

PLANET PROCTOR • JULY 28, 2020 • PLANET 1940

Eighty?

I will turn 80 years old on July 28, as I was born in 1940 in Goshen, Indiana to **Audre Jane Yoder** and **Thomas Grattan Proctor**.

But someone wrote that, "As we become older, we become kinder to ourselves and less critical. We become our own friend, and we've seen too many dear friends leave this world too soon before embracing the great freedom that comes with aging." | *continued*



STILL STANDING

Scenes from a life, top to bottom: Lapping up literature from mother Yoder, acting out with Tuesday Weld and Jack Nicholson in 'A Safe Place,' the Four Horseplayers of 'Firesign Theatre, and stage antics and domestic bliss with Melinda.



"Either America will destroy ignorance, or ignorance will destroy America." ~ W.E.B Du Bois

"Whose business is it if I choose to read or play on the computer until 4 a.m. or sleep until noon? I'll dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the '50s, '60s and '70s, and if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love, I will. I will walk the beach, in a swimsuit stretched over a bulging belly, and will dive into the waves with abandon if I choose.



"I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten; and, eventually, I remember the important things.

"Sure, over the years, my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break, when you lose a loved one, or when a child

suffers, or even when a beloved pet passes? But broken hearts are what give us strength and understanding, and compassion. A heart never broken, is pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

"I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turning gray and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into the grooves on my face. As we get older, it's easier to be positive because you care less about what other people think. I don't question myself



HAIR TODAY

Recent shots: shaven (top) and whiskered

I hit the golf ball any way I can and laugh if it goes in the lake. I'm just happy I can still hit that golf ball.

"So, I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I'm not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day if I feel like it!"

"The world is changed by your example, not your opinion." ~ PaoloCoelno

"Never discourage anyone who continually makes progress, no matter how slowly." ~ Plato

Put down that pickle

YUSSEL ZELKOVITZ WORKED IN A POLISH pickle factory, and for many many years he had a powerful desire to put his penis in the pickle slicer; and finally, unable to stand it any longer, he sought professional help from the factory psychologist.

But after six months, the therapist gave up and advised Yossel to go ahead and do it, or he would probably never ever have any peace of mind. The next day he came home from work very early. His wife, Sascha, became alarmed and wanted to know what had happened.

Yossel tearfully confessed his tormenting desire to put his penis in the pickle slicer and went on to explain that today

he finally went ahead and did it and was immediately fired.

Sascha gasped and ran over to her husband. She quickly yanked down his pants and shorts only to find a normal, completely intact penis.

She looked up and said, "I don't understand. What about the pickle slicer?" Yossel replied, "I think she got fired, too.

"Everyone is a genius, but if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid." ~ Albert Einstein

We can only hope

"HOPE." FEELS FOOLISH SOMETIMES. Fleeting and furtive. Hard to keep aloft. Easily punctured..." writes my friend, John Rubenstein, who continues:

I'm writing letters for Vote Forward, donating to and working for the Vote Save America 'adopt-a-state' campaign (my chosen swing state is Florida!), trying to do what I can to help make the election in November as complete and as fair as possible. But it often seems futile, the uphill grade too steep, the money and power, the voter suppression, the mendacity and malevolence just too entrenched and powerful for these efforts to even make a dent. One loses hope.



And then this morning I heard on the weekly podcast called “Stay Tuned,” of **Preet Bharara**, the former US Attorney for the Southern District of New York, who was fired by Trump in his first days as president, a long and deep conversation with **Cory Booker**, Senator from New Jersey. At the end of their talk, during which they had discussed so many of the terrible things going on in our country right now, Bharara asked Booker, “Do you have hope for the future? And, in one or two sentences, why?”

‘HOPE,’ FOR THE BEST
Preet Bharara and Cory Booker take a stand

Booker replied, “Well, my definition of hope is, maybe, different than yours. I think that hope is the act of conviction that despair will never have the last word. I think real hope is bloodied, is battered, is bruised. I think real hope has to be calloused over, scarred; because hope is daring, and hope takes risks. And I think that hope is muscle, it is fiber, it is sinew, and it’s tough. And so I will always be hopeful; I will always choose hope, even if there’s no reason to. Because that choice can ignite possibilities; and I will never let despair, in this country, have that last word.”

That thinking, those words, lifted me up, and restored my flagging spirit. Hope is not a vain and prayerful stab at optimism, a fearful wish that things might just maybe work out for the best, if we’re lucky. It is as Booker described it. With those images and thoughts in mind, I greet tomorrow with renewed resolve, and . . . Hope. Love to all.



“Certainly, stay home unless you absolutely have to.”
~ **Mark Peterson**, WNDU-TV, South Bend, Indiana

No bull!

THIS PHOTO MARKS THE END OF MATADOR Torero **Álvaro Múnera**’s career. He collapsed in remorse mid-fight when he realized he was having to prompt this otherwise gentle beast to fight.

He went on to become an avid opponent of bullfights and is quoted as saying of this moment:

‘Suddenly, I looked at the bull. He had this innocence that all animals have in their eyes, and he looked at me with this pleading.

It was like a cry for justice, deep down inside of me. I describe it as being like a prayer - because if one confesses, it is hoped, that one is forgiven. I felt like the worst shit on earth.”



“Trouble in the air is very rare.
It is trouble hitting the ground that causes it.”
~ **Amelia Earhart**

Have you ...

