



**The Rum Tub or Norrie's Nocturnal and Nautical Natter.**

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There is only **one perfect child** in the world and every mother has it.  
There is only **one perfect wife** in the world and every neighbour has it !

# HMS Ulster

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## Editorial

*By Shipmate Norrie Millen*



The weather is slowly improving and at last summer seems to be here; well at least it is trying. Some really lovely warm sunny days interspersed with the overcast and misty ones. Hopefully we will enjoy better weather than last year, when almost as soon as they had declared a drought situation, it rained quite heavily for remainder of year. Mind you I don't have too much faith in weather forecasts, you watch it in evening and it seems whatever they forecast almost always seems to be opposite following day. The Farmer's Almanac or damp finger held up in air works much better!

I only wish I could say the same about improvement to health issues. All in all it's been a bad start to the year for both Angela and I. Angela with severe chest infection which saw her end up in hospital with almost total kidney failure, and this followed by unresolved pain in her hips and unmentionable parts. Not to be outdone I have now had four bouts of chest infections and if that was not bad enough, I managed to find a pot hole and catching my toe in it, was flung forward, landing very heavily on my right side. Long story short I have two cracked ribs and quite massive deep internal bruising which makes my eyes water when I cough, laugh and exercise other bodily functions! Hospital ER doctor told me I can expect six weeks of pain and discomfort before I am A1 [P7R(D)] again

My major worry and concern as I write this, is still lack of acknowledgement or response from majority of you. It does become a little frustrating at times. How long does it take to hit "Reply"? It would be nice to print some of your anecdotes too.

The good news is we have 40 people booked in for the 2013 reunion. The bad news is there are still stacks of rooms and I do urge you to seriously consider this last big one. We are all getting a little long in the tooth, including me and I am just a 'spring chicken' compared to majority of you! (no insult intended). Sir Cameron; our skipper is coming for his final reunion and I am pleased to announce he will be accompanied by his youngest daughter aged just 60! So come along, have fun, say a fond farewell to Sir Cameron. It promises to be a great weekend, two bus trips lots of fun and a must for your social calendars.

The way I see it any way!



## The Royal Navy is proud to announce its new fleet of Type 45 destroyers.

Having initially named the first two ships *HMS Daring* and *HMS Dauntless*, the Naming Committee has, after intensive pressure from Brussels, renamed them *HMS Cautious* and *HMS Prudence*. The next five ships are to be *HMS Empathy*, *HMS Circumspect*, *HMS Nervous*, *HMS Timorous* and *HMS Apologist*.

Costing £850 million each, they comply with the very latest employment, equality, health & safety and human rights laws. The Royal Navy fully expects any future enemy to be jolly decent and to comply with the same high standards of behaviour.

The new user-friendly crew's nest has excellent wheelchair access. Live ammunition has been replaced with paintballs to reduce the risk of anyone getting hurt and to cut down on the number of compensation claims. Stress counsellors and lawyers will be on board, as will a full sympathetic industrial tribunal.

The crew will be 50/50 men and women, and will contain

the correct balance of race, gender, sexuality and disability. Sailors will only work a maximum of 37 hours per week as per Brussels Rules on Working Hours, even in wartime. All the vessels are equipped with a maternity ward, a crèche and a Gay Disco.

Tobacco will be banned throughout the ship, but recreational cannabis will be allowed in wardrooms and messes. The Royal Navy is eager to shed its traditional reputation for; "Rum, sodomy and the lash"; so out has gone the rum ration, replaced by sparkling water. Sodomy remains, now extended to include all ratings under 18. The lash will still be available on request.

Saluting of officers is now considered elitist and has been replaced by "Hello Sailor". All information on notice boards will be in 37 different languages and Braille. Crew members will now no longer have to ask permission to grow beards and/or

moustaches. This applies equally to female crew.

The MoD is inviting suggestions for a "non-specific" flag because the White Ensign may offend minorities. The Union Jack must never be seen.

The newly re-named *HMS Cautious* will be commissioned shortly by Captain Hook from the Finsbury Park Mosque who will break a petrol bomb over the hull. She will gently slide into the sea as the Royal Marines Band plays "In the Navy" by the Village People. Her first deployment will be to escort boatloads of illegal immigrants to ports on England's south coast.

