

The Haunting In The Redbox DVD

So, following Broadway Cabaret night at the Little Theatre, Megan decided to take me up on my pizza/DVD night at the house while I am still alone (one more week... and it is still standing). I suggested venturing to Wal-Mart to check out the redbox kiosk... rent a movie for \$1 per night, return when you are done or after 25 days it is yours. After going to Electronics, I met Megan at the box and we made our choice of two movies... more on those in a bit.

We then travelled to casa Shaffer where I gave her the grand tour, upstairs, downstairs, beauty shop. Did I show C&L the shop the other night? My memory fails me. So, after the pizza was baked, we put in the first movie. [He's Just Not that Into You](#) is just what you would expect: a chick flick. While it was no *Pretty Woman* it was not all that bad and Megan wanted to see it and I gentlemanly let her pick one.

However, I chose a movie which [taylhis](#) has posted about and a friend recommended the other day. Megan had already seen [The Haunting in Connecticut](#) (for some reason, I thought it was A Haunting, but no big deal) and it scared the xrap out of her. I must say that I enjoyed it very, VERY much and it did give me a good jump or 5. Even more so knowing that it was based on a true story. I will have to check out the frog site thingamajig to get the lowdown on how much accuracy is involved. If you like a good horror film with lotas of thrills and chills, check it out.

However there was a downside to the DVD: it was badly scratched and about half way through it began to skip. UGH! Way to almost ruin a great movie! I did send an email to the customer service dep of redbox to request a free rental or refund. Megan asked me to watch out for the minister and see

if I could recognize him. I must admit that I was unable to. [Elias Koteas](#) is the same actor who played Casey Jones in the ORIGINAL Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles movies. Never would have guessed since it has been years since I have seen it.

All in all, another fun night of music, friendship, pizza, movies, and great times!

Saturday Night's Alright

maybe not for fightin' but good times. I wanted to go to church at 4 at one of our sister churches. However, I had forgotten that the 4 o'clock mass is no longer in existence after the recent twining (or tripling since it involves three churches). I wanted to attend the Weekender this to show my support of one of my former castmates: Andrew who was in *Idol Night* and *School House Rock* with me. Tonight's offering was a mixed bag of Broadway tunes performed by a group of young adults. Pretty good for their age. I must say that Andrew has improved much in the past 2 years... a very deep bass which is developing very nicely. His rendition of "I Am I Don Quixote" was one of my favorite numbers of the evening. He also sang "Send in the Clowns" from *A Little Night Music*. At first, I thought... oh great. Not that I am not a big fan of the song (I think it is one of Sondheim's masterpieces) but I have heard it so many times. However, when was the last time I heard it sung by a guy? Not often.

When the group of performers took the stage, I asked Megan..."Where's Andrew?" I did not recognize him at all! Gone was the beard and longish hair I had become accustomed to. He looked that different!

The rest of the performances were good as well. A very

strange arrangement of "Someone Like You" from *Jekyll and Hyde*. A choral performance of "Bui Doi" from *Miss Saigon* (good but [Mr. Whatever's](#) rendition was better... not biased here, Chris's performance just brought chills both times) and a few songs from *Songs from a New World*, a show I am not very familiar with. And the Little Theatre was just packed... hopefully, the free will brought in a few dollars.

Once again... great job Adam, Jason, McKenzie, Preston, Andrew, and Jessi. Plus, Patti's job as accompanist was no small feat. Some of those songs had to be killers to play!

One more post from the evening later... stay tuned. Different Bat Time, Same Bat Site.

If They Call It The Festival Of Flags...

where are the flags?

WOW! A Saturday off is ALWAYS nice!!! One in which there is plenty to do is even better! This weekend is our annual hometown fest known as the Festival of Flags (how the name switched from One River Festival as it was known for about 3 years when I was in high school is beyond me). The name has always escaped me. In all the years the fest has been named such, I see very few flags aside from the ones adorning our main street. Yesterday, was the big parade going south on North Michigan Avenue which is great since we have prime seats right outside our front door. I am pleased to say that this year's parade was not the 20 minute ho-hum of the past. It lasted nearly an hour. Of course, there was the fire, rescue, and police units from the area, the pageant contestants, and

several entries from E-town businesses, churches, etc. There used to be a parade of pets that was on a separate day but it seems to have been integrated with the main event as there were several adorable pooches being lead on the route. One new entry was the Frank Talk convertible. Frank Talk is a weekly tri-state paper which is written mainly by members of the Frank family from the chief editor all the way down to the young grandkids who are able to put pen to paper or finger to keyboard whichever the case may be.

