

Back to Narnia

I took 2 of my daughters to see Prince Caspian tonight. While I enjoyed the movie, but couldn't help but feeling that it wasn't quite flowing with the book. It has been years since I've read the book, so I couldn't be sure. I will have to read the book again to determine if my feelings were accurate.

As far as the movie. I was entertained. I think that I will want to get the DVD. I think I would just rent this to see it again in most normal instances, but since I have the first movie, and the books, it will add nicely to a collection.

I'm not sure I would take younger children to this movie unless they have a good idea that movies are "make believe". This movie was a little more intense than "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe". There are two major battles, and a couple of more intense chase scenes. So while a good movie, you may want to watch it first before taking the young ones.

The Office is BACK... And Now GONE Again!

I don't know about anyone else, but I thought this season of "The Office" on NBC started out as great as all the others. Then, enter the writer's strike... Many precious weeks of laughs lost.

After the writer's strike I could see some rusty red-brown.

Not that is wasn't funny. Hey, I would take the worst episode of "The Office" over the best episode of "Home Improvement" or

“According to Jim” any day. It was just not AS funny.

But last night’s season finale was PERFECT. Vintage “The Office”... Jim & Pam, Dwight & Angela, Andrew Bernard... AND MICHAEL!

The magic and chemistry (of the cast) that makes this show was back big time in the finale!

Watching Jim work so hard to keep Michael from moving too fast with the new Toby replacement – you know, the one Michael claims he loves!

Seeing the new Toby replacement (boy, I need to lookup her name – it’s HOLLY) interact with Kevin all the time thinking he is “special”.

Learning that Jan is pregnant, but not with Michael’s baby – she got some of the good stuff from the sperm bank because “maybe if I were younger, I’d let Michael be the father of one of my children, but not now, not when it counts.” (she’s getting older).

Then seeing poor Michael miss out on an opportunity too go out with a clearly interested Holly when she hints she would like to got out and get some desert. She ends up going with Kevin. You know, the “special” one.

Ahh, “The Office”. This season reminds me of many a football season as a Chicago Bears fan. They start strong then take a big loaf in the middle of the season... Then, they start picking up momentum again only to end the season with a big win! But, no playoffs. Hey, that was the Bears LAST season!

Anyway, I will miss you Dwight, Michael, Jim, Pam, Inmate Ryan, Kevin, and others. See you next season!

They will not be missed...

I was in conversation with another teacher and he happened to say this about the current eighth grade class. After today I would agree on this for a few students with a wish that they would grow up soon. These students are the ones teachers have in mind when they say they will never teach middle school. One of the eighth grade PE classes had a several students that could fit this category. They would *not* settle down and listen to the rules of the game they were to play. By the time they finally got started, there was less than 15 minutes left until I had to bring them back up to get changed. Yes, we were inside even though it was a fairly nice day outside- the other two classes were outside and apparently there are only two fields to play softball. I can't say, unfortunately, that eighth grade was the only issue. One of the sixth grade classes also drove me nuts. It took awhile to start with them as well, and it took a lot of time to rotate teams between games as well. Fortunately the other four classes went well (6th, 8th, and two 7th).

What we played was scooter volleyball. Two nets were set up in the room downstairs (they call it the fitness room- apt because they do that there as well, like aerobics they had to do when I was there a couple of times last year). The teams sat on scooters (those squares on four wheels/castors you plant your butt on) and played volleyball that way, using a gator-skin ball probably because the court was so shallow and the ceiling low. Most volleyball rules applied, but some were a little different like you could catch and throw the ball, not just bump or set it. It was also played in two-minute games so the one team who was rotated out wouldn't have to wait long.

Well, that's about it. I should say I am fortunate there was still another guy teacher there with me today to take over most of the duties in the locker room. When you think of a gym locker room you might think of a place that reeks of B0. You'd be half-right. It reeks all right- of Axe and other spray deodorant. Either way, something to stay out of. At least it's not like when I was in junior high when we had to take showers. Nude of course. I think I would have to just say no to subbing for PE if that were the case. I guarantee I would not bother with making sure they all took showers. It's interesting to note that many of these schools still have the showers, even if they are no longer used. Well, used for their intended purpose. Some schools use them as storage.

Turkish Delight What A Treat

Tomorrow, the young summer blockbuster season will continue with the second installment of *The Chronicles of Narnia* series: *Prince Caspian*. I was really excited three years ago when [*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*](#) was brought to magnificent life on the big screen. I was introduced to the marvelous fantasy world in the fourth grade when our teacher read the entire 7 book series to the class. The first movie was an extremely faithful imagining of C.S. Lewis' novel. It tells the story of the four Pevensie children who are sent to live with an old professor during World War II. While there, the four children discover a magic wardrobe which leads them to a world in which animals speak and magic is all around. Narnia is under the spell of the wicked White Witch. Only two sons of Adam and two daughters of Eve can break the spell of endless winter... always winter but no Christmas (that would seem to change with the appearance of a gentleman dressed in red riding in a sleigh). Along with several mythological

creatures including the omnipotent lion Aslan the great, Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy attempt to restore the magic kingdom.

