

Work And Fun On The 4th

As with last year, I had to work on Independence Day. I usually flip-flop Fridays and Saturdays with a co-worker. This was SUPPOSED to be my Saturday off so I did not feel the need to ask for it off. Sure enough, I was informed that I was going to be closing. Funny thing is, I was told that the worker I alternate days with told the boss that it was indeed her Saturday off...hmmm. When I got to work, I was delighted to discover that we were closing at 7 instead of the 8PM I was scheduled until. However by the time 6PM rolled around, my co-worker and I agreed that we should have closed then. At 6:45, one of our regular customers came in and grabbed a cart. At 7, I locked the door and we waited in the office until the couple was finished.

After finally getting out of the store, I ventured to pick up some friends to check out some AMAZING fireworks. Getting to the site was a great adventure. I was armed with my mapquest directions and Megan had "Vera" with her, so we were sure to arrive with little problems. Before getting out of town, the adventure began. I misjudged the city limits and began to accelerate maybe a mile before acceptable. We did see the state patrolman as we made our way along. He pulled out of his parking location, began to follow us, and I don't know why it took soooo long but he turned on his lights and pulled us over. Megan had brought along some beverages but we were all of legal age and none were open, so we were safe there. The officer asked why I was going so fast and I "innocently" explained that I was not sure where the limits were. We were mere feet from it. However, the generous officer asked when my last violation was (about three years ago) and he sent us on our way.

As we approached our destination, my companions informed me that they had to visit the facilities and to stop at the next available location. We passed a rest area and then came up to

a nice, clean port-a-potty (thankfully, there were no planes in the area in danger of crashing into it). OOPS... did I say that I would not mention this?

After we finally found our friends (which was not too far from the location at which we found the restroom. We watched some GREAT fireworks. I saw something I don't believe I have before. Some began as if a machine gun was being fired, rapidly spurting out in a back-and-forth motion. Really cool.

Around 2AM, it was time to drive back. Coming home was an adventure as well as some fog had developed (pretty thick in spots) but I don't think it added a great deal to our return trip. So about 3.30, I got to bed in preparation for work at 9. But definitely worth a few hours lost.

Hope everyone had a fun and safe holiday weekend.

Saturday In The Park

I think it was the 20th of June.

HELLO EVERY PEOPLE. Morat is a back in country of strange people. I a come to go to the Droobile with sister of strange person and the little people. I a would a like to go to parade but I a go to the church to hear a strange person sing. I a ride many rides that go a very fast and I a get dizzy, but they were a very fun. Morat also a meet people from other country who a work for the people at the Droobilee. Two little people win a blow fish when they pop a balloon. In Liswathistan, we a have Droobilee. Morat almost ride one ride. You a get in car and it goes over a steep cliff. WOOLY SHEEP! I a no try that.

Later, a woman yell out a to Morat. She a say she saw Morat on tv box and say Morat and friend very funny. She a ask if group do hiring out for a party. Morat say he a not know so woman give Morat card and Morat say he ask around. She say she and her husband were a planning party for little people and a like Morat very much. Maybe Morat no ask group and find out when a dis party is and ask friend to help... if he a free (OH, SURE!) Morat a think about this. I a not sure how long he a be in OHHO. I a guess some people want a more Morat, yes? Others a not so much.

At a ten of clock, we a watch the show of LASER. I a no see anything like a dis before. Lots of light and a smoke, and music. I a see map of America country, picture of a Superman, and man bopping head (he a strange laser man). I a hear number one song of Liswathistan, *Jack and Diane* by Cougar man.

Strange person he a say tomorrow is day for fathers. I a not know what this a mean. Another strange custom in OHHO. And it also the day of birth of brother of strange person

Cosmic Bowling That Was Not Out of This World

Tonight after I got off work, I headed over to meet a group of family members and some friends of my visiting cousin for a night of fun-filled cosmic bowling. However when we arrived, it was soon discovered that cosmic bowling is on FRIDAY night. Ok... but two lanes were reserved for SATURDAY night at 9. Someone had called earlier in the week to hold the lanes and was informed that cosmic bowling was indeed on Saturday. Someone was asleep at the wheel. We asked them to locate the

reservation list for Friday night to see if they had put the name down and misinformed our party. The sheet from last night could not be located. Ah... *c'est la vie*...or group of 10+ got three lanes and bowled three games.

