

PLANET DEBS

PLANET PROCTOR • "Letting go is all we have to hold on to." ~ Gregg Eisenburg • FEBRUARY 2020

Debs in New York

I was honored to play the socialist legend **Eugene V, Debs**, with **Melinda** as my wife, Kate, in **Debs in Canton** – a moving audio drama by husband-and-wife team **Elizabeth Schwartz** and **Yale Strom**, recorded at **Sue Zizza** and **David Shinn's** new Radio Waves studios in the Tesla Building on West 28th Street in NY.

It tells the story of Debs' life right before his passionate pacifist speech at the beginning of WWI in Ohio, putting him in prison for sedition for ten years. It will be broadcast on May Day over NPR.

We walked to work from the trendy Moxy Hotel on West 27th St. in the thriving Chelsea district, where we enjoyed the local restaurants as well as a side-splitting production of **Boucicault's** rollicking Restoration comedy, **London Assurance** at the Irish Repertory Theatre on West 22nd.

Thanks to our dear friend **Charles Moed**, we also enjoyed a magical evening at the opera **La Traviata**, in a center box in Lincoln Center. And he joined us later for **Mac Beth** at Hunter College – a startlingly innovative interpretation of Shakespeare's classic with a cast of seven spirited schoolgirls.

We also joined our talented friend, **Tulis McCall**, in a celebration of her 70th birthday at PJ Clarke's, after

she and some pals walked across 70th Street to honor Eleanor Roosevelt's statue!

And although it was truly a whirlwind trip, we got to



PROS FOR DEBS

Me, Robert Fass (Theo Debs), Melinda (Kate) and Micah Gellert (Oscar Debs)

break bread with **Bill** and **Delores Weeden**, and then **Larry Belling**, who helped create Proctor & Bergman's national radio series **Power**, with scripts now available at Bear Manor Media.

"You can never go home again; but the truth is, you can never leave home, so it's all right." ~ Maya Angelou

Words to live by

RANCHER, POET, AND CYBER-pioneer **John Perry Barlow** wrote these *Principles of Adult Behavior* the night before his 30th birthday:

Be patient. No matter what. Don't badmouth: Assign responsibility, not blame. Say nothing of another you wouldn't say to him in the same language and tone of voice. Never assume the motives of others are, to them, less noble than yours are to you.

JOHN PERRY BARLOW

Expand your sense of the possible. Don't trouble yourself with matters you truly cannot change. Expect no more of anyone than you can deliver yourself. Tolerate ambiguity. Laugh at yourself frequently. Concern yourself with what is right rather than who is right. Never forget that, no matter

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Word play

Once again, The Washington Post published the winners of its annual contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternative meanings for common words...

Coffee (N.), the person upon whom one coughs.

Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.

Abdicate (V.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.

Esplanade (V.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.

Willilly (Adj.), impotent.

Negligent (Adj.), when you answer the door in your nightgown.

Lymph (V.), to walk with a lisp.

Gargoyle (N.), olive-flavored mouthwash.

Flatulence (N.) Ambulance picking you up after you're run over by a steamroller.

Balderdash (N.), a rapidly receding hairline.

Testicle (N.), a humorous question on an exam.

Rectitude (N.), dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.

Pokemon (N), a Rastafarian proctologist.

Oyster (N.), a person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddishisms.

Frisbeetarianism (N.), The belief that, when you die, your Soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.

Circumvent (N.), an opening in boxer shorts worn by Jewish men..

*"Science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom."
~ Issac Azimov*

Play on words

They also asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition.

Bozone (N.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.

Foreploy (V): Any misrepresentation used to getting laid.

Cashtration (N.): The act of buying a house, creating financial impotence.

Giraffiti (N): Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.

Sarchasm (N): The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

Inoculatte (V): To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.

Hipatitis (N): Terminal coolness.

Osteopornosis (N): A degenerate disease

Karmageddon (N): It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.

Decafalon (N.): The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.

Glibido (V): All talk and no action.

Dopeler effect (N): The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

Arachnoleptic fit (N.): The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.

Beelzebug (N.): Satan in the form of a mosquito that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.

Caterpallor (N.): The color you turn after finding half a grub in the fruit you're eating.

Ignoranus (N): A person who's both stupid and an asshole.

