



# Above the Noise

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## Just for Fun

*"The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age."*

- Lucille Ball

### TRAVEL TIP

#### Dress like a local.

To look less like a tourist on your next trip, wear appropriate attire for the region of the world you plan to visit. This can show respect for a culture as well as its customs and norms; it can also make you seem less ripe for the picking to any criminals.

### BRAIN TEASER

#### The Banker's Riddle.

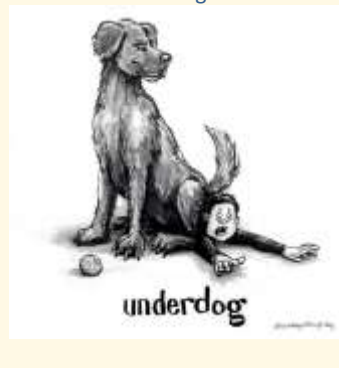
Whoever makes it, tells it not.  
Whoever takes it, knows it not.  
Whoever knows it, wants it not.  
What is it?\*

### DID YOU KNOW?

The first footballs were pointless. The earliest footballs were round like a basketball, but they often lost air pressure and became lopsided during games. By the early 1900s, teams had gotten used to the constant deflation, and pointed ends crept into the design, so that footballs could spiral as they were thrown (the forward pass was becoming popular).<sup>1</sup>

### PUNDAY Thru FRIDAY

That has to hurt dog on it.



## A Thanksgiving Story

Lately I have found myself thinking about the many blessings in my life – my wife and step-children, my mother and father who are still alive and healthy, and all the things that I don't have to think about like heat, running water, safety, and food. And the more I think about it, the more I realize that when I think about the blessings in my life, I tend to think about what I have and not what I have given. So in the spirit of Thanksgiving, I offer a story from Reader's Digest that demonstrates the power we each have to be a blessing to others.



*Thanksgiving Day was near. The first grade teacher gave her class a fun assignment -- to draw a picture of something for which they were thankful.*

*Most of the class might be considered economically disadvantaged, but still many would celebrate the holiday with turkey and other traditional goodies of the season. These, the teacher thought, would be the subjects of most of her student's art. And they were.*

*But Douglas made a different kind of picture. Douglas was a different kind of boy. He was the teacher's true child of misery, frail and unhappy. As other children played at recess, Douglas was likely to stand close by her side. One could only guess at the pain Douglas felt behind those sad eyes. Yes, his picture was different. When asked to draw a picture of something for which he was thankful, he drew a hand. Nothing else. Just an empty hand.*



*His abstract image captured the imagination of his peers. Whose hand could it be? One child guessed it was the hand of a farmer, because farmers raise turkeys. Another suggested a police officer, because the police protect and care for people. Still others guessed it was the hand of God, for God feeds us. And so the discussion went -- until the teacher almost forgot the young artist himself.*

*When the children had gone on to other assignments, she paused at Douglas' desk, bent down, and asked him whose hand it was. The little boy looked away and murmured, "It's yours, teacher."*

*She recalled the times she had taken his hand and walked with him here or there, as she had the other students. How often had she said, "Take my hand, Douglas, we'll go outside." Or, "Let me show you how to hold your pencil." Or, "Let's do this together." Douglas was most thankful for his teacher's hand. Brushing aside a tear, she went on with her work.*

*The story speaks of more than thankfulness. It says something about teachers teaching and parents parenting and friends showing friendship,*



## Rudy's Slow-Cooker Creamed Corn<sup>2</sup>

Yield: 8 servings

- 32 ounces frozen corn
- 8 ounces cream cheese, cut into 1" cubes
- 1/3 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt, be careful not to over salt

Combine all ingredients in the crock-pot and cook on low for 4 hours \*. Stir to combine and make sure the cream cheese has completely melted into the sauce. The finished corn will hold nicely on low (or on warm, if your Crock-Pot has that setting) for another hour or two without a problem. Enjoy!

*and how much it means to the Douglasses of the world. They might not always say thanks. But they'll remember the hand that reaches out.*

The story reminds me how important simple kindnesses can be even if they are never acknowledged outright with a "thank you". But the thoughtfulness can be etched deeply and forever into the heart of the recipient – and it can change a life.

For Thanksgiving, I hope to make it more of a habit to offer my hand. Perhaps it will be in the form of saying hi to the person I pass on the sidewalk. Or if the store clerk seems rude or sad, I'll ask about their day and how I might help (instead of grumbling about their attitude and making it worse). It may be offering a word of praise to the person who seems to toil in anonymity. And to the person who joins a group for the first time, I can make them feel welcomed. No thanks is necessary. I am blessed beyond measure and hope to be a blessing to others.



Lastly, thank you for being a part of my life and work. I value each of you for your uniqueness and how you have helped me become a better advisor. I appreciate the trust and confidence you place in me, and I value the opportunity to be part of helping you achieve your goals.



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**\* TRIVIA ANSWER: Stumped? Contact me for the answer! 720-330-1013**

<sup>1</sup> [todayifoundout.com/index.php/2015/01/26-fascinating-football-facts/](http://todayifoundout.com/index.php/2015/01/26-fascinating-football-facts/) [1/26/15]

<sup>2</sup> [www.barefeetinthekitchen.com](http://www.barefeetinthekitchen.com)