

Alternative history

◆ A bit of a giggle. It's amazing how often a simple typo changes the meaning entirely. **P.7**

Websites to explore

◆ Here's another trio of recommended sites to flick through. **P.7**

Rules for fiction

◆ Elmore Leonard's rules to keep writers headed the right way, and producing great work. **P.5**

Photographers: What picture will you make today? Journalists: What story will you write?
Life Coaches: Who will find their new direction in life through your delicate guidance?
Proofreaders and Book Editors: What work of enduring worth will you breathe life into?

Enliven your words and pictures with the euphoria of the gold-medal dais, or the loneliness of sporting defeat, or the fear in people's faces as rockets explode in the street, or the relief at survival for another day.



Spare a thought for those in war-torn countries.

Scott Fowler

◆ Read another NZIBS success story as Scott shares his adventures in the world of photography. **P.2**

Talk to your Tutor

◆ Another round of dates and times is posted. Don't miss your chance to talk and get your questions answered. **P.2**

Fiction Story

◆ The Entertainer; nothing is quite what it seems, no matter who's talking . . . **P.12**

It's time to talk to your Tutor

The list below is also posted on the **SDB notice board**.

Dick Ward

Monday 4th August 9:00am – 1:00pm

Dick Ward

Tuesday 5th August 9:00am – 1:00pm

Bartha Hill

Wednesday 6th August 9:00am – 5:00pm

David Pardon

Thursday 7th August 1:00pm – 7:00pm

Janice Marriott

Friday 8th August 1:00pm – 5:00pm

Please phone 0508 428 983 on the day and time listed for your tutor and you will get through to your tutor directly.

Before you call, make a note of what you want to discuss. It is also helpful to have your student number jotted down for reference. The heavy part of the day for phone calls is 11am to 2pm so be one of the first to ring at the start of your tutor's time schedule. If you have never taken part in Chat To Your Tutor Day before, give it a go. You will be sure to find it a rewarding experience.

Note: Please contact the office, not your tutor, if you are experiencing delays or other events that may influence continuity with your studies.

Tutor **Tina Shaw** (R) held her book launch at the Women's Bookshop Auckland in July and this provided the ideal opportunity for her Aussie student, Di Vecchiet (L) from Queensland to meet her tutor. Sixty people attended and most bought their copy of *The Children's Pond*, Tina's sixth novel.



Scott Fowler: Photographer

We enjoy reading how graduates have taken their training and *achieved*.

This month, Scott Fowler was in touch to tell us about his success:

I'm a photography graduate of NZIBS Institute, achieving a Diploma in Freelance Photography in 2008. Since then things have gone from strength to strength.

Excellence level required 250 awards with 82 different images. I achieved it with 493 awards and 114 different images.

PSA proficiency level required 288 awards and 96 images. This was a tough test of our photographic skills, but very rewarding.

I am now an Accredited Judge and an Associate Level Photographer, with the Photographic Society of New Zealand.



In 2012 I won the monochrome section of the Nikon Amateur Photographer of the Year.

I've won three bronze awards and a silver award in the Better Photography Competition Australia.

I organise and run photographic workshops.

*I photograph weddings, events (*see photo), and commercials.*

Life is good, but it has all come about by hard work.

I now have several accreditations for my photography, including:

Federation of International Art of Photography (Excellence level).

Photographic Society of America, (Proficiency Level).

I achieved these, over time, by competing in International Salons (competitions). The NZIBS training has given me the original skills to get these accreditations.

I am constantly improving my skill level. I'm always trawling the Internet looking for new and old pearls of photographic wisdom.

I guess I'm a lifetime student of the dynamics of taking better photographs.

**The photo shows me covered in mud, chasing competitors in the Christchurch MUD, SWEAT and TEARS race, always looking for the perfect photo.*

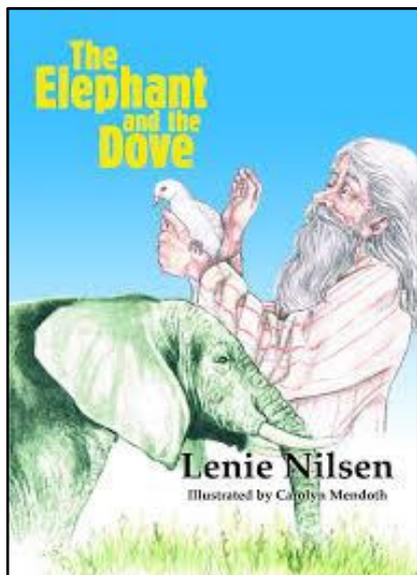
Book Launch Report:**The Elephant and the Dove**

Lenie Nilsen comments on her first book launch:

The Elephant and the Dove* was my first book release. Yes, there are others in the pipeline.

I believe authors should go with your inner person - what feels good to you.

I know my next book launch will be a little more low key - but I will still have my friends and family present and a cake to celebrate.



Tip: Make sure you have plenty of copies of your book at the launch. I had ordered plenty of soft covers by priority mail and this proved to be a good move.

Not so with the hard covers as they were sent at a cheaper air freight rate and were waiting on my doorstep after the launch party was over!

