

100!

This is my **100th** blog post! What a long way I've come from my first blog post, aptly and boringly titled, "First Post" – it was a description of me learning to blog! And what a variety of subjects I've covered, from retractable sharpie pens, to kids' blankies... from movies and tv shows to animals, trips, and family life... It seems like forever ago that I was taking you all through the 11, 572 snow days we had, and it's been fun to share all these aspects of my life on the internet while learning things about my friends and family who read and/or comment on my posts. So thanks to all my readers, even if you just read because I make you, thanks anyway... I truly appreciate each and every comment I receive – written and spoken, keep it up! And might I add that I'm the first tangents.org blogger to achieve this milestone... hope to have others join me soon!

Weird Pregnancy Symptoms

Since this is my fourth pregnancy, I've experienced a wide variety of the symptoms that go along with being "with child". It's amazing to me how every pregnancy is different, even when they are experienced by the same woman. Pregnancies are as different as the personalities of the children that result. Is it possible then, that a child's personality can actually be displayed through the symptoms of the mother's pregnancy? For example, my aunt told me that when she was pregnant with my cousin, she craved spicy food after not really liking it before. My cousin, the result of the spicy food pregnancy, is now 31 years old and has always been a fan of spicy food!

When I was pregnant with my oldest daughter, my husband would blend a huge glass of juice for me every morning with lots of fruits and veggies in it. My oldest daughter now prefers snacks of fruits and vegetables to junk food. I didn't really crave the fruits and veggies, so that's a different example, but it's still an illustration of how womb behavior may affect the child throughout life.

My second daughter was, for lack of a better word, crazy in the womb. She was the last thing I felt before I fell asleep at night, and the first thing I felt in the morning, and let's not forget all those middle of the night bathroom trips... she was kicking and rolling during those too. I would often joke that I didn't know if this baby ever sleeps. Once she was born, I got the answer: she doesn't ever sleep and never did apparently. It felt like she was tearing me apart from the inside out with her strong movements in the womb, and to this day, she is our strong-willed, "spirited" child.

My third daughter was very gentle as a fetus. She rarely moved – compared to her older sister at least – and when she did, it was always in one spot. As a toddler, she has a very sweet, patient, and obedient demeanor. So, as for #4... so far she moves a lot. I don't want to jinx anything here, but her movements remind me of our second daughter – the spirited one. But I've also experienced some strange symptoms with this pregnancy that I haven't felt before. First, I've been having nightmares. It's common in pregnancy to have more vivid dreams, and I've experienced that, but lately I've had lots of nightmares, ones where I actually wake up too creeped out to go to the bathroom... Strange. And with this pregnancy, red fruit has been especially tasty. I don't crave it, but things like tomatoes, strawberries, and especially red grapes (I've always preferred green to red until now!) taste extra yummy to me. It's so weird to me how tastes can change during a pregnancy. I've never liked bologna and still don't, but during my first pregnancy, I liked it and ate it quite often.

There is probably some scientific research out there that speculates about how much a mother's pregnancy symptoms impact the resulting child, but rather than research it, I think I will just wait and see what my girls are like when they enter adulthood and we can sit down and read my pregnancy diaries together, compare their personalities with that of their womb behavior, and share some good laughs.

Brown Recluse Spider Warning!

This is the THIRD time I've gotten this email forward, so I thought it was worth mentioning in my blog. The subject line of the email reads: Fwd: Dangerous Spider Bite – Brown Recluse Spider (Graphic pictur...

The body of the email shows some awful pictures of someone's infection on their hand that they supposedly got from a spider bite. Since I am a skeptic of ANYTHING I get via email forward, I looked up this warning on snopes.com, the website that investigates possible urban legends and their origins. Actually, while I was at it, I looked up snopes on snopes.com, seeing what they'd say about their own site being an urban legend, but that's another post...

Anyway, back to the spider bite warning. Instead of posting the pictures of the infection here, I will just provide a link to the snopes.com entry about it since the pictures are pretty gross... [Click here](#) if you have a morbid curiosity and you'd like to see what the inside of someone's hand looks like.□ So anyway – and I find myself saying anyway again, which means lots of *tangents* in this post :). **Anyway**, when I looked up the brown recluse spider bite warning on snopes.com, it said that the status of this legend is undetermined, which means that they don't know if it's true or not. Evidently, the

photos are real, and it's really an infection in someone's hand that is pictured, but the origin of the infection is not necessarily the spider bite. Here is a description of the incident by the victim her-(or him) self:

I suspect a spider bite was the cause. I was out in the wood at Caddo Lake and noticed a bite on my thumb. The doctor I was seeing thought it was a spider bite. Other doctors told me it was a brown recluse bite. It was also a MRSA infection. It became so infected because the first antibiotic I was on was not doing any good and I tried to finish the semester before going in to see the doctor. It was a very interesting experience and I no longer wait to go in to the doctor. Whether or not it was a brown recluse bite or not I can't say. I saw some very good doctors who specialize in spider bites and they thought it was. But you have probably seen the latest info on MRSA infections being misdiagnosed as spider bites.

