

# Planet March On

"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves." ~ Abraham Lincoln

**F**or *Piano and Harpo* has been a huge hit, kicking off the 2017 Season of Garry Marshall's Falcon Theatre with great reviews, sold-out houses and standing ovations! We added two shows, but still had to close on March 5, because subscription theatres like Garry's have to "run their flops and close their hits" to make way for the next show, *The Complete History of Comedy (Abridged)* by our pals Austin Tichenor and Reed Marin.

All of us in this loving cast – Dan Castellaneta, Deb Lacusta, JD Cullum, Gail Matthius and Jonathan Stark – can only hope that Dan's rich and rewarding play will have another incarnation in the not-too-distant future in a galaxy not-too-far-away.

Then, Melinda and I were in Palm Springs to perform for our third year in "On The Air," a live recreation of Old Time Radio classics to raise funds for **Dezart Performs**. This year's shows included "It Pays to be Ignorant," "My Friend Irma" (with Melinda replacing the ailing **Mariette Hartley**), "The Battling Bickersons," and **Ray Bradbury's** "Mars is Heaven" on "Dimension X." And we worked with **Gavin McCloud, Peter Marshall, Joyce Bullifant, Roger Perry, Millicent Martin, Valerie Armstrong** and **Bob Hardt**, among others.

I next appear on Saturday, March 25, at the L. Ron Hubbard Theatre in Hollywood as **Sheriff Pokey Mackay** in the amusing Western, "The Ghost Town Gun-Ghost." **INFO**

And on April Fool's day I'll be at the Tudor House in Lake Arrowhead, sitting on a bench for the third time with fellow Boomer **Jamie Alcroft**, on NPR's "American Parlor Songbook," starring **JP Houston** and **Julie Van Dusen**.

**READ MORE**



## OFF THE AIR

The 'On the Air' gang on the stairs after an airing

"Just found out I'm losing my job as a paid protester. Anybody know what ISIS is paying these days? I hear they have good dental." ~ **John Finnegan**

## THE FIRESIGN THEATRE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT

**O**n the evening of March 30, 2017, SAG/AFTRA will present a special event for union members and their guests titled "An Evening with the Firesign Theatre, or Something Like It," produced by **Bill Kates & Bob Telford**. The event will be held at the Los Angeles SAG/AFTRA headquarters in the James Cagney Boardroom, sponsored by the SAG/AFTRA Radio Play Committee as part of their Educational Program.

It's a live audio performance of a mashup of Firesign classics including "Nick Danger" and "We're All Bozos On This Bus," performed and co-directed by yours truly with **Jamie Alcroft, Keith Blaney, Townsend Coleman, Karla With A K, Bill Kates, Valentina Latyna, Patricia Mizen, David Stifel** and Telford, with music and sound effects by **Edwin Telford** and **Amalisha** – and afterwards, there'll be a Q & A.

The show is dedicated to my dear late partners **Peter Bergman** and **Phil Austin**. I miss you both...

"Thanking you once again for your amazing work and being such a huge inspiration to several across the world." ~ **Indian Fan**

## HAIRING AID NEEDED

**M**y wife Andrea found out that our dog (a Schnauzer) could hardly hear, so she took it to the veterinarian. The vet found that the problem was hair in the dog's ears. He cleaned both ears, and the dog could then hear fine. The vet then proceeded to tell Andrea that, if she wanted to keep this from recurring, she should go to the pharmacy and get some "Nair" hair remover and rub it in the dog's ears once a month.

Andrea went to the store and bought some "Nair" hair remover. At the register, the pharmacist told her, "If you're going to use this under your arms, don't use deodorant for a few days."

Andrea said, "I'm not using it under my arms." The pharmacist said, "If you're using it on your legs, don't use

CARTOON BY BILL ABBOTT

## DOGGEDLY

A woman needs a bike like a man needs her Schnauzer

body lotion for a couple of days." Andrea replied, "I'm not using it on my legs either."

Andrea told the pharmacist, "If you must know, I'm using it on my Schnauzer."

The pharmacist said, "Well then... stay off your bicycle for at least a week!!!"

"Eproctophilia: One who considers flatulence sexually arousing..." ~ **Phil's Phunny Pharts**



## THEM'S FIGHTIN' WORDS

**T**hese funny jokes have been circling the Planet for years. I've decided to share a few of my favorites with you, so here goes ...

One year, I decided to buy my mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift. The next year, I didn't buy her a gift. When she asked me why, I replied, "Well, you

**Do I capitalize the first letter in each word of 'my idiot husband?'**



still haven't used the gift I bought you last year!"

*And that's when the fight started...*

My wife and I were watching "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire" while we were in bed. I turned to her and said, "Do you want to have sex?" She answered, "No." So I asked, "Is that your

final answer?" She didn't even look at me this time, simply saying, "Yes." So I said, "Then, I'd like to phone a friend."

■ **CONTINUED**



*And that's when the fight started...*

I took my wife to a restaurant, and the waiter, for some reason, took my order first. "I'll have the rump steak, rare, please." He said, "Aren't you worried about the mad cow?" And I answered, "Nah, she can order for herself."

