

Off-Color Jokes

Recently, I read about a Christmas party at a company in a city in New York. Several of the employees had put on skits, which made the crowd applaud and roar with laughter.

Morton, a company director, was feeling the warmth of too much holiday eggnog and found himself hungering for some of that applause.

Taking the stage, he grabbed a microphone and began to tell jokes. Off-color jokes. At first, those in the audience sat in uncomfortable silence. Then, fearing they might anger him, they laughed politely. Encouraged by the response, Morton dipped deeper into his cache of inappropriate humor.

Mercifully, dessert was served, and Morton relinquished the microphone.



The following Monday, several employees visited human resources, reporting Morton for his inappropriate humor. When called in to explain himself, Morton dismissed the charges. “My jokes weren’t that bad,” he said. “I think my accusers’ memories were affected by drinking too much holiday cheer.”

Morton’s episode could have become just another case of “he said, she said,” but it didn’t. A friend of one of the employees featured in a skit had videotaped it and then left the recorder on during Morton’s “performance.”

What happened to Morton next was no laughing matter.

Be careful what you say, especially at work. Words are like toothpaste. Once the stuff is out of the tube, you can’t put it back in.

Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue, keepeth his soul from troubles
(Proverbs 21:23).

– Beecher Hunter