

"The mind can be convinced but the heart must be won." ~ Simon Sinek

Planet Year End

Annus Horribilis

Any of you who have followed my adventures in 2015 know that it has been a challenging year, to say the least. And it's been relentless, culminating with the unexpected loss of my dear partner and close friend, **Phil Austin**.

At this Holiday season, **Melinda's** family is mainly back east except for **Bonnie** and **Carole**; my daughter **Kristin**, her hubby **Geoff**, and my beautiful grandkids, **Bowen** and **Audre**, are now living in Lake Oswego; **Priscilla**, our favorite cat (don't tell **Buster** and **Pepper**), disappeared two weeks ago; and we just learned that our health club with our beloved trainer, **Allison Barenbrug**, closed its doors forever on Saturday.

All this is on top of a suicide, many personal and professional deaths, broken limbs, illnesses, thefts, favorite restaurants being shuttered, and business sucks as well; ask anybody my age.

That's the curse of a long life, I guess, so I'll just call these losses 'changes' and carry on. But I'm also blessed by a long life, and today I witnessed the safe return landing of a spaceship after a brief flight – a common dream of sci-fi fans forever.

Carry on, dear friends...

PLANET NEAR END

The solar eclipse in March of this year (pictured) was hailed by many Christian pastors around the world as the beginning of the end, according to the UK's **INDEPENDENT**.

TOP TEN EXCUSES OF 2015

According to a **Harris** poll/**CareerBuilder** survey, these are the best explanations for tardiness and other labor transgressions this past year:

- 1 Employee said his **grandmother poisoned him** with ham.
- 2 Worker claimed to be **stuck under the bed**.
- 3 Employee said he broke an arm while trying to grab **a falling sandwich**.
- 4 Worker claimed the **universe was telling** him to take a day off.
- 5 Employee said his wife learned he was **cheating**, so he had to recover his belongings from a dumpster.
- 6 Worker said she **poked herself in the eye** while combing her hair.
- 7 Employee said his wife put all his **underwear in the washer**.
- 8 Worker said **the meal** he prepared for the company potluck turned out badly.
- 9 Employee said she went to the beach because a doctor said she **needed more vitamin D**.
- 10 Worker said her **cat was stuck** inside the dashboard of her car.

I didn't read for "Keep Farts Funny"- an industrial.
~ Phil's Phunny Pharts

LATE BROKEN NEWS\$

The Firesign Theatre is pleased to announce an end-of-year GOING OUT OF BOZO SALE, in which we've added 20 new items to our store, including CDs! Audiocassettes! Videotapes! And Records! (Remember Those?) There are in-print items, out-of-print items, signed items, and rarities, such as a cache of recently uncovered Hi-Fi Stereo Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab CDs!

And **VISIT THE SITE** for upcoming announcements about a special eBay auction coming soon!

Whitney Houston died in 2011 but will go on tour next year - as a hologram. ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

WHAT THE DICKENS

A little known anecdote about **Charles Dickens** is that a few years after the publication of *A Christmas Carol* in 1843, Charles descended into a deep depression about his writer's block.

One fateful night, his heavy drinking led him to his favorite tavern where he commiserated with the bartender about his plight. "I don't know, Fred. I think it's over for me. I can't seem to come up with any more stories. I'm finished! I'm through! ... Make me a Martini."

The barman replied, "Olive or twist?"

"There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor." ~ Charles Dickens

IN A JUGULAR VEIN

A Texas State trooper pulled a car over on I-35 about 2 miles south of Waco, Texas. When the trooper asked the driver why he was speeding, the driver said he was a juggler on his way to Austin to do a charity show for the Shrine Circus and didn't want to be late.

The trooper told the guy he was fascinated by juggling and said if the driver would do a little performance, he wouldn't give him a ticket. The guy said he'd love to, but his equipment had been sent ahead. So the officer said, "I've got some flares in the trunk, could you use them?" The juggler said "Sure," so the trooper took out five flares and lit 'em up.

While the man was doing his act, a car pulled over;

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and a drunken good old boy staggered out to watch the performance. After the show he stumbled over to the officer's car, opened the rear door and flopped himself in. The trooper observed him and went over to ask him what he thought he was doing.

