

## Real company quotes

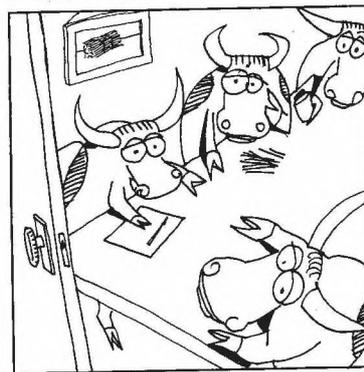
Have you ever become exasperated with management decisions? These quotes from real companies should make you feel better - at least you don't work there.

- 1 As of tomorrow, employees will only be able to access the building using individual security cards. Pictures will be taken next Wednesday and employees will receive their cards in two weeks. (This was the winning quote from Fred Dales at Microsoft Corp in Redmond, WA.)
- 2 What I need is a list of specific unknown problems we will encounter. (Lykes Lines Shipping)
- 3 E-mail is not to be used to pass on information or data. It should be used only for company business. (Accounting manager, ElectricBoat Company)
- 4 This project is so important, we can't let things that are more important interfere with it. (Advertising/Marketing manager, United Parcel Service)
- 5 Doing it right is no excuse for not meeting the schedule. No one will believe you solved this problem in one day! We've been working on it for months. Now, go act busy for a few weeks and I'll let you know when it's time to tell them. (R&D Supervisor, Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing 3M Corp.)
- 6 My boss spent the entire weekend retyping a 25-page proposal that only needed corrections. She claims the disk I gave her was damaged and she couldn't edit it. The disk I gave her was write-protected. (CIO of Dell Computers)
- 7 Quote from the boss: "Teamwork is a lot of people doing what I say." (Marketing executive, Citrix Corporation)
- 8 My sister passed away and her funeral was scheduled for Monday. When I told my boss, he said she died so that I would have to miss work on the busiest day of the year. He then asked if we could change her burial to Friday. He said, "That would be

better for me." (Shipping executive, FTD Florists)

- 9 "We know that communication is a problem, but the company is not going to discuss it with the employees." (Switching supervisor, AT&T Long Lines Division)
- 10 We recently received a memo from senior management saying: "This is to inform you that a memo will be issued today regarding the subject mentioned above." (Microsoft, Legal Affairs Division)
- 11 One day my boss asked me to submit a status report to him concerning a project I was working on. I asked him if tomorrow would be soon enough. He said, "If I wanted it tomorrow, I would have waited until tomorrow to ask for it!" (New Business Manager Hallmark Greeting Cards.)
- 12 As director of communications, I was asked to prepare a memo reviewing our company's training programs and materials. In the body of the memo in one of the sentences I mentioned the "pedagogical approach" used by one of the training manuals. The day after I routed the memo to the executive committee, I was called into the HR director's office, and told that the executive vice president wanted me out of the building by lunch. When I asked why, I was told that she wouldn't stand for "perverts" (pedophilia?) working in her company. Finally, he showed me her copy of the memo, with her demand that I be fired - and the word "pedagogical" circled in red. The HR manager was fairly reasonable, and once he looked the word up in his dictionary and made a copy of the definition to send back to her, he told me not to worry. He would take care of it. Two days later, a memo to the entire staff came out directing us that no words which could not be found in the local Sunday newspaper could be used in company memos. A month later, I resigned. In accordance with company policy, I created my resignation memo by pasting words together from the Sunday paper. (Taco Bell Corporation)①

## The Muster Room



## Movers and shakers

Diana Elliott has closed her practice to take up a position as a Duty Solicitor in the Family Court.

Antony Gillies has joined Lawson Smith.

Simon Lee has left the Department of Public Prosecutions to practise as a barrister at William Forster Chambers.

Congratulations to Fiona Kepert, Gemma Beggs, Colleen Atkinson, Ian McMinn, Matthew Lang and Donna Bush who have all been admitted to the Northern Territory Supreme Court recently.

Georgia McMaster has started practising as a barrister from Myilly Point Chambers. After a slight mishap with the sign, things now seem to be going smoothly.①



## Think before you speak

More court room slip ups.

