



Travelogue No 30



H & S - What Absolute Tosh

In a nation seemingly overcome by health and safety paranoia, it's only natural for shops to seek to protect themselves from litigious customers. So even the most inoffensive products can be plastered with warnings that they contain 'nuts', 'eggs', 'shellfish' or some other potential allergen. Asda, however, really is milking this trend for all it's worth. Under the heading 'Allergy advice', plastic bottles of milk sold by the supermarket carry a serious warning - 'Contains milk'. Apparently, that the product is called milk and the milk is plain to see are insufficient signals to those who are dairy intolerant.

The Asda episode is indicative of a policy by supermarkets and food manufacturers to liberally stamp warnings on products to avoid legal complications. They fear that failing to include the warning will leave them vulnerable to compensation if a shopper suffers an adverse reaction. Last week it was revealed that the Happy Egg Company was selling eggs through leading supermarkets with a warning on the box saying, 'Contains eggs'. Earlier this month, Cadbury said it was including a warning, in yellow capital letters, that its Dairy Milk chocolate bar 'contains milk'.

Regulations issued by the Food Standards Agency require manufacturers to state on the packaging if goods contain allergens - a total of 14 substances including eggs, shellfish, nuts and milk. A spokesman for the regulator said it was not necessary to have an additional allergen warning on a milk carton. 'The use of allergenic ingredients must be declared on a label, but it can be anywhere, including in the ingredients list and in the name of the product,' she said. 'In the case of milk, where it is clear the product being sold is cow's milk, there is no legal requirement for a label to contain additional allergen advice.'

Many fear the use of unnecessary warnings risks bringing the allergy warning regime into disrepute. Readers who contacted the Mail after seeing the case of the Happy Egg boxes thought

the warnings have gone too far. One wrote: 'Most health and safety advice, information and warnings have nothing to do with the health and safety of anyone and is purely about avoiding litigation.' Another said: 'I'm surprised no one has put a health warning on my Sunday roast chicken - 'Not suitable for vegetarians'. Nine-year-old Rory Poulter noticed the latest warning while using Asda semi-skimmed organic milk to cool his breakfast porridge. 'How ridiculous is that,' said Rory, from Richmond, Surrey. 'It is a carton of milk, just milk, why would anyone need to be warned that it contains milk? It's just so stupid and ridiculous.'

Asda admitted it had got things wrong and said it will remove the warning later this year. 'Everyone knows milk is milk,' a spokesman added. *Ed: Astonishing. An admission - errr, is this the first time ??? The fact that idiotic warnings are supplied to idiotic people suggests the total breakdown of communication, a belief in the parasites of society, lawyers, and the extraordinary uneducated imbecility of spongers and lead swingers !! Good luck.*

Goodbye Old Friend



Bill Frindall

Sadly passing to the Scorebox in the Sky, The enigmatic and delightfully unique Bill Frindall has succumbed to Legionnaire's disease. Without doubt a major influence on Test Match Special, Bill was a legendary statistician on anything cricket. 350 Test matches and countless slices of cake, he beavered away in the background whilst Brian Johnston, Jonathan Agnew and a host of other commentators fired questions at 'The Bearded Wonder'.

Two stories have been posted on the cricket forum which epitomise the great man. I was extremely privileged to have been in the company of such a delightful, knowledgeable man. To entertain him at Marchwiel, before the dark days, was sublime.

Rt Hon David Milliband MP
Secretary of State,
Department for Environment, Food and Rural
Affairs (DEFRA),
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

Dear Secretary of State,

My friend, who is in farming at the moment, recently received a cheque for £3,000 from the Rural Payments Agency for not rearing pigs. I would now like to join the "not rearing pigs" business.

In your opinion, what is the best kind of farm not to rear pigs on, and which is the best breed of pigs not to rear? I want to be sure I approach this endeavour in keeping with all government policies, as dictated by the EU under the Common Agricultural Policy.

I would prefer not to rear bacon pigs, but if this is not the type you want not rearing, I will just as gladly not rear porkers. Are there any advantages in not rearing rare breeds such as Saddlebacks or Gloucester Old Spots, or are there too many people already not rearing these?

As I see it, the hardest part of this programme will be keeping an accurate record of how many pigs I haven't reared. Are there any Government or Local Authority courses on this?

