



BYNIGHT FLIGHTS

BURNHAMISH

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NOT
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BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

IS THIS
THE END...



...OF THE WORLD?

INTRODUCTION

WHAT WOULD OUR LIVES BE WITHOUT CHANGE, WITHOUT CONFLICT, WITHOUT THE HUMAN DRAMA OF ATHLETIC COMPETITION? I WOULD GET MORE SLEEP, FOR ONE THING.



THERE WAS OLYMPIC COMPETITION, POLITICAL CONFLICT, AND AN APOCALYPSE. MANY THOUGHT DECEMBER 21ST WOULD BE THE PROVERBIAL "END." WE CHOSE TO PREPARE OURSELVES IN CASE THINGS GOT UGLY. AS IT TURNS OUT WE WOKE UP ON DECEMBER 22ND INTACT, BUT AT LEAST WE NOW POSSESS SOME RUDIMENTARY ARCHERY SKILLS AND A MEDIEVAL CATAPULT (JUST IN CASE).

TO ADD TO THE HUMAN DRAMA, OUR OLDER CAT BUFFY (WHO LOST A LEG TO A TUMOR LAST DECEMBER) IS NOW OUR **DIABETIC** OLDER CAT BUFFY. SHE SOLDIERS ON, ALBEIT SOMEWHAT MORE SLOWLY.

BOTH LAUREN AND SHAE, WHO ARE PROGRESSING NICELY WITH THEIR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (TROMBONE AND PIANO, RESPECTIVELY), ARE COMPETING TO SEE WHO GETS PESTERED MORE TO PRACTICE.

DO YOU FIND YOURSELF WAITING FOR THINGS TO GET BACK TO "NORMAL?" CAN YOU EVEN REMEMBER WHAT NORMAL WAS? THERE WAS ALWAYS SNOW BY THANKSGIVING. SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE WAS FUNNY. JOHN NEVER GOT BURNHAMISH OUT BEFORE CHRISTMAS. REST ASSURED, SOME THINGS ARE STILL NORMAL.

WHAT SEEMS TO BE NORMAL LATELY IS CHANGING JOBS. LAST YEAR, I WROTE ABOUT WRITING IN 1994 ABOUT THE STRESS OF GETTING A NEW JOB, MOVING, AND LEAVING FAMILY AND FRIENDS, THEN ABOUT HOW EQUALLY STRESSFUL IT MIGHT BE LOSING YOUR JOB, NOT BEING ABLE TO MOVE, AND BEING CLOSE TO FAMILY. I CAN ATTEST THE SECOND SCENARIO IS EQUALLY IF NOT MORE STRESSFUL. ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU ADD TRYING TO BEAT ALL THE STAFF EXPERT GHOSTS IN MARIO KART Wii. MY RIGHT THUMB HURTS JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.

I WENT, WHAT- 16 YEARS? WITHOUT PRATTLING ON ABOUT GETTING A

WHEN THINGS ARE BAD, WE TAKE COMFORT IN THE THOUGHT THAT THEY COULD ALWAYS GET WORSE. AND WHEN THEY ARE, WE FIND HOPE IN THE THOUGHT THAT THINGS ARE SO BAD THEY HAVE TO GET BETTER.

- MALCOLM S. FORBES



NEW JOB? THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD RUN, AND I WENT AND BLEW IT BY LEAVING DENSO FOR **NAVISTAR** IN 2011 AND MOVING BACK TO ILLINOIS. SOME MAY ARGUE IT WAS NOT THE RIGHT DECISION TO LEAVE A STEADY JOB I WAS IN NO DANGER OF LOSING WITH A COMPANY THAT MADE TOUGH FINANCIAL DECISIONS IN A DOWN ECONOMY BASED ON REDUCING EXPENDITURES WITHOUT SACRIFICING HUMAN CAPITAL, AND I CAN SEE THEIR POINT, EVEN WHILE NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE THE BEGINNING OF THIS SENTENCE ANYMORE.



IN 1992 I INVOLUNTARILY SEPARATED FROM MY FIRST ENGINEERING JOB AT JI CASE IN BURR RIDGE. TWENTY YEARS LATER I INVOLUNTARILY SEPARATED FROM NAVISTAR, AND NOW I'M BACK IN BURR RIDGE AT WHAT IS NOW **CNH** (WHICH WAS J.I. CASE). NOW I HAVE YET **ANOTHER** TAX RETURN TO FILE WITH W2S FROM DIFFERENT COMPANIES LIKE I DID LAST YEAR. I'M NOT REALLY COMPLAINING, SINCE I HAVE A JOB, AND I WAS ONLY UNEMPLOYED FOR EIGHT WEEKS. AT LEAST I CAN FILE A TAX RETURN FOR JUST ONE STATE THIS TIME.

