

## EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 107



December 12, 2013

**By John Hoffmann**

Everybody comments at one time or another how I'm negative. Some people will say it different ways..."John is a bit of a curmudgeon"...or..."he reminds me of Andy Rooney." But I have to admit that at times I'm a "glass half-empty guy." When I was a police administrator or worked as an enforcement official for a large government transportation agency, I always planned for worse case scenarios. But for this newsletter I thought I'd start with Christmas stuff before I get to the usual sarcastic and negative reports.

**MAYBE THE LAST YEAR FOR THE OVER THE TOP CHRISTMAS HOUSE ON LADUE ROAD:** The over-the-top but wonderful Christmas House on Ladue a couple of blocks east of Mason Road may be up for the last time. The house which features it's own radio station, lights and change to the beat of the music, videos on a huge round screen. I stopped by and watched the lights and video for about 20 minutes. There was an announcement that this might be the last Christmas for the show. The lights and accessories start going up in October. We suggest you put on your list of things to do this Christmas season.



**THE CHRISTMAS HOUSE ON W. JACKSON AT LOCKWOOD IS AGLOW AGAIN THIS YEAR:** Every year a visit to the overdone but spectacular light show on Ladue Road is followed by a trip to the more subtle but equally spectacular Christmas House on W. Jackson Avenue two doors south of Lockwood in Webster Groves.



**THE WREATH OF CHRISTMAS PAST:** I think it was in 2007, my wife, the artist, decided it would be interesting to make unusual Christmas wreaths. We spent nine months going to estate sales and buying up Santa, Frosty and Angel ornaments. She

would then glue them on a wooden circle and create a wreath. She was sure these would be a big hit. It was one of her art projects where I agreed with her. Of course these could not be sold cheap, since they involved a lot of time and gasoline in collecting the ornaments, which included some from the Jack Carney estate sale. That November we took the wreaths to a stand we had set up at the Webster Groves Christmas Sunday bazaar on the streets of downtown Webster Groves. We were in front of Charlie's Barber Shop on W. Lockwood and S. Gore. Lots of people stopped by and said how cool the wreaths were but after six hours we had zero sales. My wife gave many away to friends and relatives, but we still have a couple. Here is the one that hung on our door last year.



Here is the one on our door this year:



## CHRISTMAS SOUNDS:

**The Air Force Band of Mid-America:** We went to the Air Force Band Christmas concert on December 7. It was terrific, with maybe more self-promotion than in past years, but still a very nice evening at the Scottish Rite on Lindell.

Tech Sgt. Keisha Owin-Goodin of Chicago keeps getting better and better as the principal vocalist for the Band. She is also usually the feature vocalist with the Air Force Big Band, Shades of Blue. We first saw Keisha several Christmas' ago with most of the band was deployed to the Middle East to give Christmas concerts for the troops. That year there were only three or four band members left at Scott Air Force Base. Local musicians including some former members of the Air Force Band were hired to form a nine piece big band group that performed the Christmas concert series here. Keisha was the main vocalist.



Tech Sgt. Keisha Gwin-Goodin doing Winter Wonderland and then with all the vocalists doing carols.



This was a "Holiday Concert" so the clarinet section had some fun with the Dreidel Song that followed a somber Ma'oz Tzur.



By the end of the show, the wind section of concert band was more outrageous than the big band brass and saxophones on the other side of the stage. Besides the head gear, the bassoon had flashing Christmas lights on it. Santa also made his annual visit. **In a move of Political Correctness, the Air Force has changed the lyrics of Winter Wonderland from “kissing the Eskimo Way” to “kissing the Alaskan Way.”**

**The Route 66 Jazz Orchestra Christmas Concert:** The first concert was held on December 11 at the First Unity Church on Butler Hill Road. But don't worry there is a second one at the Kirkwood Station Brewery on E. Jefferson just past Kirkwood Road on Wednesday December 18 at 7pm. While the acoustics are a little better at the church, the food and bar service is much better in Kirkwood.



The final Christmas concert of the season by the route 66 Jazz Orchestra will be at the Kirkwood Station Brewery on E. Jefferson Ave. at Kirkwood Road.



A guest vocalist will be Dean Christopher.

**THE CHARLIE B GROUP:** If you remember Charley B singing with Jim Manley standing in front of the Christmas tree at Jimmy's on the Park for seven years, here is some interesting news. Charlie and Jim will be putting on a Christmas show on Saturday December 21 at 7pm. It will be at the Kinda of Blue Club...which is actually a private home at **6101 Idaho Avenue in St. Louis**. Admission is \$10 and you bring whatever you want to eat or drink. Seating is limited so come a little early.



From December of 2010 at Jimmy's on the Park. Three weeks later Jimmy cancelled the 7-year Wednesday night run of the Charlie B Trio, that always morphed into more of a trip when area musicians would drop by.



**CHESTERFIELD'S JOE MANCUSO FEATURED:** On Sunday December 22 vocalist Joe Mancuso will join the Dave Dickey Big Band at Kirkwood Station Brewery on East Jefferson from 6-9 for a special Christmas show.

**CHRISTMAS JAZZ SINGERS WERE GREAT:** If some of our regular readers remember, about five weeks ago I lambasted the vocal group the Java Jive that we saw at the Sheldon. On Monday night, I was late getting to the Webster University jazz Vocal Holiday show, thanks to the Town and Country Board of Aldermen meeting. But I did catch the last hour of the show and it was great. Plus it is always nice to see college kids dressed up like adults.

Debby Lennon, who some in West County may know as the main female vocalist at St. Clements Catholic church on Bopp Road in Des Peres, is the group's director. I first met Debby when she was singing with the Tommy Money Big Band. For a long time she has also been the director of the Webster University Jazz Singers. This year her 14 students sounded great. It was a real treat to hear them. But they are lucky because they were backed up with Carolbeth True on piano, Jeremy Pfeffer on the bass and Kevin Gianino on drums.



Webster U Jazz Vocal director Debby Lennon directs the Webster University Jazz Singers. Alyssa Hegwood gets into a very cool version of Sleigh Ride.

**ESCAPE RELATIVES OR JUST GET OUT OF THE HOUSE...WEBSTER UNIVERSITY TO SHOW CHRISTMAS TV FROM THE 1950s.** As part of the Webster University Film Series a special "Classic Christmas" 2-hour film consisting of Christmas shows from five 1950 era TV series.

The film will include Buffalo Bob and Howdy Doody, Betty White from her show "Date with an Angel," Ozzie and Harriet, Jack Benny, with Dennis Day, Mel Blanc and Rochester and finally Red Skelton as Freddy the Freeloader.