I am sure others in this enviable situation will agree that a book launch gives the most exhilarating, thrilling, and wonderful sense of achievement!

It wasn't something I had experienced before. I can't wait to do it all over again.

Stephanie Smyth writes:

"Do you know the biblical story of Noah and the ark and the flood which covered the whole earth?"

"In The Elephant and the Dove, Lenie Nilsen provides young readers with a beautifully illustrated account, portrayed through the eyes of two elephants - Essie and Sortie, and a little white dove called Sweetie.

"In the story, the animals were saved from perishing in the flood because Noah obeyed God. Lenie has sensitively captured the animals' feelings and thoughts.

"Her passion to share God's word with others clearly shows in her writing. What a tremendous work - well worth reading!"

Buy it at Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Elephant-Dove-Lenie-Nilsen/dp/1940473225>

ORTOGRAPHOBIA

Ortographobia is what you have when you're afraid of making spelling mistakes.

Also called spellphobia, ortographobia hinders a person's capabilities in reading and writing as they fear misspelling any word. Ortographobia can be controlled by practising spellings and reading books regularly.

People with this phobia are affected financially as it affects their written communication capabilities at work.

**Job Opportunities**

[Social Media Community Manager](#), Font, Auckland
Excellent communication skills, writing skills and attention to detail is paramount.
No closing date.

[Web Designer](#), MILK Books, Auckland
Design, develop and implement new websites and landing pages.
No closing date.

[PR Account Manager](#), FCB NZ, Auckland
Write media material including fact sheets, Q&A, media releases, media briefing papers and Facebook posts.
No closing date.

[Communications Advisor](#), National Heart Foundation, Auckland
Mid-level opportunity for a journalist or communications specialist. Closes 6 Aug.

[Lifestyle Features Assistant](#), Fairfax Media, Auckland
Must be a strong writer and interviewer with excellent accuracy. Closes 5 Aug.

How to get a job is an ebook you'll find at [Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

This short \$5 book gives you all the steps for getting a job. Age 16 to 65? This is helpful.
<http://tinyurl.com/pgvgjky>

Call 0800-801994 for a chat about your new career options.

[Magazine Journalist](#), Review Publishing, Auckland
Work on b2b magazines in the food service and retail grocery sectors. No closing date.

[Communications Advisor](#), Tourism NZ, Wellington
This role would suit an advisor in the early stages of their career. Closes 6 Aug.

[Communications Advisor](#), Contact Energy, Wellington
Ensure that communications strategies support the organisation's goals. Closes 8 Aug.

The comma that had its day in court

Did you listen in English class at school, whether you liked it or not, when the importance of commas in sentences was taught?

A few years ago some Canadian utilities companies went to court over the meaning of a comma.

The contract being argued over was a standard one for the use of utility poles, negotiated between a cable television trade association and an alliance of telephone companies. There were both French and English versions of this contract, as required under Canadian law. But no one had read it carefully enough.

The market had changed. One party wanted to cancel their contract, and gave notice.

The pole company, Rogers, argued that pole contracts 'always' run for five years and automatically renew for another five years, unless a telephone company cancels the agreement before the start of the final 12 months.

The telephone companies wanted to cancel immediately, without waiting five years. Doing so would save them as much as a million dollars.

They pointed to this sentence:

"This agreement shall be effective from the date it is made and shall continue in force for a period of five (5) years from the date it is made, and thereafter for successive five (5) year terms, unless and until terminated by one year prior notice in writing by either party."

One comma made the difference.

Citing the 'rules of punctuation,' Canada's telecommunications regulator concluded that the one-year notice for cancellation applied to both the five-year term as well as its renewal.

"The meaning of the clause was clear and unambiguous," the regulator wrote in its ruling.

Elmore Leonard's Rules For Writers

by **Elmore Leonard**
Reproduced for educational purposes.

Graduates Club Newsletter 1079

Elmore Leonard started out writing westerns, then turned his talents to crime fiction. A popular and prolific writer, he's written two dozen novels, most of them bestsellers, such as *Glitz*, *Get Shorty*, *Maximum Bob*, and *Rum Punch*.

Unlike most genre writers, Leonard is taken seriously by the literary crowd.

Elmore's rules:

Never start a story by describing the weather.

If you do it to create atmosphere, and not a character's reaction to the weather, OK, but you don't want to go on too long. The reader is apt to leaf ahead looking for people.

There are exceptions. If you happen to be Barry Lopez, who has more ways to describe ice and snow than an Eskimo, you can do all the weather reporting you want.

Avoid prologues.

They can be annoying, especially a prologue following an introduction that comes after a foreword. But these are ordinarily found in nonfiction.

A prologue in a novel is backstory, and you can drop it in anywhere you want.

There is a prologue in John Steinbeck's *Sweet Thursday*, but it's OK because a character in the book makes the point of what my rules are all about.

He says: "I like a lot of talk in a book and I don't like to have somebody tell me what the guy who's talking looks like.

"I want to figure out what he looks like from the way he talks and I figure out what the guy's thinking from what he says. I like some description but not too much.

"Sometimes I want a book to break loose with a bunch of hooptedoodle. Spin up some pretty words maybe or sing a little song with language. But I wish it was set aside so I don't have to read it.

