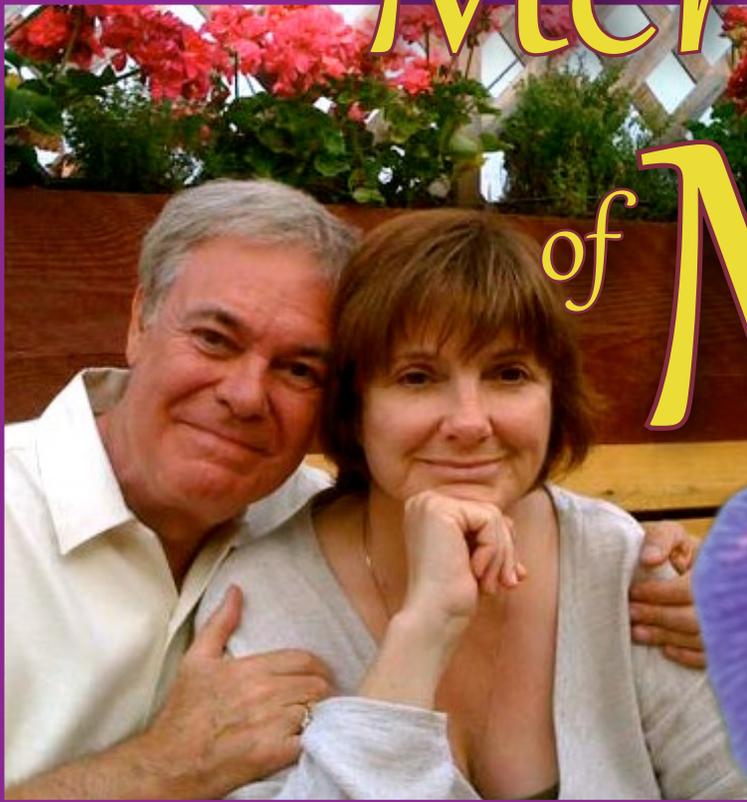


The Merrie Month of May



"Everything comes to those
who wait... except a cat."
~ Mario Andretti

Dear friends,
this May we'll
celebrate our
21st year
of married
blitz – so I'm dedicating
this orbit to my darling,
unbelievably patient and
immeasurably talented
wife, **Melinda**. So here is
a poem to you, my last and
ever love....

We are one. No. We are two, but we are true to one another.
We are twain, mark this, but not one brain, mark that,
And we grade our time together like marks on the wall,
As we grow side-by-side but separately together.
Life is the gift and love the wrapping and the ribbon.
And that sticky tape that holds our scars together?
It heals us ever.

"Weather is predicted for tomorrow,
with skies overhead." ~ **The Firesign Theatre**

GOOD GUY GONE BAD?

Everyone sensed that **Tamarian Tsarnaev** was becoming radicalized and felt alienated from his fellow Americans and even his fellow Muslims, who were ready to ban him from their Cambridge Mosque for unseemly behavior, but his younger brother **Djohkar** was a beloved "joker" to his college pals, who were shocked to learn of his role in the horrific Boston bombings. One former wrestling teammate summed it up this way, from an article in the *LA Times*: "I know he's a bad guy, but for me, he's still a good guy."

Djohkar's tweets show a playful sense of humor: "Studying," he observed, "is a combination of the words 'student' and 'dying,'" and he said, "I hate these college desks – way too small to sleep on." He described his worldview as "Muslim" but his life goal as "career and money."

And as *The Onion* concluded, in a painful, pithy piece, "Maybe I should have said no to my brother."

"We know what we are,
but not what we may be."
~ **William Shakespeare**

LAYING DOWN THE LAW

A student is looking for a place to sit in a crowded school library. He spies a cute girl and says, "Do you mind if I sit beside you?" The girl replies loudly, "GET AWAY FROM ME, BOZO! I'D NEVER SLEEP WITH YOU!" All the students in the library stared at the guy who turned beet red and quickly moved to another table. But after a couple of minutes, the girl sidled quietly over to the guy's table and said softly with a giggle, "I study psychology, and I know what a man is thinking. I'll bet you felt embarrassed, right?"

The young man then exclaimed loudly, "500 BUCKS FOR ONE NIGHT?"