HAD A HAIRCUT? RECENTLY? GONE TO a bar? Eaten inside at a restaurant? Had a manicure or pedicure? Had a massage? Visited a friend? Stayed in a hotel? Gone to the beach? Participated in a demonstration? Hugged or shook hands with someone? Flown on a plane? Visited a mall? Gone to the movies? Been to a party? Had elective surgery?

I’ve done some of these things, but at a safe distance – except for the elective surgery, of course...

“You’re not gonna hit the nail on the head with the first bite of the cherry.”
~ Motorcycle racer **Guy Martin**

Dirty business

AMAN WALKS UP TO THE COUNTER AT ONE OF the department store that’s still open for business. “Two pairs of underwear please,” he says, and the

■ **CONTINUED**



MUG SHOTS

Carl Reiner, about whom Steve Martin wrote, one of "the two perfect people" he's known.

man behind the counter looks at him in disbelief. "Only two pairs of underwear?"

"Yup. I wear one while the other is in the wash." The man behind the counter looks at him in disgust, then rings up his order. A second man walks in. "Five pairs of underwear please."

"Only five, eh?" he asks. "Yeah, I wear one for every weekday, then go commando all the weekend." The man behind the counter shakes his head. "Well, you're better than the last guy!"

A third man walks in. "Seven pairs of underwear please," he says, and the clerk responds enthusiastically, "Finally, a man who knows hygiene!"

"Yes, I do try. One for every day, and I do my laundry on Sunday."

Before closing time, a fourth man walks in and states, "Twelve pairs of underwear please." The salesman smiles. "Wow! You must be really clean!"

"Yup, that's me! Err, hang on, let me see if I counted right. January, February, March, April..."

"Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching." ~ C.S. Lewis

Exit laughing

CARL REINER - PERFORMER, WRITER AND director who earned a place in comedy history several times over, died on Monday night, June 29 at his home in Beverly Hills surrounded by loved ones at the ridiculous age of 98. Carl first attracted national attention in 1950 as **Sid Caesar's** second banana on "**Your Show of Shows**," for which he was also a writer, as part of a stellar supporting cast that also included **Imogene Coca** and **Howard Morris**, for which he was also a writer. [Watch a **SKETCH**.]

"I became a writer because of that room," he recalled. "I'd say something and somebody would yell: 'What do you know? You're not a writer!' – So I became a writer."

A decade later he created "**The Dick Van Dyke Show**," one of the most celebrated situation comedies in television history, and teamed with **Mel Brooks** on the hugely successful **2000 Year-Old Man** records.

His novel **Enter Laughing** became both a hit Broadway play and the first of many movies he would direct; among them four of **Steve Martin's** early starring vehicles.

"Most people still don't realize the importance of a straight man in comedy, or how difficult that role is," Sid Caesar wrote. "Carl had to make his timing my timing."

I met Carl many times, and he was always generous and FUNNY. And with Mel at his Grammy acceptance speech, he graciously acknowledged the **Firesign Theatre**.

Carl was a truly loving and humble genius, and we will miss him greatly.

"Man invented God because he needed him. God is us.
~ Carl Reiner

PLANETCLICK

Ranting

RUSHMORE

P&P

VEG OUT

SPACED OUT

WEBB

PARADISO

STRETCH

RING

RANDY

And Antaeus mourns ...

...THE PASSING OF OUR FORMER ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **Jeanie Hackett**, who led the company through some enormous transformations, for which we will be forever grateful.



Jeanie founded the Antaeus Academy which helped launch the careers of some of our best artists, oversaw the Company as we began producing full and regular seasons, directed the world premiere of **Jeffrey Hatcher's** adaptation of *Cousin Bette* to much

acclaim, and foresaw a future for the company that without her enormous tenacity we would not have achieved.

We send her husband **Young Ji** and her family our deepest sympathies.

"Luck enters into every contingency. You are a fool if you forget it and a greater fool if you count upon it."
~ **Phyllis Bottome**

Ciao, Ennio

MELINDA AND I GOT the last two tickets to this concert in Venice of **Moricone** conducting a medley of some of his "greatest hits"!

What a legacy of lyrical and groundbreaking music he left behind. He will live forever... Bravo, maestro!

"To acquire knowledge, one must study. To acquire wisdom, one must observe."
~ **Marilynn Vos Savant**,
Guinness Book of Records,
Highest IQ



LOSSES

Hackett, left, and Lewis, right with President Obama

Get in good trouble

"DO NOT GET LOST IN A SEA OF DESPAIR. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble."

Rest in Peace, **John Lewis**, the Conscience of the Congress.

"The man atop the mountain was not dropped there."
~ **Phil's Phortune Cookies**

Planting

JOAN ALLEMAND, ROB LEWINE, JIM MESKIMEN, Richard Fish, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., Allison Barenbrug, Kitty Swink, Cris Gross, Billy Bowles, Victor Kopcewich and Charles Moed.

And let me add a tribute to the groundbreaking English actor, **Earl Cameron**, who broke the color barrier and ultimately played the title role in "Doctor Who." And to Broadway's **Nick Cordero**, a future star forever dimmed and taken from us at only 41 after a valiant battle with the Corona virus. And to our friend, the brilliant and charitable plastic surgeon **Stanley Frilich**, who succumbed to cancer. Condolences to his beloved wife, **Michelle Lee**.

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

"Pardoning the Bad is injuring the Good." ~ Benjamin Franklin

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