



Assorted observations on life, business and other games.

## Raving perspectives

by Chris Faria

February 12, 2015

# Do I really want "She was a dependable employee"

## On my gravestone?

Dear Ravers,

Dennis asked, "How much time do you need? A month?"

Totally surprised, I said, "I wasn't planning on that long, but I'll let you know, thanks."

I had approached him about taking an extended vacation ... for the first time in 14 years.

You know what my reaction was after he offered a month?

No, not "woohoo!" but "that's a long time away from work!"

**Stupid, right? Especially knowing what I know.**

My husband, Jim, turned 50 last year. I think I might have mentioned before that [my father](#) died at age 54 (when I was 13), and Jim's father died at 52 from heart disease.



And I'm not *necessarily saying* that Jim only has a few years left to live; more and more I think he just might drive me nuts with his selective hearing and his inability to put dishes in the dishwasher until he's 80. Just say that I'm *aware* that with similar health issues to his pop, his time might be more *limited*.

What I can bet strongly on, however, is that his body, abused from a career of hard construction, isn't going to wait for maximum Social Security benefits at age 70 to hike Machu Picchu, or even the Spanish Steps. (With that having been said, I just might get hit by a tree tomorrow and he'll be opening up an eHarmony account).

How would three weeks impact work, deadlines, and my co-workers? I felt guilty. Why does our society feel that [time on the job](#) is more important than how much we produce on the job? My [German friends would laugh](#) at my hesitancy.

You know what I came up with? What is the worst that can happen? Work is hellish before and after for a bit. My co-workers curse me a little bit. Dennis says, "Never again!" Or, quite the opposite, as Dennis said (was he being kind or sarcastic?), "I'm sure we can get by without you."

No, the worst that can happen is that I wait and I wait, and the trip never happens.

What really sealed the deal was thinking about what I really want on my gravestone, "She was so dedicated, she never took that trip to Europe" or "She put in her *time* at work. She was a *dependable* employee."

I bought the tickets for this October. Amy Ponce, our Office Manager, put my vacation on the office calendar that hangs on the outside of our supply closet.

Three bright red lines, through three weeks ... you can see it from the office over. I think she even used the fatty marker, not the slim-line.

I'm a little self-conscious when I look at it.

No one has dared to put three weeks, in red, on the company calendar.

I look at it again and butterflies take flight when I think of kayaking (yes, kayaking!) in the Venetian canals; of sitting in a Bavarian biergarten once again, with our oldest of German friends; or of Jim's first experience hearing someone sing "Volare" in an Italian piazza. With me.

How blessed I am for this opportunity, right? Some folks don't even have the option.

I know what [my mom would say](#). Dance, travel, and have more sex. (*Pictured above is my mom in Venice, her first and only trip to Europe in 1991. She was 67. I'm so glad we went together.*)



So, you see, it's not about the three-week vacation, is it? It's about today, don't you think?

Earlier in January, Dennis, Becky, Amy H. and I went to a memorial for [Rochanne Hackett](#), Senior VP and Director of Gaming Development at Wells Fargo Bank and Associate Board Member for NIGA, who passed on December 17. Her home in Reno was bursting with friends and business associates sharing hilarious and touching stories.

On her TV screen was a slideshow, with her daughters and grandchildren, cocktails with friends in foreign lands, and several on a spectacular looking trip to Vietnam that she took right before being diagnosed with cancer.

Although I didn't know Rochanne well, I sat there, along with others, I'm sure, trying to get my head around the fact that such a vivacious, colorful and *alive* person like Rochanne can be here one moment, and just be gone from this Earth the next. The pictures made me a little less sad -- knowing that she had a lot of "*did'ems*" instead of "[should've's](#)."

I thought about the pictures that would be up on our TV screen. (Honestly, the sick control freak in me was thinking that Jim would have no clue how to host a memorial in our house, and too bad I couldn't orchestrate my own party).

More importantly, I wanted my slideshow, our slideshow, filled to the last moment with adventures. I was also thinking that I'd hope my co-workers and friends would be telling about how much fun we had while working together, not "She put in her time at work."

Recently, I listened to a [TED Talk](#) by Ricardo Semler. He nailed it on "why wait until you've been given a death sentence to live." He asks why people in our society wait until they retire to see the world, to tackle their bucket list? Why do they wait so long that, yes, they have more time, but they don't have the money or the physical ability to do it?

He asks the question, "What do I want to be remembered for? And why, really, do I WANT to be remembered?" [Watch it](#). And like Ricardo Semler says, ask yourself WHY, WHY, WHY, yes, three times, and see what your final answer is.

Arrivederci (Italian for "until we meet again," yes, I'm learning Italian),



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PS -- Ricardo Semler asks, "Why are we all getting used to checking our work emails on Sunday? Why not get used to going to a movie on a Monday afternoon?" Good question. Why not?



## Raving Events

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#### Raving Insider Event During NIGA

This year we're doing an exclusive networking event:

**Native Strong Comedy Slam to Benefit the Notah Begay III Foundation**

Featuring Native American comics *Adrienne Chalepah, Marc Yaffee, Larry Omaha*

Wednesday, April 1, 2015, from 8:30 PM to midnight

House of Blues, San Diego Gaslamp District

Cigars/cocktails, along with meet and greet with the comics from 8:30-10 PM on the patio, with the comedy show taking place from 10-11:30 PM

Tickets are \$150 each and currently being sold in blocks of 10. Please contact Dennis Conrad,

[dennis@ravingconsulting.com](mailto:dennis@ravingconsulting.com), for more information. Please stop by our booth #1821 to check availability for individual tickets.



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