

Humor Me

By Ronald P. Culberson

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“Boys Are Just Like That”

God’s way of punishing adolescent boys is to wait until they are fathers and then give them daughters who will date adolescent boys. That’s what’s happening to me. My daughter Caitlin just turned 14 and before long, shotgun in hand, I’ll be guarding the front door wearing my bibbed overalls and steel toed boots just waiting for one of those hormone impaired teens to even think he has any chance in this world of dating my daughter. OK, so I don’t really have a shotgun but I *did* grow up in Southwest Virginia and have matching bibbed overalls and boots.

While adolescent girls are shopping, reading Teen People and gossiping about who likes whom, adolescent boys are forever pursuing activities that demonstrate their adolescentness and an overall lack of good judgment. I know. I was one of them.

When I was a 15, my parents were entertaining friends in our living room. Right in the middle of coffee and dessert, I leapt through the room doing my best Baryshnikov impersonation wearing only long underwear, white socks and a pair of my mother’s elbow length white gloves. Weighing in at about 110 pounds, I resembled a Q-tip doing jumping jacks. I’m not sure what motivates that type of embarrassing behavior but I do know that boys are just like that.

Recently, Caitlin came home from school very upset. Her class was studying ancient Egypt and she had built a pyramid out of sugar cubes. I suggested that she get double credit since she had also built a “food pyramid”. (I sympathize with her being the child of a dad who thinks he’s funnier than he really is)

Anyway, on her way home from school that day, she learned that while her project was on display in the school library, a boy in her class had licked it. He had licked the sugar cubes of her Egyptian pyramid!

Caitlin was furious. She said, “Dad, you just don’t go up and lick someone’s project!” And she was right. Girls don’t. An adolescent boy on the other hand would like nothing more than to tell his friends that he licked a girl’s science project right before he flicked a booger on his ex-girlfriend’s locker. Boys are just like that.

And it doesn’t stop with adolescence. It continues until we are old and physically unable to carry out our ridiculous antics. A few years ago, when I worked for Hospice of Northern Virginia, I participated in the annual “Night Out,” for employees. This was an event designed to give the staff and volunteers a fun break from the stress of work. The

entertainment that year was a talent show. I decided to do an “interpretive” dance (despite the fluid “ballet” in my parents’ living room, I have no formal dance training). Dressed in a purple tank top, maroon leotards, a pink tutu and a long blond wig, I danced to the Aerosmith song *Dude Looks Like a Lady*. It was a smash hit and the audience leapt to their feet at the conclusion (it’s unclear whether the leaping had to do with the quality of the performance or the conclusion of the performance).

This coming fall, my beautiful daughter will enter high school. She will be accompanied by several armed guards and a garlic necklace to keep the boys away. My fear is that she will one day be attracted to a boy who is as adolescent as me. And we fathers know that no boy, no matter how much he’s like us, is suitable for our daughters.

In fact, the only father I ever met who thought his daughter’s boyfriend was good enough for her was a man by the name of Jim Colclough, a wise committed family man who displayed excellent judgment. Coincidentally, he happens to be my wife’s father.

Even though I’m 44 years-old, I still have adolescent side effects that cause me to regress thirty years or so. Thank goodness my wife was unaware of this affliction when she married me and her tolerance today is quite high. For whenever I try to play *Beethoven’s Fifth* using my hand under my armpit, my wife simply looks at my daughter and says, “Boys are just like that.”

Until next time, just humor me.

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Ron Culberson, MSW, CSP, CPAE is a speaker, humorist, and author of four books including Do it Well. Make it Fun. The Key to Success in Life, Death, and Almost Everything in Between. His mission is to change the workplace culture so that organizations are more productive and staff are more content. He shows people how to have more FUN while preserving the integrity of the work they do and the lives they lead. For more information, visit www.RonCulberson.com.