"I don't want hooptedoodle to get mixed up with the story."

Never use a verb other than 'said' to carry dialogue.

The line of dialogue belongs to the character; the verb is the writer sticking his nose in.

But said is far less intrusive than grumbled, gasped, cautioned, lied. I once noticed Mary McCarthy ending a line of dialogue with "she asseverated,"

I had to stop reading to get the dictionary.

Never use an adverb to modify the verb 'said'

Eg: . . . he admonished gravely.

To use an adverb this way (or almost any way) is a mortal sin. The writer is now exposing himself in earnest, using a word that distracts and can interrupt the rhythm of the exchange.

I have a character in one of my books tell how she used to write historical romances "full of rape and adverbs."

Keep your exclamation marks under control.

You are allowed no more than three exclamation points per 100,000 words of prose.

Unless, of course, you have the knack of playing with exclamers the way Tom Wolfe does. Then you can throw them in by the handful.

Never use the words 'all hell broke loose' or 'suddenly'.

This rule doesn't require an explanation. I have noticed writers who use 'suddenly' also tend to exercise less control in the use of exclamation marks.

Use regional dialect, patois, sparingly.

Once you start spelling words in dialogue phonetically and loading the page with apostrophes, you won't be able to stop.

Learn from the way Annie Proulx captures the flavour of Wyoming voices in her book of short stories *Close Range*.

Avoid detailed descriptions of characters.

In Ernest Hemingway's *Hills Like White Elephants* what do the "American and the girl with him" look like? "She had taken off her hat and put it on the table."

That's the only reference to a physical description in the story, and yet we see the couple and know them by their tones of voice, with not one adverb in sight.

Don't go into great detail describing places and things.

...unless you're Margaret Atwood and you can paint scenes with language or write landscapes in the style of Jim Harrison.

But even if you're good at it, you don't want descriptions that bring the action, the flow of the story, to a standstill.

Leave out the parts readers tend to skip over.

This rule that came to my mind in 1983. Think of what you skip over when you're reading a novel: thick paragraphs of prose you can see have too many words in them.

What the writer is doing is he's writing hooptedoodle. Perhaps taking another shot at the weather, or he has gone into the character's head. Hey, the reader either knows what the guy's thinking or doesn't care.

But I'll bet you don't skip past dialogue.

My most important rule is the one that sums up all ten.

If it sounds like writing, I will rewrite it.

If proper word usage gets in the way, that word may have to go.

I can't allow what we learned in English composition class to disrupt the sound and rhythm of the narrative. It's my attempt to remain invisible, not distract the reader from the story with obvious writing.

(Joseph Conrad said something about words getting in the way of what you want to say.)

When I write scenes from the point of view of a particular character — the one whose view best brings the scene to life — I'm able to concentrate on the voices of the characters telling you who they are and how they feel about what they see and what's going on, and I'm nowhere in sight.

What Steinbeck did in *Sweet Thursday* was title his chapters as an indication, though obscure, of what they cover. "Whom the Gods Love They Drive Nuts" is one, "Lousy Wednesday" another. The third chapter is titled "Hooptedoodle1" and the 38th chapter "Hooptedoodle2" as warnings to the reader, as if Steinbeck is saying: "Here's where you'll see me taking flights of fancy with my writing, and it won't get in the way of the story. Skip them if you want."

Sweet Thursday came out in 1954, when I was just beginning to be published, and I've never forgotten that prologue. □

Job Opportunities

[Lifestyle Features Assistant](#), Fairfax Media, Auckland
Opportunity for a graduate or junior journalist wanting to get experience in lifestyle features. Closes 5 Aug.

[Reporter](#), Dargaville and Districts News
Must have a nose for a good story and an eye for accuracy. Closes 8 Aug.

[Editor](#), Adrenalin Publishing, Auckland
An element of interest in 4WD driving and things automotive would be a significant advantage. No closing date.

[Magazine Writer/Reporter](#), The Salvation Army, Wellington
Looking for someone who loves interviewing people and telling their stories. Closes 18 Aug.

[Creative Operations Writer](#), Treat Me, Wellington
Quick typing, web savviness, and the ability to self-edit are critical. No closing date.

[Website Assistant](#), Red Rat Clothing, Auckland
Opportunity for new graduate with marketing and photography skills. No closing date.

[Customer Service/Photography](#), Black Cat Cruises, Akaroa
Two positions available within the photography department. Closes 15 Aug.

All these jobs are on NZIBS [Student Discussion Board](#).
Fresh jobs go up every 3 days.

[Journalist](#), The Wairoa Star
Photography skills would be an advantage. Closes 3 Aug.

[Visual Journalist](#), Stuff.co.nz, Wellington
Generate top quality photographs and video for news, sport and features. Closes 8 Aug.

[Online Content Team Leader](#), Careers NZ, Wellington
Lead, manage and inspire an online content team. Closes 8 Aug.

Websites to explore

Here's the Secret

No, not *that* Secret.

The secret to using your writing and photography skills efficiently is to produce information people want. As Principal Brian Morris often expresses, if you want to earn a steady, permanent income, write books people want to read. Answer the questions they ask.

