

# Planet Too

"The problem with doing nothing is that you never know when you're finished." ~ Groucho Marx

JOHN PROCTOR  
HANGED  
AUGUST 19, 1692

## Proctor's on the edge

**1692** in Massachusetts, 19 people were hanged while the farmer I played in the **Antaeus** production of **Arthur Miller's** *The Crucible* was crushed to death by rocks, all fueled by fear of disease, outsiders, superstition, politics, petty jealousies and religious zealotry during the Salem witch trials. Now, the **Gallows Hill Project** has used historical documents and modern technology to confirm the exact location where the innocents were slain over three centuries past.

The site is known as **Proctor's Ledge** – a small plot of woods behind a Walgreens pharmacy, where **John Proctor** gave his life to religious hysteria, although the investigators have determined that there was no actual gallows as the executioners probably just tossed a rope over a tree branch.

"I think knowing the exact location where the executions took place is important," says Mayor **Kim Driscoll**, "because we want to get history right. It's also an opportunity to come together and recognize the injustice and tragedy."

We surviving Proctors agree.

"Kilgore Trout once wrote a short story about a dialogue between two pieces of yeast as they ate sugar and suffocated in their own excrement. They never came close to guessing that they were making champagne." ~ Paraphrasing **Kurt Vonnegut** in 'Breakfast of Champions'

## COWBOY LUNCH

I was a guest recently at “A Word on Westerns,” hosted every other month by **Rob Word** in the cafeteria of the **Gene Autry Western Museum** in Griffith Park. I talked about *Zachariah*, my appearance on “Daniel Boone” and my uncle **Clarence Uris**’ work on **John Wayne**’s films. Other guests were **Clu Gulagher** (*The Tall Man*, “The Virginian,” *Last Picture Show*), and **Bruce Davison** (*Ulzana’s Raid* with **Burt Lancaster**).



### WESTERN HO

From left, Rob Word, Phil Proctor, Clu Gulagher and Bruce Davison

Unless you are among the 7% allergic to gluten, you do not need gluten-free products which often contain more fat and sugar and are also more expensive.  
~ Phil’s Phunny Phacts

## POLITRIX AS USUAL

**Jay Leno** said, “If God wanted us to vote, he would have given us candidates.” “And I offer my opponents a bargain,” said **Adlai Stevenson**. “If they will stop telling lies about us, I will stop telling the truth about them.”

Then **Will Rogers** added, “If we got one-tenth of what was promised to us in these State of the Union Speeches, there wouldn’t be any inducement to go to heaven.”

“When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President; I’m beginning to believe it.” opined **Clarence Darrow**, while **John Quinton** observed that “Politicians are people who, when they see light at the end of the tunnel, go out and buy some more tunnel.” **Aesop** got it right, too, when he said, “We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office.”

“Politics,” noted **Oscar Ameringer**, “is the gentle art of



### ONE MAN, ONE VOTE

Sending a message to Washington.

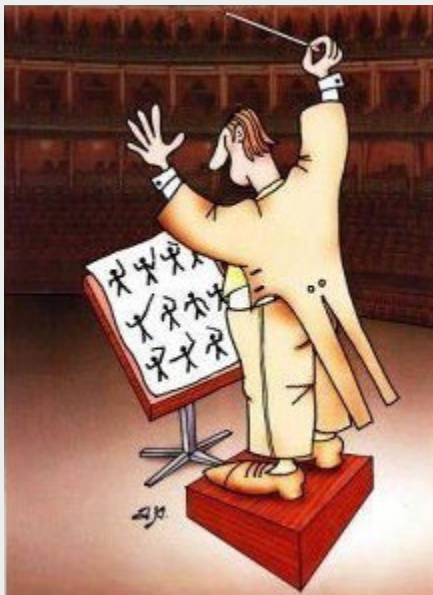
getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other.” While **Tex Guinan** wrote, “A politician is a fellow who will lay down your life for his country.”

“I have come to the conclusion that politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians,” said **Charles de Gaulle**, while **Doug Larsom** suggested that “Instead of giving a politician the keys to the city, it might be better to change the locks.” Or as **Harry Truman** said, “If you want a real friend that you can trust in Washington - get a dog!”

