

# 2012: in the noose

**T**he latest fad among middle-aged men in the Middle East is a “moustache transplant.” Hair from the head is moved onto the lip to create an impression of super masculinity so important in their culture. Sounds like a terrorist plot. Don’t give me any of your lip.

A gated community in Colorado has begun issuing speeding tickets for anyone caught going over 30 mph by the newly installed radar system.

Furthermore, residents will have to pay a fine if any of their visitors exceed the limit – unless, of course, it’s your big brother.

“What if,” NRA stooge Wayne LaPierre said, about Adam Lanza, “he’d been confronted by qualified, armed security? Will you at least admit it’s possible that 26 little kids, that 26 innocent lives might have

■ *CONTINUED*



been spared that day?" Gee I thought the toll was 20 children and six adults. He must know better because he's a "good guy."

And according to *The Week*, American households earning less than \$13,000 a year, pay at least nine percent for lottery tickets. And millions of Americans still believe that the earth is 5,000 years old. We're getting dumber. Darwin was wrong. The culling stopped long ago. He should have called his masterpiece *The Origin of the Specious*.

And incidences of Type Two diabetes are increasing rapidly in China as more citizens adapt to a Western-style diet. China has 90 million diabetics as opposed to 20 million here. And since we're "doing numbers," we should note that 50 percent of Americans now favor legalization of pot and by 2020, supporters of gay marriage will have majorities in almost every state. I see the future gayly – through a haze of weed...

But wait! There's more! **Pope Benedict XVI** asserted in his Christmas address to the Vatican VIPs that "The manipulation of nature, which we deplore today when our environment is concerned, now becomes man's fundamental choice when he himself is concerned." He's referring to same-sex marriage. Must have lost something in the translation from Nazi to Italian to English...

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

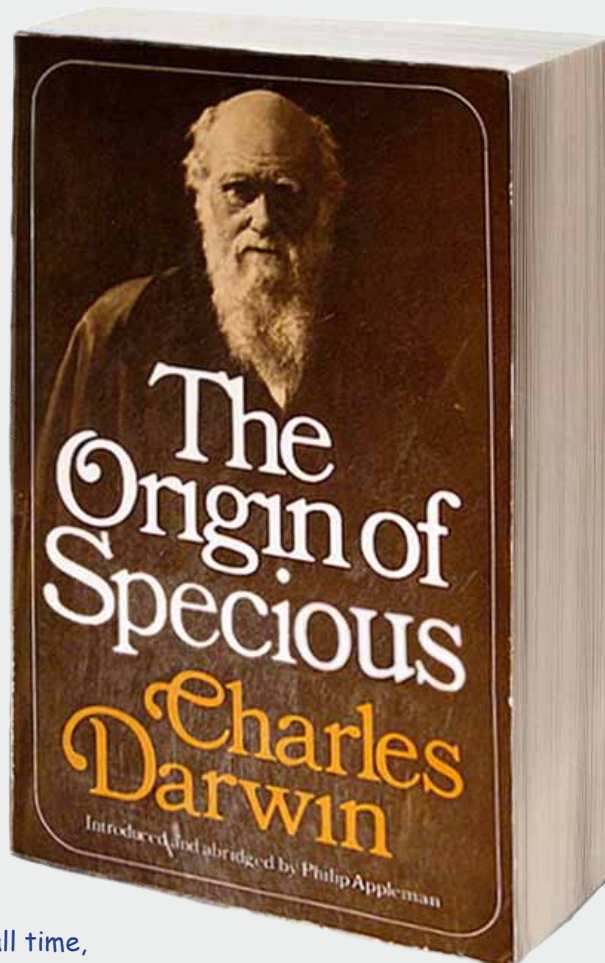
## I KID YOU NOT

A recent article in *The Toronto Star* furthers the *Planet's* ongoing fascination with the early origins of Conservative and Liberal mindsets. A long-term study of 700 U.S. voters seems to indicate that "regardless of race, economic

status, intelligence or gender," children raised by strict, authoritarian parents become Conservatives while those in families that believe "children should be allowed to disagree with their parents" more consistently turn out Liberal.

The research further revealed that kids who seemed "fearful and cautious" as 4-year-olds leaned towards Republicanism, while "active and restless" tots grew to embrace a Democratic Party ideology. We are who feeds us, I guess, not just what we eat...

"Freedom is nothing but a chance to be better."  
~ **Albert Camus**



## GROUCHO AND HENRY, BOB AND ME

My first major film director in *A Safe Place*, longtime friend, and prolific auteur **Henry Jaglom**, says that at a party at **Jack Nicholson's** house, his friend **Candice Bergen** said, "I want to introduce you to **Groucho Marx**." So she took him over and said, "Groucho, this is Henry Jaglom." And Marx answered in these exact words: "Jaglom? Jaglom? That's not a person, that's an animal," and walked away.

