



2012 - 4

PLANET TRIBUTE

April 30, 2012

"If there is a God, Peter Bergman has Him laughing His holy ass off!" ~ Ed Ryba

### BERGMAN'S BIG BROUHAHA

*The following thoughts come from Phil & Oona Austin up on Fox Island, and express things far better than I ever could.*

**T**he Firesign Theatre put on a show for Pete at the Kirkland Performance Center on Saturday, April 21, and around 300 people showed up from the Seattle and Portland area and some from even farther afield. We had a very good time and felt Peter hovering over the entire affair.

The outpouring of regard and love for him was stunning and the local radio stations, the theater, filmmakers, Firesign staff and backstage crew all volunteered their time and talents to help us produce what we called **Peter Bergman's Big Brouhaha**, and we can't thank everyone enough.

Remembering Peter is easy, as we're sure you've noticed. The Firesign Theatre will never be without him. Oona and I had the best time with him over the past few years and we feel as if he's with us now, as he is with each of you...

Our last words to him were at the end of a conversation in March when he finally told us about his condition, and they sum up what we thought of him and what we'll always think of him: Forever young, Forever strong.

If you chance to dream about Peter, tell him we don't feel that we need another writing session, we don't need another show, we don't even need another laugh. He's done more than enough. Time to rest and sleep and dream.

Well, OK. Maybe one more laugh. Or two. Or three.

"Humor keeps the elderly rolling along,  
singing a song.... So you laugh, you  
breathe, the blood runs, and everything is  
circulating. If you don't laugh, you'll die."  
- Mel Brooks

SIGNS OF LIFE BEY(OND)  
Phil Austin, David Ossman, and Phil  
Proctor pay tribute to Peter Bergman  
at the Kirkland Performance Center on  
April 21. Peter Dervin photo



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## THE FUTURE IS NOW

I recently performed a piece featuring Bergman's search for the Mayan Doomsday Calendar which my friend **Joe Bevilacqua** premiered on his **Comedy-O-Rama** show, Saturday April 28 on the day of Pete's L.A. Memorial for family and friends at the Electric Lodge, in Venice. The event was packed and proved to be an incredible opportunity to renew old friendships as we reviewed Peter's amazing life. Thanks to all who participated. **MORE**

**Melinda** and I will now take a May break to prepare for a string of appearances on the road, starting with a trip to New Haven for my **50th Yale Reunion**, then performances at this year's **International Mystery Writers' Festival** at the Riverpark Center in Owensboro, KY, at the **National Audio Festival Workshop** in West Plains, MO, and later with **David Ossman** at the **MiniCon Sci-Fi** convention in Minneapolis around July 4. Who would have figured we'd be doing so much Live Audio Theatre in the 21st Century?

But then, we were also recently guests of producer **Arnold Engleman** at a taping of **WestBeth Entertainment's** production of **Eric Idle's** 1940's radio send-up, "What about DICK" at the Orpheum Theatre downtown, hosted by the author with **Eddie Izzard, Tim Curry, Billy Connolly, Jane Leeves, Jim Piddock, Tracey Ullman, Sophie Winkleman** and **Russell Brand**.

It's in the air! Or ON THE AIR, certainly...

*"I owe my longevity to never taking any legal drugs."  
~ Paul Krassner on turning 80*

## YOU'RE SUSPENDED

Serial killer **Charles Manson** was denied parole again, effectively ending his bid for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination. With Mr. Manson no longer a contender, the

path was clear for former Massachusetts Governor **Mitt Romney** to become the party's nominee. Perhaps in recognition of this development, Mr. Romney unveiled a new campaign slogan today: "Sorry, But You Have No Other Choices Now."



As for the rest of the GOP field, former Pennsylvania Senator **Rick Santorum** suspended his campaign this week, saying that he wanted "to spend more time with the voices in my head." And former House Speaker **Newt Gingrich** wrote a \$500 check on an account that had no money in it, in the first sign that he might be qualified to be President.

Elsewhere, a Fox News spokesman blasted a mole who had previously worked for the network: "At Fox News we have zero tolerance for someone who tells the truth." Get a free subscription to the **Borowitz Report** **HERE**.

