The Spoof Page

This was one of my (Ed's) favourite columns! I tried VERY hard to keep it going over the years but it seems that a crazy sense of humour was NOT one of the main reasons why people sent articles in!

So here, in memory of more iconoclastic times, is the spoof gift catalogue. Contributors names are listed by the item when known.

To poke a little fun at the “world” of EFL we are making a joke mail-order catalogue for EFL teachers. We’ve collected some suitable entries such as:

LISTENING SKILLS TAPES
Create progress in your students’ listening ability by progressing through this series of 10 tapes for the EFL classroom. Early tapes are blurred, foggy, crackly, at wrong speed, and low fidelity. Later tapes become clearer and clearer with high fidelity and at correct speed. Students’ confidence increases greatly by about tape 7 – 10.
Price: Set of 10 only - £50.00 per set.

TACKY GIFT SHREDDER
This handy little machine shreds all those unwanted gifts from generous students. Guaranteed to completely destroy purple goblets, leather-bound ruler cases, neon-on-velvet paintings of the Eiffel Tower and all other tasteless items.
Price: £28.00 + p and p.
(Steve Newman)
LETTER SERVICE
Pay only £40.00 p.a. to join this service and you will receive exotically franked airmail letters from all over the world. Available in 2 types:
1) Handwritten letters from “ex-students” stating that they miss your classes and think you’re the best teacher they’ve ever had. Guaranteed mis-spellings and appalling layout.
2) Typed letters from foreign Universities and teaching organizations stating that you submitted an article/workshop/book manuscript etc. and it has been received and accepted.

Initial instructions on how to leave these letters casually lying around, will be sent under plain brown cover from London business address and decoy-marked “Free Offer”.
Price: £40.00 p.a. for service 1) or 2)
£70.00 p.a. for both services

INFLATABLE TEACHER
BLOW......BLOW......BLOW......BLOW......BLOW......

Yes.....it’s your chance to receive this once-in-a-lifetime offer of a life-size fully inflatable teacher dolly, each one fully personalized with your face and hair!

All you have to do is send us a recent colour portrait of yourself which will be laser transferred onto the inflatable dolly. A typical wig to match your hair colour and style will be hessian- sewn onto the dolly.

WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN AIR.....the teacher dolly can be stood at the front of your class during group work, thereby making those frontal-teaching-oriented students feel more secure while you sneak unseen
round the desks and check up on their progress.

When ordering dollies please state sex and size.
Male and female dollies £45.00 each
Teaching couple £80.00
(David Hill)