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“Introspection”

by

Tom Holbrook

Some of you who read this column each week have commented that my subject matter is of little or no substance and laugh at my perspective on the many things of which I write. I will be the first to agree that the content appearing in this column does not have the seriousness or depth of the Op-Ed Articles I write which you see periodically printed in this paper. This column is meant to be an escape from the truly serious things of the world and look at a few situations a little differently than maybe you do. I enjoy reading an e-mail telling me that something made you laugh. That is my intent to a large degree. With a few exceptions now and then I don't wish for my readers to take my Senior Perspective articles too seriously.

I'm retired from a variety of careers: Hamburger flipper; Dance band crooner ('Moon Over Miami' and 'Sheik of Araby' two of my favorites might date me,) and trumpet player; Consumer financing management; Mortgage banking; Elementary and high school music teaching; Operations Manager of a large restaurant chain; Christian night-club and restaurant ownership; Life Insurance, Estate & Financial Planning; Radio station ownership; and Community Involved citizen. Throughout the mix of all these endeavors over the last 50+ years I have written to someone about some things or someone else, either seriously or for pure fun.

Now that I'm retired, officially, I'm still crooning at times, playing my trumpet in my church praise band, still consulting in the Insurance, financial planning and radio fields... and still writing to someone about something or someone else, either seriously or for pure fun. It's a great life I've been given and the retired life is even better because it has given me a fresh new perspective on where I've been, where I am now, and where I might be a few years more down the road.

As each year passes I see many people still struggling to find something in life to have fun with. Some people I've met I find it difficult to believe that they've ever had any fun... they are so serious about many things and worried about everything. I've determined I do not want to be that type person. I will do everything in my power, as long as I have the power, to keep fun as part of my life and that of my beautiful wife Judy.

I love to meet new people, although I am shy around newbies (as I call them) and put on a face of bravado to fool them. I love to hear about how living in The Villages has changed the lives of so many for the better and what brought them here. We ate breakfast this past Saturday with our friends Dick and Sue and their friends Don and Brenda, from WV and KY. All of them, until 2 or 3 years ago had never even thought about living in FL and, if asked, would have said, "We would never live in FL." Having

been here a short time, 2 years for Dick and Sue, and just a few months for Don and Brenda, they wouldn't think of moving or living anywhere else.

For all you guys and gals out there who are reading this column for the first time please forgive the introspection and I hope you'll continue to be a reader. For those of you who tell me from time to time that you read most everything I write please continue. For you who say you wouldn't miss one of my columns.... thanks Mom.

To close this great work of prose let me ask these vital un-answered questions...

- “Can vegetarians eat animal crackers?”
- “If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself... is it considered a hostage situation?”
- “If you try to fail, and succeed... which have you actually done?” and for my West Virginia friends,
- “How do they get deer to cross the road only at those yellow road signs?”

Have a great week.

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