**Imperfection**

**Feline fanciers say there hasn’t been a pure angora cat since the last one died in Turkey in 1907. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**If you were going to buy an antique chair, you’d want it in near perfect condition, right? But experts say an antique chair in good condition almost invariably is uncomfortable. If it were comfortable, it wouldn’t be in good condition. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**On their flights between the Earth and the Moon, the Apollo ships were off course more than 90 percent of the time. The crew repeatedly had to correct the trajectory. Being off course all that time didn't matter. On course does not mean perfect. It means that even when things don't go perfectly, you are headed in the right direction. *(Charles A. Garfield, in Reader's Digest)***

**We can’t all be athletes. Most of us are too short for basketball and too tall to be jockeys, too honest to play golf and not crazy enough to ride surfboards, too brittle for skiing but not polite enough for tennis, afraid to play football and too proud to run. *(Harold Coffin, in San Francisco Examiner)***

**When Jennifer Hudson sang the national anthem at the Super Bowl – her first appearance since the October murder of her mother, brother, and nephew – audiences marveled that she didn’t miss a note. Now we know how she managed it, said Eric Felten: She lip-synched her performance. Hudson is in good company. At President Obama’s inauguration, the quartet that included cellist Yo-Yo Ma and violinist Itzhak Perlman also faked it, pretending to play as the audience listened to a recording. In both cases, the excuse for this deception was that the “slightest glitch” would have ruined the historic moment. Since when? In this age of airbrushing and Botox, perhaps “flawlessness” has become a requirement for models and movie stars. But musical performance cannot, and should not, meet expectations of perfection. Without risks, art is mere artifice, devoid of the humanity – and slight flaws – that gives great work its depth and allows it to touch our hearts. John Ruskin, the 19th century British critic, was right. “To banish imperfection,” he wrote, “is to destroy expression, to check exertion, to paralyze vitality.” *(The Week magazine, February 20, 2009)***

**In basketball, the “perfect” foul shooter, so-called, is extremely rare,   
and almost never is a good basketball player otherwise. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**My mother always tried to get the best possible value for every dollar she spent on food. Confronting a burly butcher at a grocery store one day, she requested a piece of beef with no fat and no bone. “Lady,” came the gruff reply, “we’ve been trying to grow them like that for years, but they just fall over.” *(E. Gail Cooper, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Better to do something imperfectly than to do nothing flawlessly. *(Land Title Guarantee Company calendar)***

**Marketing executives are predicting that bottled water will outsell soda pop within a decade. But is Madison Avenue having the last laugh? In 2004, Dasani water was revealed to originate from public tap sources. In fact, 40% of bottled waters start out as plain tap water. Even if the water is pumped out of a natural spring somewhere, it usually travels through pipes just like the ones that supply water to your kitchen faucet. *(Tidbits)***

**Everybody knows how unreliable cell phones can be, said Stephen Baker of Business Week. But few people long for the days when the only phones available were heavy handsets rented from the telephone company. Those phones almost never failed, of course, but they weren’t portable, couldn’t remember phone numbers, and certainly couldn’t take pictures. The point is, today “we’re surrounded by miraculous machines” that aren’t built to fail-safe standards. Instead, they’re “calibrated to a level software engineers have long called ‘good enough.’” And “good enough” can be great for the entire economy. That’s because “a marketplace that isn’t hung-up on fail-safe standards is open to risk and innovation.” True, most of the products that emerge from such a marketplace aren’t perfect. But they don’t have to be. They just have to be good enough, until the next cycle of innovation brings forth even better products. Just make sure you have a backup plan ready for the next time your cell phone goes dead. *(The Week magazine, September 7, 2007)***

**Today is November 1, Cinnamon Day, celebrating a spice that captures the warmth of the holiday season. Cinnamon contains coumarin, a toxin that can damage the liver. Fortunately, we consume cinnamon in such small doses that it is safe to eat. *(The Daily Chronicle)***

**Leonardo da Vinci invented the concept of the parachute, but his design was fatally flawed in that it did not allow air to pass through the top of the chute. Therefore, the chute would not fall straight, but would tilt to the side, lose its air, and plummet. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 187)***

**What’s the difference between an emerald and an aquamarine? Only the color. Both are beryl. A trace of chromium makes it an emerald – green. A trace of iron makes it an aquamarine – blue-green. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**Am told you need the mineral elements in ordinary drinking water and that absolutely pure water is not good for you. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Orthodox rabbis warn that New York City drinking water might not be kosher; it contains harmless microorganisms that are technically shellfish. *(Noel Botham, in The Best Book of Useless Information Ever, p. 63)***

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**The important work of moving the world forward does not wait to be done by perfect men. (*George Eliot)***

