

"Life is short but not short enough." ~ Garry Shandling

PLANET

A Case of Mule-Practice

THIS IS SAD TO REPORT, BUT A GOOD FRIEND, after seven years of medical training, was recently fired from a promising position because of one minor indiscretion in keeping with the tenor of the times. And all because he slept with one of his patients, he will never be able to work in his chosen profession again.

It was such a waste of time, effort, and money, as he is still deeply in debt with his student loans. It really goes to show that just one minor mistake can absolutely ruin your life, and it's truly very sad.

My friend is a really great guy, an awesome father, and a brilliant veterinarian. So, it goes...

"Propaganda is the art of persuading others of what you don't believe yourself." ~ Abba Eban

HERE, NOW

I'VE BEEN WORKING recently on intros and outros for the impending podcast of my amazon.com memoir, *Where's My Fortune Cookie?*, to be recorded in the newly acquired SueMedia Studios in the Radio Wave Building in downtown Manhattan by our comic host, **Tom Kelly**.

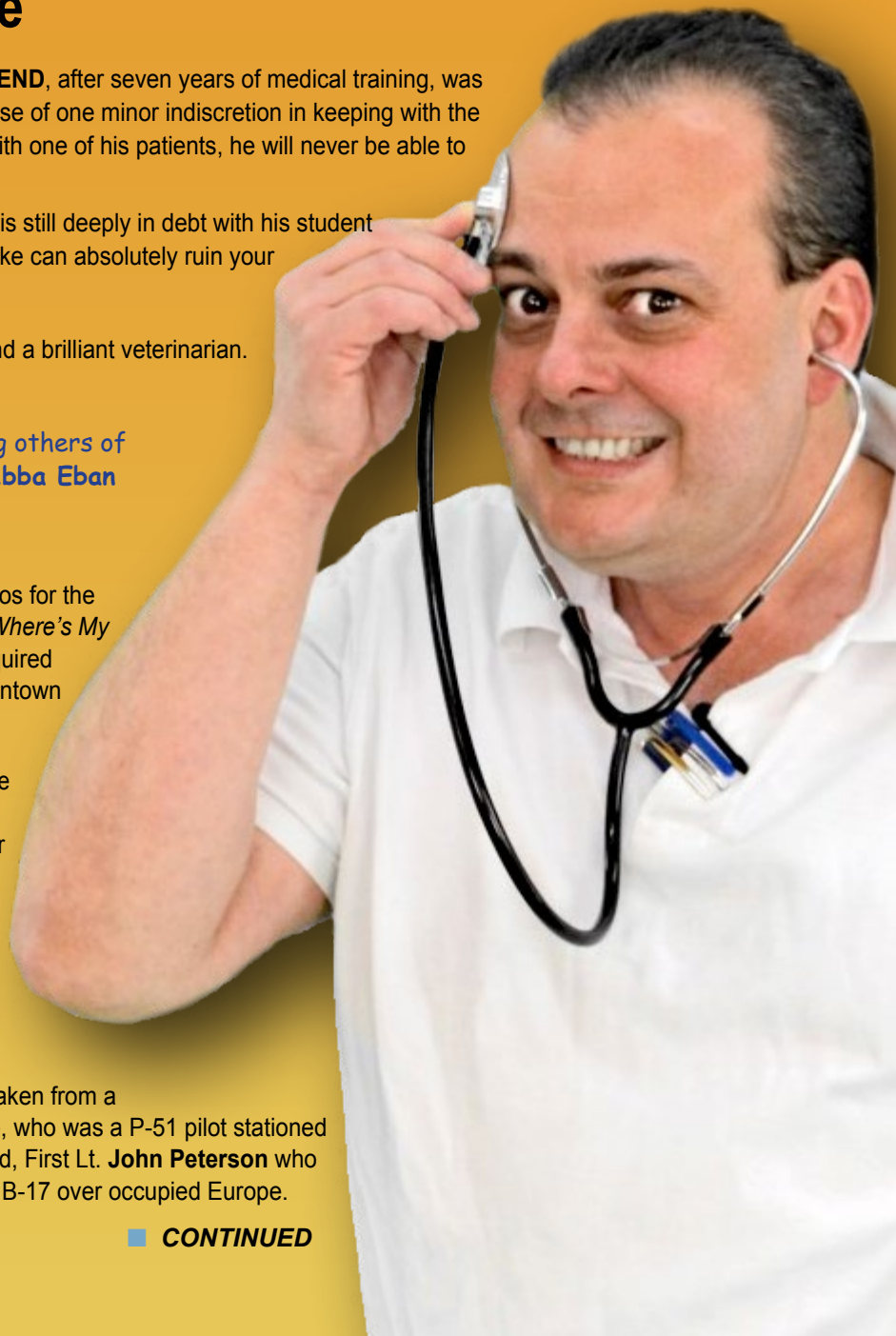
It will be available in early June and will coincide with the release of an audiobook, and since the print version is profusely illustrated, our director, **Sue Zizza**, and Master Mixer, **David Shinn**, are adding music, audio bites and sound effects to enhance your listening pleasure.

