

TO HOPE AND HOPE NOT

yeah, i know it's stupid to play the lottery — to a great extent i even agree with voltaire, who said, "a lottery is a tax on imbeciles."

but i'll tell you why i and so many million others continue to toss away our five bucks or so a week, rather than using two-hundred-fifty a year to purchase, say, a savings bond that will be worth, at six percent, its face value of five hundred dollars in fourteen years:

it's because, as the song from damn yankees goes, "you've gotta have hope," and our only hope of ever getting a little ahead financially, let alone of knowing in our lifetimes any big-time luxuries or splurges, of ever knowing what it is to go first-cabin, like robert de niro in scent of a woman, is to win a million bucks. and frankly, at fifty grand a year before taxes over twenty years, we'll even have to keep the old urge-to-splurge under control if we plan to quit our day-jobs (which in my case is a night-job).

and the guys we hate the most are the multi-millionaires who buy a hundred thousand dollars worth of tickets as soon as the jackpot goes over fifty million, not because they need a dollar more but just to make sure we don't forget that in this life, no matter what the game, it's only them that has that gets.

MY HEART LEAPT UP

when i saw the new movie
advertised in the entertainment section
as

"the sexist thriller of the year."

but on closer perusal i realized
it only said "sexiest."

— Gerald Locklin

Long Beach CA