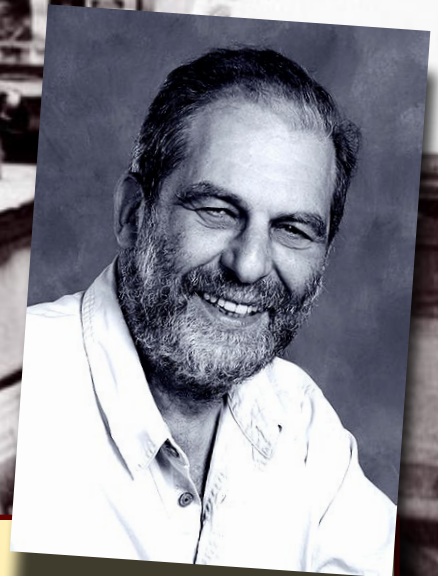


Planet Marching

"The meaning of life is that it stops." ~ Franz Kafka



Really Broken News

Our friend, Elaine Louie, just informed me of the passing in his sleep of the great, loving and talented trail-blazing artist **Bob Grossman**, at his studio on Crosby Street in NYC. And yes, I had a dream that morning, and although it was actually his close friend, **Austin Pendleton**, covered by a blanket from head to toe, I told him I loved him.

Bob was **Peter Bergman's** roommate at Yale and, like me and Austin, a member of the senior society Scroll and Key. And, as many of you know, he created the iconic cover for one of the Firesign Theatre's most popular albums, *Don't Crush That Dwarf, Hand Me the Pliers*, inducted into the Library of Congress in 2005, as well as the cover in clay figures of Proctor & Bergman's *Give Us a Break*, and most recently for *Where's My Fortune Cookie?* [READ NYT OBITUARY](#)

Since I will be back East at the end of this month to record a podcast and audiobook of *Cookie*, I hope to be able to honor his culture-altering career with friends and family. Thank you, Bob, for your dedicated friendship and collaborations over our 60 years together – and rest assured, your art lives on! [TAYLOR JENSON BLOG](#)

And I recently lost another dear and deeply funny friend, my Riverdale Country School classmate, **Steve Katcher**, to a long-lingering neurological disorder, so this is a sad time, but also a time for singing.

"I wrote '1984' as a warning, not as a fucking instructional manual." ~ George Orwell

BETTER LATE THAN EVER

And here, as usual, is my obligatory St. Pat's joke, which I delivered at **Fred and Mary Willard's** rowdy party the day before their 50th wedding anniversary! It was **Jack Lemmon's** favorite Irish joke, and he was one of my favorite actors, so here it is:

"Two Irishmen walked out of a pub... It could happen!"

"A casual stroll through the lunatic asylum shows that faith does not prove anything." ~ **Nietzsche**

HEAR THIS!

And I'll be premiering my podcast and audiobook release of *Where's My Fortune Cookie?*, co-authored by **Brad Schreiber**, at the HEAR Now Festival in Kansas City, Missouri, June 7-10, celebrating

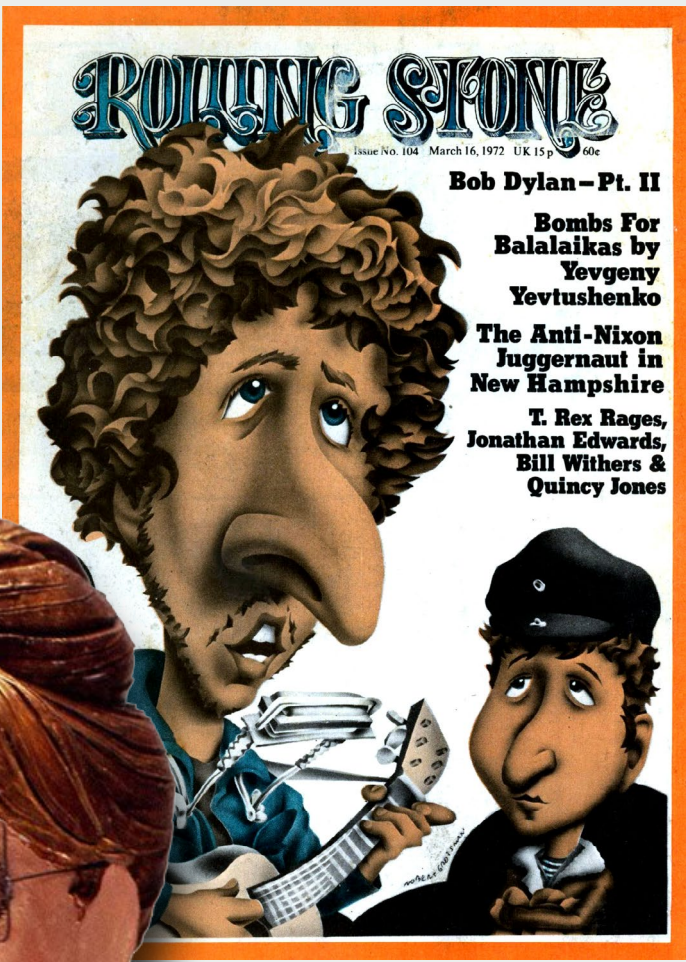
radio plays, audiobooks and sound design for games and virtual reality, including **Dave Ossman's** 22nd annual **Mark Time Awards** to honor the best in audio presentations.

