

# If I Didn't Know Any Better...

I'd think these are the same person:

The Cowardly Lion, fictional movie character, 1939



Drew Peterson, suspected wife murderer, 2008



I got an email a few months ago comparing a bunch of people's faces to other pictures. It was funny to see the resemblance between people you wouldn't have otherwise thought about – like the two pictured above.

For those of you who don't know, Drew Peterson is a former police officer who lives in the suburbs of Chicago. He is

somewhat of a celebrity these days because his young 4th wife Stacy went missing over a year ago. During the search for her, his 3rd wife's body was exhumed and another autopsy was performed. Following this autopsy, they changed the 3rd wife's cause of death from accidental drowning to homicide. This and other aspects of this case always point to Drew being responsible for some sort of foul play on Stacy. The man is very smug, and some of the things he's said to the media are shockingly rude and callous toward Stacy. He is an infamous jerk, and I think he actually likes the public and media attention. I've take an interest in the case because I'm originally from the area where they lived, and during the national coverage of this case, I follow along, knowing the towns and areas they're talking about. Drew was on the Dr. Phil show the other day, and he was smug as ever... He is in court currently on a weapons charge, and I got the idea to compare his picture to the cowardly lion when someone posted a comment on the story on dailyherald.com – good observation! If I can dig out that original email comparing the pictures, I should post it on my blog and add these two to the email!

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## **Parents                      Just                      Don't Understand?**

Some of you may remember the '80's song called "Parents Just Don't Understand" performed by a musical act called DJ Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince – the Fresh Prince is known nowadays as an actor named Will Smith. But anyway, the song was about teen angst and how parents just don't understand teens. What I'm talking about is something completely different – see the below story about the woman who threatened to post naked pictures of her daughter's ex-boyfriend (the kids are 13!) on

the internet as blackmail in hopes of getting the pair back together. Talk about parents just don't understand! This lady doesn't understand values, morals, or appropriate social conduct just to name a few things. Not to mention the fact that things don't seem to be wired right upstairs, and that's an understatement. My children will not be dating at 13, and they will not have cell phones for any purpose outside of emergency or family use only at that age. I would never try to get my daughter "back together" with a boy, especially at 13, and if I were ever unfortunate enough to come across such pictures, I, like most people I'm sure, would turn them over to authorities instead of conspiring to use a child's mistake against him and put him in danger. And perhaps the kicker? The woman is a teacher. Well, was a teacher... There is so much wrong with this story, I'll let you sort out the details:

***Chicago Tribune – October 8, 2008***

*An Elgin woman is under investigation in connection with a strange—and possibly criminal—campaign to reconcile her 13-year-old daughter with a former boyfriend.*

Authorities say she threatened to publish nude pictures of the boy on the Internet unless he contacted the girl.

The 42-year-old woman reportedly peppered the Sleepy Hollow boy, also 13, with phone calls, e-mails and thousands of text messages aimed at reuniting the young couple, according to a search warrant and affidavit filed late last month. The Tribune is not naming the woman because she has not been charged.

When those tactics failed, the woman threatened to publish photos online of the naked teen that he had sent to her daughter via cell phone, the records say.

"It's odd, to say the least," said Kane County State's Atty. John Barsanti, who said the woman is under investigation. "It's not a fact pattern we normally come up against."

The woman could face charges of child pornography, intimidation and harassment, the documents say. Police seized cameras, computers, cell phones and other items from her Elgin home and the private school where she works. The boy received 12,302 text messages from the woman between January and July, according to records. The boy's family contacted police in late August.

The girl's brother also took part, allegedly threatening to go to the boy's parents with the pictures unless the boy saw the girl twice a week, according to records.

On Sept. 23, the woman left a message warning the boy she would "send the pictures and video of him to his teacher and minister to show them he is not a nice person," the search warrant stated.

Oh, and this mother's job at the school? She's a teacher.

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## **Teenagers Driving You Crazy?**

Then drive to Nebraska and drop them off. For good. Seems Nebraska has a "safe haven" law like a lot of states, however, they are the only ones to have neglected placing an age limit on the kids who are left at the safe havens. These laws are designed to protect the safety of unwanted infants, encouraging mothers to drop them at hospitals instead of getting scared and doing something horrible and regrettable to the babies. Most states set their age cap at 72 hours, but since Nebraska failed to set a cap, they are seeing an influx of people dropping off their troublesome teens, including people who don't even live in Nebraska! Read about it below:

(CNN) – Frustrated parents are dumping their teenagers at Nebraska hospitals – even crossing state lines to do it – and the state Legislature has scheduled a special hearing to try to stem the tide.

