



2010 - 15

PLANET KLARVINE

August 23, 2010

"Age is just a matter of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter." ~ Jack Benny

ON THE ACTING TREADMILL . . .

That's how my darling wife and this orbit's birthday girl, **Melinda Peterson**, described our past summer together, as we both singularly and together bounced from one theatrical project to the next...and it ain't over yet!

It started with roles in a reading of *LA Deli* by **Sam Bobrick** at the Writer's Guild with **Carl Reiner** in attendance. We kicked off Antaeus' **ClassicsFest** when we performed in Noel Coward's *Peace in Our Time* then, Melinda went on to cavort in **John Apicella's** staged reading of Brecht's *Mr. Puntilla and his Man Matti*, and I revisited the Welsh Parson for **Armin Shimerman's** presentation of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* featuring **Bob Machray**. Then, for the Virginia Avenue Project, we played 13-year old twin fighter pilots Klous and Klarvine in the radio play *Jet vs. Food* by 8-year-old comic comer **Jobim Zeichner**,



directed by **Mary Pat Gleason**. We next appeared in the WGAw/Fox Indian Summer workshop, performing a scene from *Magik* by **Ken Kristensen** directed by **Kalani Queypo** which reunited Melinda with **Tom Allard**, with whom she worked at Theatricum Botanicum back in the '80s. Finally we traveled to Washington's Whidbey Island to reprise our roles as Agatha Christie and Hercule Poirot in *Agatha Christie's BBC Murders* for **David Ossman** and **Judith Walcutt**. Producer **Zev Buffman**, came from The RiverPark Center in Owensboro, KY to support the project. Next month we will be appearing together with **Tim Curry** and **Gregory Harrison** in a reading of *Perfect Timing* by **Kristi Kane** for **Michael Bell** with his wife, **Victoria Carroll**, and their daughter, **Ashley Bell**, star of *The Last Exorcism* (for which I did Satanic voices *sdrawkcab gnikeeps yb...*).



ON THE AIR. Phil and Melinda's summer included stage work, readings and radio productions.

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

■ **CONTINUED**

"The good die young but not always. The wicked prevail but not consistently. I am confused by life, and I feel safe within the confines of the theatre."

~ Helen Hayes

RAY RANTS!

"We have too many cellphones. We've got too many Internets. We have got to get rid of those machines. We have too many machines now... I was approached three times during the last year by Internet companies wanting to put my books on an electronic reading device; I said to Yahoo, 'Prick up your ears and go to hell.'"

So says legendary sci-fi author **Ray Bradbury**, who turned 90 years old on August 22. "[We] should go back to the moon," he adds, "we should never have left there. We should go to the moon and prepare a base to fire a rocket off to Mars and then go to Mars and colonize Mars. Then when we do that, we will live forever."

Ray's birthday will be celebrated here in LA with a cavalcade of film and TV screenings, tributes and special events – but **THIS MUSICAL TRIBUTE** takes the cake!

"I hold that man is in the right who is most closely in league with the future." ~ **Henrik Ibsen**

WHAT A BUILD!

Plans to build a state-of-the-art library next to Sarah Palin "are causing outrage across mainstream America," posts **the Mashup**. "Campaigners have described the project as insensitive and a deliberate act of provocation by people with brains.

"The issue is forming a dividing line in advance of November's mid-term congressional elections with candidates being forced to declare whether they have ever been to a library or spoken to someone who has books in their home.

"Meanwhile President Obama has caused unease within his own Democratic party by endorsing the library... But Bill McKay, a leading member of the right-wing Teapot movement, said: 'Sarah Palin is a hallowed place for Americans who can't read...'

"He added: 'Our founding fathers intended for every building in this country to be a church containing one book, written by Jesus, that would be read out in a strange voice by an orange man in a shiny suit who would also tell you who you were allowed to kill. Building a library next to Mrs. Palin is like Pearl Harbour. Or 9/11...'"

"A friend of mine just started his own business, making land mines that look like prayer mats. It's doing well. He says Prophets are going through the roof." ~ from **George Riddle**

POEM BY AUTHOR FORGOTTEN

Just a line to say I'm living, that I'm not among the dead,
Though I'm getting more forgetful and mixed up in the head.
I got used to my arthritis, to my dentures I'm resigned,
I can manage my bi-focals, but God, I miss my mind.
For sometimes I can't remember, when I stand at the foot of
the stair,
If I must go up for something, or have I just come down
from there?
And before the fridge so often, my poor mind is filled with
doubt -

■ CONTINUED

SOMETHING WACKY THIS WAY GOES. At Norman Corwin's 100th Birthday Bash, the youthful Phil gets Ray Bradbury to sign an autograph and then uses the 90-year-old author's signature to charge off his bar tab.



