

INS AND OUTS

Well, my darling wife, Melinda Peterson finally returned from her meanderings only to show up at LAX in a state of physical distress diagnosed the next day after a 4 _ hour wait at the Cedars-Sinai emergency room as acute appendicitis. When further tests were run, including a Cat Scam (sorry), Dr. Gregory Tsushima (recommended by Mellie's Doctor, Heidi Wu), poked 3 holes in her at 3 a.m. and removed the useless appendage.

She has returned home again and everyone but our cat, Wilma, who bonded with me in her absence, is ecstatically happy to have her back. And thanks to you all for your prayers and offers of support -- although my lass, being a plaid-blooded MacDougal -- spurned them all! No more flowers, Please!

"Throw your heart over the fence and the rest will Follow." ~ Norman Vincent Peale

SCOTCH THIS MYTH, MITHTER!

In a new book by Hugh Trevor-Roper, called *The Invention of Scotland*, (Yale University Press, no less) -- he opines about the true and mythical history of that beautiful but dour land, and since my dear wife is a MacDougal on her mother's side, she may be shocked to learn that the fabled kilt so connected to Scottish-nessy-ness, was actually a fabrication, so to speak, of an 18th century English Quaker iron mill owner, designed to cover the naughty bits of his impoverished laborers who could na'e afford regular trousers.

And then, more's the horror, two con-artist brothers, the Sobieski-Stuarts, substantiated their heritage to the throne by confabulating that the kilt was indeed an ancient Scottish garb! Even George IV was taken in and pranced around in the itchy woolen thingee! It's enough to put ya off yer haggis...

"Nothing happens...but first a dream." ~ Carl Sandburg

SHORT ARMS AND DEEP POCKETS

A Scottish soldier in full dress marches into a pharmacy to speak to the chemist. The Scot opens his sporran and pulls out a neatly folded cotton bandanna, unfolds it to reveal a smaller silk square, which he also unfolds to reveal a condom. The condom has a number of patches on it, which the chemist holds up, and eyes critically.

"How much to repair it?" the Scot asks the pharmacist. "Six pence," says the pharmacist. "How much for a new one?"

"Ten pence," says the pharmacist.

The Scot folds the condom into the silk square and the cotton bandanna, places it in his sporran and marches out the door, kilt swinging. A moment or two later the pharmacist hears a great shout go up, followed by an even greater shout. The Scot walks back into the pharmacy, and again speaks to the pharmacist.

"The regiment has taken a vote," says the Scot. "We'll have a new one."

"You've heard of mental depression; this is a mental recession." ~ McCain economic advisor and mental midget Phil Gram, who just threw himself under the bus

CH-CH-CHANGES

Interesting, don't you find, that the totally under-experiencedObama's suggestions about foreign policy behavior have all been adopted by the outgoing Butch administration? Talking diplomatically with Iran, setting a "general time horizon" the removal of troops from Iraq and building up our forces in Afghanistan! Hmm...

And give me a break about that New Yorker cover. All the idiots out there who believe every Neocon lie about the Obamas will eat this crap up with a spoon anyway. So where's our national sense of humor gone? Mark Twain and Will Rogers must be olling over in their "graves." If our Dumbocracy re-elects Grandpa Bushy Mc Pain, then the Riech is *kaput*!

But what I'd really like to do is direct... in another country, where a whack-job like billionairess Leona Helmsley is somehow restrained from leaving the bulk of her \$8 billion estate to "the care and welfare of dogs." Or did she really mean to her fellow greedy rat-bastard CEOS who've been reaping their fortunes by raping the common man with these home loan scams under the protection of the Republican Oligarchy.

And finally, my favorite Firesign Theatre Waiting for the Electrician reference of the week came from Afghan frontline commander Lt. Col. Christopher Kolenda, who asserted, "I am convinced that the long-term solution to terrorism in general, and Afghanistan specifically, is education. The conflict here will not be won with bombs but with books..." (Just not "The Naked Lunch", I would surmise).

