



News of Events & Happenings Shaping My World

A SECOND CHANCE is often something that we just don't get. We never get a second chance to make a first impression, unless of course it's with a different person. We never get a second chance to try a particular food for the first time, unless we count tasting it at a different place. And we definitely never get a second chance at our first kiss, except perhaps by just denying the real first one ever happened! But if we're lucky, sometimes when it seems that "we blew it" or that somebody "screwed us over" if we "play our cards right" we can create ourselves another opportunity.

Last month as strange as it sounds, I got a second chance to "pee". Yes, it's the truth! I got a second

chance to pee in a cup for a drug screening. It's pretty funny now, but it sure wasn't at the time; explaining to my prospective employer the circumstances and pleading for another attempt at peeing! Here's what happened. I went for a drug test. I did just as instructed and arrived well hydrated. I was called back and given specific instructions along with my cup, then shown the restroom. When she told me I had three minutes to come out with the specimen, I knew I was in trouble! I cannot "go" on demand! To make matters worse, when I closed the door, there was suddenly a staff meeting in the hallway right outside. I was totally pissed (pun intended)! I stood there and held "it" in the damn cup for three minutes, but not a drop! Frustrated, I went out and told the lab worker what had happened and she said not to worry that I could go back into the waiting room, drink some water, and try again when she called me in 30 minutes. She told me not to leave the waiting room for any reason or I'd be considered to have refused the test.

I was determined not to have another failed attempt, so I drank, and drank, and drank - watching the clock and preparing to be ready in half an hour. Half an hour came and went. Then another half-hour, by which time I was clenching my thighs together. A few more minutes and I was up waving at the receptionist. They kept calling in other patients, then I heard them

taking lunch!! So, I did exactly what I didn't want to do! I bolted out the door and across the hall to a public restroom and let it fly! As soon as I was finished and washed my hands, I called the employer and told her my situation. She was not happy at all, but somehow I convinced her that it was either run out the door or "run it down on the floor"! She sighed and said, "Don't worry, I'll talk to my manager". I hung up and went back in to find the head honcho of the lab there ready to pounce! I just smiled and said, "I know the rules, I just want to make sure you don't charge the employer". She huffed that there'd be no charge because I refused the test. I still remained calm and told her that I was going to re-take it at facility that would hopefully be more respectful of privacy. I left and after a few minutes, I got a call from the employer telling me I'd better not mess up on the next one because there would not be third one.

With confidence, I made an appointment for the next day at a different location and aced it! Got the results back and as expected - clean as a whistle! And it's now finally official, I got the job with the **The Art Institute of Charlotte!** I am actually on the payroll as a Figure Model!

The message here is simple - never, ever give up when you screw up! If you remain calm and courteous, and tell the truth, somebody may give you a second chance. 📌

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Experiencing a "first" can be somewhat unusual once we have reached, shall I say "our silver years"! And I suppose as we age further, these events will happen with less frequency. They're especially unique when occurring unexpectedly, unplanned and within the events of our everyday lives. This past month, I experienced two firsts - happening within two days AND pertaining to something I do all the time, which is draw!

The first, was drawing an **African-American model**. This past week was the first time! It was also the first time that **Talbert** had modeled for a group of artists. It was a great experience for all of us! My second "first" came the following day at a different drawing group. This time, the model was a **Transgender** lady named **Marsha**, who is an experienced art model and very well known in Charlotte for her work with the LGBT community. She is a fantastic model and a truly wonderful person.

I hope that **Talbert** enjoyed his experience as much as the artists did and that he stays with modeling and continues to develop his gestures and poses— he is a very interesting subject. As for **Marsha**, our similarities far outweigh our differences. I applaud her for her work helping others to cope with their personal struggles and her bravery to be herself! 📌



Talbert by Keith Cole
September 2017.
Crayon on Paper, 14 x 17
Unframed, \$75.00



Marsha by Keith Cole
September 2017.
Crayon on Paper, 12 x 18
Unframed, \$75.00

“Normality is a paved road: It's comfortable to walk, but no flowers grow on it.” 🌸
~ Vincent van Gogh

What a mess! I don't even know what to write, with so many things in the world seeming "so out of whack"! After some thought, I decided upon the one that has plagued us for the longest and is also the most imminent threat - North Korea! I'm certainly no expert on the subject, so I'll just say this, "Whether it's first thing in the morning or the last thing in the evening, or both; take a minute to meditate upon this, sending a message to Kim Jong-un and President Trump that there will be **NO WINNERS** if they continue on their current path!" 📌

If you'd like to submit a poem, short story, letter, small work of art or narrative photo to be considered for an upcoming issue, please do so by sending it to: kc@keithcole.com Keep all literary works to fewer than 250 words. Art and photos, will be produced 1 col. wide (2.57") and no more than 3.5" deep. Ensure the resolution is at least 150ppi at actual size to ensure good quality. SPECIFY exactly how you want to receive credit: including the exact spelling of your name and whether or not your work is already published, along with a statement granting me permission to publish electronically in this newsletter. Thanks! 📌

Devotion
The heart can think of no devotion 🌊 Greater than being shore to the ocean— 🌊 Holding the curve of one position 🌊 Counting an endless repetition.
~ Robert Frost