A 14-year-old Iowa girl was left Tuesday at Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska.

Nebraska's "safe haven" law, intended to allow parents to anonymously hand over an infant to a hospital without being prosecuted, isn't working out as planned.

Of the 17 children relinquished since the law took effect in July, only four are younger than 10 – and all four are among the nine siblings abandoned by a man September 24 at an Omaha hospital.

On Tuesday, a 14-year-old girl from Council Bluffs, Iowa, was abandoned at Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska, just across the Missouri River from Council Bluffs. The case marks the first time a parent has crossed state lines to abandon a teenager in Nebraska, authorities said.

"The few situations we've seen so far demonstrate the need for a change in Nebraska's safe haven law," Gov. Dave Heineman said in a statement Monday. "In the coming legislative session, I will advocate for changes that put the focus back on protecting an infant in danger. That should be our priority."

All 50 states have safe haven laws, but only Nebraska's lacks an age limit. Nebraska's part-time Legislature is adjourned until January, but two state legislative committees will hold a joint hearing November 13 to discuss a remedy.

"They've got a huge problem," said Linda Spears, vice president for policy and public affairs for the Child Welfare League of America. "It's a pretty poorly constructed law to meet its original intent."

When it was introduced in the Legislature, the bill had a presumed age limitation of 72 hours, said Todd Landry, director of the state's Division of Children and Family Services.

"The original intent was to protect infants from the immediate danger of being harmed," he said.

However, the law's final language uses the word "child" and does not specify an age limit, leaving it open to interpretation. Other states' laws specify the maximum age at which a child may be relinquished, ranging from 72 hours in several states to 1 year in North Dakota, according to the National Center for State Courts.

"Clearly in these cases so far that we've seen, none of these children were in any immediate danger of being harmed," Landry said. "It is our opinion that the law does need to be modified."

The law is being abused, Heineman's statement said.

"Safe haven laws were not designed to allow families having difficulty with older youth and teenagers to abandon their children or responsibilities as parents," he said.

The parents may not always be to blame, the Child Welfare League's Spears said.

"The original safe haven laws were created for young moms who are having babies who didn't know how to get help. I think these are families with older kids who don't know how to get help and who are in desperate need," she said.

Most state laws fail to provide for research into who is abandoning babies and why, league spokeswoman Joyce Johnson said.

"Those are the kinds of things we've been wondering about and saying we need to know more about, and you'll never know if

*you just have a law that says you can anonymously leave a child somewhere, no questions asked," Johnson said.*

*New Jersey, she said, is an exception. That state's safe haven law provides funding for research and evaluation as well as \$500,000 a year for public awareness, according to a September 2007 report by a New Jersey safe haven task force.*

*A woman who dropped her 15-year-old nephew at a Lincoln, Nebraska, hospital told CNN affiliate KETV last month that she and the boy's guardian could no longer handle his behavior problems. Watch woman explain why she left 15-year-old at hospital »*

*The woman, Cathy Poulin, said she tried discipline and medication, but nothing worked. The boy's mother died several years ago, and his father left him, she said.*

*"We had to go to the next level," Poulin said. "He can be made to get help."*

*The Omaha man who left his nine children, ages 1 to 17, at Creighton University Medical Center was overwhelmed by the sudden death of his wife after the youngest child was born, he told KETV.*

*"I was with her for 17 years, and then she was gone. What was I going to do?" Gary Staton said. "We raised them together. I didn't think I could do it alone. I fell apart. I couldn't take care of them."*

*Staton is just the kind of parent whom safe haven laws fail to help, Johnson said.*

*"He was grieving, he didn't have a lot of money, and all those children – he was trying to figure out how to feed them, how to clothe them, and deal with the grief of losing his wife. He needed help," she said.*

*Heineman and Landry urged Nebraska parents who are having*

*trouble coping to call the United Way's 211 resource line or Boys Town, a nationally known nonprofit child services organization based in Nebraska.*

*Other options include community and faith-based support groups, crisis hot lines, treatment centers and other services, Landry added.*

*By Jim Kavanagh*

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## How Hot Is TOO HOT?

I was working on my second post about my weekend at the farms, but my attention was diverted by the following news story. Since I know a few people who really enjoy spicy food, I'm sharing this as a warning to you!

