

Our good admin likes his jokes.

Seems that the group here on tangents was the subject of an April Fools Joke. Trying to get in to add a post this afternoon, I found that the site was up for sale. Good joke. My own jokes didn't make it to fruition today. I was unable to get a hold of the intended victims. Maybe they were avoiding calls from their father today. One never knows.

Good joke on us Admin.. ☐ But will you admit my first email did say something about it being on April 1st?

The Game's Afoot!

What a fun April 1st it has been!!! Tangents was visited once again by the Mad Hacker (sounds like a forgotten villain of comic book stories). Like many of my fellow tangenteers, I too have been doing a bit of light (or not so light reading) in my spare time. I recently checked out a collection of stories featuring the world's greatest detective, Sherlock Holmes (sorry Caped Crusader).

To me, going back and re-reading something you were assigned to read in school is much more entertaining the second time. I am finding myself thoroughly enjoying reading adventures that gave me headaches the first time around and reading many others for the first time. I enjoyed reading one story featuring "the woman" Irene Adler (*A Scandal in Bohemia*).

My favorite, thusfar, has been *The Five Orange Pips* that finds Holmes and Dr. Watson up against members of the Ku Klux Klan.

I learned something new in this story: the name for the organization takes its name from the sound a rifle makes as it is being cocked. The story itself fascinated me because Holmes is (in some ways) less than successful in solving the case. The reader sees, through Watson's eyes, the detective's reaction. A good way to develop character is showing not only triumphs but personal failings as well.

April Fool's!

As many of you may have found out the hard way, today is April Fool's Day. Thankfully, I was the victim of only two pranks, and one I kind of figured out... But the other one came out of left field and went something like this: my 9-year-old daughter comes up to me and says, "Mom, Christopher (her 8-month-old brother) is bleeding!" She said it nonchalantly, but come on, something like that would just strike an instinctual panic button in any parent! So I dropped what I was doing and ran into the living room, and she let me off the hook – April Fool's!

Obviously this type of prank is not cool, and my daughter and I had a little chat about the inappropriateness of jokes involving injury (I did tell her it was a good one though, since she didn't know anything about prank etiquette when she thought of it).

But for future reference, I don't make a very good prank victim anyway. I tend to be gullible in the first place, so I'm easy to get. And when I'm not being gullible, I'm cynical, so I might be paranoid I'm getting "got" or at least lied to. And most importantly, if you do get me, depending on the severity of the prank, I might get mad at you – I guess I

don't like to be fooled... So consider this your warning, and catch me on April Fool's Day next year – at your own risk!

OK... Have We Been Had?

Ok... I'm not sure, but when I attempted to access my tangents site the normal way, I came across a message that stated that the domain name tangents.org is for sale. After some trial and error, I was able to make my way here to post on the weirdness of the day.

It started this morning when I watched the April Fools Day episode of [The Price is Right](#) featuring a very special surprise guest and gags galore.

While walking to work at 11:55AM, I noticed that the clock at the bank read 12:55PM... funny.

While at work, the manager called and asked me if I would come in an hour early tomorrow as the truck was going to be early. Why would I come in an hour early on Wednesday I said.? She actually took me seriously and thought that it really was Tuesday instead of Wednesday. HAHA!

Later, an apparent wrong number called and asked to speak with Monica. I replied that I am Monica and we carried on a two minute conversation until I could not come up with any more believable conversation. Thank goodness the caller was good hearted and played along.

That was all until I got home and found out that our domain was for sale. I guess we will see what happens tomorrow. I can post, but can my readers find my posts?

Feel Good Story?

Or an April Fools' joke. You be the judge

[Sick Sea Turtle Checks into Animal Hospital](#)

I really liked the story, and I would think turtles have some intelligence. If this turtle had been treated there before, it knew enough to go back. But today is April Fools' Day. I tend to take every Odd news or too good to be true news with a skeptics eye today. I didn't see the regular April fool notes in the story, but there was mention of some other famous turtles. Hmm, it has me thinking.

