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PLANET MERRY MONTH

May 14, 2012

"It is cruelly arbitrary to put all the play and learning into childhood, all the work into middle age, and all of the regrets into old age." ~ Margaret Mead

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

**ON LINE AND OFF**

**A**s Melinda and I prepare for our time away in June, starting with the Yale 50th Reunion and proceeding to the **Owensboro International Mystery Writers' Festival** and the **National Audio Theatre Festival Workshop**, I have been doing some interviews – the most revealing of which are available on **Carolyn Fox's Hollywood Spotlight**, including a mess-around with my cohort-in-comedy, actor/artist/impressionist **Jim Meskimen**. Give 'em a listen...

**SPOTLIGHT • AFTER HOURS**

"Old musicians don't retire, they just take longer breaks" ~ Tom Hensley

**COHORTS IN COMICS**

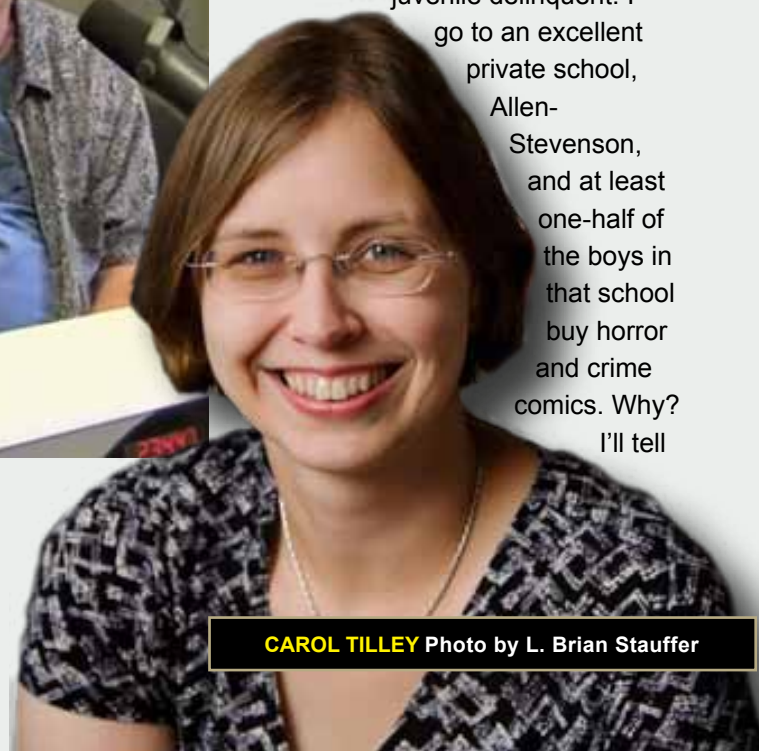
But the real surprise was a recent email from **Professor Carol Tilley** (below) at the University of Illinois asking if I wanted to participate in a study involving comic books from 1935 to '55. She found a letter in the National Archives that I wrote in 1954 to the US Senate Sub-Committee on Juvenile Delinquency, which later succeeded in banning *Tales from the Crypt* and others.

"I am disgusted with your ridiculous claims about comics," I wrote. "I am 14 years old and I assure you that I am not, and do not want to be, a juvenile delinquent. I go to an excellent private school, **Allen-Stevenson**, and at least one-half of the boys in that school buy horror and crime comics. Why? I'll tell



**AREN'T THEY A PAIR.**  
Jim Meskimen and Phil, mid-air, taping Carolyn Fox's Spotlight.

And you can also hear my Mayan end-of-the-world homage to my late Firesign partner, **Peter Bergman**, on **Joe Bev's COMEDY-O-RAMA**, if you missed it last orbit.



**CAROL TILLEY** Photo by L. Brian Stauffer

you. We don't buy these mags because we have a thirst for blood, we buy them for the stories, the snap endings, the artwork, and because they deal with the unknown..."

