

Steel Magnolias

Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc.

Who Told You That?

October 16, 2006

Inspiration

After hearing an inspiring message, a few weeks ago, on television, about the gifts God has given to each of us and the influences that renders us, spiritually and socially, impotent, I was inspired to make this the subject of the October newsletter.

The message I heard, stressed the point that God places abilities and gifts within; and outside influences keeps us from using those gifts for the benefit of people that God places in our sphere of influence.

I was made to think of individuals who, because of an event in their lives, were awakened to the vital and important contribution their lives were meant to bring forth in the lives of those around them.

This past year, after completing several weeks of physical therapy, ordered by Dr. Tippetts, I joined Curves in Jacksonville. There I met several impressive people, non as inspiring as MS. Ruby.

In May, Ruby was pro-

moted to Manager of Curves in Jacksonville. The incredible story told to me by Ruby, in her own words: "After turning 68 years old and thinking there was really nothing left for me in this life, God seemed to slam every door. When I finally had to find a new place to live and didn't know how I was going to make ends meet, God placed me in the position of having to ask for a job. I asked Jennifer, "Do you ever hire old folks?" In two or three weeks, I went to work at Curves of Jacksonville. I became assistant manager and when the manager moved away, was offered the manager's job. I was frightened! Here I was a 68 year old woman of color. What could God be thinking? But now I know, I'm meant to use the gifts inside of me, regardless of what I had allowed my self to think."

When, because of shoulder pain or scheduling conflict, I had missed several days of exercise, MS. Ruby sent, to me, two cards. They are official Curves Cards, but

Ruby's messages are personal: card 1) "She woke one day and threw away all her excuses." Card 2) "She discovered that she was the ONE she'd been waiting for."

Ms. Ruby's messages: "Mrs. Lenora, There is a greater reward than what you are receiving now. Keep pushing, there is no limit as to what you can do and the heights you will reach." Ruby

"Mrs. Lenora, I haven't seen you in a while and I'm worried or rather concerned. Your last visit was June 20th. Please let me hear from you. You are very special to me. You are a great inspiration to me and others. I'm also going to call you. Have a bless day, you and your family."

I love you, Ruby

"Ms. Ruby, I am so thankful that God awakened the gifts within you. You are a great inspiration to me and I'm sure to all who are fortunate enough to be placed in your sphere of influence."

My sister, 14 years



Sharing love through support

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younger than me, who struggled for years, trying to discover her purpose in this world, called this past week. Debby has learned, over the years to listen for and be sensitive to the Still Small Voice.

In I Kings 19, we read the story of Elijah, who out of fear, hid himself in a cave. God called to him with the question, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Elijah told the Lord of his fear because of what he had seen done to other prophets.

The Lord then told him, *“Go and stand on the mountain, in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake, came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice came to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”* Elijah’s reply was that he was afraid of those who had killed the prophets before him, and now they were going to kill him. Elijah said, *“I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”* The Lord instructed Elijah to go back the way he came because the Lord had seven thousand who had not bowed their knees to Baal. I Kings 19:9-18

My sister, this past week, was sensitive to the Still Small Voice and went, as inspired, to a floor other than the one she worked on, at Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital in Columbia, Missouri, and found Rose Ann, a woman, so discouraged because she had lost two temporary positions, one in the retail store and one in the food court. She was saddened at the thought of moving to California, where she and a child could live with relatives while she looked for a job. Debby said, “Come with me.” She took the woman to a friend who worked in Employee Health. It turned out that help was needed and Rose Ann was qualified for the position.

These experiences are repeated over and over again, not only in the life of my sister, but in the lives of countless people who at one time were wandering about, craving guidance from someone. Chaplain Wilson calls these encounters, “Providence.” The reason we don’t all have such encounters is that we have bought into the message that no-one would be interested in what we would have to say. We’ve been told that we are not smart enough, talented enough or educated enough, and that we possess nothing of value.

