

Name game can cause confusion, embarrassment

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet."
So says William Shakespeare in "Romeo and Juliet." But sometimes, what's in a name is confusion. I'm a big fan of names that make it clear whether the bearer is male or female.



sharon corcoran

• just for fun

I would venture to guess that a former sports editor at *The Star-News* would agree. During his first week, he was assigned a story about crops and called the Sherman County Extension office and asked for "Mrs. Belshe," certain that Dana must be a woman.

Undeterred by that gaffe, he then called Mueller Grain and asked for "Mrs. Hoelting," certain that Lynn must also be a woman. After that blunder, he asked if he should be on the lookout for a "Boy Named Sue." I told him there was no boy named Sue, but that he should also know that Kay Melia is a guy.

None of those names is bad, and I don't dislike anyone named Dana, Lynn or Kay. But I can't help thinking life would be much easier if when calling a Leslie; a Chris, Kris or Cris; a Marion or Marian; a Sam; or a Pat, whom you have never met, one didn't have to wonder whether the person answering the phone would be a man or a woman.

I've learned that some people see names that are ambiguous as to gender as a way to avoid discrimination. That is, if a prospective employer doesn't know from your resume whether you are male or female, that won't affect his decision

about calling you for an interview.

That may be, but eventually, the employer is going to know, unless you dress and groom yourself in a way that preserves the ambiguity.

And I would venture to say, that could be more likely than anything to convince an employer not to hire you.

Of course, whether a name should be a man's or a woman's is largely a matter of opinion, so unless everyone agrees on how names should be used, there will still be confusion.

Speaking of discrimination, another thing that bugs me is when someone has a name that is important in their culture, but then they come to the United States, and everyone around them sees fit to "Americanize" their name.

That seems rather arrogant to me. Who's to say the American version is better? It seems to me the best name a person could have is one that says something about who he has and where he came from.

Of course, that's just my opinion, and I have actually been known to be wrong.

For example, when it comes to the name game, our former sports editor isn't the only one who makes blunders. A former coworker said his daughter's name is "Sunny." I should have known better; I really should have. But, shoving my foot in as far as I could, I blurted out exactly what I thought: "That sounds like a prostitute's name."

Oops! It turned out the girl was named after her grandmother. But I couldn't help thinking there's no way a young woman named Sunny could ever be taken seriously.

In my opinion, parents should think about these things when nam-

ing their children. Studies have shown that people with certain names are viewed a certain way.

For example, I read once that names such as Jessica, Victoria and Elizabeth are good names to give a daughter for her to be seen as intelligent and beautiful, though I'm sure her actual appearance and behavior could change people's minds.

The same article said Jacob, Benjamin and Richard are names for boys that give them an air of intelligence. But again, no matter what you name a child, he can grow up to prove his name wrong.

But I still think parents shouldn't saddle their children with names that guarantee they won't be taken seriously. For example, in the age of "free love" and the liberal distribution of drugs, many children ended up with names like "Moon Unit" and "Soliel Moon."

Now, in reality, I imagine there

are plenty of people with those names who turned out just fine, but I can't help being reminded what state their parents were in when they named the child. That then leads me to wonder how many drugs were in the mother's system during the pregnancy.

So I find myself thinking if the parents were on drugs, the child surely must have brain damage. If you're an elementary school teacher and a Moon Unit enters the classroom, perhaps you're better off to send the child to special ed right away. And that goes double. Moon Unit happens to be a boy. Some armor could also be in order for when he encounters the school bully on the playground.

But maybe this is just my own prejudice. I wonder if people who have "unique" names feel differently. Maybe they think the odd name is what makes them stand out from the crowd.

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:
Jan. 4 — Christopher K. Lee, 23, Coperas Cove, Texas, \$168 for speeding.

Anthony C. Menefee, 19, Alden, \$126 for speeding and \$10 for no seat belt.

Gilberto T. Cabral, 56, Sun Valley, Calif., \$138 for speeding.

Jan. 5 — Richard K. Lopez, 37, Lakewood, Colo., \$126 for speeding.

Cristi Cardoza-Rodriguez, 31, Denver, \$132 for speeding.

Donald R. Mathews, 66, Littleton, Colo., \$240 for speeding.

Raymond M. Taylor, 45, Englewood, Colo., \$195 for speeding.

Jennifer A. Arndt, 20, Clarkson, Mich., \$240 for speeding.

Kent I. Noll, 48, Fort Collins, Colo., \$80 for no child restraint.

Josef M. Salazar, 25, Denver, \$177 for speeding.

David P. Sanford, 50, Houston, Texas, \$231 for speeding.

Gong Hegui, 30, Austin, Texas, \$159 for speeding.

Jan. 6 — Rafael Acevedo, 33, Liberal, \$126 for speeding.

Christopher B. Howard, 22, Peru, Ind., \$285 for speeding.

Ljubisa Tomanic, 35, Louisville, Ky., \$138 for speeding.

Sarah R. Dreiling, 30, Highland Ranch, Colo., \$132 for improper parking.

Richard E. Wagner, 57, Shoal, Ky., \$210 for tractor trailer violations.

Ethan H. Foster, 25, Denver, \$150 for speeding.

Stephen L. Frish, 64, Minneapolis, Minn., \$120 for speeding.

Jeffrey A. Gabor, 22, Broomfield, Colo., \$120 for speeding.

