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The Carolina Raccoon Song

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The Carolina Raccoon Song

I had a dream the other night that I was driving down that desert road that leads me home. Suddenly, a little something caught my eye, quite out of place and all alone.

Up on the roadside, there he stood. Waiting for a crossing guard or some kind of soul who would let him go his own way and somehow safely pass, unlike the turtle in Steinbeck's Grapes of Wrath.

He was a Carolina coon.

This was the journey of his life.

His ultimate goal was to rock and roll with a few of the guys from the Flying Elvis. nothing is as pure, nothing is as sure, nothing is as cool as the calm that comes when kindness rules

And there I was in this surreal situation ... it was clear that I had to make a choice — either hit the gas and quickly waste him or heed that still and quiet voice.

Somehow in my heart the struggle had been won; somehow kindness had overcome; somehow mercy made the only sense. After all, against my truck this coon had no defense. In my mind, he wasn't Hell, fire or brimstone, but good old-fashioned Gospel-kindness, real to life and home grown.

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I was still a bit confused to his situation, to his fascination. What of the Elvis fueled such motivation? So I said to him, "Would you please explain to me what drew you here in hope of jamming with parachuting mimics?"

And he said, "I am a Carolina coon. This is the journey of my life. My ultimate goal is to rock and roll with a few of the guys from the Flying Elvis."

Harshly I retorted, "What in God's good name ever made you think that the facade of the casino or the brilliance of Reno's ice could ever fulfill your little coon life? It isn't going to get you anywhere, except a little high."

The coon soon snapped. "Hey Mr. Christian, I don't need from you a sermon. You can see from that cozy pulpit that your laws have got me squirming. What would be nice from you is that mercy made the only sense. After all, against my truck this coon had no defense. In my mind, he wasn't Hell, fire or brimstone, but good old-fashioned Gospel-kindness, real to life and home grown."

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We stopped for coffee in Gallup, New Mexico. (The Dennys's there is a nice place to go — just a mile shy of the Arizona line.) There he grabbed his mask and turned his tail to go. I turned on the radio, tuned to KNIX, as this mbuthly little badger turned tail and left.

More and more the wisdom grows as the days increase, since I had this little visit to my sleep.

... nothing is as pure, nothing is as sure, nothing is as cool as the calm that comes when kindness rules ...

Kiel Alkire
who thinks that kindness is a terribly good idea but doesn't quite grasp from where inside his subconscious the lyrics came

Community/Events

December 15, 8:00-9:00 p.m. "Financial Aid for College," with host Steve Amen, Channel 10 (Oregon Public Broadcasting). Call until 10:00 p.m. with questions about financial aid.

December 31 (deadline): Student Travel Writing Contest, sponsored by Transitions Abroad. A $250 prize will be awarded for the winning, non-fiction essay with current, practical ideas, based on personal experience, about immersion travel, work, study or living abroad. Entries should be typed, double-spaced, 1500 words maximum. Send diskette to Transitions Abroad, P.O. Box 1300, Amherst, MA 01004-1300, or e-mail (using regarding line of "Student Contest") to studyabroad@aoL.com.


February 1, 1998. Educational Testing Service is currently offering a computerized Graduate Record Examination (GRE) program. If you are planning to go to graduate school and need to take the GRE, use the toll-free number, (800) GRE-CALL, to make an appointment. Or check out their web page at www.gre.org.

February 20, 21, 27 & 28, 1998, 8:00 p.m., "Godspell," Fine Arts Building.

March 8, 1998, 7:30 p.m., Lenten Concert, Concordia Choir and Handbells, St. Michael's Lutheran Church.

April 26, 1998, 7:30 p.m., Spring Concert, Concordia Choir and Handbells, St. Michael's Lutheran Church.

April 27, 1998, 7:00 p.m., Student Recital, St. Michael's Lutheran Church.

May 3, 1998. Tour the Highlands of Scotland! Cost for the eight-day tour is approximately $1340.

May 8, 1998, 7:30 p.m., Spring Concert, Concordia Choir and Handbells, St. Michael's Lutheran Church.

May 15, 1998, 7:30 p.m., Spring Concert, Concordia Choir and Handbells, St. Michael's Lutheran Church.

May 22, 1998, 7:30 p.m., Spring Concert, Concordia Choir and Handbells, St. Michael's Lutheran Church.

May 29, 1998, 7:30 p.m., Spring Concert, Concordia Choir and Handbells, St. Michael's Lutheran Church.

May 30, 1998, 7:30 p.m., Spring Concert, Concordia Choir and Handbells, St. Michael's Lutheran Church.

May 31, 1998, 7:30 p.m., Spring Concert, Concordia Choir and Handbells, St. Michael's Lutheran Church.

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