

# THE RAMBLINGS OF CHUCK WEISS

## “An Old Guy with a Memory”

Ramble 5

### The Pros and Cons of Being Old

I'll start with the good news.

Social: Reduced prices for seniors (public transportation, movie tickets, etc.)

Medical: Medicare, and Medicaid (Medical in California)

Mental: As we advance through life we gain experience. If we have some intelligence and keep our eyes open, we can gain a certain amount of wisdom as well. Wisdom allows us to see the bigger picture, how everything is interconnected with everything else. With that larger view of things, we don't have to get caught up in the day-to-day frustrations that can overwhelm us if we let them. Old age can bring a certain peace to one's life.

And now, the bad news.

Social: Considered to be prey by scammers - The people you're with are frustrated that you walk so slowly - Sitting sideways on crowded busses & having to shift your weight whenever the bus stops and starts - Having to listen to your friends complain about their aches and pains, so you can complain about yours.

Medical: Arthritis throughout the body - The need for dentures - Deteriorating eyesight - High blood pressure - Crumbling of the spine (spondylosis) - Varicose veins - Wrinkles (I hate to look in the mirror) - Reduced sex drive - For men, erectile disfunction & baldness - For Women, “Turkey Necks” and “Thunder Thighs” - Hair that grows where it never did before - Stiff joints - Neuropathy. The list goes on and on!

Mental: Worrying that forgetting where you left your car keys is a sign of Alzheimer's. (It's not.) - Being very aware of your mortality - Knowing that when you die, and the last person that remembered you dies too, you're truly dead and gone forever (unless, of course, you have a Wikipedia page).

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