I always am interested to see and hear the high school band. Once again, the group is under the leadership of a new director. The position seems to be yet another swinging door. I can't tell you how many directors it has gone through in the past 17 years, but it is quite a few. Too many start out here fresh and discover better opportunities elsewhere which leads to the band's suffering. Of course, many times you are happy to see the leader vacate... like the one from last year... EEK! Definitely could find better. I thought the twenty member band did quite well. I wonder where Edon's band was. In my day, we always played each other's parade. Possibly because the directors were such good friends

My favorite part had to be the ADULT kids at the curb scavenging for candy. Christi was out there gatering goodies for her two girls who will be returning from a visit to their father's (don't ask... don't tell) relatives. Chad got up a few times to run out (WHAT A SIGHT!) Cousin Kim was also there to watch and she made her way to the street from time to time. Honestly, this might have been my favorite part of the parade. Much like the adult Easter Egg Hunt. I sat back and watched so that my chair did not get stolen.

Actually a very enjoyable event compared with parades of the past.

In Trouble Even From Across The Country

More on the title later. My parents' trip to Alaska began Saturday when they were to fly out of Detroit early that morning. However, there were mechanical mishaps on the plane which lead to the cancellation of the flight. Around 3PM, a flight was arranged that would carry them non-stop to their destination. Some good there since they were to have a 2 hour layover in Seattle. They arrived in Alaska around 10:30PM EST. However, their luggage did not arrive until 11:30PM Sunday night.

Yes, even with the parents being thousands of miles away at Fort Richardson near Anchorage, I still was able to stir up some mishaps. It seems that my sister wanted to get into the house Tuesday night. Thinking I was doing a good thing, I made sure that I locked the house before going to work. When Christi could not get into the house, she did what any normal 32 year old would do: called Mommy and Daddy and interrupted their trip. This could have been avoided simply by driving the half block to the grocery store and seeing that I was at work and asked for the key. My car was parked at the house... surely logic would dictate that I was nearby somewhere. Instead, I get a phone call from Alaska asking why I would lock the door. Well... needless to say, that will not be happening again. Who would break into a house in little E-town? And don't get any ideas. AAAAHHHH, sisters. But I was more upset that she bothered the parents. I mean, what are they going to do, use the remote control door unlocker? Oh, well such as life.

Home Alone

So... now that I have the house all to myself for the next two weeks while the parents are in Alaska, I have found that I am not at a lack of things to do. Of course, there are the hours I must spend at work. Friday night, I did something I have never done before: Monster Jam at the Toledo Speedway. Megan, Carol , and I drove and met admin and family. It was really a fun night even if Superman got jipped (not biased, even if I was decked out in my Man of Steel Cap... maybe I should have worn one of my t-shirts) in the freestyle portion of the evening. I think obvious local favorite, Gravedigger was at only a slight advantage as I found his performance less than thrilling. I have seen ads for the show in the past and remember Gravedigger announced prominently. Very fun and Vera got the three of us to and from the event quite nicely And we did not have to make any pit stops along the way ☐ Plus in the 4 wheeler event, the Ohio team was beaten by the Michigan team (B00000!!!!) I have a feeling a bit of proximity favoritism was in evidence.

Sunday... short work day, cleaned the beauty shop, ran to B-town to pick up a few things. Then, I did something I have not done for years. I brought the X-Box downstairs, had my 9 year-old niece and another friend come over and play. **And play we did!** We started at about 5 and it got darker and darker and by the time I knew what time it was, it was midnight. **HOLY COW!** About 2AM, we decided to call it a night. Elizabeth was asleep in the chair, anyway.

Monday... great fun day. I had some friends over for a pizza/movie night. We started at Munchkin Junction. Later, I had Elizabeth stay to play with the kids while the adults watched the totally captivating movie, *The Island*. I don't

know why, but I kept thinking *The Beach* with Leonardo DiCrapio (never seen that one either) but I am S000 glad it was not. This was a somewhat typical but nottoo typical Michael Bay production with lots of action. I REALLY liked it... futuristic sci-fi with Ewan McGregor and Scarlett Johanssen (whom I just learned will be in *Iron Man 2*... scheduled for release next summer).

Soo... the start of my two week adventure has been fun. More to come. And yes, the house is still standing.

