

# How am I? 'Twice as good as being dead' or 'I wish I knew'

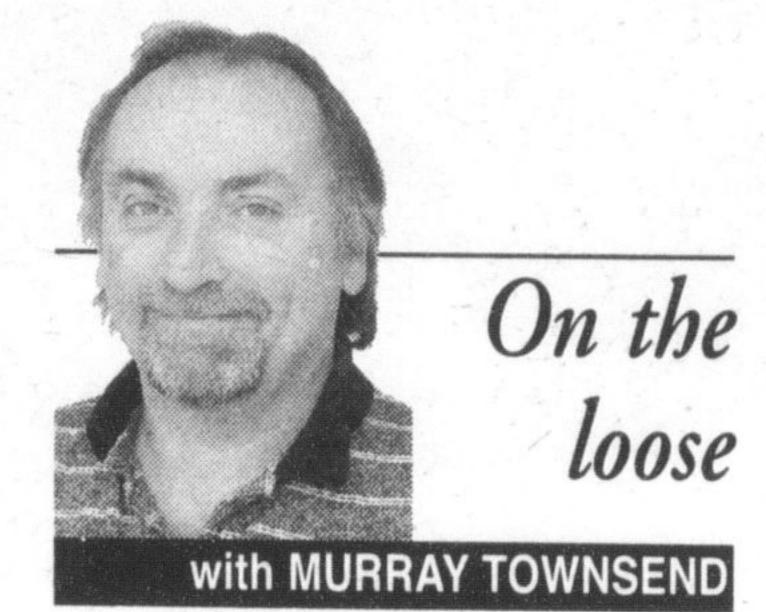
Fine thank you, how are you? Since we were kids, that was what we said whenever somebody asked us how we were. Occasionally we might say "good" or "not bad" or even "okay," but the majority of the time it was "fine."

You ask my two year-old granddaughter how she is and she'll say, "Fine."

Some time ago I had a desire to say something different. I don't know why, I just did. Oh, most of the time I'd still say, "fine" but more and more I started saying, "Could be worse."

I think that's fairly funny and fairly clever, but mostly it's just different. More interesting were the responses I've tracked over the last year or so. Here are the results. Females up to the age of about 30 would laugh, not a lot, but they'd at least make a laughing noise. Females between 30 and 55 would often smile politely, and females and males older than that would often agree totally because they knew it was true, quite often giving an example from their own lives.

Males under 55 gave no response at all, in almost every case. Mostly, I think because they weren't listening, and part-



ly because they considered it neither funny nor clever.

I know what would get a reaction from the younger males. There's a whole series of "Happier than..." but without exception they can't be printed in a publication available on the lower shelves.

I need something original, maybe even something that makes people think or at least amuses me. For example, I remember somebody I worked for who would always say: "You're the second greatest."

Finally one day I bit and asked who was first. "Everybody else is tied for first," I was informed.

Okay, you get the idea, so let's try a couple responses to, "How are you?" "Twice as good as being dead." You see if you know your multiplication tables, two times zero is still zero. Almost clever.

"I wish I knew." It doesn't mean anything, but the person who asked won't know what it means either and it might bug them trying to figure it out.

"Give me five bucks and I'll tell you." This ensures that people are actually interested in how you are. And at the same time you can make a healthy second income. "My lawyer says I don't have to answer any questions." This is especially good for certain situations.

"Sehr gut, danke." Either they know you're speaking German and will answer in German, or they'll think you're speaking gibberish and just nod their head.

"My therapist thinks I'm coming along fine."

"I'm fat and I'm stupid, how do you think I am?" I like this for the shock value, but the problem is that it's just stating the obvious.

"I'm the second greatest." I really like this one a lot, especially if they ask who's first. You know the question will be going through their heads, but whether they ask the question or not will be fun to see. I think we have a winner.

How am I? I feel like I'm the second greatest.

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Contact Donna 905-302-9481 donna@clearsolutions4u.com www.clearsolutions4u.com

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