

PLANET THANKSANUKKAH

2013 - 15

November 30

"I do have a hidden agenda, but I can't find it."
~ Laurence Budd

TALES
from
DOWN
UNDER

Yes, mates! We have safely returned from our incredible trip to Australia and New Zealand. It was a perfect journey, thanks to careful planning by Melinda and our wonderful assistant, Betsey, but it's going to take me a while to figure out how to share the adventure with you. If you're curious, I did chronicle it on Facebook with lots of snaps, so you can always check that out; but the most telling result is that we both returned – depressed! We were gone for a month, including layovers in Hawaii, and we both agree that we have to go back. ■ **CONTINUED**

My mom
reads me
the story of
Hanukkah and –
Hey, wait a minute!
I thought we were
AMISH!

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





Melbourne and Sydney are both dynamic, well-managed cities filled with cheery, helpful people and a dazzling variety of pubs, restaurants, and diversions of all sorts, both historical and contemporary; and we saw some surprising state-of-the-art theatre, which I mentioned in the last orbit.

But when we got to New Zealand, we hopped into a hired car and took off on the well-tended highways without any



To sum it up, all I can say is that it's a bit like visiting a parallel universe, familiar but alien, and it was such a relief to be away from the anger and bitterness of American politics, I have basically disengaged from it.

agenda – which was a perfect way to see the South Island. Such incredible natural beauty at every twist of the road!

Later, we stayed with our friends **Hal** and **Trish** after a bus trip to Hawke's Bay on the North Island – but getting there proved somewhat challenging...



Let's see how long THAT will last. Stay tuned!

"We would like to show a real blind talent in this ad. Not people pretending to be. Please make notes. Thanks!"
~ Casting Call

We had showed up early morning to board the big ferry from Picton to Wellington, and the lady at the landing informed us that "due to mechanical difficulties" our passage was delayed for three hours. "No worries," as they say down there. We had a leisurely breakfast and after a blustery crossing in first class luxury, took a cab to the incredible **Museum Hotel** (top right photo).

It wasn't until we read the paper the next day that we learned that the left propeller on our originally scheduled ship had **FALLEN OFF** during the evening trip, taking

the vessel out of service for the rest of the year, if not permanently, because of safety concerns...



ON THE ROAD
The two of us, center, and, clockwise from top left: Tuxedo Junction; Museum Hotel in Wellington; rush hour in New Zealand; and apropos of ill-behaved props.



■ CONTINUED

ON THE AIR



Dear Friends – Firesign Radio is now on the Web, planet wide, 24 hours a day, providing a continuous stream of surreal consciousness to fill the rococo nooks and crannies of your holographic lap top home entertainment centers.

Firesign Radio is your online reality check for all the classic Firesign syndicated series like **Dear Friends** and **Let's Eat**, and recorded live shows, concerts, and albums, all designed with your mind in mind. So lock your wigs and sync in – Welcome to The Future, we're glad you made it.

To find out what's playing and to customize the Philco radio player on the home page, we have provided a "**Now Playing/Customize**" page. And check out our sponsor, **Real Goods Solar**, without which all of this would not have been necessary. Here's their sunny **website**, or call them at 1-888-746-1414.

If you have any questions, contact us **via email**.

"Alas! The onion you are eating is someone else's water lily." ~ Fortune Cookie

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

I was in a public toilet and had just sat down when I heard a voice from the next cubicle asking, "Hi! how are you?" Embarrassed, I said, "I'm doing fine."

The voice said, "So what are you up to?" I said, "Just doing the same as you!" From next door, "Can I come over?"

Annoyed, I said, "What? Are you some kind of a pervert?"

"Listen, I'll have to call you back," the voice said. "There's an idiot next door answering all my questions."

*"Real, casual, with unique sensibilities..."
~ Casting specs*

BLACKOUT

Survivalist **Craig Cobb** lives in Leith, a tiny North Dakota town with a population of 16. He gained nationwide

attention recently when he revealed a plan to make the residence "whites-only." But when Cobb appeared on "**The Trisha Show**," to promote his scheme, something went terribly wrong – or is it right?

