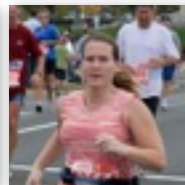
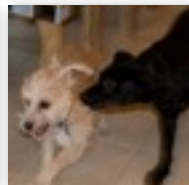


peace

www.thingelstad.com



Tammy's reflections...

This Holiday letter is **The Dark Horse**. If you could place a bet on it, the odds would be something like 249 to 1. My jaw is currently in hit-the-floor mode. This dark horse just might turn into the Thingelstad's Holiday Letter 2007.

Here's what I've learned in 2007:

1. I'm now middle-aged. It's fun as an experience. If I wasn't heading fast like a train-wreck towards death and Depends™, I'd enjoy it more. The new perspective and outlook that some maturity brings is interesting and likable.
2. The idea that nostalgia is looking back and therefore is something to be shunned is crap. For me it's part of the fun of getting older and having shared memories with family, friends and even strangers. There's nothing quite like remembering the good ole' days. Memory wipes out most of the bad and leaves the good. What a nice thing to treat oneself to.
3. It's bad to end a sentence in a preposition. I've always known this, but it's

just in the last year that I've grown to appreciate that I and many others do it all the time. I've tried to change my ways, but old habits die hard.

4. Two is terrible, but I like it. For all of Mazie's stubborn willfulness and blatant disregard for much of what I say, she is pretty sweet, funny, cute and interesting. It is a good time to watch her talk and pretend and be a kid.
5. The circle of life just keeps circling; a thing that my new perspective has taught me. I am what my parents used to be and my parents are what my grandparents used to be and Mazie is what I used to be. I'm very uncomfortable with this reality; so it goes.
6. Elmo is powerful. Mazie doesn't watch TV or play kid games on the computer, but she does know who Elmo and Dora are. Every toddler that I've ever met knows who Elmo is and would gladly throw their parents into oncoming traffic if Elmo asked nicely. I still don't get his near trance-like effect; I just bear testament to its power.

7. Marathon's are harder than they appear. When attempting a marathon it is best to train. Finishing a marathon is a very good feeling; even when you walk the last 16 miles. Marathon's make you stinky.

8. Holiday parties are best when the theme is a 70's disco. Dressing up and getting down makes for good, clean fun. The woman singer in Boogie Wonderland is one hot mama.

9. Pregnancy is best left to 27 year olds. Mind you my sample size is small, 2, but oh well. I watched a trainer at the gym, Tessa, and my sister, Angie, both 27, handle pregnancy and childbirth while looking good and staying cool. A shout out to baby Neviah and baby Nora. Both women looked great just a mere 2 weeks after giving birth. Need I say more...

Life is good and so are family and friends. Hope everyone has a great 2008! Happy Holidays to all!

Jamie's Footnote...



2007

This year has been amazing. It has been wonderful watching Mazie continue to grow, learn and develop more of her personality. This year we have become dog people with Izzy joining the family in the spring and Chase joining just a couple of weeks ago. I continue to treasure having family so near and being lucky to have such a great group of friends. My career continues to be rewarding, challenging and offer continuous change. And as if that all doesn't make me a lucky enough guy, my wife is just the best person in the world. Sadly though my Grandpa passed away this year. He is in a better place now, and I'm sure continues to look in on us regularly.