

Time and then some

Today, I didn't forget to help at the theater. Yesterday I did. Time slipped away from me. I would like to say prior commitments prevented me, but I was back in time to help out. I just forgot. Time passed me by.

Now I look at the clock and see it well past time to get some sleep. But I was working on some video editing and sleep won't come.

Life is all about change. And my life is changing. Time ticks down the events of my life and the life of my friends and family. My family is growing again. For those who don't know, I 'adopt' each of my daughters' husbands. They are my sons. The good part about this is that they are grown sons, and I don't have to 'raise' them. As long as they treat my daughters with respect, I will treat them as one of my family. Some may say this is an honor, it could also be a curse. Talk to my daughters sometime. I expect a lot from them, and have rarely been disappointed. I've always felt that they have made their ways in life because of what was expected of them. I always wanted them to give their best effort in the things they do. Never perfection (that is almost unattainable, until you inherit it. □ family joke), but to give their best. I now expect that from my sons (and the 'future' son). That way I can expect the 'best' for their growing families.

Time, it slips by and things change. Sometimes for the better, sometimes for the worse. Life is what you can make it, or so I've been told. Time slips by, and things stay they same.

Feelin' Groovy And Yet Not So Groovy

I recently posted on my friend from high school who went to her first movie audition a few weeks ago. Today, she came into the store looking rather depressed. As I was waiting on her, I asked what was wrong. Thier family dog had just passed away. I still remember being really upset for a long time after losing MY dog so I knew how she felt.

However, she did have some good news. Monday was the day she was to get any callbacks for the movie. She got a call from the director and SHE GOT THE PART! She was absolutely floored. The director said that her casting was totally unanimous. Excellent for a first-time auditioner! I have only been told that my casting in any role was unanimous one time and it was not the first time I ever auditioned. I was not able to ask for details and Peg did not look like she was in the mood to discuss it. But from what little I know, she is cast in the role of the mother in a horror film (ironic that she is the wife of a church pastor... wouldn't you say?). Apparently, the shoot starts in June in Coldwater. Peg also told me that she has definitely decided to minor in film at UT after one of the faculty advised her to. Doesn't it just give you a great feeling to know that you helped someone achieve something special in some small way? Congrats, Peg.

A wet, snowy journey home

It seems as if yesterday I skipped over Saturday morning, so I guess I will go back to it before skipping ahead to Sunday.

Saturday morning several of us met at Ritzy's (did I get that right?) for breakfast. For those who weren't there, they somehow interpreted a party of 12 as a party of 20, so here were five tables put together in a C shape. Most people sat together, but Jamiahsh and I kind of sat alone on the opposite side, though in my defense there was only one seat between C and I. The eldest girls and their cousin Austin had some fun being little animals under the table. The look on J's face when he was caught unawares one time was priceless- sorry J! ☐

Following breakfast (oh yes, the food was good) L's family bid farewell and headed out. The rest of us headed back to C and L's house. The girls invited J and myself into their room to play with their pet rats. Now, I never had rats growing up, but we did have hamsters, gerbils and guinea pigs at various times so I was familiar with rodent pets and didn't freak like the preschool teacher mentioned in T's blog. I was happy when they didn't relieve themselves on me during this playtime as often happens with rodents. After we had enough of the rats, T took us into their closet and showed us some Viewmaster (R.I.P.) slides on the ceiling using their projector. Call me old-fashioned, but I think the whole point of the Viewmaster was lost by using the projector, that of the images in 3D. I think we went through their entire library. Finally, T and S put on a puppet show for J and me, during which time I was called away and we finished organizing our fun activity- see previous blog entry.

So... Sunday rolled around and I got up and showered, then went to Mickey D's for a small breakfast before church. Too bad for me it was 10:28 and they had just closed breakfast. I'm I the only one who thinks anything before 11AM should be considered breakfast? I must be in the minority, else why would McD's have changed to 10:30 so long ago and stuck with it? So breakfastless, I headed to the house. Fortunately I had bought a box of Crunch and Munch at the dollar store the previous day. That worked.

