**Famous, But Sometimes Forgetful**

**Ohio is listed as the 17th state in the U.S., but technically it is number 47. Until August 7, 1953, Congress forgot to vote on a resolution to admit Ohio to the Union. (Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Book, p. 11)**

**Albert Einstein had an unlisted telephone number in his home near Princeton. Unfortunately, he would forget it. So when he forgot where he lived, he couldn’t call home to find out. It’s a matter of record that Einstein once called the university switchboard to find out where he lived. (L. M. Boyd)One day after Einstein had moved on to his final home at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J., the telephone rang in the office of the Dean of the Princeton Graduate School. The voice at the other end inquired: “May I speak with Dean Eisenhart, please?” Advised that my father was not in, the voice continued: “Perhaps then you will tell me where Dr. Einstein lives.” My father's secretary replied that she could not do this, since Dr. Einstein wished to have his privacy respected. The voice on the telephone dropped to a near whisper: “Please do not tell anybody, but I am Dr. Einstein. I am on my way home, and have forgotten where my house is.” (Churchill Eisenhart, in Reader's Digest)**

**When Einstein published his equations of general relativity, he failed to notice that his theory predicted an expanding universe. A Russian mathematician, Alexander Friedmann, found that Einstein had made a schoolboy error in algebra that caused him to overlook a solution to his own equations. In effect, Einstein had divided by zero at one point in his calculations -- a no-no in mathematics. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 164)**

**Henry Ford forgot to put reverse gear in the first car he manufactured. Then in 1957, he bragged about the car of the decade. It was the Edsel, renowned for doors that wouldn't close, a hood that wouldn't open, paint that peeled, a horn that stuck, and a reputation that made it impossible to resell. However, Ford's future track record contains more glowing productions. (Glenn Van Ekeren, in The Speaker's Sourcebook, p. 150)**

**Sir Isaac Newton was another of those cerebral souls who never remember when they last ate. At a table once, he looked away. Somebody put a couple of chicken bones on his plate. He looked back. That was it. Dinner was done. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Flying automobile was successfully flown in the U. S. in 1947 -- but crashed because the pilot had forgotten to fill its gas tank. *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not: Weird Inventions & Discoveries, p. 84)***

**How absentminded are famous people? Meryl Streep left her just-claimed Oscar for Kramer vs. Kramer on the back of a toilet during the 1979 Academy Award show. *(Bob Fenster, in They Did What!?, p. 7)***

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