

PLANET PROCTOR • JULY 1, 2020

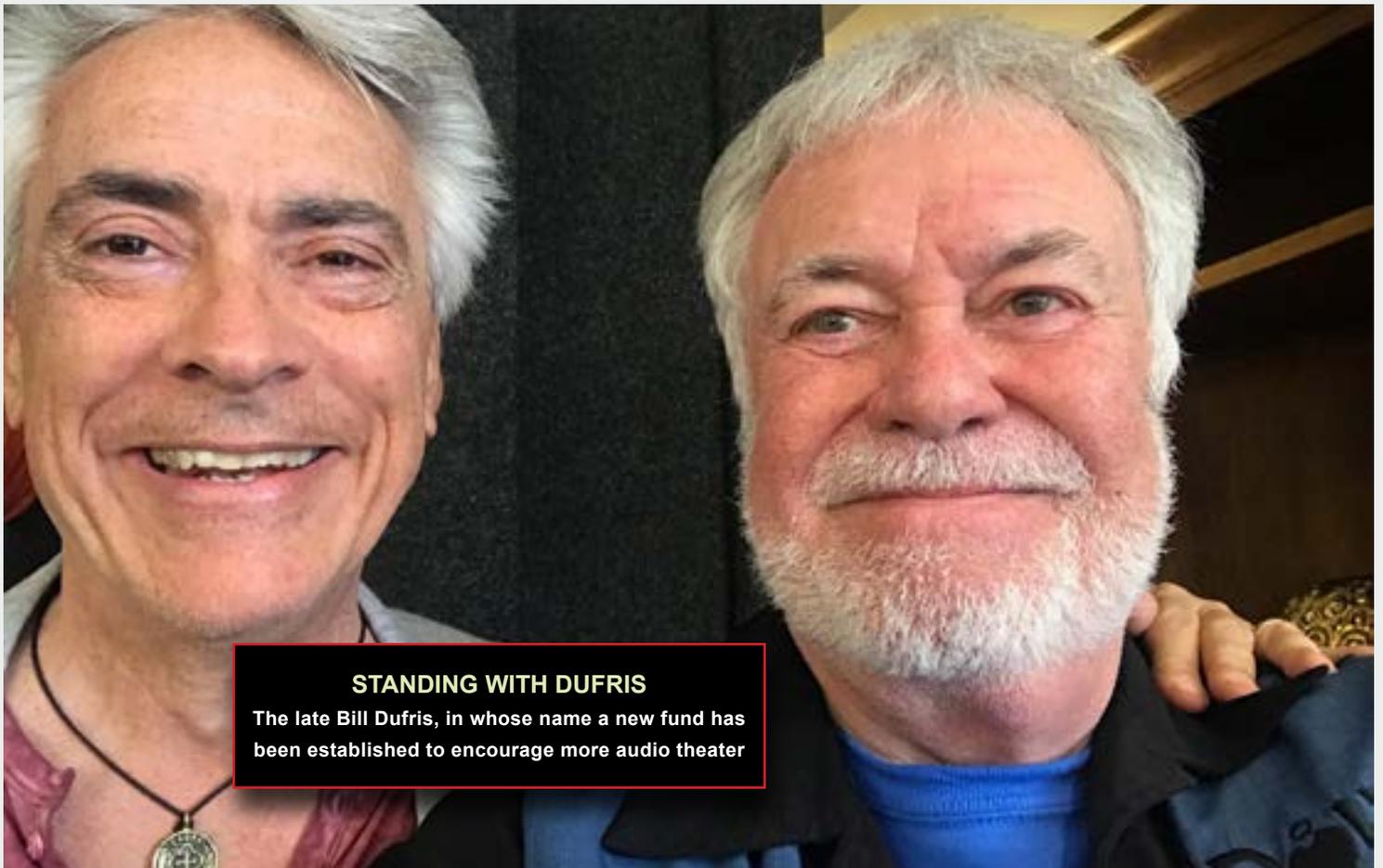
Planet Unmasked



"Just because you believe in something doesn't make it true, but science is true whether you believe in it or not."
~ Neil deGrasse Tyson

