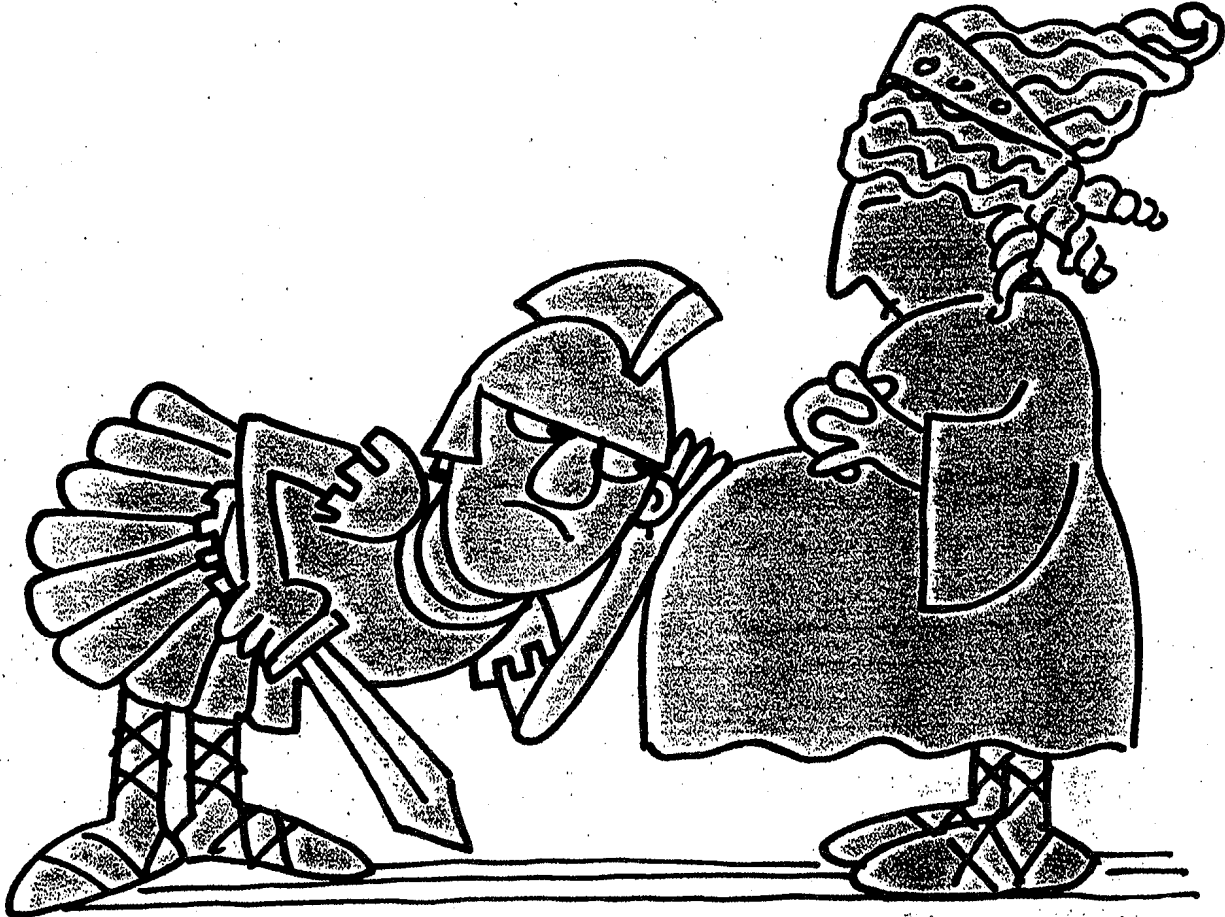


James Thurber had a response for the unwelcome caller who telephoned him at 4 a.m. and asked innocently, "Oh, did I wake you?"

Thurber said, "That's OK. I had to get up and answer the phone anyway."



A pregnant woman became lost inside the Pentagon, and after spending nearly an hour trying to find her way out of the building asked a guard to help her. After giving her directions, the guard said, "Lady, you shouldn't have come in here in your condition." Her quick response was, "I wasn't in this condition when I came in here!"