You find those questions here. ☺

<http://mkweb.bcgsc.ca/topquestions/>

The billion-dollar trends of today

Which ideas will turn into multi-million dollar companies. Which start-up companies are leading the way right now? Find out the trends of today here:

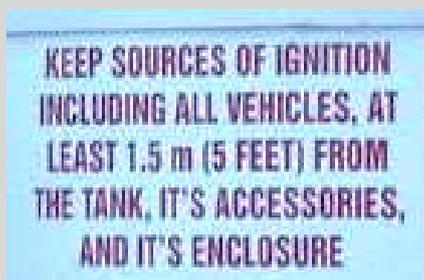
<http://www.businessinsider.com/billion-dollar-trends-2014-4>

Online Privacy: learn about it.

There are many places to learn about the complexities of staying safe – and keeping your stuff safe – online. Here's one. PC World has been investigating things technical for years. It's a good place to start if you still use 'Password' as your password.

<http://www.pcworld.com/article/2052813/3-essential-techniques-to-protect-your-online-privacy.html>

Proofreaders are needed everywhere > > >



When students write world history their way . . .

Collected by **Richard Lederer** (abridged)

from Graduates Club News 916
Reproduced for educational purposes.

It is astounding what havoc students can wreak upon the chronicles of the human race. This history of the world from genuine student word blunders was collected from junior graders through to uni grads. Here's what they handed in . . .

Ancient Egypt was inhabited by mummies who wrote in hydraulics. They lived in the Sarah dessert and travelled by Camelot. The climate of the Sarah is such that the inhabitants have to live elsewhere. Certain areas of the dessert were cultivated by irritation.

The pyramids are a range of mountains between France and Spain. The Egyptians built the pyramids in the shape of a huge triangular cube. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Finklesteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.

God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on Mount Montezuma. Jacob, son of Isaac, stole his brother's birthmark. Jacob was a patriarch who brought up his 12 sons to be matriarchs, but they did not take to it. One of Jacob's sons, Joseph, gave refuse to the Israelites.

Later came Job, who had one trouble after another. Eventually, he lost all his cattle and all his children and he had to go live alone with his wife in the desert.

Pharaoh forced the Hebrew slaves to make bread without straw. Moses led them to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread. This is bread made without any ingredients. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Commandments. He died before he ever reached Canada.

The Bible is full of interesting caricatures. In the first book of the Bible, Guinnessis, Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. One of their children, Cain, asked his parents, "Am I my brother's son?"

The Greeks were a highly sculptured people, and without them we wouldn't have history. The Greeks invented three kinds of columns - corinthian, ironic, and dorc. They built the Apocalypse. They also had many myths. A myth is a female moth.

Nero was a cruel tyre wrench who would torture his subjects by playing the fiddle to them.

The Persians fought the Greeks but were outnumbered because the Persians had more men. Eventually, the Romans conquered the Greeks. History called these people Romans because they never stayed in one place for very long.

One myth says the mother of Achilles dipped him in the river Stynx until he became intolerable. Achilles appears in The Iliad, by Homer. Homer also wrote The Oddity, in which Penelope was the last hardship that Ulysses endured on his journey. Actually, Homer was not written by Homer but by another man of that name.

Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gore. The Idles of March murdered him because they thought he was going to be made king. He gasped out his dying words "Tee Hee, Brutus.

In the Olympic Games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits and threw the java. The victor's reward was a coral reef.

Rome came to have too many luxuries and baths. At Roman banquets, the guests wore garlands in their hair. They took two baths in two days, and that caused the fall of Rome. Today Rome is full of fallen archers.

Then came the Middle Ages when everyone was middle-aged. King Alfred conquered the Dames.

King Arthur lived in the Age of Shivering when brave knights rode horses and beautiful women.

King Horrid mustered his troops before the Battle of Hastings. Joan of Arc was canonised by George Bernard Shaw.

Victims of the blue-bonnet plague grew boils on their necks.

Finally, Maggie Carter suggested "No free man should be hanged twice for the same offence."

The Renaissance was an age in which individuals felt the full value of their 'human bean'. Martin Luther was nailed to the church door at Wittenberg for selling papal indulgences. He died a horrible death, being excommunicated by a bull.

In medieval times most people were illiterate. The greatest writer of the feudal ages was Geoffrey Chaucer, who wrote many poems and stories. During this time, people put on morality plays about ghosts, goblins, virgins and other mystical creatures. Another story was about William Tell, who shot an arrow through an apple while standing on his son's head.

The government of Athens was democratic because people took the law into their own hands. There were no wars in Greece. The mountains were so high they couldn't climb over to see what their neighbours were doing.

The government of England was a limited monarchy. Protestantism was born from the womb of King Henry VIII. He found walking difficult because he had an abscess on his knee. Queen Elizabeth was called 'the virgin queen'. As a queen she was a success. When Elizabeth exposed herself before her troops they all shouted "Hurrah." Then her navy went out and defeated the Spanish Armada.

The charge of the Light Brigade was a bungle

By Jack May

The Crimean War 1853-1856 featured many errors of judgment, and poor instructions.

Lord Raglan entrusted Captain Nolan to convey his verbal directive to Lord Cardigan: "Prevent the Russians taking captured Turkish cannons with them when they retreat."