Umm... this person described this experience as "interesting"? Wow, what a mellow personality one must have to possess a wound that looks like that and describe it as interesting...

So, the moral of the story is, be careful with spider bites. Be even more careful with email forwards, and most importantly, (especially if you've read my post called, "Don't Let a Hospital Kill You) take good care of skin infections before they become as serious as the one pictured in the spider warning email, or you will have an "interesting experience" of your own!

Doors to Nowhere

In the town where we live, I've noticed a weird phenomena: there are many houses with second floor doors that lead seemingly nowhere. Well, they lead outside, but that's it – no stairwells, no balconies, no screened-in porches. Just random doors on houses. Perhaps there used to be something there, maybe a staircase, etc. It would be one thing if there were only a few houses like these, but in my town alone, there are at least 10, one being next-door! In a town this small, that is a lot. Actually, they aren't all second floor doors. The church down the street has one that is about 3-4 feet off the ground – enough to see that it's a door to nowhere, but not enough to be on the second floor. I wonder what the purpose of these doors are and why there are so many? Maybe it's something to ask the library historian about, or maybe some of you fellow NW Ohioans who read this blog and have lived here longer than I can enlighten me – people didn't waste doors in Chicago!

Does She Really Enjoy Being A Girl?

This will be my first and only post on this subject so as not to beat it over the head but at the same time give my opinion on the matter. The past week has been drenched with the controversy that is Miley Cyrus. It must be terribly difficult to be a 15 year-old girl who is a “star” with a hit Disney

Channel show, singing career, and millions of adoring fans but at the same time feel the pressure of “looking ahead a few years” and feeling the need to re-invent herself and “grow up” as her audience grows. However, I do not think that she thought about her entire audience that stretches way beneath her 15 year-old age. Not to mention the company that she is contractually obligated to.

It may not have been solely her responsibility as her father (country singer Billy Ray Cyrus) and her mother were present during the photo shoot and both felt that it was a tasteful, artistic display. In my opinion, a teenager appearing to be wearing nothing but a bed sheet pulled up over her with a rather “come-hither” expression on her face does not look too tasteful. The best explanation for the shoot seems to be that it is too hard to say “No” to famed photographer Annie Leibovitz. A bit of peer pressure coming from an adult.

My question is: what are the parents of the fans to do about all this? Do they attempt to shield them entirely from it? Do they wait until the children ask about it? Do they wait and hope the controversy blows over? Or do they entirely forbid their children from watching Hannah Montana? In an attempt to make amends and save her contract (which is more important?), Miley has issued an apology. But will that be enough to prevent her from becoming the next Britney Spears who ironically started on *The New Mickey Mouse Club*?

Mee-Ouch Indeed

Recently, I encouraged a fellow blogger to post a review of a film which I had heard was absolutely rotten. Since, I had not seen such, I decided to see for myself just how terrible it

was.

Some genius decided to give one of the most popular characters in the Batman franchise her own shot at a solo picture on the big screen. Unfortunately, the character bore almost no resemblance to the character at all. Instead of going too far indepth, I will tell you what it is not.

[Catwoman](#) in the movie is not Selina Kyle who was introduced decades ago as the sometimes feline nemesis and sometimes love interest of Batman. Instead, she is given the convoluted name Patience Phillips. I had NO patience with this mess and as most people will tell you, I usually do have some degree of patience. She is also endowed (after dying and being resurrected by a cat) with superpowers. The only power I am aware of that the feline fatale possesses is her cat-like reflexes and her nine-lives that she seemed to have used up in the movie [Batman Returns](#). The movie *Catwoman* does however make a silly attempt to allude to other women who put on the cat-suit including Selina Kyle. Too little too late I'm afraid. That is as far as I feel I need to waste space remarking on this tragedy of a movie. I cannot believe that Bob Kane, creator of the original character, would have his name anywhere near it. He should have sued.

Halle Berry accepted her 2005 Razzie Award in person with her Oscar in hand and made the following statement:

"First of all, I want to thank Warner Brothers. Thank you for putting me in a piece of _____, god awful movie... it was just what my career needed."

I am so glad that I did not have to spend a dime to see this thing. I only wish that I could have my 90 minutes + returned to me.