Steven D. Lewis, 41, Plano, Texas, \$159 for improper parking.

Alejandro E. Hernandez, 30, Fort Collins, Colo., \$360 for driving under suspension.

Elizabeth Maguire, 34, St. Augustine, Fla., \$132 for speed limits.

Jan. 7 — William G. McDonald, II, 41, Denver, \$138 for speeding.

Sarah N. Sixkiller, 21, Colorado Springs, \$126 for speeding.

Thomas J. Lund, 46, Louisville, Colo., \$120 for speeding.

Nathan W. Andrews, 21, Idalia, Colo., \$132 for speeding.

Thomas P. Orourke, 70, Highland City, Fla., \$126 for speeding.

Konstantin Vekchine, 30, Spring, Texas, \$222 for speeding.

Emily C. Hitchcock, 30, Westminster, Colo., \$132 for speeding.

Jose M. Aguirre-Barraza, 19, Pueblo, Colo., \$159 for speeding.

Nicole M. Goolsby, 21, West-

minster, Colo., \$144 for speeding.

Real Estate

The following real estate transactions were reported by the Sherman County Register of Deeds:

William D. and Ronda L. Hayden to Michael D. and Courtney L. Dorn, Lots 5 and 6, Block 17, Second Addition in the City of Goodland.

William J. Cebula, trustee of the William J. Cebula Revocable trust, to Stanley D. and Gwendolyn A. Cebula an undivided one-half interest in the N/2, Sec. 20, T8S, R37W.

Richard Luhring, Marjorie Habiby and Robert Luhring, co-trustees of the Luhring Family Trust, to Harry and Kathleen Haverly the N/2, Sec. 35, T8S, R41W.

Terry A. and Sylvia D. Ross to Artisan Woodworking, Park County, Colo., 11 feet 7 inches of the north side Lot 14, all of Lot 15, Block 51, Original Town of Goodland.

Robert Duane Cowan, trustee of the Robert Duane Cowan and Dorothy Martha Cowan Revocable trust, to Robert Duane Cowan, Lots 10, 11 and 12, Block 56, Original Town of Goodland.

Robert Duane and Mary May Cowan quitclaim to Sherry L. Bandel, Lots 10, 11 and 12, Block

56, Original Town of Goodland.

Douglas Winfield Evans to Richard L. Billinger the N/2 of the SE/4, Sec. 6, T8S, R41W.

Murlin Ray and Stacy A. Evans to Richard L. Billinger the N/2 of the SE/4, Sec. 6, T8S, R41W.

Richard L. Billinger to Richard L. and Rita M. Billinger the N/2 of the SE/4, Sec. 6, T8S, R41W.

Doug Whitson, sheriff of Sherman County, to the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development of the United States of America a tract in the south 75 feet, Lots 37, 38, 39, 40, 41 and 42, Block 12, First Addition in the City of Goodland, the foreclosed property of Kenneth J. Petrachich.

Ramona and James L. Livengood, to the Ramona Livengood Trust, the NW/4, Sec. 4; the NE/4, Sec. 5, T9S; and the SW/4, Sec. 17, T10S, R42W.

C. Curtis Coffey, trustee of the Coffey Revocable trust, to Jack Mitchek, trustee of the Dale Mitchek trust, the NE/4, Sec. 11, T9S, R38W.

Jack Mitchek, trustee of the Dale Mitchek trust, quitclaims to the Dale Mitchek trust the NE/4, Sec. 11, T9S, R38W.

Shad D. and Penny S. Sheldon to Justin D. Bentzinger a tract in the NW/4, Sec. 30, T8S, R39W.

J. L. Livengood Farms to Crissy Conger a tract in the south east corner of the SE/4, Sec. 18, T9S, R41W.

Santos and Margie Lopez to Jessica R. Colby, Lots 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16, Block 25, Harstines Second Addition in the Town of Kanorado.

Jessica Renee Colby to Jessica Renee Colby and Matthew J. Phillippi, Lots 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16, Block 25, Harstines Second Addition in the Town of Kanorado.

Federal National Mortgage Association to Arnold and Darlene Scott the north five feet of Lot 16, all of Lots 17 and 18, the south 15 feet of Lot 19, Block 4, Second Addition in the City of Goodland.

Larry and Mary Jane Allen quit claim to Robert L. and Carol S.

Armstrong a tract in the SW/4, Sec. 29, T8S, R39W.

Rodney and Donna J. Haefner to John J. and Janna K. Eisenbart a tract in the SE/4, Sec. 16, T8S, R40W.

Goldie M. Furgison, general manager of the Kansas Strip Farm Partnership, to Wright Farms, Inc., the steel grain bin on the S/2 of the NE/4, Sec. 32, T7S, R42W.

Donna D. Hall, trustee of the Donna D. Hall trust, to Donna D. Hall, an undivided one-half interest to a tract in the SE/4 of the SE/4, Sec. 35, T9S, R42W.

Donna D. Hall to Gena Ann Hall, a tract in the SE/4 of the SE/4, Sec. 35, T9S, R42W.

Donna D. Hall to Donna D. Hall, trustee of the Donna D. Hall Revocable trust, the SE/4, Sec. 2, T10S, R42W.

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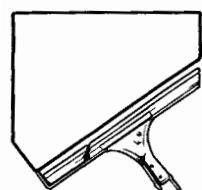
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