

PLANET JUNE SWOON

"Everything will be OK in the end. If it's not okay, it's not the end." ~ John Lennon

Hey, I'm Hot...

Yes, our poor old California is heading into another dry, dangerous summer, with above normal temperatures, unpredictable winds and drought-dried vegetation.

But I'm talking about my career! I'm busy. Just wrapped another on-camera OTR audio piece for **Gregg Oppenheimer's** inventive Radio Theatre of the Air, playing Mr. Atterbury/Fred Mertz, with my real wife, **Melinda**, as Iris/Ethyl, in his dad, **Jess'**, early "I Love Lucy" network show, "My Favorite Husband."

Then I taped the third streaming version of the NPR comic quiz, "**Says You!**" to be edited into another of the long-running radio series, but available live to subscribers **HERE**.

SAYS US!

(clockwise from top left)

Deb Heitt, Host Dave Zobel, Paul Magid, Francine Achbar, Nat Segaloff, scorekeeper Terri, Joyce Kulhawik and me!

And while work begins on our canyon home, I will be temporarily ensconced in a Beverly Hills Marriott Suite, leaving only to appear in a special film written and directed by our Firesign friend, **Tim Maloney**, called **The Faculty**, inspired by **Orson Welles'** adaptation of **The Trial** by **Franz Kafka**, starring **Anthony Perkins**, and I'm playing a menacing lawyer (sic) named Jeremiah – and I get a driver to the shoot in Irvine!

And there's actually more work to come in July, where I turn 81 on the 28th, to which I say – "What? Give up show business?"



...Or, I'm Not

The history of my career:

- ☛ Get me Phil Proctor!
- ☛ Get me a Phil Proctor type!
- ☛ Get me a young Phil Proctor!
- ☛ Phil Proctor, is he still alive?
- ☛ Get him! Before it's too late!!

"To love and be loved is to feel the sun from both sides." ~ Psychiatrist David Viscott

"A man who won't die for something is not fit to live."
- Martin Luther King Jr.

Snood have guessed?

WHILE SHOPPING IN A FOOD STORE, TWO nuns happened to pass by the beer, wine, and liquor section. One asked the other if she would like a beer. The second nun answered that, indeed, it would be very nice to have one, but that she would feel uncomfortable purchasing it. The first nun replied that she would handle it without a problem.



She picked up a six-pack and took it to the cashier. The cashier was surprised, so the nun said, "This is for washing our hair." Without blinking an eye, the cashier reached under the counter and put a package of pretzel sticks in the bag with the beer.

"The curlers are on me."

"Sex at age 90 is like trying to shoot pool with a rope."
~ Camille Paglia

More old jokes

YOU MAY HAVE HEARD THESE BEFORE, BUT you won't remember... because when you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I'm doing nothing. And when someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"

So don't bother walking a mile in my shoes; that would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head – that'll freak you right out.

It's the start of a brand-new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles! I'm running like the wind-ed! When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on

an aluminum can stuffed with celery? Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9 pm is the new midnight, because the older I get, the earlier it gets late, and when I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.

I had my patience tested. I'm negative, so remember, when you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers. My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb, so if you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"

I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever... I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things. But sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere that makes your heart race and changes you forever!

We call those people cops.

"At 50, everyone has the face he deserves."
~ George Orwell

Made in China

I'M VERY HAPPY THAT YOU CAN READ MY LETTER.

My name is Dingjian, a senior high school student from China. I will take the college examination next year.

so I am too busy to write a perfect letter to you. And my letters are not beautiful. So I use email. So sorry!

First of all, let's talk about our relationship. I remember the first time I saw your movie in 2017.

That was when I was in junior high school. I was almost in love with you at first sight. I remember the first movie I saw now. In your movies, you can often see the reflection of the society and the yearning for the good. You can also see your seriousness and talent for performance.

You are well-known in China. People of my age generally know your name and the movies you play. It's really proud. You have also accompanied me in my hard study and life in recent years. Thank you very much indeed. Then I'll talk about what you mean to me.

Of course, you are my favorite star. Sometimes I think you are everything to me. Life is not easy, especially high school study pressure and I can only face it alone. But you gave me a lot of consolation.