"What is freedom of expression? Without the freedom to offend, it ceases to exist." ~ Salman Rushdie

PROCTOR FOR PRESIDENT!

http://www.news3online.com/index.php?code=462i6lD400Bbu08n6WqG

"It is a revolution in itself that Australia should now have a Mandarin-speaking [leader] -- with the U. S. looking forward to having an English-speaking one." \sim Former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam at his 92^{nd} birthday

THIS REALLY SUCKS

Two nuns, Sister Catherine and Sister Helen, are traveling through Europe in their car. They get to Transylvania, and are stopped at a traffic light. Suddenly, out of nowhere, a tiny little Dracula jumps onto the hood of the car, and hisses at them through the windshield. "Quick, quick!", shouts Sister Catherine. "What shall we do?"

"Turn the windshield wipers on -- that will rid us of the abomination", says Sister Helen. Sister Catherine switches them on, knocking the diminutive Dracula about, but he clings gamely on and continues hissing at the nuns. "What shall I do now?" she shouts.

"Switch on the windshield washer. I filled it up with Holy Water at the Vatican", says Sister Helen. So Sister Catherine turns on the windshield washer and Dracula

screams as the water burns his skin, but he soldiers on and exererates his hissing.

"Now what?" shouts Sister Catherine. "Show him your cross", says Sister Helen. "Now you're talking", says Sister Catherine.

And she opens the window and shouts, "Get the f*ck off the car!"

"Just because I despise religion doesn't mean I don't esteem it highly." ~ "Rhinoceros" by Georges Ionescu

TIE ONE ON

A fleeing Taliban, desperate for water, was plodding through the Afghan desert when he saw something far off in the distance, only to find a wizened old Jewish man at a small stand selling ties. The Taliban demanded, "Do you have water?" The old man replied, "I have no water, but would you like to buy a tie? They're only \$5."

The Taliban shouted, "Bastard Jew! All you want to do is make money! I do not need an overpriced tie. I need water! Filthy Jew, I should kill you, but I must find water first."

"OK," said the old Jew, "it doesn't matter tif you don't want to buy a tie and that you hate me, I'll show you that I am bigger than you. Continue over that hill to the east for about a mile, and you'll find a lovely restaurant with all the water and food you need. Shalom."

Muttering, the Taliban staggered away over the hill but several hours later he staggered back.

"Your brother won't let me in without a tie."

"Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong." ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

OH, MISTRESS MINE

A wealthy couple was sitting in an upscale restaurant. Suddenly, a gorgeous redhead approached the man., walked over to their table and gave him a big, wet kiss and then walked away.

"And who was that?" asked the wife in a huff. "That's my mistress", the man proudly replied.

"Fine!" snapped the wife. "That's it!, then I want a divorce!!!"

"Okay," said the husband, "but you realize that if we do divorce, that means no more trips to Paris in the spring and no more trips to Miami Beach in the winter. It means no more Cadillac, no more maids, no more butlers, and it means we have to sell our 32-room mansion in a depressed market. We'll both have to move out and live in two smaller houses". The wife sat glowering, arms crossed and right then, a mutual friend walked into the restaurant with a gorgeous blonde on his arm. "Who's that with Jim?" asked the wife.

"That's his mistress", said the husband.

"Ours is prettier," replied the wife.

Marriage is a relationship in which one person is always right and the other is usually the husband. ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

WHAT'S IN A NAME, NICK?

James "Wild Bill" Hickock had a prominent nose and a protruding lip and was originally nicknamed "Duck Bill. But due to his reputation it became "Wild Bill."

William "Bat" Masterson was a famous sheriff in Kansas who batted more lawbreakers over the head with his cane than he shot with his gun; hence: "Bat" Masterson.

John "Doc" Holliday was a legendary card sharp and gunfighter, but he was originally a dentist suffering from tuberculosis who resettled in the west for the drier climate. Yet even during the height of his criminal career, he still practiced dentistry. Incidently, his girlfriend was a prostitute named "Big Nose" Kate Elder. Too bad he wasn't a plastic surgeon.

William "Billy the Kid" Bonney looked like a kid but Henry "Billy the Kid" McCarty looked like a goat. William "Buffalo Bill" Cody got his nickname after he undertook a contract to supply buffalo meat for Kansas Pacific railroad workers, by slaughtering 4,280 buffalo in 18 months from 1867-1868.

