**Timing**

**To everything there is a season,**

**and a time for every purpose under the sun.**

***(Ecclesiastes 3:1)***

**He has made everything beautiful in its time.**

***(Ecclesiastes 3:l1)***

**About the time you get successful enough to eat anything you want, whenever you want, the doctor puts you on a diet. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**During my twice-a-week aerobics class, the instructor pointed out that it would do no good to participate if we all went out afterward for pizzas and milkshakes. One happy participant whispered, “It's a good thing we stopped for pizza before class.” *(Juanita Dennis, in Reader's Digest)***

**Age differences between similar products:**

**\* Fax machine – 98 years older than copier**

**\* Stapler – 58 years older than paper clip**

**\* Sonar – 30 years older than radar**

**\* Rayon – 45 years older than nylon**

**\* Neon light – seven years older than fluorescent light. *(Inventing Modern America)***

**My all-time favorite teacher was Mr. Jameson. During my first year of teaching, I went back to visit him. He told me that it was his last year of teaching. I asked him if he was sad about having to retire. He said: “Oh, I don’t have to retire. I can teach a few more years if I want to.” “Then why is this your last year?” I asked. “I’d rather leave with a tinge of regret than a sigh of relief,” he replied. *(Rob Gilbert, in Bits & Pieces) 6189815***

**I've come to the conclusion that there is a basic rule which applies to all household appliances -- nothing breaks down until the service department is closed. *(Trust Hall Insurance Services newsletter)***

**Why is it that the only time doctors, dentists, and lawyers are on time for appointments is when you are not? *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Man: “Hi, is it something I said?” Woman: “Is what something you said?” Man: “I thought we might have our argument before dinner tonight. There's a game on TV later that I want to watch.” *(J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)***

**Artist Thomas Hart Benton had just finished a mural for the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, Tennessee, when he died at his easel in 1975 in Kansas City, Missouri. *(American Profile magazine)***

**In Gulfport, Miss., two Norwegian tourists trying to operate an ATM banged on it setting off a burglar alarm that alerted police, who then discovered the bank was actually being robbed inside. The Norwegians later were commended for their inability to operate the machine. *(Bill Flick, 1994)***

**It's surprising how many bargains there are on things you just bought, don't need or can't afford. *(Doug Larson, United Feature Syndicate)***

**Mating season for bats is autumn. But the females don’t become pregnant until spring. They retain the wherewithal through a sort of dormant period until they’re ready. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Despite appearances, bees do not wander aimlessly from flower to flower in search of nectar. Many flowers produce nectar at only certain times of the day, and bees follow a timetable which brings them to the right flower at just the right time. A bee's busy day may begin with a dandelion at nine in the morning, continue with a blue cornflower at eleven o'clock, then a red clover at one o'clock, and a viper at about three--for those are the hours at which each of these flowers is most generous with its nectar. *(Timothy T. Fullerton, in Triviata, p. 44)***

**The best years of a man’s life are when the kids are old enough to help shovel the snow but too young to drive the car. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**To celebrate my father's birthday, my relatives gathered at a favorite Mexican restaurant. As we were led to our table, my mother mentioned the birthday to the waiter. Several minutes later, while we were studying the menu, five waitresses and waiters wearing brightly colored native clothing and carrying wands and tambourines emerged from the kitchen and began performing an elaborate dance around the table. When the beautiful presentation was over, one of the waitresses stepped forward and asked, “So who's the birthday boy?” “He's not here,” my uncle replied, “He went to the bathroom.” *(Thea Cooke, in Reader's Digest)***

**Frank says to Ernest: “We can't win, Ernie. We were kids at a time when everything was blamed on the kids. And now we're parents at a time when everything is blamed on the parents!” *(Bob Thaves, in Frank & Ernest comic strip)***

**Hollywood studios no longer release potential international blockbusters in June, because the world is so distracted by the World Cup soccer tournament. This year, the games are expected to attract a cumulative global TV audience of 32.5 billion. *(Entertainment Weekly, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 23, 2006)***

**My friend Carl is an excellent bowler. During one game, he needed one strike in order to bowl a perfect 300 game. Unfortunately, he missed when the ten pin didn't fall down. In honor of his 299 game, the bowling alley gave Carl the pin that wouldn't budge. Carl is very proud of this prize, but not so his wife. Every time she touches it with the dust cloth, it falls over. *(Donald R. Haworth, in Reader's Digest)***

**The human brain is a wonderful organ. It starts to work as soon as you are born and doesn't stop until you get up to deliver a speech. *(George Jessel, in Catholic Digest)***

**Recently, at a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game marred by an eighth-inning, 50-player, bench-clearing brawl, 2,000 students were honored for taking part in a yearlong educational campaign designed to teach them other ways to solve their problems than through violence. *(Bill Flick, 1997)***

