

"I am a lie that always tells the truth." ~ Jean Cocteau

Tough Times

The last few months have been marked by loss, and I'm doing my best to stay optimistic. First off, our cars were burgled here on our previously crime-free street by a woman and two male accomplices, and then to compound things, they found a hidden key and were able to rob the Firesign Theatre storage space, stealing books of my original collages, signed posters, costumes, irreplaceable **Proctor & Bergman** touring books and much more valuable memorabilia. For a list, [GO HERE](#).

Now, thanks to a Facebook friend, the LAPD were able to arrest a suspect in a sting operation who'd been fencing vintage posters and handbills on Craig's List; but a lot is still out there, so if you see anything suspicious for sale, contact our archivist **Taylor Jessen** at ironybread@earthlink.net or 818.238-4661.

Happily this will not adversely affect any of Firesign's upcoming archival releases, including a DVD reissue of ***Everything You Know Is Wrong***. But it hurts nonetheless.

"If you steal, do not steal too much. You may be arrested. Steal slowly, little by little." ~ **Mobutu Sese Seko**



HE WALKS AGAIN BY NIGHT

But the worst blow of all was the unexpected death of my beloved partner and longtime friend, **Phil Austin**, from heart failure last Friday morning at his home on Fox Island, Washington, after a protracted bout with cancer.



He was the sharpest, deepest, funniest and most seriously surrealistic writer I have ever known – and a hell of an actor to boot. Our friendship deepened over the years, and both **Melinda** and I grew to love him as unconditionally as his six dogs, which were by his side when he passed.

The loss is incalculable, and we will miss him greatly; but in keeping with his wishes, there will be no public memorial. Donations can be made to **THE HUMANE SOCIETY** and I will be dedicating the next orbit to him his inseperable wife of 44 years, **Oona**.

Rest in Peace, **Regnad Kcin**.



*"Serious actor with the capacity to be funny.
All races all sizes..." ~ Casting Call*

AFTER THE BEEP

"Hi Bob, This is Alan next door. I'm sorry buddy, but I have a confession to make. I've been riddled with guilt these past few months and have been trying to pluck up the courage to tell you to your face, but I am at least now telling you in a text as I can't live with myself a moment longer without your knowing.

"The truth is that day and night I have been sharing your wife when you're not around – in fact, probably more than you. I haven't been getting it at home recently, but I know that's no excuse. The temptation was just too much. I can no longer live with the guilt and I hope you will accept my sincerest apologies and forgive me, and I promise that it won't happen again."

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

Bob immediately grabbed his gun, went next door and shot the neighbor dead. He returned home, poured himself a stiff drink and sat down on the sofa. He took out his phone and saw he had another message from his neighbor.

"Hi Bob, This is Alan next door again. Sorry about the typo in my last text. I expect you worked it out anyway, but as I'm sure you noticed my autocorrect changed 'WiFi' To 'Wife.' Technology hey!? Hope you saw the funny side of that."

*Before Pearl Harbor, Navy Command was called CINCUS (sink us), the Army's Infantry shoulder patch was a swastika and Hitler's train was named Amerika.
~ Phil's Phunny Phacts*

DEADLY DATA

Americans killed annually: By Marijuana overdoses, **none**; by Ebola, **1**; snakebites, **2**; ISIS, **3**; drones, **5**; football, **12**;

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cow attacks, **20**; bee stings, **100**; and police, **1,100**.

But who's counting...

Texting kills **6,000** annually and hippos **2,900**. Falling out of bed kills **450** while falling icicles in Russia kill more than **100** each year. Swing sets kill about **20**, while falling vending machines kill an average of **13**. And, pencils are the weapon of choice in around **100** murders a year.

Pencils down, folks...

*"I'd rather have real arrogance than false humility."
~ Joni Mitchell*

WHAT'S THE STORY?

At 8 ... you take her to bed and tell her a story.

At 18 ... you tell her a story and take her to bed.

At 28 ... you don't need to tell her a story to take her to bed.

At 38 ... she tells you a story and takes you to bed.

At 48 ... she tells you a story to avoid going to bed.

At 58 ... you stay in bed to avoid her story.

At 68 ... If you take her to bed, that'll be a story.

At 78 ... What story? What bed? Who the hell are you?

A nice Jewish girl shows up with an African man wearing a grass skirt, war paint, a headdress and a spear.