The TV pastor, who inspired me, went on to point out that from the very beginning of the Bible, God taught this most important truth: *Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked;” And God said, “Who told you that you were naked?”* Genesis 3: 8-11

People have all kinds of reasons for trying to strip us of our hope, our faith, and destroy our belief in our own abilities and callings. Sometimes it is jealousy, sometimes it is because, along the way, they have been stripped by someone, but it is never because the giver of all good and perfect gifts has spoken. Having said that, God will close doors before us to guide us in another direction, so that He can open an even bigger door and make the greatest use of the gifts that are hidden within us.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. I Peter 3: 15

Not knowing the title or the subject of the October newsletter, Kathy Evans, whose life’s work is to help men, who have lost sight of the value they possess, regain the meaning of being made in the image of their Creator, e-mailed this relevant and beautiful composition: *Beginning Today.*

Beginning Today

I will no longer worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will always be there, waiting for me to make the most of it. But I cannot make the most of tomorrow without first making the most of today.

I will look in the mirror and I will see a person worthy of my respect and admiration. This capable person looking back at me is someone I would like to get to know better.

I will cherish each moment of my life. I value this gift bestowed upon me in this world and I will unselfishly share this gift with others. I will use this gift to enhance the lives of others.

I will take a moment to step off the beaten path and to revel in the mysteries I encounter. I will face challenges with courage and determination. I will overcome what barriers there may be which hinder my quest for growth and self-improvement.

I will take life one day at a time, one step at a time. Discouragement will not be allowed to taint my positive self-image, my desire to succeed or my capacity to love.

I walk with renewed faith in human kindness. Regardless of what has gone before, I believe there is hope for a brighter and better future.

I will open my mind and my heart. I will welcome new experiences. I will meet new people. I will not expect perfection from myself nor anyone else...perfection does not exist in an imperfect world. But I will applaud the attempt to overcome human foibles.

I am responsible for my own happiness and I will do things that make me happy. I will admire the beautiful wonders of nature, listen to my favorite music, pet a kitten or a puppy, and soak in a bubble bath. Pleasure can be found in the most simple of gestures.

I will learn something new; I will try something different; I will savor all the various flavors life has to offer. I will change what I can and the rest I will let go. I will strive to become the best me I can possibly be.
From....Graphic Humor and Inspiration....Provided by Subscribers

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female created them.

Genesis I: 27

Life Inspiration Bible, Comments:

Knowing that we are created in God's image and thus share some of his characteristics provides a solid basis for self-worth. Human worth is not based on possessions, achievements, physical attractiveness, or public acclaim. Instead it is based on being made in God's image. Because we bear God's image, we can feel positive about ourselves. Criticizing or downgrading ourselves is criticizing what God has made and the abilities He has given us. Knowing that you are a person of worth helps you love God, know him personally, and make a valuable contribution to those around you. God made both man and woman in his image. Neither man nor woman is made more in the image of God than the other. From the beginning the Bible places both man and woman at the pinnacle of God's creation. Neither sex is exalted, and neither is depreciated.

Beauty is Simply Love

Beauty is a feeling, more than just a sight.

Hatred lurks in darkness, beauty thrives in light.

Beauty shields the body, (your looks you can't control)

Beauty reaches deeper, finding friendship in the soul.

Regardless of "creed or color," beauty's free to roam.

For beauty isn't prejudiced, and honesty is its home.

Anyone, anywhere, anytime is the scheme of beauty's trail.

Beauty lives in love, and this pattern cannot fail.

Beautiful are the children, innocent forever more.

For an unpersuaded child knows not of death and war.

They listen to the heart, the mind, the spirit, their minds are filled with love.

They don't look upon the ugliness, instead they look above.

The elderly are beautiful, experience is their guide.

Though their skin be worn and wrinkled, they're beautiful inside.

A great part of life they've been through, all stored within the mind.

A love within each heart, so thoughtful and so kind.

Communication is beauty, and you may discover love.

For each heart is filled with beauty, from the Creator, far above.

So if you can't find beauty, soon you'd better start.