Hear Now Then

Well, the 8th – and first-ever virtual – **Hear Now Festival** is over! Festival's Content and Program Manager and President of the Board of The National Audio Theatre Festivals **Sue Zizza** and her husband, head technical director **David Shinn**, say that the website saw "5,000 visitors enjoying our offerings over June 11-14, viewing and participating in live performances and of course great recorded plays. And before and since, we have seen about 14,500 visitors throughout the month – a 400 percent traffic increase. So very good numbers!" | **continued ...**



STANDING WITH DUFTRIS

The late Bill Duftris, in whose name a new fund has been established to encourage more audio theater

HEAR NOW THEN • *continued*

I was very busy here at home, but still, I acted in a rebroadcast of an extraordinary interactive *Hamlet* created by Neil Helligers, called “The Mousetrap,” and in honor of our beloved creative colleague, the late **Bill Duftris** (above), we are all dedicating our salaries to the establishment of **The Bill Duftris Fund** to encourage the future of Audio Theatre.

THROUGHOUT THE ‘PLANET,’ CLICKING **DARK RED TYPE** OPENS A RELATED INTERNET LINK.

The Festival also featured the premier of *Debs in Canton*, featuring me and **Melinda**, as socialist leader **Eugene Debs** and his wife. And I was proud to be included as a cast member in an Independent Audiobook Award, for “**EC Comics Presents: The Vault of Horror**” thanks to producer **Lance Roger Axt**. And if you want to hear any of this – including a popular award-winning interaction with the great **Ed Asner** – just go to www.hearnowfestival.org. I know I will!

CLICK: HEAR NOW FESTIVAL

“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.”
~ **Abraham Lincoln**

Domine, Domine, Domine

WHEN EVERYONE ON EARTH WAS DEAD and waiting to enter Paradise, God appeared and said, “I want the men to make two lines. One line is for the men who were true heads of their household, and the other line for the men who were dominated by their women. I want all the women to report to St. Peter.” Soon, the women were gone, and there were two lines of men.

The line of the men who were dominated by their wives was 100 miles long, and in the line of men who truly were heads of their household, there was only one man.

God said, “You men should be ashamed of yourselves, I created you to be the head of your household! You have been disobedient and have not fulfilled your purpose! Of all of you, only one obeyed. Learn from him.”

God turned to the one man, “How did you manage to be the only one in this line?” The man replied, “My wife told me to stand here...”

“I married beneath me. All women do.”
~ **Katherine Hepburn**

■ **CONTINUED**

Tick tock

LET'S IMAGINE YOU WERE BORN IN 1900. ON your 14th birthday, **World War I** starts and ends on your 18th birthday. Twenty-two million people perish in that war. Later in the year, a **Spanish Flu** epidemic hits the planet and runs until your 20th birthday. Fifty million people die from it in those two years. Yes, *50 million*.

On your 29th birthday, **The Great Depression** begins. Unemployment hits 25 percent, the World GDP drops 27 percent. That runs until you are 33. The country nearly collapses along with the world economy.

When you turn 39, **World War II** starts. You aren't even over the hill yet. And don't try to catch your breath. On your 41st birthday, the United States is fully pulled into WWII. Between your 39th and 45th birthday, 75 million people perish in the war.

Smallpox was epidemic until you were in your 40s, as it killed 300 million people during your lifetime.

At 50, the **Korean War** starts. Five million perish. From your birth, until you were 55, you dealt with the fear of **Polio epidemics** each summer. You experience friends and family contracting polio and being paralyzed and/or dying.

At 55 the **Vietnam War** begins and doesn't end for 20 years. Four million people perish in that conflict. During the **Cold War**, you lived each day with the fear of nuclear annihilation. On your 62nd birthday you have the **Cuban Missile Crisis**, a tipping point in the Cold War. Life on our planet, as we know it, almost ended. When you turn 75, the Vietnam War finally ends.

Think of everyone on the planet born in 1900. How did they endure all of that? Let's try and keep things in perspective. Your relatives were called to endure all of the above – you are called to stay home and watch Netflix.

And Dear Planetears, you may recall reading this before, but as the nation's death toll tops 120,000, we thought it was worth revisiting.

*"It's useless to hold a person to anything he says while he's in love, drunk, or running for office."
~ Shirley Maclaine*

Well trained

A MAN AND A WOMAN WHO HAD NEVER MET before, but were both married to other people, found themselves assigned to the same sleeping room on a transcontinental train.

