

"With mirth and laughter, let bold wrinkles come." ~ William Shakespeare

PLANET TOP SECRET

Let's Eat

Although I was unable to join this BBQ, the invitation offered "Yale Food!" So having just returned from my classy 60th Class Reunion, I thought this menu was appropriate:



Commencement

Boola-Boulabaise • Snap-quiz Turtle Soup.
or
Mixer Salad (weekends only)

Majors

Signature Beineke Burger (rare only) • Dramat Bone-in Ham
Glee Club Steak • Secret Society Mystery Meat
Scholars-on-a-stick • Fullbright Scallops
Frat Boys Beer-battered Plebes • School of Fish
or
Chefs Surprise Test of the Day

Electives

New Haven Green Beans • Eli Eli Eli Kale • Campus-Cross Buns
and
a Table Down at Mory's

Just Desserts

Wiffs and Poofs • Russian Chorus Kasha • Thumball Rum Balls

Bibemus

Glass of '62 Cinema Noir • Lizzie Tea Cakes • NoDoz
... and milk

"Old age is like everything else:
to make a success of it, you have to start young."
~ Theodore Roosevelt

"Heaters don't kill people, humidity do."
~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

Two sides now

A MAN DRIVES A TRAIN IN BULGARIA. ONE DAY, he falls asleep driving and runs over someone walking on the tracks. Well, his case goes to court, and he gets the death sentence for murder.

So, he's on death row and the executioner approaches him. "What would you like for your last meal?" "I would like a banana please." The executioner thinks it's weird, but shrugs and gives him a banana. The guy eats his banana, waits a while, and gets strapped into the electric chair. When they flip the switch, nothing happens!

In Bulgaria, such an act of divine intervention means you get released, but a few months later the train driver has been working for a new company, and he dozes off again, killing two people this time. The court has no patience for recklessness, so he ends up on death row again.

After a while, the same executioner from last time approaches him. "You again? What do you want this time?" He answers, "Two bananas please." The executioner shrugs and hands him two bananas. There's no way he can cheat death twice! But, when they flip the switch again, again nothing happens. The train driver walks a second time.

Time passes and the executioner remains busy. But after another few months the same dude shows up, apparently having run over three people with a train.

Exacerbated, the executioner approaches him for the third time. "Let me guess. Three bananas?"

He answers, "Actually yes! How did you know?"

"Too bad! This has gone on long enough!. No more bananas! Today you fry." So, the train driver gets strapped into the chair with no last meal. But when they flip the switch, again nothing happens. "I don't get it," says the executioner. "I didn't let you eat any bananas!"

"It's not the bananas," sighed the prisoner. "I'm just a very bad conductor."



ELECTRIC BANANA

Donovan predicted it was going to be the
"very next thing." But this is shocking!

Where the woke things are

AS YOU MAY REMEMBER, THANKS TO MY producer, **Bill Kates**, and the genius of **Theodor Geissel** – AKA **Dr. Seuss** – I was able to provide "The Cat in the Hat" and "Horton the Elephant" voices for used in the new Tonie-Box storytelling toy. Now, according to **Roy Rivenburg** in the *L.A. Times*, Conservatives have come out with their own versions of these famous books.

"Banning books is only half the battle," Roy reports, "The next step for the Republicans is to launch their own versions of children's titles to fill the vacuum."

"*Horton Hears a Dog Whistle* will be the first storybook for kids," continues Roy, "part of a of a series of Dr. Seuss doppelgangers that

include *Green Eggs and Hannity*, *How the Grinch Stole the Election*, *The Cat in the Maga Hat*, and *The Cat with the Maga Hat Comes Back*.

"And those will soon be followed by a release of very Grimm fairy tales including *Hansel and Greta Thunberg Face Global Warming*, and the story of *Trumplestiltskin*, the hairy orange monster who tries to spin results of a Georgia straw poll into 11,000 votes.

"For older readers, the book lineup includes *Cloudy with a Chance of*

Rand Paul, The Phantom Voting Booth, James and the Giant Impeachment Hoax and *Heather Has Two Mommies Who Will Burn in Hell.*"
(Reader discretion advised) **READ ON**

"Making the unknown known is the important thing."
~ Georgia O'Keeffe

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



Balls!

