

April 2019

OWL Café

Optimism,
Wisdom,
and Laughter

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Project of [Michele Jackman Enterprises and Adventures](#)



The café is open to share inspiring stories, catch a healthy laugh, or experience an insight that helps you cope with things not going so well.



APRIL 1, 2019 WELCOME TO INTERNATIONAL GULLIBILITY DAY!

“What fools we mortals be...” The character Puck, Shakespeare on pranks

Ask yourself all month, how you are you letting others fool you?

This is No joke! DMV Examinations—over 70 or when a “victim”

The current DMV's process is no joke after 70 when you are told you require a driving test, and making you repeat the written test several times—one person, very sane, had to take it three times within a week, just in case she was senile? Passed all three times. Imagine the humiliation. And better make sure your car is fit to drive. Tires, mirrors, inside safety features will all be checked to make sure you know where they are.

Why are we singled out? We are a target class due to aging propaganda and stereotypes on aging!

Like a real OWL can you turn your neck 180 plus degrees as you look over your arthritic shoulder? If not, get legal adaptive mirror.

IRONIC: State of California April Events:

I will be attending the **2020-2024 Regional Outreach meetings of the State Highway Safety**

Commission on Aging. I have been a member of this group for a few years. These meetings will be held regionally to gather information on seniors and *aging* drivers. My contribution will be stopping a 70-year-

old bias.

I think all ages should focus instead on reasons you as an individual should be questioned and tested for some *red flags issues*—*vision, hearings, stroke, injury*. Maybe you even can volunteer earlier or later to prove your ability and not have a hassle like this. We should have local sites, not require the “accused” to *drive* themselves to a *hearing* often miles away. This actually can happen if you get only a warning of some kind—e.g. driving too slowly and some presumption of unchecked disability.

There could be/should be online methods of taking tests through driving schools, or police outlets, that would not clog DMV centers that do all sorts of other complex things. One woman waited almost all day for an appointment she had made ahead of time. In fact, many of our public service systems still think California is a state of 17 million, when it is now 40 million and counting with limits on time/ability to serve.

Worse the real April Fool message: People who have passed these hoops may still be unfit as drivers, but not based on age. One does not become a calm and mature driver at a fixed age. We, still vibrant people, are lumped into groups with others who should NOT be driving because of impatience, illness, or inadequate care of their vehicle, not AGE! Getting medical services and waiting for hours in line at understaffed DMV’s among other logjams at DMV harms over-pressured workers, as well.

A car is the safest wheel chair for the elderly with less fall risk, proclaims an annoyed handicapped OWL to a DMV worker after waiting several hours.

There are impatient and frenzied drivers who actually cause accidents and drive away leaving us OWLs a statistic and targeted. This raises our insurance and reinforces stereotypes about us.

Where are the highway patrols, cameras, and other devices that will stop this? Are we the only ones to comply with laws and DMV booklets? Reckless drivers believe they can choose how to drive after testing. Worse, their hidden agenda is to get us off crowded roads as a class of people driving with civility.

If you have a point of view or wish to attend a regional workshop in April 10-25, 2019, contact ca-SHSP@Kinley-Horn.com, or send in comments.



APRIL FOOLS DAY! THE 700-PLUS YEAR HISTORY!

A bit of history from Wikipedia tells us how traditional April 1st is worldwide—a valid day which strong Leopold I, who signed a treaty with Turkey April 1, 1683, and made sure it was back-dated to March 31 just in case. **Celebrated as *Prima Aprilis* in Poland—better humor day**—It is supposed to be a more tolerant better humor day! Teaches us to be wary, skeptical, but survive pranks and jokes on us.

Innocence vs gullibility. April 1st is supposed to teach us to beware of hoaxes, lies, and set ups or scams every day—in today’s world these are criminal attempts to steal our identity. Maybe, it is to make us less angry or defensive when tricked or teased and more aware of attempts to create it!

MORE EXAMPLES OF INTERNATIONAL APRIL 1ST:

In Iran – A day for spreading false news and one yells *Doroughhe sizdah or our “gotcha”*

In Mexico--It tells people to remain open, tolerant and have some sense of humor with pranks or hoaxes.

