



2010 - 16

PLANET 9/11

September 11, 2010

"There's nothing like a gleam of humor to reassure you that a fellow human being is ticking inside a strange face" ~ **Eva Hoffman**

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

### GOOD NEWS

Thus begins a new feature for the Planet! I hope this item can be included in each new orbit. We'll see...

Forty billionaires on the Forbes List of the 400 wealthiest Americans responded last month to a call from Warren Buffet and Bill and Melinda Gates to publically pledge 95 percent of their wealth to philanthropic deeds around the world. New members who took the Giving Pledge included George Lucas and Microsoft founder Paul Allen. About half of the 80 recently contacted declined to sign on but Buffet will try again. "Every sinner has a past, every sinner has a future," he writes, "so we'll keep working." Tom Steyer, a San Francisco businessman who pledged his help thinks the movement could create a new model of Capitalism by "putting resources back into society on a broad basis for the benefit of a lot of people."

"If life happens to bless you with talent or treasure," adds Bill Gates, "you have a responsibility to use those gifts as well and wisely as you possibly can."

You can read more **HERE**.

And Marrie Harris, a female ad executive in New York, let a homeless man use her Amex card to purchase goods since she wasn't carrying any cash. Friends and bystanders were convinced she would never see her platinum card again, but Jay Valentine, employed in years past by a real estate company, returned it after charging \$25 for deodorant, body wash, cigarettes and water. She ran into him, according to the *LA Times* article, in an internet café in SoHo where he has been allowed to sleep.

"Life is like a sewer ... what you get out of it depends on what you put into it." ~ **Tom Lehrer**

### THE HARD PART

No, it's not a challenging new role, it's having to keep you up-to-date on **Melinda** and my activities every Orbit! Our next appearance together is in a staged reading of **Kristi Kane's** funny farce, *Perfect Timing*, at the Hudson Theater on Melrose, Saturday, September 25 at 2 p.m., featuring **Ashley Bell** from *The Last Exorcism*. Seating is limited, so let ME know if you want to be there and I'll pass the word on to **Michael Bell** and **Victoria Carroll**.



THE BUFFET LINE. Melissa and Bill, Warren and Phil – Giving what they got.

Then, the next two Saturdays – September 11 and 18 – I’ll be portraying several characters in an audio presentation of **L. Ron Hubbard’s** *The Blow Torch Murder* at the wonderful Golden Age Theater, 7051 Hollywood Boulevard at 7:30 p.m. (323.793.1635)

And Melinda and I will be singing at the Shakespeare Cabaret in the annual **Antaeus Company’s** Gala fundraiser in Hancock Park on Saturday, October 2 at 7 p.m. Contact [devon@antaeus.org](mailto:devon@antaeus.org) for information and tickets.

Finally, **Firesign Theatre** will be presenting our brand new Octoberjest show, *I Think We’re All Bozos on This Bus*, in San Rafael and Monterey on October 8 and 9 and three nights at the Barnsdall Gallery Theatre in Hollywood, the 21st -23rd. Go **HERE** for tickets.

There. I’m done!

*“Nothing is true, everything is permitted.”*  
~ **William Burroughs**

## HOW?

[*Glossy News*] – The Navajo, Hopi, all Apache Nations and all other Native Americans who presently reside in Arizona have joined forces in an effort to show the residents of Arizona who has the right to be in that State.

“It is not those of European descent who should be making the laws here,” said Chief Standing Wolf, “but we, the tribal people. Our ancestors have been here for thousands of years, while the white man came only a few hundred years ago. Yet, it is the white man who wants to make ridiculous laws and keep everything lily white. We can no longer stand by and let this happen.”

Short of declaring war on the Arizona government, the Chief instead issued a warning: “Reverse your laws entitling only English-speaking people to inhabit Arizona. Only then will we back down and allow peace to again grace Arizona. But if you deny our fellow red and brown



men their rightful place in this state, there will be bloodshed.”

Of course, Chief Standing Wolf was speaking in his native tongue, so the lawmakers in the State weren’t exactly sure what he said...