We headed to their church, which I had to admit was pretty nice. I'm not sure I liked their pastor's preaching style, but that's probably because I'm used to my own pastor constantly on the move while he gives his sermons. I did enjoy the worship time though. Following this service T, who had gone to children's church was waiting for us- apparently grade school kids can be trusted to be let out on their own, or maybe their teachers were still watching, I don't know. The younger ones still needed to be retrieved from their rooms though. After church, we headed to a hotel by the turnpike for brunch. There was no waiting time to be seated as there were plenty of seats, but there was definitely some waiting to get the food. I would have to rate this meal lower than Saturday's breakfast unfortunately, but at least I could eat as much as I wanted since it was a buffet.

Back at the house again, C and L pulled out their Office board game and we played. Unfortunately, I learned that seeing every episode only once, including deleted scenes for seasons 2-4, did not mean in any way shape or form that I would remember the details. I did manage to get three Dundies, though once by a complete guess and once because C pretty much gave the answer away (thanks!). L won the day though, but even C earned more than me even though he took the harder ("regional manager") questions while I barely managed the "assistant to the regional manager" ones. Oh, well. Finally, they had to do some cleaning for the meeting that night and I bid my farewell. This, however, doesn't end the post...

As most of my readers here are well aware, Sunday was a day of rain, starting after brunch. For much of the trip driving was fine, but as it got later it started coming down pretty hard. The worst parts were the trucks- just approaching one would cause a torrent of water to be unleashed onto the windshield from their wheels. Passing them was a nail-biting experience. Remember- the speed limit for trucks is 15MPH less than for cars until Illinois. Speaking of Illinois, when

I got there- you think I'm going to say traffic, don't you? Well, traffic can be a hassle, but I lucked out. While there were some traffic spots, for the most part it was fairly light for suburban Chicago. Maybe people just weren't driving because of the sleet. That's right- the rain turned into sleet and snow. Wonderful. No longer was it a nail-biting experience just to pass a truck- now just driving was problematic. But as I said, traffic wasn't bad at all and I did manage to make it home in one piece. Next time I think I will check the weather report before I leave, even if it might mean having to leave earlier.

So, that was my weekend, how was yours? ☐

Chasing The Frog

When friend and fellow blogger Derek came to visit last weekend, he brought along his blu-ray player. For those of you who don't know, that's a type of movie player which plays a special kind of dvd in high definition – hope I explained that well enough; it's not like I know that much about it myself. So anyway, we chose the movie 21 – even though I've seen it, it was interesting to see it in superior visual quality. I really didn't think I'd notice a difference – it's not my style to care about such things, but I actually did notice the clarity. I could actually see the grain on the paper of the deck of playing cards. And the opening scenes of the movie are sweeping views of the city of Boston, which were really enjoyable eye candy on the blu-ray.

So anyway, while watching the movie again, I began to wonder exactly how much of it is a true story. I have my laptop right in the living room, so I looked it up while watching the

movie. It was interesting because Jeff Ma, the “real” Ben Campbell (the main character in 21) actually makes a cameo in the movie -and I found this out in enough time to be able to spot him. I found out a bunch of other interesting info as well, and [here is a cool site](http://chasingthefrog.com) called chasingthefrog.com where you can compare famous movies with the stories upon which they were based. Here I found out that Jack Dawson’s sketches in the Oscar-winning movie Titanic were actually drawn by the movie’s director, James Cameron. Not that I can stand that movie – it think it’s horribly exploitative to invent a romantic plot not even remotely based on reality about an historical disaster which claimed thousands of lives. I decided to give it a shot once, and I tried to open my mind a little, but I still didn’t like what I saw – it seemed cheesy, hokey, and unrealistic, not to mention that it almost cheapened the very horrendous event whose story it attempted to tell. Anyway, I also found out from this site that there was only one black victim of the Titanic disaster – a second class passenger named Joseph Phillippe Lemerrier Laroche. As the website tells it, he loaded his wife and daughters onto a life boat and went down with the ship. Even more sadly, his wife gave birth to their son later that year. Here is a family picture:



The site only has a handful of movies to compare to actual events, but its comparisons are very interesting and

insightful; including a picture to picture comparison of people and the actors who portrayed them – very cool, check it out!

The Plays The Thing

Our community theatre, in it's infinite wisdom, has decided to limit the number of musicals to one per season. I suppose that I can see the need for this. A good, well-known musical is much more expensive to produce than a play. However, it has been pointed out time and again that musicals are the bread and butter of most theatres and if the right musical is chosen and performed well, they generally bring in more money than most plays. Most of the musicals I have either been involved with or heard about have done well (with one exception but the reasons for the financial loss were many).

