

# Planet Thanksgetting

"Peace cannot be kept by force, it can only be achieved by understanding." ~ Albert Einstein

## Stuck in the Cyberweb

**A**uthor, cyberpal and Planeteer Spider Robinson writes, 'This just in from my friend and colleague Herb Varley. I have seen it attributed online to a Martha Snow, not known to me. I also just found it at a website called Learn English, offered

by something pretentious called The British Council. Insanely, the poem below appears there only in audio form...in which the entire point is completely invisible and unguessable!!! I wonder what people who download that clip think is supposed to be going on in it?'

### YOU CAST A SPELL ON ME

*And here's my version of Snow's Poem – I snow shell lick it, and I hope ewe dew two!*

Aye halve a spelling checker,  
It came with my pea sea;  
It plainly Marks four my revue,  
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

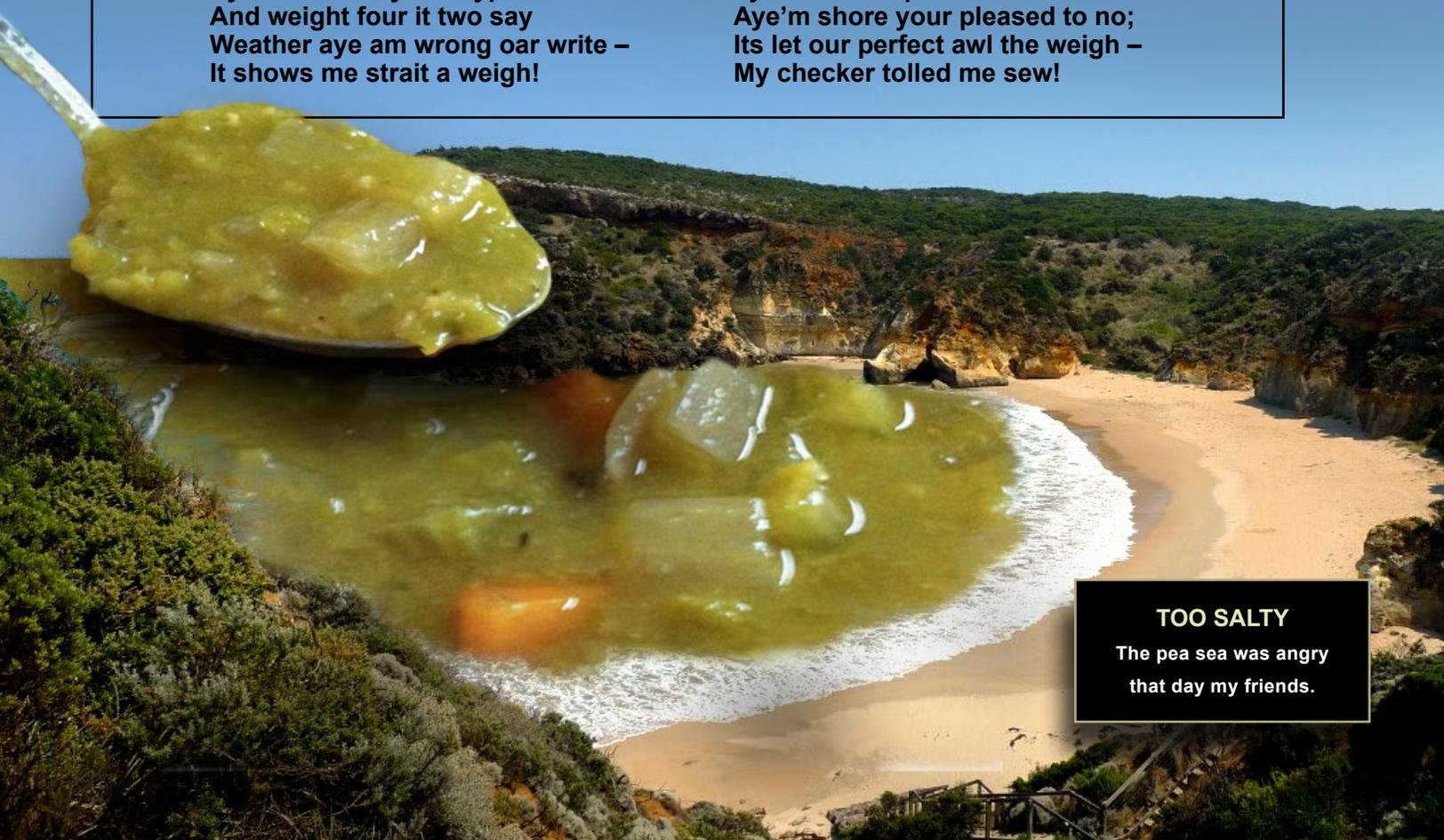
Eye strike a cay and type a word  
And weight four it two say  
Weather aye am wrong oar write –  
It shows me strait a weigh!

As soon as a mist ache is maid,  
It nose bee fore two long;  
And eye can put the error rite –  
Its rare lea ever wrong!

Eye've run this poem hear threw it twice  
Aye'm shore your pleased to no;  
Its let our perfect awl the weigh –  
My checker tolled me sew!

