



"While it is true that we in this nation remain free to be idiotic, it does not necessarily follow that we must be idiotic, in order to be free!" - H. Mumford Jones

THROUGHOUT THE 'PLANET,' CLICKING DARK RED WORDS OPEN THE WEB SITE IN QUESTION.

### SIGNS YOUR AMISH KID'S GOING ENGLISH

10. Sometimes stays in bed until after 5 a.m.
9. In his sock drawer, you find pictures of women without bonnets.
8. Shows up at barn raisings without suspenders.
7. When you criticize him, he yells, "Thou sucketh!"
6. His name is Jebediah, but he goes by "Jeb Daddy."
5. Defiantly says, "If I had a radio, I'd listen to rap."
4. You come upon his secret stash of colored socks.
3. Uses slang expression: "Talk to the hand, 'cause the beard ain't listening."
2. Was recently pulled over for "Driving under the influence of cottage cheese."
1. He's wearing his big black hat backwards.

"Although it is not true that all conservatives are stupid people, it is true that most stupid people are conservative." ~ John Stuart Mill

### MEOW / ARF

Cats do what they want. They rarely listen to you. They're totally unpredictable. When you want to play, they want to be alone. When you want to be alone, they want to play. They expect you to cater to their every whim. They're moody. They leave hair everywhere.

**Conclusion:** They're tiny women in little fur coats.

Dogs spend all day sprawled on the most comfortable piece of furniture in the house. They can hear a package of food opening half a block away, but don't hear you when you're in the next room. They can look dumb and lovable at the same time. They growl when they are not happy. When you want to play, they want to play. When you

want to be alone, they want to play. They leave their toys everywhere. They do disgusting things with their mouths and then try to give you a kiss. They go right for your crotch as soon as they meet you.

**Conclusion:** They're tiny men in little fur coats.

George W. Bush went into a Burger King and asked for a Whopper. The serving guy said: "You're the best President we've ever had." ~ Quickies

### SAVE THE GOVERNMENT MILLIONS

A President's pension currently is \$191,300 per year. Assuming the next President lives to age 80, Sen. McCain would receive NO pension since he'd reach 80 at the end of two terms. Sen. Obama would be retired for 26 years after two terms and would receive \$4,973,800 in pension. Therefore it would certainly make economic sense to elect McCain in November. (How's that for non-partisan thinking?)

And Happy 72nd Birthday, dear John!

"My choice early in life was either to be a piano player in a whorehouse or a politician. And to tell the truth, there's hardly any difference." ~ Harry Truman

### IN THE NOOSE

■ A letter to the L.A. Times from Mike Giachino says, "NBC's Olympic coverage is so delayed...that by the time it is seen, the Chinese gymnasts are actually 16 years old." And my hometown pal, Rob Riddle, tells me that Amy Yoder-Begley, an Indiana high school champion, competed in the 10,000-meter run -- and the barn-raising competition.

■ Here in L.A., a new high-rise condo offering up to \$20 mil-

lion apartments, is advertising that it offers paparazzi-proof dwellings. They'll have an Israeli-trained security force, a unique curved exterior design, private elevators and ultra-high hedges to prevent shutterbugs from infesting the swimming pool and the (wait for it) "yoga lawn."

■ Elsewhere, a team of Penn State scientists has discovered a new ultra-small species of bacteria that has survived for more than 120,000 years within the high-pressure, reduced-oxygen, and nutrient-poor ice of a Greenland glacier. The microorganism's ability to persist makes it particularly useful for studying how life can survive in Los Angeles and possibly elsewhere in the solar system. [READ ALL ABOUT IT]

*"Find out what you are afraid of and go live there."- Chuck Palahniuk*

## BURYING THE LEAD

Come on! This should've been on the front page, or at least wrapped in it. U.S. artist Paul McCarthy's oversized inflated dog turd exhibit titled Complex Sh\*t, was blown away from the garden of the Paul Klee Centre in Berne, Switzerland, and being the size of a small house, it appropriately shattered a greenhouse window at a nearby Children's Home after encountering power lines. Too bad it wasn't grounded by a Solar Windmill though; then the sh\*t really would have hit the fan...

*"Humor is the great thing, the saving thing. The minute it crops up, all our irritation and resentments slip away, and a sunny spirit takes their place." ~ Mark Twain*

## A LETTER TO U.S.

Dear Boss,

I have enjoyed working here these past several years; you have paid me very well, given me benefits beyond belief. I have 3-4 months off per year and a pension plan that will pay my salary till the day I die and a health plan that most people can only dream about.

