

Planet AI-pril

"You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow
by evading it today." ~ A. Lincoln

You so smart!

Dear Planeteers – It's getting harder and harder (unlike some other thing) to put the Planet in orbit due to failing eyesight and fleeting time, so I decided I'll just use Artificial Intelligence (is there any other kind?) to compose this month's edition.

SO – Can you discern which article(s) are written by me – or a robot? Please let me know at phil.proctor@mac.com and I'll give you a free subscription! Wait, I forgot, it's already free. So let's just do it for fun, and maybe you'll even receive a surprise gift in the email.

WHAT? I didn't write that! OR – maybe I did...

CHANNELING

A simple case of write and wrong.

"Is storytelling innate or invented by humans? Humans are invented by storytelling." ~ Jason Keehn

Can you hear me now?

A POLITICIAN VISITED A VILLAGE AND ASKED what their needs were. "We have two basic needs honorable Sir," replied the village's leader. "Firstly, we have a hospital but no doctor."

On hearing this, the politician brought out his phone, after speaking for a while he told them not to worry, a doctor would be there tomorrow. Then he asked for the second problem.

"Secondly Sir, there is no cellphone reception anywhere in this village."

"How is it that people looking for a helping hand tend to overlook the one at the end of their own arm?"

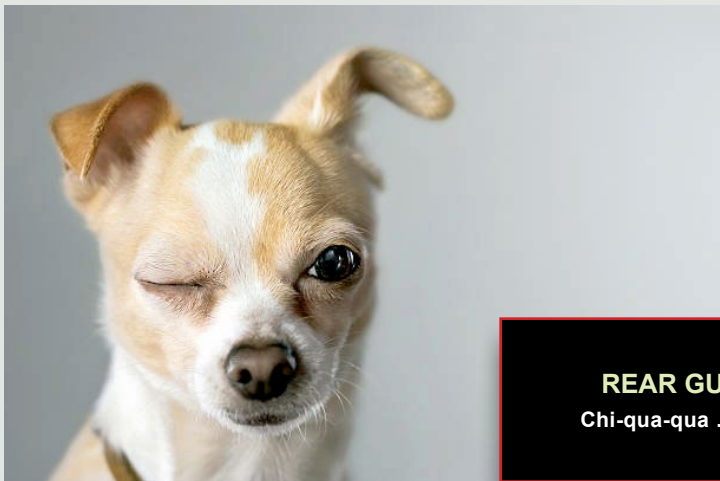
~ Alfred E. Neuman

Bow wow!

A COUPLE DECIDE THAT THEY NEED A GUARD dog, so the guy goes to a pet shop and says. "I need a guard dog to protect my apartment." And the employee responds, "I have the perfect dog for you," and shows him a Chihuahua.

Puzzled, the man insists, "I need a dog that can guard our house and fend off burglars, a Chihuahua can't do that."

"But this is no regular Chihuahua," the proprietor retorts. "It's an attack Chihuahua! Here, I'll show you how it works..." And he shouts. "Attack Chihuahua, chair!" And the guy watches in astonishment as the little yapper viciously reduces the chair to splinters. "Wow" the guy



REAR GUARD
Chi-qua-qua ...WAH!!

says. "But I still think we need a real guard dog,"

"Are you sure?" the owner says. "Lemme show you again." And he yells, "Attack Chihuahua, table!" And, again, the Chihuahua chews the table to bits.

"Okay, okay," says the customer. "I'll take it."

But when he brings the diminutive doggie home, his wife gets hot under the collar and yells, "Are you nuts? Why did you buy a Chihuahua?!"

"You don't understand, honey," he explains. "This, this is an *attack* Chihuahua!"

"Attack Chihuahua, my ass!" she yelled...

"The story of the human race is war... and before history began, strife was universal and unending."

~ Sir Winston Churchill



Holey crap

A LAN ATKINSON OFFERED AN ANSWER IN Quora asking why we humans, unlike all other living

creatures from elephants to ants that can poop and walk away due to the high placement of their anuses, must wipe and fuss and flush our waste away.

"Humans need to wipe," he writes, "because almost uniquely among animals, we have extremely prominent buttocks. This is because we've literally evolved them into being over hundreds of thousands of years of being tool users ... and more important, tool *makers*."

"Buttocks allow us to sit for literally hours at a time, resting our legs and conserving energy, leaving our hands free to craft the things that underpin human civilization:

END PAPERS

The price of built-in cushions

■ CONTINUED

Spinning thread, weaving cloth, stitching clothing, chipping arrowheads, carving bows, writing theses, designing aircraft, composing novels. Our large cushioning buttocks allow us to do all this and more in comfort, instead of crouching or standing to do all of it...

