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The Cash Register Receipt Proves A Recipe For Deceit

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How many times has this happened to you?

You get home ⧉ from the grocery store and, because you didn't impulsively buy the People magazine featuring Magic Johnson's many loves or the Enquirer tabloid that told how Madonna added a third breast - you end up reading the receipt.

That's when you realize that, once again, you've been taken.

The stuff you bought may have been labeled at one price ⧉, but you paid more because of that darn checkout scanner, which George Bush, by the way, recently discovered existed. And who said he wasn't in touch with the country?

That scanner ⧉ discrepancy has been noticeable at the place where I shop, Publix, where people have told me they've had a problem. Usually, it's easier to just blow it off when it happens. But in recent separate trips, I paid a buck more than I planned for my Frosted Flakes and 50 cents more for those potato chips I shouldn't have bought in the first place.

So on a return trip to the store the Frosted Flakes dilemma was pointed out and the response was, well, tough luck. The sale was over when that sugary substance was purchased and it was mismarked.

With the Tony the Tiger box still sitting on the counter at home and little Matthew strongly lobbying in baby talk to get home, no federal case was made. Hey, quit chanting, "wimp, wimp, wimp."

Seems unfair, but as shoppers we have to watch the register to make sure we pay the right price.

Or maybe even better: I Heard about a store in Utah where shoppers scan their own groceries. People who scan their stuff get 1 percent off their grocery bill. They can keep an eye on their subtotal and also make sure the price is right.

Says Neldon Johnson, a manager for the store: "Our customers are spotting more of the pricing errors that occasionally appear in our computer system. They run ⧉ the item's Universal Product Code across the scanner, and if the price that comes up on the monitor screen is not what they expected, they ask the cashier for the correct price."

Ding. Yo Neldon, ring it up - oh yeah, cash ⧉ registers don't do that anymore.