And on Friday morning, for fans of *Where's My Fortune Cookie?*, they'll be premiering the first episode of my podcast as well as reviewing my career with Firesign and as a voice actor, and then Dave and I will be performing **The Art of Radio** as part of Audio Tonight, an Audio Cabaret on Satire-day night.

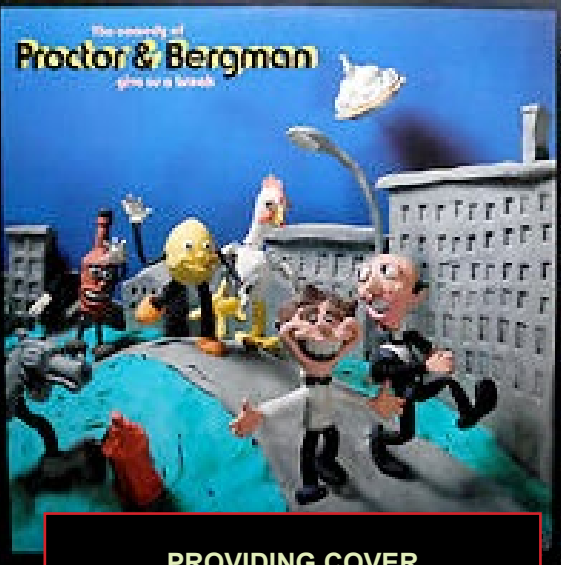
Visit **HEAR NOW FESTIVAL** for more.

"The distance needed for humor is always missing from dreams." ~ **Siril**

■ CONTINUED



PLANES, PLAYERS & PALIN
Robert Grossman's illustrations included the iconic 'Airplane' film poster, numerous Rolling Stone covers, and a busted Sarah Palin.



PROVIDING COVER

Bob Grossman was a close friend and great partner in illustrating recordings by Peter and me (above), Firesign Theatre (top right) and my autobiography (center).

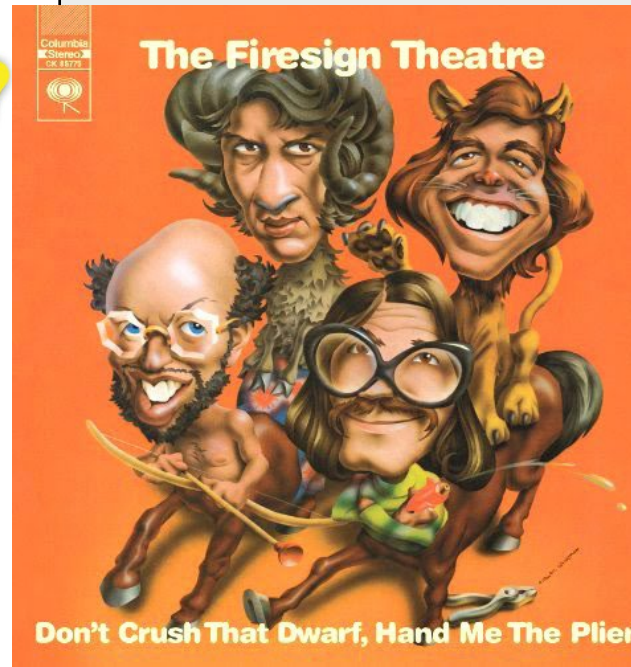
WHERE'S MY FORTUNE COOKIE?



