

November 1999

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Recommended Citation

Seay, Jerry (1999) "You Gotta Go to School for That? Baby Strollers and ZZ Top," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 11: Iss. 5, Article 32.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3706>

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You Gotta Go to School for That? — Baby Strollers and ZZ Top

by Jerry Seay (College of Charleston) <seayt@cofc.edu>

After being married for several years to my high school sweetheart, I discovered recently, much to my delight, that I'm going to be a father. It is amazing how something as simple as a pregnancy test will make one start looking at things like strollers and realize just how many folks are pushing them around. I suppose it is akin to getting one's hair died purple (accidentally, of course) and then suddenly noticing the incredible number of people afflicted with the same condition.

My attention is mostly drawn to the number of men actually pushing these strollers. Now I'm just as liberated as the next guy--and there is something endearing about watching a guy push his child around in a stroller--but I was taken aback somewhat the other day when I observed a fellow strolling along a park path in just such an operation. Actually, the fact that he was a guy pushing a baby-filled stroller did not gain my attention near as much as the fact that he was "strolling" between two other guys. Now this in itself was not unnerving except that all three of these guys looked like they had just walked out of a bad biker bar.

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counts to separate their personal e-mail from their work e-mail. While the majority of my e-mail is still work-related, I can see the value of having another account for personal stuff, and in fact, this will probably be expected in the future. E-mail is more than ever becoming like telephone traffic. We've been accustomed to not being allowed to make personal long distance calls at work forever; it won't be long before e-mail will be governed by similar policies.

So, I know it's time to take the plunge. It's not that I can't handle change—I've been doing that all my baby-boomer life. But I'm really going to miss that primitive black and white screen. Now that I have a seventeen-inch monitor I suppose I'll be able to decipher that tiny, busy, graphical type. But since I'm already in tri-focals and my eyes aren't getting any younger, I may be pleading for a large-type version of the software soon. Time to stop whining and get on with deleting all that old mail! 🐼

Certainly I would be the last person to think unkindly of biker bars per se, though I can scarcely remember any Hell's Angels movies that included baby carriages. Yet, coming toward my wife and me on that secluded wooded path pushing a baby stroller were three large muscled, tough, tattooed, long-haired bearded fellows who would have given **Dennis Hopper** a chill. As they came closer, their long beards and sunglasses reminded me of members of the band ZZ top.

Though I am a fan of ZZ Top, I stared in amazement as the possible ramifications washed over me. Why would three ZZ Top biker guys be pushing a baby stroller in the park? The mind reels. Was this some sort of unknown biker initiation rite? Was this biker sensitivity training? Shouldn't these guys have been pulling that stroller behind a Harley? Should I run or ask for an autograph?

As I was beginning to wonder that if what these three easy riders were indeed pushing was a baby (and not their guitars), I nearly expected the baby itself to be smoking a cigar (an out loud thought for which my wife immediately scolded me for my insensitivity). As the "cigar" thought entered my mind, the three "gentlemen" passed us tipping their biker hats in greeting. My "fight or flight" reflex eased when I noted the lack of chains and sharp knives. The beautiful little baby in their care was sleeping peace-

fully, albeit wearing a large pair of "biker" sunglasses. It was then that I realized that even ZZ Top biker guys need to take care of their babies even if that means pushing it in a stroller through a park in front of everybody. Biker dudes can be dads too.

This experience has imbued me with an even greater sense of pride and mission as I look forward to the day when I can push my baby through the park--or the library--in front of everybody. Maybe I can even get a couple of tough-looking librarians to "stroll" with me. Of course, when onlookers see us they will no doubt wonder in terror why three burly librarians are out pushing a baby stroller. They may even be tempted to run from such an unsettling apparition.

Now, if I can only find a cool pair of biker sunglasses. 🐼



Klein Interview from page 31

AK: After the acquisition, 700 worldwide. **Dick Rowe** is chairman and CEO and he has five senior executives reporting to him: The Head of Finance, The Head of Human Resources, Head of Technology, Head of Content, and Chief Client Officer (myself).

The U.S. is our largest market. We plan to create a series of vertical profit and loss sectors for professional services (accounting), corporate, medical, academic (including government and public). We will use existing offices around the country to serve the different businesses we serve.

ATG: How are you going to support customer service? I don't want to talk to a dif-

ferent person every time I have a problem.

AK: We will still have personal service. The ongoing relationship with the client service representative remains top priority. There are three key points to remember here. 1) We have a total commitment to the academic library world. 2) We are going to use the best product/service offerings from each of **Faxon** and **RoweCom**. 3) We will use the vertical structure mentioned above to effect excellent personal service.

ATG: How about your line of credit?

AK: This has been taken care of with a more than adequate line of credit. There will be no historical recurrences.

ATG: See you at the Charleston Conference to continue this dialog!

AK: Thanks. See you in November! 🐼

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