLED INTO A BP THE OTHER DAY AND ASKED FOR TWO DOLLARS WORTH, THE ATTENDANT DABBED SOME BEHIND HER EARS.

PROFITABUBBLE?

In the yawning absence of anything sillier, we offer these humbubble definitions. The more literary amongst our readers may judge them to have questionabubble value. But who knows? Some of you will probabubbly vote them lovabubble.

Terribubble: to rip a bubble in two.

Horribubble: a very, very ugly bubble.

Negligibubble: a see-thru nightgown worn by girl bubbles.

Scrambubble: to confuse a bubble.

Availabubble: face-covering used by Middle Eastern bubbles.

Indefensibubble: a bubble who works for the Army.

Tumbubble: antacid tablets for bubbles with stomach ulcers.

Inflamabubble: to get a bubble really mad.

Audibubble: a loud-mouthed bubble in a European car.

Mumbubble: a bubble's parent.

Can you think of any more? Send them to 'Pick of the Bunch', Grapevine, Private Bag 92124, Auckland – or email info@grapevine.org.nz. We'll publish them – so long as they're printable!

FUN FONE MESSAGE #1:

"Greetings, you have reached the Sixth Sense Detective Agency. We know who you are and what you want, so at the sound of the tone, please hang up."



**IF GOD MEANT
US TO TOUCH
OUR TOES, HE
WOULD HAVE PUT
THEM FURTHER
UP OUR BODY.**

WHOOPS #1

A driver in Kreuzlingen, Switzerland, was described by police as “a little bit stupid”. The man (whose name was suppressed) thought someone was trying to “annoy” him by flashing a light at him when he drove through the town in the middle of the night. So he turned at the next roundabout and came back, and was flashed again. And again. And again. After four passes to see “what was going on” he finally figured it out: he was being flashed by a speed camera.

Police confirm they will issue the lucky bloke with all four tickets – for speeding in a 50 kph zone. Plus an extra for failure to wear his seatbelt.

KIDZ KWOTES – ABOUT SCIENCE

- Ancient Egypt was old, inhabited by gypsies and mummies who all wrote in hydraulics.
- Solomon had three hundred wives and seven hundred porcupines.
- The Greeks were a highly sculptured people, and without them we wouldn't have history.
- Joan of Arc was burnt to a steak for reasons I don't understand.
- Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100 foot clipper, which was very dangerous to all his men.
- Socrates was a famous old Greek teacher who went around giving people advice, and died from an overdose of wedlock which is apparently poisonous.

ATTENTION CUSTOMERS:

Would the owner of car licence plate number VX83827659401157869065 10376 please shift your vehicle? The number plate is blocking our carpark.

GREETING CARD REJECT #2

I'm so miserable without you ...

(inside card)

It's almost like you're still here.

HEAR ABOUT ...?

... the piano that was thrown down a tunnel? It resulted in A-flat minor.

WHOOPS #2

“I said, ‘Hey man, you're being stupid – put it away,’” reports Jim Roban. Matt George was showing off his new pet rattlesnake to friends at his Washington home. George had taken the snake out of its cage to give it a kiss. “He said, ‘It's okay, I do it all the time.’” Maybe so, but this time the snake bit him firmly on the upper lip.

When George dropped the snake, Roban killed it. “I thought his head was going to blow up, he was just swelling and swelling,” Roban said. However, doctors reckon George should survive.

Pity about the snake ...

OH, PUH-LEEZE!

I was hanging out with a dizzy friend when we saw a woman walk past us with a nose ring attached to an earring by a chain. My friend said, “Wouldn't the chain rip out every time she turned her head?” I had to explain to her that a person's nose and ear remain the same distance apart, no matter which way the head is turned.



SAFE AS HOUSES

You want to protect your family – right? But those fancy home-security systems with cameras and alarms and 24-hour monitoring are way beyond your budget – right? Well, take heart! Here's another much-simpler approach that even you can afford:

1. Go to a second-hand store and buy a pair of men's used work boots. A really big pair.
2. Put them outside your front door, sitting on a copy of *New Zealand Guns & Hunting* magazine.
3. Put a dog dish beside it. A really big dish.
4. Leave a note on your front door that says: "Hey, Bubba – big Mike and me have gone to get more ammunition. Back in a half an hour. Oh, and don't disturb the Pit Bulls – they've just been wormed."
5. Then pour yourself a cold drink, sit back and relax.

FUN FONE MESSAGE #2:

"Hi, I'm not home right now but my answering machine is, so you can talk to it instead. Wait for the beep."

SIGNZ #3

Outside a muffler shop: "No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."

BARF! BARF!

Are you worried about your poor little Bowser, bored to puppy-tears the minute you dash out the door to catch the bus? Well, worry no more. You can now fight off Fido's home-alone blues with *Doggie Adventure!*

This doggone exciting 25-minute DVD (available at posher pet boutiques across America) can be programmed to turn on during your pet's lonelier moments – and features a hound's-eye view of a walk through the city streets, a romp in the park and a ho-down in a barnyard.

And according to the video's creator, Harley Toberman (rhymes with snarly doberman), the movie gives pooches a new lease on life. "They walk right up to the TV, put their noses right against it and just stare," he brags.

Right Harley! And who cleans the screen?

SIGNZ #4

On frozen dessert box: "Product will be hot after heating." ❄️



I HAD AN AUNT
WHO USED TO COME
UP TO ME AT
WEDDINGS, POKE
ME IN THE RIBS,
AND CACKLE,
'YOU'RE NEXT!'
SHE STOPPED AFTER
I BEGAN DOING THE

SAME THING TO HER AT FUNERALS.