



2010 - 18

PLANET SURPRISE

October 15, 2010

"I was the fill-in Bozo." ~ Daniel O'Donnell,  
substitute clown and father of Christine O'D...

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

## ON THE ROAD AGAIN

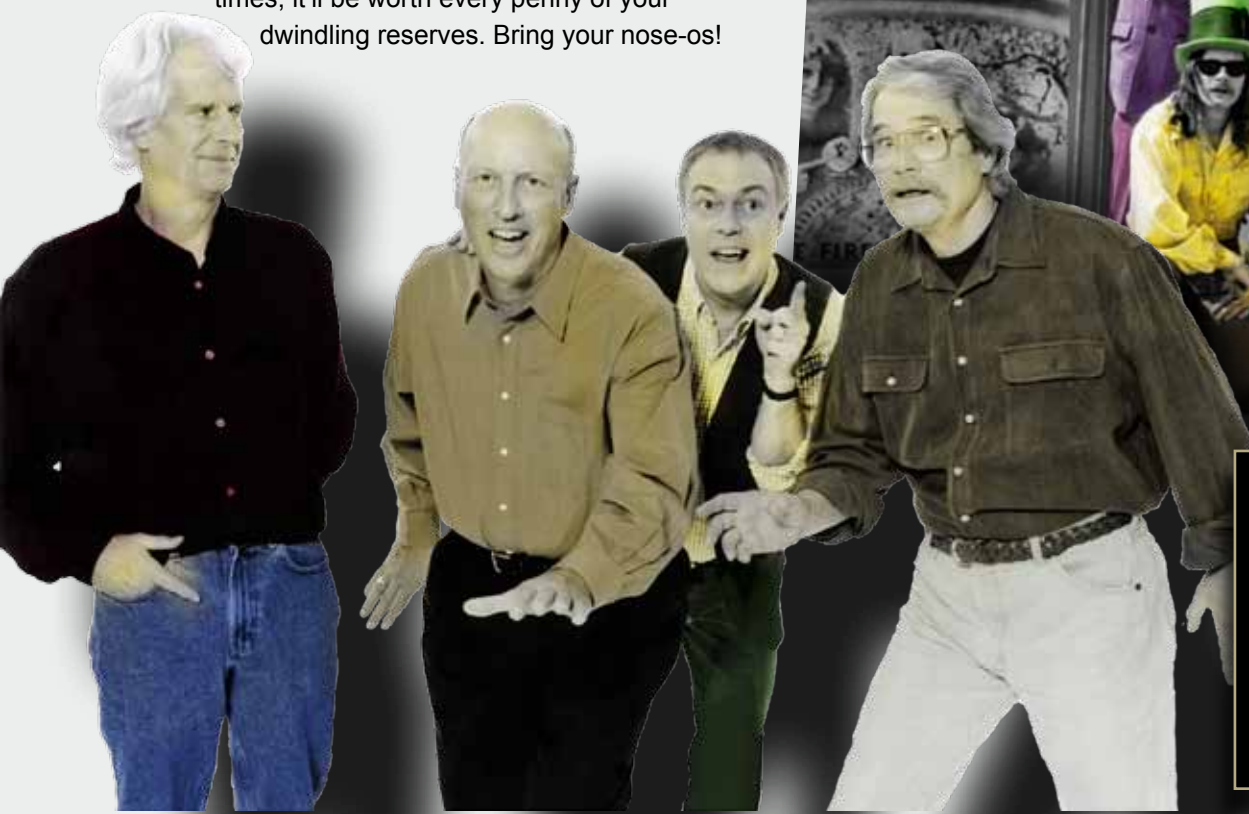
**M**elinda and I just returned from last Friday's truly satisfying opening night of **Bozos on this Bus** – the new Firesign Theatre show – at the well-managed and performer-friendly Marin County Arts Center in temperate San Rafael.

The audience was smart and funny, honking along with the show, and the blend of classic and contemporary material was extremely well received. Of course, we learned a lot about the show and will be refining it further before we trot it out again next week at our upcoming performances in Barnsdall Park.

