



Stop Us Before We Rave About Our Kid!



In her second year at Penn State, Rachel is having a great time finding her own way and making her mark. Last Spring Semester, she greatly enjoyed being a part of the Penn State Dance Marathon. "Thon is the largest student-run philanthropy in the world and her choir partners with the Glee Club to sponsor a child and raise money for children's cancer treatment. After enjoying an "Osama is dead" riot, she spent the summer interning with the Ovarian Cancer Institute in Atlanta before returning to school this fall. This year, Rachel is greatly enjoying apartment living (except for her "Brat Roommate" issues) and has settled on a Public Relations major with minors in Voice, History, and Recreation, Park & Tourism Management. She has suffered with us through the scandal that rocked our university, inadvertently providing valuable lessons on how NOT to manage a public relations crisis BTW. Nonetheless, Rachel is Penn State Proud in her own right and we couldn't be happier. "That damn boy," AKA Christopher, remains in the picture 3 1/2 years on despite his freakish skills in economics and math.

Feline Tooth Fairy Embraces Preemption

As if trips to the veterinarian weren't already traumatic enough for Heather and Twix, in a shocking late-year twist, the Feline Tooth Fairy, the Vet, and "The-People-Who-Say-They-Love-Us" conspired to have both all said cats' teeth surgically removed WITH ABOLUTELY NO WARNING!!!! (*Editor's Note: this was a medically necessary and quite expensive treatment for a painful congenital chronic condition that someone's wife and daughter insist they were not aware of at the time of adoption.*) Now, there is < 0 cat trust remaining in the household. (*Cats' Note: What part will they take next? First our wombs, then our teeth! What is wrong with these humans!*) Both cats are doing well and have proven surprising adept at eating both dry and wet food without chewing.



New Land Speed Record Set... Plus Suddenly Not So Boring & Old!

It was another sporting year as Lianne set a new personal best at the Shamrock Marathon in Virginia Beach thanks to a flat course. Frankly, no one in Kenya or anywhere else is going to lose any sleep because of her time, but faster is faster and someone in her "late thirties" she takes whatever she can get. Lianne also ran the NYC Marathon, but lines at the porta-potties slowed her considerably. In other "Lianne News," after years of faithful, albeit low-profile service, Lianne said good bye to her Accord and got a new car this year. Ordinarily, a car purchase wouldn't merit your editor's attention, but in this case there was a certain – shall we say "emotional" component to the story. As Lianne herself trumpeted in a recent Facebook post: "Goodbye boring, middle aged, white woman car (Honda Accord). Hello awesome sporty BMW X3." It is not clear how a Just God allowed Lianne a car with an M-Sport package given her famously passive driving style, but what can you do?

He Checks Out, Drops Out, Then Sells Out! Full Keisel Narrowly Averted

VJ retired from the Army in a Pentagon ceremony on 11 August but for arcane legal reasons couldn't really begin his new career until after his 1 December official retirement. Although the resulting interregnum was actually a period of paid full employment, let's just say that was NOT the way certain female members of the household saw it. To evade matrimonial sanctions, VJ adhered to Lianne's daily schedule (up very early, exercise, labor, dine, relax, sleep, repeat), embracing his "house husband" role to the hilt. Defying the naysayer, he even realized never before seen levels of approval for his domestic sanitation skills and totally dominated his daily Honey-Do list. Concurrently, many old friends aided VJ's



job hunt and ultimately he chose to join Booz Allen Hamilton as an Associate on the Advanced Analytics Team in McLean, VA. Further complicating things on the domestic front, before retiring VJ threatened "to go full Keisel" – see photo of Steelers Defensive End Brett "Da Beard" Keisel – after his liberation from Army grooming standards. The woman who made him shave his "Iraq-stache" before she would properly welcome him home on R&R, rejected this course of action outright but has grown to like the appearance – but not the feel - of VJ's much more modest beard and mustache. It is all part of the "new, relaxed husband" package deal.

Merry Christmas and Joyous Festivus to all. Note the minor address change highlighted in red in the masthead. We will likely move to a larger place nearby this spring as we settle into "Phase 2." We remain a nation at war, despite the increasing disengagement of our leaders, the media and the people at large. Please remember our Fallen, the wounded and their families as well as the men and women who remain "in the fight" while we go about our daily lives.