



*"We live in an hypocrisy not a democracy."
~ Beverly Hills Bumper sticker*

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

MERRY CHRIS\$TMAS

All the items in "The Twelve Days of Christmas," according to the investment company **PNC Wealth Management**, would set the one-percenters back \$101,119.84 – an increase of 4.4 percent over last year.

"The high price of gold sent retail demand plummeting," writes **Michael Winship** in Ladyjane's blog, "so the cost of the five golden rings actually went down, but seven-swans-a-swimming rose by 12.5 percent. Pipers piping and drummers drumming 'saw modest increases, both up 3.0 percent,' [and] the cost of eight maids-a-milking, representing the only unskilled labor, remained unchanged [as] there was no increase this year in the minimum wage."

Now all you have to do is find a really generous "True Love."

*"If we want a government of the people and by the people, you'd want 99 percent of the members of Congress coming from the 99 percent of society that's NOT worth nine million dollars." ~ **Derek Cressman**
in *Common Cause**

IN PASSING

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, **Common Sense**. No one knows how old he

was, since his records were lost in red tape, but he will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, and why life isn't always fair.

He lived by sound financial policies like not spending more than you earn and reliable strategies like putting adults, and not children, in charge.

His health began to deteriorate when well-intentioned but bizarre regulations resulted in a 6-year-old boy being charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, teens suspended for using mouthwash after lunch and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student.

Common Sense declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or aspirin but were restricted from informing parents when a student became pregnant or sought an abortion.

He soon lost the will to live as churches became businesses, criminals received better treatment than victims, and you couldn't defend yourself from a home intruder because the perp could sue you for assault. He finally gave up the ghost after a woman failed to realize that a



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steaming cup of coffee was hot and was granted a huge settlement for spilling it on herself.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, **Truth and Trust**, by his wife, **Discretion**, by his daughter, **Responsibility**, and by his son, **Reason**.

Not many attended his funeral because few realized he was gone.

"The accomplice to the crime of corruption is frequently our own indifference,"
~ Former Miss America **Bess Myerson**

IN THE NOOSE

Knute "The Grinch" Gingrich (actually pronounced "Gingrick," says his outspoken out-of-the-closet gay half-sister) advocates the death penalty for pot use, while **Rick** (pronounced "Rich") **Perry**, released an anti-gay TV spot while wearing an outfit from *Brokeback Mountain*.

But the award for best bullshit of the week goes, pants down, to **Big Joe Amendola**, attorney for accused child molester **Jerry Sandusky**, who announced at a press conference that if you believe former Penn State assistant **Mike McQueary's** [sic] story about witnessing his client bugging a boy in the showers, "then you should dial 1-800-REALITY." Problem is, that number is a gay-sex chat center where the first recorded line is, "Get ready for bulging, bursting pleasure!"

And then the **Archbishop of York** is calling for "a wider recognition of inequality as an ethical issue," and suggests that excessively high incomes should be deemed as "socially unacceptable" as racism and homophobia. He also wants to see a new check-off box on U.K. tax forms, for people to voluntarily reveal their contributions.

ORNAMENTALS.
Wishing all the Joys of the Season, and a trimmer tree in 2012.

And finally, how many Americans from the 99 percent have made it into the top 1 percent? Well,

from 1999 to 2007, according to the **Tax Foundation**, only one tenth of 1 percent of Americans in the bottom 60 percent moved into the top 1 percent. But who's counting?

"When morality comes up against profit, it is seldom that profit loses." ~ **Shirley Chisholm**

A GREAT WRITER

A visitor to Israel attended a recital and concert at the **Moscovitz Auditorium** and was quite impressed with the architecture and the acoustics, so he inquired of the tour guide, "Is this magnificent auditorium named after **Chaim Moscovitz**, the famous Talmudic scholar?"

"No," replied the guide. "It is named after **Sam Moscovitz**, the writer."

"Never heard of him. What did he write?"

"A check," replied the guide.

