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“Dictators fear laughter more than bombs.” ~ Arthur Koestler

IRELAND/SCOTLAND/ENGLAND

There’s really no easy way to describe our recent 3-week adventure abroad, but I’ll try: We had a great time!

If you’ve followed me on Facebook, you got a taste of our adventures, but visiting the ruins of a few of Melinda’s MacDougall ancestors’ castles in the Highlands with her lovely sister, Bonnie, was a moving highlight, as well as the walking whisky-tasting tour of nine distilleries in Dufftown, followed by one of the best meals ever at A Taste of Speyside. I promise to expand on the trip in future orbits...



“I like being over the hill. I’ve discovered there’s a whole new landscape.” ~ Jane Fonda

MAIN SQUEEZE

Did you hear about the bagpipe player who parked his car in New York and left his bagpipes on the back seat?

He walked to his destination and as he got there, he suddenly remembered he hadn't locked the car. He ran back, all the way, but it was too late. Someone had already put another set of bagpipes in the car.

"There's no situation so bad that it can't get worse tomorrow." ~ Damian Green

OH, SISTER, WHERE ART THOU?

A man is driving down a deserted stretch of highway when he notices a sign out of the corner of his eye. It reads:

SISTERS OF ST. NORTON'S HOUSE OF PROSTITUTION - 10 MILES.

He thinks it was just a figment of his imagination and drives on without a second thought. Soon he sees another sign which says:

SISTERS OF ST. NORTON'S HOUSE OF PROSTITUTION – 5 MILES

Suddenly, he begins to realize that these signs are for real. Then he drives past a third sign saying:

SISTERS OF ST. NORTON'S HOUSE OF PROSTITUTION – NEXT RIGHT

His curiosity gets the best of him and he pulls into the drive. On the far side of the parking lot is a somber stone building with a small sign next to the door reading: **SISTERS OF ST. NORTON**

He climbs the steps and rings the bell. The door is answered by a nun in a long black habit who asks, "What may we do for you, my son?" He answers, "I saw your signs along the highway, and was interested in possibly doing business."

"Very well, my son. Please follow me." He is led through many winding passages and is soon quite disoriented. The nun stops at a closed door, and tells the man, "Please knock on this door." He does as he is told, and this door is answered by another nun in a long habit, holding a tin cup, and she says, "Please place \$50 in the cup, then go through the large wooden door at the end of this hallway."

He gets \$50 out of his wallet and places it in the second nun's cup. He trots eagerly down the hall, slips through the door pulling it shut; and as it locks behind him, he finds himself back in the parking lot facing another small sign:

GO IN PEACE -- YOU HAVE JUST BEEN SCREWED BY THE SISTERS OF ST. NORTON

"Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others." ~ Winston Churchill

DOG DARN IT

A guy takes his Rottweiler to the vet and says, "My dog's cross-eyed. Is there anything you can do for him?" The vet says, "Let's have a look at him."

He picks the dog up and examines his eyes. Finally, the vet says, "I'm going to have to put him down."

The owner says, "*What? Because he's cross-eyed?*"

"No," the vet says, "because he's really heavy."

If someone is having and on again, off-again affair with an airline stewardess, is it a layover? ~ Jes' Askin'

JUDY, JUDY, JUDY

Bob Joles writes: Lately, I've been reading one of the four André Previn autobiographies: "*No Minor Chords - My Days in Hollywood.*" It's a fascinating tome filled with wonderful stories from his days at MGM and Warner Brothers Studios. Here is one of my favorites...

"Jazz players have always been unfazed by outbursts of temper, threats and bribes, or even the sight of a good friend walking in with a totally unexpected new lady. Therefore, they were a wonderful influence in the Hollywood recording studios. Judy Garland, in one of her fabled temper explosions, was causing producers and directors to cower, ashen-faced, in a corner.

"She suddenly wheeled around and saw Larry Bunker, a wonderful drummer and percussionist, standing within the periphery of her vision. 'And what the hell do you think you're looking at?' she screamed.

"Larry looked at her with admiration. 'Gee,' he said calmly, 'just like in the movies!' Judy, who was basically funny and self-deprecating, started laughing...

"The only difference between death and taxes is that death doesn't get worse every time Congress meets." ~ Will Rogers

BILL HICKS' PRINCIPLES OF COMEDY

1. If you can be yourself on stage nobody else can be you, and you have the law of supply and demand covered.

2. The act is something you fall back on if you can't think of anything else to say.

3. Only do what you think is funny, never just what you think they will like, even though it's not that funny to you.

4. Never ask them if this is funny – you tell them this is funny.

5. You are not married to any of this shit – if something happens, taking you off on a tangent, NEVER go back and finish a bit, just move on.

6. NEVER ask the audience "How you doin'?" People who do that can't think of an opening line. They came to see you, to tell them how they're doing, so asking that stupid question up front just digs a hole.

