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The front cover drawing was created by Nik Caesar, whose art you can find at scary-art.com.

You can find this zine's archives at worldofprankcalls.com/zine If you'd like to leave an email for us, dowhatnow@worldofprankcalls.com is the address you should use to voice your displeasure or submit an article, or photos, or other things you think would be a good fit for this zine. You can also phone our publishing offices at 914-296-1862. We won't save your phone number to prank in the future. Oh no, not us. We wouldn't do that.



## **A New Decade of Prank Calls**

I've been so busy enjoying the 2010s that I barely even noticed when the 2020s snuck up on us a few weeks ago. Looking back at the past decade, I'm beginning to think that it might have been the most important decade for prank calling yet. I mean, sure, the 1990s brought us The Jerky Boys and underground prank tape trading communities, and then the 2000s gave us Crank Yankers, Madhouse Live, and caller ID spoofing, but just look at all the amazing things that have happened these past ten years.

Before the 2010s, most people were still making prank calls on actual telephones. Making calls on Skype was possible, but it sounded terrible since most of us had terrible internet. Now there are seemingly limitless options with cheap, internet-based phone calls, from Skype to Google Voice to hundreds of VoIP providers, phone calls are now anonymous and caller ID is easier than ever to spoof.

There are more prank call communities now than there ever have been, encouraging listeners to participate and join in the fun. Cacti Radio lasted for just a few years, but then we got Prank Call Nation, Hijinks, and World of Prank Calls. I know that prank call communities have existed as long as the internet has, but they're just so much *better* now than they used to be, now that we have cool things like Discord and Facebook Groups and an unlimited number of social media options to communicate through, not to mention MixIr for easy show streaming.

In 2013 we got a cartoon about prank calls called Telephone Falls. In 2016 we got two seasons of Calls of Mass Confusion, the show that allowed us to see video of people getting prank called. Throughout the decade we've gotten amazing new audio shows like Mop Riding With Dwight, The Snow Plow Show, Another Prank Call Show, The Art Of Phone Larking, Take Your Pants Off, The Wasted Memory Show, and so many more. And let's not forget this amazing 'zine that was launched in 2019.

Prank calls in general have gotten so much better this past decade. In the 2000s it seemed like we were doing the same things that we did in the 1990s, but by the early 2010s prank calls began mutating and evolving and getting so much more creative and interesting. Community participation brought us car ding pranks, Yelp brought us business check-in pranks, and Twitter brought us customer complainer pranks.

Patreon and other crowdfunding sites have given prank callers the ability to pay for new equipment, calling credits, and still break even on their prank calling endeavors. Some fancy-pants prank callers are even making a full-time living at prank calls.

So many crazy things have happened this past decade that it's hard to imagine where the next 10 years is going to take us. Hopefully this zine will be around to explore all the fun things prank calls have to offer over the next decade and if all goes well, we'll be able to report on the 2020s when 2030 gets here.

#### "Cursed is he who brings physical harm and destruction." -Winstonians 80:085

Don't cause damage. People are gullible and many of them will do anything you tell them to if you sound authoritative enough. Knowing this helps you make hilariously epic prank calls, but you should never exploit this ability to cause another person to damage property or hurt people. Stick to making them do things that are hilarious, rather than things that are harmful or destructive.

## "When your victim turns to the law, it is time to confess your sins. Avoid the constable at all costs." -Sensei Dougadiah 19:94

When you think they're about to call the police on you, explain to them that you're not really who you say you are and that you're simply a prank caller who chose them at random and that their calls to the police will be pointless since you're on the other side of the country. Apologize, laugh at them, and move on.

#### "You will not inherit the Kingdom of God if you steal thine telephone target's personal information." -Isaiahregretjumping 40:4

It's easy to trick people out of their personal information, but you should be careful when doing this because after the call their imagination will run wild and they will end up calling the police to report a case of attempted identity theft.