Zips, Beaners, Bozos and Berserkers are all welcome, so hurry to the **FIRESIGN THEATRE WEBSITE** for tickets. We guarantee that if you need a laugh in these depressed times, it'll be worth every penny of your dwindling reserves. Bring your nose-os!

**That's the good news.** The bad news was that we had to cancel the Saturday night show in Monterey because of lackluster ticket sales. The stagnant economy and a lack of awareness seem to have caught up with us. So please, spread the word! We know there are plenty of good folks out there who are hungry for the kind of laughs only we can deliver and we need 'em to fill those seats! Forward – Into the Past!

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**STILL BOZOS.** 'The blend of classic and contemporary material was extremely well received.' The lads this year (left: Austin, Bergman, Proctor, Ossman) and circa 1972 (above, reverse order from bottom left.)

"The trade of critic, in literature, music, and the drama, is the most degraded of all trades, and . . . has no real value. However, let it go. It is the will of God that we must have critics, and missionaries, and Congressmen, and humorists, and we must bear the burden."  
~ The Autobiography of Mark Twain

## DON'T RUB ME THE WRONG WAY

An atheist buys an ancient lamp at an auction, takes it home, and begins to polish it. Suddenly, a genie appears, and says, "I'll grant you three wishes, Master." The atheist says, "I wish I could believe in you."

The genie snaps his fingers, and suddenly the atheist believes in him. The atheist says, "Wow. I wish all atheists would believe this." The genie snaps his fingers again, and suddenly atheists all over the world begin to believe in genies.

"What about your third wish?" asks the genie. "Well," says the atheist, "I wish for a billion dollars." The genie snaps his fingers for a third time, but nothing happens.

"What's wrong?" asks the atheist.

The genie shrugs and says, "Just because you believe in me, doesn't necessarily mean that I really exist."

"Do you think we should drive a stake through his heart just in case?" ~ Peter Lorre to Vincent Price at Bela Lugosi's funeral

## DUMBOCRACY AT WORK AND PLAY

It flew around cyberspace at the speed of blight: "This October has **five Fridays, five Saturdays and five Sundays all in one month**. It happens only once in 823 years." And, of course, it's not true. The blog at **Doug's Darkworld** summed it up best, when he wrote, "I was soon pounding my head on my keyboard in amazement and horror. Are the

average Internet readers so brain dead that they believe the most egregious garbage if they see it posted on a web site?"

Well, Duh! "Let's think about this," Doug continued. "A year can only start on one of seven days, so there are seven possible basic calendar years. Add leap years, and there are 14 basic calendars. Period. And one of those calendars only gets used every 823 years? How would that be possible? It's not, of course – all 14 calendars get cycled through regularly..."

"I read literally hundreds of people's comments...and maybe one percent...were of the 'that can't be right' variety. The other 99 percent of people who read it simply accepted it at face value. What the hell is going on here?" In fact, most people are now thoroughly programmed to accept "Argument from Authority," so if something comes up that reinforces their worldview, it must be true.

A recent article in *Newsweek* elaborates on the theme, which I have espoused relentlessly over the years right here. In "The Psychology of an Angry Electorate" by Sharon Begley, she elaborates on the motivations of the irate: propaganda engenders feelings of disenfranchisement and powerlessness which creates fear to fuel anxiety, leading to anger which reinforces the illusion of empowerment and is then magically projected onto one's perception of reality. Any challenge to that perception creates more anxiety and so must be avoided at all costs. Thus, one avoids objective reality but only will accept paradigms that reinforce a self-defensive worldview. Oh, hell. Just **READ IT** and decide for yourself – if you can!

