

"Italy is a third-world country with better makeup." ~ (what every Italian knows)

PLANET ITALIA

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Andiamo al ITALIA!

Cari amici, I am accompanying my darling wife **Melinda** on September 15 for a three-month trip all over Italy by rail, trail, car and boat to satisfy her desire to find a city where she might spend time teaching English as a "foreign language," for which she has been duly accredited.

You can follow our adventures on Facebook whenever we have Internet connections, and if at all possible, I'll send out a monthly Planet from wherever we are at the moment.

We plan to visit and spend extended time in apartments, private homes and 5-star Starwood hotels in Milano, Como, Bellagio, Cinque Terre, Bologna, Pisa, Pompei, Puglia, Napoli, Firenze, Roma and other places unknown and known, like the Flying

Karamazov **Paul Magid**'s reconverted 600-year-old FARMHOUSE.

I can't say I'm not trepidatious about all this, but upon our return, we'll certainly have some amazing stories to tell; and I'm planning to edit my book, *Where's My Fortune Cookie?* (co-authored by **Brad Schreiber**), while abroad for a 2015 release and hope to master conversational Italian along the way.

In December, we'll fly from Rome to London to see our fellow Antaeon, **Michael McShane**, in *Assassins* and then spend some Holiday time with our friends **George** and **Sue White** in their new digs in March, Cambs, before heading home on Christmas Eve. Ho – Ho – Ho. Or as we say in Italian: 'Uff – Uff - Uff!'

STONE HOME

This Trullo in Valle d'atria is where we will be staying for two weeks in November. [MORE](#)



"A genuinely liberal political system...is both a republic of learning and a learning republic."
~ **Matthew Stewart**, author of 'Nature's God'

STIA ATTENTO CHE COSA DITE

According to actress/author **Kathryn Leigh Scott**, presently in London, the chairman of the UK's Liberty GB party, **Paul Weston**, got in hot water after quoting **Sir**

Winston Churchill in *The River War*, while addressing passers-by from the steps of Winchester Guildhall.

"How dreadful are the curses which Mohammedanism lays on its votaries! Besides the

fanatical frenzy, which is as dangerous in a man as hydrophobia in a dog, there is this fearful fatalistic apathy. The effects are apparent in many countries. Improvident habits, slovenly systems of agriculture, sluggish methods of commerce, and insecurity of property exist wherever the followers of the Prophet rule or live. A degraded sensualism deprives this life of its grace and refinement; the next of its dignity and sanctity.

"The fact that in Mohammedan law every woman must belong to some man as his absolute property – either as a child, a wife, or a concubine – must delay the final extinction of slavery until the faith of Islam has ceased to be a great power among men.

Thousands become the brave and loyal soldiers of the faith: all know how to die but the influence of the religion paralyses the social development of those who follow it. No stronger retrograde force exists in the world. Far from being moribund, Mohammedanism is a militant and proselytizing faith."

Ironically, a woman reportedly found the passage "disgusting"

and called the police, so six or seven officers arrived, questioned Weston and then took him away in a police van. "*È un mondo pazzo, pazzo, pazzo, pazzo, pazzo, pazzo.*"

"The law is meant to be my servant and not my master, still less my torturer and my murderer."

~ **James Baldwin**, July 11, 1966

HARTMAN RICEVE LA STELLA

Canadian born **Phil Hartman**, who tragically passed away nearly 17 years ago was finally awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame by the Chamber of Commerce and his brother, **John Hartman**, and former "Saturday Night Live" cast mate **Kevin Nealon** were present at the unveiling.

Hartman became famous after he auditioned for and was cast in "Saturday Night Live." **CLIP** But before that he sharpened his comedic skills at the Groundlings and appeared in and wrote for numerous other shows and movies including "The Simpsons," "NewsRadio," and "Pee-wee's Playhouse."

He already has a similar star in Canada for which I was asked to write a few words, and it's fitting that he be honored now, when we are losing so many other comedy greats.

"You can't help getting older, but you don't have to get old."
~ **George Burns**

