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Folklore and media
FLK. 373
Class project
David Allen

Outline

I. Introduction

a. brief overview

II. Body

a. content of articles

III. Conclusion

a. summary of articles

I chose to do my project on the use of April Fools Day within print media. To gather my information I viewed back issues of The Park City Daily News from 1990 to the present. The issues I reviewed were March 31st through April 2nd. I found ten different uses of April Fools Day in the twenty issues I surveyed. There was twenty issues instead of twenty-one due fact that April 1st of 1991 was on a Sunday. After studying these articles I found several interesting similarities and differences. The following contains uses and examples of April Fools Day within print media.

The first use of April Fools Day I found was in the April 1st issue of 1992. The B.C. comic strip used the theme to show how April Fools Day can be used as an excuse. Although April Fools Day is often used as a cop-out this is seldom the case. The motive is usually composed of trickery, revenge, and sarcasm. These techniques were fairly common and can be seen in almost all the samples I collected.

The April 1st, 1993 issue used the Born Loser as a fine example of trickery. After Mother Gargle received a box of candy from Brutus she quickly realized that it was not sweetest day but in fact April Fools Day. In the April 1st, 1997 issue of the Daily News, Kyda West of Bowling Green stated she had fell prey to her fathers practical joking for years. When West was in Louisville, she called her father and told him it was snowing there. "I got him," she said. "I finally got him back." Besides revenge and trickery, sarcasm plays a dominant role among April Fools Day pranks. In the April 1st, 1994 comic section Dennis the Menace quickly realizes that the day of pranks is certainly one to be taken seriously.

Among the articles I collected, I found it very interesting the ratio of adults, children, and animals used within print media. In the ten articles I reviewed all ten contain the use of adults.

Only two of the articles made use of animals and a even half were made up of children. One example of children in the collection appears in the April 2nd, 1995 issue. The Family Circus comic strip uses April Fools Day to help show that although cute and sweet , children can often be cruel and harmful. The March 31st , 1993 “ Band offers an early joke for April Fool’s” story is about a Nashville Tennessee band using farm animals on a recent album. The band fools the producers into thinking the sounds are created by a keyboard while the whole time they were recorded previously from an actual farm. Adults dominated my entire collection. Their use was apparent in every sample I obtained. A piece I retrieved from the April 1st 1996 issue of The Park City Daily News was titled “ Watch your back; adult pranksters are on the prowl. The article told several tales dealing with adults and April Fools Day. One example used was the story of Bowling Green Major Eldon Renaud. His prank involved his sister-in-law {Donna Parker} who was visiting from out of town. She put her new born baby asleep upstairs. The major snuck upstairs and whispered “mama” into the monitor. She quickly ran upstairs only to find her brother-in-law rolling on the floor in laughter.

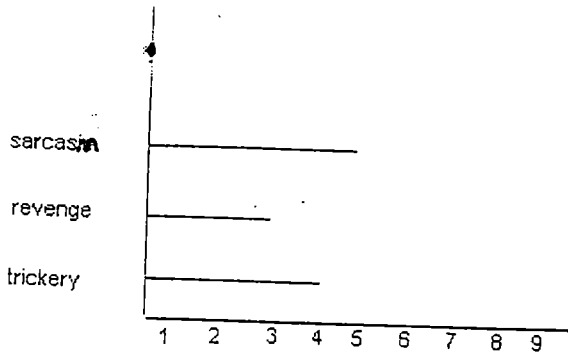
Of the articles I collected 50% involved co-workers. 30% were made up of friends and only 20% contained the use of sweethearts. In my opinion these results represent the fact that no one is safe from the pranks and jokes brought about by April Fools Day. The April 1st, 1997 article “ A day of pranks” states “ The origin of this day of foolery is debatable, but one theory claims it began in 16th century France when the date of New Years Day was changed from March 25th to Jan. 1st . At the time, New Years was celebrated until April 1st. Some people would play jokes on those who had forgotten the change.” I’m unaware of the origin of April Fools Day.

