

See You in the Funny Papers

March 5, 2022
Millarville, Alberta

This is the final batch of posts in the “1000 Little Soaps” series. It is a jumble of articles written while I was learning how to build a website. Like the pandemic that spawned these words, the series is ending *not with a bang, but a whimper*.

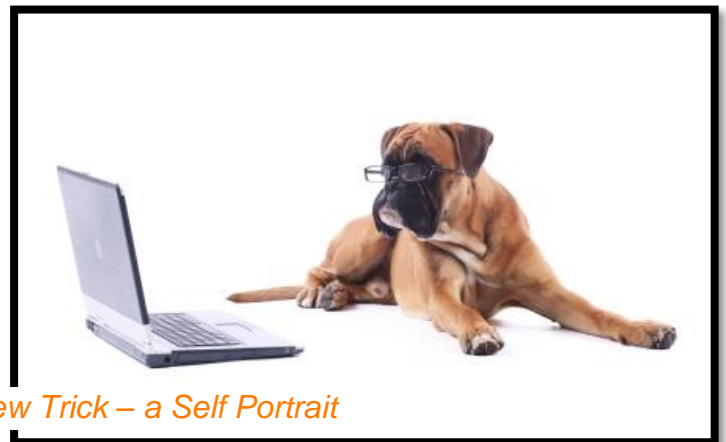
Your feedback and support these past two years got me through the worst of the pandemic - and you made it fun! Thank You for That!

If you are reading this, you are already aware of my new website, [Well Water](#).

Many of you suggested that I should consider broadcasting to a larger audience – publishing *Well Water, A Confluence of Ideas*, is a response to your suggestions.

Thank you for the encouragement.

An Old Dog Learning a New Trick – a Self Portrait



The first time I ever picked up a newspaper was to read the comics, the *funny papers* as they were called. I always enjoyed reading newspapers, but I never considered publishing. I hope that future blog posts in *Well Water* will be appreciated and reach a wider audience, without losing any of you, who have propelled me this far.

See You in the Funny Papers!

How *Not* to do Valentine's Day

February 14, 2022

Millarville, Alberta

Music can be such an inspiration, particularly on Valentine's Day. I went looking in I-Tunes for ways to express the sentiment of the day to Bear. I stumbled upon Lyle Lovett, and came away with several suggestions on ...

... **How *Not* to do Valentine's Day.**

I Married Her Just Because She Looks Like You.

*... how the moonlight fell upon your face
I married her just because she looks like you*

Penguins

*I don't go for fancy cars
For diamond rings
Or movie stars
I go for penguins*

She's No Lady

*The preacher asked her
And she said I do
The preacher asked me
And she said yes, he does too
And the preacher said
I pronounce you 99 to life
Son she's no lady she's your wife*

Also, from *She's No Lady*

*She hates my mama
She hates my daddy too
She loves to tell me
She hates the things I do*

Give Back My Heart



I'm a traveling man don't tie me down

Natural Forces

Home is where my horse is.

If I Had a Boat

*Now if I were Roy Rogers
I'd sure enough be single
I couldn't bring myself to marrying old Dale
It'd just be me and Trigger*

I Would Not Be the Man That I Am

*... if I were the man you wanted,
I would not be the man that I am*

Don't Touch My Hat

*If it's her you want
I don't care about that
You can have my girl
But don't touch my hat*

Then, I came across a good one...

Bears

*So, meet a Bear and take her out to lunch with you
And even though your friends may stop and stare
Just remember that's a Bear there in the bunch with you*



Lovett and Julia Roberts married in 1993. The relationship only lasted two years – go figure!



And they just don't come no better than the Bear.

Happy Valentine's Day Bear!

If I Had a Boat – Lyle Lovett
<https://youtu.be/hpM8FjO4Vko>

Fashion Plate

February 15, 2022

Milan, Italy

Travel restrictions are easing, time to start packing!

I looked in the closet and decided I need to buy some clothes. It has been two years since I got anything new, other than the track suits we purchased from Riley's school.

I asked Bear for trending style ideas:

Bear: Would you wear it if I did suggest something?

Me: Probably not.

Bear: Then go ask Google!