"In the end, we'll all become stories."
~ Margaret Atwood

ZIP IT!

ALLEN SHILL SENT ME A VINTAGE JOKE taken from a 1943 wartime letter from his aunt to his uncle, who was a P-51 pilot stationed in England, like my darling wife **Melinda's** dad, First Lt. **John Peterson** who piloted 34 bombing missions from Great Ashfield in a B-17 over occupied Europe.

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"Their son," Allen writes, "has assembled a fat volume of their very interesting and well-written correspondence carried on throughout the war years." And here's the joke:

Abie comes home and tells his wife he bought a new pair of pants. "Look, Reba," he says, "I'm getting pair of pants wit' a 14-inch zippa." Reba is unimpressed, just says, "Yeah," and doesn't even look at the pants.

"Leesten Reba, I got 14-inch zippa wit da pants! Ain't dot good?"

"So vot?" says Reba. "Da neighbah's got a two-car garage, and vot comes out?? A bicycle!"

*"Each day, we wake up slightly altered,
and the person we were yesterday is dead."*

~ John Updike

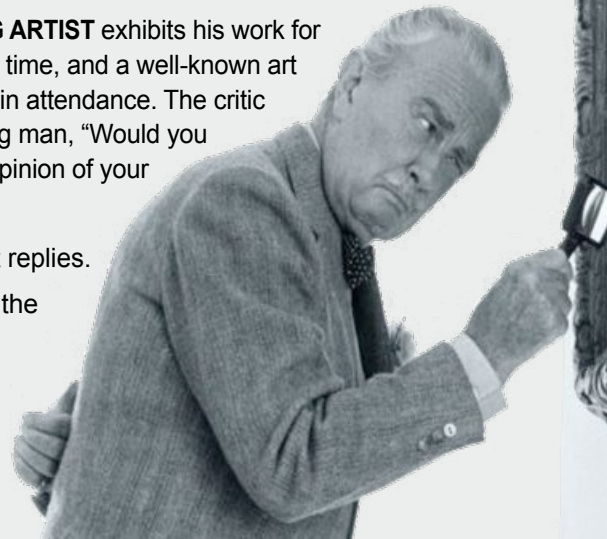
EVERYONE'S A CRITIC

A YOUNG ARTIST exhibits his work for the first time, and a well-known art critic is in attendance. The critic says to the young man, "Would you like to hear my opinion of your work?"

"Sure," the artist replies.

"It's worthless," the critic says.

"I figured as much," replies the artist, "but let's hear it anyway."



POINT WELL TAKEN

Student: *Can I borrow a pencil?*

Teacher: *I don't know, can you?*

Student: *Yes. I might add the colloquial irregularities occur frequently in any language since you and the rest of our present company understand perfectly my intended meaning, being particular about the distinctions between "can" and "may" is purely pedantic and arguably pretentious.*

Teacher: *True, colloquialism and the judicious interpretation of context help us communicate with nuance, range, and efficiency. And yet, as your teacher, my job is to teach you to think about language with care and rigor. Understanding the shades of difference between one word and another and to think carefully about what you want to say will give you greater power and versatility in your speech and writing.*

Student: *Point taken. May I have a pencil?*

Teacher: *No, you may not. We do not have pencils since the state cut funding for education again this year.*

*"Politicians and diapers must be changed often,
and for the same reason."*

~ Mark Twain



CAN IT!

