

Jokes I often tell. With acknowledgement of those who first told me the joke.

Talking dog story source: unremembered

A man walks into a bar with his dog.

"This is a talking dog. If this dog can answer my questions, who will buy me a drink?" he asks.

"You can have one on the house," the bartender says.

The man turns to his dog. "What goes on the top of a house?"

Dog: "Roof!"

Man: "What does tree bark feel like?"

Dog: "Rough!"

Man: "Who is the greatest baseball player ever?"

Dog: "Ruth!"

The bartender is clearly annoyed and snaps at the man. "That's enough. You and your dog, get out."

After the man and the dog are thrown out, the dog looks sadly at his owner. "Should I have said DiMaggio?"

Three Couples

So couples wives are flying back from their vacation when the plane crashes and they all die. They all arrive at the pearly gates at the same time. The first man goes to enter through the pearly gates and St. Peter says to the first man, "I am sorry, but I cannot let you in. You adored sugar and sweets. You had the biggest sweet tooth and you even married a woman named Candy." Off they go to down the path to the other place.

St. Peter then addresses the second fellow, "I am sorry but I cannot let you in. You truly did not love the Lord, you only loved money. In fact, you loved it so much that you even married a woman named Penny." Off they go to hell.

The third chap turns away and says to his wife, "Come on, Fanny, we don't have a chance."

The Frog source: Sharon Armstrong, lab tech at Good Samaritan Hospital, Puyallup, WA

A frog goes into a bank, and hops up on the desk of the loan officer.

"Hi," he croaks. "What's your name?"

The loan officer says, "My name is Paddy Black. May I help you?"

"Yeah," says the frog. "I'd like to get a loan."

The loan officer finds this a little odd, but gets out a form. "Okay, what's your name?"

The frog replies, "Kermit Jagger."

"Really?" says the loan officer. "Any relation to Mick Jagger?"

"Yeah, he's my dad."

"Hmmm," says the loan officer. "Do you have any collateral?"

The frog hands over a pink ceramic elephant and asks, "Will this do?"

The loan officer says, "Um, I'm not sure. Let me go check with the bank manager."

"Oh, tell him I said hi," adds the frog. "He knows me."

The loan officer goes back to the manager and says, "Excuse me, sir, but there's a frog out there named Kermit Jagger who wants to borrow some money. All he has for collateral is this pink ceramic elephant; I'm not even sure what it is."

The manager says: "It's a knick-knack, Paddy Black, give the frog a loan; his old man's a Rolling Stone."

I told this joke when we were visiting the Maritimes many years ago. One of the Indian tribes is the Micmac native American tribe, properly spelled, Mi'kmaq, but it has to be pronounced mick-mack to fit with this joke. The joke revolves around someone who wanted to be admitted into the Mi'kmaq tribe,

with obvious beneficial outcomes. So, you have to change the frog into the applicant, the loan officer still called Paddy Black into the tribal secretary and the bank manager into a tribal leader. It's probably best to keep the applicant name as Kermit Jagger. So, the final line becomes "He's a Micmac, Paddy Black, and give the man a loan; his old man's a Rolling Stone."

The point is to keep your joke repertoire ready for the appropriate occasion.

Two nuns and the blind man

Two young nuns are ordered to paint their room in the convent and the last instruction of the Mother Superior is that they must not get even one single drop of paint on their habits. After discussing it, the two nuns decide to lock the door of the room, strip off their habits, and paint in the nude. In the middle of the project there comes a knock at the door. "Who is it?" calls one of the nuns.

"Blind man," replies a voice from the other side of the door.

The two nuns look at each other, shrug, and, deciding that no harm can come from letting a blind man into the room, they open the door.

"Nice boobs," says the man. "Where do you want the blinds?"

A Dean Lipp Story from Prof. Larry Lattman* at Penn State

The Dean of Women at Penn State was known to give a talk to the incoming freshman women on, among other things, sexual morality. She ended her speech with the famous line:

"We live today in very difficult times for young people. In moments of temptation," she said, "ask yourself just one question: Is an hour of pleasure worth a lifetime of shame?"

A young woman rose in the back of the room and said, "Excuse me, but how do you make it last an hour?"

*Dr Lattman taught physical geology (Geosc (Pronounced GEE-Sigh) 20, or "Rocks for Jocks") to > 37,000 students at Penn State during a period of about 12 years in the 1960s and early 1970s. The popularity of physical geology was in part due to Lattman's brilliant classroom style (he told a lot of jokes in his lectures and some were slightly off-color, as illustrated above) and in part due to a university requirement that all students take a science class. It is estimated that one-quarter of all Penn State students during that time took Geosc 20 during their college careers.

The doctor's daiquiri from Dr. ? at Good Sam Hospital, Puyallup

A tired young doctor got off a night shift at the hospital and stopped into a bar called "Dick's" across the street for a drink.

"Hey what can I get you?" asked Dick.

"How about a daiquiri?"

The bartender makes a drink and slides it down the bar.

He takes a sip and loves it. "Whoa that's great. What's your secret?"

"A little bit of almond extract. Gives it a little something extra." The two hit it off and a lifelong friendship develops.

One night the doctor enters and like clockwork the bartender goes to make his favorite drink only to realize that all the almond extract is gone. Thinking on his feet he substitutes it with a little hickory extract which he had on hand.

