

Ever' Day Things

by Tom McBeth



What are we gonna swaller next?

I know this may be a symptom of gettin' old, but I can't hold my tongue anymore. There are some things I just can't stomach.

For example, *goat cheese*. Have you smelled it? I'll try just about anything, but goat cheese tastes just like it smells — like a darned old billy goat. And some people think it is cool stuff to put on their food. I went to a

restaurant that was s'posed to be a real uptown place.

(You always can tell when it's a "good" restaurant 'cause the tomatoes are cooked and the green beans ain't.) And what do you think they did? They put goat cheese on steak.

I think we should have *smell-a-vision* and get *Sixty Minutes* to do a segment on it so the general public can get the full olfactory effect of a bunch of goats. That probably would change some minds about goat cheese. I'll bet folks that have to milk those goats don't eat too much goat cheese.

Parmesan cheese is no better. It smells like ABC food — you know, *already-been-chewed*. You know what my kids call it? Puke cheese. But they keep puttin' it on their pizza. They won't eat spinach, liver or tongue, but they will eat puke cheese. You figure it out. My wife puts the darn stuff on squash to make it taste better. Is that an oxymoron?

That same woman puts sour cream on baked potatoes. Cream that's gone sour? Right. My kids will put it on their potatoes, but it took me forever to get them to like good ol' brown gravy. I've almost never talked my wife into eatin' sweet potatoes and parsnips, really good stuff. But she'll eat that cream that has gone sour all day long. Can you explain that to me? It's a little hard to swaller.

Some people eat fish eggs that taste like a combination of skunk and salt. They think it's good. I can't swaller that stuff.

It's amazin' what some folks will swaller.

I sell real estate, and I know that pastures that have a pond and have been overgrazed enough to have a bunch of trees and blackberries on 'em are what people want to buy 'cause they look like they have a lot of wildlife habitat. They think that ranchers are ruinin' the land, and when a rancher takes good enough care of the land so it remains in good grazin'

condition, it's worth less money. Go figure that one out!

There's people that won't eat meat. They eat things

like beans, broccoli and eggs

all the time. I really want to be around those folks a lot! After they've had a steady diet of that stuff, how would you like to be trapped in an elevator with 'em for about a half a day?

They're the ones that contribute to the greenhouse effect — or they'll have some kind of green effect — about anyplace they go. How long will it take for the media to catch on to the fact that 6 billion people on beans, broccoli and eggs will have more of a negative effect on air quality than anything a bunch of cows can do? How can they swaller that stuff?

The new senator from New York (Ol' Wild Hill Clinton) also did somethin' that few people can do. 'Few years ago, she put \$1,000 into cattle futures and made \$100,000 by the end of the year under the supervision of one of Tyson's traders. She should publish a book 'bout how she did that instead of that one 'bout White House secrets. I mean we got that stuff in the news ever'day. Like she's gonna tell us anything new. I don't think I'll swaller that either.

A while back Ol' Jerry Falwell was givin' fits to the Teletubbies. He was questionin' gender preference. I have a niece that is comin' 3 years old. She thinks the Teletubbies are pretty neat. We watch them sometimes when she comes to our house. Jerry, I don't think she gives a rip about the whole deal. She's just a little kid. She ain't

worryin' about gender preference. How do people swaller that kind of stuff?

Jesse Jackson was the "spiritual" advisor to former (thank the Lord) President Clinton when he was havin' his Monica Lewinsky trouble. Jesse Jackson has had a child with a woman who worked for him at the Rainbow Coalition (news to his wife). Does that say anything about the both of 'em? And to cap it all off, the Rainbow Coalition fired the woman that had Jesse's child. Now that woman does not have a job to take care of the baby, but Jesse still has his job. And the women's rights advocates did not set up a howl. I hope there is a limit to what folks will swaller.

Some school boards are for removin' books from the school libraries like *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. If those books are about anything, they demonstrate how racial prejudice is nonsense and that independent thought and creativity are rewardin' and just plain fun. Sam Clemens (aka Mark Twain) wrote in a uniquely American way, somethin' our kids need to swaller more of instead of gettin' weaned of.

Some schools are talkin' 'bout gettin' rid of dodge ball. Next there will be a movement to get rid of colorin' and finger paintin', 'cause some kids are not as artistically inclined as others. I imagine that groups will be formed to get rid of the game of red rover. The point is, when are we goin' to stop swallerin' baloney — hook, line and sinker — just because somebody serves it up fresh and hot in a pretty wrapper?

We need to change our diet in a lot bigger way than just changin' what goes in our mouths. There are a bunch of things that we've been swallerin' that smell and taste a lot like goat cheese.