

"When stupidity is considered patriotism, it is unsafe to be intelligent." ~ Isaac Azimov

Planet Fib·Be·Wary

PLANET PROCTOR | FEBRUARY 2022

Dear Planeteers, I'm sorry that this orbit was so long in launching, but an unexpected combination of wonderful professional activities, technical snafus and personal health issues made compiling this issue more of a challenge than usual.

But here it is at last! Enjoy ...

"All is flux, nothing is stationary." ~ Heraclitus

I Heart February

By some definitions, the first "valentine" was sent by **St. Valentine of Terni** to his friend **Julia**, the daughter of his jailer. In subsequent years, several love letters used the term "my valentine" to refer to the object of the writer's affection. But it wasn't until the 1600s and 1700s that the practice of giving Valentine's Day cards as love letters on February 14 gained popularity in the Western world.

Lovers would deliver handmade cards secretly by slipping them under a door. The oldest printed Valentine's Day card still in existence is located in the **York Castle Museum** in England; printed in 1797, it features dove and floral patterns along with the following verse:

***"Since on this ever-Happy day, All Nature's full of Love and Play.
Yet harmless still if my design, 'Tis but to be your Valentine."***

During the Victorian era in Britain, pre-made Valentine's Day cards took off as printing became more affordable. In the early 1900s, the practice of trading Valentine's Day cards in the classroom began, and of course, it wouldn't be a true history of Valentine's Day cards without Hallmark, which sold its first cards in 1913, and today it is estimated that over 145 million cards are sold each year!

"We love, because it's the only true adventure." ~ Poet **Nilli Gionanni**



I LOVE YOU FROM
THE BOTTOM OF
MY HEART

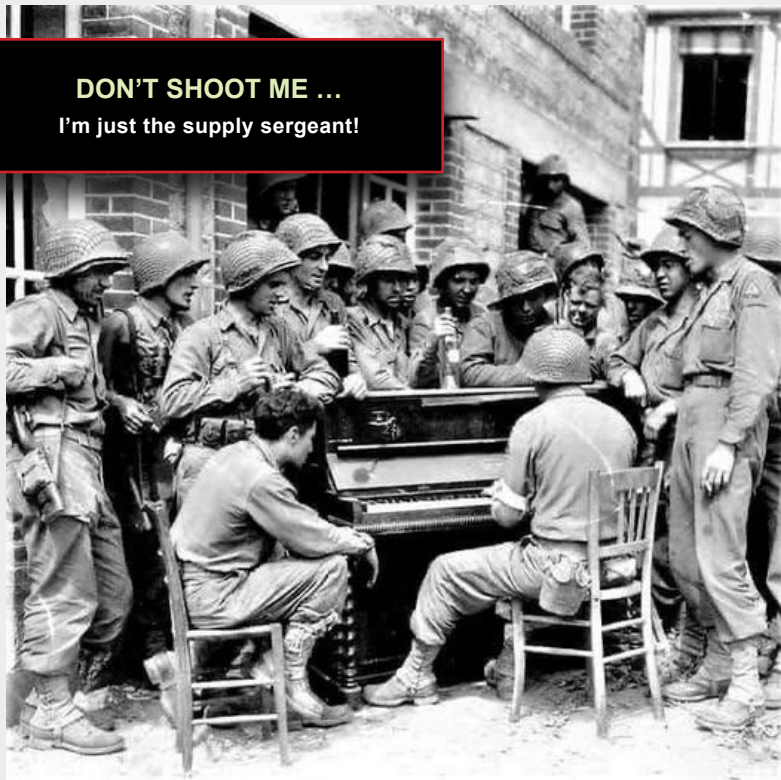
Last rights

A **LAWYER MEETS WITH THE FAMILY OF A** recently deceased millionaire for the reading of the will. "To my loving wife, Rose, who always stood by me, I leave the house and \$2 million," the attorney reads.

"To my darling daughter, Jessica, who looked after me in sickness and kept the business going, I leave the yacht, the business and \$1 million. "And finally," the lawyer concludes, "to my cousin Dan, who hated me, argued with me and thought I would never mention him in my will, well, you were wrong:

"Hi Dan!"

*"Without optimism, we've already failed."
~ George Takei*



Play it again, Uncle Sam

DURING WORLD WAR II. **STEINWAY & SONS** air-dropped pianos with large parachutes and complete tuning instructions into the battle for the American troops. Called the **Victory Vertical** or **G.I. Steinway**, the pianos were to provide a bit of relaxation and morale booster and came in olive, blue, and gray drab.

By the end of the war. Steinway & Sons had provided about 5,000 pianos to the U.S. military around the world, and they had four sons and several cousins who served.

"Smiling doesn't win you gold medals." ~ Simone Biles

Older and wiser?

A **N EXTENSIVE STUDY IN THE U.S.A PUBLISHED** in the 2018 *New England Journal of Medicine* found that the most productive age in human life is between 60-70 years of age. The second most productive stage of a human being is from 70 to 80 years of age. The third most productive stage is from 50 to 60 years.

The average age of **Nobel Prize** winners is 62 years old, the average age of the presidents of prominent companies in the world is 63 years, and the average age of the pastors of the 100 largest churches in the U.S.A. is 71, while the average age of the Popes is 76 years.

So, at age 60, you reach the **TOP** of your potential and this continues into your 80s, affirming *the best years of your life* are between 60 and 80 years.

Too bad I'm 81...

"The bad news is - time flies. The good news is, you're the pilot." ~ Michael Altshuler

Duck me!