*And that's when the fight started...*

My wife was at her high school reunion, and she kept staring at a drunk swigging his drink as he sat alone at a nearby table. "Do you know him?" I asked her. "Yes," she sighed. "He's my old boyfriend. He began drinking right after we split up years ago and hasn't been sober since." And I said, "My God! Who would think a person could celebrate that long?"

*And then the fight started....*

My wife was standing naked, looking in the bedroom mirror. She was not happy with what she saw and said to me, "I feel horrible; I look old, fat and ugly. I really need you to pay me a compliment." I replied, "Your eyesight's still perfect."

*That's when the fight began ....*

I rear-ended a car this morning ... the start of a really bad day. The driver got out of the other car, and he was a dwarf. He glared up at me and said, "I am NOT happy!" So I said, 'Well, which one ARE you, then?'

*And that's how the fight started....*

*"The price of apathy towards public affairs is to be ruled by evil men." ~ Plato*

## SHOOT

**B**ob opened a message on his iPhone which read, "Hi, Bob. This is Alan from next door. I have a confession to make. I've been riddled with guilt these past few months and have been trying

**There we are!  
What's 350 divided  
by two?**



'HERMAN' CARTOON BY JIM UNGER

to pluck up the courage to tell you to your face, but I am at least now telling you in text, as I can't live with myself a moment longer without you knowing.

"The truth is – I've been sharing your Wife, day and night when you're not around. In fact, probably more than you. I haven't been getting it at home recently, but that's no excuse, I know. The temptation was just too much.

"I can no longer live with the guilt and I hope you will accept my sincerest apologies and forgive me. It won't happen again. Please suggest a fee for usage and I'll pay you. Regards, Alan"

Bob, feeling insulted and betrayed, grabbed his gun, went next door and shot his neighbor dead. He returned home, poured himself a stiff drink and collapsed on the sofa. He took out his phone to call 911, when he saw he had a subsequent message from his neighbor: "Hi, Bob, this is Alan again from next door. Sorry about that typo on my last text, but I expect you figured it out anyway. That darned AutoCorrect changed 'WiFi' to 'Wife.' Haha. Sorry 'bout that – Alan"

*"The first person to hurl an insult instead of a stone founded civilization." ~ Sigmund Freud*

## YOUR JOB IS ON THE LINE

**A** retired man went into the Job Center in Downtown Denver and saw a card advertising for a Gynecologist's Assistant. Enticed by the job title, he went in and asked the clerk for details of the position.

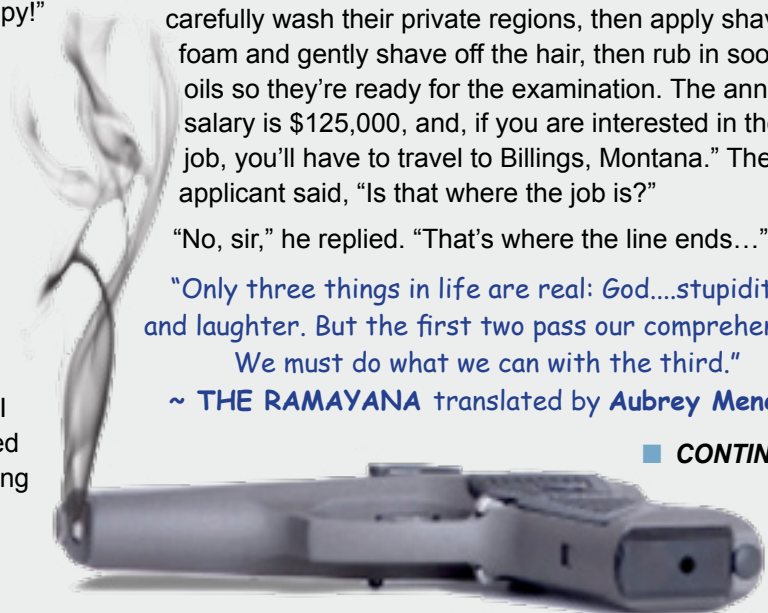
The clerk pulled up the file and read: "The job entails getting the ladies ready for the gynecologist. You have to help the women out of their underwear, lay them down and carefully wash their private regions, then apply shaving foam and gently shave off the hair, then rub in soothing oils so they're ready for the examination. The annual salary is \$125,000, and, if you are interested in the job, you'll have to travel to Billings, Montana." The applicant said, "Is that where the job is?"

"No, sir," he replied. "That's where the line ends..."

*"Only three things in life are real: God....stupidity.... and laughter. But the first two pass our comprehension. We must do what we can with the third."*

*~ THE RAMAYANA translated by Aubrey Menen.*

■ CONTINUED



"The stronger the wind, the stronger the trees."  
~ Fortune Cookie

## DON'T ASK

A father buys a lie-detecting robot that slaps people when they prevaricate. He decides to test it out at dinner, so he asks his son what he did that afternoon. The son says, "I did some schoolwork." The robot slaps him.



