

outside in 5.25.06



Written by bubba



yo yo yo... That is a great picture! Rhonda wants to know if you are learning any tattoo skills while you're in there. "Fuck folding my laundry," she said. "I need that picture on my belly." Ok maybe she didn't say that but we both like the picture. THANKS.

Thank God its summer my man...seems like winter lasted forever this year. If you recall, last year we went on all kinds of outings

to local festivals and what not. It was out of a commitment to truly enjoy our first pregnancy. **My favorite was the Coon Dog Trials** where I got to check out thousands of 'private arms for sale' (see: illegal), eat squirrel, buy buffalo meat and drink moonshine. Where the hell else can you do that? I have this incredibly funny dichotomy of lifestyle out here.



Last summer we would go to the Country Club in the morning and sit by the pool with a club sandwich and a slushy drink, then find some hilljack festival with canned beer and bad country music at night. Too much. I guess if we're going to live here we might as well do all there is to do, right?



I want to do the same thing this year, but so far don't have any plans except for Vegas in a few weeks. And actually, I am lagging in terms of actually planning for Vegas. Some people were ready to buy their tickets months ago. What the hell? Don't they know I am a slacker? Beyond that, don't they know Vegas is about spontaneity? Oh, and we're going to cook a pig in the ground too, in July I think. Don't ask me how I'm going to pull that off, but it's going to happen. A girl I work with grew up on a farm and is getting the pig and hopefully some instructions. She wants to cook it on a spit but there is no fucking way I

am skewering a whole pig and looking at it while it burns on a fire all day. No, I'm going to bury it like the dead thing that it is, let it cook for as long as it needs to and then have someone else make me a sandwich. God, what a puss I am. Maybe we should just get lunchmeat from the store and have a picnic...heh heh heh. Not sure when it's going to happen. I think we're going to try and build a deck first. Keep you posted.

Ok, so to your guilt regarding not calling Jen, I have to ask – Do you think she feels guilty for not contacting you, checking on things with *you*, keeping you informed of how things are? Case closed. Don't call her. There's nothing there for you except pain and chaos. Remind yourself of that sick feeling in your stomach that isn't as bad now as it used to be. Then suck it up.

Now, to you question of why others don't reach out more to you, if you're over-thinking it, if they are selfish and all that...I think you're probably right on all accounts – you're over-thinking it, others are being selfish, all that. Being incarcerated is a weird thing you know. While you're spending all your time thinking about yourself and what's going on without you on the outside...everybody is tending to the things they need to do, like work and their families. How people respond to the situation you are in is up to them. But just because they do or don't write or come visit doesn't mean they are turning their back on you or don't care about you.



It may mean that they just don't have enough hours in the day. You should know is that you are a regular point of conversation. We've all



known each other a long time and people always ask about you, how you are and when you get out. That includes the usuals, like Scott, Cory, etc...and it includes some people you might not even think of, like Beth McAnich, Rickie and Kandy Ward (who said she is going to write you a letter). Most people know we talk and they get their information from me and pass you messages through me. I always encourage them to write

you.

Hey here's something weird. Brian Lanford lives in Ohio now. Apparently he got out of prison recently and he and his dad and brother relocated to Cincinnati. Kind of freaks me out. He's always made me a bit uncomfortable. I don't know who he talks to that I still keep in contact with, if anyone. Cory doesn't talk to him really, but sometimes his name comes up. You know Rickie is in Indiana but is only about 2 hours away. I sent her the info about where he is now without really thinking it through, then I felt bad, thinking she may not want to know, etc. I'm hoping he doesn't find out I'm here and try to contact me. The friends I keep in contact with are the friends I want to keep in contact with...know what I mean?

A bunch of guys went to Texas a couple weeks ago for Brett Lamb's wedding. Check out this group – Cory, Troy, AJ Miller, Mike Nagel, JJ... There were a few others too and some that had planned to go but didn't make it like Jimmy Reed and Rob. When I found out who all was going, I quickly passed. Maybe I'm judging with an outdated eye (that's what Cory says) but I just felt like there was probably going to be too much testosterone in that group. I still feel like JJ likes to up the ante when he's around a group of people. Then I think it isn't fair for me to think like that. I haven't seen him in years. At any rate, I didn't go and was fine with it.

Tell you what I did do with friends lately – hung out in DC with Rob and Cory. Good times...Its fun to be a little older now but still be friends. You have more money, you don't do so many stupid things...or maybe you do but there's something a little less reckless about it. Good times...we crashed a leukemia fundraiser and went to dinner at some Italian place. Then we went home – early, like 11. Man, are we old? I don't think so. Or maybe we are, but we are all resigned to being old so the peer pressure to stay out until the sun comes up has just evaporated – thank God. Someone told me once that your 20's are all about experimenting and doing tons of different things. Your 30's, they said, were to be about developing taste and quality of experience. If in your 20's you start drinking wine and eating sushi or traveling...whatever...then in your 30's you start identifying what kind of wine you like, what cuts of sushi are the best and where are the best places to travel and when should you go? That kind of thing... I'm finding it to be true. My opinion on work has changed, on relationships, on how I wish to spend my free time, what kinds of friends I want to have or keep. It's a nice shift.



Part of that spiritual evolution I guess is distilling everything down to what's really important. You don't have to thank me all the time for giving you support during this period. I do it because you're important to me, you've been important to me over time and I want you to get through all this and to a better place. New pictures coming. ~ ox

p.s. - I'll be there the day you get out.

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