***An aspiring chef died after eating a super-hot chilli sauce as part of an endurance competition with a friend.***

*Andrew Lee, 33, challenged his girlfriend's brother to a contest to see who could eat the spiciest sauce that he could create.*

*The fork-lift truck driver, who wanted to cook for a living, prepared a tomato sauce made with red chillies grown on his father's allotment. After eating it, however, he suffered intense discomfort and itching. The following morning he was*



*found dead, possibly after suffering a heart attack.*

*Toxicology tests are being conducted to try to establish if he suffered a reaction to the food.*

*An inquest was told that Lee, from Edlington, England, was in perfect health and had just passed a medical examination at work. He was a keen cook and would often prepare meals for his parents. It is believed that Mr Lee had never prepared a dish as hot as the one he made the night before his death.*

*Lee's sister, Claire Chadbourne, 29, said that he took a jar of the sauce to the home of his girlfriend, Samantha Bailey, and challenged her brother Michael, 29, to see who could eat it. "Andrew just ate the chillies with a plate of Dolmio sauce," she added. "It was not a proper meal because he had already eaten lamb chops and potato mash after work.*

*"He apparently got into bed at 2.30am and started scratching all over. His girlfriend scratched his back until he fell asleep. She woke up and he had gone. It is incredible. Who would have thought he could have died from eating chilli sauce? We don't know of anything else that could have caused his death. The postmortem showed no heart problems.*

*"He loved cooking for his friends. He always said he wanted to be a chef but didn't want to start at the bottom."*

*An inquest was opened and adjourned in Doncaster last week.*

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## **Armed Robbery – With a Twist**

I'm a sucker for interesting news stories, and the following caught my eye. An armed robber attempted to knock off a store

but was chased down the street by some flying bullets and the gun-toting store owner. The owner of the store ended up facing more serious charges than the robber for shooting a gun on a busy street, and he skipped bail and hasn't been seen since. Because he didn't show up to testify against the robber, there was no choice but to let the robber go free... except for the fact that he is an illegal alien, so he's facing consequences for that. And did I mention that the store owner is also an illegal alien as reported in a previous news story about the incident? Crazy story, read it for yourself here:

**Crystal Lake, Illinois** – *Efrain S. Castanon got lucky earlier this year when he managed to escape his foiled attempt to rob a Crystal Lake business without getting shot by its gun-toting owner.*

*The South suburban man got lucky again Monday when that owner, fleeing from his own set of criminal charges, failed to appear in court to testify against him.*

*This time instead of bullets from owner Rafael Diaz, luck allowed Castanon, 39, of Worth, to evade a possible prison sentence as part of a deal with McHenry County prosecutors.*

*Under the deal, Castanon was sentenced to one year of non-reporting probation after admitting guilt to unlawful restraint and attempted theft stemming from the failed Jan. 28 holdup of Novedes Veracruz in Crystal Lake.*

*He also received a six-month jail term, but that is time served since his arrest in January.*

*Diaz's absence Monday left prosecutors with little choice by the deal they cut with Castanon, Assistant McHenry County State's Attorney Mary Baccam said in court Monday.*

*"Rafael Diaz has fled the jurisdiction and is unavailable to testify for the state," she said.*

*Castanon initially faced up to 15 years in prison after authorities charged him with attempted armed robbery, attempted aggravated robbery and attempted robbery in connection with the holdup.*

*Police said Castanon was one of three men who entered the store about 3 p.m. that day armed with a gun and attempted to tie up owner Rafael Diaz and his wife while robbing them.*

*Diaz, authorities said, broke free, retrieved a handgun he kept in the store and chased the would-be robbers out, firing numerous shots in their direction as they fled along a heavily traveled section of Route 14.*

*Two of the men escaped in a car and have not been found since, but Castanon was left behind and arrested by police.*

*Because he fired at the men as they ran away down a busy street, authorities charged Diaz, 54, of Crystal Lake, with aggravated battery with a firearm, a felony more serious than those faced by Castanon.*

*Diaz posted a \$10,000 bond after his arrest and hasn't been seen by law enforcement since. A \$125,000 warrant for his arrest was issued in April.*

*Although Castanon is a free man as a result of his plea deal, he could remain locked up in the McHenry County jail on a hold by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.*

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## **Unforseen Side Effect Of**

# Hurricanes

With all the storm activity in the Atlantic Ocean lately, I've been especially interested in hurricanes. I've lived a lot of places, but since I've only resided in the midwest, I've never witnessed a hurricane firsthand. Well, that's not entirely true. There was a hurricane a couple of years ago (I forgot its name unfortunately) that ventured up to our corner of Ohio. By the time it got here, it had been over land for quite some time which had reduced it to nothing but rain, lots of rain. It was really no different than any other rain we've gotten, except that I had been watching the radar, and I knew that it had been a hurricane in a past life – that made it special to me; I really enjoyed it.