I asked Megan to join us after the Weekender's evening of Belly Dancing and we shared a lane with my sister. I did break a hundred (too bad this was after the two games were added together). For our final game, I got a score of at least 120... let's see if I can get someone to post a reaction to this If not.. then it will be my story and will stick to it. OK, OK... I cannot tell a lie... we decided to change our order for the final game... and Megan (as me) got the 120+ but the third game was my best so at least I improved. But it was a fun time

Risky Business

One of the highlights of a lot of weeks is the semi-regular game night. A bunch of friends gather to play a WIDE assortment of games. I think we have barely scratched the surface of the [game closet](#). I love all types of games (Monopoly not so much... think I mentioned that before). Tonight was memorable for two games. First was Cranium Pop in which I elected to give a humming clue to the name of a movie. We needed one point to win the game. However, I elected not to do a charades version of the movie in question. So, I began to hum the old Bob Segar song "Old Time Rock & Roll." And hummed, and Hummed AND **HUMMED**. I even began clapping in time to the song to get the full effect, to no avail. I ask you... how many movies feature that song in a memorable sequence? The only scene I could think of to reenact is the scene from the movie in which the song was used

and I was **NOT** going to do that... besides there was no couch to dance on in the room. However, somehow, the opposing team also failed to get their points so it came back to our side and we won.

Another game was one that has been threatened with banishment into the "Jamiahsh banned game pile". Three for All involves a series of three words which the reader tries to get his teammates to say which then leads to the word that ties the other three words together. For instance:

milk...dark...white = chocolate

After defeating our opponents, I became the delegated clue giver for the next round. Kind of like hosting my own game show. For some reason, the score was much closer. Honestly, I don't know if my friends get annoyed with me or not. Maybe I should try a different approach next time and "let the wookie win" whoever that might be.

Munchkin Junction What's Your Function?

To wear out a thirtysomething who went along with his niece nephew and their eighteen year old babysitter. Elizabeth, Noah, and Nate showed up around 12.30 and asked if I wanted to go across to the school playground. Since school was still going on, I suggested going out to the park across town. Elizabeth and Nate go to a neighboring school that let out yesterday and big brother had to go to school for a work day. Being outnumbered, we decided that I would drive the two or three blocks to the park. Really fun times, but got wore

out. One of the first things Elizabeth asked me to attempt was the swinging tire. BIG MISTAKE! Nate had to help me get out of it. Later, we played some hide and seek amongst the pirate ship (AAAARGH!), wooden car, and drawbridge. I think I was the ultimate victor since no one was able to find my spot. We also had fun at the old water sput... one of the things you actually have to pump to get the water to come out. Elizabeth and Noah got a little wet with no help at all from me (ok... maybe a little) but I would not complain if I had gotten a little wet... it would have felt good. I even slid down the slide to depart the ship and join in glorious battle or to at least capture the scalawag who was firing cannons at me. After discovering that the batting cage was not working, it was time to return.

However You Spell It

I used to enjoy a good afternoon of Monopoly, but as I grew older I discovered that it takes FOREVER to play and who can actually say that they have ever played a full, complete, by the book game? In any case, here is a bit of useless trivia that might come up on a night of fun and games. Which is the only property on the original Atlantic City edition of Monopoly to not be named after an Atlantic City location? Marven Gardens is a housing development in Margate City, New Jersey and is not located in the Atlantic City limits. It is on the border of Margate and Ventnor City (there must be a Ventnor Avenue ☐)... hence the name Marven Gardens. Another bit of useless trivia: the Monopoly game has misspelled the name for the decades in which it has been produced. Charles Darrow's misspelling "M-a-r-v-i-n" was copied when Parker Bros. bought the game rights and a formal apology was made to the residents of Marven Gardens in 1995 (better late than never I

guess). I was recently introduced to a new Monopoly card game entitled [MONOPOLY DEAL](#) which does not take the never ending hours of the traditional (board game (or one of the hundreds of variations). If you can name any pop culture creation I am sure there is a version or soon to be... let's make a list:

- Star Wars Original Trilogy Edition
- Star Wars Episode I Edition

A Weekend of Fun and Remembrance

Sunday after I got off work, I had a familiar sight on the caller id. Soon after I got home, I was on my way to Hillsdale, MI to [Silo's Fun Park](#). Quite a place: go-carts, bumper boats complete with squirting action, mini golf (did not indulge... the bumper boats were fantastic). On the way there, we got separated from the lead driver when we did not make it through a red light; however, we soon found out thst they were in the drive thru of a rather sloooooooow Burger King. DING! I can see if they have the elusive Spock glass. On the drive-thru menu there was the ad for the cups so... I asked if they had the commander's cup. "Sorry, we are done selling the cups." OK... we would like three cherry slushes. "Sorry, we only have coke and orange creme." SUE BK for false advertisement. But Silo's was a ball. I loved the bumper boats with the added thrill of being able to shoot the others. Even the fountain under which I got a good dousing more than once was fun.

I did rather well on the go-carts until the final lap. I was ahead of my three co-racers until the final lap when something went awry. All of a sudden, I was slowing down and finally

came to enough of a crawl to just make it into the stopping point. I believe I was third of our group.

After the fun was done, treats finished, and elaborate gumball machine was watched, we set out on the return journey to the sound of *Little Shop of Horrors* playing in the car. If I can't be in Joseph this summer, I can devote extra time to the audition for the next show. After dropping Megan and Carol off at their car, I went to the nearby BK and completed my glass collection and got some dinner. The price was good so I got a full set so I could have one to keep and one for use..