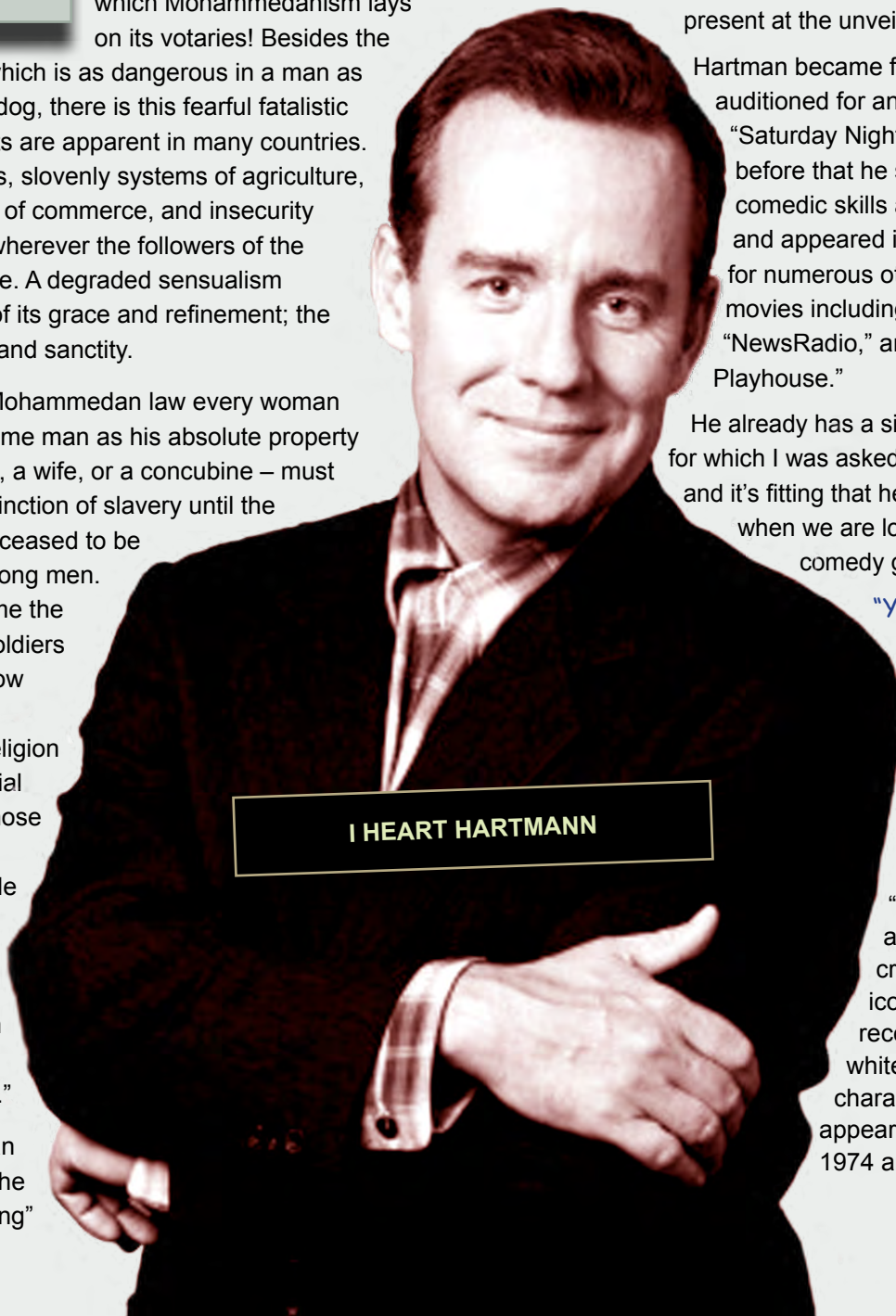
ARRIVEDERCI, GATTINO

"Hello Kitty" is not a cat, the Japanese creator of that "global icon of cute" announced recently. The mouthless, white, moon-faced character which first appeared on a coin purse in 1974 and now adorns tens

■ **CONTINUED**

THROUGHOUT
THE 'PLANET,' CLICKING
DARK RED TYPE
OPENS A RELATED
INTERNET LINK.

I HEART HARTMANN



È UN MIRACOLO

Murphy drops some buttered toast on the kitchen floor and it lands butter-side-up. He looks down in astonishment, for he knows that it's a universal law of nature that buttered toast always falls butter-down. So he rushes round to the presbytery to fetch Father Flanagan. He tells the priest that a miracle has occurred in his kitchen. But he won't say what it is. So he asks Fr. Flanagan to come and see it with his

own eyes. He

leads Fr. Flanagan into the kitchen and asks him what he sees on the floor.

Well," says the priest, "it's pretty obvious. Someone has dropped some buttered toast on the floor and then, for some reason, they flipped it over so that the butter was

on top." "No, Father, I dropped it and it landed like that!" exclaimed Murphy.

"Oh my Lord," says Fr. Flanagan, "Wait... it's not for me to say it's a miracle. I'll have to report this matter to the Bishop and he'll have to deal with it. He'll send some people round to interview you, take photos, etc."

A thorough investigation is conducted, not only by the archdiocese but by scientists sent over from the Curia in Rome. No expense is spared. There is great excitement in the town as everyone knows that a miracle will bring in much needed tourism revenue.

Then, after eight long weeks and with great fanfare, the Bishop announces the final ruling. "It is certain that some kind of an extraordinary event took place in Murphy's kitchen, quite outside the natural laws of the universe. Yet the Holy See must be very cautious before ruling a miracle. All other explanations must be ruled out.

Unfortunately, in this case, it has been declared 'No Miracle' because they think that Murphy may have buttered the toast on the wrong side!"

of thousands of items from handbags to aircraft in over 130 countries – is, in fact, human.

"Hello Kitty is a cheerful and happy little girl with a heart of gold," brand owner **Sanrio** says on its website. "But she is not a cat. She's never depicted on all fours. She walks and sits like a two-legged creature." Her real name, it seems, is **Kitty White**, born a Scorpio in southern England with blood type A.

