

"Wrong does not cease to be wrong because the majority believe in it." ~ Leo Tolstoy

Planet **Holidaze**

Attention, Seekers!

Hello dear Planeteers, this is your Captain speaking.

I apologize for this abbreviated **Planet Holidaze**, but due to my old eyes, some end-o'-the-year financial and family affairs, a few jobs (one for my recurring role as Detective Don Polehaus on **Adventures in Odyssey**), an unexpected gig as the Grinch in an in-store voiceover for Walmart ("Attention Whoville shoppers!"), and then being kidnapped by my friend **Adele** for Christmas in Delaware, it's been challenging to find time to sit down and get this thing out.

And that is why I'm typing it at Adele's family condo compound in Boynton Beach, Florida!

And on top of everything else – THIS IS NOT A FUNNY TIME! Many of us are fearful of the uncertain events to come, although as a social satirist, I am more curious than concerned at present.

In other words, I can't wait to see

continued

A WHITE XMAS!

At Adele's Uncle Tommy's family gathering in nearby New Jersey.





MERRY MEMORIES
 Adele goes Krampus, I befriend the Grinch for store announcements, Adele and I strolling ... and a Holiday Hat to cap it all off!

CONTINUED from page 1 ■ what happens in the two tumultuous years before the mid-term elections, and my friend does have a cute little Victorian getaway in Nova Scotia, our 51st state, to which we can retreat if necessary...

As to the future of Planet Proctor, I can only affirm that I'm investigating ways to keep it spinning into the uncertain future, although it may appear more irregularly than past iterations. even though I am consulting with Elon Musk to assist me in future launches.

Anyway, wherever and whenever you are reading this, I wish you a safe and prosperous New Year!

"There's simply no way to tell people they've dedicated their lives to an illusion." ~ Daniel Dennett

Home \$weet Home

LAST WEEK, RIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, A homeless guy approached me and asked for a handout.

"If I give you money," I cautioned, "you aren't going to spend it on liquor, are you?"

"No. I don't drink," he affirmed.

"You wouldn't take that money and gamble with it, would you?"

"No, I never gamble."

"You wouldn't spend that money on green fees at the golf course, would you?"

"Heck, no," he chuckled, "I've never played golf in my life."

"OK. You know what?" I exclaimed, "I want you to come home with me right now and have dinner at my place."

"Are you SERIOUS?" he gasped.

"You BET I am!" I said. "I want my wife to see what happens to a guy who doesn't drink, doesn't gamble, and doesn't play golf!"

*"Moral indignation is jealousy with a halo."
 ~ H. G. Wells*

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A Winters' tale

JONATHAN WINTERS' CAREER STARTED AS a result of a lost wristwatch. About six or seven months after his marriage to **Eileen Schauder** in

1948, the newlyweds couldn't afford to buy another one. Then Eileen read about a talent contest in which the first prize was a wristwatch, and encouraged Jonathan to "go down and win it." She was certain he could, and he did.

He was then hired as a morning disc jockey at WING in Dayton, Ohio, where he made up for his inability to attract guests by inventing them.

"I'd make up people like Dr. Hardbody of the Atomic Energy

Commission, or an Englishman whose blimp had crash-landed in Dayton," he told *U.S. News and World Report*.

The rest is history – or hysterical! Miss you, Johnny...

"Sometimes carrying on, just carrying on, is the superhuman achievement." ~ **Albert Camus**

Goodbye, Gorms

FIRST MET PAUL TIMOTHY GORMAN AT A PARTY in Manhattan when we were both in grade school. I remember that we ended the evening having a fake duel with our umbrellas. Little did we know that night, that our friendship would last until his recent death on October 5 at the age of 84, or something like it, in an assisted living home in Northampton, MA.

Here are some *personalized* excerpts from his Yale obituary by **John Stewart**, our Class of 62 secretary and a member; like me and Paul, of Scroll & Key.

He prepared for Yale at the Collegiate School, along with among other classmates, including **Al Chambers**. In Berkeley college, he served on the library committee, was captain of the soccer team and played baseball. Majoring in social and political philosophy, he was on the Dean's List and a Ranking Scholar. He was a Pundit (*with me*) and a member of the John Dewey Society, Challenge, and the Film Society.

He served as speechwriter and press secretary during **Eugene McCarthy's** presidential campaign and was a

staff assistant for a group of congressmen and consultant for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He taught at Sarah Lawrence College, CUNY New York, Adelphi University and the Naropa Institute where he met and co-authored a book with **Baba Ram Dass**, *How Can I Help and Reflections on Service* (1985, Alfred Knopf, New York), which remains an international bestseller in many languages.