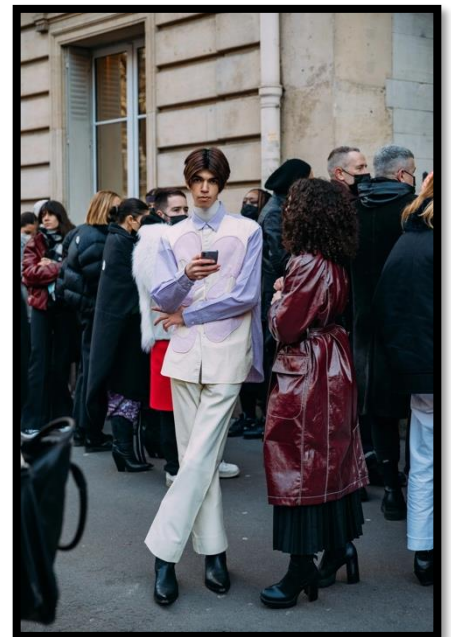


Bear won't give me any suggestions, so I need your help. Which of these *Vogue* apparel recommendations do you think I should go with?



I ruled this one out myself. I don't think the bare midriff is a good look for me, I've got an extra beer in my *six-pack*.

This look has potential, but I tend to attract farm grease, so white is probably not ideal.



Colour is fun, let me know what you think?

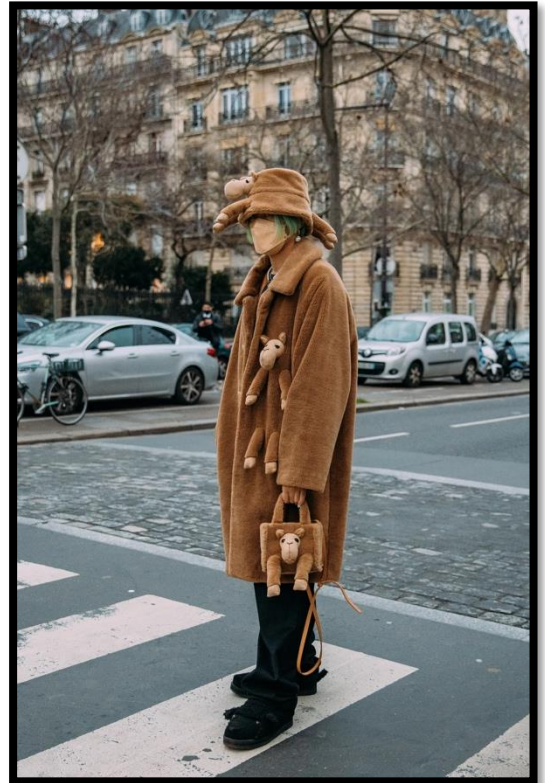




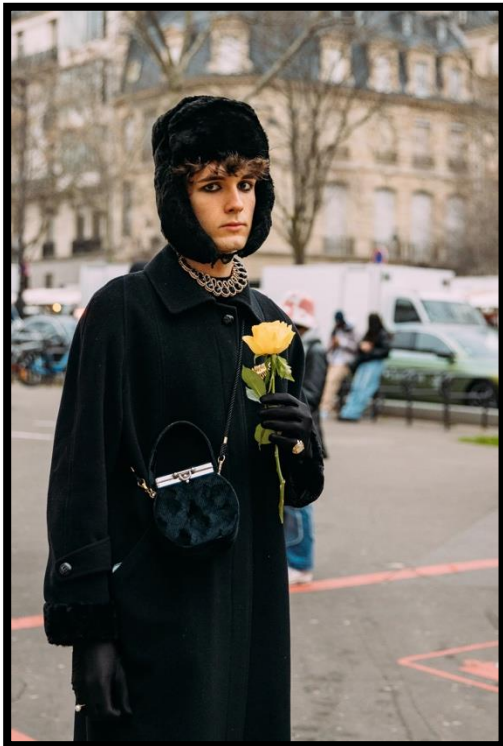
Black makes a person look thinner, which is always good. Does this have potential?

Dubai is still on our travel bucket list. This camel-themed ensemble might be just the thing.

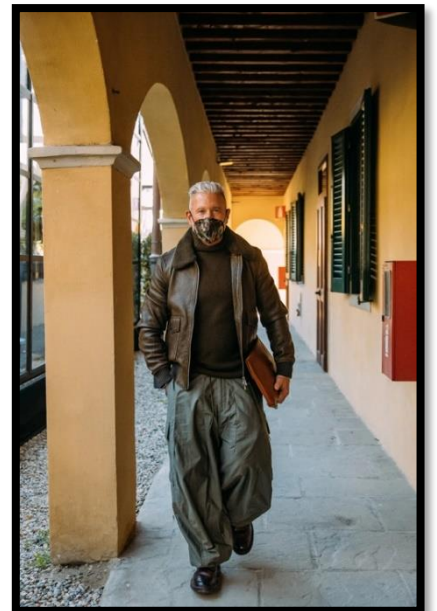
What do you think Peter? Should I order one for each of us? Bear says if we wear it, she will sell tickets.



