

The curtamous page

February 2009 Archived Notes

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February 23, 2009 - ***Jak se maj!!! Hi all! I hope everyone is having a great day! The sun is out, the days are getting longer, and the foot of snow we got over the weekend is melting! Kinda a weird weekend between snow blowing and work related stuff... I really didn't seem to "do" anything... Hmmm... Well, to start things off, here's a message from someone who DID something this weekend!***

I Survived!

I thought that I would inform everyone that I survived my first Polar Plunge for Special Olympics! I was a great feeling to be a part of a cause that raised over \$200,000 for Special Olympics. My team alone was able to raise over \$1200 for the event. Over 1400 plungers came together in less than ideal weather to jump into icy Lake Winnebago. I would like to thank all of you that read this website that donated money to making me take the plunge. Your support is greatly appreciated. I plan on doing it for many years to come and continue to support such a great charity.

***Thanks again for all of the support!
Ric***

Not sure what time they took their plunge, but I'm guessing the weather really sucked... Well, at least it wasn't 10 below zero... THAT would have been worse! Congrats to Ric and his team for all the work done for a great cause!

No one responded to last week's quiz... Thanks... Well, I'm pretty sure it's American Pie by Don McClean... I'm sure the line "And them good old boys were drinkin whiskey and rye" had something to do with it...

Here's one for the FDA Chair... When I saw it I wondered if that was his handwriting...



Sports update... The Denville boys split a pair last week but still ended up with a #1 seed in their regional... A VERY VERY weak regional... Be nice to see them make it out of there and to the arena, but you never know... They have one last conference game on Friday before tournament play starts next week...

The hockey Badgers let one slip away Friday night and then got SPANKED Saturday night... The Badger mens roundballers took one on the chin yesterday at Michigan State. They had a big lead in the second half and then forgot to score... I am REALLY starting to dislike Izzo more and more as a coach... What an arrogant jerk... I think it's great that Bo has an 11-4 record against him.

I don't think any other sports are being played right now... Are there?

I want to take a minute out to congratulate the FM and his family for being named a "Family of Distinction" in the Green Bay area. Check out this [YMCA Link](#) to read about the program and each of the families named this year. (Notice anything unique about them?) It's really great to see good people get some recognition!

So, what's on the all important schedule this week?

23 Terminalia (Roman). Celebration of the Roman God of Boundaries, superceding the Feast of That God Who Collected Oddly Shaped Rocks.

The Terminator

1 1/2 oz Rurple Minze

1 1/2 oz black sambuca

Half fill shot glass with Rurple, top off with sambuca.

24 Flight of Kings Feast (Roman). Chase your boss down the street with a stick.

Little Kings Cream Ale.

25 International Quiet Day. Oh, yeah? Who's gonna enforce it? The U.N.? Those guys are wussies! Loud mouth soup (Dewar's neat).

26 Jackie Gleason (1916) and Johnny Cash's Birthday (1932). And awaaay we go to the bar. Scotch served neat in a teacup.

27 Runic Half-Month of Tyr begins. That's according to the cosmic pillar.

Any Reason to Drink Cocktail

1 oz vodka

1 oz gin

1 oz rum

Sprite

Lime slice

Mix the liquor, top with Sprite, garnish with lime.

28 St. Oswald of York's Day. He was also known as St. Oswald of Worcester.

Everybody loved that goddamn monk. Old English Malt Liquor

1 National Beer Day (Iceland). Celebrates the end of 75 years of prohibition of beer in 1989. Ice cold brew!

National Beer Day??? Isn't EVERY day National Beer Day???

Speaking of beer, Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent... My guess is the weekly "schedule" will be discontinued until after April, but we'll see... Not quite sure yet what I'm doing for Lent. I'm thinking of moving away from the "No Alcohol, drink only water" thing to something different, but I'm not sure what... I'm sure I'll have a plan by Wednesday...

Speaking of Lent, here's a little story...

On the first day of their Honeymoon, the very naive blond bride slipped into a sexy

but sweet nightie and, with great anticipation, crawled into bed, only to find that her new husband had settled down on the couch.

When she asked him why he was apparently not going to make love to her, he replied, "Because it`s Lent."

Almost in tears, she remarked, "Well, that is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard! To whom did you lend it, and for how long?"

Silly, silly man...

Made some pretty significant progress on the BBC Newsletter last week, and perhaps I'll make more this week! I've got the draft more or less complete and things all fit into place. My expectations were down based on the group's response, but I think it's going to turn out pretty good after all... Think I could actually have it done before March??? We'll see...

