

Planet Kissmas

"To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake, one must stand out in the cold." ~ Aristotle

Santa Ana's Coming to Town

*Ooooooh – you're going to cough,
You're going to cry,
You're going to sneeze,
I'm telling you why –
Santa Ana's coming to town!*

*Fly the red flag
And stop up the flue,
Buy lots of tissues,
You're gonna – ACHOO!
(SNEEZES and blows tissue away)
Santa Ana's coming to town!*

Ghezundheit!

*She blusters when you're sleeping,
She gusts when you're awake.
She blows if you've been bad
or good –
So be bad,
What difference does it make?*

*A Merry
Christmas to
all ... And we
don't need
mistletoe to
express our
love...*



How a woman showers

Take off clothing and place them in sectioned laundry hamper separating lights and darks. Walk to the shower in a long dressing gown. Cover up any exposed flesh and rush into the bathroom. Look at your body in the mirror and stick out your stomach so that you can complain about how fat you're getting.

Get in the shower. Look for facecloth, arm cloth, leg cloth, long loofah, wide loofah and pumice stone. Wash your hair once with Sea Cucumber and Lamprey shampoo with 83 added vitamins. Rinse and repeat. Rub in Cucumber and Lamprey conditioner with enhanced crocus oil. Leave on for 15 minutes. Wash face with crushed apricot facial scrub for 10 minutes until red and raw. Wash entire rest of body with Ginger Nut and Coffee Cake body wash. Rinse conditioner off for 15 minutes to make sure it's all gone. Shave armpits and legs. (Consider shaving bikini area but decide to get it waxed instead.) Scream loudly when your partner flushes the toilet and damn near scalds you.

Turn off the shower. Squeegee off all tile surfaces with Tilex to prevent mold. Dry yourself with a thick, plush beach towel and wrap hair as well. Check entire body for blemishes or zits. Pop them.

Rush into the bedroom wearing that long dressing gown with flamboyant towel on head, and spend an hour and a half getting dressed and putting on your makeup.

Face the world.



"It's important to remember that you're born naked, and the rest is drag."

~ Margaret Culkin Banning

How a man showers

Take off clothes while sitting on the edge of the bed and throw them into a pile on the floor. Walk naked into the bathroom. If your partner catches a glimpse of you along the way, flash them making the "woo-woo" sound. Look at your manly physique in the mirror and suck in your gut to see if you have any pecs (likely not). Admire the size of your wiener and scratch your balls.

Get in the shower. Don't look for a washcloth, as men don't use them. Wash your face. Wash your armpits. Crack up at how loud your farts sound in the shower.

Wash your privates and surrounding area. Wash your ass, leaving hair stuck on the soap bar. Wash your hair. Do not use a conditioner. Make a shampoo Mohawk. Pull back the shower curtain and look at yourself in the mirror. Pee in the shower.

Rinse off and get out of the shower.

Partially dry off. Look at yourself in the mirror, flex muscles, admire clean wiener.

Leave shower curtain open and wet bathmat on floor. Leave bathroom light and fan on.

Return to the bedroom with a bath towel wrapped around your waist. If your significant other sees you, pull off the towel, grab your wiener, go "Yeah, baby!" and shake it good. Throw wet towel on the bed. Take two minutes to get dressed. Get ready to fuck the world.

"The arts are the rainforest of society. They produce the oxygen of freedom, and they are the early warning system when freedom is in danger."

~ June Wayne

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

A moving story

ATTENTION, SEEKERS: A PLEA FOR HELP ON [Nextdoor.com](https://www.nextdoor.com) from **Aji Deville**: "Hello, I am moving out of state for work and unfortunately cannot take my husband. He is 57 and desexed. I am moving to an area with many coyotes, and he is an outdoorsy person, and I don't think he will be safe. I have toyed with the idea of a purpose-built husband enclosure, but I think he'll find it too restrictive. I have a harness for him, but I have only ever used it indoors and worry that he might break free if I try to use it while walking.

"I have had my husband for 34 years and it breaks my heart to have to give him away. He also has high cholesterol and diabetes so whoever takes him will have to prepare his meals and also supervise him outside of mealtime. I am hoping to adopt a new indoor husband once I move. Maybe a younger pedigree that doesn't shed and has been partially de-toenailed. Many thanks and hoping someone can help."

(Sounds to me that he'd be better off in a shelter!)

"Familiarity breeds contempt. And Children."
~ **Mark Twain**

A more moving story

IN 1964 IN ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, THIS woman got pregnant in her senior year in high school, the principal told her she wouldn't be allowed to graduate. She begged the school to change its mind. It did, but there were conditions:

She was not allowed to talk to the other students. She was barred from eating in the cafeteria. She could not come to school more than five minutes in advance of the opening bell, and she had to leave school within five minutes of the closing bell. And she was not allowed to get her diploma onstage with the rest of the students.

