

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS

by

Quince!

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SOLVING THOSE DAMNABLE QUIZZES

Know those "magic squares" that you find in games columns and what-not where you are shown a sort of tic-tac-toe board with numbers in each square, and you have to "unscramble" the numbers, that is, re-arrange them so that the various rows, columns and diagonals all sum up to the same amount? Well, did you know that there is a *formula* for solving them; that if you follow that formula, you will never get stuck on one of those damnable quizzes again *so long as you shall live*? Simply follow these steps:

1. Start at the first box (that is, the top-left-most box).
2. Move the number in that box to the third box down of the third column.
3. Place the number that *was* in the third box down of the third column in the second column, second box down.
4. Move the remaining number (from the second column, second box down) to the top-left-most box, and...

voila!! Try it!!

SHAKESPEARE WROTE IN HEBREW

The Bard of Avon. Simply mention those four words, and such thoughts come to mind: thoughts of lovely poetry, wonderfully entertaining plays (it really only takes just a little bit of practice to get the 'knack' of that medieval English) that inspired such later gems as "West Side Story" and "Kiss Me, Kate." But few people realize that William Shakespeare was educated at the London Jewish School, called a "Jewshiva," and spoke and wrote in Hebrew, the language of Jews, e'en more fluently than in English. In fact, he wrote down *all* his plays in Hebrew. They were translated into English, after his death, by Ben Johnson, another playwrighter.

Little Known Facts...

by *Quince!*

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The Chameleon

There is a common misconception among most folks that the chameleon has the ability to change his color to match his surroundings. Nothing could be further from the truth, though the truth is no less wondrous! Ask any reptiologist, and you'll learn that what this notorious member of the lizard family actually does for protection is he changes the color of his surroundings to match his own pigmentation! Since chameleons exist in a wide variety of colors, it's not surprising that many people think that it is the reptile itself that changes.

On the Origin of the Word "Eggplant"

Ever wonder why we call an eggplant an eggplant? Well, I did, and I learned why, to boot! If you think it is because of its shape, you're way off. The truth is, the word comes from a bad translation, much the way the "English horn" came to us from the French *cor anglais*, which means, literally "angled horn." But getting back to aubergines, we must first understand that the fruit itself (how many of you knew that the eggplant is really a fruit?) came to us from Italy (land of, among others, "eggplant parmigiana"). Now, whereas in modern Italian it goes by the name *melanzana*, in olden times it was known as *planta diego*, after the monk, Diego, who is supposed to have first cultivated it. It should take only a bit of imagination to figure how *planta diego* became "eggplant."

-vide et crede; res judicata!!

I received quite a bit of mail about last month's column about the sacred mud of the ancient mound Indians of Ohio. A lot of you simply can't believe that the Indians routinely smoked, bathed in and, yes, ate the mud to become closer to the holy spirits. Well, to prove that these are facts, I am going to reveal my source for this information (something I almost never do). Read next month's column for more!

Little Known Facts

Well, I've got something on my mind, and unless I get it off my chest, I won't be able to get this chip off my shoulder. So, instead of little known facts, this month I want to tell you a little story...

I want to tell you about my friends, Edna and Byurl Terpish. Byurl's an assistant supervisor at the tool and dye factory in our home town of Hunts River, Edna keeps home. Two kids, house, car, Church on Sundays... guess you could say just regular folks, trying to make ends meet.

About two weeks ago, Byurl was walking home from the t&d after work. He had just turned the corner from North Pine onto Blakesley, when he was struck down. A cool, smooth, silver Camaro driven by an intoxicated nineteen year old male African American laid Byurl low.

Well, my buddy Byurl is at St. Ignatius now, still in intensive care. Doc McGlock says he's gonna make it. You see, a lesser man would have gone down for good, but Byurl, he's a fighter. As for me, I've been spending all the time that I can with Edna and the kids. Edna keeps saying, "It's in the Lord's hands now."

I guess the point is: If you drink, don't drive.
If you drive, don't drink.

God bless, and I'll see you next week with an update.

-Quincey

****SPECIAL EDITION****

Little Known Facts...

ON THE ROAD!

From the Great Wall to the Taj Mahal. From Libya to Namibia. From Ethiopia to the land that produced such charming works of philosophy as Plato's Utopia (Greece). Yup, I went to all these places and more. Spanning the globe, you might say. Had egg roll in Seoul, pain in Cannes, vitello in Spoleto, cafe in Bombay. Ate pie ala mode at Abbey Road, saw the Swedish navy, ja!, in Scandinavia, cut a rug in Thailand.