"Fear makes strangers of people who would be friends."  
~ Shirley MacLaine



## YOU'RE FIRED

By now, everyone has heard about **Gene Cranick's** Tennessee home being allowed to burn to the ground since he had failed to pay a \$75 "protection" fee, even though firefighters showed up to save his neighbor's field - but only the country's Progressives

■ **CONTINUED**



seem to have gotten all fired up about it. As reported in **The Huffington Post**, even his offer to pay on the spot was rejected; and soon thereafter, his home was gone along with his three dogs and a cat. That's "petrocide" in my book!

MSNBC's **Keith Olbermann** called the sorry incident "Pay for Spray" and "a look now, into the America envisioned by

the Tea Party." **ThinkProgress** adds, "There are currently two competing visions of governance in the US":

The conservative vision believes in the on-your-own society with an agenda that focuses on the well-being of the well off. The progressive view envisions a society that supports the aspirations of all people, regardless of their racial, religious, sexual or economic background.

The conservative ideal was on full frontal display in Obion County, Tennessee and "Compassionate" Conservatives like hyper Christian hypocrite Glenn Beck actually mocked the Cranick family on his radio show, as did most bloviating right wing mock patriotic parrots. **LOOK OUT FOLKS.** It's coming...

*"I know only that what is moral is  
what you feel good after and what is immoral  
is what you feel bad after."  
~ Ernest Hemmingway*

### HANGOVER 3

One afternoon a gent woke up with a terrific hangover and no memory of the party he attended or how he got home. "Gawd," he thought, "I hope I didn't totally embarrass myself last night."

The notion that he had done something idiotic gnawed at him until at last he drove to the site of the party and rang the doorbell, and the hostess answered the door.

"Sorry to disturb you," he began. "I was at your party last night and had a few too many. I don't remember much about the evening; I hope I didn't do anything stupid. If I did, I want to apologize. But all I can remember is something about a gold toilet seat."

The hostess stared at him for a moment, then turned and called into the house, "Roger, here's the guy who took a crap in your tuba."

*"Time sneaks up on you like a windshield on a bug."  
~ Actor John Lithgow*

### TONY, WE HARDLY KNEW YE

Most fans know that the late **Tony Curtis** was born "Bernie Schwartz" but he originally changed his name to "Anthony Curtis" because, as **Eddie Deezen**, master of all things trivial, explains, "The 'Anthony' came from his favorite

**IN BASE CLEF.** Our  
'Hangover' hero hits  
a low note.

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novel *Anthony Adverse* and the "Curtis" was in honor of a favorite family relative.

Other little known facts: his voice as "Josephine," his drag character in *Some Like it Hot* was actually dubbed by voice-over actor **Paul Frees** because "Tony had a hard time keeping his voice high-pitched for an entire take."

He was also terrified of flying and "unsuccessfully tried hypnosis to cure his phobia. **Jerry Lewis** recalled being on a flight with Tony and having the actor dig his hand into Jerry to cope with his fear for the entire flight."

Finally, "Tony was the inspiration for **Elvis Presley's** famous jet black, slicked back haircut with the forelock curl dangling over the brow. He loved playing the flute and was an accomplished flute player."

"As a well-spent day brings happy sleep,  
so a life well-spent brings happy death."  
~ **Leonardo da Vinci**

## GOOD NEWS

The good news this week? Although **Gov. Schwarzenegger** opposes Proposition 19, which would legalize the recreational use of marijuana, he offered a concession in signing a bill that would downgrade possession of an ounce or under from a misdemeanor to an infraction.

Written by San Francisco's Democratic Sen. Mark Leno, SB 1449 would prevent marijuana-related cases from going to court in time-consuming

and expensive jury trials although it would retain a fine of up to \$100 without any jail time. "Notwithstanding my opposition to Proposition 19, however, I am signing this measure because possession of less than an ounce of marijuana is an infraction in everything but name," Schwarzenegger wrote.

Not surprisingly, **Dale Gieringer**, director of **California NORML**, which supports legalization, praised the governor. "Gov. Schwarzenegger deserves credit for sparing the state's taxpayers the cost of prosecuting minor pot offenders," Gieringer said. "Californians increasingly recognize that the war on marijuana is a waste of law enforcement resources." It is indeed, a war on the people.

