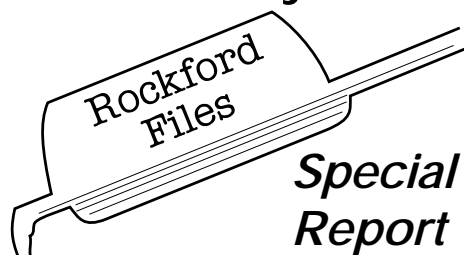


# BURNHAMISH

Dedicated, professional, and worth *twice* the price.

## Just when you thought it was safe to leave the Suburbs...



***"If you can't control your peanut butter, you can't expect to control your life."***  
Calvin, 1993

Live, from Rockford, the second largest city in Illinois (population 139,400), it's Burnhamish *Summer 1993*! I have been pondering much the past several months. Big surprise, like what else do I do anyway. For example, I bought a margarine substitute the other day. This is good for me? Artificial margarine? That's like imitation plastic. It sounds suspiciously redundant to me. Do tailgaters really think they're going to make the person in front of them drive faster? What exactly is the appeal of Bud Dry? Why ask why? Drink water. Is it worth the effort to place your car exactly between the lines of a parking space? Do we get credit for that in heaven? You can see why I don't get much sleep.

As you read this, I am beginning my eighth month living in Rockford. I have gotten to know the people I work with a little better and am even on the verge of making new friends. God I hope these don't cost as much as the ones I have now, the pirates. But cereally, folks, I have not had to make new friends since I was sent to the UIHEPF (University of Illinois Higher Educational Prison Farm- see Vol-

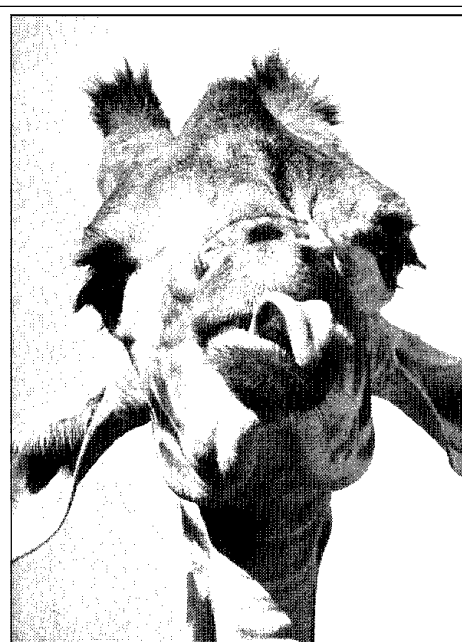
ume 1, Number 1). Heck, meeting people is easy when you are forced to share a room the size of a bus lavatory with three other people and their stuff. Of course, me and my stuff are the reason why I am forced to live in a two-bedroom apartment now. A friend suggested the other day that I should "dematerialize" so I wouldn't need such a large place. I figured if I dematerialized, I wouldn't need a place, period. Or anything else for that matter. But I digress.

I am finding out what kinds of people I should want to befriend and those from whom I should keep a safe distance. Guys standing together, with the same haircuts, all wearing B.U.M. sweatshirts I will avoid, and I suggest you do the same. Those of my friends who own *B.U.M.* brand clothing will be exempt from my ridicule if you send me pictures of you burning the aforementioned articles of cloth-

ing, or ten dollars. I'm flexible. As long as I'm on the subject of clothing, I want to plead to those of you who have any influence at all in the fashion industry: give up bell-bottoms. They were a terrible idea the first time, and a safety hazard as well.

Despite the blatant health risks associated with cigarettes, I find the majority of people in Rockford, especially women, smoke. Like, a lot. Should I date a girl from Rockford, my chances are pretty good that she would smoke, but I would like to avoid that situation if I can. Unfortunately, most male-female interaction occurs in bars. The majority of people I've seen in the local drinking establishments smoke. Considering that, should one of my criteria for the "perfect" mate still be N/S? Mind you, if given a choice, I would go with a non-smoker. Besides hangovers, the worst after-effect of socializing at the bars is coming home smelling like you stood next to a campfire all night (however, that in no way means that I dislike camping or anyone in the camping industry, except of course those who own motor homes and even them I don't really dislike, they just annoy me).

See Smoking... on page 4



Another brilliant mind ruined by higher education...

### Facts you really wanted to know...

World record for snail memory: 120 days.

There are about 3,500 species of cockroaches.

The government actually permits a certain amount of insect parts in processed foods.



# Are you a hostile person?

I found an article in the local newspaper which is a test to determine if you have a hostile personality. I took this test and determined that the person who designed it, Dr. Redford Williams of Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC, is actually a nincompoop and should have his degree revoked and his Lexus repossessed. But you can judge for yourself. I have provided the questions and the original choices below. In addition, I tell how I would answer, were my choices not limited to just A and B. Begin when you are ready and keep your eyes on your own paper.

