

collected quotes

William M. Akers

2008

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Quote of the Year

For the first time in my life, I feel like a real American.
Jeannette Francis, black college student, after Obama was elected

The rest...

It's so easy to come up with a cool idea, and it takes so long to manifest it well. I worked on Spore for about seven years. The first two years were me doing research.
Will Wright

There is no such thing known to the mind as forgetting.
de Quincy

All artists are prepared to suffer for their work, but why are so few prepared to learn to draw?
Banksy

Considering they used to hire people to spraypaint grass for parents weekend, that's pretty telling.

Kate McCormick
when told Vanderbilt is laying off groundskeepers due to poor economy

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man.
Benjamin Franklin

Did you ever get the feeling the world was a tuxedo and you were a pair of brown shoes?
George Gobel

Nobody's born a shithead. Well...
Richard Price

I didn't come this far to lose weight or save money.
My dad, on going to Paris

If my books had been any worse, I should not have been invited to Hollywood, and if they had been any better, I should not have come.

Raymond Chandler

Oh I got a gal with just one eye...
No depth of field...
But sweet as pie.
Heywood Banks

Don't take the bull by the horns, take him by the tail; then you can let go when you want to.
Josh Billings

We didn't kill that many people. Did we?
federal drug agent, after reading his partner's memoir

I've been barbecued, stewed, screwed, tattooed, and fried by people claiming to be my friends.
The human race has gone backward, not forward, since the days we were apes swinging through
the trees.
W.C. Fields

The important thing in writing is the capacity to astonish. Not shock—shock is a worn-out
word—but astonish. The world has no grounds whatever for complacency.
Terry Southern

It is better to have loafed and lost than never to have loafed at all.
James Thurber

I drink to make other people interesting.
George Jean Nathan

My greatest skill has been to want but little.
Henry David Thoreau

No scientific discovery is named after its original discoverer.
Stigler's Law

I'm not the guy who talks to the guy about the thing. I am the guy.
Warren Beatty explaining why he won't take a second tier role in "Sex In The City"

When I am no longer controversial, I will no longer be important.
Gustave Courbet

The difference between film and movies? Movies have T&A. Films have the penis.
William Akers, jr.

So what in the wide world was Eliot Spitzer thinking? Oh, that's easy. You wouldn't be doing
any of this if one of the objectives was not to increase the amount of pussy that was available to
you. That is what you do. You don't do it to be, ah, the most approval-rated governor of New

York, for fuck's sake. With Kennedy, it's really all over the guy for everyone to see. From dawn till dusk, from soup to nuts, from everything he does to the last day he dies: 'I do this to get laid.'
Christopher Hitchens

I figured if you were from Tennessee, you were either Baptist or ashamed.
Chaplain Tom

If there is one person in the world I hate more than Tyra Banks, it'd have to be Hitler.
Benton Payne

I think the reason actors become idiots is because you're treated so well. You're driven everywhere and you're put up in really nice places. The actors that turn into idiots are the ones that start believing it's because they deserve it, not because they're just not trusted, which is the truth. The truth is actors are flaky, unreliable and mostly unstable people, and they need to be mollycoddled at all times.

Simon Pegg, actor

You never really learn how to write a book, because every one is different.
Richard Price

The world is a lot better when your glasses are clean.
Cissy Akers

When one door closes another door opens; but we so often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door, that we do not see the ones which open for us.
Alexander Graham Bell

Mike Hammer drinks beer, not cognac, because I can't spell cognac.
Mickey Spillane

I would rather try to persuade a man to go along, because once I have persuaded him he will stick. If I scare him, he will stay just as long as he is scared, and then he is gone.
Dwight D. Eisenhower

We lie the loudest when we lie to ourselves.
Eric Hoffer

We should be careful to get out of an experience only the wisdom that is in it -- and stop there -- lest we be like the cat that sits down on a hot stove-lid. She will never sit down on a hot stove-lid again, and that is well; but also she will never sit down on a cold one any more.
Mark Twain

Knowing what / Thou knowest not / Is in a sense / Omniscience.
Piet Hein

A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person.

Mignon McLaughlin

You know what prevents childhood obesity? A 19-hour shift at the mill.
Stephen Colbert

A fool & his money are soon invited everywhere
Helen Bransford

If at first you don't succeed, try again. Then quit. There's no use being a damn fool about it.
W.C. Fields

Authorship was considered something between a black art and a form of manual labor.
Edith Wharton

I had the right to remain silent. But not the ability.
overheard at AA meeting

My goal was to make the audience laugh but leave them unable to describe what it was that had made them laugh.
Steve Martin

For money you can have everything it is said. No that is not true. You can buy food, but not appetite; medicine, but not health; soft beds, but not sleep; knowledge but not intelligence; glitter, but not comfort; fun, but not pleasure; acquaintances, but not friendship; servants, but not faithfulness; grey hair, but not honor; quiet days, but not peace. The shell of all things you can get for money. But not the kernel. That cannot be had for money.
Arne Garborg

I could work in the shower if I had plastic paper.
Umberto Eco

Faith which does not doubt is dead faith.
Miguel de Unamuno

Anything you lose automatically doubles in value.
Mignon McLaughlin

You're going to have a headache.
Nurse, describing after effects of brain surgery

I always like to hang out, because, one, it's a way of avoiding really writing; and, two, sometimes God is a crackerjack novelist and you can plagiarize the hell out of him.
Richard Price

These letters are a smoking gun that something is not right in Denmark.
Judge Thomas P. Agresti, Pittsburgh

I need someone to protect me from all the measures they take in order to protect me.

