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PLANET VALENTINE

February 14, 2012

"The future is already here; it's just unevenly distributed." ~ **William Gibson**

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

ACTION!

just finished recreating my role in *Window of Opportunity*, first staged at the **Met Theatre**, as adapted by director/author **Samuel Warren Joseph** and produced by the Doors' **John Densmore**. The wonderful cast included **Ty Granderson Jones** from the original production, **Oliver Muirhead**, **Jack Maxwell**, **Rayna Tharani** and **Kym Jackson**.

Next, before escaping for a three-week retreat at our timeshare on Kauai in early March, I'm performing on Thursday February, 23 in a dramatic reading of *Don Quixote* with the amazing **Los Angeles Guitar Quartet** at the University of Southern California. Come see us – IT'S FREE!!! Just RSVP **HERE**.

"A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle." ~ **Father James Keller**

IN ONE ERA AND OUT THE OTHER

"Audio dramatist, writer, producer, and visionary **Yuri Rasovsky** passed away at his home on January 18 after living with esophageal cancer. Known for his humor, irreverence, and unique lexicon as much as for his decades of exceptional productions, Yuri worked to the very end, wrapping the recording of his final adaptation, *Die, Snow White! Die, Damn You!* just a few short weeks before his



DOING 'WINDOW'
Proctor poses in character with *Window of Opportunity* actors Oliver Muirhead and Jack Maxwell (right), and, in characteristic repose with actors Rayna Tharani and Kym Taylor (below).



death. Though Yuri received numerous accolades and awards throughout his distinguished career, including two George Foster Peabody Awards, a Grammy, and multiple Audie Awards, he was perhaps more

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proud of his carefully honed reputation as an irascible fiend.

“Yuri leaves behind his beloved longtime partner in work and in life, **Lorna Raver**, as well as countless devoted colleagues, friends, and admirers. He will be missed terribly, but

THAT SINKING FEELING

The current plight of the *Costa Concordia* reminds me of a comment made by **Churchill**. After his retirement he was cruising the Mediterranean on an Italian cruise liner and some Italian journalists asked why an ex-British Prime Minister had chosen an Italian ship.

“There are three things I like about being on an Italian cruise ship,” said Churchill. “First, their cuisine is unsurpassed. Second, their service is superb. And then, in time of emergency, there is none of this nonsense about women and children first.”



And speaking of children, *LA Times* letter writer **Jay Soloway** says, “An imprisoned father who has abandoned his family is preferable to children being raised by loving parents who happen to be of the same sex? It absolutely boggles the mind that anyone, much less a candidate for president [like **Rick Santorum**] could make that statement with – pardon the expression – a straight face.”

“The problem with political jokes is they get elected.”
~ **Henry Cate, VII**

KILROY’S STILL HERE

During the Second World War, everyone knew the phrase “Kilroy was Here,” so in 1946, the American Transit Association’s “Speak to America” ran a radio contest to find the original **Kilroy**, offering a full-sized trolley car as the prize. Out of all the applications, however, only 46-year old **James Kilroy** of Quincy, Mass. had irrefutable evidence of his identity.

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would encourage those grieving his passing to get back to work and make something great,” wrote **Michele Cobb**, APA President. To this, Lorna adds, “He was keeping at his beloved work to the end: in the last few days at times when he appeared to be sleeping, he could be heard directing actors in session, discussing script re-writes or working on post!”

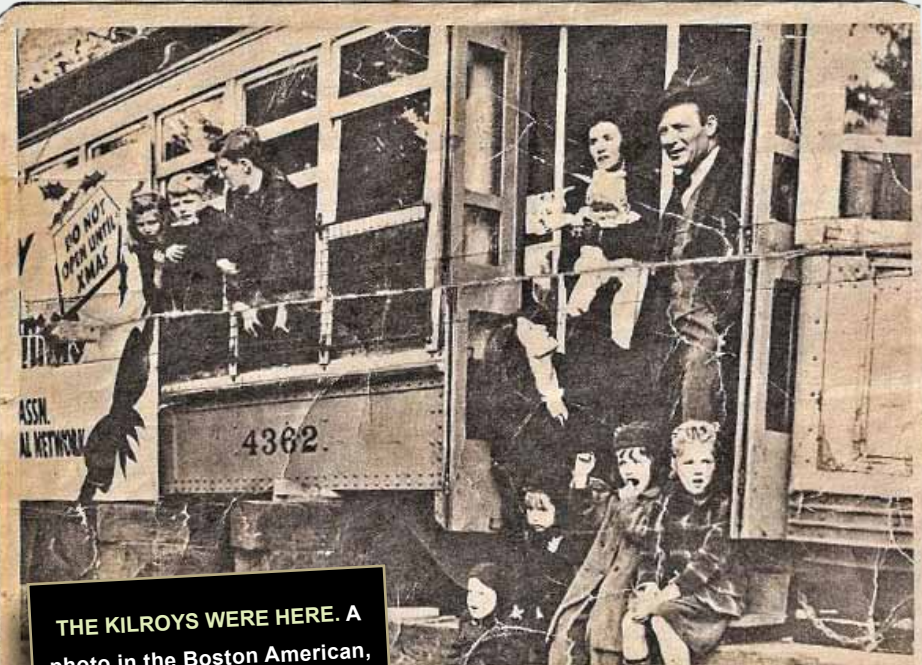
It is a great loss to the audio world, but we shall strive to perpetuate his genius and the work of **The Hollywood Theatre of the Ear** in the future.