Richard Sheridan's son once remarked to his father, "If I were in Parliament, I would write on my forehead, 'To Let'." To this the great dramatist and statesman replied, "Add 'Unfurnished'."



When Theodore Roosevelt was a Republican political candidate, he addressed a rally from a railcar platform. His speech was interrupted by a drunken heckler who called out, "I am a Democrat!" Roosevelt asked him why. The man responded, "My grandfather was a Democrat, my father was a Democrat, and I am a Democrat."

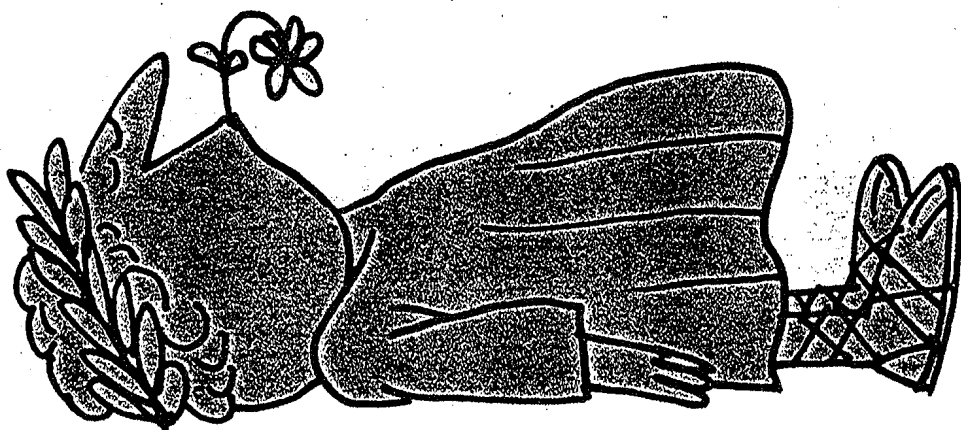
"Let me ask you this," Roosevelt said. "Suppose your grandfather had been a jackass and your father had been a jackass . . . what would that make you?"

"A Republican!" the man shot back.



On an airliner between Chicago and Las Vegas, a stewardess approached Muhammed Ali and told him to fasten his seatbelt. "Superman don't need no seatbelt," Ali said, winking. Unimpressed, the stewardess replied, "Superman don't need no airplane!"

Following the death of a United States Senator who was a close friend, Woodrow Wilson received a telephone call from an ambitious politician who said that he wanted to take the Senator's place. Wilson, shocked by the man's crassness, replied, *"That's perfectly agreeable with me, but you'll have to speak with the undertaker about it."*



W.C. Fields was visited at his deathbed by his friend Gene Fowler who discovered Fields reading the Bible. *"Why Bill!"* Fowler said, astounded at the sight. Noticing the shock in Fowler's voice, Fields replied, *"Don't be overly impressed . . . I'm just looking for loopholes."*

Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt once asked violinist Fritz Kreisler what he would charge to play for a private party in her palatial home. *"My fee will be twelve thousand dollars,"* the virtuoso said. Mrs. Vanderbilt agreed, but cautioned the violinist, *"Please remember that you are not to mingle with my guests."* Somewhat taken aback, Kreisler recovered to say, *"Oh, in that case my fee is only twenty-five hundred dollars."*



When asked if he were "gay," a noted gay rights activist responded quickly, *"My goodness, no. I'm not even moderately content."*

While attending an official state dinner in Washington, Chinese diplomat Dr. Wu Ting-fang was approached by the wife of a United States Senator. Not realizing who he was, she foolishly asked, "What kind of 'nese are you . . . Javanese, Japanese or Chinese?" With a curt smile the distinguished diplomat replied, "I am Chinese. And what kind of 'kee are you . . . donkey, monkey, or yankee?"



“Silent Cal” Coolidge was a man who knew when to keep his mouth shut. In fact, he rarely said much of anything. Early in his presidency a woman approached him at a banquet and said, *“Mr. President, I made a bet with my husband that I could get you to say more than two words.”* Coolidge replied without hesitation, *“You lose.”*