

The newsletter for Baby Boomers who haven't lost their curiosity. Inspired by the *Out Of My Mind* podcast and, now, the blog as well.

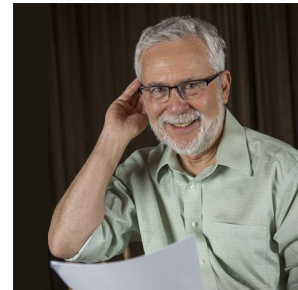


Out of My Mind Newsletter

February, 2016

Greetings!

Of the things I found curious enough to include this month, the one that delighted me the most was the story about how we define planets. For most of my life, the solar system wasn't like a club with members coming and going. And then, Pluto. Now, there's talk that a ninth planet has been found. Again. Read about the rules for finding a planet in this month's third story.



Coming up in the blog this month, along with the usual topical humor posts, are two uplifting stories and one about what happens when you ignore the age-old dictum "If you fail to plan you're planning to fail." And if you think you have a high-pressure job, wait until you read about this interesting fellow who puts your high-pressure job to shame--- from a small office in downtown Los Angeles.

I'm happy to say the blog is off to a good start. People are sharing posts with their friends and that's making a big difference in the readership. Please help the trend continue. Learn how at the end of this newsletter.

With Valentine's Day in the offing, have a LOVE-ly February. I'll talk to you next month, or anytime at jdouglas@thetheaterofyourmind.com.

--jay

Take My Girl Datin' At the Drive In

Quick. Think of four things that define the 1960s. Two are certainly the Vietnam War and the hippie movement. Two more are convertibles and drive-in theaters. I remember getting a lot more personal mileage (define



that however you will) from the latter two. And neither one is history. That's right, you can still take your honey to drive-in movie on Saturday night.

(Bonus points if you know the song from which I lifted this story's title. More points if you know the name of the artist.)

[Find your escape to the 60s here.](#)

(Photo by By [Jack Pearce](#))

This is not Puffery

A good friend of mine---another Baby Boomer---recently lost his job in radio. With radio jobs few and far between, I was doing my best to help him re-invent himself. Not surprisingly, he was convinced he was good for nothing. "Let's go back to college," I suggested. "What did you learn?" He laughed. "Not much. I smoked a lot of dope." Being the sensitive fellow I am I replied, "Why don't you open a marijuana dispensary?" Three days later [I ran across this article.](#)



(Photo by [Laurie Avocado](#))

Unlike *The Martian*, This is Real Science

If you listened to the *Out Of My Mind* podcasts, you may recall I interviewed Dr. Ed Krupp, Director of the Griffith Observatory. We started talking about the value of sending space ships to Pluto, and wound up talking about subjects that went far beyond Pluto---literally and metaphorically.



One question I didn't get to ask Dr. Krupp was how Pluto got demoted from planet to...whatever. I thought the whole kerfuffle sounded a bit arbitrary. Not so. It turns out there are rules for what makes a planet a planet. And making the mnemonic *Many Very Eager Men Jumped Swiftly Under Nine Planets** work isn't one of them.

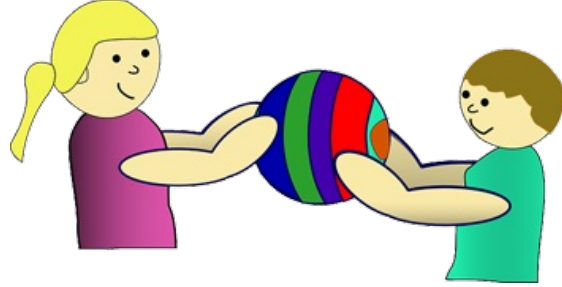
(*To Clarify: **M**ercury, **V**enus, **E**arth, **M**ars, **J**upiter, **S**aturn, **U**ranus, **N**eptune, **P**luto---at least in the old days.)

[Follow the rules at fiatphysica.com](#)

[\(Image courtesy of NASA/JPL-Caltech/N. Smith \[Univ. of Colorado at Boulder\]\)](#)

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