Banksy

Southerly gales, squalls, lee rail under water, wet bunks, hard tack, bully beef, wish you were here instead of me.

last message from Richard Halliburton

Life consists in what a man is thinking of all day.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

In a curious way, I'm not much interested in language. In my ideal poem, no words are noticed. You look through them into a vision of... just see the people, the place.

Philip Levine

As I sit at my computer... I think of myself as sitting around the campfire after a day on the trail, telling stories that I hope will have the members of the audience, or the readers, leaning forward just a bit, wanting to know what happens next.

Stephen Ambrose

Every society honors its live conformists and its dead troublemakers.

Mignon McLaughlin

When I do good, I feel good; when I do bad, I feel bad. That's my religion.

Abraham Lincoln

The proper function of man is to live, not to exist. I shall not waste my days in trying to prolong them. I shall use my time.

Jack London

I prefer my olives when they're marinated in gin.

Shirley Caldwell Patterson

It's much easier to write a screenplay on a computer than on a typewriter. Years ago, when you wrote a screenplay on a typewriter, you had to retype the entire page just to make the smallest change; now, on the computer, you can make large and small changes effortlessly, you can fiddle with dialogue, you can change names and places with a keystroke. And yet movies are nowhere near as good as they used to be. In 1939, when screenwriters were practically still using quill pens, the following movies were among those nominated for best picture: "Gone With the Wind," "The Wizard of Oz," "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," "Wuthering Heights" and "Stagecoach," and that's not even the whole list. So: is it possible that computers are responsible for the decline of movies?

Norah Ephron

He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up.

Paul Keating

The minute you settle for less than you deserve, you get even less than you settled for.
Maureen Dowd

“You know Will, Zach has no soul.”
Film school friend, director, about former film school friend, now producer

Don't pass it by — the immediate, the real, the only, the yours.
Henry James to Edith Wharton about writing about the New York she knew

Until the raw ingredients of a pudding make a pudding, I shall never believe that the raw material of sensation and thought can make a work of art without the cook's intervening.
Edith Wharton on *Ulysses* and stream of consciousness writing

Life is always a tightrope or a feather bed. Give me the tightrope.
Edith Wharton

Dickens makes his books blaze up not by tightening the plot or sharpening the wit, but by throwing another handful of people upon the fire.
Virginia Woolf

Politics is Hollywood for ugly people.
heard on NPR

If only I could manage, without annoyance to my family, to get imprisoned for 10 years, without hard labour, and with the use of books and writing materials, it would be simply delightful!
Lewis Carroll

One bad decision can undo a thousand good ones.
George Lucas

A novel is a long answer to the question 'What is it about?' I think it should be possible to give a short answer — in other words, I believe a novel should have a thematic and narrative unity that can be described.
David Lodge

Eat drink & remarry.
Helen Bransford

...it's the kiss of death when you hand in a script and they say, 'What a great read!' That means: 'See you. Don't let the door hit you on the way out.'
Richard Price

Eminent posts make great men greater, and little men less.
Jean de la Bruyere

Trying to determine what is going on in the world by reading newspapers is like trying to tell the time by watching the second hand of a clock.

Ben Hecht

Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.

Elie Wiesel

Society is composed of two great classes: those who have more dinners than appetite, and those who have more appetite than dinners.

Sebastien-Roch-Nicolas de Chamfort

I guess I'm just an old mad scientist at bottom. Give me an underground laboratory, half a dozen atom-smashers, and a beautiful girl in a diaphanous veil waiting to be turned into a chimpanzee, and I care not who writes the nation's laws.

S.J. Perelman

We all have handicaps. The difference is that some of us must reveal ours, while others must conceal theirs, to be treated with mercy.

Yahia Lababidi

Everything needs to be in writing. So there's still a possibility that this thing could get fucked. WGA strike negotiator as they neared a settlement

To freely bloom - that is my definition of success.

Gerry Spence

I have come to believe that a great teacher is a great artist and that there are as few as there are any other great artists. It might even be the greatest of the arts since the medium is the human mind and spirit.

John Steinbeck

Serious sport has nothing to do with fair play. It is bound up with hatred, jealousy, boastfulness, disregard of all rules and sadistic pleasure in witnessing violence. In other words, it is war minus the shooting.

George Orwell

You know, sometimes, when they say you're ahead of your time, it's just a polite way of saying you have a real bad sense of timing.

George McGovern

Evil is like a shadow - it has no real substance of its own, it is simply a lack of light. You cannot cause a shadow to disappear by trying to fight it, stamp on it, by railing against it, or any other form of emotional or physical resistance. In order to cause a shadow to disappear, you must shine light on it.

