

A FATHER'S DAY QUIZ

A Skit By

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LIGHTS UP:

A LIVING ROOM - DAY

A NARRATOR stands facing the audience. He is a typical television commercial spokesman, dressed in SUIT and TIE. Maybe HORN-RIMMED GLASSES.

A FATHER sits in an EASY CHAIR behind him. There is a small END TABLE next to the chair with a SMALL READING LAMP and TELEPHONE. Father is reading the NEWSPAPER. Perhaps smoking a PIPE.

NARRATOR

In these insecure times filled with uncertainty and stress, the role of a father has become exceedingly more important. As a public service and in honor of Father's Day, we present the following quiz -- so as to inform and educate men as they face the pressures of family life. Remember, this is ONLY a quiz.

SON ENTERS. He is a typical college-student type. He walks up to Father and freezes.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Question One. Your son returns home from his Ivy League college which, by the way, costs you more in one year than you paid for your house, and -- he announces:

SON

Dad? I've decided that college is of no interest to me. I have come to realize I do not wish to

become a lawyer. Rather, I've discovered that MUSIC is my life. Therefore, I've quit Yale, become a vegan and dedicated all my time to producing a speed metal album which decries our meat-eating, animal-killing fascist society. Also -- I need to borrow \$500 and I'm moving back home.

Father is HORRIFIED.

NARRATOR

Do you, "A" -- pretend to be deaf, "B" -- wrap your hands around the boy's neck squeezing tightly until he loses consciousness hoping when he comes to, he'll have thought it was all a dream, or "C" -- get on your knees and cry out to God?

Father pauses a moment, then slowly starts to put his hands around Son's NECK. Before he can touch him, Narrator says:

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

If you answered "C", crying out to God, you are correct.

Father glances at Narrator, sighs and nods. Son EXITS.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Question Two --

WIFE ENTERS carrying numerous SHOPPING BAGS.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Your wife returns home from her shopping mall excursion and discloses:

WIFE

Honey? Please don't be upset but I was involved in a minor fender bender. I don't know how it

happened but I was making a right out of the parking lot and didn't realize I was going the wrong way down a one way street -- that is until I ran head on into that ambulance. Thank God, no one was hurt -- except for the police officer who got in the way as I was backing the car up. It was just a flesh wound though. Nothing serious. Not like the patient in the ambulance who just suffered a heart attack. Boy, was his family upset with me. Anyway, I think we should call a mechanic. It looks like the engine dropped onto the driveway when I came to a stop. Are we insured?

Father is, again, HORRIFIED.

NARRATOR

Do you "A" -- feign amnesia and demand to be returned to Buckingham Palace, "B" -- immediately contact the Foreign Legion to inquire if they have an opening. Or "C" -- get on your knees and cry out to God?

Father pauses, then picks up the TELEPHONE to make a call.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

If you answered "C", crying out to God, you are once again, correct.

Father SIGHS and puts down the phone. Wife EXITS.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Question three.

DAUGHTER ENTERS.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Your daughter approaches you in the middle of watching the Championship Game to inform you:

DAUGHTER

Daddy? I want you to meet my new boyfriend.

BOYFRIEND ENTERS. He has LONG HAIR, TORN JEANS and T-SHIRT and UNSHAVEN. He joins her.

DAUGHTER (CONT'D)

His name is Thrash and he's an itinerant poet. He also has the coolest tattoos and body piercings. Isn't he dreamy?

Thrash gives a WEAK SMILE and flashes Father a PEACE SIGN.

THRASH

Dude.

DAUGHTER

I know I'm only sixteen, but Thrash asked me to marry him -- so we've decided to elope and see a justice of the peace because Thrash feels that churches are too religious. By the way, after we're married? We're gonna move in here with you and mom, okay? Oh, and can I borrow \$500?

Father is, once again, HORRIFIED.

NARRATOR

Do you "A" -- introduce your daughters new boyfriend Thrash, to YOUR new friend - "Louisville Slugger", "B" -- Inform Thrash that the women in your family lose their hair by the time they turn seventeen, or "C" -- get on your knees and cry out to God?

Father reaches under the easy chair and pulls out a BASEBALL BAT. He is about to whack Thrash upside his head when:

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

If you answered "C" -- crying out to God, you have answered correctly.

Father SIGHS and sadly puts the bat down. Thrash and daughter EXIT.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

And finally -- Question number four.

Son, Wife, Daughter and Thrash ENTER again and stand around Father.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Say all of the previous scenarios -- son quitting college, wife destroying the car and daughter eloping with Thrash -- occurred to you on the same day within the span of three hours. Would you, "A" -- make an appointment with Dr. Kervorkian, "B" -- carry an American flag down the streets of Fallujah, or "C" -- get on your knees and cry out to God?

(Writer's Note: The Kervorkian and Fallujah references will probably become dated in years or even months to come. Feel free to replace with more current references - gb)

Father glances at everyone around him then, in despair, DROPS TO HIS KNEES and LIFTS HIS HANDS to God.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

If you answered "C" -- crying out to God, congratulations. You really know what it's like to be a father. You are clearly familiar with the scripture: "But if any of you lacks wisdom,

let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach and it will be given to him."

(pause)

For this Father's Day, Dad, remember you're not alone. When the family seems to be falling apart around you, think of answer "C" -- get on your knees and cry out to God. And -- by the way --

(to Father)

Can I borrow and extra \$500?

Father is at first surprised, then he slowly pulls out his PANTS POCKETS showing he's got nothing.

LIGHTS OUT

END