

Multitasking

As I sit here typing away at this blog, I have three other computer related tasks going on. I'm transcoding/burning two DVD's, I have a load of laundry going, I'm re-installing some software on another computer, and finally checking out a laptop to make sure everything is working properly. If you include the fact that one of the DVD's is being burned on a Linux box, you could say I'm learning a different OS too. Why am I doing all of this now? Good question, and it is one I asked myself. I spent the better part of this evening installing some new and improved hardware on my main computer. It is the one I do most of my DVD work on, and I was just bogging the system down. I noticed I was able to transcode and burn a DVD faster on my laptop, than the main box. Something isn't not quite right there. I knew I had a problem with the video card in the main box, so I swapped that out.. I also put in a dual core processor, since that is what my laptop has in it. After all that work I had to put the machine through its paces, didn't I? And Now I think the box with twice as much memory, a faster processor, and more disks space finally catches up with the laptop. I don't think my hard drives on the desktop are nearly as fast, and I think that is what is slowing the desktop up this time...

Dryer buzzer, time to get the laundry.

Humor again at last

Just one joke, but an interesting one. Yes, even Christians can laugh at jokes about hell. As usual, I claim no ownership whatsoever of this stuff I dredge up on the 'net:

Dr. Schambaugh, of the University of Oklahoma School of Chemical Engineering, Final Exam question for May of 1997. Dr. Schambaugh is known for asking questions such as, "why do airplanes fly?" on his final exams. His one and only final exam question in May 1997 for his Momentum, Heat and Mass Transfer II class was: "Is hell exothermic or endothermic? Support your answer with proof."

Most of the students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law or some variant. One student, however, wrote the following:

"First, We postulate that if souls exist, then they must have some mass. If they do, then a mole of souls can also have a mass. So, at what rate are souls moving into hell and at what rate are souls leaving? I think we can safely assume that once a soul gets to hell, it will not leave.

Therefore, no souls are leaving. As for souls entering hell, let's look at the different religions that exist in the world today. Some of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, then you will go to hell. Since there are more than one of these religions and people do not belong to more than one religion, we can project that all people and souls go to hell. With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in hell to increase exponentially.

Now, we look at the rate of change in volume in hell. Boyle's Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in hell to stay the same, the ratio of the mass of souls and volume needs to stay constant. Two options exist:

- 1. If hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter hell, then the temperature and pressure in hell will increase until all hell breaks loose.*
- 2. If hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase*

of souls in hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until hell freezes over.

So which is it? If we accept the quote given to me by Theresa Manyan during Freshman year, "that it will be a cold night in hell before I sleep with you" and take into account the fact that I still have NOT succeeded in having sexual relations with her, then Option 2 cannot be true...Thus, hell is exothermic."

The student, Tim Graham, got the only A.

Memory not as sharp as it used to be?

Memory for remembering scripts that is. We all know about my memory for names and faces by now. Memorizing scripts used to be a breeze, but now I just can't seem to get it right. I had two weeks this time, and it was better, but I still changed a few of my lines because I couldn't quite remember them. I know part of this is actual rehearsal time- we seem to be able to run through it an average of 1.5 times before the performance- but even with this handicap I feel I had a better handle on the memorization at the beginning of the year.

Today we also had a crisis getting props together. There was supposed to be a squirt gun, for example, but I had to improvise by using a flashlight instead (cool flashlight by the way, in the shape of a cordless drill so I think it worked). Also I had to make a backpack have *some* semblance of a rocket jet pack using some printed graphics and rolled-up paper tubes. Of course the tape on this and another prop

failed. I will have to bring duct tape for the two groups tomorrow.

And now, I have to study the lesson for tomorrow's 4th/5th grade class- it is my turn to teach again, and this time I have more than a half-hour notice so it needs to sound like it. ☐

Watching Paint Dry

There are two sports that I really cannot stand to watch. I realize that this may put me in the minority especially in this area where it seems that both sports seem to have legion of fans (particularly in my own family).