interesting

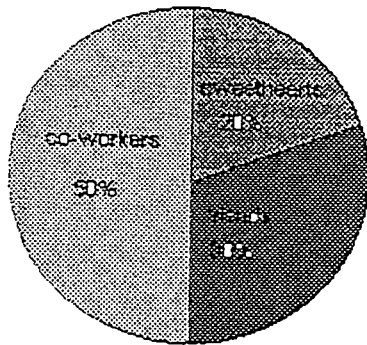
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However, I am aware that April showers not only bring ^Mmay flowers, but also bring on
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sarcasm, revenge, and trickery. My advice to one whether friend, foe, co-worker, or even
sweethearts is to keep your guard up and pay attention to your back. No one is safe from the
pranks of April Fools Day. Everyone can fall victim . Even sweet, loveable cats.

motives used in April Fools Day pranks.

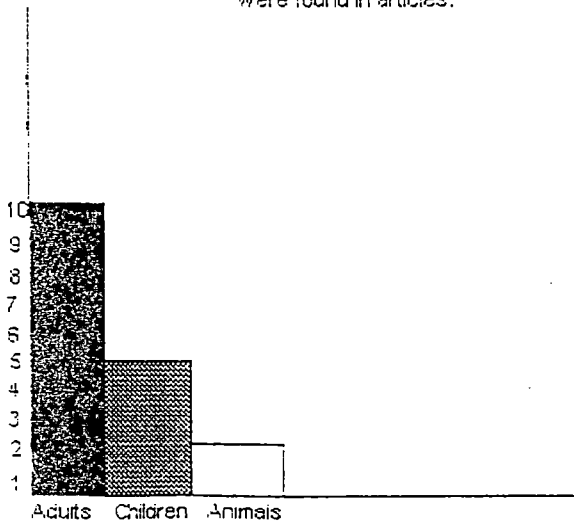


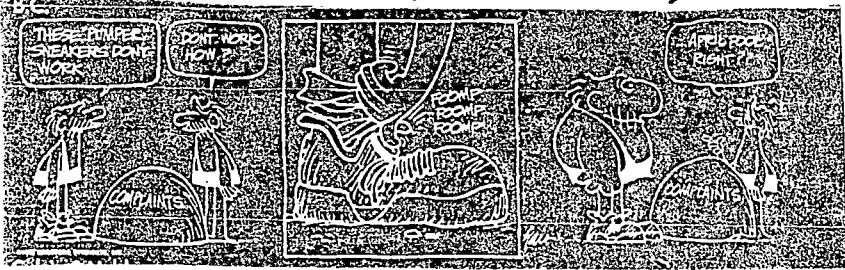
Percentage of relationships found among April Fools Day pranksters.



— friends 30%
30/70

The number of times adults, children, and animals were found in articles.





PARK CITY DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1993

Band offers an early joke for April Fool's

By JIM PATTERSON
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Happy April Fool's Day.

Identical quadruplets Rug Burns, Crasher Burns, Side Burns, and G.W. Wash Burns have staked a stubborn musical vision on the belief that caucasians can stir the multicultural stew just like anyone else.

As leaders of the small but little-known Rhythm & Bluegrass movement for some 20 years, Run C&W have had to be satisfied with respect from peers like Spinal Tap and Bread — and a cult following.

With career highs like the Isle of White Bread Festival years behind, nobody was more shocked than the diminutive Rug Burns to have four big-time Nashville music business guys produce a major label album on them for MCA Records.

The result is "Into The Twangy First Century," produced by songwriters Bernie Leadon, Vince Melamed, Jim Photoglo and Russell Smith (AKA Crash, Side, Wash and Rug).

Leadon used to be an Eagle, Smith an Amazing Rhythm Ace.

"We don't want to have nothing else to do with them producers," Rug Burns said in an interview.

"They started talking about artist development and everything like that. What we got was a case of Budweiser and a barbecue sandwich and that was our whole artist development budget."

Side Burns, at 200-plus pounds, signals that the topic of the producers is too emotional to discuss further by rushing at the interviewer full-throttle. Luckily, brother Crasher intercedes.

The producers did help capture Run C&W's groundbreaking mix of soul standards sung bluegrass style, "the way God intended it to be," as their motto goes.

