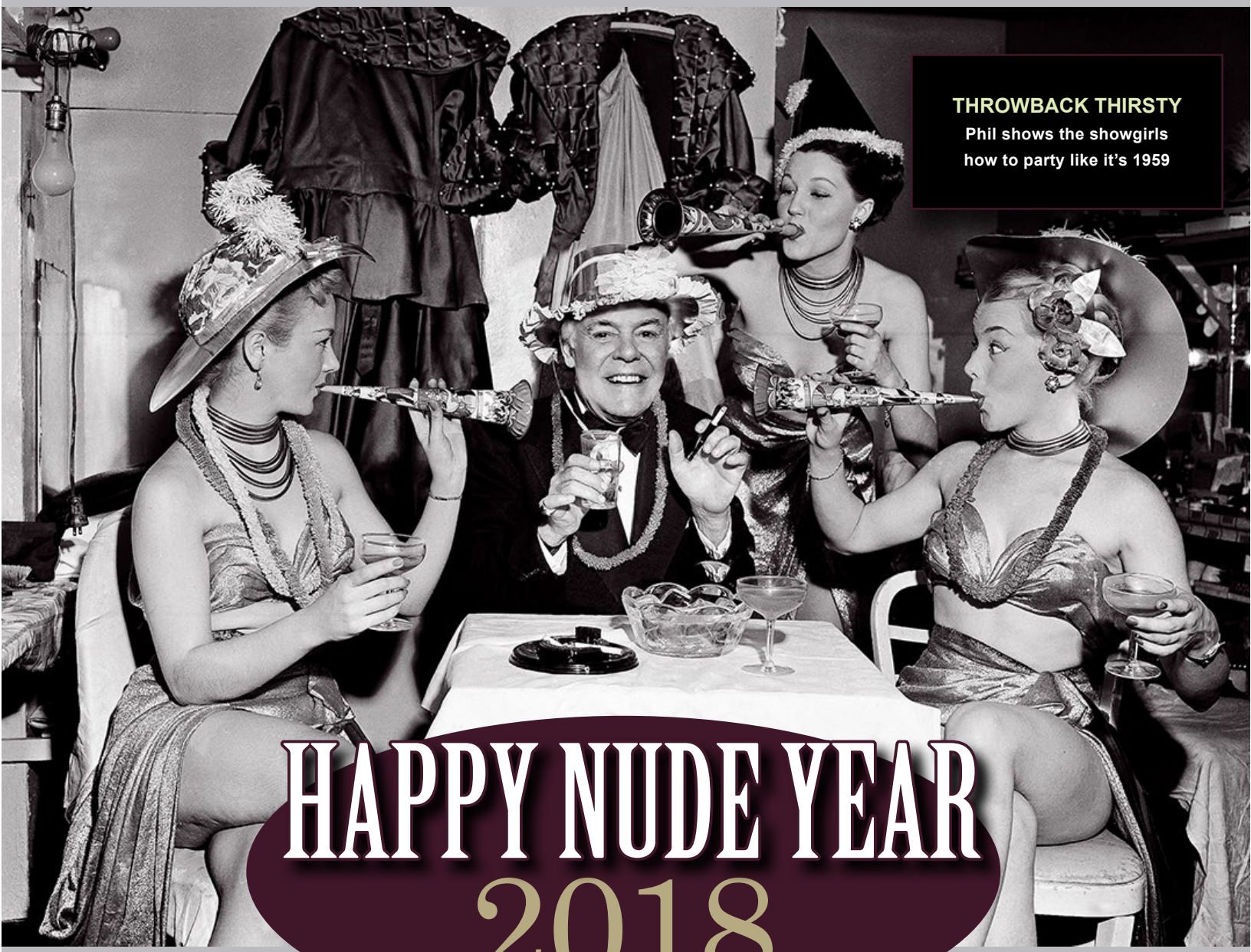
"Age is strictly a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter." ~ Jack Benny



**THROWBACK THIRSTY**
Phil shows the showgirls how to party like it's 1959

# HAPPY NUDE YEAR 2018

A ban preventing women from going topless in Fort Collins, Colorado, is still making its way through the courts, as a federal 10th Circuit Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments (sic) for and against a lower court's ruling that the city's ban on women appearing topless in public while allowing men to go topless violates the equal protections clause of the 14th Amendment.

Lawyers representing the city argued that existing case law argued that female breasts have a "hallowed sexual status" that male breasts do not...

Really? Ask my wife. - *Free the Nipple from USA TODAY*

"We don't see things as they are; we see them as we are." ~ Anais Nin

## HAPPY WHATEVER

**PLEASE ACCEPT WITH NO OBLIGATION,** implied or intended, my best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low-stress, non-addictive, gender-neutral celebration of the winter solstice holiday, practiced within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice, or secular practices of your choice, with respect for the religious/secular persuasion and/or traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all. I also wish you a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2018, but not without due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make America great. Not to imply that America is necessarily greater than any other countries nor that it is the only America in the Western Hemisphere. Also, this wish is made without regard to the race, creed, color, age, physical ability, religious faith or sexual preference of the wisher.

