



2012 - 8

PLANET MELINDA

August 20, 2012

# Happy Birthday to you, My Melinda Sue

**T**here have been many important deaths recently, but in this orbit, I want to celebrate a more important birth – that of my beautiful, talented, smart, sexy and sassy wife, Melinda Peterson, on August 20. And after 20 years of Married Blitz, we still are learning something from each another every minute of every hour of every day, and we both are the better for it.

But the most important aspect of our life together is not our differences – she’s one of seven siblings, I’m one of one – but our passionate desire to celebrate artistry by working together whenever we can, on stage, on screen, or in studio. We even call ourselves Funk and Mundaigne, in homage to Lunt and Fontaine who we comically emulate.

Indeed, we recently appeared together in a hilarious new play by Jennifer W. Rowland at the Road Theatre Company’s New Playwrights Festival, while I acted in *Mrs. Warren’s Profession* by Shaw and *King John* by Shakespeare as part of Classicsfest at Antaeus, and she is in rehearsal for *Memorizing Rome*.

Of course, I respect my past wives, Sheilah Wells and Barbro Semmingsen – with whom I share a glorious daughter, Kristin, and two astonishing grandkids, but this is about Melinda and the life she has brought to my life, and our life together, which is life as it should be.

I love you, Toots. Happy Birthday.



Gore Vidal

"A happy wife makes for a happy life."  
~ Clark Howard

"The United States was founded by the brightest people in the country - and we haven't seen them since."  
~ Gore Vidal

## R.I.P. 'THE RIPPER' VIDAL

"I was born 80 years ago in a country called the United States of America, and I now live in a Homeland. It's an expression we haven't heard since Hitler," said the late **Gore Vidal**, who concluded, "Since they don't know anything about language or politics or thought or anything else, they think this is a wonderful way of explaining the United States defending itself against its numerous inscrutable enemies.

*"They hate us. We don't know why.* Well, if we didn't blow up their cities, they might feel more kindly towards us. Two plus two is not possible in the United States of Alzheimer's."

Ten years ago, in *The Decline and Fall of the American Empire*, Vidal wrote: "Any individual who is able to raise [enough money] to be considered presidential is not going to be much use to the people at large. He will represent ... whatever moneyed entities are paying for him... Hence, the sense of despair throughout the land as incomes fall, businesses fail, and there is no redress."

## I APPROVE THIS, TOO

Quasi-quazy **Chris Matthews** ran a piece on **MSNBC's** "Hardball" about the dueling **Obama/Romney** spots media-bombing the country. Apparently there was a private fundraiser for Obama at the White House where the walls are covered with paintings of former Presidents.

A young mom and dad attended with their 5-year-old son and they explained each picture until at last they came to the painting of Obama, and the daddy asked, "Do you know who this is?"

Well, the lad didn't, so his mom said, "That's Barack Obama," adding, "Do you know what he does?"

"He approves this message!" he answered.

"The most terrifying fact about the universe is not that it is hostile but that it is indifferent."  
~ Stanley Kubrick

"I never, so to speak, had it all. But I had my all, which is what I wanted: work and love."  
~ Helen "Girly" Brown

"We Greeks believe that a man who takes no part in public affairs is not merely lazy, but good for nothing."  
~ Thucydides

### FIVE RULES

1

Money cannot buy happiness, but it's more comfortable to cry in a Corvette than on a bicycle.

2

Forgive your enemy, but remember the butthole's name.

3

If you help someone when they're in trouble, they will remember you – when they're in trouble again.

4

Many people are alive only because it's illegal to shoot them.

5

Alcohol does not solve any problems, but then neither does milk

"This piano man may be missing all his skin, but he never misses a note! His slick bloody fingers leave snotty gore all over his nice white tux and matching white piano."  
~ On-camera audition notes

### LIFE ON THE RED PLANET

I'm talking about living here on earth, and although I am as excited as anyone about the fantastic landing of the Curiosity rover on Mars, it only emphasizes the fact that UC Berkeley physics Professor **Richard Muller**, a former believer that climate change was not real and not human-driven, now has made a "total turnaround."

Muller, who two years ago co-founded the **Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature**, or BEST project, recently admitted that "the carbon dioxide curve gives a better match than anything else we've tried," and that according to new findings, "normal variations in solar activity have a negligible effect on Earth's temperature."

