

*Whether it's a candidate or a cookie,  
aesthetic appeal and trustworthiness of ingredients are paramount.*

—AMERICA CHEWS, a cookie company selling shortbread images of George W. Bush and Al Gore.  
Bush cookies are outselling Gore cookies by two to one,  
in *Boston Globe*

**Clothes Call** Beware of all enterprises which require new clothes.

—RICKY JAY, as "GEORGE LANG,"  
in *The Spanish Prisoner* (1997 film)

**In Left Field** I suppose that one should never look for much intellectual consistency on the left of British politics. The left once engaged in noisy protests against nuclear weapons, because—I presume—they believed that having nuclear bases on our soil would make us targets for attack, and thus lead to our incineration. Yet they now evince a passionate desire to leave us wide open to just such incineration by contemptuously refusing to participate in ballistic missile defense, the only system that can prevent it. Such attitudes remind us, yet again, of why even the reconstituted left is a menace in high office.

—MARGARET THATCHER, *Washington Times*

**Stale Statute** Lands' End Germany [offers] an unconditional guarantee: We accept any return for any reason, at any time. In 1997 we received a letter from the Association for Combatting Unfair Competition in Germany stating that [the] guarantee was a violation of the Bonus Gift Act of 1932. In a court ruling, Lands' End was forbidden to advertise its guarantee but was not barred from honoring it.

What good is a service you can't tell customers about? The law presumes that consumers are unable to make intelligent purchase decisions on their own. But in the age of computers and mass media, this is not the case now.

—STEVEN BECHWAR, managing director,  
Lands' End Germany, *Wall Street Journal Europe*

**United They Stood** [New Orleans'] citizens suddenly realized that out of their commonality of purpose a disparate ethnic population of French, Spanish, Portuguese, Germans, Italians, Anglos, Indians, and blacks of various social classes had been brought together and welded into a force that had brought about the nation's first military victory of any significance. Moreover, they had united with outsiders in a common cause: Creoles and Tennesseans, Cajuns and Kentuckians, blacks and whites, slaves and freemen. For the first time they came to realize they were Americans, no matter their ethnic background, social class, or residence. And as Americans they had achieved an extraordinary feat.

—*The Battle of New Orleans*, by ROBERT V. REMINI

**More Appropriate Then** The very first appropriations bill passed by Congress consisted of one hundred and eleven words—not pages, mind you, *words*. The main expenditures were for the military, including \$137,000 for "defraying the expenses" of the Department of War, \$190,000 for retiring the debt from the Revolutionary War, and \$95,000 for "paying the pensions to invalids." As for domestic activities, \$216,000 was appropriated. This is roughly what federal agencies spend in fifteen seconds today.

—STEPHEN MOORE, Cato Institute,  
in Hillsdale College's *Imprimis*

**Bread-and-Butter Issue** Asked to compare stage and film acting, Walter Matthau said, "Theater is pure, while movies are bits and pieces. Right now, I like acting in movies better because it's much easier, more fun, though not as satisfying. Doing a play is like having a seven-course meal, but a movie is like eating a lot of hors d'oeuvres. You get filled up, but you're never quite satisfied."

—MEL GUSSOW,  
in his *New York Times* obituary of Walter Matthau



"Online investing—it gives a whole new meaning to the term, insider trading."