Q: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

A: The autopsy started around 8:30pm

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Q: And Mr. Dennington was dead at the time?

A: No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy.

Q: Are you qualified to give a urine sample?

Q: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

A: No.

Q: Did you check for blood pressure?

A: No.

Q: Did you check for breathing?

A: No.

Q: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

A: No.

Q: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

A: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

Q: But could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

A: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practising law somewhere.

Q: Doctor, how many autopsies have you performed on dead people?

A: All my autopsies are performed on dead people.

Q: All of your responses must be oral, OK? What school did you go to?

A: Oral.

Q: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

A: No, this is how I dress when I go to work. ①

### **Who said that criminals are slow?**

An old man lived alone in Idaho. He wanted to spade his potato garden, but it was very hard work. His only son, Bubba, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament.

Dear Bubba, I am feeling pretty bad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my potato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging

up a garden plot. If you were here, all my troubles would be over.

I know you would dig the plot for me. Love Dad

A few days later he received a letter from his son.

Dear Dad,

For heaven's sake, dad, don't dig up that garden, that's where I buried the BODIES. Love Bubba

At 4A.M. the next morning, F.B.I. agents and local police showed up and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left.

That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Dad,

Go ahead and plant the potatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances. Love Bubba. ①

### **Odd laws from around the world**

MR received this email, which has been doing the rounds recently.

In Atlanta:

Against the law to tie a giraffe to a telephone pole or street lamp.

One man may not be on another man's back.

In Japan:

There is no age of consent.

In Montana:

Seven or more Indians are considered a raiding or war party and it is legal to shoot them.

It is illegal for a man and a woman to have sex in any other position other than missionary style.

It is illegal for married women to go fishing alone on Sundays, and illegal for unmarried women to fish alone at all.

It is a misdemeanor to show movies that depict acts of felonious crime.

It is a felony for a wife to open her husband's mail.

It is illegal to have a sheep in the cab of your truck without a chaperone.

In Thailand:

It is illegal to leave your house if you are not wearing underwear.

You must wear a shirt while driving a car.

You must pay a fine of \$600 in Thailand if you're caught throwing away chewed bubble gum on the sidewalk. If you do not pay the fine,

you are jailed.

No one may step on any of the nation's currency.

In Missouri:

It is illegal to have oral sex.

It is not illegal to speed.

In Chicago:

Law forbids eating in a place that is on fire.

It is illegal to give a dog whiskey.

Kites may not be flown within the city limits.

Spitting is forbidden.

In the Pullman area, it is illegal to drink beer out of a bucket while sitting on the curb.

It is forbidden to fish while sitting on a giraffe's neck.

It is legal to protest naked in front of City Hall as long as you are under seventeen years of age and have legal permits.

In Illinois:

You may be arrested for vagrancy if you do not have at least one dollar bill on your person.

You may be convicted of a Class 4 felony offense, punishable by up to three years in state prison, for the crime of "eavesdropping" on your own conversation.

You must contact the police before entering the city in an automobile.

The English language is not to be spoken.

In Palestine:

Jews are allowed to kill Palestinians.

Palestinians are not allowed to throw rocks at soldiers shooting at them.

In Connecticut:

You can be stopped by the police for biking over 65 miles per hour.

In order for a pickle to officially be considered a pickle, it must bounce.

It is illegal to dispose of used razor blades.

You cannot buy any alcohol after 8pm or on Sundays.

The marriage of imbeciles and feeble-minded persons is prohibited.

It is illegal to discharge a firearm from a public highway.

No one may use a cane, unless they are blind.

In Georgia:

Members of the state assembly cannot be ticketed for speeding while the state assembly is in session.

Donkeys may not be kept in bathtubs.

Signs are required to be written in English.

No one may carry an ice-cream cone in their back pocket if it is Sunday.

It is illegal to use profanity in front of a dead body which lies in a funeral home or in a coroners office. You have the right to commit simple battery if provoked by "fighting" words.

In Hawaii:

All residents may be fined as a result of not owning a boat.

Coins are not allowed to be placed in one's ears.

In Honolulu:

Within the limits of any public park, it is unlawful to annoy any bird.

