

# Planet *Octobermess*

PLANET PROCTOR | OCTOBER 2021

"Happiness isn't a goal - it's a by-product." ~ Eleanor Roosevelt

## BEER WITH ME

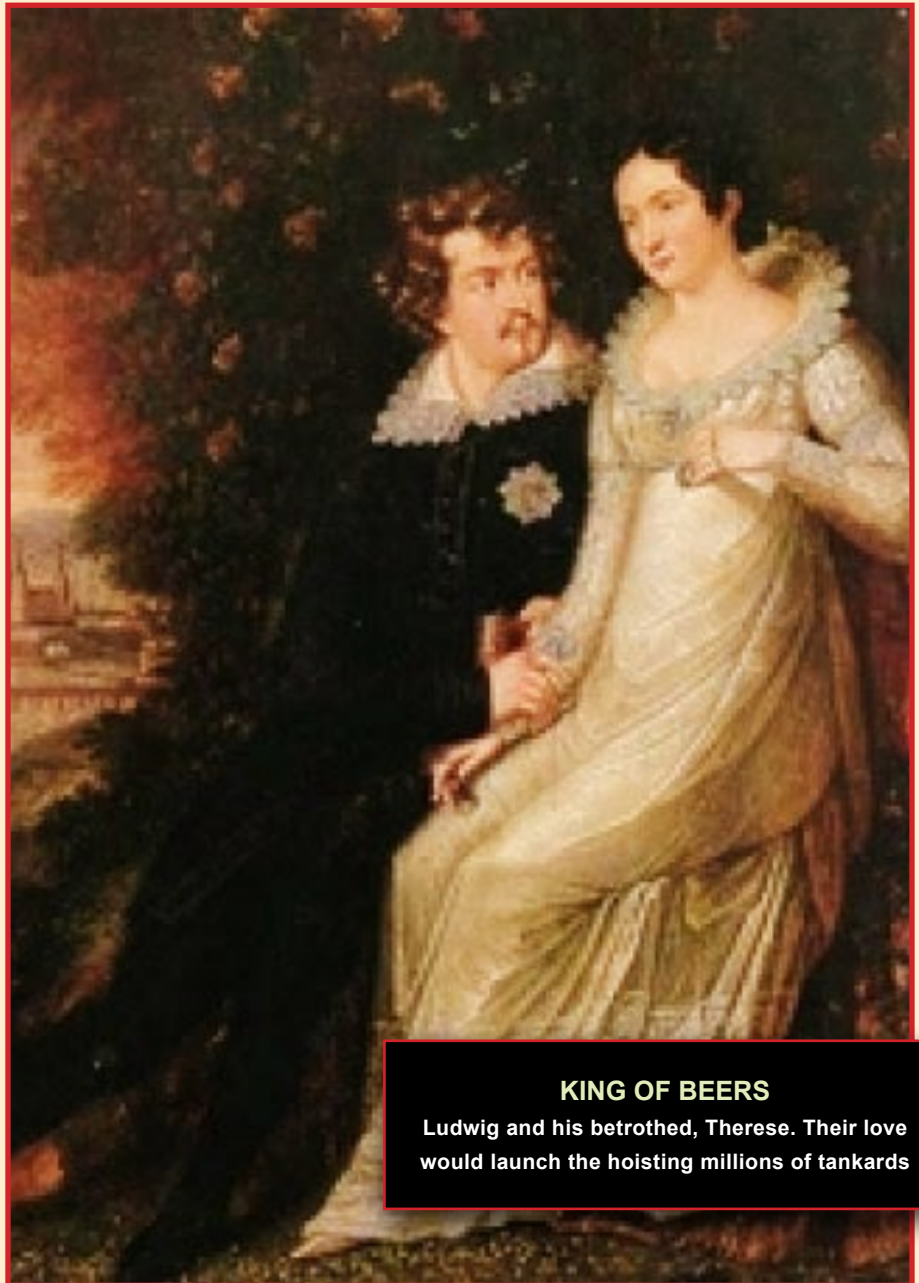
**A**s we enter the hollowdaze, we'll be celebrating Shalloween, Thanksgiving and Missmass, but we start with Oktoberfest, which grew from a wedding reception on October 12, 1810, when the citizens of Munich gathered at the city's gates to celebrate the marriage of Crown Prince Ludwig to Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen. The event, known locally as d'Wiesn (hic) was so popular that it became the world-famous festival of

Bavarian culture that it is today.