Shakti Gawain

If you wish to be loved, show more of your faults than your virtues.
Edward Bulwer-Lytton

Agriculture officials said there was little health risk from the recalled meat because the animals had already passed pre-slaughter inspection and much of the meat had already been eaten.
New York Times on beef recall

A belief which leaves no place for doubt is not a belief; it is a superstition.
Jose Bergamin

A screenwriter must realise that his position is midway between the wardrobe mistress and the tea boy and that the wardrobe mistress is more difficult to replace.
John Mortimer

A good photograph is knowing where to stand.
Ansel Adams

Filmmaking is a chance to live many lifetimes.
Robert Altman

A book is like a man — clever and dull, brave and cowardly, beautiful and ugly. For every flowering thought there will be a page like a wet and mangy mongrel, and for every looping flight a tap on the wing and a reminder that wax cannot hold the feathers firm too near the sun.
John Steinbeck

Cowardice asks the question, 'Is it safe?' Expediency asks the question, 'Is it politic?' Vanity asks the question, 'Is it popular?' But, conscience asks the question, 'Is it right?' And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

We write to taste life twice, in the moment and in retrospection.
Anais Nin

No opera plot can be sensible, for people do not sing when they are feeling sensible.
W.H. Auden

Words so excite me that a pornographic story, for example, excites me sexually more than a living person can do.
W.H. Auden

Almost the whole problem of writing poetry is to bring it back to what you really feel, and that takes an awful lot of maneuvering. You may feel the doorknob more strongly than some big personal event, and the doorknob will open into something you can use as your own.
Robert Lowell

We are who we pretend to be so we should be careful who we pretend to be
Kurt Vonnegut

You've got to be digging it while it's happening 'cause it just might be a one shot deal.
Frank Zappa

People say to me, 'Oh, you're so prolific.' God, it doesn't feel like it — nothing like it. But you know, you put an ounce in a bucket each day, you get a quart.
John McPhee, who rarely writes more than 500 words a day

He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary.
William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway).

Poor Faulkner. Does he really think big emotions come from big words?
Ernest Hemingway (about William Faulkner)

If you're a singer you lose your voice. A baseball player loses his arm. [But] a writer gets more knowledge, and if he's good, the older he gets, the better he writes.
Mickey Spillane
Dad? This is where I want to live. This is where the smart people come.
My son, on Manhattan street corner, age 6

Any one who wishes to become a good writer should endeavor, before he allows himself to be tempted by the more showy qualities, to be direct, simple, brief, vigorous, and lucid...
Henry Watson Fowler

If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.
Desmond Tutu

I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by.
Douglas Adams

When you really have a serious conversation about race, people clear the room.
Donna Brazile

The creation of Dianetics is a milestone for man comparable to his discovery of fire and superior to his inventions of the wheel and the arch.
L. Ron Hubbard

On a good day, it's like Peter Pan. On a bad day, it was like Lord of the Flies.
Lili Marlene, after dancers took over management of strip club

The fire which enlightens is the same fire which consumes.

Henri Frederic Amiel

I'd like to kiss you, but I just washed my hair.
Bette Davis's favorite line, written by Paul Green

Most dogs just want you to pet them. These dogs figure out you don't have any food, they run off.
guest at a huge party we had

If you can't annoy somebody, there's little point in writing.
Kingsley Amis

Life is a tragedy when seen in close-up, but a comedy in long-shot.
Charlie Chaplin

Never lend books, for no one ever returns them; the only books I have in my library are those which people have lent me.
Anatole France

Making the simple complicated is commonplace; making the complicated simple, awesomely simple, that's creativity.
Charles Mingus

Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind.
Dr. Seuss

When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps.
Confucius

I'm sure your dad is a reasonable guy.
Young filmmaker to a sobbing friend, whose 16mm footage just came back from the lab, blank.

Who knows what Columbus would have discovered if America hadn't got in the way.
Stanislaw J. Lec

You might not want to go to sleep tonight.
angry 10 year old actress to my college student cameraman after he dissed the film *High School Musical*

The successful revolutionary is a statesman, the unsuccessful one a criminal.
Erich Fromm

I got an hourglass figure, but it's later than you think.
Minnie Pearl

It is better to sleep on things beforehand than lie awake about them afterwards.
Baltasar Gracian

The most beautiful makeup for a woman is passion. But cosmetics are easier to buy.
Yves Saint Laurent

All living souls welcome whatever they are ready to cope with; all else they ignore, or pronounce to be monstrous and wrong, or deny to be possible.
George Santayana

Chutzpah.
That quality enshrined in a man who, having killed his mother and father, throws himself on the mercy of the court because he is an orphan.
Leo Rosten

I'm tired of love; I'm still more tired of rhyme; but money gives me pleasure all the time.
Hilaire Belloc

If someone does something we disapprove of, we regard him as bad if we believe we can deter him from persisting in his conduct, but we regard him as mad if we believe we cannot.
Thomas Szasz

I am obnoxious, suspected, and unpopular. You are very much otherwise. ... [Also] you can write 10 times better than I.
John Adams to Thomas Jefferson

We should try to be the parents of our future rather than the offspring of our past.
Miguel de Unamuno

All the world's a stage, and most of us are desperately unrehearsed.
Sean O'Casey

Patriotism, n.
Combustible rubbish ready to the torch of any one ambitious to illuminate his name. In Dr. Johnson's famous dictionary patriotism is defined as the last resort of a scoundrel. With all due respect to an enlightened but inferior lexicographer I beg to submit it is the first.
Ambrose Bierce

It is always the best policy to speak the truth, unless of course you are an exceptionally good liar.
Jerome K. Jerome

Childhood is frequently a solemn business for those inside it.
George F. Will

When I split an infinitive, God damn it, I split it so it will stay split.