Anyway, last night, the baby decided to wake up right as we were going to bed, so I was stuck watching tv while I fed him. And it's strange, because I really used to enjoy tv, but that's changed for me recently. Maybe it's because we are so busy all the time so I got used to not watching tv... I don't know what it is. All I know is that I used to be the kind of person who could be happy watching anything on tv – I could find something that would entertain me at any time of the day or night. Not so much anymore. I still like tv, and I love watching my favorite shows (like The Office – almost time for new episodes!!!), but “junk tv” as I call it (reality shows, documentaries, etc.) isn't so appealing anymore. My point in detailing all of this is to explain how interesting I found some random documentary I caught last night on the History Channel while I was feeding my son.

The documentary was about giant snakes, specifically pythons, and how they are starting to become a threat to people in Florida. What I found most fascinating about this is the fact that these snakes are not indigenous to the United States, but in 1992, when Hurricane Andrew hit Florida, many pet stores and homes that had kept these animals as pets were

destroyed. Baby pythons were released into the wild and because of Florida's tropical climate, especially in the Everglades, these animals now have a wild population that is thriving. On the show, they had pictures of one snake that had swallowed an adult human whole. They weren't sure if the pictures were real or a hoax, and unfortunately I never found out because my son let me go to bed before the show was over. They also had pictures of a snake that had swallowed a 6-foot-long alligator whole, but it had ruptured the snake, causing his death. In the words of a snake expert on the show, "snakes can digest anything" – it's just that the alligator probably clawed the snake open. But you could see the outline of the alligator in the snake – it looked like an alligator colored like a snake – it was bizarre.

I may have to find this documentary again so I can watch it when I'm not half asleep. But it's really interesting to me that because of a hurricane, Florida now has another fearsome reptile lurking in the Everglades. I'm sure that was the last thing on people's minds after Hurricane Andrew wreaked its havoc 16 years ago – I bet this scenario didn't cross anyone's mind. Who knows what unforeseen side effects we'll see from Hurricane Katrina in a couple of decades? One can only imagine...

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## Moving The Choo-Choo

If you've grown up in Chicagoland as I have, then you'll know what I'm talking about when I describe a few staples of a typical suburban 1980's Chicago childhood. #1 – You've attended a taping of the Bozo show. As I've stated before, the girl I went to the show with was put on the waiting list for tickets when she was a fetus. We went to the show taping

when we were 9 – that's how long it took for her name to come up, thus illustrating how popular the experience was. #2 – If you had perfect attendance in school, you won tickets to a White Sox baseball game. Even I, a true-blue Chicago Cubs fan, ventured over to the south side as a youth to cheer on the men in black as a reward for not missing any days in a school year. Don't tell anyone though; it's not something I'm proud of. #3 – You got your grilled cheese served to you by a miniature train at the Choo-Choo restaurant in Des Plaines.

Now that it's 2008, I doubt they give away major league baseball tickets for perfect attendance in school anymore. I know for a fact that the Bozo show is no longer around, but I also know that the Choo-Choo restaurant is alive and well – for now anyway. The Choo-Choo is a small diner that serves typical american fare – hot dogs, grilled cheese, burgers, and the like. If you sit at the counter, your food is delivered by a miniature train that circles the dining room and disappears into the kitchen. It seems they are thinking of moving the Choo-Choo to build a new police department. Not putting it out of business, thank goodness, but they are considering moving it. I hope this does not happen because I'm not one to favor change, and I can't help but feel that if the restaurant is moved, it will suffer loss of business which will eventually lead to its demise. I don't understand why the proposal involves moving the entire building; from what I remember it is a very small crowded space, and the magic is in the train serving your food, not in the building itself. Since 1951, this little diner has been there, and many generations have enjoyed it. I think it would be a shame to move it as it would lose at least a little bit of its nostalgia for some people if it were in a different location. Leave it there in its tiny building. Let people stand in lines that often run out the door in order to get a counter seat where the train runs as they've done for decades. People are more likely to return with their children and later on, their grandchildren if it's left exactly the way they remember

it.

