



#### Things I could stand more of

- Style like Gary Grant had
- Cashmere
- Peas like Voyager
- Movies like "Witness." Women like Kelly McGill. Actors like Harrison Ford.
- Another writer like John D. MacDonald. (There ain't any)
- Cars that run trouble-free
- Long (or short) newsy letters, notes, scribbles...
- One of those how-the-hell are you, where-have-you-been? catch up phone calls. (WOT commercials portray so well. (818/449-4210))
- More live-theater blockbusters like Lily Tomlin's "The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in The Universe." (Tour de force...see it! Her energy is incredible.)
- The gentle/spindly piano touch of Dave Brubeck's "Strange Meadowlark" (from the 50's)...or Robb McConnell's Brass Brass chamber band, from power to muted poetry...or "Long Way Home" tenderly composed by Frank Collier.
- Fresh new friends, bright, alive, curious, ready to volley and serve in the game of Know and Tell.
- Truthful people.
- People (and companies) who say they will—and do.
- Nice clean quickies, like...Englishman arrives in the U.S., steps off plane at JFK, walks up to the first person he sees and says "I can't believe it! I finally made it to America. Is this really New York?" "Si senor."

#### Things I wish I'd thought up

- The Fran Tarkenton airline ticket jacket with the 11 intriguing questions, each answered on a separate page in the folder! (We're talking readability!)
- (Send for the questions and answers if you're interested.)
- Federal Express. (Based on the simple truth that none of us are ready on time.)
- Being Number 2. (The marketing ingenuity of creating the Airtel Number 2 position...and the copy leaker. But we try harder." It still works. (What's wrong with a Good Olde Idea?)
- Customer Service. As practiced daily at all Nordstrom's department stores. (Based on the mystical premise: give the customers whatever they want.)
- The telephone. Could you explain to me its workings please?
- Hello Switzerland! What took you so long? I dialed you 10 seconds ago!
- Watches that never need winding. (What did we do before that?)
- Promotion like...
- The opening caper of Anthony's Pier 4 in Boston; closed the restaurant for one night, invited all the cab drivers in Boston for a free lobster birthday, all expenses paid back. ("Driver? What's a really good restaurant here in Boston?")
- Shoppers, like...NOT ACCEPTABLE. This succinct, stop-em-dead-in-their-tracks phrase is delivered when you are shown a poor restaurant table, an undesirable plane seat, or a ridiculously priced item. (Instructions: Look the culprit right in the eye and say it in an as-close-as-you-can flat Charles Bronson voice.)

#### Things I wish I said

- "It's a lot easier to pinpoint all the things that contributed to your success *after* you're successful!"
- "It's the kind of hotel that tells you what's wrong with every other hotel."
- "Does he have experience? Yeah...he's been on a few carnivals and a lot of camp fires. Trust him."
- "Creativity is the art of concealing your sources."
- "Lovers have a week of connotors; winners do it today!"
- Most provocative thing said all of last year was... "Let's talk about how to add a zero to your income, friend! (I'm thinking hard about that one.)"
- Still a favorite thought...I have drunk from wells I did not dig. I have been warmed by fires I did not build. (Who do you owe?)

#### Things I could do without

- The rattle and the prattle of the chaotic Home Shopping Network/TV junk auctions.
- Waitresses who make you wait and perpetually promise "I'll be right with you," not realizing their 20% is automatically being reduced by 20%.
- Flat tires. Dead batteries.
- Coffee served on a saucer with coffee spilled on it.
- Cold soap. Lilewaston soap. Any not hot soap.
- Plastic airline stewardesses. (I know they are "light attendants" but most do not "attend" too often.)
- Mame-t's whose stoner, veneer and vanity projects the false notion they own the place.
- Sales people who correct the pronunciation of the product the customer wants to buy. ("It's Nibwahly Pratt, sir.")
- Women who have no sense of humor when I say something hilariously spontaneously uproariously funny.
- People who wait until you have completely finished a "new" joke and then in deadpan Buster Keaton style say: "I heard it before." Killers.
- Lots of rock group clothes and hair styles.
- Most of the music videos.

#### Things I don't know what to do with

- Funerals.
- The index card of a friend who just died. (Do you just toss a lifetime into the wastebasket?)
- Finding any words that mean anything to the survivors.
- Dealing with people who don't care.
- Or people with no sense of urgency. Arrgh!
- Who to elect to national office.
- Big dinner parties filled with phonies who turn on you, smirk and ooze: "Tell me all about yourself!" (And don't really give a damn.)
- The sad news of John D. MacDonald's demise—and with that some of us with Walter Mitty minds lose our "attended hero on a spavined steed"—Travis McGee.
- Super friends who keep doing things for me, who refuse repayment or traded favors. (Be that kind of friend to some one else is one answer.)
- The horror of nuclear war when you think kids...of any nationality. Including the Russians.
- How to get everything done I want to do.
- How to continually see, talk to and be with *ALL* the people you love or who count in our life. (Be a hell of an idea for Heaven to be.)

#### Things everyone would like to be about...sometime

- Shhh...just be quiet.
- Take me with you.
- Some of the best talk we've ever had was without words.
- Stay with me—please.
- Excuse me...was there some reason you were looking at me?
- I've missed you—A LOT.
- You are very important to me.
- When are you coming home?
- When I think about being without you...I think how important it is to be with you.
- I don't question how or why you entered my life. I'm just glad you did.
- I just called to say I love you.
- I love you.
- How soon can you be here?
- I could give you your own key—if you want.
- And other such fantasies...

#### Things to do this year of 1987

- Try to remember how you felt during the Christmas Season.
- You let some drivers into your traffic lane. Any harm done?
- You smiled at strangers. A few—experimentally. Worked OK?
- Maybe you tossed a buck or two into a charity pot. Yeah?
- Treated those close to you with special affection. Feel good?
- You were politer than usual. Could get to be a habit...
- And you hugged some bodies here and there. Gave a touch or two.
- Why not adopt that Claus Cause for the next...week? Months? Or all of 1987.
- Have a HAPPY, GIVING NEW YEAR!

Ray Considine