CARMEN ANGELA WRITES FOR FLIPBOARD:

"Have you heard? Icing your balls is now all the rage! In growing numbers, men are "icing their testicles with ice packs and cold showers." Why, you ask? There's a belief out there that giving your balls freezer burn will "increase testosterone levels and sperm quality, boost energy and sex drive, and improve sleep quality."

"**Lye Diwa** is a urologist who says there've been 'no large clinical studies that prove icing your balls improves sperm count' Of course, that won't stop the TikTok crowd from eventually starting the Iced Balls Challenge, or something like it."

"We have been trained too long to strive and not to enjoy." ~ John Maynard Keynes

What does Cadil-lac?

A FEW DECADES AGO, A MAN AND HIS WIFE were driving through the country on his way from New York to California. Looking at his fuel gauge, he decided to stop at the next gasoline station and fill it up.

About 15 minutes later, he spots a Mobil station and pulls over to the high octane pump. "What can I do for y'all?" asks the attendant. "Fill 'er up with high test," replies the driver.

While the attendant is filling up the tank, he's looking the car up and down. "What kinda car is this?" he asks. "I never seen one like it before." "Well," responds the driver, his chest swelling up with pride, "This, my boy, is a 1999 Cadillac DeVille."

"What features does it have?" asks the attendant. "Well," says the driver, "it has everything. It's loaded with power steering, power seats, power sun roof, power mirrors, AM/FM radio with a 10-deck CD player in the trunk with 100 watts per channel, 8-speaker stereo, rack and pinion steering, disk brakes all around, leather interior, digital instrument package, and best of all, an 8.8 liter V12 engine."

"Wow," says the attendant, "That's really something!" "How much do I owe you for the gasoline?" asks the driver.

"That'll be \$30.17," says the attendant. The driver pulls out his money clip and peels off a \$20 and a \$10. He goes into his other pocket and pulls out a handful of change. Mixed up with the change are a few golf tees.

"What are those little wooden things?" asks the attendant. "That's what I put my balls on when I drive," says the driver.

"Wow," says the attendant: "Those Cadillac people think of everything!"

"Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."

~ Warren Buffett

Don't ask

BUSH, OBAMA AND TRUMP GO TO A JOB interview with **God**, and the All Mighty asks Bush: "What do you believe in?" Bush answers: "I believe in the free market, and the strong American nation!"

"Very well," says God. "Come sit to my right."

Next, God asks Obama: "What do you believe in?" Obama answers: "I believe in the power of democracy, and equal rights for all."

"Good", says God. "You shall sit to my left." Finally, God asks Trump: "What do you believe?"

Trump answers: "I believe you're sitting in my chair."

"From the beginning, men used God to justify the unjustifiable." ~ Salman Rushdie

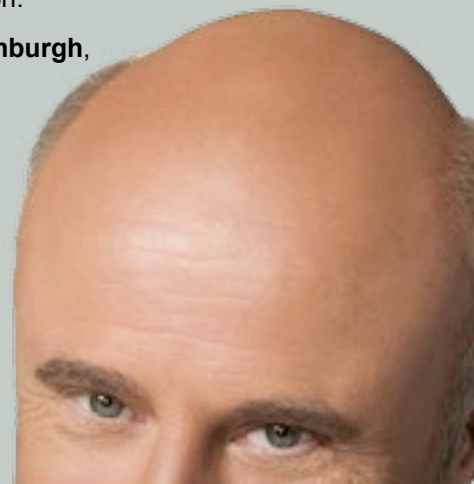
National Philip Day

ON AUGUST 15, ALL PHILIPS AROUND THE world were honored. Philip, which is also spelled Phillip, is a male given name derived from the Greek **Philippos** meaning fond of horses, and Philip has many nicknames, including Phil, Pip, Philly, Lip, Pep, or Peps – and I am called **Flippy** by my stepdaughter, **Amanda**.

Numerous men throughout history named Philip have achieved great success, including the kings of Macedonia and one of the apostles of the early Christian church. And today, one of the most famous is **Phillip Calvin McGraw** (below right), an American television personality, author, and the host of the television show "Dr. Phil." After obtaining his doctorate, McGraw joined his father in his private psychology practice in Wichita Falls, Texas, and by 2020, Phil McGraw was in the 22nd spot on the Forbes list with earnings of \$65.5 million.

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was the husband of **Queen Elizabeth II** and was the longest-lived male member of the British royal family. He was born in Greece, into the Greek and Danish

■ **CONTINUED**



royal families, and when he was just 8 months old, his family was exiled. Philip helped develop the equestrian sport of carriage driving ... (Due to his secret Amish heritage, no doubt!)

