

Things I had rather not be

I've never seen a purple cow.
I never expect to see one,
But I can tell you anyhow
I'd rather see than be one
Colet Burgess

By J B Leftwich

Most of us spend little time thinking about things we would rather not be. If our minds dwell on the subject at all, we are likely to think of things or people we had rather be.

Such as baseball pitchers, quarterbacks, point guards, chairmen of boards of big corporations, young, healthy, affluent, sexy, handsome or pretty, famous, powerful, happy, movie stars, bishops, generals and so on.

Notwithstanding the above statement, I can think of things or persons I had rather not be, including: **A Woman.**

After a lifetime of being a male, I cannot imagine myself on the other side of the gender dividing line. {I suppose a woman would have the same problem thinking of herself as a male.}

And the reason I would not want to a woman is women have to carry handbags.

Could be I am biased and carrying a handbag is not all that bad. It does have a strap, and you can hang it on your shoulder or around your neck. But when you get to wherever you are going, there is no place to put it.

Sitting in a movie theater or in a church or in somebody's home, women immediately face problems men do not encounter. Men simply sit down, cross their legs, and go on with whatever there is to go on with. Women have to place their handbags somewhere -- on the back of chairs, on the floor, in a bedroom or awkwardly just sit and hold them.

As far as I know, no architect ever drew plans for a residence and took into consideration a place to stash handbags. As a consequence, in their homes women have to crowd them into clothes closets, place them on top of furniture, hang them on hooks or continue toting them.

Women also spend time trying to remember where they left them and more time trying to find them.

Another point, not being a woman, I had rather see than be one. If we men were suddenly transposed to the distaff sector of gender, our joy of seeing a pretty female would be drastically diminished.

A Politician. My position on politicians does not imply a dislike of them. Quite the contrary. I admire good politicians such as Governor Bredesen, Senator Thompson and state senator Bob Rochelle. To be candid, I am not tough enough or gifted enough to be a good politician. Hence, I had rather see than be one.

A Purple Cow. No one would choose to be a cow. Not even a sacred cow. And least of all, a purple cow. I might choose to be a Bull provided the word “Chicago” preceded it and a million dollar salary followed it. But a bull of the bovine variety? Too many restaurants selling hamburgers.

Burgess’s verse about the purple cow apparently brought the author nothing but embarrassment and discomfort. Later, the writer penned the following:

Ah, yes, I wrote “The Purple Cow.”
I’m sorry now I wrote it.
But I can tell you anyhow
I’ll kill you if you quote it.

(J.B. Leftwich is a veteran journalist and a columnist for *The Lebanon Democrat*.
Email: leftwichjb@charter.net)

<http://www.ajlambert.com>