The film will be shown at 7:30 on December 23, 24 and 25 at Moore Auditorium on Lockwood in the main building. \$6 & \$5 for seniors.



Red as Freddie the Freeloader



Howdy and Mr. Smith



The Nelsons around the Christmas Tree



Jack Benny tormenting a sales clerk played by Mel Blanc



Betty White from Date with an Angel

**MIRACLE ON 34<sup>TH</sup> STREET:** If you remember last year it seemed like the original 1947 version of Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street (Was there ever a reason to make a different one?) seemed like it was on TV all Christmas season long. It was on TCM and it was featured for seven nights in a row on AMC. But if you are looking for it this year you might be out of luck. The TV rights for the movie were bought by HBO and it is only being shown seven times this year on the HBO Family Channel.

If you don't have that premium channel it's no Kris Kringle and Judge Henry X. Harper for you. If you have Netflix you have to order the movie, you can't download it. This makes me happy that I have the movie on a VHS tape and I still have a VCR that works.



20th Century Fox / Getty Images

Edmund Gwenn and Natalie Wood in two different scenes from Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street.

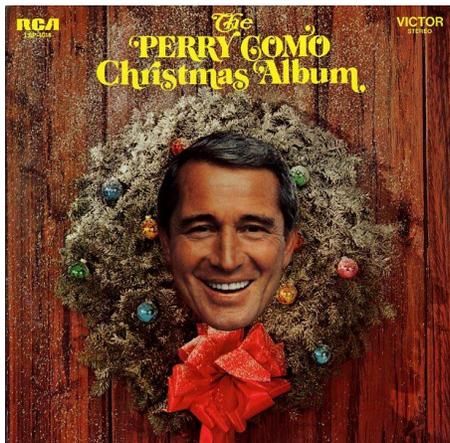
This all reminds of it's a Wonderful Life. For several years no one owned the broadcasts rights to the movie and it was in public domain. It seemed like it was available on different TV stations and cable stations every night between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Where I was living at the time outside of Washington, DC even the local Community College's cable channel was running it every night. Then NBC bought the rights to it and it is now on the air two or three times a year, so it is not like Bert and Ernie, Clarence or Donna Reed and Jimmy Stewart are gone from your TVs.



Bert and Ernie from the movie...the guys who these two characters on Sesame Street were named after.

**LIKE BEING AT CHURCH OR THE KRAFT MUSIC HALL:** I walked into the new super extra large Dierbergs in Des Peres and at first while listening to the Christmas music I thought I was in church...I heard of couple beautiful traditional Christmas songs by choirs. Then it was like being at the Kraft Music Hall in December...one 1950s era singer after another. I enjoyed it.

(The Kraft Music Hall was originally on the radio dating back to the 1930s when Bing Crosby was a host. Later Al Jolson was a host 1947-48. Jolson had the sarcastic wit of Oscar Levant on the piano for two years. Perry Como was the host of the TV version from 1958 to 1967 and is probably the person closest associated with the show.)



I like to mess with the all too-young checkers during Christmas time, I say things like, “The Andrew Sisters really make Bing Crosby sound great don’t you think?”

“I am sick of this music,” is the reply from the checker.

I tried to convince one college age checker who was a baseball player and didn’t know who Bing Crosby was, that Bing was a big baseball guy.

“In ‘Going My Way’ not only did he sing the Academy Award winning song (Swinging on a Star) he wore a St. Louis Browns jacket. Plus he was a part owner of the Pittsburgh Pirates in the 1950s,” I’d tell him and get a blank look back.



Bing in his St. Louis Browns warm jacket in Going My Way.

The other day I made my observation of the Christmas music taking me to different places to checker.

“At first I thought I was at church and then I thought I was at a telecast of the Kraft Music Hall,” I said.

“What’s a Kraft Music Hall, sir,” was the reply from a 20-something checker.

All this brings up the question:

Why do we get to hear Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Andy Williams, Nat King Cole, Bing Crosby, Doris Day and Perry Como in the grocery store in December and not in July once and a while?

**DAVID FREESE AND THE WISE MEN:** The Imos...(yes that Imo family) lives on a large flag lot on Topping Road. At one point they tried to name their driveway as a private street, “Two Toppings Lane.” In the last couple of years they bought the ranch house that sat on the lot in front of their house. They tore down the house to expand their front yard.

I noticed that this year they have put up a traditional Manger scene on the empty one-acre lot. I’m just hoping as Christmas approaches they add the wise men and then add one of their cut outs of David Freese. I think it would be nice if the recently traded

Cardinal third baseman and current Imos' spokesman delivered some St. Louis Style Pizza to Mary and Joseph and the Wise Men.



My Christmas wish for Topping Road is to have David Freeze deliver a pizza to Mary and Joseph at the manger in the front yard of the Imos.

## **NOW BACK TO THE SARCASIM AND THE NEWS:**

**PLANNING AND ZONING DECIDE THAT A PROJECT THAT WAS NOT IN PUBLIC'S INTEREST IN JULY IS OKAY IN DECEMBER:** On Wednesday December 11 the Town and Country Planning and Zoning Commission reversed a unanimous "no" vote to rezone the old highway patrol property and its 15.8 acres at Mason Road and I-64 and passed the project on a 4-2 vote.

Technically the proposal had been changed. The original proposal called for a 144,999 square foot three story pediatric surgical center, with future plans to add a fourth story, another building plus a parking garage. The new plan dropped the future plans. Basically nothing changed from what they wanted to build in July immediately.



**The P&Z Commission** in July decided the project was not in the public's interest. In December only Commissioners Dr. Gary Omell and Dennis Bolazina hadn't changed their minds.



Dr. Gary Omell (left) and Dennis Bolazina (right) at the July meeting.

**LEARNING FROM PAST DEFEATS:** George Stock, the consulting engineer who has been the spokesman for projects involving Missouri Baptist Medical Center and Maryville University was still pitching this project for Barnes-Jewish-Children's Hospital which is also associated with the Washington University School of Medicine.

Just like in July, the aldermanic chambers were packed to with the excess crowd having to watch on closed circuit TV in a conference room however there was something different.



An overflow crowd, but this time it included a lot of people who had a connection with the applicant

**Stock learned from the Maryville University rezoning issue. At the P&Z meeting the overflow crowd was completely against the project. The same was true at the first P&Z meeting when the BJC rezoning was defeated. When the Maryville issue reached the Board of Aldermen, Stock had the room full of people who worked at Maryville or were on boards at the University who lived in town. He also had students in the crowd who lived in town only when they were in their dormitory rooms.**

He did the same thing on December 11. In July, 31-people spoke in opposition to the rezoning for surgical center and no one spoke in favor of it. On Wednesday of 19 citizens speaking 13 were for the rezoning and six were against it. The demographics of the rich people living in Town and Country would show you that there are actually more doctors than lawyers. Stock finally wised up to this.