When Cobb agreed to take a DNA test, he discovered that he is actually only 86% white and 14% sub-Saharan

■ **CONTINUED**



TY ONE ON
Craig Cobb is true to that surly surname . . . until he tests positive!

African! So suddenly his bigoted buddies turned on him, and the local prosecutor says one of them spray-painted "BACK IN BLACK" on Cobb's house – and "he's not even an AC/DC fan."

Then, to add insult to injury, Cobb was jailed after perpetrating an armed patrol of the town with a fellow white supremacist, "Because of the many violences and harassments against we and the children..."

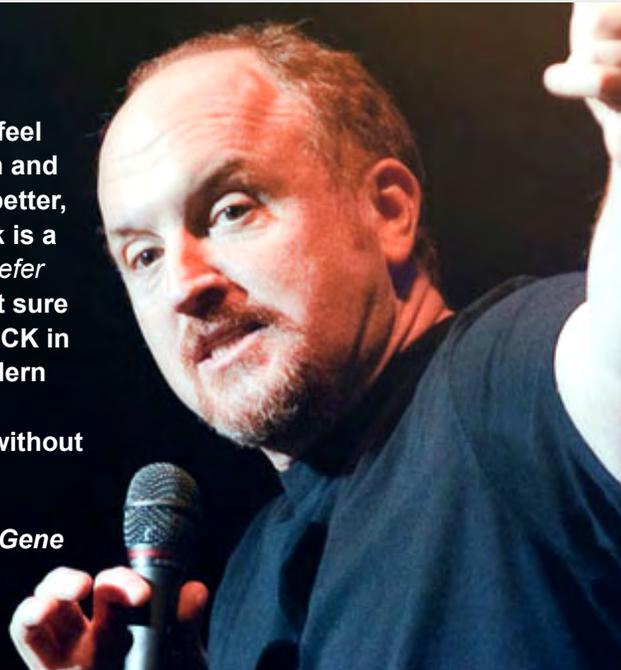
Well, he's safe now in his own little place, all white.

"You're not drunk if you can lie on the floor without holding on." ~ Dean Martin

GOING TO POT HUMOR

"Pot humor is at least 50 years old, and I feel as though I have heard most of it. Cheech and Chong were good, Firesign Theatre was better, Bill Hicks was clever but dark, Chris Rock is a little too safe, the inadvertently funny (*Reefer Madness*) was always the best, but I'm not sure I've ever seen anything as good as Louis CK in **THIS 2011 RIFF** about the strength of modern dope. His internal-stone monologue with himself is pitch-perfect. Probably NSFW without headphones."

From Washington Post humor columnist Gene Weingarten's recent COLUMN.



COW SH*T I KNOW?

A farmer named Sam was overseeing his herd in a remote hilly pasture in Hereford when suddenly a brand-new BMW appeared out of a cloud of dust. The driver, a young man in a Brioni suit, Gucci shoes, RayBan sunglasses and YSL tie, leaned out the window and said, "If I tell you exactly how many cows and calves you have in your herd, will you give me a calf?" Sam looks at the yuppie, looks at his peacefully grazing animals and calmly answers, "Sure, why not?"

The fellow parks his car, whips out his Dell notebook computer, connects it to his Cingular RAZR V3 cellphone, and surfs to a NASA page where he calls up a GPS satellite that captures an ultra-high-resolution image, which he puts in Photoshop before exporting it to an photo processing facility in Germany. Within seconds, he receives an email on his Palm Pilot and accesses an MS-SQL

database through an ODBC connected Excel spreadsheet on his Blackberry.

He then prints out a full-color, 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturized HP LaserJet printer, turns to the Farmer and says, "You have exactly 1,586 cows and calves."

