

"The darkness is cold/Because the stars do not believe in each another." ~ Poet W.S. Merwin

**PLANET PROCTOR**

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# PLANET TAXES\$

## You're old because ...

**Y**ou talk to yourself because you need expert advice. You don't need anger management, you just need people to stop pissing you off. Your people skills are perfectly fine; it's your tolerance of idiots that needs work. Sometimes you roll your eyes out loud.

The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it." When you were a child, you thought nap time was a punishment; but now it's a mini-vacation. Even duct tape can't fix stupid, but it can muffle the noise. The day the world runs out of beer is worse than melting icecaps.

Wouldn't it be great if you could just pop yourself into the dryer for ten minutes and erase years of wrinkles and come out three times smaller? Getting lucky means walking into a room and remembering why you're there.

**TAXING TIMES**

An (eye) roll of Franklins.

"The thin place" is where where heaven and earth overlap in Celtic folklore. ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

## What a cutup

**J**ACKIE MARTLING SAYS: "A LITTLE GUY GOES into an unemployment office to apply for a job as a lumberjack, but the interviewer takes one look at him and says skeptically, "Have you got any experience?"

The little guy says, "I used to work in the Sahara Forest."

The interviewer scoffs and says, "The Sahara Forest? Don't you mean the Sahara Desert?" The little guy says, "Maybe now!"

*"If you're not living on the edge, you're taking up too much room." ~ Woody Harrelson*

## Kafka at the Komedya Stop

*[Kafka enters, holding a rubber chicken]:*

**B**ehold, this mockery of food! And speaking of chickens: Why did the chicken cross the road? Well, it had been crossing so long it could not

remember, and as it stopped in the middle to look back, a car sped by, spinning it around. Disoriented, the chicken realized it could no longer tell which way it was going. It stands there still.

**A horse walks into a bar. The bartender asks, "Why the long face?"** – "I was born into servitude, and when I die, my feet will be turned into glue," replied the horse. The bartender realized he would not be getting a tip.

**"Why is a raven like a writing desk?"** – I don't know," Gregor told the faceless interrogator for the fiftieth time. "We can't help you if you won't work with us. Perhaps another day in the machine will convince you to cooperate."

**[To heckler]** Hey, I don't come down to where you work and expose the bureaucratic machine in which you're embedded as the dehumanizing monolith it is, now do I?"

**"Knock knock."** "Who's there?" **"Knock knock."** "Who's there?" Alois asked again, more insistently. **"Knock knock."** And so it went for years. It wasn't until his deathbed Alois realized he was on the outside of the door.

**What's the difference between a lawyer and a catfish?** Nothing, because after Albert's inexplicable transformation, every breath was agony...

One day, you slip on a banana peel, destroying it.

*In England, Reed's college has a 15th century dog collar collection. ~ Phil's Phunny Phact*

## He's really bugged

**A**fter a weekend furlough, the sergeant got to the military base only to find out that none of his soldiers made it back on time, so he decided to summon each of them to his office and get an explanation. The first soldier walks in and the Sergeant asks: "What's your excuse for showing up so late?"

"Sorry, sir! You see, I was late for the bus and had to hitchhike, and then suddenly, an Amish man driving a horse and buggy stopped and offers me a ride! I couldn't refuse the man's kind gesture, but it took forever to get here, and that's why I'm late!"

"Well, I guess that's a reasonable explanation," said the reluctant Sergeant, and he let him go and called in the next soldier to ask for his excuse. "Sorry,



### THE BEST MEDICINE

Franz takes a walk on the lighter side.

sir! I can explain; you see, I was late for the bus and had to hitchhike, then this old Amish woman with a horse and carriage stopped for me..."

One after another, all the soldiers tell him the exact same story, so when the last soldier walks in, the Sergeant, his voice dripping with sarcasm, says: "I suppose you hitch-hiked too?" But he answers, "No sir!"

"No???" barks the Sergeant.

"I was in a 2014 Mercedes, sir!" And his superior says, "Then why the heck, were you late??" And he answered apologetically, "We tried to make good time sir, but the road was completely blocked with horses and buggies!"

*"You have to laugh trouble down to a size where you can talk to it." ~ Sportswriter Dan Jenkins*

## This ends with a bang

**A** HUSBAND AND WIFE GO TO AN ADOPTION agency looking to adopt a child. They are well-dressed and well-spoken, and the social workers are quite impressed, but when asked about their profession, the couple said they run a circus. This gave them pause – an environment with animals, moving all the time? It obviously raised doubts about their suitability as parents. So, the couple produced photos of their 55-foot motor home, which is clean and well maintained and equipped with a large and spotless nursery.