The son says, "Ok, Ok. I was at a friend's house watching movies."

Dad asks, "What movie did you watch?" Son replies, "Toy Story." The robot slaps him again, and he says, "Ok, Ok, we were watching porn." Dad says, "What? At your age I didn't even know what porn was!" The robot slaps the father. Mom laughs and says, "Well, he certainly is your son." And the robot slaps the mom...

You can bid for the robot on eBay.

"Count your age by friends, not years.  
Count your life by smiles, not tears."  
~ John Lennon

## MEN/WO/MEN SAME THING

Two gay men are beach walking, holding hands when a beautiful young blonde woman passes by. She's 5'10", 120 lbs, 38-24-36, wearing a string bikini.

The first gay guy turns to his friend, sighs audibly, and in a breathless whisper says, "It's women like her that make me wish I was straight."

"It's women like her," his friend replies, "that make me wish I was a Lesbian!!"

"Money sometimes makes fools of important persons, but it may also make important persons of fools."  
~ Walter Winchell

## BEER WITH ME

One night on the wonderfully written "Cheers," Cliff Clavin said to his buddy, Norm Peterson: "Well, ya see, Norm, it's like this..."

"A herd of buffalo can only move as fast

as the slowest buffalo, and when the herd is hunted, it's the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members!

"In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. So, in this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine!

"And that's why you always feel smarter after a few beers."

"Remember 'I' before 'E,' except in Budweiser."  
~ Professor Irwin Corey

## HOWEVER ...

This is how the great late Professor Irwin Corey began his act, and it went sideways from there. A master of the absurd, featured in clubs as "The World's Foremost Authority," he proceeded to amuse and confuse us with an easy stream of pseudo-intellectualism, doubletalk and bemused musings on the meaning-less of life.

Described by critic Kenneth Tynan as "Chaplin's clown with an education," he touched, over a long career stretching into his 90s, on many subjects – even abortion, which he affirmed in one of his so-called lectures, "has been part of the American system since its inception."

"One of the things you have to recognize about humor is that at its heart it's stupid, and we should enjoy that stupidity."  
~ New Yorker Cartoon Editor  
Bob Mankoff

## AND MOREOVER ...

More friends and icons are passing every day, and the longer it takes me to get one of these Planets in

PLANETCLICK  
CLICK WORDS TO OPEN  
TRUMPWORLD  
DENMARK  
NETHERLANDS  
BELGIUM  
SWITZERLAND  
GERMANY  
PORTUGAL  
ISRAEL

■ CONTINUED





**MERRY 70TH MARY!**  
The gang's all here

orbit, the more the heavens are crowded with the shining souls of beloved friends and honored acquaintances. So here goes...

Adios to **Bill Paxton** - an "everyman" actor who's skills surmounted his fame, but I'd guess that "Big Love" embodied his charisma the best: vulnerable, determined and subtly humorous. And to think that we first were introduced to his seductively easy style in *The Alien*. Game over, Bill. Well played.

Then we lost a magician of great skill, **Daryl Easton**, possibly through a bizarre expression of auto-eroticism before a performance. I prefer a shot of brandy and coffee, but hey... Presto-chango.

And finally, I tip my hat to producer **Fred Weintraub**, whom I first met when dating a gorgeous waitress at his coffeehouse in Greenwich Village which he renamed "The Bitter End" and where the likes of **Bob Dylan**, **Joni Mitchell**, **Joan Rivers** and **George Carlin** performed; and eventually, even **Proctor & Bergman**.

Fred went on to produce films and introduced the world to Bruce Lee and on TV to **David Carradine** in "Kung Fu" and then, "The Dukes of Hazzard."

"I found our business fun," Fred exclaimed. He was fun, too.

"They're not pro-life, they're pro-birth. They want live babies, so they can grow up to be dead soldiers."  
~ **George Carlin**

**PLANETCLICK**  
CLICK WORDS TO OPEN

**PLANETWORLD**

**GODOT**  
**BB**  
**PS**  
**VINYL SOLUTION**  
**ONE WORLD**  
**MESKIMEN**  
**DIG IT**  
**ANTS**

### OUR THANKS

**T**o contributors **Robert Riddle**, **Richard Fish**, **Kenneth Wilhite, Jr.**, **Spider Robinson**, **Gabby Gruen**, **Steve Bluestein**, **Joan Allemand**, **Jim Meskimen**, **Jamie Alcroft**, **Victor Kopcewich** and **Eric Chiel**. And congratulations to **The Antaeus Company** on the opening of our very own theater as part of the **Kiki & David Gindler Performing Arts Center** at 110 E. Broadway in Glendale, with *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

And lastly ...

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MARY WILLARD** – the Hostess with the Mostess! (*See the turn out above!*)

"You will find poetry nowhere, unless you bring some of it with you." ~ **Joseph Joubert**

"Man, I wish I had something more meaningful to say." ~ Oscar-winner **Casey Affleck**

### FIRESIGN • BOOMERS