




2010 - 14

PLANET SEVENTY



July 23, 2010

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." ~ **Winston Churchill**

## THE CURSE OF TOO MANY FRIENDS

Well, we were hoping to throw a party to celebrate my 70th big spin, but when we assembled a list of all the wonderful people who've touched and shaped and defined my life over the last many decades, we realized, alas, that our comfy little canyon home could never accommodate all of you, and I'm really not into a rent-a-hall celebration, which sacrifices intimacy for spectacle, so – regrettably – we have decided to ditch our plans for a gathering *chez nous*...

"However" (in the words of **Dr. Irwin Corey**), I have decided to celebrate this Big O all year with any flimsy excuse for shared camaraderie. So, let's make a date to get allows. I apologize to those of you whom we tempted with an August 1 event, but instead, **Melinda** and I are boating off to Catalina (where we've never been) for some private birthday time. . . .

I hope you all understand, and maybe on my 80th it will be possible to throw a major bash, because my list, after all, should be shorter then... Your Pal on the Planet ~ Phil

"Old age is like everything else. To make a success of it, you have to start young." ~ **Theodore Roosevelt**

## UNDERWEAR DUST

One evening a Husband, thinking he was being funny, said to his wife, "Perhaps we should start washing your clothes in Slim Fast. Maybe it would take a few inches off of your butt!"

His wife was not amused, and decided that she simply couldn't let such a comment go unrewarded. The next morning the husband took a pair of underwear out of his drawer. "What the Heck is this?" He said to himself, as a little 'dust' cloud appeared when he shook them out.

"April," he hollered into the bathroom, "Why did you put talcum powder in my underwear?"

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

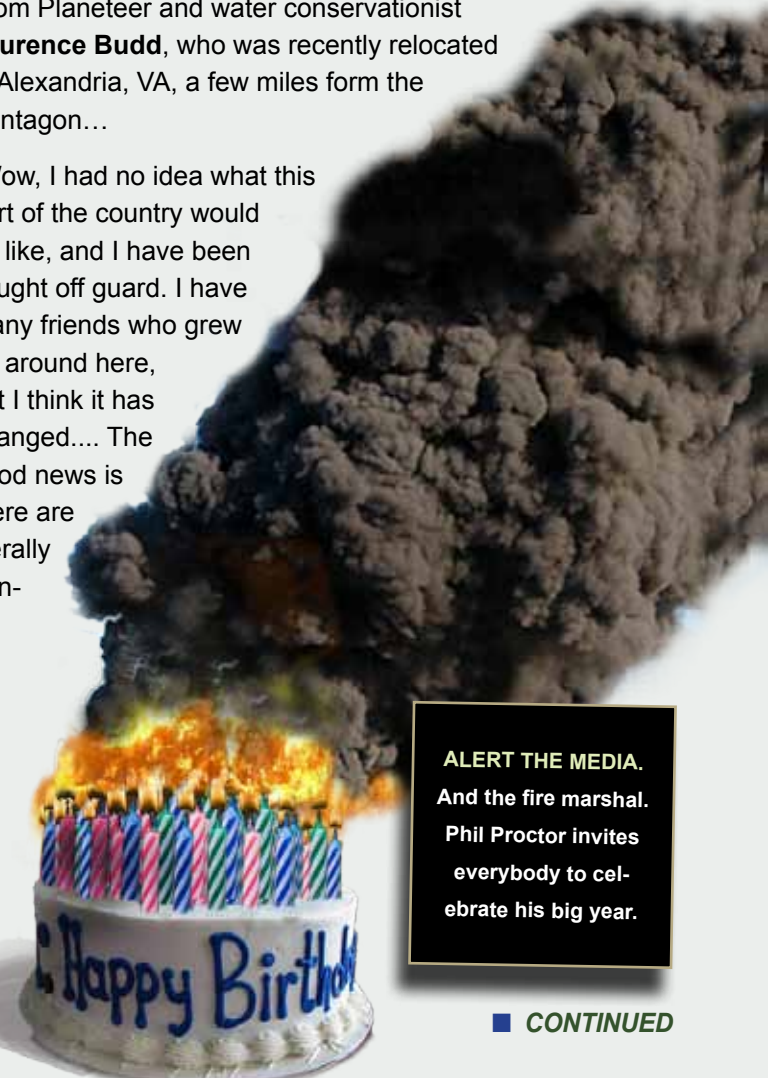
"It's not talcum powder," she replied with a snicker, "it's *Miracle Grow*!"

