

Funsky

on





OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

RICHARD M. DALEY
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago has been chosen by the 2016 Olympics Committee to represent the United States of America, as one of the official Applicant Cities bidding to host the 2016 Olympics; and

WHEREAS, Mergel Funskey, Michael Jordan and Barack Obama are, and have been for a long time, upstanding and proud residents of the City of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Mergel Funskey, Michael Jordan and Barack Obama each have demonstrated extraordinary talent, skill, character and imagination in their respective fields and endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mergel Funskey, Michael Jordan and Barack Obama each exemplify both the goals of the Olympics, and the excellence of Chicago;

NOW THEREFORE I, RICHARD M. DALEY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, DO HEREBY designate, appoint and proclaim Mergel Funskey, Michael Jordan and Barack Obama to act as the official AMBASSADORS on behalf of the City of Chicago, to represent to the Olympic Committee and to the world, the spirit and character of this great city.

Dated this 17th day of December 2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard M. Daley".



Mergel: So, what does an Ambassador do?

Simon: It means you're someone important, they're saying you're special!

Mergel: I already knew that. So, what do I do?

Simon: You're Chicago's representative, a PR guy. You're supposed to show everyone what a great place Chicago is, so that we'll be selected for the Olympics. You should feel honored, this is a big deal, to be right up there with Michael Jordan and Barack Obama.

Mergel: Yeah, well why aren't those two guys showing off Chicago? I'm real busy with my construction business, and with drawing pictures. That Jordan guy doesn't do much except play golf, and Obama doesn't even have a real job until January, so they've got a lot more free time than I do.

Simon: I'm sure they'll help, but you've got to seize this opportunity to do the best for Chicago that you can. Emphasize all the positives.

Mergel: Like deep-dish pizza?

Simon: Exactly! Make a list of all the good things you can think about Chicago, and then tell everyone about them.

Mergel: OK, here's my list:

Good Stuff about Chicago
Bacino's Pizza
It's not New Jersey

I'm done. I'll add "Ambassador" to my resume.

Simon: I think you need to do more. Since you're good at imagining pictures, why don't you draw a bunch of good things about Chicago. One picture is worth a thousand words.

Mergel: Uh oh! The word count up to this point is only 391 words. We'd have to stretch out this dumb dialogue a lot more. Maybe the boring lawyer in *you* could do that, but I'll go the picture route.

Simon: Just imagine if you were a tourist, new to Chicago – what would you like to know?

Mergel: How can *I* imagine that I'm anything? That's *your* job! So, *you* imagine that I'm a tourist.

Simon: OK, you've just arrived in Chicago. What do you want to know?

Mergel: Where is Bacino's Pizza?

Simon: Fine. But what else are you curious about?

