

"Children see magic because they look for it." ~ Christopher Moore

# PLANET HORROR

PLANET PROCTOR • OCTOBER 2019



## CREDIT WORTHY

Our DP, our director, Param Gill,  
and someone like me.

## The future is now

I recently acted in an outrageous political satire here in LA, directed by Hollywood/Bollywood horror film director **Param Gill**. Although I'm not allowed to go into details about it yet, I played a television executive who had dealings with an obnoxious reality-TV star. Look for its release before the election – get it?



I've also just completed with my partner **Samuel Warren Joseph**, a light-hearted but factual handbook offering talking points for Liberals, which we hope to self-publish by the Holidays.

Then, Melinda and I will be performing November 7-10 at the next old time radio SPERDVAC Convention in Costa Mesa. And speaking of "horror," you can hear me now on EC Comics' "**Vault of Horror**" series on Audible and Amazon, performing a creepy tale about rats presented in a fully immersive setting with a full cast, scoring, and soundscapes, produced by **Lance Axt** and **Bill Duftris**. Go **HERE** and prepare to be horrified!

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

"They always say time changes things. But you actually have to change them yourself." ~ Andy Warhol

## Eat me

**A** GERMAN SHEPHERD STARTS CHASING rabbits and before long, discovers that he's lost, and wandering about, he notices a panther heading rapidly in his direction. The old German Shepherd thinks, "Oh, oh! I'm in deep shit now!"

Noticing some bones on the ground close by, he immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat. Just as the panther is about to leap, the old Shepherd exclaims loudly: "Boy, that was one delicious panther! I wonder if there are any more around here?"

Hearing this, the young panther halts his attack in mid-strike, as a look of terror comes over him, and he slinks silently away into the trees. "Whew!" thinks the panther, "That old German Shepherd nearly had me!"

Meanwhile, a squirrel who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree figures he can put this knowledge to good use, and he soon catches up with the cat, spills the beans, and strikes a deal to protect himself.

The young panther is furious at being made a fool of and says, "Here, squirrel, hop on my back and watch what's going to happen to that conniving canine!" The old German Shepherd sees the panther coming with the squirrel on his back and thinks, "What am I going to do now?"

But instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet, and just when they get close enough to hear, the old German Shepherd says, "Where's that squirrel? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another panther!"

And the moral of this story? First, don't mess with old dogs; second, age and skill will always overcome youth and treachery, and lastly bullshit and brilliance only come with age and experience.

"If you don't know where you're going, you'll end up someplace else." ~ Yogi Berra

## A moving request

**"LET ME TO SAY SOME WORDS ABOUT ME.** My name is Christina. I live in Hungary in Pusztázámor in a small flat with my brother and his family. I am an old handicap man but young in my heart, who have experienced a lot and have been dealing with several things. All my life I have been a person constantly in movement. All my free time I tried to take advantage of. I went to concerts, sporting events, various events, exhibitions, theater, cinema, because I was always interested in world events. Unfortunately, a serious accident practically broke my life, and this world has ended to me immediately, which I miss very much today.

"All these difficulties get harder and harder to bear because of my poor financial situation. Despite the odds, my enthusiastic optimism stayed with me. This is what I have to accept, and I am trying to use my time as purposefully as possible.



### ACCORDING CREDIT

A general thank you to the real Weird Al for all your loving support!

"When I have to stay in the house, I start doing what I really love. I read a lot while I listen to music. I follow the events, mysteries, and

secrets of the world on an everyday basis, therefore, I can travel the world at least online to learn about fantastic people, their habits and lives.

"When paging through my albums by the fireplace, a whirlwind of emotions sips me in. Each dedicated photograph can take me back in time to a different story and I re-experience the memories connected to it. All through the years, I find more and more and more joy in this passion, and it plays a bigger and bigger role in my life slowly becoming my only source of happiness.

