

Krispy Kremes And Bean Surprise

The last week at the old grind has had a few surprises. Last Thursday with about 5 minutes to spare on my shift, two of my best friends and their two youngest happened into the store on their way to meet a prospective sitter for use when their normal sitter is not available. Apparently, there was confusion as to where the store is located since the old Super Value sign is still hanging but the Krispy Kreme sign hanging on the building struck a chord. At the time, I was putting some potato salad in the case which the customers turned down. After clocking out, they were at the register so I walked out with them.

Today, I was told that Saturday would be the last delivery day for Krispy Kreme at the store. Apparently, the location that delivers them is closing its doors... yet another victim of the rotten economy. The deliveryman who was the subject of a post a few months ago must not deliver to our store anymore... I haven't seen him since the incident.

I don't know how I got so luck today but I got the pleasure of stocking about every type of baked bean we carry: Bush's, store brand, regular, homestyle, with bourbon. The person working with me in the aisle cracked a few jokes before I got the chance... including Bart Simpson's famous axiom :

Beans, Beans

The musical fruit

The more ya eat

The more ya toot.

Ah, the wit and wisdom of the eternal ten year old eldest

child of Homer and Marge. It also made me recall the campfire scene in Blazing Saddles. I have always thought that it would be extremely dull to work in a place where you could not have some fun.

Flat Stanley To The Rescue!

The other day I got an email from my friend about an unusual request she had. I found the email quite amusing, so I'll share it:

Hi Lisa! I have a big favor to ask. Can I borrow Disney & Christopher for a photo?

It's a long story – My grandson Ben colored a "Flat Stanley" – do you know about him?

Ben sent Flat Stanley to me, and I have to send him back along with a story of adventures Stanley had while he was here. – This is a school project.

Well, I got it all done and ready to send back when I realized that Stanley didn't really have any adventures – just played with the cat, went to imagination station, went to Walmart – pretty boring stuff. And my grandson colored him as if he was a superhero!

So now I want to get him out of the envelope, come up with a superhero type adventure, and get one more photo before I send him back today.

If I can get a picture of the kids holding Stanley and

cheering for his having saved their lives, it would make my day as well as Ben's!

They don't have to be cleaned up or in good clothes or anything – just everyday cute Disney & Christopher!

If this is ok with you, let me know when to come. We can do it right there outside your house.

Thanks!

So my friend came over, and we posed the kids with Flat Stanley and even threw in the parrot to make his adventures more exotic. Here is the result:

Dear Ben,

Thank you for sending Flat Stanley to stay with me for a few days. We had a nice time together!

The first day, Stanley played with Peanut, and then after lunch took a nap with him. Later, we went to Imagination Station where Stanley climbed everywhere, and took a tumble on the highest level! That night, he slept in the bed in the guest room where your parents sleep when all of you come to visit. He had plenty of room!

The second day, Stanley climbed a tree in my back yard. He chased the squirrels up and down the trees, but they were much faster runners and tree climbers!

Later, we took a walk and had a real adventure! We saw a baby who had fallen near the street, and his sister was crying because she couldn't pick him up. Suddenly, a huge brightly colored bird came swooping down toward the baby!

Stanley, being in his superhero costume, knew just what to do! He jumped up and blocked the bird away from the baby, scooped him up and carried him to the steps of their house. The sister was so happy that her little brother was ok, and their mother came running. She was so grateful to Flat Stanley!

On the last day here, we went to Wal Mart to get these pictures developed. I know Stanley had fun while he was here, but he was glad to be folded into his envelope for the trip back home. I'll bet you were glad to see him too!

Love, Grandma



The picture quality isn't very good because those are actually pictures of pictures – my friend gave me printed pictures, and I don't know how to use our scanner. Needless to say (before you call the child welfare people on me), much of the drama in the story was added for the purpose of Flat Stanley having had an adventure – he was dressed as a superhero, after all! But I just got a big kick out of the entire episode and thought it would make for some cute blogging material. I had heard of Flat Stanley before, how about you? Any Flat Stanley adventures you'd like to share?

Things are looking up again

I am sitting here at the computer still a little shocked by the news I heard today. I really cannot believe that I will have a job again in June! Even though Goodwill is not going to be open to the public until late summer, I and my co-workers will be there to help get the store ready for business. I will, of course, have to take off a weekend, just so I can get married, but I am sure that Sarah will not mind. Especially since it is during the early part of June. I will need four days off, but then I will be back to work. Friday, even though I do not like it, I really need to take off. I already made plans for that day and I need to keep to it. I have a hair appointment and then of course, there is the rehearsal. I am hoping to get my friends, and my sisters (if my married

sisters can get away from their husbands) together that day, just to hang out with me and those who want to, to spend the night. But I am getting off the topic. With my job coming back to me in June, it will help Tony and I pay rent on his parents' house. They are moving to West Unity and are willing to let Tony and I stay at the old house! Also, I might be able to move up and be a head cashier, which will give me a little bit more money, more hours (up to 30) and insurance! That is really good for us, since right now, we do not have anything. The down side is that being a head cashier will put a damper on being the in church choir. ☐ I love to sing and I love being in the choir, but this seems like a good place for me. It will look good on a resume for a different job and at the moment, Tony and I need the money. Of course, it all depends on whether or not Sarah thinks I should have the job. I will have to have an interview and everything, so if that goes well, I can have a job back and a new position! I really hope things go really well for me. Thanks to everyone who kept me in their prayers and thoughts!

