

Balloon Boy Family Excuses

by Baron von Funny

Last week, Falcon Heene of Fort Collins, Colorado received worldwide attention when it was mistakenly believed that the six-year-old had floated away in a homemade balloon. The boy was eventually found and reported to be at his house the entire time, leading to speculation that the incident was a hoax and a publicity stunt planned by his parents, Richard and Mayumi Heene, who reportedly wanted to get their own reality show (the family had previously appeared on ABC's *Wife Swap*). Now the family wants to tell their side of the story...

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- It was the one-armed man. (*Jameson*)
- Heard that a half-assed, balloon-related hoax was how the Gosselins got started. (*Brandon*)
- Um... the economy? (*Joe*)
- Hoped incident would gain the notice of Falcon's hero, the late Tony Randall. (*Mike*)
- After numerous failed attempts to get their own show, family agreed it was time to give *Cops* a try. (*Matt*)
- Were simply trying to float up to heaven, because they weren't quite ready to say goodbye to Patrick Swayze. (*Joe*)
- It's hard out there for a blimp. (*Jameson*)
- If hoaxes and publicity stunts are bad, then why is Fox News so popular? (*Brandon*)
- Balloon was sent as a message to all area hobos, that the Heenes were not a family to be trifled with. (*Matt*)
- The Heene kids were just playing that timeless childhood game "Call the Authorities and Pretend One of You is Trapped in a Balloon High Above the Earth." (*Jameson*)
- Mrs. Heene hoped publicity would give her a chance to "meet" David Letterman. (*Mike*)
- The editors of *Us Weekly* made them do it. (*Matt*)
- With the intrusive and inconvenient nature of security at our nation's airports, a giant plastic balloon covered in tinfoil is actually the easiest and most efficient way to travel through the air these days. (*Joe*)
- Hoped that if the "Balloon Boy" franchise really took off, they might get to meet John Travolta and work out some sort of Balloon Boy/Bubble Boy crossover tour. (*Jameson*)

—Mother hated Falcon and home-made weather balloons, father hoped getting rid of both would get him laid. (*Matt*)

—Simply continuing the tradition started by Robert Blake and O.J. Simpson: people who appear on ABC go on to commit crimes that grab national attention. (Still waiting to find out if tradition also includes surprising acquittal.) (*Brandon*)

—Probably shouldn't have named him Falcon. (*Mike*)

—Balloon held hundreds of Richard Heene's headshots destined for the Joplin, MO film festival. (*Matt*)

—Broncos football tickets too expensive; wanted to watch some games from the air. (*Jameson*)

—Oh, I suppose you can honestly say that you never played "let's tell everybody you were hiding in a cardboard box in the attic while we thought you were floating away in a giant silver balloon, and then maybe Daddy's sad, desperate bid for fame and relevance will finally pay off" when *you* were a little kid? (*Joe*)

Baron von Contributors: Brandon Kruse, Matt Kruse, Joe Mulder, Jameson Simmons, Mike Wagner