Watching your movies is one of my few ways of entertainment in recent years. How many times, in the middle of the night, I take out my mobile phone to watch your movie. Sometimes I watch your movie secretly in class. Luckily, I've never been caught by

THROUGHOUT
THE 'PLANET,' CLICKING
DARK RED TYPE
OPENS A RELATED
INTERNET LINK.

■ CONTINUED

a teacher...I think that's the good fortune you bring me.

Finally, let's talk about COVID-19. The virus is spreading all over the world. We need to be united at this time. When spring comes, when flowers blossom, I look forward to your coming to China. God bless you! I want to get signature photo from you. I think it will inspire me for the rest of my life. Thank you very much indeed.

*"Satire is meant to ridicule power; if you are laughing at people who are hurting, it isn't satire, it's bullying."
~ Terry Pratchett*

Say what?

This is a transcribed message from my longtime friend Ken Burrows, on miPhone while in NYC:

"Hey Siri and um I don't know what two screws up one to get the party. Secondly, I don't know why I can't leave choose directly, and I anyhow hope you can. I love dogs. If you look to see you, um, and then you give me a call if I can." I did.

*"Every saint has a past. And every sinner has a future."
~ Oscar Wilde*

Too late

HAD A HEADACHE FOR SEVEN YEARS. I GOT UP IN the morning and got dressed, and I'd have a headache. I'd get undressed at night and I'd have a headache. It got so bad I finally went to the doctor. I said, "I can't stand these headaches anymore." He answered, "Well, we've tried every medicine possible, and the only thing we haven't tried is castration."

So, I said "I don't want that, but after seven years of agony, it would be worth it. . Cut 'em off!"

Well, he performed the surgery, and the next day my headache was completely gone! It was the best feeling in the world, and I told myself that I deserved something special, so I went down to the tailor's shop and said "I want the best suit you have – custom fit."

"You'll be a 44 chest," he announced, and I said "How do you know?" He answered, "That's my job. I'm a tailor and I can tell just by looking, and you'll be a 36 waist. And if you want a new pair of pants, you'll be a 34."

I said "HA! You're wrong! I'm a 32!" He insisted, "No you're a 34." And I said, "I'm telling you I'm a 32." And he said, "Listen to me – If you wear a 32 pant, you'll pinch your balls and it's gonna give you a terrible headache..."

*"We must believe in free will. We have no other choice."
~ Isaac Bashevis Singer*

Q and on and on ...

Questions and answers from CARP -- the Canadian Association of Retired People:

Q: Where can single men over the age of 70 find younger women who are interested in them? – ***Try a bookstore, under Fiction***

Q: What can a man do while his wife is going through menopause? – ***Keep busy. If you're handy with tools, you can finish the basement. When you're done, you will have a place to live***

Q: How can you increase the heart rate of your over-70-year-old husband? – ***Tell him you're pregnant***

Q: How can you avoid that terrible curse of elderly wrinkles? – ***Take off your glasses***

Q: But seriously! What can I do for these crow's feet and all those wrinkles on my face? – ***Go braless. It will usually pull them out***

Q: Why should elderly people use valets? – ***Because they don't forget where they parked your car***

Q: Is it common for those over 70 to have problems with short-term memory storage? – ***No. Storing memory is not a problem. Retrieving it is the problem***

Q: As people age, do they sleep more soundly? – ***Yes, but usually in the afternoon***

Q: Where should 70-plus year-olds look for eyeglasses? – ***On their foreheads***

Q: What is the most common remark made by seniors when they enter antique stores? – ***"Gosh, I remember these!"***



FINDING HUMOR IN LOSING IT
Above, a couple's "Finishing each other's sentence" shirts on public display.

"Never keep up with the Joneses.
Drag them down to your level!" ~ **Quentin Crisp**

More Orbit obits

OUR DEAR FRIENDS AND SHOWBIZ FAVES keep leaving the scene, so here are some tributes to our recent losses...

Melinda and I had the distinct pleasure of working with **Gavin McCloud** in several onstage Old Time Radio recreations to raise money for "Desarts Performs" in Palm Springs, where he lived and died at the age of 90. In his wonderfully honest autobiography, *This Is Your Captain Speaking*, he describes his long journey to stardom as the wisecracking news writer on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," and later as the Captain of "The Love Boat," of which he writes, "The critics hated it. They called it mindless TV. But we became goodwill ambassadors," culminating in his becoming the spokesman for Princess Cruise Lines. Sail away, Mr. See...