#### "Even though I walk through the valley of Roy, New Mexico, I will prank no locals." -Royvelations 420:69

Never prank anyone who is local to you. When you prank someone on the other side of the country, it's no longer the simple act of calling the local police to show up at your house and give you a stern talking to. Suddenly your victim has to deal with multiple police departments and multiple phone companies and it's just not worth the time or effort for anyone to deal with it. Unless you're threatening people or doing any of the other horrible things mentioned in the rules above, it's extremely unlikely that any authorities are going to help your victim since they know that they can't drive 3,000 miles to arrest you.

#### "Love your telephone target as yourself, and leave them in peace after one call." -SteveDaveteronomy 867:5309

Don't keep calling the same guy over and over and over, no matter how much he makes you laugh when he screams at you. When you keep calling the same person repeatedly, you're suddenly *harassing* your victim instead of making a simple funny prank phone call to them. Try to keep it to a single prank phone call, maybe two, and then stop forever and move on to someone else. This will help keep the authorities completely uninterested in you.

# The Commandments of Prank Calling

Excerpts from the Old Testament gathered by Father McDichael Modern day translations by Brother Gherbil

#### "If you involve the lawman and the medicine man in your mischief, you will find yourself in the lake of fire and sulfur." -Hoseanustart 1:2

Don't send the police or fire department to someone's house, don't make prank calls to 911 or to police stations. Don't do anything that would cause a prank victim to call the police or fire department. Don't trick SWAT teams into showing up at a person's house. Prank calls should be fun, not felonies!

#### "And yea Abraham did say unto him, 'You shall not threaten thine telephone target, less ye be buttslammed in a cage of iron."" -Sleveiticus 14:31

Even when they threaten you first, never threaten someone you're calling. Don't threaten to kill anyone. Don't threaten to slap anyone. Don't threaten to blow up cars and houses. Don't even say something that could be mistaken for a threat, because people love to bother the police over every little thing they can.

#### "You shall not deal falsely by impersonating the village constable." -Carolinthians 13:37

Don't pretend to be a police officer or an FBI agent. Not only is this illegal, but once your victim becomes suspicious of your call or realizes it's a prank, they will call the real police.

#### "Leave the medicine man in peace, for even God cannot forgive the heathen who interferes with the healing of his children." -Cody Noverbs 6:66

Don't call emergency hotlines, especially suicide hotlines. Do you really want to tie up the lines at a place that tries to keep people from killing themselves? Never mess with any hotline that are designed to help people.

# What's New In The Community

A lot has been happening in the various prank call communities since our last issue. King Richard from Another Prank Call Show has been dropping Amazon lockers on peoples' properties with a helicopter, he's been installing election polling booths in driveways, and he's been building Lego replicas of his neighbors houses. Brad from The Snow Plow Show has been knocking out walls in his apartment, enrolling grandmas into reality shows, and delaying mail over the Coronavirus.

Dwight has been driving people nuts when they post lost/ stolen items online by telling them that he found the items and is not giving them back. And of course there's always lots of



towel flushing and hallway pooping at the local hotels. Wasted Memory and Riley did a show together recently where they impersonated Maddox in at least half of their prank calls. Some lunk alarms have happened on Daisy's show, and dick slapping on Devon's. An insane number of prank call shows happen every single week and you should listen to every single of one them. There is a list of them later in this issue.

The largest collection of prank calls ever assembled into one place has just been released in torrent form at worldofprankcalls.com/torrent. Within its 230 gigs you will find a massive number of prank call albums, a gigantic archive of prank call shows, the full Calls of Mass Confusion prank call TV show, and even a bunch of prank call songs. The download is free and you'll be entertained for many years to come with the amount of content inside.

And of course, most importantly, is that this zine is available at several bookstores around the U.S. such as Quimby's in Chicago, Hyaena Gallery in Burbank, Atomic Books in Baltimore, and a few others. If you live near a store that carries us, be sure to pick one up from there and buy a few other zines while you're at it. Thanks you, stores, for carrying the zine and thanks every-one else for enjoying the content and spreading the word.



## NDWAGENA, A.HEE "NUMANA, OBS NDWAGENA, A.HEE "NUMANA, OBS

A few nights ago I received a late-night phone call from Dwight, a sociopath who calls up unsuspecting people every Saturday night on the Prank Call Nation stream to test the limits of their patience. I decided to ask him a few questions.