Professor Tilley is interested in connecting with other adults who were comic fans during this era and wants to learn more about the motivations and recollections of other readers who advocated for comics. If any of my Planeteers feel qualified, **CONTACT HER** to set up a time – at your convenience and her expense – for a fun call.

*"The more you know, the less the better." ~ Eric Idle*

## GIVE IT A SHOT

Ed and Nancy met on a Singles Cruise and they fell in love, not overboard. And when they discovered that they lived in the same city, Ed set up a date as soon as they reached dry land, and soon he'd taken Nancy to dance clubs, restaurants, concerts, movies and museums. Every date seemed better than the last, and they began to believe that they were soul mates.

On the one-month anniversary of their first dinner together on the cruise ship, Ed took Nancy to the best restaurant in town and with cocktails in hand, he said, "I guess you know by now that I'm crazy in love with you, but before I take a little box out of my pocket and ask you a life-changing question, I have to reveal something to you. I'm a total golf nut. I eat, sleep, and breathe golf, so if that's going to be a problem for us, you'd better say so now."

Nancy took a deep breath and a slug of her Sidecar and said, "Ed, that certainly will NOT be a problem.



**SHIP TO SHORE.**

Ed and Nancy: shooting for par.

I love you as you are, and I love golf, too. But since we're being totally honest with each other, you need to know that for the last five years – I've been a hooker."

Ed put down his martini and said, "I bet that's because you're not keeping your wrists straight when you hit the ball."

*"He was such a narcissist that he wanted to be the bride at every wedding and the dearly departed at every funeral." ~ Edmund White*

## GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT

What is the smallest caliber you can trust to protect yourself? My personal favorite defense gun has always been the Beretta Jetfire 22 short. I've carried it for years, especially while hiking, and of course the first rule in hiking is to use "the buddy system" which means you NEVER hike alone, but bring a friend or family member so that if something happens, one of you can get help the other.

For example, I keenly remember one time on the trail with my girlfriend when suddenly, out of nowhere came a huge, enraged black bear! We must have been near one of her cubs, and if I had not been packing my handy Jetfire, I would not be here today to tell this tale. Just one shot to my girlfriend's kneecap was all it took. The bear got her, and I was able to escape by just walking away.

That's one of the best pistols in my collection.

*Winston Churchill, Mussolini, and Pope John Paul II all wrote movie scripts. ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts*

## UNINTELLIGENT DESIGN

A little boy got on the bus, sat next to a man reading a book, and noticed he had his collar on backwards and asked why. The man, who was a priest, said, "I am a Father."

The little boy replied, "My father doesn't wear his collar like that." The priest looked up from his book and answered, "I am the Father of many."

The boy said, "My Dad has four boys, four girls and two grandchildren, and he doesn't wear his collar that way."

The priest, getting impatient, said. "I am the Father of hundreds," and went back to reading his book.

The little boy sat quietly thinking for a while, then leaned over and said, "Maybe you should wear a condom, and, instead of your collar, put your pants on backwards."

■ **CONTINUED**

"Condoms don't guarantee safe sex anymore.  
A friend of mine was wearing one when  
he was shot by the woman's husband."  
~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

"Hoo-ah" is a military acronym that stands for "heard,  
understood, acknowledged." ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

## GOING DOWN

Days after Secret Service agents shortchanged a group of prostitutes in Colombia, the international trade group representing hookers downgraded the United States' credit rating from AAA to B.

The strong rebuke from the **International Alliance of Professional Escorts** came after a Secret Service agent reportedly paid one of its members \$30 for an \$800 service, or only 4% of the stated price. The statement from the International Alliance of Professional Escorts said that in downgrading the United States' credit rating it was sending a clear message that its "members should be aware that doing business with the government of the United States carries with it a significant risk."

"We are urging our members to avoid conducting transactions with the United States and to focus on more reliable customers, like the **International Monetary Fund**," the statement added.

Just hours after the announcement from the escorts' group, the U.S. Congress passed the following resolution blasting the Secret Service for its actions: "We strongly denounce the Secret Service for consorting with prostitutes, which has traditionally been Congress's role."

