

MICHIGAN MAN NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER, 2005

Greetings ...

My most sincere apologies for the the delay in this month's newsletter. I trust you all had a great summer. Mine was busier than I had expected but a monkey wrench was thrown into the works late in the summer when my father passed away. Many of you were aware and I received several cards calls and e mails and I can't tell you how much they help. My dad had been an occasional topic in my columns that ran both in the Straitsland Resorter and in this newsletter. But he was also my best friend and advisor, my reference guide to all things DIY around the house, my golf buddy and my baseball comrade/commissarator. It has been, as many of you can relate, the strangest thing I have ever gone through but closing in on eighty years old, well, even he would tell you that was pretty good run.

So let's get back to you. Did you play enough golf? Spend enough time at the lake or out in the stream with a fly rod or canoe? How about a family vacation or a few games at the ballpark?

I did add a few new places this summer. The Breakers Bar in Topinabee is under new ownership and Derek and Cynthia are doing a great job. It's a tremendous atmosphere and lots of fun. Along with Hidden River Golf and Casting Club I started doing outdoor patio shows at Black Lake Golf Club in Onaway and at St. Ives in Stanwood near Big Rapids. These are two of the nicest golf courses in Michigan and everything about them reflects that designation. Two wonderful places!!

All in all we had a good summer and I'm anxious to see all my seasonal friends again as I start my swings through the great state of Michigan. I am doing more work with Gus O'Connor's in Rochester and Novi and am still steady at Hoops and Dick O'Dow's in Auburn Hills and Birmingham, respectively. I will be coming back to Four Green Fields later in the fall so stay tuned.

Mars vs. Venus

There's no denying the difference between men and women. Example: A woman doesn't come home one night and her husband calls her ten best friends and they claim to nothing about it. A husband doesn't come home one night and his wife calls his ten best friends and eight of them claim he spent the night there while the other two insist he's still there.

As football season begins and domination of the remote becomes an issue let's look at a couple of perspectives on men and women. First, the women's take on herself through a collection of bumper stickers.

1. BEHIND EVERY SUCCESSFUL WOMAN IS HERSELF.
2. OH MY GOD, I THINK I'M BECOMING THE MAN I WANTED TO MARRY!
3. GINGER ROGERS DID EVERYTHING FRED ASTAIRE DID, BUT SHE DID IT BACKWARDS AND IN HIGH HEELS.
4. A WOMAN IS LIKE A TEA BAG.....YOU DON'T KNOW HOW STRONG SHE IS UNTIL YOU PUT HER IN HOT WATER.
5. I HAVE YET TO HEAR A MAN ASK FOR ADVICE ON HOW TO COMBINE MARRIAGE AND A CAREER.
6. SO MANY MEN, SO FEW WHO CAN AFFORD ME.
7. COFFEE, CHOCOLATE, MEN ... SOME THINGS ARE JUST BETTER RICH.
8. DON'T TREAT ME ANY DIFFERENTLY THAN YOU WOULD THE QUEEN.
9. I'M OUT OF ESTROGEN AND I HAVE A GUN.
10. WARNING: I HAVE AN ATTITUDE AND I KNOW HOW TO USE IT.
11. OF COURSE I DON'T LOOK BUSY...I DID IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME.
12. DO NOT START WITH ME. YOU WILL NOT WIN.
13. ALL STRESSED OUT AND NO ONE TO CHOKO.
14. I CAN BE ONE OF THOSE BAD THINGS THAT HAPPENS TO BAD PEOPLE.
15. HOW CAN I MISS YOU IF YOU WON'T GO AWAY?
16. DON'T UPSET ME! I'M RUNNING OUT OF PLACES TO HIDE THE BODIES.

And last but not least:

17. IF YOU WANT BREAKFAST IN BED, SLEEP IN THE KITCHEN.

How about a man's perspective on communicating with women ...

FINE

This is the word women use to end an argument when they feel they are right and you need to shut up. Never use "fine" to describe how a woman looks - this will cause you to have one of those arguments.

FIVE MINUTES

This is half an hour. It is equivalent to the five minutes that your football game is going to last before you take out the trash, so it's an even trade.

NOTHING

This means "something," and you should be on your toes. "Nothing" is usually used to describe the feeling a woman has of wanting to turn you inside out, upside down, and backwards. "Nothing" usually signifies an argument that will last "Five Minutes" and end with "Fine"

GO AHEAD(With Raised Eyebrows!)

This is a dare. One that will result in a woman getting upset over "Nothing" and will end with the word "Fine"

GO AHEAD(Normal Eyebrows)

This means "I give up" or "do what you want because I don't care" You will get a "Raised Eyebrow Go Ahead" in just a few minutes, followed by "Nothing" and "Fine" and she will talk to you in about "Five Minutes" when she cools off.

LOUD SIGH

This is not actually a word, but is a nonverbal statement often misunderstood by men. A "Loud Sigh" means she thinks you are an idiot at that moment, and wonders why she is wasting her time standing here and arguing with you over "Nothing"

SOFT SIGH

Again, not a word, but a nonverbal statement. "Soft Sighs" mean that she is content. Your best bet is to not move or breathe, and she will stay content.

THAT'S OKAY

This is one of the most dangerous statements that a woman can make to a man. "That's Okay" means that she wants to think long and hard before paying you back for whatever it is that you have done. "That's Okay" is often used with the word "Fine" and in conjunction with a "Raised Eyebrow."

GO AHEAD!

At some point in the near future, you are going to be in some mighty big trouble.

PLEASE DO

This is not a statement, it is an offer. A woman is giving you the chance to come up with whatever excuse or reason you have for doing whatever it is that you have done. You have a fair chance with the truth, so be careful and you shouldn't get a "That's Okay"

THANKS

A woman is thanking you. Do not faint. Just say you're welcome.

THANKS A LOT

This is much different from "Thanks" A woman will say, "Thanks A Lot" when she is really ticked off at you. It signifies that you have offended her in some callous way, and will be followed by the "Loud Sigh." Be careful not to ask what is wrong after the "Loud Sigh," as she will only tell you "Nothing"

Discuss this issue with your spouse and get back to me.

MY SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER

2 Perry Hotel Petoskey
3 St. Ives Stanwood
4 Hoppies Burt Lake
7 Gus O'Connor's Novi
10 Hoops Auburn Hills
13 Oxford Tap Oxford
14 Gus O'Connor's Novi
15 Dick O'Dow's Birmingham
16 Gus O'Connor's
17 Hotel Doherty Clare
23 Perry Hotel Petoskey
25 Gus O'Connor's Rochester
27 Brown Trout Indian River
28 Marsh Ridge Gaylord
29 Horn's Mackinac island

OCTOBER

1 Brown Trout Indian River (MSU vs. U-M)
7 Gus O'Connor's Rochester
8 Gus O'Connor's Rochester
11 Oxford Tap Oxford
12 Gus O'Connor's Novi
13 Dick O'Dow's Birmingham
14 Gus O'Connor's Novi
15 Hoops Auburn Hills
20 Perry Hotel Petoskey
21 Gus O'Connor's Novi
22 Oxford Tap Oxford
27 Dick O'Dow's Birmingham
28 Gus O'Connor's Novi

Again, sorry for the delay and to those of you who went to www.mikeridley.com and were unable to raise it .. well, my web svengali, John Kerr assures me it is back up and running. Take care and stay in touch.

As always, please let me know if this is an inappropriate address or you would like to be removed from the mailing list. I don't share addresses with any organizations or individuals looking to expand their data bases.

This issue brought to you in memory of my dad, Fuzz who didn't say it but lived it:
Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming --

"WOW!! What a Ride!"