



Do what you love and money will follow - whether you believe it or not!

Darrell Fusaro (January 21, 2012)



I loved what I was doing! But little did I know there was a conspiracy brewing.

We all have talent, something we enjoy doing so much that it rarely if ever feels like work. I would often fantasize about how wonderful it would be to draw cartoons and earn a living doing so. I'd imagine myself living like [Charles Schultz](#) [2] as in the pictures I'd seen of him; at his drawing table cheerfully illustrating [the daily adventures of his Peanuts](#) [3]. For me that seemed like the ultimate dream job. I was enlisted in the [U.S. Coast Guard](#) [4] and shortly after boot camp we drew straws to



see who would end up having to do a tour aboard the [USCGC Jarvis](#) [5]. Yep, of course, I drew the shortest straw. Ever hear the saying, "Do what you love and the money will follow."? Well, it was obvious that wasn't going to be happening for me anytime soon. The Jarvis was scheduled to patrol the [Bering Sea](#) [6]. I wasn't happy. My fantasy about being in the U.S. Coast Guard was being sun-tanned aboard a flashy speedboat like I had seen on [the TV show "Miami Vice."](#) [7] My reality however was about to be more like [the series, "Deadliest Catch."](#) [8] I'll never forget that moment of pulling away from the dock in Honolulu about to [set sail to Alaskan waters](#) [9] berating myself, "Now look what you got yourself into!"



[10]

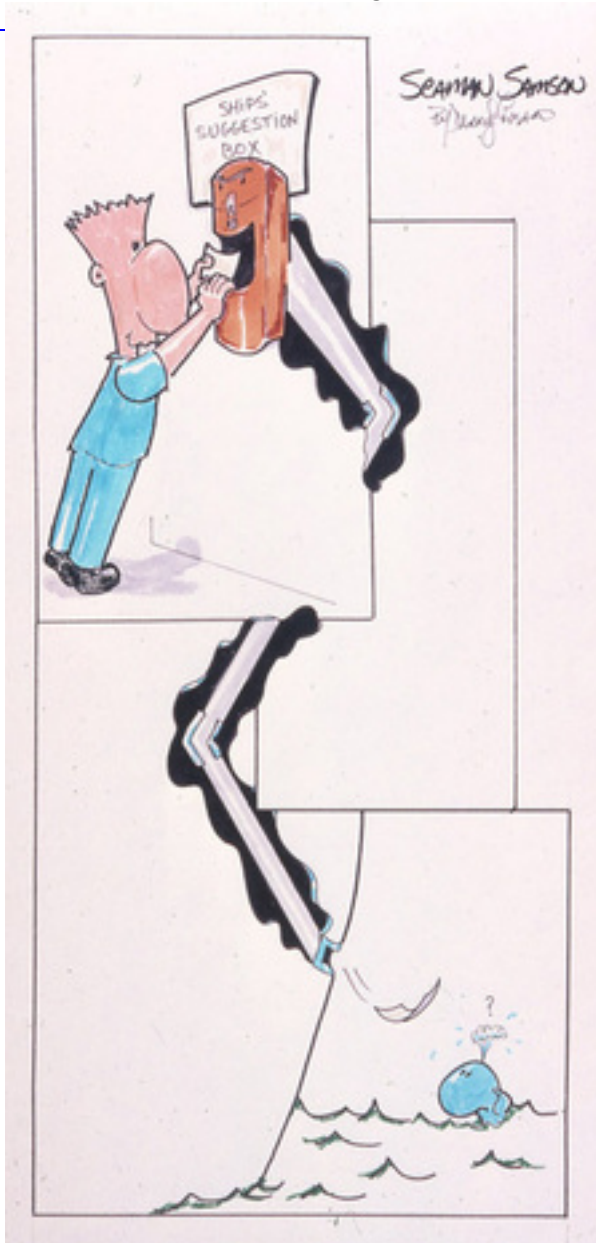
[\(USCGC Jarvis plunges through 40-foot swells while on a search & rescue mission in the Bering Sea, 100 miles south of St. Paul Island, Alaska.\)](#) [11]



[12]

[\(The Coast Guard ship Jarvis, a 378-foot high-endurance cutter based in Honolulu, is shown surrounded by ice in the Bering Sea during calm waters.\)](#) [13]