*“There are some things one can only achieve by a deliberate leap in the opposite direction.”*  
~ **Franz Kafka**

## SING OUT, JULIE

To commemorate her 69th birthday, Julie Andrews presented a concert at Radio City Music Hall for the benefit of the AARP. One of the numbers she performed was a special version of “My Favorite Things” from *The Sound Of Music* after which she received a four-minute standing ovation... Sing along!

*Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting,  
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,  
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,  
These are a few of my favorite things.*

*Cadillacs and cataracts, and hearing aids and glasses,  
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,  
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,  
These are a few of my favorite things..*

*When the pipes leak, When the bones creak,  
When the knees go bad,  
I simply remember my favorite things,  
And then I don’t feel so bad!*

*Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,  
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,  
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,  
These are a few of my favorite things.*

*Back pains, confused brains, and no need for sinnin’,  
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin’,  
And we won’t mention our short, shrunken frames,  
When we remember our favorite things.*

*When the joints ache, When the hips break,  
When the eyes grow dim,  
Then I remember the great life I've had,  
And then I don't feel so bad!*

*"Nothing is better than the unintended humor  
of reality" ~ Steve Allen*

## RAY REDUX

"I started acting on the stage when I was 12 in junior high school and then in high school," writes Planeteer **Billy Bowles**, quoting **Ray Bradbury**. "When I got out of high school I worked with a little theatre group in the Mormon Church. The more I worked the more I was in love with acting and eventually writing for the theatre.

"I began to write one-act plays when I was home from Ireland and I discovered the damn things worked and I joined a little theatre group in the Desilu Studios, the old RKO Studios when I was 42. They put on my one act plays, we all worked free, and we were all amateurs.

"There I found a wonderful man named Charles Rome Smith and he



directed some of my plays. We formed a group then, saved our money and I rented the Coronet Theatre, 40 years ago and began to put my plays on just to see if the damn things worked and of course they did. We got incredible reviews. The first year we put on six of my one-act plays and got nothing but good reviews, so we were off and running. And during the last 40 years we've put on something like 30 or 40 plays and never made a dime. All the money I put in disappeared and we never broke even.

"But that wasn't the purpose. The purpose in being in theatre, is loving theatre. Loving to work with the actors and to see the results. My work in theatre is probably one of my greatest loves."

*"The theater...is only for those  
who are virile enough to create new life."  
~ Alfred Jarry*

## ZOMBIES SETTLE

The Minneapolis city attorney's office has decided to pay seven zombies and their attorney \$165,000, settling a federal lawsuit they filed after being arrested and jailed two days for dressing like zombies on July 22, 2006 to protest "mindless" consumerism.

When arrested, most of them had thick white powder, dark eye makeup and fake blood on their faces and were walking in a stiff, lurching fashion and dragging four bags of sound equipment to amplify music from an iPod. The officers claimed they were carrying equipment that simulated "weapons of mass destruction," but were never charged with any crime. The case is at a dead-end.

Also, police in Roberts, Wisconsin responded to a call of shots fired and found a 40-year-old man apparently hallucinating an attack by clowns. Now THAT'S scary...

*"Life is uncertain.  
Eat dessert first."  
~ Ernestine Ulme*

**HINDSIGHT 451.** Billy Bowles around the time he started acting on the stage (top), and Ray Bradbury, around the time he continued to inspire young people to be creative.



## CANNABIS COUPE

The Kestrel, an all-electric car made of hemp, is being developed by Calgary-based Motive Industries, Inc. The compact cannabis car holds a designated driver and three stoners, with a top speed of 90 kilometers per hour and a range of 40-160 clicks before toking up again.

The Hempmobile will be composed of an impact-resistant composite produced from hemp mats. Actually, Henry Ford built a car made of resin and hemp fiber over a half-century ago because forming composites from glass or carbon requires intense heating and multiple chemical processes, which leaves a large footprint, like a brown-shed square in the dead of night. In contrast, plant-based fibers grow in a sunny field overrun with froggy little naked native boys in tight leather aprons.