The Prime Minister said, "Our ships reflect the very latest in modern thinking and they will always be able to comply with any new legislation from Brussels."

His final words were, "***Britannia waives the rules.***"



### H.M.S Royal Oak

*Submitted by Shipmate by Shipmate Norrie Millen*

**H.M.S Royal Oak** was one of five Royal Sovereign Class battleships constructed for the Royal Navy between 1913 and 1917, the other four being *Royal Sovereign*, *Resolution*, *Ramilies* and *Revenge*. Two units of the class-*Renown* and *Repulse*- had been completed as battle cruisers and one, *Resistance*, had been cancelled.

Royal Oak was laid down at Devonport Dockyard on January 15<sup>th</sup> 1914 and launched later that year on November 17<sup>th</sup> and commissioned in

May 1916. Royal Oak was completed with a displacement of 25, 750 tons and measured 580 feet in length with a beam of 88.5 feet and a draught of 27 feet. Just under one thousand officers and men were needed to operate this mighty vessel. Royal Oak served in the Great War (1914-1918), fighting at the battle of Jutland, and was refitted between 1922 and 1924.

Sixty years after she was sunk as a Royal Navy battleship she is still leaking oil. This poses a serious and unusual environmental problem for the



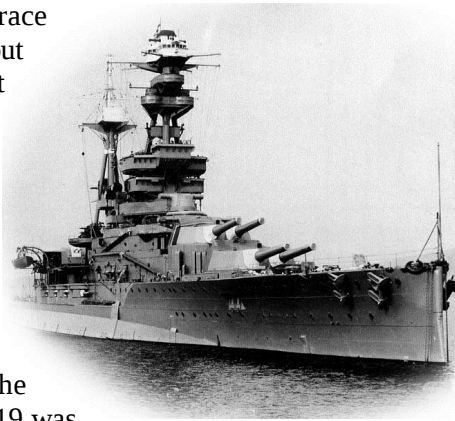
Scottish Island of Orkney and the race is on to find a solution without disturbing one of Britain's largest official war graves.

### Tragedy at Scapa Flow

On the night of October 14<sup>th</sup> 1939 Royal Oak became the first battleship to be lost in the Second World War while moored in Scapa Flow. This remote Scottish anchorage, most famous for the scuttling of the German Fleet in 1919 was first used during the First World War in order to prevent the German fleet reaching the Atlantic; and soon became the largest and most important anchorage in the British Isles. Accordingly it was a tempting target although heavily protected.

Nevertheless a German U-boat under the command of Gunther Prien had managed to penetrate Scapa Flow. The sunken block ships designed to prevent this had changed position slightly since 1915 and at high tide there was enough room for a craft to enter the anchorage. U47 proceeded to fire three torpedoes at the battleship, none of which had any success. A short while later the submarine fired three more torpedoes, this time with devastating effect. The Royal Oak blew up, rolled over and began to sink. This was a truly terrible tragedy: a capital ship had been lost in the first months of the war with the loss of 833 lives- only 375 survived. Added to this was the humiliation of a U-boat sailing undetected into an area with such a large concentration of Royal Navy activity, subsequently forcing the home fleet to leave Scapa Flow in favour of a safer anchorage.

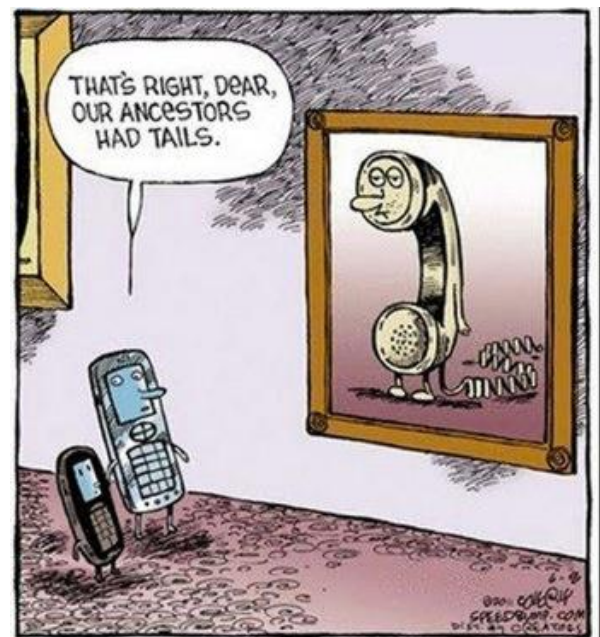
The Royal Oak sank within thirteen minutes and came to rest on her side, with her superstructure crushed underneath her, 90 feet below the surface. The Royal Oak has remained where she sank ever since that dreadful October night, and is designated as an official war grave. Every year Royal Navy divers change the white ensign at her stern and a memorial service is held. Diving in the wreck area is strictly forbidden.



