"I think I liked it better when he worked late at the office!"
Preface

The philosopher, comedian, disk jockey, and barracks lawyer, at one time or another, have asked the question, “What is humor?”

I’ve heard the answers while listening to the TV interviews, barroom discussions, coffee klatches, and the like. You know what? I still don’t savvy what humor is except that I have a tendency to laugh when I see and hear funny things.

What makes my job even more enjoyable is that I purchase cartoons submitted to the editor. I see the best and not so best. My purchases appeared to have been mostly good because my colleagues and readers agreed with my selections by voicing their approval. So, when I was asked to come up with a mini-publication, Electronics Comics was born.

I went as far back as 1987 to select the best of cartoons that appeared in Popular Electronics magazine and hope that my selection pleases you as much as it does me. Don’t try to analyze the contents of Electronics Comics, just turn the pages slowly and enjoy the cartoons.

The world goes around each day with us on it. Let’s take the trip with smiles on our faces.

Juliam S. Martin, Humor Editor
"Try to think of it as "digital" transmission. One bang on the pipe means 'five minutes to dinner,' two bangs means 'get up here right away!'"

"First, Larry, the good news."

"Byron, when I asked you to build a time machine, I didn't mean a watch!"

"Don't tell me . . . we're out of bananas again!"

"Listen up, guys, here's the map to the club picnic!"
"Okay, Andy, what's on the menu for today?"

"Oh, Mark? He lost an entire document in the computer this morning."
"They sure make these computer games realistic, Dad! That's the 'Evil Dragon'."

"Of course, Julian, playing 'Hangman' isn't the only thing you can do with this baby!"
MACHINE
TALK
Can you hear it?

"Isn't it amazing, SoxItGrip, what we can do with only one arm!"

"I only smoke when I'm angry!"

"It replaces ten men, but it takes twenty technicians to keep it going!"

Cartoons by Walt Philips
"I don't know about you, 5-50 but I'm ready for a hot-lube recess."

"Turn your sensor mount, and cough!"

"It started out as a pocket calculator, and then it sort of got out of hand."
FRIENDLY ROBOTS

"Here's Kelly. Her culinary specialty is anything that's deep fried."

"When I said, 'We'll have breakfast in bed,' I meant my husband and me!"

"Hold it, Officer, Xyman is okay! It's my wife that ran amok."

"Besides serving drinks, DOIT-4X4 has an attachment to cut grass."

"Beep . . . I cannot answer the door, madam. It does not speak . . . Beep!"
"It was you, Brian, who told Robbo to wash the car and use a bucket!"

"There's the problem, Doctor Shapiro. Right here! In the lower lumbar region."

"I'm so depressed. My artificial intelligence is the only thing about me that's real."

"We think you better ask the Tin Man, Dotty. He's the smart one!"

"But, Andy, I'm a pacifist."

All cartoons by Henry Nelson
"The trend is that more white-collar crime will be done by computer. I'm educating a bunch of criminals."

"Today, students, we will discuss stock market analysis software. I realize that for some of you it's too late!"

"Until I find out otherwise, I'll assume that one of you has access to the florist's computer network."

"It was after the stock-market crash, Dean Wels, that I got a very heavy enrollment of middle-age businessmen."
"Good golly, Mrs. Nerdill, I think it is very unfair to have our computer evaluate our classroom progress."

"Like I told you over the phone, Mr. Rolland, your daughter, Kathy, decided to major in computer games."

"I'm afraid I must insist, Ms. Estrada! The university's super computer is not to be used to evaluate your boyfriends."

"Now, now, Nicholas, you know that the real computer error happened when it placed you in this class."
"When you said you were assembling a clone I thought you were talking about a computer."

"Yeah, I know. Roger's computer-controlled pancake flipper still has a few bugs in it."

"We're in luck, Mark, I managed to buy the last 12 boxes of fuses."

"I asked my Mom to get me some wire and alligator clips... So she gets me jumper cables."
"It's not really an antique ... it's a kit that took him 43 years to finish."

"You better re-program that remote control. It turned everything on at once and tripped all the circuit breakers."

"Just listen to that, Karen, now I know our line is tapped!"

"I'll say one thing for this computer, John, it sure seems simple to use."

"I'm not going to warn you again, Carl, watch where you're pointing that stupid laser!"
How Technology Could Have Changed History

"Our database says the odds on a Custer massacre are 7 to 5 in our favor."

"My Lord Richard, I can't pick up a thing on my headphone in here!"

"Sorry! According to the specs, the hull is two cubits too small."
"Sire, our graphics program suggests that a round table isn't a practical shape."