And we all know Halloween began as a pagan festival, but did you know that candy corn dates

back to the 1880s, when a confectioner at the Wunderle Candy Company began producing it under the less-appetizing name of Chicken Feed?

And bobbing for apples? Well, long before spooky parties, British singles played the game as a sort of courting ritual, with each apple representing a different edible – I mean "eligible" – bachelor. If a young woman bit into it on her first try, the two would live happily ever after, while succeeding on the second attempt meant a short but apple-red-hot romance, but not getting it right until the third try, meant an alliance rotten to the core! Bite me!



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

### KING OF BEERS

Ludwig and his betrothed, Therese. Their love would launch the hoisting millions of tankards

"Behind every great man... is a woman rolling her eyes." ~ from 'Bruce Almighty'



Phil Proctor



Ilihia



Clay Bravo

## ‘Says You’ says ‘Bye’

**I** STREAMED MY LAST EPISODE OF THE FUN-FILLED game show ‘Says You!’ on the 30th of September. I will miss it, as this shot from a “Hawaiian language challenge” shows. Since its debut in 1996, “Says You” has featured two teams competing to solve challenging word games, recorded before a live audience and supported primarily by ticket sales.

But during the pandemic it had to continue by subscription via Zoom, and I was delighted to be invited onboard by its head writer and host, **Dave Zobel**, and director and longtime pal **Paul Magid** of the **Flying Karamazov Brothers**.

And now you can still enjoy re-aired episodes from earlier seasons on select radio stations, since the show’s creator and host, **Richard Sher**, who died in 2015, made sure the content “remained evergreen,” according to his widow, **Laura** (right).



“We treasure every single day of the 25 years that we had in public radio,” she said. “It has been a dream that no one could imagine.”

And I was honored to be a part of it, because not only did I learn a lot, I made some new, smart, talented friends.

Thanks to you all, SAYS ME!

*“Everybody laughed when I said I wanted to be a comedian. Well, they’re not laughing now.”*  
~ comedian **Bob Monkhouse**

## Aphorisms for Autumn

**A**PPARENTLY, THE PANDEMIC HAS STIMULATED senior citizens everywhere to share a plethora of helpful observations, and here is a sampling:

After loving my parents, my siblings, my spouse, my children, my friends, I have started loving myself. I also realized that I am not “Atlas,” and the world does not rest on my shoulders, but I now walk away from people who don’t value me. I’ve learned not to bother about a crease or a spot on my shirt, and I remain cool when someone

tries to outrun me in the rat race. I am not a rat, and neither am I in a race.

I stopped bargaining with vendors, because a few pennies more is not going to burn a hole in my pocket but might help the fellow save for his daughter’s school. And I leave my waiters a big tip. The extra money might bring a smile to their face and a boost to their income.

I stopped telling my older friends that they already told me a story many times before. Let them wander down memory lane and relive their past. Furthermore, I’ve finally learned not to correct people, even when I know they’re wrong. Making everyone perfect is not my job, and peace is always more precious than perfection.

I give compliments freely and generously. I have learned that it’s better to drop my ego than to destroy a relationship. Self-pride will keep you aloof, but if you honor friendships, you’ll never be alone.

I am doing what makes me happy. I am responsible for my happiness, and I owe it to myself. Happiness is a choice, and I live each day as if it’s the last, because, hey – it might be!

*“Love yourself first, and everything else falls into line.”*  
~ **Lucille Ball**

## Fore play

**T**WO WOMEN WERE PLAYING GOLF. ONE TEED off and watched with horror as her ball headed directly towards a foursome of men playing the next hole. The ball hit one of them hard, and he immediately fell to the ground clutching his hands together over his groin, rolling around in obvious agony.

