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Weekly Newsletter, Vol. I, Issue 29
March 22 – 26, 2010



Stephen Sondheim b. 3/22/1930 **William Shatner** b. 3/22/1931 **Billy Collins** b. 3/22/1941 **Lawrence Ferlinghetti** b. 3/24/1919 **Fanny Crosby** b. 3/24/1820 **Malcolm Muggeridge** b. 3/24/1820 **Elton John** b. 3/25/1947 **Tennessee Williams** b. 3/26/1911 **Robert Frost** b. 3/26/1874

This week marks the birthday of some of our most beloved songwriters, poets, scholars and lyricists. In their own words, we present **THE BIRTHDAY BARD MYSTERY!**

SCENE - Nine figures sitting around a table blindfolded.

VOICE [off stage] Okay you bards. Please speak the first thought that comes to your mind. Whoever is found to be the most redundant will be allowed to go.

AUTHOR #1 [satirically] The automobile was a passing fad. *It's* got to go.

AUTHOR #2 [raised eyebrows, with panache] Go...where no man has gone before. [winks.]

AUTHOR #3 [obscurely, beclouded in smoke] I say drop a mouse into a poem and watch him probe his way out.

AUTHOR #4 [puffing dryly] Never forget that only dead fish swim with the stream.

AUTHOR #5 [quizzically but melodic]

Which? What? Where? Whom? It must be the heat. I feel pretty and witty and bright!

AUTHOR #6 [flailing hands above head] - Don't shoot me, I'm only the piano player!

AUTHOR #7 [whispering sweetly to Author #8] - Jesus is tenderly calling you home.

AUTHOR #8 [coughing, as if caught off guard] But I have promises to keep!

AUTHOR #9 [with heaven-splitting violence] STELL-LAHHHHHH!

- CURTAIN -

According to the Voice's stipulation, which of our birthday bards shall be spared?

4x4 magic square

96	11	89	68
88	69	91	16
61	86	18	99
19	98	66	81

Each row in this magic square adds up to 264. Who gives a flip, right? Ahhh, but wait...it also works

UPSIDE-DOWN!



Original drawing by Kecko (<http://www.flickr.com>)



Masking tape on canvas

flickrspiration

The painting below was inspired by one of the 4+ billion pictures at flickr.com!!!



Ink rolled with tape removed (Untitled)