Silence and the Truth



The last time I wrote, I forgot about a big detail from Friday. I have been subbing for a few years now and I must either have been in elementary schools on this particular day, or in districts that don't support it. The day I'm referring to is the day of silence. This is a day where non-heterosexual students, and those who support them, make vows of silence (which many don't keep outside of the classroom by the way) as a response to the bullying many receive. Being what and who I am, I cannot support their lifestyle of course, but neither do I support people bullying them. As such I do support their right to make this particular point. However, in doing so it does bring to the forefront their lifestyle for

everyone to see and discuss during schooltime, so naturally I support the counterpoint that follows on the next school day- the Day of Truth. The truth being that this lifestyle is dangerous, particularly for males, and it is counter to God's Word. As such, some Christians started this day in response, though I understand many schools that support the DoS do not support the DoT even though it is completely run by students and so doesn't fall under separation of church and state. This year there were some who promoted a Christian walkout on Friday, but I think this person has a better Christian response:

I propose instead of walking out, that evangelical kids pledge to do better, to do things differently.

Last year, on the Day of Silence, Campus Crusade for Christ Regional Director, Michael Frey and I promoted the idea that students in high school and college take the [Golden Rule Pledge \(LINK\)](#). In response to silent peers advocating for safety and respect, we hope evangelical kids will agree and pledge to treat others the way they want to be treated in return. Over 30 schools took part last year, and we hope this year we can build more bridges instead of walls.

[Click this link](#) to go to Dr. Warren Throckmorton's blog to read the whole thing. Anyway, the school I was at supported the DoS in a big way, even giving students packs of notes they could hand to teachers in each class they were in. I really didn't do much about it, though as I said I (silently) supported their right to do this, and at the same time I treated it as a small blessing- fewer students talking in class ☐ . Unfortunately Monday I was in an elementary school in supersized district so I have no idea if the Day of Truth meant anything at Friday's school.

I Smell A Rat...

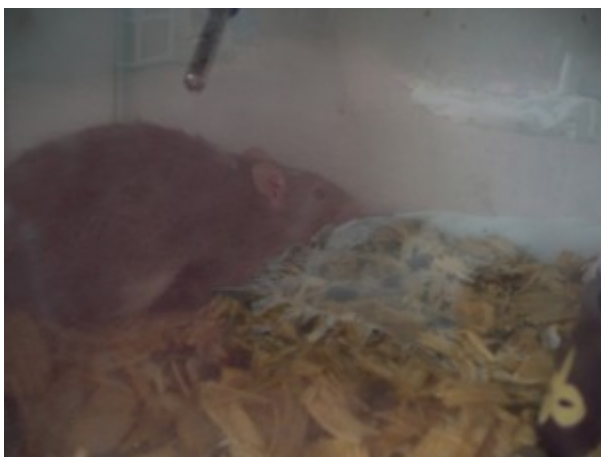
Make that 4 rats. We now have 4 pet rats. How did that happen, you ask? A bit of mistaken identity when they were picked out at the pet store resulted in rat babies? No, all 4 are male – I don't think there's any mistaking that. What happened is this...

We got our two pet rats, and the kids' friends decided they wanted pet rats. This family has a history of obtaining and disposing of pets at a record rate. It bugs the heck out of me, but I don't want to say anything to them and step over the boundary of telling people how to raise their kids. We took a cat they decided they didn't want anymore, but we had to give it back because our dog was constantly trying to eat her and I was more allergic to that cat than I am to most cats. So anyway, this family is notorious for getting pets and then "getting rid" of them when they're tired of them, want new pets, or just plain can't take care of them anymore. To a degree, circumstances like these are understandable. We had to "get rid" of a dog because she bit my daughter in the face – understandable that we can't have a dog in the house who bites kids when we have 4 kids. Getting "rid of her" upset me at the time, but I also knew there was no choice. I'm putting "get rid" in quotes because it's a term I don't like to use about pets. I don't like to think that this is something people should regularly do with animals. I'm a firm believer in pets being commitments – you must keep them until they pass away (extenuating circumstances don't count – stuff happens sometimes, but not to EVERY pet, as in the case with this family). You need to do all the research about care before you obtain the pet; such as cleaning up after it and how much it will cost to feed it – which is why our daughter's friend's

family needed to “get rid” of their rats.

