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November 4, 2005

Royal Caribbean International
1050 Caribbean Way
Miami, FL 33132-2096
ATTN: Song of America

Dear Cruisers,

I really love that old 1980's Billy Ocean tune: *Caribbean Queen*. That was one of my favorite songs during my late teenage years. I wondered, if there really was a Caribbean Queen, wouldn't that make her a royal Caribbean. Have you ever thought about booking Billy Ocean as a lounge singer on your cruise line? He could sing a couple of slow typical "lounge singer" tunes and then rip out *Caribbean Queen* and take the whole house down! What an exciting upbeat song that can be! Maybe you could also offer a joint cruise of the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean and start a pretend campaign to rename it the BILLY Ocean! Just as a kind of joke with your passengers.

I was on board your 'Song of America' cruise ship in June of 1988 and had such a fabulous time on that trip! I think it may have been the week of June 18 - 25, 1988. I always meant to write to you before and commend your cruise line and staff for a wonderful trip, but every time I thought about writing, I was always too busy with something else and just never got it done.

We went to Mexico and Jamaica and Grand Cayman and Haiti. Do you remember that route? I remember our waiter Ray and the steward Ernesto. Unfortunately, I do not know their last names. They were both very friendly and I hope that they still work for you because they were awfully nice guys and quite pleasant -- a true asset to your company. They deserve a raise.

The main reason I am writing to you now (other than to finally say thanks for such a wonderful trip and to suggest an RCCL exclusive deal with Billy Ocean) is that I am trying to make a connection with a fellow passenger from my cruise in 1988 and I was hoping that you might be able to help me do that. There was a high school band on that cruise and they performed one day on deck. I forget where they were from, but I took a few photos of the performance. I struck up a conversation with a woman there at the time who was one of the band parents. She was probably in her mid 40's and was about average height. She had brown hair and sunglasses, but I cannot remember her name or the town where the high school band was from. I was only in my early 20's at the time, but I am now married with a child who is in her high school band.

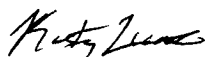
I had such an interesting conversation with that woman 17 years ago. We talked about their band and the activities and performances that they did. She talked about the struggles and sacrifices that parents make to have nice things for their kids. At the time, I was unmarried and had no concept of those responsibilities, but I listened with interest as that, lady talked. She pointed out her child to me (to be honest, I forget if she had a boy or a girl, or what instrument the child played). I saw her a few more times on the cruise at one place or another and she smiled or waved when she saw me, but we only had that one conversation.

The funny thing is that I more or less forgot about my conversation with this woman until I was recently working in a concession stand for the local band boosters. As the band performed at half time for the football game, I had a young lady come up to me -- probably in her mid 20's -- and she asked what instrument my child played in the band. She apparently knew that the stand workers were all band parents. She said that she thought it was cool that parents were willing to give up some free time and volunteer to help with their kids' activities. It was at that exact moment that I remembered my conversation with this other woman on your cruise ship in 1988. How about that, huh?

I was hoping to find her and remind of of the conversation we had 17 years ago and then surprise her with the news that I am now a band parent myself, giving of my time to help this organization.

Please review your June 1988 'Song of America' passenger list and tell me who this lady was and how I might contact her today.

Sincerely,



Rusty Lucas

p.s. Do you have any RCCL logo baseball caps? If so, please send me a free baseball cap and I will be your best friend! I will wear it the next time I work the concession stand (not likely until next fall) and I will try to convince everyone to buy an RCCL cruise to go along with their pizza or hot dog!