

Rambling

I should probably introduce myself, but right now I want to talk about something else. I might introduce myself next time. Anyway, I have a friend who at the moment is having a big decision to make. Her brother and sister-in-law have invited her down to Texas to be a live-in-nanny. Her brother is going over seas and her sister-in-law, I guess doesn't want to come up here, like originally planned. I have a feeling that it might have something to do with me. I was friends once with my friend's sister-in-law, but as seeing as she married my ex, she feels like I still want him back. If she comes up here, I believe that she is worrying about running into me after all she has said about me. I have been willing to forgive her, but she doesn't want me to talk to her, so I have just let it slide right now.

Now, where was I? I seemed to have digressed. My friend doesn't know what she wants to do. She has so many friends up here, plus her family, but jobs seem to be scarce up here and she needs money to keep going to school. School is expensive and she needs to continue to make money. I have been searching for a job for awhile now, but nothing seems to be available for me. Well, except if we both want to be truck drivers. ☐ So, hopefully something will help her with her decision and we will still stay close while she is away.

Important Car Shopping Tip

We bought a new car back in November, and we're very happy with it. But I have to admit, there is a feature I forgot to check when car shopping – how is the reception for WGN radio

AM 720? Translation: will I be able to catch the Cubs games being broadcast all the way from Chicago?!?

Luckily for me, the answer is yes! Since baseball season was over when we bought the car, it didn't occur to me to check for this very essential feature in a vehicle. But today, the radio's ability was tested because as the family errand-runner, the only way for me to be able to catch any of the Cubs game was in the car between picking up kids from school, taking them to and from piano lessons, the library, etc. Not only did the Cubs game come in, but it was even better than the lousy reception our old Ford mini-van picked up last year.

So BOOLYAH! Now I am even happier with the new car and also ecstatic that I got to hear the Cubbies avoid a series sweep by the Milwaukee Brewers today. To quote Harry Caray, CUBS WIN! And to quote a friend named Morat, Everyone Wins! Ok, everyone wins who doesn't drive a Ford that is...

□

Forehand to Forehead – And Then Some

And now for some youtube fun:

VIDEO 1: [Bloody Tennis Tantrum](#)

WHO: Mikhail Youzhny, a professional tennis player

WHAT: Tennis racket vs. forehead

WHEN: Monday, March 31, 2008

WHERE: Sony Ericsson Open – Key Biscayne, FL

WHY: ??????

COMMENTS: If you are bored by tennis, the real fun starts about 30 seconds into the video. Make sure you listen to the announcers' commentary on the incident – hilarious!

VIDEO 2: [Drunk Hamster](#)

WHO: Someone's poor (?) hamster

WHAT: repeatedly doing flips

WHEN: Not important

WHERE: The Hamster's cage

WHY: Is he really drunk?

COMMENTS: I don't condone cruelty to animals, of course, but this is so funny... And he seems to be doing it because he really LIKES doing it. He doesn't seem to be getting hurt. The theme song works well with the action.

Video 3: [The Price is Right April Fool's Day Joke](#)

WHO: Drew Carey and Rich Fields vs. a contestant named Lisa

WHAT: A contestant bids on a fake showcase

WHEN: April Fool's Day 2008

WHERE: Los Angeles, CA

WHY: April Fool's Day prank

COMMENTS: I can't believe the contestant didn't get the joke earlier... guess she was distracted by being on tv, that happens. Wish I could hear what the audience was saying during the prank! Were they giving her bids, telling her it was a joke, what?

When “Good” Towns Go Bad

I guess it depends on what you would call a good town. A place we used to live called Naperville Illinois, a western suburb of Chicago, was once considered a good town. It had lots of fun things to do, relatively low crime, good schools, and lots of money. It was never my ideal place to live, however, because it was always way too crowded and had way too much traffic for my tastes. But I never considered it a *dangerous* place to live... until yesterday. Being from the Chicago area and having friends and family who still reside there means I maintain an interest in keeping up with their local news. Yesterday I came across the following newspaper article about a murder that was committed in the neighborhood where we used to live: Man Shot, Killed in Naperville