The social workers are happy to see this but wonder about the kind of education a child would receive while in the couple's care. So the husband puts their mind at ease, saying, "We've arranged for a full-time tutor teaching the child all the usual subjects along with French, Mandarin, and computer skills."

And the mother asserts, "Our nanny is a certified expert in pediatric care, child welfare, proper nutrition and exercise – all that a child requires." The social workers are finally satisfied and ask the couple, "What ages were you looking to adopt?"

The husband says, "It doesn't really matter, as long as they fit in a cannon."

*"Blessed are the young, for they shall inherit the national debt." ~ President Herbert Hoover*



## A penny for your thought

**A** MAN CLIMBS TO THE TOP OF MT. SINAI AND gets close enough to talk to God. Looking up, he asks the Lord, "God, what does a million years mean to you?" The Lord replies, "A minute."

The man then asks, "And what does a million *dollars* mean to you?" The Lord replies, "A penny." He perks up and asks, "So, can I have a penny?"

"In a minute..."

*"If you wish to make an apple pie from scratch, you must first invent the universe." ~ Carl Sagan*

## It soothes the savage breast

**A** RTURO TOSCANINI WAS FAMED FOR HIS musical ability and infamous for his irascible temper, so it's legendary that he once became annoyed at a young woman playing the cello and exploded:

"Here you sit with that beautiful instrument between your legs, and all you can do is scratch it!"

*"You must train yourself to stay on track."  
~ Phil's Phunny Phacts*

## Count on this

**A** DEAR OLD MAN HAS BEEN HAVING TROUBLE making love to his wife due to impotency. He has tried pills, oils, anything he can get his hands on, but nothing works, so he asked every online expert he could think of, but to no avail.

He then tells his buddy about this, and he says "I know a witch doctor who has a remedy. Go see her, she'll help you out."

The old man goes to the witch doctor and she says, "I know of just the thing," and hands him a potion. "Drink this. When you are ready, just say 'one, two, three.' Your problems will be solved. When you are finished, your partner must say, 'one, two, three, four,' and that will be that. You can only use this potion once every full moon."

Excited to try this new remedy, he makes his way home – and indeed, that night on a full moon, things start to get hot and heavy. He says "one, two, three," and suddenly he's hard as a rock, like he was 18 again.

Impressed, his wife stares at him and said, "Wow, that looks great. But what did you say 'one, two, three' for?"

*"We have reshaped the world's climate.  
The question is: How will climate change reshape us?"  
~ David Walker-Wells,  
author of "The Uninhabitable World"*

## Goodbyes

**A** S ALWAYS, I TRY TO EULOGIZE THE PASSING of folks with whom I've worked or known personally over the years, and the first is our dear friend, **Richard Erdman**, who replaced **Lew Parker** in *The Amorous Flea* in which I starred in at the Las Palmas Theatre in Hollywood in the mid-Sixties after an award-winning run off-

■ **CONTINUED**

Broadway... **MORE ON 'AMOROUS FLEA'**

He was a humble man, and I had no idea that he had appeared in as many as 175 films: **LA TIMES OBIT.**

I also have to acknowledge the passing of **Seymour Cassel**, who was a delightful friend over the years, who once said: "I am a performer, that's what I do... and that's what we do in life. We talk, we look, and we hear, and we listen. Our life is a performance." **READ ABOUT SEYMOUR.**

"When you want to know how things really work,  
study them when they're coming apart."  
~ **William Gibson**



Richard Erdman

Seymour Cassel



**MEL AND ME ...**  
as "The Battling Bickersons"  
at the recent  
Radio Enthusiasts of  
Puget Sound OTR  
convention in Bellevue, WA

## GRATITUDES



Oona Austin, Spider Robinson, Jim Meskimen, Alan Sharpe, Joan Allemand, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., The Week, BaBaMail, Traffic Control Ramirez – and remember, you can get *Where's My Fortune Cookie?*, co-authored by **Brad Schreiber**, at **AMAZON** – and hear me read it at **suemediaproductions.com**

"My point once again is not that those ancient peoples told literal stories and we are now smart enough to take them symbolically; but that they told them symbolically and we are dumb enough to take them literally."

~ **John Dominic Crossan**

## ATTITUDES

**EFEXICO**  
**HATTEN OFF**  
**LATE NEWS**  
**DOGGIES**

"All media exist to invest our lives with artificial perceptions and artificial values." ~ **Marshall McLuhan**

**VISIT THE NEW FIRESITE AND THE OLD BOOMERS**

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