(This is The Most Common Mistake made by performers. I want to leave as soon as they say that...)

7. Write what entertains you. If you can't be funny, be interesting. You haven't lost the crowd. Have something to say, and then do it in a funny way.

8. I close my eyes and walk out there and that's where I start, Honest.

9. Listen to what you are saying; ask yourself, "Why am I saying it and is it necessary?" (This will filter all your material and cut the unnecessary words -- economy of words)

10. Play to the top of the intelligence of the room. There aren't any bad crowds, just wrong choices.

11. Remember this is the hardest thing there is to do. If you can do this, you can do anything.

12. I love my cracker roots! Get to know your family; be friends with them.

"America is the best government money can buy!" ~ Steve Nielsen

NO SHIT?

San Francisco might be the one of the most expensive places to live, but it's now also known as "the feces capital of America" with 21,000 incidents of complaints last year alone. So, they've launched a "Poop Patrol" to clean up the mess, and Tony Bennett has revised the lyrics of his fabled song to address the situation. It goes something like this:

"I left my poop in San Francisco
High on a hill, it smells like me.
Where the homeless sleep in cars,
and sidewalks near some bars.
The morning stench will fill the air,
I don't care!
"My poop reeks there in San Francisco,
Above the blue polluted sea --
When I come home to you, San Francisco,
My golden turds will come with pee!"

There are more chickens than people in the world. ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts.

HOLD THE ANCHOVIES

Feeling it was time for a shakeup, a company hired a new CEO, and the new boss pledged to rid the company of all slackers immediately. So, on his first a tour of the facilities, he noticed a guy leaning against a wall; and since the room was

full of workers, he wanted to let them know that he meant business. He asked the guy, "How much money do you make a week?" and a little surprised, the young man looked at him and said, "\$400 a week. Why?"

The CEO said, "Wait right here." He walked back to his office, came back in two minutes, and handed the guy \$1,600 in cash and said, "Here's four weeks' pay. Now GET OUT and don't come back."

He then looked around the room and asked, "Does anyone want to tell me what that goof-ball did here?" And from across the room a voice said, "Pizza delivery guy from Domino's."

"Dear America, you are waking up as Germany once did, to the awareness that a third of your people would kill another third, while another third watches." ~ Werner Herzog

NEVER AGAIN...

...will we see the likes of Doris Day. And what can I say about the great and irreplaceable comic genius of Tim Conway, who thankfully can still be seen as the anesthetized dentist and hundreds of other unforgettable characters on reruns of the Carol Burnett show. Thanks for keeping us laughing, even from Side Two.

And finally farewell to an early crush, pretty Peggy Lipton, whom I worked close to, at least, on "Mod Squad" in one of my very first guest-starring part on TV.

Many other amazing people have moved on recently, and I must say, reading obituaries these days is mostly moving and satisfying, as I recognize the effect of good people on our imperfect world.

"This is a make-believe world ... we make what we believe." ~ Swami Beyonananda

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Oh, my goodness, my daring Planetegers! I am so blessedly busy as I celebrate 27 years of marital blitz with my beloved angel Melinda and we both approach birthdays in July propelling us into our 70s and beyond!

Before that, I will be appearing in two shows with my darling partner David Ossman, or "What's Left of the Firesign Theatre", in Nashville and Bloomington, Indiana, at the end of May and beginning of June. We will bring our two-man multi-media show, "The Art of Radio," to the Brown County Playhouse in Nashville on Friday, May 31, and will be guests on the Firehouse Follies, a live radio variety show on WFHB community radio in Bloomington, on Sunday, June 2. The Nashville show will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be followed by a question

and answer session. Tickets are available at <https://www.browncountyplayhouse.org>, and at the door.

We will be performing with our dear friends, Gary Sandy, perhaps best known for his role as the station manager of WKRP in Cincinnati; and Amy Walker, a west coast singer and voice actor known for her ability to provide a voice for every occasion, and with the Follies' own Unusual Suspects Radio Acting Troupe.

The Firehouse Theatre is on every Sunday, 8-10 PM Eastern Time (UTC -5) over WFHB-FM, 91.3: streamed live at <http://www.wfhb.org>

