PLANET JUNE LOONS

The Trip

If you followed us on Facebook, you know that the past five weeks were full of new adventures – from theatre in London – *Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour*, *The Miser*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night*, and the musical *Girls* with Jeremy Clyde – to *Fidelio* in the Vienna Opera House on our silver wedding anniversary, followed by a pilgimage to *The Kiss* by Gustav Klimt, and a road trip with our Canadian pals, Lance and Bianca Rucker, to Bern, Lucerne, Lausanne, Neuchâtel and Zurich in Switzerland.

Continued

SILVER ANNIVERSARY NIGHT
At the Vienna Opera House for a performance of Beethoven's 'Fidelio.'

Continued from front page

We then flew to Connecticut for my **55th Yale Reunion** and then hired an uber to NYC for *A Doll's House 2* with **Laurie Metcalf**, *Groundhog Day* with **Andy Karl**, Coward's *Present Laughter* with **Kevin Kline**, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Natasha*, *Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812*, *Spamilton*, and **Horton Foote**'s *The Traveling Lady*, directed by **Austin Pendleton**.

And while there, I delivered a warmly received commencement address at Allen-Stevenson School on East 78th Street, which I attended from 1947-'55.

My opening words were "Good morning, fellow kids!" echoing the **Firesign Theatre**'s Principal Poop, and the theme of my speech was dedicated to the idea that we should always remain "childish" all our lives, so I closed with this:

> *I have been silly all my life, and I have been greatly rewarded for it. But whatever path you choose, go for it – say yes more than no – because being children of God, as we all are, in a universe that we share, but dimly understand - there are no bad choices so long as you remain true to yourself. So, fellow kids, go forth, follow your dreams…and prosper. It's up to you.*

"Sometimes it's to your advantage for people to think you're crazy." ~ **Thelonious Monk**

EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN

Donald Trump met with the **Queen of England**, and he asked her, "Your Majesty, how do you run such an efficient government? Are there any tips you can give me?"

"Well," replied the Queen, "the most important thing is to surround yourself with intelligent people.

Trump frowned, and then asked, "But how do I know the people around me are really intelligent?" The Queen took a sip of tea. "Oh, that's easy; you just ask them to answer an intelligent riddle." The Queen pushed a button on her intercom. "Please send **Theresa May** in here, would you?"

Theresa May walked into the room and said, "Yes, Your Majesty?" The Queen smiled and said, "Answer me this, if you would, Theresa. Your mother and father have a child. It is not your brother and it is not your sister. Who is it?" Without pausing for a moment, Theresa May answered, "That would be me."

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

FAKE ART …

'The place is packed!' - Trump

"Yes! Very good," said the Queen. Trump went back home to ask **Mike Pence** the same question. "Mike, answer this for me. Your mother and your father have a child. It's not your brother and it's not your sister. Who is it?"

'I'M WITH STUPID'

He who laughs, lasts.

"I'm not sure," said Pence. "Let me get back to you on that one." He went to his advisers and asked everyone, but none could give him an answer. Finally, Pence ran into **Obama** in a restaurant the next night. Pence asked, "Mr. President, can you answer this for me? Your mother and father have a child and it's not your brother or your sister. Who is it?" Obama answered right back, "That's easy, it's me!" Pence smiled, and said, "Thanks!"

Pence then went back to speak with Trump. "Say," said Pence, "I did some research and I have the answer to that riddle. It's Obama!" Trump got up, stomped over to Pence, and yelled, "No, you idiot! It's Theresa May!"

"If we weren't all crazy, we would go insane."
~ Jimmy Buffett

HIGH IN SCHOOL

Jack goes duck-hunting and pulls into the parking lot with his shotgun in his gun rack.

1957 – Vice Principal comes over, looks at Jack's shotgun, goes to his car and gets his shotgun to show Jack.

2017 – School goes into lock down, FBI called, Jack hauled off to jail and never sees his truck or gun again. Counselors called in for traumatized students and teachers.

Johnny and Mark get into a fist fight after school.

1957 – Crowd gathers. Mark wins. Johnny and Mark shake hands and end up buddies.

2017 – Police called and SWAT team arrives – they arrest both Johnny and Mark. They are both charged with assault and both expelled – even though Johnny started it.

Jeffrey will not behave in class and disrupts other students.

1957 – Jeffrey is sent to the Principal's office and given a good paddling by the Principal. He then returns to class, sits still and does not disrupt class again.

2017 – Jeffrey is given huge doses of Ritalin. He becomes a zombie. He is then tested for ADD. The family gets extra money (SSI) from the government because Jeffrey has a disability.

Billy breaks a window in his neighbor's car and his Dad gives him a whipping.

1957 – Billy is more careful next time, grows up normal, goes to college and becomes a successful businessman.

2017 – Billy's dad is arrested for child abuse. Billy is removed to foster care and joins a gang. The state psychologist is told by Billy's sister that she remembers being spanked herself and their dad goes to prison. Billy's mom has an affair with the psychologist.

Mark gets a headache and takes some aspirin to school.

1957 – Mark shares his aspirin with the Principal out on the smoking deck.

2017 – The police are called and Mark is expelled from school for drug violations. His car is then searched for drugs and weapons.

Pedro fails high school English.

1957 – Pedro goes to summer school, passes English and goes to college.