This one might be a bit adventurous. The eye liner and purse are attractive though, you must agree?



This guy appears to be about my age. Lots of leg room in the Ali Baba pants. Could be a winner?



So many great choices; I am having trouble deciding. I am relying on you to help fill my ...

... Fashion Plate

My Old Friend, Chapeau

February 16, 2022

Millarville, Alberta

Speaking of fashion....

I told you about the big windstorm we had back in December, where we lost trees and experienced a power outage, where shingles and siding and deck furniture went missing? Well, I just discovered an even greater loss, my barbecue hat is missing!

The old hat I wear when I cook outdoors is more than just shade, *Chapeau* and I have travelled together for many years. *Chapeau* waits for me on the deck, like a faithful mutt, it is my friend, my singularity, my culinary raison d'être. I am not sure how life will carry on without it.

The kids ridicule me when I wear the hat. Bear hates *Chapeau*. Neighbours avoid me when I have it on, but it has been a faithful companion for two decades, going on three.

Nobody will take my picture when I am wearing the hat, so I can't give you a visual, but I can try to describe it:

Chapeau is a straw "fedora" style hat, about the same colour and texture as a corn broom. It was inexpensive when new, (but is priceless now), the brim is bent, there is a hole in the crease from too many removals, and it has greasy barbecue residue daubed on it here and there.

There are a few straw sprouts sticking up from the crown of *Chapeau*, (which once prompted a certain Bear to call me a Teletubby).



I will never replace *Chapeau*, so I am determined to retrieve it. When the snow goes, I will scour every inch of our property to find ...

... my old friend, *Chapeau*.

Bassackwards

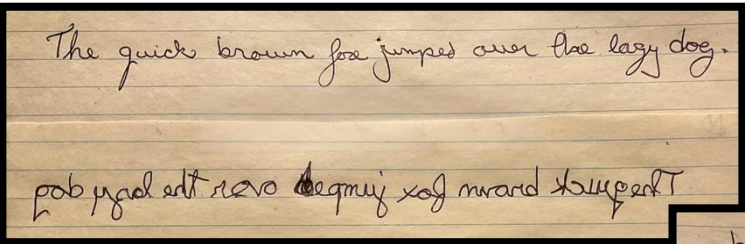
February 18, 2022
Tsawwassen, BC

Russell's handwriting needs improvement. – this statement appeared on every Report Card I ever brought home. Nobody was happier than I was when personal computers came along, and I could toss pens and pencils in the back of a drawer. The only thing that could make my handwriting worse is if I wrote in mirror image, like Leonardo da Vinci.

Da Vinci was left-handed at a time when ink was very slow to dry. He found that if he wrote in mirror script, from right to left, he could compile more data in less time, without smudging. It is estimated that da Vinci produced 60,000 pages of notes and sketches in 50 notebooks, most of which must be read in a mirror.

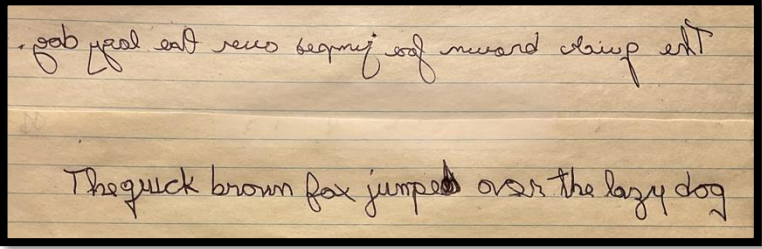


I decided to attempt mirror writing. On one of the sheets below I wrote a sentence in the usual way, and below it, the same sentence in mirror script. The second sheet is a reverse image of the first. The result didn't surprise me much, I can barely tell the difference between the two, my handwriting is equally bad, back to front, or front to back.



I will let you try and figure out which is my normal script, and which is ...

... bassackwards.



Speaking of word jumbles, what is with Tsawwassen? There must have been a sale on the letters "w" and "s" when they named this town.

See You in the Funny Papers

February 19, 2022

Calgary Airport

When I went to do that mirror-image writing thing the other day, I had to look hard for a piece of actual paper. The thought of using a note pad is in the same league as scratching a quill on parchment, I much prefer digital.