### TOO SALTY

The pea sea was angry  
that day my friends.





**HALO THERE**  
Cloud of suspicion.

*"Normal is just a cycle on the washing machine."  
~ Whoopi Goldberg*

### **HEEERE'S BENNY!**

**T**he *LA Times*' **Doyle McManus** recently wrote this about **Dr. Ben Carson**, who, as you all know, is running for president of the Evangelical Party:

"In his books, he often mentions incidents in which God intervened in his life." Doyle explains. "When he neglected to study at Yale, God showed him the answers on a chemistry exam. When he fell asleep while driving home one night, God spared his life. When he used new surgical techniques on children's brains, God saved some of his patients. And when he was on a safari in Africa, God answered his prayer for plenty of photogenic wildlife."

God only knows if he'll trump Trump for the nomination. God help us either way...

*"Savings is a fine thing. Especially when your parents have done it for you." ~ Winston Churchill*

### **GOD IS DOG BACKWARDS**

**A** burglar broke into a house one night. He shone his flashlight around, looking for valuables when a voice in the dark said, "Jesus knows you're here."

He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight off, and froze. When he heard nothing more, after a bit, he shook his head and continued. Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard a voice say, "Jesus is watching you." Freaked out, he shone his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice.

Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot. "Did you say that?" he hissed at the parrot. "Yep," the parrot confessed, then squawked, "I'm just trying to warn you that he is watching you." The burglar relaxed. "Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?"

"I'm Moses." replied the bird. "Moses?" the burglar laughed. "What kind of people would name a bird Moses?"

"The same kind of people that would name their Rottweiler Jesus."

■ **CONTINUED**

"The terror of society, which is the basis of morals,  
and the terror of God, which is the secret of religion:  
these are the two things that govern us."  
- Oscar Wilde, 'The Picture of Dorian Gray'

## GIVING THANKS TO CONGRESS

A few months ago I was interviewed for an online blog about the Firesign Theatre's *Don't Crush That Dwarf* induction as an historical recording for the Library of Congress in 2005. Here are some excerpts:

We were doing a radio show of Peter Bergman's at KPFK in LA which I became involved with in a very strange way. I had first come out to Los Angeles with a musical called *The Amorous Flea*, for which I won a *Theater World* Award and then I returned to New York to perform on Broadway in *A Time for Singing* and *A Race of Hairy Men* by Evan Hunter, where I understudied Brandon DeWilde. Brandon and I became close friends and decided to drive out to Los Angeles together. Through Brandon I met Peter Fonda and we sort of became the "Three Musketeers." At the time, Peter was working on a little movie idea he called "Captain America" but he couldn't get the rights to that title, so he renamed it *Easy Rider*.

And he was doing research on the youth movement, so

**Riots.** At one point, we joined a sit-in – and I found I was sitting on a copy of the *LA Free Press*. So, I pulled that out from under my butt and I realized I had sat down on a picture of Peter Bergman interviewing returning Vietnam War vets for KPFK Pacifica Radio. Bergman and I had both gone to Yale. He was the class of '62 and I was the class of '61. He had written lyrics to the musicals *Tom Jones* and *Booth is Back in Town*, written by Austin Pendleton, in which I starred.

So, I called up Peter the next day and he said, "Yeah, I'm the Wizard of Oz." It turned out he had his own counterculture late night, call-in talk show called "Radio Free Oz" and he invited me to join him on his show that night. It was there that I met Phil [Austin] and David [Ossman], and we soon discovered that we had a lot in common including a knack for creating characters and improvising together. One of the things we did was called "The Oz Film Festival" where we showed movies on the radio.

Phil played a character who made films "for the bedroom"-- this was way before the big adult movie explosion -- and we "showed" a clip from *Blondie Pays the Rent* on the radio! Well, people starting calling in: "You can't show a dirty movie on the radio!" [Laughs.] Then other people called in and said, "Of course you can! What about free speech?" And we thought, "Hmmm, we have something going here – the art of the send-up." ■ CONTINUED



we went down to the Sunset Strip one night to become part of a protest against a curfew, which then turned into the **Sunset Strip**



### BACK PAGES

From 'The Wizards of Oz,' the Firesign chapter in Harvey Kubernik's 'Canyon of Dreams' [INFO] (Austin, Ossman, Proctor and Bergman in 1979); and Susan and Brandon DeWilde in L.A.



### QUEEN OF BEASTS

Famous publicity still from Spring 1926 by Sports Photographer Don Gillum of Greta Garbo with Jackie, better known as MGM mascot 'Leo the Lion.'

**LOC:** *Did you and the group ever face issues of censorship?*

No. You know, concurrent with our success there was a revolution going on. LPs had come in. The music industry was starting to show their muscle. There were AMAZING ACTS coming out. It was a hot business, and radio was the main vehicle for promotion. FM radio had come on the scene, and especially in college towns, they'd play whatever they wanted, for as long as they wanted, pretty much uncensored, and they'd play entire Firesign albums! Also, records are a private adventure. You bought the record and listened to it in the privacy of your home. One of my inspirations was old "Bloopers" records. They were very risqué, and I'd sit with my parents and listen to them! Records were the great equalizer. They still are...