Raymond Chandler

There is a wonderful mythical law of nature that the three things we crave most in life -- happiness, freedom, and peace of mind -- are always attained by giving them to someone else.
General Peyton C. March

...nothing makes you appreciate your mother more than psychedelics.
Laraine Newman

I found out that when I wrote a script, people messed with it and everybody said that if you don't want people to change what you write, you should write a book. So I wrote a book. And I found out that if you don't want people to change what you write, write a diary!
Robby Benson

I don't know why we are here, but I'm pretty sure that it is not in order to enjoy ourselves.
Ludwig Wittgenstein

The truth is that our finest moments are most likely to occur when we are feeling deeply uncomfortable, unhappy, or unfulfilled. For it is only in such moments, propelled by our discomfort, that we are likely to step out of our ruts and start searching for different ways or truer answers.
M. Scott Peck

When asked by an interviewer what advice he'd give to people looking to be happy, he said, "For starters, learn how to cook."
Charles Simic, U.S. poet laureate

The only way I know to get a good show is to practice, sweat, rehearse, and worry.
Fred Astaire

Old age is like everything else. To make a success of it, you've got to start young.
Fred Astaire

Laughter is the closest thing to the grace of God.
Karl Barth

Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society.
Mark Twain

All women become like their mothers. That is their tragedy. No man does. That's his.
Oscar Wilde

Life's tallest order is to keep the feelings up, to make two dollars' worth of euphoria go the distance. And life can't do that. So fiction does.
Stanley Elkin

Nothing I long for half so much as to giggle heartily and to hop on one leg ... but I dare not.
Edward Lear

If you obey all the rules you miss all the fun.
Katharine Hepburn

You have to love what you're saying if you want someone else to love it.
Carolyn McDonald
When they don't need you, they don't think about you.
Randy Feldman on producers in Hollywood

Awesome speech, your Holiness.
George Bush to Pope Benedict XVI

Are you fucking kidding me? Who we are and the shit we've been through? A fucking monkey could write this.
U.S. Marine to journalist, as journalist is leaving Iraq, having confessed he was worried about being able to write his book about the war

If I tell myself, "I think it works," it didn't work.
Mike Rich

My dad used to say that I have a couch personality. I bear the imprint of the last asshole who sat on me.
Scott Frank

You don't need to know when they were born. You just have to know what they want.
Scott Frank, on characters in screenplays

If you want to see a movie, write that movie.
Caroline Thompson

If you don't have time to get this right, I don't have time to read it.
Michael Brandt

You don't want to ruin a twenty dollar drunk with a fifty cent ham sandwich.
Meredith Caldwell, jr.

Can you give me a cigarette?
Non-smoking brain trauma patient, in crystal clear voice, after mumbling in waiting room for an hour.

But not necessarily in that order.
Jean Luc Godard, after being told that movies need a beginning, a middle, and an end

The shortest way out of Manchester is... a bottle of Gordon's gin.

William Bolitho

Sucker... Is this a game of chance?
W.C. Fields... Not the way I play it, no.

“Why, you are a man of heart.”
“Sometimes,” replied Phileas Fogg quietly, “when I have the time.”
Jules Verne, *Around The World In 80 Days*

Give me the luxuries of life and I will willingly do without the necessities.
Frank Lloyd Wright

He is a very honorable man and always desirous of pleasing me, and is determined to do everything possible for me.
Christopher Columbus, on Amerigo Vespucci, who, evidently, had another agenda

I am ruined, alone, desolate, infirm, daily expecting death... Weep for me, whoever has charity, truth, and justice.
Christopher Columbus, one of his last surviving letters

Beefsteak when I'm hungry, red liquor when I'm dry,
Greenbacks when I'm hard up, and religion when I die.
Anonymous

Most books, like their authors, are born to die; of only a few books can it be said that death has no dominion over them; they live, and their influence lives forever.
William Styron

Extended empires are like expanded gold, exchanging solid strength for feeble splendor.
Samuel Johnson

Art is the elimination of surplus.
a teacher

A simple honest man, driven into a corner by predatory sophisticates, can, if he will, reach down into his God-given resources and come up with the necessary handfuls of courage, wit, and love to triumph over his environment.
Frank Capra, on his movies' moral

Some people walk in the rain, others just get wet.
Roger Miller

Too often I would hear men boast of the miles covered that day, rarely of what they had seen.
Louis L'Amour

Imagine a world in which generations of human beings come to believe that certain films were made by God or that specific software was coded by him. Imagine a future in which millions of our descendants murder each other over rival interpretations of Star Wars or Windows 98. Could anything -- anything -- be more ridiculous? And yet, this would be no more ridiculous than the world we are living in.