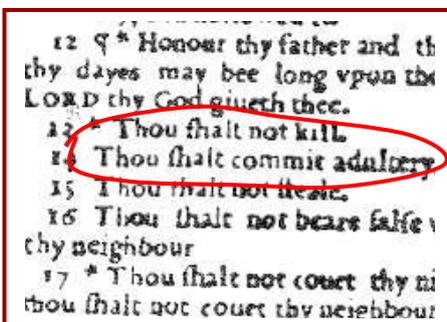
Alas, the instruction conveyed to Cardigan's Light Brigade was: "Prevent the Russians taking any cannons with them when they retreat."

That botched instruction led to The Charge of the Light Brigade: 673 mounted British soldiers confronted the Russians, who were equipped with cannons.

That infamous day, 25 October 1854, resulted in 113 British dead, plus hundreds more wounded or captured.



Proofreaders have been needed since the very first Bible was printed . . .



Job Opportunities

[General Reporter](#), Nelson Mail
Photography skills would be an advantage. Closes 6 Aug.

[Sports Reporter](#), Nelson Mail
Cover all the sport going on in the region. Closes 6 Aug.

[Senior Reporter](#),
Dominion Post, Wellington
Seeking a multimedia journalist who can work fast and think on their feet. Closes 6 Aug.

[Journalist](#),
Fairfax Media, Auckland
Get out on the streets and talk to real people. Closes 6 Aug.

[Rehabilitation Coach Assistant](#),
Bupa, Auckland
Help people live healthier, happier lives. No closing date.

[Hansard Editor](#), Office of the Clerk, Wellington
Do you have top-notch editing skills and an interest in how Parliament works? Closes 6 Aug.

All these jobs were listed on the Student Discussion Board when they were first found. That could have been a week ago!

[Communications Officer](#),
Wellington
Provide informed advice on communication strategies and tactics. No closing date.

[Journalist](#), Blenheim Sun
Reporting and writing skills and experience will be paramount. No closing date.

[Article and Online Content Writer](#), Castlenet, Wellington
Join a marketing business looking to expand its editorial team. Closes 20 Aug.

[Employment Coach](#), Land Based Training, Wanganui
Make a difference in people's lives. No closing date.

[Graduate Editorial Writer](#),
Castleford Media, Auckland
Write a vast array of editorial content for clients. No closing date.

Stamp proofreaders missed their man

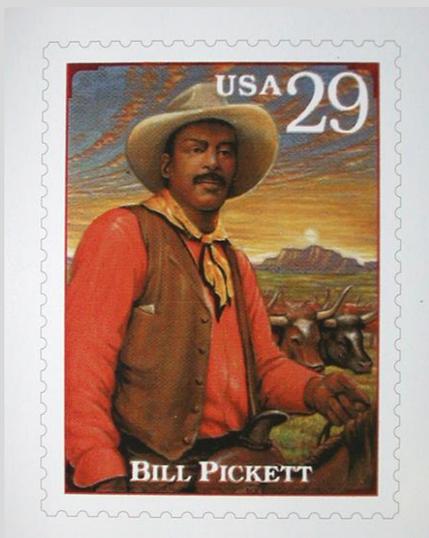
by Jack May

When the US Postal Service unveiled a new series of stamps in 1994 featuring "Cowboy Legends of the West" one 29c stamp captured the public interest.

The stamp featured Bill Pickett, the celebrated African-American cowboy who invented the technique of 'bulldogging' or steer wrestling.

Five million stamps were distributed to all US post offices. Then the problem was discovered.

The Pickett family declared "That's not Bill; the stamp shows his brother - Ben Pickett."



By this time 183 panes of the stamp had been sold. What to do? "Recall the 4,999,817 unsold stamps!" was the order.

Collectors went into a frenzy chasing up the 183 Ben Pickett stamps. Directors at the US Postal Service then made a controversial decision. They re-issued 150,000 of the faulty Ben Pickett stamps, which were offered to buyers through a lottery.

Their purpose was to reduce the astronomical value placed on the original 183 stamps. They wanted all philatelists to have a piece of Ben Pickett at a reasonable cost. These sales also helped to defray the cost of reprinting five million new stamps.

Six Quick Management Lessons

from Graduates Club News 892
Reproduced for educational purposes.

Lesson 1:

A man is getting into the shower just as his wife is towelling off after her shower, when the doorbell rings.

The wife quickly wraps herself in her towel and goes downstairs.

When she opens the door, there stands Bob, their neighbour.

Before she says a word, Bob says, 'I'll give you \$800 to drop that towel.'

After thinking for a moment, the woman drops her towel and stands naked in front of Bob.

After a few seconds of oggling Bob hands her \$800 and leaves.

The woman wraps herself in her towel and goes back upstairs.

'Who was that?' her husband asked.

'It was Bob the next-door-neighbour,' she replied.

'Great,' the husband said, 'Did he say anything about the \$800 he owes me?'

Moral of the story:

If you share critical information pertaining to credit and risk with your shareholders in time, you may be in a position to prevent avoidable exposure.

Lesson 2:

The vicar offered a parishioner a lift in his car. She got in, and crossed her legs forcing her gown to reveal a shapely leg.