### Environmental concerns

*Royal Oak* sank with up to 3,000 tons of fuel oil aboard, the precise amount being unknown since such records were lost with the ship. Oil leaked from the corroding hull at an increased rate during the 1990s and concerns about the environmental impact led the

Ministry of Defence to consider plans for extracting it. *Royal Oak's* status as a war grave required that surveys and any proposed techniques for removing the oil be handled sensitively: plans in the 1950s to raise and salvage the wreck had been dropped in response to public opposition. In addition to the ethical concerns, poorly managed efforts could destabilise the wreck, resulting in a mass release of the remaining oil; the ship also contains many tons of unexploded ordnance



After 100 years lying on the sea bed, Irish divers were amazed to find that the Titanic's swimming pool was still full.

**HELM** From *The Gentleman's Dictionary* by Georges Guillet de Saint-Georges, 1705, we read: 'HELM, or Tiller, of a Ship; is that Piece of timber which is fastened into the Rudder, and so comes forward into the Steerage, or Place where he at the Helm Steers the Ship, by holding the Whipstaff in his Hand. Some Ships have a Wheel, like those in Cranes, placed between the Quarter-Deck and Coach; which has several Advantages, to what the Common Methods have.' **Wheels started to become common in the 1730's, replacing the tiller, as they required considerably less effort to control.**

## Admiral Lord Collingwood



Admiral Lord Collingwood his presence is everywhere in the North East of England on the names of Streets, Monuments, and Buildings. But who is this

forgotten hero? And what was his involvement In the Battle of Trafalgar which has been celebrated this year.

Born October 24th 1748 in Newcastle he was the Son of a local merchant educated at the royal free grammar school in Newcastle he joined The Royal Navy in 1761 as a 12 year old. He sailed out of the Tyne onboard the *Shannon* a Frigate learning the rudiments of seamanship. Under the guidance of his Uncle he soon became a Midshipman. He met up with another Midshipman called Horatio Nelson. They met In Jamaica that was the start of a life-long friendship despite their ambitions there was never any jealousy between them.

This state of Admiration continued until the Battle of Trafalgar, when Nelson was given the

command over the more experienced Collingwood. He fired the first shots at Trafalgar and took command of the British fleet after the death of his friend Nelson. After the famous victory Collingwood received a pension of £2,000 per annum and was made Baron Collingwood, sadly he was never to return to his family in Morpeth. After Trafalgar he died at sea near Minorca in 1810.

In 1801 Collingwood met his family in Portsmouth as he could not be released to travel North the 400 mile journey would have taken at least two weeks on difficult roads. He only ever spent 3 years on dry land.



Collingwood's commitment to the Royal Navy's supremacy didn't stop in battle; when back home he planted acorns at every opportunity to boost future stocks of timber for British Ships as he knew it took 2,000-3,000 Oaks to build a ship like *Victory*.

Tried by Court Martial in 1777 for disobedience of orders but was

acquitted.

Buried in St Pauls Cathedral

### The Collingwood Memorial:

#### THIS MONUMENT

was erected in 1845 by Public Subscription to the memory of  
ADMIRAL LORD COLLINGWOOD

who in the Royal Sovereign on the 21st October 1805, led the British Fleet into action at Trafalgar and sustained the Sea Fight for upwards of an hour before the other ships were within gun shot, which caused Nelson to exclaim  
"SEE HOW THAT NOBLE FELLOW COLLINGWOOD TAKES HIS SHIP INTO ACTION"

He was born at Newcastle-upon-Tyne 1748 and died in the Service of his country, on board of the "VILLE-DE-PARIS" on 7th March 1810  
AND WAS BURIED IN ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

THE FOUR GUNS UPON THIS MONUMENT BELONGED TO HIS SHIP THE  
"ROYAL SOVEREIGN"

### Wonderful English from Around the World

In a Bangkok Temple: **IT IS FORBIDDEN TO ENTER A WOMAN, EVEN A FOREIGNER, IF DRESSED AS A MAN.**

Cocktail lounge, Norway: **LADIES ARE REQUESTED NOT TO HAVE CHILDREN IN THE BAR.**

Doctor's office, Rome: **SPECIALIST IN WOMEN AND OTHER DISEASES.**

Dry cleaners, Bangkok: **DROP YOUR TROUSERS HERE FOR THE BEST RESULTS**

## Rum, tobacco, turpentine; Royal Navy had the cure; A ship surgeon's notebooks from the 18th and 19th centuries reveal some eccentric remedies.

