

"The secret to a happy marriage, is a shared sense of humor — and that's no joke." ~ Phil's Phunny Facts

## Friday, May 24.

That date would have marked our 31st year together of marital blitz – but instead of a celebration here, I spent several days in Imperial Beach near

San Diego with **Bonnie Peterson**, Melinda's beloved, artistic younger sister, who feted me with adventures in Old Town and Coronado del Rey, including a tour of the haunted Whaley mansion and nightcaps with a friend at the famous Hotel Del.

Our actual wedding took place in the herb garden of the Ranch House Restaurant in Ojai. Where we were bound in matrimony by Universal Church Pastor **David Ossman**, in the company of a gaggle of friends, colleagues and relatives – and it was at this joyous event that the **Firesign Theatre** vowed to reunite for our 25th Anniversary Tour!

My child bride and I then extended our celebration with a glorious gathering for dinner at one of our favorite restaurants and then travelling to the Midwest, to visit my mom, **Audre**, in Goshen, Mellie's relatives in Illinois and a brother in

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**LOVE IN BLOOM**  
But where's the groom?

Virginia. We finished our joyous tour in her hometown of West Hartford and finally New York, before taking a train home through the Rocky Mountains, although our longtime alliance was always anything but rocky!

*"The illiterate of the 21st Century will not be those who cannot read and write. It will be those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn."* ~ **H. L. Menken**

### So let me get this straight

You got fired from a top executive job because you did a poor job. The company immediately hired a new top executive.

You couldn't handle that, and you were so angry, you refused to leave.

You called all your friends to come and vandalize the workplace.

When you did leave, on your way out of the office you took a lot of the company's confidential documents. And when you got caught, you refused to give many of them back.

Now you're reapplying for the same job. Well, Donald, I must say: get out – and here's a one-way ticket to Saudi Arabia.

*"Some men improve the world only by leaving it."*  
~ **Oscar Wilde**

### Bird's the word

**W**ELL, NOW ... HERE'S SOMETHING I NEVER knew before, and now I feel compelled to share it with my more intelligent friends in the hope that they, too, will feel edified. Isn't history more fun when you know something about it?

Before the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, the French, anticipating victory over the English, proposed to cut off the middle finger of all captured English soldiers, because without the middle finger, it would be impossible to draw the renowned English longbow, and therefore they would be incapable of fighting in the future.

This famous English longbow was made of the native English Yew tree, and the act of drawing the longbow was known as "plucking the yew" or "pluck yew." Much to the bewilderment of the French, the English won a major upset and began mocking the French by waving their middle



1415.

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fingers at the defeated French, saying. "See, we can still *pluck yew!*"

Since *pluck yew* is rather difficult to say, the consonant cluster at the beginning was gradually changed to a labiodental fricative, and thus the exclamation is often used in conjunction with a one-finger-salute. Also, because of the pheasant feathers on the arrows used with the longbow, the symbolic gesture is known as "flipping the bird."

THROUGHOUT  
THE 'PLANET,' CLICKING  
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OPENS A RELATED  
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And yew thought yew knew every plucking thing? Well, SCREW YOU! (But that's another story...) ...

"I gave up being an atheist because they had no holidays." ~ **Henny Youngman**

## Sock it to me

**'A**S WELL ESTABLISHED IN THE LITERATURE, clothes dryers are portals to a parallel universe. The inhabitants of this universe seem to particularly prize individual socks but not complete sets of socks.

"Investigators in the field of multi-dimensional stocking-ology have not been able to establish this apparent preference for singular over paired socks according to **Augie Argyle**, a respected sockologist."

So writes **Gene Hoffman**.

"If it is not right do not do it; if it is not true do not say it." ~ **Marcus Aurelius**



## The Bible tells us so

Kill adulterers (Lev 20:10)  
Kill all witches (Ex 22:18)  
Kill blasphemers (Lev 24:14)  
Kill false prophets (Zech 13:3)  
Kill fortune-tellers (Lev 20:27)  
Kill anyone who sins (Ezek 18:4)  
Kill the curious (1 Sam 6:19-20)  
Kill gays (Lev 20:13, Rom 1:21-32)  
Kill all non-Hebrews (Dt 20:16-17)  
Kill sons of sinners (Isaiah 14:21)  
Kill nonbelievers (2 Chron 15:12-13)  
Kill anyone who curses God (Lev 24:16)  
Kill any child who hits a parent (Ex 21:15)  
Kill children who disobey parents (Dt 21:20)  
Kill those who work on the Sabbath (Ex 31:15)  
Kill disobedient children (Ex 21:17, Mk 7:10)  
Kill strangers close to a church (Num 1:48-51)  
Kill all males after winning battles (Dt 20:13)  
Kill those who curse father or mother (Lev 20:9)  
Kill men who have sex with other men (Lev 20:13)  
Kill any bride discovered not a virgin (Dt 22:21)  
Kill those who worship the wrong god (Num 25:1-9)  
Kill anyone who does not observe the Sabbath (Ex 31:14)  
Kill everybody in a town that worships the wrong god (Dt 13:13-16) and:  
Kill anyone who kills anyone (Lev 24:17).  
"Make no little plans." ~ **Daniel H. Burnham**, architect

## Trump's histerical history

**G**ETTYSBURG, WHAT AN unbelievable battle that was. The Battle of Gettysburg. What an unbelievable — it was so much and so interesting, and so vicious and horrible, and so beautiful in so many different ways. It represented such a big portion of the success of this country. Gettysburg, wow!