**Everyone has faults, and those that don’t believe it have one more. *(Richard C. Miller)***

**Life does not have to be perfect to be wonderful. (*Annette Funicello)***

**If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something. *(Steven Wright, comedian)***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Few know most gold in its native state is not pure, but alloyed with silver. And fewer still know that if it’s more than 20 percent silver, it’s called electrum. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**“White gold” is three parts gold, one part platinum. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**Our Gregorian calendar becomes accurate to the day only once every 3,323 years. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The machine is imperfect. Every time a human cell divides, you have to copy four billion chemical bases to make a new double strand of DNA. When that occurs, there are probably a couple of thousand errors every time. We say DNA is delinquent. It is as good as it will probably ever be, but errors are always occurring, making either simple little changes or – many times – grosser ones. *(David Noonan, in Discover magazine)***

**Iran, the world’s fourth largest oil producer, is using some of its petro-wealth to subsidize gasoline prices for its citizens. Iranian drivers pay about 40 cents a gallon for gas, most of which has to be imported because Iran has few refineries. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 14, 2006)***

**These days we tend to think that any prospective juror who has seen a TV report or read a newspaper discussing a particular event should be disqualified. What you end up with sometimes is a jury of see-nothing, hear-nothing people. I’m not sure if that really is a jury of our peers. *(Sandra Day O’Connor, interviewed by Robert Marquand, in The Christian Science Monitor)***

**Searching for a libertarian paradise: “Why are there no libertarian countries?” asked Michael Lind. Modern states have tested all kinds of political philosophies, from fascism to communism to social democracy. But not one of the world’s 193 sovereign states – not even a tiny one – has adopted a full-on libertarian system, with very limited government, an unfettered free-market economy, decriminalized drugs, and no welfare or public education system. Yet libertarians still insist we’d all be happier in a system with an absolute minimum of government. Lacking real examples to prove their point, libertarians are forced to make lists of nations where there is a lot of “economic freedom,” with the lowest taxes and least regulation. That list includes such countries as Singapore, where economic liberty is paired with an oppressive police state, and Mauritius, a tiny island country with double the infant mortality rate of the U.S. and nearly triple its maternal mortality rate. Would you prefer to live in either place? Libertarianism, clearly, is based on a fantasy – that regulations, social safety nets, a strong military, and engagement abroad are unnecessary nuisances that can be discarded. Libertarians live not in reality, but in an “imaginary utopia.” *(The Week magazine, June 21, 2013)***

**Too many of us become enraged because we have to bear the shortcomings of others. We should remember that not one of us is perfect, and that others see our defects as obviously as we see theirs. We forget to often to look at ourselves through the eyes of our friends. Let us, therefore, bear the shortcomings of each other for ultimate benefit of everyone. *(Abraham Lincoln)***

**We all want to be loved and respected for what we really are - well-meaning but imperfect. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**If all the meat inspection regulations were enforced to the letter, every processing plant in America would be shut down. And every seasoned packing house employee knows it. So contends one of same. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Men do not like to admit to even momentary imperfection. My husband forgot the code to turn off the alarm. When the police came, he wouldn't admit he'd forgotten the code. He turned himself in. *(Rita Rudner)***

**The only nice thing about being imperfect is the joy it brings to others.  
*(Doug Larson, United Feature Syndicate)***

**Any physics student will tell you there’s never been a paint either perfectly black or perfectly white. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**It takes more than 500 peanuts to make one 12-ounce jar of peanut butter. The FDA allows an average of 30 or more insect fragments and one or more rodent hairs per 100 grams of peanut butter. *(Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 174)***

**Know anybody with perfect pitch? Scientists now think there’s a perfect-pitch gene. Occasionally somebody’s born with it. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Good week for: Switching sides, after a search of public records found that 36 percent of Atlanta police academy graduates have criminal records. “We would like, in an ideal world, to see every applicant with a clean record, but obviously that’s not reality,” said a police official. *(The Week magazine, October 24, 2008)***

**Most precious gems are actually colorless. Their color comes from impurities in the stone that act as pigmenting agents. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 102)***

**In a store: “Science has cured my ailments, but it has recalled my medicine.” *(Salt Lake City Tribune)***

**A former co-worker told her husband that she needed to do something about her shape. “You're fine,” said her spouse. “You have a million-dollar figure already.” “Yeah,” my friend replied, “but I've got it in all the wrong banks.” *(Mary L. Adams)*  
Driven snow is never pure. Only laboratory snow is such. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Grandpa: “I hate to be the one to break this to you, Nelson, but your Superman costume does not enable you to fly. Nor does it give you super strength, x-ray vision, or protection from Grampa’s tickling!” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**There are days when it takes all you’ve got just to keep up with the losers. *(Robert Orben, comedy writer)***

**Have heard the fiercest predator, the tiger, has a critical weakness. What is it? Lack of stamina. It’s only good for the short chase. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**In the game of life, it’s a good idea to have a few early losses, which relieve you of the pressure of trying to maintain an undefeated season. *(Lee Trevino, professional golfer)***

**Only one out of three people in the world has perfect 20-20 vision*. (Barbara Seuling)***

**We must take human nature as we find it; perfection falls not to the share of mortals. *(George Washington)*  
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