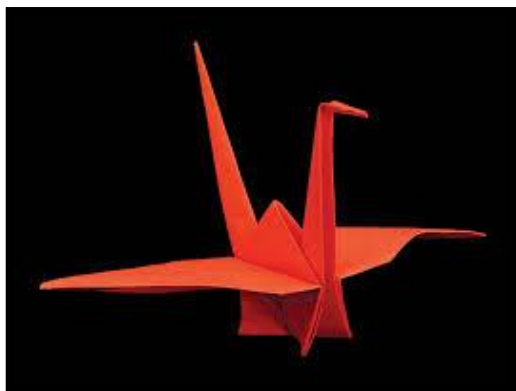
My newspaper is *paperless*, my money is plastic, and my calendar is in a cloud somewhere.

It hasn't always been that way, in my career in the industrial finance business I was often referred to as a *paper pusher*. I had so many experiences selling *commercial paper*, I could write a *paper* on it.

There was always a lot of physical *paperwork* involved in documenting loans. Most of the loans were a good idea, *on paper*. Unfortunately, some *weren't worth the paper they were written on*, so we would go on a *paper chase*, or follow a *paper trail*, and issue *seizure papers*, if necessary.

Sometimes, our chances of recovery were *paper thin*. In other instances, fear of loan losses turned out to be a *paper tiger*.

If a salesman wrote too much *bad paper*, we would give him his *walking papers*.



This is an area where Bear and I differ, she is an analog girl. Bear's calendar has pages with pretty pictures, her money folds, and her notes are sticky.

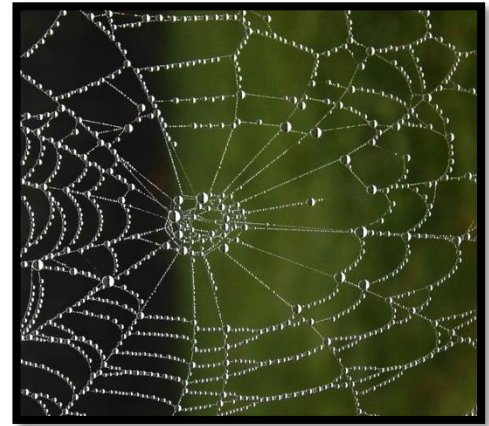
On our way to the airport this morning, I downloaded my boarding pass on my i-phone. Bear printed hers. At security, she breezed through the line-up as I fumbled with a blank screen, followed by a frantic search through several screens to find a QR code.

As Bear stepped through the gate, she turned to me and said, ...

...**"See You in the Funny Papers!"**

<https://youtu.be/saXWZleGxyQ> Analog Girl – Guy Clark.

*Out in the garden, she's got a website
It sparkles in the mornin' dew
Got a mouse in her pocket
She's got Spam in a can
What's an analog girl to do?*



In 1967 Americans consumed 530 lbs of paper per person. Despite the digital revolution, consumption today is 660 lbs per person.

Maybe Bear is on to something.

Russ and Bear, in the Funny Papers.



Masterpiece

February 19, 2022

White Rock, BC

The Last Supper is one of the most celebrated artworks of all time. It has the power to entrance an audience five centuries after it was completed. The painting depicts the moment at which Jesus reveals to his apostles that one of them will betray him. Judas Iscariot is the shadowy character fifth from the left, clutching a bag containing 30 pieces of silver.



Leonardo da Vinci painted the masterpiece (with his left hand), between 1495 and 1498. He didn't work on the painting full time, in fact Leonardo was accused of being tardy by one of the priors of the monastery that commissioned the mural. Leonardo de Vinci didn't take the rebuke well. He wrote a letter to the head of the monastery explaining that he was spending his off time looking for a model for the face of Judas. He went on to say that, if he couldn't find a suitable subject, he would use the visage of the accusing prior.

"In Your Face, Prior" – Leo D

The Last Supper has had a lasting effect on western culture. The number 13 (Jesus, plus twelve apostles) has been disparaged to the point that it has a phobia named after it - triskaidekaphobia. Nobody wants to be Judas, the thirteenth person at the table.

Looking for the missing thirteenth floor of a hotel or high-rise? Ask da Vinci about that.



If you take a close look at Judas, you will notice that he is resting an arm on the table. If your grandma denies you dessert for propping your elbows on the table, blame *The Last Supper*.

If you tip over a cellar of salt, like Judas did, you better throw a pinch over your left shoulder to ward off evil.