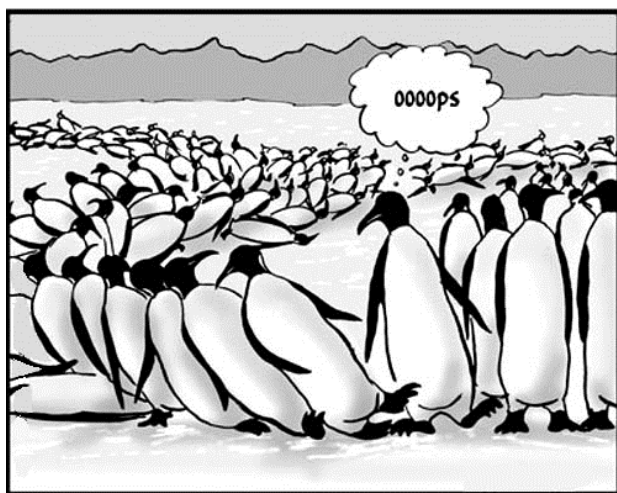
**Tobacco smoke** was a cure for drowning, rum was a tonic for tarantula bites, and brandy was good for almost anything.

**Medical tips** from the golden age of the Britain's Royal Navy were released this week as the National Archives completes its project to allow searches of ship surgeons' notebooks of the 18th and 19th centuries.

**The books** feature records of mutiny, drunkenness and theft, but some of the most compelling stories concern the gruesome illnesses suffered by the crew and doctors' eccentric attempts to cure them.

**Ben Lara**, surgeon aboard HMS Princess Royal during a deployment in the English Channel in 1802, knew what to do when Seaman James Calloway was dragged from the water after being submerged for 12 minutes.

**Lara warmed** him with heated plates wrapped in flannel, but saw no improvement until he resorted to tobacco. "Tobacco smoke was conveyed to the lungs through the tube of a common pipe," he wrote. "In three-quarters of an hour I observed an obscure palpitation of the heart ... In four hours from our first applications he was perfectly collected."



[1] Regular naps prevent old age, especially if you take them while driving.

[2] Having one child makes you a parent; having two you are a referee.

[3] Marriage is a relationship in which one person is always right and the other is the husband!

**The tobacco** method was more successful than other drowning treatments. *Belgrave Ninnis*, senior surgeon on HMS Garnet in November 1880, failed to revive James Farley after a series of questionable treatments. "Brandy injected into the rectum and strychnine at the epigastrium (the area immediately below the heart), brandy and ammonia to wet his mouth," he wrote. Ninnis concluded that Farley was definitely dead.

**Rum** was the favoured medicine aboard HMS Arab in 1800, when *Thomas Sappen* used it for spider bites and scorpion stings.

**The most** stomach-churning case, though, may be that of *Ellen McCarthy*, 12, afflicted by tapeworms on a transport ship from Cork to Quebec in 1825. "*Mr. Power*," the ship's surgeon, noted: "Her mother brought me a lumbricus (worm) 87 inches long which this patient vomited."

**He believed** he had hastened the expulsion of two worms by getting Ellen to ingest calamine and turpentine, either of which might have killed her. She survived, prompting *Power* to recommend turpentine as a "most certain anthelmintic (worm treatment)"

A woman and a baby were in the doctor's examining room, waiting for the doctor to come in for the baby's first exam.

The doctor arrived, and examined the baby, checked his weight, and being a little concerned, asked if the baby was breast-fed or bottle-fed.

'Breast-fed,' she replied.

'Well, strip down to your waist,' the doctor ordered.

She did. He pinched her nipples, pressed, kneaded, and rubbed both breasts for a while in a very professional and detailed examination.