In Columbia—Means: “Let it go today”—avoid being too suspicious, too serious. Allow the joke or fun to be poked at you and recover.

In **Belgium**, initially a day parents fooled their children with a spoof, maybe a promise not to be kept. Thought to be too cruel as children ARE innocent, it was changed to adult gaming after the 1800's.

In **Lebanon** it is April's first lie. You wake up to one or create one. "I feel so good today—my aches and pains are gone!"

According to Wikipedia: April 1st has morphed into an international day documenting how we are often fooled by news stories, incredible lies, absurd claims, and dangerous offers. There is a Dutch proverb that "On April 1st Alva lost his glasses"—Brielle meaning glasses) a play on double meanings about the defeat of the Spanish King Alvarez in a battle for that city in 1572.



My favorite prank was the “Spaghetti Plant Harvest example in Britain.

A BBC series showed Swiss farmers picking Spaghetti plants with noodles in bushes in a “Swiss Spaghetti” Harvest. The BBC was flooded with requests for places where one could buy a plant. Ironically, I wonder if the *spaghetti squash plant* inspired this hoax.

In **Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales (1392)**, a rooster is tricked by a fox, hence the popular statement, *letting a fox in the hen house*. **Gullibility!** By having at least one day a year where we can laugh at our own innocence and *gullibility to humor and jokes*, we strengthen our resolve to take things with a more serious eye and ask questions: **How am I being hood-winked? Am I really that “old person” being ridiculed in humorous venues or cartoons?**

We also know the *health benefits* of daily laughter and producing humor to cope (chemically and mentally). There is power in our sense of humor to assist us in the face of incredible stress or tragedy. **Our humor sharpens our wits and renews our power over events attempting to debilitate or con us.**

Watch getting trapped in the web!—April fool’s day could be every day as rumors, lies, mean-spirited swarm online setting into motion disinformation, hoaxes, wrong facts in healthcare, finance, politics, and result in wrong beliefs and some negative consequences. The can create incredible conflicts between the people who WANT to believe them. Psychology confirms that “beliefs can construct facts”, not the other way around. This is very dangerous. Ask yourself: “Is the Sky really falling?” as Chicken Little proclaimed in one kid’s story. Our generation was told to resist those kinds of hysteric beliefs?



AVOID BEING FOOLED ALL YEAR, BUT BE A JESTER FOR YOUR OWN LIFE IN REACTION TO WHAT IS GOING ON!

CELEBRATE TO WISDOM OF WIT:

- **Robocalls:** When these marketers call, answer with a clever response—"Still here—not gullible, bye! Click! Or "FBI public field center, here!" Remember: If someone doesn't leave a message it probably is a robot call
- **Hit the block button as soon as the call comes in.** Invest in that feature. Data mining and selling has now reached an all-time high, as phone companies actually allow companies "local" numbers.
- **Teach your grand kids** the truth about Lies and Seduction by others—Start with fun lies, which still advise them not to lie. Said one young inventor (age 7): "The Tooth Fairy wanted all my teeth and offered lots of cash—I considered all the candy I could buy, then realized I could not chew it." Make kids aware of the harm of lies, pranks and mean jokes. Remember the game *Truth or Lies?* Still a great game to play with them and offer alternatives to mean humor.
- **Create a Best Lie contest—kids love to do that.** *"I was late to school because I was late coming back from the moon in a dream and there was heavy traffic returning from dreams."* OR, *"I was kidnapped by the tooth fairy who wanted all my baby teeth—and I thought about how much candy I could buy with those funds, but declined as I would not be able to chew it?"*

YOUR BEST LIE:

Start every day with innocence and QUESTION:

*What age would you be if you did not know your birth year?
I AM 10. Still innocent, and now by choice being less judgmental,
I can prove that stops aging! April Fool?*



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Consultants and Contributors

Lou Thompson

Patricia Brem
Dana Longo

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Michele Jackman
Author | Speaker | Humorist | Trainer
[Michele Jackman Enterprises & Adventures](#)
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