

WATCH OUT FOR THESE PEOPLE!
(A Christmas Satire by Rob Martin)

It is that time of year again, and we all know what that means. That's right; the silly season is upon us. I call it that for fear of offending anyone who happens to hate holidays, or even the word "holiday"; in fact, I shouldn't even use the word "season", just in case there are any out there who don't particularly care for seasons. Let's face it, you have to be careful these days; all it would take is for one person to have an aversion to salt, and my indiscriminate use of the word "season" would ruin everything. So I guess it would be most politically correct to simply call it December 25th.

I'm sure whatever it's called, people will still spend a fortune buying presents, food, and decorations of green and red. Although, I would like to point out that the use of red as a color symbolic of December 25th could possibly offend Native Americans and therefore it would be in everyone's best interests if only green were used. Green has not as yet been associated with any groups other than wicked witches of the East and West, and they haven't been able to present a unified front (due to the fact that they were both viciously murdered by some right wing nut from Kansas), so until they come back to life and unite, green is still pretty much public domain. (note to reader: That last statement was not intended to ridicule, demean, embarrass, or trivialize any witches, warlocks, dark sorcerers, wiccans, Satanists or any other group associated with anything that resembles or identifies with the word "witch".)

Getting back to the matter at hand, it is necessary to warn the general public about some of the nefarious characters that they will encounter in the days leading up to and around December 25th. There are always people out there who will stop at nothing to feed their own egos and take advantage of people during this time of year. This "watch out for these people" list is in no particular order, for the express reason that no will ever be able to say that it has "Intelligent Design". We don't want to open that can of worms. (Note to PETA: that last reference was not intended to ridicule, demean, embarrass, or trivialize the worms.)

The first offender is more of a regional threat than a national one. The southern states don't really have to deal with this perpetrator. However, those of us of the northern and Midwest persuasions have our hands full. He was first charged with assault by Mr. Mel Torme back in the, I don't know, 50's or 60's. He has terrorized clay-mation characters for years and was recently portrayed by Michael Keaton in a movie that no one saw. I'm talking about the infamous Jack Frost.

This suspect has a dubious past at best. He is currently under investigation by the Department of Homeland Security for his numerous assaults on people's noses. Mr. Torme was too kind when he simply called it "nipping". Nipping is still assault, Mr. Torme, unless of course it is done by Janet Jackson; and then it's called lewd conduct.

Next on the list is a textbook example of a savagely opportunistic personality. This

person has managed to misrepresent events about his rise to stardom for countless years. He even had the nerve to call out his coworkers and declare himself the most famous of them all, and did this by marketing himself directly to kids, a tactic which is under investigation by the Federal Communications Commission. (another note to reader: the investigation has become bogged down due to special interest groups deciding to try out the concept of punishing entities for marketing directly to kids on the tobacco companies.)

This character goes by the name of Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer. He has represented himself as the lonely outcast, never allowed to play games, constantly ridiculed and harassed; however, the truth is far different. Kenneth Starr was commissioned as an Independent Counsel to investigate the matter and he found that it wasn't that Rudolf wasn't allowed to play in the games that the other reindeer played, he was just too lazy. (a further note to reader: the information was obtained through a message left by Rudolf on Linda Tripp's answering machine.)

And as far as him saving the day that foggy night, he was not an altruistic do-gooder; he allegedly extorted an exorbitant amount of money from his employer at that time. This just goes to show that a catchy chorus line can make people believe that you're really something special. Just ask the Baha Men. (yet another note to reader: the Baha Men had the hit single, "Who let the dogs out?", just in case you didn't know; and if you did know, then I encourage you to join my 'Addicted to VHI's Behind The Music' support group. We can get through this ordeal together.)

Another notorious villain to keep on your radar is Frosty the Snowman. This shady character has been seen cavorting across snow covered hills with children; unsupervised by any adult presence, by the way. Come on, the last thing we need in this country is another popular male figure with a Peter Pan complex. Frosty also has the annoying character flaw of demanding that all environmental conditions be suited to his unique specifications. He was not content to stay out in the cold, which was his natural environment; no, he had to come inside and then he preyed on the emotions of the impressionable children that surrounded him when he began to melt.

This type of narcissistic self-absorbed attitude is not something that you want to deal with. Frosty must be avoided at all costs. (still another note to reader: the reference to "narcissistic" was not intended to ridicule, demean, embarrass, or trivialize any persons who hold the Greek figure Narcissus in high esteem.)

If Frosty had questionable relations with children, then this next character flat out terrorizes them. His "list" has been used to manipulate children of all ages for centuries. He purposefully generates millions of tons of mail every year, and purposefully gives an incomplete address, resulting in the overworking of the United States Postal Service. This offense alone should be worthy of a Federal Mail Fraud charge, but his high profile status has rendered him pretty much untouchable. Celebrity has its benefits.

He openly admits to countless acts of breaking and entering. He has virtually enslaved an entire group of people to do all of his manual labor, creating every toy that is sold leading up to the celebration of December 25th. He even had the nerve to move his operation to the North Pole, where there is no Federal Minimum Wage Requirement, and reportedly he offers the worst HMO on the planet.

You know who I'm talking about. Kris Kringle, a.k.a. Santa Claus.

Aside from the afore-mentioned acts of scoundrelism, Santa Claus is perhaps the world's most high profile racist. It is a little known fact that Kris Kringle's middle initial is "K" (for Kenneth). **K**ris **K**enneth **K**ringle. Do you see it? KKK. Have you ever noticed how, in the stories, the bad kids all get lumps of coal? What color is coal? Black! Where are the Reverends (snicker) Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton when you really need them? Somebody call Louis Farahkan (pronounced fair?-a CON!), a march must be organized! (another note to reader: if such a march ever happens, accounts detailing the amount of participants will undoubtedly vary anywhere between one million and fifteen.)

I hesitate to even mention the next person on this list of people you will encounter leading up to the celebration of December 25th. In fact, I don't think that it is even legal to say his name in public, unless you say it really loud after you stub your toe or when something makes you really mad. So, in the interest of not breaking the **SET IN STONE LAW OF SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE** (emphasis added), we will simply refer to him as "J.C."

It is actually rather hard to discuss this figure we are referring to as "J.C.", because so little has ever been written about him. No bestselling books have ever been written chronicling his life, such as the ones that have been written about Britney Spears. I think that I heard somewhere that Leonardo Da Vinci claimed to know some juicy gossip about him. I think there may have been a book about that.

It has actually been rumored that President Dubya's association with "J.C.'s" followers may have cost the never-wavering on policy John Kerry the election in 2004. (and yet another note to reader: it is a barely known fact that John Kerry served in Vietnam and even won a Purple Heart. But don't tell anyone, because it's a secret.)

Anyway, it is the followers of "J.C." that you will encounter leading up to the celebration of December 25th. You'll know them when you see them. They think that "J.C." is just the greatest thing since sliced bread. They love to sing about "J.C.", talk about "J.C.", wonder amongst their friends as to what "J.C." would do.

They are the ones setting up barnyard scenes in the town square and putting lights on trees. They waste valuable resources by founding hospitals and orphanages and soup kitchens and homeless shelters. They have some sort of fascination with putting fish symbols on their cars.

Like I said, I don't have much to say about this "J.C." character, but if he was so great, why don't they just name a holiday after him?