我的傻超现实主义的故事

(My Psychic, Psurrealistic Pstory)

Firesign Theatre's Phil Proctor and Brad Schreiber



BOOK ME

From my longtime pal and collaborator, Richard Fish:

“Phil, I’ve finished *Where’s my Fortune Cookie?* and I loved it. I agree with everything said on the back of the book (although I’m not really sure about **Weird AI**’s story). It’s astonishing, funny, warm, amazing, insightful, loving, surprising, and occasionally diplomatic – there’s a lot of wisdom shining through between the words.

“There’s only one problem. It’s too short. Knowing you, you still have a trunk-full of stories, and you should start working on Volume 2. (If you wanted a *nom de plume*, you could use **Sir Real**).

“I’ve read a lot of showbiz bios and autobiographies, and yours goes right into the top group. My reactions as I went along were mostly (a) laughter, often loud and sometimes explosive, and (b) ‘holy shit,’ ‘well I’ll be damned,’ ‘what the f*ck,’ and similar phrases...

“I started to make notes on things I’d like to ask you about and gave up – there were too many. I knew some of the stories, of course, but lots of things were new to me, even after hearing you for 49 years and knowing you for 28. That’s wonderful – and so’s the book.”

Thanks, Rich, and we can talk at the HEAR Now Festival over burnt ends...

“Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony.” ~ Mahatma Gandhi

THE DOGGIE DIET

Yesterday I was at Costco, buying a large bag of Purina dog chow for my loyal pet, **Owen the Wonder Dog**, and was in the check-out line when a woman behind me asked if I had a dog. What did she think I had, an elephant? So, because I’m retired and have little to do, on impulse, I told her that no, I didn’t have a dog, but I was starting the Purina Diet again.

I added that I probably shouldn’t, because I ended up in the hospital last time, but that I’d lost 50 pounds before I awakened in an intensive care ward with tubes coming out of most of my orifices.

I told her that it was essentially a Perfect Diet and that the way it works is to load your pants pockets with Purina Nuggets and simply eat one or two every time you feel hungry. The food is certified nutritionally complete, so it works well, and I was going to try it again. (I have to mention here that practically everyone in line was now enthralled with my story.)

Horrified, she asked if I ended up in intensive care because the dog food poisoned me. I told her, no; I had stopped to pee on a fire hydrant and a car hit me.

“The only reason they say ‘Women and children first’ is to test the strength of the lifeboats.”

~ Jean Kerr

■ CONTINUED

"Politicians are not born; they are excreted." ~ Cicero

THE ART OF RADIO

David and I, the two surviving members of "the Beatles of Comedy," have created a show to celebrate our 50-year collaboration and the Library of Congress' acquisition of our historic archives.

The Art of Radio takes a tongue-in-cheek, "you-are-there" tour of the Golden Age, from the Twenties to the Present, featuring the origins of Firesign's unique, rock 'n' roll, movies-for-your-mind style of comic audio playwriting.

For bookings, contact: Maureen Weston by email at ...

moweston@hotmail.com

"I have kleptomania,
but when it gets bad,
I take something for it."
~ Robert Benchley

COME AGAIN?

A Jew, a Christian, a Muslim, and a Buddhist all died the same day. In the next realm, they encountered an angel. The angel said to the Jew, "You observed the Torah and were a good man. Answer this one question, and you may enter Heaven. How do you spell G-d?" The Jew entered.

The angel said to the Christian, "You loved everyone you met, and were a good man and good Christian. Answer one question, and you may enter Heaven. How do you spell Jesus?" The Christian entered.

The angel said to the Muslim, "You were devout and prayed five times a day. You were a good man. Answer one question and you may enter Heaven. How do you spell Allah?" The Muslim entered.

The angel became a Deva, and said to the Buddhist, "You meditated and fasted; you respected all life and were a good man. Answer one question, and you may enter Nirvana. How do you spell Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva?"