She did marry the father of her child. He was not a good husband and not a good father and it lasted only a year. After the divorce, he never had any contact whatsoever with his ex-wife and their son.

A couple of years later, she married a Cuban migrant, a good and decent man. He adopted her son and gave him his name. Many years later, in 2013, the biological father was operating a bicycle shop in California when a reporter came by and asked if he could talk to him. That was when the biological father, **Ted Jorgensen**, found out that his biological son is **Jeff Bezos**, the richest man in the world.

Last July, after his successful space flight, the first person Bezos hugged after exiting the space capsule was his mother, **Jacklyn**.

"There is only one mystery - the world."
~ **Rene Magritte**

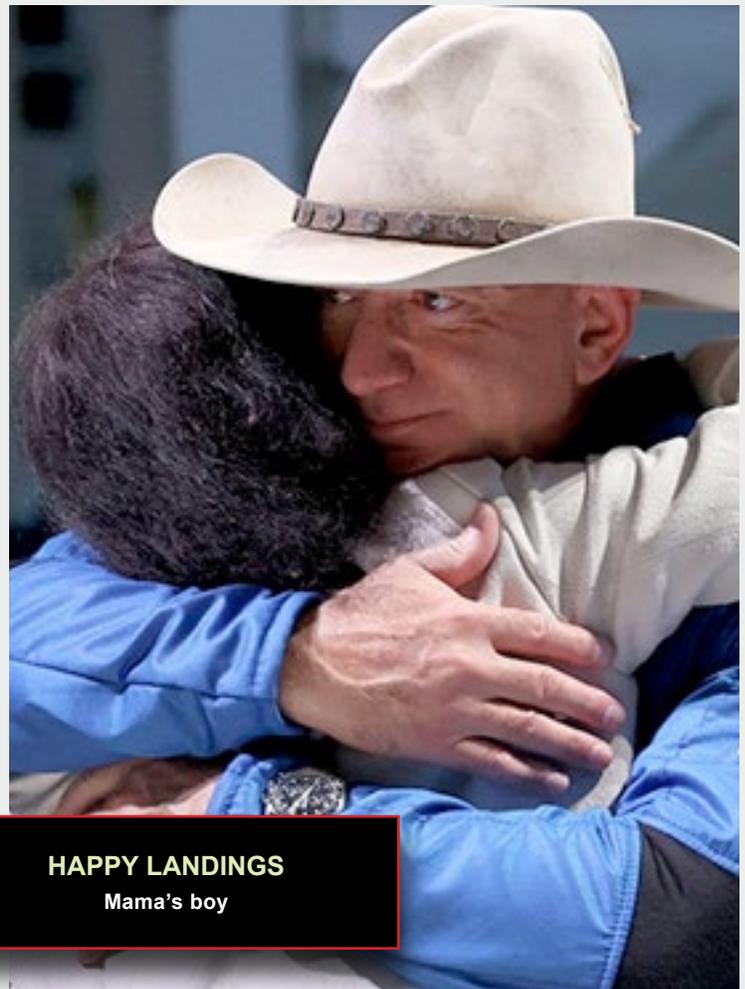
Vive la Josephine

AMERICAN-BORN SINGER AND DANCER **Josephine Baker** will be honored at the Panthéon monument in Paris, with a cenotaph containing soil from various places where she lived, and making the entertainer – who was a World War II hero in France – the first Black woman to receive the country's highest honor, which has previously gone to **Marie Curie**, **Victor Hugo**, **Emile Zola** and **Voltaire**.

When Baker arrived at the Paris train station in 1925, a white man helped her off the train and smiled at her. She said, "It was the first time I felt like I was treated as a person and not as a color."

After her death in 1975, Baker was buried in Monaco, dressed in a French military uniform with the medals she received for her role in the French Resistance where, among other missions, she carried messages hidden in her underwear to England and other countries, using her star status to justify her travel.

Back in the U.S., she was a respected ■ **CONTINUED**



HAPPY LANDINGS
Mama's boy

JOSEPHINE BAKER

JE T'AIME JO

France honors Baker

civil rights activist who participated in the 1963 March on Washington alongside the **Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.**

"I have walked into the palaces of kings and queens and into the houses of presidents," she said. "And much more. But I could not walk into a hotel in America and get a cup of coffee, and that made me mad."

She told the crowd she had just been handed an invitation to meet **President Kennedy** at the White House. "I am greatly honored," she announced, "But I must tell you that a colored woman – or, as you say it here in America, a Black woman – is not going there. It is a woman. It is Josephine Baker."