The vicar nearly had an accident. After controlling the car, he stealthily slid his hand up her exposed, enticing, skin.

The woman said, 'Vicar, remember Psalm 129.'

The vicar removed his hand. But, after changing gears, he let his hand slide up her leg again.

The woman once again said, 'Vicar, remember Psalm 129?'

The vicar apologised 'Sorry, my dear, but the flesh is weak.'

After they arrived at her town, the parishioner sighed and went on her way. The vicar, wanting to know what she'd referred to, rushed to look up Psalm 129.

It said, 'Go forth and seek. Further up, you will find glory.'

Moral of the story:

If you are not well informed in doing your job, you might miss a great opportunity.

Lesson 3:

A sales rep, an administration clerk, and their manager were walking to lunch together when they saw an old oil lamp outside an antiques shop.

They each rub it in turn and a eventually a Genie comes out.

The Genie says, 'I'll give each of you just one wish.'

'Me first! Me first!' says the admin clerk. 'I want to be in the Bahamas, driving a speedboat, without a care in the world.'

Puff! and she's gone.

'Me next! Me next!' says the sales rep. 'I want to be in Hawaii, relaxing on the beach with my personal masseuse, an endless supply of Pina Colodas and I'm with the love of my life.'

PUFF and he's gone.

'OK, you're up,' the Genie says to the manager.

The manager says, 'I want those two back in the office straight after lunch.'

Moral of the story:

Let your boss have the first say.

Lesson 4

An eagle was sitting on a tree resting, doing nothing.

A small rabbit saw the eagle and asked him, 'Can I also sit like you and do nothing?'

'Sure,' answered the eagle.

So, the rabbit sat on the ground below the eagle and rested. All of a sudden, a fox appeared, jumped on the rabbit and ate it.

Moral of the story:

To be sitting and doing nothing, you must be sitting very, very high up.

Lesson 5

A little bird was flying out of the snow country to spend the winter in a warmer climate. But it was so cold the bird froze and fell from the sky, landing in a field of cows.

While the bird was lying there, a cow came by and dropped its dung. A whole cowpat landed on the frozen bird.

As the frozen bird lay there in the pile of cow dung, he began to realise how warm he was now. The dung was actually thawing him out! As he got warmer he grew happier, and began to sing.

A passing cat heard the bird singing and came to investigate.

The cat discovered the bird under the pile of cow dung, promptly dug him out, and ate him.

Moral of the story:

- 1 When you've got a major journey to make, leave early.
- 2 Not everyone who shits on you is your enemy.
- 3 Not everyone who gets you out of the poo is your friend.
- 4 When you're in deep shit, keep your mouth shut!

Lesson 6

A turkey was chatting with a bull.

'I would love to be able to get to the top of that tree' sighed the turkey, 'but I haven't got the energy.'

'Well, why don't you nibble on some of my droppings?' replied the bull. 'They're packed with nutrients.'

The turkey pecked at a lump of dung, and found it actually gave him enough strength to reach the lowest branch of the tree. After this success, the turkey ate more dung over the following two days and climbed higher still.

Finally after a fourth night, the turkey was proudly perched at the top of the tree.

He was promptly spotted by a farmer, who shot him.

Moral of the story:

Bullshit might get you to the top, but it won't keep you there. ❑

Job Opportunities

[Online Editor](#), Fletcher Building, Manukau
If you're not in a digital role at the moment, this isn't the one for you. No closing date.

[Qualified Journalist](#), Fiordland Advocate, Winton
Sub-editing and/or layout experience would be an advantage. Closes 1 Aug.

[Reporter](#), Timaru Herald
You will need good writing and photography skills. Closes 1 Aug.

[Healthy Lifestyles Worker](#), Pathways Health, Wanganui
Help people to live their dreams and flourish. Closes 4 Aug.

[Experienced Journalist](#), The Wairoa Star
Photography skills would be an advantage. Closes 3 Aug.

[Community Newspaper Journalist](#), APN, Tauranga
Write stories, take photos and coordinate content placement. No closing date.

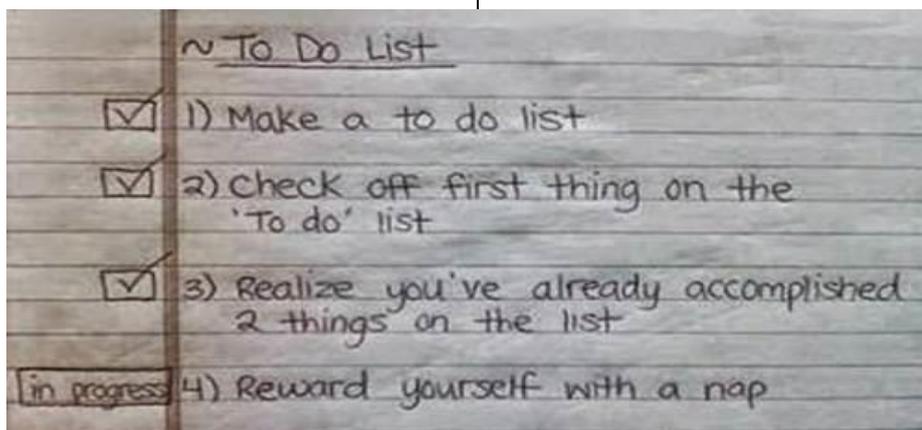
[Queenstown NZ Reporter](#), Fairfax Media
Can you spot a great story a mile away and write powerful content? No closing date.

