



2010 - 13

PLANET 4th

July 4, 2010

"One can know a man from his laugh, and if you like a man's laugh before you know anything of him, you may confidently say that he is a good man."

~ Fyodor Dostoyevsky

BACK FROM THE SHADOWS AGAIN



Firesign completed the last leg of our West Coast tour on Saturday, June 26 at the beautifully restored Cascade Theatre in red-hot Redding, California. Like Warren Dewey's Golden State Theatre in Monterey, to which we will return in October, the Cascade opened as a vaudeville house in 1935, became (oh, shame) a multiplex and was restored to its former glory in the '60s. Thanks to **Bill McIntyre** and **Phil Fountain** for taking such good care of Melinda and me on the road... **FOUNTAIN FUNNIES**

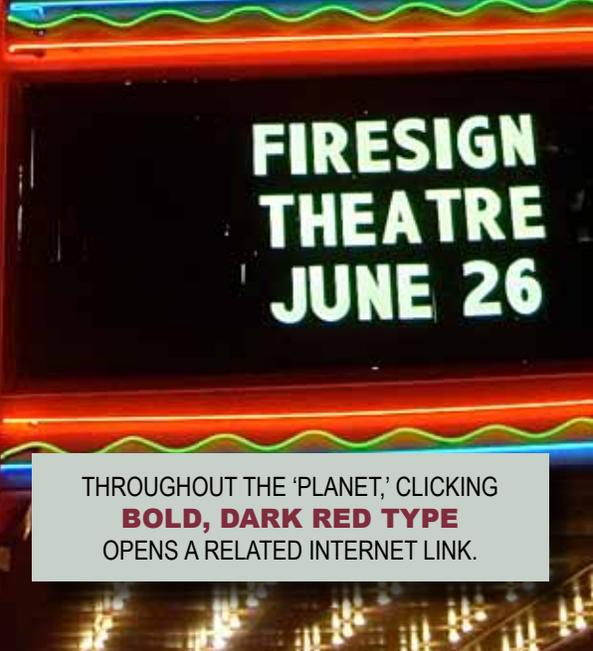


And speaking of "last legs" – I gashed mine in a fall from the stage of the University of Southern Oregon in Ashland during a blackout at the end of Act One! We will now travel with a roll of glow-tape and have revised the lighting plot to prevent such mishaps in the future...

And finally, the LAGQ Quixote concert in Austin, Texas on the 23rd was a resounding success, playing to around 2,000 folks in the magnificent Long Concert Center as a kick-off for six days of

concerts, lectures and master classes hosted by the Guitar Foundation of America. Our next tour is of the Hawaiian Islands in November!

Aloha... **AUSTIN CHRONICLED** ■ **CONTINUED**



ON THE ROAD).
Austin, Proctor,
Ossman, and
Bergman on stage
in Monterey (above),
and the Cascade
Theater's marquee
and a section of
interior decor
(at right, and above).



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

"Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia"
is the fear of long words. ~ Phil's Phunny Phact

THE BLUES BY BILLY COLLINS

(In response to *How to Sing the Blues, last orbit*)

*Much of what is said here
must be said twice,
a reminder that no one
takes an immediate interest in the pain of
others.*

*Nobody will listen, it would seem,
if you simply admit
your baby left you early this morning
she didn't even stop to say good-bye.*

*But if you sing it again
with the help of the band
which will now lift you to a higher,
more ardent and beseeching key,*

*people will not only listen;
they will shift to the sympathetic
edges of their chairs,
moved to such acute anticipation*

*by that chord and the delay that follows,
they will not be able to sleep
unless you release with one
finger
a scream from the throat of
your guitar*

*and turn your head back to
the microphone
to let them know
you're a hard-hearted man
but that woman's sure
going to make you cry.*

"There's no money in poetry,
but then there's no poetry in money,
either." ~ Robert Graves

ASK DR. LAURA?

On her radio show, **Dr Laura Schlesinger**, an observant Orthodox Jew, asserted that "homosexuality is an abomination according to Leviticus 18:22 and cannot be condoned under any circumstance." That elicited the following response is an open letter posted on the Internet.

Dear Dr. Laura: Thank you for doing so much to educate people regarding God's Law. I have learned a great deal from your show, and try to share that knowledge with as many people as I can. When someone tries to defend the homosexual lifestyle, for example, I simply remind them that Leviticus 18:22 clearly states it to be an abomination -- End of debate. I do need some advice from you, however, regarding some other elements of God's Laws and how to follow them.

1. Leviticus 25:44 states that I may possess slaves, both male and female, provided they are purchased from neighboring nations. A friend of mine claims that this applies to Mexicans, but not Canadians. Can you clarify? Why can't I own Canadians?
2. I would like to sell my daughter into slavery, as sanctioned in Exodus 21:7. In this day and age, what do you think would be a fair price for her?
3. I know that I am allowed no contact with a woman while she is in her period of Menstrual uncleanness - Lev.15: 19-24. The problem is how do I tell? I have tried asking, but most women take offense.
4. When I burn a bull on the altar as a sacrifice, I know it creates a pleasing odor for the Lord - Lev.1:9. The problem is my neighbors. They claim the odor is not pleasing to them. Should I smite them?
5. I have a neighbor who insists on working on the Sabbath. Exodus 35:2 clearly states he should be put to death. Am I morally obligated to kill him myself, or should I ask the police to do it?
6. A friend of mine feels that even though eating shellfish is an abomination, Lev. 11:10, it is a

■ CONTINUED



lesser abomination than homosexuality. I don't agree. Can you settle this? Are there 'degrees' of abomination?