The doctor takes a sip. A little confused, he takes another...

"Is this an almond daiquiri, Dick?"

"No, it's a hickory daiquiri, Doc."

A Chinese meal from Kathleen Littlefield (my mother's favorite joke)

A Jewish man is going out for a Chinese meal. He is thinking to himself “there are American Jews, German Jews, Russian Jews, French Jews. As he enters the restaurant he wonders if there are any Chinese Jews so he asks the Chinese waiter, “Are there any Chinese Jews?” The waiter says, “Velly good question, have to ask the cook” and goes to the kitchen. He comes back a minute later and says “So Solly, No Chinese Jews. Apple jews, Orange jews, Cranbelly jews.”

Two carrots source unknown

So two carrots are driving down the road together when they're in a terrible accident. The driver-carrot is thrown from the car and completely shredded.

An ambulance shows up and rushes him to the hospital. The carrot passenger is waiting in the Emergency Room when a doctor walks out.

He says, "I've got good news and bad news. The good news is that your friend is going to survive. Unfortunately, he's going to be a vegetable for the rest of his life."

A beer joke source: this is a variation on a joke I read many years ago in Bill Mauldin's book: *Up Front*. But it's shorter and still makes the same point.

Two childhood friends decided to make some money by opening a bar and microbrewery. After a few months of experimenting with different kinds of beer they discover a yellow brew that tasted strongly of hops. Not knowing what was in that brew they sent to a nearby lab to get it tested. Two weeks later they receive a letter from the lab saying "After several tests, we have come to the conclusion that your horse has diabetes". (Mauldin's variant was that the horse had kidney disease.)

Unexpurgated: The girlfriend, the mistress and the wife source: unremembered

Girlfriend: Are you done already?

Mistress: Are you done yet?

Wife: Beige... I think I'll paint the ceiling beige...

I often modify the joke to include wives of various nationalities, for example, the French wife says, “Oh, la, la” the German wife says “Mein lieber Gott”, the Norwegian wife says, “Uf da”, the Spanish wife says “si, si” and you can make up the rest, and it ends with, the American wife says, “Beige... I think I'll paint the ceiling beige...”

European:

A man entered a department store, relieved to be out of the pouring rain. A salesman approached him, inquiring “May I help you, Sir”

“Yes,” the man replied. “I'd like to buy some carpet.”

“European?” asked the salesman.

“Oh no,” the man replied. “That's just my umbrella.”

Source: This joke was told to me by my cousin, Mary Frances Walsh Discenza, as told to her by her father, James J. Walsh, at an early age. Here is the back story for this joke as quote from Mary.

“I'll add here the story behind this joke, which is that my Dad told it to me one evening at dinner—I think I was in first grade. I thought it was very funny, but when I mentioned to my Dad later that I had repeated it to one of my little schoolmates, I got in trouble and was informed it was not a joke that should be repeated. I didn't understand why—my friend seemed to get a charge out of it. Looking back, perhaps Dad was fearful I would tell it to my teacher—Sister John Leonard, S.H.C.J. I was smarter than that, though.”

There are a number of one-liners, many adopted from Garrison Keillor's "Joke-off" annual show. The shortest of these is:

"A termite walks into a bar and says, 'Is the bar-tender here?'"

That's it. The joke ends there!

However, this has to be told the first time as "bartender", meaning, the bar keep. The second time after those that don't get it maintain their puzzled looks, as "Is the bar.....tender here", perhaps with emphasis on the word "bar...(pause)...tender".

A Jack Douglas Joke source: his book, "Never Trust a Naked Bus Driver" in a chapter titled "Just Announced"

"An organization is called Sports Cars, Anonymous. It's for guys who are trying to break the habit. Any time a member gets the urge to drive a sports car, he calls a fellow member, who comes over and sells him a motorcycle."

I have infrequently used the title of his previous book as a descriptor of my siblings: "My brother was an only child"

Comment: this joke is really a quip or a "one-liner". One year, about 1960 I came across Douglas' book (published that year) noted above and thought it was hilarious. I took it with me on a visit to the dentist (Dr. Toth) and read it and laughed through the whole appointment. The dentist thought I was a little nuts, laughing through the dental procedure. Douglas was a quip-writer for a number of early television shows, none of which will likely be remembered by any generation younger than myself. The following is an Editorial Review for the book on Amazon: "Continuing to write for Skelton and Hope as he (Douglas) moved into television, Douglas also wrote for Jimmy Durante, Bing Crosby, Woody Allen, The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet, The Jack Paar Show, The George Gobel Show and Laugh-In. The producer of Laugh-In, George Schlatter, said, "He saw the world from a different angle than the rest of us. He was not only funny, he was nice." He was best known for his frequent guest appearances on Jack Paar's shows of the late 1950s and early 1960s. On one such appearance, when Douglas was well established as a Paar guest, he was chastised by Paar for holding a stack of file cards with his jokes while talking with Paar. When Paar returned to television in 1973 and was confronted by unexpected low ratings, he engaged Douglas to contribute monologue material by mail. One week there was no mail from Douglas; but his next package contained a note: "Sorry I didn't send anything last week. I forgot you were on." Douglas and his third wife Reiko, a Japanese-born singer and comedienne, were regular guests on shows hosted by Merv Griffin, Dick Cavett and Johnny Carson."