

(The New and  
Improved Version)  
Coffee Shop Tidbits

by  
Milton Davis



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# Introduction

Art Linkletter used one of his famous quotations as a title for his book, "KIDS SAY THE DARNDEST THINGS." Whether you know who he was or not, you still realize that it is a truism. Well, not only do kids say the "darndest" things, so does everyone else.

At any informal social gathering of any kind, people are communicating all sorts of "quotable tidbits." Some of it is profound, some of it is funny, and much of it is, "I don't think I would have told or said that" kind of stuff but they did in the "heat of the moment!"

Politics are argued; marriage and family secrets are revealed (even out of the closet). Economic theory is debated, intelligence is questioned, religion is discussed, feelings are hurt, gossips and teasing are rampant.

This book is a result of all of these. Only the names have been changed to protect the guilty!

Milton Davis



# Foreword

## Cartoons: Portraits of the Human Condition

In Greek mythology the god Hermes, the trickster god, gives human language. The trick played on humans is that they come to believe that what is, is captured in our seeing and naming rather than recognizing that both of these activities not only reveal but hide what is. We are tricked and unaware that we are.

But along comes the philosopher who escapes from the cave and discovers what is more than meets the eye or the name. She breaks the spell. How? Well one way is through humor, the joke, the cartoon. The punch line, the cartoon confronts us with the unexpected and calls into question our fabricated world. It might be otherwise, not unlike meeting a stranger. The stranger's behavior and language confront us with the fact that it could be otherwise.

A joke, a parable, a math problem, an argument, a cartoon, all end up with: "Now I get it!" "Now I see," or should see if I have

the insight and courage and so trick the god Hermes. They produce a crack in our world allowing one to see more or see differently. The punch line breaks the flow of thought and redirects it in surprising and unexpected ways. We get a different frame through which to see. These portraits of the human condition are revealing. They are ways we humans resist the magic of Hermes.

My philosophical hero, Ludwig Wittgenstein, said that a whole view of the world could be told with jokes. What you value, what you believe, who you are, is revealed in your humor. A cynic cannot be funny, only sarcastic.

Milt Davis' humor startles me, plays tricks on me, and the person I confront in his humor is a Conway treasure. I admire the person I meet. He is the "Toad Suck Philosopher."

On frequent mornings in Conway you hear friends call to one another: "Did you see Milt's cartoon today?" And just as frequent you see the look on their faces that says

I GOT IT!

Norbert O Schedler, Ph.D.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank and acknowledge these critics (formerly dearest friends) for their help in critiquing and editing this collection of some of my daily cartoons: Pat & Bruce Haggard, Roger Lewis, Amanda Mulhearn, Don Reeves, Faye & Gordon Shephard, Thea & Chris Spatz, and Wilson Vandiver.

In addition to critiquing and editing, a special thanks to Joe Goss for being my go-between and advisor with my publisher; Marette Stiritz, my expert proofreader; Bill DeVore my computer guru; Foy Lisenby for his fantastic illustrations; and Norb Schedler, my favorite philosopher!

Finally, I want to thank all of those inadvertent, unknowing, mostly unaware contributors who didn't see me making notes while they were talking!

Milton Davis





## Dedication

To: Claudia, my wife of 63 years!



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## ADVERTISING

BARNABY, OUR HOMEGROWN ECONOMICS PROFESSOR, SAID, "THANKS TO THE ADVERTISING PEOPLE, THEY RAISE OUR STANDARD OF 'WISHING!'"

OSCAR WONDERED IF THE GUYS WHO WRITE TV ADS EVER HAD TROUBLE GETTING DATES. IT'S SURE HARD TO BE ENTICED TO BUY WHATEVER IT IS THEY'RE SELLING!

ANSON SAID, "THE BALONEY THAT ADVERTISERS DISH OUT SURE AIN'T FOOD FOR THOUGHT!"

VIRGIL WONDERS IF THE AUTOMOBILE TV ADS COSTS ARE DETERMINED BY HOW LOUD OR SILLY THEY ARE. IF SO, THE DEALERS ARE GETTING A LOT FOR THEIR MONEY--LOUD AND SILLY THAT IS!

