

Erin Dunn
Community Comment
Tuesday, June 6

This is Erin Dunn of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce with a Community Comment.

The sure sign of summer in Fortuna is not the sunshine, or the festivals, or even Farmers' Market. Although they are great indicators, it's not what convinces me summertime is around the corner.

I start dusting off the deck furniture when I see high school FFA kids walking their sheep down Main Street. I get such a kick out of it and I look forward to it every May and June.

The sheep are on the sidewalk, so happy summer!

Another part of summer that isn't always as welcomed are summer replacement series on television. There are some I love—America's Got Talent, American Ninja Warriors—they are fluffy and fun.

Not so much a show called "Downward Dog." *Downward Dog* is an American comedy television series broadcast on ABC, based on a web series by Animal Media Group.

The series follows the adventures of Martin, a philosophical dog, who has to live with his owner, Nan, a millennial who has no more time for him because of her work at Clark and Bow Outfitters.

(I got that description from Wikipedia—they misspelled Millennial—so take it for what it's worth.)

I love dogs, so when I was flipping through the channels and saw that show, I had to stop and watch. I lasted about 10 minutes and then I couldn't watch anymore.

I guess the key term in the description is Millennial—and what commercial television producers think about Millennials.

Here is a typical conversation by the dog: “I was like give me some food but she was like not now because I have to like go to the store first.” But it’s not just the dog who talks like that, it’s his owner too.

And I’m not exaggerating. There was a “like” in every sentence. Here’s where I take umbrage:

First, why in world would a television show include the annoying habit of saying “like” all of the time. Many teenagers already have a tough time with overusing the word “like.” Why oh why would you put something on television that reinforces that horrible habit?

Second, they seem to be trying to appeal to a younger demographic with this sounding-like-it’s-not-scripted-but-it’s-scripted dialogue. Do they think we don’t notice that every sentence has a “like” in it? Sometimes the sentence has two “likes” in it. For a full half an hour!

And I’m not talking about using “like” as a comparison in a sentence—for instance, “this show is like listening to nails on a chalkboard” --do they even make chalkboards anymore? Well, you get my drift.

I gave it another shot last week. And I lasted for two minutes. Fool me once shame on you, fool me twice, like shame on me.

This has been Erin Dunn with a Community Comment.