

March, 2006

Food Poisoning or Botch Processing

If you have a dinner party and give everyone food poisoning, does that mean you really botched things up?

Suit to a Republican Tee

I can't disagree with the Supreme Court's ruling against a number of colleges and universities that upholds the military's right to recruit on campus as cited in the Washington Post article, "Court Upholds Campus Military Recruiting", dated March 7, 2006. All colleges and universities, except those that have a historical record of moral and religious objections to war, can be denied federal funding if they don't allow such recruiting. Most post-graduate educational institutions, receiving across the board about 35 billion dollars in federal aid, find it is not really in their best interest to deny the recruiting campaigns.

The suit, which alleged that this requirement infringed upon their First Amendment rights to free speech, was flawed. George Will, as much as I may dislike many of his stances, is correct in noting in his oped article in the Washington Post, Professors of Pretense, that the colleges and universities are not in any way obliged to espouse the military's message about gays in the military, the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy. Nor does anything stop the college's and university's staff and students from protesting the recruiting efforts, the anti-gay policy, or the military in general.

What does annoy me is John Cornyn's (R-Tex) statement cited in the Washington Post article, A Victory For Military Recruiters. He notes that "this decision will ensure that the military will continue to be comprised of our nation's finest - men and women who know how to defend our country in a manner consistent with our values and principles."

At first I saw this without the caveat "in a manner consistent with our values and principles" and thought that his statement was quite bold. Who is to say that homosexuals are incapable of defending our country? Considering his caveat, I now think the Representative Cornyn's statement was just dumb. As a country, we are still a long way from deciding what is "consistent with our values and principles." Having spent 10 years in the U.S. Navy where I met and was likely to meet people of both sexes, many ethnic backgrounds, and of different sexual tendencies, I can unequivocally state that I don't care the sex, the ethnicity, or the sexual preferences. I just want someone I can work, and specific to the military, fight with.

Job discrimination according to sexual orientation is, I would like to think, largely a thing of the past but is not enforced by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. For more details on regulations regarding, at least, discrimination based on sexual orientation, please visit the EEOC web site [Facts About Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation, Status as a Parent, Marital Status and Political Affiliation](#).

Please the Trees

I appreciate David Ignatius' concern for global warming but he hurts the cause in his oped article today in the Washington Post, March 8, 2006, titled "The Planet Can't Wait." When citing a number of studies that attest to global warming, Mr. Ignatius states that, "Similar findings are stacked in a depressing pile in my study that keeps getting taller." Can't Mr. Ignatius get these articles emailed to him or find them on the Internet and save them on his computer without having to use valuable petroleum and wood resources to print them out? It certainly works for me.

No Allowed

I have turned off the commenting option in . No one uses it but spammers. If you wish to comment on an entry in my blog, please email your comment to me and I will enter it for you. I will look at upgrading shortly to a version of the software that has more functionality for blocking unwanted/unsolicited postings.

Now all I have to do is figure out how to get rid of the 60,000 some that are already sitting out there without breaking something.

Cheers from your humble blogster.

Tushie Jobs

What is it with state and local government jobs? You call these assholes for some help which is normally during your off hours, outside of 0700 and 1700, and you can't get any frigging' help. Every state or local office I have called in the last couple of months has the tush hours of 0830 to 1630. Who the hell can actually accomplish anything, get a couple of breaks in, and a decent lunch let alone serve the public working those hours?

I know a lot of very talented, hardworking professionals, including myself while in the Navy, who have worked with government serpents, I mean servants, for years. We generally have found that these so called "servants" are sucking the life out of their employers and the people they are supposed to serve. Note that recent proposals to amend the Federal government civil service merit program to actually reward people for real work and contributions was shot down in great part by civil service unions, probably about the only unions that have any pull left.

What it all boils down to for the sake of the rant is that I need some tax help from Virginia's tax department but they just aren't available when I need them. What am I supposed to do? Sit in the office or take a day off to do my taxes so it's convenient for the civil service schleps? What a bunch of shit!

I was at my desk for 11.5 hours today providing support for 150 PC users and 40 some machines controlled by computers. I am getting raped on taxes for services I don't even use like public schools but I can't even get a state civil servant on the line. I don't have the vacation, the benefits, nor the retirement plan that these maggots have and their freaking office is available for help for only eight hours a day Monday through Friday.

Get on my schedule maggots...24 x 7 x 365! Do some work for your country and the people that reside in it who pay your wages/salary.

Old Pilots and Plane Crashes; Correlation or No?

Do you ever look at the age of pilots of private planes that crash? The age frequently seems to be 60 years old or more. It's enough to think that the reaction time of an older person could effect the way they might drive a car. I expect the impact would be even greater when flying a plane. This article made me start thinking about it:

FAA Begins Probe Into Branson, Mo., Crash

Business Incentives for Guest Worker Programs

What a joke! I am not necessarily against guest-worker proposals that would allow businesses to hire illegal immigrants if they can prove that U.S. workers would not take the job. These illegal immigrants would get special work visas of up to six years.

What is silly is that it seems all a business has to do to show that an American will not take the job is keep the wages unreasonably low. That is why we are in the situation we are in now. I do not think that U.S. workers will not take many of the service jobs that illegal immigrants do because of the job. They won't take the job because the wages are artificially low due to the number of illegal immigrants already doing the jobs.

The incentive for the business to accept guest-worker programs is higher profits!

Writer's Blog

I wanted to blog about something I read in the Washington Post today. Yes, it is the only paper I read. Yes there are news outlets more numerous to count on the web. No I don't have the time to read or even skim them all. Unfortunately, I forgot what my topic was.

Let me get back on topic. Having a bad case of news related writer's block, I will just zero in on an experience I had tonight during which I went to update a web site that I voluntarily maintain for some folks I know in Point of Rocks, MD.

The web site is "www.porchs.org". The guy who retained me to maintain it for him asked for a modification.

When I went to do that I realized that someone had somehow got an advertisement on every single page with no thought about what the advertisement was blocking or the effect of the advertisement on the overall impression of the site.

Initially I was getting ready to harsh on the guy that asked me to do the web site for hacking it himself. I think his company hosts the web site and is the company that has the advertisement on it. However, I decided to back off and just ask him what he knows about it.

I don't want my artistic integrity violated by some low class webvert. But to preserve the relationship, I'll just wait to see what he knows about it. If he did, or has no control over it, I'll ask that they take the site over and relinquish the rights to use my design...for what it is worth.