

Pranksters' arrest a cop-out



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No April Fools' Day jokes. Not from me you won't.

No laxative doughnuts like the ones those goofballs at Sequoya Middle School in Holtsville were passing around on Friday.

No Left-Handed Whoppers at Burger King (condiments rotated 180 degrees). No reports of a 168-mph fastballer joining the New York Mets pitching (if only ...). No corporate sponsorships for the Taco Liberty Bell in Philadelphia or the Ford Lincoln Mercury Memorial on the Mall in Washington.

Those last three rate in the Top 10 April Fools' Hoaxes of All Time, according to the Museum of Hoaxes. (Yes, there really is such a museum. No fooling. It's in San Diego. At least, that's what curator Alex Boese says. But honestly, given the business he's in, who can really say for certain?)

You see: If you're writing about April Fools' Day, you need to use lots of parenthetical explanations. You can't take anything for granted on the April Fools' beat.

Certainly not the common sense of the grown-ups.

Let's all agree that the laxative-laced doughnut was a boneheaded stunt. Someone could have been hurt at the Sequoya Middle School. Those kids should be grounded by their parents and punished sternly at school.

But arrested by the police? Mugshot, printed and charged? Slapped with a second-degree tampering-with-a-consumer-product charge? Facing up to one year in jail?

Thankfully, no one was seriously hurt here. Life goes on. By all accounts, the kids feel terrible about what they did.

Plus, there's this: If boneheaded behavior were a crime when we were young, we'd all still be doing time.

Happy April Fools' Day, young and old.

HUNGRY FOR ROCK: The folks at rockCANroll.org, who've been collecting canned goods at LI music shows, have turned up the volume again. The North Fork Theatre at Westbury has donated a block of tickets to the April 21 show by "The Machine," the Pink Floyd tribute band. "Order through us and 100 percent of the money goes to fighting hunger across Long Island," rCr founder Aimee Holtzman says.

BRAKE TIME: Tom Suozzi asks a legitimate question: Why should so many

has had his own county-car controversy, is telling 35 of the commuting freeloaders to take the train, drive their own cars or walk. Now do you think he can lend Comptroller Howard Weitzman a snowplow!

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "People have been putting bones in their noses for hundreds of years," said Cort Bengtson, owner of Cort's Royal Ink in Patchogue, reacting to Suffolk County's proposed "extreme body art" ban. "Next you'll tell people they can't dye their hair pink."

ASKED AND UNANSWERED: Did Rudy really tell Barbara he'd bring his Judith to cabinet meetings? Did he think that idea worked well for Bill and Hillary? ... It's nice New York City has tightened safety measures for bike-riding food-delivery people. But the way some of those maniacs ride, shouldn't the pedestrians be getting helmets too? ... Pink polish on the toes of the two female legs that washed up on the North Shore? And that narrows the search to - what do you figure? Half the women who've died this decade? ... Nice to see Tom Suozzi and RexCorp chairman Scott Rechler announcing the 2007 RexCorp Long Island Marathon. So what would it take to make those two weekend walkers actually run on May 6? ... Should Long Island Latinos expect any extra "oraciones" from Bishop James Ottley? After stops in Panama, El Salvador, Honduras, Puerto Rico and southeast Florida, he's returning to the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island as assistant ... Re: the starry-eyed state budget projections: What happens if Wall Street ever, you knows, goes down? ... You mean the ERA never passed before? Lots of people think it did ... If this is how the cops treat litterers in Ocean Beach, what would they do if they ever met a real criminal? Probably call a real cop ... Burger King vowing humane treatment for the animals before they are killed and eaten: Is that good news or bad news for the animals? ... High-tide, low-tide - and now mud-tide? Un-dredged East End boaters want to know: Don't we need a third category now? ... Anyone care to explain dumping two dozen dead birds outside the Islip tax assessor's office? There's got to be a message in there somewhere - but what?

E-mail Ellis at henican@newsday.com and join him on the radio for "Henican & White," weekdays 4-6 p.m. on WOR/710.

FUN WITH SANJAYA'S FAUX-HAWK

- 1 Yank it hard and hear it cock-a-doodle-do.
- 2 Cut it off and weave it into a pair of ear muffs
- 3 Grab its owner by his feet, turn him upside down and use the bristly part to scrub out pots and pans.
- 4 Sell it to a demented violin-bow maker
- 5 Bequeath it to the Museum of Worst-Hair-Day-Ever.

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