

If you want to tell people the truth, make them laugh; otherwise, they'll kill you." ~ Oscar Wilde



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## Don't Surrender, Dorothy!

I trust that most of you, and even some Conservatives, are somewhat wary of the direction our battered Democracy might take under the sway of a small but intimidating group of radical far-right, trigger-happy insurrectionists and election-deniers, who are presently in control the House of MisRepresentatives -- but relax -- for already they have accomplished something wonderful to start off the new year!

To help save the economy, the Government will announce next month that the Immigration Department will start deporting seniors instead of illegals, in order to lower Social Security and Medicare costs.

Older people are easier to catch and will not remember how to get back home. Be sure to send this notice to your relatives and friends so they'll know what happened to you. I started to feel bad when I thought of you. Then it dawned on me...

I'll see you bozos on the bus.

"No matter how many chairs you have, you only have one ass." ~ Bob Dylan

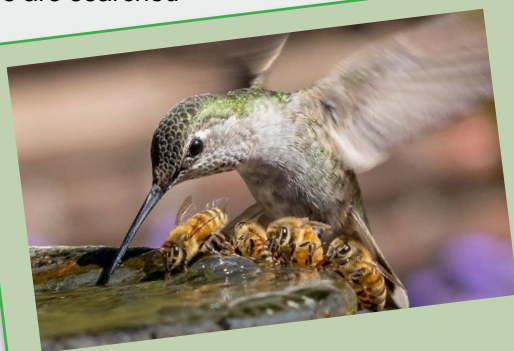
"The winners forget, but the [losers] have terribly long memories." ~ John le Carre'

## The secret to my success

**T**HE STORY TAKES PLACE IN POLAND, IN THE early '50s, when it was under a totally repressive Soviet regime. In a factory there, after every shift, the employees are searched thoroughly to prevent any theft from occurring.

One night a worker approached the exit gate with a wheelbarrow filled to overflowing with straw. The guard, instantly suspicious, orders him to dump everything out and spread it all around. He goes through it meticulously but can find nothing and orders the worker to refill it and get out.

The next night the worker shows up with a barrow filled again with straw. After dumping it out and seeing there's



### The Sting

*I feel bad for parents nowadays.  
You have to be able to explain the  
birds and the bees,  
the bees and the bees,  
the birds and the birds,  
the birds that used to be bees,  
the bees that used to be birds,  
the birds that look like bees,  
and birds that look like birds —  
but still got a stinger!*

nothing among the stalks, he orders the worker to reload it and leave.

This scene takes place night after night for a whole month, at the end of which the guard, faced with another load of straw, orders the worker into

his office and says, "Look, I know you're stealing something, and you're driving me crazy! So, I promise I won't arrest you, but you've got to tell me what you're stealing."

The worker smiles and says, "Wheelbarrows."

*"I have always found comfort in the earth,  
for I know someday it will claim me  
even if nobody else ever did." ~ Chloe Frayne*

## Warning

*When I am an old woman I shall wear purple  
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me.  
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer  
gloves  
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.  
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired  
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells  
And run my stick along the public railings  
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.  
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain  
And pick flowers in other people's gardens  
And learn to spit.  
You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat  
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go  
Or only bread and pickle for a week  
And hoard pens and pencils and beer mats and things  
in boxes.  
But now we must have clothes that keep us dry  
And pay our rent and not swear in the street  
And set a good example for the children.  
We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.  
But maybe I ought to practice a little now?  
So people who know me are not too shocked and  
surprised  
When suddenly I am old and start to wear purple.*

~ Jenny Joseph



*"Youth is a quality, and if you have it  
you never lose it; and when they put you  
into the box, that's your immortality."*

~ Frank Lloyd Wright

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

## Flyin' High

**A** MINISTER WAS SEATED NEXT TO A COWBOY on a flight to Texas. After the plane was airborne, drink orders were taken. The cowboy asked for a whiskey and soda, which was brought and placed before him.

Rather predictably, the minister looked upon the cowboy with scorn – he viewed alcohol as being the work of the devil. Nevertheless, the flight attendant then asked him if he would like a drink. He replied in disgust, "I'd rather be savagely raped by brazen whores than let liquor touch my lips."

The cowboy then handed his drink back to the attendant and said, "Me too. I didn't know we had a choice."