The "10-gallon hat" holds only about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a gallon and is from the Spanish "Galon" meaning "Braid." Some Vaqueros wore as many as 10 on their sombreros.  
~ **Phil's Phunny Phacts**

## FORWARD INTO THE PAST

From Planeteer and water conservationist **Laurence Budd**, who was recently relocated to Alexandria, VA, a few miles from the Pentagon...

"Wow, I had no idea what this part of the country would be like, and I have been caught off guard. I have many friends who grew up around here, but I think it has changed.... The good news is there are literally hun-



ALERT THE MEDIA.  
And the fire marshal.  
Phil Proctor invites  
everybody to celebrate his big year.

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**PHIL'S PHONEY PHAMILY.** Phil's funny-bone came naturally. He was bred on a funny farm, by a pair of Vaudevillians who had been put out to stud to raise a new generation. While his 'father,' above, taught him how to deliver jokes with a pipe clenched between his teeth, his 'mother' started him early with the tricks of glamour photography – 'always arch one arm over your head, and one under your bosom.'



dreds of cafes and stores for Somalis, West Africans, Ethiopians, Nigerians, Swahili, Bedouins, Ugandans, Chinese, Thai, Filipinos, Koreans, etc. So cooking-wise I'm in heaven, and lots of chances to use my few words in various languages. I am slowly becoming aware that as a white-o-American, I'm about 25% of the population.

"The part that baffles me is -- most people I meet here have only been here a few years and most do not speak English. We're talking hundreds of thousands of people. All seem to be working in stores or as filing clerks...What was the federal mandate that said: let's bring in a multi-

tude of people with no upper skills and see what happens (and make cars)? Was there some sort of huge shortage of teenage-American filing clerks in 2002? Are all these people former employees of Halliburton? Are half of all Libyans political refugees?

"It is clear that Alexandria does not have the money to upgrade any infrastructure. The traffic is way beyond the road system limits...I bet it's a barrel of monkeys being a cop here. My coworkers keep reminding me to not leave anything in my car. And of course, there are no CCW permits here, perish the thought. Bodies show up every night in local waterways, but most appear to be victims of familial or business disputes. 'It was his snoring, and the farting, it drove me crazy.'

"There are very few banks here, or even ads for banks, in sharp contrast to Colorado, where we must have three banks per block, by state law. Maybe the banks here want to stay out of sight. The other curious fact is that there are not many Mexicans/Central Americans, nor many American blacks. I do not think any normal Japanese person would live here either; I bet they are in some really nice part of Maryland.

"My company does have about 10 black employees, but mostly from Africa. The city is predominantly North African, Middle Eastern and oriental. This must keep homeland security hopping. No sign of any mosques yet, but I did go to a cool Afghan grocery. Their sign said 'Lamb - \$2.99/lb.' so I entered and asked. Well, that was only if I buy a whole lamb! They were stunned I did not go for that. They're

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**PROCTOLOGY.** Running the comic commune was his Amish great-grandmother, Gina, the Madcap Madam, who not only taught Phil how to get the most out of a whoopie cushion, but how to execute a 10-foot spit take.

almost as bad at merchandising as the Russians in LA.

"I notice that I do not see any luxury cars, even around D.C. No roundabouts – surprising, that would save a ton of gas, very few bicycles, no bicycle paths or lanes. My coworkers are baffled why I would want to ride a bike. I do notice that, similar to parts of LA, other white people are very glad to see me; (by Godfrey, there's another white man - we must band together! Livingston I presume?)

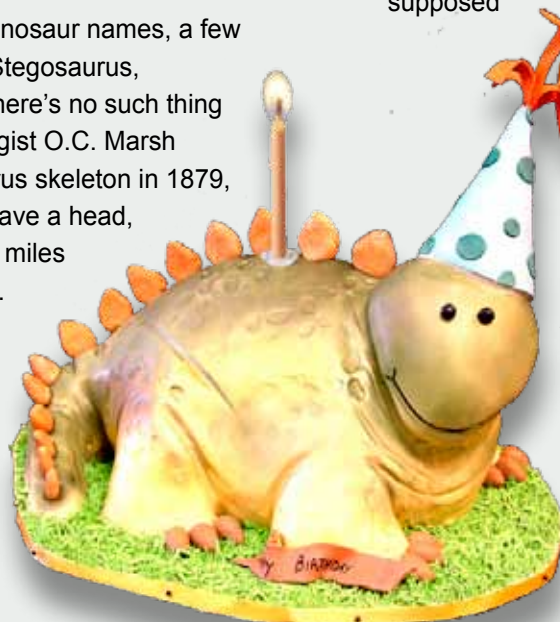
"This is a lot like the Firesign Thanksgiving poem, where everyone becomes brown. And then a funny thing happened..."