For the body is just a cover, we live within our heart.

By Jay Hornbrook.....December 14, 1976

Jay Hornbrook, a student in my brother Gerald Washington's creative writing class, two consecutive years, won the Oklahoma poetry contest.

Mountain Echoes Festival

When Prentiss and I got to Jacksonville, the morning of Saturday, September 23, the square was already spilling over with vendors. Traffic was reduced to one lane and every other spot of grass or pavement was home to everything from barbecue wagons to jewelry, to gourd art, to pottery, to political candidates. One of the first people I saw as I, with Pink Ribbon Ball tickets in hand, was Suzy Spiceland. I asked Suzy if she had tickets to this year's Pink Ribbon Ball. Suzy, because her husband's work would prevent his attendance, bought one ticket. Neither Alice Martin or George Salmon were prepared to purchase tickets but promised and did, at a later date, buy tickets.

Being a lover of arts and crafts, I found a gourd centerpiece on a silver pedestal. I also found copper jewelry to match a new fall blouse.

Prentiss and I spent about an hour and a half on the square before going to Bama Grill for a late breakfast.

Brenda Ladun, breast cancer survivor and author of, *Getting Better Not Bitter*, was expected to be in Jacksonville, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., for a book signing. She was late arriving so we missed seeing the channel 40 news anchor.

Steel Magnolias Meeting

The regular meeting of the Steel Magnolias Breast cancer Support Group, Inc., was held on Tuesday, September 26, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. in the Tyler Center, classroom #1. Fourteen members were present with four visitors. Debbie Lee Barno, Secretary, read the minutes from the august 2006 meeting. One correction was made concerning meal tickets for all other cancer patient's family members. After the correction, they were approved. Roll was taken. Pam Bussey, President, called the meeting to order. Chaplain Marti Warren, read our prayer list and additional names were added. She offered prayer for the list. In the absence of the treasurer, Nancy Burnell, Lenora Johnson gave the treasurer's report. Beginning balance was \$5,849.13. After expenses, our ending balance was \$3,696.53.

Old Business

- **Ladies Night Out** will be Thursday, October 19, 2006 at the Anniston Meeting Center, with comic, Mickey Dean. Classic on Noble will be catering the dinner. Tickets are \$15 for survivors and \$25 for general admission.
- **Saturday December 9, 2006**, has been chosen for our Christmas Brunch. It will be held at Monet and will begin at 10:30 a.m., and end at about 12:30 p.m. The brunch will be catered and Lenora will get options on menus.
- **New officers for steel Magnolias, Inc.** were presented by committee Chairperson, Marti Warren. All officers will keep their present positions with the exception of Secretary. This position will be filled by Jo Ann Taylor.
- **Susan G. Komen Race For The cure**, will be held Saturday, October 14, 2006, in Birmingham's Linn Park. Kathy Evans has generously provided a van for us for this event. All those members that are interested are encouraged to meet behind Chick Filet in the Oxford Wal-Mart parking lot at 6:00 a.m. to board the van.
- **Saturday, October 28, 2006**, the Steel Magnolias have been asked to lead a breast cancer walk, sponsored by Jacksonville Medical center. The walk will begin at Jacksonville Medical Center—Registration at 8:00 a.m.—Walk begins at 9:00 a.m.
- **Kathy Wilson gave** a contribution of cloth hats for the Steel Magnolias Benevolent Closet, located at Monet. Also, Chae Mi Madden, of Monet is planning to include an elegant shop for cancer patients. This boutique would have a private entrance. Jamie also plans to include the benevolent closet and Steel Magnolias in future Monet advertising.
- **Raffle tickets for the beautiful quilt**, made by Aline Gardner, in memory of her sister-in-law, Barbara Pelletier, were distributed. Steel Magnolias volunteers will display the quilt and sell raffle tickets at Oxfordfest on October 7. We are very grateful to Linda Barton, who in honor of her mother, breast cancer survivor, Peggy Austin, volunteered to help at the Steel Magnolias table. Linda, who drives a school bus, also took some tickets to sell to co-workers. From the bottom of our hearts, Linda, thank you!
- **Gladys Denizard announced** that Rose Lawley of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, is sponsoring a program on Sunday, October 29, 2006 for cancer awareness for all Hispanic individuals. Gladys will also be working closely with MS. Lawley, to encourage and implement early detection of breast cancer in the Hispanic population.

