

The Incredible Hulk

Super hero movies are not must-sees for me, but we caught a showing of [The Incredible Hulk](#) the other day mainly because there was nothing else playing that we hadn't seen already. Since physical activity is out for me (but only for another few weeks – YAY!!), going to a movie on our weekly date night has been popular because even someone of my girth can enjoy sitting in an air-conditioned movie theater for a few hours. I was also drawn to this movie because I remember really enjoying [The Incredible Hulk tv series](#) as a very young child. So both my husband and I were entertained by the movie; it was action-packed, and the special effects weren't terrible looking like they were in the previews. [Edward Norton](#) was good, and so was [Liv Tyler](#), but then again, I don't think I've seen her in anything where she was horrible... except maybe that Aerosmith video in which she appeared in the '90's, but then again, I'm not a fan of music videos anyway. We did come away with a few questions regarding the believability of the film, but of course, you're talking about a super hero movie, and our questions were answered by a helpful friend who reads Marvel comics.

Of my 2 favorite things about the movie, one was the surprise at the end, which I'm not going to spoil, but I will say this – if you're a comic fan, you will REALLY enjoy the surprise. The other thing I really liked was an inside joke I actually got, even though I don't read comic books. Liv Tyler's character buys Bruce Banner some pants, and wouldn't you know it, she picks out a pair of bright purple ones – a nod to the old tv series where the Hulk wore purple. I thought that joke was especially funny and clever, and I'm glad they included it. Also enjoyable is the [Lou Ferrigno](#) cameo; he's the original Hulk from tv who appears in this movie as a security guard and also voices the computer generated Hulk. If you like the comics, you've probably seen this already, but I'd

also recommend it for anyone who likes fantasy/action movies or if you were a fan of the Hulk tv show from decades ago. It's not going to make me start reading comic books, but it was well worth seeing just for the nostalgia factor alone.

Crazy Busy

In the past few days, I've been able to catch up a little, but I haven't written much before today and yesterday because we have been too busy having fun!

It started last Friday when we took the kids out to the [Fun Spot](#) in Angola Indiana. We had a great time, but I think I learned a lesson about taking 3 kids out for a full day of fun in the sun while I'm trying to nurse a full-term pregnancy. It was over 80°, and we ran out of water and I got sick. I think what pushed me over the edge was trying to watch my 20-month-old as she sat at the edge of a pool while my other children and husband went on the water slide. It's hard to explain to someone who doesn't know, but being this hugely pregnant is basically like being incapacitated – if my toddler had fallen into the water, it would have taken me way too long to get over to her. There was a lifeguard present, but still I was a nervous wreck and the stress of the situation was too much, so I picked her up and took her away from the pool. This of course made her cry, and so the exhaustion came from trying to redirect her and do something else in the heat... it was all just too much for me when all I wanted was a seat in the air conditioned arcade. And for his part, my husband only got to go down the waterslide once which also made me feel badly because he had so much fun, but I just couldn't handle our toddler any longer in the heat alone.

After the water slide fiasco, we made our way to the animal area – they have a macaw parrot and a few baby deer and some big cats. They are rescue cats; lions and tigers and a cougar, and I'm not sure where they were rescued from. I was a little disenchanted with how small the animals' enclosures were, but since they are large cats and spend roughly 20 hours a day sleeping, I think it's a good thing that they've been rescued at all and get food and shelter every day.

