

### Marsha McBride Farewell at Les Halles

When Marsha McBride was first highly recommended to become my legal assistant, I concluded she would make two major contributions to my office: (1) She would bring down the average age of the top managers to some reasonable level – I was overloading that overage with 80 years at that time. (2) She would be a very attractive addition and attract more personable petitioners to our office all trying to impress her.

It took me a long time – at least 2 hours – to figure out she was knowledgeable and **smart as hell!** I then realized she would also uphold a long established, time honored, personal tradition of mine – always hire associates much brighter than you are (a big selection field for me). Thus, your statement and official writings will be ascribed to your sterling statesmanship and leadership – don't knock it – it resulted in my becoming the oldest and most awarded SOB that ever graduated from the FCC!

Marsha was a perfect fit for my distinguished super bright, aggressive feminine associate or former associates and longtime valued friends like Lauren "Pete" Belvin, Mo O'Connell, Kathy Abernathy and confidential assistant Ginger Clark.

It was always ingratiating to have my thoughtful former FCC female associates take me to lunch on Valentines Day and then to arrange a birthday lunch.

I have vivid, but not always fond memories of their birthday remembrances such as a 5 foot inflatable doll; two well shaped female breasts for ear muffs (?); a can of milk chocolate paint with a brush and I'm not even that kind of an artist; raunchy gimmicks tattoos, handcuffs, cards and books; finally the most demeaning or demoralizing -- a final going away present: a pair of underwear shorts with condoms attached starting with a bright red condom to diminishing colors and finally, the cruelest blow of all to this very senior citizen – a completely blank space.

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I suppose the final blank space could be construed as a merciful coup de grace – I was dead out of play and no longer had to prove a thing.

It didn't help when my late wife Mary, a kindred aggressive personality in her own right, applauded all their efforts, except for one. When I took the inflatable doll home, two things were immediately and forcefully deflated – me personally and the inflatable doll.

Incidentally, none of my female bosses either at the office or at home believed in women's equality – they all refused to step down.

Also they all contributed to my maintaining a becoming sense of humility.

I have to give Marsha a little disclaimer here - she did not instigate the raunchier gifts. She was just the very attractive member of an aggressive team led by Lauren "Pete" Belvin, a leading aggressive advocate of "no holds barred" officially and personally (coaching from my associates at FCC official meetings if time permits).

Most people don't realize it and he doesn't even want to discuss it, but I am among the many campaigning for Commissioner Powell to become FCC Chairman under a Bush Administration. Now with the critical loss of Marsha, his total qualifications could be in doubt – Just kidding Captain Powell.

But Marsha illustrates a point I made in my upcoming book. I mention that one of the problems with FCC contested legal battles is that you have earnest government lawyers pitted against much higher paid very distinguished FCC alumni. So here we go again.

Marshal certainly was an expert FCC lawyer and Preston Paddon and the Disney Company are fortunate in acquiring such a distinguished FCC alumnus and a respected lawyer. Also serving with a great commissioner and class act, Michael Powell, adds that much more to her impressive credentials.

So, Marsha, I know you have all our best wishes for continued achievement in the exciting promising years ahead. If I can ever help I'm only a phone call away.