

Lanier County News
 is owned by
 Good Shepherd
 Media, LLC

CONTACT US:

By Phone:
 229-482-8230 or
 229-854-0186

By Location or Mail:
 60 Cypress Trail
 Lakeland, Georgia 31635



Carol A. Moore
 Publisher
 carol.moore@laniercountynewsonline.com



Alicia Davis
 Marketing
 marketing@laniercountynewsonline.com



Theba Sirmans
 Marketing
 marketing@laniercountynewsonline.com



Marsha Tallent
 Digital Editor
 marsha.tallent@laniercountynewsonline.com



Cliff Ulmer
 Cartoonist
 cliff.ulmer@laniercountynewsonline.com



Jon Moore
 Cartoonist
 Jon.Moore@laniercountynewsonline.com



JnC Photography
 Staff Photographer
 jncphotography@laniercountynewsonline.com

OUR GOAL: Lanier County News is created proudly for the citizens of Lanier and the surrounding area by Good Shepherd Media in Lakeland, GA. Our goal is to produce a quality, community oriented newspaper that you, our readers, are proud of. We will reach this goal through hard work, teamwork, loyalty and a strong dedication toward printing the truth.

OUR POLICIES: Letters to the Editor are welcome. Please sign and include address, telephone number and e-mail.

•Liability for an error in advertising will not exceed the cost of space occupied by the error.

•All pictures are filed after publication, but may be picked up by the owner at Lanier County News office in Lakeland.

DEADLINE: the deadline each week for all news and advertising copy is Monday at 5:00 p.m. Submittals can be placed in the drop box located by the door of the Lanier County News office.

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of Education Center

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229-482-3966

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OPINIONS & VIEWPOINTS

A word, please

By June Casagrande



When it comes to grammar and usage, I'm generally non-nonplussable. I've been studying this stuff a long time. So when a friend or acquaintance asks me about a word, I usually have something intelligent to say.

But all that went out the window recently when, at a small gathering of friends, I was asked about "nonplussed." Everyone else at the table had an opinion on the subject. The consensus was that people tend to use "nonplussed" to mean the opposite of what it really means. "Right, June? What say you, June?"

To which I said me — nothing. I had a fuzzy recollection of once being aware of how this word worked. But for the life of me, I couldn't remember what the controversy was — or even the definition.

Clearly, it's time for a refresher on "nonplussed."

The verb "nonplus," means to perplex or baffle. But you don't hear it much as a verb. People don't often say, "Yo, don't nonplus me, dude." They could, but they don't.

Mostly, you hear it in sentences like "He was nonplussed," in which it's a verb participle being used as an adjective. Using past-tense verbs as adjectives is standard, by the way. Think: "broken heart," "painted fence," "canceled flight," "known quantity" and "waxed floor."

"Nonplussed" can be spelled with one S or two, but the double-S form seems to be preferred by dictionaries.

As a noun, "nonplus" means a state of perplexity or a quandary. But this, too, is rare. You don't often hear "The math questions on the test really threw me into a nonplus."

In fact, this is how "nonplus" first entered the English language in the 16th century: as a noun meaning "quandary," which was picked up from the Latin "non plus," which means "no more." Here's an example from 1593 cited by Merriam-Webster. "I am brought to a nonplus, O Lorde what shall I saie?"

It took another century or so before "nonplus" evolved into a verb meaning "to cause to be at a loss as to what to say, think, or do," which is basically what it means today.

But here's where "nonplussed" gets controversial: About 100 years ago, people started using "nonplussed" to mean "unfazed" or "relaxed." Take, for example, this passage from Jack London's "White Fang": "... when that god elected to laugh at him in a good-natured, bantering way, he was nonplussed. He could feel the pricking and stinging of the old anger as it strove to rise up in him, but it strove against love. He could not be angry."

In other words: He was "nonplussed" because he didn't get mad.