THAT 'S OUTRAGEOUS!" All the people in the library looked at the girl in shock! And then the guy whispered in her ear: "I study law, and I know how to screw people."

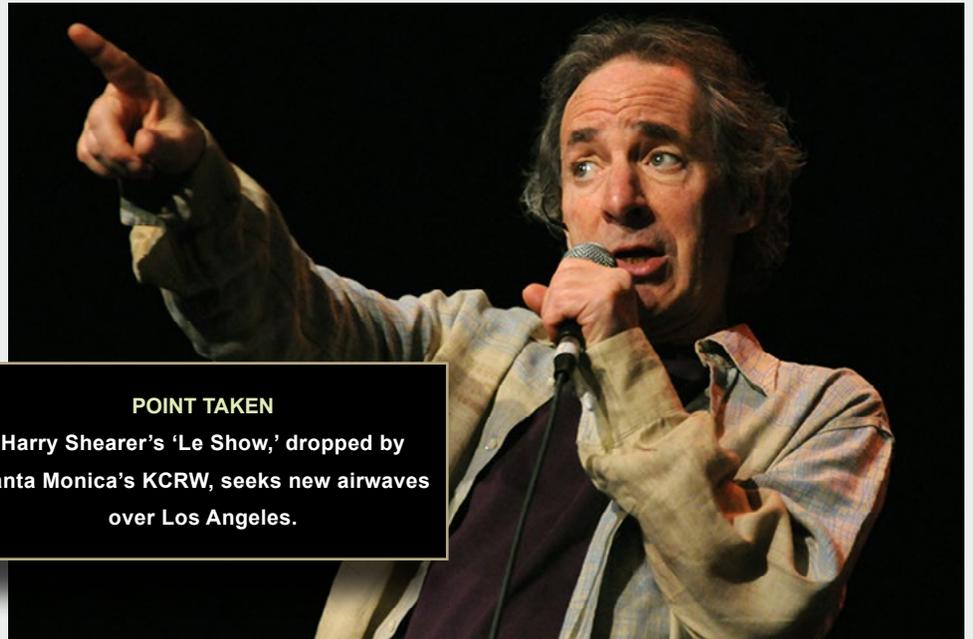
"That's cool," said the attractive coed, "but you're still not gonna screw me..."

"I never hold a grudge. After I get even with the son of a bitch, I forget all about it." ~ **W. C. Fields**

END OF AN EAR-A

My friend **Harry Shearer** will no longer be heard on local KCRW radio. Here's what transpired in his own words:

*Some relationships endure; some end. I've just finished celebrating the 20th anniversary of my wedding to **Judith***



POINT TAKEN

Harry Shearer's 'Le Show,' dropped by Santa Monica's KCRW, seeks new airwaves over Los Angeles.

Owen. We're staying together. On the other hand, Le Show is leaving KCRW Radio. Not of my volition. On Monday, April 15, I had an Income Tax Day to remember. I was invited to hear a "proposal" from the general manager of KCRW. The proposal was, in fact, a notice of a fait accompli. Le Show was being cancelled from the airwaves—something I had suspected might be the nature of the proposal, but the surprise was the timing: "effective immediately." Thus does public radio, in one more small way, come to resemble ever more closely commercial radio's way of doing business.

*In fairness, KCRW gave me a weekly hour for nearly 30 years, and our deal was simple: they got my program for free, and they left me completely alone. That deal is over. Le Show will continue to air on the many wonderful affiliated radio stations around the country, and on our outlets overseas. It will continue as a **podcast**, as well. And I'm in the process of seeking an alternative broadcast outlet in Los Angeles.*

■ **CONTINUED**

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

I'm not saying I haven't thought about ending the series. I think about it every week as I contemplate another Saturday with no idea yet of what I'll do on Sunday. But, nearly halfway through the 30th year of the broadcast, I know there's much more to say, and, sadly, much more information that isn't being shared with the audience anywhere else on the dial.

Le Show was not the only victim of management's ax last weekend. But Tom Schnabel, the architect of the station's longtime "eclectic" music format, was allowed to say goodbye on air. I was not, because, management said, I have "a national platform." I guess this is it.

Or, as says the **Firesign Theatre**, who have experienced our own share of similar treatment over the decades: "Radio is a heartbreak." STAY TUNED...

