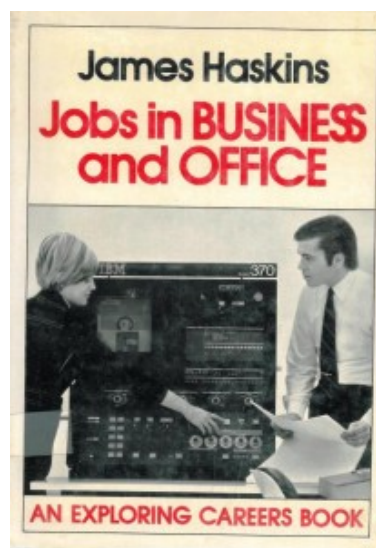


That IBM Is Almost As Big As Me

I forgot now how I found this site, but I got some good laughs out of a blog called awfullibrarybooks.wordpress.com. It's mostly a tribute to books the blog's authors and contributors found in libraries that are extremely outdated. I got a big kick out of this gem:



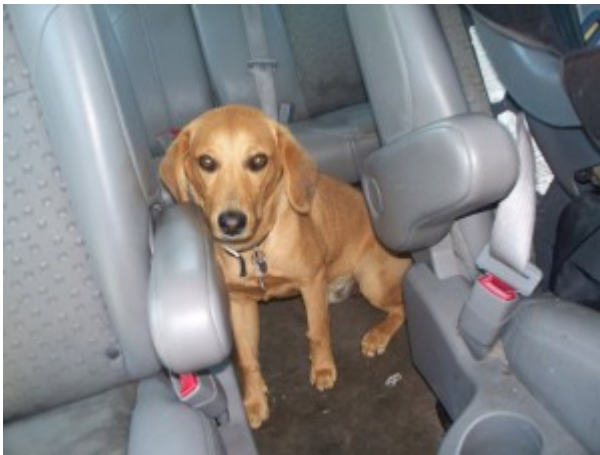
When's the last time someone checked this one out from the library? I mean, checked it out to actually use it, not just to laugh at it.

Ok, computer dørks um, experts – who can tell me what some of those little doo-hickeys are on that [IBM 370](#)? I've already done some simple research and found that this computer is circa 1970. Has anyone played around on something like this?

He's Not Half The Man He Used To Be...

Our little puppy Gizmo is now about 6 months old, and we've been marveling at what a handsome young man he's become. But yesterday, he had his appointment for his, um, fixing.

He handled it like a trouper, and we haven't noticed any behavior changes, positive nor negative. We're happy the little guy is ok, and he doesn't even seem to need his prescribed pain meds. I've always had girl dogs before him, and it seems to be a bigger ordeal for females since the incision is larger. Yesterday when we picked Gizmo up from the vet, he seemed happy to see us but still a little dazed:



And while we were waiting for the um, procedure to be complete, we had a few hours to kill, so we began at Meijer where the kids rode the 1¢ electronic horse. We also learned that our almost 2-year-old son knows how to say 'pop tart' since he loves the treats:

And then we went over to a nice scenic place on the Maumee River called Independence dam, but we had some unwanted excitement and had to call [our friend Mary](#) at work. Nothing bad, at least we don't think, but no one was hurt, if that's what you're thinking (Mary is a 911 dispatcher). The water level was very high due to all the rain in the area recently, and the current was swift around the falls from the dam. And we kept seeing something suspicious bobbing to the surface – some tires, some large beige objects, and a few other strange looking items that just weren't moving right. My first thought was that it was an ATV, and that someone had been 4-wheeling and went into the river. After a few more bobs, we saw that the wheels must have belonged to a full-size vehicle since we could still see the tires' rims. The kids' imaginations began working overtime, and soon they began to see heads and hands reaching out of the water. My husband and I saw nothing of the sort, but it was an odd sight, and we figured better safe than sorry so we called Mary's work number – 911 – and apologized for the non-emergency nature of the call. The officer that was sent to talk with us was very nice and completely understanding about why we had called, and as it turns out, he is head of the Sheriff's Department dive team. At first, he seemed to think that nothing was amiss, but as he watched the bobbing debris, he seemed to become increasingly interested. He told us he'd keep an eye on it, and we drove further into the park to turn around, and when we came back, there were more officers in the park. I'm curious to know what was found, if anything... perhaps our tip helped them locate a minivan that's been missing since it went down in the ice 2 years ago or something else useful. If anyone hears anything, let me know!

Zack And Kelly Having A Baby?

