

COAST TO COAST

On the lighter side, a smorgasbord of restaurant sillies to digest

Restaurants are funny. When a public place brings together so many people from so many walks of life in so many moods to be offered so many options by so many different staff people, some humor is bound to be involved.

For example, I recall going into a restaurant about a decade ago for lunch and asking the waitress what the soup du jour was. She trotted back to the kitchen and returned with a self-satisfied expression and said quite proudly, "That's the soup of day." Please understand I'm old enough to predate blond jokes.

Last week another friend related a story about going into a Starbucks on his way to work in the morning. The customer ahead of him was arguing with the barrista about not getting his order of a grande, or medium, latte in a vente, or large, cup, apparently to prevent the drink from sloshing over the side. While that heated discussion continued, my friend — feeling that the argument was ridiculous — ordered a vente latte in a grande cup. It broke the early morning tension.

I did a quick Google Internet search on "restaurants & humor" and came up with pages of offerings.

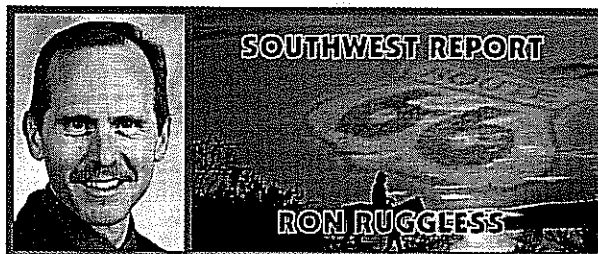
To brighten your mid-February day, here are some of the more delicious ones from the smorgasbord of sillies.

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A man goes into a restaurant and sits down. The waiter comes up to him.

"I'd like a cup of coffee with no milk," says the man.

"A cup of coffee with no milk, coming right up, sir," answers the waiter.



Ten minutes go by, then 20.

After a half hour the waiter finally comes running up to the table. "I'm really sorry, sir. We don't have any milk. Would you take your coffee without cream?"

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After the college student delivered the pizza to the customer's home, the customer asked, "What is the usual tip?"

"Well," replied the youth, "this is my first trip here, but the other guys say if I get a quarter out of you, I'll be doing great."

"Is that so?" snorted the customer. "Well, just to show them how wrong they are, here's five dollars."

"Thanks," replied the youth, "I'll put this in my school fund."

"What are you studying?" asked the customer.

The lad smiled and said, "Applied psychology."

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A woman working the car service window at a fast-food restaurant asked through the intercom: "May I take

your order?" A voice replied: "Hamburger, cheeseburger, double cheeseburger, deluxe burger, small and large roast beef, turkey club, chicken sandwich, regular fries, large fries, apple pie, chocolate shake, vanilla shake, strawberry shake, Coke, diet Coke, 7UP and orange soda." The workers made up the large order and filled several bags. When the customer drove up to the window and was given her bill, she was stunned. "But I haven't ordered yet," she said. "I was reading the menu to my little girl."

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When a colleague was leaving, his group decided to throw a farewell luncheon, and so they made reservations for 30 people at a popular restaurant. On the day of the event the place was crowded, but the group was seated immediately. People who had been lining up for a table seemed unhappy, and the group thought that they heard some disgruntled comments. Those suspicions soon were confirmed when a restaurant employee announced over the loudspeaker that a table was ready for "Starving, party of four."

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And that reminds me of a restaurant critic competitor, who told me after I had retired from that end of the business that she used to make reservations under the name "Donner." That was the days before paging devices, so the hostess over the loudspeaker would say: "Donner Party, your table is ready."

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Yep, it's a dog-eat-dog world in foodservice, but it's jolly, too.

NEWS