The woman rushed over and immediately began to apologize. “Please allow me to help. I’m a physiotherapist and I know how to relieve your pain if you’ll let me,” she said.

“Oh no I’ll be all right, I’ll be fine in a few minutes,” the man grunted, still lying in a fetal position and clasping his hands at his groin. “Don’t be silly, let me help!” So, seeing her persistence, he finally allowed it.

She gently took his hands away and laid them at his sides, loosened his trousers and put her hand inside where she administered tender and skillful massage for several long moments –

■ **CONTINUED**



and then asked, "How does that feel?"

"It feels terrific," he replied, "but my thumb still hurts like hell."

"If you have a choice of two things and can't decide, take both." ~ **Gregory Corso**

## Ear, ear!

**I**N FORMER TIMES, NEITHER PHYSICIANS NOR patients were embarrassed when doctors put their heads directly on women's chests to hear heartbeats. However, in 1816, there was a French doctor named **René Laënnec** who was so embarrassed by using this method that he seriously thought about leaving his profession.

Then, one day he was leaning on the stump of a tree when he clearly heard the sound of a woodpecker on branches above and realized that in spite of the distance, the sound waves reached his ear through the tree, and immediately got the idea of a stethoscope – and if he had not invented it, more than 90 percent of our youth would have become doctors today!

"Progress is not possible without deviation."  
~ **Frank Zappa**

## That's America, buddy

**S**O SAID FIRESIGN THEATRE IN "HOW CAN YOU Be in Two Places at Once, When You're Not Anywhere at All," and in a recent *LA Times* article by **Diana Mascow**, we see that nothing has changed...

"In tiny Postville, Iowa I saw a sign that said 'Hometown to the World' but I didn't know what that meant. I drove to town and along the way saw an Orthodox Jewish man with side curls and a flat, black hat walking past cows in a pasture. In the park, a man with a megaphone shouted about *el amor de Cristo* to a small group of Latinos. On the main street, I stopped at a little store called The African Market to buy water. Two men sat in chairs outside the door, and I thought they might be war refugees because one was missing an arm.

"In 1987 Postville was a dying place. It seemed to catch a break when a Hasidic Jewish family bought the defunct meat-packing plant on the edge of the community and made it a Kosher plant. Ukrainian

and Russian immigrants came to work bloody, low-paying jobs. Then, later, workers from Guatemala. Many of the Guatemalans came from the same two villages....

"Then on the morning of May 12, 2008, two black helicopters, more than ten white vans with blacked-out windows, and 900 agents with guns and bulletproof vests raided the meatpacking plant. They arrested anyone who looked Latino, including people who had legal residency. They led them single-file in groups of ten, shackled in chains at the wrists, waists and ankles to the waiting buses. In town, people hid Latino families in their attics and teachers shepherded their brown-skinned students to phones to call home.

The town lost almost one-third of its residents from the raid and the aftermath. Businesses, the school and the tax base crumbled.

"Now, a dozen years later, a smaller meatpacking plant has opened where the former plant used to be. It employs many Somalis. Their status as refugees protects them from raids. Leaving Postville, I stopped in front of a city banner that read 'Welcome' in Spanish, English, Ukrainian, German, Irish, Somali and Hebrew."

Or as Firesign asks, "Who am us, anyway?"

"If at first you don't succeed, hide all evidence that you ever tried." ~ **Billy Collins**

## Baadassssss passes

**M**ELVIN VAN PEEBLES, A FILMMAKER, NOVELIST and playwright, whose audacious, rebellious work had an influence on generations of artists, died at 89. But in a testament to his continued relevance, a restoration of his best-known film, 1971's **Sweet**

**Sweetback's Baadassssss Song**, is set for a 50th Anniversary tribute at the NY Film Festival, and his Tony-nominated play **Ain't Supposed to Die a Natural Death** will be on Broadway next year.