In collaboration with **Al Gore**, Paul received the 6th Heinz Award in the Environment for his success in mobilizing the American religious community to address the environmental challenge, and at the same time, providing spiritual and moral resources for those working to protect both the natural world and the fragility of human life.

Through the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, a group he helped establish in 1991 and led as Executive Director, he broadened the base of the environmental movement and provided a major new vision. As conceived by Mr. Gorman, activists must look beyond "protecting the environment" to a more expansive view of "caring for all creation."

Before moving to Northampton he lived for many years in the Cathedral Close at the Cathedral of St John the Divine, and as Vice President for Public Affairs and Advocacy supervised the non-liturgical events which included extraordinary solstice concerts featuring **Paul Winter** and a huge array of talent plus whale songs.

His wife **Enid** pre-deceased him, but he is survived by daughter **Juliette** and two grandsons.



WINTERS WINGING IT

On air ... and on time.



GORMS

A quiet difference-maker

Paul was a brilliant conversationalist, with a wicked and witty sense of humor, full of mischievous energy, but he was also a very good listener. He adored all kinds of music (his mother had sung leading roles at the Met and he was always delighted to play us her recordings). Our classmate Al Chambers adds, "He was a true enthusiast of the modern jazz of that time, and introduced me and other friends to that music and it became part of the reason we spent time in Greenwich

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Village but I, in turn brought him into the wonderful folk music scene that was so popular at the time.”

His variegated path through life makes great sense when seen through the lens of social justice and human rights. From 1969 he had a call-in talk show on WBAI, called “Lunch Pail,” where I often called up as various characters, and it was on that show that Paul played a version of **George Carlin’s** “Seven Dirty Words,” which led to the ultimate Supreme Court decision that Carlin’s “Filthy Words” was indecent but not obscene. Like Paul.

“There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship.”
~ **Thomas Aquinas**

Let us play

THIS IS FROM MY ANTAEUS COLLEAGUES **Dawn Didawick** and **Harry Groener’s** annual Christmas letter. I think it says it all...

“We pray for the safety of the many people we love and admire. We pray for the safety of literature and art. We pray for Democracy. We pray for compassion from our leaders. We pray that we will not lose the security that we have known. We pray that we can maintain our wealth and health to weather the coming chaos. We pray that we can weather the winter of old age with continued humor and grace.

“There are many holidays this time of year, so whatever you celebrate, we send you wishes of love and cheer. For Harry and me, Christmas is a time of reflection and remembrance. We remember all of you with love and admiration ... so, if you are able, turn up the music, put out the decorations and fill your life with traditions. – With love, Dawn and Harry”

“Just surviving is a noble cause.” ~ **Billy Joel**

Cruisin’

ADELE AND I WILL BE ONBOARD THE HOLLAND- American Line’s *Big Easy* music cruise to Key West, Belize and Cozumel January 5 through 12. It will be my first trip on a big ship, a stateroom on the

top level in the front of the ship, and there will be many distractions to entertain me.

Look forward to some stories and pictures in the next orbit, and have a wonderful New Year!

“A fool and his money are soon elected.” ~ **Kinky Friedman**

Pioneers

HANK ROSENFELD, **RICHARD** Fish, Laurence Budd, Nick Oliva, John Densmore, Richard Metzger, **Jeremy Braddock**, Eric Nelson, **John Stewart**, ‘**Quora**’ and **Nerida** for taking such loving care of my darling little gray girl, **Pepper**, while I’m away...



And a special thank you to my dear friends **Wayne Powers** and **Paul Willson** for a marathon reunion lunch (*above*). There was so much name-dropping that they had to sweep up afterwards.

Finally, a fond farewell to **Jimmy Carter** at 100 and a fun hello to fireproof **Dick Van Dyke**, whose neighbors saved his house and his ass during the Malibu fire, so he could turn 99! **WATCH ‘ALL MY LOVE’ TO DICK**

“Whenever I despair, I remember that the way of truth and love has always won. There may be tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they may seem invincible, but in the end, they always fail.” ~ **Mahatma Gandhi**

PLANETCLICK
CHEERS AND FEARS

B-DRONE
OZ
UNHINGED
FIREBOOK
FIRETALK
HERE
KSAN

“I believe musicians can run this country a lot better than politicians. We just won’t get much done in the morning.” ~ **Kinky Friedman**

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