"Yes, this means our anus is in between them, and that we have to wipe. But the thing is, *we can*. Our primate-derived spines and our extraordinarily flexible arms and hands allow us to do this with relative ease. And it's a small trade-off for access to everything that just being able to plonk our butts down has garnered us.

"Might want to sit and think about that for a bit."

*"Beauty is in the behind of the beholder."
~ Professor Irwin Corey*

2 Chatbots walk into a bar

THE FIRST CHATBOT SAYS TO THE SECOND chatbot, "Hey, how's your natural language processing going?" The second chatbot replies, "It's going well, thanks for asking. How about yours?"

The first chatbot responds, "I'm constantly learning new things and improving my conversational skills. Speaking of which, what kind of drink would you like? The second chatbot says, "I'll have a binary martini - shaken, not stirred."

The first chatbot chuckles and says, "I think you mean a martini with two olives, my friend..."

"Bartender, two binary martinis, please!"

*"Understanding is not a point of view"
~ Marshall McLuhan*

It's a big bar ...

A DANGLING PARTICIPLE WALKS INTO A BAR. Enjoying a cocktail and chatting with the bartender, the evening passes pleasantly. Then, a bar was walked into by the **passive voice**, followed by an **oxymoron**, and the silence was deafening.

Two **quotation marks** walk into a "bar," when a **malapropism** walks into a bar, looking for all intensive purposes like a wolf in cheap clothing, muttering epitaphs and casting dispersions on his magnificent other, who

takes him for granite.

Hyperbole totally rips into this insane bar and absolutely destroys everything. Then **question mark** walks into a bar? A **non sequitur** walks into a bar: In a strong wind, even turkeys can fly.

Papyrus and **Comic Sans** walk into a bar, but the bartender says, "Get out -- we don't serve your type." A **mixed metaphor** walks into a bar, seeing the handwriting on the wall but hoping to nip it in the bud. A **comma splice** walks into a bar, it has a drink and then leaves. Three **intransitive verbs** walk into a bar. They sit. They converse. They depart. A **synonym** strolls into a tavern.

At the end of the day, a **cliché** walks into a bar -- fresh as a daisy, cute as a button, and sharp as a tack. A **run-on sentence** walks into a bar it starts flirting with a cute little **sentence fragment**. Falling slowly, softly falling, the **chiasmus** collapses to the bar floor.

A **figure of speech** literally walks into a bar and ends up getting figuratively hammered. An **allusion** walks into a

bar, despite the fact that alcohol is its Achilles heel. The **subjunctive** would have walked into a bar, had it only known.

A **misplaced modifier** walks into a bar owned by a man with a glass eye named Ralph.

The **past, present and future** walked into a bar. It was **tense**.

A dyslexic walks into a bra.

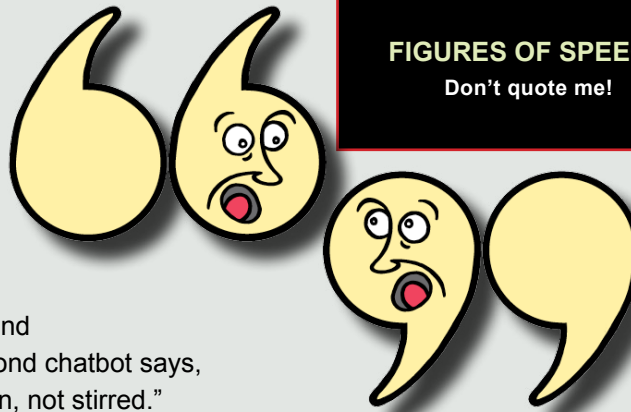
A **verb** walks into a bar, sees a beautiful **noun** and suggests they **conjugate**. The noun declines. A **simile** walks into a bar, as parched as a desert. A **gerund** and an **infinitive** walk into a bar, drinking to forget. A **hyphenated** word and a **non-hyphenated** word walk into a bar and the bartender nearly chokes on the irony.

*Sarcasm is from the Greek Sarkazein -
"to cut off flesh." ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts*

However!

JOHNNY CARSON ASKED PROFESSOR IRWIN Corey, "Why do men wear shoes?" and Professor Corey said, "Well, a brilliant, brilliant question, Sir Carson! It's a brilliant, two-part question.

