

WISE AND OTHERWISE

By Kent A. Stock



Themes to me thumthings wrong

I am on a Homecoming kick recently and this week is no different. I've been thinking about Homecoming themes and my days as a serious (not so much) student in high school from 1978 - 1982. It was such a long time ago but I remember those days better than I remember where I put the remote(s) for the TV. What do you expect from a guy whose family just got cable his senior year of high school!

I have to say that our Class of 82'ers were destined to be the bridesmaid and never the bride through four long years of themed Homecomings. We decorated halls in the school, windows downtown in the business district and, of course, floats for the Homecoming parade.

We were destined for runner-up right from the beginning when the freshman year theme was commercials. Our float was "It's not nice to fool with the Knights". It was based on the Chiffon commercial featuring Mother Nature. It was brilliant. We got second place. It was a definitely an omen of what was to be for my forty plus classmates and I.

Some years we lost because we tried to be a little too risqué. Now risqué forty years ago was not quite the risqué of the young folks today. Our theme one year was some-

thing like candy or commercials so we came up with a great window idea based on Charms Blow-Pops... "We'll Lick Those Suckers"

The administration at the school did not LIKE that so we changed it to "We'll Blow Them Away". Despite the fact we had special effect fans in the window, guess what, yup, second place.

Our theme senior year was popular songs. Being the rebels that we supposedly were, we picked a float theme based on a Molly Hatchet song. Now Molly was NOT a female singer like Debby Boone or Olivia Newton John, it was a southern rock group, with emphasis on hard southern rock. You really had to be there.

Our float was based on one of the hit songs of the group (they did not have many more). So the Homecoming float was "When You're Takin' on the Knights, You're Flirting With Disaster". To use the lingo of the day, it was, like, a totally awesome float. Very gnarly and, like, sooo cool. It was like, not lame, but, like completely cool, ya know.

It featured a decapitated opponent and lots of "goop" which my best friend and I created. Who knew red paint and milk would really look that gory! We got second. It was worth it!

Our only, very last chance to break the string of seconds

was our hallway. We did everything but hang chandeliers and silk curtains in that space. The last award announced, we were down to the final two, and WE WON! The streak was over, we could leave high school with at least one trophy.

Eighty Two! Eighty Two! Eighty Eighty Eighty Eighty Eighty Two! I remember this like it was yesterday. Now where are my car keys?

HAPPY HOMECOMING EVERYONE!

Holding It All Together

by Amy McCollom



The Noise Of Man
Where is it? It's so hard to find. The older I get, the more I appreciate it; the more I seek it out. I find solace and comfort from it like nothing else. At times I even crave it. There is nothing that can replace it. And then, ahhh. Suddenly I realize I have found it, I've walked right into it, or it's settled upon me with the closing of a door. Quiet, how I love thee. How I've longed to be able to hear the beating of my own heart;

how I have missed the beautiful music of silence.

Scientists say in a room void of all noise, a person will start to hallucinate. They say that it would drive a man mad. I don't know if I believe this. How do they explain perfectly sane deaf people then? Certain people are bothered by particular sounds, like loud chewing, or pen clicking. Some people can't handle being in a loud concert hall. Some people are hypersensitive when too many people in a room are talking. Doctors refer to these types of reactions as an anxiety disorders. Perhaps it's too much noise that tends to drive a person to the brink of insanity, and not the other way around. I have 7 kids, trust me when I say that too much noise will drive you almost crazy.

Some noises and sounds we can control, but others we cannot. The more connected and advanced in technology we become, the more noises and sounds invade our lives. There is a constant buzzing in the house from all of the electronic transformers that are plugged in at any one time. You will notice how noisy your seemingly quiet household is whenever the power goes out. It's startling.

And then there are phones. When I was young, it was exciting to hear that bell ring. Now, I dread it because half of the time the caller is a scam artist, and the rest of the time I would rather be doing something else than talking on the phone about non-important issues. The

older I get, the more valuable my time has gotten.

Cellphones are a constant noisy bother. No matter where you go, there will be a cellphone making noise. Beep, bop, pop, buzz, plopp, chime, tweet, chirp, cheep, whir, bong, gong, snap. Every text, IM, ad, notification, and game on a phone makes some distinct noise. Not to mention the ringtones that range from Beethoven to Twisted Sister to Pink Fluffy Unicorns Dancing On Rainbows. I at least try and choose a ringtone that is pleasant, not abrasive to the ears, and won't make grandmas blush. If only the rest of the world did the same.

So I said all of that to say this: When I got the small chance to pause for a moment and look up at the night sky before going into the house, I took it. I sat on the steps with my Honey, and we stared at the stars, and listened to the quiet night. There were distant rhythmic bands of sound that came and went as a cars a few blocks away moved along. The leaves rustled and crickets chirped and a dog barked off in the distance. My Honey pointed out a falling star, and it was such a special moment that I fell in love with him all over again. So take the time, notice the quiet. Relish in the peace of a slow pace. There is a treasure to find in the still, small voice of God's sovereign handiwork.

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