My friend is very satisfied with this business. He has been rearing pigs for forty years or so, and the best he ever made on them was £1,422 in 1968. That is - until this year, when he received a cheque

for not rearing any.

If I get £3,000 for not rearing 50 pigs, will I get £6,000 for not rearing 100?

I plan to operate on a small scale at first, holding myself down to about 4,000 pigs not raised, which will mean about £240,000 for the first year. As I become more expert in not rearing pigs, I plan to be more ambitious, perhaps increasing to, say, 40,000 pigs not reared in my second year, for which I should expect about £2.4 million from your department. Incidentally, I wonder if I would be eligible to receive tradable carbon credits for all these pigs not producing harmful and polluting methane gases?

Another point: These pigs that I plan not to rear will not eat 2,000 tonnes of cereals. I understand that you also pay farmers for not growing crops. Will I qualify for payments for not growing cereals to not feed the pigs I don't rear?

I am also considering the "not milking cows" business, so please send any information you have on that too. Please could you also include the current Defra advice on set aside fields? Can this be done on an e-commerce basis with virtual fields (of which I seem to have several thousand hectares)?

In view of the above you will realise that I will be totally unemployed, and will therefore qualify for unemployment benefits.

I shall of course be voting for your party at the next general election.

Yours faithfully,
xxxxxxx

Belated Birthday Greetings

Happy birthdays to the recent batch of Wombats who enjoyed another year of undiluted extravagance in January 2009. Messrs Earl, King and the redoubtable Chief Inspector, whose ages vary from 120 to 296. I'm sure your celebrations will have been in true Wombat tradition.

The Wombat Run



Not Just Hot Wheels, Methinks!!!!



Nurse Caroline Petrie has been suspended and could even be struck off. What was her offence? Did she turn up drunk? Did she dispense the wrong medicine or forget to empty a bedpan? Was she knocking out prescription drugs to the local pusher? Perhaps she was guilty of neglect, of deliberate cruelty, or of practising a bit of freelance euthanasia.

No. Her 'crime' was to offer to say a prayer for one old lady on the ward. It's what we used to call an act of Christian charity. But that was enough to bring her to the attention of the 'diversity' Nazis at the North Somerset Primary Care Trust.

Administrator Alison Withers wrote to her: 'As a nurse you are required to uphold the reputation of your profession. Your NMC (Nursing Midwifery Council) code states that "you must demonstrate a personal and professional commitment to equality and diversity", and "you must not use your professional status to promote causes that are not related to health".' She didn't explain how innocently volunteering to pray for a patient brought the game into disrepute or how it compromised Mrs Petrie's discharge of her professional duties. The power of prayer has long been acknowledged as part of the healing process. That's why hospitals have chaplains and there are Bibles in bedside cabinets. All over the world, nuns double as nurses. So what is so heinous about Mrs Petrie praying for her patients?

The truth is that Christianity forms no part of the 'diversity' agenda. As I wrote on Friday, in relation to the gay adoption scandal in Edinburgh, the only religion that official Britain recognises is 'diversity' itself. The NHS, like every single one of our institutions, long ago fell to the Guardianistas, who pursue their agenda with a deranged zeal. While they genuflect to Islam and 'respect' every oddball religion from paganism to devil-worship, they despise Britain's Judeo-Christian tradition and use every extent of their powers to crush it. It's only Christianity which is singled out for such vilification, as with the airport worker suspended for wearing a crucifix and the devout Christian registrar threatened with the sack for refusing to perform homosexual marriages.

Just imagine how they would have reacted had Mrs Petrie been a Muslim offering to pray to Allah for a patient's recovery. Anyone who objected would be accused of a 'hate crime' and dumped in a skip at the back of the mortuary. What kind of sick society have we become where self-righteous sneaks can ruin someone's career? That this happened in North Somerset and not in one of the barmier inner-city boroughs only serves to illustrate the depths to which the Guardianistas have inveigled themselves into the system. This is what the small print at the bottom of all those public sector job adverts means in reality. 'Diversity' is just another way of persecuting decent people trying to go about their daily business. This is 'investing in diversity' in action. What else do you think all those equality managers do all day?

