



"At the zenith of his presidency, George W. Bush wore a flight suit - but now he's leaving his successor in a straight jacket." **Howard Fineman, 'Newsweek'**

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

### GIVE AND TAKE

We finally took to the boards last Saturday singing "Why Do the Wrong People Travel" with Broadway's own Harry Groener and his wife Dawn Didawick -- to raise funds for the classy classical Antaeus Theatre Ensemble in a "Noel Coward Cabaret" at the incredibly generous Jane Kaczmarek and Bradley Whitford's spacious San Marino estate. About 200 folks showed up and we got enough donations even in these scary times to support our efforts next year. Thank you, everyone.

Also, the Magic Maze Site is growing apace: Click [here](#).

"The fundamental delusion of humanity is to suppose that I am here and you are out there."  
~ **Yasutani Roshi, Zen master (1885-1973)**

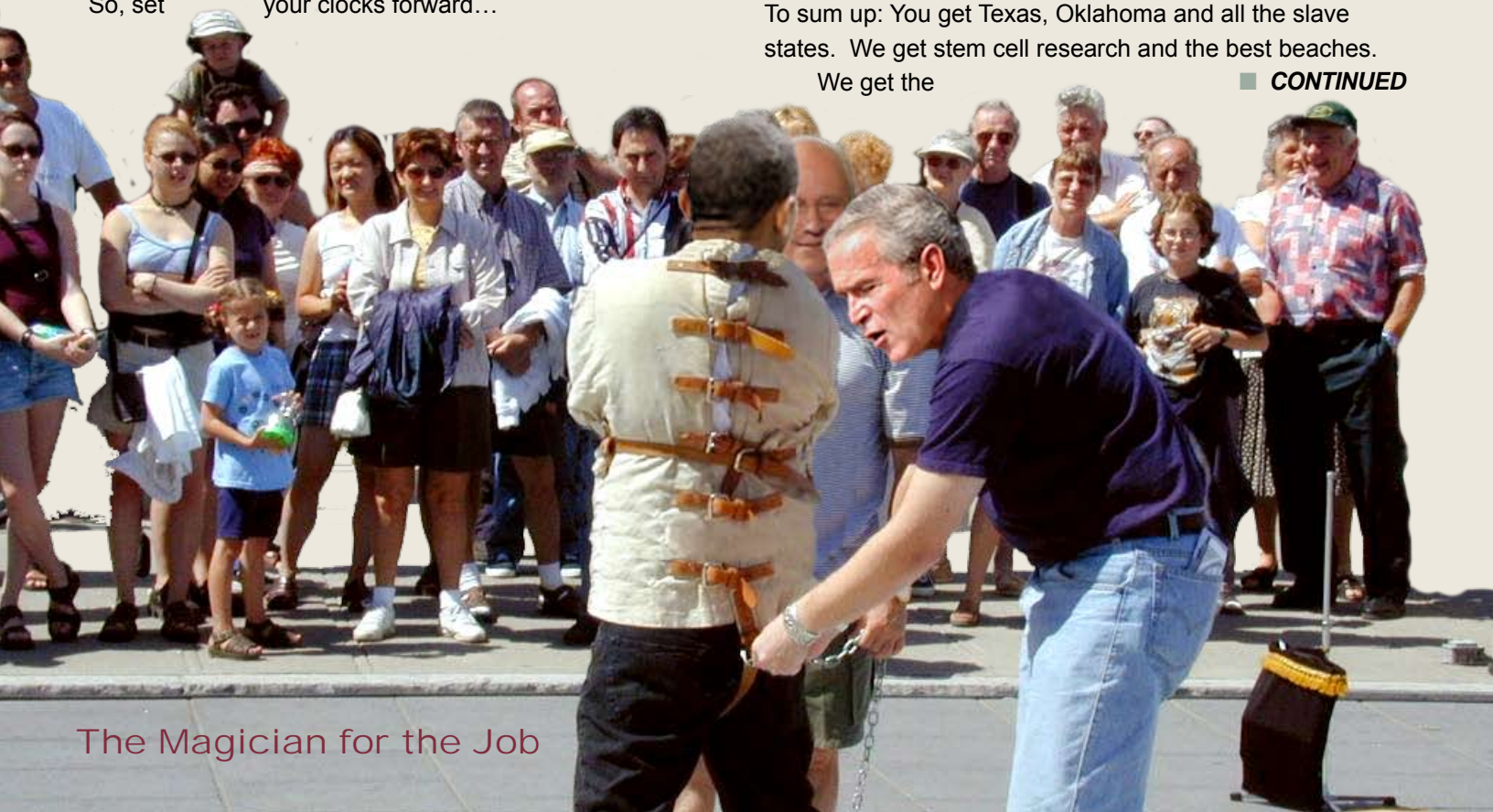
I also had a ball last night appearing on Jim Svejda's KUSC-FM Halloween Special (thanks to Henry Jaglom) promoting our Shout1Reprise 4 CD Danger in a Box, and I will also be Jim's first "live" guest on his annual New Year's Eve Special, possibly with the inspirational Stan Freberg. So, set your clocks forward...