But it was not all bad news for the Secret Service, which has since reported a 5000% jump in enlistment. The agency said that enlistment offices across the country have been packed with prospective agents, including former president **Bill Clinton**. (**THE BOROWITZ REPORT**)

## WORK IT

Although a recent front-page article in the *LA Times*, featuring comments from the talented **Tom Kane** and **Keri Tombazian**, decried (once again) the loss of voice-over jobs to celebrity "stunt-casting," I have still booked a few jobs recently, including fun parts in the upcoming re-invention of Disneyland's **California Experience** and the voices of **Georges Seurat** and **Samuel Morse** for this year's Pageant of the Masters' lavish, living tableaux show in Laguna.

According to the show's prolific writer, **Dan Duling**, "Morse was interested in both art and science, until one day, a messenger on horseback caught up with him and told him that his wife was ill. Hurrying home, he discovered that, in fact, his wife had already died and been buried!

"Right then and there, his focus shifted from art to science and a search for a faster form of communication. It wasn't long before he had refined the concept for electromagnetic telegraphy, and soon after, the dot-dash language of Morse code. Sadly, much of the rest of his life was spent in patent court defending his ownership of his invention. Sigh."



PHILLING IN THE PICTURE.  
Proctor gives voice to Georges Seurat.

"One day this country will be channeled for those nerves which are to diffuse, with the speed of thought, a knowledge of all that is occurring throughout the land, making this, in fact, one neighborhood."

~ Samuel F.B. Morse



## NEWT WE HARDLY KNEWED YOU

“What a terrible disappointment that **Newt Gingrich** will not be our President,” wrote **Oren Speigler** in the *LA Times* letter section.

“I had banked on \$2.50 a gallon gasoline...the colonization of the moon and federal judges being seized by marshalls and stripped of their positions when they rendered decisions that were unpopular with the President and his minions...

“How you shall be missed, Mr. Speaker, particularly by comedians.”

*“We used to hate homosexuals because they were wildly promiscuous; now that they want to settle down and get married, we hate them even more.”*  
~ **Andrew M. Weiss**, *LA Letters*

## THEY BLEW IT

Two old guys decide they're close to their last days and determine to have a last night on the town. After a few drinks, they end up at the local brothel. The madam takes one look at the old geezers and whispers to her manager, “Go up to the first two bedrooms and put an inflated doll in each bed. These two are so old and drunk, I'm not wasting two of my girls on them; they won't know the difference.”

The manager does as he is told and the two old men go upstairs and take care of their business. As they are walking home later, the first duffer says, ‘You know, I think my girl was dead.’

“Dead?” says his friend, “Why do you say that?”

“Well, she never moved or made a sound all the time I was screwin' her.” To which his friend says, “Could be worse. I think mine was a witch.”

“A witch? Why the hell would you say that?”

“Well, while I was making love to her, I gave her a little love bite on the neck. Then she farted and flew out the window.

“Took my teeth with her, too!”

They say that during sex you burn off as many calories as running 8 miles. My question is: Who the hell runs 8 miles in 45 seconds? ~ **Jim Reynolds**



## THE PLAN

In the beginning was the Plan.

And then came the Assumptions.

And the Assumptions were without form.

And darkness was upon the face of the Workers.

And they spoke among themselves, saying, “It is a crock of shit, and it stink-eth.”

And the workers went unto their Supervisors and said, “It is a pail of dung, and none may abide the odor thereof.”

And the Supervisors went unto their Managers, saying, “It is a container of excrement, and it is very strong, such that none may abide by it.”

And the Managers went unto their Directors, saying, “It is a vessel of fertilizer, and none may abide its strength.”

And the Directors spoke amongst themselves, saying one to another, “It contains that which aids plant growth, and it is very strong.”

And the Directors then went unto the Vice Presidents, saying unto them, “It promotes growth and is very powerful.”