*"We accept the love we think we deserve."  
~ Stephen Chbosky, screenwriter*



## Keep on truckin'

**A** TRUCK DRIVER WAS SITTING AT THE COUNTER of a diner having breakfast. A group of four outlaw motorcyclists entered and all four sat at the counter, two on each side of him.

One of the bikers reached over and picked up the driver's glass and drank the truck driver's juice. Another reached over and took his coffee cup and drank his coffee. Another took a piece of toast off his plate. The fourth one took his bacon.

The truck driver said nary a word, stood up, paid his check and left. The bikers were laughing and one of them said to the waitress, "That guy's not much of a man. We ate his breakfast, and he never did a thing!"

The waitress just smiled and said, "He's not much of a truck driver either. He ran over four Harleys trying to get his Peterbilt out of the parking lot."

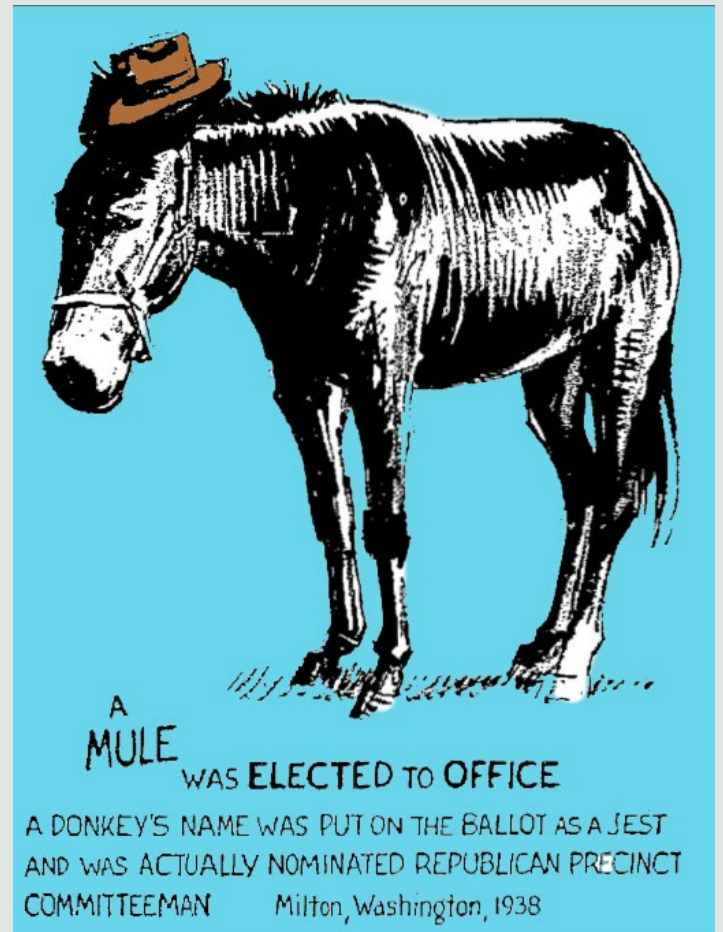
*"Sculpture is something you bump into when you back up to look at a painting." ~ Ad Reinhardt*

## Politics as usual

**A** S FAR BACK AS 1922, "YO-YO," A BILLY GOAT, was elected to the city council of a town in Brazil; and in 1938 **Kenneth Simmons** entered **Boston Curtis**, a brown mule, as a candidate for a Republican precinct seat in Milton, Washington. It won 51 to zero.

Lajitas, Texas, held an election that included a trading-post wooden Indian, a dog named **Buster**, and a goat named **Clay Henry**. The goat won "by a landslide," and goats have been mayor ever since. In 1981, **Bosco** the dog, a black Labrador-Rottweiler mix, was elected mayor of Sunol, California, and all the elected mayors of Rabbit Hash, Kentucky, have been dogs!

In 1997, a cat named **Stubbs** was elected mayor of Talkeetna, Alaska, and in 2012, the town of Idyllwild, California, elected a Golden Retriever named **Max** as mayor for life. (Mayor Max I was succeeded by Mayor Max II upon his death, in 2013).



