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Kent

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The Nell Issue

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*** a publication by and about Kent Roberts, and for the global community ***

KentsNotes to *Nell* pilot issue

By Kent Roberts

(Note: See tgikent.com/Nell to reference the Nell as you read.)

In the Legwear Issue (August 2017 #1; Volume 15, Issue 7), the top article presented the "I Can't Believe It's Not *Kent* challenge." I asked for a spinoff publication "about the life of a non-Kent that is so tasty, it is difficult to distinguish from the real thing."

The challenge and my receipt of the *Nell* publication were then covered in the *Kent* 50% Issue (October 2017; Volume 15, Issue 9). A delay for the release of a full issue about the *Nell* was subsequently announced in the *Kent* Get It Together Issue (Nov. 2017; Volume 15, Issue 10).

Now, to be fair to the letter of the law with my instructions for the challenge, it was to create a publication that was similar to the *Kent* publication and was specifically entitled *I Can't Believe It's Not Kent*. However, it is important to note that someone has done an incredible job with a self-lication that is delicious – not that the physical paper is tasty but

that its contents are shockingly flavorful and nutrient-dense. Nell set the bar high at the start, even if my instructions were disregarded.

Is *Nell* a Kentlication?

You could say *Nell* is a Kentlication in the sense that it is very similar in format and tone to *Kent*. However, it is really a Nellication, since it is about Nell.

Nellport (Np) 1: "Nell?"

The use of no last name may be for partial anonymity. But perhaps there is another way she is right – refusing your surname as an obsolete symbol of the patriarchy.

Nell's concluding sentence is, "I have the answers." I like how she lets the audience know that she is the source. She is the burgeoning paper of record about Nell. She is a Nell Resource Center targeted at consumers of Nell media.

Np 2: "So It Begins"

One piece of information is immediately reminiscent of the Kentmobile with its damaged and

seemingly never-going-to-be-fixed driver side mirror.

"In a rare display of common sense, I remembered safety pins," Nell writes, "and three of them are all that is attaching one of my backpack straps to the rest of the bag, a two-week solution at best."

One thing Nell and Kent seem to have in common is a tendency to adopt short-term solutions for long-term problems.

Nell also talks about feeling like

Nell "is a Nell Resource Center targeted at consumers of Nell media."

she is in a daze as she walks around campus. I would describe a daze as the way that I experience life on a semi-permanent basis, with virtually no hints of clarity.

Np3: "Relationship with McNair Hall an Uphill Battle"

This article is also about walking. Nell is sustainable. The *Kent* is also now more sustainable.

Note: The paper used for *Kent* is responsibly sourced (FSC-C001614), with 30% post-consumer recycled fiber. So there.

Kentphorism:

“Spend a lot of time in a small room by yourself. Install a mirror so that you can have a friend.”

bacKent

Kentphorism:

“Talk to yourself, all the time, about how you are really finally starting to figure things out.”

THE WORLD’S MOST UNDERRATED, OVERAUTHORIZED BACKSIDE OF A PUBLICATION ABOUT KENT ROBERTS

KentsNotes to *Nell* pilot issue (continued)

Again, this piece points to a similarity between us. Like Nell, I use speed in transit. Also, Nell notes that the cafeteria is “open for my use until 9PM most days.” She knows the extremes of service hours – a behavior I

“The plants are given personalities; the Roommate is labeled more like the late Coconut.”

share with her.

It seems it would make sense that there would be something in common between self-publishers, regardless their demographics – and really, we do not know if Nell is a woman, or a man, or a Russia-controlled AI self-lication-bot.

Np 4: “Dish-Washing Competence in Question”

We learn that Nell has basic dishes and utensils in her room for consumption of items such as oatmeal and coffee. While coffee is a key component of my diet, it is being reduced. Oatmeal is a continuing, perhaps lifelong staple.

Nell then notes that she has used a fork to eat a fried egg and asked herself (emphasis hers), “*I washed the fork, but did I do a good job?*”

Questioning one’s ability to perform basic tasks that accomplish proper hygiene is a KentThought theme.

Np5: “In Loving Memory of Coconut”

Nell notes that she was given a coconut by a friend who had visited Florida. Kent HQ was St. Petersburg, Florida, from 2006 to 2013.

Np 6: “Socks”

Nell notes that her favorite sock “was stolen from my sister.” Use of passive tense here suggests Nell is not accepting full responsibility for having stolen the sock. This political language describing the crime deserves further study.

Np7: “Disappointment”

Nell discusses her system to help her avoid delaying work: a note at eye-level at her desk. “Whenever I turn my head to the right, my responsibilities are listed in black ink, two inches away,” she writes.

Nell notes that she had thought she had completed a task and not marked it off. “Excited, I scrambled for a pen, only to find that I had already crossed it out...” she writes.

“Disappointed, I returned to watching Netflix.”

I appreciate Nell’s dedication to time-

wasting: she gets a rush of positive chemicals as she thought she had completed a task, which was enough to her to return to her cinematic digital surreality.

Np 8: “Plant Life”

We see the use of *Roommate* (also in the Coconut piece). Roommate is a desexed common noun, a symbol of residential space-sharing without a nameable personal identity. The plants get men’s names, Karl and Jim. The plants are given personalities; the Roommate is labeled more like the late Coconut, simply a proper version of the person’s broad category description. Hm.

Np 9: fine print

Nell calls the issue “*The I Can’t Believe It’s Not Kent Issue.*” This statement comes close to meeting the stipulations of the *Kent* challenge.