Most of the 13 either were doctors at Children's Hospital or at Washington University Med School. A woman who was sitting next to me worked at Washington University Med School and lived in New Baden, Illinois and was asked to come to the meeting.

**THE WOMAN HAS A HEART COLD AS ICE:** Joan Magruder opened the presentation by once again talking about how currently there are 1,600 patients from one of the three zip codes that include part of Town and Country. She pitched how the people here needed this facility. She did not mention that Mercy Hospital located two miles away has an excellent and very large pediatric center. Plus St. Luke's located two miles away has a pediatric department and BJC hospital's Missouri Baptist Med Center and BJC West both located about three miles away provide pediatric services.

Magruder then had a local mother speak who had dealt with a young child who had a brain tumor. The mother told P&Z members who inconvenient it was to have to drive 12 miles to Children's Hospital to treatment.



Joan Magruder

Here is what Magruder was selling...despite there already being fine pediatric care facilities in the area you need us too, so you don't have to drive 12 miles down I-64 if your doctor is on our staff.

During the meeting Dr. Patrick Jay, a local resident and a pediatric cardiologist at Children's Hospital spoke about how people from our area of snoburbia have to give up a half day to bring a child to Children's Hospital.

Here is what galls me. She and Dr. Jay are saying the millionaires who live in the area should have Children's Hospital service just around the corner so they are not inconvenienced.

My position is that children's cancer and other diseases don't go by city limits and zip codes. It is a much bigger hardship on parents living in a 1,200 square foot house with a 30-year mortgage, where the father makes \$14 an hour and mom has to work and makes \$12 an hour to have a kid with cancer. It is a much bigger deal for them to take a half day off work than it is for a millionaire couple in Town and Country.

They need one of these facilities in South County or in Arnold, where there is very little health care. Heck put it up in Jennings or Ferguson, those parents in much poorer zip codes have kids that get sick.

Dr. Gary Omell before voting against the project summed it up nicely.

"This is an issue about market share between Children's, Mercy and St. Luke's," Omell said. He added that it was not about the need of pediatric services in the area. He is quite right.

**MAGRUDER MARKETING THIS WRONG:** Joan Magruder should have avoided how much more convenient it would be for local residents and instead say how Children's Hospital needs to expand and I-64 and Mason Road, being close to I-270 would make it easier for people all over the Eastern Missouri region to receive pediatric services.

**EXPAND OR DIE:** One doctor in the crowd spoke against the rezoning. She however was on the staff at St. Louis University Hospitals and the St. Louis University Med School. The doctor pointed out that hospitals don't just build one building and never expand. She named several examples of hospitals that started with one main building and now have created a huge campus of buildings.

Colleges and hospitals have the same golden rule...expand or die.

**P & Z VOTES TO MAKE MASON ROAD AND I-64 MORE DANGEROUS:** Part of George Stock's new proposal include how BJC will add a seventh lane to the Mason Road overpass at I-64 and add an additional eastbound entrance ramp lane.

To do this he proposes (and claims he has MoDOT's approval) to remove the four foot wide median on the overpass. He then wants to add a second left turn lane to go east of I-64. This is important because despite there being 1,600 patients from zip codes that

include Town and Country, 65% of the traffic to the facility will be coming from the east on West Bound I-64. Of course when it is time to leave that new surge in traffic will want to go across the overpass and get on eastbound I-64.

During morning rush hour Stock's traffic engineer estimates there will be a 6% increase in traffic at Mason Road and I-64 with 275 new "trips." It gets worse in the afternoon, when traffic will increase 8% more with 400 more "trips."

So BJC wants to remove the safety of a concrete median and then add more traffic. To make room for the new lane, the proposal calls for reducing the existing six 12-foot wide lanes by one foot. Stock said these are approved lanes sizes. That can be true but there is a big difference between "approved" and "recommended." The United States Department of Transportation recommends all lanes on highways that receive Federal funds be 12 feet wide.

It's bad enough that they want to put a traffic circle (roundabout) in front of the proposed facility. When I was a cop in the DC suburbs, I dealt with a traffic circle that was half in Maryland and half in DC. There are lots of traffic circles in Washington, DC but many drivers did not understand the rules of right of way in dealing with them. Believe me almost no drivers in Missouri understand them.

Also when you narrow lanes you increase auto accidents. Where I worked as a cop and police commander in Chevy Chase, Maryland we averaged 175 accidents a year on a section of road that was 3,050 feet long with six undersized lanes (Connecticut Avenue...Maryland-185).



Here is an example of what can happen with narrow lanes.

**INSTEAD OF PROTECTING AND SERVING, CITY WAS TRYING TO INJURE AND**

**MAIM:** One of the main jobs of city government is to look after the health, safety and welfare of residents. The City of Town and Country was doing just the opposite on Wednesday night. With the overflow crowd at the city hall, all the parking spaces were quickly gone. The city put out signs for people to park on the lot of the nearby Churchill School and use the sidewalk connecting the two parking lots.

The only thing was the city failed to remove the snow and ice from the sidewalk. The temperature at the time of the meeting was in the 20s and dropping. People who used the walk were at a great risk of taking a fall.



**ANOTHER CONTROVERSIAL MEETING AND ANOTHER NO SHOW BY THE**

**MAYOR:** Once again the mayor avoided any controversy, by not showing up to the P&Z meeting. Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton has a vote on the P&Z Commission but rarely shows up when there is controversy especially when George Stock, a campaign contributor to the mayor, is a spokesman for the applicant.

One resident in the room before the meeting began said he heard the mayor had to recuse himself since someone at this law firm, where he is a partner, once represented BJC. However, in the past Dalton never excused himself from legislation dealing with Missouri Baptist Medical Center, a BJC facility.

He never thinks he has a conflict of interest in negotiating and signing contracts with the city's biggest contractor, the West County EMS and Fire Protection District, despite the fact that he was their paid lobbyist in 2005.

He also pulled this stunt in the recent rezoning of the property to be purchased by Maryville University.

He saw no conflict of interest in creating LLCs to buy property for a nightclub district as a personal investment and then in 2007 have his law firm represent the City of St. Louis Land Clearance Authority in eminent domain litigation against holdouts.

**ANOTHER \$10,000 TO RUN AGAINST NO ONE:** I was waiting until the next quarterly campaign contribution reports were available on January 15, 2014 to continue to show how State Rep. John Diehl doesn't represent people from his district, but instead special interests from all over the country. We last reported on October 31 how Diehl had collected \$1,324,896 in money since 2008 to run against no one. We have also shown where Diehl is paying tens of thousands of dollars for political consultants and is taking fellow legislators out to \$300 and \$400 dinners.