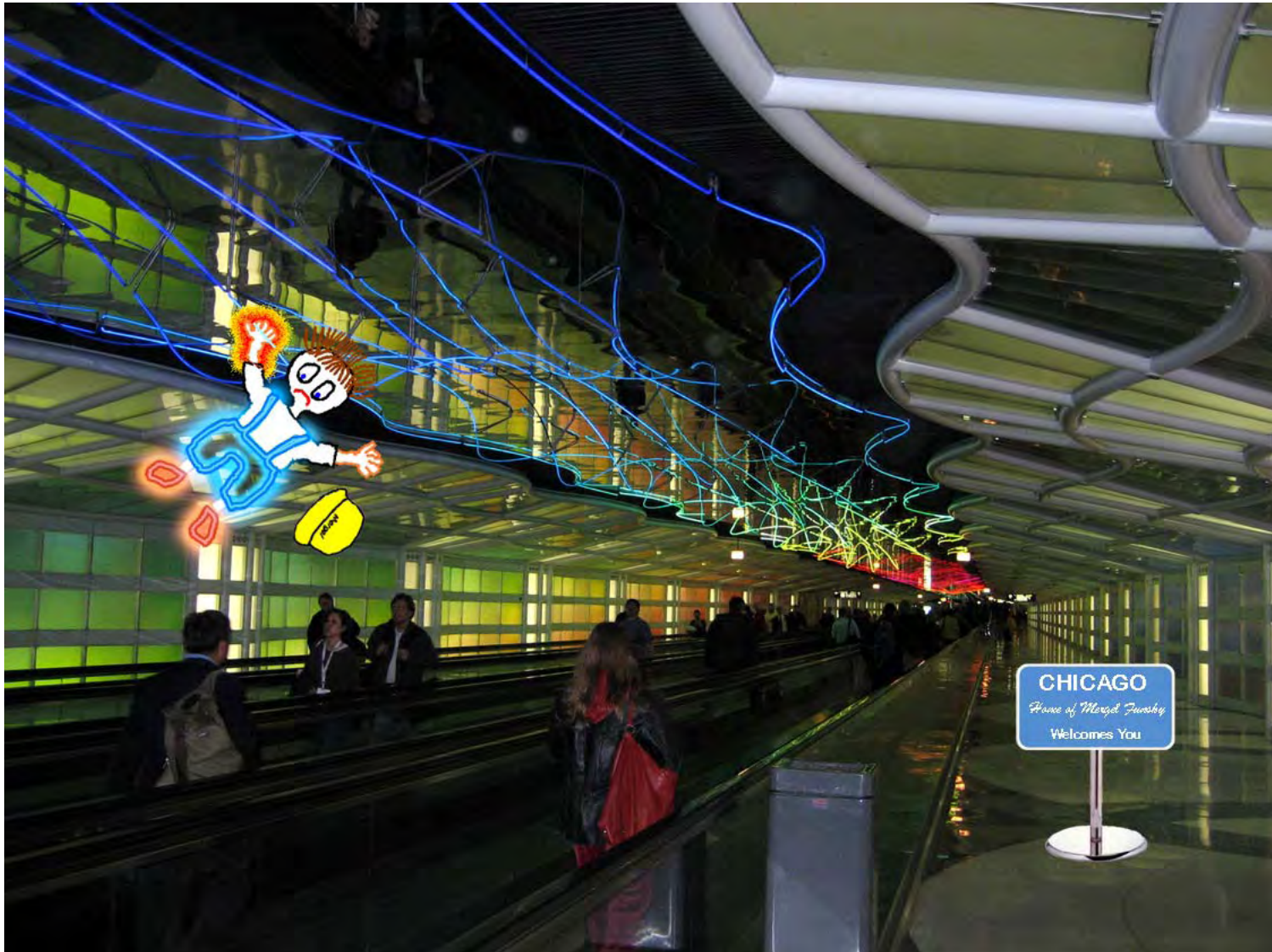
Mergel: How did I get here?

Simon: OK, start there. That's as good a place as any.

You can easily fly into Chicago ...



and O'Hare airport has a neat light show ...



Or you can take the train ...



Chicago is a big sports town. I've helped out many of our teams reach the levels they've...uh, reached.



And that's no bull...



Chicago has lots of culture – like ME! The jazz scene is beyond imagination, the theatres run first-rate shows ...



and the Chicago Symphony orchestra plays real loud.



Mergel Funskey conducts the 1812 Overture (Funskey's Canon in Bb)

Navy Pier has a Shakes-peare ...



... and my acting abilities help them get ahead.

The Art Institute is opening a new wing ...