Then it was time for more rides, and this place is built for kids my daughters' ages! They have about 10 kiddie rides which all 3 of them could ride, and my 8-year-old still really enjoys these since she's not ready for big rides yet. Her little sister, on the other hand, cannot wait until she is a little taller and gets to ride the 4 roller coasters the Fun Spot also has. Then they have several middle-of-the-road rides for everyone, like flying boats, a scrambler, a tilt-a-whirl, and even more I'm not mentioning. Compared to the carnival that just left our town, admission into the Fun Spot is a steal – it was \$4 for me, a non-rider who just wanted to visit the zoo. Our little toddler cost only \$4, and she was able to ride about 10 rides. Our 4-year-old was \$8, and my husband and our oldest were \$16 each. So for a grand total of \$48, it was a full day of family fun and much cheaper than the traveling carnival or even the county fair, based on what you get for your money. And I have to add that in June – too bad it's over now – but in June they had a special promotion where if you bring in a report card with A's and B's on it, the kid that earned them gets in free! So subtract \$16 from our \$48, and our day of fun was only \$32 – we were really pleased. The only problem with the place is that they are at the mercy of the weather always, and with all the rain and storms we've been getting, our day of fun was no exception and was cut short when a sudden storm moved in. But it was only an hour and a half away from closing anyway. Also, we had been about to leave as it was, and the staff handed out half-price admission coupons, so we will definitely be back when I can

enjoy some of the rides myself after the baby is born. And I will be able to give hubby another few rounds on the water slide! We were so pleased with the place that we tried to go back Sunday since we wanted to take advantage of the report card promotion one more time before June was over, but alas, the weather foiled our plans and we ended up at [Crazy Pinz](#) in Fort Wayne, Indiana instead. Still a fun day, but no where near the value of Fun Spot. Crazy Pinz is an indoor entertainment place, and they have an arcade, mini-golf, bowling, and a 3-story play area for the kids. We've been there before and really liked it, but this time, everything had changed and was MUCH more expensive. But, we had 4 little kids (brought a friend along) who really thought we were doing something really fun that day, so what could we do but spend the day at Crazy Pinz regardless. I have to mention that somehow, on the way to Fun Spot on Sunday, my husband and I got to talking I guess and somehow missed the exit and overshot the place by about 20 miles. (Sorry for not using you, Mr. GPS, I thought I knew where we were going!) Then Fun Spot was closed for rain, so we had to head down to Fort Wayne, and overall we ended up spending an extra \$20-30 on gas... Kind of a big oopsie with gas prices being so high in this day and age. It was a bad luck kind of day, but we did end up salvaging it, and overall, it was an AWESOME weekend.

Saturday we went with friends to see the movie [Wall-E](#) and then visited a friend who is recovering from heart surgery. He is doing well thankfully, and we all enjoyed our visit together – even the kids, who played with cats and bugs and other creatures found around their house in the country. We ran up to their church which was having an ice cream social and enjoyed delicious food and homemade ice cream – a dream for a pregnant lady – YUM! Wall-E was pretty good and as it turns out, the Pixar people had a brainstorming meeting years ago, and this is the last film to be made from ideas presented at that meeting. Others are [A Bug's Life](#), [Monster's Inc.](#), and [Finding Nemo](#), so needless to say, that brainstorming lunch

should go down in history! I have to say I was a little taken aback by the lack of human dialogue in Wall-E. Even after seeing the previews, I wasn't prepared for it. I think this is what may have finished off my 4-year-old since she had to leave the movie theater with dad before the movie was even half over. She's been able to make it through the last 5-10 movies we've been to in a theater, so that's why I think it was the lack of dialogue in this one that did her in. It was a cute movie though, but not on par with Pixar's latest features like Monsters Inc. or especially Finding Nemo, at least in my opinion. Then again, it was SO different, mostly because it was so futuristic that I suppose it's hard to compare to the others.

So yeah, fun extended weekend, even though piles of laundry await my folding. If you're anywhere nearby, head out to Angola, Indiana and visit the Fun Spot, it's well worth it especially if you have really little ones – it totally trumps a place like Six Flags with their high admission prices and long lines.

The Mole – Week #5

SPOILER ALERT – The following contains a synopsis of the June 30th episode of the ABC show, The Mole. Do not read if you don't want to know what happened, including results of the elimination quiz!