Then, in 2018, a cat named **Sweet Tart** was elected mayor of Omena, Michigan., while the next year, a 3-year-



old Nubian goat named **Lincoln** was elected mayor of Fair Haven, Vermont, defeating a Samoyed dog named **Sammie** by two votes . But back in 1967, an Ecuadorian foot powder company advertised its product, **Pulvapiés**, as a mayoral candidate in the town of Picoazá, and it won by a clear majority.

And lastly, as **Thom Hartmann** mentioned on a recent broadcast, Jinx the cat was elected mayor of Hell. No, not that one -- Hell, Michigan.

*"The older I get, the more clearly I remember things that never happened."* ~ **Mark Twain**

## Give him the finger

**F**IRST-YEAR STUDENTS AT MEDICAL SCHOOL were receiving their first anatomy class with a real dead human body. They all gathered around the surgery table with the body covered in a white sheet.

The professor started the class by telling them, "In medicine, it is necessary to have two important qualities as a doctor. The first is that you should not be disgusted by anything involving the human body."

He then pulled back the sheet, stuck his finger in the anus of the corpse, withdrew it and stuck it in his mouth. "Go ahead and do the same thing," he told his students. The students initially freaked out, hesitated for several minutes, but eventually took turns sticking a finger in the anus of the corpse and sucking on it.

When everyone finished, the Professor looked at the class and told them, "The second most important quality is observation. I stuck in my middle finger but sucked on my index finger. Now learn to pay attention!"

*"I'm so old that my blood type is discontinued."*  
~ **Bill Dana**



## For your ears only

**I'M HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT PHIL & TED'S Sexy Boomer Show** is now LIVE on listener-supported KPFK every Tuesday from 1 - 2.

■ **CONTINUED**

So far, we've talked with many fascinating people including **Lamar Waldron** about the assassinations of **John F. Kennedy, Bobby Kennedy** and **Martin Luther King** and had some comic relief from the likes of **Jamie Alcroft, Paul Willson** and **Hank Rosenfeld**. It's a thrill to be live on the radio again – and live all the rest of the time, too!

And my darling wife, the lively **Melinda Peterson**, had a great interview on our friend **Steve Cuden's StoryBeat** podcast available [HERE](#) on YouTube. Even I learned things about her early career I never knew!

*"It's not that we have a short time to live, but that we waste a lot of it." ~ Seneca*

## Still Cookin'?

**A**NYONE WHO MET THE LATE CAROLE COOK as I did, will agree with actor/director **Emerson Collins**, that "Carole Cook was grand ol' broad



in the biggest and best sense of the word. Carole always had the sharpest of tongues and a twinkle in her eye. A true star and the life of every party, she wrung every drop from life and flung it around just to be sure."

"Don't think you're ever going to be rid of me, kiddo!" she said to another friend, artistic director **David Staller**:

"I'll be watching you, so you better behave!"

*"Tragedy is when I cut my finger. Comedy is when you fall into an open sewer and die." ~ Mel Brooks*

## RECORDED

**ROBOTS**

**COFFEE**

**TRUNK MONKEY**

**I GIVE UP**

**THE KING**

**JINX**

**P & Z**

## And before we go

**W**E AS A NATION MUST UNDERGO a radical revolution of values... When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.

*– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,  
April 4, 1967*

*"Any jackass can kick down a barn, but it takes a good carpenter to build one."*

*~ Sam Rayburn*

## Rewarded

**L**EONARD MALTIN, ROGER STEFFENS, ART Peterson, Debbie Palshus, Michael Simmons, Allen Schill, Karen Logan DeMarini, Gary Gold, Jim Terr and, as always, **Baba-Mail** for the laughs and **The Week** for quotes.



And last orbit, in listing my health-care team, I neglected to give heartfelt thanks to **Allison Barenbrug**, our trainer and friend of many years, for keeping us limber. See you in the park!

And lastly, Ciao to the legendary **Gina Lollabrigida**, now forever with us on the big and little screen (left with **Bogart** in

*Beat the Devil*), and God Rest music makers **Lisa Marie Presley** and my dear friend of many years, the immortal (and sometimes, immoral) **David Crosby**, whom I met when **Peter Fonda** (together right) introduced us in the silly '60s in Laurel Canyon. Those were the daze...



*"Character is a journey, not a destination."  
~ Bill Clinton*

*"When we all think alike, no one thinks very much" ~ Walter Lippman*

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