

((((((((PLANET AQUARIUM - 2011~02 <http://www.planetproctor.com>))))))))

"Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities." – Voltaire

GO FIGURE

Welcome Planeteers, to February, from the Latin, *februa* for dried strips of goatskin since on February 15, as part of the pagan festival of Lupercalia, named after the cave where Rome's founders, Romulus and Remus suckled a she-wolf, young men called *Luperci* roamed the city, snapping their strips at ladies to insure their fertility! (Horny Goat Weed, anyone?)

Also, this year we will experience 4 unusual dates: 1/1/11, 1/11/11, /11/1/11, and 11/11/11 - and even more intriguing, if you take the last 2 digits of your year of birth, added to the age you'll be this year, it will equal...111!

"When we remember we are all mad, the mysteries disappear and life stands explained." ~ Mark Twain

GOOD NEWS

A *Pot Farm* is growing on Facebook, tended by almost 1.5 million cyber-heads and spreading daily, while the *East Bay Express* estimates that the game's mysterious developers have already reaped over a quarter of a million in subscriber profits.

Of course, the online game is age-restricted, but virtual planters can start with some "seed" money and a field to cultivate various marijuana strains.

Which raises the question -- why plant when you can play?

"The ink of the scholar is holier than the blood of the martyr." ~ Prophet Muhammed

TASTES LIKE CHICKEN

Why DID that chicken cross the road...? **Barack Obama:** "The chicken crossed the road because the chicken wanted change!" **George W. Bush:** "We don't really care why the chicken crossed the road. We just want to know if the chicken is on *our* side of the road, or not. The chicken is either against us, or for us. There is no middle ground here." **Sarah Palin:** "The chicken crossed the road because gosh-darn it, he's a maverick!" **John McCain:** "My friends, that chicken crossed the road because he recognized the need to engage in

cooperation and dialogue with all the chickens on the other side of the road." **Pat Buchanan:** "To steal the job of a decent, hardworking American." **Bill Clinton:** "I did not cross the road with that chicken." **Al Gore:** "I invented that chicken." **Col. Sanders:** "Did I miss one?" **Dick Cheney:** "Where's my gun?"

"Too often we enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought." ~ John F. Kennedy

HOT STUFF

Actor, Planeteer and hometown pal, George Riddle, sent me an article about "ingenious German entrepreneurs" who are marketing incandescent light bulbs made in China as *heat balls* to get around the "current ban" of same by the European Union. They describe their product as "action art" and a "resistance against legislation" and claim to have sold out their first run of 4,000 in just 72 hours.

But a blogger named Richard W. suggests that this is a clever protest against the "jackbooted forces of evil" who seek to supplant the humble light bulb with a *Big Brother* energy-saving surrogate, providing the same amperage, but, "completely unacceptably", uses much less electricity and lasts much longer. So, Richard concludes, "Rather than being a pleasant, rounded, shape like God's own light bulb, some of them are twisted and distorted like the devil's work that they are!" Very enlightening...

"There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it." ~ Edith Wharton

SEMI-RETIRED

I never quite understood what this term meant. Am I supposed to give up Hollywood and drive a truck for the circus? But now, I know that it means when you reach the age of retirement, folks basically stop hiring you, even if you're still skilled, healthy and love to work.

Yet I still audition, thanks to my dedicated agents at CESD and AEF, and I still book jobs; so this year you can see me in a *Babies R Us* TV spot, as "a grandpa on meds" and I'm often tapped to direct, narrate and act in the wonderful live presentations of *Stories of the Golden Age of Pulp Fiction* at the L. Ron Hubbard Theater in Hollywood, as I did recently with my daughter and wife! Go to: www.goldenagetheater.com/photogallery

I'll also be performing "Don Q" again in Calgary, Canada with the LAGQ in March; and then in June, Melinda and I will be participants in this year's National Audio Theatre Workshop in Missouri. And the year is young, even though I may not be in some people's eyes...

"I have to thank my agents, who believed in me when everyone else did." ~ Don Reo at the WGA awards

DUKE OF MADNESS MOTORS

Our MP3 of 80 hours of early Firesign Radio Shows stuffed in Taylor Jessen's incredible full-color book of awesome art, anecdotes and articles - are now available, while they last, at www.firesigntheatre.com, and here's an early review forwarded by dear friend, Tom Gedwillow...