In a city the size of Naperville (about 10 square miles, with a population of over 140,000 people), this incident might not appear to be as shocking to the normal reader as it was to me. However, having lived in this neighborhood only about 7 years ago, I can't believe how much it has changed. We lived in a small townhome; it was very nice and backed up to a

school. It seemed like the perfect picture of suburbia at the time. It was VERY over-priced for what I would expect to pay for a 1.5 bedroom where I live now, (we paid \$1380 rent a month, and our place was not more than 650 square feet), however at the time I thought it was worth it because it was a "nice" area and close to family in a place I thought would be safe to raise kids. Needless to say, I was wrong on that account. In the article about the crime, the newspaper drew a nice little map. Turns out the victim (who had an arrest record himself – not that I'm judging, just noting) lived not more than 2 blocks from our old home. The victim's body was found 5 blocks from our old home. We used to take our daughter for walks around the area all the time; there was a Walgreens we used to walk to right near where the body was found. Readers who posted in the comments section of the story say how the area has become "seedy", and in the article itself, they state that the victim's home was a "high traffic area". All of this adds up to a place where I would NOT want to raise kids, let alone pay through the nose for a small place to live, only to have to worry about protecting my family from the violent crime that seems to have invaded the area. Some might say this is an isolated incident; they can say "this can happen anywhere." That IS true. Anything can happen anywhere. However, one can now say that it can happen anywhere, but it DOES happen there.

It truly makes me thankful every day that we've now found such a wonderful place to call home; away from the city and its crime, pollution, and expenses, not to mention how superficial and just downright unfriendly the residents of a town like Naperville can be. It's baffling to me that they charge EXTRA to live in a place like that! It makes me feel really good knowing that when my kids grow up and want to raise children of their own, they will have the option to stay in the wonderful town where they grew up. I did not have that option, since I grew up in a town next to Naperville, and it is no longer a good place to raise children. If my kids want

to spread their wings and fly away to explore the world and see what else is out there, that is fine. I will miss them of course, but I am quite confident that if all else fails out there, they will always have the option to return to the place where they grew up to live safely and prosperously. Country living is not for everyone, I guess, but I don't think I'll ever understand those who choose to pass up utopia for city life ☐

April Fool's – Not Over Yet!

Yet another April Fool's Day surprise awaited us when we got home tonight... seems the newest addition to the family is a little jokester. Our dog Beesley, who we've had for almost a month now, is an escape artist. We have a little mud room in the back of the house that leads to the garage, and if we don't lock the dogs out of it, Beesley can push open the door leading to the garage and escape. Apparently, tonight was one of those nights when we forgot to make sure the dogs were locked out of the mud room because when we got home and opened the garage to pull the car in, out runs Beesley. We corralled her into the car, and that's when we saw it – a HUGE mountain of garbage in the middle of the garage, along with several smaller hills of doggie-doo. Seems during her great escape into the garage, she decided to tear apart the garbage that was in there waiting for garbage day. Of course, being a family of 5, we have lots of garbage, including lots of dirty diapers. Seems little Beesley had herself such a feast that she immediately had to add doggie-doo to the mess without waiting for us to come home and let her outside to do her business. Compounding our luck had this happening on a Tuesday, which is only 2 days before garbage day, so we had just about as much garbage out there as was possible.

I've been trying to convince Hubby that we need to buy one of those mega garbage cans just to store our garbage in until garbage day ever since the local squirrels discovered we have a parrot who discards nuts into our garbage. They sneak into the garage constantly and tear little holes in the garbage bags to get at the nuts. But at least they're dainty about it, which is more than I can say for Beesley. It's just difficult to justify spending money on something that you're going to put garbage into – it's like literally throwing money away... or the reverse actually, but still... maybe now we'll be able to justify that expense a little better. April Fool's – Beesley style – YUCK!

And a side note about April Fool's Day from our local paper. No one knows how April Fool's Day came about. There's a theory that it originated when the Gregorian Calender was adopted in the 1500's. Seems there were a few folks stubborn about adopting the change of New Year's Day from April 1 to January 1, so others made fun of them, pranked them, and sent them on fool's errands, hence the origin of April Fool's Day. That is just a theory however, but equally amusing and NOT just a theory is how the country of Scotland celebrates April 1st. Apparently Scottish April Fool's Day jokes often focus on the buttocks and the day is known as Taily Day. According to our local paper, the "butts" of the Taily Day jokes are known as April "Gowk" which is another name for Cuckoo bird, and it's believed the ole "kick me" sign gag originated with these Scottish customs. I think I'll stick with good old April Fool's Day, thanks, though this year in our house, I guess you could call it Taily Day!

