**Comedy**

**I'm always very fearful when academics get ahold of comedy. Comedy is such a clear thing -- people laugh or they don't laugh. *(Lorne Michaels, Saturday Night Live co-creator, in New York magazine)***

**One of the most wonderful architectural features of any baseball park is that no matter where you sit, you're within earshot of a comedian. *(Bill Vaughan, in Kansas City Star)***

**On his deathbed, composer Ludwig van Beethoven is said to have said: "Applaud, friends, the comedy is over." *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The world would not be in such a snarl / Had Marx been Groucho instead of Karl. (Irving Berlin)**

**Husband says to wife while watching TV: "I can't enjoy a comedy with you laughing all the way through it." (Jim Unger, in Classic Herman comic strip)**

**When Rudolf Hess parachuted into Scotland 0during World War II, word was immediately sent to Winston Churchill. Although this was obviously an event of great historical importance, Churchill refused to meet with him. He was busy watching a Marx Brothers movie. Churchill chose to watch a Marx Brothers movie while history was made in World War II. *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It’s a Weird World)***

**Let me say something as an objective observer: It’s never OK to punch a comedian. *(Stephen Colbert)***

**He who jokes, confesses. *(Italian proverb)***

**You know President Calvin Coolidge didn’t say much, so people thought him quite a formal fellow. He was, in fact, a practical joker. At his White House desk, he'd ring for his staff, then hide in the closet. There, too, he'd sit from time to time with his bare feet in a waste- basket. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**I am embarrassed about all the Weiner jokes. I wish he would resign so the dignity of comedy may live again. (Albert Brooks)**

**The fear that he might conceal a joke in it was one reason that Benjamin Franklin was not entrusted by his peers with the assignment of writing the Declaration of Independence. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 210)**

**The ancient Greeks sent their infirmed to a “Home of Comedians” to be healed, and monarchs sent their “fools” or court jesters as ambassadors to other kingdoms to build goodwill and help defuse conflicts. Many Native Americans are very attuned to the Divine Wisdom of humor. Some have clown doctors who perform antics to cure the sick. (Terry Braverman, in New Thought magazine)**

**Last fall when Bob Hope threw a pre-election party at his home for George Bush, the comedian admitted being disturbed by the Secret Service. “This afternoon they brought in dogs to sniff around for bombs,” Hope said. “They stopped twice by my joke files.” *(Hendrik Hertzberg, in The New Republic)***

**Some people think it is difficult to be a Christian and to laugh, but I think it is the other way around. God writes a lot of comedy -- it's just that he has so many bad actors. *(Garrison Keillor, radio host)***

**What's good for comedy is bad for America. *(Bill Maher)***

**Nothing improves a joke more than telling it to your employees. (Bits & Pieces)**

**No matter what Robin Williams and 69 other comedians say Aug. 2 at San Francisco's Comedy Celebration Day, they won't top Tim R. Benker. The comics will perform all afternoon. Benker told jokes for a record non-stop 48 hours at a Mount Prospect, Illinois, restaurant December 27-29, 1984. (USA Today, July 25, 1986)**

**Comedy relieves you. A lot of times, we think we're the only people bothered by certain things. Then you hear a comic say, "Don't you hate it when . . ." And it's "Oh, my God! Of course!" *(Fred Willard, actor)***

**Comedy is the blues for people who can’t sing. (*Chris Rock)***

**I regard romantic comedies as a subgenre of sci-fi. *(Mindy Kaling)***

**It's a great world, even if you are just looking at it for comedy purposes. (Bryan & Frances Sterling, in Will Rogers Speaks, p. 218)**

**When it comes down to it, comedy is just rehearsed moaning. (Sean Locke, British comedian)**

**Comedy is acting out optimism. *(Robin Williams)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***