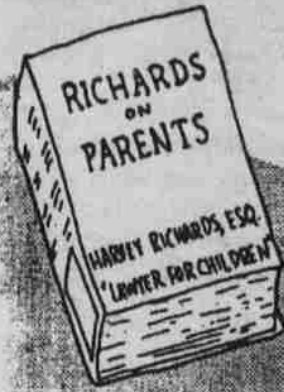


Tom the Dancing Bug

by Ruben Bolling

HEY KIDS! GOT TROUBLE WITH PARENTS? WHO DOESN'T?
AN ATTORNEY SPECIALIZING IN CHILDREN'S LAW NOW OFFERS A TREATISE ON DEALING WITH PARENTS--



I CAN HAVE YOU **WINNING ARGUMENTS** WITH YOUR PARENTS WITHIN DAYS!

HOW MANY TIMES HAS THIS PARENTAL ARGUMENT STUMPED YOU?

WHY NOT?

BECAUSE I SAID SO!

OH.

IMAGINE YOUR PARENTS' REACTION WHEN YOU RESPOND:

"THAT'S THE KIND OF DESPOTIC DECREE THAT IS NOT ONLY ANATHEMA TO ALL FREE-THINKING PEOPLE, IT IS ALSO LIKELY TO CULTIVATE A RESENTMENT TOWARD AUTHORITY THAT WILL IMPAIR MY SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT."

JUST MEMORIZE A FEW PASSAGES FROM MY BOOK, AND YOU'LL EASILY COUNTER THOSE IRRATIONAL BANALITIES PARENTS ALWAYS USE. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOUR PARENTS SAY:

IF YOUR FRIENDS JUMPED OFF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, WOULD IT BE OKAY FOR YOU TO?

YOU REPLY:

"TO EQUATE LEAPING OFF A TALL EDIFICE WITH (HAVING MY EARS PIERCED) IS TO ENGAGE IN HYPERBOLIC ARGUMENTATION WHICH IS FAR MORE INFLAMMATORY THAN ILLUMINATIVE."

DOES THIS EXCHANGE SOUND FAMILIAR?

THAT'S NOT FAIR!

WELL, LIFE ISN'T FAIR.

SIMPLY ANSWER:

"PERHAPS NOT, BUT IF WE GIVE UP THE STRUGGLE TO MAKE IT AS FAIR AS WE CAN, THEN SURELY WE ARE GIVING IN TO THE FORCES OF INEQUITY THAT WE PROFESS TO ABHOR."

I GUARANTEE YOUR PARENTS WILL LET YOU HAVE THE RUN OF THE HOUSE-- JUST TO SHUT YOU UP!

How I C It

by Patrick Rubes

by Leigh Rubin

Practical Jokes that flop. (#3)

C'MON GEORGE SLOW DOWN!

NO WAY BOB! GOTTA CATCH QUAYLE AND THAT DAMNED BIG WHEEL!

Methuselah at his two-hundredth high school reunion.

Chaos

by Brian Shuster

Dregs

Off the Mark

by Mark Parisi

Despite what his mother had told him about riding with strangers, little Billy simply could not resist a good leg of lamb.

GREAT MOMENTS IN GREEK LITERATURE:

OEDIPUS WRECKS

OH, ERIC... THANK YOU! BONE CHINA! AND YOU PUT SO MUCH OF YOURSELF INTO IT!

THE ECONOMY

BUSH MEETS TREE

RELAX! WITH OUR COLLEGE DEGREES SUCCESS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

POOR ECONOMY

KING OF THE LANTERN