Picked up a heck of a lot of little and really little known facts, too. Did you know that the Egyptian pyramids were actually built in Grenada, Spain? The slaves had to carry them, on their backs, to Egypt. That, of course, was after they had carried the materials *from* Egypt to Spain (the pharaoh would only allow purely Egyptian materials to be used).

Long ago, before Edison, the ancient Kilawabbis of what is now the Ivory Coast had electric lighting. The technology was lost when the tribe was wiped out in 1066 by invading Normans.

In Bali, four plus three is eight, many children are born with a basic knowledge of Kant (which they invariably lose 3 days before their first birthday), and people pat each other on the buttocks nine times as a greeting.

The word "triumph" comes from a translation of an ancient Celtic word. You see, in pre-history, when a battle was fought and won, the victors would cry, "Umph! Umph! Umph!" Now, the word for "three" in Celtic is *ploorgis*. The Celts say "ploorgisumph."

The Koreans are the Dutch of Israel. They became so during the reign of King Sejong, the inventor of their indigenous and lovely alphabet. Charming.

There is ifmit. Saw it in Peru. Darned nice, to boot.

ON THE ROAD, part II
next month.

Ciao!

****EXTRA****

Little Known Facts...

WARNING!

You may have seen a couple of "cheap imitations" of my column appear in some particularly unsavory publications recently. "Tiny Tidbits of Truth", "Obscure Offerings", "Iota Quota", and "Trivial Pursuits", to name but a few. Make no mistake about it: there is only one authentic "Little Known Facts", and you're reading it. The only informational column that offers you, the reader, true, up-to-date, factual information *that you can use*.

My column gives you more. My column has been praised by celebrities and world leaders the world over. Robert Goulet said it was one of his faves. Jaime Farr swears by it. Kelly Montieth reads it regularly. What more do you want? All of my little known and very little known facts have been certified by the National Rabbinical Authority (which carries quite a lot of clout, believe you me). Look, friends, do yourselves a favor. Stick with the guy who delivers the real goods (me). Besides which, I care. I am a sensitive member of

our shared race, yours and mine. I care about people, like when I told you about my friend, the late Byurl Terpish. May God rest his soul and reward his unfortunate family with many riches.

Those other guys, they make up their stuff. It stinks, like day-old fish. I know. I used to be like them, before I found The Way. More next month!

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tom Mopfet
FROM: Byurl Terpish, Jr.
DATE: March 2, 1990
RE: Marketing Campaign Target (MCT), a.k.a. "The Big Eight"

Tom, here is a final outline of working titles for each of the "Big Eight". QM says he's he still may renege on the Holland title; he thinks "Little Pancakes" may a bit far-fetched, and I think he's inclined to go with the original ("Het 'Wat Je Wil' Huur!")

1. Italy **Fatti Piccolini, di Quindici**
2. Spain **;Informaciones Muchas Interesantes!, de Quince**
(pronounced *Keen' seh*)
3. Germany **Der Buchlein Aus Kleine Imfaktlichtworten, von**
Kwinz
4. France **Les Petits Riens, de Quince** (sounds like "cans")
5. Japan **Ku-insu No "Sumi Masen Demo..."** (translation:
"Quince's 'Excuse me very much, but if I just may
offer...'")
6. Holland **Kleijn Pfankeuechen bij Quins**
7. Israel **So, You Think You Know Everything!** by Moish
8. Korea **Extra Kimchi!**

Let me know your thoughts. In any event, ultimate discussion will take place with our conference call, scheduled for Wednesday.

Best!

BT^{JR}
BTjr:df

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tom Mopfet
FROM: Byurl Terpish, Jr.
DATE: March 2, 1990
RE: Our Conversation of Yesterday

Tom, I truly hope there were no hard feelings after the meeting with QM. Be assured that my allegiance is to the syndicate. Always has been, always will. The prospect of a merger with Blodgett Enterprises is appealing to me, also, but I still don't think we can hurry the idea along with QM. I really believe that it will take a monumental effort, but one that is tactful and deliberate, to get QM to consider the offer. Having known Darnell for about ten years, I can say with some certainty that he is a man of his word, and the Enterprise's financial statements, which I faxed to you yesterday, should amply demonstrate his history of success in the junk-journalism field.

Let me know your thoughts.

Best!