"You might as well take my ass to jail," the drunk replied, "cause there ain't no way I can pass that test."

One dog said to another, "Sometimes I feel like a muzzle-less child." ~ Phil Proctor

AND THE HEAT GOES ON

The Arctic Ocean is warming up, icebergs are growing scarcer and in some places the seals are finding the water too hot, according to a report to the **Commerce Department** yesterday from the Consulate at Bergen, Norway.

Reports from fishermen, seal hunters, and explorers all point to a radical change in climate conditions and hitherto unheard-of temperatures in the Arctic zone. Exploration expeditions report that scarcely any ice has been met as far north as 81 degrees 29 minutes.

Soundings to a depth of 3,100 meters showed the gulfstream still very warm. Great masses of ice have been replaced by moraines of earth and stones, the report continued, while at many points well-known glaciers have entirely disappeared.

Very few seals and no white fish are found in the eastern Arctic, while vast shoals of herring and smelts, which have

never before ventured so far north, are being encountered in the old seal fishing grounds. Within a few years it is predicted that due to the ice melt the sea will rise and make most coastal cities uninhabitable.

This report was from The Washington Post, November 2, 1922 - 93 years ago.

*"Indigenous people have known for thousands of years about how to care of our planet. The rest of us have a lot to learn, and no time to waste."
~ Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau*

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

A couple were in a busy shopping center just before Christmas, and the husband wandered off as his wife was standing in line, saying something about being back in a little bit. After she made it through the line her husband wasn't back yet, and since they still had more shopping to do together, the wife called his cell phone.

"Where are you?" she asked, and he replied, "You remember the jeweler's we went into about 10 years ago where you fell in love with that diamond necklace – the one I couldn't afford at the time but said that one day I would get for you?"

Tears started to flow down her cheeks and she got all choked up. "Yes, I do remember that shop," she replied.

"I'm in the bar next door to it."

"Snarls and strife must be at an end! In peace alone can this earth mend." ~ L. Ron Hubbard, "Battlefield Earth"

