

Oct 15

This is Phil Arnott for community comment on K INS radio.

I thought we would have a little fun today to get us away from the world's turmoil and the bureaucracy of our government.

There was a wonderful article in the Wall Street Journal in early August about Istanbul, Turkey. A little history is called for at this point before I get into the article. History teaches us that Istanbul was formerly Constantinople and you may recall that shortly after the name change and <sup>two</sup> four years later the slogan was its Istanbul, not Constantinople. I think there was even a song written about it.

In 1995 my wife and I traveled with a group to Turkey and we spent 21 days traveling around that country. It was one of the greatest trips that I have ever taken. We had a guide by the name of Michael. He taught English in one of the high schools in ~~the capital of Turkey~~ <sup>Istanbul</sup>. Not only did he know his country but he had a wonderful sense of humor.

Now this article has brought back strong memories of that great country. I have to do to correct one thing that I just said. The capital of Turkey is Ankara.

Back to Istanbul, where the city was once ruled by Sultans and emperors, the real King now is the alleycat. In ~~a~~ historic neighborhoods in that city and Army of furry tailed street cats are fed, sheltered and cooed at by an adoring public. Hundreds of fleece lined houses have been erected at street corners by cat mad residents. Most of them are flanked by a makeshift feeding stations fashioned from yogurt pots or plastic bottles and overflowing with tasty scraps.

In some neighborhoods ground-floor windowsills are lined with pillows and blankets offering the cats a cozy place to recline. The article goes on to say that in restaurants and cafés, cats are often part of the furniture, curling up next to dining tables or patiently waiting for left overs from the patrons.

There are several Theme cafés or you can stay at night at the stray cat hostel. According to the author of this article, being a cat in this great city is like being a cow in India. One of the local residents who was interviewed said that her husband often walks nearly 2 miles to work rather than disturb street cats sleeping on his moped.

Social media is now offering daily pictures of the city's cutest street cats. According to the author, cats have always been famous in this city but social media is making them famous around the world. Historians in this country say the social media explosion is simply the latest incarnation of a centuries old Craze which stems from a combination of religion, ~~tradition~~ and practicality. One of the popular sayings in that country is that if you have killed a cat, you need to build a mosque to be four given by God.

I leave you with a point to ponder: forget about the current and historic names of this great city don't you agree with the author of this article that this city should be called Catstantinople.

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