

THE PICAYUNE
(“It’s the truth even if it didn’t happen.”)
January 2011

"How about THIS? For the first time since June, President Obama's [Gallup] approval rating is back over 50 percent. How frustrating is that for him? For 23 months, the guy is busting his butt, trying to keep campaign promises, and his approval rating goes through the floor. Then he says, 'Screw it,' goes to Hawaii for 10 days, plays golf - he's popular again! What happened?" --Jay Leno

President Obama, during the State of the Union: "The Interior Department is in charge of salmon while they're in fresh water, but the Commerce Department handles them when they're in saltwater. And I hear it gets even more complicated once they're smoked."

Barbara Streisand was invited to the White House State Dinner [honoring the president of China] on Wednesday evening, 19 January. When she walked into the White House for the dinner, Ms. Streisand was asked what accounted for her invitation. Her reply was deadpan: "I worked in a Chinese restaurant." --The New York Times

"A new study shows that a woman's tears can chemically lower the level of testosterone in a man. When that happens, the man will also start to cry and then eventually be elected speaker of the House." —Jay Leno

"Outgoing Speaker Nancy Pelosi gave a speech and handed the gavel to John Boehner. Very emotional moment for Pelosi, but she managed to keep a stiff upper lip, a tightly stretched forehead, and unnaturally arched eyebrows." —Jay Leno

"How about the new Speaker of the House, John Boehner. Have you seen this guy's enormous gavel. I'm telling you, if in four hours, that gavel is still that size, he's got to call a doctor." – David Letterman

"All his life people have called John Boehner 'Boner,' and now America is going to pay. It's the reason his brother Dick stayed out of politics altogether." –Jimmy Kimmel

"John Boehner -- doesn't he look like every guy you've ever seen at a hotel bar? He looks like the kind of guy who licks his thumb when he counts his money." –David Letterman

"John Boehner will be the new Speaker of the House. It is the highest elected office ever to be reached by an Orange-American." —Daily Show correspondent Olivia Munn

"The Republicans now control the House, and they say they're going to follow a strict interpretation of the original Constitution. So I hope you women and non-whites don't like voting." —Jimmy Kimmel

"The new Republican-controlled House of Representatives decided to start things off by reading the entire Constitution aloud. They took turns each reading a part of the Constitution. Then there was a break for lunch and a slave auction." —Jimmy Kimmel

"Congress was broadcast live on Facebook for the first time in history. Now you can waste time and not get work done by watching Congress waste time and not get work done." —Jimmy Fallon

This week in Washington, Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey introduced three very modest gun regulation bills, including one making it more difficult to sell guns to people on the terror watch list.

Meanwhile, in Salt Lake City, the State Legislature is considering a bill to honor the Browning M1911 pistol by making it the official state firearm.

Guess which idea has the better chance of passage? --The New York Times, 26 January 2011

"Former U.S. House Majority Leader, Tom DeLay, has been sentenced to three years in prison. One year for money laundering and two more for his performance on 'Dancing with the Stars.'" —Jay Leno

"Doctors say Dick Cheney may need a heart transplant, but Cheney isn't worried. He's already picked out a hunting buddy." —David Letterman

"Thousands of birds fell dead in Arkansas. It's either al-Qaida, or Dick Cheney is hunting again." —David Letterman

"Arnold Schwarzenegger said being Governor of California cost him at least 200 million dollars in lost movie roles. Moviegoers everywhere said, 'Totally worth it.'" —Conan O'Brien

"Why is it no human being can withstand more than two years as a presidential press secretary? There must be an organ somewhere in the body that can only filter two years worth of heavy duty bullshit." —Jon Stewart on Robert Gibbs' retirement

"Christine O'Donnell is being investigated for using campaign funds to pay for personal expenses. I think it's a witch hunt." —Jay Leno

"The blizzard was three hours of howling wind — kind of like Rush Limbaugh's radio show." —Conan O'Brien

A 63-year-old man from Manila, Philippines, was in line to buy a lottery ticket when a woman cut in front of him. He did the gentlemanly thing, stepping back and allowing her in. The ticket she bought -- that would have been his -- wasn't a winner. The ticket he ended up buying, however, was: 741 million pesos (US\$17 million). "When he won, he kept thinking: how sad for that woman," said Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office chair Margie Juico, "She could have won the big prize if she had just been patient." (MS/AFP) ...Chivalry not only isn't dead, it sometimes pays quite well. --This Is True

The government of Malawi is getting serious about a nasty threat facing the country: flatulence. The government of the African country is finalizing plans to criminalize breaking wind in public, vowing to punish offenders "who foul the air" in a bid to "mould responsible and disciplined citizens." --The Progress Report

Police in Victoria, Australia, thought it necessary to advise the public that inflatable sex dolls are "not recognized flotation devices." A man and a woman, both 19, were using blow-up dolls to float down the Yarra River and had made it past Pound Bend Tunnel when the woman was bucked off her toy by rough water and had to be rescued. The area has seen significant flooding recently, and police were "not amused" by the couple's antics. "We've got people busy with rescues and to have to divert resources to that sort of thing is not ideal," said Senior Constable Wayne Wilson. Anticipating the next question, he added that "the fate of the inflatable dolls is unknown." (RC/Brisbane Times) ...Actually, I can think of several questions to ask before I'd get to that one. --This Is True

"Police Search for Moron" -- KUSA-TV (Denver) headline

"Breast Implants Catch Eye of Argentine Tax Agents" --Reuters headline

"Titanic Reenactment Club Loses Another 1,300 Members." --The Onion, headline.

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