Sam Harris

If a writer doesn't give away secrets, his own or those of the people he loves, if he doesn't court disapproval, reproach and general wrath, whether of friends, family or party apparatchiks ... the result is pallid, inanimate, a lump of earth.

Michael Chambon

It is an ironic habit of human beings to run faster when we have lost our way.

Rollo May

[We] live in a deranged age, more deranged than usual, because in spite of great scientific and technological advances, man has not the faintest idea of who he is or what he is doing.

Walker Percy

If I were to watch the news that you have in the United States, I would just blow my brains out. It would drive me nuts.

Lara Logan, Chief Foreign Correspondent, CBS News

In Hollywood, 30 is the old 80.

Tracey Jackson

Whenever I sleep with someone new, I envision what our wedding would be like; the colors, the guests, who would stand up on each side. Needless to say, I've had quite a few imaginary weddings. It's unfortunate.

postsecret.blogspot.com

Are you really sure that a floor can't also be a ceiling?

M.C. Escher

People change and forget to tell each other.

Lillian Hellman

Learning to write,
be a good person and get to heaven
are all the same thing
but trying to do them all at once,
is enough to drive you crazy

Ron Padgett

We live in a universe that is largely devoid of matter. Yet still the Milky Way glows, and still our hemoglobin flows, and when we hug our friends, our fingers don't sink into the vacuum with

which all atoms are filled. If in touching their skin we are touching the void, why does it feel so complete?

Natalie Angier

Everyone has inside of him a piece of good news. The good news is that you don't know how great you can be! How much you can love!

Anne Frank

People like to imagine that because all our mechanical equipment moves so much faster, that we are thinking faster, too.

Christopher Morley

The only pictures worth making are the ones that are playing with fire.

Billy Wilder

The perfection of a clock is not to go fast, but to be accurate.

Luc de Clapiers

oh god it's wonderful/ to get out of bed/ and drink too much coffee/ and smoke too many cigarettes/ and love you so much.

Frank O'Hara

The bitterest tears shed over graves are for words left unsaid and deeds left undone.

Harriet Beecher Stowe

If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear.

George Orwell

What I'd finally say about truth and autobiography is that all writers are probably trying to get at some core truth of life, at some configuration that is enduring and truthful. I just haven't found the truth to be my vehicle.

Mona Simpson

History is a vast early warning system.

Norman Cousins

Do not think of knocking out another person's brains because he differs in opinion from you. It would be as rational to knock yourself on the head because you differ from yourself ten years ago.

Horace Mann

There's no such thing as a born writer. It's a skill you've got to learn, just like learning how to be a bricklayer or a carpenter.

Larry Brown

Are you a member of the Communist party and have you ever held any position in the Screen

Writers Guild?
Senator, HUAAC hearing

Trust everybody, but cut the cards.
Finley Peter Dunne

Invention requires an excited mind; execution, a calm one.
Johann Peter Eckermann

I ain't a Communist necessarily, but I been in the red all my life.
Woody Guthrie

More persons, on the whole, are humbugged by believing nothing, than by believing too much.
P.T. Barnum

To delight in war is a merit in the soldier, a dangerous quality in the captain, and a positive crime in the statesman.
George Santayana

Only enemies speak the truth; friends and lovers lie endlessly, caught in the web of duty.
Stephen King

Now we are all sons of bitches.
Kenneth Bainbridge, after first Atomic bomb test

Laws, like sausages, cease to inspire respect in proportion as we know how they are made.
John Godfrey Saxe

I don't think that the feminist movement has done much for the character of women. I mean, we have produced some monstrous women. What has happened is that given the scope to women to be critical and unpleasant, by God they have taken it, so men are suffering from it.
Doris Lessing

My rule is if you're at a party and you see a gun, leave right then.
Jud Rogers

I laughed, cried, thought about murder, then took the advice to heart.
Kyle Flubacker, after a teacher criticized his writing

If you notice, since Britney started wearing clothes and behaving; Paris is out of town not bothering anybody anymore, thank God, and evidently, Lindsay Lohan has gone gay, we don't seem to have much of an issue...
L.A. Police Chief William Bratton on paparazzi

When I am dead, I hope it may be said:
His sins were scarlet, but his books were read.

Hilaire Belloc

For disappearing acts, it's hard to beat what happens to the eight hours supposedly left after eight of sleep and eight of work.

Doug Larson

I cannot rest, I must draw, however poor the result, and when I have a bad time come over me it is a stronger desire than ever.

Beatrix Potter

There was this big door that said, 'Thou shalt not.' We touched it, and it fell off its hinges.

Henry Beard, co-founder National Lampoon magazine

It is also a victory to know when to retreat.

Erno Paasilinna

When people are free to do as they please, they usually imitate each other.

Eric Hoffer

...not [to] waste your time on Social Questions. What is the matter with the poor is Poverty; what is the matter with the rich is Uselessness.

George Bernard Shaw, advice to writers

There is love and there is work, and we only have one heart.

