

Talula Does the Hula From Hawaii

The title of this post reflects someone's actual given name at birth. Shame on everyone who ever gave flak about my cute little Disney – it could have been worse; much, much worse!

(CNN) – A New Zealand judge has made a 9-year-old girl a ward of the court so that her name can be changed from Talula Does the Hula From Hawaii, the country's national news agency reported Thursday.

Family Court Judge Rob Murfitt listed a series of unusual names that New Zealand parents had given their children, and said he was concerned that such strange monikers would create hurdles for them as they grew up.

"It makes a fool of the child and sets her up with a social disability and handicap," the New Zealand Press Association quoted the judge as saying.

Among the names Murfitt cited: twins named Benson and Hedges – after a brand of cigarettes; Violence; and Number 16 Bus Shelter.

Some parents had named children after six-cylinder Ford cars, the news agency reported.

The Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages said in a statement that it had rejected names including Fish and Chips, Yeah Detroit, Stallion, Twisty Poi – a staple food in Polynesian cuisine – and Sex Fruit.

A lawyer for Talula Does the Hula From Hawaii said the girl is so embarrassed by her name that friends know her as "K."

Last month, a judge in the U.S. state of Illinois allowed a school bus driver to legally change his first name to "In God"

and his last name to "We Trust."

But an appeals court in the state of New Mexico ruled against a man – named Variable – who wanted to change his name to a two-word phrase that contains a four-letter expletive and expresses opposition to censorship.

What in the world?

Ran across a news story about [children](#) jailed for an armed holdup. At the time of the robbery, they were all 14 years old!! My first question was, "where are the parents?". The article mentions that the three children were cousins, but makes no mention of parents or guardians. Could it have happened in my family, sure. My girls had plenty of time to plan this sort of thing. I had hoped, and still hope that the lessons they were taught earlier in life were and still are with them when they aren't in my sight.

So, I guess I do have another question. Should the parents/guardians be held responsible for this? My thoughts on this are mixed and still in the formative stages. Many things point to, yes hold the parents responsible. But another part of me wonders, when are the children old enough to take responsibility for there own actions. Parents can be completely in the dark about some of the things their children do. This does not have to be an indication that they don't pay attention. Some children are just really good at hiding things from Mom and Dad. So, I guess I still don't know...

Toledo Blood

While I've been recently listing my many recent medical procedures and complications, it seems I forgot to mention the blood transfusion. When I found out I would need one after the surgery, my mom generously offered me some of hers, but the nurses politely refused her, saying our hospital gets its blood supply from Toledo. So, there you have it – I guess you could say I'm now an official Ohioan with Toledo blood and everything! Go Buckeyes!

American Psycho Hellboy... Never Mind

We managed to fit in some movie watching this week while the kids are with Grandma, and I was attempting to put them all together in a clever blog post title, but it wasn't to be. Probably my lack of sleep with the new baby and my recovery process has inhibited my creativity. I hope to be back in full swing soon, but it will probably take a few months, especially because once I'm feeling better, I have lots of stuff around the house I need to catch up on and as much as I would like blog posting to come first, it doesn't. As people keep reminding me oh so helpfully, a c-section is major surgery ☐ Don't I know it.

So the 3 movies we saw this week are Hellboy 2, American Psycho, and Fortress.

I did not like [Hellboy 2](#). I actually would have left the theater, but I never got around to asking my husband if he wanted to and that was a good thing because he liked the

movie. It gave me a good laugh when we were walking out of the theater and he told me he liked it because we always have the same taste in movies and I really didn't like this one. That also means I don't have much to say about it except that the Abe fish-like character reminds me of C3PO from Star Wars, and I can't believe the actor who plays Hellboy, [Ron Perlman](#), was also Vincent the Beast in the old [Beauty and the Beast tv show](#) from the 80's with [Linda Hamilton](#). I thought he was going to be some Andre the Giant huge guy wrestler type, but it turns out, he is just a regular actor. I suppose my impatience with this movie had to do with the fact that my infection flared up and I was raging with fever yet again in the movie theater. So even though I felt crappy and wanted to leave, I could not pass up a night out with hubby while the kids were away. Even if it was to see Hellboy 2... I'm just glad one of us enjoyed the movie.

Next up is a movie from the early 90's called [Fortress](#). It's set in the future – and it's always fun to see what people thought the future would be like when the movie was made over a decade ago – and revolves around a corporate owned underground prison (think Walmart does Alcatraz). The main characters are sent there when they break the “one child per couple” rule. They had lost their first child, and now they've been caught trying to have another, so they are both sent to prison, even though she is pregnant. This is a fun action-packed movie. When I looked it up on [imdb.com](#) after we watched it, I learned that it is actually a kind of cult classic movie and there are actually multiple endings. Our version was the less happy of the endings, but I still liked the movie. It's kind of violent for early 90's, and if you look it up on [imdb.com](#), don't let the keywords fool you. Let's put it this way, if I had seen the keywords first, I wouldn't have watched this movie, but in retrospect, I don't think there was really much adult stuff in it – just violence and gore, but they didn't overdo it like they do in some movies nowadays, like the Saw movies for instance.