'I may not make it to 2nd grade!'

The word for "avocado" comes from the ancient Aztec word "ahuacatl" which means testicle.

~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

DEPENDS ON HOW YOU LOOK AT IT

A 54-YEAR-OLD WOMAN had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she had a near death experience. Seeing God, she asked, "Is my time up?" and God said, "No, you have another 43 years, 2 months and 8 days to live."

Upon recovery, the woman decided to stay in the hospital and have a face-lift, liposuction, breast implants and a tummy tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair color and brighten her teeth!

Since she had so much more time to live, she figured she might as well make the most of it. After her last operation, she was released from the hospital, but while crossing the

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street on her way home, she was killed by an ambulance.

Arriving in front of God, she demanded, "I thought you said I had another 43 years! Why didn't you pull me from the path of the ambulance?"

God replied, "I didn't recognize you!"

"Prejudices are rarely overcome by argument; not being founded in reason they cannot be destroyed by logic." ~ **Tryon Edwards**

LOST

WE LOST THE GIFTED and beautiful **Susan Anspach** recently at the early age of 75 to a heart ailment, but she had used that heart charitably in her professional and personal life. When I met her, we were both acting off-Broadway and somehow ended up at my West 11th Street Greenwich Village brownstone, only to be visited the next morning by my Yale mate, **Peter Bergman** – in an army uniform, toting a guitar and serenading us with folksongs!

Susan appears frequently in my memoir *Where's My Fortune Cookie?* and that first night told me that after seeing her perform at Catholic University in Washington, the legendary **Helen Hayes**, no less, demanded that she pursue a theatrical career. She later studied at the Actors Studio and appeared off-Broadway with **Robert Duvall**, **Dustin Hoffman** and **Jon Voight** before landing the lead role in *Hair*, where she bared it all.

"The best actors get the truth from beginning to end," Anspach told the *Washington Post* in 1973. "They don't stop being the character when their lines are finished or while they're waiting to speak the next ones. That's what you try to achieve – that complete sense of character."

New York Times critic **Vincent Canby** praised Anspach as "one of America's most daring and talented actresses... who has yet to land a film role that shows her off to full advantage." She was compared to **Katharine Hepburn** and **Bette Davis**. "But," she herself noted, "there were no Hepburn or Davis parts."

And finally, she sweetly acknowledged our brief encounter in a parting quote in the *Los Angeles Times* obituary by saying, "My closest friends in the world are my ex-lovers." Dear Susan, I'll never forget you.

"The ultimate test of a relationship is to disagree but to hold hands." ~ **Fortune Cookie**

AND FOUND

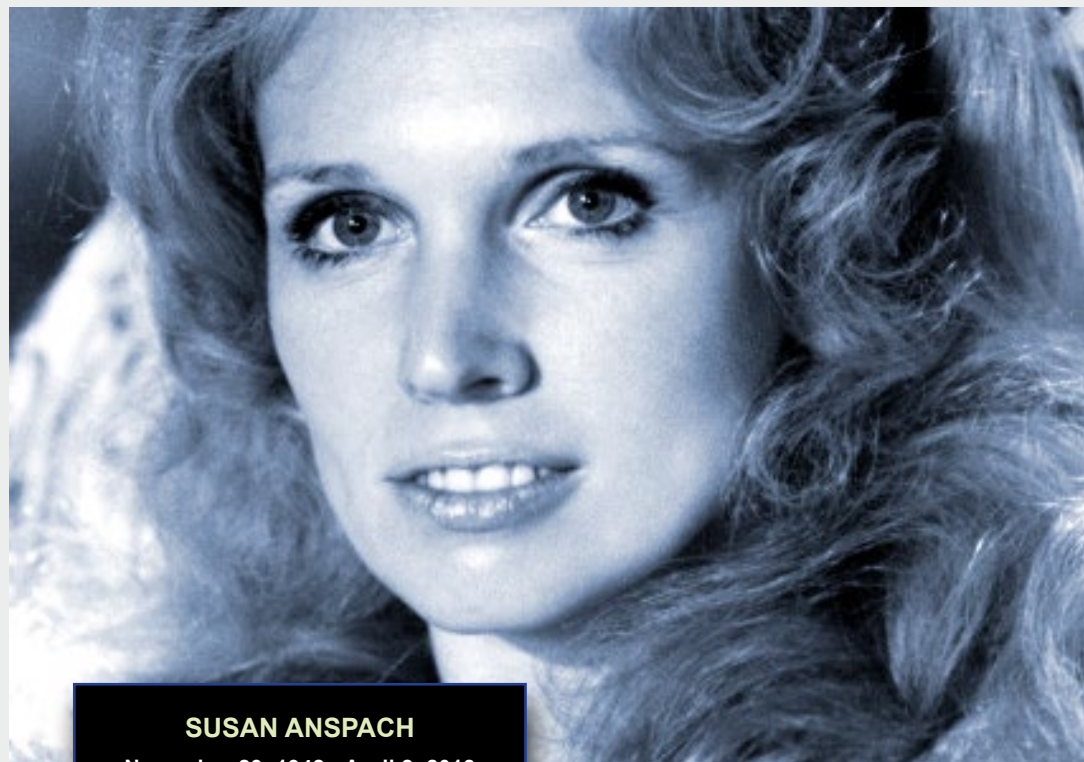
DEATH IS NOTHING AT ALL. It does not count. I have only slipped away into the next room. Nothing has happened; everything remains exactly as it was. I am I, and you are you, and the old life that we lived so fondly together is untouched, unchanged. Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.