I want to send out congrats to my Chicago buddy BO and his lovely bride on their new arrival. T.O. (Tyler Olsen) arrived last Wednesday and mother and son are doing great. Now that's he's got little girls and a little boy, here's a quick story for him to reflect on before they work on boy #2...

Double Trouble

A couple had two naughty little boys, aged 8 and 10, who were always getting into trouble.

The boys' mother heard that there was a priest in town who was good at correcting children. So, she decided to send her 8-year-old son in the morning and her 10-year-old in the afternoon.

The priest, a huge man with a loud voice, made the younger boy sit down and asked him strictly, "Where is God?"

The boy's mouth dropped open, but he sat there, wide-eyed and said nothing.

So the priest repeated the question in an even louder voice, "Where is God!!?" Again the boy made no attempt to answer. So the priest raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face and yelled, "WHERE IS GOD!?"

The boy screamed and ran from the room, directly home and hid in his cupboard, slamming the door behind him. When his older brother found him, he asked, "What happened?"

The younger brother, gasping for breath, replied, "We are in BIG trouble this time, dude. God is missing - and they think WE did it!"

Good luck BO cause that's what you can look forward too...

Hey, Friday is Zumbo's birthday so if you see him, be sure to send your best wishes! Happy Birthday Zumbo!!!

Another relatively weak update... Well, you get what you pay for... But before I go, a few words of wisdom for the junior membership...

"The man who can smile when things go wrong has thought of someone else he can blame it on." ~ Robert Bloch

I think that's rule #1 for new Congressmen... Sickening...

As Red would say, "Keep your stick on the ice!"...

curtamous

February 16, 2009 - Jak se maj!!! Happy Monday everyone! I hope everyone had a good weekend! Looks like we are back to winter... Of course that was expected, but still a tough dose of reality. The days are getting longer though (at least the daylight part) so the end is in sight... With it being mid-winter though, don't expect much in the update...

The eldest was back in town this weekend. We headed down on Wednesday and met him in Dubuque and I had an interesting thing happen. As I mentioned last week, Wednesday was my brother Chuck's birthday, and TWICE on the drive home I heard his favorite song on the radio. I really don't remember Chuck at all, so I am going just on what I am told about this being his favorite song. It is a great song, but obviously somewhat old so it was weird hearing it once much less twice. Pretty cool if you ask me... Maybe they checkout the site from the great beyond???

Quiz time... What WAS Chuck's favorite song? (Just to see if I got it right...)

A couple of Denville roundball games last week. A real heartbreaker on Monday with the local 5 tying the game with a 3 with 4 seconds left only to have New London come down and score a layup as time expired... It was a really great game though. Thursday saw the boys beat up the arch rivals from LC, and it's ALWAYS good to beat LC... Two games this week, one more next week and then it's on to the playoffs.

No other sports to speak of over the weekend... Weird... But my beautiful bride did make some excellent potato soup yesterday...

Big event on Friday night as we held out annual Fish Camp meeting. The senior staff was well represented and we even got a couple junior members to show up. Good meeting with good drinks and a reasonable snack selection. We have some definite scheduling issues but decided on once again heading to Kingsbury Kottage for opening weekend. We'll head up on Friday May 1st and come home on Monday the 4th. The menu is set and we should be all set to go... Can't wait!!!

Word is the SEC-State and his entourage headed to Indiana this weekend to visit my niece who is down there for a short school related stint. Hope they had a good time!

Saturday was Valentine's Day... Yawn... Well my clan did get together with a few in-laws to celebrate the day as well as last week's anniversary. Cocktail hour at the Nelson's and then out to Menchalville for dinner. If you ever want a great buffet for a reasonable price, I would suggest heading out there and hitting Reindles. It's not fancy in any way, but the food is excellent! Boiled shrimp (with salt AND dill), scallops, perch, ribs, chicken, pork chops, and all the fixens. The soup was great too!!! All for \$13 and it was all REALLY good... Good time too!

Here's a BBC look at Valentine's Day...

Senior Member Perspective

Keith asked his friend, Bob, whether he had bought his wife anything for

Valentine's Day.

'Yes,' came the answer from Bob who was a bit of a chauvinist, 'I've bought her a belt and a bag.'

'That was very kind of you,' Keith added, 'I hope she appreciated the thought.'

Bob smiled as he replied, 'So do I, and hopefully the vacuum cleaner will work better now.'