"In the depths of winter, I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer." ~ Albert Camus

Holiday magic

IN PSYCHEDELIC 1967, BETWEEN THEIR FIRST and second albums, **The Firesign Theatre** wrote a dozen original half-hour radio plays in full **Goon Show** mode, with puns on overdrive. They performed



them in front of a live audience at the Magic Mushroom club on Ventura Blvd in LA, while being simulcast on **Peter Bergman's Radio Free Oz** on 50,000-watt KRLA.

Considered lost for half a century, these mythical

broadcasts are finally being officially released from the best available recordings, fully remastered and with historical appreciations from original members of Firesign and their archivist. So, break off a hunk of the old 'shroom! It's like having the Sixties in the palm of your mind...

The package includes a 48-page paperback book with DVD-ROM, including all 11 of the surviving Magic Mushroom plays, plus original promos and the October 29, 1967 episode of Radio Free Oz ("The Bridey Murphy Come As You Were Halloween Party").

Remastered audio, never-before-published photos and ephemera from the archives, and brand new illustrations by **Mahendra Singh!** **MORE INFO**

"People say money is not the key to happiness - but I figure if you have enough money, you can make your own key."
~ Joan Rivers

Dooley noted

WE RECENTLY HAD THE GREAT JOY OF interviewing the great character actor, **Paul Wimpy Dooley** at the home he shares with his talented wife, **Winnie Wicked Holzman** for another Phil & Ted's Sexy Boomer show. He revealed to us that next October we can all savor the release of his autobiography, **Movie Dad**, and here is a tempting taste:

I was intoxicated with...jokes. The next day I'd re-live them all, finding I'd memorized many of them. I wondered: What are jokes? What makes them funny? In my mind I started a never-to-be-forgotten file of funny stuff. Ever since then, if I hear something I think is funny, I never forget it. I'm like an elephant for jokes. Looking back at myself, at that 12-year-old kid, hooked

on comedy... I had to wonder...

What kind of an evil demon could cloud the mind of a young boy, take hold of his senses, and enslave him to an uncontrollable obsession... with jokes? Oh, I can see how it must have started. Very innocently at first. A pun here, a funny anecdote there. But those are gateway jokes. It could have very quickly led to harder stuff. Mainlining one-liners. Wasted on wordplay. And before you know it, the kid's a wisecrack addict living in a wisecrack house. And where might it all have ended? In the gutter? On Skid Row? Doing "Who's on First" ... with a homeless guy?

I've got to stop thinking like this.

"Wonder is the beginning of Wisdom." ~ **Socrates**

An ode to Willio

BACK IN THE SILLY SEVENTIES, WHEN BERGMAN and I were touring, we often crossed paths with two guys called **Willio** and **Phillio**, and one of them, **Will Ryan**, *below left*, confided that he was often mistaken for me, since at that time, indeed, we looked rather alike! And so began a personal friendship that culminated in the early '90s when I was cast as the father of Will's beloved character Eugene Meltsner in the long-running family-oriented radio series "**Adventures in Odyssey**" for which he created hundreds of other characters.



I later went on to portray the town's detective, Lt. Polhaus, and enjoyed many more years admiring Will's prolific talents as a voice artist, author, composer, lyricist and musician. He was an ever-inspiring, creative and cheery companion both personally and professionally, right up to his untimely passing from cancer a few weeks ago.

Earlier he and partner **Phil Rubin** voiced characters on the TV show "**The Adventures of Teddy Ruxpin**,"

and later he composed and recorded songs for The Walt Disney Company, where he also provided the voices of Rabbit and Tigger and the singing voice of Eeyore, in the series "**Welcome to Pooh Corner**," as well as Barnaby the Dog on "**Dumbo's Circus**."

In recent years he was the star of Will Ryan's Cactus County Round-Up, with his band, The Cactus County Cowboys. He and **Nick Santa Maria** also performed occasionally as the fictional vaudeville-era comedy team, **Biffle & Shooster**; and in 2013 they made their first film, a faux 1930s comedy short titled **It's a Frame-Up!**

Beginning on January 28, 2021, up until his death, Will was the co-host of the "**Tell Ya Later**" show on YouTube with longtime friend and co-star **Katie Leigh**. The final episode on November 15 was recorded just four days before his death. A trooper to the end, Will was only 72.

"Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face." ~ **Victor Hugo**

Farewell to the Nez

ALTHOUGH **MICHAEL NESMITH** MADE HIS name as one of **The Monkees**, he went on to produce ground-breaking long form comic videos like **Elephant Parts**, where I first met him as an actor, and in 1982, it received the very first Grammy Award for a video. Later, his production company, **Pacific Arts**, helped to realize The Firesign Theatre's film, **Nick Danger in the Case of the Missing Yolks**, directed by **William Dear**.