Motioning to her to get dressed, the doctor said, 'No wonder this baby is underweight. You don't have any milk.'

I know,' she said, 'I'm his Grandma, but I am glad I came!

# Alphabet

The following sea shanty is called 'The Sailor's Alphabet'

- A** is the anchor that holds a brave ship,
- B** is the bowsprit that often does dip,
- C** is the capstan on which we do wind, and
- D** is the davits on which the jolly boat hangs.

## Chorus:

*O derry, hey derry, ho derry down,  
Give sailors their grog and there's nothing goes wrong,*

*So merry, so merry, so merry are we,  
No matter who's laughing at sailors at sea.*

- E** is the ensign, the red, white and blue,
- F** is the fo'c'sle, holds the ship's crew,
- G** is the gangway on which the mate takes his stand,
- H** is the hawser that seldom does strand.

## Chorus:

- I** is the irons where the stuns'l boom sits,
- J** is the jib-boom that often does dip,
- K** are the keelsons of which you've told, and
- L** is the lanyards that always will hold.

## Chorus:

- M** is the main mast, so stout and so strong,
- N** is the north point that never points wrong,
- O** are the orders of which we must beware,
- P** are the pumps that cause sailors to swear.

## Chorus:

- Q** is the quadrant, the sun for to take,
- R** is the riggin' that always does shake,
- S** is the starboard of our bold ship, and
- T** are the topmasts that often do split.

## Chorus:

- U** is the ugliest old Captain of all,
- V** are the vapours that come with the squall,
- W** is the windlass on which we do wind, and
- X Y** and **Z** well, I can't put in rhyme!

## Chorus:



This must be your lucky day Ken – your favourite cheese on special and the used by date is two weeks longer than Dr. Bone has given you!

## Bale Out?

It is a slow day in a damp little Irish town. The rain is beating down and the streets are deserted. Times are tough, everybody is in debt, and everybody lives on credit.

On this particular day a rich German tourist is driving through the town, stops at the local hotel and lays a €100 note on the desk, telling the hotel owner he wants to inspect the rooms upstairs in order to pick one to spend the night. The owner gives him some keys and, as soon as the visitor has walked upstairs, the hotelier grabs the €100 note and runs next door to pay his debt to the butcher.

The butcher takes the €100 note and runs down the street to repay his debt to the pig farmer.

The pig farmer takes the €100 note and heads off to pay his bill at the supplier of feed and fuel.

The guy at the Farmers' Co-op takes the €100 note and runs to pay his drinks bill at the pub.

The publican slips the money along to the local prostitute drinking at the bar, who has also been facing hard times and has had to offer him "services" on credit.

The hooker then rushes to the hotel and pays off her room bill to the hotel owner with the €100 note. The hotel proprietor then places the €100 note back on the counter so the rich traveller will not suspect anything. At that moment the traveller comes down the stairs, picks up the €100 note, states that the rooms are not satisfactory, pockets the money, and leaves town.

No one produced anything. No one earned anything. However, the whole town is now out of debt and looking to the future with a lot more optimism.

**And that, Shipmates, is how the bailout package works.**

## A TRUE WORD SPOKEN IN JEST.

'If the enemy is in range, so are you.' - *Infantry Journal*

'It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed.' - *US. Air Force Manual* -

'Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword, obviously never encountered automatic weapons.' - *General MacArthur* -

'You, you, and you ... Panic. The rest of you, come with me.' - *Infantry Sgt.*-

'Tracers work both ways.' - *Army Ordnance Manual*-

'Five second fuses last about three seconds.' - *Infantry Journal* -

The three most useless things in aviation are: Fuel in the bowser; Runway behind you; and air above you. -*Basic Flight Training Manual*-

'Any ship can be a minesweeper. Once.' - *Naval Operations Manual* -

'Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.' - *Unknown Infantry Recruit*-

'If you see a bomb technician running, try to keep up with him.' - *Infantry Journal*-

'When one engine fails on a twin-engine airplane, you always have enough power left to get you to the scene of the crash.' -*Multi-Engine Training Manual*-

'Without ammunition the Air Force is just an expensive flying club.' -*Unknown Author*-

'If you hear me yell; "Eject, Eject, Eject!", the last two will be echoes.' If you stop to ask "Why?", you will be talking to yourself, because by then you'll be the pilot.' -*Pre-flight Briefing from a Canadian F104 Pilot*-

'What is the similarity between air traffic controllers and pilots? If a pilot screws up, the pilot dies; if Air Traffic Control screws up, . the pilot dies.' -*Sign over Control Tower Door*-

## Reunion Update

Just to keep you all in the picture; as I prepare this newsletter we have **40** booked in to Tillington Hall Hotel in Stafford. The hotel has 91 rooms, so still plenty of room as our total include:

10 Single Rooms  
4 Twin Rooms  
11 Double Rooms.

Remember it is the 'skippers' last reunion and I urge you all to consider attending and wish him farewell.