PARNELL SAYS THE MONEY BLOWN  
ON AUTOMOBILE ADS COULD PAY  
OFF THE NATIONAL DEBT!

CLETUS SAID HIS EGO IS  
SUFFERING BECAUSE OF THE  
GREAT RECESSION . . . HE NO  
LONGER RECEIVES CREDIT CARD  
OFFERS EVERY DAY!

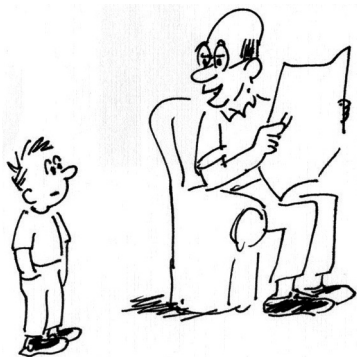
WALDO SAID, "IF THEY DIDN'T  
RUN SO MANY OF THOSE COSTLY  
GREEN LIZARD TV ADS, MAYBE  
I COULD SAVE 50% ON MY CAR  
INSURANCE INSTEAD OF 15%!"

ANSON SAID, "IT SEEMS THAT  
VOTERS VOTE MORE OFTEN  
AGAINST SOMEONE THAN FOR  
SOMEONE. I'M PRONE TO VOTE  
AGAINST POLITICIANS WITH  
SILLY CAMPAIGN ADS THAT  
INSULT MY INTELLIGENCE!"

## AGING

CHESTER SAID, "A RETIRED PERSON NEEDS TO STAY IN THE EARLY STAGES OF RETIREMENT BECAUSE THERE IS NOT MUCH FUTURE IN THE LATER STAGES!"

GRANDPA SAID THE PROBLEM WITH HIS MEMORY IS THAT IT ONLY WORKS BACKWARDS!



GRANDPA TOLD EGBERT, "SURE, I REMEMBER THE GOOD OLD DAYS--ALL FORTY-THREE OF THEM!"

JONAS SAID HE WORKED ALL HIS LIFE SO HE COULD MISS GOING TO WORK WHEN HE RETIRED!

CYRIL SAYS THAT THE OLDER YOU GET, THE MORE REGARD YOU HAVE FOR TRADITION!

VERA SAID, "AS I HAVE GOTTEN OLDER, I'VE NOTICED THAT THE QUALITY OF MIRRORS HAS BADLY DETERIORATED!"



CHESTER SAID, "MY 60-YEAR MARRIAGE TO IRIS MAY BE IN JEOPARDY. . . . SHE HAS JUST BEEN FITTED WITH HEARING AIDS!"



GUS SAID, "I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WORK THE CROSSWORD PUZZLES ANY MORE. . . . I'M RETIRED!"

WENDELL SAID AGING IS NOT HIS PROBLEM. . . . "I AM JUST ANOTHER VICTIM OF GRAVITY THAT'S BEEN PULLING ME DOWN ALL MY LIFE!"

GRANDPA SAID, "I DON'T WORRY ABOUT GETTING OLD. I WORRY MORE ABOUT GETTING STAGNANT AND STARTING TO SMELL!"

ARVIL SAYS MIDDLE AGE IS THE TURNING POINT WHEN HABITUAL "GRIPERS" STOP GRIPING ABOUT OLD PEOPLE AND REALIZE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE THE PROBLEM!

CLYDE SAID, "I ALWAYS SAID THAT, IF I WAS GOING TO DIE YOUNG, I WANTED TO DO IT AS LATE AS POSSIBLE!"

WHEN CHESTER TURNED EIGHTY,  
HE SAID HE WOULDN'T WANT  
TO LIVE THE LAST TEN YEARS  
OVER . . . BECAUSE IF HE DID, HE  
WOULD BE FACING FIVE MAJOR  
SURGERIES AGAIN!

GRANDPA SAID HE DOESN'T HAVE  
TO GIVE UP NEARLY AS MANY  
"THINGS" ANYMORE BECAUSE  
MOST "THINGS" HAVE ALREADY  
GIVEN UP ON HIM!

