

Day of family, friends, fun

Went to a show today. The [WCCT](#) put on their version of "Don't Hug Me". I can't remember the last time I laughed so much and so hard. Our little theater knows how to put on a good comedy, and this show just hit the right cord for me. I don't think there was a time during the show I was without a smile, and most of the time I was laughing.

Now most of my family and a lot of extended family was there. Three of 4 daughters, 1 son-in-law, 1 fiance, 2 grandparents, and my sister-in-law enjoyed the show. I was able to see friends before the show and during intermission. Fun time and a good show, good friends and family, can you ask for more?

After the show the family went to the local Pizza Hut and enjoyed more good times and food. We spent over an hour sharing Pizza, and family stories.

We then went to a Christmas Cantata that was being performed at my daughter's church. I'm not the most religious person in the world, but I do enjoy watch my daughters sing. The youngest two daughters have a wonderful presence when they sing, and it all starts with a smile.

So my day was full of family, friends, fun and music. Not a bad way to end the weekend.

5 years ago (part 3)

There are times I remember going up to Ann Arbor for radiation treatments. I didn't get to many of them, because I was trying to make sure the girls had as normal of life at home as

possible. Her parents, my oldest sister and I all took her up for the treatments.

My memory is of one day. We were in the waiting room until the staff was ready for her. My dear wife started talking to another patient, laughing, joking and smiling about what they were both going to face. The other patient came in feeling quite down, and left with a very big thank you and smile. I've often wondered what happened to the other patients we met.

I'm not sure, but I imagine that this happened more than just on my trips to Ann Arbor. It was her way of dealing with the stress. Sometimes she seemed just so tired, but she found time to laugh when she could. After her death, I receive multiple cards from the doctors and nurses that knew her during her hospital stay and treatment. I had multiple comments on how infectious her laugh and smile were.

Today, I miss that laugh and the smile. There are many things I wanted to do that year. One was to get a video camera to record some family history. I did not get the camera at that time. It took me until after she died to finally get that stupid camera. And what do I do? My first taping, I misplace the tapes. My daughters were in their first play at the playhouse. I put those tapes someplace safe. So far, I've only found 1 of 2. I haven't even played it through yet. Not even sure which act I have.

It was my hope to get some of our history recorded before we lose it. I don't have a recording of her laugh. I do have pictures of the smile. As my memory fades, I lose the sounds of her voice. After 5 years I guess that is the hardest thing. Forgetting more each day. The memories are still there, but they have lost the warm vibrant colors of years gone by. Each day they fade just a little more.

I miss that laugh.

Napping? Decidedly Not

decidedly not when I have been waiting for this movie for 3 years when Lieutenant James Gordon showed Batman a new villain's calling card during the last scene of [Batman Begins](#) setting the stage for The [Dark Knight](#) that I am going to watch at 12:01AM. As I predicted, my day at work could not have gone any slower. However, there was one moment that I am sure many who work with me (and now the readers of my blog) will not let me soon forget. I was completing the transaction of a customer I have known for years. While I was doing this, she asked me a question:

"Does your wife still run the beauty shop up the street?"

I had to ask to have the question repeated, because I knew that I must have heard incorrectly. She straight-faced repeated the question. To which I replied...

"Well... my MOTHER owns a beauty salon about a block north of here."

She apologized about five times in 30 seconds while I was trying not to die from laughing. After the customer departed, I commented to the manager that I was not sure if that was a compliment or not. She just cracked up laughing and could not stop and of course she had to tell everyone she could. I realize that I just turned 35, but please let's not add 30 years onto that. I think I got the boss to stop laughing when I told her:

"Of course if I were 30 years older, you would be the same age as I."

For some reason, I heard very little more on the matter from her the rest of the day. Ok... now if I don't get a nap, at least I can lie in the cool confines of my Fortress of Solitude (oh... sorry... have to wait a few more years for the Man of Steel) and relax.

Rent Batman Begins and other hits at Blockbuster.com

A Small Umbrella In The Rain

A wise man once said that every performance of any show is different every time. No where was that more prevalent than in tonight's performance of *Little Women*. As I posted earlier, we have been plagued by a leaky ceiling. It was discovered that this was due to a malfunctioning air conditioner. During the first act, the a/c was turned off and it was suggested that we speed the action up to accommodate the audience. At intermission, we had a concession line that featured free cups of water. The aristocrat Braxton Prendergast was seen behind the counter serving complaining that it was beneath him to serve peasants. Mrs. Kirk threatened him with bodily harm at least twice.

Apparently, the audience did not mind the drips because the air was turned on again for the second act. This was perhaps the best the act has run and accepted. The final duel between Braxton and Rodrigo met with thunderous applause when the villain fell to the ground. Every time a line was spoken having to do with water, the audience roared in hysterical laughter. The title of this post is taken from the title of a song that Jo and Prof. Bhear sing at the end of the show. I thought they would never be heard from all the laughter I thought would come. However, after a few chuckles, the song

went very well as did our 4th of 6 shows. Maybe tomorrow someone will provide the audience members beneath the drips with small umbrellas of their own.

Ah, yes and a happy birthday to my co-star, Elizabeth.