- The Pink Ribbon Ball is scheduled for Saturday, October 7, 2006 at the Anniston country club. Many items for the silent auction have been gathered and Marti Warren has created her “Jars of Life” for each table. Jo Ann Taylor, chair of the Pink Ribbon Ball, reminded everyone of the great menu. Sundance Band from Warrior, Alabama, will provide the music.

New Business

- **Lenora Johnson announced** that there will be a link from both the Komen web site (www.komenalabama.org) and the RMC site (rmccares.org) to (www.steelmagnoliasinc.org) This is an exciting development for us.
- **Our October meeting** will be dedicated to sharing our personal stories and telling where we are now.
- **Gladys Denizard reminded** us that October is mammogram month.

There Being no further business, to come before this meeting, upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, it was adjourned. Everyone then enjoyed refreshments.

Respectfully Submitted by Debbie Lee Barno

Treasurer’s Report

September	Beginning Balance	\$5,849.13
01—\$ 100.00	Lenora Johnson-monthly expenses	5,749.13
05—2,000.00	RMC Memorial Foundation (All other cancer dining vouchers)	3,749.13
14— 200.00	Stringfellow Memorial Hosp. (All other cancer dining vouchers)	3,549.13
14— 100.00	Jacksonville Medical Center (All other cancer dining vouchers)	3,449.13
14— 25.00	Advanced Printing (25 Pink Ribbon Ball posters)	3,422.13
15 + 350.00	(7) tickets to Pink Ribbon Ball	3,772.13
25 — 75.60	Advanced Printing (1000) Raffle Tickets (Un-Numbered)	3,696.53
26 + 650.00	(13) tickets to Pink Ribbon Ball	4,346.53
28 + 550.00	(11) tickets to Pink Ribbon Ball	4,896.53

Report of Nominating Committee For 2006-2007 Officers

President: Pam Bussey

Vice-President: Keither Zeimet

Secretary: Jo Ann Taylor

Treasurer: Nancy Burnell

Chaplain: Ina Rooks

Parliamentarian: Marti Warren

(To be approved by the board of directors at October 17, Annual Meeting)

Volunteer Chairwomen

Benevolent Closet—Gladys Denizard

RMC West Office—Milli Carlisle

The Phone Tree—Gloria Woosley

(Lenora will make all long distance calls)

Grant Writing—(Chair) Debbie Barno— Rosemary Lipscomb

Fellowship committee—Jo Ann Taylor (Volunteers needed each month)

(See sign-up sheet) Pam Bussey will be responsible for the water and ice.

Web Master—Gail Tuck

Executive Director: Lenora Johnson

Submitted by: Marti Warren, Margaret Taylor, Ina Rooks

Table at Oxfordfest

Early morning, Saturday, October 7, as many of us were drinking our last cup of coffee before leaving our homes to meet and decorate the Anniston Country Club, Lynn Luke was setting up table 66 at Oxfordfest. We are very grateful to the organizers of Oxfordfest for reserving space for nonprofit organizations. We were late making our request, and we got the last available booth. Lynn manned our table from early morning until noon. Linda Barton, in honor of her mother, Peggy Austin, took the noon to 1:00 p.m. shift. At 1:00 p.m., Deb Saska represented Steel Magnolias

until the time came to bring the quilt, for display, at the Pink Ribbon Ball. Thank you, Lynn, Linda and Deb for a job well done.