It is famously known that Michael's mother became wealthy from inventing Liquid Paper, granting him the financial freedom to follow his varied interests.

"He has that dry Will Rogers sense of humor," **Micky Dolenz** told *Rolling Stone* in 2012, characterizing Mr. Nesmith's real persona. "That's probably one of the reasons they cast him."

In 1979 he and William Dear developed a TV show for Nickelodeon, a new channel for children, looking to add teenagers to its audience. "Popclips" showed nothing but music videos, introduced by a VJ. The show is often said to have helped inspire the creation of **MTV**, among others. But among those others, Mike was "the thoughtful one."

"Every winter has its spring." ~ **H. Tuttle**

Alexander the Great

PAUL GOLDBERGER WRITES IN THE **NEW YORK Times** that my longtime classmate, **Alexander Garvin**, died in his home in Manhattan at 80 after a series of medical challenges. Alex became a famed city planner, architect and author who directed the planning for the former World Trade Center site in Lower Manhattan and developed the vision for a 2012 Olympics proposal in NYC.

Mr. Garvin worked under five New York City mayors, beginning in 1970 with **John V. Lindsay**, where he was director of Housing and Community Development, as well as a consultant on urban development for other cities,



like Atlanta. There he played a key role in the creation of the BeltLine, a series of parks along a former rail corridor. As “the public realm,” he said, “it is the framework around which everything else grows.”

A cheerful, eccentric man (*pictured above in 2019*), often dressed in a bow tie, and obsessed over the cityscape wherever he was, wrote several books illustrated by his own photographs including *The American City: What Works, What Doesn't*. Another book, *The Planning Game*, formed the basis of the course he taught for 55 years at his alma mater, Yale. At Yale he also devised a series of games allowing students to spend a term playing out a real estate scenario, such as developing a suburban shopping center or converting an old industrial area to new uses, by assigning them roles, such as real estate developer, architect, public official or a citizen protesting a project.

Signed up to help plan the rehabilitation of Lower Manhattan after 9/11, he observed, “I am now living in the middle of the most complicated game of all ... Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine a game that would be like this one.” And Alex had a wonderful imagination.

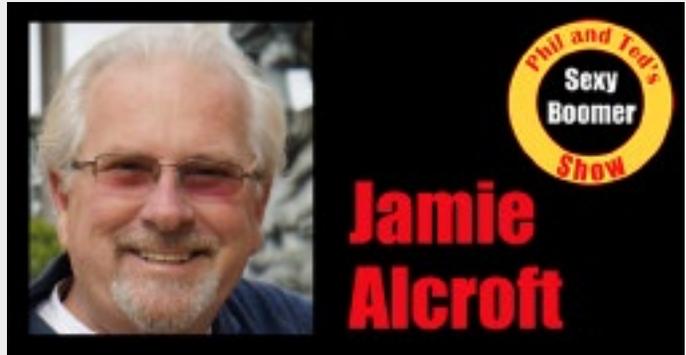
We studied French and Russian (his second tongue) together at Riverdale Country School and later as members of the Yale class of '62, he called upon me to direct a short Chekov play for the Russian Club – in Russian!

We remained close and regularly met up when in Manhattan; but on our last visit we couldn't get together because Alex was tired after a day of medical

(sic – sick) tests.

I deeply grieve that he is gone, but I'm sure he's already consulting with God to make Heaven an even more beautiful, manageable, and pedestrian-friendly destination!

“Fear is reaction. Courage is a decision.”
~ Winston Churchill



It may be easier to list what **Jamie Alcroft** hasn't done, than to list all his many talents and accomplishments. He's a comedian who with his partner **Mack Dryden** hosted a hit TV show, “Comedy Break with Mack and Jamie,” that helped launch the careers of **Kevin Pollak**, **Ellen DeGeneres**, **Paul Reiser** and others. He's also a master silversmith and dad to gold-record pop star **Hayley Kiyoko**.

Oh, yeah, and he's also the recipient of a heart AND liver transplant, and best of all, he's a terrifically funny storyteller with amazing tales to tell.

“If you can't beat them, arrange to have them beaten.” ~ George Carlin

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Contributors

Elliot Mintz, **Cris Gross**, **Nick Oliva**, **Kenneth Wilhite, Jr.**, **Richard Fish**, and farewell as well, to **Stephen Sondheim**, whose *West Side Story* blew me away as an aspiring actor, **Anne Rice** for her vampiric visions, and trail-blazing director **Lena Wertmueller**

“Each of us deserves to be forgiven, if only for/Our persistence in keeping our small boat afloat/When so many have gone down in the storm.”
~ The late poet, **Robert Bly**

“Think before you speak. Read before you think.” ~Fran Lebowitz

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