BTjr:df

DARNELL BLODGETT'S
COMPLETE BOOK
of
WINE MAKING

INTRODUCTION

I know absolutely nothing about wine making. I am a good learner, though, and I intend to work very hard and study every bit of information that I can find very diligently, so that I can pass along to you, the reader, a complete method for making excellent wines. Let's learn together...

Chapter I

LET'S GET STARTED

I guess the first thing for me to do is to go to the library and get as many books as I can about making wine. I want to make both kinds of wine--red and white. I know a lot of people say that white wine should be drunk with fish and lighter meals, and red wine with red meats and heavier meals, but I often like red wine with fish. Do you think I'm weird?

After I come back from the library, I know I'll have to go to a bunch of stores to buy equipment. It is always imperative to have the proper equipment when undertaking a new project, and wine making is no exception. Take my word for it! I should know, having endeavored already in hang-gliding, contra-bassoon reed making, taxidermy, ballet, and what not.

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Steering Committee
FROM: Tlop Gnardzden
DATE: May 14, 1990
RE: Attendees List for Working Luncheon

Here is a list of names of those ladies who will attend the Working Luncheon, entitled "Hadassah: Heralding a New Era" on June 13:

Flicka Barkowicz
Velda Imrish
Eldo Dildridge (CSCC)*
Tappy $\frac{1}{2}$ Festooner
Gumpy Krumpitter
Dancy Pomerantz
Darielle Rathmelle
Roesha Frogner
Itradashaii Jhelmonique-Millard
Tilly Bump DeMar

It should be a good time for everyone!

*Certified Sex Change Candidate

Little Known Facts . . .

by

Quince!

There's a lot of fascinating facts to be found out DOCS!, a medical research center and clinic out in Grand Rapids. I had the good fortune of spending some time at DOCS!, along with our new exchange visitor, Ms. Itradashai Jhelmonique, of Pliips, Bangladesh. Together we entered the world of medicine and medical technology, and was it ever compelling!

We were greeted at DOCS! by Dr. Harry Hair, who brought us to the cafeteria for some light refreshments (Cheetos, Oreos, and what not), but not before Itradashai and I freshened up in the restrooms (she in the "ladies" and I in the "little boys", of course). Having an inkling of what was in store for us, I was sure to scrub my paws raw, like the real doctors do!

Our tour really began with the cancer ward, where we got to see several patients in the final stages of some of the most interesting forms of terminal cancer! There was one guy who looked like he was already dead! Behind the scenes, Dr. Hair showed us some of the advanced research he is overseeing in cancer treatment, like using interlueken 2 in treating kidney failure.

Next, it was on to cuts and bruises, which wasn't that interesting, since most of the patients there were not too badly injured. I thought we might get to see some amputees, but, as Dr. Hair explained, "That's really not the sort of 'cuts' were dealing with here, Quince." Darnit!

Comparing notes with Itradashai afterwards, I found out that her particular favorite part of the visit was the laundry room, where we got to see oodles of sick-stained sheets and hospital robes. It was boss! I had a little chat with Conchita Ruiz de la Orozco, who oversees the happenings at the DOCS! Laundry Center. "Running a laundry in a hospital is not as easy as you might think," Conchita said. "First, there is the problem of hygienics, particularly in regard to the transmission of infectious diseases. Moreover, morale is a problem. Why, I've been through a half dozen drier-operators this year alone. I just can't keep them around, they get so depressed, what with all this disease around them. Did you know that a clinic like ours goes through thirty five gallons of liquid detergent . day?" (For those who don't know, that's the equivalent of about 2,240 of those little launderette vending machine sized paquettes!)

More on DOCS! next month.

Want to learn more about life?

Then get

Quince's Big Book of Little Known Facts*

A collection of the best, most fascinating, useful, and littlest known facts by the award winning authority and world traveller. Quince has been praised the world over by major celebrities (J. Farr, K. Monticth, L. Storch) and world and sports figures. Don't miss out! This offer is for a *limited time only!!*

Order now and get free dice!

*By Quincey L. B. J. Millard, with Byurl Terpish

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS

by Quince!