Now we can add another \$10,000 to the pile of cash from another source outside of the district. While candidates and elected officials only have to report cash contributions quarterly, they have to report contributions in excess of \$5,000 immediately.

On 11/18/13 August Busch, III of Weldon Spring (St. Charles County...gives an office address in St. Peters) handed over \$10,000 to Diehl, who still has no known primary or general election opponent on the horizon in November of 2014.



August Busch, III who sold the Cardinals baseball team and who fathered August Busch IV, a person associated with dead women every couple of decades, and then put the kid in charge of the brewery which helped accelerate the buyout of the local business by the boys from Brazil/Belgium.

**MILLION DOLLAR DIEHL GETS \$550 IN WORLD SERIES TICKETS:** I'm almost embarrassed to have mentioned how State Rep. Sue Allen got \$163 in MU football tickets and food. The only reason it was worth mentioning was because the free

handout was from Ameren UE. Who funds Ameren UE...why you and I do when we pay our electric bills.

But in the most recent lobbyist reports just out, it turns out that Million Dollar John Diehl got two sets of \$275 World Series tickets from super lobbyist John Bardgett, totaling \$550. Diehl also got \$174 in playoff tickets from Bardgett. Bardgett claims the gifts were a lobbying effort for his firm and not a client. If you believe that one...I have some valuable stock in a company called Enron to sell you.

Among some on Bardgett's client list are Phillip Morris, Bank America, Pinnacle Entertainment (Casinos), healthcare providers and the St. Louis Cardinals.



**DEER ACCIDENTS SLOW IN NOVEMBER:** The deer-car accident rate continued to climb in November as it does every year, but actually fell behind the rate in November of 2012.

There were 14 deer-vehicle accidents in November bringing the year's total to 79. However there were 24 in November of 2012, which had 89 accidents by the end of November 2012.

In October most of the 15 accidents were on divided highways, I-64, I-270 and Hwy 141. In November most of the 14 crashes were on secondary roads and in one case inside a subdivision.

Here is where the deer-car accidents were by aldermanic ward for November.

- Ward 1 2 East side
- Ward 2 3 South Central
- Ward 3 4 Southwest
- Ward 4 5 Northwest

**PREMATURE GARY:** City Administrator Gary Hoelzer, who was in charge of deer management for several years as the assistant police chief, made a rather premature remark during the work session prior to Monday's BOA meeting. Hoelzer said Deer-Vehicle accidents were down 11-percent showing that the lethal deer management program with the White Buffalo Company was successful. Mayor Dalton jumped on this and agreed with Hoelzer.

Now just a minute! By the end of October there had been no change in the number of deer-vehicle accidents. The number was 65 for YTD 2012 and YTD 2013. In November there were 10 fewer accidents in 2013 than in 2012. However, in 2012 there were an unusually low number of deer-vehicle accidents in December, it was only eight. In 2011 there were nine. In both years, sharpshooters were actively killing deer in December meaning there were fewer to be hit by cars. This year the sharpshooters are not starting until 2014.

As a long time police administrator Hoelzer should know that one month of stats does not make a trend. A trend is something you see after a year or more.

**DOUBLE TALK:** Ironically two days after Hoelzer talked about the 11% reduction in deer-car crashes, he was quoted in the West Magazine as saying how disappointed he was that the car-deer accident rate has not gone down in 2013. It is clear that the interview with the reporter was before the November crash stats were in and Hoelzer was operating on stats from just the first 10 months of the year.

**BOW HUNTER TRADE BARBS WITH BOARD OF ALDERMEN:** Lou Salamone spoke at the beginning of the meeting. Salamone has been trying to get his group of bow hunters to be able to hunt in Town and Country for at least five years.

Salamone urged the Board of Aldermen not to renew a contract with White Buffalo and allow bow hunters into the city. He pointed out that in 2012 White Buffalo killed 60% bucks and only 40% does and it was the does that needed to be killed. He said the information was in White Buffalo's report.



Alderswoman Lynn Wright then began to argue with him saying his facts were wrong. I read White Buffalo's 2012 report after the meeting and it seemed that Salamone was correct.

However in 2011 they killed 54% does to 46% bucks.

Public Safety wise, who cares about the sex of the deer? I understand that if does are killed it means no more sets of twin fawns for the next five to 10 years. But a male deer coming through my windshield is possibly worse news than a doe. The buck is heavier and has sharp antlers.

Salamone left the meeting in a huff. Later when the Board voted unanimously for the \$40,000 contract to hire White Buffalo in January of 2014, Lynn Wright correctly pointed out how the aldermanic chambers in past years were packed with loud opponents to lethal deer management. On Monday the only citizens at the meeting were me, a trustee from a Mason Valley subdivision and Al Gerber (one of those loud deer lovers from back in 2008 and 2009).

Alderman Chuck Lenz pointed out while he favored bow hunters when there was no city sponsored lethal deer management, currently he finds the work of White Buffalo far superior and more efficient to amateur bow hunters. "We are the envy of other cities with deer problems and not the black sheep," said Lenz.

**A BIG DEAL FOR TOWN AND COUNTRY...ACCORDING TO THE MAYOR:** During the "Communications and Reports" section of the meeting Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist/Snatcher of Widow's Business and Property Jon Dalton said he wanted to announce a BIG DEAL for Town and Country.

I immediately thought maybe research at Missouri Baptist Hospital had found a cure for Juvenile Diabetes or maybe the police department arrested Fidel Urbina who has been on the FBI 10 Most wanted List for a dozen years.



Mayor Dalton announcing a BIG DEAL.

But no, Dalton was referring to the fact that a restaurant chain had decided to put a restaurant in Town and Country. Cooper's Hawk is set to open on December 12 at the Town and Country Crossing. Dalton made a big deal that a Chicago chain had picked Town and Country for one of its 14 restaurants. Of course the chain had to pick somewhere that was rich and pretentious enough to sell \$50 bottles of wine with dinners and the edge of Town and Country and Chesterfield is a perfect place.

Come on, there is a McDonald's in Town and Country that is getting rebuilt this spring. McDonald's is a much bigger corporation than the Cooper's Hawk. McDonald's has over 34,000 restaurants in 118 countries. Cooper's Hawk has 14 outlets in six states. I think "big deal" nod goes to the Golden Arches.



**BIG MONEY TO MAKE THE BIG DECISIONS:** Normally there is always either a police sergeant or corporal on duty as a supervisor. But if one of them is on a day off and the other is on vacation, sick or in training there is a “acting supervisor” elevated from the ranks of patrol officers.