Have I just put food away or have I come to take some out?
 And there are times when it is dark with my nightcap on my
 head,
 I don't know if I'm retiring or just getting out of bed.
 So, if it's my turn to write you, there's no need for getting
 sore,
 I may think that I have written and don't want to be a bore.

So, remember that I love you and I wish that you were near,
 But now it's nearly mail time, so must say "Good Bye" my
 dear.
 There I stand before the mailbox with a face so very red,
 Instead of mailing you this letter, I have opened it instead.

"Tonight I'm using my Muslim name - Hassin Bin Laid." ~
Gilbert Gottfried

SUPPLY SIDE ECONOMIC\$

"To understand modern
 Republican thinking...
 we need to go back to
 perhaps the most politically
 brilliant (albeit economically
 unconvincing) idea in the
 history of fiscal policy:
 supply-side economics,"
 comments Martin Wolf in the
Financial Times.

"Supply-side economics
 liberate conservatives from
 any need to insist on fiscal
 rectitude and balanced
 budgets [saying] that one
 could cut taxes and balance
 budgets, because incentive
 effects could generate
 new activity and so higher
 revenue.

"The political genius of
 this idea is evident... It
 allowed conservatives to
 ignore deficits and gave
 an economic justification for lowering taxes on politically
 important supporters. In this way, the Republicans were
 transformed from a balanced-budget party to a tax-cutting
 party."

"Democracy didn't bring us anything. Democracy
 brought us a can of Coke and a beer."



MONKEY BUSINESS. Proctor and Bergman
 cranking out a living in the early daze...

~ Baghdad shop owner Haitham Farhan YOU KNOW IT'S BAD WHEN

- You bought a toaster oven and your free gift with purchase was a bank.
- Angelina Jolie adopts a child from America .
- Beverly Hills parents fired their nannies and learned their children's names.
- Your cousin had an exorcism but couldn't afford it, so they re-possessed her.
- A truckload of Americans was caught sneaking into Mexico.
- Motel 6 won't leave the light on anymore.

■ A picture is now only worth only 200 words.

■ They renamed Wall Street "Wal-Mart Street."

■ When Bill and Hillary travel together, they have to share a room.

■ The Treasure Island casino in Las Vegas is now managed by Somali pirates.

(This piece got me so depressed, I called the Suicide Hotline and got a call center in Pakistan. They got all excited and ask if I could drive a truck...)

Neil Young is the "Balloon Technician" on the film "The Kids Are All Right" ~
Phil's Phunny Phacts

SLICK TRICKS

The New York Observer's
Mark Green wrote about "Fox's Six Tricks." Here are some excerpts and a link for those of you willing to think about this...

"I know this isn't exactly news," he said, "but... neither is Fox. If the FTC could theoretically apply deceptive advertising laws to television content, there would be an hourly disclaimer on Murdoch's network, Video ads brought to you by the RNC... Here's a brief guide to the six parlor tricks that Fox News incessantly uses to mislead the credulous."
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1) **Rhetorical Questions.** "Is the NAACP racist?" asked Bill O'Reilly last month, leading some viewers to an obvious – though false – answer.

2) **Creating reality by repeated slogans.** Fox's anchors and hosts reiterate certain loaded phrases to see if they'll catch on and reframe the political conversation. Sometimes they do, like "death taxes," "death panels" and "climate-gate." Only problem is that none of them existed.

3) **Conclusory lies delivered with certainty.** To rational minds, facts lead to conclusions – at Fox News, conclusions lead to 'facts.' The key is that they are said so quickly and confidentially – think of Limbaugh's theatrical and deep-throated delivery – that they sound self-evident.

4) **Highlight out-of-context aberrations and ignore all contrary data.** Did you know that Ted Williams always struck out? I can prove it with a tape only showing his whiffs, not those hits producing a lifetime .344 batting average.

5) **McCarthyism and Causation.** Liberals are evil because...in 1969 the Weathermen issued a manifesto suggesting revolution in America, said Glenn Beck on two shows last week. Without serious explanation, this 40-year-old report was somehow linked to Obama and his appointees.

6) **When in doubt, race-bait.** This is not to accuse Fox of racism, which is a losing line of argument since, in America today, it appears to be worse to call someone a racist than to be one. And it turns on motive, which no one other than the speaker can really know..."

"When it comes to being fair and balanced," he concluded, "Fox 'News' reminds me of a spokesman of the magician's trade association who, explaining the popularity of his members, said 'some people want a fraud they can really believe in.'"

