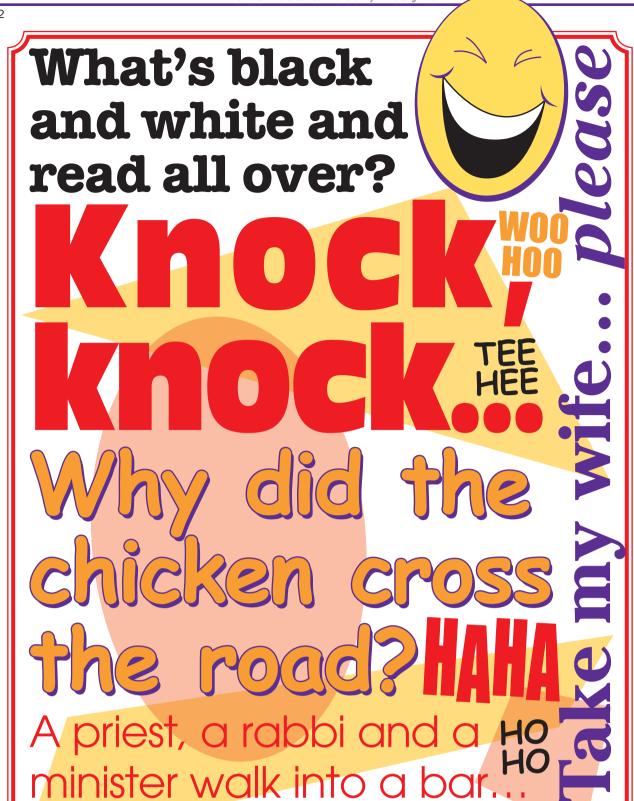
www.thetimes-tribune.com/lifestyles



Joke apps deliver a daily dose of humor

"A girl phoned me the other day and said, 'Come on over, there's nobody home.' I went over. Nobody was home."

Rodney Dangerfield

or poor Rodney, every day <mark>wa</mark>s April Fool's Day. For the rest of us, tomorrow is the day when you should be suspicious of every invitation or offer that comes your way. Pranks and practical jokes will be plentiful, so don't bend down to

KEVIN O'NEILL InSites

pick up any quarters on the sidewalk. Chances are they will be glued there.

If you want to keep the spirit of the day with you all year round, there are many apps that can deliver a daily dose of humor. Out of the dozens of joke apps

available, I've reviewed the following five, all of which are free:

18,000 Cool Jokes

The graphics in this app make it look like a binder full of jokes. There are tabs on the side of the screen for Jokes and Favorites, which is where you can save jokes you like. You can also share jokes via Facebook, Twitter or email.

There are more than 50 categories in the Jokes section to choose from. Besides the top jokes of the day and

week, the categories run the gamut

from At Work, Bar and Blondes, to

Dirty, Women and Yo Mama. Each

time you click on a category a new joke is displayed. Most of the jokes are the type you might find in Reader's Digest. There's lots of old jokes and some adult humor. Humor is, of course, subjective, so different people will have diffeent opinions about how funny the jokes are. I found it to be a mixed bag, with some really funny jokes, some mildly amusing and some real groaners.

All-In-One Joke Box

This app is set up like a blog for people to share jokes, riddles, stories and pictures. There are more than 20 categories to browse, including Funny Pictures, Dirty Jokes, Chuck Norris, and, of course, Blondes and Yo Mama. Even though the app is named Joke Box, there's lots of material that's not meant to be funny, such as scary stories, advice and adult-themed short stories.

Again, because humor is subjective, the subject matter and level of humor in the posts is all over the place. The material is constantly changing as people add posts continually, but that doesn't mean it's always fresh. Some people have no problem posting old jokes as if they were new. Users can comment on posts and share them via social media or email. There's lots of texting lingo and vulgarity in the posts,

so this app is not for kids.

iFunny:)

A slide show of user-posted images with captions and comments meant to be funny is the heart of this app. The pictures cover a wide range of material and tastes, most of it aimed at a younger audience (teens and young adults). There's lots of texting abbreviations and adult content. The images are constantly changing as new posts are added. There are Featured and Popular sections for viewing older posts.

Jokes

The interface is pretty straightforward in this app. It's a series of question-and-answer type jokes. You read the question, then click on a question mark for the answer. There are forward and back arrows to go to the next, or return to the previous joke. You can share jokes via email, text or social media sites. There are no categories to sort jokes, so you never know what you're going to get. A joke appropriate for a grade-schooler might be followed by an adult joke.

The Super Joke Book

This app is set up similar to Jokes. A joke appears on the screen with forward and back arrows. There are no categories, so jokes covering a wide variety of subjects and age levels appear randomly. You can share your favorites electronically, just like in the other apps.

These apps are similar in that the variety of jokes on them means there is something for everyone. You just have to read a lot of duds before

you find something really funny. KEVIN O'NEILL is a graphic artist for The Times-Tribune. Contact him at koneill@timesshamrock.com with links

to your favorite websites.