The Board of Aldermen voted a pay compensation bill on Monday night. In the bill the patrol officer who is moved into a position of a sergeant for one night and has to make the hard decisions will be compensated a whole 75-cents an hour in additional pay. That is a whole \$9 for a 12-hour shift. I’m not sure if 75-cents is worth it. You make the wrong decision and you can ruin your career, but you are getting all that big money.

**SECRET MEETING...IS THE LAWSUIT ABOUT TO BE SETTLED?** After a very fast 20-minute regular meeting (Aldermanic windbag Fred Meyland-Smith was missing) the board went into a secret closed meeting that lasted for 90 minutes. Later that night I checked pending lawsuits against the city and found that the lawsuit filed by former police officer Shannon Woolsey is no longer on a trial schedule. Instead there is a Dismissal Hearing set for February 5, 2014.



Former Officer Shannon Woolsey



Former Sgt. Chip Unterberg

Woolsey alleges she resigned as a police officer after 10 years on the job due to constant sexual harassment. Since 2002 she reported that she was regularly sexually harassed and asked for oral sex by her supervisor or other officers, that her request to be transferred to a shift with an opening away from supervisors who were hostile was denied. One of her complaints resulted in a supervisor being suspended for one day. (Reduced from a three day recommended suspension.)

Her supervisor, Sgt. Chip Unterberg, resigned shortly after Woolsey filed the suit to fulfill a lifelong dream of selling cars in North County.

Woolsey was originally asking for a modest amount of \$25,000 plus her job back. For those readers who don't remember our earlier newsletters about this, here is a link to Woolsey's lawsuit:

[http://johnhoffmann.net/woolsey\\_lawsuit\\_may\\_2013.pdf](http://johnhoffmann.net/woolsey_lawsuit_may_2013.pdf)

I also thought the city would fight giving her the job back, despite her past good evaluations and awards.

The city insurance carrier has handled the defense of the lawsuit. Woolsey's attorney is a well known very successful discrimination attorney Jerome Dobson.

Woolsey appears to have a winner. I'm guessing the ultimate payoff will remain confidential, which I have always found to be outrageous since it deals with a government agency, but the majority of the funds will be coming from the insurance company. I hope the new police chief puts something in place so this isn't repeated.

**SECRET ESTATE SALES AT MURDER HOUSE:** Last weekend there was an estate sale by invitation only at the home of **Mary Mullenix** at 14 Country Life Acres. Mullenix is out on bail for stabbing her husband, Ivan, to death on July 18. The estate sale held by Maggie Sowash, a well known sale operator was by special email invitation. It was not advertised and there were no signs on Clayton Road at Country Life Acres directing motorists to the sale. There was one sign at driveway to the house. We heard there maybe one more sale by invitation only and then one open to the public in the spring.



## **TWO SOLAR CASES:**

### **APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS SOLAR PANEL CASE AGAINST**

**CLARKSON VALLEY:** Here is the ruling of the Cole County Court in favor of James and Frances Babb against the City of Clarkson Valley. The Babbs wanted to install solar panels on their house and Clarkson Valley suddenly began passing ordinances that would not allow them to do so. They sued and won. (see below) Then Clarkson Valley appealed.

#### **06/29/2012 Exhibit Filed**

Joint Exhibit 1, admitted. tg

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#### **Judgment Entered**

Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Judgment and Order. The Court hereby enters Judgment in favor of Petitioners on Counts I and III. Respondent-City of Clarkson Valley is ordered to issue to Petitioners-James Babb and Frances Babb a building permit and special use permit in accordance with their application for same. Further, based on the equitable considerations, in the event Respondent-City of Clarkson Valley fails to issue said permits within one (1) business day of the entry of this Judgment and Order, Petitioners-James and Frances Babb are authorized to construct the solar energy system at their own property in accordance with all applicable regulatory requirements as if such permits were issued. DRG/tg

Since Cole County is under the Missouri Western Appeals Court, the case was heard in Kansas City. Here is the ruling of the appeals court on Tuesday November 26.

#### **11/26/2013 Opinion- Affirmed**

**Associated Entries: 11/26/2013 - Signed Majority Opinion**

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#### **Signed Majority Opinion**

**Associated Entries: 11/26/2013 - Opinion- Affirmed**

**How much did it cost the City of Clarkson Valley:** Answer: \$117,702.

Now it is easy to understand why Clarkson Valley has been looking to Wildwood or Chesterfield to considering merging with them.

I heard from Mrs. Babb that Clarkson Valley may not have given up the fight and might take this case to the Missouri Supreme Court.



Here's a photo of the Babb's house taken on Thanksgiving Day from the street. Can you spot the solar panels? The controversy cost \$117,702.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY SOLAR CASES PROMISES DID NOT COME TRUE:** Frances Babb of Clarkson Valley has made fun of Dr. Dorothy Cooke being not only being a NIMBY but also being anti-green. I thought that was somewhat unfair.

Dr. Joe Gira built an 8,000 square foot house, plus four car garage at the end of Claymark Drive that backs up to the Devin Drive which is in a subdivision off of the South Forty Outer Road.

Gira wanted to install a 900-plus square foot solar array on the ground in his backyard. Normally I take the position that property owners should be able to do what they want on their property. However, Gira wanted to put the solar panels out of his view but right on the property line and in view with his neighbors on Devin Drive.

The neighbors complained and tried to force Gira to put the panels closer to his house. This was never a battle against solar panels. It was a battle about the location of the solar panels. It was never a battle of Greenies and Non-Greenies. If Gira wanted to be a good Greenie he would never have built an 8,000 square foot house for himself, wife and daughter with a four car garage. A good Greenie could have gotten by with 3,000 square feet (even in the event of more kids).

In 2011 Gira promised to have landscaping that would hide the panels from his neighbors' view. The Board of Aldermen gave him permission to install the panels against his neighbors property line and assured the neighbors they would not be able to see the panels as they would be screened. .

Here is a photo taken on Thanksgiving Day from Dr. Cooke's property.



I'd say it will be a five years or longer before those evergreens block the view of those panels.

Gira was quoted in an article in the Post-Dispatch that he and his wife were "sort of being punished for being pioneers." That was completely untrue. All he had to do was place the solar panels up by his house or on the roof and there never would have been an issue.

**CANCELLED...ARE THESE REALLY NECESSARY:** Here is the list of commissions that have recently cancelled their meetings...making me question if all of them really have a purpose in the first place. Public Art and Conservation commissions could easily be put under the Parks Commission. The Police Commission and Public Works Commission simply rubber stamp proposals from department heads and have no power.

