

Depositions v. Trials:

Et Cetera Meets the Internet

This month's entire column comes from **Kenneth D. Goodman** of Houston (Arnold, White & Durkee), who found these deposition excerpts "on the Internet in the news group rec. Humor, funny." They were posted by **Jeff Lee** of Tampa, Fla. who works for Richard Lee Reporting, and who has given his permission for *et cetera* to reprint these Excerpts from the Internet.

Tell Us About Yourself

Q. How long have you been married to her?
 A. Nineteen years.
 Q. Is that your only marriage?
 A. *Yes, it is, that I know of.*

Q. Is that the only license you hold?
 A. I have a marriage license.
 Q. You're not a realtor or a plumber or anything else like that?
 A. No. *They don't require a license to have children, which they should.*

Q. What did you do for Johnson & Sons Formal Wear?
 A. I was a presser.
 Q. Who was your boss there?
 A. I forget his name. He's the owner.
 Mr. Smith: Johnson
 A. Yeah. It's a father-and-son operation.

Q. Dr. Smith, how are you —
 A. Just fine.
 Q. Pardon?
 A. Just fine. I'm ready to go.
 Q. Okay. Great. How are you employed?

Q. Why do you handle the family finances?
 A. *Because my mom and sister ain't that bright.*

What About the Accident?

Q. What happened in that accident?
 A. I was going around the corner and it was wet and rainy outside, and I kind of slid down an embankment and *went into some bushes.*
 Q. Were the police called out to that?
 A. A state trooper came out. And he gave me a careless driving ticket because he told me he had to give me a ticket. *I didn't fight it, because it was my word against the bushes', I guess you could say.*

Q. Did she appear to be in any pain? In other words, just looking at her, did she look like she was hurting?
 A. *She's so ugly it looks like she hurts all the time.*

Q. Do you recall if you had any alcohol or anything to drink prior to the concert?
 A. Yes, I did.
 Q. What did you have, if you remember?
 A. *I think I had a Fuzzy Navel.*
 Q. *You ought to have a doctor look at that.*
 Just kidding.

Be Careful with Experts

Q. And the serratus anterior nerve that — or the nerves that go to it, where do they come from?
 A. The neck, the cervical region.
 Q. From the cervical region?
 A. Yes.
 Q. And did you do any examination of his cervical — of his cervix — to determine if there was any problem with his nerves going through his neck?
 A. *He doesn't have a cervix, but yes, I examined the biceps.*

Attorney: *I object to that as being a question impossible to answer; outside this person's expertise; and I don't know what it means.*

Q. Next time you saw him?
 A. Aug. 12, 1991. *Checked tonsils — no, I'm sorry, checked testicle. Must be mother asking. But I didn't find anything wrong with testicle. On the contrary, I noticed there was an ear problem.*

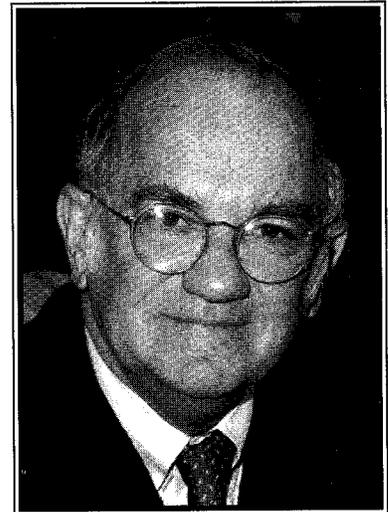
A. *Obsessive-compulsive symptoms:* Sometimes checks his own activities. Suicidal and homicidal ideations: Sometimes he has suicidal ideations regarding his car or truck every couple of days, *particularly following contact with his attorney.*

Q. And, Doctor, are you a member of the profession? Correct?
 A. What profession?
 Q. The medical profession.
 A. Oh, yes, sir.
 Q. *And what profession are you a member of?*
 A. *The medical profession.*

Did They Really Say That?

Q. How far apart are the rungs on the ladder?
 A. They're usually *about 12 inches to a foot.*

Q. Has anybody else ever threatened to kill you?
 A. No. Somebody put a gun to my neck once, but I don't think he threatened to use it.
 Q. Was that in an employment contact or not?
 A. *No. It was a social contact.*



By Jerry Buchmeyer

Q. Could you please, in your own words, describe where you're touching on your body?

A. Right here.

Q. All right. Now, where is "right here"?

A. Right here.

Q. Is that your leg?

A. No, sir. My leg is here. *That's my stomach. I got two stomachs right here.* But he was —

Q. All right. You have two stomachs.

Q. And what was the reason given to you for the fact you were let go?

A. The reason given to me was *garnishing a knife* and arguing with the supervisor.

Q. Do you consider him to be competent in that area?

A. I don't know. *I don't have any basis to remark about the competency of his engineering. I do know he's dead.*

A. And what is it about that particular night that you recall that you didn't eat at the Holiday Inn?

Q. What is it that I remember that I didn't eat?

A. There are very few production places in North Dakota.

Attorney: *Generally speaking, there are very few places in North Dakota.*

A. You've got to figure I'm a pretty conservative lady. This is the first concert I had ever been to.

Q. Of any kind?

A. Well, I take that back. *I went to Jerry Lee Lewis when I was 16 years old.*

Q. There was no shooting at that concert, was there?

A. No. *A whole lot of shaking going on, but no shooting.*

Industrial Strength Stupid

Q. Oh, okay. So you had a conversation with Mr. Smith about the SeaTower at some point —

A. Yes.

Q. — *prior to his death?*

Q. So the first thing that you heard was the one that you overheard with Mr. Jones stating that he didn't want any women in his department. *And then the second time when you were in this exact conversation would have been after the first time?*

Q. Is there a difference between a reconditioned and rebuilt piece of equipment in your mind, if you have one?

Q. (By Mr. Smith) Do you have any reason to believe that the decision to have Mr. Jones, Mr. Brown, and yourself work on Foobar products to the exclusion of the EMS products listed in groups 3 and 4 of Exhibit__ of the Dec. 5 chart was made or —

Mr. Smith: *Can you read that back, and maybe I can try and figure out what I wanted to ask.*

Q. Is the south boundary of the north half of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter the same line as the north boundary of the south half of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter?

From the Twilight Zone

Q. Anything else you like to do a lot?

A. Look out the window.

Q. Have you got a good view?

A. No.

Q. You just like to look out there?

A. Yeah.

Q. What can you see from your window?

A. The apartments in front of us.

Q. I guess there's usually a lot of activity out there.

A. Not no more.

Q. How come?

A. *The drug dealer moved away.*

Q. I would like you to turn to the next page, dated June 9, 1993.

A. Yes.

Q. Do you recall this incident occurring?

A. Yes. The night before that I had eaten at Beachcomber's Restaurant. And I had crab. And I had vomited in the —

Q. *I assure you on this question a simple "Yes" or "No" will do.*

The Witness: The relevant question here is —

Attorney One: Well, why don't you let her ask a question?

Attorney Two: Let her ask —

The Witness: I thought you did. Okay.

Attorney Three: I thought I did, too.

Attorney One: Well, I don't know what it is.

Attorney Three: The witness does, and I do.

The Witness: What's your question? ★

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