"Unfortunately, I do not have the chance to meet You in person because these events occur far from my country, this is why I am writing you this letter. I would like to

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express my gratitude that you read my lengthy letter. At the same time, I wish you all the best in your career, private life and hope you stay in good health.

"A great fan of yours in Hungary, Christina"

"History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, it need not be lived again."

~ Maya Angelou

## A stormy story

**S**ATURDAY MORNING, I GOT UP EARLY, DRESSED quietly, made my lunch, grabbed my clubs, slipped quietly into the garage and proceeded to back out into a torrential downpour. The wind was blowing 50 mph.

I pulled back into the garage, turned on the radio, and discovered that the weather would be bad throughout the day. I went back into the house, quietly undressed, and slipped back into bed.

There I cuddled up to my wife's back, now with a different anticipation, and whispered, 'The weather out there is terrible.'

My loving wife of 20 years replied, "Can you believe my stupid husband is out golfing in that crap?"

"It is a great advantage to a President...to know that he is not a great man." ~ Calvin Coolidge

## 'echnical difficulties

**A** GERMAN, A JAPANESE, AND A RUSSIAN were naked in a sauna. Suddenly there was a beeping sound, and once the German pressed his finger to his forearm, it stopped. The others looked at him questioningly.

"Oh," he said, "that was just my embedded smartwatch. Germany has the smartest engineers in the world, so I had one of their devices placed under my skin."

A few minutes later, a phone rang, and the Japanese fellow lifted his palm to his ear and started talking, and when he'd finished, he explained, "Sorry. That was my mobile phone. Japan has the smartest engineers in the world, and I've had one of their mobile systems implanted in my hand."

The Russian seemed a bit miffed and abruptly exited to the bathroom, only to return with a piece of toilet paper hanging from his butt. The others raised their eyebrows and stared at him.

"Well, well, well comrades," said the Russian proudly, "It appears SOMEBODY is receiving a fax."

"An adventure is only an inconvenience rightly considered." ~ G. K. Chesterton

## Rats!

**O** THER GERMAN SCIENTISTS HAVE RECENTLY discovered that lab rats can rapidly learn the rules to hide-and-seek and, so far as they can tell, they love playing the game with people. **Neuroscientist Michael Brecht** of the Humboldt University of Berlin got the idea from YouTube.

"There are all these **YOUTUBE VIDEOS** from pet owners



**TICKLED PINK**

Michael Brecht fingers a rat.

that say their animals love to do this," he says. So he and colleagues set up a 30-square-meter playroom, equipped an array of boxes made from opaque and transparent plastic, and made hiding places for the rats and for the study's designated gamemaster. Each game began with a rat inside a lidded box. When the rat was the "seeker," she would close the box and hide, opening the lid with a remote control.

When it found her, Reinhold rewarded the rat by petting and tickling it; no food was offered. When the rat was the "hider," Reinhold would leave the box open, and crouch beside it while the rat jumped out and scurried to one of its hiding places.

Within two weeks, five out of six adolescent male rats **LEARNED HOW** to both seek and hide – and not switch between those roles when they were in the middle of a game, the team reported in *Science*, and they also wanted to know whether the rats were playing for the fun of it or for the reward of cuddles from the researcher.

Brecht says several clues point to the former. When the rats find the researchers, for example, they execute what are known as "joy jumps" or *freudensprung*. "This is something that a lot of mammals do when they are having fun," including rabbits, lambs, and people, Brecht says. In

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addition, the rats often scurry off to a new hiding place after being found, extending the game and postponing the reward of being petted.

Findings that rats **LAUGH WHEN TICKLED** and can respond with empathy to another's pain, scientists have "come to the realization that pretty much everything that humans do, there are similar behaviors in other animals."

"Get a bicycle. You will not regret it - if you live."

~ Mark Twain

## Cutups

**F**IVE SURGEONS ARE DISCUSSING WHO MAKES the best patients on the operating table. The first surgeon says, "I prefer accountants, because when you open them up, everything inside is numbered."