**KISSING IT GOODBYE?**
**Here's to not dropping the ball on planetary safekeeping in 2018!**

"The best leaders are those who shape and guide by listening and learning and, above all, by adapting what they know to changing circumstances."
**~ John Field**

## RE:RE:VIEW

**"IN HIS REMARKABLE CAREER, PHIL PROCTOR** seems to have been everywhere: Broadway, off-Broadway, radio, films and, late one night in San Francisco, in the middle of a gangland mass murder in a Chinese restaurant. Proctor doesn't relate this near-death incident for sympathy or graphic effect. No, as would happen many times in his life, he saw it coming. It's called prescience. Phil Proctor has it.

"We all know that comedy depends on timing. But improvisational comedy like Proctor's requires something more – an ability to anticipate, to sense what someone is going to say, to see it coming. Proctor saw so much coming, including, at Yale, a comic every bit as brilliant and, as it turns out, prescient, **Peter Bergman**. Their paths would cross many times.

"Proctor assumes his reader is a Firesign Theatre fan, and doesn't dwell on it. It is for us to see how far ahead of its time Firesign was, placing layer upon layer of hilarious audio tracks that require multiple listens to grasp everything. Proctor fills [*Where's My Fortune Cookie*] with a dazzling display of photos, playbills and clippings, from the time he was five until yesterday.

"How did he know he'd become famous? Oh, I forgot. He saw it coming." **5.0 OUT OF 5 STARS**. (From our friend and fellow author, **JACK SHAKELY**)

"Hello! Please send me your autograph and if you can a couple of cents – otherwise we have prices in Russia, but there is no money."
**~ Big Russian Fan**

## KRAMPUS, SANTA'S SATAN

**IN ANCIENT TIMES, A DARK, HAIRY, HORNED** beast was said to show up at the door to beat children, and carry them off in his sharp claws. The **Krampus** could be heard in the night by the sound of his echoing cloven hooves and his rattling iron chains. While **Saint Nicholas** now has the reputation of loving all children and visiting them at Christmastime, judging their character and giving gifts to the 'nice' ones and lumps of coal to the

***CONTINUED***

**NICE AND NAUGHTY**
**Following the annual 'Krampus Parade' in the Austrian ski resort of Obertauren, tourists repair to the disco.**

'naughty' ones, Krampus plays the dangerous sidekick. if a child misbehaved, Saint Nicholas, in his omniscience, would know and send his associate, Krampus.

It was said this dark partner with a serpentine tail would turn up to the house during the Christmas season to punish the wicked child. He would beat him with a bundle of birch sticks, whip them with horsehair, and throw him into a sack or wicker basket to take him down to Hell for a year. His name is derived from the German word *krampen*, meaning claw. Traditional annual parades are still held in which young men dress as the Krampus, and race through the streets snarling and shaking chains at onlookers.

"When you think of the long and gloomy history of man, you will find more hideous crimes have been committed in the name of obedience than have ever been committed in the name of rebellion." ~ **C. P. Snow**

## THE OLD MAN AND THE BEAVER

**AN 86-YEAR-OLD MAN WENT TO HIS DOCTOR** for his quarterly check-up... The doctor asked him how he was feeling, and the 86-year-old said, "Things are great, and I've never felt better. I now have a 35-year-old bride who is pregnant with my child; so what do you think about that Doc?"

The doctor considered his question for a minute and then began to tell a story. "I have an older friend, much like you, who is an avid hunter and never misses a season. One day he was setting off to go hunting. In a bit of a hurry, he accidentally picked up his walking cane instead of his gun.

"As he neared a lake, he came across a very large male beaver sitting at the water's edge. He realized he'd left his gun at home and so he couldn't shoot the magnificent creature, but out of habit he raised his cane, aimed it at the animal and went 'bang, bang'. Miraculously, two shots rang out, and the beaver fell over dead. Now, what do you think of that?" asked the doctor.

"Logic," the old guy said, "would strongly suggest that somebody else pumped a couple of rounds into that beaver."

The doctor replied, "My point exactly."

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."
~ **Oliver Wendell Holmes**

## THE BIBLE TELLS US SO

**IN ANCIENT ISRAEL, IT CAME TO PASS THAT A** trader by the name of **Abraham Com** did take unto himself a healthy young wife by the name of **Dorothy**. And Dot Com was a comely woman, large of breast, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called "Amazon" Dot Com. And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?" And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in-between to send messages saying what you have for sale; and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. The sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)." And the drums rang out and were an immediate success.

**SARAH SMILE**
**Surprsing origins of mail dominance.**

But to prevent neighboring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system

***CONTINUED***

known as **Must Send Drum Over Sound** (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit **Hebrew to the People**, or **HTTP**.