**In September 1992, the world's currency markets were shaken by a run on British sterling. At the height of the buying frenzy, associates suggested to famed international investor George Soros that the time had come to bet prices would fall. But they urged him to make his first wager modest. Soros waved them off. “If we don't believe in what we're doing,” he said, “we shouldn't go in at all.” He ordered them to take what one associate called “a huge position” in the trading. Soros's perfectly timed, all-out decision netted $1.6 billion. *(Edwin Jr. & Sally Valente Kiester, in Reader's Digest)***

**The best time to buy anything is last year. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**The minister says to himself: “Remember now. Don't call anyone a sinner until after the collection.” *(Reader's Digest)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**When I was in high school, musical car horns were popular. My mother's deluxe model played the first line of 48 different songs. But when it was extremely cold, the born sometimes developed a short and played on its own. I urged Mom to take it out of our car, but she refused to get rid of it. That is, until the cold winter afternoon that Mom and Dad attended a graveside funeral service for an elderly aunt. As they were pulling out of the cemetery, the horn blared the first stanza of "We're in the Money." I never heard the horn again. *(Rosida Porter, in Reader's Digest)***

**What's more discouraging than a car that starts when you have to go to work but won't turn over on your day off? *(Doug Larson, United Feature Syndicate)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Life is carbon-based. Carbon is one of the elements cooked up, from helium, inside stars through nuclear fusion. To form carbon, three of the helium nuclei whizzing around a star need to collide simultaneously -- same place, same time. That occurs even less frequently with nuclei than it does with three friends meeting at a multiplex: It just doesn't happen that the three of you show up at precisely the same moment. But when the carbon nuclei have a specific energy, called a resonance, the chance of a triple encounter rises significantly, much as three friends are more likely to assemble at the same instant if they all step off the same bus at the same time and walk at the same speed to their rendezvous point. (*Sharon Begley, in Catholic Digest)***

**A man was selling his home and had hired me to repair a hole in the wall he had made years earlier for extra storage. Without much trouble I patched the area with wallboard, painting it so that there was no sign a hole had ever been there. That night I got a call from the client thanking me for the excellent work. Then he asked if I could come back and perform the same repair the next day. He had forgotten to tell me that his cat always hid in the storage area. *(Robert Sidney, in Reader's Digest)***

**In 1972, Mo Siegel, the founder of Celestial Seasonings Tea, came up with a hibiscus and rose hip blend that had a sharp and pleasing flavor and a natural bright red color. He called it Red Zinger. His timing was good -- food was becoming a counterculture issue as hippies, who once scarfed down burgers, were suddenly gravitating to natural foods, vegetarianism, and other “alternative” diets. The Red Zinger name (reminiscent of “Screaming Yellow Zonkers,” the trippy snack food of the late 1960s), the tangy flavor, and the promise of healthy ingredients were exactly what the bells and patchouli crowd had in mind. *(Jack Mingo, in How The Cadillac Got Its Fins, p. 112)***

**Typical of man's genius is the way he develops a bomb designed to drive us into the cellar about the time he starts building homes without any cellars. *(Homer King)***

**You know your children are growing up when they stop asking you where they came from and refuse to tell you where they're going. *(P. J. O'Rourke, in Reader's Digest)***

**Charles Schulz, the creator of Peanuts, the tender and sage comic strip starring Charlie Brown and Snoopy that was read by 355 million people around the world, died in his sleep on Saturday night at his home in Santa Rosa, Calif., just hours before his last cartoon ran in Sunday newspapers. He was 77. His wife, Jeannie, said, “He had done everything he wanted.” *(Sarah Boxer, in Rocky Mountain News, February 14, 2000)***

**In June 1876, Colonel Frederick D. Grant, oldest son of President Ulysses S. Grant, was serving as an aide to General George A. Custer, commander of the Seventh Cavalry in Montana. A day or two before the cavalry launched its attack on Chief Crazy Horse and the Sioux, Grant received “compassionate leave” to be at the bedside of his wife when she gave birth to their first child. By pure chance, Grant's eagerness to play the good husband kept him away from the ambush near the Little Bighorn River in which his unit was annihilated. *(Nicholas Rescher, in USAir magazine)***

**Just when I start to get the hang of it . . . I find out my computer is obsolete! *(Art & Chip Samsom, in The Born Loser comic strip)***

**Good week for: Entrepreneurship, after a San Francisco Girl Scout set up a cookie stand outside a medical marijuana clinic, and sold out her entire stash of munchies in just 45 minutes. "They get very hungry after (smoking)," said Danielle Lei, 13. *(The Week magazine, March 7, 2014)***

**Good week for: Irony, after passengers who were on the Costa Concordia said that the Celine Dion song "My Heart Will Go On" -- the theme song of the 1997 film Titanic -- was playing in one of the Italian cruise ship's restaurants when it hit a rock and began to sing. *(The Week magazine, February 3, 2012)***