"To succeed in life you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone, and a funny bone." ~ Reba McEntire

DRONE ONE

I've decided that NRA stands for "NUTS RUN AMERICA," especially after hearing **Rand "The Ranter" Paul's** latest drone about drones on **Faux News**: "I've never argued



against any technology being used when you have an imminent threat, an active crime going on," he bravely asserted. "If someone comes out of a liquor store with a weapon and fifty dollars in cash, I don't care if a drone

kills him or a policeman kills him... I'm just not for surveillance when there's not probable cause."

So, the **Tea Party's** pretty boy, Paul, who filibustered against using drones on American soil, now supports using drones on American soil. Oh, Brother, where art thou?

"Before you speak, ask yourself, is it kind, is it necessary, is it true, does it improve on the silence." ~ Sai Baba

NO NOOSE IS GOOD NOOSE

"News is toxic to your body," writes *The Guardian's* **Rolf Dobelli**. "It constantly triggers the limbic system. Panicky stories spur the release of cascades of glucocorticoid (cortisol). This deregulates your immune system and inhibits the release of growth hormones. In other words, your body finds itself in a state of chronic stress. High glucocorticoid levels cause impaired digestion, lack of growth (cell, hair, bone), nervousness and susceptibility to infections. The other potential side effects include fear, aggression, tunnel-vision and desensitization..."

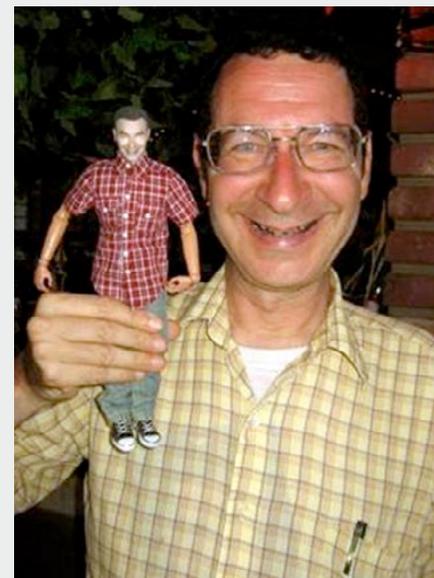
"News stories are overwhelmingly about things you cannot influence. The daily repetition of news about things we can't act upon makes us passive. It grinds us down until we adopt a worldview that is pessimistic, desensitized, sarcastic, and fatalistic. The scientific term is "learned helplessness." It's a bit of a stretch, but I would not be surprised if news consumption, at least partially contributes to the widespread disease of depression.

"News is bad for you – and giving up reading it will make you happier." So stop NOW!

"Almost all of the stress in my life could be avoided if my brain wasn't 10 times louder than my heart." ~ Bill Larkin

END OF AN E-RA

Not only did we lose **Harry Shearer** this month, but the prolific **Eddie Deezen** sent out his final e-blast on the last day of April, so we lost yet another "April Fool." For decades, this witty man has sent out daily messages to a loyal list of friends, offering an astounding array of original quotes, facts, trivia, pictures and miscellanea



NO FOOLING

Eddie Deezen, left and right at right, leaves the e-waves for more action.

covering topics ranging from his own personal life to revealing tales of personal heroes in popular and historical culture. It became a familiar feast that we savored every morning, like bacon – but now it, too, has ended.

■ **CONTINUED**

We can still follow Eddie's adventures and observations on **Facebook**, but his life has become, thankfully, too busy to continue this amazing obsession. I will particularly miss his marvelous musings because, as you Planeteers know, I have credited him endlessly for many of **Phil's Phunny Phacts** and other quotes, based on his postings.

Eddie -- we thank you sincerely and will miss you dearly, but you will endure. The question is, can we, without you?

"The custom of serving a slice of lemon with fish dates back to the Middle Ages. It was believed that if a person accidentally swallowed a fish bone, the lemon juice would dissolve it." ~ **Eddie Deezen**

GUN, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Regardless of the public's perception, gun control laws may have actually been stricter back in the 19th and early 20th Century than they are now, especially in the West... Even places as wild as **Dodge City** posted signs that read, "The carrying of firearms is strictly prohibited." In fact, the gunfight at the O.K. Corral was caused by one gang being unwilling to abide by the anti-firearm rule of **Tombstone**.

