



2011 - 14

PLANET POLITICS

October 1, 2011

"Civilization started because people found that by working together, they could make beer."  
~ Robert G. Schreib, Jr., National Geographic letters

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

### SOUND FAMILIAR?

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way – in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only."

– Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities

"If you dance with a grizzly bear, you had better let him lead." ~ Phil's Funny Phacts

### THE HUMAN RACE

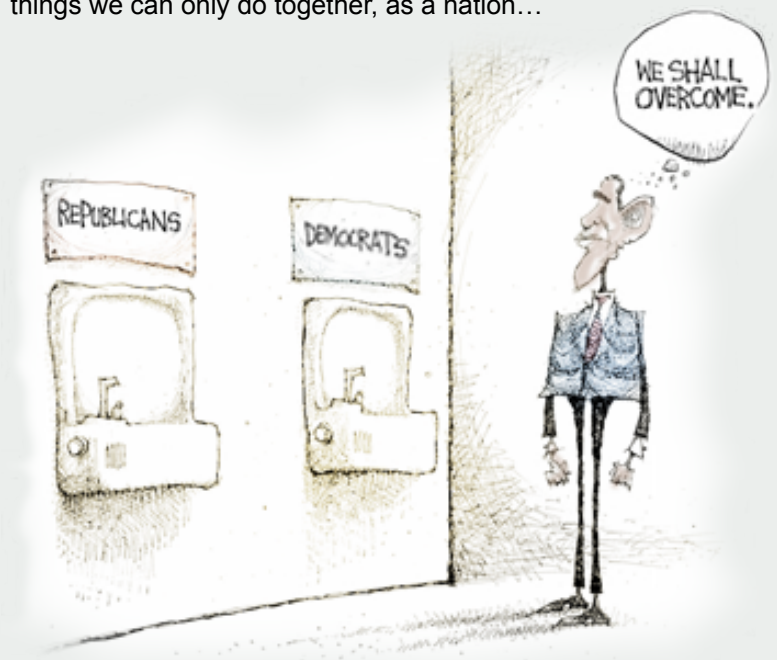
"I reject the idea that we need to ask people to choose between their jobs and their safety. I reject the argument that says for the economy to grow, we have to roll back protections that ban hidden fees by credit card companies, or rules that keep our kids from being exposed to mercury, or laws that prevent the health insurance industry from shortchanging patients. I reject the idea that we have to strip away collective bargaining rights to compete in a global economy.

"We shouldn't be in a race to the bottom, where we try to offer the cheapest labor and the worst pollution standards. America should be in a race to the top. And I believe we can win that race.

"In fact, this larger notion that the only thing we can do to

restore prosperity is just dismantle government, refund everybody's money, and let everyone write their own rules, and tell everyone they're on their own – that's not who we are. That's not the story of America.

"Yes, we are rugged individualists. Yes, we are strong and self-reliant. And it has been the drive and initiative of our workers and entrepreneurs that has made this economy the engine and the envy of the world. But there's always been another thread running throughout our history – a belief that we're all connected, and that there are some things we can only do together, as a nation..."



"No single individual built America on their own. We built it together. We have been, and always will be, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all; a nation with responsibilities to ourselves and with responsibilities to one another. And members of Congress, it is time for us to meet our responsibilities."

~ President Barack Obama

"We know that by virtue of possessing the knowledge of the Truth of Being, we are nothing less than trustees for humanity." ~ **Emmett Fox**

## URGENT!!!

To My Closest of Friends President and Professor Barack Obama: I send this missive to you with deepest urgency.

My embarrassment at importuning you in any way in your busy life is beyond expression, so please excuse my rushedness, but I, your friend and associate, **Hamid Karzai**, President of Afghanistan, have lost my wallet, passport, and bank deposit book in the men's room of Kabul International Airport!

In addition, it is to my dismay to discover that the \$31 billion in small bills I had secured within the sleeves of my Chapan – thanks to your most generous heart and the reconstruction abilities of the American contractor – has now gone missing as well.

Without it, I cannot return to the presidential palace. Please help, Hamid

According to the Congressional Research Service, it costs a whopping \$390,000 a year to keep just one soldier in Iraq. ~ **Phil's Phunny Phacts**



Victoria! Hail! Hail! Hail!"

But the Queen became furious and scolded the crowd to be quiet. The villagers were shocked that Her Royal Highness was so upset; and timidly, one person asked the Queen's aide what was wrong.

"It's very simple, really," the aide whispered, "She doesn't like hails during her reign."