**I'd just about had it with pesky creatures around my house when a landscaper phoned about his company's latest special. “I'm not interested,” I said. “The neighbor's cat just pulled up my petunias, raccoons have dug up my back lawn and moles have completely taken over my front lawn!” “Call me,” said the voice on the other end of the line, “when you're alone.” *(Mary Otis, in Reader's Digest)***

**Miranda Henson of Bloomington, Illinois got a credit-card offer from Wal-Mart and MasterCard in the mail the other day proclaiming “this may be the best offer you have ever received” and frankly that is probably true. Miranda just turned 2 1/2. *(Bill Flick, 1997)***

**Never take a cross-country car trip with a kid who has just learned to whistle. *(Jean Deuel, in Home & Away)***

**While I was in intensive care after a lung operation, a young intern assigned to my case kept checking in on me, making sure everything was all right. The day I was to go home, I called her into my room. Putting my arm around her, I said, “How would you like to be my daughter?” “Gee, Dad, that would be wonderful!” she replied. “Tuition's due tomorrow -- $21,500!” *(Jack P. Helm, in Reader's Digest)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Father to bearded, overall-clad son: "I just can't help wishing you had decided you wanted to be a wood carver in Vermont before we sent you through medical school." *(Jim Berry, Newspaper Enterprise Association)***

**Half the worry in the world is caused by people trying to make decisions before they have sufficient knowledge on which to base a decision. *(Dean Hawkes)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826 -- exactly 50 years after signing the Declaration of Independence. *(dailycognition.com)***

**I was visiting an aunt who had always been heavy. “My new doctor just put me on a diet,” she scoffed. “Can you imagine that -- at my age!” She then began to eat a large pastry roll filled with meat. “That's your diet?” I asked in amazement. “Of course not,” she snapped. “This is my dinner -- I had my diet an hour ago.” *(Lily Pooley)***

**Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing is like shoveling the walk before it stops snowing*. (Phyllis Diller, American comedian)***

**It's not always a dog's life. Michael, the famous Irish terrier star of Peg O' My Heart and other productions, was rescued from the Los Angeles pound the day before he was to be put to sleep. *(Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 5)***

**Soon after my daughter's 16th birthday, I took her to the department of motor vehicles for a driving test. There, I watched her drive off with the test officer and then I began to pace nervously back and forth. Apparently the desk clerk studied me for some time. “Don't be nervous about her passing,” she said. “It's after she passes that you can begin pacing the floor!” *(Nelson R. Chamberlain, in Reader's Digest)***

**Arriving 15 minutes early does nothing but guarantee a 30-minute wait. *(Doug Larson, United Feature Syndicate)***

**When my younger brother applied for his first job delivering our neighborhood newspaper, he was told, “You'll be earning three dollars an hour. And next year you'll make five dollars an hour.” “Sounds great,” my brother replied. “I'll see you next year.” *(Katherine A. Moore, in Reader's Digest)***

**The easiest way to get into trouble is to be right at the wrong time. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Male splendid fairy-wrens sing a special song when they hear the call of a butcherbird, their predator. The behavior would seem to paint a target on the fairy-wren. But University of Chicago scientists report the males are actually issuing a mating call. They are choosing a moment when fearful females are most attentive, the researchers found. The effect may be like that of a scary movie on humans, in which fear brings a date closer. *(Megan Gambino, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**The sex life of seaweed seems at first glance haphazard -- sperm and eggs spill into the water, to either fuse or die. But University of Maine ecologists Ester Serrao, Gareth Pearson, and their colleagues have found that for the common bladder wrack, or Fucus vesiculosus, fertilization is anything but hit or miss. This northern coastal seaweed shuns sex when the sea is rough and can carry its gametes -- the sperm and eggs -- away. When shaken in the lab, or when thrashed by turbulent currents in its natural habitat, the seaweed's two sexes hold on to their gametes, releasing them only when the water is tranquil. In calm water, says Pearson, fertilization is nearly 100 percent successful. (Discover magazine, *99618)***

**Last winter I was laid up at home with the flu. My fiancee called and volunteered to come over, fix dinner and play nursemaid to me. I declined, not wanting to pass on the flu to her. “Okay, honey,” she told me. “We'll wait till after we get married. Then we'll spend the rest of our lives making each other sick!” *(Steve Pomerantz)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Olle Hult i Fegen, of Halland, Sweden, saws his sawmill struck by lightning and destroyed by fire -- less than a minute after signing his first fire insurance policy! *(Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 140)***

**Since the Pentecostal congregation in Leduc, Canada, had just had a new church built, they sold their old building. It was to be used as the new Evangelical Community Church in Beaumont, some ten miles away. But as the building was being moved on a mammoth trailer to its new location, it came in contact with a 138,000-volt power line, which started a fire on the roof of the building. The driver phoned the Beaumont fire department from a farmhouse. “There's a large building on fire about a mile east of the town on Highway 625,” he said. “I'm sorry,” replied the dispatcher, “but that's outside our jurisdiction.” “Well, get your equipment ready,” the driver replied. “It'll be there in five minutes!” *(John Hilliard, in Reader's Digest)***

