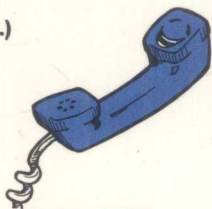

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NO HANG-UPS III

JOHN CARFI & CLIFF CARLE

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INTRODUCTION

For Volume III we have used the name PAT (you will, of course, substitute your own name when putting a message on your machine) in all of the messages in this book where a name is required. Why PAT? Well, it can be either male or female. (And if your name *is* PAT, hey, you're all set!)

In most instances, the genders "he" and "she" are interchangeable. Also, if applicable to your status, nouns such as "wife" can be switched to "girlfriend"—or "boyfriend" to "husband"; etc. (Hermaphrodites: ignore this paragraph!)

You might notice that many messages do not contain the generic answering machine phrase, "leave your name and number at the sound of the tone . . . " And with good reason:

1) Answering machines have been around a long time now and only aborigines and people who have been in a 10 year coma don't know what the procedure is.

2) Many people don't like to be told what to do. This world is becoming overcrowded with "sensitive" types who will hang up on your machine at the slightest provocation. You see, the purpose of this book (and our previous books) is to substantially decrease *hang ups*. Since our first book, we have discovered that a funny or clever message alone usually guarantees a response. But, if you insist, the generic phrase can be easily worked into most of the messages at either the beginning or the end of your spiel. Whatever. Afterall, these are now *your* messages, to use or abuse to your heart's delight.

—John Carfi & Cliff Carle

Well, here we go again . . .

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION i

FOOL YOUR CALLERS 1

THE YOLK'S ON YOU 11

MISCELLANEOUS 27

**"BEST MESSAGE"
CONTEST WINNERS 39**

SPECIAL EFFECTS 67

FOOL YOUR CALLERS

If you're of a rare breed, a person who really doesn't care about **hang ups**—because you're so self-assured you instinctively know that the really **important** people will leave a message on your machine, no matter what, and the people who hang up aren't worth your time, anyway—then this section is for you.

[NOTE: As there are so few such well-adjusted people, this is a short section]

Hello. If this is the first time you've called an answering machine—relax—and I'll give you a couple of pointers.

First—never hang up on a machine or you could receive a severe electrical shock.

And Second—answering machines generate a tremendous amount of static electricity in your clothing—like dryers—so be sure you are naked when you leave your message.

Okay, here comes the beep—hurry up and take off all your clothes!

BEEP. . .

Hi. Here's what just happened:
you put your receiver next to your face—
dialed my number and my phone rang—
so I guess we could say. . . “your face rings a bell!”

But I can't think of your name—so leave it at the tone.

BEEP. . .

Hi. We're not home. We went out to get some change. My wife and I have to flip a coin to see who will be on top. Boy, I hate putting a new roof on a house!

BEEP. . .

(WHISPERING)

You won't believe this, but I've just been visited by Aliens! Yeah, no kidding! As a matter of fact, they come every week—and clean my house. The leader's name is Maria. The other is Juan.

BEEP. . .

Hi. PAT here. Guess what? I bought you a present. That's right, a brand new answering machine! You're listening to it right now. So what do you say? Why not try it out? It's yours. . .

BEEP. . .

I'm not home. I'm over at my parents again. Last time, my Mom made me **sole** food—then started yelling at me, saying I was a real **loafer**. And my father called me a **heel**. Hey, you don't like my message? So **shoe** me!

BEEP. . .

You know, they say we use not even one-fourth of our brain. So the way I see it, anything you say is only worth a quarter.

BEEP. . .

Congratulations caller! You've been voted "Sucker Of The Year!" At the tone, please leave your name and all your credit card numbers.

BEEP. . .

[MESSAGE FOR FEBRUARY 2]

Hi. I went to the market to buy some sausage—it's a tradition with us—afterall, it is Ground-**hog** Day!

BEEP. . .

(ANGRY)

I can't believe this! I wait by the phone all day for your call—nothing! Then I step outside for a minute to check my mail and what happens???

(ELATED)

I win a free vacation to Hawaii! Leave a message and I'll get back to you in a couple-a weeks!

BEEP. . .

(PERPLEXED)

Uh, gee, sorry. I had a real funny joke for you today, but now I can't seem to find it. I must have left it in my **other** machine???

BEEP. . .

At the tone, please leave a **complete** message because there are **three** things I can never remember—

One is names.

Two is numbers.

And **Three** is. . . Uh??? Is. . . Uh???

BEEP. . .

Hello. This is today's message. If you want to hear **yesterday's** message, just call back tomorrow.

BEEP. . .

Hello. You have reached The Society Of Repeating Things Over And Over Again Redundantly A Lot. Please kindly leave your name who you are and the digital integers of your phone number listing when you hear the sound of the beep tone noise. Thank you ever so very much! Beep!

BEEP. . .

Hi. Sorry if you haven't been able to reach me lately. I just got back from a Borneo Safari where we hunted wild pigs. Leave a message—I'll call you back and **boar** you with the details.

BEEP. . .

Hi. If this is a member of the opposite sex calling, I have a question for you?
Are you free tonight.
Or is it going to cost me?

BEEP. . .

(RELIEVED)

Oh, thank goodness you finally called! I've been trying to reach you all day, but I lost your number. So leave it at the tone and I'll call you right back!

BEEP. . .

Hi. This machine is divided into two sections: **First Class** and **Coach**. For Coach, just leave your name and number. For First Class, go get a glass of champagne—then leave your name and number.

BEEP. . .

I used to be home **more**. But now I'm home **less**— because I have a heavy social life—which, by the way, is costing me a fortune. So, at the tone, leave a message and if you can spare it, please send money to the **home less**.

BEEP. . .

Hello. This is PAT. I was just looking at the ERASE button on my machine and it got me thinking—now, I don't want to get too meta-physical or anything—but where the hell do words go when you erase them???

BEEP. . .

(EXCITED)

Hi. This is PAT. Guess what? This morning I was on the radio! And this afternoon I was on the TV! But my rear-end is getting sore, so tonight I'm going to be on the sofa!

BEEP. . .

Hi. We went out for dinner. Hope it turns out better this time! Yesterday we went to this lousy seafood restaurant. What a night! The employees were rude—the customers were mad—and the clams were steamed!

BEEP. . .

Leave a message. I'm running late for my Ego Club meeting—but not to worry, they wouldn't think of starting without me! Today we're voting in a new president, so I had to rehearse my acceptance speech. Well, gotta go—it was nice talking to me.

BEEP. . .



THE YOLK'S ON YOU

In getting someone to leave a message, there's one thing that is sometimes just as effective as humor. . . . **guilt.**

And probably the best way to achieve guilt is through sympathy. The theory here is, if you get the caller to feel sorry for you, they will usually leave a message. Or, if they hang up, sooner or later they will begin to feel guilty and will have to call you back. You will know it's working when you play back your day's recordings and find the pattern:

HANG UP/MESSAGE. . . HANG UP/MES-
SAGE. . . HANG UP/MESSAGE. . . etc.

And you will know you're really getting good when you find that certain callers have felt **so** guilty, they called back twice, using different "cheery" voices!