Today being the day in which we honor all those who have fallen making the supreme sacrifice in order to defend our country, I walked along with the high school/junior high band, Scouts, and American Legion in their parade to the cemetery for services. I had to question the director's decision to play while they marched into the cemetery. I think the one time a marching band should be solemn and relatively silent is while marching into a burial site. I remember entering to a slight cadence by a drummer tapping lightly on the side of a drum in order to keep the marchers in step. The ceremony consisted of patriotic readings, music, and a salute by the American Legion. My favorite part, as it has been for as long as I can recall, is the floral tribute by the children. Armed with bouquets of flowers, many little ones from the Scouts to toddlers (who were assisted by parents) stormed the makeshift stage. I often wonder how many actually realize what the flowers symbolize. Hopefully as they age, they will come to understand that they are remembering those who have been lost in defense of freedom at home and abroad. May we all do so.

On a heavier note, my cousin who moved with her husband and daughter to Alaska had to return for a few weeks following the passing of Rich's father. They flew in last night around midnight after Rich returned from Afghanistan. Ironically, a few weeks after he returns to the Army, Rich will be back for the arrival of their second child.

My Name Is Jonas

No... nothing to do with the Jonas Brothers but more on the title in a bit. This evening, we gathered at my oldest brother's house with the fourteen of us and more extended family for the birthday celebration of my oldest (14!?) niece and 13 year-old nephew/godson. The kids hunted eggs when we arrived. Then some of us watched GOLF while others engaged in some Guitar Hero on the Wii. I actually amazed myself as I went head-to-head with almost everyone then had to go up against the household crowd. Elizabeth kept selecting the same song again and again and beating everyone again and again until she competed with her dad. I told them that I would just have to sneak out to the house while she was in school and practice... but as before, a little Wii goes a long way.

Birthdays mean cake and candles. I don't know why it took so long between the time the candles were lit and the blowing but I decided to test my wind strength. Honestly, I was sitting at the opposite end of the 6' table and blew all 14 candles out... not totally because they relit. I was thinking that the ice cream cake with peeps on top was going to melt before the candles were extinguished.

After the cake was wrapped up, someone had the BRILLIANT idea of playing golf on the Wii. WOW... wasn't it enough to sit and watch Tiger Woods hit a tree and others hit birdies (which kind, I still do not know) and bogies (why anyone would want to hit a poor dead actor is beyond me)? Needless to say, I was pleased when the 18 holes were done so we could return to Guitar Hero and Elizabeth's endless selection of [My Name is Jonas](#). At least on my turn, I was willing to try songs we had not done previously. And I did get to see a picture of John Truitt's adorable baby girl.

The View From Here

As I read in the newspaper today, I was shocked but not totally surprised that one of my childhood mainstays is being retired. The [View-Master](#) is a small plastic toy in which was place a white white wheel full of 3-d pictures. The wheels initially contained scenes of actual places (The Grand Canyon, Disney Parks, I had a set from Cedar Point that probably would be worth something if only I had been a child who thought about such things). There was a [camera](#) made during the 50s with which you could create your own View-Master reels. Later, reels of movies, television shows, and other forms of popular culture were introduced. I had reels full of Mickey Mouse, Winnie the Pooh, superheroes (I had a series of Caped Crusader reels taken from the 60s television series featuring Catwoman), the Flintstones, and others.

In an effort to appeal to increasingly uninterested kids, new versions of the toy were introduced. I had the projector that enabled the images to be shown on a wall, or set up in a dark room on a "screen" consisting of a white sheet placed over a few boxes stacked on top of each other. Friends would come into my theatre and watch as the scenes unfolded to improvised narration. I believe there was a "talking" version as well.

Over the years, sales of the View-Master have decreased exponentially. The majority of children are much more interested in video games, DVDs and the like. But for at least one 8-10 year old growing up in the late 70s-early 80s, it provided hours of imagination and fun.

Loaded Questions

Last night, after doing a nine hour shift in the salt mines, I went to a WAY long overdue game night. We even had a new very fun couple participate. For some reason, they decided to play one of my favorite games without yours truly. Why was that? I a no understand. I did arrive in time to join in another game in which you show your knowledge of the people participating around you. One of the questions asked of everyone was "What is the most embarrassing thing that you own?" I won't go into detail on some of the other answers, but I received a pair of Spongebob Squarepants pajama pants from my nephew a few years ago. Not necessarily my most embarrassing thing, but that is all I could come up with at the time. I even wore them in my performance as a rather disturbed patient in [The Clinic](#) a couple of seasons ago. Ironically, some of the other players had recently watched a recording of the show so my response was easily guessed. I was pleasantly impressed with the guesses I made on my question "What one thing would you take to a party?" I matched 4 responses to the correct people... not tooo bad... I know half of them well. So... anyone own any mentionable items they may wish not to own... unlike one of the responses at the game table?