

# The National Expirer

All the news that's fit to print—and some that isn't, too!

News of 2006 from George Halitzka and Julie Bates



## Holiday Greetings!

We never thought we'd write a Christmas letter . . . but the older we get, the more we enjoy boring others. So herein, you'll learn of our fascinating exploits in *el año pasado*. From the Everest expedition to George's strange toe fungus, you'd better hike up your hip waders . . . because these are the days of our lives!

## Julie Has a New Job ... A New Church ... A New School ...

***(And she's joined the witness protection program, too)***

IOWA CITY – In October, Julie started a new job at the University of Iowa, where she works as a CON Artist. (That stands for College of Nursing. What were you thinking?) When she's not donning a red cape and tights to save the day as Classroom Technology Support Girl, she upgrades online course modules or creates DVD videos. In her spare time, she saves the planet from evil supervillains. Periodically, she even puts her computer geekiness to good use by teaching Adult Education classes at Kirkwood Community College.

Julie now sings with the worship band at Life Church ([www.lifechurch.now.org](http://www.lifechurch.now.org)). She's thrilled to use her vocal gifts for God every week. Her original songs, "We Confess" and "Joy of Heaven," received their premiers in worship at Parkview Church earlier in 2006.

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## George and Julie Get the Hookup

IOWA CITY – You need to become Fresh Meat in a new town before somebody pulls you out of the cooler. That was the lesson George learned when he had to move to Iowa City before meeting his Twentieth-Century Fox.

"She even likes my tasteless jokes! Well, some of them," said George (under a withering glare from his betrothed).

Julie accepted George's offer of marriage on October 4, 2006. As a musician and a writer, Julie and George are looking forward to many a blissful year of poverty together. They plan a March 24 wedding. (To find out more about the proposal and wedding, visit [www.george-and-julie.com](http://www.george-and-julie.com).) ☆



Right: On the stage of Iowa City's Englert Theatre, Julie accepts George's proposal of undying love. (Wait till you see the size of that rock!)



### Julie (From page 1)

Julie has a slight inferiority complex about not being as spiritual as George (who graduated from Moody BIBLE Institute). So she's enrolled in the online MDIV Worship program at Southern Seminary. In a few years, she plans to drag George to Louisville, kicking and screaming, so that she can finish her degree on campus. ☆

### George Has a New Job, Too! (Or maybe five...)

CORALVILLE – George is living his dream of being a full-time, *working* freelance artist. He writes...he directs...he acts...he teaches...all without a net! Just before Christmas, he finished the script for a corporate “Murder Mystery” at University of Iowa Healthcare. Meanwhile, he wrote some test questions for ACT (yes, test questions), and directed kids in a mini-production of *Snow White*. To find out more about his dramatic life, visit [www.dramabygeorge.com](http://www.dramabygeorge.com). (Having a fiancée who designs websites comes in really handy.)

When George gets bored (right), he heads over to the UI Medical School, where he portrays patients with various ailments for student physicians. Recently he was a drug addict seeking narcotic painkillers. Unfortunately, free samples were not in the compensation package. (For those of you with sick minds, please note that no “invasive” exams are performed on George and the other patient-actors.)

While he should be sleeping, he's working on applications for graduate school in Playwriting. Having already submitted most of the paperwork, George is waiting for the acceptance letters to pour in. ☆

## Meet the Families

CLEVELAND/ ATLANTIC CITY – We just returned from a whirlwind tour of the eastern United States, hopping from Iowa to Ohio to New Jersey in 8 days! It was fun meeting the families. But we saved the real adventures for the airport, including bad weather, airplane problems, patdowns from the TSA, and an unscheduled overnigher in Beautiful Suburban Minneapolis. Along with all the *obvious* privileges of becoming George's wife, Julie has inherited his proclivity for adventurous air travel. She's one lucky girl.

On a happier note, while we were walking on the beach near Cleveland, we got our picture taken for the front page of George's hometown newspaper! Autographed copies are available for \$29.95, plus shipping and handling. (Batteries not included.) ☆



## Happy New Year!

We hope you and your family enjoyed a great Christmas, and that you were good enough to get everything you wanted from Santa. George's new year's resolution is to avoid another coal-filled stocking in 2007. Julie is going to have her hands full singing, songwriting, and elbowing her new husband. (OW!) All God's best to you for 2007.