Plus, it's illegal to grow it in the U.S., so Canadians have a cool marketing advantage, although we do allow the import of processed hemp. **READ ON**

*The Declaration of Independence was written on hemp paper. ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts*

## THE HANGOVER

Jack wakes up with a huge hangover after attending his company's Christmas Party. Jack is not normally a drinker, but the drinks didn't taste like alcohol at all. He didn't even remember how he got home from the party. As bad as he was feeling, he wondered if he did something wrong. Jack had to force himself to open his eyes, and the first thing he sees is a couple of aspirins next to a glass of water on the side table. And, next to them, a single red rose!! Jack sits up and sees his clothing in front of him, all clean and pressed. He looks around the room and sees that it is in perfect order, spotlessly clean. So is the rest of the house.

He takes the aspirins but cringes when he sees a huge black eye staring back at him in the bathroom mirror. Then he notices a note hanging on the corner of the mirror written in red with little hearts on it and a kiss mark from his wife in lipstick: "Sweetheart, breakfast is on the table. I left early to get the shopping to make you your favorite dinner tonight. I love you, darling!"

He stumbles to the kitchen and sure enough, there is breakfast, steaming hot coffee and the morning newspaper. His 16-year-old son is also at the table, eating. Jack asks, "Son... what happened last night?"

"Well, you came home after 3 a.m., drunk and out of your mind. You fell over the coffee table and broke it, and then you puked in the hallway and got that black eye when you ran into the door."

Confused, he asked his son, "So, why is everything in such perfect order and so clean? I have a rose, and breakfast is on the table waiting for me??"

His son replies, "Oh THAT... Mom dragged you to the bedroom, and when she tried to take your pants off, you screamed.... "Leave me alone, I'm married!!"

*"In wine there is wisdom, in beer there is freedom, in water there is bacteria." ~ David Auerbach*

## A TRUE MAN

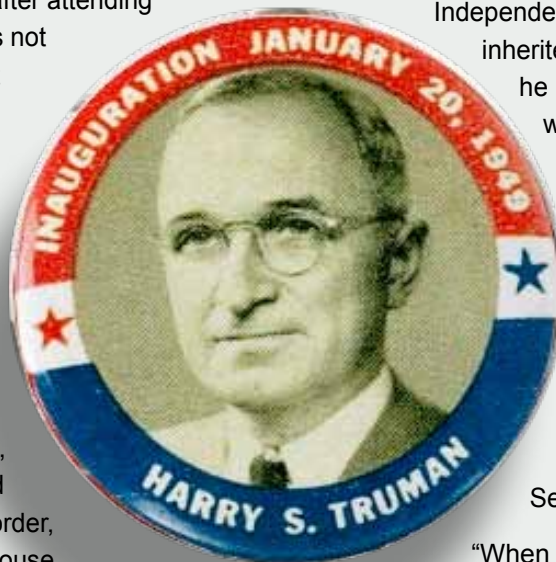
"Harry Truman, from Missouri, was a different kind of President," opines **Mark M. Lichterman** in an online blog. "He probably made as many important decisions regarding our nation's history as any of the other 42 Presidents. However, a measure of his greatness may rest on what he did after he left the White House.

"Historians have written that the only asset he had when he died was the house he lived in, which was in

Independence, Missouri. On top of that, his wife inherited the house from her mother. When he retired from office in 1952, his income was a U.S. Army pension reported to have been \$13,507.72 a year. Congress, noting that he was paying for his stamps and personally licking them, granted him an 'allowance' and, later, a retroactive pension of \$25,000 per year. After President Eisenhower was inaugurated, Harry and Bess drove home to Missouri by themselves. There were no Secret Service following them.