But now comes the difficult part: "agreeing across the political and diplomatic spectrum about what can and should be done," before we turn into another Mars.

### JITTERBUGGING JEWS

A modern Orthodox Jewish couple preparing for their wedding, meet with their rabbi and the man asks, "Rabbi, we realize it's tradition for men to dance with men, and women to dance with women at the reception, but we'd like your permission to dance together."

"Absolutely not," says the rabbi. "It's immodest. Men and women always dance separately."

"So after the ceremony I can't even dance with my own wife?"

"No," answered the rabbi. "It's forbidden."

"Well, okay," says the man, "What about sex? Can we finally have sex?"

"Of course!" replies the rabbi. "Sex is a mitzvah -- a good thing within marriage, to have children!"

"What about different positions?" asks the man. "No problem," says the rabbi "It's a mitzvah!"

"Woman on top?" the man asks. "Sure," says the rabbi. "Go for it! It's a mitzvah!"

"Doggy style?" "Sure! Another mitzvah!"

"On the kitchen table?" "Yes, yes! A mitzvah!"

"Can we do it on rubber sheets with a bottle of hot oil, a couple of vibrators, a leather harness, a bucket of honey and a porno video?" "You may indeed. It's all a mitzvah!"

"Can we do it standing up?"

"Absolutely NOT!" says the rabbi. "Could lead to dancing!"

"A wife asked her husband: 'What do you like most in me, my pretty face or my sexy body?'"

He replied: 'I like your sense of humor!'"

~ Phil's Phunny Phacts



■ CONTINUED

## DON'T ASK

'Hello, is this Father O'Malley?'

'It is!'

'This is the Internal Revenue Service. Can you help us?'

'I can!'

'Do you know a Ted Houlihan?'

'I do!'

'Is he a member of your congregation?'

'He is!'

'Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?'

'He will.'

historic heights across the globe, at least \$21 trillion ... in unreported private financial wealth was recently discovered sitting in secret tax havens." That constitutes the amount of the U.S. and Japanese economies combined but does not include the private investments of the monied elite in mansions, yachts, private jets, and other toys – and according to the **Tax Justice Network**, this outrageous disparity "is only growing worse."

Indeed, just three offshore banks – **UBS**, **Credit Suisse**, and **Goldman Sachs** – manage the lion's share of assets, and the true sum of "hidden wealth could be as high as \$32 trillion."

**James Henry**, former chief economist of the management firm, **McKinsey & Company** concludes that there exists "a huge 'black hole' in the world economy at a time when governments around the world are starved for resources" and at a time when a tight-lipped oligarch like **Mitt Romney**, funded by other secret millionaires and billionaires, is running for the highest office in our land, we need to "recognize the costs of economic inequality ... and the vast amounts of untaxed income that it produces."

"Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you!"

~ **Pericles (430 B.C.)**

"If no one ever took risks, Michelangelo would have painted the Sistine floor." ~ **Neil Simon**

## BUT WHO'S COUNTING?

**Alex Oberley @ PRWatch** writes that "at a time when the gap between the ultra-rich and the rest of us is reaching

## HUNGER GAMES

A woman was having a passionate affair with an inspector from a pest-control company. One afternoon they were carrying on in the bedroom together when her husband arrived home unexpectedly. "Quick," said the woman to the lover, "into the closet!" And she pushed him in the closet, stark naked.

■ **CONTINUED**



### MAKING IT CLEAR

"One-and-a-half years of tax returns is enough. As for **INCOME** tax – fogetaboutit!!!"

## LINKS

**MYSTERY SOLVED**

**SING ALONG**

**DOG DETECTIVE**

**CHANGE**

**FLY USA**

**FURNISH**

**PAUL'S DEAD**

**BEACHBOYS**

**BEARING ARMS**

**TED**

**BIBLE BASHING**

**OLD DOG NEW  
TRICKS**

**THE REAL BASIE**

**IRISH OLYMPICS**

**SPACED YOYOS**

**TERROR TERRIER**

**BONDING**

**HEADS UP**

**ONLY IN LA**

The husband, however, became suspicious and after a search of the bedroom discovered the man in the closet. "Who are you?" he asked.

"I'm an inspector from BugBusters" said the exterminator.

"And just what the Hell are you doing in there?" the husband asked.

"I'm investigating a complaint about an infestation of moths," the man replied. "And where are your clothes?" asked the husband.