*"At 18 our convictions are hills from which we look;  
at 45 they are caves in which we hide."  
~ F. Scott Fitzgerald*

## THE BRONTOSAURUS WHISPERER

"When asked to name some dinosaur names, a few names come to mind: T-Rex, Stegosaurus, Brontosaurus. Unfortunately, there's no such thing as a Brontosaurus. Paleontologist O.C. Marsh discovered the first Brontosaurus skeleton in 1879, but since that skeleton didn't have a head, he used a skull that was found miles away to complete the skeleton. He named the hybrid-dino-skeleton Brontosaurus (Thunder Lizard).

It turns out that the skeleton that Marsh found was



actually the skeleton of an Apatosaurus, a species that Marsh had already discovered and named two years earlier.

"Since the dinosaur in question already had a name, there was no longer any dinosaur named Brontosaurus. The supposed head of the Brontosaurus was later discovered to be from a dinosaur known as the Camarasaurus.

"This means that not only is there no such thing as a Brontosaurus, but also there is no dinosaur that looks like what the Brontosaurus looks like. It was literally the head of one dinosaur on the body of another dinosaur." – from **OMG FACTS**, LaPorte, IN

*"The trouble with life isn't that there is no answer; it's that there are too many answers."  
~ Anthropologist Ruth Benedict*

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## THE WHORE'S WHISPERER

The Lone Ranger was ambushed and captured by an enemy Indian War Party. The Indian Chief proclaims, "So, YOU are the great Lone Ranger. In honor of the Harvest Festival, you will be executed in three days. But before I kill you, I grant you three requests. What is your FIRST?"

The Lone Ranger responds, "I'd like to speak to my horse." The Chief nods and Silver is brought before the Lone Ranger, who whispers in Silver's ear, and the horse gallops away. Later that evening, Silver returns with a beautiful blonde woman on his back. As the Indian Chief watches, the blonde enters the Lone Ranger's tent and spends the night. The next morning the Indian Chief admits he's impressed.

"You have a very fine and loyal horse. But I will still kill you in two days. What is your SECOND request???"

The Lone Ranger again asks to speak to his horse. Silver is brought to him, and he again whispers in the horse's ear. As before, Silver takes off and disappears over the horizon.

Later that evening, to the Chief's surprise, Silver again returns, this time with a voluptuous brunette, more attractive than the blonde. She enters the Lone Ranger's tent and spends the night.

The following morning the Indian Chief is again impressed. "You are indeed a man of many talents, but I will still kill you tomorrow. What is your LAST request???"

The Lone Ranger responds, "I'd like to speak to my horse, alone."

The Chief is curious, but he agrees, and Silver is brought to the Lone Ranger's tent. Once they're alone, the Lone Ranger grabs Silver by both ears, looks him square in the eye and says, "READ MY LIPS!! FOR... THE... LAST... TIME... 'BRING POSSE!'"



**STAGE COACHED.** Already a seasoned monologist at 3, Phil first gains fame as 'The Booster Chair Toastmaster,' then leaves the circuit to start his comedy career (and finish his potty training).

"There is only one way to achieve happiness on this terrestrial ball, and that is to have either a clear conscience or none at all" ~ Ogden Nash (1902-1971)

## GREENING GREENLAND

In the *LA Times* On Location column, **Richard Verrier** wrote of the use of the frigid continent to film scenes for Paramount's *The Last Airbender*, currently on screens and based on a Nickelodeon cartoon series (to which I've actually added voices.)

It took them two months to construct a village there featuring 11 full-sized fiberglass igloos made in Philadelphia and shipped over many months earlier as part of 10 containers of food, supplies and costume materials.

They only shot nine days there and were housed in the village of Ilulissat, which means "Iceberg," and is accessible only by sea or small plane. But that's not all. Verrier reports that the tiny town has 4,000 people -- and 5,000 dogs. Mush!

"Hello. You could not send the autograph (whenever possible nominal) in advance I thank." ~ Russian Fan

## IT'S ABOUT TIME

**'Short List 4/Future: News from the Year 2137:** A scary-satiric mix of *Blade Runner* and Firesign Theatre by the folks at the Onion, this is a 12-minute parody newscast (\$1.99 on iTunes) posits a post apocalyptic world where human hopes, entire states and the English language lie in ruins. Slick, sly and mind-blowing."