*"Vodka is my spirit animal."
~ LA Times columnist Chris Erskine*

how certain, you might be wrong.

Give up blood sports. Remember that your life belongs to others as well. Don't risk it frivolously. Never lie to anyone for any reason. (Lies of omission are sometimes exempt.) Learn the needs of those around you and respect them. Avoid the pursuit of happiness. Seek to define your mission and pursue that.

Reduce your use of the first personal pronoun. Praise at least as often as you disparage. Admit your errors freely and soon. Become less suspicious of joy. Understand humility.

Remember that love forgives everything. Foster dignity. Live memorably. Love yourself. Endure.

"I am learning all the time.
The tombstone will be my diploma."
~ **Eartha Kitt**

OMG

A BURGLAR BREAKS INTO a church and is searching around in the dark when he hears a parrot say, "Jesus is watching you."

He aims his flashlight at it and says, "You scared me, pretty bird. What's your name?" The parrot says, "My name is Zorba." And the robber says, "Zorba, huh? That's a pretty weird name for a parrot."

"And Jesus," the parrot says, "is a weird name for a Rottweiler, too."

"It is better to scream!
Silence is the real crime against humanity."
~ Author **Nadezhda Mandelstam**

I get the point

I WAS WALKING PAST THE INSANE asylum the other day, and all the inmates were shouting, "12...12...12...12..." so I stopped to see what was going on.

Well, the fence was too high to see over, but I found a small gap in the planks, so I bent down and peered through enough to find out what the hell they were so excited about.

And immediately, some idiot poked me in the eye with a stick! And they all started shouting, "13...13...13...13..."

"Not all those who wander are lost."
~ **J.R.R. Tolkien**

A life boy

A YOUNG WOMAN WAS SO DEPRESSED, SHE decided to end her life by throwing herself from the Brooklyn Bridge; but as she was about to leap into the frigid water, a handsome young sailor spotted her tottering on the edge in tears and not much else.

Taking pity on her, he said, "Look, you have so much to live for. I'm off to Europe in the morning, and if you like, I can stow you away on my ship and you can start a new life there ... I'll take good care of you and bring you food every day."

"How can I repay you for such kindness?" she asked, and the tar answered sweetly, "Just let me make love to you each night."

The woman agreed, so that very evening, the sailor sneaked her aboard and hid her in a lifeboat. From then on, every night he brought her three sandwiches and a piece of fruit, and they made passionate love until dawn.

But three weeks later during a routine inspection by the captain, she was discovered; and he exclaimed, "What are you doing here?"

"Sir, I have an arrangement with one of your sailors who stowed me away," she explained. "I get food and free passage to Europe, and in exchange, he's screwing me."

"He certainly is," the captain replied. "This is the Staten Island Ferry."

"It takes a long time to understand nothing."
~ **Lucy** in "Peanuts" by **Charles Schultz**

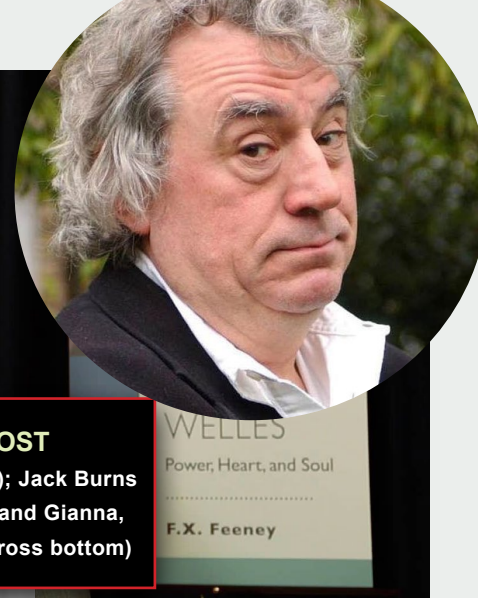
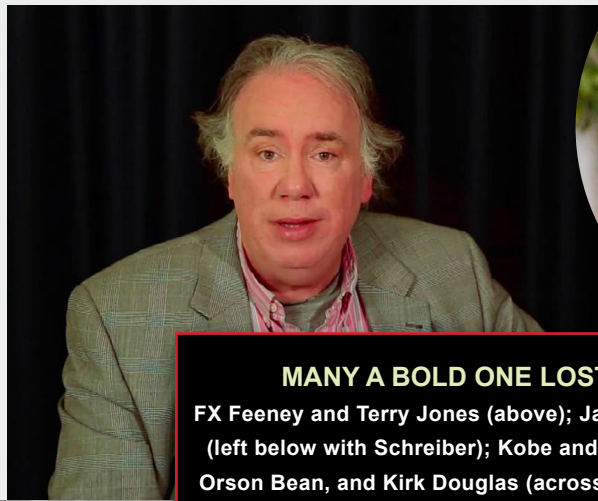
Losing weight and consciousness