I got some really interesting comments about mole-y behavior on last week's post. They were thought provoking and fun to read, so keep them coming! As for this week, unfortunately my kids were going completely crazy during my viewing of the show, so I won't be able to go into much detail since I missed

a lot.

My husband thought Craig was acting very mole-y. I somewhat agree, although I just don't get the moleish vibe from him. Could someone really be SO intolerant to cold weather just from living in California? If so, that seems really unhealthy! But anyway, back to the episode. In my opinion, Kristen and Mark were the least suspectable contestants left, so I just knew one of them was going to be eliminated. I think Paul seems like too much of a loose cannon to be the mole, but who knows, it could always be an act. This week, I think my official guess will be Nicole. It stinks because I think I'm really influenced by my husband's equation using Nicole's name – (N+I) (C+O) L E = M O L E

In past seasons, the show has been known to do things like this, and I just can't get it out of my head. Plus, last night I noticed a change in her personality where she seemed to act like an actual human being for the first time during the run of the show. So that makes me think the extreme bitchiness was just a facade and as the show progresses, it's starting to crack. I mean, could anyone really be THAT much of a bitch? During the first few weeks of the show, I thought that her extremely bitchy and arrogant personality excluded her from being the mole, but now I'm not so sure, and I don't know if it's just that equation getting to me or not.

So continue to comment and post your thoughts and feelings – I really enjoy reading all the theories and observations. Here are the official guesses for this week:

Jamiah – Paul

Chris – Paul

Taylhis – Nicole

Hereditary Thespianism

Ok, so thespianism is not a real word, but it should be! My husband has been acting in plays since an early age, and I was even in shows way back when before the stage fright got ahold of me, so it's only natural that we've been waiting for the chance to get our daughters involved in plays and community theater. Now that our oldest has finally reached the minimum age to participate in the local summer children's theater, we find ourselves back in the world of rehearsals 3 nights a week – yuck to that part of it.

But we are greatly anticipating her stage debut in the Phantom Tollbooth... though judging from her audition, she is more like me on stage than her father. Hopefully she'll overcome her shyness because she will have lots of fans in the audience! Performances are August 1, 2, and 3rd in case you're wondering!

Tim McGraw – Country Singer, Actor, Vigilante?

Being a country music fan, a recent news item caught my attention. Seems country superstar Tim McGraw had to step in to perform security duties at his own concert. He spotted a large man in the front row roughing up a female concert-goer, and since security wasn't close to the guy, McGraw grabbed him up on stage to intervene in the situation. I don't know why security wasn't anywhere near the front row at the time, but

it seems McGraw can add something else to his list of accomplishments. The guy already has an pretty interesting biography... He believed his step-father was his biological father until the age of 11 when he accidently discovered his step-father was not listed on his birth certificate. His mother took him to see his real father, baseball superstar Tug McGraw, who denied him until Tim was 18 and he realized how much they looked alike. They remained close until Tug's death in 2004. He met fellow country singer Faith Hill – a country superstar in her own right – when they toured together, and they married and have 3 daughters. He is one of the most talented and successful country singers of our time and has been in the headlines for a few bizarre incidents, including a run-in involving a police horse (his friend [Kenny Chesney](#), a huge country star himself, was accused of stealing the horse and McGraw was accused of shoving an officer during the melee. The two were later acquitted of all charges after it was proven that Chesney had permission to ride the horse and McGraw was trying to keep his friend from being thrown off the horse). And now this. What a way to get on stage to meet your favorite country singer. And throughout the entire incident, the band played on and McGraw didn't miss a lyric. I really have to get to a country music concert; it's been awhile! Check it all out here:

Too Much To Expect?