"When you forgive,  
you in no way change the past,  
but you sure do change the future."  
~ Radio host **Bernard Meltzer**

## SEVEN WAY SEX

Someone who won't be voting for ex-witch **Cathleen O'Donnell** wrote that there are **seven kinds of sex**: The first is called - **SMURF SEX** and happens when you fall for someone and you have sex until you're both blue in the face.

The second kind of sex is called **KITCHEN SEX**. This is when you've been with your partner for a short time and you are still so needy you'll do it anywhere, even in the kitchen.

The third kind of sex is called **BEDROOM SEX**, which is when you've been together for a while and sex has become so routine that you only do it in the bedroom.

The fourth kind of sex is called **HALLWAY SEX** and comes after you've been with your partner for too long so when you pass each other in the hallway you both say "Screw You!"

The fifth kind of sex is called **RELIGIOUS SEX**, since you get "Nun in the morning, Nun in the afternoon and Nun at night." This inevitably leads to:

The sixth kind of sex, or

■ **CONTINUED**



**BUDDHA's iPhone**  
Serenity . . . Wisdom  
. . . Compassion . .  
. . and . . . unlimited  
weekend minutes.



**COURTROOM SEX**, when you just can't stand being with your wife or husband any more and she or he takes you to court and screws you in front of everyone. And last, but certainly least, we come to:

The seventh kind of sex - **SOCIAL SECURITY SEX** - where you get a little each month, but never enough to really get off on...

Men kissing their wives when they returned home started with ancient Roman gladiators who wanted to make sure they hadn't been drinking wine all day.

~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

## MEASURE FOR MEASURE

Little-known conversion units: *Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter = Eskimo Pi. 2000 pounds of Chinese soup = Won ton. 1 millionth of a mouthwash = 1 micro scope. Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement = 1 banano second. Weight an evangelist carries with God = 1 billigram. Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mile per hour = Knotfurlong. 16.5 feet in the Twilight Zone = 1 Rod Sterling. Half of a large intestine = 1 semicolon. 1 million aches = 1 megahurtz. Basic unit of laryngitis = 1 hoarsepower. Shortest distance between two jokes = A straight line. 453.6 graham crackers = 1 pound cake. 1 million-million microphones = 1 megaphone. 2 million bicycles = 2 megacycles. 365.25 days = 1 unicycle. 2000 mockingbirds = 2 kilomockingbirds. 52 cards = 1 decacards. 1 kilogram of falling figs = 1 FigNewton. 1000 milliliters of wet socks = 1 literhosen. 1 millionth of a fish = 1 microfiche. 1 trillion pins = 1 terrapin. 10 rations = 1 decoration. 100 rations = 1 C-ration. 2 monograms = 1 diagram. 4 nickels = 2 paradigms. 2.4 statute miles of intravenous surgical tubing at Yale University Hospital = 1 IV League.*

"Drugs have taught an entire generation of American kids the metric system." ~ J.P. O'Rourke

## GIMME

Patty Paul, H. Lee Kagan, Jim Reynolds, Gary Margolis, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr, Jayne Stahl, Ivan Berger, Jim Meskimen, The Week, Scott W. Langhill, Alan Myerson, Michael C. Gwynne, Henry Jaglom - and HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Planet Maker, Cristofer Gross!!!

"I didn't really say everything I said." ~ Yogi Berra



## TAKEME

**GRANDSON**  
**BANKSY**  
**SORRY JOHN**  
**SPERMSLIDE**  
**BEAT IT**  
**CHEESEY**  
**JACKDAWS**  
**VOTE OR LOSE**  
**HOME INVASION**  
**BOOBIES**  
**ACCENTS**  
**DANCING**  
**RADIO FLYER**  
**CARBOT**  
**CAT BOXING**  
**DUCK BECK**  
**DELUSIONS**

CLICK THE WORD TO GO TO THE SITE

"Don't hurt nobody and don't eat no dirt..." ~ Rev. John McLean, LACR

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

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