And do you know why the former "Julius" Marx is called Groucho? In a 1959 interview on BBC TV's "Showtime," his brother **Chico** explained that in the early '20s, when pot was legal and they were a popular vaudeville act, "We used to wear a little bag around our neck, called a Grouch bag. In this bag

we would keep our pennies, some marbles, a couple of pieces of candy, a little marijuana, whatever we could get." So that's how Groucho got his name. And Chico? He was so named because he chased chicks. **READ STORY**

Also, when I worked with the legendary **Bob Cummings**, he told me **SOME GREAT STORIES** that he then told to **Dick Bertel** on his *Golden Age Of Radio* show in Hartford, CT in 1974. That's my Bob!

"Time spent laughing is time spent with the gods."  
~ **Japanese proverb**

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

■ **CONTINUED**



"In America, anyone can become President.  
It's one of the risks we take." ~ **Adlai Stevenson**

## DON'T ASK

In a dark and hazy room, peering into a crystal ball, the mystic delivered the grave news: "There's no easy way to tell you this, so I'll just be blunt. Prepare yourself to be a widow. Your husband will die a violent and horrible death this year."

Visibly shaken with fear, Laura stared at the woman's lined face, then at the single flickering candle, then down at her hands. She took a few deep breaths to compose herself and to stop her mind racing. She simply had to know.

She met the Fortune Teller's gaze, steadied her voice, and asked, "Will I be acquitted?"

"A man is not finished when he is defeated.  
He is finished when he quits." ~ **Richard Nixon**

## FIRESIGN IN THE NEWS

On MSNBC's "Chris Matthews Show," hip columnist **Eugene Robinson** **CHARACTERIZED** the politically devastating 47 percent off-the-cuff remark by **Mitt Romney** as being so absurd that it must have come from the **Marx Brothers** – or **The Firesign Theatre**.

And *SF Chronicle's* **Jon Carroll** wrote in an enlightening **ARTICLE** about the advantages of aging: "I've become more patient as I've gotten older.

"I know some people get crankier, and I could certainly rant if I wanted to, but what the hell? We're all bozos on this bus. We're all just trying to muddle through. We make mistakes. It is easy to be impatient when other people make mistakes but really, aren't you just another mistake ready to happen?"

And finally, a real Bozos on this Bus **STORY** from Canadian Planeteer **Gary Pig Gold**.

"[An ideology] that is patently in error cannot change the universe to conform to itself, however popular it may be and however irritatingly it may survive refutation. Its falseness condemns it in the end, to nothingness." ~ **Isaac Asimov**

## EARLY RETARDMENT

After Christmas, a teacher asked her pupils how they spent their holidays. One child supposedly wrote:

"We always used to spend the Christmas holidays with Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live in a big brick house but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Bateman's Bay where everyone lives in nice little houses and they don't have to mow the grass! They ride around on their bicycles and scooters and wear name tags because they don't know who they are anymore.

"They go to a building called a wreck centre, but they must have got it fixed because it is all okay now. They do exercises there, but they don't do them very well. There is a swimming pool too, but they all jump up and down in it with hats on.

"At their gate, there is a dollhouse with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes they sneak out, and go cruising in their golf carts. Nobody there cooks, they just eat out; and they eat the same thing every night --- early birds. Some of the people can't get out past the man in the dollhouse. Those who do get out bring food back to the wrecked center for potluck.



**REVOLTING**  
Residents stage  
a "black glove"  
protest of gruel  
and unusual  
living conditions.

"My Grandma says that Grandpa worked all his life to earn his retardment and says I should work hard so I can be retarded someday, too. When I earn my retardment, I want to be the man in the dollhouse. Then I will let people out so they can visit their grandchildren."

"Do not regret growing older.  
It is a privilege denied to many."  
~ **Phil's Phunny Phacts**

## PASS IT ON

Oh, my Gosh. The longer I wait between orbits, the more obits I read about friends and colleagues. First, the most personal - my Scroll and Key Yale mate and longtime pal, **Paul Gorman**, recently lost his dear wife **Enid** to breast cancer. Then I heard from **Michael Hruska**, that my former literary agent and funny friend **CAREN BOHRMAN**, whom I first met through her witty broadcaster dad, **Stan**, had left us.

And then, I 'd met **Mary Martin's** son, **Larry Hagman** with **Peter Fonda** and **Brandon DeWilde** at the Malibu Colony when I first arrived on these shores back in the mid-'60s. He was in his monk's robe, walking on the beach with a notebook and pen to rest his voice and calm his spirit. We had both appeared on the soap "The Edge of Night" in New York. He was a mischievous man and didn't always behave at his best, but the strangest thing I read about him was revealed in the *NY Times*.

Hagman, visited Bucharest in the '80s when celebrated as the nasty "Dallas" oil tycoon **J.W. Ewing**: and Romanian dictator **Nicolae Ceausescu**, later executed in the 1989 Christmas uprising, wanted a portrait of the actor to be displayed to bolster his regime as he believed it portrayed Capitalism negatively.

Larry agreed only if a bag of hard cash was delivered to a government office ladies' room for his wife to pick up.