*"You should not serve the world of mammon;  
you should serve the world of public good."  
~ Late Boston Mayor, Kevin White*

## IT'S DOWN PAT

From scans to pat-downs, the TSA has its fans and detractors, but here are the Homeland Security statistics on what full-body scanners uncovered last year:

- Transvestites: 743
- Enlarged Prostates: 19,249
- Breast Implants: 209,350
- Colon problems: 27,298
- Terrorist Plots Discovered: 0
- Natural Blondes: 3



*"The time is near at hand which must determine  
whether Americans are to be free men or slaves."  
~ George Washington*

## AYE, THERE'S THE RUB

"Last week, my wife and I had great sex," boasted an Italian. "I rubbed her body all over with olive oil, we made passionate love, and she screamed for five full minutes at the end!"

The Frenchman said, "Last week when my wife and I had sex, I rubbed her body all over with butter. We then made passionate love and she screamed for 10 minutes!"

"Well, last week my wife and I also had sex," offered their Jewish pal. "I rubbed her body all over with chicken fat. We made love, and she screamed for over six hours!"

The other two were stunned. "What could you have

■ **CONTINUED**

possibly done to make your wife scream for six hours?" asked the Frenchman.

The Jewish guy said, "I wiped my hands on the bedspread."

*"No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationary." ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts*

## WELL, SHUT MA MOUTH

*Things you will never hear a good ol' boy say:*

She's too young to be wearing a bikini. Oh I just couldn't, she's only 16. My fiancée, Bobbie Jo, is registered at Tiffany's. Those shorts ought to be a little longer, Betty Mae.

We're vegetarians. D'you think my gut is too big? I'll have grapefruit and grapes instead of biscuits and gravy.

Unsweetened tea tastes better. Give me

the small bag of pork rinds. Trim the fat off that steak. Cappuccino tastes better than espresso. You can't feed that to the dog.

We don't keep firearms in this house. Too many deer heads detract from the decor. No kids in the back of the pickup, it's just not safe. Wrestling is fake! I just couldn't find a thing

at Wal-Mart today. The tires on that truck are too big. Who gives a damn who won the Civil War?

I'll take Shakespeare for 1000, Alex. Come to think of it, I'll have a Heineken. I got two cases of Zima for the Super Bowl. Hey, here's an episode of "Hee Haw" that we ain't seen. Honey, we don't need another dog. Duct tape won't fix that. When I retire, I'm movin' north... Checkmate!

And the number one thing you'll never hear a good ol' boy say:

No more beer for me. I'm driving a whole busload of us down to re-elect OBAMA!

*"To be an American is a complex fate."  
~ Henry James*

## IT'S TOO DARN HOT

A recent university-sanctioned **Knowledge Network** poll reveals that a growing majority of Americans are starting to "connect the dots" before they all blow away, and are increasingly convinced that the growing number of extreme temperature fluctuations and weather-relayed disasters are attributable to man-made global warming. Still, a small minority of Conservative-backed researchers contests that view and has up to now successfully influenced public opinion, in spite of dwindling scientific evidence to justify their position.

"My sense from around the country and the world is that people definitely understand that things are getting freaky," said **William E. McKibben**, above, founder of **350.ORG**

"During that crazy heat wave in March, everyone in Chicago was out enjoying the weather, but in the back of their minds they were thinking, this is not right."

*"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most adaptable to change." ~ Charles Darwin*

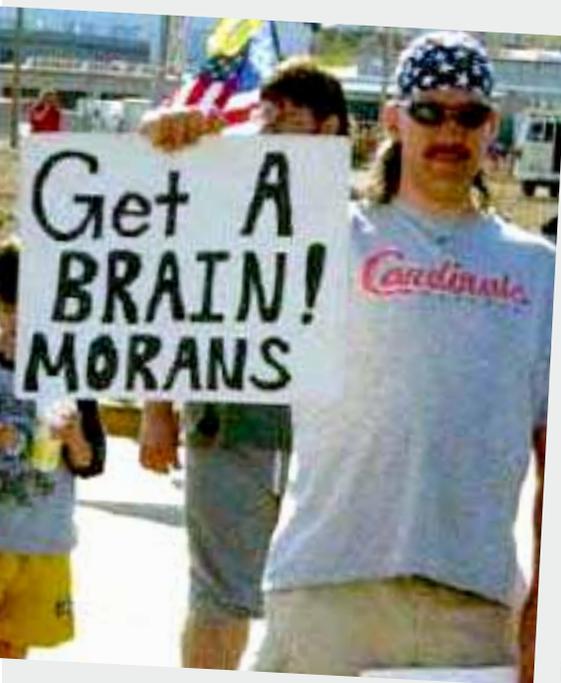
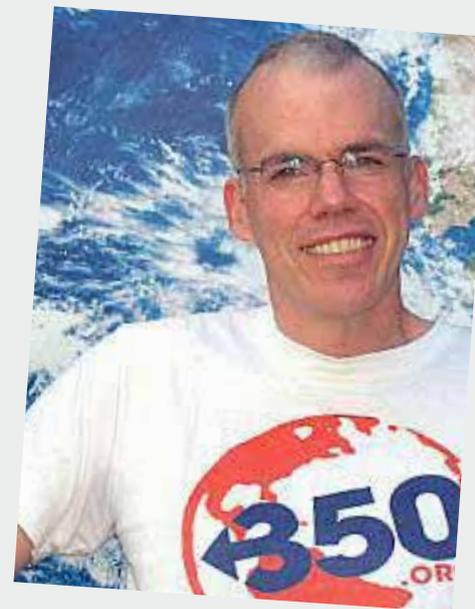
## PIE IN THE SKY