Receipts from Oxfordfest: Quilt Raffle Tickets, \$247—Steel Magnolias Pins and Awareness Bracelets, \$101

Pink Ribbon Ball

Soon after the doors opened, at 6:00 p.m., the Anniston Country Club, became filled with the sounds of men and women, dressed in their very best. Margaret & Jimmy Taylor and Dr. Dave & Faye Roberts served as greeters, while others of us escorted our wonderful guests to their respective tables. We were so very delighted when Mrs. Martha Hooton Barker arrived. Even though, because of her beautiful verse, I felt I had known Mrs. Barker for years, this was actually our first introduction. Many of our readers know Mrs. Barker from the poetry she has so generously allowed us to publish.

I asked Dr. Daniel to sing Happy Birthday to Mrs. Barker, who turned 91 years old just the day before, on October 6. Dr. Daniel led everyone in a birthday tribute, before I presented a framed Steel Magnolias membership certificate naming Mrs. Barker an honored member of Steel Magnolias. Mrs. Barker said a few words about her battle with breast cancer. In honor of Mrs. Martha Hooton Barker, we offer tribute by reprinting her “Life Story,” from July 2003:

My birthplace was the little town of Eastman, in South Georgia, where the sky was bright blue with fluffy white clouds. I thought of God as sitting on one of those clouds and I prayed each night that he would help me to be a dear, kind, sweet Christian little girl. One day I woke up and realized that I was no longer a little girl and I was certainly not dear, kind, true, and sweet. As I grew older I sought to know God better and I began to study the bible and to teach the Word and to work in my church—a lifelong pursuit.

Growing up, I lived in several different places, among them Chicago, Milwaukee, Sioux City, Iowa. One summer my mother and I came from our home in Sioux City to visit relatives in Eastman. A young man from Atlanta was also visiting in Eastman. We met and the sparks flew, and 7 months later we were married. We recently celebrated our 69th wedding anniversary together.

God blessed us with three beautiful girls. The second little girl died at 7 months. In my grief, I cried to God, “If you can tell me that it was your will and not something that I did or didn’t do, I can stand it.” It seemed that He said to me, “How do you know exactly except by faith?” That has been the answer to everything for me.

When I was 51 years old, I was diagnosed with terminal breast cancer. I endured cobalt treatments for many months and I kept telling my dear husband and everyone that I would be all right. I prayed each time while I was undergoing the treatments. One time as I prayed, I realized that I was not depending on God at all but on my own strong self-will and determination. So I said to God, “I don’t want to die but whatever You want to do with me is all right.” That was 36 years ago. I learned later that this is the prayer of relinquishment. All that I can say is: “To God be the Glory.”

Mrs. Barker, after a 70 year long love story, was forced to say “Until we meet again,” for God called, Mr. Tom Barker home. With the same grace she has faced every other trial in her life, Mrs. Barker, accepted by faith, this sad chapter in her life.

Mrs. Barker brought a new supply of her poetry book, “Times of the Heart.” I encourage everyone, don’t miss this special woman’s verse. Thank you Mrs. Martha Hooton Barker for making our Pink Ribbon Ball even more special. Most importantly, thank you Mrs. Barker for using the gifts, God placed within you, to give Hope and Faith to those of us who are blessed enough to be placed in your sphere of influence.

Mrs. Hazel Johnson Rudolph, who over 38 years ago, was mine and Prentiss’ Cupid, , floated into the country club looking as beautiful as she did in 1968. Thank you Hazel for making this evening even more special for Prentiss and me.

The second annual Pink Ribbon Ball, a fundraiser for the Susan G. Komen Foundation, was held at the Anniston Country Club. Marti Warren worked tirelessly for weeks, making her “Jars of Life,” one for each table and then

made still more to decorate the mantle. She also made a beautiful table cloth from a rose colored cut-work dress, using the sleeves of the same dress to dress-up hurricane lamps. Jo Ann Taylor, chair of this year's event, worked with Yvonne Boothe, owner of Evans Flowers, coming up with a simple, yet very elegant floral idea for each table. Pink hydrangea, Jars of Life and candles made each table very inviting.