And the Vice Presidents went unto the CEO saying unto him, “This new plan will actively promote the growth and vigor of the company; with powerful effects.”

And the CEO looked upon the Plan, and saw that it was good.

And the Plan became Policy.

This is How Shit Happens.

*“To say that I'm enjoying a millionaire's lifestyle - well, I can tell you, I guess a millionaire's income doesn't go very far these days.”*

~ **AZ Democrat Ed Pastor**, one of 250 members of Congress worth over a million dollars

## PERSIAN BOOK FAIR / UNFAIR

Leaders of the Islamic republic are not great book enthusiasts, but Tehran's international book fair attracts half a million visitors per day -- more than those who visit the Book Fair in Frankfurt, purported to be the biggest in the world over its entire duration.

Censors surf the web for unIslamic words, admonishing writers to substitute other phrases if they expect their book to be published. Among those are cigarette and laughing (when used for a female character), swear, tattoo, cage and makeup (regardless of gender).

Kiss, beloved, drunk, pork, dance, rape, dog, and meditation among others are frequently asked to be changed, and wine needed to be changed to juice in a story about Charles Darwin, who took ill from "sour wine."

Male and female characters are permitted to walk hand-in-hand only if married, and implicit gay touch can exist only if the censor does not assume a homosexual theme. Ask Mitt Romney...

"There's a wild and crazy man inside there just waiting to come out."  
~ Romney's wife, Ann

## DINOFARTS

Dinosaurs may have warmed the prehistoric Earth's climate about 150 million years ago thanks to enormous amounts of methane-producing flatulence, researchers say. Sauropods — the long-necked, long-tailed dinosaurs that included some of the largest land animals ever— "could have produced more methane than all modern sources — both natural and man-made — put together," and more than double what was produced before the dawn of modern industry, said **Dave Wilkinson** of **Liverpool John Moores University** as published in *Current Biology*.

# PLANETCLICK

## LINKAGE

BB  
MURMURATION  
METROMUSIK  
DONUT SEEDS  
BOOOO  
CAT'N'RAT  
FISHIN  
WALKEN TALKIN  
UNCIVIL  
OCCUPY  
BRILLOHEAD  
CATZ  
SLAP ME  
FRACK ME  
RED

CLICK THE WORD TO  
GO TO THE SITE

"Never think you've seen the last of anything."  
~ Eudora Welty

## THE POET PASSES

Our beloved friend, **Jack Poet**, immortalized in the Firesign Theatre's **Jack Poet Volkswagen** TV ads, succumbed to congestive heart failure at the age of 80, in Santa Barbara, two months to the day after **Peter Bergman's** death.

As his devoted wife, **Patti** wrote, "When I told Jack that we had lost Peter, he sobbed. I have never seen Jack sob like that. He told me that Peter was "the real Jack Poet." We just didn't know how critical Jack was, as with Peter. Is this a triple Sagittarius trait? They both were.

"He loved and sang the praises of all those he knew and loved, and some he didn't love so much. After all is said and done, isn't that what we are called to do in this life? And that's exactly what Jack did."

"A person's never too old for stories ...  
Man and boy, girl and woman, never too old. We live for them."  
~ Stephen King

## THANKAGE

**Joan Allemand**, *The Week*, **Bill Coombs**, **Victor Kopcewich**, **Patty Paul**. **Victoria Thomas**, **Kenneth Wilhite, Jr.**, **Jayne Lynn Stahl**, **John Hostetter**, **Jim Reynolds**, **Jerry Eberts**, **Eddie Deezen** and **Richard Schulenberg**. And to donate to **LILY BERGMAN-STALLONE's** College Fund, you can make a deposit at any U.S. Bank branch or soon at the **FIRESIGN** website.

"You should not serve the world of mammon; you should serve the world of public good."  
~ Late Boston Mayor **Kevin White**

"For a lion to be a cannibal, he must first swallow his pride" ~ Dr. Twittenheimer

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

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

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