The problem is... trying to find plays that will bring in audiences. It has been suggested that we attempt to focus on seasonal shows. In October, I cannot wait to be part of the all cast production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. In December, we are performing *Miracle on 34th Street*. Both shows would appeal to the seasons.

For next season, we already have the musical locked in. *Taffetas* is going to be done in October 2010. I suggested doing another Christmas show like *A Christmas Story* (yes the movie has been turned into a stage play that I think would be a riot to perform). There are also any number of versions of Dickens' perennial favorite, *A Christmas Carol*. I also mentioned via email a suggestion given to me for future October shows: *Dracula*. Are there any other shows that would fit into other seasons? A good romantic comedy for February.

Something like *Honk!* for future spring shows?

Or another possibility, our theatre has within it at least two people who have the fantastic knack of playwriting. Many times, these are given spots entitled "independent projects." I think that if someone has a piece ready for performance it should be included as part of the season.

So, if any of my readers hiding in the shadows have any suggestions, please come out and suggest them. I still think that it would not hurt to do *Romeo and Juliet*. I know most people cringe at the idea of bringing Shakespeare to a small stage, but I say why not take a chance?

An aluminum weekend

Sing with me... "*Friday night I crashed your party, Saturday I said I'm sorry...*" Okay, so I was actually invited but then the song doesn't quite fit. Oh well. Anyway, this story starts before Friday, actually earlier this week. I was given advice to see what represented a 10th wedding anniversary. So I did a web search and found [this site](#) with information on anniversaries. We all know about silver and gold wedding anniversaries, but the years leading up to them are rather short of the glamour silver and gold bring, with things like paper, cotton, leather, and wood. 10th anniversary is tin or aluminum, so I got the idea to purchase them some snacks in tins. Well, apparently stores only sell snacks in tins around Christmastime- they were nowhere to be found. I finally found something kind of lame at Meijer, but it was in a tin. I would be giving them another gift along with it so I figured as long as the idea got across the tin would be fine. Next day, I had a job in 8th grade and I noticed the teacher had a

tin in his room- full of puzzles. Ding- of course. *Games and puzzles can come in tins, and my friends are wild for games!* So, back in Meijer after school I found some options in domino sets (double 6, 9, and 12), and *Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader* Disney edition. I leaned toward the dominos, but decided to check Walmart across the street first. Good thing, as their domino sets were half the price of Meijer's! But wait, they had several more items in tins including a classic game set, a couple of jigsaw puzzles, and a *Phase 10* card game. It took me awhile to decide what to get, but C & L know what the final selection was. So, I wrapped them up, found a half-day job for Friday AM, went to bed, couldn't sleep, canceled the job at about 4:30 after only short bursts of sleep, went back to bed until 9:30, then got up, finished getting ready, ate, and headed to Ohio, stopping only once for gas and a snack (what a sentence, whew!). Once I finally gave the gifts away later in the evening C guessed something about me wrapping the gifts in tin foil and I had to kick myself for not thinking of it. Well, the paper was the color of tin anyway.

Backing up just a little, I arrived at 3:45 and checked into the motel. \$25 per night- even better than the amazing \$29 C told me on the phone! Not too many frills, but I wouldn't be there except to sleep so I didn't care. I finally arrived at the theatre around 5:40 and discovered several people were already there and I didn't really need to delay at the motel as long as I did. I saw C's mom for the first time in a long time, as well as the rest of the family and friends there. Once they started it was short but emotional. One of the two (I won't say which, though most of you readers already know!) broke down while reading which only added to the powerful sincerity of what s/he said. Then it was off to the reception across the street where I had my second meal of the day (I skipped lunch) and, well I'll just skip ahead since this part is already in my friends' blogs. We all had a good time. When we went to their house afterward, they graciously allowed

the few of us to stay for a short time and we had a fun few rounds of a Tribond game before we all retired for the night.

