

On The TV Box Again

There are a lot of forms of success. Yesterday was full of fun although the end may not have been as successful as some might think to me it was a very fun time! My aunt took me to breakfast for my birthday before I had to go to work. After work and grabbing a bite to eat, I headed out armed with the GPS to the city for the Millionaire casting call. I arrived at my hotel in good time (enough to watch a rather depressing All Star Game). I did manage to get a few hours of sleep before I woke at 4AM. I arrived at the Hilton about 5AM and was given instructions on where the other auditioners were assembling (the doors did not open until 6). I was pleasantly surprised in seeing only 25-30 people in front of me. I was not sure if there would be people with tents and sleeping bags or not. I also noticed the local tv crew on the scene. I texted the house to have someone start taping... just in case.

However, for whatever reason, my sister (who drops her daughters at the house before she goes to work at 6) failed to receive the message. Figures since the gentleman right in front of me was interviewed. I will have to keep checking the [site](#) to see if the segment pops up.

By 6AM, there was a good number of people in line. The camera travelled the length of the line along with staff from Millionaire who encouraged us to show some enthusiasm. Of course, that was not difficult for me. Some of the people behind me were a bit camera shy wishing for a paper bag to put over their head. Honestly, what would happen if one of them were selected to be on the show if they could not be on film for a passing camera?

At about 6:15, the first 300 were corralled into a waiting room where t-shirts were thrown out. Then came the big moment. We were shown to the the testing site where we were given a 10 minute 30 question multiple choice test. I thought I was back in grade school with a bubble test with a number 2

pencil. This made it extremely easy to learn who passed since the cards with our responses were fed into an electronic reader. Although I thought that I had done well, my number was not one of the many of my group who were announced. However, there were a few from my table who did. Plus, a friend from the theater who was in a later group successfully completed the test and was to return for an interview at noon. Good luck, Squirmy!

On my way home, I stopped into Wal-Mart where one of my former co-workers said that she had seen me on the news. After grabbing some breakfast at McD's, I came home and crashed. So although I will not be advancing to NYC and being asked "Is That Your Final Answer?", the experience was priceless. Plus, the newscast at noon reported that the response was so positive that there may be another cattle call in the future.

Who Wants To?

✖ I think I must have been in the right place Friday afternoon. On my lunch hour, I was watching *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*. During the last commercial break, an ad promoting auditions in my neck of the woods came across. I thought to myself... well maybe I will go. After prayer and consideration, I made the decision that **YES I WILL GO!** I remember back about 13 years ago after the premiere episode hosted by Regis, I dialed the then "900" number to play the fastest finger round and tried to make the cut. A few years later after trying each time the opportunity arose (eventually, the number became toll-free), I successfully completed round one and waited for a follow up call the next day. Alas, I was unsuccessful in round two.

This Wednesday beginning at 7AM, I will be attending one of the show's Summer Tour audition calls. Instead of once again getting up at 4AM, I decided to make a reservation and stay the night. Five years ago, I had one of the best experiences in the city when my best friends, our chauffeur, and I made our way to the television studio to promote one of our community theater's productions. I think this experience will be very fun. And I am not thinking about anything but this initial step.

So at this point, I just pray that I am safe in my journey and have as much fun with the experience as possible!

A Feudin' Festival

The end of a weekend full of fun and excitement. Saturday was the final day of our annual Festival of Flags. Around 10AM, our street was being bombarded by fire engines and police cruisers from surrounding communities as well as sporty cars that would travel the parade route. Being right on the main route, our house is a wonderful, shaded point from which to view the extravaganza. I must say that this year's parade was very enjoyable. It featured 3 area high school marching bands (two more than the last several years, the traditional pageant contestants, Citizen of the Year (who according to the local paper was born in 1984 yet graduated with my mother in 1966), various floats, and handfuls of candy. I saw more adults run up the hill in front of the house than kids. The three nieces all went down the street to the unshaded library lot. I did not understand why because we were getting just as much candy thrown our way. Ah, well...

After the parade, the sibs and I had a few hours to kill

before the second round of Family Feud. For whatever reason, our preliminary round was the only game played on Friday night. I would have thought that it would be more beneficial to play the entire first round (8 teams in all) and continue with the semi and final rounds the next day. It definitely would have been a little cooler. We were told not to expect to play our second round game until 3-3:30. However, the host breezed through the games and it was probably 2:15 when we took the stage. Jeff printed out a huge banner and name tags complete with a symbol indicative of our own unique personas.

His was an OSU emblem; Chad had a Cubs logo; I had a Star Trek insignia; Christi had a NASCAR auto; and Charnel had a baby bottle.