A Visitor From the East

About a year ago, Tlopl Gnardzden, one of my assistants, came up with an idea for a sort of "Little Known Facts Exchange" --a cross-cultural endeavor that would enable journalists from foreign countries to come to America and enjoy the experience of working side by side with me, collecting little known facts and what-not. The plan was tossed around the conference table over the next months, and I am happy to report to all of my readers that not only has this concept come to be a reality, but the very first exchange visitor has arrived! Miss Kumiko Yamada, of Kobe, Japan, has arrived in New York City, and she and I have already been out in the field, digging for the kind of stuff that keeps you, the reader, interested and coming back for more. In fact, Kumiko-san and I have hit it off so well, that there is a possible chapter two to this story--I myself may soon be hitting the road again, to the Land of the Rising Sun. Sounds to me as if there is a whole wealth of little known facts to be unearthed over there.

I had the opportunity to discuss some first impressions of America with Kumiko-san during a visit to her apartment in New York's East Village. Even though she will be in America for just a few months, she wants to do it right, and has wasted no time in "setting up shop" here. She's fixed up her sub-letted apartment just beautifully, and with just a touch of Eastern flavor. We talked, through an interpreter, over Japanese tea and rice crackers. The refreshments were delicately prepared using exquisite stoneware that she had brought from Japan, and that I later learned was at least ten generations old. There was a natural, unpretentious, Eastern earthiness to every movement Kumiko-san made while serving me. I was struck by the gracefulness of her hands as she poured. Her arm movements were almost balletic in their poise and suppleness. The tea was de-lish, to boot!

During our conversation, I learned a heck of a lot about Japanese culture. Some really little known facts. Kumiko-san told me her impressions of America too, and I simply could not get over the insight she had acquired into the good ol' American way during her few short weeks on U.S. soil. She spoke at some length about New York City--a topic that obviously held a certain fascination for her. Even though she was speaking through an interpreter, (and I can't understand a word of Japanese, that's for damn sure), as with her physical movements, there was an obvious poise in her speaking that showed a sort of oneness with her natural surroundings.

"We who are Japanese," she began, "share many philosophical and spiritual sensitivities and convictions. When we visit a new place, like New York City, we often share the same impressions. For example, here is a haiku¹ I have written that expresses one of these impressions:

In New York City,
There are many tall buildings;
We will buy them all."

In next month's column, I'll take you on an all-expense paid trip to the secret temples of Bloomfield, New Jersey. With Kumiko-san by my side, it should be quite an interesting experience!

¹For those who don't already know, a haiku is an ancient form of Japanese poetry. It consists of three lines of text, and they contain five, seven and five syllables, respectively. The beauty of the haiku lies in the combination of its brevity and rigidity of form combined with its textual content, which usually deals with nature in an "impressionistic" sense.

The Software Report

by Bill Ptard

Ever been word processing something, and you just about got the damn thing done except for one little formatting adjustment? Like if your last line creates a new page, and you just want to stick that line on the previous page by squishing everything up a little. Shouldn't a computer be able to do that without you having to push all those buttons and go through all those formatting steps--changing the top and bottom margin, making minuscule adjustments to the line spacing and margins--many of which are going to screw up a lot of other formatting arrangements you've already spent precious time making? Don't you wish you could just push one button that would take the computer out of "stupid" mode for just a second? Why can't the thing use a little brains once in a while for crisesake?

Well, now there's hope. The Foim Data Products Corporation of Tishville, South Dakota has developed "Intuit!", a software application that frees up some of your computer's memory and allows it to "think" a little. It supports nearly every major word processing package, and comes with a useful manual and installation instructions. I tried it with WordPerfect, and while the types of things I wanted it to do were not that demanding, I found it generally was able to "grasp" the situation at hand, and adjust things accordingly when called upon to figure out a given situation. It comes on two five and 1/4 or one three and 1/2 inch diskette, requires DOS 3.2 or greater and 640K of usable memory. It lists for \$59.95, and should be available at most software stores in a month or two.

****SPECIAL EDITION****

Little Known Facts...

GOODBYE!!

Many decisions we must make in life are difficult, and many times the difficulty comes not out of concern for ourselves but out of concern for those around us, who we know will be hurt these decisions.

It is with a heavy heart then, folks, that I say good-bye to all my good readers. Yep, this is my last column.