Robert "Butch Cassidy" Parker befriended a criminal as a teenager named Mike Cassidy and ended up using his pal's last name. The "Butch" came from a job he had in a butcher shop in Rock Springs, Wyoming. And his partner, Harry "The Sundance Kid" Longabaugh was arrested when a greenhorn for horse rustling and served 1 1/2 years in the Sundance jail in Wyoming, from whence he stole his name.

"I like life. It's something to do." ~ Ronnie Shakes

¿QUE ES?

A teacher was explaining to her class that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated either masculine or feminine. 'House' for instance, is feminine - *la casa*. 'Pencil,' however, is masculine - *el lapiz*. A student asked, 'What gender is computer?'

Instead of giving an answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether computer' should be a masculine or a feminine noun. Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation and the men's group decided that 'computer' was definitely feminine (la computadora, because:

- 1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic;
- 2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else;
- 3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval; and --
- 4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be Masculine (el computador) because:

- 1. In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on;
- 2. They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves;
- 3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem; and
- 4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have gotten a better model.

Claro. The women won...

Scratch a dog and you'll find a permanent job. ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

YUCKY U. K. NEWS

The Telegraph reports that the London-based National Children Bureau has discovered that toddlers who say "yuck" when given flavorful foreign food may be exhibiting racist behavior.

In Young Children and Racial Justice, adults are admonished that even babies must be included in the effort to eliminate racism since they "recognize different people in their lives."

Great. Let's do Chinese!

"I am 70 years old yet have never experienced a strange or amusing coincidence. Funnily enough, neither has my brother." ~ Letter to "Viz" magazine, from Paul Sieveking of London's Fortean Times

INDEPENDENT THINKERS

Harry Anderson, Tim Osburn, Eddie Deezen, Nick Oliva, Fred Wiebel, Jr., Hank Rosenfeld, Jayne Stahl, M. C. Gwynne, Victor Kopcewich, Dr. Robert Riddle, Scott W. Langhill, Brian Wesley, Mark McIntyre, Ed Morykwas, Jordana Glick-Franzheim...and HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME! (And though it falls on July 28th again this year, thanks to 20 years of Republican economic mismanagement, my actual age has been devalued -- I'll only be 58!)

Also, I'm still performing in AMERICAN TALES at the Deaf West Theatre in NoHo! Just email me for my performance dates...

And a review:

http://www.suncommunitynewspapers.com/index.php?mact=News,cntnt01,detail,0&cntnt01articleid=988&cntnt01origid=58&cntnt01returnid=162

"Never doubt the courage of the French; they're the ones who discovered snails are edible." ~ Doug Larson

INDEPENDENT CLICKERS

BIRTHIN': http://www.famousbirthdays.com

DAMAGIN': http://www.theonion.com/content/video/bush tours america to survey

DANCIN': http://www.voutube.com/watch?v=zlfKdbWwruY

DUNCIN': http://www.vimeo.com/1211060

DOLPHIN': http://www.geekologie.com/2008/07/dolphin submarineboat thing co.php

NECKIN': http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36CWA1xFyTY

NO FUELIN': http://www.valcent.net/i/misc/Vertigro/index.html

NO KITTIN': http://www.kittywigs.com/wigindex.html

PAPOONIN':http://www.talonnews.com/news/2008/july/0709_papoon_convention.shtml

SEARCHIN': http://www.allmyfaves.com/

SLIPPIN'; http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=532 1214089217 We?

STRIPPIN': http://www.reuters.com/news/video?videoId=86246&newsChannel=oddlyEnoughNev

WEBBIN': http://www.thewebsiteisdown.com/?

WHININ':http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/10/mccain-adviser americans_n_111857.html

"If Barack Obama is John Kerry with a tan, then John McCain is George Bush with an enlarged prostate." ~ Jay Leno

* FUNNY TIMES: http://www.funnytimes.com
* FST: http://www.FiresignTheatre.com

"Every man is under the natural duty of contributing to the necessities of the society." $\,$ - Thomas Jefferson

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