DOCTOR ZEUSS LET'S LOOSE

1. "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose."
2. "Today you are You, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is Youer than You."
3. "Don't give up! I believe in you all. A person's a person, no matter how small."
4. "I have heard there are troubles of more than one kind. Some come from ahead and some come from behind. But I've brought a big bat, I'm all ready, you see. Now my troubles are going to have troubles with me!"
5. "You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams."
6. "Sometimes the questions are complicated, and the answers are simple."
7. "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."
8. "I like nonsense, it wakes up the brain cells. Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living."
9. "Why fit in when you were born to stand out?"
- 10 "Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the things you can think up if only you try!" ~ Theodore Geisel

The Buddhist was reincarnated. Or, as Dylan so famously sang: "On the wheel again..."

"If life were fair, Elvis would still be alive today and all the impersonators would be dead."
~ Johnny Carson

TAKE TWO

From *Planeteer* and longtime pal Rich Demaio:

“Loved the latest Planet. Your joke, however, Doggone (very funny) was more completely told by the late comedian **Robin Harris** on a **Robert Townsend** HBO special in the '90s. The way he told it...

"A guy is walking through the park with his nephew, and they see two dogs having intercourse. The kid says, 'Hey Uncle, what's those two dogs doing?' And the uncle, not wanting to tell the kid too much says, 'Well, the one in the back got hurt, see, and the other one is carrying him home.'

And the kid says, 'Ain't that just like a friend? You try to help 'em out, and they f*ck ya.'"

"You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have." ~ Maya Angelou

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

President Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945, and the day before he was working on a speech for a Jefferson Day dinner. It was never delivered, of course, but the draft was found. It contained this passage:

"Today science has brought all the different quarters of the globe so close together that it is impossible to isolate them one from another. Today we are faced with the pre-eminent fact that, if civilization is to survive, we must cultivate the

science of human relationships – the ability of all peoples, of all kinds, to live together and work together in the same world, at peace.”

If that was true in 1945, how much more is it today, and how much more, tomorrow?

“Art, freedom and creativity will change society faster than politics.”
~ Victor Pinchu

TAKE A SEAT

An old man lay awkwardly sprawled across three entire seats in the movie theater. When the usher came by and noticed this, he whispered to the old man, “Sorry sir, but you’re only allowed one seat.” He didn’t budge. The usher became visibly impatient. “Sir, if you don’t get up from there I’m going to have to call the manager.”

Once again, the old man just muttered something unintelligible and did nothing. The usher marched briskly back up the aisle, and in a moment returned with the manager. Together the two of them tried repeatedly to move the old disheveled man, but with no success. Finally they summoned the police.

When the officer arrived, he surveyed the situation briefly, then asked, “All right, buddy, what’s your name?”

“Fred,” the old man moaned. “Where are you from, Fred?” asked the police officer. With a terrible strain in his voice, and without moving, Fred replied, “The balcony.”

“We too often enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought.” ~ John F. Kennedy

PLANETCLICK

CLICK WORDS TO OPEN

PEEPERS

BANG

CHEETO

GOSHEN

MARK

BLAST OFF

LIBERAL DAY

“There’s a place in France where the naked monkey’s dance!” ~ Drunk Monkey

KEEPERS

I regret to say that for the first time in the long history of the Planet, I somehow lost my list of acknowledgements, so here goes: **Joan Allemand, Jamie Alcroft, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., George Riddle** – and apologies to those uncredited. And thanks again to **Dezart Performs**, for another wonderful Palms Springs ON THE AIR fundraiser directed by **Gregg Oppenheimer** and starring us (of course) plus **Fred Willard, Gregg Berger, Hal Linden, Joyce Bulifant, Roger Perry, Mariette Hartley, and Valorie Armstrong** among others... I was a respectful Tonto in “The Lone Ranger,” and **Melinda** killed in “Richard Diamond” starring **Gary Beach!**



“Having more money doesn’t make you happier. I have 50 million dollars now, but I’m just as happy as when I had 48 million.” ~ Arnold Schwarzenegger

“Kill one man and you’re a murderer, kill a million and you’re a conqueror.” ~ Jean Rostand

FIRESIGN • BOOMERS