

"This is a time for sarcasm and heavy-handed humor." ~ Eric Idle

# Planet Pumpkin

PLANET PROCTOR | OCTOBER 2018



## Month of the Living Dead

**O**ctober suddenly saw a resuscitation of my moribund career, with several real jobs, some of which I'll actually be paid for! They include another fun stint with **David Koff's Fake Radio** in Portland, Oregon, celebrating the 80th anniversary of Orson Welles' infamous 'War of the Worlds' broadcast, alongside my darling wife, Melinda ■ *continued on page 2*

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**Peterson**, and a revival of my **Assassin's Creed** character, Dr. Vidic, hosting a new TOP SECRET project to be launched in November!

Also, on November 18, I'll be performing with Melinda in a public staged reading of **Hindle Wakes**, a startlingly modern old comedy originally produced in London in 1912. Go to **ANTAEUS.COM** for tickets.

And I've been cast as yet another Doctor, in the upcoming production of **The Cripple of Inishman**, from January 24 to March 11 at Antaeus. Dr. Proctor rules...

*A new minor planet has been confirmed just in time for Halloween; it's been named "The Goblin."  
~ Phil's Phunny Phacts*

## WHAT THE HELL

**P**OPE FRANCIS BLAMED THE DEVIL FOR the Catholic church's recent woes, including its sexual-abuse scandals. Reminding the audience that he believes Satan to be a literal being, the pontiff implored the faithful to spend October reciting a specially devised prayer to cast the great accuser back into Hell.

And Planeteer and sci-fi legend **Spider Robinson** adds: "The Easter Bunny and Santa Claus both tweeted their willingness to help in any way they can, and Iron Man has promised the full support of the Avengers, including the Hulk.

"Secret Sacred sources revealed that the text of the powerful new specially devised prayer/mantra is: *Pedicabo ego vos malum!* (Or Fuck you, Evil!)

"That should do it, don't you think?" To which I say: "Hell yes, Spiderman!"

*"You only find out who is swimming naked when the tide goes out." ~ Warren Buffett*

## NY SEE

**W**E HAD ANOTHER GREAT THEATRE-orgy trip in September, where we saw six plays in five days, and caught up with our friends **Bill Weeden**, **Austin Pendleton**, **Tulis McCall**, **Janet Friedman**, **Elaine Louie** and *Firezine* creator **Elayne Riggs**, and then I participated in a special luncheon arranged by **Alex Garvin**, with a group of Riverdale alumni – none of whom appear in the TV series.

Melinda and I saw many wonderful plays, all of which were brilliantly written and performed, including: *The Lifespan of a Fact* by **John D'Agta** and **Jim Fingal**, with **Daniel Radcliffe**, **Cherry Jones** and **Bobby Cannavale**; *The True* by **Sharr White**, with a funny, foul-mouthed **Edie Falco**, my pal **Michael McKean** and **Peter Scolari**; *The Waverly Gallery* by **Kenneth Lonergan** starring **Lucas Hedges**, **Michael Cera** and ... **ELAINE MAY**.

We also cried through *The Band's Visit* by **Itamar Moses** featuring **Katrina Lenk**, with music and lyrics by fellow Yalie **David Yazbek**; and *The Mother of the Maid* by **Jane Anderson**, starring a radiant **Grace Van Patten** as Jean of Arc and **Glenn Close** as her mother. And due to our seating onstage at the Public Theater, I've never been so close to Close in my life!

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### REGENERATING

Back betwixt Mssrs. Weeden and Pendleton (left) and beside myself with Elayne Riggs.



And finally, we saw Mint Company's revival of **Lillian Hellman's** second play, *Days to Come*, written between *The Children's Hour* and the first play of Antaeus' new season – *The Little Foxes*.

And *God Help Us*, starring **Ed Asner** – as God, of course – continues to tour the country to sold-out crowds!

*A Nigerian man died with \$26 billion in the bank.  
He'd been trying to give it away for 15 years,  
but no one would respond to his emails.  
~ Phil's Phunny Phacts*

## BIER WITH ME

**A** N OLDER MAN WEARING A STOVEPIPE HAT, waistcoat and beard sits down at a bar and orders a drink. As the bartender sets it down, he asks, "Going to a Halloween party?"

"Yeah," the man says, "I'm supposed to come dressed as my love life."

"But you're dressed like Abe Lincoln," says the barkeep.

"Bingo!" he says, "My last four scores were seven years ago."

Soon after, three vampires walk into the bar, and the bartender asks, "What'll you have?" The first vampire says, "I'll have a glass of blood." The second says, "I'll have a glass of blood, too." The third says, "I'll have a glass of plasma."

