

## OVER THE BACK FENCE

By Jack Fichter

## 'New Zoo Revue' cast sees a resurgence in popularity

"It's the New Zoo Revue, coming right at you."

If you were of elementary school age in the 1970s or were raising kids in that age group then, you are probably familiar with the theme song from the children's television show "The New Zoo Revue," which ran from 1972 to 1977.

Doug Momary and his wife Emmy Jo Peden were the principal characters along Freddie Frog, Charley Owl and Henrietta Hippo. After 50 years, it has seen a resurgence in popularity as aging baby boomers have fond memories of the show.

The couple met while working at the Allen Hancock Theatre for the Performing Arts in Santa Maria, Calif., according to Peden.

Momary said his mother worked in a toy store in Whittier, Calif., and the owner, who made bean bag frogs, asked if she knew someone who could create a children's television show using the frog.

"My mom, being a good mom, said 'Well, my son is a playwrighting major and into music, he could probably help you out,'" he said.

Momary composed the theme song and sketched out the characters for the show and the design of the set. The toy store owner had a contact with Mattel Toys. Momary and Peden auditioned for the owners of Mattel on a theater stage.

"It was kind of a Cinderella story, looking back on it. We didn't realize it at the time; it's unbelievable the way it all happened," Peden said.

The animal characters on "The New Zoo Revue" were portrayed by dancers in human-size costumes. Momary said he wanted the characters to be large so children would relate to them as people.

"We were fortunate enough to have my designs brought to life by Sid and Marty Krofft — they were pioneers in a lot of the big puppet shows like 'H.R. Pufnstuf' and 'Sigmund and the Sea Monsters' — they built our costumes," he said.

"When you see a big life-size hippo talking to somebody, it kind of gets your attention," Momary said.

The dancer inside the Henrietta Hippo costume, Larri Thomas, had danced in numerous movies and worked as Julie Andrews' stand-in in two films, Peden said.

Each episode of the show had an average of three original

songs, Momary estimates he wrote 600 songs for the show. The songs have a '70s yacht rock feel to them and were recorded in a studio using famed musicians known as the Wrecking Crew.

He said each show was a mini musical comedy and each song furthered the action or provided insight into the characters.

Episodes dealt with issues such as honesty, love, courage and patience, with Freddie Frog often needing some correction and learning a life lesson.

Momary and Peden have appeared this year at Comic-Con events. Their daughter started a Facebook page for "The New Zoo Revue" on which the two sometimes do live events.

"We absolutely love meeting our New Zoo kids," Peden said. "We're finding there's an emotional connection with our show for a lot of our New Zoo kids."

She said they've heard stories about children in very difficult home environments and "The New Zoo Revue" was something they could hold onto for stability, while others remember the joy of watching the show while they ate a bowl of cereal before school.

After the show left the air, Momary opened a television production company in Las Vegas. Peden kept the books for the company and returned to college, obtaining a master's degree in marriage and family counseling.

Momary said he is concerned about the current state of children's television.

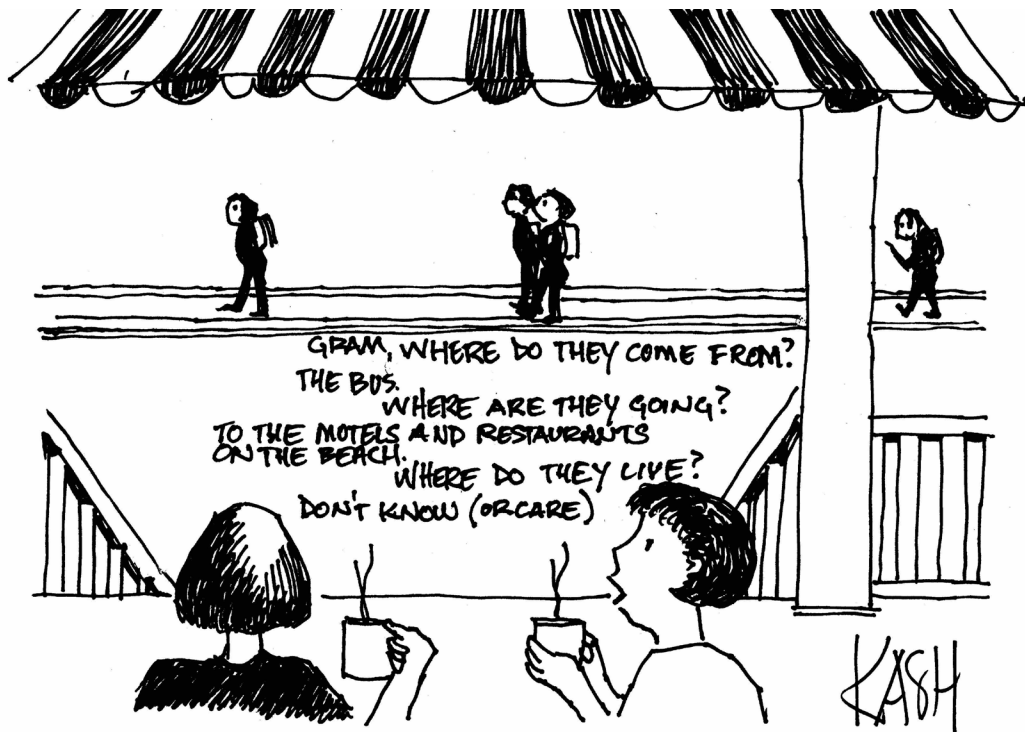
"It really has taken kind of a dark turn, in my opinion, and I don't like it. I think we should have shows that are uplifting for kids," he said.

