FORTY-THREE NAMES

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Here are 43 names of various people, presented in alphabetical order. Some are surnames only, some are first-name and surname, some involve an initial, some are fictional, and some are groups of people. One name (Rod Laver) appears twice – this is not an error.

Your task is to identify the significance of these 43 names. Once you have done that, you should be able to arrange them differently into a chronologically appropriate order.

Al Gore
Amos n' Andy
Ariel Sharon
Arthur Ashe
Beau Nash
Breughel
Carl Hamblin
Coriolanus
David Gerstein
Ethelred
Eva Braun
Farmer Giles
Giovanelli
Hans Geiger
Harry O
J Le Carre
James Mason
Jane Shore
Joe Soap
John Donne
John Lennon
Jon Secada
Jose Feliciano
Karl Landsteiner
Lyn Nofziger
Mata Hari
Nina Simone
O Henry
Orson W
Osama
Palmerston
Planck
Richard Fosbury
Ring Lardner
Robert Koch
Rod Laver
Rod Laver
Romeo
Rommel
Teresa Brewer
US Army
Wankel
Will Rogers

As a final twist to the task, consider the possibility of a 44th name on the list. Which should it be - Hosni Mubarak, Lady Hamilton or Nina Simone?

A POEM

MARTIN GARDNER
Norman, Oklahoma

This is an excerpt from Gardner's 1969 book Never Make Fun Of A Turtle, My Son (Simon and Schuster, illustrated by John Alcorn).

Never Make Fun

Never make fun of a turtle, my son,
   For moving so slow in a race.
He prefers to move slow and he thinks that you go
   At a terrible, nerve-wracking pace.

Don't ever sneer at a beaver, my dear,
   Because of the size of his tooth.
He wonders why all of your teeth are so small,
   And thinks that your grin is uncouth.

It just isn't fair to guffaw at a bear
   Who is brown from his snout to his feet.
He likes to be brown. He thinks you're a clown
   With a face painted white as a sheet.

It's vulgar to laugh at a baby giraffe.
   His neck is unusual, that's true.
But I tell you he's glad to resemble his dad,
   And would hate
to be shaped
   Like you!