Junior Member Perspective

Matt, who was 18 years old, was buying an expensive bracelet, to surprise his girlfriend on Valentine's Day, at a very smart jeweler's shop in downtown Pilsen.

The jeweler inquired, 'Would you like your girlfriend's name engraved on it?'

Matt thought for a moment, grinned, and then answered, 'No, instead engrave 'To my one and only love'.'

The jeweler smiled and said, 'Yes, sir; how very romantic of you.'

Matt retorted with a glint in his eye, 'Not exactly romantic, but very practical. This way, if we break up, I can use it again.'

Hey, I think that means they are learning!!!

What's on this week's schedule?

16 The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was formed from the The Jolly Corks, a drinking society. If my uncle's behavior is any indication, the only thing they changed was the name. **Jagermeister.**

17 Feast of Fools (Ancient Rome). Take your friends to dinner, then pretend to have forgotten your wallet. **Expensive wine.**

18 Spenta Armaiti (Zoroastrian). Ancient hippy festival. **Jug wine.**

19 Lee Marvin's Birthday (1924). Drink like a man, goddamn you. **Bourbon from the bottle.**

20 Northern Hemisphere Hoodie-Hoo Day. At high noon everyone yells "Hoodie-Hoo" to chase away winter and usher in spring.

Crazy Swede

1 oz ouzo

1 oz vodka

1 tblsp cinnamon schnapps

Shake with ice, strain, shout Hoodie-Hoo and shoot.

21 Polaroid Camera introduced (1947). Drunken foolishness now readily transferable to bar walls. **Shot of Beam while flipping the bird.**

22 National Margarita Day. Gee, what shall we drink? **Margarita.**

Jager-bombs and Crazy Swedes!!! Now we just need a couple Bombed-Belgians next week and

we'll be all set...

Big work week ahead as we head to Chicago at the end of the week for a big data center move to Philly. My schedule won't be too bad as I'm only on for the "sending" side and others will head to Philly for the "receiving" side, so I should be back home late Friday or early Saturday. Hopefully...

I had good intentions of working on the newsletter yesterday but ended up trying to fix dehumidifiers instead... That didn't go so well... How long are those suckers suppose to last anyway? It may be time for a new one...

Don't forget about the SEC-W/M's Polar plunge this weekend. The link to donate to this great cause is still at the top of the page!!! Right now they are calling for a high temp or 18, so it may be worth the drive to see the event!!!

Otherwise there isn't much else going on... So... I'm out...

As always, before I go, a few words of wisdom for the junior membership...

"There's a fine line between fishing and just standing on the shore like an idiot." ~ Stephen Wright

For "some" it may be a fine line... and why does that make me think of the Sausage Stuffer?

As Red would say, "Keep your stick on the ice!"...

curtamous

PS. HOODIE-HOOOO!!!

February 9, 2009 - Jak se maj!!! Good morning and how are you? I hope all is well out there and we've all recovered from our Pro Bowl parties... HA! Pro Bowl was pretty darn boring, to the point I quit watching... The football was "OK", but I just couldn't handle the announcing. Michaels and Collinsworth were trying WAY too hard to make the game seem meaningful... Yuck! When they whined that Lewis wouldn't do a sideline interview with that whiney wench they have cause all she wanted to talk about was free agency, I turned it off. Oh well...

Busy weekend otherwise as I was down in Chicago Saturday and into Sunday for work. We did some maintenance at a client site to prepare them for their data center move. Things went well technically, but longer than we had hoped. We didn't get out of there until around 2am, but we weren't really surprised... Just glad things went well! We headed back Sunday morning, stopped for breakfast and then at the Harley shop in Manitowoc. Great... Now I got the itch to get on the bike... LOL...

Too work got in the way of a REALLY nice weekend weather wise... When we got to Chicago on Saturday it must have been 50 degrees... THAT WAS NICE!!! But like Mr. Groundhog said last week, we got more crap coming!

Headed up to Marinetta last week to see the Denville round ballers play. Looks like they "may" be back on track as they beat a scrappy Marine team in a tough place to play. For whatever reason the Marine fans REALLY get into the game, which is kinda fun. But that makes for a pretty loud and rowdy environment, so all the more credit to Denville for pulling out the win... They have two games this week, Monday and Thursday, both in Denville, so I'll have a little bit to do this week...