WE'VE ALL SEEN MANY KINDS OF DUCKS, and we enjoy the crazy quackers and love to feed them tasty crackers; but have you ever considered that "ducks" have more idioms and phrases in English more than any other animal?

There's the **Lucky Duck** – he had all his ducks in a row and as it was lovely weather for ducks, so he took to it like a duck to water, while the **Odd Duck** was just a duck out of water.

And the **Lame Duck**? Well, he thought it would be as easy as duck soup, but though it wasn't, it was just water off a duck's back. But the **Dead Duck** was a sitting duck who forgot to DUCK!

In the meantime, everything around here is just ducky – unless you're an **Ugly Duckling**, because then -- you're a swan!

*"Never argue with someone whose TV is bigger than their bookshelf."
~ Emilia Clarke*

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

Oh, my word!

THE OTHER DAY A NOT SO ELDERLY LADY said something to her son about driving a Jalopy; and he looked at her and said, "What the heck is a Jalopy?" She knew then, she was old – but not that old! So I hope you are Hunkey Dory when you read this because if you remember the following phrases, like: "Don't touch that dial!" and "Make a carbon copy," you sound like a broken record and are ready to be hung out to dry.

Back in the olden days we had a lot of moxie. We'd put on our best bib and tucker to straighten up and fly right. Heavens to Betsy! We were in like Flynn and living the life of Riley; and even a regular guy couldn't accuse us of being a knucklehead, a nincompoop or a pill. Jumping Jehoshaphat! Kilroy was here – but he isn't anymore. Not for all the tea in China!

Gee whillikers, back in the olden days, life used to be swell, but now, swell has gone the way of beehives, pageboys and the D.A., spats, knickers, fedoras, poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and pedal pushers. Oh, my aching back! See ya later, alligator!

We wake up from what surely has been just a short nap, and before we can say "Well, I'll be a monkey's uncle!" or "This is a fine kettle of fish!" we discover that the words we

grew up with have vanished with scarcely a notice. Holy Moley!

Poof go the words we used when we were knee high to a grasshopper.

Hey! It's your nickel. Pshaw, wake up and smell the roses -- the milkman did it. Well, Fiddlesticks, don't forget to pull the chain and don't take any wooden nickels! Turns out there are more of these lost words than Carter had little liver pills. And I wonder today where Superman will find a phone booth?

Okey Dokeym then, I'll see you in the funny papers...

"All national institutions of churches appear to me no other than human inventions, set up to terrify and enslave mankind, and monopolize power and profit."

~ Thomas Paine

What's so funny?

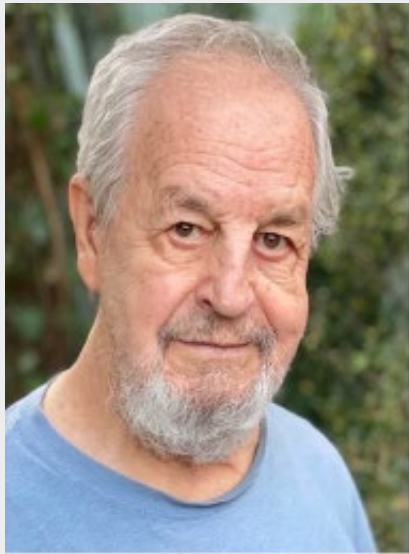
A NEW STUDY OF ANIMALS AT PLAY, SOME 65 species "laugh" during bouts of playful activity, reports **Mindy Weisberger** for *Live Science*. Researchers suggest that laughter in the animal kingdom may help

■ CONTINUED



YUCK YUCK ELK

A Rocky Mountain Guffaw



**Coming
Soon!**

**Actor
Writer
Comedian**

Paul Dooley



"Sexiness wears thin ...and beauty fades, but to be married to a man that makes you laugh every day, ah, now that's a real treat!" ~ **Joanne Woodward**

Planeteers

Bonnie Peterson, Art Peterson, Lance Rucker, John Carney, Alan Shearman, Richard Fish, Gary "Pig" Gold, Allison Barenbrug, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., Sue Zizza and **David Shinn** – and special

love to the **Antaeus Company** for casting me in the *Classicfest* reading of **The Hot L Baltimore** – reuniting me with all my brilliant friends once again in our beautiful new theater was a thrill I'll never forget, and get ready for our 2022 season...it'll knock your socks off! **READ ALL ABOUT IT HERE!**

And lastly, farewell to my longtime friend **Howard Hesseman**, and to **Sally Kellerman, Ivan Reitman** and **P.J. O'Roarke**, because unfortunately the "hits" keep coming...

"A bad rendition of you is better than a good rendition of somebody else." ~ **Willie Dixon**

Breaking news!

The CEO of IKEA was just elected Prime Minister of Sweden. The first thing he'll do is assemble his cabinet!

"First say to yourself what you would be; and then do what you have to do." ~ **Epictetus**

PLANETCLICK

IN YOUR EARS

HA HA

PICKS

SPACED

PHANTOM BUSKER

BEER

COVERUP

UGLY

BUKA

creatures let each other know when it's playtime, so that play fights don't escalate.

Most of the 65 silly species were mammals, such as primates, foxes, killer whales and seals, but three bird species were included. Most of the animal laughs don't exactly sound like a human giggle. Rocky Mountain elk **EMIT A KIND OF SQUEAL** and New Zealand's kea parrot whines and squeals, causing the many neighboring wild birds to spontaneously break into playful tussles.

Or as **Joanne Woodward** suggests...



Antaeus' 'Hot L Baltimore' reading

"If you want a happy ending, that depends, of course, on where you stop your story." ~ **Henry Jaglom**

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