#### Stevedave: Great, this again. Don't you have a life?

Dwight: I first became interested in prank calls after watching an episode of Law & Order SVU (Season 10 Episode 20: "Crush") in which they were showing a few instances of a phone number being "spoofed." I started looking online to see if that was actually a thing and came across Prankdial.com and a few other sites. After further searching i came across a few videos from RBCP (Taco Bell Takeover) which had me hooked and that's where I ended up finding Phone Losers of America & Madhouse Live.

#### Stevedave: Is this how you get your kicks?

Dwight: The first prank call I ever remember making was when Unsolved Mysteries was still on the air and I would call into their tip lines with fake information. I called once and told them I had some information about a haunt that was going on in my house. Long story short, the punch line was me in a squeaky voice yelling, "Ahhhhh, a ghost just flew up my ass!"

#### Stevedave: My kid was sleeping and you woke him up. I suppose you think that's funny?

Dwight: I started listening to pranks in the community in 2008, and after years of listening to PLA & Madhouse Live I was pretty much bullied into doing a show by Carlito during the launch of the Prank Call Nation network. There were tons of logistic problems though. I was still using an old computer that I had purchased back in 2002 and it didn't have enough ram to broadcast properly. I also had a very bad quality Logitech microphone. Sloth\_ was a huge help - he would setup a virtual computer that I could connect to and broadcast.

#### Stevedave: Go ahead and keep on talking because we've nearly completed the trace.

Dwight: In high school a group of us would call random 800 numbers from the pay phone that we would spell out on the keypad. Usually it was something along the lines of 1-800-Bens -Gay. If i remember correctly it was some type of camera parts ordering number. We would call everyday at lunch to mess with them. After about a week or so we ended up getting called down to the principles office (a group of 6 of us). All we had to do is write some apology letters that the school ended up mailing to them on our behalf but we were pretty shaken at the time.

## **Big 'Ole List Of Prank Shows**

If you're looking for some good old-fashioned prank call comedy shows, there is no shortage of them. The shows listed below usually happen at least once a week, either on podcast feeds or as a live stream. To be added to this list, never break the commandments of prank calling, then send an email to dowhatnow@worldofprankcalls.com

Mop Riding With Dwightmixlr.com/prankcallnation
Another Prank Call Showanotherprankcallshow.com
The Snow Plow Showsnowplowshow.com
Wasted Memorymixlr.com/wastedmemory
Devon Anustartdevonanustart
Madhouse Livemadhouselive.com
Travels With Miriamtravelswithmiriam.com
The Justin Showmixlr.com/justn2
Daisy's Dungeonmixlr.com/daisysdungeon
Super Phone Brothers
Calls From The Gravethe grave
Partytimemixlr.com/prankcallnation
The Prank Callers Guideasepresents.com
976-NEON
The Purge With JagTVmixlr.com/prankcallnation
The Gorgeous Ladies of Prank Callsmixlr.com/the-glop-show/showreel
It's Me, Cheechmixlr.com/itsmecheech
Mr. Dobalina's Wonderful World of Prank Callsworldofprankcalls.com



By Rachael Amber Guity

#### I THINK YOU GOT THE WRONG NUMBER...

Have you ever picked up the phone just to hear silence, heavy breathing or someone asking you about an item that you put for sale online? We put our items for sale but we don't actually expect people to call us about them.

Many of us have been in this situation but what is the best way to handle a phone call from a number we don't know? Ignore it? Answer the call and say nothing? Here are a few tips if you decide to pick up that phone call.

-Answer the phone and state your name. This is a friendly way to start a phone conversation and the person on the other end will most likely not use your name to trick you in to thinking you know them.

-Ask the caller their name a few times and immediately tell them that you don't know them and you think they have the wrong number.

-Give the caller a chance to explain why they are calling and if it sounds legitimate then stay on the phone. Some people may actually be interested in your VHS collection.

-Go in to entirely too much detail about the 30 year old Elvis calendar that hasn't been opened and you're asking \$40 bucks for. Also, give the caller entirely too much personal information about your medical condition and age.