Cincinnati-based **Flamingo Air** is enticing folks lusting to join the "Mile High Club" with a \$425 package including an hour in heaven aboard their very private plane with champers, chocolate, and a "very discreet pilot."

"I have had a high heel in my ear once, been shot in the back of the head with a champagne cork, and thank God we wear headsets," said pilot and co-owner **DAVE MacDONALD**.

But don't do the dirty over Arizona, because their latest anti-abortion bill defines gestational age as "calculated from the first day of the last menstrual period of the pregnant woman," which would move the beginning of a pregnancy to two weeks before conception. Most states use 20 weeks.

*"My mother always said, "don't do something you'll regret later in life. I thought it was great advice. So I had it tattooed to my forehead." ~ Emo Phillips*



## LET US PREY

A Catholic boy is seriously injured after being hit by a car outside a church.

A man runs to him and says, "Would you like me to get a priest, my son?"

The boy replies weakly, "Can't you see I'm dying here? Sex is the last thing on my mind."

*Priests are well known as being experts in child rearing.*  
~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

## TO BE OR NOT TO BE

Sarah Palin was swarmed not long ago at the

**Conservative Political Action Conference** in Washington, D.C., but after she actually turned out to be a Palin impersonator named **Patti Lyons**, the crowd stayed anyway.

"Journalists interviewed her," said **OpEdNews** contributor **Chris Lamb**, "and photographers photographed her. Supporters of the real Palin asked for her autograph and told her how much they adored her.

"It didn't matter that Lyons was not really Palin."

*"I think she's very happy in Alaska, and I hope she stays there."* ~ **Barbara Bush**

## TO SEE OR NOT TO SEE

This mindset is consistent with studies which increasingly confirm, as I often point out here, that **Party Partisans**, be they Liberal or Conservative, "process information in different ways" as notes **Chris Mooney** in the *Washington Post*, leading to "spasms of irrationality." Personality tests affirm that Progressives are more open to change and "crave novelty" and Conservatives tend to "value order, structure and consistency."

Thus, ideologues on both sides don't really see any difference between what is real and what is false — "and don't appear to care that they don't."

Or, as the **Firesign Theatre** asks, "What is reality?"

*"When you have...people who are afraid of change when change is the only thing that succeeds, the only thing we know... is that things are going to change."*

~ **Robert Redford**

## GUNS AND GALS

*Why men prefer weapons over women:*

You can trade an old 44 for a new 22 and you can keep one gun at home and have another for when you're on the road. Your primary gun doesn't mind if you keep another gun for a backup and if you admire a friend's gun and tell him so, he'll probably let you try it out a few times.

A gun doesn't ask, "Do these new grips make me look fat?" and function normally every day of the month. A gun doesn't take up a lot of closet space. A gun doesn't mind if you go to sleep after you use it. And best of all – Your gun will stay with you even if you run out of ammo, and you can buy a silencer for a gun.