**November:**

Conservation  
Parks and Trials  
Public Works and Storm Water  
Green Team

**December:**

Conservation  
Public Art  
Community Relations  
Police Commission (they only meet 4 times a year)  
Board of Aldermen (second meeting)

**MEDIA WATCH:** I quit reading Bryan Burwell, sports columnist of the Post-Dispatch after he shaved 10 years off the age of Red Schoendienst in column, making him 75 when he was actually 85. Burwell would have had Red playing in the 1946 World Series when he was 13 instead of 23-years-old.

I think Post-dispatch TV reviewer and reporter Gail Pennington may have fallen into a similar category as Burwell. Here is part of what she wrote about the Carrie Underwood live version of the Sound of Music:

“A Sound of Music” without Julie Andrews as Maria? Never! But that’s just what fans of Mary Martin, who created the role on Broadway said when Andrews was cast in the 1970 movie.”



Pennington apparently is getting the Sound of Music (best 1965 film) confused with Patton (best film of 1970).

First of all the Sound of Music is a 1965 movie. Released in March of 1965, meaning it was filmed in 1964. It was nominated for ten Academy Awards and won as Best Picture at the awards ceremony in 1966. Andrews was nominated for Best Actress.

In 1964 Mary Martin was 51-years-old, an age making it difficult to play a 20-something novice nun, even though she had done it on Broadway without anyone thinking of a Nurse Nellie Forbush in a two piece swim suit singing how she was going to wash that man out of her hair or as Peter Pan as far as that goes. .

However Martin was known for her Broadway role of Maria that she played at a very old age of 46, going with the role for two years from 1959 to 1961. Two years of Broadway audiences does not equal the third biggest box office grossing film (adjusted for inflation) of all time that is connected to the role with Andrews.

Also the movie was known in Hollywood to complete “Julie Andrews’ Revenge.” Andrews who created the starring role of Miss Doolittle on Broadway for My Fair Lady only to lose the movie role to Audrey Hepburn who could not sing. She instead was cast in Marry Poppins and won the Academy Award for Best Actress. The following year she was nominated for best actress (only to lose to Julie Christie), but the Sound of Music won as best picture.

Apparently all of this escaped the attention of Gail Pennington. Of the movies that were released in 1970, the biggest winners were two war movies, Patton and M\*A\*S\*H.

The fact the Pennington didn’t have time to research her little one paragraph blurbs is bad enough. The fact that an entertainment critic at the Post-Dispatch has such a poor history of films (especially this one that is aired as a TV special once a year) is sad and the fact that an editor allowed this to escape tells you how sad the accuracy is of things in newspapers.

**THE THANKSGIVING MIRACLE or THE BEST THANKSGIVING IN A NUMBER OF YEARS:** When I was the assistant police chief in Chevy Chase, Maryland it was a blessing when the holidays would roll around.

The police chief would always have taken Thanksgiving week off and two weeks at the end of the year, leaving me in charge. This meant I could not return to Missouri for dinners with either my family or my wife’s. I never complained. Instead we would usually having a nice dinner at home for Thanksgiving and on Christmas Day we would go to the Watergate Hotel and eat at the Jean Louis restaurant, walk around the Mall and then end the day at the Round Robin Bar at the Willard Hotel where every year the staff would bring in Christmas cookies made at home. It was stress free and relative free.



The former Watergate Hotel on the right.



The late Jean Louis Palladin on the left.



The Round Robin Bar at the Willard Hotel. The Willard lobby at Christmas time. The ceiling has the seal of every state.

Both of my parents were dead and my two sisters lived way out of town when we moved back to Missouri in 2006. However, my wife has five sisters, whom I refer to all six as the six sisters of the apocalypse, meaning I give them full respect to avoid any sudden disaster. Four of the six sisters live in Missouri.

In recent years my wife has invited the sisters for Thanksgiving dinner. It is always a big production. One year we had four of the sisters' dogs join my two for a total of six dogs for Thanksgiving dinner. The one thing that is a constant hosting a large group for Thanksgiving is that as the hosts when we sat down to eat our food was COLD.

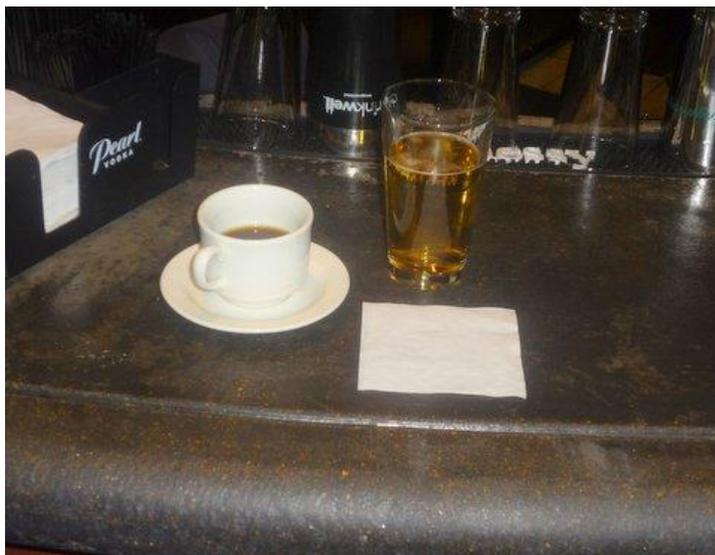
My wife again invited everyone this year. For a change I stepped in. I made a reservation for eight at the Cheshire Inn. I figured, that while the turkey and potatoes were not all that expensive by the time you left Dierbergs or Schnucks you had spent \$150-to-\$175, counting wine bottles, deserts and other stuff. I was willing to pay 40% more to avoid the occupation of our kitchen and cold food for dinner.

On Thanksgiving Day two didn't show, leaving us with six. However, with the two's absence a bottle of wine was ordered and so were cocktails. The meals themselves only added up to \$176. The wine and cocktails were another \$76. (The most popular cocktail was called "The Dysfunctional Family" which was an Old Fashion with cranberry bitters.) Plus the tip, we were over \$300.

However it was the best Thanksgiving dinner in memory. The Cheshire staff was amazingly friendly and the food was great. There was plenty on the plate. No one wanted more and everyone was full. Plus there was no bickering in the kitchen or the dining room. This was maybe the most important part of the afternoon dinner. The food was hot. 15 minutes after the food arrived I put a fork into the mash potatoes and they were still warm. I congratulated the chef on what I considered a Thanksgiving Day miracle.



**ODD COMBINATION:** I have seen coffee coming after the beer, but last week might have been the first time I have seen coffee and beer at the same time.



**MUSIC:**

**IL BEL LAGO November 29:** It was the Anita Rosamond show in the bar of the Creve Coeur Italian restaurant at 11631 Olive Blvd.



Anita with some backup at Il Bel Lago.



Anita's regular male vocalist, Jerry Moser gets a smile from the diva.