The first is NASCAR racing. How anyone can sit for 3-4 or sometimes 5 hours at a time watching cars go around and around a track is beyond me. My mother regales us with stories of her youth and spending weekends at the area race track watching local drivers compete. I can sit through maybe an hour of televised auto racing before I excuse myself and do something more constructive. I do enjoy cheering for my favorite drivers. These are not the more popular stars including Dale Earnhardt, Jr., Jeff Gordon, etc. I chose to chose the most colorful name I can think of, usually one who is nowhere near competing. Names like Dick Trickle (Tricky Dicky or Trick Dickle as I used to call him), Hideo Fukuyama (I wonder if he is related to Chicago Cubs acquisition Kosuke Fukudome sorry if I insulted the new Cubs outfielder), or my new favorite... AJ Allmendinger.

My second favorite sport to fall asleep to is professional golf. Honestly, whenever I hear that someone hit a birdie I say... what kind? At a recent extended family gathering where

everyone was gathered around the television quietly waiting for Tiger Woods or some other player to take a shot, I shouted **"THREE AND A HALF!!!!"** They were not amused. When I want to watch golf on television I stick with the classics: *Caddyshack* and *Happy Gilmore*. And if I want to play a good round, I much prefer going eighteen holes at the area miniature golf course.

Sometimes I really think I would prefer watching paint dry or worse yet.... The multi-colored bar code test pattern on the television screen HAHAHA.

More on the movies

I was just wondering why movies based on comic books always start with the character introduction. Why do we go back to Superman getting sent to Earth? Why see Batman's parents shot over and over again? Why see Peter Parker get bit by that spider? Why go into all of this?

I realize that not everyone has read the comic books that these characters are based on, and they do need to know a little about the character, but can't there be a better way?

What got me thinking on this was one of my favorite movies has a larger than life hero. In the first movie, we weren't given a big background on his character. He was just there, larger than life and doing many things just in the first 5-10 minutes of the movie... It took Peter Parker 1/2 the movie before he even became Spiderman. The first Batman movie with Michael Keaton was actually good in this, but *Batman Begins* went to the Introduction again...

Why can't we have a Super Hero movie, where the first time we see the character he is already the Hero. (Again, Batman with

Michael Keaton did this, and so did “V for Vendetta”.) If we really need the back story, it can be filled in with short flash backs or dialog on screen. I think it would be more fun for the general audience just to see the characters unfold. To learn their strengths and weaknesses as the movie unfolds.

Until putting these thoughts down, I never really understood why this is now the standard practice for all “Superhero” movies. I now have a theory. Superhero movies are done in this fashion for the main purpose of selling the sequel. We get an “introduction”, and the design is to leave the movie wanting more. The last 20 minutes or so are filled with the big fight scenes and mass destruction. The audience is left with many unanswered questions (not in that introduction). They are left wanting (maybe subconsciously) more. Then the next movie is released. Just my thoughts.

Oh, that hero that just started doing his thing at the beginning of the movie. The one we didn’t really know much background on until the third movie was released? The one where another movie is soon to be released? That would be Indiana Jones...

Comic Books, Movies and things I think about them

I’ve been watching the Animated Superman DVD’s I picked up. I also went to see [Iron Man](#) last night. So I thought I would try and explain what I like and don’t like in movies/shows based on comic books.

For some insight, I’ve only purchased comic books on rare occasions, most of the time I would borrow them from somebody

else. My college roommate was/and still is a collector of comic books. I still go to a sight or two to try to keep up with what is going on. I generally liked most comic books I've read, but have really come to appreciate what they can do in the movies. Finally the movies can make the heroes of the comics do all the things they were able to in those comic pages.

My first objective to any movie, comic book based or otherwise, is very simple: When I leave the movie, did I enjoy myself? Nothing other than that. After that I will start look for other things in the movie. If based on a book or story I know, did it follow the thing it was based on. If not, why not? Was the acting good? Did I see the actor, or the character? That's it, not much deeper than that. This does explain why I've liked movies that other people just can't stand.

