Over the Back Fence

Mangled Manners

SHARED BY Bob Lichty of Vacaville, California are a few selections of “Anguished English” that were gathered from the four corners of the globe by Dr. Richard Lederer.

In a Bucharest hotel lobby: “The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time, we regret that you will be unbearable.”

In a Leipzig elevator: “Do not enter the lift backwards, and only when lit up.”

In an Athens hotel: “Visitors are expected to complain at the office between the hours of 9 and 11 a.m. daily.”

Outside a Hong Kong tailor shop: “Ladies may have a fit upstairs.”

In a Bangkok dry cleaner’s establishment: “Drop your trousers here for best results.”

On the door of a room in a Moscow hotel: “If this is your first visit to Russia, you are welcome to it.”

And in a Norwegian bar: “Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar.”

It’s All Relative

EVERYONE was waiting for the church service to begin when a woman let out a scream.

The people turned around and saw that the devil had entered, and everyone ran screaming out of the church, except for one man.

The devil confronted the man and said, “Do you know who I am?”

The man replied, “Yep, you’re the devil.”

“Are you not afraid of me?” the devil asked.

“Nope,” the old man said. “I’ve been married to your sister for 45 years.”

—Donald E. Brockman, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

I’ll Have a Double Standard

WHILE ON a road trip, an elderly couple stopped at a roadside restaurant for lunch.

After lunch, and about 20 minutes down the road, the woman realized she had left her eyeglasses at the restaurant. To add to the aggravation, the couple went quite a distance before finding a place to turn around.

The husband fussed, complained and scolded his wife during the return drive, becoming markedly agitated.

To the wife’s relief, they finally arrived at the restaurant. As she got out of the car, her old-geezer husband yelled at her, “While you’re in there, you might as well get my hat and credit card.”

—Gil Millspaugh, Aurora, Colorado

Visionary Haircut

I’M PROUD that most people think I look younger than my age. So did I—but not anymore.

We have a gray cat that is now a part of my vanished vanity.

My wife was giving me a haircut in the backyard. Without my eyeglasses, I looked down, snapped my fingers and called, “Here, kitty.”

“That’s your hair,” Jane chuckled, and went right on clipping.

—Carl E. Bolte Jr., Kansas City, Missouri