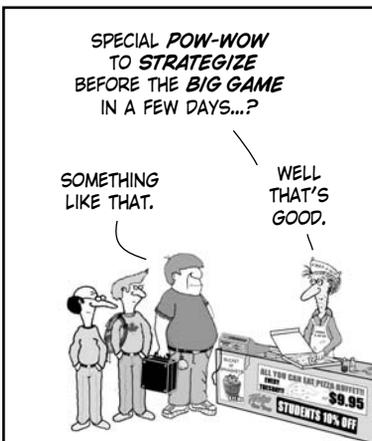
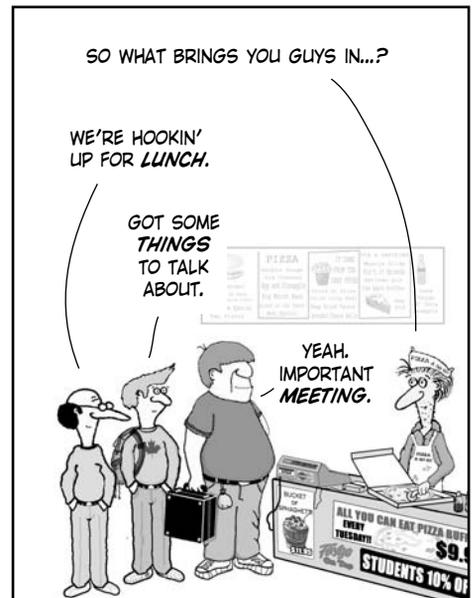
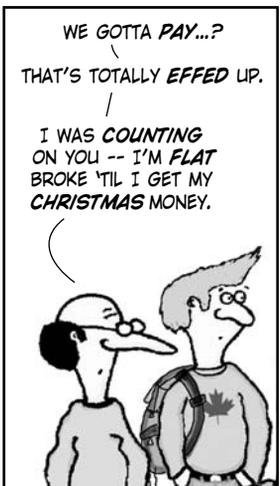
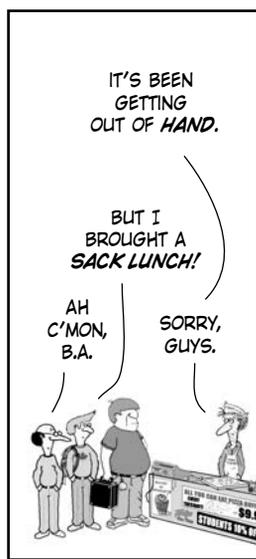
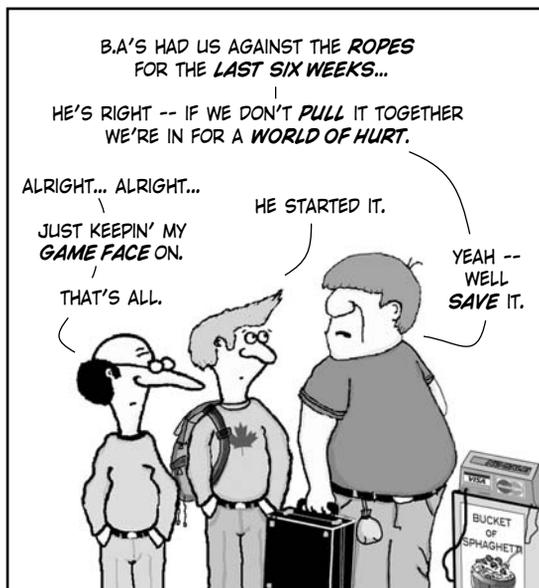


No Free Lunch

BY JOLLY R. BLACKBURN



"JUST AS YOU ARE ABOUT TO PUNCH POOR SKINNY IN THE RIBS FOR A THIRD TIME YOU SUDDENLY FEEL HIS LARGE BRUTISH HANDS ON YOUR THROAT!! SUDDENLY YOU ARE AIRBORNE BUT ONLY FOR A SECOND. YOU SMASH THROUGH THE BACK WALL OF THE TAVERN AND LAND IN THE SLOP TROUGH OF A PIG PEN!"
 —B.A. Felton **Bundles of Trouble #9, A Few Good Men**



"I'M A **DWARF** FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!! HOW THE HELL DID I MAKE '**CLOSE FRIENDS**' WITH A LOUSY, FLEA-BITTEN TRASH OGRE?? I DON'T WANT THIS **POND SCUM** HANGING AROUND ME."

—Bob Herzog **Tales from the Vault #2, Henchman Woes**



NO WORRIES, GUYS.