My husband and I had very different upbringings; his was a life of “privilege”, getting every material item he could ever want, although his parents were never home. Mine was the opposite, a loving family always together although we had to stretch the already tight budget just to be able to afford such luxuries as an occasional happy meal from McDonalds. But we are both products of Chicagoland, therefore we share the memories of the Sox tickets perfect attendance prize (not that my husband ever won any; this is no surprise if you know anything about his school years), being at the Bozo show tapings, and our visits to the Choo-Choo restaurant. My kids have been to the restaurant also, and I hope it’s still there for them to visit with my grandchildren someday.

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## Stage Fodder

There’s a story that’s been in the news lately that I think would make an awesome play... now I just have to get my husband, an accomplished playwright, to pen it...

Have you heard the one about the dueling newscasters? For 4 years, Larry Mendte and Alycia Lane co-anchored the evening news together at KYW-TV, the CBS affiliate in Philadelphia. Last December, Lane was fired because she allegedly got into a scuffle with an NYPD officer. Somehow, details of her arrest were leaked to a Philadelphia Daily News reporter, along with other details of her personal life which has included 2 divorces. She complained to the tv station that someone was reading her emails, but they treated her as if she was paranoid.

It turns out that her co-anchor, Mr. Mendte, had bought a

keystroke-logging device to get her passwords in August 2006 and was intercepting e-mails from Lane's two personal accounts and one work account. He was fired also – a shame because the duo was making gains on their competitor, longtime leader news leader WPVI-TV, the ABC affiliate in the area. Mendte is now facing criminal charges and has pleaded guilty to one count of illegally accessing a computer. His motivation? Jealousy over his co-anchor's \$780,000 yearly salary because his was only a measly \$700,000. I had no idea news anchors make that much! But anyway, there's an extra little tidbit to this story that wouldn't even need to be embellished when writing it into a play: Mendte's wife Dawn Stensland is also a news anchor; she works at the Fox affiliate in Philadelphia. Coming to a stage near you!

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## Wanna Feel Old?

Of course you do, who doesn't? Besides, it's Friday night, and you're at home reading my blog! ☐ I guess you could be reading this at a later time... But anyway, if you're around my age or older, then you remember [Molly Ringwald](#), a popular actress in the 1980's from many teen-themed movies such as [Pretty in Pink](#), [Sixteen Candles](#), and the iconic [The Breakfast Club](#). If you were a fan of these movies as a teen or young adult yourself, you will probably feel old when I tell you that Molly Ringwald is playing a *grandmother* in her next role. That's right – grandma. A woman whose kid has a kid. Sigh. While we're on the subject of feeling old, I read an article the other day that had some interesting facts about the lives of students entering college this fall. Each August for the past 11 years, Beloit College in Beloit, Wis., has released the Beloit College Mindset List. It provides a look at the cultural touchstones that shape the lives of students



entering college. For these students, Sammy Davis Jr., Jim Henson, Ryan White, Stevie Ray Vaughan and Freddy Krueger have always been dead. Here is some food for thought with the rest of the list:

1. Harry Potter could be a classmate, playing on their Quidditch team.
2. Since they were in diapers, karaoke machines have been annoying people at parties.
3. They have always been looking for Carmen Sandiego.
4. GPS satellite navigation systems have always been available.
5. Coke and Pepsi have always used recycled plastic bottles.
6. Shampoo and conditioner have always been available in the same bottle.
7. Gas stations have never fixed flats, but most serve cappuccino.
8. Their parents may have dropped them in shock when they heard George Bush announce "tax revenue increases."
9. Electronic filing of tax returns has always been an option.
10. Girls in head scarves have always been part of the school fashion scene.
11. All have had a relative—or known about a friend's relative—who died comfortably at home with Hospice.
12. As a precursor to "whatever," they have recognized that some people "just don't get it."
13. Universal Studios has always offered an alternative to Mickey in Orlando.
14. Grandma has always had wheels on her walker.
15. *Martha Stewart Living* has always been setting the style.
16. Haagen-Dazs ice cream has always come in quarts.
17. Club Med resorts have always been places to take the whole family.
18. WWW has never stood for World Wide Wrestling.
19. Films have never been X rated, only NC-17.