"When offered corporate positions at large salaries, he declined, stating, 'You don't want me. You want the office of the President, and that doesn't belong to me. It belongs to the American people and it's not for sale.' Even later, on May 6, 1971, when Congress was preparing to award him the Medal of Honor on his 87th birthday, he refused to accept it, writing, 'I don't consider that I have done anything which should be the reason for any award, Congressional or otherwise.' He never owned his own home and as president he paid for all of his own travel expenses and food..."

"Good old Harry Truman was correct when he observed, 'My



choices in life were either to be a piano player in a whore house or a politician. And to tell the truth, there's hardly any difference."

*"Politicians, old buildings and prostitutes become respectable with age." ~ Mark Twain*

### HANGOVER, THE SEQUEL

John woke up after the annual office party with a pounding headache, cotton-mouthed and utterly unable to recall the events of the preceding evening. After a trip to the bathroom, he made his way downstairs, where his wife put some coffee in front of him. "Louise," he moaned, "tell me what happened last night. Was it as bad as I think?"

"Even worse," she said, her voice oozing scorn. "You made a complete ass of yourself. You succeeded in antagonizing the entire board of directors and you insulted the president of the company, right to his face."

"He's an asshole," John said. "Piss on him."

"You did," came the reply. "And he fired you."

"Well, screw him!" said John.

"I did. You're back at work on Monday."

*"Marriages are made in heaven. But then again, so are thunder and lightning." - Anon*

### IT WAS HOWDY DOODY'S TIME

**Edward Kean**, head writer for Bob Smith's "Howdy Doody Show" died at the age of 85. I still have distinct memories of all the early broadcasts in black-and-white and later in color. It was one of the very first things I ever saw on a cathode ray tube, and I keenly recall Howdy's plastic-surgery transition from a hick cowboy puppet to the iconic freckle-faced all-American boy. I still regret that I rejected an invitation to join the Peanut Gallery.

## PLANET CLICK

### TAKE ME AWAY

OLD ROCKS

SING ALONG

ONLY LA

LUCKEEEE

PEN SHOP

DOGDANCING

TRACKIN'

GO USA

LUCKY

SHOW ME

SPRTIZHUND

SCHIMMEL

CLICK THE WORD TO  
GO TO THE SITE

Kean created the catchphrase "Kowagoopa" for Princess Summerfall Winterspring which later became "Kowabunga," Chief Thunderthud's favorite exclamation; but Edward got burned out writing five shows a week and spent the rest of his life playing piano in hotels and restaurants in Coral Gables, Florida.

We also lost our Wanda Park neighbor, **Randie Pellegrini** to bone cancer after a yearlong battle. We got to know her as she walked her two sweet dogs, **Zachery** and **Elizabeth**, and when she passed at 12:15 p.m. Saturday at a hospice miles away, our friends in the house adjacent heard her pets suddenly burst into heart-rending howls.

Our unending gratitude goes to our cat-sitter, **Jessica Charity** who cared for the dogs far beyond the call of duty and finally found the kids a wonderful new home in Van Nuys. She's also promised to bring them by once in a while for a visit. Bless them all.

*"Does it have an eraser?"*

*~ Late VO friend **Allen Swift** when asked to do the voice of a pencil*

### SHOW ME THE WAY

**Patty Paul, Rich Carlson, Victor**

**Kopcewich, Nick Oliva, Brian Westley, Bill Coombs, Steve Harvey, Jack and Patty Poet, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., Gary Margolis, J. W. Reynolds, H. Lee Kagan, George Riddle, Ed Ryba**, all my hard-working agents at **CESD** and finally, a special thank-you to Pageant of the Masters writer, **Dan Duling** and our friends **Sam Dawson** and **Mark Sommerfield**, for another magical evening under the stars in Laguna Beach.

*"I think it would be a very good idea."*

*~ **Mahatma Gandhi** about Western civilization*

**"...AND A VERY HAPPY 5771 TO ALL!!!!"**

*"I can't spend all of my time with my birth certificate plastered on my forehead."*

*~ **President Obama** to **Brian Williams***

**"Religion is the banana skin: spirituality is the banana." ~ Roger Nygard, "The Nature of Existence"**

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

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

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

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