For comic book movies, I add one more item. Based on the technology of the day, did the comic action seem real? Why say based on tech, well the latest Superman film released had much better tech than the Superman movies with Christopher Reeve. But for its time, the older Superman movies did as well as they could, they were some of the best SFX during that time frame. I expect more from new movies than I do from older movies.

Now onto the movies...

Most of the Superman animated I've watched have been decent shows. The story lines on some of them would have made better movies than anything released to date. These seem to follow what I remember from the comic books better than any movie has done. In short, I am entertained by them. Well worth the money spent. I will tend to watch some of the shows more often than others, but as a set they are at least a 3 out of 5 stars.

Ironman... I left the movie and could honestly say I had enjoyed

it. There were parts that made me do some thinking (planned by the filmmakers of course), but that is what I expected going into the show. As with most of the comic book movies, there is a need to introduce the character to people who never read the comic. There is the big 3 of course (Superman, Batman and Spiderman) that could have gotten by without the "introduction" movie, but it seems that most others have to have that. Ironman was an introduction movie. We are given a background of the character, and how he became "Ironman", then the major "comic book" action sequence takes place. Without giving too much away, I found that the actors became the characters. Even though I knew most of them from other movies, they became the parts they played. Good writing and acting all around, I give this movie one of my better reviews scores.... I'll buy it when released.

My review scores for movies are (from best to worst) Both See it again categories will mean that I get the DVD later.

See it again (At the high priced place)

See it again (Cheap seats)

Buy the DVD when released

Rent the DVD when released

I'll watch if someone else has it

I don't ever want to see it again

Can I have my money back?

Leave the theater, and never tell anyone I saw it (you won't ever see this review mark, but if you ask about a movie, and I say I haven't seen it. Well I guess I could have, but it was a real stinker in my estimation.)

Recent Movie Ratings...

Spiderman I II and III all were See it again (cheap seats)

Superman Returns that was really a rent when the DVD comes out, but I bought it for my DVD collection of Superman movies
Fantastic Four – same as Superman Returns. I'm collecting Marvel Comic Movies too.

Batman Begins – See it again (cheap seats)

X-Men I, II, and III – See it again (cheap seats)

If you have comic book movies you want my long version review of, just ask

Say You, Say Me

Perhaps in an attempt to put closure on a character he introduced to millions of fans everywhere over 4 decades ago, [Sean Connery](#) has pondered the possibility of returning to the Bond franchise. Not as the British superspy, but as a villain. That would seem to me to be a first. An actor who originated a role in a popular series of movies returning to that franchise as the antagonist. The possibility is intriguing, but as the 77 year old actor stated, they probably would not be able to pay him enough to come out of retirement. They could not do it for *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, but [Never Say Never Again](#) Sir Sean. Actually, Connery's final outing as 007 in the rather waterlogged remake of [Thunderball](#) was not one of his finest two hours. *NSNA* has never been acknowledged as an official Bond movie and was released by Warner Brothers and not MGM/UA.

Read the full article [here](#)

An Odd House Call

Everyone knows that most famous people do not become so overnight. In fact, the majority of today's stars led everyday lives and some of them probably wished that they had. Here is but a sampling of the "odd jobs" and other highlights of some famous people.

[Dan Aykroyd](#) and Steve Carell both worked for the postal service.

[Jennifer Aniston](#) was a telemarketer.

[Warren Beatty](#) was a rat catcher.

[Lucille Ball](#) was fired from an ice cream parlor for not putting bananas in a banana split.

[Boy George](#) (of the 80s group Culture Club who created the Broadway flop musical *Taboo*) was fired from a supermarket for wearing the store's bags.

Finally in the 1970s, [Tim Allen](#) (in the would rather forget category) spent two years in prison for dealing cocaine.

