

# Sundowner

Nobody asked but ...

When I was below the age of five, I was not expected to do physically demanding things, such as hod carrying or bicycle riding. I was not required to do things that required experience or problem solving skills. I was not held responsible for things that were assigned competence levels. Some of these institutional hold harmless agreements stayed in place until my voice changed, or I reached 16 years of age, then 18, then 21. I had to reach 35 to be held out of selective service eligibility, or to serve as POTUS. Lastly, I ran into a smattering of bedraggled annualizations which marked my being eligible for lifelong learning, senior discounts, early retirement, regular retirement, extended retirement, and various age-related, statist benefit programs.

Maybe when we become superannuated, we should have reversed our trajectory *a la* Benjamin Button. Our competencies are not so easily misperceived when we are wet behind the ears. Although the spirit is still willing, the body becomes weaker everyday ... and the spirit begins to follow. I am getting smaller. I am getting weaker. I am more susceptible to adversity. I am more weary of the constraints that other generations impose — see TSA, the cartelization of education, and air travel in general.

Why is there not a lessening of responsibility as we re-approach infantility? Why? The arrow of time has not been reversed. Consequences at time B must be arising from human action at time A.

— Kilgore Forelle