Once out at sea my days consisted entirely of mindless grunt work. Being the lowest ranking sailor on board I manly chipped paint and then repainted the areas I just chipped, cleaned and organized areas that were in desperate need of organizing and cleaning, and I was also assigned trash detail. The only time I got a break from these chores was when I had to stand watch. Which was standing outside in the frigid cold above the bridge in the crow's nest scanning the horizon for anything out of the ordinary. But at the day's end I would draw. Thinking ahead, I had packed plenty of paper, pencils and markers for my tour of duty. This was 1985, the "olden days" before smart phones and satellite TV. So that meant the only form of shipboard entertainment was either playing cards with other sailors, reading a book, or smoking cigarettes on the fantail. Instead I spent each night drawing cartoons based on my daily experience at sea. It became the highlight of my day. Soon, I began to see each day's mishap as content for my next cartoon. Crazy as this may seem, but a day without some sort of challenge or comical blunder was seen as a disappointment.



[14]

[\(Shipboard humor during a tour on the USCGC Jarvis, 1985, by Darrell Fusaro\)](#) [15]

When I showed my cartoons to a few shipmates they were impressed.

"You should show these to the Captain!" one of them suggested.

"Really?" I questioned somewhat flattered.

The other sailor backed him up, "Yeah, he'd love them!"



I did and they were right, the Captain loved them! So much so that he immediately assigned me the task of creating and hanging a new cartoon on "the board" in the main pass each morning. The board was the only bulletin board on the ship. This was where the entire crew was expected to look to for each day's "Plan of the Day" and any other important news. Located in the main pass directly outside the galley, to insure we'd all see it after morning chow, it was encased in plexiglass and under lock and key. Only the Executive Officer had a key and was granted permission to hang the approved notices therein. Although flattered I was apprehensive. Sharing my drawings with a few close friends is one thing, but the entire crew? Plus this meant that now in addition to my regular daily duty assignments I'm under orders to draw a brand new cartoon each day. Well, no turning back now.

The Captain entrusted me with a key to the case. Then he surprised me with an incredible benefit, he made arrangements for me to have access to very my own designated area on the ship to draw. There was an available drawing table located in the ship's marine safety office and from now on it was all mine. That meant no more fighting to find an open table somewhere to draw, nor did I have to unpack and repack my pens and pencils every evening. I was blown away. So I began; each evening after duty I'd complete a new cartoon and in the morning hang it in the main pass alongside the "Plan of the Day." At first I felt self-conscious, but soon I became more comfortable. Some nights I found it hard to sleep so excited to share what I drew with the crew in the morning. I became a bit of a celebrity too. Sailors would make it a point to pull me aside and tell me how much they enjoyed a cartoon. Pretty soon putting up the morning cartoon became a major event. The sailors would crowd around the bulletin board after breakfast and wait patiently, as I pushed my way through the crowd to unlock the case and post the latest cartoon.

Although I had been drawing these cartoons in addition to my regular duties it didn't matter - I loved what I was doing! But little did I know there was a conspiracy brewing. I was called into see the Captain. He told me that a couple of the Chief Petty Officers were wondering if I could be given a new daily duty assignment, and the Captain agreed. From that moment I was relieved of all my previous daily grunt work. My new full-time shipboard job was to design and create murals for designated areas of the ship. All to be done in my style of cartooning. If this hadn't happened to me, especially under these most unlikely of circumstances, I'd never would have believed it.

"All things are ready: I have knowledge, intelligence, all I need....

The false belief of limitation and fear that I have had no longer has any power over me...

I am hemmed in by what seems like a very real doubt of myself.
But if I use my own true talents, the way will open out before me.
I need not work to make this true. IT IS TRUE." [-Emmet Fox](#)

[16]

