

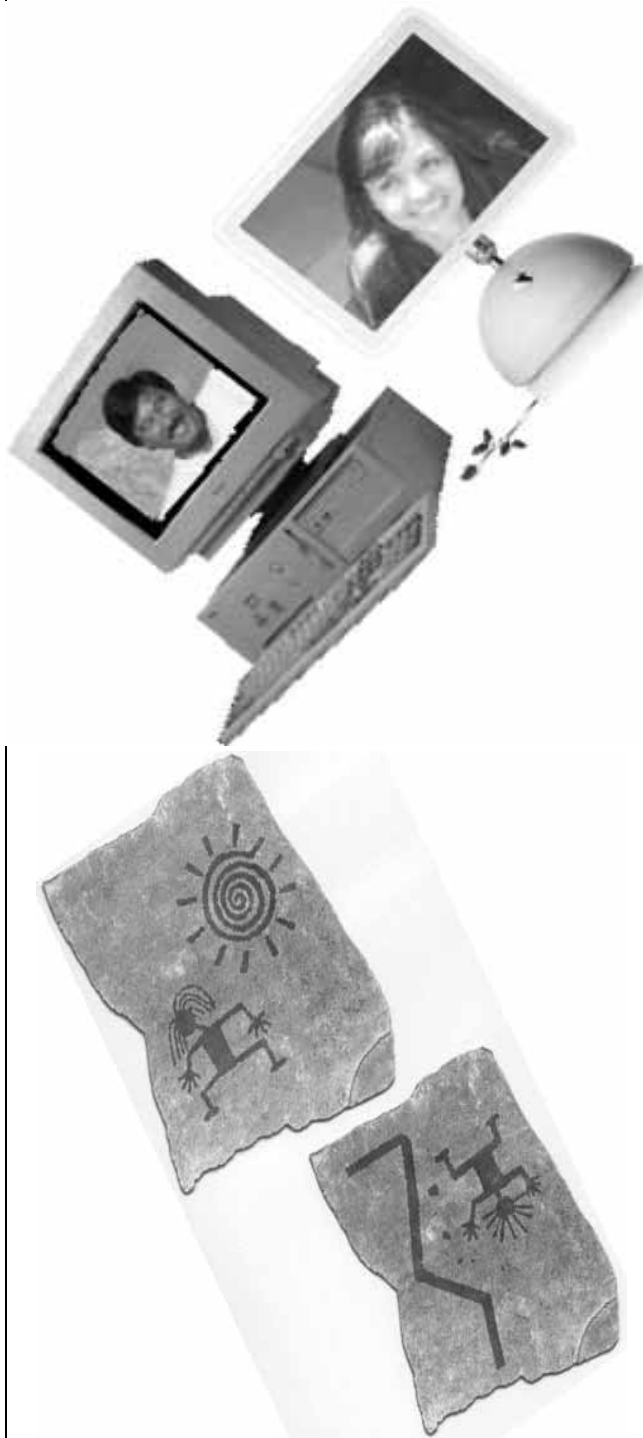
The Sun Times

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2003 IN REVIEW

- **Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays**
Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and much success in 2003.
- **Romance:** Beth and I are still together and have done much together (actually almost everything).
- **Bowling:** My team finished in 2nd place last bowling season even though I stunk so I bought a new bowling ball over the summer. So far so good, my avg is up and we're hanging on to 1st place.
- **Music:** Karla Bonoff, also saw Madame Butterfly (VA Opera), AIDA and Die Fledermaus (Wash Opera) and Man of La Mancha.
- **Home Projects:** Finished working on Beth's house so she could sell it then helped her move into her new house. Converted my garage into a workroom and added more Satellite hookups throughout the house. My townhouse took a hit during the big 16" snowstorm and then had a pipe burst. My House survived Hurricane Isabel but my fence did not and it had to be replaced.
- **Work:** Still working hard my job could be out sourced. I hate Baby Bush (gw). At least I did not have to work late on 9/30.
- **Auto:** I Replaced my GMC Jimmy with a 03 Ford Escape SUV. Still have my MR2.
- **Getaways** I went and visited Danny & Janet at their Colonial Beach house. Camped out at Sky Meadow Park to see Mars. Went with Beth to her 25th reunion in PA. Quick trip to NC to attend Craig Harris' Wedding.
- **Vacation:** Flew in with Beth to Vegas then drove to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon via Zion then swung around to the South Rim. We did some camping and hiking and got to revisit the Kaibab trail, which did me in two years ago.
- **Festivals:** Old Town Arts Fair, Mt Vernon 18th Century Fair, Occoquan Arts Festival.
- **Running** Did not run this year I had to undergo physical therapy because of injuries caused during my first trip hike through the Grand Canyon in 2001. It has been and continues to be a challenging recovery.



