

Welcome to Grad-advice-ville

We are well into the month of June, and a recent high-school or college graduate can't go to the bathroom without receiving "words of wisdom" from old folks.

But most of that advice falls along the lines of "be all you can be and you'll go far," or "don't look a gift horse in the mouth," which translated into how it actually affects the graduate means absolutely nothing.

Let me stray off the track for just a moment. I am the proud possessor of a book entitled *The Greatest Book Ever Written about Cheese*. You're right: That is a strange title. The book is a collection of columns written by Len Robbins, editor and publisher of *The Clinch County News* in Homerville, Georgia (which, by the way, was the hometown of the late Kathleen Preston).

Now, back on the track. One of the columns is addressed to graduates. "In the interests of mankind, I have put together some tidbits of advice that graduates can actually use," Robbins said. "It's my gift to them." Here are some of them:

- Don't ever say, "I'm starving," out loud until you know what's being served. They may be serving liver-kabobs.
- Trust your instincts. Unless you're an idiot. In that case, don't trust your instincts.
- Never play cards with someone who has a nickname that includes a major American city – *i.e.*, "Detroit Danny" or "Memphis Mel."
- Personality and your appearance count a great deal. That doesn't mean you have to be a supermodel. But if you look like a bum, and act like a bum – you're a bum.
- Don't be afraid to speak your mind. You may find that you regret not saying something more than saying something honest.
- If you get a chance to further your education, do it. If you don't, you'll regret it the rest of your life. The "real world" isn't as appealing as it looks. Stay a student as long as you can.
- If you have a roommate, avoid putting any type of bill in your name.
- Don't make decisions solely based on love.
- Never give out any personal information – *i.e.*, credit card or checking account numbers. That's a lesson that some of us don't learn until it's too late.
- For those going to college, live as close to campus as you can. By eliminating obstacles and excuses, you'll go to class more often.
- Somewhere along the way, befriend a successful lawyer. Someday, you will need him or her. And even lawyers need friends.
- Make decisions on the way you behave by answering the following: "If my grandmother saw me doing this, would she approve?" That may be the best piece of advice you'll receive.

Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future
(Proverbs 19:20 ESV).