

WISE AND OTHERWISE

By Kent A. Stock



The knee bone is connected to the OUCH bone

For the next few weeks I will be selecting some oldies but goodies (yes, there are a few) of my column that will, hopefully, bring back a few laughs. We are a man down right now in our little corner of the newspaper world so I am being helpful (lazy) as I fill my day up with other tasks (Facebook) as required to help out. Team player and all that stuff, you know (he's lying!).

Enjoy your summer, everyone, and if I have an original idea (accidentally) I'll put that to work too! I know you readers can't wait.

I am thinking actually ALL bones are connected to the ouch bone! I remember being

a young "wiser and otherwise" listening to my ancient parents and their friends talk about aches and pains. How'd they let themselves go like that I wondered?

Well, now I am ancient myself, I think I have a better understanding of that which they did speak of, so to speak. My problems are generally from the knees down. (Update to this article from three years ago is that my issues have decided to expand and relocate to different parts of the body which were, I guess, feeling left out). I used to have two good knees then an injury left me with a bad knee. Evidently, the bad knee was a terrible influence on the other knee because now they both along with ankles and

feet (can't leave them out) are problems at times.

I wake up in the morning now not asking "what will I do today" but, first, which body part will hurt the most. Right knee, left knee, right ankle, left ankle; which one of you won't work quite right? On a good day, I get three out of four not acting up which is very good indeed. All I know is that there is no jumping out of bed anymore. Of course, unless I get a cramp in my left or right calf then I spring out of bed looking like an Olympic gymnast doing a final run on a floor routine.

Most of the time people aren't aware of my poor physical state. Probably because the people I encounter are more concerned about my mental well-being, no doubt. Anyway, the other day I had to take a picture (I am allowed to shoot a camera, fyi) and in order to do so I had to climb up on something that had no steps. My right knee was not with the program so it ended up being quite the picture in and of itself.

Have you ever been to the sea lion show at the zoo or Sea World? You know when the big old sea lion jumps up on the platform then stands up and everyone cheers. Well, that was pretty much how it all went down and thankfully I did not go down. I did manage to stand up and get my photo taken but, you know what, I DID NOT get any fish for all that effort.

Thankfully, over the last few years, I have dropped from 280 pounds to around 215. However, my limberability (I know that is not a word but this is my column; artistic license) is not quite the same and that is an **Cont. on pg. 6**

Holding It All Together

by Amy McCollom



Oh Deer!

Normally I would be delighted to see them, Mother Nature at it's finest, a family of beautiful healthy deer, including a young spring fawn were standing proudly along the side of the road. They travel in herds, like popular girls at a high school dance; so where there is one, there is bound to be more.

My emotions quickly went from surprise and awe, to fear and defensiveness when I remembered that I was zooming down the highway at 55 mph in a 2500 lb. metal and plastic machine, and several grown, unpredictable deer, some as heavy as livestock, were mere inches from bolting out in front of me.

I have seen the damage that hitting a deer can do to a vehicle. My parents have hit a few in their lifetime. My son has struck one as well. And just the thought of injuring an animal to the point of death would haunt me forever. I would never be able to forgive myself.

That's one more reason why I do not like driving. There are other reasons too, like the fact that I'm not good at it. I especially do not like driving at night, down lonely stretches of highway, where tall fields or trees surround you like a tunnel. And corn monsters and deer can easily hide along the roadside and run out in front of you in a blink of an eye. Crashes, carnage,

cornstalks in the radiator.

So I said all of that to say this; I have seen deer standing along the road A LOT lately. Practically every time I have driven home from anywhere, I have encountered deer running across the road in front of me or standing at the edge, just about ready to bolt. I have seen them on Rt. 36, Rt. 130, Rt. 133, Hayes Rd., and country roads from Athur to Lincoln to Champaign to Philo to Villa Grove to Camargo to Tuscola and beyond. So basically within about a 200 mile radius of home, I have encountered potentially hazardous deer on or near the road. There may have been corn monsters too, but I was focused more on the deer.

How many Deer Xing signs have I seen near these deer? None. Apparently deer don't read signs, as they cross wherever they want. Also, somebody has dropped the ball on the Sign-Posting Committee at the State of Illinois. Maybe some of that new tax money that is getting squeezed out of our turnips can be used to post a few more signs in the deer-accident prone areas.

According to most any site you find on the internet, the best way to prevent hitting a deer with your car, is basically use common sense. There is no magic horn or whistle or deer repellent. You just have to be very attentive, undistracted, cau-

tious, keep your eyes on the road, and watch for deer when you know there is a good chance they could be around. Which really, any safe driver should be doing all of these things, all of the time, anyway. But then again, common sense can be hard to come by these days.

I do think, though, that we should come up with a signal of some kind, to alert oncoming drivers or those behind us that we have spotted deer by the roadside. Perhaps we can install special deer lights on our vehicles to alert other drivers of the danger ahead. Maybe shaped like antlers. Perhaps I should pitch this idea to RealTree. Maybe Pioneer would be interested in designing a corn monster warning sign or light. Who knows. If Bigfoot has a following, why not the corn monster.

I know that everyone has said never to go near a deer after it has been struck by a vehicle, but I don't know if I could do that. That would be the hardest part for me. So, just in case it ever comes to that, I am going to take a course in animal first aid. Corn monsters are on their own. Sorry.

So, just be careful out there. Next time you travel down a lonely stretch of highway, stay alert. Corn monsters and deer are counting on you.

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With Jim Balmer

Deuteronomy 18:9-13 Good News Translation (GNT)
Warning against Pagan Practices 9 "When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you, don't follow the disgusting practices of the nations that are there. 10 Don't sacrifice your children in the fires on your altars; and don't let your people practice divination or look for omens or use spells 11 or charms, and don't let them consult the spirits of the dead. 12 The Lord your God hates people who do these disgusting things, and that is why he is driving those nations out of the land as you advance. 13 Be completely faithful to the Lord."

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