Along with the excitement and wonder present in Narnia. There are several religious undertones: the Adam and Eve connection, a resurrection, and betrayal (although it is for a treat called Turkish Delight and not 30 pieces of silver).

Prince Caspian picks up one summer later in “Earth time.” However, once the Pevensie children return to Narnia, 1000 years in the magical land have passed.

If you have not experienced the world of Narnia for yourself and you enjoy a great fantasy movie or book, treat yourself to this truly magical world.

[Chronicles of Narnia](#) tickets on sale now!

[Sign Up For Blockbuster Total Access And Get 1 Month FREE](#)

OPA!

Good news from our date night this week – we found a new restaurant in a neighboring town that has good gyros! Finally, no more trekking to Toledo or further just for gyros off the spit! And for you Greek food fans, stay tuned because we are currently trying to convince the owner to offer Saganaki, another one of our favorites in Greek cuisine! He said it's a difficult thing to carry since many waitresses won't serve it because of the fire involved. Yes, I said fire! For those of you who are unfamiliar, Saganaki is a greek dish made of sheep or goat cheese, and they bring it to

your table, splash brandy on it, yell OPA! and light it on fire. A large flame erupts, the entire restaurant turns to stare at you, children cry, they extinguish it with lemon juice, and then the other restaurant patrons begin asking questions – what is that? Is it safe? What does it taste like? Can I have some? One time we ordered it from a restaurant and 3 more tables ordered it after seeing ours! It is DELICIOUS! Just for fun, here is a video of a waiter serving it, though he begrudgingly *mumbles* opa while he's really supposed to be yelling it while smiling.

My 8-year-old daughter can eat a whole Saganaki appetizer herself. She is part Greek, of course, but the stuff is that good. It is my dream to get to Greece someday to try actual Greek food – if I ever had the babysitter, time, and money, it might just be enough (along with heavy sedatives or alcohol) to get me back on a plane...

Now onto the movie, I've been wanting to see the movie [Baby Mama](#) since I'm expecting and it looked like a cute comedy based on pregnancy – dumb title though I have to say. For some reason, our local theater didn't have it until now, so we finally got to see it. It actually wasn't quite as funny as it looked in the previews, but it did have a better plot and better acting than I was expecting – it did not disappoint. [Steve Martin](#) was hilarious as a very hippy-ish owner of a large company; I would consider his character the CEO of the Walmart of organic food. My favorite gag in the movie happened when [Amy Poehler](#) and [Tina Fey's](#) characters were fighting in the car and Amy Poehler's character couldn't get out of upper-class Tina Fey's "space car". So Tina Fey's character goes, "Quit touching the door handle while I'm trying to unlock it for you!" That is hilarious, I can't tell you how many times that's happened to us that the car door won't unlock while an impatient person is touching the handle. Whether you like comedies about pregnancy or just feel like watching one, I would recommend Baby Mama.

Friends, Family, Both?

When do friends become family? When do family members become friends? I've heard many times that you choose your friends, but are born into your family. Is there ever a time you choose your family as your friends? Do you 'adopt' friends as family?

All deep questions, to which I have very few answers. I know how I feel about some family, and some friends. But that can't be the same for everyone, can it?

I was born into a large family. When I came into this world, I had 1 brother and 3 sisters. A younger sister came along just a few months later (22.5 or so). I liked to think I could be friends with all of them. At times I was, at other times we were just siblings. I married into a family and got 2 more brothers, and 1 more sister. Yes, this is the way I thought of them. Time and distance prevented a normal 'friendship' but I felt it could be that way if distance wasn't an issue. My sisters married and I got more brothers. My brother married and I had another sister. Marriages came and went, so did some of the new siblings.

Now I have four daughters. Two of them have husbands, so I now have sons. I don't know how they think of me, I tend not to pry, but it doesn't really matter. As long as they treat my daughters well, they will continue to be sons to me. It will be this way for all my girls and their spouses. I don't buy the in-law route. You're either family or not. And I'm beginning to think my family are also my friends. Different from my chosen friends, but to me they are friends on some level. This allows me to give that quality of concern that should be expected of family.

Now for friends I choose. Yes, some of them are very much like family. The brothers/sisters/cousins/strange-aunt or uncle □ that I found instead of being born into the family. Friends are the family I choose.

And when the weather turns cold (figuratively or realistically), it is good to have friends and family, or both.

Did You Say MacGuffin Or McMuffin?

Perhaps in an attempt to cash in on the Indiana Jones craze sweeping the nation (not to mention this blog), a treasured crystal skull was stolen from a New Age store in Claremont, California.

