

40% of pregnancies in America are unintended. ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

Back from the Shadows Again



I recently returned from Baltimore, MD where I portrayed the eccentric Senator **John Randolph** of Roanoke for an upcoming three-part PBS documentary by **Philip J. Marshall** titled *Francis Scott Key: After the Song*, to be aired nationwide during Black History month, February 2017.

At the dawn of the 19th Century, Randolph often appeared on the Senate floor to rail against “the cancer of slavery” accompanied by his two white Afghan hounds and his favoured and inherited slave, **Juba**. He also duelled with **Henry Clay** over the issue, and luckily for our nation, he survived.

More photos on next page.

MR. PHIL GOES TO WASHINGTON

As Senator John Randolph for PBS
Documentary on ‘Francis Scott Key’

“If you’re doing business with a religious sonofabitch, get it in writing.
His word isn’t worth sh*t. Not with the good lord telling him how to f*ck you on the deal.” ~ William Burroughs



KEY CHARACTERS
 Gavin Whitt as Juba, left; Sunny, above, ready to stand by her Senator; and me as Randolph, ready to take a shot at Clay.

BOOMERS ON A MOUNTAIN BENCH

I'm also taking a breather after **The Boomers** latest return live appearance on the syndicated radio show "American Parlor Songbook" in Lake Arrowhead, at **Bugsy Siegel's** Tudor House restaurant (*below*). Jamie and I had a ball.

Once again our hosts **JP Houston** and **Julie Van Dusen** regaled the audience with musical and comedy chops while the Australian duo

Jordie & Claire dazzled the crowd with their unique and spirited stylings.

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



We're invited back in October/ November for the new season.

And thanks once more to Planet Artistic Director **Cristofer Gross** for waffles and wonderful company at his hideaway in the woods!

RADIO SHOW

"A laugh is not something you get. It's something you give."
 ~ Richard Fish



KIDS' RULES

- 1 No matter how hard you try **you can't baptize cats.**
- 2 When your Mom is mad at your Dad, **don't let her brush your hair.**
- 3 If your sister hits you, **don't hit her back.** They always catch the second person.
- 4 Never ask your 3-year-old brother to **hold a tomato.**
- 5 You can't trust dogs to **watch your food.**
- 6 **Don't sneeze** when someone is cutting your hair.
- 7 Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat **at the same time.**
- 8 You **can't hide a piece of broccoli** in a glass of milk.
- 9 Don't wear **polka-dot underwear** under white shorts.
- 10 The best place to be when you're sad is **Grandma's lap.**

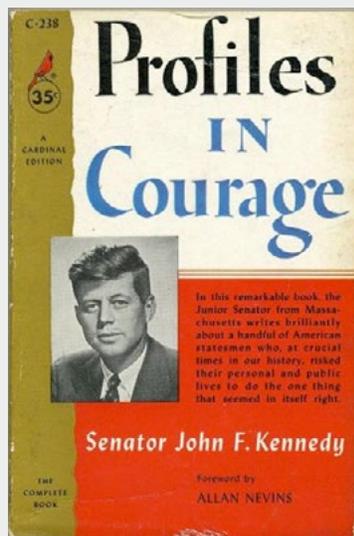
"The duty of youth is to challenge corruption."
~ Kurt Cobain

LET'S GET THIS STRAIGHT

If by a Liberal they mean someone who looks ahead and not behind, someone who welcomes new ideas without rigid reactions, someone who cares about the welfare of the people – their health, their housing, their schools, their jobs, their civil rights and their civil liberties – someone who believes we can break through the stalemate and suspicions that grip us in our policies abroad, if that is what they mean by a Liberal, then I'm proud to say I'm a Liberal."

So wrote **John F. Kennedy** in *Profiles in Courage*.

"Power is not revealed by striking hard or often, but by striking true." ~ **Honore de Balzac**



SENIORS' SAYINGS

- 1 Raising teenagers is like nailing Jello to a tree.
- 2 Wrinkles don't hurt.
- 3 Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
- 4 Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
- 5 Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
- 6 Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.

"If you can see things out of whack, then you can see how things can be in whack." ~ **Dr. Seuss**

CHIMPS AND CHUMPS

A blonde female motorist was about two hours from San Diego when she was flagged down by a man whose truck had broken down. He walked up to the car and asked, "Are you going to San Diego?"

"Sure," she replied, "do you need a lift?"

"Not for me, I'll be spending the next three hours fixing my truck. My problem is I've got two chimpanzees in the back that have to be taken to the San Diego Zoo. They're a bit stressed already, so I don't want to keep them on the road all day. Could you possibly take them to the zoo for me? I'll give you \$100 for your trouble."

"I'd be happy to," said the blonde.

