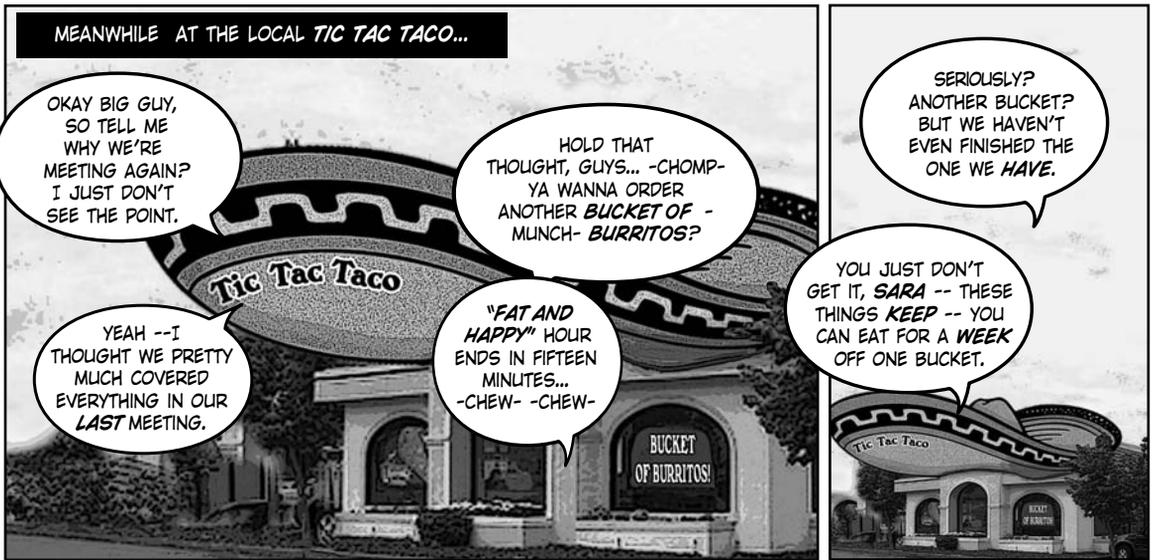


# A Run to the Border

BY JOLLY R. BLACKBURN



MEANWHILE AT THE LOCAL TIC TAC TACO...

OKAY BIG GUY, SO TELL ME WHY WE'RE MEETING AGAIN? I JUST DON'T SEE THE POINT.

HOLD THAT THOUGHT, GUYS... -CHOMP- YA WANNA ORDER ANOTHER **BUCKET OF - MUNCH- BURRITOS?**

YEAH --I THOUGHT WE PRETTY MUCH COVERED EVERYTHING IN OUR **LAST MEETING.**

"**FAT AND HAPPY**" HOUR ENDS IN FIFTEEN MINUTES... -CHEW- -CHEW-

SERIOUSLY? ANOTHER **BUCKET?** BUT WE HAVEN'T EVEN FINISHED THE ONE WE **HAVE.**

YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, **SARA** -- THESE THINGS **KEEP** -- YOU CAN EAT FOR A **WEEK** OFF ONE **BUCKET.**

FRICKIN' A. -MUNCH- WHEN I WAS **SINGLE?**

NOT ME -- MY SYSTEM CAN ONLY HANDLE ABOUT **ONE "RUN TO THE BORDER"** PER WEEK.

THESE THINGS GIVE ME THE **HERSHEY SQUIRTS.**

**BURRITO BUCKETS** KEPT ME FROM STARVIN' TO DEATH.

NOW THERE'S AN IMAGE IN MY HEAD I'D LIKE TO **BURN OUT** WITH A HOT POKER.

WELL I WAS JUST ASKING.

-CHEW- -CHOMP-

THE PRICE IS GONNA GO BACK UP.

SO YOU NEVER ANSWERED MY QUESTION, **BIG GUY.**

WHAT'S WITH CALLING A **SECOND MEETING?**

SHEE WAS FIT TO BE **TIED** WHEN I TOLD HER I'D BE LATE GETTING HOME.

-CHOMP- -CHOMP-

BY THE WAY, **SARA** -- I **KNOW** HOW THE TWO OF YOU **LOVE** TO TALK.

DO ME A FAVOR, **CHATTY CATHY** -- TRY NOT **BLOWIN'** MY **COVER STORY** THIS TIME -- ALRIGHT?

