

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

2014 IN REVIEW

A HIGHLY SUBJECTIVE AND ASSUREDLY INCOMPLETE LOOK BACK AT THE YEAR THAT WAS PART THE FIRST

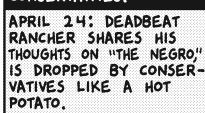
JAN. 24: BILLIONAIRE INVESTOR COMPARES CRITICISM OF RICH TO THE HOLOCAUST. YOU KNOW WHO ELSE MADE SNARKY COMMENTS ABOUT PEOPLE?



FEB. 27: GUARDIAN REVEALS BRITISH GCHQ INTERCEPTED MILLIONS OF WEBCAM IMAGES.



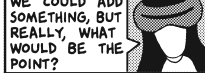
APRIL 3: DEADBEAT RANCHER BECOMES OVERNIGHT FOLK HERO TO CONSERVATIVES.



JAN. 2: DAVID BROOKS ACKNOWLEDGES SMOKING WEED IN HIS YOUTH; INSISTS IT SHOULD REMAIN ILLEGAL.



FEB. 20: FLORIDA JUDGE ORDERS GUNS RETURNED TO BLIND MAN ACQUITTED OF KILLING FRIEND UNDER "STAND YOUR GROUND" STATUTE.



MARCH: DISAPPEARANCE OF FLIGHT 370 LEADS TO VERY INFORMATIVE CABLE NEWS SPECULATION.



MAY 27: IN WAKE OF ELLIOT RODGER SHOOTING SPREE, FORGOTTEN RIGHT WING ICON JOE THE PLUMBER MAKES BID FOR MORE ATTENTION.



JAN. 9: MASSIVE CHEMICAL SPILL LEAVES 300,000 WEST VIRGINIANS WITHOUT WATER; AMERICANS SHRUG.



FEB. 25: LORD OF DARKNESS AND ALL THIS IS VILE DICK CHENEY SURFACES TO DECLARE--



MARCH 4: LINDSAY GRAHAM BLAMES RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE ON...BENGHAZI!



MAY 27: JOHN KERRY CALLS EDWARD SNOWDEN A "COWARD" AND "TRAITOR" WHO SHOULD "MAN UP-- COME BACK TO THE U.S!"



JAN. 23: OXFAM REPORT NOTES THAT 85 RICHEST PEOPLE OWN AS MUCH AS BOTTOM HALF OF THE PLANET COMBINED.



FEB. 26: RAND PAUL BLOCKS APPOINTMENT OF SURGEON GENERAL WHO SAYS GUN VIOLENCE IS A HEALTH ISSUE.



MARCH 19: BILL "WRONG ABOUT EVERYTHING" KRISTOL CHASTISE AMERICANS FOR THEIR INEXPLICABLE RELUCTANCE TO START MORE WARS.



JUNE 30: SUPREME COURT AFFIRMS THAT CORPORATIONS ARE RELIGIOUS PEOPLE.



Tom Tomorrow 2014...twitter.com/tomtomorrow

GIVING IS THE BEST GIFT

It's an oft-heard comment from parents and grandparents: "Our little kids have so much. What can we give them for Christmas?"

There's an easy answer: Make it something that reminds them of giving more than receiving. Send a donation to a group that tries to provide for needy children who often are overlooked, giving in the name of your child or grandchild. One way is through Heifer International. It gives life-sustaining holiday gifts ranging from chicks, bees, rabbits, sheep and even heifers to children whose families worldwide are in need, and sends your children notes of thank you. It can be done through toll-free phone number 855-848-6437.

As the gift helps the forgotten, it will help your children remember that the act of giving can be the most important gift they receive.

George H. Beres
Eugene

RESPONSIVE COMMISH

I would like to commend Lane County Commissioner Pete Sorenson for all of the support he has given me in my attempts to help the county reduce its medical costs and improve the employees' health. He has taken the time to listen whenever I've contacted him.

Reginald L. Jensen
Eugene

WHY WE GROW

The Dec. 18 *Slant* column asks, "Why do we encourage population growth?" It's an excellent and most relevant question.

Most of our problems, from local to global, are either directly caused or exacerbated by uncontrolled population growth.

In the U.S., the greatest contributor to population growth, by far, is immigration, both legal and illegal. Accordingly, the best answer to the foregoing question is, "Because Congress and our president support open borders, amnesty and minimizing corporate payroll costs while refusing to enforce our immigration laws."

Jerry Ritter
Springfield

THANK GOD FOR SANTA

Oh Christ, it's Christmas! Where does the time go? First pumpkins, then turkey, now ho-ho. Oh no. Gotta buy presents and send Christmas cards — how come this holiday is so freakin' hard? It sneaks up behind you, makes you feel so bad that you spend all the money that you've never had on trinkets and baubles, on candy and booze, always the wrong thing whatever you choose.

Then tempt all our children with lies 'bout a saint who's "magic" and "olly" when in fact he ain't nothing but a fat guy who works once a year, feeling up kiddies while he sits on his rear. Enthroned in our malls from Maine to Shanghai, not Christ at Christmas; no, this other guy. He's who we worship and ask to answer these prayers, and to do it damn fast. Christmas is coming! We all must get gifts! And make sure we get them by the 25th.

Oh Christ, it's Christmas! Oh Christ on a crutch! Thank god for Santa! Oh, thank you so much!

Dave Perham
Eugene

gay (gā) 1. there once was a time when all "gay" meant was "happy." then it meant "homosexual." now, people are saying "that's so gay" to mean dumb and stupid. which is pretty insulting to gay people (and we don't mean the "happy" people). 2. so please, knock it off. 3. go to ThinkB4YouSpeak.com

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