Hockey Badgers pulled off what I consider a serious upset this weekend by sweeping the Minnehaha Goldphers in Minnehaha... I saw most of the game Friday on Friday night on the BigTen Network, and the Badgers REALLY pulled one off. The Goldphers were skating circles around the Badgers and just peppering the goal, but Connelly had a HUGE game and kept 'em in it. They had a 3-0 lead going into the 3rd and held on for the 3-2 win. Shocking actually. Didn't see the Saturday game but it sounded like the same story as they got a 5-4 win. Put's 'em into a tie for 1st place in the WCHA... Wow...

Here's something serious to ponder... A note to a bank...

Dear Sirs,

In view of what seems to be happening with banks at the moment, I was wondering if you could advise me correctly about the following. If one of my checks is returned marked 'insufficient funds,' how do I know whether that refers to me, or to you?

Sincerely,

A Troubled Customer

Very troubling, isn't it?

With that note, and the fact that the economic stimulus bill will cost our descendants \$800 Billion, what's to drink this week?

9 Feast Day of Apollo (Greek). The Sun God must be appeased! *Tequila Sunrise.*

10 Creation Day (Mayan). On this day in 3641 B.C. the Mayans reckoned Tepeu and Gucumatz created the world.

God's Great Creation

2 1/2 oz whiskey

1 oz peach schnapps

5 tblsp orange-banana fruit punch (frozen)

Juice of one lemon

Pepsi

Pour whiskey and peach schnapps over ice cubes in a highball glass. Add frozen punch (no water). Squeeze in lemon juice and top with Pepsi. Stir well.

11 Empire Day (Japan). Yeah, maybe next time, Tojo. *Kamikaze.*

12 Charles Darwin's Birthday (1809). Celebrate the genius who made monkeys of us all..

Dirty Monkey

1 1/2 oz Irish cream

1 oz Dark rum

1 1/2 oz Cognac

Mix in order. Do not stir. Serve in brandy snifter.

13 Oliver Reed's Birthday (1938). His check still hangs on the wall of the Malta bar where he drank nearly two bottles of rum and 20 pints with British sailors. *Old Navy Rum.*

14 St. Valentine's Day. Patron saint of kidney disease and, uh, romantic stuff.

Champagne at a fancy restaurant or whiskey sours with your cat.

15 National Sea Monkey Day. I am not making this up. **Brass Monkey.**

NATIONAL SEA MONKEY DAY!!! THAT should be a national holiday... So, what's in Brass Money?

**1/2 oz Rum
1/2 oz Vodka
4 oz Orange juice**

Sounds like a screwdriver... Only better... Overall a pretty good week for cocktails though... Tequila, multiple monkey references, and that "God's Great Creation" is either awesome or horrible... Might have to try it...

Speaking of screwdrivers, the anniversary wasn't much of an event... The morning was lost as I was driving back from Chicago and my beautiful bride preferred to wait to go out to eat with the boys... I wonder if I'll be invited. Anyway, one year to 25... Can I make it???

Looks like we are on for our annual Fish Camp meeting this Friday. I'll be hosting the event in my shop and we'll have the usual fare. We will enjoy some libations and gourmet food, make final decisions on Fish Camp scheduling, location, and menus, and then solve all the world's problems. Should be a blast! Hope to see you there!

No progress on the BBC newsletter... Work was a little hectic this week with preparations for the Chicago trip so I didn't even get it started. Hopefully I can take a stab at it this week...

Couple birthdays to mention... Last week my brother Chris would have celebrated his 52nd and this week my brother Chuck would have celebrated his 58th... I think... Anyway, we miss 'em... Also, Ma Nelson passed away 3 years ago today... Doesn't seem like it though as so much of her is still with us...

Kind of a scrawny update, but with it being mid-winter, not much is expected... But as always, before I go, a few words of wisdom for the junior membership...

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome." ~ Anne Bradstreet

Ah, so very true...

As Red would say, "Keep your stick on the ice!"...

curtamous

February 2, 2009 - Jak se maj!!! Happy hangover! I hope everyone had a great time yesterday and partied hardy and enjoyed the Superbowl! I'm feeling pretty good this morning as I behaved last night knowing I had an 8am dentist appointment. Yuck! On with the update...

Good game last night! I ended up pulling for the Cards as they were clearly the underdog and were down early, but I wasn't wild or anything. The early portions of the game were pretty boring, but the end of the half and the end of the game made up for it. If Warner had been just a "little" sharper the outcome would have been much different. That pick at the end of the half was horrible... Bad pass, and then they can't catch this guy??? He's a linebacker! A BIG linebacker... It's like they gave up on it. Oh well, that made for a pretty wild finish in the 4th so it made it all good... Now another 6 months until football again... HEAVY SIGH...