"That's right!" says Sam. "So, I guess you get to take one of my calves." He watches the young man select an animal and stuff it into the trunk of his car. Then Sam says, "Hey, if I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my calf?" The young man thinks about it for a second and says, "Okay, why not?"

"You're a Member of the European Parliament," says Sam. "Wow! That's correct," says the yuppie, "but how did you guess that?"

"No guessing required," answered Sam. "You showed up here even though nobody called you; you want to get paid for an answer I already knew, to a question I never asked. You used millions of pounds worth of equipment trying to show me how smart you are; and you don't know a thing about how working people make a living -- or about cows, for that matter. This is a herd of sheep."

"Now give me back my dog."

"The 20th Century has been characterized by three developments...the growth of democracy, the growth of corporate power - and the growth of corporate propaganda as a means of protecting corporate power against democracy."

~ Alex Carey

TALK ABOUT SEX DRIVE

He was in ecstasy, with a huge smile on his face, as his wife moved forwards then backwards, forward then backwards, again and again. Back and forth, back and forth... And, in and out, in and out...And, a little to the right, a little to the left..

She could feel the sweat on her forehead and between her breasts, and trickling down the small of her back, she was getting near to the end.

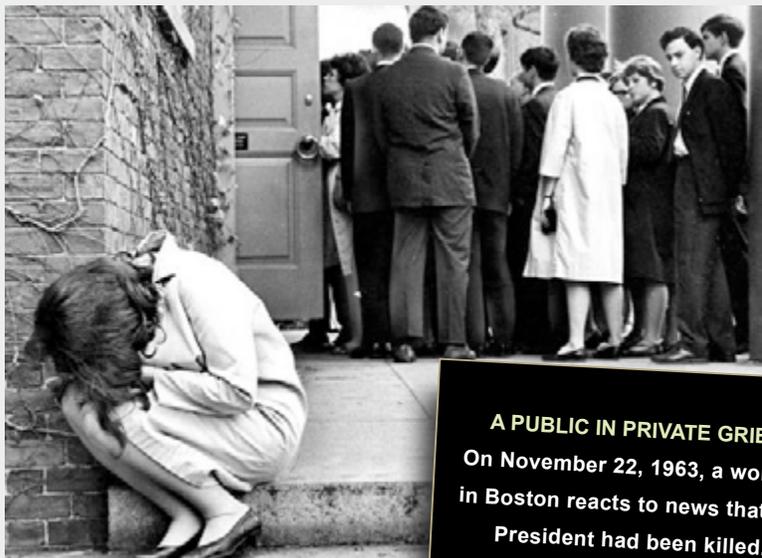
■ **CONTINUED**

Her heart was pounding ... Her face was flushed ... Then she moaned, softly at first, and then began to groan louder. Finally, totally exhausted, she let out an almighty scream and shouted,

“OK, OK! I can’t parallel park! You do it, you SMUG bastard!”

“If you tell the truth, it becomes a part of your past.
But if you lie, it becomes a part of your future.”

~ Phil’s Phunny Phacts



A PUBLIC IN PRIVATE GRIEF
On November 22, 1963, a woman in Boston reacts to news that the President had been killed.

REMEMBERING JACK

I had just opened in an Off-Broadway play called *Thistle in my Bed* with **Sam Waterston** and **John Cullum**, directed by **Howard Da Silva**. It got abysmal reviews and died quietly that very day. Hell was also discovered that day, in Italy -- yes, it’s true -- and **Aldous Huxley** and **C.S. Lewis** died as well of natural causes. I was 23 and having breakfast in Greenwich Village. I heard the first announcement over the radio in the diner.

It said, “Firecrackers have been thrown at the motorcade in Dallas. The President has been cut by broken glass. A motorcycle policeman said, ‘He is dead.’” The country has never recovered...

“Wars are not fought for bread,
but the butter to put on it.”

~ Ronald L. Smith

A JOKE TO DIE FOR

Three friends from the local congregation were asked, “When you’re in your casket, and friends and congregation

members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?”