LISTEN

“If some persons died, and others did not die, death would indeed be a terrible affliction.”
~ **Jean de la Bruyère**

EL FIENDO. Yuri Rasovsky at the *Snow White* session at World Wide Wadio in Hollywood. At right, Yuri’s gal, Lorna “Drag Me to Hell” Raver, cuts the “King Kong Died for Our Sins” cake at the memorial held at the Swink-Shimmerman home.





THE KILROYS WERE HERE. A photo in the Boston American, dated December 23, 1946, shows James Kilroy and family in the trolley that needed transit and rail companies to get it to him in time for Christmas – during a blizzard!

places, such as atop Mt. Everest, on the Statue of Liberty, on the Arc De Triumphe, and even scrawled in the dust on the moon. I even have a wooden lapel pin with his big nose, eyes and hands in my personal pin collection.

And yes, James Kilroy won that trolley car, which he gave as a playhouse to his nine kids on Christmas.

“Don’t Crush That Dwarf, Hand me the Semi-Waxed Lumber Chalk.”

“My choices in life were either to be a piano player in a whorehouse or a politician. And to tell the truth, there’s hardly any difference.” ~ Harry S. Truman

He was the worker at the Fore River Shipyard who tallied the number of rivets completed every day as workers got paid by the unit. He’d count a block and make a checkmark in semi-waxed lumber chalk so

DRIVE, THEY SAID

A group of seniors were sitting around talking about all their ailments. “My arms have gotten so weak I can hardly lift this cup of coffee,” said one. “Yes, I know,” said another. “My cataracts are so bad; I can’t even see my coffee.”

“I couldn’t even mark an X at election time, my hands are so crippled,” volunteered a third. “What? Speak up! What? I can’t hear you!”

“I can’t turn my head because of the arthritis in my neck,” said a fourth, to which several nodded weakly in agreement. “My blood pressure pills make me so dizzy!” exclaimed another. “I forget where I am, and where I’m going,” said another. “I guess that’s the price we pay for getting old,” winced an old man as he slowly shook his head. The others nodded in agreement.

“Well, count your Blessings,” said a woman cheerfully, “Thank God we can all still drive.”

*“All life is a blur of republicans and meat.”
~ Zippy the Pinhead*

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CHIEF CROWFOOT was the subject of a 1968 documentary – **The Ballad of Crowfoot.**
WATCH

they wouldn’t be counted twice. But when he went home, the riveters would erase the mark, and an off-shift inspector would re-count the rivets, resulting in double pay. Eventually, Kilroy’s boss, upset over the high wages, asked him to investigate.

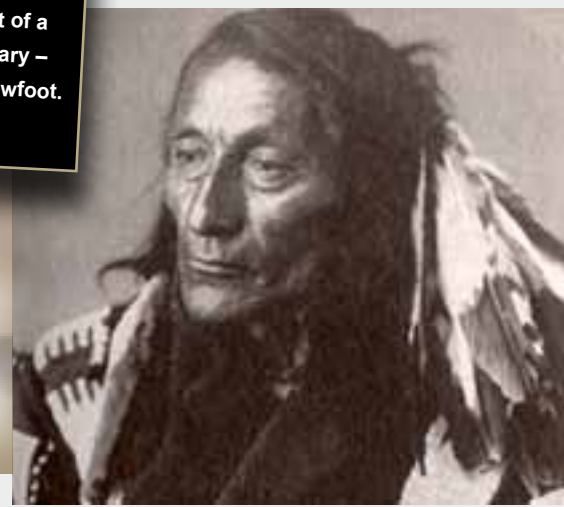
So James added KILROY WAS HERE to the checkmark and a sketch of a guy with a long nose peering over a fence, and soon the riveters stopped wiping away his marks. In due time, Kilroy’s playful trademark was seen by many troops shipping overseas on the Quincy vessels and they began recreating the picture wherever they landed, claiming, “It was already there” when they arrived. And ultimately, when an outhouse was built for the exclusive use of the Big Three at the 1946 Potsdam conference, **Stalin**, the first occupant, had to ask his aide, “Who is Kilroy?”