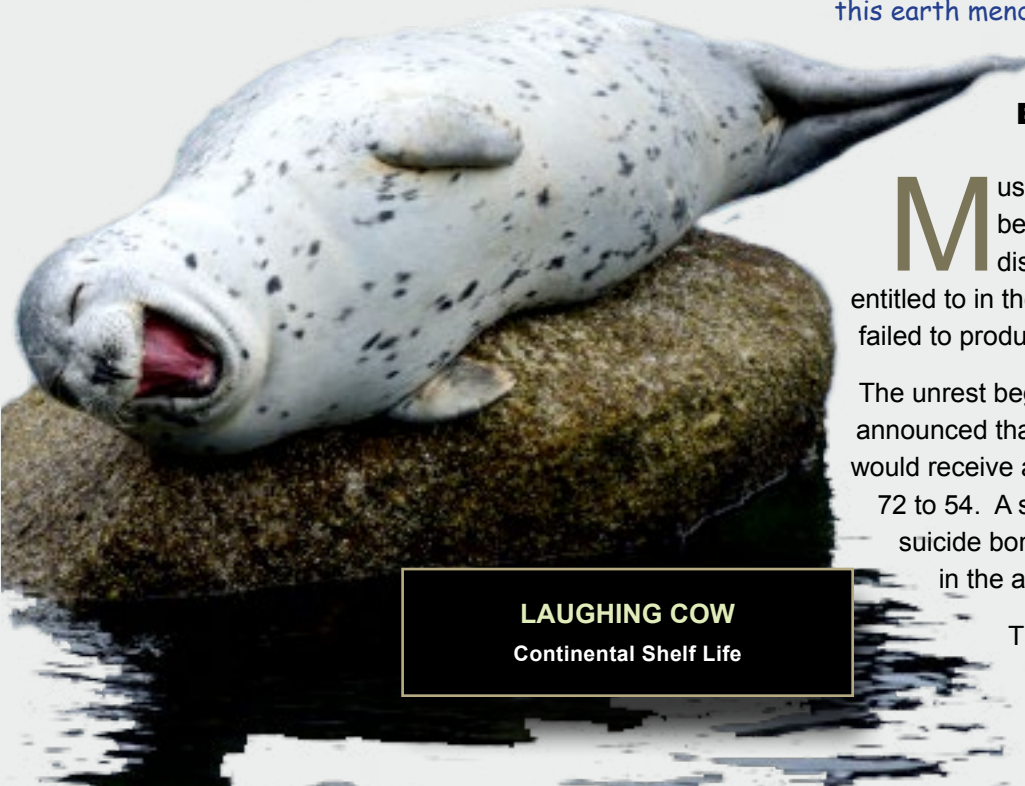
B.O.O.M.E.R.S ON THE BENCH

Muslim suicide bombers in Britain are set to begin a three-day strike on Wednesday in a dispute over the number of virgins they are entitled to in the afterlife. Emergency talks have so far failed to produce an agreement.

The unrest began last Tuesday when **Al Qaeda** announced that the number of virgins a suicide bomber would receive after his death would be cut by 25% from 72 to 54. A spokesman said increases in the number of suicide bombings has resulted in a shortage of virgins in the afterlife.

The suicide bombers' union, the British

■ **CONTINUED**



LAUGHING COW
Continental Shelf Life

JUST REWARDS

Speculations on the nature of virgins awaiting suicide bombers differ from region to region.



Organization of Occupational Martyrs (B.O.O.M.) responded with a statement saying the move was unacceptable to its members and called for a strike vote. General Secretary **Abdullah Amir** told the press, "Our members are literally working themselves to death in the cause of Jihad. We don't ask for much in return but to be treated like this is like a kick in the teeth."

"It's a straight choice between reducing expenditures or laying people off," he concluded. "I don't like cutting benefits, but I'd hate to have to tell 3,000 of my staff that they won't be able to blow themselves up."

*"Life is always going to be stranger than fiction, because fiction has to be convincing, and life doesn't."
~ Neil Gaiman*

TIT FOR TAT

A man spied a lady with humungous tatas. "Excuse me," he asked politely, "Can I bite your beautiful breasts for \$1000?" Intrigued, she agrees, so they make their way to a secluded corner where he unbuttons her blouse and buries his face in her breasts for about 10 minutes.

Eventually, the lady asks, "Aren't you gonna bite 'em?"

"No, thanks," he replies, "It's too expensive."

Miraloma Elementary replaced separate restrooms for kindergarteners with single-stall, gender-neutral restrooms. ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

BITE THE BULLET

According to **NRA Vice President Wayne LaPierre**, writes *Los Angeles Times* subscriber **Charles L. Martin**, "The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun."

"Well, let's see now: You're having dinner with your family when someone breaks in; you're jogging, when someone jumps out of the bushes; you are doing Pilates exercises when someone breaks in; you're having dinner with some business friends when someone breaks in; you are driving down the road when someone pulls alongside you; you are swimming in your backyard when someone shoots you – should I continue?"

"You can't have your finger on the trigger every minute of every day. Just ask the nine people killed while at church in Charleston,



GOOD GRIEF

Susan and Wayne LaPierre hobnobbing with legislators in Washington DC last May.

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S.C. or the two Las Vegas cops killed while eating lunch"... And by the way, a toddler shoots someone in the U.S. once a week. [View **GUNS** in 'Planet Click' below]

"Snarls and strife must be at an end! In peace alone can this earth mend." ~ **L. Ron Hubbard**, "Battlefield Earth"

DE NILE IS JUST A RIVER IN EGYPT

A friend is considering a holiday trip to Egypt and asked for advice. Here it is:

I was in Egypt in a previous life as a muralist, working on the Pharaoh's tomb – all **ULTRA SECRET**, as you can imagine – so I took an oath and he killed me anyway. Most of my work was destroyed by mold soon after anyway, when the pyramids were converted into grain storage facilities under the dynasty of **Tutten Ben Carson**.

"Regarding rentals: if your camels become overheated, you can eat them, or go to Achmed's 'All Is Well' watering station, out there in the desert somewhere. Follow the dromedary droppings. And if you want a 'hot date' in the oasis, shake the trees right outside your tent.