*"We've reached an age we do everything together - except make love."* ~ **Phil's Phunny Phacts**

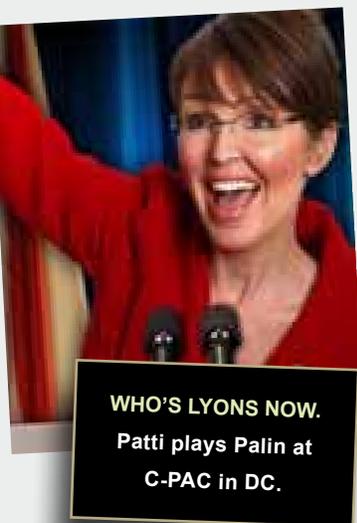
## HIYA, FRIENDS!

In a recent segment **The Stephen Colbert Report**, Stephen revealed that half of the \$67 million raised in 2011 by super PACs could be traced to just 22 people, or roughly .0000063 percent of the population. "So Occupy Wall Street," he suggested, "is gonna wanna change those 1% signs."

"This really is the selling of America," declared Democratic Party Chairman **Howard Dean**, because, thanks to the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision in 2010, these Super Punks can now amass unlimited cash from individuals, corporations, and unions to support or oppose a candidate, although in theory they are prohibited from coordinating with them.

"We've been sold out by five justices," Dean concludes, "thanks to the Citizens United decision." To which I might add, in **Peter Bergman's** words: "Thank me, I'm welcome..."

**COLBERT ON THE LINE.**  
It's just a sign of the times for Stephen.



"A criminal is a person with predatory instincts without sufficient capital to form a corporation."

~ Clarence Darrow

are sure to stop saying that naughty phrase in no time."

"Bless you," the woman responded, "This may very well be the solution."

## PLAYTIME

An anthropologist proposed a game to kids in an African tribe. He put a basket full of fruit near a tree and told the children that whoever reached it first got to eat it all. But when the game began, they all joined hands and ran together and then sat down to share their treats.

When he asked them why they had done that when one could have had all the fruits for himself, they said,

"UBUNTU – How can one be happy if all the others are sad?" You see, ubuntu in the Xhosa culture means: "I am because we are."

'Sharia' in Arabic means 'the Path' and is intended to connect Muslims with a concept of God rooted in mercy and compassion.

~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

## POLLY WANTS A HOOKER

A lady goes to her priest one day and tells him, "Father, I have a problem. I have two female parrots, but they only know to say one thing -- they say, 'Hi, we're hookers! Do you want to have some fun?'"

"That's obscene!" the priest exclaimed. "But you know," he continued, regaining his composure, "I may have a solution to your problem. I have two male parrots, which I have taught to pray and read the Bible. Bring your birds over to my house, and we'll put them in the cage with Francis and Peter. My parrots can teach yours to pray and worship, and your girls

# PLANETCLICK

## PRANKYOUS

LEGGY

NORTON

ARTE

DOLPHIN/CAT

DOGART

COMMUTERCAT

SARCASM

OH BROTHER

ROCK

HULA WINE

HOTKARTS

SCRIBBLERS

JESUS FLIPPED

LE CHAT

FOXY

SUFFRAGE

ARIZONA

HAY

THE BEAR

CLICK THE WORD TO  
GO TO THE SITE

So the next day, she brought her female parrots to the priest's house and immediately observed that his two male parrots were inside their cage holding rosary beads and praying. Impressed, She walked over and placed her parrots in with them. After a few minutes, the female parrots cried out in unison: "Hi, we're hookers! Do you want to have some fun?"

There was stunned silence -- and then one male parrot looked over at the other and said, "Put the beads away, Frank, our prayers have been answered!"

"I was walking down the road the other day and i couldn't help but notice how beautiful the world is. And I thought to myself, "Why would anyone in their right mind take drugs?" Then I remembered I was on drugs ~ Steven Wright

## THANKYOUS

Joan Allemand, Carolyn Fox, Jim Reynolds, John Strachan, Victoria Thomas, Phil & Oona Austin, Victor Kopcewich, Allison Barenburg, Melinda Peterson, Laurence Budd and Ari Berman.

**AND, TO DONATE** to Lily Berman's college fund, please go to the **FIRESIGN** website for instructions. Thank you all.

"During WW II, Prime Minister Winston Churchill was asked to cut arts funding in favor of the war effort. 'Then what are we fighting for?' he replied." ~ Alpha Betty

"Mala yerba nunca muere." - Bad weeds never die.

**BEARWHIZ BEER** <http://www.eagletshirts.com>

**FUNNY TIMES:** <http://www.funnytimes.com>

**FST:** <http://www.FiresignTheatre.com>

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