The album features material from the pens of the Motown writers and James Brown, like "Stop in the Name of Love," "Superstition" and "Please

Nashville sound

Please, Please, Barnyard animals sometimes are used as backup singers, and none of the Burns will comment on how they were trained to do it.

The opening song, "Ballad of the Burns Brothers," explains how the musical cross-pollination started when Dad Burns moved to Detroit to work in an auto plant.

Dad Burns is still blazing trails, Rug Burns said, now living "up" in the Himalayas learning to spin prayer wheels bluegrass style, the way God intended them to be.

The Burns brothers are hopeful that "Into The Twangy First Century" will reignite the public's fancy to Rhythm & Bluegrass, like the magical years of the 1960s when Run C&W first broke through.

"The big Rhythm & Bluegrass festivals have always traditionally been somewhere else," Rug Burns said.

"But we did do the Isle of White Bread Festival. The Isle of White is a place off in England somewhere — and it was a festival where they sang Bread songs. You know, David Gates."

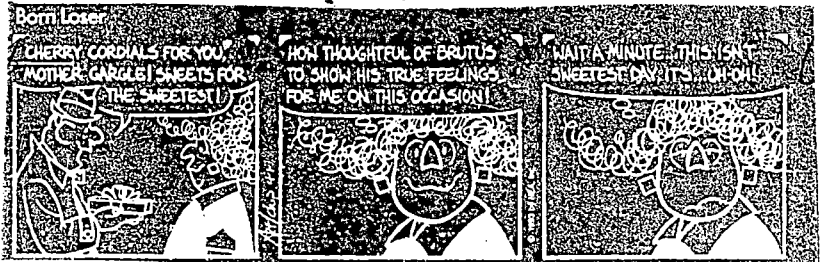
"We didn't know any Bread songs ("I Want To Make It With You," "Guitar Man"), but they didn't know that and we didn't know that. So we went on and played "Hold-On I'm Comin'" and just rocked the place. Now they've changed it to the Isle of Light Bread Festival and it's a big Rhythm & Bluegrass thing."

Run C&W think the new album will give them the chance to influence another generation.

"It's been hard in this over-hyped world of today, with music on steroids and everything," Rug Burns said.

"A good song and good music is good no matter how you play it, and everybody should be a little more open and tolerant in what they listen to."

PARK CITY DAILY NEWS APR 1, 1993

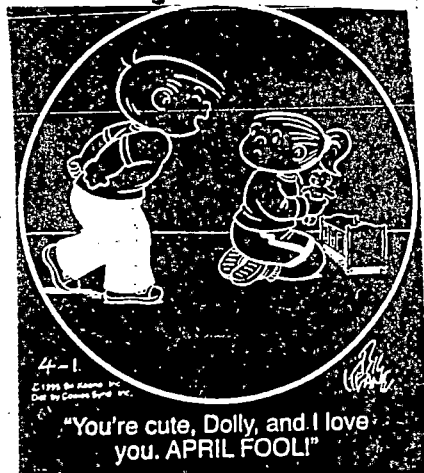


PARK CITY DAILY NEWS APR 1, 1994



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PARK CITY DAILY NEWS APR 2, 1995



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Okinawa 'foolery' is recalled by vet

By ROBYN L. MINOR
The Daily News

For a day and a half, the skies above Okinawa were lit by a naval artillery bombardment — brighter and louder than any Fourth of July.

But at dawn of April 1, 1945, the firing from the offshore ships died down and U.S. Marines and U.S. Army forces began to make their way to shore for the last major battle of World War II.

Okinawa is the largest of a string of volcanic islands and is several hundred miles from the mainland of Japan. The United States hoped to seize the island to cut off communications to the mainland and provide a line of advancement for troops.

R.O. Buchanan of Bowling Green recalls the day he stepped ashore at Okinawa 50 years ago was not just Easter Sunday — it also was April Fool's Day.

The "foolery" perhaps came a day earlier when U.S. amphibious forces on the other side of the island staged a decoy landing and

drew Japanese forces away from the main landing, Buchanan said.

The days immediately prior to the invasion a tremendous armada of ships ringed the island and American aircraft and naval guns tried to batter Japanese forces entrenched on the island into submission, he said.