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly took to camel dung, and they were called **Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites**, or **NERDS**. And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, **Brother William of Gates**, who bought off every drum maker in the land. Indeed, he did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drum heads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay as it came to be known; and he said, "We need a name that reflects what we are." And Dot replied, **Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators** or **YAHOO**, and because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

Abraham's cousin, **Joshua**, being the young **Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid** (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside. It soon became known as **God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything** (GOOGLE). And that's the truth – maybe – I couldn't make up this stuff.

"If you have a garden and a library,
you have everything you need."
**~ Marcus Tullius Cicero**

## THAT'S WHY THEY SO MEAN

**TWO ALLIGATORS WERE SITTING AT THE** side of the swamp near the lake. The smaller one turned to the bigger one and said, "I can't understand how you can be so much bigger than me. We're the same age, we were the same size as kids; I just don't get it." And the big guy responds, "Well, what have you been eating?"

"Politicians, same as you," replied the small gator. "Hmm. Well, where do you catch them?"

He answered, "Down the other side of the swamp near the parking lot by the Capitol."

"Same here. Hmm, how do you catch them?" And he said, "Well, I crawl up under one of their Mercedes and wait for one to unlock the car door; then I jump out, grab them by the leg, shake the shit out of them and eat 'em!"

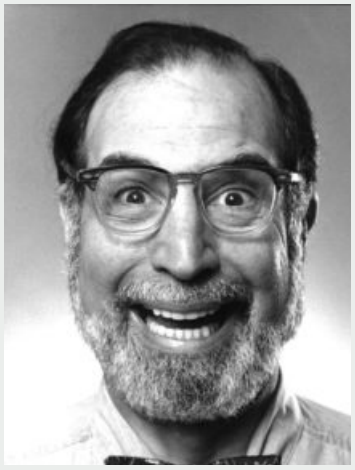
"Same here." says the big gator. "Do you eat Democrats or Republicans?"

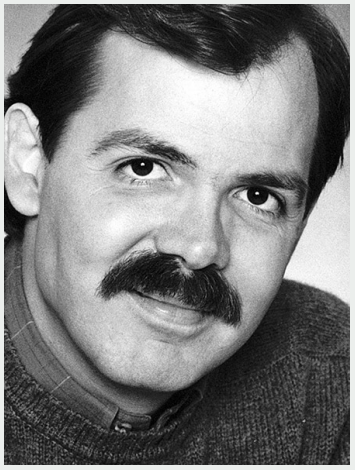
"Just the Republicans" says the little guy.

"Ah, I think I see your problem," says the bigger gator. "You're not getting any real nourishment. You see by the time you finish shaking the shit out of a Republican, there's nothing left but an asshole and a briefcase."

"Take away the right to say 'fuck' and you
take away the right to say 'fuck the government."
**~ Lenny Bruce**

**WATERGATORS**
**Idle chatter from the reflecting pool.**





PLANETCLICK

CLICK WORDS TO OPEN

## PLANET YELPERS

TELL ME A STORY

ROUGH REFS

NOAH

INHALE

DOUBLE TROUBLE

12 DAZE

13 DAZE

MONKS

WHAT?

MEOWY XMAS

ZED

BENNY

## DON'T DESPAIR

**SITTING BY THE WINDOW OF HER** convent**, Sister Barbara** opened a letter from home one evening. Inside the letter was a $100 bill her parents had sent. Sister Barbara smiled at the gesture, but as she read the letter she noticed a shabbily dressed stranger leaning against the lamppost below.

Quickly, she wrote "Don't despair! - Sister Barbara" on a piece of paper, wrapped the $100 bill in it, got the man's attention and tossed it out the window to him. The stranger picked it up, and with a puzzled expression and a tip of his hat, went off down the street.

The next day, Sister Barbara was told that a man was at her door, insisting on seeing her. She went down and found the stranger waiting. Without a word, he handed her a huge wad of $100 bills. "What's this?" she asked. "That's the $8,000 you have coming Sister," he replied:

"Don't Despair paid 80 to 1."

"The life I touch for good or ill will touch another life, and that in turn another, until who knows where the trembling stops or in what far place my touch will be felt." ~ **Frederick Buechner**

## PLANET HELPERS

Thanks to **Jamie Alcroft, Victor Kopcewich, Frank Cacciutto, James Palka, Barry Pearl, George Riddle, Robert Riddle, Richard Fish, Joan Allemand, David Traylor** and **Mark McIntyre.**

And a fond farewell to **Rose Marie**, who's work I admired, and to my many friends, including **Dick Orkin** of ***Chickenman*** fame, who produced the Firesign's Nick Danger pilot, *The Case of the Missing Shoe*, at his Radio Ranch in Hollywood; and to mystery writer **Sue Grafton** – a fellow Kentucky Colonel; and to funnyman and producer **Danny Breen**, after a long battle with cancer. I will miss them all.

"No intelligent idea can gain general acceptance unless some stupidity is mixed in with it."
~ **Poet Fernando Passoa**

**EXITING WITH 2017**

**Above left to right: Rose Marie, Dick Orkin, Sue Grafton, and Danny Breen**

"Say yes, and you'll figure it out afterward." ~ Tina Fey

**FIRESIGN • BOOMERS**

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