The second responds, "Yeah, but you should try electricians! Everything inside them is color coded." The third surgeon says, "No, I really think librarians are the best; everything inside them is in alphabetical order."

"You know," the fourth surgeon chimes in, "I like construction workers...those guys always understand if you have a few parts left over at the end, and the job takes longer than you said it would."

But the fifth surgeon topped them all when he observed: "You're all wrong. Politicians are hands down the easiest to operate on. There's no guts, no heart, and no spine, and the head and butt are interchangeable."

"I like your Christ. I do not like your Christians."

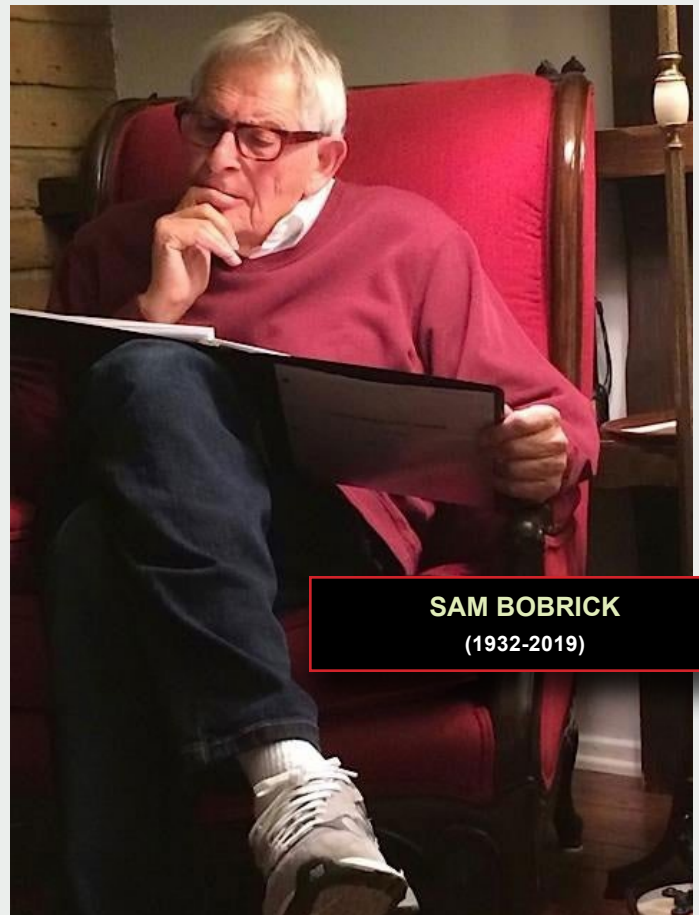
~ Mahatma Gandhi

### Uncle Miltie

I'd rather be a could-be  
If I am not to be an are,  
Cause a could-be is a  
Maybe who is reaching for a star.  
I'd rather be a has-been  
Than a might-have-been, by far;  
For a might-have-been  
Has never been,  
But a has-been was once an are!

"When you laugh, it's like being on vacation."

~ Milton Berle



**SAM BOBRICK**  
(1932-2019)

## Sam Bobrick

**H**E'S GONE. DAMN. MELINDA AND I MET SAM when we performed in one of his outrageously funny plays, *Flemming*, starring our pal **Gary Sandy** at the International Mystery Writers' Festival in Owensville, Kentucky. We became instant friends. And another writer friend, **Steven Paul Levia**, wrote eloquently about his career:

"I was saddened to hear today that TV and theater comedy writer **Sam Bobrick** died. **Adam Carl**, in a fine remembrance, gave a quick rundown of **SAM'S TV CREDITS**:

"Sam wrote for 'The Andy Griffith Show.' He wrote for 'Gomer Pyle' and 'Get Smart' and 'Bewitched' and 'The Smothers Brothers.' He wrote and produced 'The Tim Conway Comedy Hour' and 'The Paul Lynde Show,' 'The Van Dyke Show' and created pilots for the likes of **Dudley Moore**. He once wrote some jokes for an aging **Groucho Marx** – and he created 'Saved by the Bell' [which is now being revived].