Call me by the old familiar name. Speak of me in the easy way which you always used. Put no difference into your tone. Wear no forced air of some solemnity or sorrow. Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let my name be ever the household word that it always was. Let it be spoken without an effort, without the ghost of a shadow upon it.

Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it ever was. There is absolute an unbroken continuity. What is this death but a negligible accident? Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?

I am but waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just around the corner. All is well.

(So wrote **Henry Scott Holland**, 1847–1918)



SUSAN ANSPACH

November 23, 1942 - April 2, 2018

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"When man resolved to imitate walking, he invented the wheel, which does not look like a leg. In doing this, he was practicing surrealism without knowing it."
 ~ Guillaume Apollinaire

A nicer, more talented, skillful, generous and funny man you'll never know, and I'm sure once our tears have dried, there will be some joyous celebrations of his genius at the Magic Castle and elsewhere around town.



HARRY ANDERSON
 October 14, 1952 - April 16, 2018

READ THE DAILY NEWS TRIBUTE

"Genius is nothing more nor less than childhood recovered at will." ~ Baudelaire

KEEPS

Thanks to **Joan Allemand, Jamie Alcroft, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., Victor Kopcewich, Alan Sharpe, George Riddle, Spider Robinson, Roger Steffens** – and farewell to my funny friend **Chuck McCann**, my late-night friend, **Art Bell**, the mother of comedy, **Mitzi Shore**, and choreographer **Donald McKayle**, who taught me to dance in *A Time for Singing* on Broadway.

And a very special HELLO *til min kjære datter*, **Kristin**, who was welcomed into the world (gasp) 40 years ago on April 16. Takk, **Barbro!**

Here she is today with and her brilliant husband, **Geoff**.

"A vacuum is a hell of a lot better than some of the stuff nature replaces it with." ~ Tennessee Williams

AND LOST

And just as this Planet was ready to launch, we received the devastating news from his wife, **Elizabeth**, that our beloved friend, the great comic, magician and writer **Harry Anderson** had passed away quietly in his sleep of unknown causes after contacting the flu several months ago and experiencing some mild strokes while in hospital.

This is a difficult and unexpected event, and **Melinda** and I are so happy that we were able to spend some time last summer hangin' with the Hat and his beautiful Bonnet at their exotic, comfy home in Asheville. Too many years ago, Bergman and I

were somewhat responsible for enticing Harry to head to Hollywood, and the next thing I knew, I was guest-starring on "Night Court" and later "Dave's World."



"The aim of argument should not be victory, but progress."
 ~ Karl Popper

PLANETCLICK

CLICK WORDS TO OPEN

- PEEPS**
- ART**
- BOOM**
- BEANS**
- JESUS**
- INCOMING**

"Nothing is more responsible for the good old days than a bad memory." ~ Franklin Pierce Adams

FIRESIGN • BOOMERS