Still on sports... The Denville round ballers had a rough week getting beat by West Deep Here on Tuesday... They played BAD... They made up for it on Friday though with a tough win over Falls... They still played poorly, especially early, but they did enough to pull it out. Let's hope they are back on track...

Parent's night after the game on Friday but we got side tracked... Zumbo, his beautiful bride (my blonde sister), and the Mayor came to the game so we stopped for a couple before going to Parents Night... It turned out to be more than a couple so we never made it to the next stop... Good time though!!!

Nice weather this weekend, so I ended up doing very little outside. Go figure... Well, I did do a little work in the shop hanging beer signs and I also got the door return fixed on the back door, but that was about it. What a slacker...

I did head out to Zumbo's on Saturday to do a little computer work for him. Hooked up his DSL line to a new wireless router/firewall so anyone could use the connection in the house. Worked out pretty good too, surprisingly... We were going to run some cabling too but my blonde sister is getting a new laptop now, so we didn't have to do that... Good time, good work, AND a few libations...

This one is funny... From the Jack/Ass team...

My Mom



The teacher sent home a note that she didn't think it was appropriate for a child that age to be depicting her mother on a dance pole in a strip club with men waiting with dollar bills to put in her thong...

The next day, the child returned with a note from mom:

"Sorry, Ms. James. That's NOT a dance pole onstage in a strip joint! I work at Home Depot and that's me selling a shovel. - Mrs. Smith"

I LOVE Home Depot, but I'VE never seen pole dancers there... But that WOULD help business... In tough economic times, you do what you gotta do...

Had some nice cocktails for the game last night... Old Fashions for the first half, Grasshoppers at halftime and beer in the 2nd half... What's up for this week???

2 Groundhog Day. If he sees his shadow, get loaded. If he doesn't see his shadow, get loaded.

The Shadow Knows

1 oz black sambuca

1 oz Bailey's Irish Cream

1/2 oz Bacardi 151 Rum

Layer Bailey's over sambuca. Top with Bacardi.

3 Heroes Day (Mozambique). Claret is the liquor for boys; port for men; but he who aspires to be a hero must drink brandy. Samuel Johnson. Heroic amounts of brandy.

4 The Bacardi Distillery is founded in Cuba (1862). There's a bat on the label because bats would pass out in the distillery's vats. Bacardi and Coke.

5 Bob Marley Day (Jamaica). Time to touch base with your weedhead buddies. Red Stripe.

6 Babe Ruth's Birthday (1895). Contrary to popular belief, he wasn't really pointing to where he was going to hit the ball. He was just trying to get a beer vendor's attention. Overpriced crappy beer in a plastic cup.

7 National Hangover Awareness Day. Some of us 'celebrate' this 'holiday' every morning.

Hair of the Dog

1/2 oz. tequila

1/2 oz. whiskey

1/4 oz. Tabasco Sauce

1/4 oz. salt

Pour Tabasco, tequila and whiskey into a shot glass. Lay salt on top.

8 Mass for Broken Needles (Japanese). The bane of seamstresses and DJs alike. Sake.

What a great week!!! Sambuca, brandy, B/C, Red Stripe, beer, hangover medicine, and Sake-Bombs!!!

Hey, it's Groundhog Day and we're screwed... Nice and sunny here and the groundhog high-tailed it back to sleep... ANOTHER six weeks of winter??? Seems like we've had 6 years already, so what's another 6 weeks???

Just got back from the dentist... No problems and a "gentle" cleaning... No blood no foul...

Busy week ahead... Work stuff has picked up so I've got that to deal with including a trip to Chicago this weekend... Heading down Friday and back on Sunday. We're doing some maintenance and changes there for a client to prepare for their data center move in two weeks... should be fun... Sunday's our anniversary, so I hope to be back to take my beautiful bride out to dinner... But I'm sure she'd rather go with the boys, so that works out too...

Next week we're going to head down to Ames to pick up the boy so he can get back in town for some appointments... Down and back in one day will mean about 13 hours in the car... Can't wait...

No progress on the newsletter... It's February, so it's about time to start...

Hmmm... That's about all I have for this week... Kinda light, but work does beckon, so off I go... As always, before I go, a few words of wisdom for the junior membership...

**"Terry Bradshaw couldn't spell cat if you spotted him the "C" and the "A." ~
Thomas Henderson prior to Super Bowl XIII**

Yeah, we got junior members like that... Also note, Henderson and the Cowgirls got spanked by Terry... Funny...

As Red would say, "Keep your stick on the ice!"...

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