Hunt for the Crystal Skull Begins Early

Let me just point out that I was nowhere near California on the date in question.

Perhaps authorities should begin by questioning the ~~two~~ three young men (?) responsible for grave robbing to retrieve a skull to use as a bong. I was surprised to learn of the laid-back nature of the store. Although they have never had any trouble with shoplifting in the past, it would seem that such a high profile item would draw considerable attention. As with the MacGuffins (the Ark of the Covenant, Sankara stones, and the Holy Grail) used in the previous 3 Indy adventures, the crystal skull does have its basis in reality perhaps just not as widely known as some of the others.

Skip the lines. [Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull](#) tickets on sale now!





Pray

I just found out today that Amie is no longer going down to Texas to be the live-in-nanny for her sister-in-law. In fact, her sister-in-law is going to be coming up here next month after Amie's brother goes over seas. I am excited and scared at the same time. I am glad that Amie is not leaving, though it seems to me that there is something coming between us lately. It hurts, but I also know it happens. I am also scared that her sister-in-law will say things to me, like she has been doing. That hurts worse than losing Amie's friendship because it is not just about me. It deals with my friends and my boyfriend! I am praying that things will turn out differently than what I think is going to happen. I am praying that God will help patch up what has happened in the past and build our friendship again, and maybe it will be easier between Amie and myself.

Industrial Technology

IT for short, not to be confused with [information technology](#) which was a possible career track for me once, was where I was Monday and today. This is the class that was once know as shop, as it used to consist solely of things like woods, plastics, and metals. Nowadays those three still exist, but are played down by the age of computers and such lessons as audio engineering, CAD, CAM, robotics, digital music and photography, and more. How does a teacher fit all this in in one quarter (eight weeks)? Well, in the case of one school the students select different “modules” they will work in for ten days apiece. That means if a student abhors woods he doesn’t have to take it. How other schools do it I am not sure. It does seem that at the school I was at today they are always working with wood so it may simply be up to the teacher or district. How do these two districts compare? Read on.

The school I was at Monday actually has an assistant in the room meaning the students do not have to give up their regular work. Ordinarily a sub in IT would mean a video or seatwork as subs are generally not certified on the machinery. Thankfully, as I do not want the responsibility of keeping 20-30 students at a time from getting hurt. It was extremely fortunate that this school had the assistant because apparently the teacher had been out for a week before I came in. If they had to do seatwork all this time they would have had some serious catching up to do. Plus, with two there [situations like this](#) can’t happen...

So Monday my time was spent signing off on modules, passing out module quizzes, getting items students needed, and otherwise helping students. Well, the latter generally consisted of “let me get the TA for you.” Okay, I am a computer person but even so I can’t know all there is to each of the computer modules. I did help where I could though. All in all this was a fulfilling day and I enjoyed it. I

forgot to give back the keys and had to come back, but I enjoyed it.

Then there was today. One teacher, no assistant. I arrived before the teacher left (half day afternoon position) and of course the students were working with wood. Well, now that I think about it I guess some of the class was in the computer room so that would be why there is so much working with wood. Still, even with this in mind this school does a lot more with wood than the other one. Anyway, with no assistant that meant- drum roll please- seatwork. Last time I was there it was a video on drywalling. A time before that the video was tiling. Today, seatwork. And not just any seatwork- they worked on *word searches* of all things. All period. Eight of them. Well, only one or two got through all eight. A few students barely got through one. Which type of student were you in middle school? Anyway, this was not nearly as fulfilling as Monday. I just sat back and handed out new word searches as they finished the old. Thankfully it was only a half day. Two full periods, and a period with only seven ELL students. Difficult students I may add, but I don't want to get into the whole ELL student thing again...

The next two days will be middle school PE again. Same two districts I just compared IT in. Maybe a PE comparison in the future? We'll see.

Beethoven...

I'm currently listening to Beethoven's 5th symphony. I wanted to put the 9th in, but didn't see it in my cd area. I found it after I started the 5th, and I'll never turn down a 5th (quote from many movies, and books, not my usual mode of

operation).

I've always liked Beethoven. Maybe it was the fact that I started listening after reading all of those "Peanuts" comic strips. Maybe it was because one of his symphonies was in Disney's Fantasia. Maybe it was because we had to listen to it in School. Who knows. But I do like it. I like other classical music too, but I don't get much chance to listen to it. The younger people in my house tend to cringe when I put in classical or Jazz. I'm eclectic in my music tastes though, I like a lot of different music, as long as I can tell it is music. Don't get me started on the Rap stuff.

Anyway, I'm quietly relaxing. Typing the blog, and listening to good ol' Ludwig. Not much I can say about this piece. But I'm wondering how many people actually would know it without the famous opening. I'm at a point in the symphony now, that I don't really remember from the last time I listened to it. I imagine if I played this segment, most people would not put it together with the 5th. Just makes me wonder.