<http://troymcfarland.blogspot.com/2011/01/firesign-theatre-duke-of-madness-motors.html>

So give the gift of laughter to your loved one this Valentine's Day! And *Dangerous Mind*'s Richard Metzger informed us that a book was published last year by two fanatical table tennis nuts, Eli Horowitz and Roger Rennett, called *Everything You Know Is Pong...*

http://www.dangerousminds.net/comments/duke_of_madness_motors_new_firesign_theatre/

"Cleanliness is next to Clearasil. Look it up." ~ Harry Anderson

LESSONS OF TUCSON

CNN pundit Mark Shields comments, "We saw a white, Catholic, Republican federal judge murdered on his way to greet a Democratic woman member of Congress, who was his friend and was Jewish.

"Her life was saved initially by a 20-year-old Mexican-American college student, and eventually by a Korean-American combat surgeon. And then it was eulogized and explained by our African-American president..."

"That's a remarkable statement about the country."

And we might add that one of the above-mentioned heroes is gay!

"The secret of freedom lies in educating people, whereas the secret of tyranny is in keeping them ignorant." ~ Maximilien Robespierre

THE CRABBY SNAKE-HANDLER THEATRE

As you probably know by now, nasty astronomers from the Minnesota

Planetarium Society announced lately that because of the moon's gravitational pull, the alignment of the stars has shifted by about a month and since astrological signs are posited on the position of the sun the day we're born -- **Everything you know about your Horoscope is Wrong!**

Originally the ancient Babylonians had 13 constellations but threw one out, and Libra didn't appear until the rule of Julius Caesar, but here's the latest lineup:

Crabbycorn: Jan. 20-Feb. 16, **Aquarium:** Feb. 16-March 11, **Pissers:** March 11-April 18, **Airaid:** April 18-May 13, **Traumas:** May 13-June 21, **Jiminy:** June 21-July 20, **Cancelled:** July 20-Aug. 10, **Leonard:** Aug. 10-Sept. 16, **Vertigo:** Sept. 16-Oct. 30, **Librarian:** Oct. 30-Nov. 23, **Scrappydo:** Nov. 23-29, **Ophiuchus:** Nov. 29-Dec 17, (Yep, that's what it's called, and you can read all about the [Ophiuchus way of life here](#)) and finally, **Scratchaterrier:** Dec. 17-Jan. 20. So – who am us, anyway?



"Art is a lie that tells us the truth." ~ Picasso

A BOY WITH BALLS

A woman takes a lover during the day while her husband is at work, but her 9-year old son comes home unexpectedly, sees them at it, and hides in the

bedroom closet. When the woman's husband also shows up early, she shoves her lover into the closet, not realizing that the little boy is already there. The little fellow says, 'Dark in here.' The man says, 'Yes, it is.' Then the kid says, 'I have a golf ball.'

'That's nice,' whispers the guy. 'Want to buy it?' asks the boy. 'No, thanks,' he says. 'But my dad's outside,' adds the lad. 'OK,' sighs the man, "How much?" And the boy says, '\$250.'

A few weeks later, it happens again that the boy and the lover find themselves in the closet together. 'Dark in here,' says the young man. 'Yes, it is,' repeats the lover. 'I have a sand wedge,' he continues; and the lover, remembering the last time, asks reluctantly, 'How much?' to which the kid answers, '\$750.' Without hesitating, the guy says, 'Sold!'

A few days later, the boy's father says to the boy, 'Grab your sand wedge and golf ball. Let's go outside and play.' But his son says, 'I can't, Dad. I sold my ball and sand wedge.'

'What?!" his father yells, 'How much did you sell them for?'

'\$1,000.'

'It's terrible to overcharge your friends like that, son! I'm going to take you to church and make you confess.' Well, they show up at church and the father leads the little fellow into the confession booth and closes the door. The boy says, 'Dark in here.'

'Don't start with me again,' whispered the priest. 'You're in my closet now!'

"Every newspaper headline is a song" ~ Phil Ochs, www.philochsthemovie.com

IN PASSING

The longer you live, the more you love and the more friends you lose. Take Bill Erwin, for instance - since God did at the age of 96.

Melinda and I worked with Bill in 1988 in Lillian Garret (Groag's) wonderful comedy, *Ladies of the Camellias*, but you may remember him as Arthur the bellman in *Somewhere in Time* or in his Emmy-nominated turn on *Seinfeld*. He was a darling man and a wonderful actor and we will be honoring him soon with a gathering of the *Camellias* cast here at home.

