

July, 2006

Come Together Now

No this is not about a porno movie nor is it about about a Beatles' song played by Aerosmith. It is about me finally getting Rhapsody on my Squeezebox. I know what you are thinking... Next thing you know I will start talking about playing Cornhole. Now what is the world coming to?

Squeezebox is a device sold by Slim Devices. I can hook this device up to my home network via ethernet cable or wireless. Through it I can play a myriad of Internet radio stations, whether or not my computer is on, and all the music on my computer on my stereo with excellent sound quality.

A friend of mine at work mentioned that he had one and really liked it. Somewhere along the line I read that there was a new version out so I researched it bit. Finding that the last version was compatible with my music service, Rhapsody, and that the new version would be shortly, I decided to spring for the Squeezebox.

It has worked admirably for what it was designed. I love being able to listen to the Internet radio stations and all my computer tunes on my stereo...wirelessly. I had been waiting with bated breath for the Rhapsody plug-in to be written for this model of the 'Box. Finally it happened.

It took me a few days to get all the kinks worked out including having to upgrade my Rhapsody software which I should have been doing anyhow. I have to get the configuration right on my firewall/intrusion detection software still but if I turn the service off, I can get it to work. It should just be a matter of figuring out which protocol and port number the plug-in uses, setting that up to be allowed, and I will be good to go.

Life is good!

Just Say No to Blogging

I just can't seem to get one going. I am working on at least one serious blog on "Net Neutrality" but that will take a few more days of work. It's hot here as it is everywhere so I guess I cannot complain. For the moment let us just say I am living, I am here, and I am free.

Once Again in Defense of Same Sex Marriages

I should have known I could not have made it through the Washington Post without feeling a rant coming on. Thanks to the Op-Ed pages, I may be back on my game. Note the two letters to the editor under the heading "The Court Was Right About Marriage," dated 7/17/2006

In the first, Lisa M. Coyne (shall I coin a phrase here?) basically states that, according to the Declaration of Independence, all men (what about women?) ... are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable rights. She then proceeds to say that these rights are not endowed (well?) by the courts or a unanimous vote of American society. Does she mean the legislative branch?

This woman is a total idiot. There is not really any point in me quoting the whole article. If you are interested, follow the link. Unf'ing believable. I am not sure why the Post even published the letter. It shows a new low for a liberal paper pandering to the religious, ludicrous right.

The second contributor, Mr. Charles D. Eden, holds no more water than a sieve. The whole contribution is based on "New York's highest court upholding the ban on same sex marriage." The court apparently based their decision on the idea that children would be better off with a mother and a father....accordingly, marriages should be restricted to couples of the opposite sex.

Well what if couples don't care about having children? What about divorcees? What about single parents? Are we going out to shut down or firebomb fertility clinics that cater to single women,men, and homosexuals looking for surrogate parents? In too many cases, we only rank ourselves in the "free democratic United States of America" with religious fanatics all over the world when we espouse such religious fundamentalist bullshit. Get up, go to work, do your job, come home, enjoy yourself, family, and friends and shut the fuck up about what everyone else is doing unless it really impacts on your daily life, work, family, and friends.

Deep Thoughts

I was putting laundry detergent in my washer prior to loading it up with clothes. The inside of the washer looked

a bit dirty. Then I thought to myself, "It's a washer! How can a washer get dirty?" It was probably the lighting.

Age Indicators

I had lunch with an old friend yesterday with whom I really had lost touch for about four or five years. I am sure I still had his email address and he had mine but.... My buddy, Ted Hoffer, was one of a cast of characters in my basic Korean class at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, in 1984. The majority of us were NUG's (new useless guys/gals) right out of Army, Navy, Marine, or Air Force boot camp.

Ted was one of a few that had been in the service for awhile and had actually been to Korea including, if I remember correctly, Major Craddock, Captain Anderson, Marine Staff Sergeant Joe Pollard, and Army E-7 Joe Avery. There was one other Army officer in the class who I can picture vividly but whose name totally escapes me.

We all hit it off but Ted and I kind of meshed. He was married (still is) and his wife Ki Nam, whom he met in Korea, was pregnant with their first child Suzy. They lived out in the valley in Salinas where it was damn hot...tough on Ki Nam before and after having Suzy.

Ted and I have kept in touch over the years particularly while we were all living in Korea in the late eighties and early nineties. I remember going up to hang out with them at their apartment in Seoul when I was stationed in Pyongtaek farm country. I think Ki Nam may have just had their second daughter, Joanne. I'll always remember Ted getting out a yo, Korean bedding, for me, and setting it up in the living room. He made some comment like "this floor is flat." Whenever I sleep on the floor now I always think of that.

I don't remember where Ted and Ki Nam's third child, Teddy, was born but it was in 1989. Here's the whole point of the story. Suzy graduated from James Madison this year with a degree in chemistry after just three years. Joanne is at Christopher Newport. She though is the rogue of the family and has been asked to take a semester off. I did not press Ted for details. Little Ted, who is apparently the monster athlete, 3d degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do, which he teaches also, is off to college (can't remember where...old age) pursuing a double major in math and chemistry.

Shhhhhhaaaaaa!!!!!! Almost makes me feel old. Almost makes me feel like there will be some folks out there contributing to Social Security so there will be something there for me and my kind. Definitely makes me feel good for Ted, Ki Nam, Suzy, Joanne, and Teddy. Friends forever.

Dirty Dental Donuts

I went to the dentist on Friday at 0900 to get my teeth cleaned and examined. While waiting in the reception area, I noted that a woman and her son, who had come in minutes after I had, were eating donuts. WTF? Who eats donuts in the dentist's office?

The last thing I put in my mouth before I go to the dentist is my toothbrush. This behavior is similar to that which makes you straighten and clean up your house before the cleaning crew comes in... Bottom line, I feel sorry for the poor dental hygienist who has to clean the teeth of an individual who has just eaten a donut!