Remember, although a little more that we are used to paying, the price does include two bus trips, one to The Lord Leycester Hospital, where our **Shipmate 'Buck' Taylor** is a Brother and who will host this visit. The second trip is to the National Arboretum a must for any veteran. In addition to the bus trips we have **Shipmate Shep Woolley** as our Saturday night entertainer. Many of you will have heard and enjoyed his nautical act, for those that have not; I know you will enjoy it.

**Don't hesitate – Get your form in!**

## On a lighter note (For Seniors)

With all the new technology regarding fertility recently, a 65-year-old friend of mine was able to give birth.

When she was discharged from the hospital and went home, I went to visit.

'May I see the new baby?' I asked.

'Not yet,' she said 'I'll make coffee and we can chat for a while first.' Thirty minutes had passed, and I asked,

'May I see the new baby now?'

'No, not yet,' She said. After another few minutes had elapsed, I asked again,

'May I see the baby now?'

'No, not yet,' replied my friend. Growing very impatient, I asked,

'Well, when can I see the baby?' **WHEN HE CRIES!** she told me.

**'WHEN HE CRIES?'** I demanded. 'Why do I have to wait until he cries?' **'BECAUSE I FORGOT WHERE I PUT HIM, O.K.!**

\*\*\*\*\*

At 85 years of age. Roger married Jenny, a lovely 25 year old. Since her new husband is so old, Jenny decides that after their wedding she and Roger should have separate bedrooms because she is concerned that her new but aged husband may overexert himself if they spend their entire night together.

After the wedding festivities Jenny prepares herself for bed and the expected knock on the door.

Sure enough the knock comes, the door opens and there is Roger ready for action. They unite as one. All goes well, Roger takes leave of his bride and she prepares to go to sleep.

After a few minutes, Jenny hears another knock on her bedroom door and it's Roger. Again he is ready for more action. Somewhat surprised Jenny consents for more coupling. When the newlyweds are done, Roger kisses his bride, bids her good night and leaves.

She is set to go to sleep again, but, you guessed it, Roger is back again rapping on

the door and is as fresh as a 20 year old, ready for more action. Once more they enjoy each other.

But as Roger get set to leave again, his young bride says to him I am thoroughly impressed that at your age you can perform so well and so often. I have been with guys less than a third of your age who were only good once. You are truly a great lover Roger.

Roger, somewhat embarrassed turns to Jenny and says, 'You mean I was here already?'

\*\*\*\*\*

A Florida senior citizen drove his brand new Corvette convertible out of the dealership. Taking off down the road, he pushed it to 80 mph, enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left. "Amazing," he thought as he flew down I-95, pushing the pedal even more.

Looking in his rear view mirror, he saw a Florida State Trooper, blue lights flashing and siren blaring. He floored it to 100 mph, then 110, then 120. Suddenly he thought, "What am I doing? I'm too old for this!" and pulled over to await the trooper's arrival.

Pulling in behind him, the trooper got out of his vehicle and walked up to the Corvette. He looked at his watch, then said, "Sir, my shift ends in 30 minutes. Today is Friday. If you can give me a new reason for speeding--a reason I've never before heard -- I'll let you go."

The old gentleman paused then said: "Three years ago, my wife ran off with a Florida State Trooper. I thought you were bringing her back.

"Have a good day, Sir," replied the trooper.

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The elderly owner of a golf course in Georgia was confused about paying an invoice, so he decided to ask his young secretary for some mathematical help. He called her into his office and said, "Y'all graduated from the University of Georgia and I need some help. If I wuz to give yew \$20,000, minus 14%, how much would you take off?" The secretary thought a moment, and then replied, "Everthang but my earrings."