Do you remember the *extremely cheesy* Saturday morning kids' sitcom on NBC called Saved by the Bell? The show saw the beginning of the careers of famous now-adult actors and reality show hosts Mario Lopez, Mark-Paul Gosselaar, and Tiffani-Amber Thiessen.

I used to watch Saved by the Bell every week, and I caught every episode at least once again in syndication. There was at least one spinoff: Saved By The Bell – The College Years, and a few made-for-tv-movies that followed the exploits of the Bayside High School crew. In one of the movies, that famous on-again, off-again couple from the show, Zach and Kelly (played by Gosselaar and Thiessen) were united in holy matrimony... I didn't know that, since I was only interested in the original show, not so much the spin-offs or updates.

Sometimes I peruse the celebrity gossip (and sometimes current events info) site tmz.com, especially lately when they've been reporting a lead in the Stacy Peterson case (a missing woman from the Chicago area whose case I've been following because I used to live in the area). For their part, tmz.com seems to have quite accurate info and usually has it much earlier than other news outlets. So the other day, I noticed a headline on Tmz saying that ["Kelly" – aka Tiffani-Amber Thiessen – is pregnant and looking ready to pop](#), as they say. At the bottom of that article, there was a link to another Saved by the Bell story: [Zach Morris and Kelly Kapowski – Back Together!](#) If you click the link, you'll find that the Saved by the Bell actors were out and about together in NYC in September.

Interesting... wasn't September about 9 months ago? An interesting footnote to this story is that I read that Mark-Paul Gosselaar was divorced from his wife only weeks ago. So are Zach and Kelly from Saved by the Bell having a baby together? Did you read it here first? Most importantly, will

the actors continue their name-hyphenating tradition when they name the baby? How about Saved by the Bell – The Baby Years? Stay tuned...

How To Plug The Oil Leak In The Gulf



From T-Ball To The MLB

Ok, so it's doubtful that our 6-year-old daughter Sammie is headed for the MLB after having had her first day of T-Ball today. If sports skills and hand-eye coordination are hereditary, my kids are definitely not inheriting those traits from their mother's side. I wouldn't mind having a kid in the MLB, but it's not going to be something I'm pushing for or aiming toward, especially given my lack of athleticism. But Sammie has been very excited about starting T-Ball for weeks, and we like to let our kids try as many activities as we can afford to take them to (time AND money-wise) so they can see what they like and where their strengths lie. Sammie brought

home the T-Ball flier a few months ago and said she wanted to join. Of course, this is coming from the same kid who said the same thing about wrestling in the winter, but we knew she had no idea what that was about, and she was talked into doing Brownies instead. So I was worried that she would get to T-Ball today and decide it wasn't for her and want to quit on the first day. But luckily, she seemed to have liked her first day of T-Ball. We try to keep by the guideline in this family that once you sign up for something, you stick with it for the duration of your commitment. You don't have to sign up again, but you should fulfill your original obligation.

When we arrived at the ball field today, the head coach (and coincidentally also a fellow small group leader for our church youth group) gave a spiel about how the 20th pick in the MLB draft last night was from our town and began in our same T-Ball program, hence my blog post title. Our local guy was picked by the Boston Red Sox, a funny twist of irony for his father, the lifelong Yankees fan. While immediate relation is enough to convert some lifelong Yankees fans to Red Sox fans overnight, whether the small town / county connection is enough for others remains to be seen. □

From what I saw, Sammie did a good job today in T-Ball. She didn't catch every one (any?) of the ground balls that were hit her way, but it was her first time ever trying anything of the sort, and she gave it her best shot. She tried everything that was suggested by the coach, and didn't sit out any of the activities. She had fun, and as long as she sticks with it, I think T-Ball will serve the purpose for which we intended: a fun activity that gets Sammie out of the house for a few hours a week this month so the kids don't kill each other – and she learns the fundamentals of baseball at the same time!

And our pastor thought of our family when our church had extra tickets for an upcoming Toledo Mud Hens game (minor league baseball), so I think this will enhance Sammie's appreciation of that as well – looking forward to it!!

Here's a video – I apologize if it's hard to see, but the team went way out into the field, and I could barely see them let alone tape them when I had an almost 2-year-old and a 3-year-old to chase at the same time. At one point, the camera dips down to catch my almost 2-year-old as he ran crazy – thought I'd tape him since I couldn't seem to film Sammie playing any baseball. She's the one in the yellow shirt, and if you watch until the end, she does throw a ball.