This is going to have to be a very brief post... We've been SO busy lately, and I would love to make a post or two about all the fun things we've done this weekend, but my 20-month-old is quickly approaching her terrible two's and is constantly spilling things and needing attention; therefore, I cannot sit long enough these days to make any kind of worthwhile post. My 8-year-old is off school for the summer, and started off as a really big help with her little sister, but since it's almost July, her enthusiasm for helping around the house is waning. Part of me feels badly expecting her to help out and babysit so I can get some rest and her father can catch up on work, but then I also feel somewhat irritated that we went to all these fun places all weekend, even spending extra money for her to be able to bring a friend along, with no chance for me to recuperate. I can't help but think maybe we overdid it this weekend... How is she going to learn any appreciation when we're constantly doing fun stuff and she doesn't have to contribute (much) to the work load around the house? On the other hand, being the youngest child when I was growing up, I was never expected to watch over a younger sibling, and I have no idea how much to expect from her – I don't want to use her or take her for granted as a built-in-babysitter...

All I know is, it would be wonderful if I could catch a break around here and have a good week or maybe even a few days to rest before my body must endure the huge ordeal of giving birth – I'm not sleeping at night very much and today the Dr. confirmed my suspicions that the baby has dropped, leaving me feeling constant pain and pressure down below which is exhausting in itself... Time to get off my rear end to make lunch, more later, I hope!

Doomsday – A Week Away?

One week from today, I will be hitting a milestone – the big 3-0. To say I am dreading it would be a huge understatement. It's not that I feel old – at times I do, but mostly I enjoy being older because in some ways, my early 20's really sucked. After working out the growing pains of my early 20's and figuring out how and where to settle our family for the rest of our lives, my late 20's went really well. But there are a few things about turning 30 that have me feeling a little depressed lately...

This first thing is really not a big deal, just food for thought, really – I read an article about a year ago about fashion etiquette, and apparently etiquette says I can no longer wear my hair in pigtails. They say 30 is too old for this. I haven't worn my hair in pigtails since I was about 6 years old, but it's the principle of it now being inappropriate because I'm too old. What if I wake up one day wanting to wear my hair in pigtails all of a sudden? Not really a catastrophe, but again, it's just the principle – something I CAN'T do... Maybe I should wear my hair in pigtails ON my 30th birthday...

My biggest qualm about turning 30 is that I feel too old for a career. Over the past year and especially in the last few weeks, I've been thinking about all the things I'll never be nor do because it's too late... So I guess this is it – I am officially locked into the Mommy career path, sigh. Not that there is anything wrong with that, some people thrive on it. I'm just not one of them. While I truly appreciate being able to stay home and watch my kids grow without having to take some low-paying horrible job, I will also greedily admit that sometimes it's not enough. Sometimes, I think about maybe

taking a minimum wage job, just to be able to contribute, just to be able to have a logical conversation with adults during the day. Most of my daily conversations now revolve around poop, Barney, Hannah Montana or what was stuffed into the toilet. When a person is in their 20's, I always figured that was the time for establishing one's career path, but my 20's are gone, so I guess this is it. Some days, I'm ok with it. Some days I don't even have time to really think about it. But other days, I think about how I want to do something much more productive and lucrative, make a mark on the world while having fun and feeling like a contributing citizen... I know, there are lots of people (especially stay-at-home-moms!) who say that raising happy, healthy, successful children IS the most productive and rewarding job out there... But that's easier said than done. First, I don't yet know if my efforts will be fruitful – what if the kids don't turn out so well? And second, and I hate to say this, but I will anyway – some days it just doesn't seem like enough... I want to be creating something, doing something, making money – I lack that immediate sense of accomplishment in my life, and I am a person who thrives on immediate payoff for effort. Third, there's always the thought in the back of my head – what am I going to do with myself when the kids are grown and in school? I will be in my mid-thirties at the youngest, and since I didn't use my 20's to develop career skills for myself, where will that leave me when my days are no longer filled with changing diapers, preparing meals, cleaning up spills and mishaps, and chasing after kids? Lately I've been dwelling on all the careers I've let it get too late to pursue, but there's also the terrifying thought – suppose I actually had some free time for myself... WHAT ON EARTH WOULD I WANT TO DO WITH IT? I never have any free time, so I don't even know what I would do if I got some, and that for some reason, is terrifying!

