

The SHOPPER

Published by ROCK VALLEY PUBLISHING LLC

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VOL. 21 • ISSUE 28

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VIEWPOINT

Slices of life

Finding logic in an illogical world

We are living in a serious world. Many of us thought it couldn't get any worse than COVID and then all check broke lose. I'm not going to write about this seriousness. Others have already explained things much more eloquently than I ever could.

Instead, I'm shooting for silly this week. We've all had our fair share of serious in the last few months, and while serious is our current reality, I invite you to take a break for a few minutes to contemplate the illogical world we live in.

Sometimes this lack of logic is seriously frustrating. Other times it borders on funny. And sometimes, especially if you over-ponder things, it makes no sense. There is more of this nonsense around than you might expect. For instance:

Have you ever found it

counterintuitive that the sun lightens our hair but darkens our skin?

Ever wonder: Does a psychic know before you get there that you are coming? Or, do they know what will be on sale at the grocery store before the ad comes out? Do they anticipate a car accident before hitting the road? So many psychic possibilities.

Shouldn't the phrase after dark actually be after light?

Let's talk pizza. Is there anyone besides me that thinks pepperoni looks more like sausage than sausage does? This one really mixed me up as a kid in the school lunch line. True story.

Has anyone besides me been thwarted by those "do not remove" tags? Do they have a purpose other than trying to scare us into not



By **JILL PERTLER**
Contributor

removing them? I went years fearing the tag police would hunt me down and prosecute me to the fullest extent of the law for my tag removal habits regarding my bedroom pillows.

An unexplained, yet universal truth: When my hands are dirty – with anything from chicken goo to mud – one of two things is bound to happen: my nose develops an extreme itch or my phone rings, or probably both.

Why can you buy reading glasses at the dollar store, but are required to

see a doctor and get a prescription if you need the ones that help you see things that are far away? Is seeing things at a distance more complicated or more important than reading?

Have you ever noticed that a small piece of popcorn looks a lot like a lost tooth?

Why are objects in the mirror closer than they appear? Wouldn't it make sense to make objects appear at the correct and accurate distance? Can we make this happen?

Numbers be damned: donuts and eggs come by the dozen. Hot dogs come in packs of 10. Hot dog buns come in packs of eight. You can buy a six, twelve or 24-pack of soda or beer. A pound of butter is four sticks. A pound of hamburger is one clump.

One roll of toilet paper is practically never one roll of toilet

paper. That would make too much sense. You have to read the fine print on the toilet paper label to know how many rolls you are actually getting. One "single" roll often has the volume of two, four or even six regular rolls. So when you buy 12 rolls, you may very well arrive home with the equivalent of 48 or 72. It's like hitting the jackpot, but with toilet paper.

Speaking of toilet paper, I hit my own jackpot today. We were out at home. They had plenty on the shelves at the store. I bought my favorite brand – no more one-ply for this family. COVID be damned.

Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.

Weekly connection

Turning to God in troubled times

Have you about had it with all the hype over the Corona Virus? Are you feeling a bit overwhelmed with the chaos and the riots that are going on in our cities? If you answered yes to these questions, then you are probably thinking along the same lines as I am.

What we see taking place in our world today is the result of a changing philosophy and agenda that desires to change the world and our country as we have known and loved

it into something much different. For several decades now, there has been a concentrated effort to rid our country and the world of religious faith in the God of the Bible.

Why is there all this anarchy in the world you ask? Well, it has been a process over the past few decades of removing the godly moral foundation of our society. Here's a simple example of what I have experienced over the years in education.

When I went to school and for the



By **SCOTT CERNEK**
Columnist

first 20 years or so of my teaching career, our education programs ran as punitive systems much like society in general. In other words, as long as we followed the rules laid down by the school we weren't punished.

When I was a kid, my principal had a paddle above his desk and written on it were these words, "This is the board of education." I must confess it was used on me once in the third grade. Discipline was a part of the program, and we learned to respect others.

We also learned actual history of this country and of the founding fathers, the wars we fought, the abolition of slavery, the woman's

rights movement, the lunar landings, and we learned about the treachery of other world governments.

These things were taught as actual events in history so we could see good vs. evil. Our behavior also was kept in check by strong teachers and coaches. We were expected to be in our seats at the bell, not to use foul language, and to be respectful to our fellow students and teachers, if not, there were degrees of punishment. How we were raised in our homes was similar, and if we got in trouble at school, there was more trouble at home.

Over the years these tried and true techniques of life and discipline have come under attack and have been undermined. Teachers and parents were indoctrinated not to use punitive discipline, even though verses like Proverbs 22:15 clearly state that; "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child and the rod of correction drives it far away."

Instead of sound discipline, parents and teachers were taught to reason everything out with their children and students, respectively. In recent years, school has become a rewards-based process of influencing behavior because it was just too inhumane to punish a child, of course.

It used to be that if a student was not in their seat when the bell rang, they received a punishment, in this case a tardy slip. Three tardy slips resulted in one detention after school. The new system instructed us that if a student was in his seat when the bell rang, we were literally told to give them candy or some kind of certificate entitling them to rewards.

What used to be simple expectations now were rewarded and so a lack of real discipline techniques in the lives of our young people seems to have led all the way to unruly mobs who want nothing to do with the rule of law. "No more police" and "Defund the police" they shout. It has literally led to chaos in the streets.

So here we are in a great battle in our country. What are we to do? I believe first and foremost, we are to continue in steadfast worship of God as the one true God of our country and of our lives. We are to walk in complete trust and confidence that the Lord has this thing completely under control.

Pray, pray, pray for God to confound the evil doers and restore law and order. Don't be afraid to stand up and fight to return our country to law and order as well, and remember that God is in total control of our world. He is either going to put this chaos down by the power of the Holy Spirit working in His people.

If He does this it will then allow more people to come to Jesus for salvation for their souls. The other possibility is that He is going to come in the clouds and snatch the church out of here and up to heaven.

Jesus said in John 14:3 that He was going to prepare a place for us, and that He will come again to take us to that place. When believers in the Lord Jesus are taken to heaven, sin and chaos are going to escalate far worse than they already are on this earth, because the Holy Spirit's presence in the lives of millions of believers will be gone. Either way we win.

Until next week, keep your eye on the sky. God bless.

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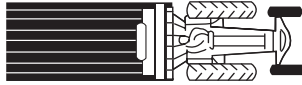
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