"Ignorant people think it's the noise which fighting cats make that is so aggravating, but it ain't so; it's the sickening grammar they use." ~ **Mark Twain**

## THE WARREN REPORT

"I hear all this, you know – this is class warfare..." says **Elizabeth Warren**, running for a Senate seat in Massachusetts. "There is nobody in this country who got rich on his own. Nobody. You built a factory out there – Good for you!

"But I want to be clear. You moved your goods to market on the roads the rest of us paid for. You hired workers the rest of us paid to educate. You were safe in your factory because of police forces and fire forces that the rest of us paid for..."

"You built a factory and it turned into something terrific... God Bless. Keep a big hunk of it. But part of the underlying social contract is you take a hunk of that and pay forward for the next kid who comes along."



"Our Republican leaders tell us economic laws – sacred, inviolable, unchangeable – cause panics which no one could prevent. But while they prate of economic laws, men and women are starving. We must lay hold of the fact that economic laws are not made by nature. They are made by human beings." ~ **Franklin Roosevelt, 1932**

## ROYAL WRATH

**Queen Victoria** was visiting a small province in England. When she arrived, the villagers were surprised and awed and spontaneously began cheering and shouting, "All hail Queen



■ **CONTINUED**

"For every action there is an equal and opposite government program."  
~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

## 'AMERICATHON' FOREVER

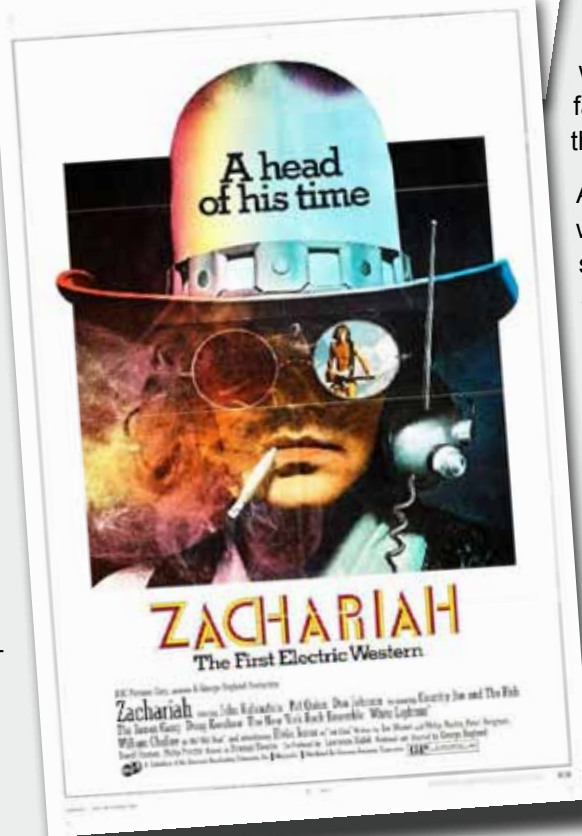
"The debt crisis and the risk of the U.S. losing its top-notch bond rating was foreseen back in 1979 in this often overlooked comedy," writes Main Street's **Joe Mont**, "which had an ensemble cast that included **John Ritter**, **Harvey Korman**, **Meat Loaf**, **Tommy Lasorda**, **Jay Leno** and **Elvis Costello** sneering his way through 'I Don't Want to Go to Chelsea' and 'Crawling to the U.S.A.'" (And from an original idea by Proctor & Bergman.)

"Amazingly, the rather dumb movie – about a last-ditch telethon held to bail out the bankrupt country before it defaults to its original Native American ownership – was spot-on with many of its over-the-top (at the time) plot points. Among them:

- The idea that the U.S. could be on the verge of bankruptcy, with its currency devalued beyond repair and lethally in debt to other nations.
- The declining state of U.S. oil production.
- That China would become a global economic force by moving toward capitalism following the post-Cold War fall of the USSR.
- That a small, under-the-radar sneaker company, Nike... would become an international conglomerate."

**AND THEN . . .** there's *Zachariah, The First Electric Western* [WATCH TRAILER] written by The Firesign Theatre, which has become a sort of gay cult classic... Don't ask. Don't tell.

"Censorship, like charity, should begin at home; but unlike charity, it should end there." ~ **Clare Booth Luce**



## TO TEA OR NOT TO TEA

The **World News** reports that a "We The People Tea Party" convention organized by the **Ohio Liberty Council** took place this summer, featuring workshops advocating the dismantling of public education and unions while promoting states' rights and voter suppression. Approximately 300 mostly middle class, middle-aged people attended, along with a smattering of minorities.