"It's not interesting to be perfect." ~ Lindsay Lohan

First nations

A BRIT, A FRENCHMAN AND A RUSSIAN ARE viewing a painting of Adam and Eve frolicking in the Garden of Eden. "Look at their reserve, their calm," muses the Brit. "They must be British."

They pondered this possibility, but the Frenchman and the Russian soon shake their heads in disagreement. "Nonsense," says the Frenchman. "They're naked, and so beautiful. Clearly, they are French."

Although the Russian and the Brit agreed on this point, there still seemed to be something amiss. "No clothes, no shelter," the Russian points out, "they have only an apple to eat, and they're being told this is paradise. Clearly, they are Russian."

*"Nobody has ever learned anything worth learning that hasn't caused them some degree of failure."
~ Kelly Ripa*

Felines and pachyderms, Oh My!

THANKS TO MY GOOD FRIEND, PRODUCER, writer and fellow VO artist **Bill Kates**, I was able to snag the roles of **The Cat in the Hat** and **Horton the Elephant** for a very popular toy, the **Tonie Box**. It allows children to hear a story that's downloaded instantly when placed on top of the speaker box!

And here are a few reactions:

"Who doesn't love Dr Seuss and The Cat in the Hat!!! We



recently purchased a Tonie Box, and we are loving it. A story and songs whenever the kids want it! It's easy to set up and a breeze to use."

"Bedtime stories, lullabies, celebration songs...there's a Tonie for everything!!!"

"When we found out that Tonie had a Cat in the Hat character it was pure happiness! I love to hear the stories with my daughter! It's a great bonding time!"

"We love the Cat and the Hat and the Tonies didn't disappoint. The songs are fun and catchy. The kids loved listening to the story at the end. Definitely one they picked to listen to a lot."

"My grandkids love their Tonie box. They love reading the books and adding a new Tonie for bedtime listening was a hit!"

CLICK FOR MORE INFO

"Finding quotes from famous people is easy if you just make them up." ~ Phil's Punny Phacts

Weird pals

"H EY PHILIP," WRITES PLANETEER AND actual rocket scientist **Allen Newcomb**, "I know he's a good friend of yours, so I wanted to say I just saw the **Weird Al** trailer and I WET MY PANTS I was laughing so hard! To be honest I might have wet them anyway, I mean we're all getting older ... but still."

And by the way, "Weird" Allen's late wife, and our dear magical friend **Vanna Bonta**, who authored "*Flight*: the first Quantum Science Fiction novel," is now an "astronaut, having been cremated and launched into earth orbit – and we were there to see her off! She is soon to be joined in earth orbit by Star Trek's **Nichelle Nichols**."

"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall.

Think of it ... always." ~ Mahatma Gandhi

■ **CONTINUED**



ДА ЗДРАВСТВУЕТ ГОРБАЧЕВ

“LONG LIVE GORBACHEV!” YES, ANOTHER familiar leader is gone, and believe it or not, one of the best eulogies for this remarkable man was delivered by the tyrant **Putin**, who said: “He led the country during difficult and dramatic changes...He deeply realized that reforms were necessary and tried to offer his solutions.”

“The only good war photograph is an anti-war photograph.” ~ Tim Page

Don't skip this obit

MY GOOD FRIEND, JOSEPH “SKIP” HINNANT, passed at 81, on Chincoteague Island, Virginia. We were great pals in college and performed together in the Yale Dramat.

Here's a brief resume of his accomplishments after graduation:

His first national appearance was as Cathy's boyfriend

Ted, on “The Patty Duke Show” from 1963 to '65, and in 1967. He played Schroeder in the original off-Broadway cast of **Clark Gesner's** *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, where his older brother, **Bill Hinnant**, played Snoopy. That, after appearing with us at Yale as the title character in **Gogol's** play *The Inspector General*.

Skip was also a featured performer on “The Electric Company” (below), which aired on PBS from 1971 to '77. I loved him most as Fargo North, Word Decoder and as “The Boy” in the soap opera satire “Love of Chair.”

Later, he voiced **Robert Crumb's** X-rated character Fritz the Cat in both the animated film (written and directed by **Ralph Bakshi** in '72) and its sequel created by **Robert Taylor**, *The Nine Lives of Fritz the Cat* in '74.