[Photographer](#), Jo Frances Photography, Auckland
Photoshop and SLR experience are essential. No closing date.

If the closing date has passed, call and ask whether the position was filled. You could still get lucky. ASK!

[Farming Reporter](#), Fairfax Media, Timaru
Duties may extend into general reporting, sports and feature writing. Closes 4 Aug.

[Photographer](#), Open2view, Hawke's Bay
Real estate photography franchise available. No closing date.



One letter too long

In 1796 a new town in the American State of Ohio was laid out and named after the surveyor who marked its boundaries: General Moses Cleaveland.

The town was known as Cleaveland for a generation, albeit during a time when things weren't written down with the frequency of today. Or spelled consistently.

In 1831 the town's first proper newspaper was started, and launched with a splash. Unfortunately, 'The Cleaveland Advertiser' was too long for the masthead, at a size the Editor thought appropriate. So an instant decision was made, to drop the first 'a' in the town's name.



If anyone noticed that 'Cleveland' seemed to be missing a letter, nothing was done about it. The spellings of paper and city remain spelled that way today, sans the 'a'.

NZ Society of Authors

The NZ Society of Authors works in the interests of authors in New Zealand. The mission of the Society is to support the interests of all writers in New Zealand, and the communities they serve. Student rates apply. Join here: <http://www.authors.org.nz/>

Online Openings for editors and proofreaders

When searching online, look for variations of what you want, i.e.:

- **Proof reading**
- **Book editing**
- **Editing**
- **Manuscript correcting**

Craigslist.org

It's an international billboard of opportunities, jobs etc. <http://auckland.craigslist.org/>

Online Writing Jobs

<http://www.online-writing-jobs.com/jobs/freelance-proofreading-jobs.php>

Virtual Vocations

The whole spectrum of vocations is here – so use a targeted search to find your specialty.

<http://www.virtualvocations.com/jobs>

You'll probably have better English than the boss.

iFreelance

Advertise your services here: <http://www.ifreelance.com/>

Freelance Writing

Online references, contract jobs and plenty of contacts.

<http://FreelanceWritingGigs.com>

Photo Competitions

More than 180 competitions are listed here:

<http://www.photographycompetitions.net>

Among them all, there must be at least ONE you'll like. **Enter it.** You only have to win once to be famous, like Lorraine Downes.

The Story Mint

Participate in a serial here:

<http://thestorymint.com/story-mintery>

You can add one chapter of up to 500 words to the latest serial.

Put your name down

for a slot and write 480 -500 words to carry the story forward. That makes you an online author.

Competitions



Have a go! 😊

For details of all competitions, click the links and join in!

Winners' names are posted on the SDB after the competitions are judged at month's end.

See the competitions here:

<http://nzibs.org/forums/forumdisplay.php?f=11>

Photography competitions:

<http://nzibs.org/forums/forumdisplay.php?f=4>

MEDIA caps for NZIBS graduates

❖ **Journalist,**

❖ **Sports**

Journalist

❖ **Photographer**

❖ **Travel Writer.**

If you'd like one, please send \$10 and a letter detailing your name, postal address and former student number.

One size fits all.



"Consulting the rules of composition before taking a photograph is like consulting the laws of gravity before going for a walk" – **Edward Weston**

On the business of leisure

from *Futility Closet*

"Nothing is really work unless you would rather be doing something else." — J.M. Barrie

"No, Sir, not a day's work in all my life. What I have done I have done because it has been play. If it had been work I shouldn't have done it." — Mark Twain, *New York Times* interview, 1905

From a letter by Isaac Asimov, 20 July 1965:

"You have a vacation when you do something you like better than your work. But there isn't anything I like better than my work. My vacation therefore exists all year long — except when I am forced to go away."

James Thurber wrote, "I suppose that even the most pleasurable of imaginable occupations, such as batting baseballs through the windows of the RCA Building, would pall a little as the days ran on."

Indie-Publisher Book Fair, August, Auckland.

Louise de Varga is coordinating the first Book Fair for independent book publishers.

c4s@clear.net.nz

Date = All day, 9am – 5pm.
Saturday 16 August 2014.

Venue =
St Paul's Church Hall,
100 Victoria Road,
Devonport, Auckland 0624.

Map ref =
tinyurl.com/kjxvvk9

Register your interest with Louise. c4s@clear.net.nz

Where do stories come from?

Where does the idea for a story come from? And what coincidence might bring you to the right spot to see it?

En route to a training camp in Quebec during World War I, Canadian Army lieutenant Harry Colebourn bought a bear cub for \$20 from a hunter in White River, Ontario.



He named her Winnipeg, after his hometown, and smuggled her to England where "Winnie" became the mascot of his military regiment.

Eventually he donated her to the London Zoo where she became a great favourite of Christopher Robin Milne, the son of a local playwright.

The playwright wrote a children's story about this anthropomorphic bear ...

Winnie The Pooh

"Perfection is achieved, not when there is nothing more to add, but when there is nothing left to take away."