In Delaware:

It is illegal to fly over any body of water, unless one is carrying sufficient supplies of food and drink.

In England:

With the exception of carrots, most goods may not be sold on Sunday. All English males over the age 14 are to carry out 2 or so hours of longbow practice a week supervised by the local clergy.

London Hackney Carriages (taxis/cabs) must carry a bale of hay and a sack of oats.

It is illegal to be drunk on Licensed Premises (in a pub or bar).

It is illegal for two adult men to have sex in the same house as a third person.

A bed may not be hung out of a window.

Any boy under the age of 10 may not see a naked mannequin.

In Canada:

30% of a radio stations content must be "Canadian Content".

You may not pay for a fifty-cent item with only pennies.

Citizens may not publicly remove bandages.

In Nova Scotia/ Canada:

When raining, a person may not

water his/her lawn.

In Singapore:

Failure to flush a public toilet after use may result in very hefty fines.

It is illegal to pee in an elevator.

It is considered an offense to enter the country with cigarettes.

Cigarettes are illegal at all public places.

It is illegal to come within 50 meters of a pedestrian crossing the street.

If you are convicted of littering three times, you will have to clean the streets on Sundays with a bib on saying, "I am a litterer." This will then be broadcasted on the local news.

Chewing gum on subways may result in fines and/or jail time.

The sale of gum is prohibited.

Homosexuals are not allowed to live in the country.

Oral sex is illegal unless it is used as a form of foreplay.

Pornography is illegal.

As it is considered pornographic, you may not walk around your home nude.

In Switzerland:

It is illegal to flush the toilet after 10pm if you live in an apartment.

A man may not relieve himself while standing up, after 10pm.

Though it is illegal to produce, store, sell and trade absinthe (special alcohol), it is legal to consume it.

It is required that every car with snow tires has to have a sticker on its dashboard which tells that the driver should not drive faster than 160 km/h with these tires.

The highest speed allowed on national freeways is 120 km/h.

If you forget you car-keys inside the car and you leave the car open, you will be punished.

Clothes may not be hung to dry on Sunday.

You may not wash your car on a Sunday.

It is considered an offense to mow your lawn on a Sunday, because it causes too much noise.

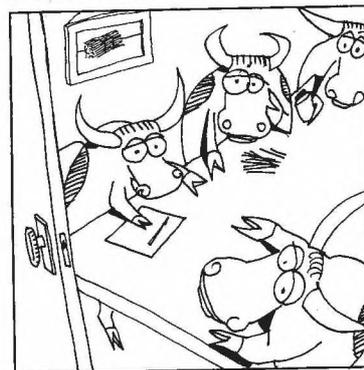
In Arizona:

Hunting camels is prohibited.

Any misdemeanor committed while wearing a red mask is considered a felony. This goes back in the days of the Wild West.

There is a possible 25 years in prison

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for cutting down a cactus.

Donkeys cannot sleep in bathtubs. When being attacked by a criminal or burglar, you may only protect yourself with the same weapon that the other person possesses. It is unlawful to refuse a person a glass of water.

You may not have more than two dildos in a house.

In Scotland:

You may not fish on Sundays.

It is illegal to be a drunk in possession of a cow.

Trespassing on someone else's land is legal.

You are presumed guilty until proven innocent for some crimes. If someone knocks on your door and requires the use of your commode, you must let them enter.

In South Korea:

Traffic police are required to report all bribes that they receive from motorists.

In Indiana:

Baths may not be taken between the months of October and March. It is illegal to sell cars on Sunday. Oral sex is illegal.

A man over the age of 18 may be arrested for statutory rape if the passenger in his car is not wearing her socks and shoes, and is under the age of 17.

It is against the law to pass a horse on the street.

It is illegal for a liquor store to sell cold soft drinks

In Guadalajara:

Women who work for the government of the city of Guadalajara, may not wear  
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miniskirts or any other "provocative" garment during office hours.  
It is illegal to shout offensive words in any public place.

In Iowa:

Kisses may last for no more than five minutes.

One-armed piano players must perform for free.

A man with a moustache may never kiss a woman in public.