Later, it became a challenge to place the logo in unlikely

WHAT IS LIFE?

*It is the flash of a firefly in the night.
It is the breath of a buffalo in the wintertime.
It is the little shadow which runs across the grass
And loses itself in the Sunset.”*

– **Crowfoot on his deathbed**
April 1890

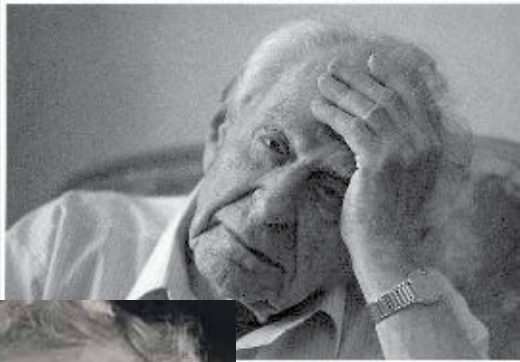


"A well-adjusted person is one who makes the same mistake twice without getting nervous."
~ Alexander Hamilton

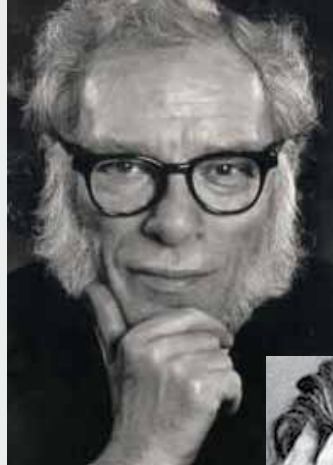
AND I QUOTE

Many Planeteers have felt compelled recently to barrage me with political comments (don't know why) by famous folks, so I feel obligated to present a few to you:

"There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there always has been," comments the late **Isaac Asimov**. "The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that 'my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge'."

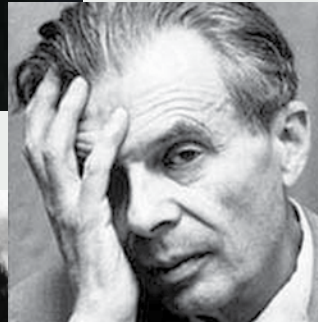


To which the philosopher, **Sir Karl Popper** might add, "The only thing a tolerant society can not tolerate is intolerance, because intolerant individuals will use a society's tolerance against it."



On the other hand, former Libertarian Party Presidential candidate **Harry Browne** believes that "The government is great at breaking your leg, handing you a crutch, and saying 'You see, without me you couldn't walk.'"

And "Yes, Romney is a Mormon," observes sister-in-law **Carole Peterson**, "but it's Gringrich with the multiple wives."



Oh, well... "Maybe this world is another planet's Hell," wrote **Aldous Huxley**, while **Victor Hugo** noted, "An intelligent Hell would be better than a stupid Paradise."

Finally, it was the great **Groucho Marx** who suggested, "If you order a slice of pie in Antonio, remember the ala mode..."

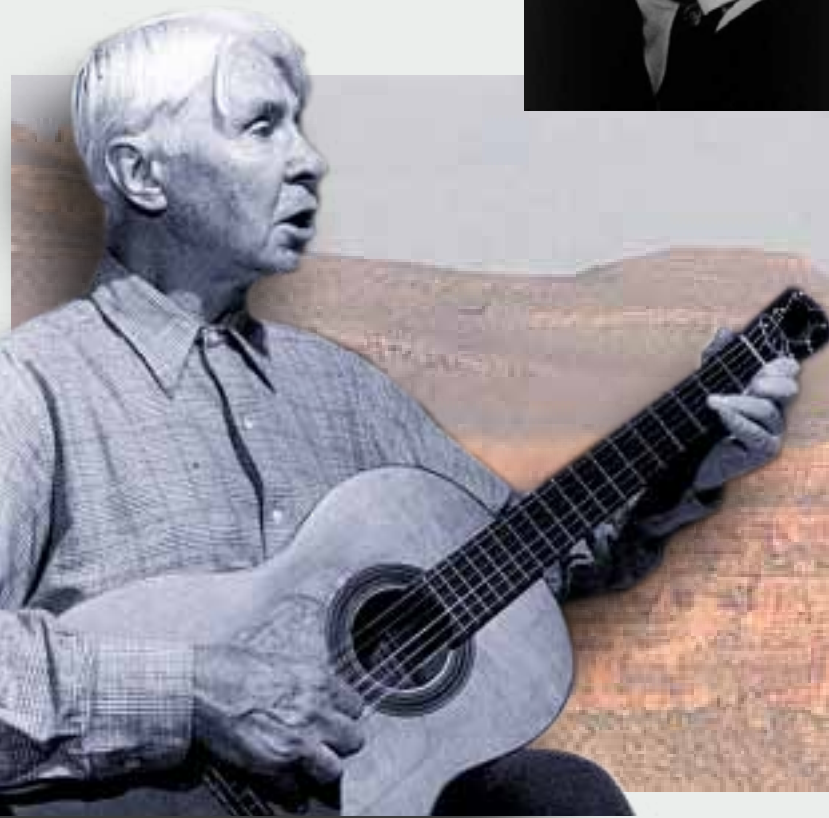
"Half of the people in the world don't have the sense God gave a rock. The other half do." ~ **Magic Mike Berger**