The next day they gave me some options for a fun, family activity- drive an hour to the Toledo Zoo or even longer to an animal park. Umm... Since I drove four hours the day before and would drive four hours again the next day, the animal park was really a no-go. The zoo might have been an option, but I had seen the zoo just a year before around the same time of year so we finally decided to go to town. It wasn't bad. The important part was just hanging out together, so it really didn't matter much what we did. The kids enjoyed some playtime at Menards, and then we went to a couple other places, including a few runs of go-karting (their eldest was visibly upset when she was asked to sit out first since not all could go at once, but I think she got over it after going twice in a row. Everyone- including us adults as we had to watch their youngest who couldn't ride- rode two out of the three runs) before having dinner at a pizza buffet. Since it was a Chuck-E-Cheese style (somewhat) place I wasn't expecting much from the pizza, but it was actually pretty good. Not Gino's East or Giordano's good, but for sure better than Dominos or Little Caesar's. They even took requests, so I jokingly asked for something with jalapeños, and they actually obliged- not an unusual request I guess. Well, when they have peanut butter and jelly pizza I guess nothing's unusual! The kids had their fun at the games there, and then we rented a blu-ray movie to watch through my computer on their HDTV. Unfortunately, due to draconian copy protection and software issues it took some time to get the movie going, but we were glad when we finally did.

Hmm. This post is getting a little long so I think I will chop it here with a:



Why Your Dog REALLY Goes Outside

I really hope I'm not condoning cruelty here, but I found the following video I got in an email forward so amusing. I figure in this era of photoshop and trick videography and the like, no one was harmed in the filming of the video, right?

Why your dog REALLY goes outside:

I'm still alive

I think...

New post coming soon- I hope. I have a couple of things I want to post, but I'm really tired just now.

Bird Meet Hamster

In earlier days, my family had quite a menagerie of pets (just not more than two at a time. When we moved to town when I was the tender age of 6 months, we got MY dog, Buffy from the wonderful friends who sold us the house. I loved my poodle a lot. The summer after I completed the 4th grade, Buffy had to be put to sleep. She was really ill. Arthritis had set in so badly, that she could not walk upon or down the porch steps. The poor girl would not eat and shivered all the time. So one day, my parents took her to the vet, unbeknownst to me.

In addition to Buffy, we had a total of three cats (not all at once, but one in particular that I know I have posted about). The poodle would go crazy when approached by the felines. I don't think it was the stereotypical dog vs. cat scenario but more like playful chasing around the house.

The Christmas after Buffy was put down, we received a blue parakeet from our "grandparents". We named her Corky after "Grandma" Margaret. One summer while on break from college, my brother brought home Skippy the hamster whom he "saved." The parakeet must have become jealous because he would imitate

the hamster by walking around on the floor and following it. I remember going so far as to put the bird inside the hamster's ball and seeing her attempt to roll it.

There's Always Tomorrow

I see by the ol' [tangents](#) homepage, that there are two blogs which have yet to see any posts. I am certain that these two very talented and resourceful individuals can come up with brilliant things to pique our curiosity. One of them has vowed to make her first posting AFTER April 1st. It is now nearing April 7th.

As for my day, I spent a few hours typing the script for a new version of [Seven Brides for Seven Brothers](#). The only things I know about the original movie musical is that it featured the original Catwoman (Julie Newmar) as one of the brides and there is a lot of dancing involved. Obviously, it deals with a group of seven brothers in search of seven brides. This version transports the action to twenty-first century Alaska and the age of laptop computers among other phenomena of the day. There is music and very little dancing (none that I could not handle, anyway) involved.

Then, I WAS looking forward to opening day. The outcome was not pleasurable at least for the Bronx Bombers and their multi-million dollar lead off pitcher, C.C. Sabathia. Four and two-thirds innings. Six runs, eight hits, five walks, two wild pitches in one inning, and no strikeouts. The Yanks' second big money hopeful, Mark Teixeira did not fare well either going 0-4 at the plate. Teixeira was also eyeballed during the off-season by the Baltimore Orioles and the Orioles faithful showed their disapproval as they booed the Maryland

native unmercifully at each at bat. The pressure for any new Yankee must be immense. It was a good thing that opening day was not at the new stadium because I am sure that the reaction would not have been pretty by fans in the Bronx. Ah, well one game down. Can only go up from here. At least the Cubbies were victorious. Sorry j, I see the Tigers were unsuccessful on opening day as well.