

**June, 2006**

**Re: Unionville, Toronto**

So I got into Toronto about too early on Sunday, 1604 to be exact. Leaving D.C. at 1430 kind of blew my Sunday and put me in area at a time that made no real sense. NTL, I made the best of it. I jammed across the street to a pub where I met some people that I met the last time I was up here. They recommended I go up to Unionville since the town was winding up a festival weekend which had been marred by rain and had now turned beautiful. I was directed to head to a place called "Jakes."

I jammed back to the hotel for whatever reason and, after consultation with the bellhop, decided I could easily walk to the entertainment district in Unionville. Homey was generally correct if you consider what he said was a 15 minute walk was a vigorous 30 minute walk. NTL, it was worth it once I got onto the Unionville main street. Most of the homes were set well back on the property, spacious, well shaded, and tasteful. Moments after that I hit the "downtown" section of Unionville which consisted of a bunch of quaint shops, eateries, ice cream parlors, and pubs most of which had outdoor seating in some form or another. There lay the huge attraction. If there is anything I like better than sitting outside, it is sitting outside having a beer.

Unfortunately, today when I took these pictures, time was limited so I could not get the whole experience. I'll save that for another time. Here are a couple of pics of Unionville with a link to more:

Unionville, Toronto

Missed this place this time. Have to save something for the next trip...

I don't need no stinkin' Starbucks but it's nice to know it's there!

What the hell's a "Ristorante?" Place to get a freakin' meatball sub and feel better than the average Sicilian?

Not a great picture of Jakes but this was the place recommended to me by some folks I met at a local pub on my last trip up here. Place was freakin' packed...mostly outdoors...lots of motorcycles in the parking area which was cool.

At the "Rose and Firkin" I had a couple of brews with some locals who were back for visits. The woman still resided in the states but her male companions had moved to Europe and were residing and working in Finland and enjoying the open borders to travel around and work in Europe wherever they could.

**Every Dog Has It's Day**

I really hate to bag on a dead guy...even if he is purported to have instigated the killing of hundreds of people and is also likely to have killed a few people himself in the name of Al-Qaeda in Iraq. Nonetheless, according to the Washington Post online article Insurgent Leader Al-Zarqawi Killed in Iraq, "Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the mastermind behind hundreds of bombings, kidnappings and beheadings in Iraq, was killed early Wednesday by an airstrike..."

Given there won't be much time spent really proving that al-Zarqawi was responsible for hundreds of deaths and knowing he can't be brought to trial, I hope that we really got the right guy. I ponder the accuracy of U.S. air launched surgical strikes that can actually take out a bunch of people at a high-level meeting in a supposed safe house and also the ability to accurately identify the victims by facial features and fingerprints after said surgical strike. Even if we didn't get him, it's great publicity.

Now all we have to do is wait for the next maggot who will pick up the baton of Islamic Jihad and run with it...further disrupting the cause of Islam and religion in general.

**Can Heaven Wait?**

Whether or not I am religious, I begin to ponder the concept of heaven. I am not really sure what "heaven" is supposed to be. It means different things to people of different religions and probably different things to different people in the same religions. Is it reincarnation? Is it countless virgins at my service? Is it everlasting life? Do I want everlasting life? It seems like the whole point of heaven is to have something better than life!

Why do I ponder the concept of heaven? Believers in heaven would have us imagine that heaven is better than life on earth. Since my life on earth can be so depressing, I look to anything better. My focus here will be on how I try to do and be good despite my inherent flaws. Why am I so polite, respectful, and decent to all those I encounter? Why are some people and institutions so rude, disrespectful, and slimey? Where is the payback? This is why I think I ponder the concept of heaven. There appears to be little return for one's efforts on terra firma. I can only hope that there is a better life elsewhere.

This is not to say that I don't appreciate the good relationships I have with my family, friends, and most of my coworkers. What I don't appreciate are the not infrequent reacharounds and backstabbing I encounter in the workplace. I felt the cold point of the knife between the shoulder blades twice today in less than an hour. I do not understand why people feel that they cannot talk to you about an issue they have be it with you or something you have or have not done...or where these people think they get by trying to work around you.

I cannot think of how many times I thought I could just go right to someone's superior or their superiors' superior if I had a problem with them. I have, as many times, not done so and taken up the issue with the individual to give them a chance to state their case for and/or reasoning behind an action. I am beginning to wonder the benefits of doing so.

"Nice guys finish last." Somebody said it or it was a bad line in a movie. "Nice guys are saps" is more like it. "The meek shall inherit the earth," from somewhere in the Bible I guess. According to the King John Holmes' extended version, "The dicks shall inherit the earth." Sometimes I wish it were PC to just tell someone to "fuck off!!! Stop going whining over my head and find the nads to talk to me about whatever is irking you with regard to either my behavior or my performance."

If I am not doing the job you think I should be doing, tell me. If that does not get a response, tell your boss. If that does not work, have your boss tell my boss. Otherwise "Fuck off and let me do my job!" So why "Can Heaven Wait?" It just seems that there should be more to busting your ass day after day, being told in every job that you have had that your performance is superior to anyone else that has ever held the job, and receiving nothing negative on your performance evaluations (if you even get one) than lousy hours, shitty pay, and disrespect from the most senior operations personnel in your organization.

### **Downtown Toronto Pictures from Sunday, 11 June 2006**

I was going to reformat a few of these (for the blog, already did them for the photo album) but just could not motivate. So for the moment here is a link to the photos mostly of the skyline:

Toronto Downtown Skyline Photos

Is It Real Or Is It Manopoly?

I like this rendition...View of Toronto's CN TowerView of Toronto's CN Tower. Google it if you have to know more.

### **Duncan Donuts**

According to the Washington Post online article Duncan Drops Bid for Governor on Friday, 23 June 2006, "Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan abruptly ended his run for governor yesterday, saying that he is battling clinical depression..." It was a title waiting for an article.