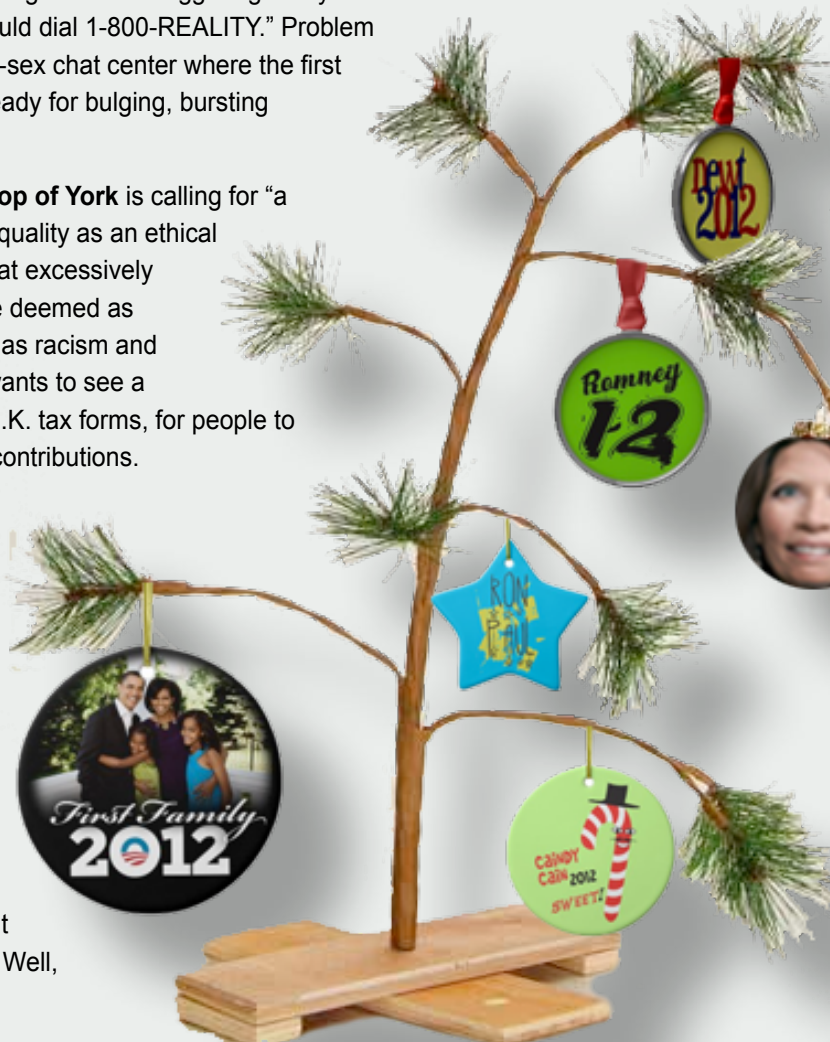
"I like nonsense, it wakes up the brain cells."
~ **Dr. Seuss**

DRIVE, SHE SAID

Ford has announced plans to acquire French automaker **Renault** and engineers are working hard to create the perfect mini-car for women by blending the Renault "Clio" and the Ford "Taurus." So welcome the "Clit-Taurus."

It comes in pink, and the average car thief won't be able to locate one, let alone turn it on, even if someone tells him where it is.

Rumor has it, though, that it leaks transmission fluid once a month and can be a real bitch to start in the morning. Some have reported that on cold



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winter mornings, when you really want to get something started, you probably won't even be able to get it to turn over.

New models are fun to own but very costly to maintain and inordinately expensive to get rid of. Used models may initially appear to have curb appeal at a low price but eventually develop an increased appetite for fuel causing weight to grow typically with age. Manufacturers are baffled as to how the size of the trunk increases but that the extra application of paint may just make it LOOK bigger.

This model is not expected to reach collector status. Most owners find it is best to lease one, and replace it as needed.

"There is no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing,"
~ Explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes

COP OUT

I made a traffic stop on an elderly lady the other day for speeding and asked for her driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance. In with the cards, I was somewhat surprised (due to her advanced age) to see she had a conceal carry permit. I looked at her and asked if she had a weapon in her possession at this time.

She responded that she indeed had a .45 automatic in her glove box. Something – body language, or the way she said it – made me want to ask if she had any other firearms. She did admit to also having a 9mm Glock in her center console. Now I had to ask one more time if that was all. She responded once again that she did have just one more, a .38 special in her purse. I then asked her what was she so afraid of.