Edgar Degas, who never married

There are many causes that I am prepared to die for but no causes that I am prepared to kill for.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

I'm fed up to the ears with old men dreaming up wars for young men to die in.

George McGovern

I don't have to get all dressed up like I'm going to Wal-Mart or something.

Debra Jackson, why she likes shopping at Dollar Palace

My friend, about his trip to Germany:

-- So I said, tell me what the girls in Berlin are like and he says, they all like it up the ass.

My son:

--That's not in the *Let's Go Europe*.

When in doubt, have a man come through the door with a gun in his hand.

Raymond Chandler

Does any politician ever cheat on his wife with a brunette?

Me

Hollywood Email:

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2008 5:09 PM

Subject: RE: SWP Mtg. Kristi w/ Kristin and Matthew

Hey Ryan-

I'm sorry, b/c I'm covering for Lindsey's usual asst., could you tell me, who's Rosh Hashanah and why would he/she affect Kristi's meeting with K and M?

Thanks! I really appreciate it!

Michelle

Corporation: n. An ingenious device for obtaining individual profit without individual responsibility.

Ambrose Bierce

Style is knowing who you are, what to say, and not giving a damn.

Gore Vidal

Many a long dispute among divines may be thus abridged: It is so. It is not so. It is so. It is not so.

Benjamin Franklin

Journalists do not believe the lies of politicians, but they do repeat them -- which is even worse!

Michel Colucci

Chico was a notorious gambler and womanizer. Groucho harassed him to save and invest. After the '29 crash Chico said, "At least I had fun with my money."

Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you are, you aren't.

Margaret Thatcher

I have a rapacious appetite for everything and principles as light as my purse.

Katherine Mansfield

There are 10^{11} stars in the galaxy. That used to be a huge number. But it's only a hundred billion. It's less than the national deficit! We used to call them astronomical numbers. Now we should call them economical numbers.

Richard Feynman

A lawyer with a briefcase can steal more than a thousand men with guns.

Mario Puzo

Almost all our faults are more pardonable than the methods we resort to to hide them.

Francois de La Rochefoucauld

The only thing to do with good advice is pass it on. It is never any use to oneself.

Oscar Wilde

Genius is the recovery of childhood at will.
Arthur Rimbaud

When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps.
Confucius

Listening to authors read their own material is vastly overrated as a spectator sport.
Madison Smartt Bell

Youth and enthusiasm are no match for old age and treachery
Anon

It's kind of fun to do the impossible.
Walt Disney

I like crazy, crazy, crazy!
French friend, telling of her complicated life with husband and two boyfriends

I am going to be rather hard-nosed and say that if you have to find devices to coax yourself to stay focused on writing, perhaps you should not be writing what you're writing. And if this lack of motivation is a constant problem, perhaps writing is not your forte. I mean, what is the problem? If writing bores you, that is pretty fatal. If that is not the case, but you find that it is hard going and it just doesn't flow, well, what did you expect? It is work; art is work.
Ursula K. Le Guin

Wealth has never yet sacrificed itself on the altar of patriotism.
Bob LaFollette

I guess it hadn't occurred to me that to be a playwright you had to write plays — I thought you could be a playwright and sulk.
Terrence McNally
Blue-collar people like me have zero tolerance level for the problems of celebrities.
Joe Queenan

The quickest way to a man's heart is through his chest.
Roseanne Barr

--Why do trees grow sideways here?
--I don't know honey.

Girl with waist length hair, to her mother, upon moving to Oklahoma panhandle. She soon cut her hair because of the wind.

--Are we trying to cultivate the outside, or the INSIDE?!
Mother smacking Father's forehead, after Father had just shaved son's head because he didn't like his long hair.

--If you have allergies, move to Phoenix and you won't have allergies. If you don't have allergies, move to Phoenix and you will have allergies.

Sniffing American Express rep. Her little brother, eighteen years younger (conceived after her parents won a car race) was born dead, resuscitated and therefore loved more than all the other siblings. He had allergies, so they moved to Phoenix. His allergies cleared up. The rest of the family now has allergies.

To be an artist means never to avert your eyes.

Akira Kurosawa

An alcoholic is someone you don't like who drinks as much as you do.

Dylan Thomas

All good novelists have bad memories.

Graham Greene

People who come to see matinees get what they deserve.

J.C. Mullins

Of all plagues with which mankind is cursed, ecclesiastic tyranny's the worst.

Daniel Defoe

Don't drink it all at once, sugar.

My new grandmother to her new husband, my 85 year old grandfather, as he faced his first martini

Make haste slowly.

Augustus Caesar

Man reading should be man intensely alive. The book should be a ball of light in one's hand.

Ezra Pound

When you sell a screenplay, you go through a one year notes process that will make you want to stab yourself in the eyes with your own dick, that you've torn off, shellacked, and turned into a letter opener.

Patton Oswalt

I write faster than they can read.

Me, on producers

Jesse ran his van down off in a hollow, with all his shit in it and everything. I said, "Damn, Jesse, you musta been drunk as hell," and he said, "Naw, I just ran out of guardrail."
overheard at AA meeting

Movie Director (re: budget): But we cut those crowd scenes...