[American Psycho](#) on the other hand...

I will start by saying that [Christian Bale](#) was excellent in this movie. I wasn't so impressed by him when he was Batman in [The Dark Knight](#), but he definitely shows versatility and depth in this movie. He plays a Wall Street executive who is just about as big a jerk as one can be. Also, he has blood lust and likes to kill people in his spare time. The movie is very strange for reasons I can't quite put my finger on. For one, I was confused about what the movie was trying to be. I guess it's just a story about this man, an American Psycho. But at times throughout the movie, the music was strange, and it just didn't play like a normal movie. And then there were the constant 80's references. I guess it was supposed to take place in the 1980's, given the characters' huge cordless phones and constant talk of musical artists such as Phil Collins, Huey Lewis, and Whitney Houston. Why they would change the time period of the movie, I don't know, but they did a good job because if [Reese Witherspoon](#) (who is about my age and would have been a kid in the '80's) wasn't in it, I would have been convinced the movie was actually filmed in the '80's. And I have to say the end confused me a lot. I won't say more because I don't want to spoil anything, but if anyone who reads this has seen this movie, maybe you can answer a question I have. I don't think I'd recommend this movie since there are many disturbing scenes and it didn't seem worth it to me to sit thru them for what you get from the rest of the movie. I don't think I'm going to put it on my list of baddies however, but then again, Hellboy 2 isn't going on there either. Just 2 movies I didn't really like and wouldn't see again, but I don't feel like I wasted my time watching either of them, and that's always a good thing.

Currently reading...

I am a reader. I have been a reader since I was a child, especially of science fiction and fantasy. I remember back when I was around ten, reading a book series about an alien called a "Martinean" who everyone called Martin E. Ann, assuming that was his name. Except for the boy who knew he was an alien of course. I don't remember anything about that series aside from that, but it shows that I have been reading for awhile. I have read some Isaac Asimov, Ben Bova, Piers Anthony, Terry Goodkind, Terry Brooks, Terry Pratchett, Alan Dean Foster, Robert Jordan, and more. Currently I picked up a new book at the library from Timothy Zahn, called [The Third Lynx](#). Noting this was the second book in a series, I also picked up [Night Train to Rigel](#) from the non-recent stacks and read it first. Now before I continue, I should say that there are a few types of books. There are those that you take one look at and then leave on the shelf. Then there are those that you read for a bit and then realize that reading that book is just a waste of time, so you either force your way through it just so you can say you finished it or you stop reading it. I actually had a book of this type recently, a Star Trek Titan book part of a post-Nemesis movie about Captain Riker and his starship, Titan. I read one by a homosexual author who put a scene in the book that served no purpose other than to say that he believes in homosexual relationships. In fact, you could remove those pages entirely and no one would ever realize it was missing as it had no bearing on the plot. Anyway, I digress. After finishing that one, part of the third category I have yet to mention, I checked out another one where they found entire groups of the giant sentient "spaceships" Captain Picard and company encountered at Farpoint way, way back in the very first Next Generation episode. After getting about halfway through I realized that the book was just not my type of book so I stopped reading it.

The third category included those books that you read and finish, but are just not memorable. You finish the last page, close the book, and go, "meh- whatever." The last category is the book you just can't put down. Timothy Zahn is one author who writes books like these, at least in my view. Star Wars fans might find his name familiar as he had the first books out in the newly approved-for-writing post-episode-VI universe. This first trilogy consisted of the books [Heir to the Empire, Dark Force Rising, and The Last Command](#). Leia and Han Solo are now married and give birth to twins Jacen and Jaina, and later Anakin (you know who he's named after...). Luke starts taking on students who would become new Jedi. I read this series about ten or so years ago and thoroughly enjoyed it. When he wrote a couple more Star Wars books I was quick to read those as well. He introduces a new enemy known as Grand Admiral Thrawn. He was an extremely brilliant alien strategist bent on keeping the Empire alive after Palpatine was gone.

His new books star a character who bears some resemblance to Thrawn in that he is quite brilliant in his own trade, as an investigator, or spy. Once employed by a government agency, Frank Compton had a falling out and was fired, though not for lack of competence. He has just taken on a job for someone when another one falls in his lap in the form of someone who dies just as he finds Frank. Frank picks from his pocket a quadrail (futuristic train that travels interstellar distances) ticket in his name, and leaves immediately to discover an answer to this mystery and is led to the one who would hire him, leaving the first job on the backburner- or did he? The employer for the first job is only revealed later in the book, and the job he was hired to do not until the very end. There are some imperfections in the books, but overall they are also books that I can't put down. I will definitely be adding Zahn to the list of authors I will be keeping an eye out for, and I will have to read the other books he's written as well.