We also lost the show's producer, **Doug Cramer**, who had such a great success with TV series ranging from "Wonder Woman" to "Dynasty" to "The Odd Couple" and "The Brady Bunch," that – an avid art collector since childhood – he spent his considerable fortune purchasing priceless paintings and then great estates in which to display them.

"There's something wonderful in how the art is, well,

frozen," he explained. "At work, I'll spend...hours looking at film, at moving images. But when I come home, the images stop." As did he, at 89.

And then there's the indomitable **Ned Beatty**, who squealed his way to stardom in *Deliverance* and never looked back, so to speak. "For people like me, there's a lot of...I know you! What have I seen you in?" And he was seen in plenty, including playing **John Goodman's** dad in "Roseanne."

He embraced his fame as a supporting actor, saying, "Stars never want to throw the audience a curve ball...but I like to surprise the audience, to do the unexpected."



FAREWELLS

Gavin MacLeod, left, was part of "On The Air!" in 1966, with a cast that included, from bottom left: Lee Meriwether, Artistic Director Michael Shaw (center), Roger Perry, Joyce Bulifant and me. (Photo by Spencer Maley)

And Beatty's unforgettable **THREE-MINUTE MONOLOGUE** in **Paddy Chayevsky's** predictive 1976 *Network*, shows what a powerful and daring actor he was, as he shouts across his boardroom table (*below*) that "There is

no America and no Democracy! There is only IBM and ITT and AT&T and Dupont, Dow, Union Carbide and Exxon. Those are the nations of the world today." Thank you, Ned. Squeal on.



We also lost a prince of a man in **Samuel E. Wright**, best known as Mustafa in *The Lion King* on Broadway and for singing "Under the Sea" in *The Little Mermaid*. But despite his sterling theater career, like so many actors, he achieved national fame as a bundle of grapes in the long-running Fruit of the Loom underwear commercials! But that was okay with him, for as he admitted, "I know a lot of actors are



FAREWELLS

Doug Cramer, above, and Ned Beatty, at right

■ **CONTINUED**



ashamed to say this...but I want the whole world to love me, remember me forever. Otherwise, I wouldn't be doing this." You did it, Samuel.



And last, but certainly not least, we say farewell to the brilliant **John Paragon**, who along with **Paul Reubens** and **Phil Hartmann**, made The Groundlings a national treasure. We will always remember you, "Mr. Excitement."

FAREWELLS

Samuel E. Wright, top, and John Paragon, above, second from right, at the opening of the Groundlings School, with, from left, Tracy Newman, Laraine Newman, Phyllis Katz, Gary Austin, and Steve White. (Photo Araya Diaz/Getty)

"The real hell of life is that everyone has their reasons." ~ **Jean Renoir**

The crew

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO YOU ALL, AND thanks to the usual suspects who include our contractor, **Bill Bowles**, fellow-traveler **Lance Rucker**, and fellow performer **Tracy Newman**, my darling wife **Melinda**, my darling daughter **Kristin**, for use of her pool and to the magic **Paul Magid** for getting me on board "Says You!," where I can humiliate myself every third Thursday...

PLUS: a happy grade-school graduation to Grandson **Bowen Campbell** and an even happier 10th birthday to my granddaughter, **Audre!**

PLANETCLICK

The View

BIG MAC

MEIN GOTT

YRC

P&T

And let's all welcome our new national holiday of Juneteeth by remembering the words of the great **George Orwell** in the face of the GOP's "Hypocritical Erase Theory": "The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history."

FINALLY: HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO PLANET PROCTOR!

As **Dave Zobel**, the witty host of "Says You!" revealed on the last show, it's been an astonishing 25 years since I started this thing, and I'm deeply grateful to all who have contributed to the "spin" over the decades and especially to my graphics partner, **Cristofer Gross**, and my webmaster, **Cristofer Marley** (coincidence? I don't think so...) I promise that as long I have my sight and my insights, I'll keep cranking them out.

**LONG LIVE THE PLANET
AND THE PLANETEERS!!!**

"We live in a nation where doctors destroy health, lawyers destroy justice, universities destroy knowledge, the press destroys information, religion destroys morals, and banks destroy the economy."
~ **Chris Hedges**

"Volunteers don't get paid not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless." - **Sherry Anderson**

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