**Firefighters in Raleigh, North Carolina, lobbying for better benefits by hosting a "firehouse chili" lunch for area lawmakers, were forced to momentarily leave the event when the catering truck caught fire. *(Bill Flick, 1997)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**One of life's miseries, according to Nana, is being the last member in the family to get the flu after all the sympathy has run out. *(Jack Eppolito, in Catholic Digest)***

**Timing is everything. It’s as important to know when as to know how. *(Arnold H. Glasow)***

**Faith in gold: Gold still glitters in the eyes of investors, said Jordan Weissmann in TheAtlantic.com. When Gallup asked Americans what they considered the safest asset, 28 percent named gold, 20 percent preferred real estate, and 19 percent chose stocks. So are the gold bugs right? Not surprisingly, it’s a question of timing. If you bought gold in 2000, when it was selling for $277 an ounce, you would have realized a stellar return of 495 percent by selling at today’s price of $1,649. But if you’d bought in 1980, the last time gold prices surged, you would have done better putting your money in an interest-bearing checking account. When real interest rates are low, as they are currently, “investors don’t have much to lose, and possibly a lot to gain, by piling into gold.” But then another question of timing looms: When is it best to sell? *(The Week magazine, May 18, 2012)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**At a golf course, our foursome approached the 16th tee. The straight fairway runs along a road and bike path fenced off on the left. The first golfer teed off and hooked the ball in that direction. The ball went over the fence and bounced off the bike path onto the road, where it hit the tire of a moving bus and was knocked back on our fairway. As we all stood in amazement, I asked him, "How in the heck did you do that?" Without hesitation he said, "You have to know the bus schedule." *(Michael A. Lankford, in Reader's Digest)***

**A retired workaholic is driving his wife crazy, so she buys him a set of golf clubs and a country-club membership. “This game is a mystery to me,” the man tells the pro. “What do I have to do?” “You hit the ball toward that flag down on the green.” The guy puts a ball on the tee, picks out a club and takes a swipe. The ball goes straight down the middle and rolls across the green, stopping two inches from the hole. The pro can't believe his eyes. “What's next?” the man asks. “You're supposed to hit the ball into the cup.” “Now you tell me!” *(Bob Monkhouse, in Just Say a Few Words)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Son: “Dad, what does ‘good timing’ mean?” Hagar: “Good timing is being able to grab the last piece of fried chicken off the plate while pointing to an imaginary fly on the ceiling!” *(Dik Browne, in Hagar the Horrible comic strip)***

**If I had known grandchildren were so much fun, I'd have had them first. *(Dorothy Galyean, in Quips & Quotes & Cleaned Up Jokes)***

**Elderly lady says to another: “Apparently I went to too many ‘Who’ concerts when I was younger. The doctor said I was starting to lose some of the high end on my hearing. Ironic, isn’t it? Just when we can finally afford a really decent stereo system, our hearing starts to go.” *(Tom Batiuk, & Chuck Ayers, in Crankshaft comic strip)***

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**On a bus: "Ever have the feeling that in life, when you're finally holding all the cards, everyone else is playing chess?" *(Gil Stern, in The Wall Street Journal)***

**"I knew if I waited long enough, the day would come when I'd be the one holding all the cards. And now, when it finally happens, it turns out I'm playing 'Old Maid'!" *(Art & Chip Sansom, in The Born Loser comic strip)***

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**And Indian and two cowboys had ridden hard since daylight. Toward evening, the cowboys talked hungrily about the big meals they would eat when they got to town. When one of them asked the Indian if he was hungry, however, he shrugged and said, “No.” Finally arriving at their destination, the three ordered steaks with all the trimmings. As the Indian proceeded to wolf down everything in sight, one of his friends reminded him that less than an hour ago he had told them he wasn't hungry. “Not wise to be hungry then,” he replied. “No food.” (Bits & Pieces)**

**A great-great-grandmother of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis was an illiterate immigrant from Italy who would have been barred from entering the U.S. if she’d arrived three months later. Luigia Colucci arrived at Ellis Island on Feb. 21, 1917, pregnant and with two teenage daughters; in May of that year, a law aimed at stanching the flow of “undesirable” immigrants went into effect that barred illiterate people from being admitted into the U.S. (Tampa Bay Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 30, 2022)**

**In the midst of great joy, do not promise anyone anything. In the midst of great anger, do not answer anyone's letter. *(Chinese proverb)***

**The bathtub was invented in 1850, and the telephone in 1875. Had you lived in 1850 you could have sat in the bathtub for the next 25 years without having the phone ring once. *(Delia Sellers, in Abundant Living magazine)***