7. Lev. 21:20 states that I may not approach the altar of God if I have a defect in my sight. I have to admit that I wear reading glasses. Does my vision have to be 20/20, or is there some wiggle-room here?

8. Most of my male friends get their hair trimmed, including the hair around their temples, even though this is expressly forbidden by Lev. 19:27. How should they die?

9. I know from Lev. 11:6-8 that touching the skin of a dead pig makes me unclean, but may I still play football if I wear gloves?

10. My uncle has a farm. He violates Lev.19:19 by planting two different crops in the same field, as does his wife by wearing garments made of two different kinds of thread (cotton/polyester blend). He also tends to curse and blaspheme a lot. Is it really necessary that we go to all the trouble of getting the whole town together to stone them? (Lev.24:10-12) Couldn't we just burn them to death at a private family affair, like we do with people who sleep with their in-laws? (Lev. 20:14)

I know you have studied these things extensively and thus enjoy considerable expertise in such matters, so I'm confident you can help. Thank you again for reminding us that God's word is eternal and unchanging. Your adoring fan,

James M. Kauffman, Professor Emeritus,
Dept. Of Curriculum, Instruction,
and Special Education,
University of Virginia

(It would be a damn shame if we couldn't own a Canadian...)

*"No good story is quite true."
~ Leslie Stephen*

GET REAL

A young boy went up to his father and asked him, "Dad, what is the difference between potentially and realistically?"

The father thought for a moment, then answered, "Go ask your mother if she would sleep with Brad Pitt for a million dollars. Then ask your sister and your brother. Come back and tell me what you learn from that."

So the boy went to his mother and asked, "Would you sleep with Brad Pitt for a million dollars?" The mother replied, "Of course I would! We could really use that money to fix up the house and send you kids to a great University!"

The boy then went to his sister and asked, "Would you sleep with Brad Pitt for a million dollars?" The girl replied, "Oh my Gawd! I LOVE Brad Pitt! I would sleep with him in a heartbeat, are you nuts?"

The boy then went to his brother and asked, "Would you sleep with Brad Pitt for a million dollars?" "Of course," the brother replied. "Do you know what a million bucks would buy?"

The boy pondered the answers for a few days and then went back to his dad. His father asked him, "Did you find out the difference



between 'potentially' and 'realistically'?"

The boy replied, "Yes, potentially, you and I are sitting on three million dollars. But realistically, we're just living with two hookers and a queer."

"Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier'n' puttin' it back." ~ **Will Rogers**

MAN/VO: MAN/SAME/THING

A 25-year study by psychiatrist Nanette Gatrell has shown that kids raised by lesbian couples had more self-esteem and confidence than those from straight families. They also did better in schools and were less likely to be unruly or get into trouble.

This also undermines the arguments of blowhards like talk show host Michael "the bear" Medved, who asserts endlessly that marriage must be defined as between a man and a woman to ensure the proper rearing of children in our society.

And then, this appropriate headline from Planeteer **Scott W. Langill**:

**WOMAN IN SUMO WRESTLER SUIT
ASSAULTED EX-GIRLFRIEND IN GAY BAR
AFTER SHE WAVED AT A MAN DRESSED
AS A SNICKERS BAR**

"A man's errors are the portals of discovery."
~ **James Joyce**

OH MY GOD!

In Orbit number 7, I ran a variation on this joke:

Once I saw this guy on a bridge about to jump. I said, "Don't do it!" He said, "Nobody loves me." I said, "God loves you. Do you believe in God?" He said, "Yes." I said, "Are you a Christian or a Jew?" He said, "A Christian." I said, "Me, too! Protestant or Catholic?" He said, "Protestant." I said, "Me, too! What franchise?" He said, "Baptist." I said, "Me, too! Northern Baptist or Southern Baptist?" He said, "Northern Baptist." I said, "Me, too! Northern Conservative Baptist or Northern Liberal Baptist?"

He said, "Northern Conservative Baptist." I said, "Me, too! Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region, or Northern Conservative Baptist Eastern Region?" He said, "Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region." I said, "Me, too!"

Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1879, or Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region

Council of 1912?" He said, "Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912."

I said, "Die, heretic!" And I pushed him over.

Well, Planeteer **Sandee Beyerle** informs us that it was actually written by comic Emo Phillips, who said back in 2005:

"This morning I received thrilling news: a joke I wrote more than 20 years ago has been voted the funniest religious joke of all time! [But] the website that conducted the poll, **SHIP OF FOOLS**, did not attribute me as the author. Arghhhhh! (NOTE: Happens to me, too.)