Speeches affirmed that black people on welfare "have no souls" and that Obamacare is really "reparations" – yet Council leader **Tom Zawistowski** cautioned, "We do not hate Obama because he is black; we hate him because he is a socialist, fascist, and not American," a statement that elicited hearty applause.

Attendees were informed that global warming was a fraud and climate science a form of socialism, while John Birch Society President **John McManus** led workshops on the "Neo-Con agenda," preaching that America is in danger of turning socialist, which is "more deadly than communism," and warning that a secret union between North and South American countries is the first step towards a "New World Order."

You could also purchase a 9mm pistol engraved with the words: "We The People Convention," and other quotes from the Constitution.

So vote for Papon. He believes in the Right to Arm Bears!

## MORE TEA PARTY-POOP

"Our parents are grateful because they're voting. We're the first generation [in Europe] to say that voting is worthless." ~ **Marta Solanas**

■ CONTINUED

## QUAKING IN OUR BOOT

Six Italian scientists and a government official were put on trial in Italy charged with manslaughter for not warning the public more aggressively of a 2009 earthquake that killed more than 300 people and U.S. seismologists are all shook up, concerned by a legal system criminalizing such an uncertain process.

"Our ability to predict earthquake hazards is, frankly, lousy," comments Northwestern University Professor of Earth Sciences **Seth Stein**. "It would only make sense if we really knew how to do this, and someone did it wrong."

### READ ON

"As a matter of fact' is an expression that precedes many an expression that isn't." ~ Author **Laurence J. Peter**

## WHERE AM US ANYWAY?

■ Thanks to my friend, **Peter Kirby**, you can hear me narrating a film at the Getty Center introducing the ambitious statewide Pacific Standard Time exhibitions.

■ Saturday, October 15 will find **Melinda** and me performing at the Louis B. Mayer Theater in Woodland Hills for the residents of the Motion Pictures Television Fund retirement community. I'll be playing Desi and Walter Winchell in *I Love Lucy: The Untold Story* by Gregg Oppenheimer, who's dad, Jess, created the Lucy phenomenon.

■ After that, I'm off to St. Louis to video "Don Quixote" with the LAGQ at the Sheldon Concert Hall and then back for the opening weekend of Noel Coward's *Peace in Our Time* at Antaeus in North Hollywood. **MORE INFO**

■ I'm also featured this month on *Inverse Delirium*, a Baltimore-based parody of Public Radio. **SEE MORE**

"You are made in the image of what you desire."  
~ **Thomas Merton**

## GIVE US A CUT

One day a florist went to a barber for a haircut. Afterwards, he asked about his bill, and the barber replied, "I cannot accept money from you; I'm doing community service this week." The florist was pleased and left the shop. When the barber went

to open his shop the next morning, there was a "Thank you" card and a dozen roses waiting for him at his door.

Later, a cop came in for a haircut, and when he tried to pay, the barber again replied, "I cannot accept any money; I'm doing community service right now." The next morning when the barber open shop, there was a "Thank you" card and a dozen donuts waiting for him.

Then a Congressman came in for a trim, and when he took out his wallet, the barber again replied, "I cannot accept your money. I'm doing community service." The Congressman was very happy and left. The next morning, when the barber went to open up, there were a dozen Congressmen lined up waiting for a free haircut.

And that, my friends, illustrates the fundamental difference between the citizens of our country and the politicians who run it.

"He had a mind so fine  
that no idea could violate it."  
~ **TS Eliot on Henry James**

## GIVE

Thanks to **Richard Arnold, Sam Joseph, Jayne Stahl, H. Lee Kagan, Bill Coombs, M. C. Gwynne, Joan Allemand, Bob Wyman, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., The Week, Bodhi and Jenna Elfman, Michael Fish, Taylor Jessen, Eddie Deezen** and **The New Yorker Magazine**.

I am a big fans of you from China. I like you in 2002... I carry all of you. I have a dream to get you autograph photos. If I live my dream, I will be so grateful and happy."  
~ **Gougou**

## PLANET CLICK

### AND TAKE

**DIE  
COWED  
CRASH?  
GLOW  
WALLOUT  
FORWARD  
THE BORN IDENTITY  
GRADE ME  
WU  
SL\*\*P  
TEA ME  
WEBSITE STORY  
BALANCE  
BAAAAD  
WW3  
ITKILL\$**

**CLICK THE WORD TO  
GO TO THE SITE**

"I saw a small crowd of terribly pleased oxymorons. It was pretty ugly" ~ **Steven Wright**

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

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

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

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