Peden said it is as if children had a little computer in their brains.

"It's important that their innocence be protected and the things that they are exposed to are life-giving and shows that reinforce values that we have on 'New Zoo Revue' — kindness and respect for others and thoughtfulness," she said.

Momary is creating a new show called "Knights of IT, Guardians of the Digital Realm" dealing with the complications of our phone/tablet/computer world.

Episodes of "The New Zoo Revue" are available on Prime Ticket and YouTube. The show has a new website at thenewzoo revue.com.



## OTHER SIDE

## USCG acting as tip of spear in Asian waters

By MARK ALLEN

We don't often think of the Coast Guard as being the "tip of the spear," when it comes to the projection of our nation's military power.

Typically, that role falls to the U.S. Marine Corps, Navy Seals or stealthy B2 bombers, but certainly not the nation's smallest uniformed service, whose primary mission includes the rescue of mariners in distress and the interdiction of illicit drugs into the United States.

Well ... think again. Right now, the 40,000 U.S. Coast Guardsmen (compare that to the 340,000 U.S. Navy sailors) are standing toe-to-toe with the entire Chinese and Russian navies... combined.

The USCG operates in the South China Sea, the strait of Malacca off Singapore and the Gulf of Oman, where it is not only interdicting illicit drugs and illegal immigrants — roles for which it is justly famous — but operating with allied coast guards from around the world to defend the maritime territory of the U.S. and those allies from the aggression posed by adversarial nations.

The Coast Guard does not field the big guns. It leaves that role to its big brother, the Navy with its battlewagons and aircraft carriers. But unless a shooting war does erupt, the Coast Guard nimbly goes where the Navy cannot, because a movement by the Navy is tantamount to an act of war — and nobody wants a war with

China or Russia.

On July 6-7, four Chinese warships, including a guided missile cruiser and a destroyer, transited just off Alaska's Aleutian Islands, thereby violating the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

The EEZ stretches 200 nautical miles from the shores of all United States coasts. This is not unique, since all nations claim an exclusive economic zone and most respect and avoid it. But not China.

China's People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN), sometimes in conjunction with the Russian navy, has routinely transited our EEZ around the Aleutian Islands and done so on an annual basis since at least 2007. Naturally, these incursions are upsetting to the residents and fishermen of the Aleutians.

In response to the July incursion, the Coast Guard dispatched a cutter and EC-130 Hercules surveillance aircraft to trail the Chinese ships and ensure they did not cross into U.S. territorial waters, which are defined as those waters within 12 nautical miles of shore. It is unknown whether other U.S. assets such as submarines or Air Force surveillance aircraft were on hand to back up the Coasties.

Another potential area of conflict arises when the Coast Guard conducts training exercises within the territorial waters of Asian allies such as Japan, South Korea and the Philippines.

In some cases, these territorial waters are unjustly claimed

by the Chinese regime and the U.S. Coast Guard finds itself in the unenviable position of forcing Chinese coast guard assets to "back-off."

Likewise, throughout the South Pacific, the USCG partners with Indo-Pacific Island nations to help enforce their EEZs against illegal fishing by China's maritime militia.

In many cases, USCG elements have boarded Chinese ships when requested to do so by local police from those island countries, such as Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Vanuatu.

And then, there's Taiwan. China's coast guard is actively operating against U.S. partner nations such as Taiwan, Japan and South Korea. The Coast Guard has responded by conducting joint exercises with them in an effort to enhance participation and send a message.

The Coast Guard is doing all this and more around the globe while manned at only 90% of its authorized strength, and 90% of that strength comes through the Other Side of Cape May, at the Coast Guard's only training center for new recruits.

So, the next time you see a covey of Coast Guard recruits at the Wawa, take a moment to give them a ride, buy them a Coke and thank them.

Mark Allen is a retired lieutenant colonel with 27 years' flying experience with the U.S. Marines and Air Force National Guard. The Other Side radio show is broadcast at 1 p.m. Fridays on WCFA-101.5 FM

## ANOTHER VIEW

## Ranked choice voting empowers the electorate

By KIT MARLOW

Voter sentiments this year provide a good example of how and why ranked choice voting gives voters more power. This year, voters seem to oppose other candidates more strongly than they support their own.