(*TIME* Magazine July 26 - pg. 63)



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"When the power of love overcomes the love of power,  
the world will know peace." ~ **Jimi Hendrix**

So, I would pray that please also bless me like your other  
adorers whom you have blessed before with your kind  
heart. ~ Yours, Rajesh Kumar

"Freedom is nothing but a chance to be better."  
~ **Albert Camus**

## MEL, WE HARDLY KNEW YE

Longtime pal, loyal Planeteer, Firesign friend and fellow  
traveler **Andy Thomas** writes:

"Was just learning that Mel Gibson  
is moving back to Australia in order  
to avoid the LAPD investigation into  
domestic violence when I read a  
blogger who recalled a classic true story  
about Oz from about five years ago:

"...Which reminds me of this English-  
man who was going through customs  
in Australia and was asked, 'Do you  
have a criminal record?'

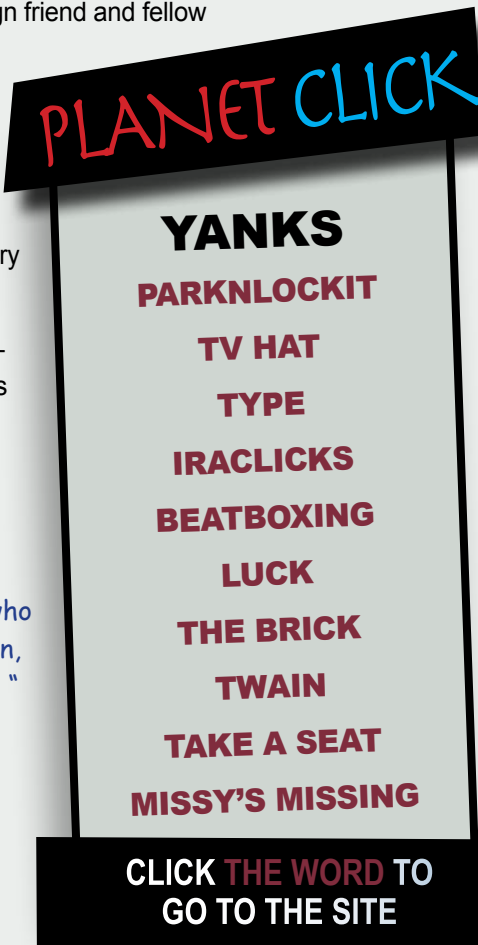
"He replied, 'Do you still need one?'  
and was promptly thrown in jail."

"The true hypocrite is the one who  
ceases to perceive his deception,  
the one who lies with sincerity. "  
~ **Andre' Gide**

## THE CURSE OF TOO MANY FANS

Honourable Sir: With the deepest  
regard, I beg to inform you that  
I adore you very deeply. Recently, one of my neighbours  
received your autographed photo and since I do  
not have any enmity with you (smile). So, why  
should I be deprived of this memorabilia?

So, I took the courage to send you this mail.  
Needless to say that you are praise-  
worthy and if I utter any word in your  
praise, then it will be a drop in the  
ocean. You are adorable and very  
inspiring for the young generation like  
me and your autographed photo will,  
no doubt, enhance my dedication.



## GIVE ME A LIGHT

Two workers are talking. The woman says, "I  
can make the boss give me the day off. The  
man replies, "And how would you do that?"  
The woman says, "Just wait and see." She  
then hangs upside-down from the ceiling.

The boss comes in and says, "What are you  
doing?" The woman replies, "I'm a light bulb."  
The boss then says, "You've been working  
so much that you've gone crazy. I think you  
need to take the day off."

The man starts to follow her and the boss  
says, "Where are you going?" The man says,  
"I'm going home, too. I can't work in the  
dark."

"Immortality, or a state without death...  
would be meaningless because  
death gives meaning to life."  
~ **Philosopher Bernard Williams**

## THANKS

**Patti Poet, Scott W. Langill, Nick  
Oliva, Charles Moed, Garry Margolis, THE WEEK, Eddie  
Deezen, Michael Bell, Victor, Bill Coombs, April  
Lemly, Armin Shimerman and Melinda**, with  
whom I'll be performing in early August at  
the Widbey Island Little Theater for **David  
Ossman and Judith Walcutt**, reprising our  
roles as Poirot and Christie (left) in Ag-  
atha's 4 BBC Radio Mysteries. Then,  
on to a Leo celebration at the Austins  
and back home by the 12th...

"No one party can fool all of the  
people all of the time. That's why  
we have two parties." ~ **Bob Hope**



"Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler." ~ **Albert Einstein**

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

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