According to dictionaries, this is incorrect. But I would caution you against seeing this issue — or any language issue — in terms of absolute right and wrong. After all, just a few short centuries ago, "nonplussed" wasn't an English word at all. And for at least a hundred years, it was wrong to use it as a verb or a participial adjective, which we now consider right.

Clearly, "nonplussed" is going through yet another transition. It's what words do. They change. Constantly. And there's no use trying to stop the march of linguistic progress by saying that a word achieved immutable perfection at a point in time that just happens to affirm one's own preferences.

Besides, have you ever heard someone use "nonplussed" correctly, other than people showing off that they know how? I haven't. But at least now that I've revisited the subject, I know that next time "nonplussed" comes up, I won't find myself nonplussed.

— June Casagrande is the author of "The Joy of Syntax: A Simple Guide to All the Grammar You Know You Should Know." She can be reached at JuneTCN@aol.com.



Valdosta Monkey's Thoughts & Opinions

Send your questions for

Valdosta Monkey to

Publisher@

laniercountynewsonline.com



Looking back at 'Rona

In the early 1900s, America's first Billionaire, John D. Rockefeller bought a German pharmaceutical company that would later assist Hitler to implement his eugenics-based vision by manufacturing chemicals and poisons for war. Rockefeller wanted to eliminate the competitors of Western medicine, so he submitted a report to Congress declaring that there were too many doctors and medical schools in America, and that all natural healing modalities were unscientific quackery.

Rockefeller called for the standardization of medical education, whereby only his organization be allowed to grant medical school licenses in the US. And so began the practice of immune suppressive, synthetic and toxic drugs. Once people had become dependent on this new system and the addictive drugs it provided, the system switched to a paid program, creating lifelong customers for the Rockefellers. Currently, medical error is the third leading cause of death in the US. Rockefeller's secret weapon to success was the strategy known as, "problem-reaction-solution." Create a problem, escalate fear, then offer a pre-planned solution. Sound familiar?

Flash forward to 2020...

They named it COVID19. Our leaders of world health predicted millions would die. The National Guard was deployed. Makeshift hospitals were erected to care for a massive overflow of patients. Mass graves were dug. Terrifying news reports had people everywhere seeking shelter to avoid contact. The plan was unfolding with diabolical precision, but the masters of the Pandemic underestimated one thing... the people. Medical professionals and every-day citizens are sharing critical information online. The overlords of big tech have ordered all dissenting voices to be silenced and banned, but they are too late. The slumbering masses are awake and aware that something is not right. Quarantine has provided the missing element: time. Suddenly, our overworked citizenry had ample time to research and investigate for themselves. Once you see, you can't unsee.

The window of opportunity is open like never before. For the first time in human history, we have the world's attention. Plandemic will expose the scientific and political elite who run the scam that is our global health system, while laying out a new plan; a plan that allows all of humanity to reconnect with healing forces of nature. 2020 is the code for perfect vision. It is also the year that will go down in history as the moment we finally opened our eyes.

The video also mentions the Bayh-Dole Act which was adopted back in 1980 which was sponsored by two senators, Birch Bayh of Indiana and Bob Dole of Kansas.

Why do we, the taxpayers, fund the research for vaccines or other drugs and the inventors get to patent the treatment and sell it to the same people that funded the research that developed the cure?

In other words, we pay for the research and then we pay for the treatment which resulted from the research that we paid for?

How much revenue will vaccinating the world for COVID-19 generate and who will profit the most from such?

While COVID-19 is a real virus why does it smell of such bull feces?

Russia, Russia, Russia...

Collusion, Collusion, Collusion...

Quid Pro Quo, Quid Pro Quo, Quid Pro Quo...

COVID, COVID, COVID

Is it true that hospitals get \$13,000 for each COVID positive patient?

Is it true that hospitals get \$39,000 for that patient if the patient is put on a ventilator?

Things that make this monkey go hmmm.

Remember... united we stand, divided we fall and right now, we have never been so divided as we are now.

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