

February, 2005

Inappropriate Company Names, Ongoing

Sighted on a van on Rt. 7 in Leesburg this morning, "Wacker Plumbing." Some of these company names I see seem so odd...yet memorable.

Freakin' Blind Leading the Blind

Here is a winner situation if I ever saw one. Who that represents me in the House and Senate could think this appointment is a good idea? Former Iran-Contra Figure to Lead Democracy Efforts Abroad in the Washington Post, 3 February, 2005.

"Elliott Abrams, who pleaded guilty in 1991 to withholding information from Congress in the Iran-contra affair, was promoted to deputy national security adviser to President Bush."

Filling the Empty Space

I've been away...not that I have been regular as to posting. Had a week off during which I got two days of skiing in at Seven Springs in PA with a group of family and friends. That was great fun. Headed from there for two days in Upper Montclair, NJ with my grandmother Eames. We never seem to have any dead time what with running some errands (Grandma doesn't like to drive too far at age 90), eating, and chatting. We watched the Westminster Dog Show, a first for me, but very interesting. There were some very oddly groomed dogs.

I ended the time off with four days in VT. I stayed with my good friend Mike Livingston in Middlebury. He had to work, was off Friday but I could not convince him to ski. I headed off for a good day of skiing at Killington which is surely the largest ski area on the east coast. Conditions were a bit frozen/granular early but softened up as the day went on. Still it was fast, the slopes were not crowded, and I practically skied right up to the chairs. I highly recommend a visit, on a weekday.

I did Middlebury College Snowbowl on Friday. They had about 4-6 inches of new powder which was cool. I never really skied any powder so it was a bit challenging and definitely more tiring. Underneath unfortunately was pretty frozen. I caught an edge a couple of times and took a couple of good spills. Nonetheless it was great to head down a run with six inches of fresh powder and no tracks but my own...behind me!

D.C. Snowed Again

D.C. and the suburbs, in their infinite wisdom, are spending time and money this morning to ensure that people can get to work...and get stuck there after 3-6 inches of snow. Or, have a hell ride home. At least most of the area schools are closed!

Hunter S. Thompson - To Grow or Not

Carl Field of Baltimore writes about Hunter S. Thompson to the Washington Post and gets published on 26 February, 2005. He basically says that he enjoyed HST's (not to be confused with Truman) original style and writings but that he found him tiresome and repetitive both in style and writing as the years went on. Carl's bottom line is that HST should have moved beyond the drinking and drugs that so defined his style and "grown as a human being and as a writer." He goes on to ask, "...isn't that what great artists do?"

I am not sure that Carl, in the way he asks the question, answers it correctly. He infers that great artists have to "go straight" to grow and develop. That may be true but there are plenty of individuals who are recognized as great artists who never "got straight." Sure, they may have faded into obscurity or died but they are still purported to be great "artists." For example:

Jimi Hendrix
Joni Mitchell
Jon Bonham
Keith Moon
Dwayne Allman
Jim Morrison
Kurt Cobain
Ernest Hemingway