READ ON

"The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds new discoveries, is not Eureka! (I found it!) but rather, "hmm.... that's funny...." ~ Isaac Asimov

LONG LIVE THE KING

The great **Kip King**, our comic colleague for decades and once the appointed heir to **Jerry Lewis**, finally shuffled off his mortal coil after months of ill health, and will be sorely missed.

His wife, **Vilma**, and his talented son, SNL's **Chris Kattan**, cared lovingly for him through many hard months and they and their antic friends at the Groundlings, where Kip was a longtime comic contributor, threw a rockin', heart-felt tribute for him and his most memorable characters such as Rabbi Shecky Stein – pronounced *Shtoy*n – highlights of which

will we hope will soon be posted online. We'll miss you, Kip, but you left us laughing...

"When I leave this plane of expression, I want to be all used up."
~ George Bernard Shaw



FAREWELL TO THE KING.
Parting shots of the great Kip King: pensively with Jerry Lewis (above); proudly with son Chris Kattan (below).

than to be



SHOW US THE WAY

A little boy waiting for his mother to come out of the grocery store was approached by a nice-looking man who asked, "Son, can you tell me where the Post Office is?"

The little boy replied, "Sure! Just go straight down this street a couple blocks and turn to your right."

The gentleman thanked the boy kindly and said, "I'm the new pastor in town and if you come to church this Sunday, I'll show you how to get to Heaven."

"Aw, come on," the tyke replied with a chuckle. "You don't even know the way to the Post Office."

"I'm against religion because it teaches us to be satisfied with not understanding the world."
~ Richard Dawkins

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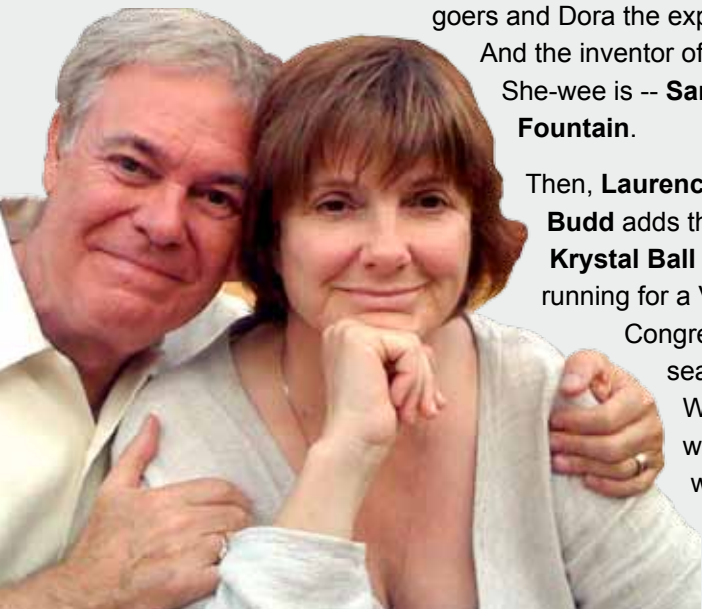
WHAT'S IN A NAME?

London-based Planeteer **Larry Belling** writes that there is a pisser of a scandal a-brewin' over the Cambridge police department's plan to provide She-wees to 380 female cops. These are plastic funnels that make it possible for a woman to urinate like a man, already popular with festival-goers and Dora the explorers.

And the inventor of the She-wee is -- **Samantha Fountain**.

Then, **Laurence Budd** adds that **Krystal Ball** is running for a Virginia Congressional seat.

Wonder who'll win...



"I would rather live with unanswered questions than unquestioned answers." ~ **Valarie Tarico**

CONTRIBUTORS

Jim Reynolds, Jayne Stahl, Eddie Deezen, Andre Perkowski, Patty Paul, Rich Carlson, Alan Meyerson, Janellen Steininger, Nick Oliva, Allen Newcomb, Robin Cook, Mary Willard, John Carney, Victor Kopcewich, Earl Jive, Kurt Ericson, Garry Margolis, Steven Alan Green, Samantha O'Brochta, the Skeptical Inquirer, H. Lee Kagan and Joan Allemand for material in this orbit.

And then to **Weird Al Yankovic** for inviting us to his astounding concert at the packed **Pacific Amphitheatre**, and to our beloved **Phil & Oona Austin** (and the dog pack) for an unforgettable Leo birthday blast on Fox Island – and finally –

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MELINDA, my child bride!!

"As long as you can admire and love, then one is young forever." ~ **Pablo Casals**

"Immigration is the sincerest form of flattery." ~ **Jack Paar**

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

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