

JOED'S NEW ROOMMATE...a sequel to the oneshot FRIENDS, typed by Rich Small, on June 6, 1973 at 117 S. Meridian St. Tallahassee, Fla. Richall Press #40.

I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING...
MAYBE THIS IS A GIANT JOKE BY ALL
OF TALLAHASSEE FANDOM ON THE GREAT
RICH. IT'S TOO REAL TO BE A DREAM.

When Burybrad jokingly told me a few days ago, that he had told Bill Ritch (who was looking for a roommate) that he might check with Joed, I was incredibly amused. The thought of Bill Ritch living in the Joed apartment was so laughable and unlikely that I didn't even give it serious consideration. In the past, Bill Ritch has lived (in a dorm room) with Warren Williams and Brad Linaweaver, though both on separate occasions. Warren was lucky to escape after a few weeks and later when he was living with Burybrad, Burybrad would always tell him how stupid he was for rooming with Bill Ritch, for even such a short period of time. However, due to academic pressures and problems of various sorts, Warren freaked out and moved out of the dorm room, leaving Burybrad by himself. Now, according to dorm rules, you must have a roommate, otherwise you must pay extra. Burybrad could not afford to pay extra, yet at this late date where could he possibly hope to get another roommate? Well, it just happened that Bill Ritch was hunting around for another roommate and was quite happy to move in with Burybrad as they shared similar political beliefs, liked comics and science-fiction and had similar tastes in films. Poor Burybrad. This was the ultimate bad joke that had been played on him. All this time he had been critical of Bill and his habits ("Why anyone would have to be crazy to want to room with Bill", he said), and now the ultimate jest of all...he was Bill's roommate. Despite the filth, Burybrad managed to survive for a while, however the combined effects of lousy FSU food and living with Bill Ritch (and who knows whatever else) finally caught up with him and put him in the hospital for a couple of days. Now, it has been rumored that Bill Ritch was engaged in certain amorous pursuits on the night that Burybrad was sickest and was rumored to say something like "Gee, I sure hope Burybrad doesn't come home tonight". It is a fact however, that the night these alleged activities, that one person on the same dorm floor died of an overdose of drugs. Perhaps this is all coincidence, but I think not. Bill Ritch is a jinx, pure and simple.

One ironical incident that occurred when Burybrad got out of the hospital and went back to his and Bill's room. The room was hopelessly littered and looked as though it had had no human habitation for several years. The shock of seeing his room in such deplorable condition, drove Burybrad insane for a few moments and he was kicking and smashing things, trying to get the Bill Ritch junk/litter/refuse out of the way. After going at it for a couple of minutes, he came to the horrible realization, that despite all he had just done, the room looked no different than it had before. It was just as deplorable as before. Burybrad could take no more and moved out and incredibly into Warren Williams room. The irony of the entire range of events struck me as incredibly amusing. Burybrad and Warren are rooming together when Warren moves out. Bill moves in with Burybrad, Burybrad freaks out and moves in with Warren. So for all practical purposes, the Quarter ended as it had begun. Burybrad and Warren were roommates at the beginning of the Quarter and they were roommates at the end of the Quarter. Logically, it would appear that they had been roommates all Quarter, but such was not the case. Such was not the case.

Now getting back to Joed (remember, this oneshot started off being about Joed), we see that his present roommate, Marcus Wielage decided to move out (partially because he was fired from his job at the WFSU TV Station and partially because he could not get long with Joed). (I will clarify the point that Marcus had planned to stay here during the summer and work at the TV station, however, when he was let go for lack of funds, this signified that he would have to return to Tampa for the summer, so Joed would have needed a roommate no matter what.)

Now Joed had tried to get Burybrad and/or Big Lee to move in with him, however both were unable to, though they would have liked to. Enter Bill Ritch, who mentions to Burybrad that he is looking for a place to stay for the summer and does Burybrad know of anyone who might have a spare room in an apartment. With a suppressed chuckle, Burybrad tells Bill that Joed may be looking for a roommate. What a fine bit of humor this would be. Who could ever imagine Bill Ritch living with Joed? The thought alone is so humorous and ludicrous as to immediately remove it from a person's mind as a serious possibility. After all there would be no harm in Joed baiting, especially so when you consider all the time that Joed had spent in Burybrad baiting. The thing that makes me wonder the most...no one seriously expected Joed to take Bill on as a roommate...if Burybrad knew that Joed would accept Bill as a roommate, would he have ever mentioned anything to Bill? I think not, but then again I'm not Burybrad.

What will happen? Only time will tell. Has Bill Ritch improved as Burybrad seems to feel? Granted that most people are capable of improvement, but Bill Ritch? The thought boggles the mind.

In a way, this will be the test...to see if Bill Ritch has improved... or is still his same old bungling, clodish, inept and hopeless self. Joed has always been the one fan who never accepted the story that Bill Ritch is a jinx...a big clumsy kid, yes...a jinx, no. Joed has always accused me of being an idiot for believing that Bill is a jinx...well maybe I am, however this will be the acid point. If things work out ok, then that will be great and once again Great Rich will have been proved wrong (can't win 'em all). However, if Bill IS a jinx then things will start to go wrong for Joed. Maybe he won't get the job as Film Director (at FSU) even though he is the only qualified applicant for the job. Maybe he'll be fired from his jobs as ticket seller and projectionist. Maybe the mimeo machine he recently bought will blow up or perhaps his car will break down necessitating some costly repairs. Maybe all the tape and book clubs that Joed owes money to will catch up with him. Maybe Joed's landlord will throw him out. Maybe...Maybe...

Maybe none of these things will happen. I can't really say for sure and predicting the future is one ability I never consciously was aware of. I do feel that Bill is a jinx and well feel that this event is important enough to record on paper. Suppose that Bill is a jinx and that Joed is unable to admit this fact and yet has no rational way to explain things. It could get Joed down enough so that he might leave Tallahassee for good (a thing I hope would not happen). Joed acted strange tonight and pulled pranks that would have been expected of an immature individual. I wonder, is it happening already? Regardless of what is happening, this oneshot is a good way of recording my initial thoughts on the subject and is a good tangible record to compare later results with. Besides, I saw Bill Ritch tonight and he asked me if I would type up anything about the 'new Joed Roommate'. It was almost as if he was asking. I said I would.

Richard Small