

WISE AND OTHERWISE

By Kent A. Stock



Wise and otherwise random musings for this week. Does anyone else get unnaturally angry and yell at the weather forecaster because they promised 70s and Mother Nature only delivered 59? Or they promise a sunny day and you get rain? They did deliver this week on their "promises" so they are off the hook for now.

Why can my eighteen year old cat no longer jump up on the dryer where I keep her food (out of reach of the dog) but can jump up on the island in the kitchen which is a good foot higher than the top of the dryer? And yes, I pick her up so she can get to her food which I do roughly 100 times a day. Why do I do that?

Why do people who think Facebook is such an incredible waste of time then turn

around and tell you, in great detail, about the 900 television shows they watch daily. Pick your poison, people. For those of you who have a hobby or exercise, you are no different. Your hobby has earned you a VIP parking spot at JoAnn Fabrics or your fitness routine is all you talk about on Facebook (oh the irony). Come on folks, you need to waste your valuable time watching sports and picking your cat up and putting him/her on the dryer like I do!

Do you ever just want to smack someone who is always offended or triggered by something? I mean, anything, they find it offensive no matter how mundane the subject. They perpetually have their shorts in a knot over everything and they feel

the need to share it with the world. Your being triggered is triggering me that is for certain.

Speaking of being triggered why do random things trigger my happy go lucky, sweet puppy turning her into a tiny Cujo on steroids? Squirrels (I can sort of understand that one but the behavior is over the top), leaves, other dogs that are ten times her size but then she ignores dogs her size or smaller?

Why do they make pain reliever in a hundred different varieties for a hundred different aches and pains? You have pain reliever for the feet, the back, your behind, your neck, your head, your joints and your left inside elbow? I am intrigued by this topic because the pills all look the same so how does the medicine know where to go specifically to that part of the body? Doesn't the medicine in all of them just go all over the body and the pharmaceutical companies just sell them as different so you have a cabinet full of pain relievers that really are all just the same.

Finally, the world is full of wise and otherwise so how do you tell the difference? I write about it, of course. I have to end this week though because my kitty cat is hungry.

Holding It All Together

by Amy McCollom



Name That Baby
I know of a lot of babies getting ready to be born any time now. I wonder what their parents are going to name their offspring? Will they put a great amount of thought into choosing a name? Will their new son follow a long line of James's or Henry's? Will the ever popular Mary prevail or Elizabeth perhaps?

Back when I was a kid, having a regular names like Michael, Susan, John, or Lisa might get a kid a keychain or a plastic license plate for their bike. No one wanted to be weird. Everyone tried to fit in. In the 70's and 80's you'd get laughed out of town if you went to a new school named Comet, Branch, West, or Miami.

Today's baby name lists include (and I am serious, folks): Coyote, Ajax, Bran, Copper, Cornell, Cub, Duran, Falcon, Fender, Grover, Hawthorne, Hopper, Lion, Ludwig, Moss, Oak, Quill, Red, Rocket, Trigger, Wickley, Yanni, Ace, Bandid, Explorer, Golden, Vegas, and Zeus. And that's just the boy names.

Your sweet baby girl might like the moniker: Arbor, Apple, Breeze, Cayenne, Cookie, Cruz, Dove, Duchess, Electra, Fable, Fallon, Gem, Joplin, Lark, Peaches, Pear, Queenie, Sable, Sequoia, Spring, Sugar,

Toto, Snow, Tequila, Grande, Tulsa, Zenith, Zephyr, and Zeppelin, to say the least. From looking at those two lists, I would say new parents are naming their babies after singers, or they are writing down names at a paint store, or if you put any two of those names together, you got yourself a stripper name. I apologize if that offends anyone, this is just my humble opinion, and I am one person, not the whole world.

That first name is going to be the first thing anyone knows about your child. It should be meaningful. It should be carefully planned and thought out. It should be so good that it's kept forever. It should make your child happy. The first name is one of the most important things that you can give a child. A name carries with it great influence. In fact, a professor at UCLA did a study in the 2000's and came up with 2 lists of names that made people perceive them as successful, based on their name alone. From perception flows reality, so the theory goes. Giving your child a successful perceived name already gives them a head start in life. Here is the lists of names:

The highest-rated names for girls, in terms of success, were:
Jacqueline
Morgan
Elizabeth
Katherine
Victoria
Lauraine
Susan
Catherine
Kate

Madeleine
And, for boys, the highest rated names in terms of success were:

Steven
Ross
Christopher
James
Robert
David
Kenneth
Parker
Thomas
Madison

Now the middle name that's where you can have a little fun. Most people only ever see a person's middle initial, but still be careful not to make your child hate you. If I had it to do over again, I would give all of my kids really, really COOL middle names. One would be Danger, another would be Hilarious, and another would be Happy. I haven't come up with the last 4, but trust me, they would be really cool. That way when something happens in life where they have to face danger, or are hilarious, or someone says they are just so happy all the time, they can reply, "Well, THAT'S my middle name. No, really, it is."

When naming a baby, ask yourself if your doing this for yourself or for the child? What's popular today and trendy will mean 10 other kids with that same name will probably be in his school. That is no fun. At the same time, think unique, not you-freak. If you would name your dog that, don't name your child that. But then again, I have a pet rat **Cont. on pg. 5**

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Good Friday Service
April 19, NOON
Easter Sunday,
April 21, 10:30 am

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