**As a first-year medical student, my husband ate breakfast with me every morning before going to class. Once, the phone rang at 8 a.m., and my husband answered it. “Is this the doctor's office?” a voice said. “No,” he replied. “But call back in about ten years.” *(Debra A. Miller, in Reader's Digest)***

**The kids are layered and bundled – Snowsuits, hats, and scarves just so – And then a little voice is heard: “Mom, I have to go.” *(Sharon Dyer, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**Employee to boss: “The reason I didn't laugh at your joke, Mr. Walters, is because it wasn't funny, it was in bad taste, and I'm retiring tomorrow.” *(Zahn, in The Wall Street Journal)***

**Ask your child what he wants for dinner only if he is buying. *(Fran Lelbowitz)***

**A patient was brought to a psychiatrist by friends, who informed the doctor that the man was suffering from delusions that a huge fortune was awaiting him. He was expecting two letters which would give him details involving deeds to a rubber plantation in Sumatra and titles to some mines in South America. “It was a difficult case, and I worked hard on it,” the psychiatrist told some colleagues. “And just when I had the man cured -- the two letters arrived.” *(General Features)***

**Driving to Walt Disney World in Orlando from our home in Mississippi, we passed the time by looking for license plates from different states. Oddly, during our whole trip we didn't spot any other cars from our home state. We were beginning to wonder if ours was the only family from Mississippi taking a vacation that week. At the theme park we rushed to get in line for a popular ride. We found ourselves standing next to people from back home: they were our neighbors from two doors down. The name of the ride was “It's a Small World.” *(Jerry W. Jones, in Reader's Digest)***

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**On January 1, 1863, Abraham Lincoln spent the entire morning meeting dignitaries, shaking their hands, and spreading goodwill. Exhausted by his nonstop morning, Lincoln finally returned to his office at noon. With a deep sigh, he settled in his chair, only to be interrupted by William Seward, the secretary of state. Lincoln was presented with the final draft of the Emancipation Proclamation for his signature. Twice the president picked up his pen to sign it, but his hand shook so badly that he finally put his pen down. He turned to Seward and said, “I've had an exhausting morning. In fact, I've been shaking hands since nine this morning, and my right arm almost feels paralyzed. I don't want to sign this document until my hand is more steady. If my name ever goes into history, it will be for this act, and I want you to know that my whole soul is in it. So you see, if my hand trembles when I sign the proclamation, all who examine it thereafter will say, ‘He hesitated -- look at his handwriting.’” A short time afterward, the president took up his pen with a strong and steady hand and firmly wrote, “Abraham Lincoln.” That historic act endeared Lincoln to the world as the Great Emancipator. *(Glenn Van Ekeren, in The Speaker's Sourcebook)***

**Abraham Lincoln created the Secret Service on April 14, 1865 -- the very same day he was shot at Ford's Theatre. *(dailycognition.com)***

**In July 1862, in the midst of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln summoned his Cabinet members to the White House to inform them of a decision he had made. The President read aloud to them the Emancipation Proclamation, intended for freeing the slaves in the Southern states at war with the Union. When he finished, the Cabinet members were silent. It was a radical idea for the time and bound to stir controversy even in the North. Then Secretary of State William Seward spoke up. The Confederates had recently routed the Union Army, Seward said, and Lincoln's proclamation might be interpreted as a desperate move. Why not wait until the picture was brighter? Lincoln welcomed Seward's advice and delayed the proclamation until September, when the battle of Antietam had stopped a Confederate advance. The decision was then well received by supporters of the Union. *(Edwin Jr. & Sally Valente Kiester, in Reader's Digest)***

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**Ziggy: "How come you only realize you're locking your keys in the car the exact moment your door slams shut!" *(Tom Wilson, in Ziggy comic strip)***

**It's useless to hold a person to anything he says while he's in love, drunk, or running for office. *(Shirley MacLaine, actress)***

**You know it's time for a makeover when you start to resemble your driver's license photo! *(Art Samsom, in The Born Loser comic strip)***

**“I’m majoring in psychology,” the new student announced to his parents. “Now you’ll be analyzing everyone in the family,” his mother complained. “No,” he replied, “I don’t take abnormal psychology until next semester.” *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**Drabble: “This is it! The lights are dimming! The curtain is rising! This is the moment we’ve all been waiting for since 1983! Episode I is about to begin! I have to go to the bathroom!" *(Kevin Fagan, in Drabble comic strip)***

**Our son, at age five, had a fascination for motorcycles. The sight of one would always bring forth squeals of delight, accompanied by excited remarks of "Look at that! Look at that! I'm doing to have one of those someday!" His dad's response always was "Not as long as I'm alive." One day, while our son was talking to a little friend, a motorcycle passed by. He excitedly pointed it out to the boy and exclaimed, "Look at that! Look at that! I'm getting one of those -- as soon as my dad dies." *(Elizabeth Leyda, in Reader's Digest)***

