

REMARKS

Rosemarie Siegel, Sheela Clary, and Rachel Siegel

PROFESSOR CONNORS: Behind every great man there's a great woman. And in this case there are three great women. And I've asked them to all come up to the podium, please.

Sheela, Rachel, and Rosemarie.

(Applause)

ROSEMARIE SIEGEL: Oh, the one thing that I said was that I would not speak. (Laughter)

SHEELA CLARY: It's a very hard act to follow the Chief Judge of the State of New York singing Gilbert and Sullivan, but—

(Laughter)

We're going to do our best. My father actually knows that whole thing in the original words. Maybe he would come up and save me while we're waiting.

(Laughter)

Thank you so much for your patience. We had a little logistical difficulty. Okay. So we're just going to—we had a presentation, but I guess there was a Mac/PC confusion, as there often is, so—

(Laughter)

We're just going to read you the presentation that we did, so you'll have the words but not the images.

But this is entitled—we knew that many of you were familiar with our father's professional qualities: meticulous, eccentric, clever, and exacting. But, we thought that we'd introduce you to some of his more personal qualities that we're more familiar with.

(Laughter)

So he's meticulous, eccentric, clever, exacting, among many other qualities. So we put together this presentation of some of David Siegel's favorite things.

Hot coffee. The next slide says litigatably hot coffee.

(Laughter)

SHEELA CLARY & RACHEL SIEGEL, ALTERNATING: If you've ever been to a restaurant with him, you know what we mean.

A cold apple pie, not lukewarm. Cold apple pie and he would say

“it should be so cold, the pie, that when I bite into it should give me a freeze.”

(Laughter)

Beer with ice. And wine. Glazed crullers from Dunkin Donuts.

His preferred eating utensils are chopsticks and a very, very small fork, as small as possible.

His preferred pets are Boston Terriers and French Bulldogs. We had cute photos of those, sorry.

(Laughter)

His favorite British comedians, The Two Ronnie’s, some of you might know, an obscure comedy troupe from the seventies. Peter Sellers as Clouseau and Benny Hill for the—

(Laughter)

In case you thought he was very highbrow.

(Laughter)

His favorite—he loves books of all kinds—but his favorite books are those that are about the founding fathers: like John Adams, the David McCullough books.

RACHEL SIEGEL: Carmen Miranda. And here I was going to do a little bit—a Carmen Miranda number for you.

(Laughter)

Which I will do briefly. So my father, I guess, discovered Carmen Miranda in the forties. You know, she was the Brazilian singer who wore the fruit on her head and she sang that song, “Ai, ai, ai, ai—canto do pregoneiro, Que com sua harmonia, Traz alegria, in Souse American way.”¹

(Applause)

Since we had no visuals I had to give a show, so—

Dad loves all things Brooklyn. He has had many, many addresses in Brooklyn, some of which are—I’ll see if I can remember them.

Is it twenty-nine Dahill Road, Dad?

ROSEMARIE SIEGEL: 1629.

SHEELA CLARY: 1629 Dahill Road, 1510 Ocean Parkway, somewhere on Avenue P, two addresses on Ocean Avenue, and finally where he and my mother were married on two Pierrepont Street.

And we’ve all been to those places many times as some of you may have as well.

¹ Carmen Miranda, South American Way Lyrics, <http://www.lyricstime.com/carmen-miranda-south-american-way-lyrics.html> (last visited Feb. 6, 2009).

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(Laughter)

Oh, I'm so bummed not to have a photo here, this is his home office and I wanted to note the carpeting.

(Laughter)

He has carpeting on the desk, on top of—not on the floor—the desk. So that, he says, when he has his books—his heavy books such as his own book—when he drops one, it doesn't make a noise.

(Laughter)

And this is a photo of myself and my sister as babies. These are again some of his favorite things, and at the top as well you can see here. Some of his favorite things: us as babies.

And his grandchildren who we can bring out in person actually. Oh, here we go.

So perhaps some of you have seen some of the verse that he wrote. He's written verses. But he also wrote verses for his daughters in the guise of the tooth fairy. So here is his first one for Rachel on the occasion of her first lost tooth.

It says, "Guinevere, September 14, 1980." She was first called Guinevere and on a subsequent tooth loss she suddenly became Gwendolyn, but it was corrected quickly.

(Laughter)

"Dear Rachel, how I yearn to be with you my dear in Westbury when you there lost your first small tooth, I had to work at home forsooth."

(Laughter)

"Now, when a little tooth is lost one dollar is the average cost. And since my sister Fairy Sue, gave you your dollar there, you're through."

(Laughter)

"At least that's always been the rule since I got out of fairy school. But since your folks were on the run, I've wrangled you another one. Love, Guinevere."

(Laughter)

And lastly, his two granddaughters are some of his current favorite things, one of whom is with us tonight and not making noise because she's out in the hall with her dad. Fiona and Cecelia.

So thank you very much for inviting us to speak.

RACHEL SIEGEL: Thank you.