April Fool's!

Another April Fool's Day is upon us unfortunately. I usually escape the day unscathed, but this year, that is not the case. Seems some clever "hacker" decided to "get" us tangents.org bloggers with false threats of blog erasures...

I did not think it was funny. Maybe I'm not a good sport, but the joke hit where it hurt – how many valuable documents; including pictures, diaries, even my oldest daughter's electronic baby book, have I lost due to computer malfunctions? I'm not saying my blogs are valuable, but I have spent lots of time on them. They've also essentially replaced my family diary I was keeping since I now put most of my kids milestones in my blogs...

But I guess most people get a kick out of the day. Drew Carey even got into the spirit today on The Price is Right. They put in a joke showcase and were going to make some poor lady bid on a trip to Lebanon or someplace! I was half-watching, wish I had seen the whole thing, it seemed hilarious. But anyway, I hope others are better sports than I, and they find the blog prank funny. And I'm sorry to the gleeful jokester who really wanted to have some fun at my expense before I spoiled it. Maybe I'm just a spoiled sport because I can't think of any good pranks myself. But now that I know the playing field is wide open and I have a whole year to think about it, stay away from me this year and WATCH OUT for me next year ☐

Better Late Than Never?

Came across this news story after linking to the one about the hugely tall spire they're going to build in the Middle East:

[First Wedding Dress Shop for Pregnant Brides ONLY Opens](#)

I agree with the people who posted comments at the end of the article – what is the world coming to when maternity wedding dresses are seen as a normal need to fulfill in the buyer's market? Should we be happy that these women are getting married rather than staying single? What about the fact that they might be rushing into marriage just for the sake of getting to buy a pretty dress, or more likely, because it's becoming extremely socially acceptable, which will surely raise the already obscenely high divorce rate? And why are they bothering to make these maternity bridal gowns WHITE?

All I can say is, thank goodness this article isn't about the good old USA – but then again, we probably have an American maternity bridal store chain or two or three already.

HACKED!!

**THIS BLOG HAS BE HACKED BY
THE MAD HACKER!**

**All of your posts will be erased at
8:30PM EST!**

Fever Pitch

Originally this post was called "CUBS WIN!!!" And I followed it up with: gee, I sure hope I'm not jinxing anything by posting this. And as I was typing that, the dang Brewers scored 3 runs! Now that I've changed the title of the post, the awful half-inning ended and the Cubs are now up with a chance to save the game and have one man on base. Unfortunately for me, I will have to miss the finale and seeing if the Cubs pull it off because I can't suspend my entire life for baseball, as much as I'd like to. I already rearranged my schedule around this game today, and wouldn't you know it, there were not one, but TWO rain delays, which is why the Cubs are still playing and why I have to miss the end of the game because my poor family has gone without dinner long enough! So, hope for me and for the Cubs that they pull this off – I must say it's starting to look good with 2 men on now and NO OUTS – this game has reached a fever pitch as their pitcher is starting to choke and walk Cubs out the wazoo.... OH MY GOSH – FUKUDOME JUST HIT A 3-RUN HOMER TO TIE THE GAME!!! My daughter can stand in the rain waiting for me to pick her up, can't she? It's opening day! Is there an emoticon for fingers crossed?!?!?

The Best Man For The Job

When choosing a best man for a wedding, a future groom generally would believe that the person asked to stand with him on his wedding day would actually show up. Tuesday night, my cousin's fiancée found out that his best man had to work Saturday, the day of the wedding. DUHHHHHHH!!! How long in advance was the ceremony scheduled? I knew last May on which date the ceremony was going to be. One has to wonder where this "best man's" priorities lied.

Never fear, there were back ups in place. Hopefully, one who fit the tux. One was the groom's brother Eric who was arriving from Pennsylvania with his boyfriend, Jamie on Tuesday. Eric was already serving as an usher.

The other was a former schoolmate and friend of the groom. In the end, the schoolmate was chosen.

So when choosing your best man, maid (matron) of honor, be sure that they will actually be able to schedule your ceremony around their busy life.