**A condemned prisoner awaiting execution was granted the usual privilege of choosing the dishes he wanted to eat for his last meal. He ordered a large mess of mushrooms. “Why all the mushrooms and nothing else?” inquired the guard. “Well,” replied the prisoner, “I always wanted to try them, but was always afraid to eat them before!” *(H. E. Martz)***

**Girlfriend: “Hamlet, after we’re married I promise never to nag or criticize you!” Hamlet: “Good!” Girlfriend: “But, until then, I have a few things I’d like to mention.” *(Chris Browne, in Hagar the Horrible comic strip)***

**There are three times when you should never say anything important to a person: when he is tired, when he is angry, and when he has just made a mistake. *(Dr. David Phillips)***

**Isn’t it nice that the new year starts in the dead of winter, when the primitive in each of us believes that we’ll never see spring again. Right in mid-gloom, here comes the new year with all its hopefulness untarnished. Isn’t it wonderful? I mean, who would care about the new year if it were in mid-July? *(Eliza G. C. Collins, in Dearest Amanda)***

**A construction crew was putting the finishing touches on a major project in Klamath Falls, Oregon. All that remained was the erection of two no-parking sign about 50 yards apart. One worker drove to the designated area, installed the first sign and walked 50 yards to put up the other. When he returned to his truck, there was a parking ticket affixed to the windshield. *(Paul Sisney, in Reader's Digest)***

**It had been an unusually hectic weekend, and I decided to put off doing housework until Monday. As I was curling up with a book, old friends phoned. They were in town and wanted to stop by. I tore around the house, dusting and vacuuming. Time was running out when I reached the kitchen, so I grabbed piles of dirty dishes and put them in the oven. The doorbell rang. There stood my friends -- with a frozen pizza. *(Denise M. Knott, in Reader's Digest)***

**Since my husband, Jim, and I decided to put our home on the market, five couples have come to see it. Two of them commented that the exterior color of the house -- a muted sea-foam green -- was a potential drawback. In response, Jim and I labored for 14 hours, painting the entire exterior a clean, bright white. When we finished and went inside to clean up, we noticed that a message had been left on our answering machine: “Hi, My wife and I looked at your beautiful green house last month, and we'd like to come over and make you an offer.” *((Nancy K. Weston, in Reader's Digest)***

**In the course of a major hurricane, trees were blown down, rain seeped through roofs, and for days there was no electricity. Then, above the howling wind, we heard the doorbell. Groping our way to the door, we found our paper boy was smiling up at us. "Isn't this a terrible time to be collecting?" my mother asked. "Oh, no," he replied. "Everyone's at home." *(Paula Hamlin, in Reader's Digest)***

**When a truck flipped on its side on a Canadian highway, firefighters spread peat moss to soak up the spilled diesel fuel. A brief torrential rain washed most of the gardening material away, so they sent out for more. Only while *Journal)***

**Robert Jackson was a staff photographer for the Dallas Times Herald in 1963 who happened to be changing film at the tragic moment when President Kennedy’s motorcade passed him on November 22. Two days later, he was covering the assassination story and positioned himself at Dallas police headquarters where Lee Harvey Oswald was being transferred to the county jail. As Jackson raised his camera, Jack Ruby stepped in front of him, took two steps, and fired a gun at the same moment that Jackson hit his shutter release. *(Tidbits of Denver)***

**When vacationing in Alberta, Canada, my husband went horseback riding. Before the ride, I took my husband's picture on his horse. Afterward, he looked displeased, "Honey," he said. "You could have at least waited until they untied the horse from the post." *(Carole Desha, in Reader's Digest)***

**After the rookie pitcher walked a third straight batter, the manager strolled to the mound. “Son,” he told the southpaw, “I think you've had enough.” “But look who's coming to bat,” whined the rookie. “I struck this guy out the last time he was up.” “Yeah, I know,” said the manager. “But this is still the same inning.” *(Sunshine Magazine)***

**Ziggy: "I finally found my place in the sun . . . and I forgot my sunblock!" *(Tom Wilson, in Ziggy comic strip)***

**While watching "The Bachelor Chef TV Show" Frank says to Ernest: “Timing is very important in preparing a meal.” Ernest: “So try to make sure the pizza arrives during a commercial!” *(Bob Thaves, in Frank & Ernest comic strip)***

**It has happened to most of us at one time or another, and it is one of life's most frustrating moments. It's that moment when you're having lunch with congenial friends, and you have just reached the punch line of your favorite joke, when the waiter appears out of nowhere, as if on cue from the devil, and asks in a loud voice, “Who gets the steak sandwich?” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Trouble with being punctual is nobody’s there to appreciate it. *(Franklin P. Jones)***

**On his daily 30-mile commute to college, my brother ran out of gas and pulled his car to the side of the rural highway. Almost immediately, another car slowed down and parked right in front of him. "Thank goodness," he thought. "A ride -- and so quickly!" He grabbed his school books, locked his doors, ran up to the car and jumped in on the passenger side. "Boy, am I glad to see you," my brother said to the other driver. "Why?" said the man. "I just ran out of gas." *(Betty Cowan, in Reader's Digest)***

