

WOKE UP!

"Shirley: that's a nice name. How about Shirley? And it's sort of non gender specific as well. There used to be a wrestler called Shirley." The speaker stroked the infant's face with their hand, smiling benevolently at their life partner who looked back clasping hands under their chin anxiously.

"We don't know. A little *recherché* perhaps? What will non-familial companions think? We don't want to be considered too pre-millennial."

"What do we think, then?" asked their non-binary specific birth partner.

"We really think we should ask them," said the birther, stroking their beard in thought and nodding at the gurgling infant, "when they've decided which strata of the sexual spectrum they wish to occupy."

"H'mmm, " said the birth partner, lifting a corner of the diaper and receiving a squirt of urine for their trouble. "It sort of looks cut and dried to us. But, in the meantime we have to call them something. 'They' sounds a bit impersonal and 'Baby' could be the cause of some parental/offspring and trash their be

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ay, take the piss

"We don't intend otherwise there will be some very seriously amenable but admonitory conversations to be had."

"In our great grandparents' day, a good clip around the ear would have circumvented any latent animosity," said the birth partner, drawing a gasp of scandalization from the birther.

"They would be scarred for life! No wonder climate change is increasing at the rate it is! They never understood the value of social responsibility! How unwoke they must have been."

The birth partner shrugged their shoulders. "We certainly live in enlightened times dear."

There was a sharp gasp of admonition. "We do not use such degrading forms of address! What if our proximal non-familial companions should hear? The walls are very thin!"

The birthing partner hung their head. "We are sorry. We got carried away with the emotion of the occasion."

There was a 'tut' of considered exasperation. "We really should not suppress our feelings by expressions of regret for considered opinions honestly shared. It demeans an individual's integrity and self worth."