

# EVERYONE WINS!!!!

Updating a previous entry, I learned what became of the David Ortiz jersey that was unearthed from the site of the new Yankee Stadium. It was auctioned off on ebay for the exorbitant sum of \$175, 000. I thought... way too much until I learned where the proceeds would be going. There is an organization in Boston that supports pediatric as well as adult cancer. All started with a 12-year-old boy named [Jimmy](#). Ironically, the Yankee organization donated the money to one of the Boston Red Sox favorite charities. And who says that there can't be chivalry between rival teams?

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## It's Not the Years, Honey... It's The Mileage

It seems that everyone is getting in the Indiana Jones spirit. While chatting with a friend I was directed to the [Chicago Cubs'](#) website and the [schedule](#) thereof. On the May 22nd space, there appears a picture of Harrison Ford as the reknowned archaeologist ready to embark on his latest adventure. We speculated that all of baseball may have decided to take the day off to celebrate Dr. Jones' return to the big screen. Somehow, I had my doubts. Sure enough on the [New York Yankees'](#) [site](#), there appeared the same picture but a game was listed. So, I thought all of baseball was celebrating but just not taking the entire day off. I checked out the [Detroit Tigers'](#) [schedule](#): there it was again, but yet again the team has a scheduled game. Only makes me more anxious for the next 21 days to go quickly.

Check your favorite team's website to see if they are celebrating the release of *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*. At least a Yankee fan had something to divert his attention to tonight ☐

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## You've Got Possibilities

One of the sites that I find myself visiting at least once a week is the [Superman Homepage](#). This site is devoted primarily to the Man of Steel but also features articles dealing with other DC comics heroes. It features a timeline that traces every conceivable event featuring the Last Son of Krypton dating back to June 1938 when he made his first appearance in Action Comics #1. There is also a Who's Who Database of characters as well as reviews of movies, television, comics, novels, music, even the Broadway musical *It's a Bird... It's a Plane... It's Superman*. I think my favorite feature is The Super-Trivia Quiz. Three questions posted at the beginning of each month that test the knowledge of even the most-die hard of Super fans. One of this month's questions:

In the 1940s Superman radio series what is the name given to Superman's enemy who has Kryptonite flowing through his veins?

I have no idea. I was not around in the 40s and have never heard the radio serial.

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# You Are The Dancing Queen

Today I was reminded of the latest Broadway musical which will be coming soon to a multiplex near you. Following in the footsteps of [Hairspray](#), the forgettable [Producers](#), and the dreadful adaptation of [The Phantom of the Opera](#) is [Mamma Mia!](#) the musical based on the music of the Swedish 1970s-80s supergroup ABBA. The big names in the cast seem to be Pierce Brosnan (who knew he can sing?) and [Meryl Streep](#) (ditto).

I very vaguely remember hearing the music on the radio during the heyday of disco. I was reminded of it a few years ago when I participated in a karaoke contest at an area bar and grill which an acquaintance operates. A rather rotund man decided to give us his interpretation of "Dancing Queen" and brought the audience to tears from the hilarity. His "performance quality" must have given him some points (or it may have been his nerve) because he came in second place in a group of 20. I am pleased to say that I came in 5th.

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# I Am Altering The Deal. Pray I Don't Alter It Any Further

Sorry but no "American Idol" post tonight. I grow continuously disenchanted with it the more I watch. Pure and simply, it is nothing more than a popularity contest with the teeny-bopper who happens to have the quickest finger choosing the winner.

Last night, one of the three shows I try to make it a point to watch every week had the obligatory "Special Edition." "[Deal or No Deal](#)" featured a fantastic *Star Wars* themed game. The contestants who played were both huge fans of the series. The

first was a woman who was a Vietnamese refugee whose youngest memories involved seeing [Episode 4](#) in the movie theatre. Instead of the 26 delightful models who usually hold the cases, there were 26 Stormtroopers (yes they were members of the [501st Legion](#)). As an added bonus, [Carrie Fisher](#) (her royal highnessness herself) appeared to root the contestant on. Man, has she aged!

The second contestant was treated to an appearance by the eight-foot walking carpet, Chewbacca and everyone's favorite astromech droid, R2-D2. Both contestants had to face the Dark Lord of the Sith, Darth Vader as the banker. The voice was no [James Earl Jones](#) but not a bad imitation.



I almost forgot to mention that in the second half of the show, the models appeared with their cases dressed in replicas of the slave girl outfit worn by Princess Leia in Jabba the Hutt's palace in [Return of the Jedi](#).



A very entertaining episode. I wonder why they did not procure the rights last year for the 30th anniversary of the original film.

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## Where Are You? Why Do You

# Hide?

I see by the old Firestats Count that Morat's Blog has had 1000 unique visitors from countries foreign and domestic. However unique the 5 or so repeat commentators may be, I urge even the casual passer-by to not be afraid to comment if you have any profound bits of wisdom to add. Surely my profound knowledge of even the most minute of trivia peaks enough curiosity to leave a few letters... and some of those letters may even form a word or two. Even Morat himself has asked me to send greetings to everyone living in Liswathistan. And there must be other fans of "The Office" out there who would like to share their views as well as on movies old and new. Especially with the summer blockbuster season approaching despite the early word on *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*. I heard reports that fans are not to expect too much... WOOLY SHEEP to you all who review movies months before they open.). Plus, [The Dark Knight](#) sounds like it will be fabulous.

