**Late Pokémon Addict**

Pokémon turns 25 years old in 2021! It has been amazing to see how much this brand has grown throughout the years and has caused me to reflect on my own experiences with the famous pocket monster game.

I first played Pokémon yellow on the Gameboy Color when I was about seven years old. However, my Gameboy was stolen shortly after I had started playing the game, therefore, I can’t consider this moment to be my first experience with Pokémon.

The first game that I completed was Pokémon X on the Nintendo 3DS. I remember having so much fun while playing this game; I once I played this game for eight hours straight. The main reason I played this game was because I was able to obtain a Charizard in this game and it featured “mega-evolutions” for this Pokémon and many others that I had seen while growing up.

I continue to play Pokémon on my Nintendo Switch and I still try and use my Charizard whenever possible. I hope to be able to play this game for many more years to come and I hope that my soon-to-be-born daughter also enjoys playing this game so that we may play together one day in the future.

**Why am I learning to Design Web Pages?**

Since starting my current job, I have earned a significant pay raise and have had the luxury of purchasing many items that I would have never seen myself buying a little less than five years ago. The items include several Air Jordan shoes, two new cars, and several other items that can be found around the house. It has been incredible to be able to do this, however, I have had to work a lot of over time to do this and unfortunately, I have burned out.

My current work culture is very negative. I have found very few coworkers that enjoy working at this company in addition to myself. I don’t think anyone hates the company, but I do think that many have had enough of understaffing and tolerating with ridiculous decisions that affect our work.

When I left my previous job for my current one, I thought that I would be happier because of the big pay increase and the generous amount of overtime opportunities but I have found that you can’t have fun with hard-earned money if you have few opportunities to spend it. I don’t want to burn all my money, but I do want to be able to go out from time to time and not have to feel guilty for not saving the money because of an upcoming bill.

I am not picking up this web development skill to make boat loads of money. I’m learning this skill so that I may be able to set myself up for an opportunity to at least work around people that enjoy their life and bring a positive attitude to work every day. I also think that working in this field will allow me to make slightly more money and not need to depend on over time.

***Emma* Going to be Ready?**

Thanksgiving 2021 is approaching quickly, and this holiday might give me one more reason to thankful. Emma Linda Zapata is projected to be born on this day and I am excited to final get to meet her and to hold her. I think it will be incredible to hold her for the first time and to be able to share my life with her and her mother and any additional children that we may have.

I don’t feel nervous or scared. I feel that I’m prepared to be a parent. I do wish that I could have been a bit more financially stable but who doesn’t wish this, right?

The only thing that keeps staying on my mind is the confidence that I have. Perhaps I shouldn’t be so calm and ready? In recent days, it has caused me to ask myself, *Am I* going to be ready?

**Time Traveling in the “Country”**

It’s been a little over three years since Nissa and I moved from Cicero to Kenosha. During this time, I have had a boring experience while living in Wisconsin.

For the most part, everything is spread out and there is lots of grassland. While it’s technically not considered country to most people that live here, I consider this town to be pretty country when compared to the area that I grew up in.

It’ surprising to see so many people that are unfamiliar with electronic versions of things, such as banking apps and the Door Dash equivalent of snack service apps. A lot of people here prefer to go fishing or hunting on the weekends instead of going to a party in the city or a bar to watch the big sporting event over the weekend.

At times, I do feel as though we have traveled back in time because of how outdated the mentality is here. When I first arrived in Wisconsin, my landlord lectured us on the importance of having a bank that allows you to have check books and how having physical cash in your hand will always be better than some fancy-looking bank app.

Unfortunately, I have about two more years to live out in Wisconsin. This is because of our new lease and because of the transition of jobs that I hope to have. I would love to have at least one year of web development experience before returning to Chicago. I can’t wait for that day to arrive.