*“The problem with political jokes is they get elected.”  
~ Henry Cate, VII*

## DULY NOTED

**C**, E-flat, and G go into a bar and the bartender says, “Sorry, but we don’t serve minors.” So E-flat leaves, and C and G have an open fifth between them. After a few drinks, the fifth is diminished, and G is out flat. F comes in and tries to augment the situation, but is not sharp enough. D comes in and heads for the bathroom, saying, “Excuse me; I’ll just be a second.”



Then A comes in, but the bartender is not convinced that this relative of C is not a minor. Then the bartender notices B-flat hiding at the end of the bar and says, “Get out! You’re the seventh minor I’ve found in this bar tonight.”

E-flat comes back the next night in a three-piece suit with nicely shined shoes.

The bartender says, “You’re looking sharp tonight. Come on in, this could be a major development.” Sure enough, E-flat soon takes off his suit and everything else, and is au natural.

Eventually C sobers up and realizes in horror that he’s under a rest. C is brought to trial, found guilty of contributing



**SNOOZE, LOSE**  
Building the better alarm clock.

to the diminution of a minor, and is sentenced to 10 years of D.S. without Coda at an upscale correctional facility.

*“People can only treat us in the way in which we allow.”  
~ Jada Pinkett Smith*

## DO IT TO YOURSELF

**A**mazingly simple home remedies – not responsible if you try them at home.

- 1 If you’re choking** on an ice cube, simply pour a cup of boiling water down your throat. Presto! The blockage will instantly remove itself.
- 2 Avoid cutting yourself** when slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold the vegetables while you chop.
- 3 Avoid arguments** with your wife about putting down the toilet seat – use the sink instead.
- 4 For high blood pressure sufferers**, simply cut yourself and bleed for a few minutes, thus reducing the pressure on your veins. Remember to use a timer.
- 5 A mousetrap** placed on top of your alarm clock will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep after you hit the snooze button.
- 6 If you have a bad cough**, take a large dose of laxatives – then you’ll be afraid to cough.
- 7 You only need two tools** in life: WD-40 and duct tape. If it doesn’t move and should - use the WD-40. If it shouldn’t move and does - use the duct tape.
- 8 Have a bad toothache?** Smash your thumb with a hammer, and you will forget all about the toothache.

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"You can read as many self-help books as you want, but you are who you are." ~ **Rocker Dan Auerbach**

## PRO VERSUS CON

**T**he crisis of conservatism is actually a problem for all of us," writes *Washington Post* columnist **E.J. Dionne**. "The US needs conservatives willing to criticize the grand plans we liberals sometimes offer, to remind us that traditional institutions should not be overturned lightly. The trouble is that large parts of the American right are not interested in 'incremental adaptation,' and they certainly don't want to compromise with Democrats."

"Conservative leaders," he concludes, "have denounced decades of change, pledging what would amount to a return to the government and economy of the 1890s, the cultural norms of the 1950s, and, in more recent times, the ethnic makeup of the country in the 1940s."

Yeah! Forward -- into the past...

"The world is changed not by the self-regarding, but by men and women prepared to make fools of themselves."

~ **P.D. James**

## DON'T ASK

Another excerpt from my interview with the Library of Congress

**W**hen asked what I like regarding our work, is the challenge and variety in everything we did, but I think **Don't Crush That Dwarf** is my favorite. We all felt very close to it because it was an expression of the introduction of television into our consciousness. How do you express television via audio alone? We invented the idea of channel surfing. That's what TV meant to us: switching channels, switching from one thing to the next: to soap opera, to a cartoon, to a newscast — "Hamburgers

on the highway in Mystic, Connecticut!" plus all the commercials, but still telling a narrative story with villains and heroes.

The next album was "I Think We're All Bozos on This Bus." In it we dealt with the development of computer culture. I played Clem, basically predicting a hacker who plants a virus in the government-programmed computer that runs the "Future Fair" theme park.

If you have an iPhone and say to Siri, "This is worker speaking, hello," you get "Hello, Ah-Clem; what function can I perform for you?" The reason for that Easter egg is that when I met **Steve Jobs** at the premiere of Pixar's **A Bug's Life** he announced that he was a Firehead!

People come up to me still and say, "You saved my life! I thought I was the only person who thought this way, but you guys proved that I wasn't alone and introduced me to others who were like-minded – like my wife" That's a nice legacy.

I'm still editing *Where's My Fortune Cookie? My Psychic Life*, co-authored by **Brad Schreiber** and coming out sometime this year. Can you tell me when?

"We leave something of ourselves behind when we leave a place, we stay there, even though we go away."