And then "Uncle" Milton Levine died at 97 -- the co-creator of the iconic *Ant Farm*, which I played with as a kid. "Ants work day and night," he said. "They look out for the common good and never procrastinate. Humanity could

learn a lot from the ants." I certainly did.

And then another great character actor, Pete Postlethwaite, was terminated by cancer at a youngish 64. I didn't actually know him but greatly admired his work, as did Steven Spielberg who called him "probably the best actor in the world"-- to which Pete responded, as quoted in the LA Times obit, "I'm sure what [he] actually said was, 'The thing about Pete is that he *thinks* he's the best actor in the world.'"

His first agent wanted him to change his name, (pronounced POSS-ul-thwait,) but he "changed him instead", though he was warned it would never be put up in lights on a theatre marquee, "because they couldn't afford the electricity." Lights out, Pete.

"Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll be able to enjoy it a second time." ~ Dalai Lama

WHAT'S UP, DOC

I just turned 70 and after a thorough physical and a series of exhaustive tests my physician said I was doing 'fairly well' for my age. A little concerned about that comment, I couldn't resist asking him, 'Do you think I'll live to be 80?'

'Do you smoke tobacco,' he asked, 'or drink beer or wine?'

'No,' I replied, 'and I don't do drugs, either anymore.' Then he asked, 'Do you eat rib-eye steaks and barbecued ribs?'

'Not very often,' I admitted. 'I've read that red meat is unhealthy.' Then he asked, 'Do you spend a lot of time in the sun, like playing golf, sailing, hiking, or bicycling?'

'No,' I said, 'I really don't.'

'Do you gamble, drive fast cars, or have lots of sex?'

'No,' I answered. He looked at me for a while and finally said, 'Then why do you even give a shit?'

Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity. ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

FRIENDLY

Jack Doyle, Rich Carlson, Victor Kopcewich, Eddie Deezen, Jim Reynolds, Nick Oliva, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., Bill Coombs, Scott W. Langill, Jayne Stahl, Jim Reynolds, Jon Gwynne, Joan Allemand, Jim Meskimen, Melinda Peterson and Bob Grossman. *Pocula elevate!*

*"When it comes to comedy, one man's rose is another man's garlic." ~ John Lithgow
in "Stories by Heart"*

TRENDLY

DROP UR DRAWERS: <http://flixxy.com/high-tech-car-door.htm>
TIE 1 ON: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0atCIPSTx8>
HYMN 2 PALIN: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOwvkVlhCAU>
2 IN 1: http://www.jokeroo.com/bin/player.swf?5f9f_f369
PETTY PALIN: <http://www.thedailyshow.com/watch/tue-january-18-2011/petty-woman>
TRIPPLERIPPLE: <http://www.neave.com/strobe>
PIG DRAW: <http://homosrus.com/drawpig.html>
SENIOR SYNCHRO: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_eR11SE0RA0
HOTSHOTS: <http://totallycoolpix.com/2011/01/chernobyl-25-years-later/>
K-K-KING: <http://gawker.com/5745235/compare-the-kings-speech-to-the-real-kings-speech>
WOW, MAN: <http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2011/01/twitter/>
SINATRA: http://americancomedynetwork.com/animation.html?bit_id=25239
PRIC TOC: [Nudemen Clock - Francis Lam\](#)
CUBE MAD: <http://www.break.com/index/office-worker-goes-absolutely-insane.html>
EXMAS PAST: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_0_Sa-cw_Aw&feature=related
BLAZING: <http://www.goldenagetheater.com/ngallery/page-18/album-1/gallery-10/>
BUSHBANG: <http://www.boingboing.net/2010/12/31/george-w-bush-new-ye.html>
FRAZIL: http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=9V9p4mFEYXc&vq=medium#t=15
U OWE ME: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJh1iBaeang>
LASER: <http://www.break.com/longtail-content/awesome-laser-illusionist.html>
MID MAP: http://www.rethinkingschools.org/just_fun/games/mapgame.html
EAT: <http://jalopnik.com/5727846/i-fought-the-dmv-to-keep-the-worlds-greatest-license-plate>

"America has become -- American't." ~ Gregory Wright, LA TIMES Letters

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- * FIRESIGN CDS: <http://www.laugh.com>
- * BEARWHIZ: <http://www.eagletshirts.com>
- * FUNNY TIMES: <http://www.funnytimes.com>
- * FST: <http://www.FiresignTheatre.com>

"The best way to cheer yourself up is to cheer somebody else up." ~ Mark Twain

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