– **Antoine de Saint Exupery**

"Look and think before opening the shutter. The heart and mind are the true lens of the camera." - **Yousuf Karsh**
<http://www.karsh.org/>

Job Opportunities

[Marketing and Graphic Designer](#), Smits Group, Manukau
The ideal candidate would have photography experience and writing skills. No closing date.

[Employment Coach](#), Land Based Training, Masterton
Make a difference in people's lives. No closing date.

[Online Editor](#), MediaWorks NZ, Auckland
Create and aggregate content on therock.net.nz and thesound.co.nz websites.
Closes in Aug.

[Marketing Assistant](#), NZ Society of Genealogists, Auckland
Support the Family History Fair and other events throughout the year. No closing date.

[Magazine Editor](#), Image Centre, Auckland
Dish magazine is seeking an innovative and enthusiastic editor. No closing date.

[Weekend Content Producer](#), Yahoo! NZ, Auckland
Write and submit stories and blogs; create photo galleries.
No closing date.

[Channel Specialist](#), Auckland Council
Implement the Council's offline communications channel strategies. No closing date.

[Advertising Features Writer](#), Southland Times, Invercargill
Write and manage commercial special publications.
Closes in Aug.

[Editor](#), Manawatu Standard
Lead and drive an editorial team to produce compelling journalism. Closes 3 Aug.

[Sub-Editor](#), NZX, Manawatu
Play a key role in maintaining the integrity and quality of publications. No closing date.

[Online Manager](#), University of Canterbury, Christchurch
Requires experience in planning and managing digital marketing campaigns. Closes in Aug.

The Entertainer

Reproduced for educational purposes.

"Anything to declare?"

"Nothing in particular," I told the Customs Man.

"Just the usual couple bottles of spirits I'm allowed. I don't bother with the duty-free cigarettes. I don't smoke myself, and I don't like to encourage it in others."

"What's in the box you're holding back there?"

"Box? Holding back? I'm not holding back. It's just an extra small case I have, that's all."

"And what's in it?"

"Oh, nothing of interest. Usual stuff. Bits and bobs. Do you want me to open my suitcase?"

I heaved my large suitcase up onto the bench and started to undo its straps.

"I've got nothing special in here."

"No, that smaller case, the one behind your legs now. What's in that?"

"Huh? Like I said, nothing of importance, believe me. Just a bit of assorted junk."

My fingers worked the fastenings on my suitcase.

"I'd like to check it if you don't mind," the Customs Man said, very soberly.

"What?" I said. "That? Really, there's nothing of any consequence in it."

"And the lock sticks sometimes. Believe me, it's innocent of containing anything untoward."

Which was a lie, of course.

"Let's have it up on the counter, sir, please," the C.M. directed, his face very deadpan formal.

"Must I? Look, honestly, I'd rather not open it. It's ... It's something very personal."

The C.M. was bleak. "We can be very discreet, sir. Up here, please, and open it if you would."

With a show of great reluctance, I stooped and raised the small oblong case to the bench. I paused. I released its catches.

I paused again. Then I partly raised the lid with my left hand, while thrusting my right into the case, to complete the throwing back of the lid, to spring Meredith into view. And, . . .



"What's going on?" Meredith squawked. "I thought I told you not to wake me up until we got there?"

"It's not my fault, Meredith. This gentleman insisted that I open your case."

"Why did you do that? Didn't you tell him I was asleep in there?"

"Ah, no, Meredith."

"One day you're going to have to pay full fare for me, you know that?" I swivelled Meredith's head to stare at the C.M. "Are you going to do us in?"

The C.M. looked to me, back at Meredith and back to my bland face again. "You could have told me you had your dummy in there."

"**Dummy!** Who are you calling a dummy?" Meredith said. "I'm not the dummy. He's the dummy. Only he's not small enough to hide in this little case. I'm the ventriloquist here. Look, I'll make him speak, and you won't see my lips move."

Here my head went up and, in three little jerks, bent to look at Meredith. I widened my mouth to give it the full works.

"My, what a handsome boy you are, Meredith," I said.

"There, you see?" Meredith said. "I bet you never saw my lips move!"

The C.M. raised a hand to shade his eyes for a moment.

When he straightened again, I made three or four jerky head motions again to end and cocked a mite quizzical look.

Making utterances from a mouth as stretched and dummy-like as possible, I said, "Meredith wants to get back in his case again. If the airline people see him they might want to see his ticket."

And Meredith warned, "If that happens, I'll hold you responsible, mister."

The C.M. gave up, gestured. "You can go back to sleep, Meredith."

"I should think so," Meredith said. "I'm a growing lad. I need all the rest I can get."

Putting on my broad mouth again, and performing some mechanical movements, "There you go then, Meredith. You can kip till we get home now."

"Thank goodness for that. Travelling is so boring,"

Meredith got in before I withdrew my hand and reclosed the lid.

The look the C.M. gave me was one I'd seen before on other officials. He shook his head.

He put his chalk mark on my cases and so I passed through Customs agreeably. All done. And thank you very much.

We were free to move on through the terminal and catch a taxi home. We had done it again, Meredith and me.

Another kilo of raw diamonds.