~ **Pascal Mercier**

## BUT WHO'S COUNTING?

**T**he UK's *Guardian* magazine reports that "the vast and growing gap between rich and poor has been laid bare in a new Oxfam report showing that the 62

richest billionaires own as much wealth as the poorer half of the world's population" revealing that "1% of people own more wealth than the other 99% combined."

Oxfam chief executive **Mark Goldring** writes: "It is simply unacceptable that the poorest half of the world population owns less than a small group of the global super-rich – so few, you could fit them all on a single coach. We need to end the era of tax havens which has allowed rich individuals and



■ **CONTINUED**

multinational companies to avoid their responsibilities to society by hiding ever increasing amounts of money offshore."

Oxfam cited estimates that the super-wealthy have placed a total of \$7.6 trillion in offshore accounts, adding that: "If tax were paid on the income that this wealth generates, an extra \$190 billion would be available to governments every year."

**Duncan Exley**, the trust's director, said: "We now need our politicians to wake up and address this dangerous concentration of wealth and power in the hands of so few."

Don't worry, The Donald will fix it...

*"It is not God's will merely that we should be happy, but that we should make ourselves happy."  
~ Immanuel Kant*

## BAND OF BROTHERS

**A** 7-year old and his younger brother are upstairs in their bedroom. "You know what?" says big brother, "I think it's about time we started swearing." The 4-year old nods his head in approval. "When we go downstairs for breakfast," he says, "I'll swear first and then you swear after me, OK?" "OK, OK!" his sibling agrees with enthusiasm.

Once downstairs, their mum asks the 7-year old what he wants for breakfast. "Oh, shit mum, I guess I'll have some Coco Pops." Immediately, he gets a whack upside the head! He flies out of his chair, tumbles across the kitchen floor, gets up and runs upstairs crying his eyes out. She looks at the 4-year old and demands sternly, "And what do YOU want for breakfast, young man?"

"I don't know," he blubbers, "But it sure won't be fuckin' Coco Pops."

*"103 Coloring Butterflies, 11 Gypsy Curses, 108 Professor's Nightmares, 26 Mona Lisa's Secrets, 4 Pirate Teeth, 6 Instant Miracles, only 2 left of the Geko Diablo Handsticks and 4 Jive Diablo Handsticks, but 30 Zephyr Balls remain."  
~ Catalogue listings from John V. Scialli*

## SHE'S BAAAAK

**T**hanks to factmaster and Planeteer **Peter Savatte**, we can be assured that **Sarah Palin** is NOT a member of an Alaskan wild-animal worshipping cult called the **Mooslims**. In fact, she prefers to hunt wild animals rather than worship them. It is also not true that Sarah got the nickname "Barracuda" because she has teeth "down there," and it is false that the Palin family got their name because with each successive generation of inbreeding they actually got whiter.

Sarah is NOT a creationist although she does believe that the world was created for her; and though Sarah is a cartridge-carrying member of the NRA, while Governor the only thing she fired was people who didn't agree with her. She did raise the idea of banning some books like the celebrated "Harry Potter" series from Alaska's public libraries, but dropped the idea after her children told her they would put a curse on her.

Although she claims she sold the governor's private plane publically on eBay for a profit, it was actually sold to a guy named Eddie Bay, privately, at a loss. It is true that she was voted "Miss Congeniality" in the Miss Alaska competition, but she was also voted "Miss Con-GEAL-iality" because her polar-bear bikini caused her to sweat profusely, dropping ice cubes on the runway.

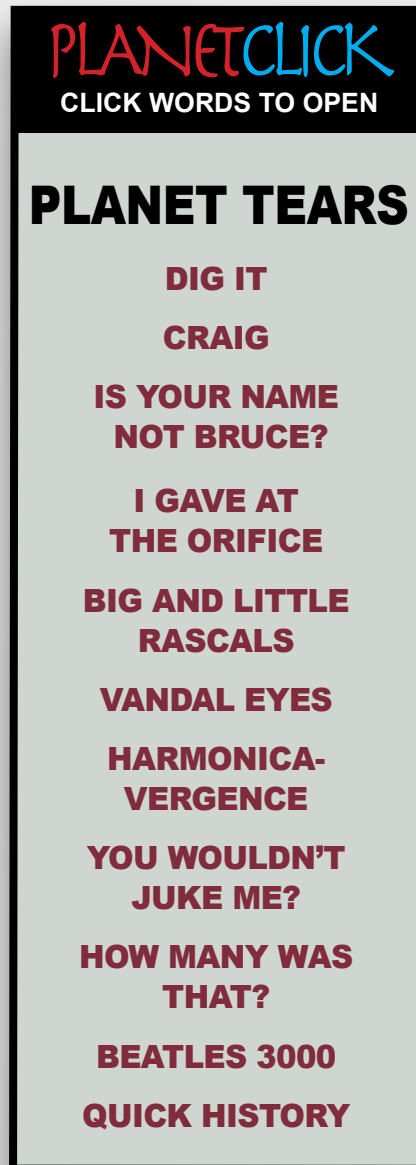
And finally, although Sarah is adept at gutting game, should she ever assume the Presidency, she vows not to rename the Oval office as the Offal Office.

