

Bakin' Bits

By Bonnie Dick

A good friend of mine lost her beloved cat to cancer last week. She had adopted her from the Humane Society about 5 or 6 years ago. They bonded immediately, and had a wonderful life together for the few short years they had. Her cat was always doing something funny and was such a good companion for a lonely person. If you've been contemplating getting a companion for yourself, think about a visit to the Humane Society and choose a companion to make you laugh.

I recall funny animals I have known, like the parakeet I had as a small child. My Mom would yell at him for pooping on her curtain rods. He felt bad (we think) and would fly back into his cage and hang upside down by one leg until my Mom came over and told him she was sorry!

Another friend of mine had a pet monkey in their house when they were

growing up. Unfortunately, it was a MEAN pet monkey, and very intelligent. If anybody ratted on him for doing mischief, he would go after that person and bite them. Who knew a monkey could carry a grudge? So it got so the family would whisper or spell words so that they could get the conversation past the monkey without getting attacked!

The following recipe for Shrimp butter is not a mad monkey, but a delicious addition to take to a party.

SHRIMP BUTTER

Soften and cream together one 8 oz. cream cheese and 1/4 lb. of butter.

Add:

1/2 c. mayo
one 4 oz. can shrimp (rinse & drain)
1 sm. onion, chopped
squeeze of lemon
salt and pepper to taste

Mix all together and add to butter cheese mixture. Serve w/crackers.

Note: for people like me who are allergic to shellfish, replace the shrimp with imitation crab. It is just as delicious.

I got tired of always buying store-bought frosting. My friend, Patti Wott, who used to own Christmas Tree Dining in Clyde, gave me this recipe.

CREAM CHEESE FROSTING

1 3 oz. pkg soft. cream cheese
1/4 cup softened butter
1 tsp vanilla
2 cups powdered sugar

In medium bowl with electric mixer, combine cream cheese, butter and vanilla, beating until fluffy. Add sugar gradually and continue beating until smooth.

Food for Thought: A lock is better than suspicion.

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Billy Hufsey

By Helen Marketti

"I went to L.A. to be a song and dance guy and ended up being an actor. Then I go on a reality show to reignite my acting career and get a record deal instead!" His words are filled with excitement and promise as Billy Hufsey has made his career move back to the entertainment industry.



Taking an eight year hiatus from being in the constant eye of the public Billy took this time to build his many businesses and utilize his knowledge and skills in the corporate world. "I had worked my way up," Billy explained. "I wanted stability in my life." Yet there was still an interest, a desire that often made him wonder if he still has what it takes to return to an industry that is often fickle with its stars, changing minds and career directions in a fast paced whirl. "Show business isn't for sissies," Billy said. Many will remember Billy from the TV series "Fame" where he played the role of Christopher Donlon and quickly became the teen heart throb that the girls swooned over. He then moved on to the day time soap opera

"Days Of Our Lives" and played Emilio Ramirez.

Billy's television and musical resume is peppered with countless roles as a guest star or in specific productions where his list of talents are as diverse as the characters he can play. Singer, dancer, actor, athlete and business man have all intertwined Billy's capabilities to turn industry heads in his direction once again.

"Scott Baio had called me about being part of Confessions Of A Teen Idol," Billy said. "I've known Scott for years so I agreed to do the show."

Confessions Of A Teen Idol was a recent reality television show where seven guys who were once teen idols live together for several weeks and see if being in the spotlight again is something that can be captured and desired once more.

During his time on the show Billy wrote several songs that are currently on his new CD called "Confessions." His CD Release Party was in his hometown of Cleveland, Ohio in early April where the supportive fan turn out was standing room only. Billy sang some of his songs from the CD including Better Man which gripped the crowd with its powerful words. Better Man is currently the most requested song on Adult Contemporary Mainstream Radio which Billy is very excited about. "I wanted to do the CD Release Party in Cleveland because that is where I'm from. That is where it all started."

Billy serves as an inspiration to those who are just beginning their careers all the way through to the people who have known him for years. "Billy has shown that its never too late to do what is in your heart and get back to the things you love to do. It has motivated me for my own life," said Debbie Kimball-Morrow who is a long time friend of Billy's and a former dance partner from their early days. "He is the guy next door who has always been down to earth."

With the success of his new CD, appearing in the film "Crazy Girls" and the recent work for two TV pilots "Son of a Gun" and "Radio Needles" Billy has made a come back in a big way.

"The best advice I can give to people is to continue to work on your craft and continue to grow. Some achieve success and then they stop because they don't continue to work at it. You're only as good as your last record or your last movie so you've got to keep on learning."

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