"Robert E. Lee, who's no longer in favor — did you ever notice it? He's no longer in favor. 'Never fight uphill, me boys, never fight uphill.' They were fighting uphill. He said, 'Wow, that was a big mistake.' He lost his big general. 'Never fight uphill, me boys,' but it was too late."

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"I would rather have a general who was lucky than one who was good." ~ **Napoleon Bonaparte**

## Is there laugh after death?

**'YES," WRITES FRANCO DI PALMA ON Quora.** "More than 40 years ago, while in surgery, I died. I was pronounced dead and on my way to the morgue when I returned. Here is the story from my side...

"I was having surgery for a hernia. This was back when you had to go in the day before and be prepped, then would spend at least one night after the surgery so they could monitor your progress. They did those things they do. I was on the table and they knocked me out. At some point I remember being above everyone. Like I was on the ceiling. They were all pretty much in a frenzy doing all kinds of things to my body, which I could plainly see lying under the sheets on the table.

"I watched for a moment or two then felt myself rising, floating up through the ceiling and then higher and higher into the sky. At some point I found myself some place wonderful. I felt COMPLETELY peaceful and GOOD. It was the greatest feeling I have ever felt. No tunnels. No bright lights. Nothing like one might hear of near-death experiences. But it was wonderful!

"Just about the time I was beginning to settle in, I heard a voice that said 'Not yet.'

"I immediately woke up on a gurney in the hall with a sheet over my head. I was completely conscious and reached up to pull the sheet from my face. I must

say, the guy that was pushing me down the hall nearly had a heart attack. Anyway, everything turned out okay, but I spent a long time being angry with God. I could not understand why He would let me enter a place as wonderful as where I had been, just to take it away. I still don't understand. But...

"I'm no longer angry, and I look forward to when my time comes to get called. "

*"I don't like being a person; I like bring a mind."*  
~ Poet **Alice Notely**

## How to get rich

**'NO MENTALLY ILL, NO DRUG ADDICT, NO** handicapped will ever be rich," states financier **Milkum Bosky**. "No one who lives alone to the day will ever be able to get rich, and if by chance he suddenly had a lot of money he would waste it all (making the other poor people around him despair).

"No misfit, no one who does not know how to behave, no irresponsible will ever get rich. Because no one will ever trust them. Being rich is not a matter of having money. It's a matter of knowing how to plan, of having discipline and self-control, of committing to what you do and becoming the best. To know how to weave a network of relationships, to know how to keep your place in the world and a community of which you are an active part.

"Education and education (which are not the same thing) are fundamental, to getting rich."

*"If you want to know what God thinks of money, just look at the people he gives it to."* ~ **Dorothy Parker**

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**ALL THINGS MUST PASS**  
But don't rush me!







## It's about time

**T**HIS GUY — IT'S A LONG story but one day he finds himself in conversation with God. And he says, "Lord, can I ask you a question?" "Ask," God says. "Well, I heard that to You, a million years is like...well, nothin'. Is that so?" "Not quite," God says. "To me it's just like a second."

"Man, that's amazing!" the fellow says. "So...what would a million dollars be like for a guy like you?" God shrugs. "Be like a penny to you." The guy

says, "Well look, I'll just ask you right out: since that's all it is to you, could I ask you for one of those pennies?"

"Sure," God says. "No problem at all. Just a sec."

"The two most powerful warriors are patience and time." ~ **Leo Tolstoy**

## Let's eat

Grasshoppers devour the sunflowers  
Petal by petal to raggedy yellow  
flags-  
Squash blossoms of small suns  
blessed  
By dewdrops flare beauty in the  
morning  
Until an army of squash bugs land  
And eat, then drag their bellies  
From the carnage-  
Field mice chew their way  
Into the house. They eat anything  
Sweet and leave their pebbled shit  
In staggered lines to the closet door.  
Hungry tree frogs cling to the screen.  
Their curled tongues catch anything  
With wings driven to the light-  
We find a snake hidden on the porch,  
There are rumors in the yard  
Of fat mice frolicking here.  
The night is swallowing  
Daylight.  
We sit down to eat.

~ by Joy Harjo in 'The New Yorker'

"Good artists copy, great artists steal,"  
~ **Pablo Picasso**

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## Thinkers

**B**ill Kates, Nick Oliva, Adele Abrams, Bonnie Peterson, Kristin Campbell, Nereida Carillo, John Koerner, Spider Robinson, 'The Week' and Quora for quotes and stories.

And Taps to my musical friend, **Richard Sherman**, 95, who with his talented brother, **Robert**, turned out a flood of memorable melodies for Disney over his long career. Songs like "Chimchimcheree," "A Spoonful of Sugar," and "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" to name a few. (And I forgive him for "It's a Small World After All.") He was a regular at **Milt Larson's** lunch table in the Magic Castle and later with **Harry Anderson** in a fun-filled booth at Musso and Frank's Grill in Hollywood. I will miss his silly stories, but his music will last forever!

"Your future depends on your dreams, so go to sleep."  
~ **Mesut Barazany**

**"The visible world is the invisible organization of energy." ~ Heinz Pagels**

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