"And as for current tourist attractions – there *were* none and no lines in my days, but I'd suggest that it's 'toor-isky' now. I'd take hypnotic regression over physical transportation, but that's just my opinion. I'm dead. Have a great trip!"

According to **Casting Frontier**, I'm a match for "Twin boys, 1 and 1/2 to 3 yrs - must have dexterity with a spoon and bowl, can feed himself..."

~ **Phil's Phunny Phacts**

PLANETCLICK
CLICK WORDS TO OPEN

PLANETEARS

DEADLY CUT

HOLY MOLEY

BOOLA BOOLA

GUNS

GUNTIME

THE END

PIX

BRAINY

CHECKOUT

REFLECTIONS

BUSTER

IT'S RELATIVE

A drunk walks into a biker bar and orders a drink. Looking around, he sees three men sitting at a corner table. He gets up, staggers to the table, leans over, looks the biggest, meanest biker in the face and says: "I went by your grandma's house today and I saw her in the hallway buck-naked. Man, she is one fine-looking woman!"

The biker looks at him and doesn't say a word. His buddies are confused, because he is one bad biker and would fight at the drop of a hat. The drunk leans on the table again and says: "I got it on with your grandma and she is good, the best I ever had!" The biker's buddies are starting to get really pissed but the biker still says nothing.

"I'll tell you something else, boy," barks the old sot, "Your grandma liked it – she was beggin' for more!"

At this point the biker stands up, takes the old fart by the shoulders, looks him square in the eyes and says, 'Grandpa – Go home!'

Bill Maher and Bill O'Reilly are distant cousins, according to the PBS series "Finding Your Roots."
~ **Phil's Phunny Phacts**

LAST LOSS OF THIS YEAR

Bonnie L. Muir, my only surviving aunt, died peacefully at the age of 97 in her son **Joe Muir's** home in Portland, Maine. Born on Aug. 18, 1918, in Goshen, Ind. to **Hazel** and **George Yoder**, my uncle, **Phil**, my mom, **Audre**, and her twin sister **Betty**, predeceased her.

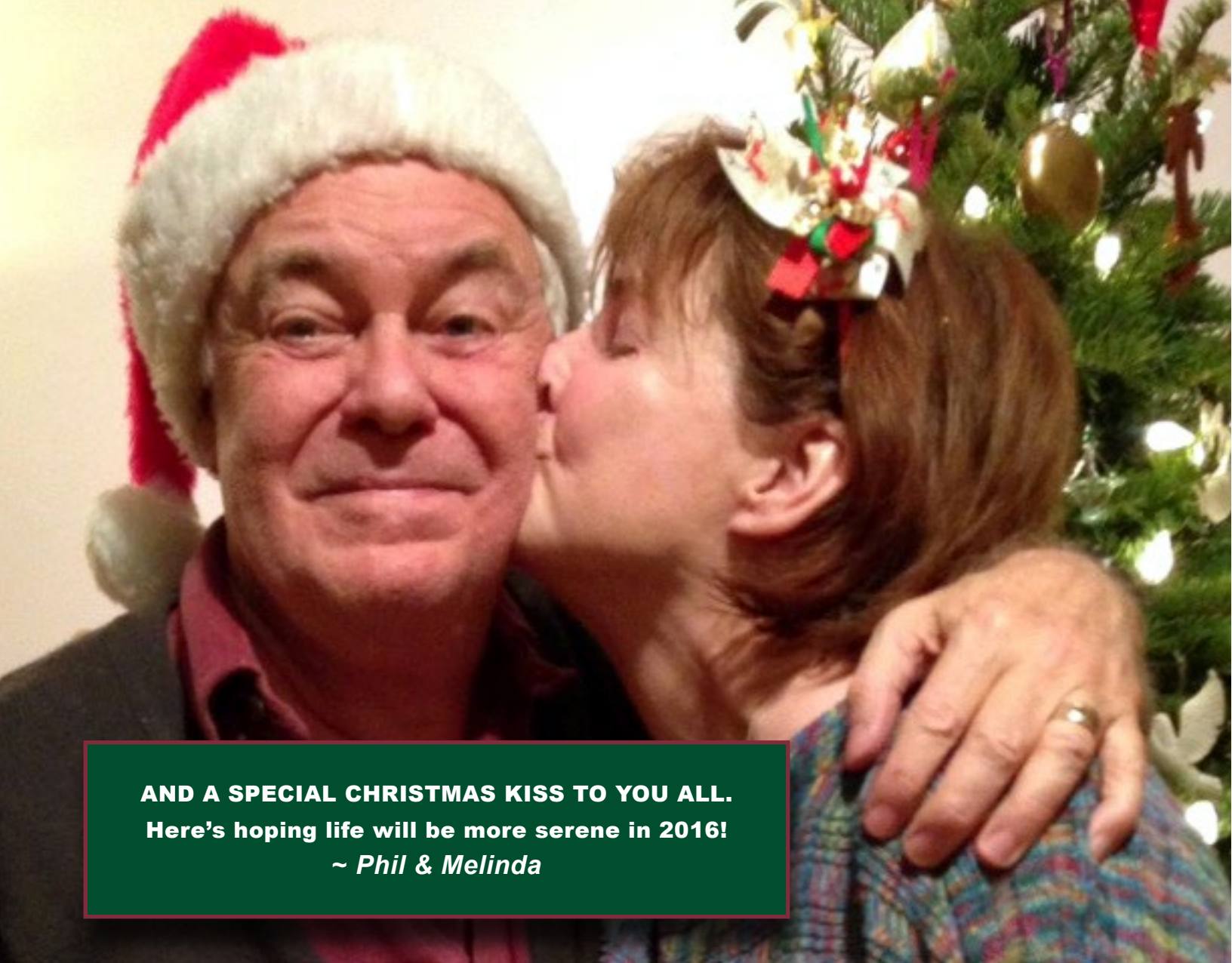
Dubbed "Rah Rah" by her one-year-old grandson **Gabe**, Bonnie helped raise him to a fine young man of 15. She had bonded immediately with her daughter-in-law **Vickie** after moving east, by sharing an obsession with *The Sopranos*. Her daughter **Betsy** and son-in-law **Michael Kastro** also brought her much joy by visiting frequently from their hometown in Goshen.