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2002 IN REVIEW

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Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and much success in 2003.
- **Romance:** Beth and I are still together and have done much together (actually almost everything).
- **Bowling:** My team finished in first place last bowling season even though I stunk so I bought a new bowling ball over the summer. I still stink.
- **Music:** Billy Joel/Elton John Concert (1/18), Marshall Crenshaw (1/25 & 9/6), Bruce Springsteen (8/10) David Benoit (11/10) and Karla Bonoff (11/24). Also saw Barber of Seville (VA Opera), Queen of Spades and Lucia di Lammermoor (Wash Opera) and Man of La Mancha.
- **Home Projects:** Replaced the water heater, put in new floor tile in the kitchen, created a water pond and a garden (Tomatoes only). Had to put some money into my townhouse and decided to rent to the same couple for another 2 years.
- **Work:** Went live with implementing the new Oracle Financials Accounting System on Jan 22nd (2.5 yr project). I am now assigned to a new Development team unfortunately I am still responsible for system maintenance and user support from my old position. In other words they have me working in two positions (actually that makes it 4)
- **Replaced my old computer.**
- **Vacation:** Went to the Newseum in Arlington before it closed (won't reopen until 2006). Camped on the beach at Holland Michigan and stayed at the Swissotel in Chicago. Spent the weekend in Harpers Ferry.
- **Festivals:** VA Gold Cup(5/4), Fairfax Fair (6/8), Waterfront Festival (6/9) and the Alexandria B-Day Celebration (7/6) (7/6) Scottish Games(7/27), Mt Vernon 18th Century Fair (9/14), Occoquan Arts Festival (9/28), Waterford Festival (10/5), Audubon Holiday Fair, and Mt Vernon by candle light
- **Running** Ran the Rockville 8KTWilightfest in July but really did not do much running this year.



RANDOM ACCESS

There wouldn't be a sky full of stars if we were all meant to wish on the same one.

Anyone who says sunshine brings happiness has never danced in the rain.

No husband has ever been shot while doing the dishes.

Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places

The difference between 'involvement' and 'commitment' is like an eggs-and-ham breakfast: the chicken was 'involved' - the pig was 'committed'."

If you're too open minded, your brains will fall out.

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2001 IN REVIEW

- **Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays**
Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and much success in 2002.
- **Romance** Met Beth in April and have enjoyed a wonderful year.
- **Opera** Don Carlo (March), La Traviata (May) Tosca(Oct) and Madama Butterfly (Nov).
- **Concerts** Marshall Crenshaw (6/2), Tony Bennett (8/19).
- **Festivals** VA Wine (6/3) Alex Waterfront (6/8), Fairfax Fair (6/9), Scottish Games(7/28), Occoquan Arts festival (9/30), Waterford Festival(10/7)
- **Vacation** Went to Nashville for a quick get away with Beth and went twice to Shickshinny, PA to visit her folks. Beth also treated me to a week long get away to the Grand Canyon for my 40th B-day in Nov.
- **Work** Finished Implementing a new Accounting System (2yr project) also still volunteering to maintain a community web-site
- **House** Added a Sky light, Cut Down another tree, Replaced the Steel Railings with a wood Banister. Remodeled the bathroom with a Jacuzzi tub.
- **Running** Finished the Rockville 8KTWlightfest in 36:22 in July. That's in the upper 27% for my age category (not bad for an old man)

"The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessing." Eric Hoffer

"All of us learn to write in the second grade. Most of us go on to greater things." -- Bobby Knight

If we don't succeed, we run the risk of failure -
Dan Quayle

"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars." Les Brown



"Minds are like parachutes – they only function when open." Thomas Dewar

"There are many ways of going forward, but only one way of standing still."
Franklin D. Roosevelt

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Youth is when you blame all your troubles on your parents; maturity is when you learn that everything is the fault of the younger generation.

