

My notebook fills up with observations and comments gleaned from watching and listening to my fellow man, or from newspaper and magazine articles that strike me as pertinent to our life and times. I thought it would be “fun” to present them as a collection of snapshots on the human condition that might shed light on some of the more intangible mysteries of life, such as why we have road rage, gray hair and acid reflux.

Non-profit center: Quote from a speaker at a gathering of sod growers on persuading producers to charge a fair market price instead of reckless discounting in an attempt to grow business: “Sometimes you can look into a sod grower’s eyes and see the back of his head.”

Terms from a book called “CrazyBusy: Overstretched, Overbooked, and About to Snap! Strategies for Coping in a World Gone A.D.D.” *Frazzing:* Multitasking ineffectively. My road rage example — A woman driving a giant SUV on the interstate while talking on a cell phone and putting on make-up. My superintendent gray hair example: Preparing for a member-guest while coaching little league and serving on his local chapter board of directors. And then there’s *Kudzu:* The unstoppable, unkillable stream of unexpected minor requests from people everywhere that slows humans down. Those requests include: Boss, can I have the day off? Can you speed up the greens? Can you slow down the greens? The rough is too high. The rough is too short. Don’t forget the F&B meeting to go over the banquet schedule.

Travel trauma: I’m a magnet for screaming, crying infants and brats. Do not dine with me or fly with me because as sure as the sun comes up in the East, there will be a teething, cranky or spoiled child located at the next table or next row. I’m feeling very persecuted when the devil’s spawn sitting behind me on a plane must kick the seat back until I am forced to abandon my normally jovial nature and request a degree of civility and courtesy from the clueless parent. And lately the airlines have been

Road Rage, Gray Hair and Acid Reflux

BY JOEL JACKSON



SOME EVERYDAY
ANNOYANCES ARE
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LITTLE PERSPECTIVE

playing Russian roulette with flight schedules to add to the indigestion.

Unexplainable phenomena: The interstate is four lanes to six lanes wide. You are approaching an exit or entry ramp. The right-hand and merge lanes are moving faster than the passing lane. Of course, I forget to factor in the idiot who is trying to cross those six lanes of traffic to exit at the last minute.

Punishing the good guys: Failure to start a meeting on time is one of the most abused tenets of how to run an effective meeting. Why punish the people who are punctual by wasting their time while waiting for the people who are late? The late comers are the ones who should suffer and have to beg forgiveness for disrupting the meeting.

Out-of-order ordinances: While local governments dump millions of gallons of effluent into the bay, they want you to consider the nutrient value (nitrogen and phosphorus) in effluent water irrigation and reduce your fertilizer applications accordingly to prevent runoff of nutrients into the bay. I lose sleep over that one.

Guilt by association: Some people feel guilty about joining an association, attending meetings and missing work. Others feel guilty because they work all the time and never join an association and never help their associations tackle the issues.

Take five. Count to 10. Pop a purple pill or dab on some Gray Away. Life is too short to be frenzied (no matter how irritating it might be) by the small stuff, and most of it is all small stuff. When I find myself ranting at newspaper articles and TV news reports, I know it’s time to go enjoy a nice sunrise or a sunset.

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