Artie said, “I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man.”

Eugene commented, “I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in people’s lives.”

Al said, “I’d like them to say, ‘Look, he’s moving!’”

“Jesus loves you” is nice thing to hear in a church, but a bad thing to hear in a Mexican prison.

~ Phil’s Phunny Phacts

HOLD THE ANCHOVIES

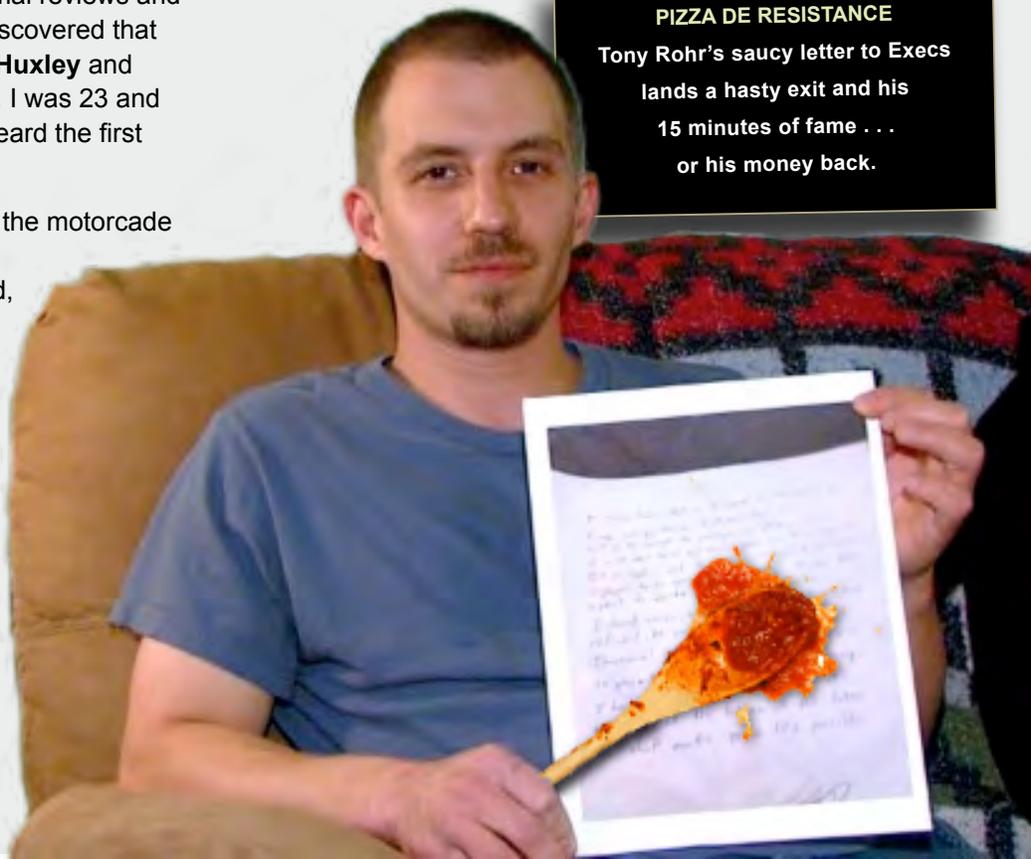
An employee at a **Pizza Hut** in Elkhart, Indiana, my Dad’s hometown, made the news recently after refusing to keep the place open on Thanksgiving.

Tony Rohr, who rose from cook to manager over a decade, said: “Why can’t we be the company that stands up and says we care about our employees, and they can have the day off?” And in a letter to the executive board, Rohr roared: “I do not resign; however, I accept that the refusal to comply with this greedy, immoral request means the end of my tenure with this company. I hope you realize that it is the people at the bottom of the totem pole that make your life possible.”

■ CONTINUED

PIZZA DE RESISTANCE

Tony Rohr’s saucy letter to Execs lands a hasty exit and his 15 minutes of fame . . . or his money back.