WINE AND EGGS / 3 days / loss: 5 lbs (2.5 k.)	
Breakfast:	1 egg, hard-boiled 1 glass white wine (dry, preferably Chablis) Black coffee
Lunch:	2 eggs, hard-boiled is best, but poached if necessary 2 glasses white wine Black coffee
Dinner:	5 oz. (150 g.) steak, grilled with black pepper, lemon juice Remainder of white wine (one bottle allowed per day) Black coffee

"Whatever you may look like, marry a man your own age. As your beauty fades, so will his eyesight."
~ **Phyllis Diller**

PLANETCLICK Hi-Links

LP
F**K
I LIKE U
SATIE
DANCING WITH DOGS
FOREPLAY



MANY A BOLD ONE LOST
FX Feeney and Terry Jones (above); Jack Burns
(left below with Schreiber); Kobe and Gianna,
Orson Bean, and Kirk Douglas (across bottom)

WELLES
Power, Heart, and Soul
.....
F.X. Feeney

Tombstones

ALREADY THIS MONTH, we lost **Kobe Bryant**, his darling daughter and friends, in an avoidable helicopter crash in bad weather; but then 91-year-old comic/actor **Orson Bean** (formerly Dallas Burrows), was run over and killed while rushing to see a play at a theater he supported in Venice. I first saw Orson doing his comic magic act in the **Billy Barnes** review in NYC, and we later reconnected at his one-man show **Safe at Home**. What can I say about a guy who wrote *25 Ways to Cook a Mouse: Whisker-licking Recipes for your Gourmet Cat?* **JUST GO HERE.**

Then we also lost **Monty Python's Terry Jones** and **Avery Schreiber's** comic partner, **Jack Burns** (who loved to chase tornados in his spare time), followed by the incomparable **Kirk Douglas**, at 103, whom I'd met at Allen-Stevenson School, attending with his sons **Michael** and **Patrick**; and then, very unexpectedly, **FX Feeney** at 66, who was not only a brilliant movie critic and TV pundit, but a beloved friend.



And finally, but perhaps most personally, my brilliant, funny Riverdale friend **Steve Kaplan**, who died after a long struggle with Parkinsons.

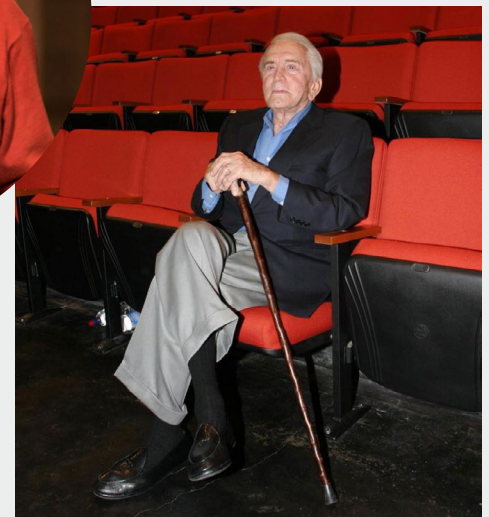
Enough already...

"I don't like propaganda in the theatre unless it is disguised so brilliantly that the audience mistakes it for entertainment"
~ Noel Coward

Hi-jinx

Denny Moyahan, Danny Mann, Joan Allemand, Jackie Martel, Jim Klug, Nick Oliva, Andrew Roaming Genius Hollis, The Week's "Wit & Wisdom" and BaBa-Mail for jokes.

"President's Day: Should sound like a president from the 1800s, including Abe Lincoln, since Lincoln's voice is so recognizable."
~ VO specs from **Danny Mann**



"Every time a Christian defends Trump, an angel loses its lunch."
~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

"We haven't seen much of what we have not seen." ~ sportscaster **Cris Collinsworth**

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