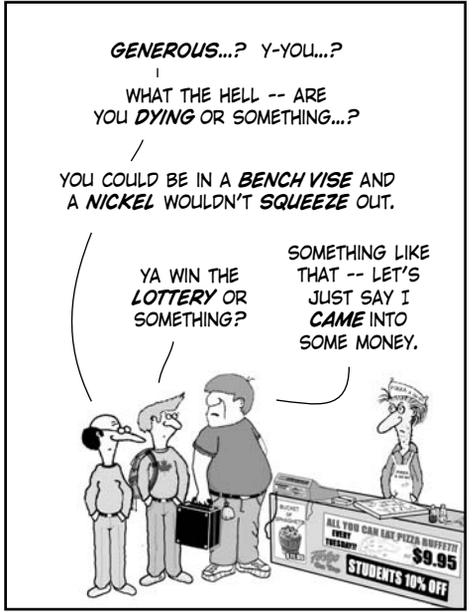
I'VE GOT YA COVERED.
LUNCH IS ON ME TODAY.

ON YOU...?



AHH -- JUST CALL IT AN **EARLY** CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

I'M FEELIN' **GENEROUS** TODAY.



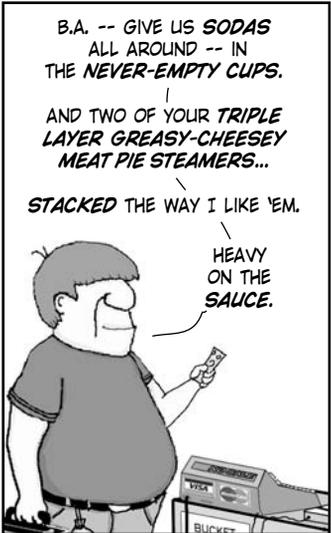
GENEROUS...? Y-YOU...?

WHAT THE HELL -- ARE YOU **DYING** OR SOMETHING...?

YOU COULD BE IN A **BENCH VISE** AND A **NICKEL** WOULDN'T **SQUEEZE** OUT.

YA WIN THE **LOTTERY** OR SOMETHING?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT -- LET'S JUST SAY I **CAME** INTO SOME MONEY.

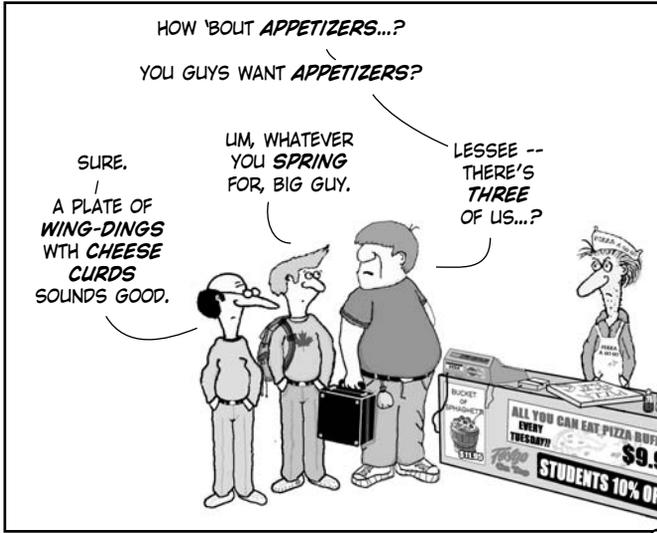


B.A. -- GIVE US **SODAS** ALL AROUND -- IN THE **NEVER-EMPTY CUPS**.

AND TWO OF YOUR **TRIPLE LAYER GREASY-CHEESEY MEAT PIE STEAMERS...**

STACKED THE WAY I LIKE 'EM.

HEAVY ON THE **SAUCE**.



HOW 'BOUT **APPETIZERS**...?

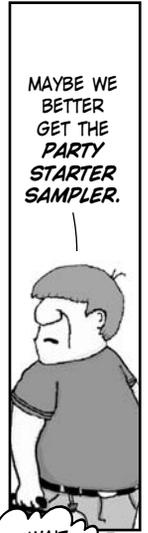
YOU GUYS WANT **APPETIZERS**?

SURE.

A PLATE OF **WING-DINGS** WITH **CHEESE CURDS** SOUNDS GOOD.

UM, WHATEVER YOU **SPRING** FOR, BIG GUY.

LESSEE -- THERE'S **THREE** OF US...?



MAYBE WE BETTER GET THE **PARTY STARTER SAMPLER**.



AFTER THE DAMAGE IS ADDED UP...

IT COMES TO THIRTY SEVEN DOLLARS AND EIGHTY THREE CENTS.

I GAVE YOU MY **EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT**.

THANKS. KEEP THE **CHANGE**.



BUZZ US WHEN IT'S UP.

WE'LL COME GET IT.

SURE.

HOPE THE **MEETING** IS **PRODUCTIVE**.



WAIT A MINUTE -- A **PLAYER MEETING**...? WHERE THE HELL'S **SARA**...?

"SORRY DAVE, SINCE THE WORM WAS MOVING, BY THE TIME YOU **DROP 350 FEET** YOU **MISS** THE CREATURE. YOU ARE **INSTANTLY TRANSFORMED** INTO A **GOO SPOT** ON THE **HARD PAVEMENT** WITH A **SIX FOOT RADIUS** AND A **SMALL INDENTATION** IN THE **MIDDLE**." —B.A. Felton *Tales from the Vault #2, Untitled, page 34*