

ELIZABETH TAYLOR, COW MANURE, AND
THE PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH
Jeffrey Rau

Civil Engineering
West Chicago Community High School, Chicago, Illinois

You may wonder what possibly could be the link that associates Elizabeth Taylor with cow manure and the Pennsylvania Dutch, but for me the three will be forever inseparable. I tell you the truth, the three are associated by marriage. In fact they are associated by one other thing as well: Missouri. I am sure that this has done little to help you find some common thread in these three, but let me take the time to tell you a story.

There once was a time, long, long ago (about two weeks past), when a man named Jeff Rau referred to the state of Missouri as “the wonderful state of Misery.” Jeff was a bitter man who was clearly afraid of the unknown. You see, Jeff had been asked to be the best man in the wedding of an old friend. However, Jeff had seen this friend very little in the past two years and he was afraid he might feel like an outsider in the wedding, which was to take place in the bride’s home town of Versailles, Misery.

There are a few things that one must know about Versailles, and this involves the association of cow manure and the Pennsylvania Dutch (who knows what they are doing in Missouri). First off, there is not really a “town” of Versailles. Rather, it is a collection of farms with a few blocks at its center. These few blocks house a Wal-mart, the court house, a gas station, the fire department, and the police department. Also, as is the case with most farming communities, they grow some kind of crop, and in order to grow a better crop they spread fertilizer on their fields. However, a large portion of Versailles is populated by Pennsylvania Dutch farmers (I still don’t know what they are doing in Missouri), and the Dutch, as some may know, work very hard to remain non-materialistic by allowing themselves few of today’s luxuries. One easy example is their use of horse and buggies instead of cars. To go along with this, they use few technological luxuries in farming, namely chemical fertilizers. So whenever one drives around Versailles, they are likely to encounter two things: Dutch riding in their horse and buggies, and the wonderfully potent stench of natural fertilizer (cow manure).

Returning to the wedding, Jeff quickly found that the people of Missouri are very kind, caring and friendly people. He was welcomed into the homes of many, and the bitter boy began to soften a little bit (he even stopped referring to Missouri as “the wonderful state of Misery”). Despite

the little contact kept with his friend over the previous two years, Jeff and his friend got along great and had huge amounts of fun setting up for the wedding.

At the wedding rehearsal things only improved. The maid of honor was none other than Elizabeth Taylor. No joke! OK... so it wasn't **the** Elizabeth Taylor, but that really was her name. She was cute, only two years older than Jeff, and he got to walk down the aisle with her. On top of this, the two spent a great deal of time together over the weekend. All in all, the whole experience was great fun for Jeff Rau.

So you see, because of that blessed ceremony I attended in Missouri, I will always carry with me this rather strange association involving Elizabeth Taylor, cow manure, and the Pennsylvania Dutch. Today, if we were to play a word association game and you say, "Elizabeth Taylor," I might blurt out, "cow poop!" Of course, this is not due to my thinking that Liz Taylor is a pile of manure, but rather it is due to that fateful spring break trip to "the wonderful state of Missouri." There, I actually said it!

JUST ANOTHER JOURNAL
Doug Favero

Exploratory
Riverton High School, Riverton, Illinois

Dear Professor,

Here's another journal for you to read. I thought I'd take this opportunity to share all that I've learned this semester. I have learned a lot and I hope I don't ever loose any of it. I have learned about things like. how to correctly punctuate: how to use an adverb correct. and, after studying hard, what a participle is, I have learned that, in Greece, they do plurals differently, and other phenomenon's like that. I have learned what euphemisms are and that sometimes teachers say the F-word in class to make a point. I have learned a powerful tool in rhetoric is repetition of phrases like, "I have learned." I have learned the difference between who and whom and how to write a paper better by thinking whom the audience is. I have learned the affects of trying effect you in a good way. I have learned solecisms ain't s'posed to be in good writin'. I have learned that if