We saw a hi-tech version of *The Last Supper* today. Adam, Bianca, and Leo accompanied us to *The da Vinci Experience*, an exposition of the man and his work. Da Vinci's genius was on display, in art, inventions, and words.

The night before the show we went for a meal at a restaurant, **not** called *The Garden of Gethsemane*. What a feast!



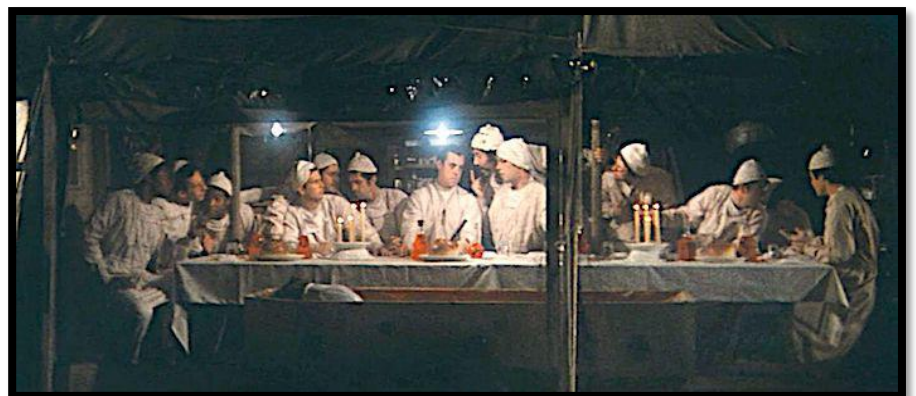
The International Journal of Obesity published an article entitled "*The Last Supper*", about the growth of portion sizes over the years. The article

explored meal size (the "bread-to-head" ratio), depicted in the famous painting, and compared it to portions served at modern meals. The Obesity folks determined that average caloric intake has increased 69 percent over the past 500 years.

We enjoyed our time with the "kids" at the da Vinci exhibit, and at the restaurant. It was a Family Day ...

... Masterpiece.

In the final episode of *M*A*S*H*, Hawkeye Pierce and the army surgeons stage a final meal at the Korean field hospital.



Mainstream

February 21, 2022
Tsawwassen, BC

Have you noticed that words and images which once belonged to *all* of us, are now owned by a *few*?

When we were in BC last week, we passed a group of flag-waving protesters on a street corner. Someone in our group mentioned that the far *right* seems to have claimed the Canadian flag as a symbol exclusive to their ideology.



There is a lot of that happening these days, emblems and phrases that used to be universal have been commandeered by isolated groups, to the exclusion of the rest of us.



A red cap conveys a particular political ideology; I can no longer wear my Calgary Stampeders lid without making a political statement.

A *rainbow* used to be a universal happy sign, now it implies a sexual tendency. *Freedom* once belonged to everybody, now the word conveys a nonconformist political viewpoint. The faith community put a capital "T" on the word *truth*, and have locked it up for their exclusive, personal use.

The left has done a masterful job of expropriating the word *progressive* as their own. They call themselves that, implying that anyone who doesn't conform to liberal views is *regressive*, or *stagnant* at best. Very clever when you think about it.

Specific actions are also no longer public domain. If you kneel to tie your shoe, it doesn't mean you have trouble with a double knot - you are acknowledging the sufferings of people with a particular skin colour.



Remember when this hand signal 🖐️ meant "okay"? The *Proud Boys* own it now.

A raised fist, *and* a peace sign? Come on *Black Power*, one confiscated icon per customer!



I think it is time those of us in the centre claimed a symbol to make our own. Which do you think?

The Level,



the Centre Line

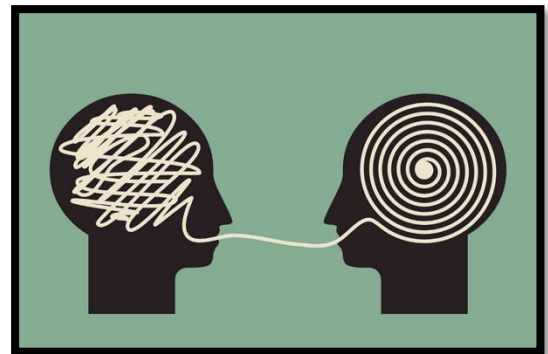


or maybe, the ...

... **Mainstream**



I think we need a logo



The End

This is the final episode in “1000 Little Soaps” series. It has been fun traveling through the pandemic with you. Future blogs will be posted on the [Well Water – A Confluence of Ideas](#) website. Details to follow ...

See You in the Funny Papers!