"The Zeros were coming out of the skies dropping like flies," Buchanan said of the small Japanese fighter aircraft that peppered ships with shells and dive-bombed them.

One of them scored a hit on the U.S. battleship West Virginia, which was 300 yards off the port side of the transport ship that carried Buchanan — a ship whose name he no longer remembers.

Buchanan was an intelligence scout attached to the 3rd Battalion of the 1st Marine Division of which Bowling Green, native I.E. Johnson also was a member.

Johnson, who, now lives in

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Staff Color Photo by Joe Imel

R.O. BUCHANON of Bowling Green took part in the invasion of Okinawa, which began 50 years ago Saturday. Buchanan saved a clipping of a photograph of him and a friend that was taken shortly after the invasion.

OKINAWA

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Florida said the invasion and days of ensuing battle all seem like a bad dream now.

"Buchanan remembers the apprehension and fear he had as the boat moved toward shore.

"I really expected them to blow us out of the water," he said of Japanese gunners on shore.

But the initial Japanese blows delivered against the Americans was not as severe as they had expected.

"I was totally surprised by the lack of greeting," Johnson said.

The American assault waves were unopposed except by a few snipers, Buchanan said. Instead of opposing the invasion on the beaches, the Japanese had constructed a system of

catcombs throughout the island. They holed up in the tunnels and natural caves during the day and

came out at night, he said.

While the invasion and battle were bloody, Buchanan said, the fighting didn't seem any more ferocious than during other battles in the war.

"Or maybe I was just too scared to really know," he said.

Johnson said he, too, was riddled with fear during the invasion even though he considered himself an old man at age 22, since others in the group were closer to Buchanan's 18 years old.

Johnson said the fighting on the island was brutal.

"We gave no ground. I'm sure we killed a lot of civilians. But when your life is on the line, you have to take any action necessary to protect yourself," Johnson said.

The Americans literally drove

Japanese troops to the edge of the island. Many jumped off the cliffs to their deaths rather than be captured,

Buchanan said.

Anything that moved was fair game, Johnson said.

America was preparing to invade the Japanese mainland when President Truman ordered that atomic

bombs be dropped on Japan.

"I think that dropping the A-Bomb was the best thing that could have happened for all," Buchanan

said.

He and Johnson said, while the memory of the bomb may be horrible for some, it could have been much worse. Dropping the bombs saved millions of lives on both sides that would have been lost in an invasion of Japan, they said.

Army veteran John Thomas Kirby of Bowling Green was on Okinawa shortly after the invasion.

"There wasn't a lot left. There were a lot of cemeteries," he said.

Kirby, a machine gunner, said he didn't fire a shot since there were so few Japanese soldiers left on the island.

U.S. forces were able to seize the island from Japan, but not before 103,000 Japanese — many of whom were civilians — lost their lives and the United States suffered 43,000 casualties. Thirty-six ships were

sunk and 763 planes were downed.

The United States captured the island in June 1945, although some Japanese fighters did not give up until the 1970s. Okinawa was returned to Japan in 1972, but the U.S. maintained its military bases.

Hagar the Horrible



Watch your back; adult pranksters are on the prowl

By ALYSSA HARVEY
The Daily News

Children aren't the only April fools around on this typically silliest day of the year.

Even adults — sometimes those you'd least expect — are not above seizing the opportunity for a good joke or two.

Bowling Green Mayor Eldon Renaud, for example, said a favorite target is his sister-in-law, Donna Parker.

One of the mayor's top pranks occurred while Ms. Parker was visiting the Renaud home with her newborn baby.

The baby was upstairs and we were downstairs. We were using a baby monitor. I snuck upstairs and whispered "Mama" into the monitor. I could hear them saying, "The baby's talking already!" and they ran upstairs," he said.

In another case, Renaud had a poster featuring five babies wearing basketball uniforms with names of famous basketball players altered so that one of the babies had his last name on the uniform.

When Ms. Parker asked about the player named Renaud, the mayor told her the player was famous in Canada.

Warren County Judge-Executive Mike Buchanon said his best April Fool's Day jokes have involved telling stories at the beginning of the day that keep the prank victim puzzled all day.

