

Veining Victory

All my life I've had to deal with a less than optimal anatomy. In Kindergarten, my teacher wrote on my report card, "lacks hand-eye coordination." Not *lacking in* hand-eye coordination, she definitely wrote LACKS – as if I didn't have any at all. My vision hasn't been the best and neither has my hearing for that matter; due to the multiple ear infections I suffered as a toddler. The LACK of hand-eye coordination followed me all throughout school. There were all those skill tests we would have to take every year in gym class... you know, the mile run, flexed arm hang, shuttle run, 50 yard dash, long jump (the long jump was only a clever name for when people like me tried to take that test and could barely get off the ground, much less produce a long jump), etc. The weeks we did those tests were the most dreaded weeks of the year for me. Not only would I look pretty stupid trying to do them, but I would always fail miserably. They actually based your grades for those tests upon your scores and not upon how hard you tried. Mine were always off the scale F's. Luckily, they weren't enough to bring my gym grade down too low because I was always a pretty good student and to have that ruined because I LACKED hand-eye coordination, now that just wouldn't be right.

Now, as an adult, it doesn't really matter how fast I can run back and forth between 2 lines on the floor while stopping to stoop and touch them. Not that I've tried, which only proves how unimportant something like that is... but it seems that all those years of falling physically behind my peers has been made up for me by a "gift" my adult body has bestowed upon me: huge, viable veins! Every time the lab people at the Dr.'s office have to draw my blood, they are **extremely** impressed by my veins. In fact, I am often the talk of the lab – *hey, Karen, come over here, look what I've got to work with!*

Today I had a student drawing my blood (oh, great, just what I

wanted to see, someone about to pierce my skin with a needle who is **in training to do so!** I realize they have to learn somewhere, but why do they have to learn on me?), and the nurse jokingly told her, wow, you could draw that one in the dark! Haha, hehe, but please, let's not try that!

Anyway, I don't mean to brag to anyone who is less endowed in the vein department, but it's just nice to finally get my due after falling so far behind physically in every other way for so long. And it may seem unimportant to you, but I make a lot of friends at the lab this way, and also, my veinly gifts are very useful in my life. Having had four pregnancies and 2 cases (hopefully only 2; I will find out soon if there will be 3) of gestational diabetes, that means there is lots of blood being drawn from me! I get poked and prodded so often that I'm starting to think that my veins are actually *fun* for the lab people to draw from... or maybe it was no coincidence that the student lab technician had me as a patient to draw from today – maybe they've secretly made me the lab student assignment for the hospital!

Rambling

I should probably introduce myself, but right now I want to talk about something else. I might introduce myself next time. Anyway, I have a friend who at the moment is having a big decision to make. Her brother and sister-in-law have invited her down to Texas to be a live-in-nanny. Her brother is going over seas and her sister-in-law, I guess doesn't want to come up here, like originally planned. I have a feeling that it might have something to do with me. I was friends once with my friend's sister-in-law, but as seeing as she married my ex, she feels like I still want him back. If she comes up here, I

believe that she is worrying about running into me after all she has said about me. I have been willing to forgive her, but she doesn't want me to talk to her, so I have just let it slide right now.

Now, where was I? I seemed to have digressed. My friend doesn't know what she wants to do. She has so many friends up here, plus her family, but jobs seem to be scarce up here and she needs money to keep going to school. School is expensive and she needs to continue to make money. I have been searching for a job for awhile now, but nothing seems to be available for me. Well, except if we both want to be truck drivers. ☐ So, hopefully something will help her with her decision and we will still stay close while she is away.

Trying new theme again.

Why you ask? Well, why not I say! Just trying something new; I don't know why I didn't notice this theme before titled "Rubric." It's just the thing for a school-related blog. Maybe.

Munk-ey See, Munk-ey Do

In 1958, a struggling songwriter experimented with a recording device by speeding up the audio-track of a recording producing a squeaky, high-pitched, comical tone. Thus, Ross Bagdasarian created David Seville and the Chipmunks with the song "Witch Doctor." The unique sound was an instant sensation and led to

multiple Grammy award winning albums, several cartoon series, and the 2007 live-action/CGI feature [Alvin and the Chipmunks](#).