I TOLD **SHEILA** I HAD TO DRIVE **DAVE** TO THE **EMERGENCY ROOM.**

ME...? ON YOUR **SCOOTER?**

EXCUSE ME... "**CHATTY CATHY**"?

THIN, BOB. THIN. TOO EASY TO **VERIFY.**

**EMERGENCY ROOM** EQUALS PAPER TRAIL -- ONE **PHONE CALL** AND YOU'RE **FINISHED.**

YEAH, WELL SHE CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD -- IT'S **ALL** I HAD AT THE **MOMENT.**

WHY THE HELL DID YOU TAKE ME TO THE **EMERGENCY ROOM?**



MAYBE IT'S THE '**CONVINCE YOURSELF YOU'RE SAFE WHILE THE GM SCREWS YOU**' TALENT.

—Brian Van Hoose, **KODT Issue #110, Breaking Point...**

AAH -- I'M GLAD YOU BROUGHT THAT UP.

IF SHEILA HAPPENS TO ASK -- YOU CHOKED ON A PEACH HOSTESS FRUIT PIE WHEN YOU STOPPED BY THE STORE.

WEIRD PETE PERFORMED A MODIFIED HEIMLICH MANEUVER ON YA.

-SLURP-  
-SLURP-



HOWEVER, HE WAS CONCERNED HE MIGHT HAVE CRACKED YOUR STERNUM.

SO THE STORY IS HE ASKED ME TO TAKE YOU TO E.R. JUST TO BE SAFE.

OH, AND YOU GOT SOME FRUIT FILLING DOWN YOUR WIND PIPE...

AAAH, -SIP-  
-SIP- NICE  
DETAIL. GOT IT.



OH GAWD...  
AND PETE KNOWS HIS  
END OF THE  
STORY?

WELL  
I'M NOT  
MAKING ANY  
PROMISES,  
BOB.



I WON'T VOLUNTEER TO TELL HER -- THAT'S THE BEST I CAN DO.

BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO LIE TO HER FACE IF SHE ASKS ME A DIRECT QUESTION.

GEEZE, SARA...

WHAT KIND OF PERSON ARE YOU?

YOU'RE PUTTING YOUR LOYALTIES TO SHEE OVER A FELLOW PARTY MEMBER?

-SIP-  
-SIP-

WHAT ARE YOU?

AN IDIOT?

I BET THAT PIE FILLING CAUSED SOME SORT OF RASPING COUGH.

HOW 'BOUT THE DOCTOR PRESCRIBING SOME SORT OF EXPECTORATE?

FOR YOUR INFORMATION I DON'T MAKE A HABIT OF NEEDLESSLY LYING TO MY FRIENDS OVER THE LITTLEST MUNDANE DAY-TO-DAY THINGS.

OH WE KNOW, SARA, WE KNOW...  
AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHY YOU'RE SHEE'S GO-TO GIRL WHEN SHE THINKS I'M HIDING SOMETHING.

YEAH, WELL...  
STOP LYING TO HER -- PROBLEM SOLVED.



HEY -- I DON'T NEED A LECTURE, DOCTOR FRICKIN' PHIL...

I'M THE ONLY PERSON HERE IN A MEANINGFUL LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP -- REMEMBER?

ALL I'M ASKING FOR IS A COURTESY -- DON'T GO WRECKIN' MY STORY WITH SHEE.

HEY, IT'S BY CHOICE FOR ME -- I PREFER CASUAL DATING.

YA KNOW, BOB...

-CHEW-  
-CHEW-

TELLING THE TRUTH ACTUALLY MAKES LIFE LESS COMPLICATED.

YOU SHOULD TRY IT.

YOU MIGHT FIND IT LIBERATING.

I SWEAR -- I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU SOMETIMES.

OH IF ONLY THAT WERE TRUE.

OKAY, OKAY BREAK IT UP YOU TWO.

WE'VE GOT A LOT OF GROUND TO COVER...

LIM, ANYBODY GONNA EAT THAT LAST CHEESY CHEW?



"OH YEAH -- THAT'S RIGHT. LAUGH IT UP! HA HAA!! I'M GLAD YOU FIND IT SO AMUSING THAT I CAN'T PLAY THE CHARACTER CLASS OF MY CHOICE, MISSY. THIS IS LIKE THE TIME THEY MADE ME PLAY A TREE IN THE SCHOOL PLAY... ALL I WANTED WAS THE PART OF ROBIN HOOD. IT RUINED THE SECOND GRADE FOR ME.

—Bob Herzog, KODT Issue #116, Job Fair