In a ranked-choice system, voters pick their first, second and third choice candidates. Let's say that 46% of voters favor Susan Campbell, 47% favor Michael Poulos, 4% favor Art Rosenberg and 3% favor Mustafa Ali as their first choice. (I used fictional names to ease discussion.)

If the vote in New Jersey matches the numbers shown above in our current (winner-takes-all) system, Michael Poulos would have a plurality and win all of the state's electoral votes even though 53% of the

voters apparently oppose him.

In a ranked-choice system, election officials discard the votes of the candidate with the lowest vote (Mustafa Ali @ 3%) and add those votes to the second choices of those voters. If 2.5% chose Campbell and 0.5% chose Rosenberg second, that moves the vote totals to: Campbell 48.5%, Poulos 47%, Rosenberg 4.5%.

Election officials then discard the votes of the candidate with the next lowest vote (Rosenberg 4.5%) and add those second-choice votes to the others on the ballot. If 2% chose Campbell and 2.5% chose Poulos second (third for those who moved over from Ali), that moves the vote totals to: Campbell 50.5%, and Poulos 49.5%.

We would now know whom a

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## WAVES FROM THE PAST

## Nation on the verge of civil war

The Cape May Star and Wave, the nation's oldest weekly resort newspaper, has been published since 1854. Each week, we revisit stories from earlier editions. This week we turn the clock back to the Jan. 10, 1861 edition of our predecessor, the Cape May Ocean Wave, which in an editorial acknowledged the start of the Civil War was inevitable:

What will the result be? We are often interrogated as to our opinion of the probable results of the present difficulties of the country—whether we suppose that war will ensue. Now we profess no gift of prophecy, but were we compelled to express our candid opinion, and our reputation for foresight were at stake, we would most certainly answer the interrogation in the affirmative.

From present indications, we see no chances to avoid a collision and revolution, how-

ever much we depreciate it, except by special interposition of Providence. The wisdom our wisest now appears to be unequal to the task of providing a sufficient remedy for our present political maladies.

And we fear that once begun, the war will be a long and bloody one—a war which, if the end could be seen from the beginning would cause a universal shudder to run through the nation.

What further will be the result—whether the Union will be preserved in the end—who will be the victors—whether the government will be entirely reconstructed or be broken into fragments and virtually overthrown—upon these questions we venture no opinion.

We are evidently standing upon the verge of an awful abyss, whether soon to be irretrievably plunged therein, or, by some unseen interposition, to be rescued, no human

wisdom can predict. The future seems veiled in a cloud of worse than Egyptian darkness, while solemn and unseen events are enshrouded in that darkness.

The same edition reported: "It is an acknowledged fact that a majority of the officers of our army and navy are southern men, some of whom have resigned their positions, and it is probable that many others will follow when their states shall secede, if they do so at all, and join with the disunionists."

This is an unfortunate circumstance. Nor is this the army and navy alone, but in civil departments. The fact is one great reason why the south have kicked up such a rumpus is that they have so long been in the ascendancy and controlled our government, that it does not now suit their palates well when they see the prospect that they must lose that ascendancy and power."

## How to Contact Your Representatives

## U.S. Senate

Sen. Robert Menendez, 528 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, (202) 224-4744; Go to [www.menendez.senate.gov/contact](http://www.menendez.senate.gov/contact).

Sen. Cory A. Booker, 141 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, (202) 224-3224; Go to [www.booker.senate.gov/contact.cfm](http://www.booker.senate.gov/contact.cfm).

U.S. House of Representatives  
Congressman, District 2, Jeff Van Drew, 331 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C.

20515, (202) 225-6572; (202) 225-3318 (fax), website [vander.drew.house.gov](http://vander.drew.house.gov); District Office: 331 Tilton Road, #3, Northfield, NJ 08225. (732) 233-9539.

Governor  
Gov. Phil Murphy, State House, Trenton, NJ 08625, (609) 292-6000.

Legislators, District I  
Sen. Michael Testa (R), Assemblyman Erik Simonsen (R), Assemblyman Antoine McClellan (R) — Contact state legislators at: School House Office Park, 211 S. Main St., Suite 104, Cape May

Court House, NJ 08210; Phone: (609) 778-2012; email: [Sentesta@njleg.org](mailto:Sentesta@njleg.org), [asmsimonsen@njleg.org](mailto:asmsimonsen@njleg.org), [asmcclellan@njleg.org](mailto:asmcclellan@njleg.org).

Local Government  
Cape May: Mayor Zack Mulla-ockand City Hall, (609) 884-9535, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Cape May Point: Mayor Robert Moffatt, Borough Hall, (609) 884-8468, ext. 20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Lower Township: Mayor Frank Sippel and Township Hall, (609) 886-2005, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
West Cape May: Mayor Carol Sabo and Borough Hall, (609) 884-1005, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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