Though initially embarrassed and uneasy over sharing a room, they were both very tired and fell asleep quickly... he in the upper bunk and she in the lower.

At 1 a.m., the man leaned over and gently woke the woman

saying, "Ma'am, I'm sorry to bother you, but would you be willing to reach into the closet to get me a second blanket? I'm awfully cold."

"I have a better idea," she replied. "Just for tonight, let's pretend that we're married."

"Wow! That's a great idea!" he exclaimed. "Good," she replied. "Get your own fucking blanket." After a moment of silence, he farted.

*"Behind every successful man, stands a woman;
and behind her, stands his wife."
~ Phil's Phunny Phacts*

105 year old lady's advice to us all



**"For better digestion I drink beer. In case of appetite loss I drink white wine. In case of low blood pressure I drink red wine. In case of high blood pressure I drink scotch. When I have a cold I drink Schnapps."
"When do you drink water?"
"I've never been that sick!"**

womenafter50.com

*"Practice is a means of inviting the perfection desired."
~ Martha Graham*

Cow the economy works

SOCIALISM: You have 2 cows. You give one to your neighbor.

COMMUNISM: You have 2 cows. The State takes both and gives you some milk.

FASCISM: You have 2 cows. The State takes both and sells you some milk.

NAZISM: You have 2 cows. The State takes both and shoots you.

BUREAUCRACY: You have 2 cows. The State takes both,

■ **CONTINUED**

shoots one, milks the other, then throws the milk away.

CAPITALISM: You have two cows. You sell one and buy a bull. Your herd multiplies, and the economy grows. You sell them and retire on the income.

CORPORATISM: You have two cows. You sell one and force the other to produce the milk of four cows. Later, you hire a consultant to analyze why the cow has dropped dead.

SURREALISM: You have two giraffes. The government requires you to cut the soles off your shoes and learn to play the flute.

*"I could dance till the cows come home.
On second thought, I'd rather dance with the cows till
you come home." ~ Groucho in 'Duck Soup'*

Who am us, anyway?

ACTORS ARE SOME OF THE MOST DRIVEN, courageous people on the face of the earth. They deal with more day-to-day rejection in one year than most people do in a lifetime. Every day, actors face the financial challenge of living a freelance lifestyle, the disrespect of people who think they should get real jobs, and their own fear that they'll never work again.

Every day, they have to ignore the possibility that the vision they have dedicated their lives to is a pipe dream. With every role, they stretch themselves, emotionally and physically, risking criticism and judgment. With every passing year, many of them watch as the other people their age achieve the predictable milestones of normal life – the car, the family, the house, the nest egg. Why?

Because actors are willing to give their entire lives to a moment – to that line, that laugh, that gesture, or that interpretation that will stir the audience's soul. Actors are beings who have tasted life's nectar in that crystal moment when they poured out their creative spirit and touched another's heart. In that instant, they were as close to magic, God, and perfection as anyone could ever be. And in their own hearts, they know that

to dedicate oneself to that moment is worth a thousand lifetimes.

~ David Ackert, *Los Angeles Times*

"There is a microscopically thin line between being brilliantly creative and acting like the most gigantic idiot on earth" ~ Writer Cynthia Heimel

The toll in Tulsa

ACCORDING TO MR. RESISTER™, WHOSE Twitter account is @ByeByeTrumpy, a door count officially placed the Trump rally crowd at 6,116 – but of those, 2,837 were hired actors, 986 were Trump Campaign officials, 532 were Trump Propaganda Operatives and 183 were plainclothes security – which means that the total REAL ATTENDEES numbered 1,578 devoted fans! And of course, that doesn't take into account the reporters from Fake News, because they're fake, or the millions enjoying the event outside, because they weren't there either.

Please show up at the polls and vote as often as you can! (They're going to call it rigged anyway.)