*"People always ask me, 'Where were you when Kennedy was shot?' Well, I don't have an alibi." ~ Emo Philips*

### SHE TAKES A LICKIN'

A circus owner runs an ad for a lion tamer, and two people show up. One is an old retired golfer in his late 60s and the other is a gorgeous blonde in her mid-twenties.

"I'm not going to sugar coat it," the circus owner says, "This is one ferocious lion. He ate my last tamer, so you two had

better be good or you're history. Here's your equipment – a chair, a whip and a gun. Who wants to try out first?"

The girl says, "I'll go first." She walks past the chair, the whip and the gun and steps right into the lion's cage. The lion starts to snarl and pant and begins to charge her, but about halfway there, she throws open her coat revealing her beautiful naked body.

The lion stops dead in his tracks, sheepishly crawls up to her and starts licking her feet and ankles. He continues to lick and kiss her entire body for several minutes and then rests his head at her feet.

The circus owner's jaw is on the floor. He says, "I've never seen a display like that in my life." He then turns to the retired golfer and asks, "Can you top that?"

The old duffer replies, "No problem, just get that damn lion out of the way."

*"I have an intense desire to return to the womb. Anybody's" ~ Woody Allen*

### POWER

*Someone who calls himself "Snarl" and should be an Honorary Planeteer, writes on the web:*

I was once on a US military ship, having ■ CONTINUED

breakfast in the officers' lounge, when the OPS (Operations Officer) walks in. This guy is NOT a morning person; he's still half asleep, bleary-eyed ... basically a zombie with a bagel. My back is to the outboard side of the ship, and the morning sun is blazing in one of the portholes putting a bright-ass circle of light right on his barely conscious face. He's squinting and chewing and basically just remembering to be alive for today. It's painful to watch.

But then, zombie OPS stops chewing, slowly picks up the phone and dials the bridge. In his well-known I'm-still-totally-asleep voice, he says, "Heeey, it's OPS. Could you shift our barpat? Yeah - one six five. Thanks." And he puts down the phone and just sits there. Squinting. Waiting. And then, ever so slowly, I realize that the big blazing spot of sun has begun to slide off the zombie's face and onto the wall behind him.

**PLANETCLICK**  
CLICK WORDS TO OPEN

**BALLADEERS**

**DRIVE HE SAID**

**PHANTS**

**RATS**

**TWINS**

**SYRIASLY**

**BIRTHSONG**

**TRANS**

**LOTERIA**

**SAFE PLACE**

After a moment it clears his face and he blinks slowly a few times, and the brilliant beauty of what I've just witnessed begins to dawn on me. By ordering the bridge to adjust the ship's back-and-forth patrol by about 15 degrees, he's changed our course just enough to reposition the sun off of his face. He's literally just redirected thousands of tons of steel and hundreds of people so that he could get the sun out of his eyes while he eats his bagel.

I am in awe...

"And she's still a beacon, still a magnet for all who must have freedom, for all the pilgrims from all the lost places who are hurtling through the darkness, toward home." - **Ronald Reagan's Farewell Speech**

"If there were no such thing as eating, we would have to invent it to save man from despairing."

~ **Dr. Wilhelm Stekhel**, 'The Depths of the Soul'

## NUN OF THE ABOVE

Three Nuns are involved in a fatal car accident, and they arrive together at the pearly gates of Heaven. St. Peter greets them, and informs them that they each have to answer one question before he will allow them to enter Heaven.

St. Peter asks the first nun, "Who built an ark to keep the animals safe during The Great Flood?" She replies, "Noah!" Bells begin to ring and the gates of Heaven open.

St. Peter asks the second nun, "Who tempted Adam and Eve to eat the forbidden fruit in The Garden of Eden?"

"That blasted serpent!" she replies. Bells begin to ring and the gates of Heaven open.

"What were Eve's first words to Adam?" St. Peter asks the third nun, who thinks for a few minutes, and says, "Boy, that's a hard one!"

Bells begin to ring, and the gates of Heaven open...

"I've always thought that a big laugh is a really loud noise from the soul saying, 'Ain't that the truth.'"

~ **Quincy Jones**

## PLANETEERS

Thanks to **Joan Allemand, Bill Coombs, Victor Kopcewich, Nick Oliva, Jamie Alcroft, Marj Bender, George Riddle, Jim Terr, Randy Irwin** and **Henry Jaglom**. And please come see me with **Leslie** "Police Academy" **Easterbrook, H.L. Wynant** and **Tom Williams**, in a live audio presentation of **Eugene O'Neill's Anna Christie** at the Beverly Garland Little Theatre, 4222 No. Vineland Ave., Sunday, November 29 at 2 pm. For reservations please contact **CARTRIOLA@YAHOO.COM** - \$20 or \$10 for seniors and students. Tickets may be purchased at the theatre.

"For a politician to complain about the press is like a ship's captain complaining about the sea."

~ **MP Enoch Powell**

**"To make men love their country, their country ought to be loveable." ~ Edmund Burke**

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

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