"Okay, let me get this straight," the barkeep responds, "That'll be two bloods and a blood light, right?"

*"Intelligent people need a fool to lead them."  
~ Jack Ma*

## THE AMERICAN SCREAM

**W**E ALL THINK "THE AMERICAN DREAM" is about our individual right to acquire material wealth; but according to an article in *Smithsonian* magazine, this was not always the case, and in fact, 100 years ago, the phrase meant: "a Dream of Equality, Justice and Democracy."

The saying was repurposed by succeeding generations until the advent of the Cold War, when it was interpreted as anyone's opportunity for success under the capitalist system, despite the odds. And today, concludes the article, "it doesn't occur to anybody that it could mean anything else..."

Then, "America First," which we generally associate with **Charles Lindbergh**, can be traced back to a Republican Party slogan of the 1880s, later introduced in a speech by President **Woodrow Wilson** arguing for neutrality in WWI, only to be picked up by the Isolationist Movement, before becoming a prominent catchphrase for the KKK, which spuriously claimed to own a copywrite on it! (Trump beware...)

*"Steal a little and they call you a thief; steal a lot and they make you a king." ~ Bob Dylan*

## FIRE-SIGN

**A** DRIVER WAS STUCK IN A TRAFFIC JAM ON the highway outside Washington, DC nothing was moving. Suddenly, a man knocks on the window. The driver rolls down the window and asks, "What's going on?"

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"Terrorists have kidnapped the entire US Congress, and they are asking for \$100 million ransom. Otherwise, they are going to douse them all with gasoline and set them on fire. We're going from car to car collecting donations."

"How much is everyone giving, on an average?" the driver asks, and the man replies, "About a gallon."

*"When small men begin to cast big shadows, it means that the sun is about to set." ~ Lin Yutang*

## WAIT A MINUTE

**O**N THEIR WAY TO THE CHURCH TO GET MARRIED, a young couple were involved in a fatal car accident. Being good Catholics, they find themselves sitting outside the Pearly Gates waiting for St. Peter to process them into Heaven; and while there, they begin to wonder – could they possibly get married in Heaven?

When St. Peter finally showed up, they asked him, and St. Peter answered, "Honestly, I don't know. This is the first time anyone has asked. Let me go find out," and he leaves them sitting at the Gate.

After three months, St. Peter finally returns, looking somewhat bedraggled. "Yes" he informs the couple, "I can get you married in Heaven."

"Great!" said the couple, "but it took you so long, we were wondering – what if things don't work out? Could we also get a divorce in Heaven?"

"You must be bloody joking," says St. Peter, red-faced with frustration and slamming his clipboard on the ground.

"What's wrong?" asked the frightened couple. "OH, COME ON!" St. Peter shouted. "It took me three months to find a priest up here. Do you have any idea how long it'll take me to find a lawyer?"

*Asked if he wanted a hearing aid, my Riverdale classmate Paul Jablow's cousin Ray responded: "No thanks. I'm 96-years old. I've heard enough." ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts*

## KEEP ON TRUCKIN'

**A**DISTRAUGHT MAN SHOWS UP AT THE SHERIFF'S station to report that his wife has gone missing. "She went shopping yesterday and has not come home," he sobs. "OK, let's get some information," the sheriff says, "Height?"

"I'm not sure," he says, "A little over five-feet tall."

"Weight?"

"Don't know. Not slim, not really fat."

"Color of eyes?"

"Sort of brown I think," says the guy. "Never really noticed."

"Color of hair?" asks the lawman. "Changes a couple times a year," says the husband, "Maybe dark brown now. I can't remember."

"What was she wearing?" he asks.

"Could have been pants, or maybe a skirt, or shorts. I don't know exactly."

"OK, what kind of car did she go in?" the Sheriff responds, and the man says, "She went in my truck."

"And what kind of truck was it?"

"A 2016 pearl-white Ram Limited 4X4 with 6.4L Hemi V8 engine ordered with the Ram Box bar and fridge option, led lighting, backup and front camera, Moose-hide leather heated-and-cooled seats, climate-controlled air conditioning. It has a custom matching white cover for the bed, Weather Tech floor mats, trailing package with gold hitch, sunroof, DVD with full GPS navigation, satellite radio, Cobra 75 WX ST 40-channel CB radio, six cup holders, three USB port, and four power outlets. I added special alloy wheels and off-road Toyo tires. It has custom retracting running boards and under-glow wheel-well lighting."

And at this point the husband bursts into tears, and the Sheriff says, "Take it easy sir, we'll find your truck!"