"I think we were directly or indirectly responsible for the fall. They would see the wealthy Ewings and say, 'Hey, we don't have all this stuff.'" And I totally and totalitarianly agree. The TV satellites led to the fall of the Soviet satellites.

"I think death is just another stage of our development," he said. "I honestly believe that we don't just disappear. We don't go into a void. I think we're part of a big energy curtain, an energy wave, in which we are like molecules." Waiting for reruns, Larry?

"The principle is that the poor, who must subsist on table scraps dropped by the rich, can best be served by giving the rich bigger meals." ~ **William Blum**



**HAGMAN HAWKS**  
Bringing down the  
Soviet Satellites,  
and engine wear, in  
Ceausescu's Romania.

## THE END OF THE WORLD

The end of the world came to the **Sandy Hook Elementary School** with the slaughter of the innocents. Their sacrifice and that of their heroic protectors cannot go unanswered – it is a clarion call to come to our collective senses as a Nation.

Along with other changes regarding registration and mental health, sensible and restrictive gun laws must be passed as a vital step to guarantee that the rights now broadly interpreted in the Second Amendment be properly administered.

As a survivor with **Peter Bergman** and **Dr. Bill Alexander** of the "SF Golden Dragon Massacre," I hereby declare that if we fail to renew the ban on

assault weapons and do not limit ammunition clips to ten, we deserve to be cursed for our ideological stupidity and political cowardice, regardless of party affiliation.

And **Republican Joe AGREES!**

"Diplomacy is the art of telling plain truths without giving offense." ~ **Winston Churchill**

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## GIFTS

FREEZE

HOHOHO

DRIFTS

LOSS

ALOHA PETE

D IN A B

DIGITAL XMAS

GROSS

HAPPY HANUKAH,  
BITCHES

ALL HAIL CLIMATE  
CHANGE

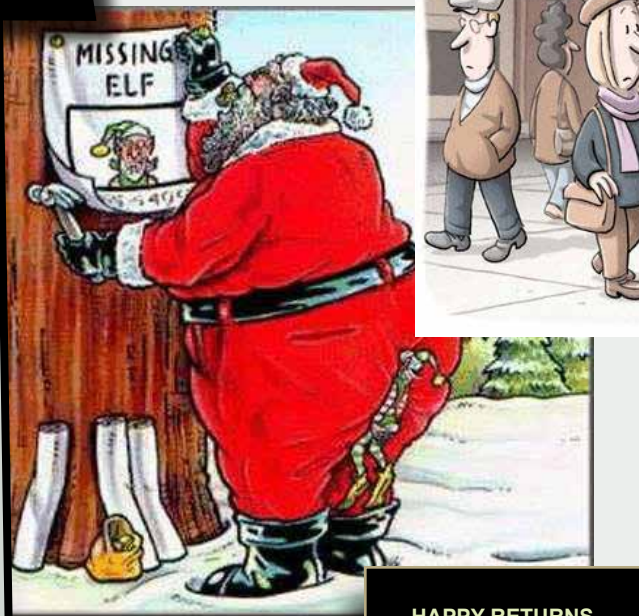
RAY RULES

A BIRDON

12 DAZE

GOD

BALLS



How To Tell You've  
Been Really Bad.



**HAPPY RETURNS**  
Cartoonists offer a  
quick look back at the  
recent holidays. Happy  
New Year to All!

## GIFTERS

Bob Wayne, Eddie  
Deezen, Ivan Berger,  
Mary and Fred Willard,  
Bill Coombs, Alan Myerson, Joan Allemmand,  
Victor Kopcewich, Magic Mike Berger, Ron  
Jacobs, Michael Sheehan, Michael C. Gwynne, Jim  
Reynolds, Alan Myerson, Kurt Ericson Kenneth  
Wilhite, Jr., Pat Willson, Steven Paul Leiva, Jayne

Lynn Stahl, John Strachan, Jim  
Reynolds, Richard Laible, Jim  
Meskimen, Paul Schindler – and the  
Antaeus Company, dedicating to finding  
a NEW HOME! Learn more [HERE](#)

And thanks to **The National Academy  
of Recording Artists** for granting me a  
**Lifetime Membership** after 35 years - a  
nice way to begin the new year, which  
we'll be welcoming in with **Phil** and  
**Oona Austin** on Fox Island.

"Did you know that a large group of  
baboons is called a *Congress*?"  
~ Aaron Karo at [Ruminations.com](http://Ruminations.com)

**CELEBRATE EARTH**  
**BBY BRAIN**  
**FLY FLIP**  
**KITING**  
**SANTA**  
**LANDPHIL**  
**BLACK MARBLE**  
**WALL STREET**  
**MONKEY MONKEY**  
**DROPKICK XMAS**  
**XMAS CANCAN**  
**XXXMAS**  
**TAKE ME OUT**  
**IN THE BUNKER**  
**PETS**



**SANTA PREFERS THE COOKIES FROM  
COLORADO & WASHINGTON STATE**

"Art is a collaboration between God and the artist, and the less the artist does the better." ~ André Gide

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

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