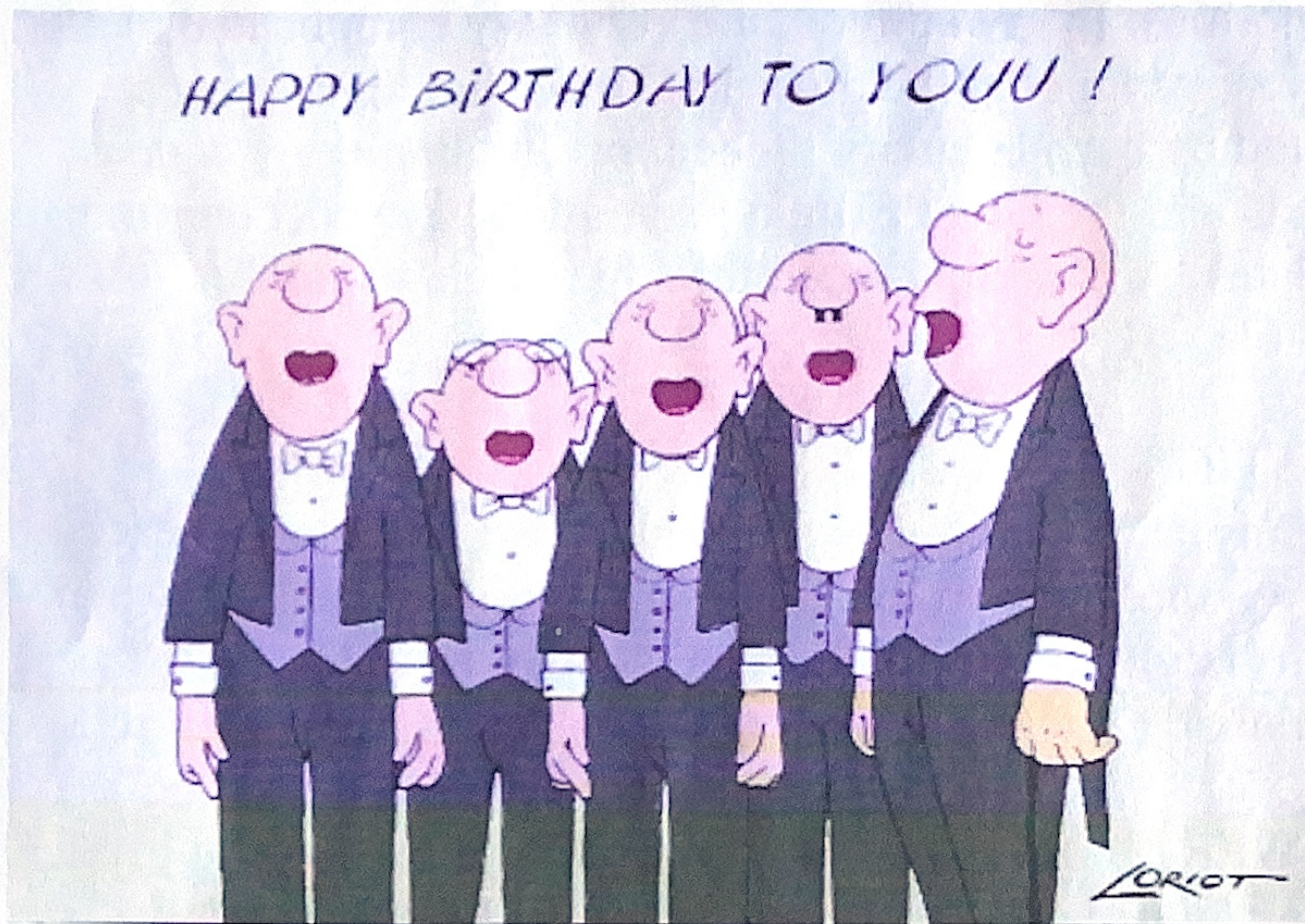


Amsterdam 11 Oct. 2019

Dear Stuart



Congratulations with completing your 80th lap around the sun. That is an achievement and worth our congratulations.

Psychological studies have been conducted to investigate the gap between the current sense of life and the current age. A result of this study was that this gap, with regard to reasonably fit people, is growing with age. And how is that with you? On the photo of yourself, you had emailed on September 29, I see a good looking man in his sixties, let me say, 65 years old. Am I right that you yourself feel to be not older than 65, thus 15 younger than your real age ?

In the affirmative case I congratulate Ursula as well for the fact that she is being the lucky one, married to a 15 years younger feeling person, than he really is !!

The Brexit

The culprit is the 2016 referendum. It created a nation divided by emotions. In my opinion, the very very complicated matter of Brexit, weighing the pro's and cons, should have been initiated by parliamentary procedures for an orderly course. The EU and the Great Britain Federation have become strange bedmates. A breakup is therefore, in my view, highly desirable.

QUESTION

The European Union was founded in part to promote peace, security and unity on the Continent. But what happens when nations begin to rethink their membership and focus on nationalistic interest?

ANSWER

'Never again' could happen again if Europe does not confront a re-emergent nationalism.

Other topic: 'The king and I' by Theo Aronson

eighteenth-century portraits of people in red coats, huge porcelain pagodas [a gift from her royal lover], and thick, magnificent carpets, but the hostess conducted the running of her house as a work of art in itself.²⁷

The same 'atmosphere of luxury' pervaded her bedroom. Its mounds of pillows, its cut-glass vases filled with lilies and malmaisons and its rich velvet curtains drawn, in this instance, against the daylight, all helped to create a suitably seductive setting for her extra-marital assignations. With George Keppel having obligingly gone off to his club – and later his job – for the afternoon, and with the staff remaining discreetly downstairs, the Prince and Mrs Keppel would be certain of a couple of hours to themselves.

Vita Sackville-West, who was friendly with the young Violet Keppel even as a child, used often to see a 'discreet little one-horse brougham' waiting outside when she arrived at the house. Gently but firmly Mr Rolfe, the butler, would push the visiting girl into a dark corner of the hallway with a murmured 'One minute, miss, a gentleman is coming downstairs.'²⁸

Trailing a whiff of freshly-applied *eau de Portugal*, the gentleman would descend the stairs and, having collected hat, gloves and cane from the obsequiously bowing Mr Rolfe, would cross the pavement to the waiting brougham and go spinning away in the direction of Marlborough House.

A legend persists, to this day, that the attitude of Alexandra, as Princess and Queen, towards her husband's affair with Alice Keppel was one of saintly forbearance. She is popularly believed to have displayed all those qualities of charity and forgiveness for which she was renowned. This is not quite accurate. In the first place, Alexandra was never the saint of popular imagination: she had many attractive qualities but she could be stubborn and selfish. Her supposed acceptance of her husband's mistress could simply have been a manifestation of her own self-absorption. And secondly, there were times when, far from approving of Mrs Keppel, Alexandra revealed an active dislike of her.

It is true that the Princess of Wales preferred Alice Keppel to Daisy Warwick. She would have agreed with the Duchess of Sutherland that her husband was 'a child, such a much pleasanter child since he changed mistresses'.²⁹ (The fact that Millicent Sutherland was half-sister to Daisy Warwick gives her opinion added weight.) And

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