

Phil's Forum 5/9/08 Work and Play

Choose a job you love and you'll never work a day in your life."

-Confucius

No, I don't work. Haven't for years. In fact, I won't be working this weekend. You can find me this Saturday "not working" at Bucky Harris Park in Downtown Jackson. Yeah, I'll have the Toy House van parked nearby, and I'll be wearing my Toy House shirt. And to some it will appear that I *am* working. But the rest of you will quickly realize I'm just playing (like always).

Oh, don't worry. I'll let you join me. In fact, I hope you do. And I'm giving you two chances to play.

Tonight we'll be playing in the back parking lot. The Amateur Astronomers of Jackson are coming to play with their telescopes, and I'll bring out my telescopes, and together we're gonna have a really cool time. Yeah, it's kinda late. The sun doesn't set until about 8:46pm and good viewing won't happen until about 9:15pm. But if the clouds hold off, it will be something that's actually worth keeping the kids up late.

There is no measure of how cool the moment is when a child sees a close-up of the craters on the moon. Or counts the moons around Jupiter. Or sees the polar ice cap on Mars. Or finds out that the bright speck in the sky actually has rings you can see. Who knows what you might inspire? Your child may use this moment to launch their interest in aeronautical engineering and build a livable community on the moon. Maybe they use it as a springboard into becoming a pilot to lead intergalactic flights. Or maybe they just start paying a little bit closer attention to the science teacher at school. These are the kinds of moments kids live for. Me, too.

And Saturday I'll be playing with a different sort of science - chemical reactions. Most everyone knows that when you put Mentos into a 2-liter bottle of soda you get a fountain. But have you ever seen a fountain 25 feet high? It's not a fountain, it's a *Geysir*! But do you know how and why this awesome reaction takes place? (I'll give you a hint: it has nothing to do with sugar.) Stop by Bucky Harris park Saturday and help me play. We'll figure it out together. I've got 40 bottles of Diet Coke ready to sacrifice in the name of science.

But Diet Coke isn't the only thing we'll be launching. We're going to see if we can launch a rocket higher than the Blake Building without the use of explosives.

It's all happening this Saturday, May 10th from 10am to 2pm at Bucky Harris Park on the corner of Jackson Street and Michigan Ave.

This is my job. I love "not working". Care to join me?

Happy Playing!

-Phil Wrzesinski