The two chimpanzees were ushered into the back seat of the blonde's SUV. They were carefully strapped into their seat belts, and off they went.

Five hours later the truck driver was driving through the heart of San Diego when suddenly he was horrified! There was the blonde walking down the street holding hands with the two chimps much to the amusement of a big crowd.

With a screech of brakes he pulled off the road and ran over to the blonde. "What are you doing here?" he demanded; "I gave you \$100 to take these monkeys to the zoo!"

"Yes, I know you did," replied the blonde; "But we had money left over so now we're going to Sea World."

"It's called the American Dream, because you have to be asleep to believe it." ~ **George Carlin**



SILVER STATEMENTS

- 1 Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
- 2 Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
- 3 When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- 4 You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- 5 It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- 6 Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
- 7 Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

"I have not failed.
I've just found 10,000 ways
that won't work." ~ **Thomas Edison**

HELLO, I MUST BE GOING

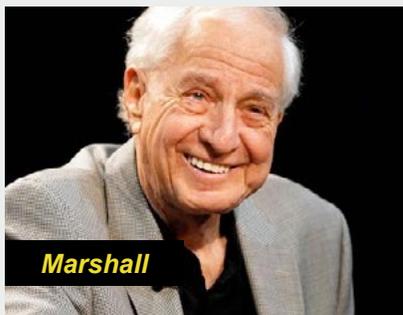
I try to write about friends, colleagues and mentors who have left the planet, and this orbit will touch on all three.

First, fellow Leo and movie star **Gloria DeHaven**, who was one of my leading ladies in the '60s when I played Rolph, the singing Nazi in numerous music circus tours of *The Sound of Music*. She was terrified of thunderstorms and would skedaddle off the stage in the middle of a show – which was fine because the rain on the tent was so loud, we'd just sing popular songs until it let up. But my fondest memory of her was when she popped out of a prop cake backstage to celebrate my 24th birthday – in her undies!



DeHaven

Then, we surprisingly lost **Garry Marshall**, whom I got to know when appearing in a run of **Sam Bobrick's**



Marshall

comic murder mystery *The Psychic* at Garry's **Falcon Theatre** in Toluca Lake. We all know what a comic genius Garry was, but I can personally attest to his caring kindness, gentleness and intelligence. He brought us all many "Happy Days."

Then there's *MAD Magazine's* **Jack Davis**, a brilliant illustrator who, when hired by editors **William M. Gaines, Albert B. Feldstein** and **Harvey Kurtzman** in 1952, became a member of "The Usual Gang of Idiots" for the next six decades, ridiculing American society and creating their iconic mascot, **Alfred E. Neuman** – and, incidentally, inspiring my young, impressionable mind.

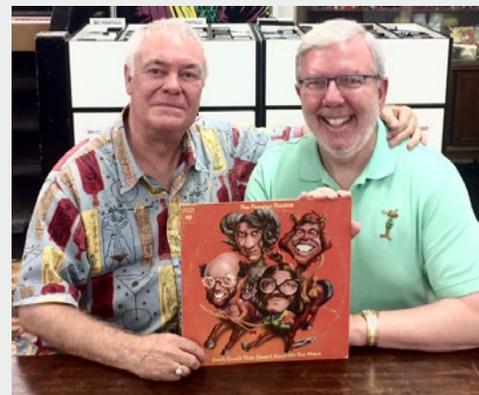
And finally, **Melinda** and I will be flying to Rockford, Illinois to attend the burial ceremony for her mom, **Shirley Caine Peterson**, in her hometown. We're looking forward again to reuniting with members of her lively family from all over the country.

"If voting changed anything, they'd make it illegal." ~ **Emma Goldman**

GUIDING

Nick Oliva, **Stevie Vallance**, **Oona Austin**, **David Morgenstern**, **Magic**

Mike Berger, **Alan Meyerson**, **Jim Meskimen**, **Victor Kopcewich**, **Jamie Alcroft** and **Leonard Maltin**, who invited me to appear on his always enlightening **PODCAST, Maltin on the Movies**, in the **Nerdist Studios** at Meltdown on Sunset.



And congratulations to the late **Steve Sandoz** for receiving an audience award from the Faux Film Festival for the film *God's Clowns*, featuring the **Firesign Theatre**. And to our cats, **Buster and Pepper**, for bringing so much love and laughter to our lives. As Melinda says, "if it weren't for them, we'd have nothing to talk about..."

"Everyone has talent at 25. The difficulty is to have it at 50." ~ **Edgar Degas**

PLANETCLICK

CLICK WORDS TO OPEN

RIDING

BIKE

HOW

DOG

REAL ART

JIMBO

WHO

HUMANS

CHRIST

IN ACTION

"If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door." ~ **Milton Berle**

BOOMERS • BEARWHIZ BEER • FIRESITE