A college graduate, Bonnie lived with her twin in Greenwich Village in the '40s where they were intimate friends with established artists like **Berenice Abbott** and **Patricia Highsmith**, and there she met her future husband, **Fitch**.

After his death, Bonnie traveled the world in her 80s with her friend, **Peter Weston Webb**. She was always willing to extend a helping hand, loved literature, crossword puzzles,

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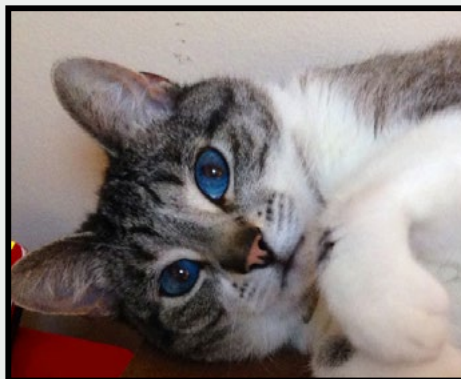
AND A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS KISS TO YOU ALL.
Here's hoping life will be more serene in 2016!
~ Phil & Melinda

watching trials on court television and cutting-edge comedy, including, of course, **Firesign Theatre**. It was a good life.

*Vending machines kill
more people than sharks do.*
~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

PLANETEERS

Thanks to **Taylor Jessen, Nick Oliva, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., Victor Kopcewich, Rich Carlson, Chris Corey Y 62, Alan**



Myerson, Kent McCaman, Joan Allemand, Bonnie Medina, David Morgenstern, my dear Boomers partner, **Jaimie Alcroft**, and his wife **Sarah**, my brilliant Planet collaborators **Cristofer Gross** and **Cristofer Morley**, my darling wife, **Melinda** – and a sad farewell to our beautiful lost girl, **Priscilla**, left, who's left.

*"Sleep late, have fun, get wild,
drink whiskey and drive fast
on empty streets with nothing
in mind but falling in love
and not getting arrested."*
~ Hunter Thompson

"What I've learned from gorillas is their perseverance." ~ Samedi Mucyo, the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund

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