Dave (Himself!) Evicted Candy Cigarettes

Many years ago, I published a joke supplied by Bruce H. Burnside, of Rockville. At Bruce told it, a Buddhist Zen master approached a hot dog vendor on the street and said, "Make me one with everything." The joke wasn’t bad in that form. But Bruce went on to say it has grown a new ending. The new form of the joke begins the same way. But Bruce says the Zen master pays for his hot dog with a $20 bill. The vendor puts the bill in his cash drawer.

"Where’s my change?" the Zen master asks. "Change must come from within," the vendor replies.

SEND A KID TO CAMP

Old Blue Eyes lives on, but thanks to Shirley Good, of Northwest Washington, he lives on as an inspiration to Send A Kid To Camp and the many not to sell or advertise candy cigarettes at Forest Knolls, as of that instant. "He said he would," Dave reported.

Of course, the sure-fire solution would be for the man not to stock the candy cigarettes at all. He didn’t ask for that remedy, and he wouldn’t have been justified if he had. Should a liquor store not sell bourbon to any adult just because a couple of people have thumb too much of it? That store should have the right to sell the boozie just as Good Humor should have the right to sell candy cigarettes.

Still, I love Dave’s sense of purpose and the spirit he’s arranged a solution for resolution. Let’s hope his fix lasts. Let’s also hope the lessons spread to other Good Humorists who might sell candy cigarettes at other child-buy locations all the time.

I love puncturing conventional wisdom as much as I do. This story for you.

It comes courtesy of an 82-year-old Burke resident who received his federal income tax refund. But “instead of the $1,661 I expected, the check was for $1,738,” the man writes. When he stopped phoning himself, the man noticed a form inside the envelope. It said he would receive an explanation in a few days.

But the happy taxpayer decided to write for himself whether he could figure out what had happened. He enclosed a copy of his Form 1040, rather than wait, he reasoned, to find out all taxable income for his wife and himself under the “Single” column, rather than in the “Married Filing Jointly” column.

Mr. Ishibashi Taxpayer does not say what he will do with his windfall of nearly $1,000. But he does say he is going to use the extra cash in some way.

“I think the IRS deserves kudos for having a system which catches such errors,” Amen.

ON THE FAST TRACK

BILL HOLBROOK 

BABY BLUES KIRKMAN & SCOTT

NON SUCITII RICK STROMOSKI

ANN LANDERS

Dear Ann:

You received quite a few letters about sleep-deprived doctors. One writer said that the lack of sleep endured by doctors would be laughable if applied to other professionals, such as truck drivers or airline pilots. For sure you readers get the impression that airline pilots are completely rested and full of energy.

During my career as an airline pilot for one of the "big four" airlines I was confronted with several situations, and sleep deprivation was one of them. If you think pilots are well-rested and alert, perhaps you should consider that illusion for the sake of your white knuckles.

There isn’t room here to describe the situation in detail, but it is an easy subject to imagine and ask any pilot. But for now, recall all the fatigue you felt at the conclusion of your last flight. Then, consider that the crew had three or more trips before the ones you were aboard.

I once flew an trip at the controls during an Federal Aviation Administration regulations mandate the maximum amount of flight time for which a pilot can be scheduled on a daily, monthly and yearly basis. In addition, most carriers have additional restrictions in their contracts with their pilots’ unions, further reducing their hours.

United has more than 9,000 pilots. We count on each, and every one of them to be in good physical condition and get enough rest prior to their first flights of the day. The FAA requires carriers to have a complete physical every six months, and United requires a complete physical once a year.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to set the record straight.

Gerald Grosswald, chairman and CEO, United Airlines

I appreciate your response and am sure the “frequent fliers” in my reading audience will, too. And now, a word from me.

When a passenger plane goes down, the airline must pay an astronomical amount of money in damages to the families of those killed, as well as to families who compensate the

THE AMAZING-SPIDER-MAN LEE & LIEBER

THE WIZARD OF ID PARKER & HART

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