R.I.P Sophia

In the late 80s, one comedy kept senior citizens glued to their televisions on Saturday night. [The Golden Girls](#) featured 3 mature ladies living together under one roof. Dorothy, Rose, and Blanche were the three main characters. However, it was the wise-cracking Sophia (the mother of Dorothy) who stole every scene she was in. Ironically, [Estelle Getty](#) was actually 15.5 months younger than her on-screen daughter, Bea Arthur. Sophia's acerbic wit and zingers (often directed to the promiscuous Blanche or the naive Rose) won Estelle 7 Emmy nominations and one statue for Best Supporting Actress (1988).

Estelle's talents were not limited to the small screen. She also appeared in 80s and 90s big screen comedies. In [Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot](#), she appeared as Sylvester Stallone's mother. She also was the head of a department store in [Mannequin](#). Not the world's most entertaining films but worth a mention (Mannequin was more entertaining than Sly's mediocre attempt to be funny) .

Estelle's career ended in early 2000. Unfortunately, she was diagnosed with a severe case of dementia which later took her life.

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Rubik's Cube for the tech-savvy

How does a techie solve a Rubik's Cube? Simple, he builds a machine to do it! Even geekier is the fact that the machine is made out of Legos. Check it out:

Original site: [Tilted Twister](#)

The Mole – Week #7

The following is a synopsis of the Mole episode that aired Monday, July 21, 2008. It contains spoilers – do not read ahead if you don't want to know who was executed!

My daughter is away this week and didn't get to see this episode, so we won't have her guess. Darn, she was really getting into the show too, and it was fun to see an 8-year-old's perspective on it. But anyway, I thought Craig and Nicole both seemed very mole-y during the challenge; there were times when it seemed that they both tried to sabotage the numbers they were collecting. I didn't notice any suspicious behavior from anyone else. Then there was a game where the contestants answered questions about their loved ones, and another contestant was re-quizzed about their answers. The loved ones appeared in a train, and if they got enough answers correct, the doors would open for a reunion. So of course whoever the mole is didn't have the heart to sabotage this one – which means it's NOT Nicole. Just kidding. Anyway, the train doors opened for everyone, thank goodness, and the anticipation was pure agony to watch; especially Mark's wife (in 19 years of marriage we've never been apart this long) and Paul's wife and especially his little girl. I knew there was absolutely no way they would disappoint a little girl like that, and I wonder what they would have done if enough questions were not answered correctly?

I'd have to say Nicole's mom is a bad influence on her – she really wanted Nicole to quit and even justified her reasons for doing so (it's not really quitting, it's not like this is

your job). It's clear that Nicole really cares a lot about what Mommy thinks because she lied and said she was going to throw the quiz, and she also apologized for disappointing her mom by not quitting. So I'm guessing that she can just explain it away to Mommy later by saying, "I disobeyed you because I was the Mole so I couldn't quit the game." And, if she can lie that easily about throwing the quiz, it will be no surprise that she was lying the whole game about being the Mole.

So, the guesses remain:

Taylhis – Nicole

Chris – Paul

Jamiahsh – Paul

Not your father's goldfish

Ok, I'm all for feeling good about myself, and getting the occasional pampering, but now we can have fish keep our feet clean. Yes, you read that correctly. There is a [spa](#) in Virginia that has little fish to nibble off the dead and rough skin from your feet.

At \$35 dollars for 15 minutes and \$50 for 30 minutes, I think that this will be one spa treatment I can forgo. I never liked it at the lake, when the fish would come up and do the toe nibble.

Now I'll have to find other weird spa treatments that people use. Can you say mud baths anyone?

Baseball bat breaking news

There seems to be a lot more shattered bats during a major league baseball game these days. I've heard the talk that the newer maple bats tend to shatter, while the ash just split. A [news article](#) I just read discusses this 'new' event in major league games.

I understand why they don't use aluminum/metal bats in the major leagues. If you ever saw a ball jump off of the new metal bats in college ball, or even the local softball leagues, you can guess why you wouldn't want one of those in the hands of a major league hitter. The pitcher would have to be 90 feet away just to be safe. I am wondering if some sort of material could be designed for baseball bats. Keep the elasticity (bounce of ball off the bat) the same as current wood bats, but have it much stronger to prevent splitting.

With the problems with Ash borers in the midwest (Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and maybe Pennsylvania), there may be a supply problem with Ash baseball bats in the future anyway. I think they may need to do something, before more people get hurt sitting in the stands.