

## GETTING THERE

To complete José's 2004 physical examination, Dr. Murray told him to go get a blood test upon leaving the office.

"Ask Lisa when you leave," he instructed. "She'll tell you where to go."

Out in the waiting room Josy approached the secretary's window.

"Dr. Murray wants my husband to have a blood test," she told her. "Where do we go?"

"Take the elevator down to the first floor," Lisa directed. "Then turn right and go to the second door on your left."

Knowing how many twists and turns there were in the hallways of Lankenau Hospital, Josy wanted a specific name in case they should get lost and have to ask for directions.

"Exactly which room do we go to?" she inquired.

"Second room to the left," came the reply.

"Yes, but what room is it?" Josy wanted to know.

"The room where you get your blood test."

"Of course. Which – ?"

"The one on the first floor."

Josy sighed, took a deep breath, and asked again. "Exactly which room are we looking for?"

"The second one to your left."

"I know, but the name of the room?"

"The room where they test your blood."

"Yes, but exactly –"

"You get off the elevator on the first floor."

"But –"

"And turn right."

"O.K. –"

"It's the second one on your left."

"But what if we get lost and have to ask somebody?"

"Tell them it's the room where they do the blood test."

"Does it have a name?"

Silence.

"What does the sign on the door say?"

Long pause.

"'Laboratory Testing'."

"Thank you!!" Josy cried, taking a deep breath.

Turning to José, she nodded towards the secretary and signed, "Who's on first!"

To which the secretary asked, “What?”

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Interestingly enough, this all had a follow-up the next day at a Chinese restaurant where they went for lunch.

Recalling the incident, José mused in disbelief, “She never heard of ‘Abbott and Costello’ or ‘Who’s of First’.”

“It must be a generational thing,” Josy suggested.

Just then the waitress came over to take their order. During their conversation she mentioned that she had grown up in Shanghai and lived there till just a few years ago. Hearing this, José remarked that he, too, had been in China, adding that during World War II he had seen several famous people there, among them General Chang-Kai Chec.

“Who?” the waitress wanted to know.

Astonished, José remarked that *Chang-Kai Chec* was one of the most prominent figures of modern Chinese history. The waitress had never heard of him.

After she left to go bring back their order, José observed, “Another ‘Who’s on First!’ I guess.”

But unlike the incident in Dr. Murray’s office, they decided, this one seemed to be not a generational issue. More likely, they concluded, it was the deliberate exclusion of *Chang-Kai Chec*’s name from history course during the Cultural Revolution that probably accounted for the waitress’s ignorance of who he was.