It was a fine line to walk. I don't want to encourage these people to get more pets by taking their leftovers, but on the other hand, I'm an animal lover, and I can only imagine what would happen to unwanted rats (snake food, turned loose in a field = hawk or cat or coyote food, etc). Besides, my kids have been just GREAT about caring for their pet rats. I barely know the rats are in the house, except when I actually have time to play with them, which is exactly how I wanted it. The girls feed and water their rats, clean the cage weekly, and play with them and give them exercise daily. So how could I say no to getting their friends' rats and yes to sending them to certain doom?

So, yes, we now have 4 rats in the house. Please don't start calling me 'crazy rat lady'; it wasn't entirely my fault; I was just trying to help! Here are the new additions – Buckeye and well, I can't remember his name, so here is Buckeye and what's his name (his head is barely visible underneath Buckeye – he looks just like Oreo, one of our original rats).



And while I'm at it, here are our original rats, Oreo and Bobby Jack:



My Bookshelf 0' Rats – just what I've always wanted ☐



More Melancholy...

Things have been up and down these past few days for me. Semi-enjoyable day Saturday with the filming of the Clinic (see posts from others). Very nice evening Sunday watching my daughter in her show choir. Monday I was able to 'Save the Day' by delivering some Fruit Loops... ☐ However, (you saw this coming with the title) things aren't good.

A good friend's son died over the weekend. Young with his whole life ahead of him. Sad, so very sad. The other thing in my life that happened isn't for blogging.

There are times when things just seem to stack up, and this is one of them. Up then down. Down then up. Mini Roller Coaster compared to other times in my life, but uncomfortable anyway.

Just my time to vent a bit.

You Say It's Your Birthday... Well It's My Birthday, Too

I was feeling rather curious to tonight and I decided to check out celebrities who celebrate (or celebrated) their birthday the same day as I do.

- I have known for years that Fred Gwynne (Herman Munster from *The Munsters* and Judge Chamberlain Haller from the hilarious *My Cousin Vinnie*) was born on July 10th.
- Phyllis Smith who plays (ironically) Phyllis on *The Office*. Isn't it curious that many of the supporting cast members share the first name as the actor playing them? For instance, Oscar Nunez plays Oscar; Angela Kinsey plays Angela; and perhaps most ironic, Creed Bratton plays Creed Bratton (but has his last name on the show ever been established).
- Jake LaMotta the boxer who was the basis for the movie *Raging Bull*.
- Jonathan Gilbert (Willie Olsen from *Little House on the Prairie* who is the brother of Melissa "Laura" Gilbert and half brother of Sara "Darlene #1 from *Roseanne*").

There were 3 pages full of celebrities who share my birthday. Some I would call infamous and some I have no idea who they are. Follow the [link](#) to see who shares your special day.

The Race for the Comment

I was recently amused when a few of my blogging friends were talking about which post had the most comments. So, this morning I thought I would quickly look for a cool image (below) that everyone would have to comment on... I think I found one! What is the boy in this picture doing!?!?!



Now, after seeing the photo, [click here to hear a sound effect](#) that will answer the question – WHAT is the boy in this picture doing?

Yet Another Rainy Day And Monday

Well... after a long and blessedly eventful weekend, I had my regular Monday off. I usually spend an hour or two cleaning my mother's beauty shop. I did not mind today since the weather outside did not look too inviting after a decent Saturday and Sunday was a blah one, too (I guess the old adage that if it rains on Easter Sunday you can expect 6 Sundays of the same does not mean the same if it is opposite... meaning: If it does not rain on Easter Sunday, you can expect 6 Sundays of no rain. Kind of like a groundhog predicting the weather).

So after spending some time chatting with a sick friend hoping to dispel some of her dreariness and getting to see a teaser

of the short film we began shooting on Saturday, I read a bit while the suds were on television (YUCK) and found that the Yankees were on tv tonight. After the first series at the new stadium with the Indians ended in a 2-2 split (we **WILL NOT** mention the happening of Saturday afternoon. Remarkably, they now stand at a 7-6 record), I was looking forward to the beginning of a new round with the Oakland As). Hopefully, the announcers would be a bit more even in their commentating than the seriously one-sided announcers on the Cleveland net. I may sound biased but those announcers were terribly pro-Indian. Unfortunately at 7PM, ESPN announced the bad news: The NY/Oakland game has been postponed due to rain. Guess I should have kept a better eye on the weather in the Bronx: at 2:00, it was cloudy, but rain was forecasted. I was in the same predicament as [Taylhis](#) last night. Maybe I will catch up on some of the 70+ *Simpsons* episodes I have waiting on the DVR. Honestly, who has time for regular tv viewing anymore? Well... the occasional Thursday night from 8-9.30 but aside from that...

The Clinic – A Preview

As you may or may not know, my husband – the almighty admin – wrote a play called “The Clinic”. We spent last Saturday turning it into a short film. Here is a teaser...