But it's not like the six-shooter of the time was very dangerous anyway. They didn't even use regular bullets like they currently do, instead opting for the so-called "cap-and-ball" system that was little more than a marble launched by black powder. It had an effective range of maybe 50 feet. The "Adams," one of the first revolvers introduced at the time and a hallmark weapon of the era, would burn the living hell out of your hand while launching the bullet. So you had to be really sure you wanted to shoot that dude...

Shotguns and rifles were the preferred weapons, (thank you, **Biden**) having both the power and the range to put down a mountain lion or a card-cheating SOB. But who would ever want to watch a Western where cowboys were meeting at high noon to shoot each other in the face with huge shotguns?

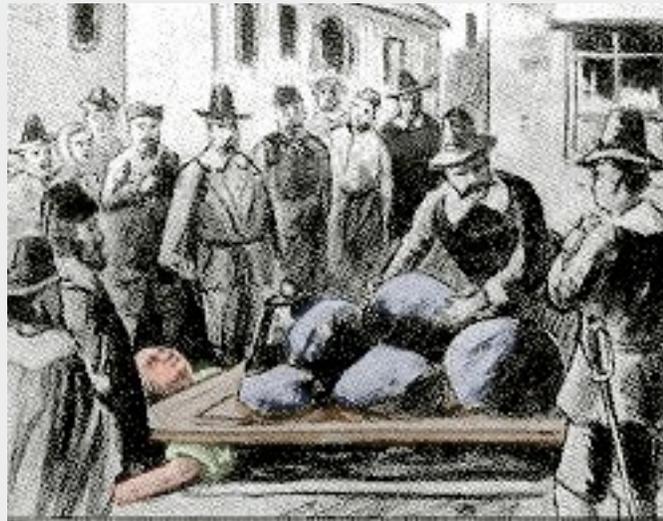
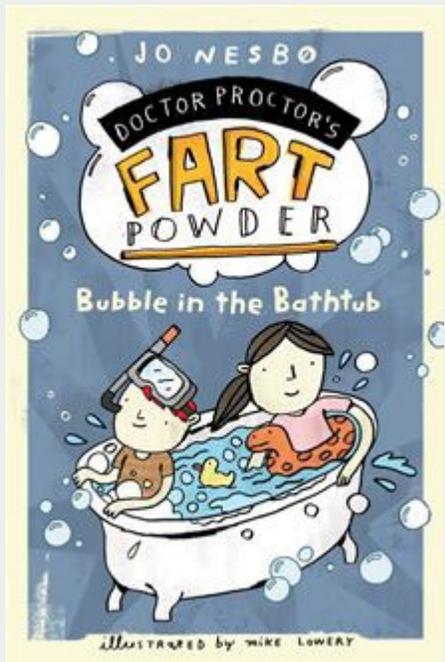
From ***Ridiculous Myths Everyone Believes About the Old West*** by **J. Wisniewski** and **Kevin Nakamura**

"If cavemen had Twitter we would still not have fire."
~ **Andy Borowitz**

A FART ON YOU, DR. PROCTOR

Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder is a children's book written by Norwegian mystery writer **Jo Nesbo** in which two kids, Nilly and Lisa, have adventures, aided by their nutty inventor neighbor, **Dr. Proctor**, who has created a fantabulous non-noisome Farting Powder, in regular and "Fartonaut" strength which can blast you into space! I'm getting a copy to read to my grandkids and looking forward to the next book – *Dr. Proctor's Fart Powder: Bubble in the Bathtub*.

And speaking of Proctors, not only might I be related to Salem farmer **John Proctor** in **Arthur Miller's** *The Crucible*, due to open at **Antaeus** this month, but one of the young girls in the cast has revealed that she is a direct descendant of **Marshall Herrick**, who plays a prominent role in the history of the witch trials. And



yet another person in the production is descended from **Thomas Putnam**, who my character, **Giles Corey** claimed was "killing his neighbors for their land" by denouncing them as witches and warlocks.

And Giles, whose wife was among the many hanged, was pressed to death by heavy rocks (*left*) without ever admitting he was a

warlock himself, although accused, and thus did not have to forfeit his land. His last words were, "More weight!"