Chairpersons for the Silent Auction were Prentiss and Lenora Johnson. With the help of many other Steel Magnolias, we were able to offer an outstanding variety of items in our auction. We offer our heart felt thanks to everyone who contributed to our Silent Auction. We had 23 great items. Special thanks, in no particular order to: Allison Butler, Massage Therapist; Keith Barno, Photographer; Chae Mi Madden, owner of Monet Salon & Day Spa; Sannie Sue Gift Shop; Yvonne Boothe, Owner of Evans Flowers; Pokey Warren, Photographer and Card Designer; Robbie Whiteman, Owner of Harvest Moon Gift Shop; Robert Downing, Store Owner; Dan Mason, Floral Designer; Mike's Treasure Chest; Dillard's Department Store; Hancock Fabrics; Designer Samples; Haywood Jewelers; The Window Box; Marti Warren, owner of RAJ; Smith's Jewelers; Josie Ayers, Music at McClellan; Griffin's Jewelers; Betsy Davis, Artist and Art Teacher; Judy Bussey, Avon Representative;

Margaret Taylor designed the Steel Magnolias Memorial Table. Each precious life was represented by a flower and a candle. Aline Gardner's beautiful Dresden Quilt, in memory of her sister-in-law, Barbara Pelletier, was displayed on a quilt rack, behind the candles. A beautiful silver candlestick, with votives, burned in the center of the memorial candles. Margaret's interpretation displayed on Battenberg lace, was a very gracious and beautiful memorial.

Sundance Band made beautiful music and many of us enjoyed an evening of good food and dancing. (NOTE) There was some confusion when the cow-bells rang for the end of the Silent Auction. Some thought that was the end of the event. We intended that the band continue to play for another hour, giving everyone time to dance as long as they wished. In the future, this confusion will not be a problem.

To preserve our memories of this beautiful evening, Phillip Hurst, Photographer, offered a special package of two 5x7 and one 8x10 pictures, with options to buy more. We can expect to soon receive our pictures in the mail.

Our fun and memorable evening raised \$1500 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation, North Central Alabama Affiliate. This affiliate provides grant money, through the Public Health Department, that provides free services to uninsured and low income women throughout the 38 counties in North Central Alabama. This year, a one million dollar breast cancer research grant was also given to the University of Alabama. For more information: www.komenalabama.org (205) 930-8886 or Fax (205) 930-8895 or Email <Administrator@komenalabama.org>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Thursday, October 19: Ladies Night Out...Anniston Meeting Center...Doors Open for Booths at 5:00 p.m. Doors open into the dining room at 6:00 p.m.Dinner served at 6:15p.m. ...Entertainment: Mickey Dean....Tickets for general public \$25—Breast Cancer Survivors \$15 More Info: call Jane Taylor (256) 236-1500

Tuesday, October 24: Steel Magnolias regular meeting....Tyler Center, Classroom #1.....5:00 p.m. Refreshments in Deli to follow meeting. October meeting will be a time of sharing our "Walk with Breast cancer," and telling where we are today. We will choose a caterer for our Dec. 9, Christmas party.

Saturday, October 28: Jacksonville Walk for Breast Cancer....Registration at 8:00 a.m. at Jacksonville Medical Center.Race Begins, from Jacksonville Medical center at 9:00 a.m.Bubbles the Clown is expected!.....Steel Magnolias breast Cancer Support Group, Inc., will lead the walk. Pre-registration is encouraged to assure your correct shirt size. Registration fee is \$15....T-shirt and a ticket for door prizes is included.....All proceeds go to the Susan G. Komen Foundation..... For more Information: call Ashley Downing (256) 782-4366 or Mandy McFall (256) 782-4606

Jo Ann, Here Goes

When Do You Want To Play

Stevie Wonder meets Tiger Woods and mentions that he too is a golfer. “When I tee off,” the blind musician explains, “I have a guy call to me from the green. My sharp sense of hearing lets me aim.” Tiger’s skeptical, but when Stevie suggests that they play a round for \$100,000, tiger readily accepts, figuring it’s the easiest 100 grand he’ll ever make. “So when do you want to play?” Stevie shrugs, “Pick any night!”