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PONDERERS AND POETS.
Quoted top to bottom: Popper, Marx, Huxley, and Asimov. Below, Carl Sandburg strums.



JUST ASKIN'



*Are you happy? It's the only way to be, kid.
Yes, be happy, it's a good nice way to be.
But not happy-happy, kid, don't be too doubled-up doggone happy. It's the doubled-up doggone happy-happy people . . . bust hard . . . they do bust hard . . . when they bust. Be happy, kid, go to it, but not too doggone happy.*

*"Snatch of Sliphorn Jazz"
by Carl Sandburg*

"Women. They are a complete mystery."
~ Stephen Hawking

SIRIOUSLY SPEAKING

In the latest iPhone program, **Siri** responds to the following: "Siri, why does the porridge-bird lay its eggs in the air?" with - "Nice try, but you're not going to get me to shut down that easily." And she answers to "Siri, this is **Worker** speaking," by saying, "Hello, ah-Clem, what function can I perform for you?"

And that's because the late **Steve Jobs** was a **Firesign Theatre** fan, inspired by the "I Think We're All Bozos on this Bus" album. And **David Selden**, another guy who digs us recently penned a keen commentary on our **Michael Nesmith**-produced video, "Nick Danger in the Case of the Missing Yolks," likening it to "a Chinese box puzzle of parallel universes." Try to figure it out [HERE](#).

And finally, **Jacob Smith**, Assistant Professor of Radio/Television/Film at Northwestern University's School of Communication, who interviewed me for his book *Spoken Word*, writes,

"...The Firesign Theatre commented on emerging forms of television programming reception and featured a rock aesthetic that utilized the possibilities of the multitrack recording studio to create dense, fantastic sonic spaces and encourage repeated listening." Wow! We did that? [CHECK IT OUT](#).

Former House Speaker **Newt Gingrich** addressed speculation about whether he would leave the race: "Not unless it gets cancer." ~ **Andy Borowitz**

DOGGONE

A dog lover, who's dog was a female "in heat," agreed to look after the neighbors' male dog while they were on holiday. She lived in a big house next door and was sure she could keep the pets apart, but one evening as she

drifted off to sleep she heard a dreadful moaning and whining and rushed downstairs to find the canines locked in a carnal embrace and unable to disengage.

She could not separate them, so although it was late, she decided to make an emergency call to her vet who answered in a very grumpy voice. The vet then said, "Hang up the phone and place it down alongside the dogs. I'll call back and the ringing will make the male lose his erection, and he'll be able to withdraw."

"Are you sure that'll work?" asked the distraught woman.

"It just worked for me," he replied.

"Life is sexually transmitted."
~ **Phil's Phunny Phacts**

HE GOT THAT WHITE!

"You look so fantastic and full of energy," said **President Obama** to **Betty White** on her televised anniversary. "I can't believe you're 90 years old. In fact, I don't believe it.

"That's why I'm writing to ask if you will be willing to produce a copy of your long form birth certificate. Thanks, and Happy Birthday, no matter how old you are. [VIEW](#)

"The life I touch for good or ill will touch another life and that in turn another, until who knows where the trembling stops..." ~ **Frederick Buechner**

THANX

Patty Paul, Joan Allemand, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., Jayne Stahl, H. Lee Kagan, Alan Myerson, Jim Terr, Pat Willson, John Strachan, Richard Fish and my family, friends, partners and agents, for tolerating my two-week movie adventure.

"The life I touch for good or ill will touch another life and that in turn another, until who knows where the trembling stops..." ~ **Frederick Buechner**

PLANET CLICK

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CLICK THE WORD TO
GO TO THE SITE

"Citizens United put the 'mock' in democracy." ~ **Satirist Roy Zimmerman**

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

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

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

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