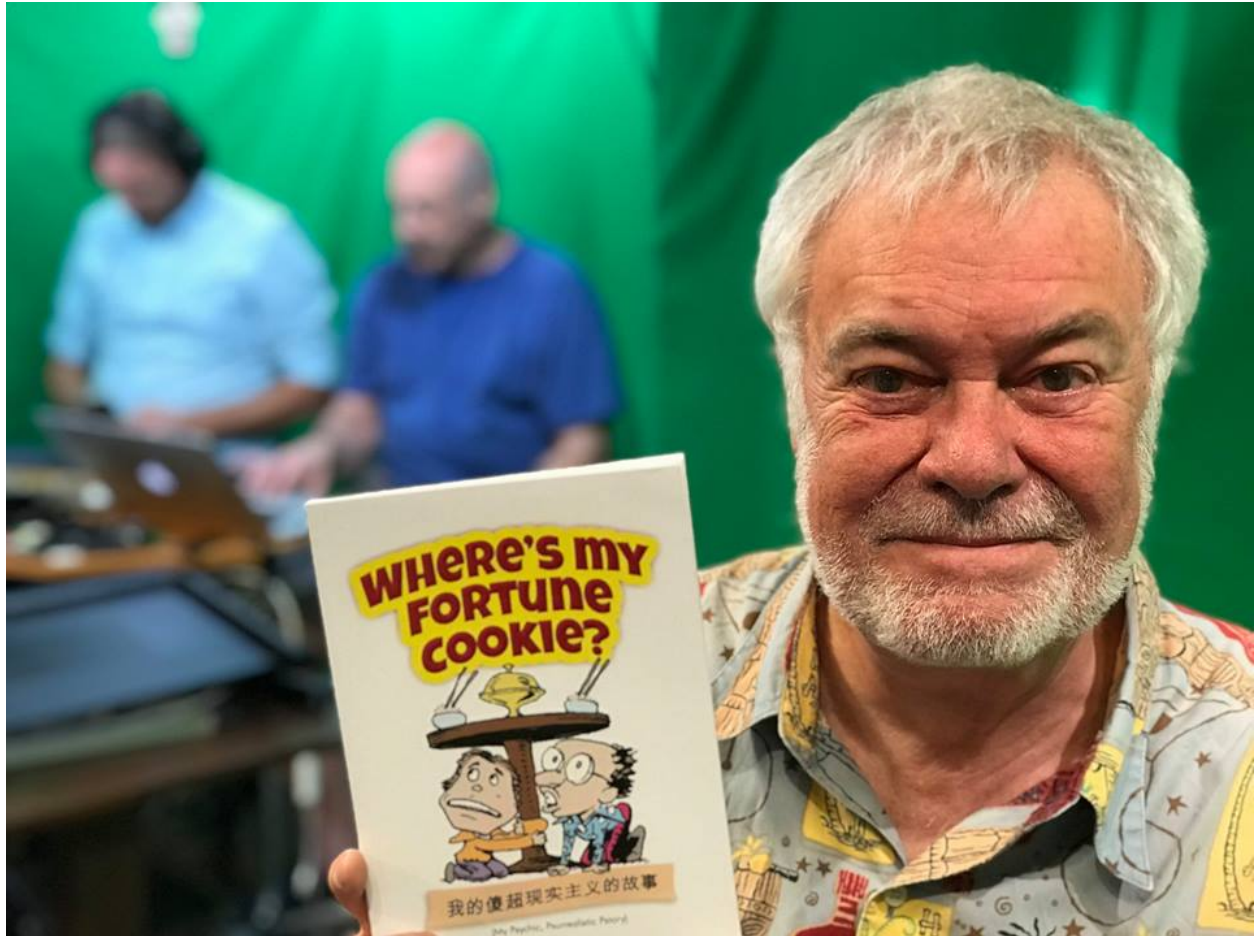
And then, Richard Fish, Tony Brewer and I will be driving to Kansas City, Kansas to perform and teach at the next Hear Now Festival and Workshop. STAY TUNED!

Anatidaephobia is the fear that one is being watched by a duck. ~ Phil's Daffy Phacts

GRATITUDE

Spider Robinson, Bill Bowles, Jim Terr, Richard Wilhite, Jr., Jackie Martling, Richard Fish, Charles Moed, Jeremy Clyde and Roger Gregg who has invited us to perform with his crazy cast again at the *ComicCon* in Dublin on August 16th! And remember, you can still get "Where's My Fortune Cookie?" (rated 5 stars and co-authored by Brad Schreiber), and I'm happy to announce that the spoken version has already won Communicator Awards for best podcast, best audiobook and best entertainment series, available at Amazon and suemediaproductions.com





"I'd rather regret the things I've done than regret things I haven't done." – Lucille Ball

ATTITUDE

EF-XICO : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TohMUCFM9gM>

F*CKS: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Vqbk9cDX0l0>

RUSH: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTeYD3Za_2Q

BLACK BALLS: <https://biggeekdad.com/2019/05/black-shade-balls/>

FUNNY: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/kae76e9vmm8ylas/AACpbNPdye3e_6T12CQhthE3a?dl=0

GENIUS: <https://twitter.com/RandyRainbow/status/1131685940441829376>

HOLE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFVkd4Rvuag>



"Fear is a reaction. Courage is a decision." ~ Winston Churchill

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