**UPCOMING ANITA:**

Anita will be doing New Year's Eve back at Il Bel Lago from 8 o'clock-to-late.

**SASHA'S: Wednesday December 4:** Colleen Farquhar, the "Sax Kitten," stopped by. She left on Monday for Rome and six months on the Holland America Lines' cruise ship the Rotterdam. Also showing up were Zack Hall (Route 66 Jazz Orchestra) and the Rev. Scott Stanifer (Fantasy).



Colleen joins Lupy and Arlen.



Scott Stanifer joins the group.



Zack Hall and Jim Manley for the close.

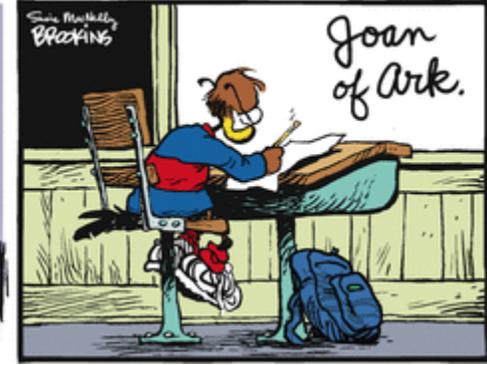
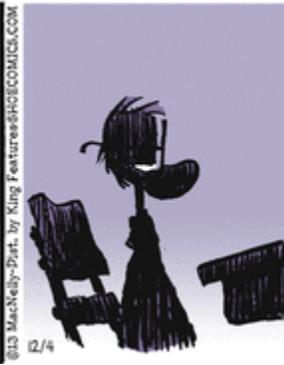
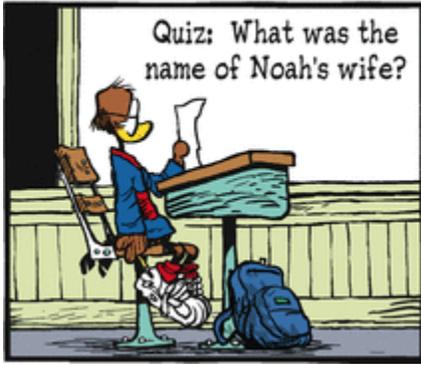
**All this seemed like Deja-Vu all over again:** It seemed as if I had experienced Colleen showing up at Sasha's in December before going off for six months on a cruise ship. I then found the photo from December 2012, a couple of days before she left to join a HAL cruise ship in Fort Lauderdale.

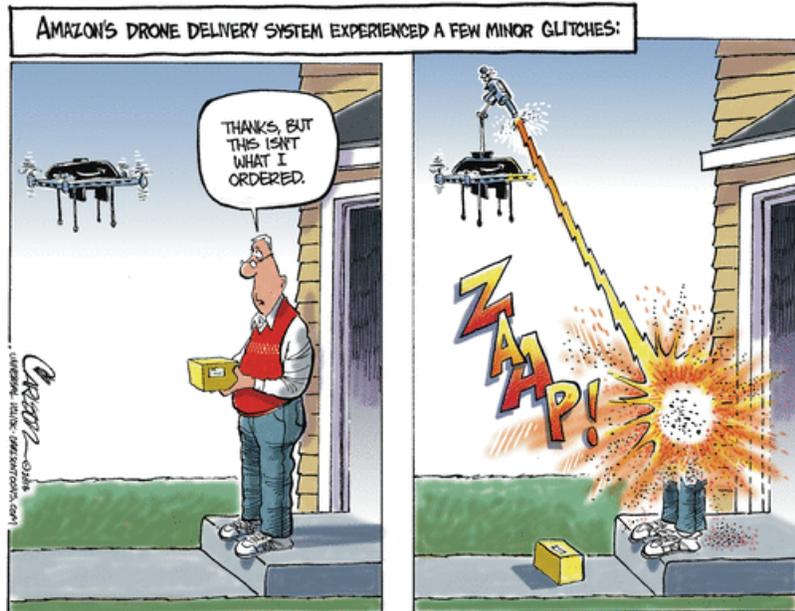
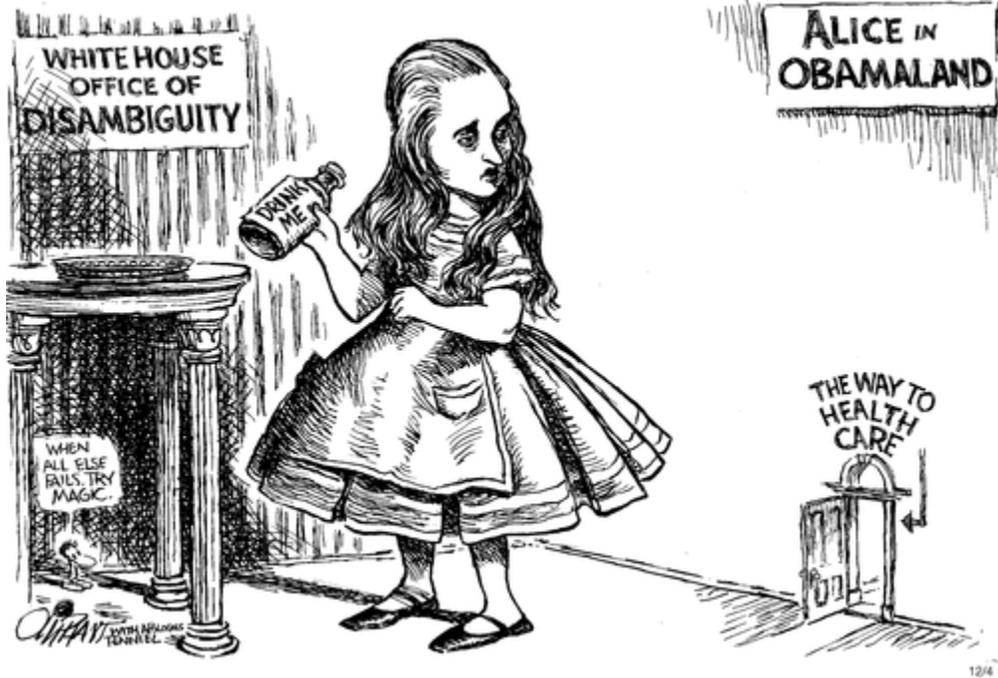


Colleen's 2012 exit performance, jamming at Sasha's.

