



From the Bullpen

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Fellas,

Okay, boys. I'm officially getting old. Signs:

1. On my recent trip to Kentucky for work, I made a 70-mile side trip, not to see a baseball game, a basketball game, a football game, a Hall of Fame museum, or to visit one of Itchie's favorite ballet joints, but to see the State Capitol of Kentucky in Frankfort. Really. Sad.
2. I stayed in a bed and breakfast instead of at a Hyatt or a Marriott – and liked it! I even spent time shooting the breeze with the congenial proprietors of the B&B, Jim and Sarah.
3. I picked up a book at the B&B by Garrison Keillor – he of the Prairie Home Companion fame – and not only enjoyed it but even laughed out loud once or twice. Oh, the shame of it. But I loved this line from Keillor:

I grow old and irritable and forgetful and often forget what irritated me in the first place, though the misery is still there.

A curmudgeon after McBlunder's heart, to be sure.

On the bright side of things, I'm still not wearing tattered corduroy slippers to bed, smoking a meerschau pipe, clipping coupons, or "puttering" around the house. Those days will come.

IN RE: MESSAGE BOARD MANIA

I have to admit, I got so tired of all of the endless movie chatter and blather on the Message Board that I have sworn off looking at it for the time being. My only comments are: (1) that there are a few contributors who must be as bored as the guy who sat next to me on a plane a couple of years back, in which we were stuck out on the tarmac for three hours and he without a book. He was so out of his skull with the monotony that he finally took out his wallet and spent the next 45 minutes cleaning it and organizing it, leading to my observation that "Wow, you are bored, buddy!"; and (2) I think it's only a matter of time before U-Bob and Ted are out picking out furniture together. I guess the internet and baseball and the love of movies make for strange bedfellows.

Anyway, the good news is that we are now in the month of February, the Hot Stove League Draft is only 7 weeks away, and it is a matter of mere days before we will hear those beautiful words: ***Pitchers and catchers report.***

For closers, a happy 50th birthday wish to Itchie, who is celebrating with a weekend of drunken debauchery with One Way Tony & Company in Phoenix. Don't be surprised if you see one of our foremost league characters on the television on Sunday, sporting a rainbow Afro wig over his balding pate and holding up a John 3:16 sign.

Mazel Tov.

Skipper