## 1. A teenager drives by my yard blasting the car stereo:

- A. I begin to understand why teenagers can't hear.
- B. I can feel my blood pressure starting to rise.

What?

## 2. A boyfriend/girlfriend calls at the last minute "too tired to go out tonight." I'm stuck with two \$15 tickets:

- A. I find someone else to go out with.
- B. I tell my friend how inconsiderate he/she is.

What kind of tickets are they? Movie tickets? What are you doing buying \$15 movie tickets? You deserve to get stood up, you schmuck. You also deserve two \$15 parking tickets for leaving your car out on the street after 2 AM while you sat and pined away under his/her bedroom window. You're lucky you weren't arrested for vagrancy/trespassing.

## 3. Waiting in the express check-out line at the supermarket where a sign says "No More Than 10 Items Please":

- A. I pick up a magazine.
- B. I glance to see if anyone has more than 10 items.

I glance to see if anyone notices I have more than 10 items.

## 4. Most homeless people in large cities:

- A. Lack ambition.
- B. Are victims

Lack homes. Is this a trick question?

## 5. At times when I've been very angry with someone:

- A. I was able to stop short of hitting him/her.
- B. I have, on occasion, hit or shoved him/her.

My therapist says I've made a lot of progress since I stopped hearing those voices...

## 6. When I am in a traffic jam:

- A. I am usually not upset.
- B. I quickly start to feel irritated and annoyed.

My therapist says I've made a lot of progress since I stopped hearing those voices...

## 7. When there's a really important job to be done:

- A. I prefer to do it myself.
- B. I ask for help.

I jump into a phone booth and get halfway through ripping my clothes off when I realize I'm really not Superman. My therapist says I've taken a small step backward.

## 8. The cars ahead of me start to slow as they approach a curve:

- A. I assume there is a construction site ahead.
- B. I assume someone ahead had a fender-bender.

This is Illinois- I assume someone had a fender-bender at a construction site.

See Test, page 3



## Going, going, gone...

It was auction time again at the county fair grounds in Pawatung, Kentucky. The crisp early morning air was alive with a cacophony of grunts, squeals, clucks and snorts, all to the delight of young Timothy Riley. Timmy had attended many such auctions in his brief ten years of life, but this was the first in which he would be more than just a spectator, bringing with him his prize-winning pig, "Stinky". Unfortunately, as Timmy approached the auction floor with Stinky in tow, his prize hog suffered a heart attack and consequently died. Dejected and feeling very alone, Timmy stared blankly at the expectant crowd, as Garth Riley, his father, looked on. Bidding typically starts low at these auctions, but in Timmy's case, the bidding started high and kept climbing. Mr. Riley was amazed when the sale was complete.

"You usually don't fetch such a high price for a scrawny kid like Timmy," he said, with a wide smile. "He'll grow plenty in the next couple years- his new owners will be right pleased. I am going to miss the pig, though."

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## Soon-to-be-famous Quotes

"There are two types of people in the world: those who divide the world into two types of people, and those who don't"

*-Some guy on the radio*

"No, I'm from Iowa. I only work in space."

*-Admiral James T. Kirk*

"Dammit, Jim, I'm an astropsychopharmacologist, not a miracle worker!"

*-If Dr. McCoy was an astropsychopharmacologist, he would have said this.*

## Channel-Surfing: Not For Men Only

BNF Wire Services

Contrary to popular belief, men do not change channels more often than women, although men do hold the remote twice as often. Once they have the remote, women "surf" - switch to several channels in a single sweep to sample each- just as often as men.

That's what the television viewing lab at WGBH/Boston found after conducting "living room" lab tests on mostly young, well-educated adults. Each viewer, who was monitored electronically and visually, was allowed to change channels, read eat, sleep, etc.

Certain patterns emerged: a high percentage of channel-changing occurred in the first few minutes of the viewing session. The rolling of production credits also appeared to stimulate channel-changing.

Most viewers didn't settle on a single program until halfway into the viewing period. And one-fourth of all viewing time was spent doing at least one additional activity, most commonly reading. Some subjects also slept, and nearly all had something to eat.

## Test

Continued from page 2

### 9. An elevator stops too long above where I'm waiting:

- A. I soon start to feel irritated.
- B. I plan the rest of my day.

I think back and try to remember why I'm at the bottom of this elevator shaft.

### 10. When a friend or co-worker disagrees with me:

- A. I try to explain my position.
- B. I argue.

I mention some special photos I have in my possession.

### 11. At times when I was really angry in the past:

- A. I have never thrown things or slammed a door.
- B. I've sometimes thrown things or slammed a door.