The man looked down at himself and said, "Those little bastards!"

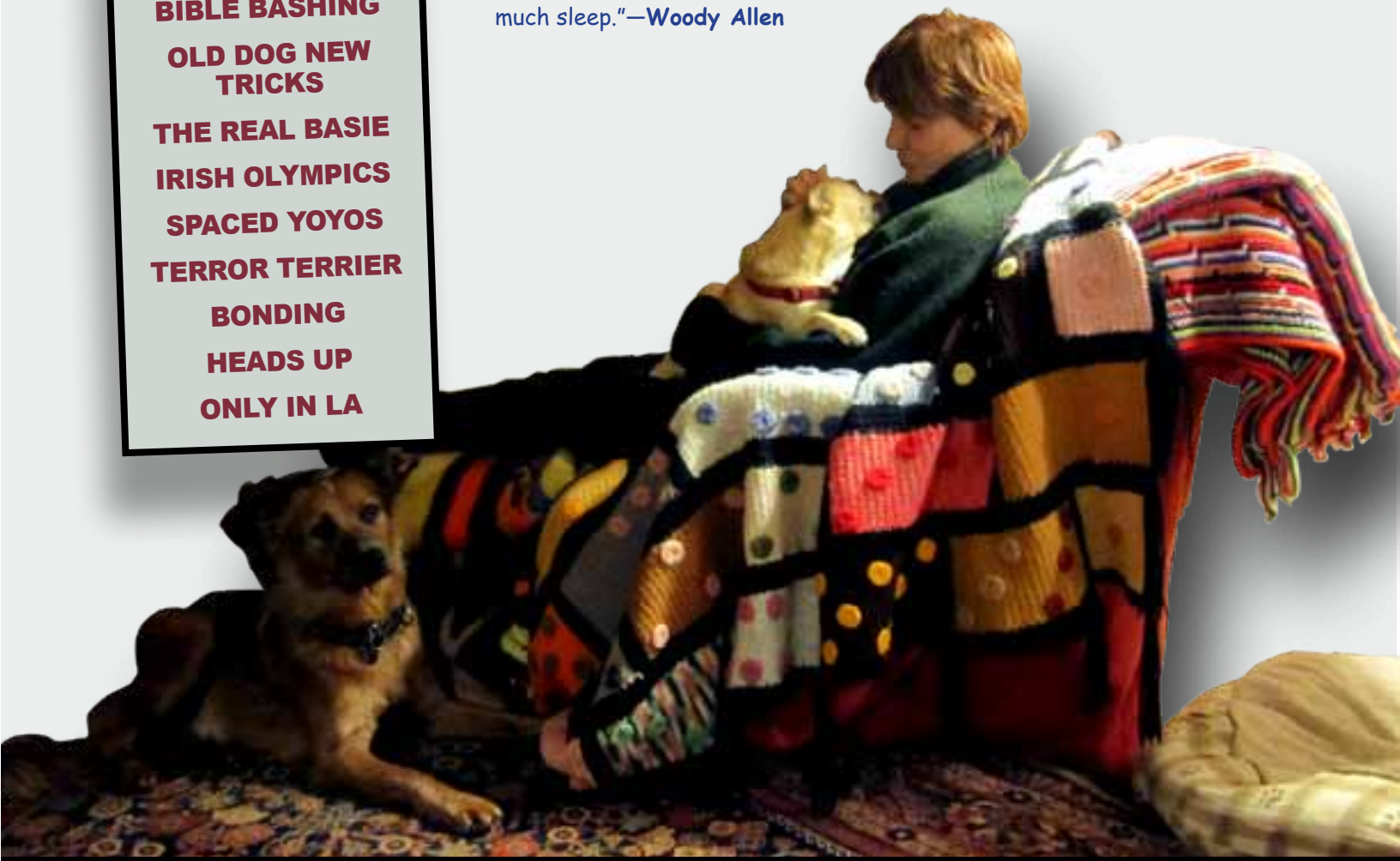
"The lion and the calf shall lie down together but the calf won't get much sleep."—Woody Allen

## THANKS

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*"The reasonable man adapts himself to the conditions that surround him. The unreasonable man adapts surrounding conditions to himself. All progress depends on the unreasonable man."*

*~ George Bernard Shaw*



*"If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?" ~ Just Asking*

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

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

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

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