One on April Fool's Day, Buchanon said he put a bumper sticker of a political candidate his friend was working against on the back of his friend's jacket. The person walked around all day without realizing he was wearing



Daily News/ Joe Imel

APRIL FOOL'S DAY jokes are on many people's agendas today.

the bumper sticker of the opposing candidate.

"No one told him about it. Everybody laughed," he said.

Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce President Dennis Griffin said one of his favorite April Fool's Day pranks involves his two school-aged children.

Like most children, they don't mind an unexpected holiday from school. So he tells them school has been called off because of a gas leak.

"It's a little mean," he said.

A few minutes later, with plenty of time for them to get ready, he tells them the truth.

After the initial shock, he said, "they're good sports about it and plot ways to get back at Dad."

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A day of pranks

April Fool's Day gives jokesters their shots to thrive

By CAMERON HUDDLESTON
The Daily News

Warren County Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Wilson loves a good joke, especially if it is April Fool's Day and he is the one pulling the prank.

Several years ago on April 1, he telephoned two law-school buddies who were working in Georgetown.

Knowing Toyota was building a plant there, Wilson altered his voice, said he was with the United Auto Workers and needed a law firm on retainer in Georgetown. He offered his friends \$100,000 for their services and said he would be there in a couple of days with a check.

"For two days I let them think this bigwig from UAW was flying in," Wilson said.

During this time, his friends bought new office furniture to impress the new client, Wilson said. Needless to say, the friends were not happy when Wilson told them about his April Fool's Day prank.

"The lesson to be learned is never let a joke go longer than two days," Wilson said.

Pranksta's paradise

Can't think of your own? OK, here are some of the more interesting pranks and shenanigans:

→ Going home to visit the family? Cover yourself with temporary tattoos.

→ Slip something red in a friend's white load of laundry. Pink undies!

→ Put shaving cream in the tips of someone's shoes. It'll squirt out at the ankle if you have enough in.

→ Place shaving cream in the hand of someone who is sleeping. Tickle their face and watch them slap their face. They'll wake in a state of terror.

→ Fasten the sound module from

a crying baby doll to the bottom of someone's desk or chair.

→ For those in college, rip out a few key pages of a buddy's textbook right before an exam and hang them around the dorm.

→ Reset the alarm clock of your husband/wife/significant other/roommate to go off at about 3 a.m.

→ One of the best built-in computer pranks is the NumLock key. Turn it on and the user will suddenly find himself moving the cursor up when they hit an "8" and sending the page down when they hit a "3."

But Wilson, who is known for his practical jokes, also has been the target of April Fool's pranks.

Attorney Kelly Thompson said he and fellow attorney Steve Thornton called Wilson's office one year, claimed to be with the Oprah Winfrey show and told Wilson he would be flown to Chicago to be on the show.

Thornton had a friend in a travel agency who even got the plane tickets, Thompson said. But Wilson discovered the prank before he boarded the Chicago-bound airplane. Thomp-

son said.

April Fool's Day has been around for centuries.

The origin of this day of foolery is debatable, but one theory claims it began in 16th century France when the date of New Year's Day was changed from March 25 to Jan. 1. At the time, New Year's was celebrated until April 1. Some people would play jokes on those who had forgotten the change.

Not all jokes played on April Fool's are quite as harmless now. In

See JOKES, 2A

JOKES

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fact, some go to extremes.

WBGN-FM General Manager Barry Williams remembers a disc jockey in the 1960s who locked himself in the radio station and played nothing but Elvis Presley's "Teddy Bear." The station's owner had to sign an arrest warrant and police had to break down the station door to bring the joke to its end, Williams said.

Others know when to call off the joke before carrying it too far.

Western Kentucky University senior Lucas Murphy of Campbellsville kidnapped a friend's dog one year and even left a tape-record-

ed ransom message. But within an hour, he returned the dog before its owner went into a panic, he said.

Kyda West of Bowling Green, who said she fell prey to her father's practical joking for years, used a recent April Fool's Day to fool him. West's father would wake her each April Fool's morning and tell her it had snowed. And each year she rushed to the window to find nothing.

When West was in Louisville three years ago, she called her father and said it was snowing there.

"And I got him," she said. "When he was 80 years old, I got him back."

Peanuts