IT DOES MATTER

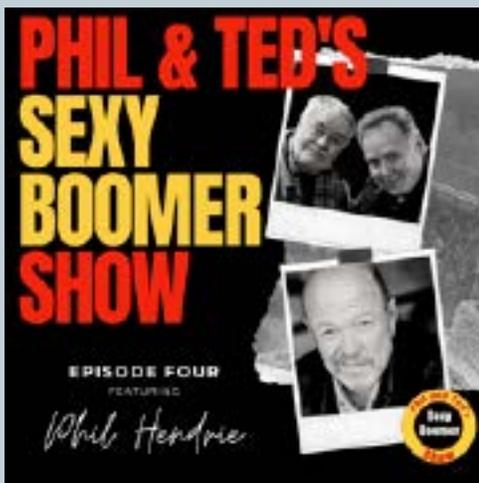
A team assembles the XENON1T dark matter experiment in hopes of detecting an axion.

What's the matter?

ATEAM OF SCIENTISTS HUNTING DARK matter has recorded suspicious pings that might be evidence of never-before-seen subatomic particles called axions – long believed to play a crucial role in keeping nature symmetric – streaming from the sun. The pings “could be a key to the secret of the universe,” a cosmos reporter writes. “Or just annoying background noise.”

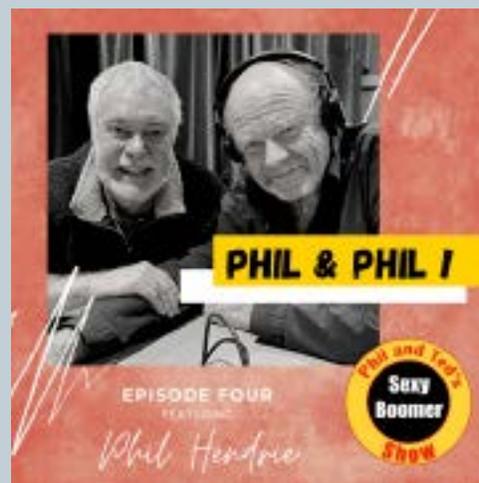
Aren't they the same? Just wait till they discover “the pongs.”

*Chili Fried Ostrich Discharge.
~ Buffet choice in Vietnam*



Get your Phils

OUR DEAR FRIEND, Phil Hendrie, is a creative genius – just ask him – chock full of characters, comedy and commentary, Phil's uniquely famous for concocting a cast of fictional characters, all of whom he plays on air while simultaneously serving as host of his national talk-radio program. **CLICK: PHIL HENDRIE**



He is also an actor and has

regularly voiced characters on FOX's popular animated series "King of the Hill" and "Futurama" as well as appearing in numerous film and TV projects – all while continuing his show online!

So? Where did he find the time to talk with us? And how many of him were in the studio? Listen and find out...

CLICK: SEXY BOOMER SHOW

"DRIVE CAREFULLY - 90% of all people are caused by ACCIDENTS" ~ Road sign in India

"The point is less what we choose than that we have the power to make a choice."
~ Gloria Steinem

I can take it ...

Kenneth Wilhite, Allison "The Trainer" Barenbrug, Jr., Peter Reiss, Kristin Campbell, Nick Oliva, Joan Allemand, Ted Bauer, Ty Granderson Jones, Richard Fish, Paul and Kathryn Petras and my darling wife, Melinda Peterson, for some great quotes.

And a sad farewell to the funny **Ron Maranian**, "the Armenian Comedian," who was one of a kind, with an emphasis on the "kind," and to director **Joel Schumaker**, whom I knew but for whom sadly never worked. (I would have been great as Batman's butler.)

And last, but not last, to Bilbo Baggins in *Lord of the Rings*, as embodied forever by the now bodiless **Ian Holm**,

another stunningly versatile British character actor of stage and screen (*Alien*), dead at 88:
CLICK: HOLM OBIT

PLANETCLICK

...and return it

**BLOW ME
FIREHOUSE
RAH, R.A.H.
JOLTIN' BOLTON
SARAH
SPOT SHEARER
VESPUCCILAND**

"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?"
~ Mark Twain

A final thought

"A HUMAN BEING SHOULD be able to change a diaper, plan an invasion, butcher a hog, conn a ship, design a building, write a sonnet, balance accounts, build a wall, set a bone, comfort the dying, take orders, give orders, cooperate, act alone, solve equations, analyze a new problem, pitch manure, program a computer, cook

a tasty meal, fight efficiently, die gallantly. Specialization is for insects."

~ Lazarus Long as quoted by Robert A. Heinlein

China requires the monks to get government permission to reincarnate. ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

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