I would throw a tantrum until they

let me stay up after 8:00. Oh- not *that* far in the past?

### 12. Someone bumps into me:

- A. I pass it off as an accident.
- B. I feel irritated.

If it's a guy, I check for my wallet. If it's a girl, I pop a tic tac. If it's my therapist, I tell her she's sitting much too close and could she back up just a little. And I offer her a tic tac.

Score one point for each: 1. B, 2. B, 3. B, 4. A, 5. B, 6. B, 7. A, 8. B, 9. A, 10. B, 11. B, 12. B.

If you scored three or more points, you may be hostile.

Questions 1,6,9, and 12 reflect anger.

Questions 2,5,10, and 11 reflect aggression.

Questions 3,4,7, and 8 reflect cynicism.

If your real answers were anything like mine, I know a good therapist. And she likes tic tacs.

## BRIGHT SIDE

by Burnham





# Smoking or Non-smoking?

Continued from page 1

Is this too high a price to pay to find true love? Please note there are few, if any, places to meet new people where smoke is absent. Except maybe the health club, where, unfortunately, there are just as many gawking meatheads per square foot as in any given Rockford bar.

I rarely travel on business, so meeting eligible single non-smoking female types on domestic airplane flights is not feasible. How about prohibiting smoking in public drinking establishments? Hoo-hoo, that would create quite a rukus! Society, which is screwed in the head as it is, would go completely higgelty-piggelty (not to be confused with *Piggly Wiggly*, which must be the silliest name for a store, right up there with *Big Lots* and *Beef-A-Roo*!) On the positive side, bars would be less crowded, assuming there would be any bars left after the riots (or any patrons left, for that matter). It was just a thought.

There actually is a smoke-free place where singles looking for love, after having looked in all the wrong places, can seek out that elusive perfect someone. The Rockford Register Star. Heading up the classified section is The Meeting Place (catchy, huh?). If you choose, you can send in a free blurb outlining

your entire life and what qualities you seek in a mate, as long as you limit it to twenty words, one dollar per word thereafter. If your handwriting is illegible (which, if you are male, it probably is), there is a toll free number by which to place your ad. You can also reply to ads by phone for \$1.75 a minute; average call, four minutes. I tried this. Yes, the call was about four minutes. Fifteen seconds to leave a reply to the ad from a SWF, pretty, 5'10", enjoys outdoors, blue jeans to dresses, opera, country music, seeks SB/W/HWWCQBLTDDC/JM, N/S, for friendship or possible relationship. Three minutes and forty-five seconds listening to a recording telling me what buttons to push. It's like Alex Trebec commenting on every Jeopardy solution with only one minute left in round two and we still haven't found the daily double. Time is money, Al! Let's pick it up a little! I'll take Useless Gadgets for one thousand. I still haven't received a call back from the ad-leaver. Maybe I shouldn't have mentioned that swelling problem I have when the weather gets hot.

All swelling aside, there is much more to Rockford than its proximity to Beloit, Wisconsin. I'm sure I will have plenty of material for future Burnhamishes. Maybe even a book or two. Or Larry King Live! Perhaps some day I will even get to meet Michael Feldman.

I can dream, can't I?

# Ask Dr. Science

Dear Dr. Science:

Is *political science* an oxymoron?

-Dr. H. Kissinger  
Carmel, CA

Dear Dr. H:

The word *political* means *pertaining to government* and the word *science* means *the study and theoretical explanation of natural phenomena in an orderly way*. I think clearly this illustrates *political science* is indeed an oxymoron. Of course, this has nothing whatsoever to do with politicians. They are just morons. I hope this clears things up for you.

Dear Dr. Science:

If the mission of the starship *Enterprise* is to "boldly go where no one has gone before," why do they keep running into people?

-M. Burnhamcurtis  
Ann Arbor, MI

Dear M:

Let's say they kept running into different kinds of trout. Then only fishery biologists would watch the show and ratings would plummet.

Dear Dr. Science:

As a follow-up to the first question, what's so funny about making fun of the president? Do people think they could get away with that anywhere else? Do they think they could do that in China? I think not.

-D.Q.  
Indiana

Dear D:

Did you ever finish high school? I think not.

## WE'RE GOING ON A LITTLE TRIP...

This year's "Trip to Leland" is happening August 14th & 15th. This is the same weekend in August as the previous three years (so you can make a pretty good guess when next year's trip will be). For those of you who do not know what I'm talking about, this is a weekend escape to Leland, Michigan (6 1/2 hours up the eastern coast of Lake Michigan), hosted by yours truly. Anyone who has made the trip in the past has returned refreshed, renewed, and even more determined to win Lotto so they could build a cabin in Leland. Invitations and directions go out about a month ahead of the trip, but feel free to contact me for more information if you think you want to go. And I think you do.