I'm sure the pregnancy is adding to some of the anxiety I'm feeling about hitting the big 3-0. After all, I'm due, well,

actually, scheduled to give birth only 5 days after I turn 30. And like I said, most days I can look at my 4 beautiful children and think, wow, creating them is a lot to accomplish by the age of 30... But what about the dark days when all 4 are acting up at the same time, and I just can't feel pleasure nor reward in the career path I've chosen? And most of all, what career is just going to suddenly pop out of the woodwork for me once the kids have grown and aren't so needy?

Can't I just turn 29 again?

Get Smart – Don't Waste Time On The Love Guru

The advice in the title of my blog post sounds obvious in retrospect. [Mike Myers'](#) new movie [The Love Guru](#) did not look funny, nor did it look like a good movie... But date night this week found us in a neighboring town whose movie theater has a card club – you earn points every time you see a movie and earn rewards with the points – free popcorn, drinks, candy, movie tickets. We were lucky enough to have earned movie tickets the other day, and when we realized this would probably be one of the last movies we'd see without a newborn baby along, we decided to make it a double feature with our earned tickets. We had gone to the theater to see [Get Smart](#), the latest [Steve Carell](#) movie. Since the times lined up well and we wouldn't have much time to kill between the movies, we chose The Love Guru (regrettably) for our second movie.

Get Smart

There is one reason why I would want to see this movie after never having seen the '60's tv show: Steve Carell. The guy is

a good actor who is always fun to watch, so we couldn't resist checking out his latest work. It wasn't the best example of Carell's talent, but it was exactly what I was expecting, plus entertaining and amusing. The fictional gadgetry was clever and the action was plentiful; there were also some funny jokes thrown in ([Bill Murray](#)'s cameo is one of the best parts), and overall it was a good time. Anne Hathaway was good as Agent 99, but it makes me wonder what the character was like in the tv show... And I wonder what else I missed since I've never seen an episode of the tv version of Get Smart? Maybe I'll come across one someday, but for now, the movie wasn't good enough to make it a priority.

And because I don't want to waste any time talking about The Love Guru, I'm just going to copy and paste someone else's review from imdb.com which I think sums up the movie perfectly:

R.I.P. Mike Myers Career

I saw this film last night in a advance screening. I can say without a doubt it is the worst movie I've ever seen in the theater. It is simply a terrible movie. For every joke that's funny (which are few) there is about dozen that are not. Then there's all the jokes we've seen in previous Myers films that aren't so funny the 4th time around when they appear in this flick. Many moments in this film will have you looking around the theater wondering if anyone else finds this movie as stupid as you do.

That's really the bottom line. This movie is stupid. Take every fear you've had watching the trailer, times it by 10 and you will get an idea of how bad this film is.

By the way, the hockey in this movie will leave any one who loves the game sick to their stomach. The hockey portrayal left me in tears. Its brutal ! The film is a HUGE slap in the face to hockey. Thanks Mike Myers !

On a positive note though, Justin Timberlake and [Stephen Colbert](#) are hilarious. The only time I enjoyed the movie at all was when they were on screen. I never thought in a million

years I would leave a movie saying " Thank God Justin Timberlake was is it."

In short : this movie is terrible ! Don't believe me ? Then throw your money away and see for yourself.

HAHAHA – I especially like the part in the review, "I never thought in a million years I would leave a movie saying, Thank God [Justin Timberlake](#) was in it." So true...

At least we got in for free, though the movie was so bad, it was almost a waste of reward points! But it was a short movie and any time together for husband and wife away from the kids is priceless by itself, so I can't say it was a total waste – but seriously, don't see it! ☐

The Mole Week #4

SPOILER ALERT!!! – The following is a summary of Monday, June 23rd's episode of The Mole – it contains outcomes and spoilers. Do not read any further if you don't want to know about past Mole episodes.