My personal favorite odd job of the stars would be for Academy Award winner [Whoopi Goldberg](#). Apparently, the Whoopster was a mortuary cosmetologist before she became a stand-up comedienne. The thought of going into a funeral parlor to beautify a dead body seems strange at best. However, my mother who is a beautician herself has visited our local mortuary on several occasions for just that reason. She also has a standing appointment for several of her more mature patrons... talk about making house calls. Apparently, they want no one else touching their hair as they make their way into the great beauty parlor in the sky.

To learn more about other stars before they made it big visit this site:

4th-grader I DID know!

Usually I go a long time between seeing kids from my church in their natural daily habitats. Tuesday was the super day, way out of the ordinary. Today I ran into another one, apparently whose memory was not as good as the one I ran into on Tuesday. This time he wasn't in my class, but he was in a nearby 4th grade classroom. I passed him in the hall, then turned and did a double take- I actually recognized him. At the same time, he did his own double take, but he wasn't as sure. When I went to pick up my class from fine arts, there were two other classes in the same room, sort of a special fine arts day. His class was one of them, and his teacher was already leading the class away. He asked if he knew me, maybe from church. I just smiled and said, "I'll see you on Sunday, Brandon!" (okay, I guess first names are okay- I've been a bit paranoid on identifying people). Then he knew. At the end of the day I gave him a high five. So on Sunday, I will see two fourth-graders at 11:15 who I encountered this week, maybe three if Daniel (from Tuesday) brings his friend again.

As far as the day went, it was very easy- no teaching at all. Ordinarily this wouldn't make me happy, but it's been a long week and I was ready for some rest. I even made two errors this morning since I was so tired. This morning went like this: fine arts (combined classes), math test, fine arts (single class), finish math test, lunch. That was it. The afternoon was a little more complex with SSR (silent reading), spelling test, reading test, computer lab. Yes, they took three tests in one day- not a fun day for them. I guess I did do more than babysit in the afternoon. I of course had to

give the words and sentences for the spelling test, and additionally I had to proofread and correct papers on the computer before the kids printed.

In any event, I am glad for the weekend. I enjoy what I do (mostly) but I need the break. Before I sign off, I should mention that all went well except for a couple of boys. One was *constantly* talking, even during the math test in the morning, which he did not have to take since he was in a different math class. Unlucky for me the teacher didn't tell me what he should do so I had to find him something to do. He said he finished the poetry project, didn't have a book, and wasn't allowed to read one of the books in the room because they had to be "checked out" and he had lost a book so he couldn't check out another. I didn't think the teacher would mind, as long as he didn't bring it home, but no dice. Sigh. He was actually elsewhere for most of the afternoon, so that time went better. The other boy was really only a problem while the first one was in the room- they kind of fed off of each other.

Well, that's it for now. Time to torture myself by taking out my contacts, then winding down for bed. Yeah, I know- Friday night. Well, I still haven't gone back to the singles group. They have a movie night tonight, I am David, but I think I have seen it and I just didn't want to go. I really need to force myself next time. Why the torture? Well I just made myself some salsa, 3½ pasta-sauce-sized jars of it. Made with habanero, serrano, jalapeño, and other hot peppers, tomatillos, tomatoes, onions, and cilantro. The hot pepper juice of course clings to the skin for several hours, so hot pepper meets eye and... If I don't post tomorrow it may be because I'm blind from this. Anyway, goodnight.

New Beginnings

I can't believe it! I thought I was happy yesterday, with it being ten months for Tony and I, but this is way better. I was cleaning today and I decided that while I was at it, to get rid of my letters and stuff from Zac. I had kept it all in a box ever since he broke up with me, and I knew it was time to get rid of it. Don't ask me how I knew, I just knew that today was the day. If I had my guess, it was God telling me: Time to get rid of the past and really live for the future. I read each letter and then watched it as it burned in the fireplace. As each letter went up in flames, it was like a little weight came off my shoulders, as the past fell away. I have been over Zac for a long time, but this was the final step and I can't believe how much lighter and happier I feel! Now it's just Tony and me, with nothing but the future before us!