Some callers may not appreciate the detail you give about the treasures that you're selling or god forbid, make fun of you for it. If this happens, inform the caller about the relative you have that is a police officer, a little white lie never hurt anyone. You can also lie and tell the caller that you're recording the call or you can also just hang up the phone but in my experience it's best to get really angry, yell and call the person on the phone names. How else will they learn that what they are doing is wrong?

Hopefully your anger scares the caller enough to hang up but if that's not the case, take it one step further and give the caller your address or ask them to meet you somewhere so you can kick their ass because how dare they call and ask silly questions about an unopened pack of adult diapers. The Wal-Mart Garden Center is an excellent meeting place for these kinds of transactions.

Once you hang up that phone, try to call the number back to let the caller know that you have their phone number or crack a beer and wait for the caller to show up. Yell, laugh, cry but whatever you do, don't call the police and waste their time with this nonsense. It was only a prank phone call. If you feel the need to talk about it, tell your family or friends. Who does prank calls in 2020 anyway?

#### Stevedave: Maybe this Sunday you should try going to church instead of bothering us.

Dwight: I'm running my show on the most top-notch computer that Walmart's electronics department can provide! I have an Acer with 8 gigs of RAM, an Intel Celeron 1900 @1.99GHz, a Samson Q2U Microphone & Samson H20 Headset. Nothing special really. Anybody can do

a barebones show. Here's a picture of my setup.

#### Stevedave: That's fine because I've got a sheriff standing right here next to me.

Dwight: I've stopped a prank or two when someone is getting emotional, usually over something stupid and trivial, nothing they should be getting wound up about. I do have a tiny bit of a heart and will tell them it's a joke



and try to walk it back if things get out of hand. I've also had some where it didn't turn into a prank at all and it just sounded like the person needed someone to talk to, so I would just sit there, listen, and bullshit with them.

#### Stevedave: \*blows a whistle loudly into the phone\*

Dwight: I assume most of the people in the community enjoyed the shenanigans of The Jerky Boys. I had some of their stuff on CD and probably still do in my closet somewhere. Up until learning about the prank community, that was really my only exposure to prank calls. I've grown to appreciate the different styles of prank calls. Just as RBCP has his own style, so does Carlito, but they are definitely my inspirations.

#### Stevedave: Look, let's just cut the bullshit and hang up the phone, okay?

Dwight: Some of the craziest calls we've done I'd say would be the 4th of July fireworks in the hotel room calls. I was really surprised the first year we did those because I wasn't anticipating the sound FX Carlito was about to unleash on us (fireworks, smoke detector sounds). My all time favorite, though, is when Carlito was stuck on the roof of a Hawaii hotel's elevator and I was his brother trying to relay information to the front desk person. We called them back years later and they still remember when that happened.

Dwight has been a staple of the prank call community for many years, and often introduces himself on the phone as Sebastian, Blake, Ken Kaniff, Occupant In Room 215, Mr. Johnsonn With 2 N's, and Dwight McClanahan. You can usually find him hanging out in the Hijinks Discord room, pooping in hotel hallways, or doing his 3-hour live show every single Saturday night at precisely 7pm Pacific on mixIr.com/prankcallnation or search for him on YouTube.

	Pra	nk	Call	Bi	ngo
*	Who is this?	Judges income level or job	Wants to meet in person	Doesn't hang up properly	Laughs and enjoys the prank
	Call turns sexual	My relative is a cop	Old person states age for no reason	You have no idea who you're messing with	Spouse gets on the extension to yell
	Hits Touch Tones	Switches to speaker phone	Slams phone down	Violent Threat	Do you know what time it is?
	l'm tracing this call	l'm recording this call	Excuse me?	Whistle Blower	Is this a prank call?
	Put your supervisor on	Do What Now?	Is this a scam?	Asks name repeatedly	How old are you?

Have you ever wished that listening to prank calls was a little more competitive? Thanks to our new Prank Call Bingo game, now it is! The next time you listen to a live prank call show, grab a few of our randomized prank call bingo cards and let the fun begin. You can download 30 different variations of prank call bingo from our website, or just use the one above. When you get five in a row, you win absolutely nothing!