2017 – Pedro's cause is taken up by a radical group. Newspaper articles appear nationally explaining that teaching English as a requirement for graduation is racist. ACLU files a class action lawsuit against the state school system and Pedro's English teacher. English is then banned from the basic curriculum. Pedro is given his diploma anyway, but ends up mowing lawns for a living because he cannot speak English.

Johnny takes apart leftover firecrackers from the Fourth of July, puts them in a model airplane paint bottle and blows up an ant hill.

1957 – Ants die.

2017 – ATF, Homeland Security and the FBI are all called. Johnny is charged with domestic terrorism. The FBI investigates his parents – and all siblings are removed from their home. All computers are confiscated. Johnny's dad is placed on a terror watch list and is never allowed to fly again.

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Johnny falls while running during recess and scrapes his knee. His teacher, Mary, hugs him to comfort him.

1957 – In a short time, Johnny feels better and goes on playing.

2017 – Mary is accused of being a sexual predator and loses her job. She faces three years in State Prison. Johnny begins long-term therapy.

"The left at its best tears down walls that shouldn't have been there, and the right at its best stops the left from tearing down walls that should be there."
~ Bill Clinton

THE AILES DEFENSE
'It's not harrassment if I come on to everyone that way.'

WHAT AILES US

Matt Taiba writes: "When I mentioned to one of my relatives that I was writing about the death of [**Roger**] **Ailes**, the response was, "Say that you hope he's reborn as a woman in Saudi Arabia."

"Ailes has no one but his fast-stiffening self to blame for this treatment. He is on the short list of people most responsible for modern America's vicious and bloodthirsty character. We are a hate-filled, paranoid, untrusting, book-dumb and bilious people whose chief source of recreation is slinging insults and threats at each other online, and we're that way in large part because of the hyper-divisive media environment he discovered.

"Like many con artists, he reflexively targeted the elderly – 'I created a TV network for people from 55 to dead,' he told **Joan Walsh** – where he saw billions could be made mining terrifying storylines about the collapse of the simpler America such viewers remembered, correctly or (more often) incorrectly, from their childhoods.

"The presidency of Donald Trump wouldn't have been possible had not Ailes raised a generation of viewers on these paranoid storylines. But the damage Ailes did wasn't limited to hardening and radicalizing conservative audiences."

READ MORE ONLINE

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it."
~ Mark Twain

LAST SATURDAY
On June 24 I had a wonderful, heartwarming evening meeting new and old fans hosting an evening of rare Firesign Theatre films at the Steve Allen Theater.

COMING UP
Jamie Alcroft and I put 'Boomers on a Bench' back in Lake Arrowhead's Tudor House on July 22!

FRAMED
A brief time of hawking history

■ *CONTINUED*

GO WEST

Adam West, born in Seattle as William West Anderson, who kept his tongue firmly in his cheek under the iconic cowl of the Caped Crusader in the classic 1960s series "Batman," died at 88. "You can't play Batman in a serious, square-jawed, straight-ahead way without giving the audience the sense that there's something behind that mask waiting to get out, that he's a little crazed, he's strange."

West said that he played the character "for laughs, but… one had to never think it was funny. You just had to pull on that cowl and believe that no one would recognize you."

West returned to voice his iconic character in such cartoons as "The New Adventures of Batman," "Legends of the Superheroes," "Super Friends: The Legendary Super Powers Show," "The Simpsons," and as the Mayor on "Family Guy."

IN A TRIBUTE, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and LAPD Chief **Charlie Beck** projected a Bat-signal onto the tower of LA City Hall. I had the pleasure of writing with him on a TV project. He was warm, whimsical and bright, and not in the lease bit "batty."

"Life isn't short enough..." ~ **Stan Laurel**

PLANETCLICK

CLICK WORDS TO OPEN

YANKS

BLOOMIN

BRAINS

FALSIES

JUGS

MY NAME – BILL DANA

Comedy writer and performer **Bill Dana** was born William Szathmary, of Hungarian-Jewish ancestry, but when he died at 92 he was still best known as José Jimenez, a beloved character embraced by the Latino community as "a perfect example of a person that wanted to be assimilated into American culture, learn the language, and always looked spiffy."

He wrote jokes for **Don Adams** and was head writer on "The Steve Allen Show," where he introduced José as a member of the "Man on the Street" interviews conducted by **Pat Harrington Jr**. He cracked us up for years but finally bowed to criticisms of stereotyping and retired in 1970.

And finally, a celebration this month of the birth of two of the greatest all-time clowns ever: **Bobby Clarke** and **Stan Laurel**, and of that other clown who ended up in the White House.

"What we put our attention on, prospers."
~ **Stephen Gaskin**

THANKS

Tom Hensley, Joan Allemand, Alan Meyerson, Spider Robinson, Ed Ryba, Victor Kopcewich, George Riddle, Harold Bender, Alan Gross, Jeremy Braddock, Luke Polling – and **Elaine Louie**, for a wonderful dinner party that reunited me with Yale bud **Bob Grossman**, Goshen childhood pal **George Riddle**, **Tulis McCall** of FRONT ROW CENTER, and **John Simon** and **C.C. Loveheart**, who sang with us and performed excerpts from their new musical, *The Show Must Go On*.

"It is by the goodness of God that in our country we have those three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either of them."
~ **Mark Twain**

"Free speech means the right to shout 'theatre' in a crowded fire." - Abbie Hoffman

FIRESIGN • BOOMERS

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