**By the time we realize our parents were right, we have children who think we're wrong. (*Guillermo Hernandez, in American Legion Magazine)***

**The conductor of our community's symphony orchestra was elated when a metropolitan newspaper planned to run a feature story on them just before a concert. When the article appeared, he was thrilled -- until he saw the accompanying photo. The picture, taken at a rehearsal, showed the conductor in action as seen from the trumpet section. In the foreground, propped against the music stand was a tiny portable TV tuned to "Monday Night Football." *(Alice M. Dawson, in Reader's Digest)***

**The time to relax is when you don't have time for it. *(Sydney J. Harris)***

**If you wait for a repairman, you'll wait all day. If you go out for five minutes, he'll arrive and leave while you're gone. *(Arthur Bloch, in Reader's Digest)***

**In Northport, Alabama, a 21-year-old's robbery of a convenience mart was foiled when two of the eyewitnesses were his parents who happened to be shopping in the store when he walked in to rob it. *(Bill Flick, 1997)***

**“A beautiful woman appeared in the doorway of my hotel room and said, ‘Oh, no. I've got the wrong room,’” Henry Youngman relates. “But I told her, ‘You've got the right room -- you're just 20 years too late!’” *(Reader's Digest)***

**When Sears comes out with a riding vacuum cleaner, then I'll clean house. *(Roseanne, in Catholic Digest)***

**As Billy opens the front door with water dripping from his clothes, he asks his Mom: “Is it okay if I run through the sprinkler?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**A Eugene, Oregon, man barely escaped a gruesome ending when a runaway 4-foot circular saw-blade raced through a parking lot and slammed into a convenience store a split second after he’d gone inside. “I was shaking,” said Shane Reimche. “That thing was huge.” The blade had come loose from a nearby construction site, and just after Reimche went through the door of the store, the blade slammed into the storefront, embedding itself 2 feet deep. “Obviously it wasn’t my time,” Reimche said, adding, “I need a beer.” *(The Week magazine, April 19, 2024)***

**Lots More Fish in the Sea: More than 100,000 salmon spilled off a truck transporting them from one hatchery to another in Elgin, Oregon, last April. However, luck was on their side. As the truck overturned and their giant tank burst open, almost all the salmon rode the wave of water right into Lookingglass Creek, a waterway that connects with the hatchery they were traveling to. *(Good News Network, as it appeared in Reader’s Digest, September, 2024 issue, on page 28)***

**When the idea is not right, God says “no”. When the time is not right, God says “slow”. When you are not right, God says “grow”. When everything is right, God says “go”. *(Rev. Robert Schuller)***

**The orthopedic surgeon I work for was moving to a new office, and his staff was helping transport many of the items. I sat the display skeleton in the front of my car, his bony arm across the back of my seat. I hadn't considered the drive across town. At one traffic light, the stares of the people in the car beside me became obvious, and I looked across and explained, “I'm delivering him to my doctor's office.” The other driver leaned out of his window. “I hate to tell you, lady,” he said, “but I think it's too late!” *(Trudy Y. Vineyard, in Reader's Digest)***

**Student: "For my science project, I submit a groundbreaking discovery: Two snowflakes exactly alike!" After realizing that the snowflakes had already melted, he said: "I bet I should have gone first." *(Jef Mallett, in Frazz comic strip)***

**Wanting to take his wife out for the evening, a father dropped his ten-year-old son off at grandpa's house. As the father went out the door, grandpa asked, “When do you want him back?” “When he's nineteen!” reported the father. *(Leslie B. & Bernice Flynn, in Humorous Incidents and Quips, p. 51)***

**As a young draftee at Camp Upton, in Yaphank, New York, in 1917, Irving Berlin wrote an all-soldier musical revue called Yip, Yip, Yaphank. Twenty years later he dusted off a tune that he had cut from the show, and wrote new lyrics. The song that had lain abandoned for two decades? “God Bless America.” *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It's a Weird World, p. 87)***

**In 1963, Adlai E. Stevenson spoke to the students at Princeton University. “I understand I am here to speak and you are here to listen,” she said. “Let’s hope we both finish at the same time.” *(Pat Herrington, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Three men were standing under one umbrella, but no one got wet. How can this be? It wasn't raining. *(Denver Rocky Mountain News)***

**Robber asks the policeman after being arrested: “Where were you five minutes ago when someone was stealing my getaway car?” *(Mike Baldwin, in Cornered comic strip)***

**The time to stop talking is before people stop listening. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**It had been some time since the woman had been in a salon, but she sat down hopefully after showing the stylist a magazine photo of a gorgeous, lustrous-haired model. The stylist went to work, humming happily, and the woman was content until she recognized the tune: the theme from Mission: Impossible. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**Former Houston Oilers coach Bum Phillips, on why his team had a poor first half: "It was a time mix-up. We started at nine o'clock and the kickoff was at eight." (*Jeff Parietti, in The Greatest Sports Events, Alibis and Explanations)***