### DEAR RED STATES

We've decided we're leaving. We intend to form our own country, and we're taking the other Blue States with us. In case you aren't aware, that includes California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois and the Northeast. It may even include Florida and Ohio... Since we're dropping the middle states we're calling it "United America," or simply "the U.A."

To sum up: You get Texas, Oklahoma and all the slave states. We get stem cell research and the best beaches.

We get the ■ **CONTINUED**



The Magician for the Job

Statue of Liberty. You get Dollywood. You can take Ted Nugent; we're keeping Bruce Springsteen and Billy Joel. You get WorldCom. We get Intel and Microsoft. You get Ole' Miss. We get Harvard and 85 percent of America's venture capital and entrepreneurs. You get Alabama. We get two-thirds of the tax revenue; you get to make the red states pay their fair share...

We will have firm control of 80% of the country's fresh water, more than 90% of the pineapple and lettuce, 95% of the nation's fresh fruit, 95 % of America's quality wines, 90% of all cheese and the high tech industry, most of the U.S. low-sulfur coal, all living redwoods, sequoias and condors, all the Ivy and Seven Sister schools plus Stanford, Cal Tech and MIT.

With the Red States, on the other hand, you will have to cope with 88% of all obese Americans (and their projected health care costs), 92% of all U.S. mosquitoes, nearly 100% of the tornadoes, 90% of the hurricanes, 99% of all Southern Baptists, virtually 100% of all televangelists, Rush Limbaugh, Bob Jones University, Clemson and the University of Georgia. We get Hollywood and Yosemite, thank you.

Additionally, 38% of those in the Red states believe Jonah was actually swallowed by a whale, 62% believe life is sacred unless we're discussing the war, the death penalty or gun laws, 44% say that evolution is only a theory, 53% that Saddam was involved in 9/11 and 61% of you crazy Reddies believe you are people with higher morals than we Bluies..

Oh – and we're taking the good pot, too. You can have that sh\*t they grow in Mexico. Peace out!

*"A waiter approaches: 'Can I interest you in the chicken, or would you prefer the platter of shit with bits of broken glass in it?' To be undecided in this election is to ask how the chicken is cooked."*  
~ David Sedaris

## LUCKY

Two friends met in the street. One man looked rather forlorn. The other man asked, "Hey, how come you look like the whole world caved in?" The sad fellow said, "Let me tell you. Three weeks ago, an uncle died and left me ten thousand dollars."

"I'm sorry to hear about the death, but a bit of good luck for you, eh?"

"Hold on, I'm just getting started. Two weeks ago, a cousin I never knew kicked the bucket and left me twenty thousand, free and clear."

"Well, you can't be disappointed with that!"

"Yeah. But, last week my grandfather passed away. I inherited almost one hundred thousand dollars."

"Incredible! So how come you look so glum?"

"Well, this week ... nothing!"

*"Greed is good. But I've never seen a Brinks truck pull up to a cemetery." ~"Wall Street" Screenwriter Stanley Weiser*

## THE SMELL OF SPACE

Outer space smells of fried steak, and the universe has an aroma of hot metal and motorbike welding, NASA experts revealed recently in "The Sun." Astronauts reported the bizarre scents on their suits when they returned from space walks.

The space agency has commissioned Steven Pearce of British fragrance firm Omega Ingredients to recreate the smells to help train future spacemen. (Wha?)

"We think it's a high energy vibration in the molecule," he said, "and that's what we're trying to add to it now." – d.willetts@the-sun.co.uk

*"A bank will lend you money if you can prove you don't need it". ~ Bob Hope*

## USSA

"United States of Seceded Alaska? " The ever more desperate and morally bankrupt Republicons are trying to reinvent the Cold War by conjuring up the spooky Socialist and Communist specters this Hollow-ween campaign season. Burt listen to what Sarah says about her own chilly state...

"Alaska—we're set up, unlike other states in the Union, where it's collectively Alaskans own the resources. So we share in the wealth when the development of these resources occurs. Our state constitution—it lays it out for me, how I'm to conduct business with resource development here as the state C.E.O. It's to maximize benefits for Alaskans."

**Click** to read more.

Also, Senator John McCain quoted in the **CONTINUED**



Halloween edition of 'The New Yorker' in an MSNBC 2000 interview on 'Hardball,' answered a caller's question about creeping socialism by saying, "Here's what I really believe: That when you reach a certain level of comfort, there's nothing wrong with paying somewhat more." Higher taxes, anyone?

*"Joe the Plumber" is unlicensed, tax delinquent, doesn't actually want to buy a business and his real name is Sam. ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts*

## NINETEEN AND FIFTY-EIGHT

We just returned from an unforgettable Riverdale Country School Reunion in NY due to the staggering generosity of Jimmy Marrow and David Lahm and here's some graduation year trivia gleaned from my toast at our 50th dinner at Daniel.

1958: the US launched its first satellite but we lost a Hydrogen Bomb in the waters near Savannah and accidentally dropped an Atomic Bomb on Mars – Mars Bluff, South Carolina, that is – at the same time the PEACE SYMBOL was designed. Elvis Presley was drafted, Alaska was admitted to the Union and St. Clare was declared the patron saint of Television.

Nikita Krushchev became head of the USSR and opened a cultural exchange program allowing me to tour the Soviet Union with The Yale Russian Chorus in '59. The United Arab Republic was formed, Castro and Che Guevara began their assaults on Cuba, the Iraqi Monarchy was overthrown, the first parking meters were installed in Britain and as we shivered through the Cold War, the first "Cod War" started between the UK and Iceland. Back home, a retired candy manufacturer named Robert Welch formed The John Birch Society. The Dow Jones high was 583; the low, 451.

We read "Lolita" wearing new bifocal contact lenses,

dreamed about "sex kittens" like Brigitte Bardot and grooved to the Bossa Nova. We bought instant noodles and sprinkled Sweet'n'Low on a new cereal, Cocoa Puffs. We listened to Stereo records and recycled needles with the introduction of acupuncture. Fetal ultrasound was invented and we could order "Carry-out" meals from Pizza Hut and charge it to American Express and BankAmericard. Girls slinked around in sacks and trapeze dresses while Beatniks bonged in black and Vice President Nixon was stoned in Caracas.

On TV, we watched 'I've Got a Secret,' 'Have Gun, Will Travel,' 'Gunsmoke,' 'Peter Gunn,' 'Maverick' and 'The Real McCoys' and 'GE Theater's' inspiring Thanksgiving special, 'A Turkey for the President' starring Ronald

Reagan and Nancy Davis. We sang "Hang Down Your Head, Tom Dooley" with the Kingston Trio and watched Hitch's 'Vertigo,' 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof,' 'Auntie Mame,' 'Gigi,' Orson Welles' 'Touch of Evil,' 'South Pacific' and Academy-Award winner 'Bridge on the River Kwai.'

The Jim Henson Company was born, as were Holly Hunter, Bebe Neuwirth, Andie MacDowell, Jaime Lee Curtis, Michelle Pfeiffer and Sharon Stone. Also, Alec Baldwin, Jeff Foxworthy, Drew Carey, Keenan Ivory Wayans, Steve Gutenberg, Tim Robbins, Viggo Mortensen, Kevin Bacon and the supposed, deposed, exposed King of Pop -- Michael Jackson. But most important of all, we were birthed. Launched into a college when an Ivy-League tuition averaged \$1,250 a year. It was a great reunion!

*"A good listener is a good talker with a sore throat."*

*~ Katherine Whitehorn in The Week*



## WHAT THEY DONE

... before they were famous: Daniel Craig worked in a restaurant kitchen. Al Capone was a bookkeeper. Oliver Hardy sang to slides in a movie theater, Henry Ford was a racecar driver and Robert Wagner caddied at the Bel-Air Country Club for Clark Gable. Former carpenter Harrison Ford was a stagehand for Jim Morrison and the Doors, while Robert "Bob Dylan" Zimmerman helped build sets for the off-Broadway musical 'The Amorous Flea,' which brought me to L.A., and the late, great Paul Newman (who

once ran a sports shop) presented me with a Theatre World Award.

Martin Scorsese taught a film studies course at NYU's Tisch School for the Arts (with Oliver Stone and Spike Lee among his students). Bram "Dracula" Stoker worked in the blood-sucking Irish Civil Service and while dusky, lanky Lena Horne strutted as a chorus girl, little, lithe Audrey Hepburn was training to be a dental assistant.

Theodore Roosevelt was a police commissioner, Sean Connery won a Mr. Universe title and Eubie Blake tinkled the ivories in a Baltimore house of ill repute. Steve Martin twirled lassoes at Disneyland and Jack London was -- an oyster pirate.

*"Were all in this thing alone." ~ Lily Tomlin*

## LOST

Edie Adams, whom I got to know and love on a tiny black-and-white screen on her husband's local and live Ernie Kovacs Show on NYC TV, Estelle Reiner, Carl's dear and talented wife, and Pulitzer-Prize winner Studs Terkel, who interviewed Peter Bergman and me years ago during one of our infamous "Proctor & Bergman" national tours.

Studs was a sincerely sweet, shinningly bright man, who once said, "I tape, therefore I am. Only one other man has used the tape recorder with as much fervor as I -- Richard Nixon." A radio host with a remarkable memory right up to the end, he noted in the 'L.A. Times' obit that "We don't remember anything. There's no yesterday in this country," adding, "I want to recreate those yesterdays."

He wrote as his epithet: "Curiosity did not kill this cat."

*"I could live beyond the grave, at least for a miniseries."  
~ KCET TV Host Huell Howser*

## AND FOUND

Cris "The Energizer" Gross, Garry Margolis, Nick Oliva, H. Lee Kagan, Magic Mike Berger, Scott W. Langhill, Bill Coombs, Eddie Deezen, Richard Laible, Jann Cobler, Vanna Bonta, Jon Gwynne, Dean Christopher, Patty Paul, Bob Grossman, Kristin Proctor for her wonderful work on the "Magic Maze" site and John Field, Ken Burrows, Sevan Minasian, Steve Katcher, Alex Garvin, Jim Gordon, Anthony Diaz Blue -- and all my other Riverdale reunion refugees for still being there...

*"Never invest in any idea you can't illustrate with a crayon." ~ Peter Lynch*

## AND LINKED

**BLACK?**

**BANJOBRAIN**

**HAILCAESAR**

**COLORTEST**

**BROKETREK**

**DANCEOFF**

**CONFUSED**

**MADMAD**

**VET**

**KUNGFOOEY**

**JUSTSAYNO**

**WASSUP**

**TRUTHINESS**

**PAROTTPALIN**

PLANET CLICK

*"How many states in the USA? If you say 50, you are wrong. We have 46 states and four commonwealths (Mass, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Virginia)."  
~ Eddie Deezen*

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

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