**CARTOONS:**



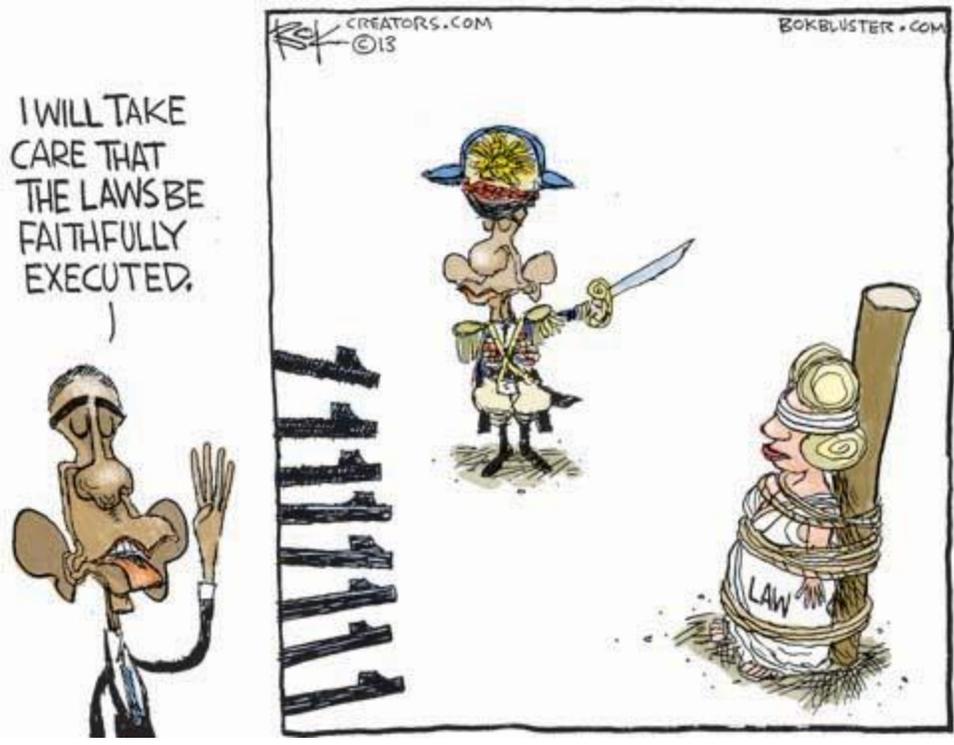
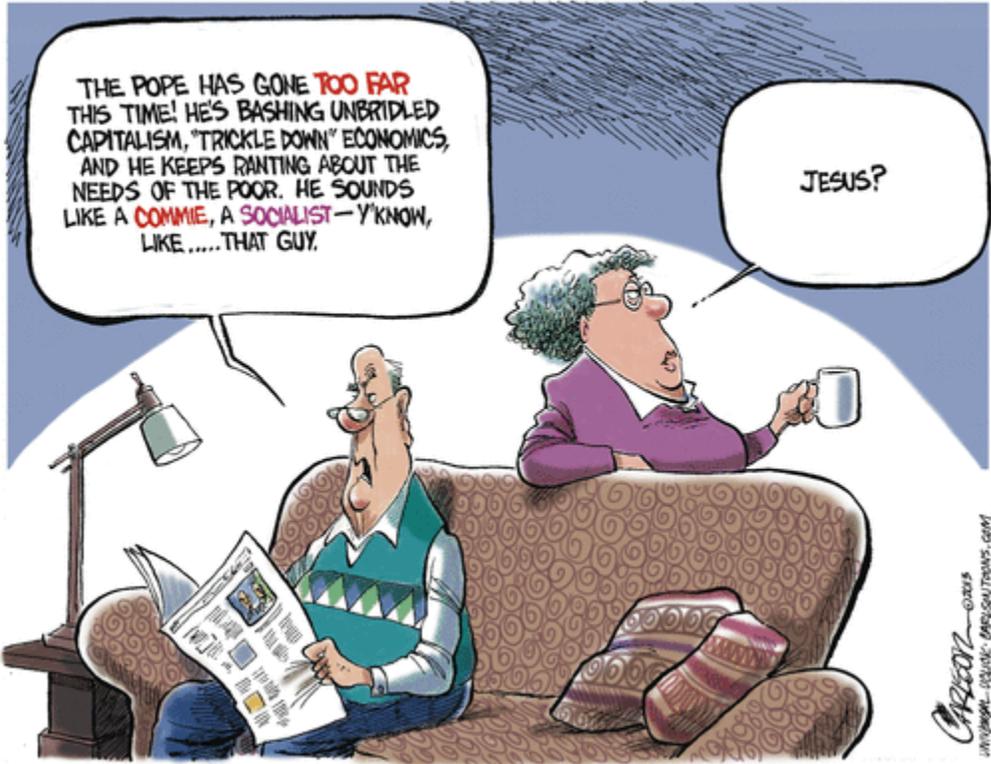




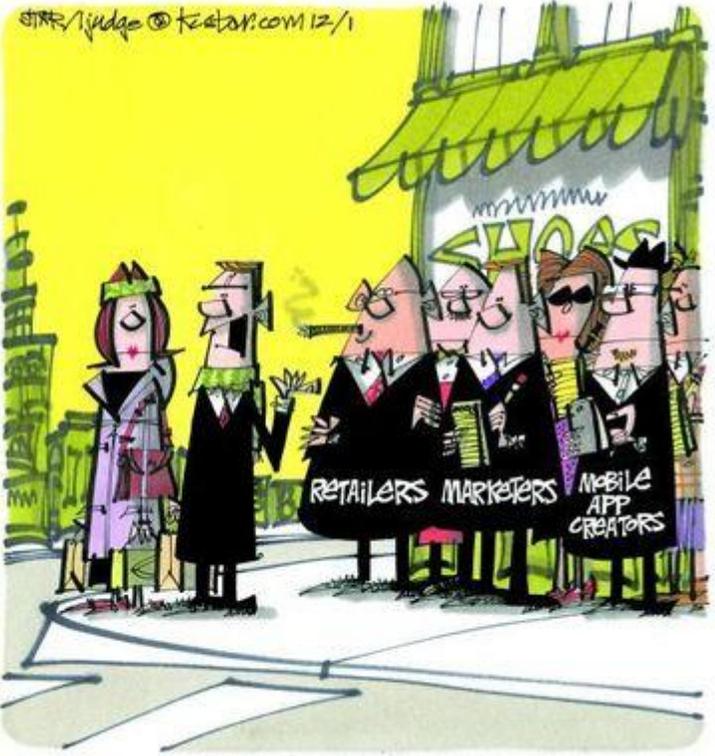




**"Game's nearly sold out. The only seats left are directly in front of drunken boobs who will torment you for the entire game."**



Judge @ 2012 KINGSLEY  
I DON'T WANT THE NSA TRACKING MY MOVEMENTS AND COLLECTING INFORMATION ON ME...



"THAT'S THEIR JOB."



"BECAUSE THE OLD SYSTEM WAS A MESS."