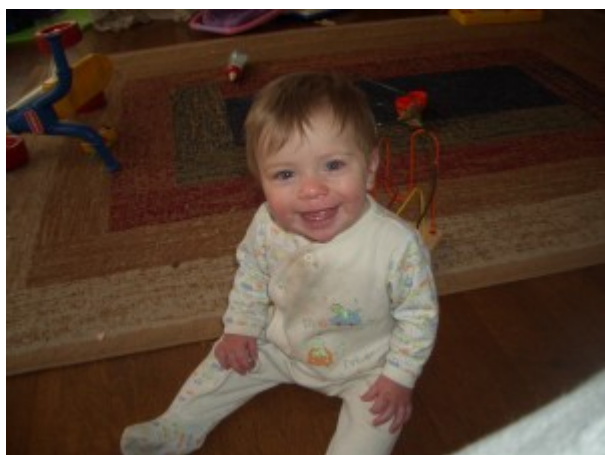
I also saw a site for a [Helicopter Hotel](#). The link may be gone now, because it was an honest April Fools' Joke.

I haven't seen much else. But I am keeping my eyes open today.

Dog Toys, Wires, and Tablecloths, Oh My!

My son is crawling – uh, oh. I don't remember what his 3 sisters got into when they started to crawl, besides trouble, but my son's favorite things seem to be dog toys (and the dogs' food and water bowls, what a mess!), tablecloths (which he yanks on – I'm going to have to remove the one in the living room before he yanks it and pulls the heavy computer right down on his head!), and wires (I don't think I need to explain why he shouldn't be pulling and chewing on wires. If

I do, let's hope you don't have any kids of your own). He smiles so sweetly when we say no-no; I think he likes the attention. A more stern NO just makes him grin widely and start waving at us. So how do you discipline someone so incredibly cute? I can't help but smile back when he grins – he's so cute with his little toothies sticking out from his bottom gums. Could **you** say no to this face?



The Haunting In Connecticut

We saw [The Haunting in Connecticut](#) at the movie theater for date night (after refusing pizza from “Carlos Zambrano” at the mall pizza shop – seriously, the guy looks just like the famously hot-headed Chicago Cubs pitcher!) and the movie made for a pretty good ghost story. I had heard it was based upon a true story, but after seeing it, here is my guess on what about the movie is true: a teenage boy has cancer, his family rents a house (a former mortuary) near the hospital where he is receiving treatments, and they had strange happenings while staying there; probably due to stress or lack of sleep or even just plain exaggerations but not hauntings, is my guess. This is the basic plot of the movie, but I left out many events that could not have possibly happened in real life and would

also be considered spoilers, so I will not go into details. I will say that the movie opens with all kinds of vintage photographs of deceased people – I know this because of my friend who attended a lecture on the subject. I had wanted to go with her, but we found out about it last minute and I reluctantly had to pass. But my friend went and came back with all kinds of interesting info which is how I knew what the pictures were that opened the movie. For instance, many people back then (the movie takes place in the 80's, but the pictures were from the early 1900's) didn't have their photograph taken often, so when a loved one passed away, they would get their family portrait taken *with the deceased* – better late than never, I guess? Not only that, sometimes they would pose as if the person was still alive – kind of morbid by our standards today, but then again, things are very different and taking pictures is so much more common; it's difficult to imagine past attitudes about this.

But *The Haunting in Connecticut* is a very entertaining, edge-of-your seat nailbiter with plenty of startles. To its credit, it's scary and creepy without the gore. Worth checking out, if you like that sort of thing, but not one of my favorites – it did give me some ideas for a haunted house though... Now if I can just remember them until 2010 when we actually have the time to DO the haunted house...

Falling off the edge

The problem digital TV is that you either get the picture or you don't. I was watching a show this evening when everything went black. I tried other stations and they were black too. I'm fairly certain there is some sort of weather going on between me and the stations antennas. In the old analog days,

just a couple of months ago, the stations would have filled with static, and I could have watched the end of the show. Now I just have to wait until I can watch it on the net (and they don't seem to have fast forward), or catch repeat. I think I'll just skip it.