We played a team made up of employees of a local factory. The three questions:

- Name a beautiful breed of dog.
- What does a fancy restaurant have that normal restaurants do not?
- And the third escapes me.

We had control of the first question; however, there were 8 answers and after going through the line once, the responses got more difficult. Daschund and shi tsu are beautiful? Unfortunately our rivals won on a steal.

We got control of the second question as well. I blew my turn when I said "menu" was something fancy restaurants have that regular one's do not. My thinking was that the menus are at the tables and not on a board ala McDonald's and the like. A bit of controversy... Chad said "waiter" which got an X. Maitre D' was a correct response. For whatever reason, my second brother thought that the two were synonymous... Sorry, Charlie.

Our fate was sealed when I faced off at the podium for round three and for the life of me I cannot remember what the

question was. I did get the number three response but my opponent came up with the number one and they never looked back. A fun experience bonding with the siblings and there is always next year. However, I wonder if a different host could be found. Not that his honor did not do a fine job... We did stay and root on as the Perry family was crowned champions after they defeated Team Matsu (the team that dealt us our defeat).

My Game Night Wish List (which will probably lead to another banished game)

After auditions tonight, I came across a new game show that in a game night format would probably have me banned from playing. "[The Money List](#)" seems to be a update on the classic show 21 (scandals galore) in which two teams compete. The teams are made up of two complete strangers who are placed into sound proof rooms. The object of the game is to outbid the other team to complete the given list. For instance, the category is: "Scrabble Tiles That Are Worth More Than 1 Point."

To begin, one team bids on the number they can correctly guess. Then, the other team's booth is unlocked and they either bid higher or allow the other team to fill in the list. The first team to win two rounds is the winner and goes on for a chance to win \$50,000!!! by completing yet another list.

Other lists: "Number One Beatles' Singles," "U.S. Presidents Prior to 1900 (first and last names had to be given)," "Elvis

Presley Songs That Were On Billboard's Top 40 (unfortunately, the very first answer given ("That's Alright, Mama") was wrong because Billboard was not around when the song was recorded)," and "The 100 Most Populous Cities (a team actually go the bidding up to 30 but misspoke NEW Delhi, Delhi itself would have been correct)."

gsn.com has an online version of the game that I think I may peruse (perused and wish I had not).

Oh, boy, oh BOY, OH BOY... I've reached 500 !!!!
YEAHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

For The Love Of Shat

I am a self-professed game show freak... AND PROUD of it. Maybe that is why I enjoy the semi-weekly game nights. If I had a bucket list, I would put being on a game show high on that list (not number one but high). I very nearly made it on Who Wants to be a Millionaire when it had the phone in game. I made it to the second round at which point I got a phone call and had to get through another set of questions in order to progress to New York City; unfortunately, I did not pass that test.

Tonight saw the return of [Password](#), hosted by Mr. Regis Philbin. Two celebrities are paired with two contestants. Actress/comedienne [Aisha Tyler](#) and actor/director (maybe not so much... has he directed anything aside from the forgettable Star Trek V?)/author/and now, celebrity interviewer William Shatner were the stars. To say that Shatner was his normal, over-active self would be an understatement. At half-time, the celebrities switch sides, Bill nearly fell over something and almost ended flat on his face. You would have thought he

was back on the starship Enterprise being tossed around, holding onto the railing for dear life. His game play was nothing short of memorable... if you take my meaning. But he was in there punching, having a good time, and able to have a good laugh even at his own expense which has been a trademark for his 50 years in entertainment. Unfortunately, I did not find a clip of tonight's episode, but surely the memorable performance will be preserved in cyberspace very soon for all to enjoy over and over. However, here is a clip of a younger Bill playing a solo round of [Pyramid](#).

The Price WAS Right

For only the second time in the history of The Price is Right, a contestant guessed the price of his showcase EXACTLY right. Unfortunately, the other contestant at the end of the show missed her showcase by \$517.00. According to the shocked Drew Carey, the only other time this phenomenal feat occurred was in 1973 just months after the show began. I'm not one to make judgements, but to me it looked like the bidder came up with the bid awfully quick. [Check it out!](#) Something else I have been curious about. Hypothetically, if both showcase winners were to be the same amount away from the suggested retail price of the showcases, would they each win their showcase? Even more unlikely, if they were to both be within the \$250.00 range, would they indeed win both showcases? Thank goodness for [wikipedia](#), as this nearly happened. However, on a 1974 episode the differences were \$29 and \$30. And yes both contestants would win both showcases. Law suits surely would result if this were not the case. Thanks to my brother who was watching while he is laid off for the holidays.