

# EDITORIAL

## WISE AND OTHERWISE

By Kent A. Stock



**BEWARE THE BLUE PIG**  
I dug this up from the archives much like I dig blue pig out every now and then for the dog.

Some folks say they are "dog people" others refer to themselves as "cat people" but my family has always been a little bit of both. I think the preference lies with the pooches but the kitties have always been around too. Such is the case now at Casa de Stock with an eighteen year old, possibly insane, cat and a very cute dog who is half her age..

Of course, you have to keep your pets entertained so you buy toys and other fun stuff for them. This has been a waste of money on the cat as she seems to have a cat version of attention deficit disorder. The little plastic balls with the bells in them held her interest for about 30 seconds.

Every cat we've had before as loved to find a catnip toy in their stocking on Christmas Day (and don't try to tell me that many of you don't hang up stockings for your pet - just own up to it now). Not

current kitty, Miss Emmy, she just said "no." Nancy Reagan would be proud.

The cat's favorite toy actually is the dog. The dog, Payton, is happy with this arrangement but then of course she is happy with almost anything that goes on. However, unlike the cat, she does demand much more attention and things to keep her amused because no one seems to want to pay me to play with my dog 24/7. Although that was my major at the University of Illinois... just kidding I studied feline attention deficit disorder.

Now my last dog Madison, a full-size Collie, was content with tennis balls. Lots and lots of tennis balls which she would chase forever. Payton demands a more eclectic collection of bones, pull toys, balls and chewy things. I know the dog is part Shi-Tzu and Schnauzer however I think she is also part Tasmanian devil.

You've seen the Bugs Bunny cartoons where Taz whirls through the forest eating everything in sight. That would be my dog. The best thing is she knows the difference between a toy and say my grandparents antique cherry wood table and chairs. We learned that lesson quickly, thank goodness.

Since she is to pet toys what Cujo was to people in Stephen King's horror novel, I am always on the lookout for something I think she will like and not destroy within five minutes. This is how blue pig came into our lives.

Cont. on pg. 8

## Holding It All Together

by Amy McCollom



The Dangers Of Arrogance  
I recently received an email that had one sentence in it that set off a brain spark. The sentence was, "Absolute certainty is arrogance." That sent me spiraling down a rabbit hole, exploring that thought.

Just Googling that sentence brought up a lot of results. First, there were lots of definitions from a bunch of dictionaries. Then there were blogs and articles; some of those were very deep logically while others were more reader-friendly and interesting. I followed lots of links to different pages, scholarly writings, blog pages, university research logs, and book excerpts. I read a lot of stuff about it, I really did. It intrigued me.

During my research, an article stood out to me that said everything I had been thinking for years. The author is Professor Friedman, Ph.D from Murray Koppelman School of Business, Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, and the article is entitled, "The Dangers Of Over Confidence And Absolute Certainty In The Age Of Post-Truth, Junk Science, And Arrogance." Friedman, Hershey (2017). SSRN Electronic Journal. 10.2139/ssrn.3014352. I encourage you to look it up for yourself when you get a chance.

The first sentence of the article grabbed me. "A major threat to the success of a society or organization is the feeling of certainty." Did I read that right? I read it again. Ah, I got. The Roman Empire,

Bernie Maddoff, the Delorean, my uncle and the silver mine he just knew was in New Mexico, the boy who sold his donkey for a bag of magic beans. Be careful who you are trusting, I don't care how smart they tell you they are. Nobody knows everything.

But, there are a lot of those out there. People who know everything. Their favorite phrase is, "Now, I refuse to believe that!" Once they say that, you can add them to your personal list of Hard Heads that you know. They are so sure of their own opinions that there is no room for any negotiating. Dr. Friedman said, "People who have too much confidence in their opinions may actually have a mental flaw that can be dangerous."

With the information age booming, and doubling in content on the internet every 6 months, it has become extremely hard to tell fact from fiction. For this reason, colleges all over the country are planning to introduce courses to their students on the topic of learning how to know the difference between fiction and fact, and junk and real science.

Over-confidence is when a person believes he knows more than he really does, and that his opinions are all facts. Most politicians possess this trait, as the general public interprets this as a strong leader on the campaign trail. In the day-to-day life, though, these people are obnoxious, stubborn, argumentative, not interested in anyone's ideas but their own, and are not good at following rules that they do not feel are necessary. Basically this type of

person, with over-confidence and absolute certainty is an arrogant jerk.

Can you help a person like that change? The problem is once people form an opinion, they form a systemic bias and can become blind to anything else, even when presented proof of the truth.

Dr. Friedman points out, "It is very difficult to use truth to enlighten people, but it can be done. One Cont. on pg. 8

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April 18, 7:00 pm  
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April 21, 10:30 am

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e-mail: umccamargo@gmail.com  
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Tuesday and Thursday  
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website: sacredheartandstmichael.com  
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