Despite this, I plan to take the next year or so to seek a new position. During this time I'll only show up for work only when convenient and expect to draw my full salary and perks. And should my search for this new job prove fruitless, I'll return with no loss in pay or status. And before you say anything, remember that you have no choice in the matter.

Sincerely, Your Senator/Representative

*"Eat what you want and die like a man." ~  
Bumper sticker in Asheville, N.C.*

## OLD JOKES

Researchers found examples of double-entendres in Exeter Cathedral's Codex Exoniensis, a 10th Century book of Anglo-Saxon poetry. "What hangs at a man's thigh and wants to poke the hole that it's often poked before? A key."

Scouring ancient texts, researchers from Wolverhampton University found three thousand-year old jokes painfully inscribed into elaborate manuscripts or carved crudely into stone tablets. Dr Paul MacDonald, (Up to a Million Told!) a comic novelist and lecturer in creative writing, noted that the ancients laughed about the same things we do today: uncontrolled body functions, sex, marriage and stupid people.

"The world's oldest surviving joke is essentially a fart gag," he said. The 3,000-year-old Sumerian proverb, from ancient Babylonia (now Southern Iraq) reads: "Something which has never occurred since time immemorial; a young woman did not fart in her husband's lap." It heads the world's oldest Top Top joke list they compiled.

A 1600 BC gag about Egyptian ruler Snofru, comes second: "How do you entertain a bored pharaoh? You sail a boatload of young women dressed only in fishing nets down the Nile and urge the pharaoh to go catch a fish."

"Man is even more eager to copulate than a donkey - his purse is what restrains him," reads another Egyptian hieroglyph; and an Anglo-Saxon king, asked by the court barber how he wanted his hair cut, replied: "In silence."

And Eddie Deezen notes that King Charles I's favorite joke was to place his court dwarf, Jeffrey Hudson, who was 18 inches tall, between two loaves of bread and pretend to eat him. Mini Me, beware...

*"When cows laugh, does milk come out of their noses?"  
~ Over The Transom*

## OLD BOARDS

The remains of "The Theatre" in Shoreditch, East London, where 'Romeo and Juliet,' 'Richard III,' 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'The Merchant Of Venice' by William Shakespeare may have premiered, have been uncovered by Museum of London archaeologists.

■ CONTINUED

Shakespeare himself trod the boards there as an actor with a troupe called The Lord Chamberlain's Men but after a tenancy dispute in 1599, the owners of the theatre dismantled it during the night and carried its timbers across the Thames. Those boards were used to construct the Globe Theatre, which became their new home and has been reconstructed for performances today. Gratefully, the newly discovered remains of the Shoreditch will be preserved on site.

*"The worst time to have a heart attack is during a game of charades." ~ Demetri Martin*

## OLD STILLS

Egyptian scientists will carry out DNA tests on two mummified fe-

tuses found in the tomb of King Tutankhamun to determine their link to the young pharaoh. The two tiny female fetuses, discovered in King Tut's tomb at Luxor in 1922, may be his stillborn offspring.

Head of Egyptian antiquities, Zahi Hawass, explained that the research also hopes to establish Tutankhamun's family lineage, still disputed among Egyptologists.

In a related development, President Bush has directly banned any research using those lines of fetal cells from the King Tut find, citing that due to injections of those stem cells there could be Steve Martin imposters on stages all over the country in a few years and in a direct quote said "that would constitute terrorism that may lead to an invasion of Iraq, er, I mean Iran. It's close to Egypt so it's all good. We'll just let General Petraus or whatever his name is, drop the bombs and that will take care of the fetal follies."

*"Neither a man, nor a crowd, nor a nation can be trusted to act humanely or to think sanely under the influence of a great fear." ~ Bertrand Russell*

## POLITICS AS USUAL

An American dignitary was visiting a village in a poor African nation. Not certain of his welcome, he made a speech full of glowing terms to the natives gathered there. "I bring you warm greetings from the people of the United States!" he declared, which was duly translated by the interpreter.

"Kazanga!" cried the natives. "We wish this beautiful country peace and prosperity!" he continued. "Kazanga!" yelled the natives, even louder.

"We hope this will be the beginning of many years of mutual friendship and economic benefit to both nations!" he went on. "Kazanga! Kazanga!" roared the natives.