"There's the trouble, Xerxes, we've been using only six tanna leaves!"

"All the clues point to Sir Malcolm? Pity, they executed Lord Hallbrook yesterday."

"Strength of material report indicates that the material wood is inappropriate."
The Robot Works
(or does it?)

"Every time I turn my back it welds my lunch box to the workbench!"

"He's just mad because I won't give him a belly button."

"Shh, Bob, not in front of you know who!"

"Well, of course, Larry, ZEEBEE4 occasionally makes a mistake or two. After all, it's only human!"
"Ajax, the computer brought you."

"I made it almost human
Unfortunately."

"It was developed for the Army, but they couldn't use it—it actually works."
"It's my own idea, a 3/4-wave with a top-hat. Upside down it's a pooper scooper."

"I don't think the problem is in your set."

"It works fine now, but it melts in the spring."
"What high-pitched sound, KA2GUN? Your signal sounds fine to me."

"How deep did you make that hole?"

"No, I didn't bring extra batteries. These are rechargeable types!"

"I've done all I can do, Mr. Slater. It's time to pull the plug."
PROJECT PROFILES
Did they really happen?

"If you must know, Albert, I lost the last two pages of the plans."

"Hey, Morris, it's the project plans you ordered from Japan."

Now that you have read all of the directions, go back to line one and start...

"Now, Melvin, don't you think that you should stick to electronic projects and buy yourself a workbench?"
"Andy, when they said, 'two-by-four perfboard,' I'm sure they meant inches."

"Why test! Just throw the power . . ."

"I just couldn't find the short so I went for a bigger fuse!"

"Just a thought, Mitch, try a soldering iron."

"There's your trouble. You're going to laugh when you see all the mistakes you made assembling that unit."

"Brian, when did you start this project?"
“Now I remember—first you put the safety on, then you plug the unit in!”

“Social Security number, please.”

“Meow!”

“Harrold, I thought you said the television set was fixed?”
"It was overheating."

"Bob, you have a lovely hobby-room!"

"... Wrong season!"

"I suggest you either switch arms more often or try carrying two radios."
"You've got a bad power supply, but the tread mill looks okay."

"Don't worry, Duzant, we'll have your computer on line and you can be back at work before lunch."

"Julian can't spell and he is completely lacking in logic. He's perfect for devising access codes."

"Sure, it's a great improvement, but who'll retrain Quasimotto?"

Cartoons by Harry Nelson
"I know that you are a genius, Master, but the computer printout says Melvin shouldn't have eleven toes.

"Every time you dial your mother's phone number, Denise, you erase last month's inventory."

"According to our computer, Captain, we should be able to smash right through that hunk of ice!"

"If you are so worried about computer security, why don't you try using a password other than 'Open Sesame'?"
"Don't worry, all of our pirated software came with a money-back guarantee."

"He was looking for the Fountain of Youth and only discovered silicon chips."

"Quoth the black raven, 'Word processor, word processor, word processor!'"
"Watson, that confounded disk drive whirring destroys my concentration!"

"In my day a writer used a sharpened quill dipped in a mixture of soot and oil."

"No, I don't want any more stats on how many times the crew's been seasick!"

"Our hero, to be sure, was a handsome, one-legged pirate called Long John."
QUIET QUIPS
Mr. Peepers...

1

...peeps back!

2

3

4
"Brian, the computer company sent the retrofit instructions on a floppy disk."

"When I said that we were dealing with 'limited memory,' I wasn't talking about the computer, I was talking about you!"

"Melvin, is it true you bought an exercise bike for your robot?"

"Oh, Mr. Communicator, I don't think you're putting out enough power!"
"I hate these older radar guns!"

"The problem is its 1300-mile range: 650 miles straight up and 650 miles straight down!"

"Every time they simplify the software they complicate my life!"

"That was the only way I could get it to scroll!"
"It's my TV course from 'All America School.' The parts are Korean; the computer, Japanese; and the manual, French!"

"That plain brown wrapper better be your electronics correspondence course!"

"When the school said they'd mail it, I thought it would be in a box!"

"What do you think, Marvin, does that void the warranty?"

"It's not a pizza. One of our trucks backed over your TV-repair lesson."
"The way I see it, Kathy, you need a lot more practice!"
"Sorry, I can't play now, Larry . . . I've got to stay in and show my Dad how to use our new computer."

"That's the radio . . . this is the phone!"

"Gads, a fly was in the transmitter during the last teleconference with our New York Office!"

"No, I don't have a cordless phone, and to tell you the truth, right now I'm glad I don't."

"Herb and I couldn't possibly correct the overheating problem 'till after lunch."
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