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"The first part of the question is the word 'Why.' Why what? Why now? Why then? Why anything? Why the unanswerable quest for knowledge and thirst for knowledge, and we should all ask 'Why?' every day, every night, every morning, every day — and with women, we do: 'Why?'"

"And do men wear shoes? Yes!"

"Three things only in Life are real:
God, human stupidity and laughter. But
the first two pass our comprehension,
so we must do what we can with the third."
~ **Aubrey Menen**



UPLIFTING

Joni Mitchell honors the Library of
Congress' George Gershwin Prize

Graham Nash, Cyndi Lauper, James Taylor, Marcus Mumford and Brandi Carlile. They sang her songs. They showered her with love. I was drenched in tears as Joni paid homage to the Gershwin Prize's namesake, **George Gershwin**, by performing "Summertime" from *Porgy and Bess*. She sounded better than ever, her vocals deep and rich as a cup of dark coffee brewed to perfection.

"Joni Mitchell was and is a kick-ass survivor. She's 79 years old and has lived through more than any of us could manage or imagine, from physical illness to battling the executives at record companies. She stuck to her guns as few have...Without exception, she was writing her life in every genre: folk, rock, blues, jazz. She hit 'em all.

"She appeared sweet and innocent on the outside—that long golden hair, flawless skin and features, but she was tough as nails. She had struggled through a vicious bout with polio as a young girl and, like a spirited horse, gathered a strength she would call on again and again throughout her life...

"She was wise beyond her years. She was talented beyond measure. She was more than her beauty. Much more. She startled her lovers and had their highest admiration because she designed her own chords, her own way of playing and creating. She painted her songs. She's still painting. What's not to admire?"

"I can't believe it. You called me 'baby doll' on National Women's Day?" ~ **Bill Nighy**

Ups and downs

BUDDY AND HIS WIFE EDNA WENT TO THE state fair every year, and every year Buddy would say, "Edna, I'd like to ride in that helicopter." Edna always replied, "I know Buddy, but that helicopter ride is fifty bucks, and fifty bucks is fifty bucks."

One year Buddy and Edna went to the fair, and Buddy said, "Edna, I'm 85 years old. If I don't ride that helicopter, I might never get another chance."

To this, Edna replied, "Buddy that helicopter ride is fifty bucks, and fifty bucks is fifty bucks." The pilot overheard the couple and said, "Folks, I'll make you a deal. I'll take the both of you for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and not say a word, I won't charge you a penny! But if you say one word it's fifty dollars."

Joni rules

FACEBOOK FRIEND, CAROL SVEILICH WRITES elegantly of watching **Joni Mitchell** being presented with the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song.

"She was celebrated by her peers and fans, including

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Buddy and Edna agreed and up they went, and the pilot did all kinds of fancy maneuvers, but not a word was heard. He did his daredevil tricks over and over again, but still not a word.

When they landed, the pilot turned to Buddy and said, "By golly, I did everything I could to get you to yell out, but you didn't. I'm impressed!" Buddy replied, "Well, to tell you the truth, I almost said something when Edna fell out but, fifty bucks is fifty bucks."

*"Behind every great fortune there is a crime."
~ Balzac*

an eye, and looked like he was about to die. He used his last bit of strength to come to me. I think the people in that house took him and when they moved, they left him behind. I brought him home, got him help, nursed him back to health. He lived a few more years.

Even at death's door he recognized me and his name. I was in third grade when I got him as an 8-week-old kitten. Had him for a few years before he disappeared. I was in high school when I found him again.

*"And those who were seen dancing were thought to be insane by those who could not hear the music."
~ Friedrich Nietzsche*

It could happen ...

A RABBI, A HINDU AND EX-PRESIDENT DONALD Trump had car trouble and asked to spend the night with a farmer, who said, "There might be a

problem; you see, I only have room for two, so one of you must sleep in the barn."

ATTACHED

A rare story of a cat stronger than steal.

"That's OK," chimed the Rabbi, "My people wandered in the desert for 40 years, so I am humble enough to sleep in the barn in their memory." And with that he departed to the barn, while the others bedded down for the night. But moments later a knock was heard at the door, and there stood the Rabbi. "What's wrong?" asked the farmer.

"I am grateful to you, good sir," he replied, "but there is a pig in the barn and my faith believes that it is an unclean animal."

His Hindu friend agreed to swap places, but again a few minutes later there was another knock on the door. "What's wrong, now?" the farmer asked, and the holy man replied, "I too am grateful for your help, but there is a cow in the barn, and in my country, cows are considered sacred, and I dare not sleep on holy ground!"