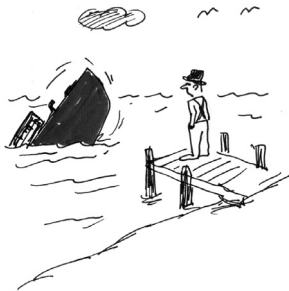


IRIS SAID HER  
BUCKET MAY  
AS WELL HAVE  
A HOLE IN IT  
BECAUSE SHE'S  
GOTTEN TOO OLD  
FOR HALF THE  
THINGS ON HER  
"BUCKET LIST"!

ARVIL SAID A PERSON WATCHING TV AFTER AGE 80 SHOULD USE THE REMOTE CONTROL FREQUENTLY. SINCE THEY ARE ALREADY ON BORROWED TIME, IT SHOULDN'T BE WASTED WATCHING A LOT OF TV COMMERCIALS!

CLOVIS SAID, "CALENDARS FOR THE YEARS 1985, 1991, AND 2013 ARE THE SAME EXCEPT FOR THE DESIGNATED YEAR SO THEY COULD BE RECYCLED." DON SAID, "I WOULD RATHER RECYCLE LIVING THOSE YEARS. . . . I THINK I COULD HAVE DONE A BETTER JOB!"

MYRTLE TOLD MORT SHE WAS HAVING A MIDDLE-AGE CRISIS. . . . HE SAID THAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE UNLESS SHE WAS PLANNING TO LIVE 'TIL SHE WAS A HUNDRED AND FORTY!



GRANDPA SAID, "ALL MY LIFE I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR MY SHIP TO COME IN. FINALLY I FIGURED IT OUT. . . . WHATEVER I WAS WAITING FOR MUST HAVE BEEN ON THE TITANIC!"

ARVIL SAYS HE SEES NO PROBLEMS WITH ROBOTS SO LONG AS THEY DON'T REPLACE RETIREES LIKE HIMSELF!



CYRIL SAID HE HAS NOTICED IN THE OBITUARIES THAT HE HAS BEEN LOSING MORE AND MORE PEER PRESSURE AS HE HAS AGED!

JESSE SAYS THAT EVENTUALLY YOU DISCOVER THAT YOU ARE NOT ONLY JUST AGING . . . YOU ARE ALSO DECOMPOSING!

EZRA SAYS SOMETIMES IT SEEMS TO HIM THAT THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL IS DOING AN AWFUL LOT OF FLICKERING!

CHESTER SAYS THAT, IF YOUR WIFE IS A FEMINIST, WHEN YOU GET OLD AND FEEBLE, IT WILL PROBABLY BE BETTER FOR YOU IF YOU CAN LINE UP A NURSE INSTEAD OF RELYING ON YOUR WIFE!

GUNTHER SAID, "HILLARY WAS RIGHT. . . . ANYMORE IT TAKES A WHOLE VILLAGE JUST TO HELP ME REMEMBER MY NAME!"

GRANDPA SAID, "ONE OF THOSE 'HACKER' GUYS Y'ALL TALK ABOUT MUST HAVE HACKED MY BRAIN. . . . SEEMS LIKE I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ANYMORE!"

CYRIL SAYS IT'S LATE IN LIFE FOR SOME OF US. . . . OUR PROBLEM IS THAT WE JUST DON'T KNOW HOW LATE!

CORDELL SAID, "I REALIZE THAT I AM IN MY MIDDLE AGES AND THE ONLY WAY OUT OF THEM IS IN THE WRONG DIRECTION!"

CYRIL TOLD MARY THAT IT'S JUST NOT FAIR THAT ANYONE WHO IS A RETIREE SHOULD BE EXPECTED TO BE ANYWHERE ON TIME!

CYRIL INSISTED TO MARY, "I AM NOT LOSING MY MEMORY. . . . ANYMORE, IT JUST DOESN'T SEEM LIKE I HAVE ANYTHING WORTH REMEMBERING!"

MARY SAID, "I WAS NEVER WARNED THAT, AS I GOT OLDER, I WOULD START BUMPING INTO THINGS OR HAVE BRUISES THAT I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THEY CAME FROM!"

FARREL SAID, "I'M NO SPRING CHICKEN. . . . IN FACT, I'M NO SUMMER CHICKEN EITHER!"

