

WHICH ONE IS GROVER?

Recently while taking care of my 22-month-old granddaughter, Rose, we both took time to watch a broadcast of Sesame Street on PBS. Sesame Street is Rose's favorite show and she eagerly looks forward to seeing the adventures of the various Muppet characters. On this particular episode a group of penguins was struggling to get an iceberg off of the skating rink where they regularly played. To the rescue came the Muppet Grover dressed as a superhero and driving a car befitting his mission. Grover immediately exited his car and attempted to push the iceberg off the rink without success. While he struggled the penguins came up with the idea of taking the wheels off of Grover's car and using them to move the iceberg. The penguins were successful and with the mission accomplished the Muppet Grover readied himself to drive to his next rescue mission. But alas Grover was unable to do so. After all, there were no longer any wheels on his car.

A short time later with Rose close by, my wife Linda '70 told me that we had received a Facebook post from Grover as to the athletics program at Seneca. The Grover Linda was referring to was my classmate Grover Sales '69. While listening to what Linda was sharing with me I couldn't help but notice a look of confusion on my granddaughter's face. Where was Grover? Why wasn't he on the TV? And what is an athletics program anyway? As best I could with a 22-month-old child I shared with Rose that this is another Grover and showed her his picture from my school yearbook. I told her that as opposed to being a Muppet he is a live person just like us. Like the Muppet character **he is blue through and through-- but is that way by virtue of being a longtime University of Kentucky sports fan.** This Grover also drives a classic car but instead it is highlighted by the license plate "UK-WON-8." And like the Muppet character Grover is always willing to help others though as with all of us his execution can fall short on occasion. Yet as I finished my explanation I could see that my granddaughter Rose still appeared to be confused. At that point my wife of 40 years took the practical approach as to this dilemma. She quietly tuned the television back on to Sesame Street and allowed Rose to simply watch and enjoy the show.

That evening Linda and I attended a cross country meet that Rose's older brother Johnny was participating in. Rose was also in attendance along with her mother Rebecca Denny Willen '99. During the meet Rebecca shared with us that she had received a Facebook post from Grover Cleveland as to the Seneca High School athletics program. I suspect you can imagine the extent of Rose's confusion by now. At that point I mentioned to my well-educated, professional daughter that Grover Cleveland was the 22nd president of the United States and that the Facebook post had come from my classmate Grover Sales. With that issue cleared up we settled in and watched the meet-- the hope being that Rose would not become confused any further.

As my granddaughter Rose grows older I am sure she will develop the ability to compare and contrast the similarities and differences she observes in life. But for now perhaps it is best for her to simply experience the joys of childhood of which Sesame Street is a part. And regardless of age may we all take time to savor the simple pleasures we encounter daily. The best to each of you in that endeavor.