Producer: I never budgeted them!

You haven't called home in 8 days. Dad thinks you had an abortion.
text message to one of my students

40 seconds? I want it now!
Matt Groening

Well, that was wonderful. No one had too much to eat.
My mother, after every Thanksgiving meal

If you want to make peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies.
Moshe Dayan

Whaddya call vegan sex?
Tofuckin.
W.M. Akers, jr.

I've always felt that a person's intelligence is directly reflected by the number of conflicting points of view he can entertain simultaneously on the same topic.
Abigail Adams

I begin to think, that a calm is not desirable in any situation in life. Every object is beautiful in motion; a ship under sail, trees gently agitated with the wind, and a fine woman dancing, are three instances in point. Man was made for action and for bustle.
Abigail Adams, screenwriting coach!

Whenever two people meet, there are really six people present. There is each man as he sees himself, each man as the other person sees him, and each man as he really is.
William James

I would like the audience to know that 80 percent of this play is Moss Hart.
George S. Kaufman on opening night of *You Can't Take It With You*.

If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.
Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

The mark of the immature man is that he wants to die nobly for a cause, while the mark of a mature man is that he wants to live humbly for one.
Wilhelm Stekel

The great secret of a successful marriage is to treat all disasters as incidents and none of the incidents as disasters.
Harold Nicolson

Let us read and let us dance ... two amusements that will never do any harm to the world.

Voltaire

Never memorize something you can look up.

Albert Einstein

Life is a lot like chess, only the rules are constantly changing and few of us start out with all the pieces.

Jonathan Smith

On this morning, we all want to be American so we can take a bite of this dream unfolding before our eyes.

French junior minister for human rights, after U.S. election

Being rich is having money; being wealthy is having time.

Stephen Swid

Thanksgiving is all about the carbs.

William Akers, jr.

Thanksgiving is all about the nap.

Caldwell Akers

Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest.

Mark Twain

--My roommate has three terabytes of memory.

--How much porn does your roommate have?

If I'd killed you when I thought about it, I'd be out of jail by now.

Helen Bransford

Who I am, and what I need... these are things I have to find out myself.

Chinua Achebe

The happiest way of life is to be making things.

Mary Quant

You can't get to wonderful without passing through all right.

Bill Withers

Inspiration is for amateurs. The rest of us just show up and get to work.

Chuck Close

The human being has a need for dignity like water, like air.

Wole Soyinka

If you want to engage in or create public discourse, do it through the work. If it becomes provocative enough to get people to talk about it, that's probably the best.

Robert Redford

You don't stop doing things because you get old. You get old because you stop doing things.

Rosamunde Pilcher

What can be added to the happiness of a man who is in health, out of debt, and has a clear conscience?

Adam Smith

I *hate* old age.

Bettie Page

How is it that scientists can work so hard on improving TVs and cellphones when so many people don't have clean water to drink?

Ron Rivera, pottersforpeace.org

Whatever news ambitions still lurked within me had been fulfilled. One day had been sufficient.

Jim McKay

I myself have never been able to find out precisely what feminism is; I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat or a prostitute.

Rebecca West

I knew one thing: as soon as anyone said you didn't need a gun, you'd better take one along that worked.

Raymond Chandler

It is impossible to enjoy idling thoroughly unless one has plenty of work to do.

Jerome K. Jerome

Lead us not into temptation. Just tell us where it is; we'll find it.

Sam Levenson

I don't want to achieve immortality through my work ... I want to achieve it through not dying.

Woody Allen

The young have aspirations that never come to pass, the old have reminiscences of what never happened.

Saki

How many Vietnam vets does it take to change a light bulb?

Of course you wouldn't know - YOU WEREN'T THERE, MAN!

Anon.

The young man or woman writing today has forgotten the problems of the human heart in conflict with itself which alone can make good writing because only that is worth writing about, worth the agony and the sweat. He must learn them again. He must teach himself that the basest of all things is to be afraid; and, teaching himself that, forget it forever, leaving no room in his workshop for anything but the old verities and truths of the heart, the universal truths lacking which any story is ephemeral and doomed — love and honor and pity and pride and compassion and sacrifice.

William Faulkner, Nobel Prize speech

Some day you will be old enough to start reading fairy tales again.

C.S. Lewis

Ah, Manifest Destiny! Now, that's something American players and spectators could embrace. Capture territory. Hold it. Advance.

Sal Palantonio on the invention of football's first down rule

My task which I am trying to achieve is, by the power of the written word to make you hear, to make you feel — it is, before all, to make you see. That — and no more, and it is everything.

Joseph Conrad

The purpose of life is to be defeated by greater and greater things.

Rainer Maria Rilke

When the flag is unfurled, all reason is in the trumpet.

Ukrainian proverb

From my rotting body, flowers shall grow and I am in them and that is eternity.

Edvard Munch

I am from Chicago, and, so, having been disillusioned with politics at an early age I do not become involved. The only reason I vote is because they pay me.

David Mamet

Don't tell me about the law. The law is anything I write on a scrap of paper.

Saddam Hussein

Who overcomes by force hath overcome but half his foe.