Now, before you get all bleary eyed, let me just say that writing this column has been one of the most exciting projects of my long professional career, that I have learned along with you, readers, all sorts of interesting stuff and little known facts, that I've had the opportunity to meet some of the most charming and wonderful people a guy could ever hope to meet, and even got lucky a few times, to boot! But there comes an end to all things, even such highly engrossing ones as my column. You see, the goose bumps just aren't there anymore, folks. Writing this column has just lost its thrill for me, that's all. Its nowhere, dullsville, a bottomless pit, an empty nest, a pain in the buttocks, a supreme bore, a void, a waste of space, a red herring, a white elephant, a purple cow, a raw burden, a *maledetto*, anathema, a ball and chain, a woe'sme, a vaiyzmeer, a has-been, an all-washed-up, a never-was, a piss in the ocean, a quark, a so let's call it a day Jackson, a formless malignancy, a formal deformity, a *nada*, a *rien*, a curse on my face, a sign on my forehead, a wog on my chin, egg on my face, a turd in

a punchbowl, a nothing-doing, a rag, a frustrated mess, a large banana, a bad apple, a sour grape, an automatic-snot-picking-device gone afoul, a turkey, a lame duck, chicken feed, hen's droppings, a bastard son, a faithless lover, a thankless child, a serpent's tooth, a half-wit brother, a two-no-trump, a figo, a blunt instrument, a leaky pen, chicken scratch, a terminal cancer, a polyp, a festering goiter, an oozing boil, a growth, fried roach on a stick....

The Rest Is Silence....

I'm sure Ethan sent you a copy of this.

THE SOFTWARE REPORT by Bill Ptard

Society has come a long, long way since the evolution of the personal computer. We now can take for granted so many things that just a very few years ago would have seemed impossible, or at least tediously dull and difficult. Take, for example, writing. It is now quite easy for a bad writer, with the aid of the right computer software, to become a pretty good writer. Likewise, these days a good writer can become an excellent writer just by familiarizing himself with a little computer knowledge.

Imagine Shakespeare is alive. There's Will, at the PC, having just completed a draft of the Prologue to *Henry V*, spoken by the Chorus. "Hmmm," he ponders, ". . . Methinks the WordPerfect thesaurus might spruce up these most humble lines, just a tad." The example below shows what the speech might have looked like in its final form, had Will had the benefit of today's word processing software. Note the actual improvements over the original; how the speech now has more *color*, more *drama*, and is just plain more interesting. It is much like the miraculous invention of "colorizing" old, worn out black and white films:

O for an inspiration of blazes that would climb the glowingest paradise of contraction. A dominion for a rostrum, princes to dramatize, and potentates to observe the inflating vista. Subsequently should the skirmish-equivalent Bother, resembling himself, commandeer the haven of blemishes, and at his cheese rinds, roped in like pooches, should privation, cutlass and conflagration stoop for assignment. Yet exonerate, delicates everyone, the vapid unhoisted specters that have tried on this unqualified framework to transport onward so heroic a purpose. Can this cabin absorb the spacious pastures of Gallia, or may we squeeze inside this timbered 'O' the specific entrails that did overrun the atmosphere at Agincourt? O acquit! Since, a twisted physique may certify in inconsequential locality a thousand thousands; and permit us, zeros to this immense attainment, on your make-believe vigors labor. Envisage that inside the undergarment of these partitions are now impounded two stalwart czardoms, whose lofty, upreared and connecting foreparts the slender, precarious billows cleaves apart. Portion out our inadequacies with your musings: presume, when we chat of steeds, that you see them, embossing their arrogant feet in the accommodating soil. Into a thousand ingredients separate one chap, and fabricate fictitious potency, for it is your musings that now must festoon our lieges. Tote them hardby and yonder, pouncing past duration, twisting the achievement of myriad years, into an sixty minute tumbler. For the which quota, allow me, Chorus, to this chronicle, who, introduction-ish, your unpretentious forbearance entreat, considerately to listen to, amiably to assess our entertainment.

Menu for Valentines Day

Appetizer

Artichoke hearts

Soup

Creme de Passion Fruit

Main Course

Omelette de l'oeuf

Dessert

Amor-etto ice cream

M E M O R A N D U M

March 15, 1990

TO: Dan

FROM: E

RE: Names for use in "Little Known Facts"

X Flern Snerl
✓ Yimml Dimlowitz
✓ Tlop Gnardzden*
✓ Itradashaai Jhelmonique

✓ Kavel Kaiyde
✓ Byurl Terpish*
✓ Kumiko Yamada*
X Insalata Mista

* used

E

Boynton Groins
Eldo Dildridge
Melanoma Jackson
Velda Imrish
Diola ~~Way~~ Eegner Fogly
Mauve Umbridge
~~Harry A Neatle~~
Miskal Piltner-Bebit

Any additional suggestions?