"Sam also had a very active career writing for the stage, and he won the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar Award for Best Mystery Play of 2010 for *The Psychic* (in which I

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### SUPER NATURAL BOWERS

Scotty with actress Valerie Vernon and Constance Dowling in the 1950s and at his home in Los Angeles (below).

appeared at the Falcon Theater), which was, of course, a mystery comedy... “

Melinda and I know that he will be sorely missed by his darling wife, **Julie Stein-Bobrick**, his family, and his many friends and colleagues. But his plays will still be performed all over the world, and much of his TV work is still being enjoyed today. The laughs will always fill the air... We love you, Sam.

“I would rather sit on a pumpkin and have it all to myself, than be crowded on a velvet cushion.”

~ David Thoreau

### God help us

**A** MAN SPENT ALL HIS LIFE ALONE, FINDING no love, and at age 96, he dies and goes to heaven. At the same time, a woman spent all her life alone, finding no love. At age 102, she dies and goes to heaven.

As chance has it, they both meet at the heavenly library and discovering they both have a deep love for books, they start talking – and amazingly enough, after a lifetime of unhappiness, they fall in love.

They walk up to God and ask to be married. “Give me some time,” says God, “and I’ll get back to you. This is quite extraordinary.”

Four years pass, and after the couple waited patiently, God finally tells the man and woman that he can have them married, but after a few years together, they fall out of love, so they approach God once more. But this time they ask, sadly, for a divorce.

“It took me four years to find a priest in this place,” God responds. “How long do you think it’ll take me to find a lawyer?!”

“Life imitates art far more than art imitates life.”

~ Oscar Wilde

### Great Scott

**S**COTTY BOWERS WAS HOLLYWOOD’S SEXUAL matchmaker during its golden era, a time when its famous stars – both straight and gay – had to keep their private lives tucked in the shadows. A former U.S. Marine, gas station attendant and bartender, Bowers – known as Hollywood’s “male madame” – claimed to have slept with and set up some of Tinseltown’s biggest names.

In his 2012 *New York Times* bestselling memoir *Full Service: My Adventures in Hollywood and the Secret Sex Lives of the Stars*, Bowers name drops **J. Edgar Hoover**, **Cary Grant**, and **Lana Turner** as among his clients.

Bowers, who exposed a clandestine world of movie industry sexuality and was the subject of the 2017 documentary *Scotty and the Secret History of Hollywood*, died Sunday in his Laurel Canyon home. He was 96.

He claimed that his elite pimping business started in 1946 when he was 23. He had moved to Los Angeles after the war and was working at a Richfield gas station on Hollywood Boulevard when he said he was approached by the Oscar-nominated American-Canadian actor, **Walter Pidgeon**.

For the next 30-plus years, Bowers said he managed a

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brothel-like business out of the gas station where many of the industry's greats would go to have sex with him or rendezvous with others.

"Everybody's needs were met," Bowers wrote in the book. "Whatever folks wanted, I had it. I could make all their fantasies come true." Many of his clients – including **Spencer Tracy** and **Katharine Hepburn** – were closeted, he wrote.

It was the kind of story that mesmerized **Matt Tyrnauer**, the director who adapted Bowers' memoir into a documentary. "[Bowers is] a sexual outlaw who has lived to see times change," Tyrnauer told *The Times* last year.

He went from "sexual outlaw to sexual hero because we view the world and sex and sexuality in a completely different way than we did from the time when he was having to run a covert, mostly gay brothel out of a gas station on Hollywood Boulevard."

But when the AIDS epidemic hit in the 1980s, Bowers decided to quit. Saying, "I hope I provided as much pleasure as I derived myself. Not once have I felt shame or guilt or remorse about what I did. Quite the contrary."

