

All About Andy...

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I am feeling a little lonely, needy and narcissistic today so I thought I'd share more about me that a number of my friends consider 'great stories'; sadly, these aren't made up - ~~SIGH~~ THE truth hurts!

I often have A LOT to say, but I am an intensely private person... these ~~are~~ are ones I always felt self-conscious about until I told ~~to~~ people laughed in a good way about it...

I was born on the Fourth of July. A 'FIRECRACKER BABY' the truest, red-white-and-bluest of ALL the Yankee-Doodle-Dandies that ever were! 'Yankee-Doodle-Andy' my friends called me. And up until I was 6 years old, I honestly (thank to mom & dad) believed 100% that all of the Barbeques, Parades, Flags, hats, picnics, parties and fireworks were All in honor of ME! I must've been one REALLY special kid - no one else I knew had a whole NATION celebrate their birthday. Hot Damn!

Well... thanks to my childhood pal Cedric, on the 200th Anniversary of the United States - July 4, 1976 - My heart was broken... Cedric informed me of the truth about things - and I believed him as he lived in an upscale community, had ALL the toys and seemed to possess the 'KNOWLEDGE' - that precious mystery all children desire more than gold. As I asked around to cousins, aunts & uncles, neighbors and finally mom & dad - boy did the truth hurt! And I did cry - but that's ok - Because I also

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came to realize the flip-side: I was still lucky enough that I was one of the chosen to share a truly momentous day (my birthday) with the truly awesome birth of a nation. God bless America - God bless Andy.

Here's an embarrassing factoid: I CONFESS!! I AM a 'Dumpster-Diver'! Nowadays I guess they call us 'Recyclers' or 'Freegans' (loosely??) Growing up I brought home CRAPLOADS of junk. Best Score Ever: A brand new Mr Coffee 10 cup coffeemaker. I had that thing from age 10 til my 30's. What a fantastic piece of equipment. To crazy to be true - but it happened. Weirdest Score: Lucky Supermarkets was remodelling the store. I swiped ALL of the old lane lights and a couple of the old NCR registers. I took them home, rewired them all and basically set up a disco in my bedroom with all the old equipment: beeping, flashing and ringing... My mom & Dad thought I had gone completely over the edge. Could be... because... Grossesst Score: Lunchmeat - I found one day a box with a bunch of Pull-date Oscar-Meyer Ham, bologna & salami and TOOK IT HOME AND ATE IT (This was in 1980-81 ish) I never saw anyone raise a fuss more than my mom did that day. We still laugh about it. And NO - I did not get sick - but I never did it again (eat from a dumpster)

So there you go... Insight into the wonder that is...

- Andy