In the film, Jason Lee plays Dave whose life is turned completely upside down when he becomes the reluctant guardian of the trio of talking, singing rodents (call me mean if you must but yes indeed they are rodents). Alvin (Justin Long) is the mischievous leader of the three. Simon (Matthew Gray Gubler) is the intellectual, bespecaled middle sibling. Rounding out the threesome, Theodore (pop singer Jesse McCartney) is the chubby, emotional young one. In one day, the brothers cause Dave to lose his job at an ad agency, wreck his house, and ruin his date with his ex-girlfriend. Yet, when he hears the chipmunks sing Dave thinks that his dreams of becoming a successful songwriter just fell into his lap. He writes for the group "The Chipmunk Song (Please Christmas Don't Be Late)."

Upon hearing the novelty piece, a greedy, selfish record company owner sets out to control the group. "Uncle" Ian (David Cross) lavishes the boys with fancy toys, video games, cool clothes, and almost more food than Theodore can stuff into his enormous cheeks. Eventually, the villain drives a wedge between the chipmunks and Dave which leads the brothers to walk out and move in with the slimeball. Eventually, Ian's true motivation emerges as he leads the group on a taxing tour schedule, leaving no time to be boys.

The live-action *Alvin and the Chipmunks* is fun for children and mildly entertaining for older people. Personally, I would rather enjoy the animated adventures of Alvin, Simon, and Theodore. Also, the hip-hop version of "Witch Doctor" was just not good. However, I did enjoy the up-tempo version of "The Chipmunk Song."

(Drama × 2) + Teacher + (Leader × 2) = Full Weekend

Definitely a full weekend this time around. My normal schedule is fairly busy as is, which is one drama and kid's leader for two services (one same service as drama). Then I go to the worship service during the first Sunday service. This weekend was also a teaching weekend for me and I filled in for another drama member as well. What's the difference between teaching and leading? Well, in a given service there are 30-40 kids in 4th/5th grades. That means several leaders are needed, at least one for every ten kids but the lower the ratio the better. These leaders lead discussion during small group time and of course all are on hand to assist whenever needed whether it be to take care of someone injured during game time, redirect wavering attention, whatever. There is only one teacher though who teaches the actual lesson during lesson time. Today that was me- I do it once a month typically. Today was actually probably the shortest lesson I've given in a long time, meaning more time for small groups. If only I could keep it short all the time that would be ideal. Moving through the Old Testament we focused on King Saul, and why he didn't have a true heart for God. Next week will be focused on King David and how his heart **was** for God. King Solomon will follow the week after. Of course today the lesson started with how Israel wrongly wanted a King in the first place so God gave them the type of king they thought they wanted- tall and handsome. Just like the idols thrust before us today. Unfortunately good looks on the outside don't equate to a good heart on the inside. Yes he did lead Israel to some victories, but he showed himself as one who shifted blame to others, was jealous, and was disobedient. Eventually God just removed his

right to rule and selected a king for them that they **should have** wanted. I would bet that David would have been completely happy with just being a leader while God remained king, but since the precedent was set David would inherit the title of king once Saul was finally killed. This last thought is my opinion of course, so if it is wrong then don't blame the Bible please.

The drama was about doing the right thing, in this case my role was typical of my real self- procrastination. My character knew he had to clean up the lab after a failed experiment, but let it sit instead for three days without doing anything about it, so now it's showtime (remember, imaginary TV studio with live audience) and the place still isn't clean! He almost gets fired when the studio owner calls and asks what's up...

Anyway, now I'm home and three hours later writing this up. Now if you'll excuse me I have some of [The Office](#) to watch- it is due today and I am not even finished with half the season! Good show, but it took a few episodes to get into it.

Ellen's Friend Gladys

I used to really enjoy watching The Ellen DeGeneres Show. It's on tv in my area at 4pm, so I used to watch it all the time while I was feeding my youngest daughter. Since that is no longer a job that requires sitting down for a good 30-60 minutes – quite the opposite nowadays actually! – I haven't caught Ellen in ages. But the other day, I was reminded of a viewer of Ellen's who she made a few phone calls to on the show... An 88-year-old named Gladys who was as matter-of-fact as can be and just hysterical. Check out the clip from her

first sound byte on the show below. Gladys first calls Ellen's show and leaves a message, which is funny enough by itself, but when Ellen calls her back, hilarity ensues! Check it out: