

2010 - 10

PLANET MAYDAY

May 10, 2010

"The market was so bad yesterday that
Goldman Sachs had to lay off three congressmen."
~ David Letterman

SPIELBERG SPIELS

Eddie Deezen shares with us **Steven Spielberg's** early alienation and perhaps a source of inspiration as well...

"The height of my wimpiness came when we had to run a mile for a grade in elementary school. The whole class of 50 finished, except for two people left on the track – me, and a mentally challenged boy.

"Of course, he ran awkwardly, but I was never able to run. I was maybe 40 yards ahead of him, and I was just 100 yards away from the finish line. The whole class turned against me, rooting for the other boy, cheering him, saying 'C'mon, c'mon! Beat Spielberg! Run! Run!'

"It was like he came to life for the first time, and he began to pour it on, but still not fast enough to beat me. And I remember thinking, O.K., now how am I gonna fall and make it look like I really fell? And I remember actually stepping on my toe and going face down hard into the red clay of the track and actually scraping my nose.

"Everybody cheered when I fell, and then they began to really cheer for this guy: 'C'mon John! C'mon! Run! Run!' I got up just as John came up behind me, and I began running as if to beat him but not really win, running to let him win.

"We were nose to nose, and suddenly I laid back a step, then half a step.

Suddenly,
he was
ahead;
then he
was a

NORMAN'S NAMESAKE. Proctor and Peterson announce creation
of the Norman Corwin Award for Excellence in Broadcasting.

THROUGHOUT THE 'PLANET,' CLICKING
BOLD, DARK RED TYPE
OPENS A RELATED INTERNET LINK.

chest ahead! Then a length, and then he crossed the finish line ahead of me. Everybody grabbed this guy and threw him on their shoulders and carried him into the locker room and into the showers. And I stood there on the track field and cried my eyes out for five minutes.

"I'd never felt better and never felt worse in my life..."

"The wise man, even when he holds his tongue,
says more than the fool when he speaks."
~ Yiddish Proverb

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

"Hello! My name is Inna, I am from Russia. A long time I'm your fan, watch for your creativity. You really like me. Everything you do, Divine! You are very beautiful and talented. Thank you for what you have. I love you. I would really like to ask you autograf. Unfortunately, Russia delivered to your autograph impossible. Please send your autograph to my mail address. I will be waiting. Good luck to you, let you all will be well! I kiss you a thousand times! Thank you!"

English has about 999,998 words,
Japanese 232,000; Spanish 225,000,
Russian 195,000, and Chinese dialects
more than 50,000.
~ Fackti Funni of Feeleep

NORMAN CORWIN'S 100TH

On Saturday, May 1, my wife
Meliinda Peterson and I
were honored to partici-
pate in a Writers
Guild event to
honor the life and

■ CONTINUED

achievements of the amazing man whose creative and cultural contributions to the evolution of the art of radio are best represented in the Academy Award-winning documentary, "**A Note of Triumph: The Golden Age of Norman Corwin.**"

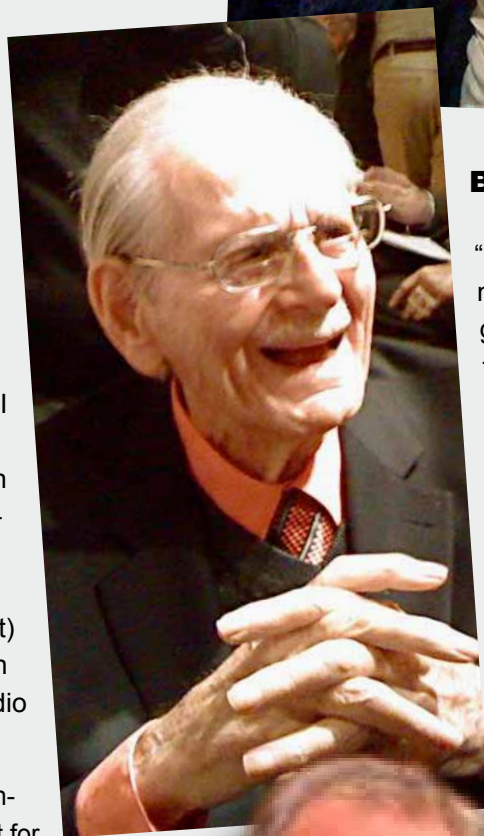
Peggy Webber's California Artists Radio Theatre presented live performances of excerpts from two of his beloved radio plays, "Mary and The Fairy" (starring **JoAnne Worley** and **Marvin Kaplan**) and "Our Lady of the Freedoms and a Few of Her Friends" narrated by **Ed Asner**. I performed along with **Samantha Eggar, John Harlan, Richard Herd, Paul Keith, Norman Lloyd, Shelley Long, Shelley Berman, Tom Williams, Ian Abercrombie** and **Simon Templeman**. Original music was by **Ken Stange** and live SFX by **Tony Palermo**.

Emceed by **Leonard Maltin**, heart-warming and hilarious remarks were also made by longtime friends **Norman Lloyd, Carl Reiner** and **Hal Kanter**, and then Melinda and I were honored to announce the creation of The Norman Corwin Award for Excellence in Broadcasting – a beautiful crystal trophy mounted on a mineral base (Norman is a mineralogist) - to be presented every year on his birthday at the National Audio Theatre Festival in Missouri.

The next day, at a special screening of his Oscar-nominated "Lust for Life" at the Aero Theatre in Santa Monica, festival reps **Richard Fish, Andrew Davis** and **Helen Englehardt** presented the very first award to Norman, himself and the wonderful **Patt "The Hat" Morrison** led a discussion of the film's history with him. It was an unforgettable weekend.

"Old age forges
your signature."
~ **Norman Corwin**

THE CORWIN CENTURY. from top: Shelleys Long and Berman Flank Phil; Norman Corwin; 'The' Norman Corwin; Proctor and Asner



BY SEXUAL

"It's happened so often that it's now a cultural cliché: the gay politician pretending to be straight. In most parts of the nation, homosexuality or bisexuality is a clear electoral liability," but not in Center City Philadelphia, according to *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

State Rep.
Babette
Jo-



■ **CONTINUED**

sephs (D-PA) accused her primary opponent, Gregg Kravitz (D), of "pretending to be bisexual in order to pander to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender voters, a powerful bloc in the district."

Said Josephs, "I outed him as a straight person."

"Sociologists tell us that the best way for a married man to have more sex is to do more housework..."
~ Julia Baird in Newsweek

WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

A Catholic guy goes into the confessional box, after years being away from the Church. There's a fully equipped bar with Guinness on tap. On the shelf of one wall, is a dazzling array of the finest cigars and chocolates and the other wall has pornographic pictures of a buxom blond.

He hears a priest come in: "Father, forgive me, for it's been a very long time since I've been to confession; but I must first admit that the confessional box is much more inviting than it used to be."

"Get out, you idiot. You're on my side," the priest replies.

"We only have to look at ourselves to see how intelligent life might develop into something we wouldn't want to meet."
~ Stephen Hawking

"A happy life consists not in the absence, but in the mastery of hardships." ~ Helen Keller

TRUE MEANING RIOTS

*The roses are a riot,
They have a lot to say.
I found them bursting colors
And fragrances today.*

*And when I turned the corner
And saw them them all in bloom,
They clamored for the moment
Against distress and gloom.*

*In pinks and white and crimsons,
In dappled yellow hues,
They shouted equal rights for bliss,
Demanding joy its due.*

*They picketed for laughter
They bloomed against despair
And even buds clenched only hope
For beauty they would air.*

*There were no other headlines
There was no other news.
A perfect moment blossomed.
That's all there was to do.*

~ Vanna Bonta

CA PROP 666

A) All state and local law enforcement personnel shall stop and interrogate any persons reasonably suspected of being from Arizona. Criteria for reasonable suspicion include, but are not limited to the following:

A.1) Persons driving automobiles with Arizona license plates.

A.2) Persons publicly exhibiting any of the following characteristic or behaviors:

A.2.1) Facial expressions of befuddlement with inappropriate tropical travel wear.

A.2.2) Missing teeth, slack jaws.

B) All state and local law enforcement personnel shall conduct interrogations with the goal of determining whether said person is indeed an Arizonan and in the state illegally. Acceptable documentation for determining Arizonan residency include:

B.1) Arizona driver's license and matching birth certificate.

■ CONTINUED

B.2) “You can pry my gun from my cold dead fingers” notarized tattoo.

And don’t forget - Christ would be arrested in Arizona. He was shabbily dressed dark-skinned, longhaired and unshaven, walking across the desert without money, identification papers, or a driver’s license.

In other words: the perfect profile of an illegal immigrant.

“Everyone is entitled to their own opinions,
but everyone is not entitled to their own facts.”
~ Sen. Patrick Moynihan

HAGGIS THE HORRIBLE

A survey by **JUST EAT** – an online takeaway food service – has determined that one in five people in Britain think that haggis, the traditional Scottish dish made from the lung, liver and heart of a sheep, is a hilltop-dwelling animal that roams the Highlands.

Another 15 percent identified it as a Scottish musical instrument, while four percent admitted to thinking it was a character from “Harry Potter.” The survey questioned 1,623 people across Britain to see how well they were acquainted with traditional Scottish food and 14 percent of the 781 Scottish people polled said they did not know what haggis was...” (Ach, the shame!)

“Alas! The onion you are eating
is someone else’s water lily.”
~ Chinese Fortune Cookie

TAXI

“When Americans complain about taxes,” said Steven Hill in *The Sacramento Bee*, “they often point to Europe as the ultimate nightmare. But people in ‘socialist’ countries like Sweden are hardly ‘overtaxed serfs.’

“Yes, Europeans pay higher taxes than do Americans, but for their money, they get a vast array of services that in the U.S., we must pay a major chunk of our incomes to match. The \$200,000 Americans pay for college educations? In most European nations, university educations are free, or very cheap. All that money you’re stuffing into your 401(k), because Social Security payments are so anemic?