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## Make The Most Of What You Are Given

I just learned that I will be portraying the role of Braxton in my local theatrical production of [Little Women](#). Since I know very little about the show apart from the book that I read years ago, I have no idea who this character is. He is part of the ensemble which could mean anything. However important the character is I will do my best to make him as memorable as I can. Hopefully, it calls for some amount of energy and a chance to stand out (if not who's to say I

cannot do so on my own). There are no small parts only small performers, right?

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## Dumb-0-Dumb-One-0 Take 2

Yet another television series will be reimagined soon. Apparently, an update of "[Beverly Hills, 90210](#)" is on the way. According to sources, none of the original cast or characters will be included (unfortunately for them who seem to have disappeared into oblivion). I think a better approach would be to cater to the fans of the original series who probably are in their late 20s-early 30s and bring back the old and see them dealing with adult hood. If there actually were people who enjoyed the show of teenage-angst. Personally, I never missed an episode...HAHAHAHA. Actually, I proudly confess that I never saw one and cannot name a single character but do remember an actor by the name of Puke—[Luke Perry](#). However, the cast of the updated series will include [Lori Loughlin](#) from another late 80s classic "[Full House](#)." How about adding the actor from "[Family Matters](#)" who played Steve Urkel (what was his name?) or [Malcolm-Jamal Warner](#). Reimagining it as a comedy could not hurt it at all... right?

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## Choices

Tonight was the big night for auditions. There were a total of six auditioners (5 ladies and yours truly). I was familiar with all but two of the females. I have worked with the remainder on more than 1 occasion... so at least I was familiar

with most of them. And of course, I HAD to be the first to arrive. But when volunteers were taken to be the first to perform, there were actually people who were more eager than I.

The first to go was a high school age girl who had never been in a show her entire life. She knew the story of [Little Women](#), has read the book, seen the movie, and just wanted to try something new. She chose to sing "Think of Me" from [The Phantom of the Opera](#). She was really nervous. After she got through the excerpt, the director asked her to sing it again and gave her advice on how to better perform the song. The second time she sounded much better.

The next person to audition was a freshman in college who came just to audition for the show. My apologies because I do not remember what she sang or how she did.

The next contestant was someone I have worked with on several previous occasions. I have been in different show casts and she has been the vocal director for past shows. Most recently, we were part of the choir for a performance of *Faure's Requiem*. After she performed her two selections from [Little Women](#), her student also performed the same piece. This is something that seems very odd. I'm sure that it is not unheard of to audition with a song from the show you are trying for, but it just seems weird to me.

Which brings us to you know who. I chose to sing the last 16 measures of "Any Dream Will Do" from [Joseph...](#) I chose it because I felt that it really shows my vocal range and I have practiced it a time or two; but it has been a while since I have been able to rehearse it with an accompanist. I did take a bit of liberty with the last measure by taking it up an octave.. it just seemed right. Apparently, the director thought so, too because he said: "Good choice."

The rest of the tryout was basically finding where our vocal

range is. On the audition form, it had a space marked "Vocal Part." I put tenor/baritone. The accompanist remarked that I sound more tenorish. I agreed so we labeled me a tenobear. It has been a while since I have gone through and actually determined where I fall. I have about an octave and a half (low A...which surprised me to a high G then on to falsetto where I almost reached soprano range). After the range game, I was surprised by the amount of writing the pianist did.

All in all, it seemed to be a good audition. The director was very laid back and made all of us feel at ease which is the mark of a good actor's director. Now all I have to do is **WAIT.....** which is always the hardest part of any casting process. We were informed that it could be a cast of 15-20 with doubling or a cast of 40. Unless the turnout is better tomorrow afternoon, it may be the 15.

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## We Squeeze To Please

1995's James Bond offering, [Goldeneye](#), introduced [Pierce Brosnan](#) as Agent 007. His road to the role is a long, detailed journey that I will not elaborate upon. The plot concerns the efforts of the Russian mafia to control the world's electronic circuits with the use of a high tech satellite named Goldeneye. This would lead to a financial meltdown on a global scale.

However, as with most Bond films, the plot takes second seat to the tried and true devices seen in the best of the series. The pre-title sequence shows 007 taking a 720 foot plunge from atop a dam (which still holds the world's record for the highest bungee jump from a fixed structure). Later while driving a large armored tank, Bond chases villains through the

streets of St. Petersburg.

The femme fatale, played by [Famke Janssen](#), disposes of her victims in a rather crushing manner. Some of the most memorable character names are attributed to roles from the spy series. [Goldfinger](#) gave us Pussy Galore; the rather forgettable [Moonraker](#) introduced Dr. Holly Goodhead; the title character of [Octopussy](#); not to be out done, Xenia Onatopp appears in *Goldeneye*.

The film was also significant for two other important reasons. It was the first to be produced following the collapse of the Soviet Union. *Goldeneye* also introduced [Dame Judi Dench](#) as the first female "M", head of the British Secret Service. She is extremely quick in establishing her position and making it known that she sees Bond as a "sexist, misogynist dinosaur" and a "relic of the Cold War."

While not the best of the series, *Goldeneye* does have several bits of necessary Bond lore to make it an important segment in the continuing franchise. It does have enough action to keep the viewer entertained and that is the most important part of any 007 film.