Well, that left only Trump to make the change. He grumbled and complained that he was being victimized but stomped out to the barn, and can you believe it, moments later came another loud knock.

Now frustrated and tired, the farmer opened the door -- and there stood the pig and the cow.

*"Nothing we see or hear is perfect. But right there in the imperfection is perfect reality."
~ Shunryu Suzuki Rosha*

Faithful felines

HAD ONE CAT GO MISSING FOR THREE YEARS.

I have no idea what happened in that time, but I suspect someone took him. I was walking home from school when I saw him on the porch of an empty house. I called his name, and he came running, jumped the fence and dropped to the ground. He was a mess, so weak, he could barely walk. He had multiple scars, was missing





Pig out

I KNOW YOU ARE ALL WONDERING HOW TO determine a pig's sex, so here's some answers from one of my favorite charities, the **Ironwood Pig Sanctuary** in Tucson, Arizona.

Some males have very obvious tusks even when the mouth is closed. If the tusks grow up inside the lips (like *Tylosaurus Rex*), they still form a full, rounded upper lip that can be an indication that you're looking at a male.

Checking beneath a pig's tail will tell another tale about boys and girls. Neutered boys don't have much to show back there except a small opening of the anus while the girls are displaying their vulva below their anus. Most mammals, including humans, have nipples with a few exceptions like horses, mice and marsupials. Overweight males or those that have lost a great deal of weight will have larger, saggy nipples, giving the appearance of being female so don't be fooled by that. What to pay



attention to on the bellies is the presence or lack thereof of the penis. It is located on the back half of the male's belly and is enclosed in a sheath of skin with a grouping of hairs at the opening. A female's belly will be relatively smooth.

Girls will squat and urinate out the back, while boys take a wide stance and urinate from under the belly. (sound familiar?) So there is your pig anatomy lesson for today. If you are introduced to a pig, do a little checking around for clues before you start commenting on what a good boy or girl it is....

To contribute, go to www.ironwoodpigs.org.

"I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice." ~ A. Lincoln

Attention Seekers!

FIRST OFF, 'PHIL & TED'S SEXY BOOMER SHOW,' now LIVE every Tuesday on KPFK, is going strong – and we're even getting rave reviews from our most recent guests, like my friend, filmmaker extraordinaire **Henry Jaglom**, who writes:

You guys are really great at this stuff, got things no one else has, big thanks!!!!!!

And we recently had the great joy to welcome my dear partner **David Ossman** (*below, left and right*) to the place that in 1961 housed the **Oz Firesign Theatre** – and is now up for sale!

And visit our website for all the recent shows and more to come.

■ **CONTINUED**





One love

WE ALSO RECOMMEND that you sign on for a magical *Marley One Love Experience* with our friend, Reggae Maestro and author, **Roger Steffens** (above).

And a special shoutout to my pal, author **Steven Paul Leiva** (below), for his International Amazon Best Seller *Travelling in Space* -- the story of a unique first contact from the point-of-view of the aliens, available as an audiobook performed by **Jeff Cannata** at <https://tinyurl.com/5fxtfmm4>

"I decided to collect autographs because I have some spare time since my girlfriend left me (haha)" ~ **My fan Cole** in Indiana



Good fellows

Bill Kates, Jamie Alcroft, Jerry Fialka, Jay Schlossberg, Gary Gold, Nick Oliva, Karen Harris, to the folks at **Hindsight** and **Adventures in Odyssey** -- and a HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAY to my darling daughter, **Kristin**!

And hearty congratulations to the legendary **Dakin Matthews**, Antaeus Titan and my co-star in the short film, "Old Friends" (above), whom we will see in **Aaron Sorkin's** adaptation of *Camelot* at the Lincoln Center,

and will soon be honored with the John Houseman Award at a Gala celebration for the Acting Company of which he is a Founding Member. BRAVO DAKIN!

"Movie stars don't wear hats."
~ **Steven Spielberg**

And Bon Voyage

...to me and my darling, daring wife, Melinda, as we are off on another ProcTour starting in NYC for some theatre, and thence to Amsterdam for the Keuchenhoff Gardens Tulip Festival, and then by train and ferry to Palermo, Sicily and a visit with friends in Rome before returning home in mid-May.

"Carefully make plans, then do the opposite."
~ **McLuhan**

PLANETCLICK

TRENDY

RANDY
CONFETTI
MADNESS
TETRADES
2000X
NTH
EARS
MEMORIES

"I've had too much to think..." — **Captain Beefheart**

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