*"The surest sign of intelligent life in the universe is that they haven't attempted to contact us."*

*~ Bill Watterson*

## OH MY GOD

**G**od said, "Adam, I want you to do something for Me." Adam said, "Gladly, Lord, what do You want me to do?" God said, "Go down into that valley." Adam said, "What's a valley?" God explained it to him.



Then God said, "Cross the river." Adam said, "What's a river?" God explained that to him, and then said, "Go over to the hill." Adam said, "What's a hill?" So, God explained to Adam what a hill was. He told Adam, "On the other side of the hill you will find a cave." Adam said, "What's a cave?" After God explained, He said, "In the cave you will find a woman." Adam said, "What's a woman?" So God explained that to him, too.

Then, God said, "I want you to reproduce." Adam said, "How do I do that?" God first said (under His breath), "Geez....." And then, just like everything else, God explained that to Adam as well.

So, Adam goes down into the valley, across the river, and over the hill, into the cave, and finds the woman. Then, in about five minutes, he was back. God, His patience wearing thin, asked angrily, "What is it now?"

And Adam said, "What's a migraine?"

"You are precisely as big as what you love and precisely as small as what you allowed to annoy you." ~ **Robert Anton Wilson**

## MOVING ON

Indeed, the curse of a long life is the loss of so many friends, most recently the brilliant and hilarious **Ron House**, born 1939 in Chicago. But as the creator of so many multi-cultural characters as part of the group **The Low Moan Spectacular**, I was never convinced he wasn't a changeling. *El Grande de Coca Cola*, *Footlight Frenzy*, *Bullshot Crummond* – created uncontrollable laughter that made me literally fall out of my seat.

His collaborator, **Alan Shearman**, is now directing the sequel to *Bullshot*, which Ron recently wrote, at a theatre in the Portland area, and you can be sure we will be there to laugh once more at his comedic genius.

And today, I learned of the passing at 92 of one of my major comic mentors – **Bob Elliot** of **Bob & Ray** fame. They were, along with **Ernie Kovacs**, the early inspiration for my own crazy comedy career; and when they were on radio in New York, I would send them postcards and sometimes had the thrill of hearing them read on the air.

I remember telling them in one card "Get well soon!" even though no one was sick. I do regret that then I was too shy to show up at the studio and watch them work live.

And farewell to **Joe Alaskey**, who brought new life to the **Mel Blanc's** characters Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Sylvester and Tweety, and with whom I worked when he played Grandpa Lou Pickles on "**Rugrats**," taking over for my friend **David Doyle** in 1997.

And last but not least – goodbye to **Dan Hicks**, a zany musician who we hope took his **Hot Licks** with him to the world beyond. Keep Rockin'.

"The Scots see death as imminent, Canadians see death as inevitable, and Californians see death as optional."

~ **Ian Morrison**, Institute for the Future



## PLANETEERS

**Amy Walker, Eddie Deezen, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., Robert Riddle, Nick Oliva, Jamie Alcroft, Magic Mike Berger, Cris Caraci, Michael Fish, and M.C. Gwynne.** And a special thanks to **Audiofile Magazine** for presenting me (and the other 66 members of the voice cast of "Battlefield Earth") with Golden Earphone awards. Listen for the release of the audiobook by **Galaxy Press** in June.

"I suppose for me as an artist it wasn't always just about expressing my work; I really wanted, more than anything else, to contribute in some way to the culture I was living in." ~ **Ziggy Stardust**

"Please send your gifts to me on a long memory!" ~ **Russian fan Yury Chirchenko**

**BOOMERS • BEARWHIZ BEER • FIRESITE**

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