Later, as the dignitary was being escorted around the village by the chief, he commented, "That seemed to go well. They really do like us Americans, don't they?"

"Uh, watch where you walk," said the chief; "don't step in the kazanga."

*"Politics is like sex. Those who have never tried it can't understand the attraction, but those who have can't keep themselves away." ~ Kremlin political analyst Sergei Markov*

## GEORGIA ON MY MIND

Back in 1996, I noticed that a stamp (**pictured**) was being marketed to raise monies for a civil war in a breakaway Georgian republic called Abkhazia that featured images of "Marx and Lennon" as symbols of a new emerging Russia, and since I had designed just such a concept for the cover of the Firesign album "How Can You Be in Two Places at



■ CONTINUED

Once, When You're Not Anywhere at All," back in the '70s, I contacted Bob Edwards on NPR's "All Things Considered" to do a piece on it. Now it's back in the news. And let me just reiterate, "Not Responsible!"

"Any idiot can face a crisis, it is this day-to-day living that wears you out." ~ Anton Chekhov

## BYE AND BYE

Catching up on the passing parade: folks I've known personally and worked with professionally have left the building recently, most notably funny fellow George Furth, (author of "Company" with Stephen Sondheim) whom I knew for 40 years and was recently a member of our Science of Mind church, and ground-breaking TV talk show Les Crane.

In 1968 The Firesign Theatre appeared on his show in a program that was listed in the TV Guide as "Art Movie Put-On?" We came on incognito, playing various avant-garde filmmakers. Austin was a son of a leatherworker making "Living Room Theatre" films like Blondie Pays the Rent, Bergman was an art critic writing a history of film one frame at a time, Ossman was making films by rolling a Panavision camera down the Andes, and I was Jean Claude Jean-Claude, a French cinematiste presenting a documentary called Two Weeks With Fred that took two weeks to watch. Crane played it completely deadpan and we never broke cover. By the way, we don't have a copy of it and we would love to find out if one still exists.

And of course, we lost Larry Harmon, who inspired us as we wrote I Think We're All Bozos on this Bus, and musical giants Isaac Hayes and Jerry Wexler. And farewell as well to Steve Harvey's Only In L.A. column which I so proudly contributed to over the past two decades.

"It doesn't matter how big a ranch ya' own, or how many cows ya' brand, the size of your funeral is still gonna to depend on the weather." ~ Harry S. Truman

**AND  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
TO MY DEAR  
PARTNER-IN-LIFE,  
MELINDA!!!**

"A word to the wise ain't necessary. It's the stupid ones who need the advice." ~ Dr. Bill Cosby

## GIVE . . .

Jack Blessing, Maryedith Burrell, Taylor Jessen, Bonnie Peterson, H. Lee Kagan, Nick Oliva, Sam Joseph, George Riddle, Jim Meskimen, Nick Oliva, Garry Margolis, Barry Pearl, Ken Wilhite, Jayne Stahl, Victor Kopcewich, JW Reynolds, Paul Schindler, Austin Tichenor, Jim Terr, Tom McMahon and Cristofer Gross.

## . . . AND TAKE

**GOOD CHEMISTRY** <http://www.periodicvideos.com/index.htm>

**GOLD** <http://www.goldenagestories.com/index.html#/home>

**HOT** <http://www.funnyordie.com/videos/64ad536a6d>

**COKE** <http://tinyurl.com/33hjn>

**CLAP** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9KLS90ejJc>

**PAPER** <http://www.petercallesen.com/index/Largepaper-cutinstallations.htm>

**YIDDISH** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDCzsnU1VbQ>

**PLAGUE** <http://firedoglake.com/2008/08/04/congratulations-youve-gotthe-plague/>

**REDUCED** <http://reducedshakespeare.com/podcasts.php>

**NO COUNTRY** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFXBuUqPPzc>

**SHHHH** <http://london.craigslist.co.uk/sec/783766933.html>

**TOUR** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_aEURwsrUSQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_aEURwsrUSQ)

**NO CHANGE** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4nQ-xCkCAI>

**POP NOT** <http://www.snopes.com/science/cookegg.asp>

## CLICK THE WORD TO GO TO THE SITE

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." ~ Martin Luther King Jr.

**FIRESIGN STUFF:** <http://www.laugh.com> •  
**FUNNY TIMES:** <http://www.funnytimes.com>

"Laughter is the closest distance between two people" ~ Victor Borge