## worldofprankcalls.com/bingo

ously the girl at Round1 doesn't know how to read her caller ID since I have been in this office all day watching this group and certainly was not making phone calls to any of the stores. I sent Terry to deal with most of the reports.

At 3:08pm, a man arrived with designer suitcases and sat one of them down on the table in the middle of a pizza and began distributing CDs or DVDs to people in the group while the group continued to grow. Some members would occasionally split off from the rest to go bowling or play arcade games, but would eventually return to the tables. At around 4pm we counted at least 40 in their group. We began making calls to the local PD to see if we could have assistance from their riot control group.

Each time we began preparing to ask the group to disperse, we would have to delay our plans because of another odd phone call from one of the stores in the mall. By 6pm, the group began to slowly get smaller on their own and by 9pm, only a few were left, so we called off the riot squad and nervously watched as the group dwindled to just 4 people.

All in all, it was a very stressful day of being a mall security guard and I'm sure that tomorrow will seem like a much easier day by comparison, assuming they don't show up again.

## **REVIEW OF THE 2019 SAN JOSE PRANK CALL MEETUP**

By Dave Mitchell, Eastridge Mall Security Guard

On March 16th at 11:42am, I observed a suspicious man with a back pack sit down at one of the tables in the free party room of the Round1 arcade. Thirty minutes later, two more males showed up, shaking the hands of the first man and they exchanged what appeared to be small pieces of paper. This was only the beginning of what would become a 12 hour ordeal.

Many people began converging at this small group of party tables and eventually members of this group took an extra table from a nearly children's birthday party to seat more of their own people. Children were made to stand at their now much smaller seating area. The strange group did not appear to be celebrating an authorized party, but various members did occasionally buy food and drinks. The tables were piled with papers, stickers and other miscellaneous items not typically seen at our birthday parties, and a single wireless phone was passed between everyone at the tables. By zooming in onto various documents, we were able to make out names like "Prank Call Nation" and "Phone Losers of America" and "Ask Mr. Biggs."

As I kept a close eye on the cameras, Terry Googled some of these names and began to find websites related to janitorial work, Indian restaurants, and gluing things together. The mystery was beginning to unravel. Terry went down to confront the man in the wheelchair, who appeared to be the ringleader and went by the name Laugh Track Matt. By the time he arrived, the ringleader had disappeared and could not be found. Terry reported that he heard various people at the tables continuously mentioning something about a cactus and when he looked at the group he was concerned to find that one man was drawing a cartoon picture of him.

As the day progressed we received several calls from stores in the mall claiming to have received calls from our security office making unusual requests. Even Round1 called to report that someone in our office had attempted to convince them to shut off all the electrical breakers, but obvi-

# Who is your Prank Call Spirit Seinfeld Character?

#### By iregretjumping

Did you know there are several different methods to prank calling? And did you know each of these methods directly correlate with a character from the 1990s TV show Seinfeld? Understanding which Seinfeld character is your Prank Call Spirit Character will help you develop your prank call personality. "But, how do I determine which Seinfeld character is my spirit character?" I can almost hear you ask. The answer to that question is to keep reading.

**Jerry:** You pre-plan your calls and strictly follow the rules. You have an idea that you follow and will deviate from the plan only if you need to. Also, you are Jewish. (Example: Sol Rosenberg)

**Kramer:** You don't bother combing your hair before (or after) performing a prank phone call. Proper prank phone call etiquette demands a freshly combed head of hair, but more and more prank callers are ignoring these standards set in the 50s and instead prefer a 'devil may care' attitude. (Example: RBCP)

Elaine: You are a woman. (Example: DevonAnustart)

**Newman:** You angrily call people you know and scream threats at them. You don't follow the rules of prank calling and report your ex-girlfriend to CPS. (Example: PrankNet)

**Soup Nazi:** You have a single catchphrase that you use over and over so much that you live the rest of your life known as "The -Catchphrase- Guy". (Example: The "Yaaaay" guy from Crank Yankers)

**George:** Balding, wears glasses, uses many different made up names, and comes up with many wild and zany ideas. Also has a very 'royal' presence like King George. (Example: None)

**Phoebe:** That's not even the right show. You're dumb. (Example: *You*, dumbo)

Ask Mr. Biggs is not only a radio show in the tri-county area, but it's also the newest column in our zine where readers can write in with questions that Mr. Biggs will attempt to answer. If you'd like to Ask Mr. Biggs anything about prank calls, send your questions to dowhatnow@worldofprankcalls.com. Here is Mr. Biggs latest letter.