*"The number one song played at funerals in the U.K. is 'Always Look on the Bright Side of Life.'" ~ Eric Idle*

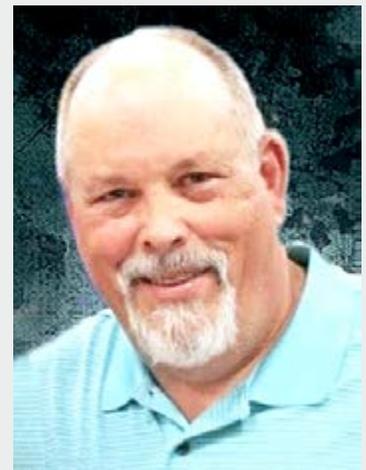
## EXIT LAUGHING

**L**ARRY C. DEEMER, 69, WAS STAMPED "RETURN to Sender" Tuesday, October 2, 2018. He was born May 10, 1949, in Ellwood City, to Clair and Mary Deemer. At age 6, as his father realized Larry's potential, his dad promptly had himself neutered.

Larry most prided himself on the fact that upon his high school graduation, six of his teachers required psychiatric treatment for chronic depression and suicidal thoughts.

Once he left college, Larry briefly, very briefly, earned a living as a male stripper. Eventually, he became a supervisor for 26

years with Consolidated Coal where his most noteworthy accomplishment was amassing 18 pairs of channel locks



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and 127 rolls of P-tape. The next phase of his life found him ministering at Upper Ten Mile Presbyterian Church for 17 years...

Larry had a plethora of interests, including occasionally dressing up as a woman, playing corn hole with kittens and eating. He was able to supplement his pastoral salary by frequently visiting the Wheeling Art Institute, where he posed for aspiring student-sculptors whose interest was creating images of Buddha.

He loved to tell stories and freely admitted that a portion of what he said was true, but never disclosed which portion. To the astonishment of many, on May 10, 1997, he wed the love of his life, **Gretchen**. Quite often, he was quizzed as to how he was able to corral such a young beauty, and he admitted lying to her, claiming he was filthy rich...

In lieu of flowers, the family asks, for those who are willing, to attend a church of their choice, and secondly, to break wind in a public setting. Visitation will be held from noon to 2 p.m. and any person who cries will kindly be asked to vacate the premises.

"In politics, stupidity is not a handicap."  
~ Napoleon Bonaparte

## GREAT SCOTT

**MET SCOTT WILSON BACK IN 1974 AT A ROLLIKING** dinner in L.A. with my Yale acting buddies **Sam Waterston** and **Tom Ligon**. Sam had worked with him in *The Great Gatsby* and they remained close friends for all of their lives.

He was one helluva actor and left a wonderful legacy when he left us October 6 at the age of 76. Probably best known for his role as the real-life killer Dick Hickock of *In Cold Blood*, he was still gaining kudos for his work in "The Walking Dead" up to the end.

"I think you always get a credibility out of me," he said after a long career in film and TV. "I think you always get a believability out of me."

"If you can go through life without experiencing pain, you probably haven't been born yet."  
~ Neil Simon



Wilson in 'Gatsby,' 1974

"Don't gamble. Take all your savings and buy some good stock and hold it till it goes up, then sell it; and if it don't go up, don't buy it." ~ Will Rogers

## TRICKSTERS

**L**ance Rucker, Joan Allemand, Robert Riddle, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., Sam Waterston, Nick Oliva, Joel Foster, Richard Laible, David Koff, *The Week*, Janellen Steininger, Danny Mann, Laurence Budd and David Kersey, and *Mnogaya Leyta* (Many Years) to the Yale Russian Chorus which just celebrated 60 years of magnificent music in a 200-man concert conducted by my classmate **John Stewart** and our founder, **Denis Misciewicz** (right), among others.

### HEAR IT HERE.

And read all about it in my memoir, *Where's My Fortune Cookie?* at **AMAZON**.

And finally, adieu to the great French troubadour and storyteller, **Charles Aznavour**, touring to the end at 94.

"My wife says, 'Stop working! You are old enough to stop!' I say, if I stop, I die." He died first..."

"We now live in a nation where doctors destroy health, lawyers destroy justice, universities destroy knowledge, the press destroys information, religion destroys morals, and banks destroy the economy."  
~ Chris Hedges



PLANETCLICK

CLICK WORDS TO OPEN

AND TREATS

ART

BOMBING

BEATLES

BAR NONE

GRAPHIC

POOP

WAR STORY

"I had a dream I was awake -- and I woke up to find myself asleep." ~ Stan Laurel

VISIT THE FIRESITE AND THE BOOMERS

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