The most intolerant people in Britain are always those who preach 'tolerance' most loudly. How does victimising Mrs Petrie square with not promoting 'causes that are not related to health'? Isn't that exactly what the hospital authorities themselves are doing? Why should Mrs Petrie, or anyone else, have to 'demonstrate a personal commitment to equality and diversity'? She can harbour whatever beliefs she likes, provided it doesn't interfere with her professionalism.

There's only one word to describe hatchet-faced harridans like administrator Alison Withers and the tell-tale creeps trying to get a dedicated nurse such as Caroline Petrie sacked for dispensing a little Christian kindness. Sick !!

Ed: From an article by Richard Littlejohn

Not Much Of A Man

A grizzled old man was eating in a truck stop when three Hell's Angels bikers walked in. The first walked up to the old man and pushed his cigarette into the old man's pie, and then took a seat at the counter. The second walked up to the old man and spit into the old man's milk, and then he took a seat at the counter. The third walked up to the old man and turned over the old man's plate, and then he took a seat at the counter. Without a word of protest, the old man quietly left the diner. Shortly thereafter, one of the bikers said to the waitress, "Humph, not much of a man, was he?" The waitress replied, "Not much of a truck driver either. He just backed his truck over three motorcycles."

Urban Myths ??

GOOD:-

In Richardson , a Texas State Trooper was running radar. He had a perfect spot to watch for speeders, but wasn't getting any. Then he discovered the problem. A 12 year old boy was standing up the road with a hand painted sign which read "RADAR TRAP AHEAD!" The officer later found a young accomplice down the road with a sign reading, "TIPS" and a bucket full of money. (And we used to just sell lemonade!)

BETTER:-

A motorist was mailed a picture of his car speeding through an automated radar post in Plano , Texas . A \$40 speeding ticket was included. Being cute, he sent the police department a picture of \$40. The police responded with another mailed photo of handcuffs.

BEST:-

A young woman was pulled over in Austin, Texas for speeding. As the TX State Trooper walked to her car window, flipping open his ticket book, she said, "I bet you are going to sell me a ticket to the Texas State Police Ball." He replied, " Texas State Troopers don't have balls." There was a moment of silence while she smiled and he realized what he'd just said. He then closed his book, got back in his patrol car and left.

A woman broke up with me and sent me pictures of her and her new boyfriend in bed together. Solution?? I sent them to her Dad. Chris Case

Donkey Kisser : *An inexperienced osculatrix. A lady who snogs like a donkey chewing an apple.*

Double Barker : *A woman blessed with the body of Sue, but cursed with the face of Ronnie. A Bobfoc !!*

Bobfoc : *acronym. Body Off Baywatch, Face Off Crime-watch. Having a welder's bench inexplicably mounted on a finely carved rack and pegs, eg. Sarah Jessica Parker.*

Blunderguff : *To expel an horrendous stench, a bottom burp, only to realise that the tastiest bird in the office is fast approaching.*

Nick One To The Wicketkeeper : *To fail to avoid the follow-on whilst wearing white trousers.*

Plumbago : *A painful ache in the Gladstones caused by over-revving the spunk engines without releasing the horse's handbrake.*

Slow Puncture : *One of those days when one seems to be constantly losing gas. "I don't know what was in my delicious curry from the Curry Mahal Restaurant last night, but I seem to have a slow puncture today."*

Hamster - Murder Suspect

A blunder in a television news report has seen a hamster labelled as a murder suspect. WFSB TV in Hartford, Connecticut was reporting on police interviewing a suspect in the 2000 disappearance of teenager Molly Fish. The anchor told viewers a man being held in a Florida prison on suspicion of murder had been linked to kidnapping the 16-year-old. But instead of showing a picture of the man, Rodney Stanger, the television station showed a picture of a hamster. "The possible suspect Rodney Stanger seen here ... well this is not Rodney Stanger obviously," the newsreader said.

After stopping for drinks at an illegal bar, a Zimbabwean bus driver found that the 20 mental patients he was supposed to be transporting from Harare to Bulawayo had escaped. Not wanting to admit his incompetence, the driver went to a nearby bus stop and offered everyone waiting there a free ride. He then delivered the passengers to the mental hospital, telling the staff that the patients were very excitable and prone to bizarre fantasies. The deception wasn't discovered for 3 days.

Swim Anyone ???



