

New News for April 22nd, 2008

Now Playing: *A Small Victory* by Faith No More

Mood: Good, Vacationed, Happy

Dear readers I have returned victorious from Mexico! That has to definitely be the highlight of my update this time. Well, me and Kris and another married couple and two single girls went down to Cancun, Mexico. We stayed at the Oasis Cancun which is the spring break capital of the world. I kid you not. We were told we would "miss the spring breakers" but that was kinda a lie as there are ALWAYS spring breakers down there! LOL. It was all good though. Where to begin? I guess the beginning...

Those of you who know me, know I do not "fly well". It is funny though how you "grow up" when you have a child. Before, when I flew, I was worried about dying. I could not allow "my" precious person to die before my time. What is that anyway? "My time". Now that I have my son, I worry more about what will happen to him if I/we die. This prompted us to really talk about things and, pragmatically, decide what was best. We wrote a Last Will and it was as releasing as it was dismal but such is life as an adult.

Time for the plane ride and THREE Lorazapans (sp?). I asked if ONE is the normal dose and TWO would help more what would THREE do. I was told by my doctor that it would "probably make me sleepy"... Here's what it did: It made me forget a lot of the trip (except for the fact that I was anxious/nervous), drop my wife's phone in a bowl of Hot and Sour Soup at Ohare in Chicago and turned my into a slobinly jerk. So, no more Lorazapan for me. Suck it up and fly boy!

So I lived and we got to Mexico. We actually had some nice flights and smooth (smooth is good) sailing. Man, this is the point that I get to the trip itself and I have written a book already. Let's recap in summary shall we? (I still remember the LIST HTML command from "back in the day"? wow.)...

- Ate way too much awesome food
- Drank WAY WAY too much booze...my God
- Played "Dare or Dare" in the cool night air (involving as many people as we could rope in...which leads me to...)
- Met THREE young Canadian Oil Rig workers who were cool as hell
- "Rocked" TWO Canadian ladies who were "free" with thier views on same gender smooching
- Met Aaron, a mortar operator in the Aussie Army and a very cool guy (keep your buddies from jumping off the hotel roof though kid!)
- Went to La Isla Mujeres and had the best Party Boat time ever! (mad props to Clay and Carrie from Cannuckland...very cool people we met on the boat)
- Are we seeing a Canadian Friend Trend yet?
- Had some seriously nice quality time with my wife and no one else
- The "Upside Down" Club Photo Shoot will live on in infamy
- Shopped till we dropped
- El Grande Hombre is all that needs said
- Chased the elusive "Banjakalope/Banjakal" around Senor Frogs (which ROCKED OUT btw!)
- Was forced to drink a shot not 5 seconds in the door at Senor Frogs by a hottie "shot girl" (aka: Alcohol Gestapo) and knew things would soon drift south from that point...
- Sang "Sweet Home Alabama", "La Bamba" and "Stand By Me" on the bus on our way out for the night by a street performer...awesome!
- Went to Xcaret again and was, again, in awe
- Snorkled
- Drove ATVs in the Rainforest and on the beach with my wife (who is an awesome ATV rider AND sexy on them to boot)
- Found out what a "Mexican Brake" was
- Swam with a shark! (albeit a very mellow toothless bottomfeeder of a shark)
- Drank free Tequilla in the middle of a Mexican mall in the middle of the afternoon with a guy named Manuel that looked like a human Speedy Gonzales
- Did I mention the food?
- Ate bacon with a Jew!
- Dodged a Mexican Cheerleading Competition that just happened to be at our hotel (check Expedia on that one kids!)
- Coined the phrase "Giggle of Cheerleaders" as referring to them as a large group (like Gaggle of Geese)
- All Inclusive = "open bar"!

Is that enough? I am sure there is more and I can always add to it as I see fit right? It is nice to be back and at home with Alexander. His birthday is this week and if you ask him how old he will be he will tell you "TWO". God I love that boy. I have to throw in some props for the grandparents right here. They all took turns watching him and we didn't have to worry one time. They all did so well and he was so happy that I have to say we are BLESSED. Well, I have rambled on too long so I will say "later". Later!

Till next time,
Ryan

If you haven't played *Warhammer 40K: Dawn of War: Soulstorm* go get it today.

New News for March 20th, 2008

Now Playing: *When Worlds Collide* by Powerman 5000

Mood: Good, Busy, Accomplished

Well I never really thought that my first update of 2008 would be in MARCH! LOL. Where does the time go. I am still pleased with the site and my mad Photoshop/HTML skills so maybe I will look her over again today. I have found that it is hard to have a personal webpage AND a MySpace page. MySpace is so much quicker and easier but you lose so much in the creativity department. How much creativity do you need though if you are just a hum-drum webpage coder?

So what IS new? Lots and nothing all at the same time. Alex grows on and is just so damn smart. He is now an expert walker/runner/jumper and is starting to put two concepts together and express himself (and what he wants). He is ahead of the curve on that developmentally speaking. Physically, he is still a little guy but that is ok. He is happy and healthy and that rocks! We play so hard. At the time of this writing his favorite things are still balls, dogs and running. He likes to tackle me now too which is too cool. Just a joy what else can I say really?

Kristy is doing well as well. She is still doing the school/work/baby thing and we still do SO MUCH else in addition to that. Some people would opt for calm if they had so much going on but we really fill our time up with fun (and extra work). Just last weekend we went to our friends Jeff and Lisa's house and had some St. Patty's Day fun. It is kinda a tradition that we all go to the Steelhounds game. What a good game and what a good time. Thanks peeps!

So much time has passed since my last update that it is hard to see/say what is going on. School goes well. I am taking the "History of Motion Pictures" for a gen-ed requirement but it is pretty good (and the tests are mad easy). I am also taking Ohio History which goes well as well. This is a cool class because it will afford me the opportunity to become a published historical writer. I will be writing articles for a major web publication on the Mayor of Youngstown, Jay Williams and the Youngstown Steelhounds Hockey Team. The site is www.ohiohistorycentral.org so check me out later.

We also have a new addition to our family. We got a new Yorkie named Romeo Montague. Monty is a very good little man. He is definaitely Kris' dog as he is little and good and doesn't really "do" much of anything. He is a lover but doesn't take any shit from the big dog. Oh the big dog...we have put him in diapers and in diapers he may stay. What can I say? I love the big, dumb, dog but he has so many issues that he reads like the NY Post!

Lastly, there are a lot of changes happening at where I work. I don't want to express my opinion on this matter here in an open forum but, to summerize, things are tense and moving towards hostile. Here in Ohio we, as taxpayers, have to vote funds to our school districts. Our levies have been going down and now it is bad. As a direct result, we will be cutting staff and services (busing, sports, arts, etc.) soon and that is really going to hurt the students here. This will also hurt our enrollment I am thinking. There is a lot of finger-pointing and stubbornness going on. Some people (I specifically write "some people" as to not let on to my personal position) are really acting like idiots and it will be interesting to see how this all works out. As always my resume is up to date...

Till next time,
Ryan

If you haven't seen *Across the Universe* go rent it today.