



Royal Family Expands Its Texas Domains

Charles and Rachel, Duke and Duchess of Carsonderry, celebrated the first year of their Blessed Union by acquiring



a new Castle in Austin. The Duchess promptly decorated the home in accordance with a detailed plan carefully crafted to exacting standards prior to the closing. In recognition of her artistic achievement, the King has awarded her the Order of Martha Stewart, First Class.

The Duke was assigned responsibility for the "Outer Domain" including landscaping, the garage,

outdoor cooking, and the rattlesnake defense perimeter. Pleased with his efforts in each of these areas, the Duchess afforded him temporary use of the future playroom as his Temple of Penn State and Pittsburgh Sports.

Lianne Nearly Sets A Land Speed Record

If it wasn't already enough that Lianne finally moved her office in the long promised and quite Gucci digs of the Inova Schar Cancer Institute on the old Exxon/Mobil campus in Fairfax, she also clocked her second-best marathon time ever while running marathon #23 in Richmond this Fall. At this point, your Editor feels morally obligated to point out that speed is a relative thing. While Joyciline Jepkosgei, Mary Keitany and their Kenyan countrywomen have nothing to fear, at 39-again Lianne outperformed the majority of the female human population yet again, finishing just 15 minutes off the global average marathon finish time for women of all ages. Not bad for an aspiring Nonna!

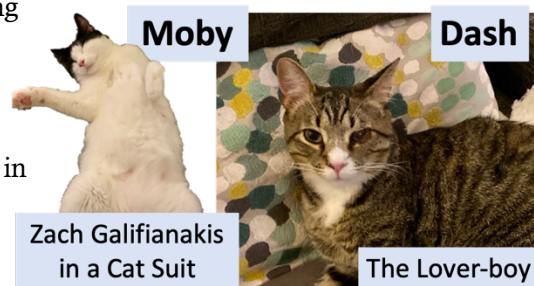
VJ Becomes a Nerd Whisperer

Despairing of trying to save the Department of Defense from itself, after Labor Day, VJ traded his high profile, relatively stressful contractor job as a wargame analyst/planner with Booz Allen for a new gig as the Product Owner on an Agile software development team operating out of an Army laboratory on Fort Belvoir. So far so very good! The new job with Battelle is both interesting and relaxed. No longer compelled to dress like the middle-aged Olive male he is, your Editor now wears polo shirts, jeans and athletic shoes to work. There, he gets to explore new mysteries such as REST endpoints, Kanban Boards, JavaScript Libraries, XML, and Web Feature Services, while holding forth on his vision for geo-spatially enabled planning at the operational level of war. As he learns to speak Nerd like a native, VJ plots taking this highly mobile job on the road to.... Austin!

Testosterone Injection Changes Everything!

Sweet Twix crossed the Rainbow Bridge in July ending three decades of Female Tyranny in the Tedesco household. Since the arrival of Cats 1.0 in 1988, your Editor suffered greatly in a female dominated system rigged to keep "the Man" down. The blessed advent of Her Royal Highness Rachel in 1992 only increased the scrutiny on and behavioral expectations of the sole male Royal in the castle. As evidence of the perfidy of the agents of Gender

Gerrymandering in the Royal Household, the Cannoli King was not even consulted in the selection of Cats 2.0 in 2005. At the time, the



public was told this was only because he was too busy over-compensating with "man-stuff" such as fighting a war overseas, but we know the truth. As they discussed Cats 3.0, the King distracted the Queen Mother with talk of an expensive Maine Coon while deftly inserting language requiring a "bonded pair" from a kitten rescue into the specifications. Oddly the only bonded pair at the local rescue was a pair of tom-kittens. Suddenly, Your Editor is more at home in his own home. "Cat Thunder" peels across the ceiling as "the Boys" chase each other about, pounce one another without warning, and wrestle for control of the Preferred Chair all while howling at the top of their lungs and performing aerobic acts worthy of the Big Top. They are eating us out of house and home and generating a correspondingly prodigious Litter Critter output. For the moment, the Queen Mother is bemused and just thankful she willed herself to bear a daughter.

Cruellest Hoax Ever Perpetrated



Friends, Michael & Denise, graciously decided to have a baby just so Rachel and Chas could pose for photos with him and thus torture their own parents. Not nice, children!

Merry Christmas & Joyous Festivus to all of us!

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.