*The mom says, "I told you to marry a RICH doctor!"
~ Steven Alan Green*

FOLLOW THE FOX

According to **A STUDY** conducted by **Bruce Bartlett**, a top official in the first **George Bush** administration and a domestic policy adviser to **Ronald Reagan**, "Republican voters get so much of their news from **FOX**, which cheerleads whatever their candidates are doing or saying,

that they suffer from wishful thinking and fail to see that they may not be doing as well as they imagine, or that their ideas are not connecting outside the narrow party base."

Indeed, FOX viewers tend to be less informed about current affairs than people who watch mainstream news and even people who don't follow the news at all. Bartlett found that FOX News viewers tend to have misguided beliefs about the Iraq War, the Affordable Care Act and other major issues and often hold a bias against Muslims.

This is especially problematic, he said, because "many conservatives now refuse to even listen to any news or opinion not vetted through FOX and to believe whatever appears on it as the gospel truth." And that's why they call it Faux News.

"You can't convince a believer of anything; for their belief is not based on evidence, it's based on a deep seated need to believe." ~ Carl Sagan

TRIPPY

Billy Bob tells Luther, "This year I'm gonna do my vacation different. The last few years, I took your advice about where to go. Three years ago you said to go to Hawaii. I went to Hawaii and Lurlene got pregnant. Then two years ago, you told me to go to the Bahamas, and Lurlene got pregnant again. Last year you suggested Tahiti and darned if Lurlene didn't get pregnant again."

"So," Luther asks, "whacha you gonna do this year that's different?"

"I'm taking Lurlene with me."

*"Honesty, for me, is usually the worst policy imaginable."
~ Patricia Highsmith*

FREE RANGING PROFITS

The market research firm **Mintel** released **A STUDY LAST WEEK** showing that about half of all consumers think labeling something organic is just an excuse for higher

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IDIOT WIND
Blowing every time you
move your mouth

charges, and does not necessarily mean there's more health and nutrition benefits.

According to **Consumer Reports**, although pesticide content can be higher with conventional produce, it's still at safe levels. What people are paying more for is the emotional satisfaction of thinking they're improving themselves and the environment. Yet the **Mayo Clinic** reports that "organically and conventionally produced foodstuffs are not significantly different in their nutrient content."

So-called "natural foods" are a completely different matter, however, because according to the **Food and Drug Administration**, there is no legal definition for the term "natural or its derivatives." And although the FDA says natural foods should have no artificial ingredients, there's no law to that effect.

"What's more important is simply eating fruits and vegetables," UC Davis Director of Sports Nutrition **Liz Applegate** concludes, "No matter how they were grown."

*"A truth-ache is what we feel when we encounter a painful fact."
~ Phil's Phunny Phacts*

JUST ASKING

A little girl asked her mother, "How did the human race come about?" and the Mother answered, "God made Adam and Eve; they had children, and so all mankind was made."

A few days later, the little girl asked her father the same question. The father answered, "Many years ago there were monkeys, and we developed from them."

Confused, the little girl returns to her mother and says, "Mom, how is it possible that you told me that the human

race was created by God, and Papa says we developed from monkeys?"

The Mother answers, "Well, dear, it is very simple. I told you about the origin of my side of the family, and your father told you about his."

The first athlete to appear on a Wheaties cereal box was Jack Armstrong - a fictional radio series character. ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

DEAR GOD

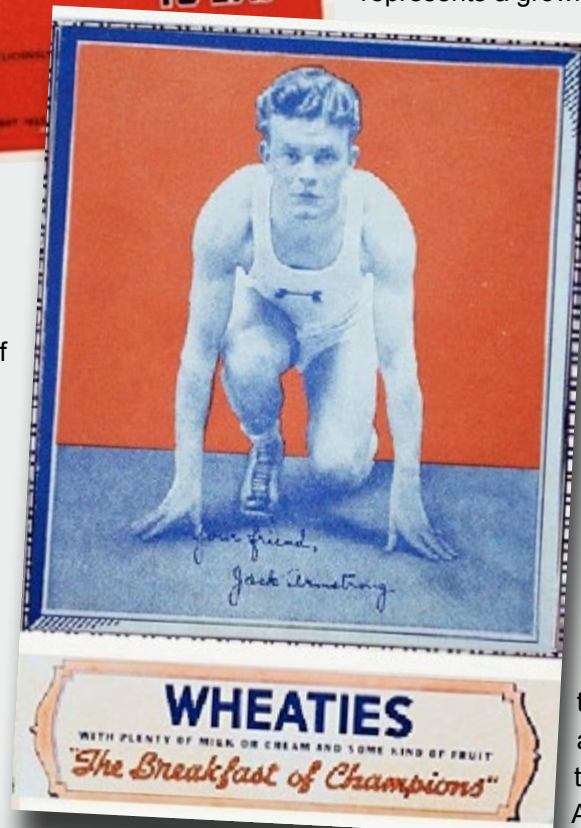
Whether a person attends religious services regularly is among the strongest predictors of how he or she will vote, with traditional religion strongly tied to the white Republicans; but opposition to same-sex marriage on the part of Conservatives "is turning off many people from Christianity" according to **Pitzer College** sociology professor **Phil Zuckerman**, who represents a growing backlash against the linking of religion and politics.