PLAN OF THE DAY FOR MONDAY AND TUESDAY THE 1ST AND 2ND OF JULY 1965

MONDAY'S SCHEDULE 0700 REVEILLE 0715-0800 BREAKFAST 0800 TURN TO SHIP'S WORK 0930 COFFEE BREAK/NO'S REQUEST AND COMPLAINT MUST 1030 FOOD HANDLERS INSPECTION 1115-1130 LUNCH FOR WATCHSTANDERS AND MESSENGERS 1130-1200 LUNCH FOR ALL HANDS 1230 QUARTERS 1235-1335 DC TRAINING 1345 SWEEPERS/KNOCK OFF SHIP'S WORK 1445-1700 EVENING MEAL FOR MESSENGERS AND WATCHSTANDERS 1700-1730 EVENING MEAL FOR ALL HANDS 1745 VIDEO-77777 (4) VIDEO-FIRST BLOOD (7) 1845 EVENING REPORTS 2000 VIDEO-77777 (4) VIDEO-ONE FLOW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST (7) 2200 MOVIE-ALL OF ME 2200 TAPS	TUESDAY'S SCHEDULE 0700 REVEILLE 0715-0800 BREAKFAST 0800 TURN TO SHIP'S WORK 0930 COFFEE BREAK/NO'S REQUEST AND COMPLAINT MUST 1030 FOOD HANDLERS INSPECTION 1115-1130 LUNCH FOR WATCHSTANDERS AND MESSENGERS 1130-1200 LUNCH FOR ALL HANDS 1230 QUARTERS 1235-1335 DIVISIONAL TRAINING 1345 SWEEPERS/KNOCK OFF SHIP'S WORK 1445-1700 EVENING MEAL FOR MESSENGERS AND WATCHSTANDERS 1700-1730 EVENING MEAL FOR ALL HANDS 1745 VIDEO-QUEST FOR FIRE (4) VIDEO-POLTERGEIST (7) 1845 EVENING REPORTS 2000 VIDEO-UNCOMMON VALOR (4) PORCORN VIDEO-OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN (7) 2200 MOVIE-A DANGEROUS SUMMER 2200 TAPS
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NOTE: Good possibility of boardings as early as 0500!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
 1. Patrolling in the high seas drift net squid fishery enroute the Hancock Seamount. The Hancock Seamount is approximately 180 NM northwest of Kure Island, the westernmost island in the Hawaiian chain. We will be in this area early on the 4th of July. Plan to leave

3. Also a good job to Darrell "The Door Painter" Fusaro for his artwork on the door's to sick bay, supply office, hobby shop, ship's office and the barber pole. I'm glad the Coast Guard doesn't pay by the hour but he has done a lot to improve many of the spaces aboard JARVIS.

just aboard and the "old salts" indicate it was the best they had heard in a long time. I know it takes a lot of preparation to prepare your acts. Good job, it was a morale boost for everyone.


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4. While passing out the compliments, all hands should be congratulated for the fine job they have done so far this patrol. As you walk around you can't help but notice the many improvements made on the ship during the patrol. Many spaces were renovated or painted out. Your hard work as "the J" gets a little older makes it that much better of a ship. Thanks for the good job!

5. Submit nominations for petty officer and non-rate of patrol to the ship's office by 1600, 3 July. See JARVIS INST 1600.1A for details.

6. There will be a working personnel inspection at quarters on July 18th. All hands are reminded to get haircuts now and avoid the rush.

7. The ship's exchange will close the 6th of July for sales to facilitate inventory and relief of the exchange officer. Intentions are to collect bills on the 7th of July. All bills will be paid before Honolulu. Keep in mind your exchange needs and shop accordingly.


 M. W. McLaughlin
 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

USCGC JARVIS WHEC 725

(Toward the end of our tour I was given a special mention in the "Plan of the Day."

Click on image to Supersize it!)



[18]

(I specifically remember asking a friend to take this shot because we hit an eerily calm patch of sea that we were all very apprehensive about. What a trip!)

Related Links: <http://www.darrellfusaro.com/cartoons.html> [15]
<http://www.darrellfusaro.com/about.html> [19]

Source URL: <http://www.iitaly.org/magazine/focus/life-people/article/do-what-you-love-and-and-money-will-follow-whether-you-believe-it>

Links

- [1] <http://www.iitaly.org/files/19019dscf000231326562943.jpg>
- [2] <http://www.schulzmuseum.org/>
- [3] <http://www.peanuts.com/>
- [4] <http://www.uscg.mil/>
- [5] <http://www.uscg.mil/pacarea/cgcjarvis/history.asp>
- [6] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bering_Sea
- [7] <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0086759/>
- [8] <http://dsc.discovery.com/tv/deadliest-catch/>
- [9] <http://www.weather.com/tv/tvshows/coast-guard-alaska>
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- [11] http://www.almc.army.mil/alog/issues/JulAug10/coastguard_log.html
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- [13] <http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Jul/15/In/507150360.html>
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