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The Party Animal News

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Our Washer finally died

When we go out of town, upon our return, if we've stayed at a hotel, our procedure (because of the possibility of transferring bedbugs into the home) is to put our luggage in the garage and slowly clean clothes and then move this luggage into the home. If we visit hot zones for bedbugs (Ohio or NYC) or take luggage on a plane, I will additionally treat an area with an insecticide around the bags on the garage floor surface. Unfortunately, our washing machine gave an error code on the first load of laundry after our last 3-day weekend. The average life of a washing machine today is 11 years. We have had this machine repaired successfully in the past, but after the repairman did his analysis Ann called and told me the cost to fix the washer was going to be about the amount to buy a new one so we decided it'd had a good run, but that was it. The durable goods category of the past had some washers lasting up to 30 years, but with today's computer components this durability will never be seen again.

There are the survivalists out there in this world but Ann and I are not them. Sometimes if you open up our refrigerator it looks like the refrigerator in those model homes with just few items or maybe a bachelor's refrigerator. At all cost we put off going to the store. The motivation has to be there to go to the mega warehouse, or any store. Ann goes more than I do. Her mom would always have a packed refrigerator and she even went out of the way if I was visiting (before and after marrying Ann) to ask what I would want to add to the stockpile. As for our refrigerator, Ann and I will just slowly start taking things out of the freezer to eat and go through the items in the pantry. This is not a bad idea. You do need to rotate your food (FIFO) First Food In First Food Out to prevent pantry pest.

When Y2K crept up at the end of 1999, people were worried. One of my advertising reps was preparing but Ann and I, our refrigerator might have been at 50% capacity. After the terrorist attacks in 2001, they had the preparedness list of plastic sheet, duct tape, 3 days non perishable food and so forth. I doubt we were prepared. I know for a fact if I went out to the garage I could not find any duct tape and if you duct tape all the windows and doors, do you really want to spend all the time to get the sticky glue off the walls when Homeland Security changes from Red (severe advisory) back to Green (low level terrorist advisory)? So when it came to no more washer we were thinking we have enough clothes that it could last us a week or so. Just like our food situation we may be able to last a little longer before we get a new washer. Worst case is we might have to go to a washateria (there is one 4 miles from our house). We used a washateria in NYC when we visited a few years back and it was not that scary. It was Queens, though, and it was a hop skip and a jump from where they play the US Open so I don't think it was the scariest part of NYC. (I have videoed Norway rat activity in the alleys of NYC and you can see my videos on my YouTube BravoFincannon channel under the RATMAN of Gotham....sometimes this was a little scary.)

Anyway, we went to the lumberyard -Lowe's to buy our washer. In the past we had bought appliances at Montgomery Wards and Sears but these are closed/closing. What a changing world we live in. We actually went that evening after the toe tag was placed on our washing machine of 12 years. We figured that it would probably be lucky if we got a delivery within a week. Luckily we live in a society of capitalism. We were able to look at the models on the floor Ann had viewed online and the informed Lowes employee gave us his opinion and guess what, they could deliver the next day! So we have a new washer. It makes new and unique noises that I have to get used to. Sometimes it sounds like water is pouring onto the floor so I go in to check it out. Ann says when they installed it she heard the same thing but it ended with water all over the floor and they had to return to Lowe's and get another machine, so in my mind it's not trustworthy yet.

But back to the non survivalist Fincannons. One of my customers is a survivalist. I was telling her my idea for this newsletter, so we negotiated a deal. As you all know, I am a good trapper. Now if the apocalypse does happen we have an agreement. I will trade meat (squirrel, raccoon etc), what ever the catch of the day is, for some canned goods. So now we are all set. - David



Pest of the Quarter:

Termites

- Swarm typically around Easter in North Texas
- Dirt on walls and baseboards
- Winged reproductive seen on humid days after a rain
- Best long-term solution is a labelled treatment including outside perimeter and plumbing areas



We will be closed the week of July 4th. We will not be providing service that week so please plan ahead if you need anything. Mosquito spray for a party? PLEASE Schedule it NOW!

If you ever have a possible bug or part of a bug PLEASE save it! That will help us to identify the problem more quickly, target the correct pest and begin treatment sooner.

We VALUE our customers!

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Celebrating Pi Day with some future engineers!

Purdue Glee Club

Of course you know I'm a Purdue graduate, so I'm a proud Boilermaker! (Ann is too!) The Purdue Glee Club was passing through Plano to head home after singing in Houston during their Spring Break and we were lucky enough to see them perform at a local church. A member of the church had a son in the club and had spent a year organizing the event. We only learned of it about 6 weeks prior when the local alumni club sent a request for help in boarding the young men during their stay, but we were grateful to participate and thrilled to hear them sing. They were the nicest guys and it just made us so proud of our alma mater! Hail Purdue!



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