

*reflections of an old man*

Turning 30 was okay. You feel like you're in the mainstream of life. An adult with a career well on it's way to disappointing your dreams.

The 40s were pretty cool. People in their forties don't care anymore what people think of them. They are done brown-nosing and playing the corporate games of scrambling to get ahead of the next guy. People in their forties pretty much take life in stride. They use their experience to make the most of every situation, but don't get too worked up if things don't go exactly as planned. After all, some of that experience is in learning that life isn't always fair. I think people in their forties are cool.

Now turning 50 is another story. For the first time in my life, I'm praying that no one remembers my birthday. I don't want to turn fifty. I didn't ASK to turn fifty. There is nothing about turning fifty that I find attractive in the least bit.

People who turn fifty begin to think about things like whether they could make it if they cash in on an early retirement plan. People in their fifties keep an eye on their 'portfolio' and stocks and talk about their grandchildren. They actually pay attention to these commercials that talk about supplemental insurance plans, Viagra, and retirement communities nestled in the quiet foothills of nowhere!

I'm in BIG trouble! I'm turning fifty this month and I'm still trying to figure out what I want to do when I grow up! Actually, I never intended on growing up. I always wanted to just be a writer, and although I've certainly enjoyed everything I've created, I have not had much luck in being able to quit my day job.

So I'm thinking as I turn fifty, that there is a lot of stuff that I've been missing out on that other fifty-year-olds take in stride. I'll list them in no particular order because that takes too much thinking and I'm too old to be thinking that much.

I've never used a cell phone or a beeper, and don't even know how they work. I have an answering machine at home and am pretty good about returning calls. When I'm out and about, I give my full attention to whatever I'm out and abouting for.

The last video game I played was Pac Man and Pong. Computer games begin and end with solitaire.

I don't even own a camera, let alone a video camera.

I've never traveled over seas. Heck, my list of things to see in America is still very long. I have not been much of a traveling man.

I've never owned a home. I have always maintained solid stature in the Starving Writer's Society.

I've never been in the military.

I've never been in jail.

I've never shot a gun or even held one.

I've never been in a fight or hit anyone with my fist.

I've never been fishing, hunting, or on a safari.

The list of animals I've never seen (outside of cable shows) is too long to list.

I've never been on a farm or ranch.

I have no idea how Wall Street works. Never understood stocks.

I've never got a bill and paid it off without a second thought.

I've never counted my calories, have no idea what my cholesterol level is, and I don't even know how much I weigh.

I've never been picked up by a lady.

I guess as I turn fifty, I could go on and on about the things I've never done, the places I've never seen, and the experiences I've never shared. But as you get older, you learn to appreciate the things you have and not dwell on that which you have not.

I am the father of three of the greatest ladies ever presented to this fine planet. That in itself makes me the richest, most traveled and most accomplished man ever created.

I'll leave it at that. I feel a lot of pressure now to try and figure out what I want to do with my life.

My GOD, I'm turning fifty!

Just A Thought