SO, I'M BASICALLY BACK WITH THE SAME COMPANY I INVOLUNTARILY LEFT IN 1992, WITH SOME OF THE SAME PEOPLE, AND SOME OF THE SAME BATHROOM FIXTURES. I'M OKAY WITH THE PEOPLE, JUST UPDATE THE BATHROOMS.

SPEAKING OF BATHROOMS, I CONCEIVED THE FIRST EVER BURNHAMISH POEM IN THE FIRST FLOOR SOUTH MEN'S BATHROOM IN BURR RIDGE, PUBLISHED IN THE SUMMER 1990 EDITION (GO TO WWW.BURNHAMISH.COM AND CLICK ON "VINTAGE BURNHAMISH" IF FOR SOME REASON IT'S NO LONGER TACKED UP ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR). IN HONOR OF THE 22ND-AND-A-HALF ANNIVERSARY OF **MY OWN PRIVATE STALL**, I GIVE YOU ANOTHER INSTALLMENT OF FREE-ASSOCIATION POETIC NONSENSE, WHICH HAS BEEN ABSENT SINCE **HOLIDAY HAIKU** IN 1998.

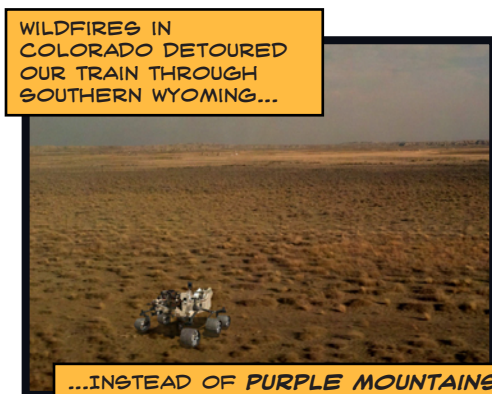
I HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS SEASON'S EDITION OF BURNHAMISH, PRESENTED TO YOU IN A NEW INNOVATIVE FORMAT MADE POSSIBLE BY COFFEE, EGGNOG, BEER, CHEESY COMIC STRIP SOFTWARE, AND A SADDLE STAPLER.

MALCOLM AND I WISH YOU HAPPY HOLIDAYS, A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR, AND PLENTY OF QUALITY SLEEP.



PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES

A family adventure to California and Oregon





WHAT'S UP WITH CAROLYN?

SINCE APRIL 1992 (EXCEPT FOR THE TWO MONTHS OF TIME OFF I TOOK THIS YEAR TO PLAY MARIO KART WII) I HAVE BEEN CONTINUOUSLY EMPLOYED. CAROLYN? NOT SO MUCH.

YES, SHE BECAME A STAY-AT-HOME MOM AND THAT IS WORK TOO I'M NOT SAYING IT ISN'T, GET OFF MY BACK. SHE BEGAN HER OWN ORGANIZING AND ECO-CONSULTING BUSINESS IN 2010 AS ARIA ORGANIZING, ONLY PUT IT ON HOLD WHILE I UPROOTED OUR FAMILY IN 2011.



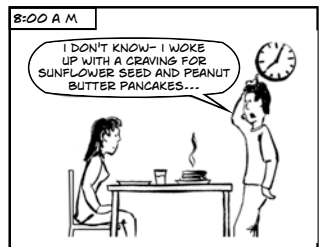
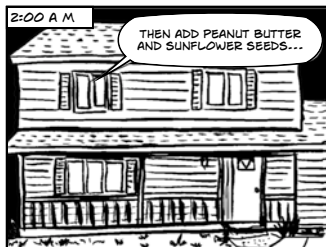
SHE HAS BEEN STEADILY RAMPING UP HER PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZING AND ECO-CONSULTING VENTURE, NOW CALLED HEALTHY HOME AND BUSINESS, HERE IN ILLINOIS. SHE HAS A WEBSITE AND EVERYTHING AT WWW.HEALTHYHOMEANDBUSINESS.COM. IN ADDITION, SHE HAS BEEN VOLUNTEERING WITH THE BATAVIA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION, GIVING PRESENTATIONS ON GREEN CLEANING PRODUCTS (AND I DON'T MEAN "COMET"), AND DISTRIBUTING SAMPLES OF HOMEMADE CHEMICAL-FREE CLEANING PRODUCTS.