Van Peebles wrote, produced, directed, edited, scored, and starred in **Sweet Sweetback**, which became the top-grossing independent film of 1971, even with an X-rating, bringing in more than \$10 million from a reported \$500,000 as advertising declared, "from an all-white jury."

"True liberation," he explained, "did not mean imitating the colonizer's mentality. ■ **CONTINUED**



**WILKOMMEN, BIENVENUE ...**  
A sign of the times in Postville



It meant appreciating the power, beauty and interconnectivity of all people.”

A 2005 documentary on Melvin was titled *How to Eat your Watermelon in White Company and Enjoy it*. And in his later years, he became the first Black trader at the American Stock Exchange, about which he commented, “The point isn’t that I’m Black or white, but that I’m a

genius. I don’t have to prove myself to other people. If they can’t accept me as a human being, that’s their problem, not mine... Somebody once asked me, ‘Melvin, how’d you get to the top?’

“It was simple,” he answered. “Nobody would let me in at the bottom.”

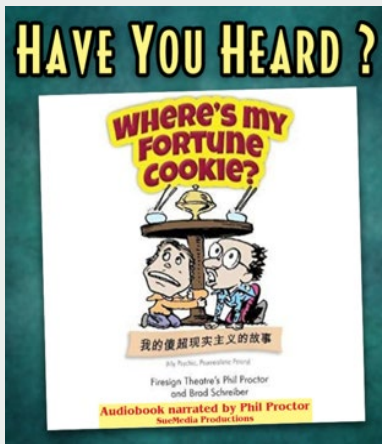
“Horse sense is a good judgment that keeps horses from betting on people.”  
~ WC Fields

### Santa is coming to town

**B**UT DUE TO THE BREAKDOWN of the global chain of supply, he may not be here until March. So you still have time to purchase my book, *Where’s My Fortune Cookie?* and if

you’re visually challenged, like me, get a copy of my audiobook on **SUEMEDIA**. It’s even got some surprises and extras that aren’t in the book! **CLICK THIS LINK**

Fortune cookies are not originally Chinese. They were invented in Japan and were first mass-produced in San Francisco.  
~ Phil’s Phunny Phacts



### Who’s feeling sexy?

**P**HIL & TED ARE! AND ALTHOUGH our listenership is growing, we’re still not as widely supported as “Only Murders in the Building” and so we invite you all to give our show a listen! We are committed to supplying our followers with personal, first-rate interviews – even if our present podcast only reaches whales! But, by the way, they LOVE it! **HERE’S THE LATEST**



And coming next, author **Steven Paul Leiva** talks about his crazy career and his deliciously horrible audiobook, **CREATURE FEATURE**, the amazing **Jay Johnson** of “Soap” throws his voice into the mix, and my Boomers on the Bench partner, **Jamie Alcroft**, donates his new heart to the cause. Stay tuned...**Cheryl Chase** is lined up for November – D’oh!

“People will cease to commit atrocities when they cease to believe absurdities” ~ **Voltaire**

### Contributors

**K**elly Hollis, Thom Hartman, Danny Mann, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., *The Week* for quotes, **Jason Klamm**, and the magical **Turk Pipkin**, co-author of **Willie Nelson’s Letters to America**, and his beautiful book *The Moleskin Mystery*.

### GET IT

And to **Neal Israel’s** son, **Sullivan**, for a wonderful walking tour of Santa Barbara. Our favorite revelation is that California means “Cows in a Furnace,” inspired by the local tanning industry that supplied the growing country with leather! Thanks, Sully. **WALK IT**

And lastly, kudos to Captain (**Bill Shatner**) Kirk for going where no nonagenarian has gone before! He’s our Rocket Man – in spite of **THIS ABORTED RENDITION**.

“Be not simply good, be good FOR something” ~ **Fortune Cookie**

## PLANETCLICK

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“There are a terrible lot of lies going about the world, and the worst of it is that half of them are true” ~ **Winston Churchill**

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