6/23/08 – The focus tonight was on Clay and Victoria. Since Victoria ended up getting eliminated, the episode's emphasis on Clay put my mole-suspecting focus back on him. That and his mole-y behavior. Before the gold-brick-up-the-mountain challenge, Clay made sure to talk about how little money he wanted his team to earn. He was so focused on getting up the mountain to win the exemption from the quiz that he specifically said that bringing bricks to earn money was not important. That's understandable, but then when they did get to the top of the mountain, and Clay already knew that his team had won the exemption, he was still making comments about how much money his team had won. And his comments were about

how the team won too much money for his liking. Then, when it was discovered that the team had earned only one exemption and they had to decide which of the 3 got to use it, Clay both insisted to and bargained with his teammates in order to be able to use the exemption for himself. That seems like something the mole would do in order to "prove" his or her "need" for the exemption – ie, throw others off his mole-y trail.

I hated how Nicole was Ahem-ing and blinking rapidly during the journal question activity at dinner, but then again, I hate many of the things she does. I hadn't really considered her for the mole until my husband brought up a very intriguing point – Take a look at Nicole's name: NICOLE. It's very easy to change Nicole's name to MOLE with a simple equation: If you "add" the N to the I, it makes an M. If you "add" the C to the O, it makes an O: $(N+I)(C+O)LE = MOLE$

The show has been known for slipping in little clues like this in the past. They will even highlight some of them in the finale once we find out who the mole is. Now I am really starting to consider Nicole. Her ultra-bitchy attitude could be a ploy for the cameras because she is the mole. She was just the woman you love to hate, so as an audience member, you don't want to think her awful personality is fake because you're busy hating her. But it's just a thought for now; I will keep a close eye on her now, that's for sure. For tonight's official guess, I'm going to have to go with Clay again. Chris is still guessing Paul. Though that Nicole hypothesis is a good one, I guess it wasn't enough to convince him of Nicole's role as the mole. Until next week...

Last Chance

This is probably one of the last posts I'm going to write about pregnancy. As we get down to the end, there's not much to report (I cannot physically do much TO report!), and I will definitely post pictures of the baby. I started my weekly Dr. visits a few weeks ago, and today, finally we are starting to see some action. The Dr. says my pregnancy is now officially full-term, and my body is preparing for birth. At today's Dr. visit, the baby was moving around lots while she was listening to his heartbeat, and it accelerated nicely while he moved. The Dr. wants me to get induced the week before my due date because I have big babies (Taylor was only 7 lbs 2 oz, but the last 2 were 8 lbs 12 oz), but Dr. is off on Monday, so right now we're looking at July 8 or 9. I don't have to decide until next Monday, but I think I'm going to go with the 8th since I'm so anxious – why wait if I don't have to? I have a few meetings scheduled that week, but I will have to miss them. Besides, that's a nice date for a birthday – 7/08/08 – since we have no hope of holding out til the 21st. Our first 2 daughters were born on the 21st of their months, December and May, and then our third daughter was born a day early, on October 20... sometimes I forget and celebrate her “month” birthdays on the 21st out of habit... But baby Christopher will be no where near the 21st... July 8th – that's only 5 days after my birthday! But I like the sound of it and can't believe that it's only 2 weeks away! Time flies so fast, 2 weeks will pass in no time! Good thing too because I get less sleep by the night. I'm up going to the bathroom at least 3-4 times, and then I've been having trouble sleeping when I lay down again. But since I don't plan much during the day and my oldest daughter is out of school for the summer – she is a great big help with our youngest-for-now, I have been getting good naps for the most part.

Please send thoughts and prayers for our friend Cathy who is

in the hospital after having a heart attack on Sunday. We're going to visit her tonight and hopefully she'll be feeling well soon!