[**March 7, 1876: What is considered the most valuable patent ever issued -- No. 174,465 -- goes to Alexander Graham Bell. Had Bell been just a few hours later in submitting his designs, Elisha Gray would have gotten credit for the telephone. What we know today as the Bell system might be known instead as the Gray system. *(William Ecenbarger, in Reader’s Digest)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

**A Southern minister was completing a temperance sermon. With great expression he said, “If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.” With even greater emphasis he said, “And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.” And then finally, he said, “And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.” Sermon complete, he then sat down. The song leader stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, “For our closing song, let us sing Hymn No. 385, Shall We Gather at the River.” *(Denver Rocky Mountain News)***

**An amazing instance of right place, right time saved the life of a toddler in Burbank, California, this week. Konrad and Jennifer Lightner were carrying a box-spring mattress as part of a move when they looked up and saw a 3-year-old dangling from a cord out of a third-floor window. Konrad quickly positioned the mattress under the boy, then partly broke the child's fall before he landed safely on the mattress. "It was very surreal afterwards," Jennifer said. "We were just moving the rest of the day, and every once in a while we'd look at each other and just be like 'That happened. That was real.'" *(The Week magazine, March 28, 2014)***

**The sun is a ball of gas 870,000 miles wide, and it’s 93 million miles away from us. The moon is just 2,100 miles wide, and it’s 240,000 miles away – but it’s positioned exactly in the right place to neatly cover the sun when their orbits periodically align. “If the sun were a bit bigger or closer, or if the moon were a bit smaller or farther, totality would not occur,” said Jason Colavito, in CNN.com. *(The Week magazine, April 19, 2024)***

**Improving the timing of the nation’s traffic lights could cut traffic delays by 20 percent and gas consumption by 10 percent. *(USA Today, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 6, 2005)***

**Question: How can you tell when an airplane is about to experience turbulence? Answer: The flight attendant is serving coffee. *(Joey Adams)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Billy: "Instead of on a weekend, couldn't they turn the clocks ahead during a school day?" *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**For the passage – “I can’t remember if I turned off the iron” – which may well be mankind’s most fateful words of summer, usually spoken by your mother / wife / prospective homicide victim when you’ve driven about 200 miles from home and finally are beginning to unwind on vacation. *(Bill Flick, 1989)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Mark Twain was born during an appearance of Halley's Comet in 1835 and died on the day of its next appearance in 1910. *(dailycognition.com)***

**Hagar: “I’ve been out of town a lot lately, but now that I’m home, what was it you wanted me to do?” With snow on the ground outside the house, Helga yells back to him: “Rake the leaves.” *(Chris Browne, in Hagar the Horrible comic strip)***

**A young man called his mother and announced excitedly that he had just met the woman of his dreams. Now what should he do? His mother had an idea: “Why don't you send her flowers, and on the card invite her to your apartment for a home-cooked meal?” He thought this was a great strategy, and a week later, the woman came to dinner. His mother called the next day to see how things had gone. “I was totally humiliated,” he moaned. “She insisted on washing the dishes.” “What's wrong with that?” asked his mother. “We hadn't started eating yet.” *(Quoted in Sweet's Soul Cafe)***

**Here’s a little girl who is destined to succeed: She visited a farm one day and wanted to buy a large watermelon. “That’s three dollars,” said the farmer. “I’ve only got 30 cents,” said the little girl. The farmer pointed to a very small watermelon in the field and said, “How about that one?” “Okay, I’ll take it,” said the little girl. “But leave it on the vine. I’ll be back for it in a month.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**An adult piano student of mine asked me to teach her Pachelbel's Canon, so she could play it at her friend's wedding. After a month of practice, however, she had made very little progress, and I warned her that she might not be ready to play the piece at the wedding. “Oh, that's okay,” she replied. “Her boyfriend hasn't proposed yet.” *(Elsie Anzalone, in Reader's Digest)***

**During the minister’s prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Little Johnny’s mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence. After church asked: “Johnny, whatever made you do such a thing?” Little Johnny answered soberly: “I asked God to teach me to whistle and He just then did!” *(Pulpit Helps)***

**Why can’t life’s big problems come when we are twenty and know everything? *(Bits & Pieces)***

**According to a new report by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, if the 9/11 hijackers had hit the World Trade towers later in the day, when the building was fully occupied, the death toll could have reached 14,000. *(Associated Press, in The Week magazine, July 15, 2005)***

**As the house begins to be covered by the falling snow, Hagar says to his wife: “This is the worst possible timing, Helga! If it doesn’t stop snowing soon, how will Santa find our house?” *(Chris Browne, in Hagar comic strip)***

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