

Curiosity Corner: 37 years and counting

Question: It's the start of another curious season of the Curiosity Corner. This will be the 37th year — maybe I'll make it through another one if I'm lucky. As my regular readers know, I kick off each season by airing some of my curious observations or pet peeves — some old and some new. Have a little fun and see if they agree with yours. Here we go!



CURIOSITY CORNER
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We have gone through the neutering of things. For example, a fireman is now a firefighter, a weatherman is now a meteorologist, and a garbage man is now a sanitation engineer. (I don't think a manhole is a person hole yet.) And, I learned another one. While working on a textbook revision, I used the phrase "unmanned space satellite." My editor changed it to "uncrewed space satellite." (I can't be gender correct, let alone politically correct.) I also noticed that actresses are being called actors. I guess it won't be long until a waitress becomes a waiter, or a princess a prince.

Legend. Have you noticed how many people have become legends these days? To me, a legend is generated by a bunch of stories coming down from the past, like the legend of the Old West, or a person of fame and notoriety, such as Jesse James. Some people don't make legend status. For example, Winston Churchill or Albert Einstein aren't generally referred to as legends — just famous people. It seems like it doesn't take much time for someone to become a legend nowadays. Some people are even termed legends in their own time (still alive), most often in entertainment and sports. I guess if a legend had to stand the test of time, we would lose a lot of "legends."

Here's a recent one. I'm on the bypass: a four-lane road with a center divider lane that you can pull into and wait to turn to a location across the opposite lanes. At intersections, there is a dedicated left-turn lane that is marked to pull into. With a string of cars, I wait to pull into the marked left-turn lane, as I should. But recently (three times in fact), when I was about to pull in, another car came barreling down the center divider to get to the turn lane, and almost creamed me. Got to watch those drivers who

think there's a fifth center lane!

One other driving peeve. This one involves a four-lane highway with work being done on one side and one lane closed, and flashing signs, like "left lane closed ahead; merge right." Traffic dutifully lines up in the right lane approaching closed left lane. However, there is usually two or three cars that zip by in the left lane and want to crowd in at the last possible moment. In long lines, I've seen semi-truck drivers get into the left lane and drive slowly so the inconsiderate drivers can't pass. One time years ago, I saw a state patrol at the merge point handing out tickets to those who didn't merge right. Great idea!

Here's an old one. I don't like crowds and go to stores early on off-days. A few years ago, I was in a crowded store pushing my buggy (cart) around, and noted some suggestions in a column to improve the conditions of buggy drivers. Here is a recap of what I thought stores should initiate:

- Side aisles connecting to main aisles should have stop signs. See-around convex mirrors would be helpful, too.
- Buggy pushers should stay on the right. Passing lanes would be great, to help get around those stalled shoppers.
- Put horns on buggies so we can warn other shoppers.
- Have a Buggy Aisle Patrol

(BAP) to enforce the buggy rules, particularly those double parkers — tow 'em!

•Have numerous rest areas where frustrated buggy drivers can relax and get over their "aisle rage."

It seems my suggestions haven't been followed, and so with continuing aisle congestion, I'm going to suggest something a little more drastic — the requirement of a Buggy Driver's License. Tests would be given by the individual stores — a written part to test one's knowledge of buggy rules, and an in-store test drive. (But not on weekends, as that would be cruel and unusual punishment.) If failed, the test could be taken again. Don't give up! I can recommend some good Buggy Driver's Training Schools. (Who knows, some day Buggy Driver Training courses may be offered in high schools.) Those that have their buggy license may renew them one time by mail, without going to the DBV (Department of Buggy Vehicles).

Oh yes, one other suggestion. There should be a four-lane bypass around the inside wall of the store to get from one side to the other without clogging the aisles. Let's keep those aisles safe!

C.P.S. (Curious Postscript): "Have you ever noticed that anybody driving slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac?" — George Carlin
Curious about something? Send your questions to Dr. Jerry D. Wilson, College of Science and Mathematics, Lander University, Greenwood, SC 29649, or email jerry@curiosity-corner.net. Selected questions will appear in the Curiosity Corner. For Curiosity Corner background, go to www.curiosity-corner.net.



NURSING GRADUATES RECEIVE PINS — Graduates of Piedmont Technical College's associate degree and practical nursing programs from Laurens County were recognized in a recent pinning ceremony at the Lex Walters campus in Greenwood. Pictured are Briana Boland, right, and Jamie Walden.

PC releases spring dean's list

The Dean's List at Presbyterian College is composed of students who have earned between a 3.3 and a 3.9 grade point average. PC is proud of the following students for making the Dean's List during the Spring 2019 semester:

Cross Hill - Justin Curtis Nobles
Gray Court - Jacob Reeves Bridges, Trenton Byrd,

Vanessa Huerta-Flores
Laurens - Victoria Ruth Bates, Madison Ansley Clark, Shadarius Nequan Harvey and Miguel Gilberto Valladares



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