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Professor Hanson
JMC100
31 Oct. 2024
Assignment 8 – Humans of Nebraska



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from St. Paul, NE

age 41

“ I was out deer hunting and suddenly **couldn't breathe**, so **my wife** told me I had to go to the **hospital**, which **pissed me off** because I wanted to go deer hunting. But I had to have a **quadruple bypass**— and I **guess** she was right, but I **never** let her live it down because I wanted to **go deer hunting** and she ruined it ”

I have gone up to strangers previously to interview them and to get their photographs. I have a long history of trying to film and record everything—and for a short time, it was for obnoxious reasons like "to get a reaction." I have also made a handful of short documentaries with varying degrees of completion and success. I'm not as social as I used to try to be, so when my brother asked me to tag along as he cheered for runners at the cross-country meet at Kearney Country Club, I thought that it should be fine to meet strangers. In my old age, I tend to have the mindset that people don't like to be bothered, so getting over that was initially difficult. But luckily for me, I have (at least one) sibling who is as extroverted as they come and constantly puts me into socially awkward situations.¹ Aside from the sunburn the next day, it was pretty painless. Upon completing the assignment, it quickly came back to me why—even though my social anxiety was overwhelming—I used to film and mingle with strangers. All those anxieties were never as bad as I imagined, and people generally enjoy the interaction. I don't think I can be totally honest if I said I learned anything about myself from the assignment, but I certainly re-learned and remembered some of the ancient motivations that helped tame a quirky personality.

¹ Not that they were awkward inherently, or by design, I just make them all awkward.