“In Europe, pensions provide more than 75 percent of what people need in retirement. Your soaring health-care premiums? In Europe, health care is available to all without charge, and the average cost per person is half that in the U.S. Child care, senior care, state-of-the-art mass transpor-

tation—all are provided without additional charges, in return for the Europeans’ taxes.

“The reality is that when you include our out-of-pocket expenses for essential services, ‘Americans pay out just as much as Europeans—but receive a lot less for our money.’”

“I am told that I have entered the terrible toos - too qualified, too expensive and too old.” ~ Laurence Budd

GOOD HEAVENS!

On their way to get married, a young Catholic couple is involved in a fatal car accident. The couple find themselves sitting outside the Pearly Gates waiting for St. Peter to process them into Heaven. While waiting, they begin to wonder: Could they possibly get married in Heaven?

When St. Peter showed up, they asked him. St. Peter said, ‘I don’t know. This is the first time anyone has asked. Let me go find out,’ and he leaves. The couple sat and waited, and waited. Two months passed and the couple is still waiting. As they waited, they discussed that if they could get married in Heaven, what was the eternal aspect of it all. ‘What if it doesn’t work?’ they wondered, ‘Are we stuck together forever?’

After yet another month, St. Peter finally returns, looking somewhat bedraggled. ‘Yes,’ he informs the couple, ‘you can get married in Heaven.’ ‘Great!’ said the couple, ‘But we were just wondering, what if things don’t work out? Could we also get a divorce in Heaven?’ St. Peter, red-faced with anger, slammed his clipboard onto the ground.

‘What’s wrong?’ asked the frightened couple. ‘It took me three months to find a priest up here,’ St. Peter shouted. ‘Do you have any idea how long it’ll take me to find a lawyer?’

“If you’re going to doubt something doubt your limits.”
~ Anon

POTHEAD PUSHING DAISIES

Jack Herer, 70, longtime pot proselytizer (good spelling bee word) is now fertilizer after working unceasingly to elevate the nation’s consciousness about the benefits of *cannabis sativa*.

“You’ve got to be out of your mind not to smoke dope!” were practically his last words, uttered last September at the Hempstalk Festival in Portland, Oregon just minutes before he suffered a debilitating heart attack. A co-commander of the Reefer Raiders campaign to legalize the substance

in California, he leaves behind "The Emperor Has No Clothes," a meticulously researched 1985 best seller about the futility of a government ban on hemp cultivation, touting the weed's many benefits and uses.

"Dad has not filed taxes in over 30 years," observed his son Mark, president of his family's Third Eye head shop in Portland, "so it was wonderful he died on tax day, it really was."

"Whoever brought me here will have to take me home..."
~ Persian Poet, Rumi



"When I see the elaborate study and ingenuity displayed by women in the pursuit of trifles, I feel no doubt of their capacity for the most herculean undertakings. ~ Julia Ward Howe

"In the beginning there was nothing, which exploded."
~ Terry Pratchett

"In three words, I can sum up everything I've learned about life: It goes on." ~ Robert Frost

FIRESIGN CDs: <http://www.laugh.com>
BEARWHIZ BEER <http://www.eagletshirts.com>

FUNNY TIMES: <http://www.funnytimes.com>
FST: <http://www.FiresignTheatre.com>

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COMING DISTRACTIONS

I will be directing and performing in "The Grease Spot," another wonderfully dramatized audio presentation from The Golden Age of Pulp Fiction at the L. Ron Hubbard Theatre at 7051 Hollywood Boulevard, Saturday May 15 and 22. **Michael Gough, John Mariano, Travis Oates** and **Robert Towers** are in my wonderful cast. **CLICK FOR TIX.**

And in June, **Firesign** will be appearing in Portland, Eugene and Ashland, OR and Redding, CA. **CLICK HERE** for details.

Theatre: "the primordial ooze out of which all actors crawl; where we were all born, where the art began."
~ Actor **Richard Kiley**, "The Man of La Mancha"

PICKEES

Charlie Moed, Victor Kopcewich, Patti Deutsch, Richard Schulenberg, Nick Oliva, Brian Westley, Marc Cashman, Allen Newcomb, Lesley Woodward, Patty Paul, Richard Laible, Arthur Peterson, Bill Coombs, H. Lee Kagan, George Riddle, Melinda Peterson, Betty White (we love ya!), **Michael Roger's** Bistro of Santa Monica – and a Progressive Happy Birthday to **Thom Hartmann!**

PLANET CLICK

CLICKEES

A-TEAM

BELLS IN THE INKWELL

BENDS BACKWARDS

BUTTONS

CHICKENS

CHICKENS 2

ERUPTIONS

GHOSTS

LIGHTS

MOVIES

ONLYS

PIRATES

POEMS

RUBES

THOUGHTS

HEADS

BOOBS

CLICK THE WORD TO GO TO THE SITE