*"Only those who will risk going too far, can possibly find out how far one can go."*  
~ T.S. Elliot

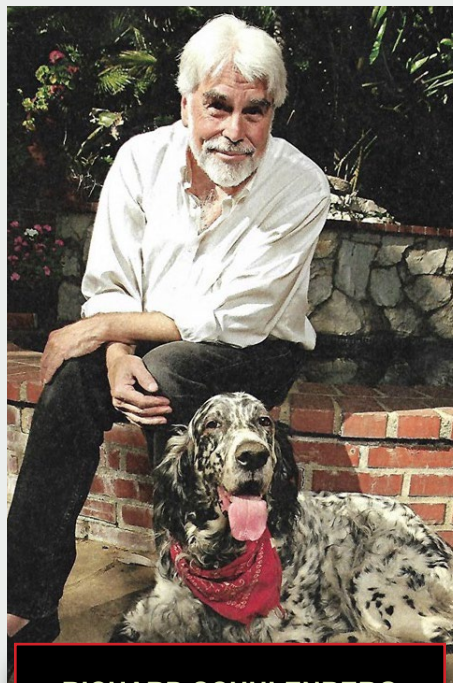
## Thanks

Joan Allemand, Melinda Peterson, MagicMike Berger, Jamie Alcroft, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr. and Baba-mail for jokes. And go to **AMAZON** for *Where's My Fortune Cookie?*, co-authored by **Brad Schreiber**.

Or purchase my Audiobook reading based on the podcast at

## PLANETCLICK YANKS

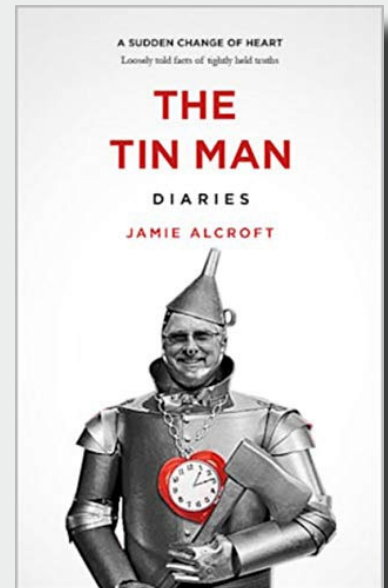
DANCE  
JIMBO  
ESP  
LIFE?  
WHAT IS REALITY  
MOVING ART  
SCOTTISH FOLD  
CRIME  
HOBBLETDEHOY  
JOJO  
TEX



RICHARD SCHULENBERG

**SUEMEDIAPRODUCTIONS.COM** or on **Amazon**, **Audible**, or **Blackstone**.

And I myself have been enjoying **Jamie Alcroft's** wide-ranging, funny autobiographical book, *The Tin Man Diaries*, inspired by his heart and liver transplant just two years ago, and I hope to soon read **Steve Bluestein's** latest tour-de-farce, *Take My Prostate, Please...*, both available at **Amazon**; as well as comic star **Art Metrano's** stirring story of recovery in his yet unpublished book, *Jews Shouldn't Climb Ladders*." (Hey, do I sense a common theme here?)



And then a heartfelt goodbye to our longtime Firesign friend, **Richard Schulenberg**, who

died of complications of Alzheimer's today. He and **Phil Austin** were schoolmates in Fresno from grade school through high school, housemates in L.A., and, purely by chance, our first lawyer at Columbia Records. He later managed the career of **Sid Caesar** and often generously managed, advised and protected **The Firesign Theatre** during our long success. Condolences to his partner, **Arlene**, and his brother **Bob**, a gifted artist who did the cover for *The Giant Rat of Sumatra*. RIP, Rich.

And finally, a loving farewell to the guiding "North Star" of Congress, Democratic Congressman **Elijah Cummings**. **VIEW TRIBUTE**.

*"It's the doing of it that matters. Do it for the love of it. That's all there is"* ~ **William Richards**,  
"Who Framed Roger Rabbit"

**"We the people, elect leaders not to rule but to serve."** ~ **Dwight D. Eisenhower**

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