Beer Holder, No Cooler



Scrub Python Blues

Townsville snake catchers have caught the largest scrub python they have ever seen. The 4.1m [13'4"] monstrosity was captured in a backyard shed in Mundingburra yesterday, where it was believed to have been resting after gorging itself on possums. The non-venomous snake's head was the size of a man's hand, and its body as wide as a leg. It required at least four people to lift it into a bag to be taken away and released. O'Dowd St resident Averil Chadwick, who first spotted the 15.1kg reptile in her back passage on Tuesday, said she always had possums around the shed, however they had since disappeared. "I have possums up in the shed but when I looked up there I thought it was the wrong shape for a possum," Mrs Chadwick said knowledgeably. "It looked like a snake, and sure enough it was. There are no possums around now." Snake catcher Brian West, who was called to remove the snake, said he needed a second pair of hands to help capture the animal."

Lamp Pole Foils Escapees

Two Kiwi prisoners who were handcuffed together as they fled a courthouse foiled their own getaway when they ran to opposite sides of a light pole. They slammed into each other and fell to the ground. Jailers nabbed them as they struggled to their feet. Their escape on Wednesday was captured by a CCTV camera at Hastings District Court on New Zealand's North Island. Hastings police said one escapee, Regan Reti, 20, had just been sentenced to more than two years' jail for assault. The other inmate, Tiranara White, 21, was in custody for allegedly stealing a car and violating parole. The pair were back in court yesterday, facing fresh charges of escaping from custody.

Glad That's Sofa

A British man survived more than two days trapped under his sofa by sipping from a bottle of whisky, it was reported. Joe Galliot fell against the sofa during a power cut at his home in Somerset, southwest England, and could not free himself because of back problems, the BBC reported. He remained stuck for 60 hours in that position - during which time a bottle of whisky rolled close enough for him to open it - until a neighbour became concerned that Mr Galliot's curtains had not been drawn for two days. "The whole settee tipped over catching me like a rat in a trap," the 65-year-old told the BBC. "I took a sip of (the whisky) and thought, well this isn't too bad." Mr Galliot, who spent five days in hospital recovering, admitted to becoming concerned after going so long without food or water: "It felt like a lifetime, you think you're there forever." He told the broadcaster that he now kept a bottle of whisky next to the sofa 'just in case'.

Raccoon Bites Back

An enraged raccoon has bitten off a man's penis as the pervert tried to rape the animal. Russian Alexander Kirilov, 44, was on a drunken weekend with friends when he leapt on the terrified animal. "When I saw the raccoon I thought I'd have some fun," he told stunned surgeons in Moscow. Now Russian plastic surgeons are trying to restore his mangled manhood.

What's At The Bottom Of Your Garden

In Slough, Sir John Betjeman assured us, 'there isn't grass to graze a cow'. While that may be true, there was certainly enough in one resident's back garden to completely engulf a car. The silver Ford Escort, dating from the early 1980s, was un-earthed by council workers ordered to clear the dense undergrowth at the home of Annie Dodds in the Berkshire town. The tangle of vegetation had been there so long that it is thought even Mrs Dodds herself didn't know a car was under there. As



well as the rusting vehicle - with an air freshener still dangling jauntily from its rear-view mirror - they also found a carpet and other household items. The clearance team was called in after Mrs Dodds, who is thought to be in her 40s, ignored an official notice to cut back the garden. She was also ordered to hire a pest contractor after complaints from her neighbours that the undergrowth was infested with rats.

If your parents never had children, chances are you won't either.

Dick Cavett

Picture Gallery

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UFO's Beware Of The RAF



The RAF has tried to shoot down UFOs on several occasions under instructions by the Ministry of Defence, a former employee has revealed. Pilots have fired at Unidentified Flying Objects flying in British skies several times but failed to bring them down, Nick Pope claims. Mr Pope, who worked on the MoD's UFO section for three years, said the 'shoot down' directive had been in place since the 1980s. 'We know of cases where the order has been given to shoot down - with little effect to the UFO,' Mr Pope told The Sun. Firing at UFOs was 'not automatic but happens when something in our airspace is deemed to be a threat' he said. 'In the case of UFOs, whether the object is causing a threat is very much a (pilot's) judgment call,' he told the paper. Mr Pope, a 43-year-old Londoner, said the rules of engagement were drawn up after dozens of encounters with unidentified craft. He said: 'There was a faction in the MoD who said "We want to shoot down a UFO and that will resolve the issue one way or another.'