20. The Warsaw Pact is as hazy for them as the League of Nations was for their parents.
21. Students have always been "Rocking the Vote."
22. Clarence Thomas has always sat on the Supreme Court.
23. Schools have always been concerned about multiculturalism.
24. We have always known that *"All I Ever Really Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten."*
25. There have always been gay rabbis.
26. Wayne Newton has never had a mustache.
27. College grads have always been able to Teach for America.
28. IBM has never made typewriters.
29. Roseanne Barr has never been invited to sing the National Anthem again.
30. McDonald's and Burger King have always used vegetable oil for cooking french fries.
31. They have never been able to color a tree using a raw umber Crayola.
32. There has always been Pearl Jam.
33. The Tonight Show has always been hosted by Jay Leno and started at 11:35 EST.
34. Pee-Wee has never been in his playhouse during the day.
35. They never tasted Benefit Cereal with psyllium.
36. They may have been given a Nintendo Game Boy to play with in the crib.
37. Authorities have always been building a wall across the Mexican border.
38. Lenin's name has never been on a major city in Russia.
39. Employers have always been able to do credit checks on employees.
40. Balsamic vinegar has always been available in the U.S.
41. Macaulay Culkin has always been *Home Alone*.
42. Their parents may have watched *The American Gladiators* on TV the day they were born.
43. Personal privacy has always been threatened.
44. Caller ID has always been available on phones.

45. Living wills have always been asked for at hospital check-ins.
46. The Green Bay Packers (almost) always had the same starting quarterback.
47. They never heard an attendant ask "Want me to check under the hood?"
48. Iced tea has always come in cans and bottles.
49. Soft drink refills have always been free.
50. They have never known life without Seinfeld references from a show about "nothing."
51. Windows 3.0 operating system made IBM PCs user-friendly the year they were born.
52. Muscovites have always been able to buy Big Macs.
53. The Royal New Zealand Navy has never been permitted a daily ration of rum.
54. The Hubble Space Telescope has always been eavesdropping on the heavens.
55. 98.6 F or otherwise has always been confirmed in the ear.
56. Michael Milken has always been a philanthropist promoting prostate cancer research.
57. Off-shore oil drilling in the United States has always been prohibited.
58. Radio stations have never been required to present both sides of public issues.
59. There have always been charter schools.
60. Students always had *Goosebumps*.

I hope I didn't depress you, but remember, it's not my list, so blame Beloit College and Molly Ringwald if you feel like an old geezer. Why don't we just forget about the list and toast our recycled bottles of Coke to life experience.

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# Poor “Little” Colin

When I saw the news story the other day about an orphaned baby humpback whale, I was tempted to put it in my blog, but I didn't because I had a feeling it wouldn't end well. I'm sorry to say that I was right, and I'm only writing about it now because the saga is over.

There was a baby humpback whale off the coast of Australia who was trying to suckle from yachts; they estimated him to be about 1 or 2 months old. For some reason, he had been abandoned by his mother, even though he was obviously still nursing. They tried to help him; they tried leading him out to sea, integrating him into another pod of whales, and they speculated about what to feed him. But because he was still nursing, they didn't know how to take care of a 12 foot orphaned whale. Throughout his plight, Australians following the story grew attached to the “little” guy, and they affectionately named him Colin. They watched as Colin grew weak with hunger as the days went by until sadly, the decision was made to euthanize him. Suddenly, he was nowhere to be found.... but I guess it was just the darkness cloaking him because they did find him the next day, and they pulled him ashore and administered a lethal injection.

As an animal lover, this story was very sad for me to read, but mostly, I just don't get it. Why did humans have to take it upon themselves to euthanize the whale? Why couldn't they have at least *tried* to feed him? It's not that I think any animal should suffer, but this was nature... it wasn't humans who injured the baby whale, so why not let nature continue taking its course and just leave him alone? Who knows, maybe he would have found a pod of whales to nurse him back to health before it was too late. But no, the humans just had to intervene – they had to drag a baby whale out of the water, his natural habitat, and kill him. They didn't want him to suffer starving to death in the ocean, but what

about the terror he felt when he was captured and dragged out of the water? And let's not even talk about how much all this costs. Seems like they could have fed a few starving people, put a roof over someone's head for a few nights, or provided medical care to the sick if they had extra money laying around to execute a whale. After all, every little bit helps, right? But what's done is done; the saga of Colin the whale is over. Maybe humans will eventually realize that their constant meddling with nature sometimes brings more harm than good.