Learn the rules so you know how to get a waiver when you need to break them.

Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.

Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck.

Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

No husband has ever been shot while doing the dishes.

Take into account that great love and great achievements involve great risk.

To have a right to do a thing is not at all the same as to be right in doing it.

Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal.

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2000 IN REVIEW

- **Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays**
Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and much success in 2001.
- **GMC Jimmy** bought used SUV as a 2nd vehicle. Bring on the snow.
- **Opera** Saw Tosca in March, Parsifal in Nov and went to the Dress Rehearsal of Il Barbiere di Siviglia in Dec.
- **Concerts** Only made it to one this year (Marshall Crenshaw).
- **Vacation** Went to CA for a quick trip in June (Long Beach/SanFran)
- **Work** Still Implementing a new Accounting System (2yr project) also volunteered to create and maintain a community web-site
- **Health** Had the Lasik Eye procedure (No more contacts). Did not run this year (Too busy w/ work and house).
- **Reunion** Went to my 20th High School Reunion in Oct
- **House** chopped two trees, killed bamboo, built a shed in my backyard. I also added a Skylight, installed a Satellite Dish and put in a home theater system. I am still renting out my townhouse

"First things first, but not necessarily in that order."
- Doctor Who

My theory of evolution is that Darwin was adopted.
-- Steven Wright

"Be like a postage stamp. Stick to something until you get there."
-- Josh Billings

If computers get too powerful, we can organize them into a committee -- that will do them in.
-- Bradley's Bromide

Is there another word for synonym?
-- Dennis Miller



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The speaker of the house in the English parliament isn't allowed to speak.

A normal raindrop falls at about 7 miles an hour.

The fingerprints of koala bears are virtually indistinguishable from those of humans.

It is illegal to cross the state boundaries of Iowa with a duck on your head.

The word 'nerd' was first coined by Dr. Seuss in 'If I ran the Zoo'

American car horns beep in the tone of F.

Non-dairy creamer is flammable.

The left leg of a chicken is more tender than the right one.

If quitters never win, and winners never quit, who came up with the phrase, 'Quit while you're ahead.'

If you're bald, what do they put for your hair color on your Driver's license?

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'99 IN REVIEW

- **Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays.** Best wishes and a Happy Y2K to you and yours. May you know the blessings of health and happiness throughout the upcoming year!
- **Bowling.** Watergate Mixed League finished 2nd, Winter Champs finished 3rd. Gave up youth coaching.
- **Cruise.** April - Took a seven day Caribbean cruise.
- **Cannons Baseball.** Summer '99 – Went to 7 Prince William Cannons games with Jim/Teri, Matt/Nellie, Tim/MaryJo
- **Rockville Twilightfest.** July – Ran the night time 8K with Danny and Janet.
- **Opera.** Saw "Sly" with Jose Carreras in March and "Rigoletto" in Nov. Had tickets to see Cosi Fan Tutti, but missed it do to real estate settlement.
- **New Home.** September- Bought a 1955 brick house with two fireplaces and hard wood floors.
- **Townhouse.** September- Rented out my townhouse for two years to a nice couple
- **Internet.** November – Switch to DSL got a new email and web site address

HAPPY HOLIDAYS GOOD TIDINGS 2U

Let no man imagine that he has no influence. Whatever he may be, and wherever he may be placed, the man who thinks becomes a light and a power. -- Henry George



RANDOM ACCESS

Charles Dickens initial choice for Scrooge's statement 'Bah Humbug' was 'Bah Christmas'

There are 364 gifts in 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'.