"Nothing is so soothing to our self-esteem as to find our bad traits in our forebears. It seems to absolve us." ~ Historian **Van Wyck Brooks**

■ **CONTINUED**

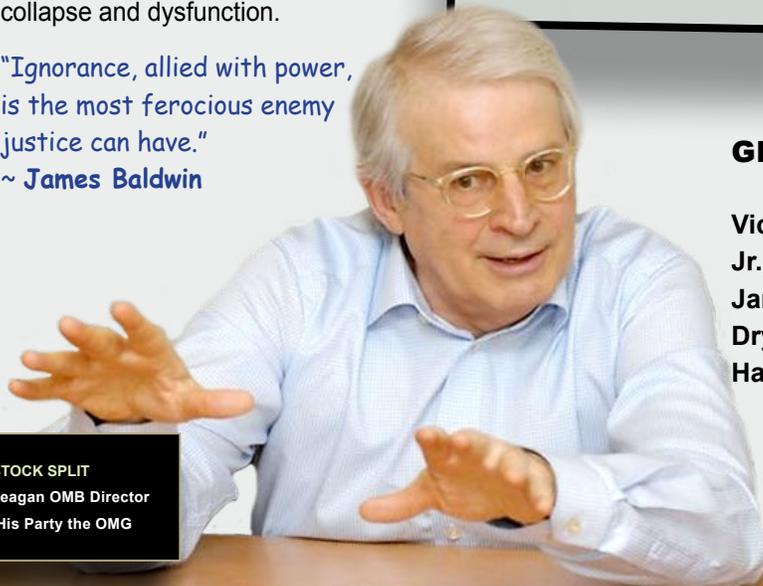
TAKING STOCK, MAN

The **Republican Party** is merely “a coalition of gangs,” **David Stockman**, the former congressman and budget director, tells **Newsmax TV** in an exclusive interview.

“The Republican Party is not really a party. It doesn’t stand for anything except re-electing itself,” said Stockman, who directed the **Office of Management and Budget** under **President Reagan**. “The neocons are only oriented to an aggressive, imperialistic foreign policy of big defense establishment and suppression of our civil liberties. The tax cons want to just cut taxes – any time, any day – regardless of the fiscal situation. The Republican Party is basically irrelevant to the economic crisis that faces the country.”

Stockman is the author of *The Great Deformation: The Corruption of Capitalism in America*. The *New York Times* bestseller details how the **Federal Reserve**, **Congress**, and the **White House** have fallen prey to “crony capitalism,” leaving the nation teetering on the brink of fiscal collapse and dysfunction.

“Ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have.”
~ **James Baldwin**



STOCK SPLIT
Former Reagan OMB Director
Gives His Party the OMG

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NO GREAT SHAKES?

Researchers at Wales’ **Aberyswyth University** claim to have uncovered evidence that the revered Bard-upon-Avon, **William Shakespeare**, was also “a ruthless businessman who grew wealthy dealing in grain during a time of famine.” His real world business, they assert, was as a grain, malt, and barley merchant who kept his goods off the market “for resale at inflated prices.”

During the 15 years he pursued this parallel profession, he was charged with tax evasion and even prosecuted for hoarding in 1598. Of course, that year marked the first performance of *Much Ado About Nothing*, where the playwright has a great deal of fun ridiculing that “shallow fool” **Sheriff Dogberry**, whom I just played in a Classicsfest production.

But as he states in *King Henry IV, Part I*: “T is my vocation, Hal; ‘t is no sin for a man to labour in his vocation.” And his advice to these historians from *Midsummer Night’s Dream* might be “It’s not enough to speak, but to speak true,” because “If I lose mine honour, I lose myself.” (*Anthony and Cleopatra*) Or, as Dick the Butcher says in *Henry VI, Part II* -- “The first thing we do, let’s kill all the lawyers.”

Now, I get it!!!

“Be happy while you’re living, for you’re a long time dead.” ~ **Scottish proverb**

GIVEN

Victor Kopcewich, Keith Knebble, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., Melinda Peterson, Bill Sussex, Magic Mike Berger, Jann Cobler, Jim Meskimen, Bill Coombs, Mack Dryden, and farewell to the great and underrated **Richie Havens...**

“Ladies and Gentleman, take my advice; pull down your pants and slide on the ice.”
~ The late **Allan Arbus**
as **Dr. Freedman** in **MASH**

“In America, you have the right to be stupid.” ~ **John Kerry**

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

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

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