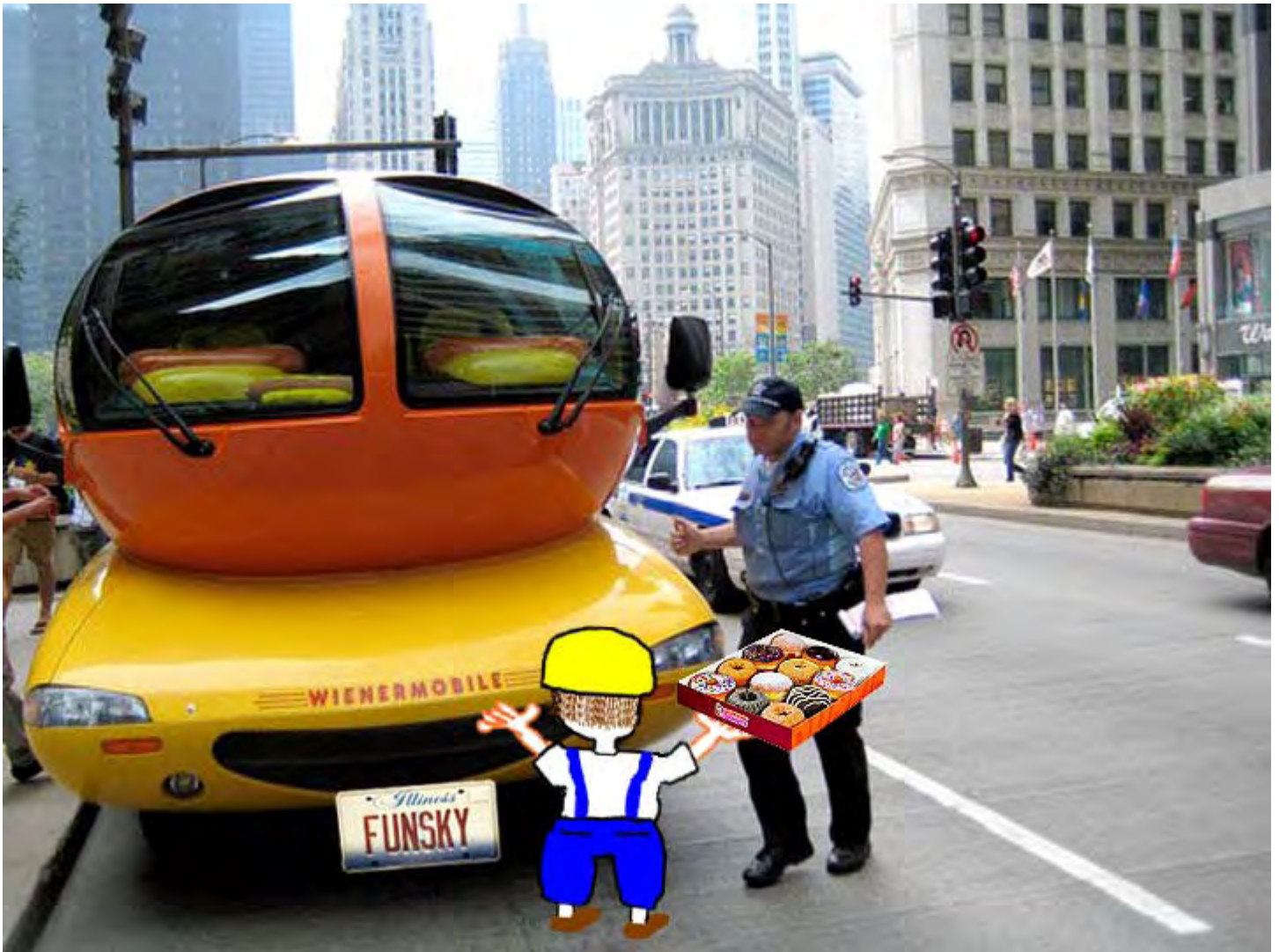


The old Water Tower is a famous landmark.



I'm a contractor so I keep it in good repair, and fill it up whenever it needs more water.

Chicago has the best police force money can buy,



but occasionally even *they* can make a mistake.

There are lots of colleges and schools, like the University of Chicago. Its graduates include many Nobel Laureates (and then there's Simon and Ginny).



Simon often says he'll give me the "third degree."

Chicago's parks run up and down the lakefront. Lincoln Park is my front yard ...



The Nature Museum is right across the street (and millions of butterflies fly around freely and happily, until they drop dead) ...



The lagoon is a nice place to be alone and reflect on stuff ...



And only three blocks away is my friend the rhinoceros, and the elephants!



Downtown is Millennium Park (it took that long to finish). There's a gigantic jelly bean sculpture ...



And a water fountain that spits at you ...



Mergel: So, how did I do? Am I a good Ambassador? Did I show off the city right?

Simon: It was unique. I'm confident that Barack Obama and Michael Jordan couldn't come close.

Mergel: Maybe I should include an ad for my construction business, just in case anyone needs a skyscraper built, or a toilet roll holder installed?

Simon: No, Mr. Ambassador, don't even hint at getting something in return. Otherwise they might think you're running for governor.

Mergel: I saved the best for last. Here's one more picture, of great stuff in Chicago.





The End

A Pickle Production