She looked me right in the eye and said, "Not a f*cking thing!"

*"Give a person a gun, and they can rob a bank.
Give a person a bank and they can rob the world."*
~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

DON'T THINK AND DRIVE

The **Department of Motor Vehicles** indicates that 23 percent of traffic accidents are alcohol-related. This means that the remaining 77 percent are caused by accident-prone individuals who drink bottled water, coffee, soda, juice, energy drinks and crap like that.

Therefore, beware of those who do not drink alcohol. They cause three times as many accidents.

*Dear Abby: "I have always wanted to have my family history traced, but I can't afford to spend a lot of money to do it.
Any suggestions?"*
- "Run for public office."

DOGGONE IT

Two women were out for a Saturday stroll. One had a Doberman and the other, a Chihuahua, and as they walked down the street, the one with the Doberman said to her friend, "Let's go over to that bar for a drink." Her pal with the Chihuahua said, "We can't go in there, we've got dogs." The one with the Doberman said, "Just watch me, and do as I do."

They walked over to the bar, and the Doberman's owner put on a pair of dark glasses. The bouncer said, "Sorry, lady, no pets allowed." But she retorted, "You don't understand. This is my seeing-eye dog." The bouncer said, "OK, come on in."

The lady with the Chihuahua thought that convincing him that a Chihuahua was a seeing-eye dog may be a bit more difficult but she put on her dark glasses and started to walk in. Once again the bouncer said, "Sorry, lady, no pets allowed." The woman said, "You don't understand, this is my seeing-eye dog."

The bouncer said, "A Chihuahua?"

And the lady with the Chihuahua said, "A Chihuahua? They gave me a f**kin' Chihuahua?!"

"People are just as happy as they make up their minds to be"
~ Abraham Lincoln



PRANK...

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CLICK THE WORD TO
GO TO THE SITE

THANK . . .

You – Fellow Colonel, Richard Fish, Michael Fish (no relation), Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., Dale Ballard, Victor Kopcewich, Larry Belling, Scott W. Langill, Bill McIntyre, Michael Sheehan, Paul Apple, Gene Santoro, Marcia Rodd, Bill Coombs, Jayne Stahl, H. Lee Kagan, Magic Mike Berger, Richard Laible, Robert Riddle -- and congratulations to our beloved crank, Yuri Rasovsky and the entire cast of

Blackstone Audio's *The Mark of Zorro*, starring Val Kilmer, nominated for a Grammy as Best Audio Book. VOTE for us, if you can. And congrats, also, to Steve Bluestein, whose new book *It's So Hard to Write with a Gun in Your Mouth* is available on Amazon, Kindle, iPad, lulu or ebooks. It's a killer gift idea...

"The creation of the world did not take place once and for all time, but takes place every day."
 ~ Samuel Beckett

"The Republican candidates? A club of liars, cheaters, adulterers, exaggerators, hypocrites and ignoramuses."
 ~ Mark Pizke in Der Spiegel

A SAFE PLACE

That's where the so-called new Hollywood producer/activist **Bert Schneider** is now, after leaving the scene at 78. Last time I ran into him was at a local sushi restaurant, but I first met him through my longtime friend **Henry Jaglom** when we filmed *A Safe Place* after the great success of "The Monkees" with his partner **Bob Rafelson**.

They produced 11 films between 1968 and 1981, including *Easy Rider*, *Five Easy Pieces*, *The Last Picture Show* and the Oscar-winning, anti-Vietnam-War documentary *Hearts and Minds*. End of an era, indeed.

We also must acknowledge the loss of **George Whitman** at 93, the eccentric dictator of the Shakespeare & Co. bookstore on Paris' left bank, where I purchased my first copy of *The Tropic of Capricorn* by **William Burroughs**, who later became a friend.

Whitman made his bookstore a hostel for "tumbleweeds" – anyone he thought might be "an angel in disguise" – and said, "I never had any money, and never needed it. I've been a bum all my life." His daughter will continue his legacy.

"Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding."
 ~ Albert Einstein



BERT AND BERGEN.
 Farewell to Bert Schneider, pictured here with Candice Bergen in 1972.

"It is better to live rich than to die rich." ~Samuel Johnson

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

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

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