

The Coffee Table Gazette

Life Writes Its Own Stories.



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What An F Stands For.

When I was 14 years old I wasn't doing well in school and when I would bring my report card home, my mother would change the grades before my step-father would see it, in order to spare me his wrath. Well one particular time, I came home with my report card in hand expecting to see my mother, so I could give it to her. However, to my surprise she wasn't home, but my step-father was, and I was caught red-handed with my report card in hand. I couldn't help but think to myself, "My goose is cooked!"

Much to my chagrin, he asked to see my report card and I handed it over while deciding, who I would like to be at my funeral, which I figured would have to be scheduled anytime in the next couple of minutes.

As he went through the grades he commented on every one, "B well that's good," "C that's average." And so on and so on, until he came to the one grade I dreaded the most. The one grade, I wish he had a rare genetic disease, that didn't allow him to see that letter in the alphabet.....you guessed it. The dreaded F!

He paused, and I knew he saw it, then I could see him contemplating what he was going to say next, and I was bracing myself for the worst. He then asked me, "An f, what do you think that stands for?" And I said the first thing that came to mind, which slipped out of my mouth before I even had a chance to stop it, "The f stands for fantastic!"

My step-father looked at me with a bewildered expression on his face, then slowly a smile creped across his mouth and he let out a hearty laugh! He then signed the report card, handed it to me and left the room. Nothing more was ever said about that f and I never got in trouble for it either.

Laura - Oregon

The Day I Got A Hug From An Angel.

My childhood was not the greatest and it culminated into me being left on a street corner in a rain storm by my mom, (who to this day loves the bottle more than her own kids), and my step-dad, who wouldn't stand up to the injustices she inflicted upon us kids. Of course that's a long story and gets me to the point of the highway I was standing on the side of.

Going forward about 6 months I was living in some bushes in a park and the only thing I had to my name was a bicycle that I protected with my life. I am not gonna lie and tell you things were good, because they weren't, I was surviving, but a little piece of me was dying everyday. I had a job at a fast food joint and after I got off shift one night I had enough. I couldn't go on, I was at the end of my rope and was ready to call it quits (literally and figuratively). I had it all planned out, I was going to jump out in front of one of the many semis that would come into town. I looked both ways and noticed a semi heading North, which was perfect, since it was the same side of the highway I was on.

I set my bike down and prepared myself, then at the last second I thought to myself, "If I knew somebody cared I wouldn't do this." Immediately and as plain as day, I felt someone put their arms around me and heard someone whisper, "I care." in my ear.

It all seemed to be just a few seconds and it was over, but I can't describe the sense of peace that I felt at that moment. I gathered my thoughts and looked down the highway again, only to find the truck was gone and there was nobody there. I picked up my bike and continued on my way, trying to figure out what had just happened, bewildered to say the least about what I had just experienced. After that I never thought of taking my life again. I am now a business owner and things are good, to this day all I can think is that I got a hug from an angel.

Donald - Alabama

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Dead Or Not Dead? That Is The Question.

I used to work as a body removal specialist for a local mortuary and one day I was transporting a body to an airport in another city, in order for her to be flown back home. As I was driving I was thinking of the procedure to follow once I arrived, since this was my first trip to the airport.

All of a sudden I hit a dip in the road and immediately heard a very loud "uuuuuhhhhh" from the back of the van. Let me tell you the sound of someone other than me making a loud sigh and knowing that the only other person in the vehicle is supposed to be dead, was enough to scare me silly. I gripped the steering wheel trying not to wreck the van, since I had swerved when I flinched out of fright. I then slammed on the breaks, put the van in park faster than I had ever shifted a vehicle before and jumped out to calm down and assess the situation.

No sooner had I exited the vehicle and a state trooper came up over the hill. He stopped behind the van, put his lights, and slowly approached the van. He saw me standing in front, sweating, shaking, and I am sure he could hear my knees knocking as loud as I did. He was very cautious at first and asked if I was ok. I said, "Yeah I am ok, but I don't think the lady in the back of the van is dead like she is supposed to be." The officer then replied, "Dead like she is supposed to be?" and I said, "Yes, I work for XXXX Mortuary and I am taking Mrs. XXXXX to the airport and I don't think she is dead like she is supposed to be." The officers then stated, "Well, I can see from the name on the side of the van that having a body in there is not as weird as it sounds." "No sir it's all legit I promise, but I don't think she is dead." I replied.

He then said, "Stay right there sir and I will check the back of the van for you." The officer walked to the back of the van while I calmed down. And to be honest I started to feel a little silly at this point. He then returned and said, "I assure you sir, she is dead like she is supposed to be, but based on the skid marks on the road, the fact that your van is somewhat sideways with the front sticking out a little in the lane of traffic, and you looking like you were about to faint when I first arrived, you were pretty scared." "A little scared, is an understatement officer, she sighed really loud." I replied.

The officer then asked me if I was new to the body removal field and I stated I was. He explained to me how hitting the dip just allowed air to move or escape, which made it sound like she sighed. We chatted for a few more minutes, then went on our merry way. I can only imagine the conversation around the table when the officer got back to the station and the explanation on the report he probably had to write. Furthermore, I don't know how the officer kept a straight face during this encounter.

Anonymous

A Few Events On This Day In History.

1775: 1st military hospital approved.

1861: U.S. Congress authorizes paper money.

1938: Douglas "Wrong Way" Corrigan leaves NY flying for LA, winds up in Ireland supposedly by mistake.

1954: Construction of Disneyland commences.

1984: US passes National Minimum Drinking Age Act, prohibiting under 21's from buying or possessing alcohol as a condition of receiving State highway funds.

1995: Forbes Magazine announces Bill Gates is the richest man in the world with a net worth of \$12.9 billion dollars.

2019: Streaming service Netflix reaches 150 million subscribers worldwide, but with slower growth than forecast.

The Humorous Side Of Life.

Wife: "Why are you building a tower of cheerios?" Husband: "Because it's hard to stack oatmeal."

I spent all day yesterday walking and talking backwards. But don't worry.....that's all behind me now.

Dionne Warwick and the Psychic Friends Network went bankrupt. You'd think they would have "seen it coming."

Wife: What did you do today honey? Assembly Line Worker: Well, today is the 179th day I did exactly the same thing. You?

I don't understand the term, "good grief." There is nothing at all good about grief.

A note from the editor.

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