Then, for a change of pace in 1977, he voiced the Easter Bunny in the Rankin/Bass stop-motion feature *The Easter Bunny Is Comin' To Town*, and in 1980, he provided the voice for Pogo Possum in the film *Go Pogo*. But his most recent roles were as Flash Jordan in the PBS science show “3-2-1 Contact” and a part in an episode of “Kate & Allie” in 1989 as **Bob Barsky's** boss.

But he retired from acting and devoted his entire career



GOOD ‘COMPANY’

Hinnant in the original 1971 ‘Electric Company’ on PBS, bottom right with (clockwise from his left), Rita Moreno, Lee Chamberlin, Bill Cosby, Judy Graubart, and Morgan Freeman

to voiceover work, and he can best be remembered as the longest-serving president of the New York branch of the Screen Actors Guild. Skip's nickname for me, was "Peanut." (No comment...)

"To watch the birth and death of beings
is like looking at the movement of a dance.
A lifetime is like the flash of lightning in the sky."
- Buddha

And who am us anyway?

I HAVE BEEN SURPRISINGLY BUSY FOR A GUY MY age, both professionally and personally. My darling wife **Melinda** has been sprucing up our hillside canyon home, having purchased beautiful terracotta planting boxes from Italy to unify our outside terraces. And, we recently travelled to NYC – after our reunion – to see six shows in five days, including our dear friend, **Austin Pendleton '61**, who brought down the house in **Tracy Lett's** play, *The Minutes*.

Then, back home we worked together on a unique podcast called "Hindsight," which included a fun scene with our friend **John "Goody" Goodman** as Oliver Wendall Holmes...

With my comic partner, **Ted Bonnitt**, we will soon launch a LIVE version of our long-running podcast "Phil & Ted's Sexy Boomer Show," every Tuesday at 3 on KPFK Pacifica radio, where **Firesign Theatre** got its start on Radio Free Oz. We will incorporate interviews you can hear uncensored any time at sexyboomershow.com with folks like **Weird Al**, **Harry Shearer**, **Nancy Cartwright**, magician **Penn Jillette**, ventriloquist **Jay Johnson**, liberal broadcaster **Thom Hartmann** and **Laraine Newman**.

And because of Covid, I was drafted to replace the announcer for the hugely popular "Pageant of the Masters" in Laguna Beach, and besides voicing **Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat**, my Horton the Elephant was just released, and more characters are coming soon.

The Firesign Theatre, thanks to our colleague **Taylor Jessen**, is still cranking out product based on previously unreleased material, such as *The Magic Mushroom Shows*, *Dope Humor of the Seventies*, *Before They Changed the Water*, and *Duke of Madness Motors*, all available at firesigntheatre.com.

And then, with my writing partner, **Samuel Joseph**, we plan to relaunch our well-received touring show, "God Help Us," previously starring the late, great, **Ed Asner**. And we just finished a bawdy sex farce, "**Sherlock Shakespeare**." You can also buy our illustrated book, *What to Say to your Crazy Right-Wing Uncle*, now more needed than ever, unfortunately. [Link below]

I also continue to appear as my recurring character, detective Don Polehouse, on the long-running radio series "Adventures in Odyssey," and next year, Melinda and I hope to return to the stage together with our wonderful theatre company, **Antaeus**, in Glendale. STAY TUNED!

"The past is never dead. It's not even past."
~ William Faulkner

Helpers

Taylor Jessen, Kent McCaman, Solomon Melnick, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., Nick Oliva, Melinda Peterson, Shawn Taylor, Thom Hartmann, and our technical guru and "Roving Genius," **Andrew Hollis**.

And a NewWave goodbye to 91-year old filmmaker **Jean-Luc Godard**, and three cheers and a 21-gun salute to the longest-reigning English monarch, **Queen Elizabeth II**, who was genuinely approachable and had a good sense of humour, even after being unexpectedly lumbered with awesome responsibilities. After surviving through the terms of 14 presidents, her favorite was **Ronnie Reagan** because of their mutual love of horses ... I wonder if the SOB loved dogs, too. Anyway, "Long Live the King!"

"I've got the kind of face that if I'm not smiling,
I look cross. I'm not cross." ~ Queen Elizabeth II

PLANETCLICK

YELPERS

LITTLE HUGS

CYMATICS

BEER

ADAM

CAUGHT

HEAR

CHINA

WEIRD

"Don't cry because it's over. Cry because it happened." ~ Dr. Seuss

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