It is a violation of the law to sell or distribute drugs or narcotics without having first obtained the appropriate Iowa drug tax stamp.

In Toronto:

At a massage Parlor, it's legal for an attendant and the client to be nude while giving a massage, but it's illegal for any sex act to take place.

In Denmark:

Before starting your car you are required to check lights, brakes, steering and honk your horn. You also need to make a visual check to make sure there are no children underneath the car.

No one may start a car while someone is underneath the vehicle

In France:

Between the hours of 8AM and 8PM, 70% of music on the radio must be by French artists.

It is illegal to kiss on railways in France.

No pig may be addressed as Napoleon by its owner.

In Antibes/France

It is illegal to take photos of police officers or police vehicles, even if they are just in the background.

In Paris:

An ashtray is considered to be a deadly weapon.

In Germany:

Every office must have a view of the sky, however small.

It is illegal to wear a mask.

A pillow can be considered a "passive" weapon.

In Norway:

You may not spey your female dog or cat. However, you may neuter the males of the species.

In Italy:

It is illegal to practise the profession of charlantry.

A man may be arrested for wearing a skirt.

Striking someone with a fist is considered a felony.

In Wyoming:

It is illegal to wear a hat that obstructs people's view in a public theater or place of amusement.

It is illegal for women to stand within five feet of a bar while drinking.

You may not take a picture of a rabbit during the month of June.

In Saudi Arabia:

It is illegal to kiss a stranger.

A woman may not drive a car.

It is considered an offense if a woman appears in public, unless accompanied by a male relative or guardian.

Male doctors may not examine women, and women doctors cannot examine men.

In California:

It is a misdemeanor to shoot at any kind of game from a moving vehicle, unless the target is a whale.

Women may not drive in a house coat.

No vehicle without a driver may exceed 60 miles per hour.

Many animals are illegal to own as pets, including snails, sloths, and elephants

In Arkansas:

The Arkansas River can rise no higher than to the Main Street bridge in Little Rock.

Arkansas must be pronounced "Arkansaw".

A law provides that school teachers who bob their hair will not get a raise. A man can legally beat his wife, but not more than once a month.

Oral sex is considered to be sodomy. Alligators may not be kept in bathtubs.

In Minnesota:

A person may not cross state lines with a duck atop his head.

It is illegal to sleep naked.

All men driving motorcycles must wear shirts.

Citizens may not enter Wisconsin with a chicken on their head.

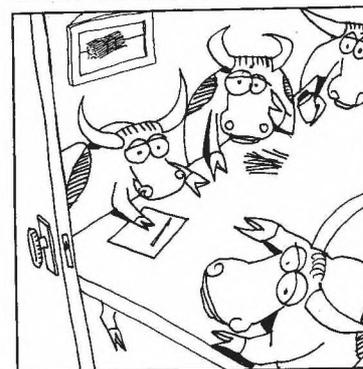
Oral sex is prohibited.

All bathtubs must have feet.

In Idaho:

It's illegal for a man to give his

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sweetheart a box of candy weighing less than fifty pounds.

You may not fish on a camel's back.

Riding a merry-go-round on Sundays is considered a crime.

In Boise:

Residents may not fish from a giraffe's back.

In Coeur d'Alene:

If a police officer approaches a vehicle and suspects that the occupants are engaging in sex, he must either honk, or flash his lights and wait for three minutes before approaching the car.

In Pocatello:

A law passed in 1912 provided that "The carrying of concealed weapons is forbidden, unless some are exhibited to public view."

A person may not be seen in public without a smile on their face.

In South Carolina:

By state law, if a man promises to marry an unmarried woman, the marriage must take place.

In Nevada:

It is still legal for a person to hang another for killing their dog on their own property.

In Colorado:

It is illegal to ride a horse while under the influence.

Tags may be ripped off pillows and mattresses. ①

### Contributions

If you've got some gossip, heard a good story, or seen something funny, let Muster Room know.

Tip-offs and rumors can be sent to Zoe at [publicrelations@law.socnt.asn.au](mailto:publicrelations@law.socnt.asn.au), fax: 8941-1623, or tel: 8981-5104. ①