"Sure, it has been quite a while since I performed it. And true, I'm not on TV all the time like some comedians I could name if I watched TV all the time. But come on, guys! The slightest Google search! But back in the day ... ah, my friends!

"That joke and I astounded the world! Everywhere I played, in the largest of British theatres, the audiences clamored for it! I told it not once but twice, on British television. A few years ago it was voted by my peers as one of the top 75 jokes of all time. It has been anthologized in several joke books, most recently in Italian; the translator gave me a copy a few weeks ago after one of my shows. He pointed the joke out, without telling me which it was ... but I immediately recognized my old friend by the word "ponte."

"Second, I learned why Ship of Fools was running the poll ... to shed light on the possible effect if the British government goes ahead with its intention to outlaw "offensive" religious jokes. Such a law would be a bad idea, for the simple reason that jokes are how we humans avoid violence. Jokes are our safety-release mechanism. Sure they can sometimes be offensive. So can burps. But if you ban them even worse results happen. And believe me, if someone tells a joke that truly offends, he or she will be punished for it. That's one area for sure where the government can take it easy and relax."

FULL ARTICLE

"The foolish man seeks happiness in the distance; the wise man grows it under his feet."
~ **Author James Oppenheim**

TICKET, PLEASE

Three Greeks and three Turks are travelling by train to a conference. At the station, the Turks each buy tickets and watch as the three Greeks buy only a single ticket. "How are three people going to travel on only one ticket?" asks one of the Turks. "Watch and you'll see," answers a Greek. They all board the train. The Turks take their respective seats but all three Greeks cram into a restroom and close the door behind them.

Shortly after the train has departed, the conductor comes around collecting tickets. He knocks on the restroom door and says, "Ticket, please." The door opens just a crack and a single arm emerges with a ticket in hand. The conductor takes it and moves on.

The Turks saw this and agreed it was quite a clever idea. So after the conference, the Turks decide to copy the Greeks on the return trip and save some money. When they get to the station, they buy a single ticket for the return trip, but to their astonishment, the Greeks don't buy any ticket at all.

"How are you going to travel without a ticket?" says one perplexed Turk. "Watch and you'll see," answers a Greek. When they board the train the three Turks cram into a restroom and the three Greeks cram into another one nearby. The train departs.

Shortly afterward, one of the Greeks leaves his restroom and walks over to the restroom where the Turks are hiding. He knocks on the door and says, "Ticket, please."

"Jackie Chan only flushes the toilet once a day." ~ Eddie Deezen

PASSWORD, PLEASE

A woman was helping her husband set up his computer, and at the appropriate point in the process, the computer advised him that he would now need to enter a password - something he will use to log on.

The husband was in a rather amorous mood and figured he would try for the shock effect to bring this to his wife's attention. So, when the computer asked him to enter his password, he made it plainly obvious to his wife what he was entering by stating each letter out loud as he typed: P...E...N...I...S

His wife fell off her chair laughing when the computer replied:

PASSWORD REJECTED. NOT LONG ENOUGH

PLANET CLICK

PRANKS

BLOWIT

B'BYE

B'BYE

CHINACRASH

CHIPPIES

COLORS

EASYRIDER

FAXTS

IPHONE

LOCALS

MUPPETS-
FOREVER

PLUGIT

REP SPEAK

SAUR STRIPES

SPACED

SPILL

CLICK THE WORD TO
GO TO THE SITE

THANKS

Steven Alan Green, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., Alan Myerson, Scott W. Langill, Frank Dwyer, Dixie Elder and Peter F. Johnson, Patty Paul, Michael Sheehan, M. C. Gwynne, Gary Margolis, Janet Friedman, Nick Oliva, H. Lee Kagan, and special thanks to Kathy O'Mara and all the other dear friends who helped make the latest tour so much fun.

"When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to your youth, think of Algebra." ~ Will Rogers

At any given moment, 79 million people are engaged in sex, 58 million are kissing, 37 million are relaxing after having had sex - and one old person is reading Planet Proctor. ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

PEACE IN OUR TIME

That's the title of Sir Noel Coward's seldom-staged play, telling the tale of a Nazi-occupied England if they'd lost the Battle of Britain. Directed by Jessica Bard and mentored by Barry Creyton with musical director Ian Francisco, it also features many familiar and unknown Coward songs from the '40s. I get to sing two dandies, one with my adorable stage wife, Anna Mathias; and Melinda has a terrific eccentric role as well.

The production will jumpstart Antaeus' Classicsfest this year, sharing the stage with the incredibly well-reviewed *King Lear* at Deaf West, 5112 Lankershim in HoHo, July 6-7-8 @ 8 p.m. and Saturday, July 10 @ 3 p.m..

"Hie thee to" - [CLICK HERE](#) for info and tix. There's a good chap.

"What work I have done I have done because it has been play. If it had been work I shouldn't have done it." ~ Mark Twain

MacGuyver's first name was Angus. ~ Eddie Deezen

FIRESIGN CDs: <http://www.laugh.com>

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

BEARWHIZ BEER <http://www.eagletshirts.com>

FST: <http://www.FiresignTheatre.com>