John Milton

Be regular and orderly in your life so that you may be violent and original in your work.

Gustave Flaubert

I'm sorry it's happening, of course.

George w. Bush, on the economic meltdown

This is the only life I've got. How long am I going to waste it chasing something that ain't ever going to love me the way I love it?
friend, published novelist, on his decision to stop writing novels

Take the money out of the deal and then look at the deal.
Warren Buffett

...all of them, any of them that have been in front of me over all these years.
Sarah Palin, re: "What newspapers do you read?"

I can see Russia from my house!
Tina Fey

Conscience is a dog that does not stop us from passing but that we cannot prevent from barking.
Nicolas de Chamfort

In politics, stupidity is not a problem.
Napoleon Bonaparte

My work turns out to be the greatest relationship of my life.
Annie Leibowitz

The light that you think you emanate is not necessarily the light that other people see. You think of yourself as a shy, retiring whatever it is, and some other people will see you in an entirely different way. ... You have to constantly learn. Obviously, you have to start with some kind of gift, but people don't understand that. ... I don't have a gift for anything. I've only had a gift of pursuit.
Paul Newman

Strike an average between what a woman thinks of her husband a month before she marries him and what she thinks of him a year afterward, and you will have the truth about him.
H.L. Mencken

If he was any smarter, he'd be doing something else.
Jo Ann Akers

Whenever you see an invitation that says "What could be more magical than an evening under the stars in the Hamptons?" you press delete.
Alec Baldwin

We don't rely on backup. If it comes, great, but we don't trust the federal government. They can never get it quite right.
Louisiana state Rep. Sam Jones, on hurricane Gustav

Anything that can be done, short of using a knout, to drive more people into bookshops renders this nation a service and gives aid and comfort to booksellers, authors, and publishers.

Bernard Geis

If past history was all there was to the game, the richest people would be librarians.

Warren Buffett

It is a weak nation, like a weak person, that must behave with bluster and boasting and rashness and other signs of insecurity.

Jimmy Carter

It doesn't matter how big a ranch ya' own, or how many cows ya' brand, the size of your funeral is still gonna depend on the weather.

Harry Truman.

Establishing lasting peace is the work of education; all politics can do is keep us out of war.

Maria Montessori

You don't always have Tennessee Williams around to write glorious lines for you.

Paul Newman

Nothing is illegal if one hundred businessmen decide to do it.

Andrew Young

I'm addicted to something that doesn't exist.

William S. Burroughs, on writing

Not being able to govern events, I govern myself.

Michel de Montaigne

Journalism is publishing what someone doesn't want us to know, the rest is propaganda.

Horacio Verbitsky

A society that gets rid of all its troublemakers goes downhill.

Robert A. Heinlein

The liberties of a people never were, nor ever will be, secure when the transactions of their rulers may be concealed from them.

Patrick Henry

Happiness is like a butterfly which, when pursued, is always beyond our grasp, but, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you.

Nathaniel Hawthorne

when you call AT&T for help when their internet service is down, they give you the option of solving your problem by visiting their website

There is only one difference between a madman and me. The madman thinks he is sane. I know I am mad.

Salvador Dali

This manual provides information on the hardware and non-navigation features. For navigation software information, please refer to the other manual.

--from the only user's manual for my new Mio GPS

1. For the initial start-up, slide the power switch to the ON position.
2. Your Mio turns on.
--it did not turn on... the battery was dead

If you intend to charge your Mio in this way, turn off your Mio so that it takes less time to charge the battery.

1. Turn on the computer.
2. Connect the mini-USB end of the USB cable to the bottom of your Mio and the other end to a USB port on your computer.

--no USB cable was supplied with the Mio GPS. I proceed with trepidation.

People rarely succeed unless they have fun in what they are doing.

Dale Carnegie

Finally, places on the Internet I found interesting...

<http://www.madsci.org/cgi-bin/cgiwrap/~lynn/jardin/SCG>

surreal compliment generator

www.jacksonpollock.org

you too can paint, well

<http://www.dollarartist.com/sculptures.html>

origami made from dollar bills

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4_MsrsKzMM

Joe Cocker, translated

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvZZNwDnJuk>

AH Films... post production woes. The first one of these I saw, and still my favorite.

<http://garfieldminusgarfield.net/post/28771279>

UTA job list, not

<http://www.utajoblist.blogspot.com/>

failblog.org

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5_RkYXlmXE&eurl

one minute audio vacations – around the world

<http://www.quietamerican.org/vacation.html>

a radio station for your computer, you choose the playlist

<http://theradio.com/>

sexiest music video ever made...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjbzKkeIDxY&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQbsnSVM1zM>

the incredibly well written “fuck” scene from “The Wire”

http://www.nationallampoon.com/nl/08_features/howtowritegood/howtowritegood.asp

how to write good

Key to Reserva – A Martin Scorsese / Alfred Hitchcock short film

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=P5nAxzH4OPs>

and, finally, a terrible quality video, from Saturday Night Live in 1975. Fast forward to 3:12 and then watch. I saw this when it aired, never forgot it, and, as bad as it looks, the emotion still works.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vt-4xGnrovk>