

**TONGUE TWISTER AUDIT**

Aug 20 1990

ED (SETUP AT DESK)

Since the discovery of the S and L crisis, many large firms are having their books analyzed by outside auditors.

It's not an easy job telling strangers they're losing money. And with some companies, it can be nearly impossible...

(CENTER STAGE: A BOARD ROOM. TWO MEN AND A WOMAN IN BUSINESS SUITS AROUND BOARD ROOM TABLE. INTERCOM ON TABLE. WATER GLASSES. COVERED GRAPH ON EASEL.)

WOMAN

Gentlemen, as you know, "Tongue Twister magazine" has been on the stands a year now, and we're still not out of the red. I'm hoping this new auditor will shed some light on our problems.

(INTO THE INTERCOM)

Send him in, please.

(JOHNNY ENTERS AS AUDITOR, WITH FOLDER WHICH HE OPENS AND PLACES ON TABLE.)

JOHNNY

Good morning. I know you're all very busy, so I'll make this brief.

The bottom line is, you're financially sound. "Tongue Twister Magazine" is a unique publication. You provide reading material that your subscribers can't find elsewhere. As for the numbers...

(JOHNNY UNCOVERS EASEL: GRAPH SAYS, "TONGUE TWISTER TREASURER TOTAL TALLY." THE LINE DIPS SEVERELY IN 3 DIFFERENT PLACES.)

Tongue Twister had a temporarily tough and troubling time this quarter, due to pre-tax expenses. But it's nothing to worry about. As I say, you're basically solid.

WOMAN

Excuse me...

JOHNNY

Yes?

WOMAN

Could you tell us what caused that loss in September?

JOHNNY

In September?

(TAKES A SIP OF WATER)

That was your six-man story team.

WOMAN

What did the story team do in September?

JOHNNY

All six sailed straight South to sell seven sailors' sisters seven shabby shallow satin sofas for a series of stories.

WOMAN

Seven shabby shallow satin sofas?

JOHNNY

Seven shabby shallow satin sofas.

WOMAN

(CHECKS SHEET)

The story sheet says six short shallow seersucker sofas.

JOHNNY

The short shallow seersucker sofa story sheet was superseded.

WOMAN

Why?

JOHNNY

It had spit all over it.

WOMAN

I see. So?

JOHNNY

So simply selling the satin sofas for that series of stories set you back sixty-six hundred shekels.

WOMAN

Shoot. I'm sickened and somewhat shocked.

JOHNNY

I'm sure. Anyway, that was your only major first quarter loss. Thank you again, and good day.

(HE PICKS UP HIS FOLDER TO LEAVE)

WOMAN

Wait just a minute. What about this drop in December?

JOHNNY

December?

(CHECKS THE GRAPH)

Oh. That was a reimbursement requisition written by one of your researchers.

WOMAN

Which one?

JOHNNY

(CHECKS DATA)

Brian Byron.

WOMAN

Is that little Brian Byron of the Berlin Bureau?

JOHNNY

No. Big Brian Byron of the Berkeley Bureau.

WOMAN

What did big Brian Byron of the Berkeley Bureau buy?

JOHNNY

Big Brian Byron of the Berkeley Bureau bought Betty Bright in the Burbank Bureau a big brand-new box of big brake blocks.

WOMAN

Betty Bright The blonde?

JOHNNY

No. Betty Bright the bubbly brunette with the big...office.

WOMAN

Brian bought Betty the brunette a box of brand-new brake blocks?

JOHNNY

No... Brian bought the brunette Betty a big brand-new box of big brake blocks.

WOMAN

Because...?

JOHNNY

Basically because Betty Bright's brake blocks broke, bringing Brian Byron back from the Burbank Bureau to the Berkeley Bureau.

WOMAN

(CHECKS SHEET)

But there are no brake blocks on the budget breakdown.

JOHNNY

The budget breakdown began before the brake block breakage was broached.

WOMAN

Bummer. But what did Brian go to the Burbank Bureau for?

JOHNNY

(CHECKS DATA)

Brunch.

WOMAN

So why didn't Betty borrow brake blocks from the Berkeley Bureau?

JOHNNY

Beats me.

WOMAN

What did the breakage bring Betty?

JOHNNY

Big bucks.

WOMAN

Bitch.

JOHNNY

You bet. So that's your financial report. You'll receive copies in the mail. It's been a pleasure doing business with you.

WOMAN

Wait. This last quarter, we lost money last quarter as well. What happened?

JOHNNY

(CHECKS HIS SHEET)

I'll send you the details in my report.

WOMAN

Couldn't you tell us while we're all here?

JOHNNY

It's the printing paper Peter Piper the publisher purchased.

WOMAN

What about the printing paper Peter Piper the publisher purchased?

JOHNNY

Peter Piper's paper's pricey. Pricey, pulpy... and pretty purplish.

WOMAN

(CHECKS SHEET)

Presposterous. There's no passage in the prospectus panning Peter's Piper's pricey pulpy pretty purplish publisher's printing paper.

JOHNNY

The prospectus was printed previous to Peter's pricey pulpy pretty purplish Publisher's printing paper perplexing problem appearing.

WOMAN

Did Paul, the printer, pull the paper?

JOHNNY

Unfortunately Pete, Paul the printer's partner, previously put parts of the pricey pages in the press, improperly passed the poorer parts of the pure pulpy pages, and approved the pretty purplish pages pending publication.

WOMAN

Poop.

JOHNNY

Precisely.

WOMAN

Could you summarize this for me, please?

JOHNNY

O-kay.

(DEEP BREATH)

The story on the six researchers who sailed straight South to sell seven sailors' sisters seven shabby shallow satin sofas instead of six short shallow seersucker sofas may not be printed on Peter Piper's pricey, pulpy, pretty purplish publisher's printing paper, because big Brian Byron bought bubbly brunette Betty Bright in the Burbank Bureau a big brand-new box of big brake blocks to replace the brake blocks Betty broke bringing Brian back to the Berkeley Bureau.

WOMAN

This is terrible! do you have any recommendations?

JOHNNY

(PICKING UP HIS PAPERS)

As a matter of fact, I do. Sack the shallow sofa selectors, ban Brian Byron, pull Peter Piper's publisher's paper...

...and while you're at it, can the clannish Korean cleaning crew...fire the four fat frank French photographers, and whatever you do, dump Dick Drake, Don Dunn the Denver Division Director's damn dim driver. Good day!

(JOHNNY TURNS AND LEAVES)

(APPLAUSE, FADE OUT)