She has a twin sister, **Minnie White**, and they live in a London suburb with their parents, **George** and **Mary**, and Kitty even has her own pet - a "real" cat named **Charmmy Kitty**.

Worshippers were gobsmacked at the news. "Everything I know is a lie," said one. "One of the many reasons why I have trust issues," wrote another.

Proof once again that "*Tutto Che Sappiate è Sbagliato!*"

A blind guy walks into a shop with his guide dog and starts swinging the dog around his head. The floor manager asks, "Can I help you? He says, "No thanks, I'm just looking around." ~ **Johnny Gaza**

Sammy Davis Jr., and other members of the Rat Pack, were banned from Marilyn Monroe's funeral by Joe DiMaggio. ~ **Phil's Phunny Phacts**

RISPONDA A QUESTO

Here's a puzzle that has confounded even the best and brightest. Can you solve it?

"You are on a horse, galloping at a constant speed. On your right side is a sharp drop-off and on your left side is an elephant traveling at the exact same speed as you. Directly in front of you is a galloping kangaroo, but your horse is unable to overtake it. Behind you is a lion running at an equal pace with you and the Kangaroo. What must you do to get out of this highly dangerous situation?"

Easy. Get your stoned ass off the merry-go-round!

"We must believe in free will. We have no choice."
~ **Isaac Bashevis Singer**

■ CONTINUED

"We work in the dark. We do what we can. We give what we have. And our passion is our task. The rest is the Madness of Art." ~ Henry James

LA FINESTRA É APERTA

My friend, collaborator, producer/director **Samuel Warren Joseph** is happy to announce that the digital release of the twisted sexual/political thriller, *Window Of Opportunity* in which I co-star with **Oliver Muirhead**, **Ty Granderson Jones**, **Kym Jackson** and **Rayna Tharani**, is now available on DVD, iTunes, Google Play, and for streaming and **DOWNLOADS** at **www.WindowOfOpportunityTheFilm.com**

Then, **John Densmore**, former Doors drummer and our co-producer and musical director, reveals what motivated him to invest in the project **HERE**.

One critic calls it "a dark comedy which hilariously skewers a take-no-prisoners corporate culture...for which death may be more profitable than life."

Later this autumn, there will be a premiere screening here in Los Angeles. Take advantage of this opportunity! *Purtroppo, ancora sarò in Italia...*

"Men are content being laughed at for their wit, but not for their folly." ~ Jonathan Swift

E INFINE

Before taking off, **Melinda** and I joined a stellar cast assembled by **Peter Van Norden** and **Janellen Steininger** for an Antaeus Classicsfest presentation of **Paul Osborn's** heartwarming and side-splitting comedy, *Morning's at Seven* directed by **Paul Lazarus**.

And then, I appeared as the cockney burglar in **G.B.**

PLANETCLICK DISTRIBUZIONI

YOU DON'T SAY
GPS
HITLERCARE
SEE IT
TELL IT
LOVE IT
DOORS CLOSED
STREET

Shaw's Heartbreak House in a live audio presentation for **Peggy Webber's** California Artists Radio Theatre with **Ed Asner**, **Samantha Egger**, **Charlotte Rae** and the irrepressible **Norman Lloyd** playing Capt. Shotover to commemorate his 100th birthday on November 8. Our dear friend **Leonard Maltin** hosted the event, which will be broadcast eventually on SiriusXM.

I also narrated several more episodes of "The Adventures of Big Dan Frater," created by actor **Brian Howe**, produced by **Paul Fey** of World Wide Wadio and written in true surrealistic Firesign style by **Larry Blamire** – coming soon to an Internet near you!

And Firesign Theatre producer/archivist **Taylor Jessen**, is striving to finalize a DVD of our films and other visual appearances including rare home movies, to augment the recent reissue of our collected works, now available **HERE**.

As **Porky Pig** so eloquently said, "*Ch- Ch- Che Tutte le Gente!*" Ciao fer now...

"Every age gets the lunatics it deserves."
~ Medical Historian **Roy Porter**

CONTRIBUTIONI

Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., **Victor Kopcewich**, **George Riddle**, **Magic Mike Berger**, **Keith Hebble**, **Michael Metzger**, **Kathleen O'Mara**, **Kent McCaman**, **Nick Oliva**, and **Lance** and **Bianca Rucker**.

And finally, rest well **Joan Rivers**, whom I used to hang with after her club appearances back in the '60s in Greenwich Village. She was just as funny, daring and outrageous then as she was at her last live show shortly before her surreal demise.

"Once you find laughter, no matter how painful your situation might be, you can survive it." ~ **Bill Cosby**



"It is foolish to tear one's hair in grief, as though sorrow would be made less by baldness." ~ Cicero

BEARWHIZ BEER <http://www.eagletshirts.com>

FUNNY TIMES: <http://www.funnytimes.com>

FST: <http://www.FiresignTheatre.com>

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