I started thinking about this digital drop point. Why should they drop off so quickly? I haven't studied the technology behind it yet, but I wonder why a digital signal should just drop off to nothing. On occasion, I've noticed the pixelated views of the digital signal when the wind starts blowing, or rain falls. I'm thinking that an advanced receiver could capture enough pixels to keep the sound and video going for a bit. A time delay buffer should be able to mix and fill in the missing data. It's done in digital videos and photography, so why not on TV. Just wondering...

Who Advises The Advisor?

Recently, I received an email from a high school friend asking for advice on auditioning for a movie role. She has never acted before but knew of my passion for theatre and decided to come to me for whatever reason. I have never tested for film, but gathered that my stage experiences would help. Here was my reply:

That sounds cool. I have never auditioned for film before, but I can't imagine it being any different from stage. Being a first timer, there will be anxiety which is good to have... it gives you energy. I still get it... anyone who says they never get nervous at an audition because they have done it so often is lying through their teeth but the more experience you get in auditioning the easier it becomes to use the

nerves to your advantage. Not sure what to expect... do you have a script or is it a cold reading? Do you have to have anything prepared ahead (monologue?) . The best advice I can give is to go in, do what the director asks and have fun (the most important thing). The minute you walk into the site you ARE at the audition. Most of the auditions I go to start out by introducing yourself. This is as important as reading from the script or anything else they ask you to do. The first impression is the most important... be yourself (Sounds cliché and corny, but is very true). And don't let your inexperience get you down... everyone has to start somewhere. With your personality, I am really surprised that you did not try out for anything in school, but... never too late. Break a leg! Let me know if there is anything else you need and let me know how you do.

Apparently, she felt really good about the audition, because she sent me an email Saturday after the audition and told me that she used my advice. She was nervous but went in and presented herself as best she could and even talked to one of the writers and the casting director. Her husband, another EHS alumnus was in the store tonight and related how excited she was and how grateful she was for the advice. Unfortunately, she has to wait until April 6th to hear about call backs, etc. I would be driven insane waiting that long. She is even anticipating minoring in theatre at the University of Toledo where she started taking classes last fall. "Theatre is fun" she said. I even told her that she needs to take advantage of the theatre around her.

This is not the first time I have shared advice and my love of my favorite thing. It seems that I am quick to pick out members of any cast who are inexperienced and offer words of encouragement and take them "under my wing" as it were.

My problem is this: If I find it so easy to encourage others (friends, new acquaintances who more often than not turn into

friends), why can't **I** find the encouragement to go further? I have conquered (or at least been on) 6 stages in my little corner of the world. I love everyone of them. I have made the best friends I have EVER had in two of these venues because the bond many of us share is so strong. I get encouraged by many of them and yet... here I sit. Have I become so "comfortable" here that I will never try (again) to go above and beyond? I know I am just rambling and many of you may not understand how strong this thing is (I'm not even sure I do at times) but to me if someone finds himself trying out for every show in his community theatre (even when he is not cast... just picks himself up and tries again and again) and even ventures to other groups from time to time, well... **AND I know** that **I** solely am the one who has to come to terms with it. Maybe one day soon I can decide to take another friends advice to heart and believe that:

"There are no limitations in what you can do except the limitations in your own mind as to what you can not do."

Busy family

Can this family have much more excitement?

The current list (as it stands now ☐)

- 1) 4th Daughter heads out for Show Choir Competition in April.
- 2) 4th Daughter's High School graduation in May.
- 3) 3rd Daughter's Wedding in June – Play I was in is going to regional competition ☐ I can't make it.
- 4) Family Vacation???
- 5) 4th Daughter Starts College in August
- 7) 1st Daughter's first child due in September

OK what else is can happen? I'm not sure. With the way this year is going, I'm sure there will be something. My life tends to get more complicated, not less.

Could 'The Lion in Winter' Go to State competition? I would love that. It was a good part and I would like to play it again...

Weddings, Graduations, College, Birth. I can remember when that was me. It wasn't that long ago was it.

Of course, I'm sure there will be more medical testing now that I'm 50. That will take some time won't it. And the fun part is, I don't know when or what those will be right now. Depends on how the tests go doesn't it?

What is life without adventure, it looks like I have my days filled with it.