HAROLD SAID HE WAS GETTING  
SO OLD THAT HIS CANDLES  
WEIGH MORE THAN HIS  
BIRTHDAY CAKE!

JONAS SAID, "THE OLDER I  
GET, IT SEEMS THE FASTER  
YOUNG PEOPLE TALK. . . . IN FACT,  
SOMETIMES I REALLY NEED TIME  
TO FIGURE OUT IF THEY ARE  
REALLY SAYING ANYTHING AT  
ALL!"

ARVIL SAYS THAT, AS YOU GET  
OLDER, YOU DON'T AUTOMATICALLY  
LOSE HEARING. . . . THE IGNORING  
CENTER OF YOUR BRAIN JUST GETS  
MORE DISCRIMINATING!

CHESTER SAYS THAT BY AGE  
EIGHTY, IF NOT SOONER,  
YOU ARE ALREADY LIVING IN  
INFINITY!



ARVIL SAID, "THERE'S A  
TREMENDOUS DIFFERENCE IN  
LOSING YOUR MIND AND LOSING  
SOME OF YOUR MEMORY AS YOU  
GET OLDER!"

JONAS SAYS, "I COULD IGNORE  
MY AGE IF MY BODY WOULDN'T  
REMINDE ME OF IT THE FIRST  
THING EVERY MORNING!"

DON SAYS, "WE OLD FOLKS  
ENJOY GETTING TOGETHER AND  
REMINISCING ABOUT THINGS WE  
HAVE FORGOTTEN AND SOME OF  
THE THINGS WE SHOULD HAVE  
FORGOTTEN!"

GUS SAID, "I NEED TO FIND  
MYSELF A GOOD WORKING WIFE  
WITH A GOOD JOB TO SUPPLEMENT  
MY SOCIAL SECURITY!"

GRANDPA SAID, "I CAN'T FATHOM CEASING TO EXIST. . . . FOR SOME REASON, I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO GET MY MIND AROUND THE CONCEPT!"

GRANDPA SAID, "THE BEST REASON I CAN THINK OF FOR CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY IS THAT I DIDN'T DIE THE LAST 12 MONTHS!"

MARY SAID, "CYRIL IS LIKE AN OLD BANANA . . . HE'S NOT AGING WELL!"

AL SAID HE WENT TO A FRIEND'S FUNERAL TODAY AND, DEPRESSING AS IT WAS, IT'S STILL BETTER TO BE A VIEWER THAN THE "VIEWEE"!

NADINE SAYS SHE ISN'T AGING,  
SHE'S SUFFERING FROM YOUTH  
DEFICIENCY!

WINSTON SAID HE AND  
MARCELLA ARE ENJOYING THEIR  
GOLDEN YEARS. . . . THE TWINS  
ARE TOO OLD FOR BABY SITTERS  
AND TOO YOUNG TO USE THE CAR!



GRANDPA SAID  
HE TOLD HIS  
CHILDREN THAT  
HE DIDN'T  
WANT TO BE  
HOOKED TO A  
MACHINE OR BE  
DEPENDENT ON  
CHEMICALS . . . SO THEY TRIED TO  
TAKE AWAY HIS COMPUTER AND  
WINE!

CYRIL SAYS THAT, WHEN MEN TOTALLY RETIRE, THEY GO NUTS BUT WOMEN . . . THEY JUST KEEP ON SHOPPING!

IMMEDIATELY ON RETIREMENT, ROB TOOK A ROAD TRIP WEST IN HIS NEW RV. HE HAD A FLAT, PLOWED INTO A SNOW BANK, GOT ALTITUDE SICKNESS, AND, IN GENERAL . . . JUST FLUNKED RETIREMENT!

GRANDPA SAID HE WAS BORN TOO SOON FOR STROBE LIGHTS AND RAP MUSIC . . . AND HE WAS HAPPY ABOUT THAT!

CHESTER OBSERVED THAT PEOPLE GET MORE CONSERVATIVE WITH MONEY OR AGE, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. ONE OF OUR WISE SAGES POINTED OUT, "YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN A TRAILER HITCH ON A HEARSE!"