"I never did give anybody Hell.
I just told the truth and they
thought it was Hell."
~ Harry S. Truman

HAPPY ENDINGS, NEW BEGINNINGS

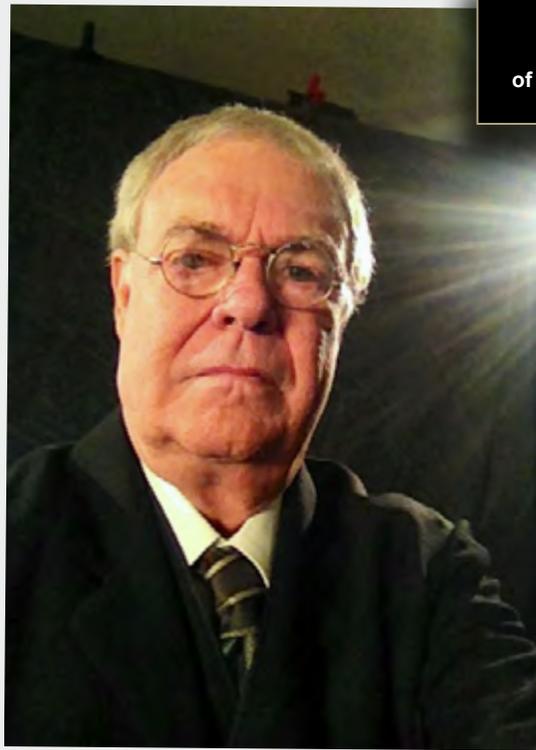
Well, dear friends, the year is ending well, with my recurring role as Detective Polehaus on *Adventures in Odyssey*, a video game called "Zeppelin," and the role of the coroner in an independent film, the noir detective story *They Killed Him Dead* by L. Ron Hubbard.

Melinda and I will also be performing at the Writers Guild on Monday, December 11, in an evening of TV pilots by **Doug Molitor**, **David Misch** and **Ron Osborn/Jeff Reno/John Cleese** featuring **Ed Asner**, **Jason Alexander**, and my friend from *The Psychic*, **Jeff Cannata**, among others.

Then in 2014, Melinda and I will be appearing in another independent film, *The Love Addict*, and have been offered a six-week run in the wonderful comedy *L.A. Deli* by **Sam Bobrick** in March/April at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and there's a possible remounting of *The Crucible* at a theatre in Garden Grove in May.

And I'm still working on my autobiography, *Where's My Fortune Cookie?* with my gifted collaborator, **Brad Schreiber**.

"All I want is the one autograph. If I get this and this tag is wired to the wall of the box, it will be my greatest treasure." ~ Polish fan



BRILLIANT CORONERS

Coming in 2014 – the vital role of the coroner in 'They Killed Him Dead'

A THOUGHT FOR THE HOLIDAZE

"Life is short, break the rules, forgive quickly, kiss slowly, love truly, laugh uncontrollably, and never regret anything that made you smile. Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

So wrote the indomitable **Samuel W. Clemens**, aka **Mark Twain**.

"Knowing what you cannot do is more important than knowing what you can do." ~ Lucille Ball

PLANETCLICK

YANKS

STRINGY

GOBBLE

FLYCAR

TIMING

WARNING

COIN

PETALK

200

BRUNELLE

EAT ME

SPEAK

WHAT?

GOP THEME
SONG

SYNC OUT

LOOK BACK

BAG IT

CLICK THE WORD
TO GO TO THE SITE

THANKS

Richard Fish, Keith Hebble, David Driver, Victor Kopcewich, Kent McCaman, Marj Bender, Alan Sharpe, Magic Mike Berger, George Riddle, and my Goshen bud, Jim Phillips.

"The idea of art is to take something that's in your heart and get it into someone else's heart by whatever means you use." ~ Teller

"Warning: Everything saved will be lost." - Wii notification

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

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

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

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