#### Dear Mr. Biggs,



I've found that when I blow a whistle into the phone at prank callers, it seems to have little effect other than making them laugh at me. What's the best whistle to buy that will really show those prank callers a thing or two. -Tooting in Toledo

Well, Tootie. I suggest the first thing you should do is figure out why these pranksters seem to gravitate towards you as a victim. What are you doing to draw their fire? Do you carry yourself poorly? Overreact to small inconveniences? Do you yell at neighborhood kids? Does your face turn an unnatural shade of burgundy when annoyed? These are all things that contributed to many years where I, myself, dealt with more than my fair share of silly telephoned larks.

Once you figure out why they find it so entertaining to call you repeatedly, you should make an effort to make yourself less of an appealing target. Instead of getting upset, try laughing along with them and saying, "Good one, fellas!" Who knows? Maybe the calls will not only decrease, but you may end up with some fun youngsters to pal around with at the next County Bicycle Rodeo.

If you insist on sonic retaliation, you need to be aware of the science involved. Most humans hear somewhere in the range of 20Hz to 20,000Hz. But for maximum effectiveness, you need to figure out what Hertz hurts to the perps. 15,000Hz is a good starting point, since it's in the range that kids find annoying, but us adults with better things to do with our time generally cannot hear it at all. Check your local livestock supply store for "Critter Whistles" or "Cattle Flutes", as they are sometimes called. They come in a variety of frequency ranges, as well as some pleasant designer colors to choose from. I find the brand Vemco makes a quality cattle flute, but you may pick whichever brand suits your budget.

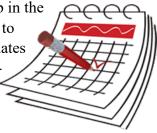
But it's not all about the tone. Volume and sound pressure play an important role as well. In order to send those troublesome prank 'em upsters running for the hills, you have to blow your whistle at or above the volume level that they would find uncomfortable. You'll need a quick burst of at least 150dB in order to create a searing pain in their brainstem. To do this, you will need to take in a large lungful of air, and exhale into the whistle in a single, forceful burst. Blow hard enough where your face turns an unnatural shade of burgundy... and you're doing it right.

But none of this really matters, because telephones are limited on the high end to about 4,000Hz, and limit the sound level to about 90dB. I forget the question. -Biggs

As a community service to the public, Mr. Biggs hosts a local radio talk show during which he happily dispenses straight-forward, no-nonsense advice on a variety of everyday problems. Listeners call or e-mail Mr. Biggs' radio program with questions about anything and every-thing: electronics, cooking, etiquette, personal hygiene, automotive repair, affairs of the heart, etc. No topic is off limits. If it puzzles or perplexes, confuses or confounds, Mr. Biggs can figure it out. Listen to the Ask Mr. Biggs radio program at **www.askmrbiggs.com** 

### FEBRUARY-MARCH IMPORTANT DATES

There are a few notable dates coming up in the prank call community that most of us tend to observe. If we are missing any important dates or if you know of anything important coming up, please let us know by emailing us at dowhatnow@worldofprankcalls.com



**February 5th:** Let a Prank Devolve into Keeping an Old Person Company Day.

February 9th: Scam Likely

**February 12th:** Destructive Pranks Day. Get that person on the other end of the phone to throw a television through their window or microwave their cell phone.

February 14th: Take Your Pants Off Day February 15th: Pregnancy Test Day February 20th: Opposite day (or IS it?)

February 21st: Fuckface Friday February 23rd: Church (8am)

**February 30th:** Male Contraceptive Awareness Day. **March 6th:** Olga's Birthday (Observed)

March 10th: Blow the dust out of your land line phones March 13th: Nightmare on Pelican Street March 17th: Make prank calls with your daughter day

March 21st: Deadbeat Father's Day. March 29th: Amnesia Awareness day March 30th: Amnesia Awareness day

March 32nd: April awareness day