THEY REALLY DO WORK, IN SPITE OF THE FACT YOU CAN MAKE THEM DIRT CHEAP COMPARED TO COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS. WHAT YOU SPEND IN TIME AND EFFORT, YOU GET BACK IN BREATHING EASIER, SLEEPING BETTER, AND KEEPING YOUR PRECIOUS FEW REMAINING BRAIN CELLS INTACT. GET THE GREEN CLEANING RECIPE BOOK AT [HTTP://WWW.HEALTHYHOMEANDBUSINESS.COM/GREEN-RECIPE-BOOK/](http://WWW.HEALTHYHOMEANDBUSINESS.COM/GREEN-RECIPE-BOOK/)

COMICS

THERE'S A CERTAIN SONG HEARD ON LITE ROCK STATIONS ABOUT THIS TIME OF YEAR THAT FOR SOME REASON REMINDED ME OF A PAST BURNHAMISH CARTOON. I RESURRECTED IT THIS YEAR FOR IT'S TIMELY MESSAGE AND FOR THE SIMPLE FACT I NEEDED TO FILL SPACE.



Feed the SQUIRRELS,
let them know it's
Christmastime
again!

AND JUST WHAT WAS SHAE UP TO?



SHAE WAS JUST A LITTLE UP
IN THE AIR THIS YEAR...

MY OWN PRIVATE STALL II

OR

JOHN WHO?

IN MY OWN PRIVATE STALL
I SIT HERE AND THINK,
WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL?
WHAT MAKES IT STINK?

THE PAINT, IT IS PEELING
THE FLUSH VALVE IS STICKY
PENNING GOOD POEMS HERE
COULD PROVE TO BE TRICKY

TWENTY YEARS PRIOR
I WORKED AT THIS PLACE
THEY SAY I'M NO DIFFERENT
NO CHANGE TO MY FACE

OF COURSE I HAVE CHANGED,
THERE'S NO NEED FOR FROWNS.
I'VE GAINED MUCH EXPERIENCE!
I'VE GAINED TWENTY POUNDS!

OKAY, MAYBE TEN,
FIFTEEN MORE THAN I DID,
IN NINETEEN-AND-NINE-TWO
I WAS ONLY A KID!

POETRY CORNER

BACK THEN I WAS COCKY
A FAST CAR I WAS FOND OF
NOW MARRIED WITH CHILDREN,
TWO CATS, AND A HONDA

I RODE LOCOMOTIVES
ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA
(WHAT ELSE CAN I RHYME WITH
EXCEPT *TRANSYLVANIA*?)

DID H.V.A.C. FOR
FEDEX VANS AND FORDS
BUT WORKING WITH SEMIS
THERE WERE NO REWARDS
SO ...

I'M BACK WITH THE MOWERS,
THE COMBINES AND TRACTORS,
BACKHOES AND GRADERS,
AND SOYBEAN EXTRACTORS.

I'LL CONDITION YOUR AIR
AND I'LL HEAT UP YOUR FEET
BUT I'LL TRY TO RHYME BETTER
THE NEXT TIME WE MEET.

Lauren's Adventures in Music

BY BURJO SMBAT

LAUREN RELUCTANTLY PLAYS HER FIRST SOLO IN FRONT OF HER FAMILY AND FELLOW STUDENTS...



WHAT AM I DOING HERE? I DON'T EVEN LIKE THE TROMBONE!



I'D RATHER JAB MYSELF IN THE EYE WITH A POINTED STICK.

THE ADJUDICATOR LIKES LAUREN'S TONE, BUT FEELS HER PRESENTATION WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH BETTER...

...IF SHE WASN'T PLAYING TOWARD THE FLOOR.

IMAGINE YOU WERE IN A HEAVY FIREFIGHT AND YOU WERE HANDED AN M1A1 BAZOOKA...

WITH OPTICAL REFLECTOR SIGHT?



...AND REINFORCED LAUNCH TUBE

SWEET.

WHEN YOU'RE PLAYING, JUST IMAGINE YOU'RE TRYING TO TAKE OUT THE BACK FEW ROWS OF THE AUDIENCE WITH A ROCKET LAUNCHER, AND HOLD YOUR HORN THE SAME WAY.

Braaappp!

!!



IT ALL MAKES SO MUCH SENSE NOW.