The New Bonnie & Clyde

This story is so sweet, I just had to share it.

Blind border collie gets his own guide dog

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By [Aidan McGurran](#) [24/07/2009](#)



Collies usually round up sheep not each other... but as the eyes of her blind canine companion, little Bonnie steers Clyde away from trouble.

The five-year-old long-haired border collie, who has lost his sight because of a degenerative disease, relies entirely on Bonnie as his guide dog. He follows her everywhere.

And like the American gangster lovers they have been named after, the friendly dogs are on the lookout for a safe, new hideaway.

They were recently dumped in the street during a storm and are currently being cared for at Meadow Green Dog Rescue Centre in Hales Green, near Loddon in Norfolk.

The centre's Cherie Cootes said: "If Clyde's unsure where he is, he will suddenly go behind Bonnie and put his face on the back of her so she can guide him. He totally relies on her.

"And when she walks she tends to stop and make sure he's there – she does look out for him. When she's about you wouldn't notice he is blind, but when she's not about he refuses to move. There's no option of homing them separately. They've got to go as a pair."

A driver found the dogs running through Blundeston, near Lowestoft, Suffolk, during a storm three weeks ago. Neither Clyde nor Bonnie – a short-haired border collie aged two or three – had identifying collars or chips.

Cherie, 40, added: "They've got very nice manners and they walk well on the lead.

"They really are a very sweet pair of dogs."

If you can give Bonnie and Clyde a home, call the centre on 01508 548 216.

A New HOPE From The Evil Empire

No, no this post has nothing to do with the original *Star Wars* film (or as it is officially known: Episode IV: A New Hope). Such rather derogatory names have inundated my favorite baseball team for as long as I can remember and definitely beyond that. This week, The New York Yankees have been on the streets, in apartment buildings, and in the new stadium giving back to the community that they call home. Whether it be something seemingly trivial like throwing pop flies to a ten year old or participating in an event honoring a Navy veteran who is afflicted with Lou Gehrig's disease, the NOW solo first place American League East sluggers have been receiving praise both on and off the field.

HOPE (Helping Others Persevere and Excel) week began Monday and has included the following events:

- Alex Rodriguez and pitchers Joba Chamberlain and Andy Pettite were in Greenwich Village and visited a young boy who has Cerebral Palsy. The sixth grader is confined to a wheelchair; however, the Bombers conducted a clinic for him and his little league teammates.
- Ace closer Mariano Rivera, second baseman Robinson Cano, and outfielder Melky Cabrera visited a small Washington Heights apartment where a couple open their home to children for lessons in community and leadership.
- Captain Derek Jeter and first baseman [Mark Teixeira](#) (who my mother claims closely resembles our admin... I don't see it... sorry I cannot find a photo good enough to compare) participated in a ceremony honoring a Navy veteran with Lou Gehrig's Disease and his wife.

Say what you will about the Yankees... overpaid, over-privileged. The new stadium is a homerun hitters paradise.

Any team who takes time out off the field to help and inspire (yes, even if the team happens to be from Bean Town) deserves some appreciation.

Welcome To The Craziness

The family received news today that our extended family has grown by one. Around 3PM, we got a phone call from Alaska informing us that my cousin Charnel had delivered a 6lb. 3oz. baby girl, Chloe Mae who is being welcomed I am sure by her big 2 year old sister, Kyli Nicole. 20 inches long and has a thick head of black hair (can she mail some to me...or just send it back with grandma and grandpa when they fly up on Saturday). One very cool thing, the proud papa who is on deployment in Afghanistan was on the phone listening as their second daughter made her entrance into the world. When Charnel called and talked to Mom, she told her to call everyone. Well... everyone but two people she called had already heard via text messaging or were called by someone else whom it seems tells everyone in the world after she hears any juicy gossip. But all is well – healthy baby girl with ten fingers, ten toes, and healthy mama. Won't be able to see and spoil her until March when Rich returns from Afghanistan and they come South for a visit. I'm surprised there haven't been any pictures sent over cyberspace. What are you waiting for?!

Welcome Chloe (I like that name)



Humor From The Bulletin

I recently received two HILARIOUS emails. The subject of the two was religious but I am going to share anyway they are so funny. I laughed so hard at the following that I cried. It is so true. I have read many a bulletin that could be misinterpreted or have a little typo that creates total hilarity.... ENJOY!

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick in our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have

a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