Artificial Christmas trees have outsold real ones every year since 1991.

In the show, 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas', the Grinch cuts out a Santa beard but never wears it.

Franklin Pierce was the first president to decorate an official White House Christmas tree

Roast turkey did not appear consistently on royal Christmas Day menus until 1851 when it replaced roast swan. The medieval dish of boar's head remained popular with Royals for much longer.

The first Christmas was celebrated on December 25, AD 336, in Rome.

How did red and green become the traditional colors of Christmas time? - In early times, Christmas tree decorations consisted of red apples on the green tree.

12/10/99

Things have been extremely busy this year. I'm still at the Department of Education and still creating interactive web based financial reports that I worked on all last year and have now expanded to include the same types of reports for the Grants and Payments System. We went from having 45 reports out on the Intranet to 150. I am also on a Financial System Review Task Force looking into replacing our current accounting system. We are on a very aggressive schedule. I have spent the last 2 months going to presentations and working meeting at vendor sites during the day, while trying to keep up with my work at night. We will be contracting for the new system before Christmas and then we will start the conversion process in late January.

I still can't believe that a whole year has past. I'm still bowling, but I had to give up coaching youth (not enough time). At least my team came in second. We normally come in last whenever we finish first the previous year. I did learn how to play golf this year.

Well once again (for the last three years), Jim&Teri, Matt&Neli, Tim w/ his family and I purchased a group section to see 7 Prince William Cannons games over the summer and last April, I went on another Caribbean Cruise. And finally in September I bought a house. It's an old split level brick house with 2 fireplaces, hard wood floors and lots of wallpaper. I spent all of Sept & Oct working during the day and working on the house at night. I saw the sunrise far too many times. The good news is that I rented out my townhouse for 2 years to a real nice couple, but I had to miss one opera to get my townhouse ready. I did however manage to see Sly with Jose Carreras and my favorite opera Rigolletto this past year.

Not much else has been happening. Malibu has adjusted to the move and loves her big back yard. My folks are doing fine, in fact my mom and dad just got back from a cruise but ran into bad weather. Maureen and Michael and the two little ones, (Jason and Jaclyn) are also doing well, but I won't be seeing them for Christmas this year (Y2K).

Well, I hope things are going well. Give me a call or drop me a line if you get a chance. If you want to see pictures of the house it is on my web site <http://members.bellatlantic.net/~sun4fun> (I have a new email and website address also. I'm now using DSL)

12/10/98

Wow another hectic year has gone by, but one that did not include too many changes.

Im still at the Department of Education, but I am now in charge of creating all the interactive accounting web reports that are out on the intranet. It was a long hard summer with lots of late nights, but it was very successful. They have now asked me to expand this reporting process to include both the Grants and Procurement systems. It was lucky that I took an early cruise to the northern Caribbean last April because that was my only vacation (I still have over 300hrs of leave). I did, however, enjoy the cruise so much that I am going to do the southern Caribbean next April.

Over the past year most things have stayed the same. Im still coaching youth and I still have not bowled a perfect game. Last year four times I made it up to the 7th frame and left a pin standing. This year I have made it to the 8th frame and left a spinning 7 pin twice.

I have not done much running since my fall ('96). The year of rehab did the trick, but work has just wore me out and I often do not have enough drive in me to get back into a daily routine.

I still enjoy going to the opera, in fact one of the operas I went to (Pagliacci w/ Placido Domingo) was actually being filmed at the Kennedy Center.

For the last two years, Jim&Teri have purchased a group section to see 7 Prince William Cannons games which has always proven to be fun. We also used season passes to go to Kings Dominion numerous times (I love the extreme flyer).

Not much else has been happening. Malibu still helps keep me sane especially during those awful Redskin games. My folks are doing fine, in fact my mom and dad are still doing a lot of traveling. Maureen and Michael and the two little ones, (Jason and Jaclyn) are also doing well.

Well, I hope things are going well. Give me a call or drop me a line if you get a chance. My web page is at: <http://www.pressroom.com/~sun4fun>

Happy Holidays!