

FUNNY STUFF

Websites to turn off your brain and laugh

In my last column, I wrote about opensecrets.org, a website that tracks money in politics. It is a dense, data-filled site that requires a lot of thought and effort to get through. Now that the brutal mid-term elections are behind us, and you're either



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InSites

ecstatic or disgusted, I decided to go the other way. The two sites I'm reviewing today don't require any thought or effort at all to enjoy.

After months of insulting political ads and ridiculous posturing by politicians, sadanduseless.com seems like a perfect response. This site is a collection of humorous pictures, videos, memes, texts, tweets and more. Of course, humor is subjective, so not everybody is going to enjoy all the bits on the site. But there are so many, and such a variety, that you're sure to find something amusing. I scrolled by some with nary a snicker, but others had me laughing out loud.

The site is set up as a series of posts you can scroll through. Each post is a collection of relat-

ed posts and is represented with a large photo and a brief description. Clicking on it brings you to the full collection. The Top 5 Popular Posts are displayed in a column on the right side of the page.

There's a post with the headline *The Funniest Test Answers Ever*. It's a collection of pictures of actual test answers from students. The tests appear to be from a range of grades covering elementary through high school.

Some of the answers the kids come up with are hilarious. Here's a few examples:

Q.: Bob has 36 candy bars. He eats 29. What does Bob have now?

A.: Diabetes. Bob has diabetes.

Q.: Suggest one cause of deforestation.

A.: This paper

Q.: What ended in 1896?

A.: 1895

Another post is a collection of photos taken by a camera set up on a bird feeder. The macro lens

captures distorted, close-up pictures that run the gamut from beautiful to hilarious to slightly menacing.

There's another collection called *Simply Brilliant Book Dedications* that's full of witty jabs from the authors. Here's a few examples:

To my wife Marganit and my children Ella Rose and Daniel Adam without whom this book would have been completed two years earlier.

To my mother Belzie. I would have made a terrible doctor, mom. People would have died.

For my eighth-grade creative writing teacher who told me that my stories would never amount to anything. Suck it.

One of the posts on *Sad and Useless* led me to the second site I'm writing about, *The Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards* (comedywildlifephotography.com). As I mentioned before, this site takes no thought or effort to enjoy. It's just a collection of funny photos of animals acting like people.

The site was started by professional wildlife photographer, Paul Joynson-Hicks. While going through his photos of African wildlife he came across some that made him laugh out loud. He figured that others would also find them amusing, so he started an online contest that now receives thousands of entrants and global media coverage. The site donates 10% of its net revenue to conservation causes every year.

A gallery link at the top of the page connects you to the winning photos going back to 2018. The photos are not just serendipitous moments captured by the camera. They are also beautifully composed, well-lit, sharp images taken by experienced photographers. An angry looking sea turtle appears to be flipping the photographer the bird. A grazing rhinoceros urinates all over an unlucky bird that was in the wrong place at the wrong time. A polar bear peeks through the viewfinder of an apparently hastily abandoned camera on a tripod. Some will bring a smile to your face and others will make you laugh out loud.

The world-wide web is a wondrous place. It can help you research complex problems, connect you with long lost friends and keep you up to date on the latest news and cultural trends. Or you can use it to just kill a few moments having a good laugh.

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