



Stress Tests on Wife: **Not** Recommended

The theme of the Tedesco household this year (and next) is "Change is Good," but alas there is a doubter in the ranks. For some reason, Lianne at times has questioned the wisdom of (among other things): trying to sell our house in this real estate market, changing jobs, branching out into Oncology Nursing after specializing in breast cancer for several years, and allowing the only child to leave the nest. With all this change afoot in the "Lianne-o-sphere," VJ's focus has been on leveraging his considerable experience as a military planner to reduce the spousal stress level. The prospect for a comfortable, stable "Chapter 2," for frequent evenings out with our many friends in the DC area, the plentiful shopping and dining opportunities nearby, and being much closer to family are helping us keep her body, spirit and mind co-located. It is, however a day-to-day thing. If your editor is ever found dead, let me suggest you begin by questioning his Beloved. Thank God her marathon/running addiction provides a stress outlet! This year the Pittsburgh and the USMC Marathon (second award) joined the tally sheet. Virginia Beach is up next and VJ is holding out for something on the West Coast, perhaps in Wine County this fall.



Lioness on the Prowl!

Her Highness, the Princess of Tedescovia, graduated high school and launched off on the grand adventure of college this past summer. So far, so good. Rachel is clearly enjoying her newfound independence and being at Penn State in general, but sometimes a girl wants her own bathroom and a little quiet. Luckily, her grandparents are within walking distance and offer sanctuary when Rachel just needs a little peace and quiet or perhaps a tasty meal prepared to her liking. Even so, Rachel is looking forward to apartment life next year. Things could be even better if "That Damn Boy" (aka Chris-the-long-term-boyfriend) transfers to Penn State or a nearby school next year too. Fortunately, the Wonders of the Internets and free flights for Delta employee's family members allow the two lovebirds to see each other frequently. When not studying, Rachel can be found at PSU sporting events, singing with the university's Oriana Singers or raising money for the upcoming Dance Marathon.

Note that the list doesn't include pining after or communicating with her poor parents! See story to your left.

Downsizing Trend Hits the Cat Home

If last year's contract concessions weren't enough, Twix and Heather have now fallen prey to the downsizing trend sweeping American industry and life. After years enjoying the free run of large homes and the occasional

outside adventure in the balmy South, the Poor Kitties are now being forced to share a small one bedroom apartment – albeit temporarily – with the Food Giver and the Big Noisy Mean One. Visits from the Deputy Food Giver and her Boy further limit the cats' choices of napping spots and their ability to follow their high-speed shuttle run physical training regime. Both cats are also aware of the rumors that they may be out-sourced but dismiss the possibility entirely. "It is not like some Maine Coon is going to come in here and deliver the value and productivity we bring to the table," commented Heather between a nap and snack. Your Editor would like to test that theory.

Fading Away to... The Apprentice?

So far so good on VJ's planned transition in the warm embrace of the Military Industrial Complex. Secure lower-speed staff job in the Pentagon to ease the passage to Chapter 2, check. Get a retirement date of 30 November 2011 approved, check. Draft resume, check. Look after neglected medical and administrivia before leaving active duty, working. Analyze and understand the topography of the Defense Industry, working. Network with friends and others in the business, working. Remaining to dos:

1. Learn to make small talk
 2. Dial back intensity level
 3. Acknowledge that there is life and satisfaction to be found out of uniform
 4. Learn to dress like a grown man
 5. Buy clothing required for #4
 6. Calibrate expectations to reality
- It promises to be an interesting year!



Merry Christmas and Joyous Festivus to all.

Please pray for Lianne's late father, Homer, who we lost this year. Please also remember the Fallen, the wounded and their families. Finally, pray for VJ's brother Matt and his family. Matt is deployed to Iraq... you remember that war, right?