The Picnic

A Jewish Rabbi and a Catholic Priest met at the town’s annual 4th of July picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter. “This baked ham is really delicious,” the priest teased the rabbi. “You really ought to try it. I know it’s against your religion, but I can’t understand why such a wonderful food should be forbidden! You don’t know what you’re missing. You just haven’t lived until you’ve tried Mrs. Hall’s prized Virginia Baked Ham. Tell me, Rabbi, when are you going to break down and try it?” The rabbi looked at the priest with a big grin, and said, “At your wedding.”

Cowboy

A Montana cowboy was overseeing his herd in a remote mountainous pasture when suddenly a brand-new BMW advanced out of a dust cloud towards him. The driver, a young man in a Brioni suit, Gucci shoes, Ray Ban sunglasses and YSL tie, leans out the window and asks the cowboy, “If I tell you exactly how many cows and calves you have in your herd, will you give me a calf?” The cowboy looks at the man, obviously a yuppie, then looks at his peacefully grazing herd and calmly answers, “Sure, why not?” The yuppie parks his car, whips out his Dell notebook computer, connects it to his Cingular RAZR V3 cell phone, and surfs to a NASA page on the internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite navigation system to get an exact fix on his location which he then feeds to another NASA satellite that scans the area in an ultra-high-resolution photo. The young man then opens the digital photo in Adobe Photoshop and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg, Germany. Within seconds, he receives an email on his Palm Pilot that the image has been processed and the data stored. He then accesses a MS-SQL database through ODBC connected Excel spreadsheet with email on his Blackberry and, after a few minutes, receives a response. Finally, he prints out a 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturized HP Laser Jet printer and finally turns to the cowboy and says, “You have exactly 1,586 cows and calves,” “That’s right. Well, I guess you can take one of my calves,” says the cowboy. He watches the young man select one of the animals and looks on amused as the young man stuffs it into the trunk of his car. Then the cowboy says to the young man, “Hey, if I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give back my calf?” The young man thinks about it for a second and then says, “Okay, why not?” “You’re a Congressman for the U.S. Government,” says the cowboy. “Wow! That’s correct,” says the yuppie, “But how did you guess that?” “No guessing required,” answered the cowboy. “You showed up here even though nobody called you; you want to get paid for an answer I already knew, to a question I never asked. You tried to show me how much smarter than me you are; and you don’t know a thing about cows....this is a herd of sheep. Now give me back my dog.”

Respectable Lady

A nice, calm, and respectable lady went into the pharmacy, right up to the pharmacist, looked straight into his eyes, and said, “I would like to buy some cyanide.” The pharmacist asked, “Why in the world do you need cyanide?” The lady replied, “I need to poison my husband.” The pharmacist’s eyes got big, and he exclaimed, “Lord, have mercy! I can’t give you cyanide to kill your husband! That’s against the law! I’ll lose my license! They’ll throw both of us in jail! All kinds of bad things will happen! Absolutely not! You CANNOT have any Cyanide!” The lady reached into her purse and pulled out a romantic picture of her husband and the pharmacist’s wife. The pharmacist looked at the picture and replied, “Well, now, that’s different. You didn’t tell me you had a prescription.”

Southern Security System

HOW TO INSTALL A HOME SECURITY SYSTEM IN THE SOUTH. 1) Go to a second-hand store and buy a pair of men’s used work boots. Size 14-16..... 2) Place them on your front porch, along with a copy of Guns and Ammo magazine and your NRA magazines.....3) Put a few giant dog dishes next to the boots and magazine.....4) Leave a note on your door that reads: “Hey Bubba, Big Jim, Duke and Slim, I went for more ammunition. I’ll be back soon. Don’t mess with the pit bulls—they attacked the mailman this morning and messed him up real bad. I don’t think killer took part in it, but it was hard to tell from all the blood. Anyways, I locked all four of ‘em in the house. Better wait outside.”