For the first time in U.S. history, in a report by the nonpartisan **Pew Research Center**, slightly more than half of Americans from 18-33 call themselves Christian compared with roughly 80% in the Baby Boom generation, and older folks and Millennials are growing less religious as they age.

The survey questioned 35,071 adults and found the U.S. still far more religious than most other economically advanced countries, although today almost a quarter of Americans now describe themselves as agnostic,

atheist or "nothing in particular," and at 28%, "unaffiliated" is now the largest category compared with 23% Catholic, 22% evangelical Protestants and 11% mainline Protestants, while about 2% identify themselves as Jewish, and less than 1% practice Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism.

So, as distilled from a report by **David Lauter** and



Branson Potts in the *LA Times* – the times they are a-changing.

"It is not enough to be industrious; so are the ants. What are you industrious about?" ~ **Henry David Thoreau**

A COFFEE JOINT?

Wake and bake? – **Yahoo Business** reports that cannabis k-cups have arrived. One such coffee pod called Catapult contains 10 milligrams of THC, the compound in marijuana that gets you high.

Washington, sells Catapult, which has been on the market since February 2015. Manager **Jennifer Lanzador** of **Uncle Ike's Pot Shop** in Seattle says that imbibing the coffee-weed combo gives one "a nice energetic high," without "a jittery feeling because of the THC."

Also, "sodas, nuts, chocolates, cookies, lozenges, pretzels, snack mix, even THC pills are being developed," Lanzador told **HuffPost**. "It is a very exciting time for this industry, and providing safe ways to ingest THC is a great alternative to smoking." I'll drink to that!

"What this country needs are more unemployed politicians."
~ **Artiat Edward Langley**

DEAR ABBY

My husband is a liar and a cheat. He has cheated on me from the beginning and when I confront him he denies everything. What's worse, everyone knows that he cheats on me. It is so *humiliating*. Also, since he lost his job 14 years ago, he hasn't even looked for a new one. All he does all day is smoke cigars, cruise around and shoot the bull with his buddies, while I have to work to pay the bills. Since our daughter went away to college he doesn't even pretend to like me, and even hints that I may be a lesbian.

PLANETCLICK

TRENDS

SPACEMUSIC

COFFE TEA OR ME

ROBOFAIL

FREE LEO

GOODBYE

PAUL

LITTERMAN

FRIARS

BUNNY TUNNELS

MARS

FASTFASH

REALLY HIGH

What should I do? Signed:
Clueless

Dear Clueless: Grow up and dump him; you don't need him anymore! Good grief woman, you're running for President of the United States.

"Democracy must be something more than two wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for dinner."
~ **Civil Libertarian James Bovar**

ADDITIONERS

Keith Hebble, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., Victor Kopcewich, Nick Oliva, Jamie Alcroft, Magic Mike Berger, George Riddle, Robert Riddle, Lawrence Budd, Steven Allen Green, John Hostetter and Keith Campbell, and good luck to my daughter and her family, who will be moving to Portland, Oregon for her husband's new job!

Finally, if you liked the first season of **Impress Me**, starring my friend **Jim Meskimen** and **Ross Marquand**, please pester the providers to produce a second season at PRESS@POPTV.COM

And then to support me and fellow old fart **Jamie Alcroft**, visit **BOOMERS ON A BENCH**, soon to include some mystery guests.

And go see the timely documentary **Slingshot**, by director **Paul Lazarus** at the Laemmle Theatre in Santa Monica and the Laemmle 7 in Pasadena, from Friday, July 17 - 23.

After his DUI arrest, will John Stamos be held on "Full House" Arrest?
~ **Jamie Alcroft**

"A laugh without reason is a sign of stupidity." ~ Popular Russian proverb

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

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

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

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