21

There's been lots of talk of this number on my blog lately, but this time I'm referring to the movie [21](#), not the tv show. I have to admit, I was a little reluctant to see this movie because the previews reminded me of [Ocean's 11](#), and I was not a big fan of that movie. I also thought I might have trouble following the movie 21 because I don't know how to play many of the popular card games prominent in Las Vegas; like poker, and most importantly Blackjack. But I didn't have trouble following the movie, and I actually enjoyed it from start to finish. It was a good mix of action, thoughtful dialogue, good acting, and plot twists; all of which add up to a well-balanced and entertaining film.

The movie revolves around a college professor, played by the enjoyable and versatile Kevin Spacey, who trains a "club" of gifted math students to excel at the game of Blackjack. They develop a system and take trips to Las Vegas to win lots of money. Enter student Ben Campbell, the club's newest recruit, who only wants enough money to pay for his dream of attending Harvard medical school. He gets caught up in the lifestyle, however, and it's interesting to see what happens next... I won't spoil it – it's a good movie, go see it!

Don't Let a Hospital Kill You

What a time for me to stumble across this article on CNN – [Don't Let a Hospital Kill You](#)

I visit the doctor's office monthly, and it's time for me to start visiting every 2 weeks already! Also, I will be a resident of a hospital in about 2 ½ months! As I've written before, I try really hard to put my faith into the doctors and nurses who care for me, however, my husband is a born skeptic of the medical community. Sometimes it's difficult to cast his doubts and concerns aside, especially when I read something like this. Also, since I grew up in a huge metro area, even though I love our small community, I have to be honest and say the small hospital here scares me a at least a little. I haven't shown my husband this article yet... maybe I'll wait until the baby and I are home and healthy in July?

Too funny to not pass on!

Also from [Worthyboards](#) comes this hilarious real-life humor-thanks, Glory2000!

TOP 7 MORONS OF 2007

1. WILL THE REAL DUMMY PLEASE STAND UP? AT&T fired President John Walter after nine months, saying he lacked intellectual leadership. He received a \$26 million severance package. Perhaps it's not Walter who's lacking intelligence.
2. WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS: Police in Oakland, CA spent two hours attempting to subdue a gunman who had barricaded himself inside his home. After firing ten tear gas canisters, officers discovered that the man was standing beside them in the police line, shouting, 'Please come out and give yourself up.'
3. WHAT WAS PLAN B??? An Illinois man, pretending to have a gun, kidnapped a motorist and forced him to drive to two

different automated teller machines, wherein the kidnapper proceeded to withdraw money from his own bank accounts.

4. THE GETAWAY! A man walked into a Topeka, Kansas Kwik Stop and asked for all the money in the cash drawer. Apparently, the take was too small, so he tied up the store clerk and worked the counter himself for three hours until police showed up and grabbed him.

5. DID I SAY THAT??? Police in Los Angeles had good luck with a robbery suspect who just couldn't control himself during a lineup. When detectives asked each man in the lineup to repeat the words: 'Give me all your money or I'll shoot!' The man shouted, 'that's not what I said!'.

6. ARE WE COMMUNICATING??? A man spoke frantically into the phone: 'My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart'. 'Is this her first child?' the doctor asked. 'No!' the man shouted, 'This is her husband!' 

7. NOT THE SHARPEST TOOL IN THE SHED! In Modesto, CA, Steven Richard King was arrested for trying to hold up a Bank of America branch without a weapon. King used a thumb and a finger to simulate a gun. Unfortunately, he failed to keep his hand in his pocket. (hellooooooooo)!

Miscommunication

Well, I thought I was teaching at church today, but I found out otherwise- right before I was going to teach. As the kids sang worship songs, I went into an adjoining room to look over the lesson again. When I came out, the family pastor was there with his Bible ready to teach. Oh well. I was actually going to ask him last night, but I talked to another teacher

who said he saw on the email the ones who would teach this weekend and he thought my name was on it- also that the email said that this month would be the same schedule as last month. So I decided not to bother John. It looks like I should have bothered him after all. Plus when I talked to him afterward I think I may have sounded like I was shifting the blame to that other teacher I talked to when in fact it was me who decided not to talk to the one I should have. I hope I'm just being critical of myself. Anyway, one of the kids I saw earlier this week made it to church, but the other one didn't. Oh well, I hope he shows up next week while I still remember his name. ☐

Well, perusing Worthyboards I encountered this Godtube video I thought I would share. It's about fitting into church. Just so you're prepared , it was in their humor forum...

[godtube]https://www.godtube.com/view_video.php?viewkey=a7bedeb99312cc5d7f4e[/godtube]

I also learned of another video site while looking for a teaching example- it is called [Teachertube](#)! Needless to say, I will be looking through some of these videos, hopefully to post about here!