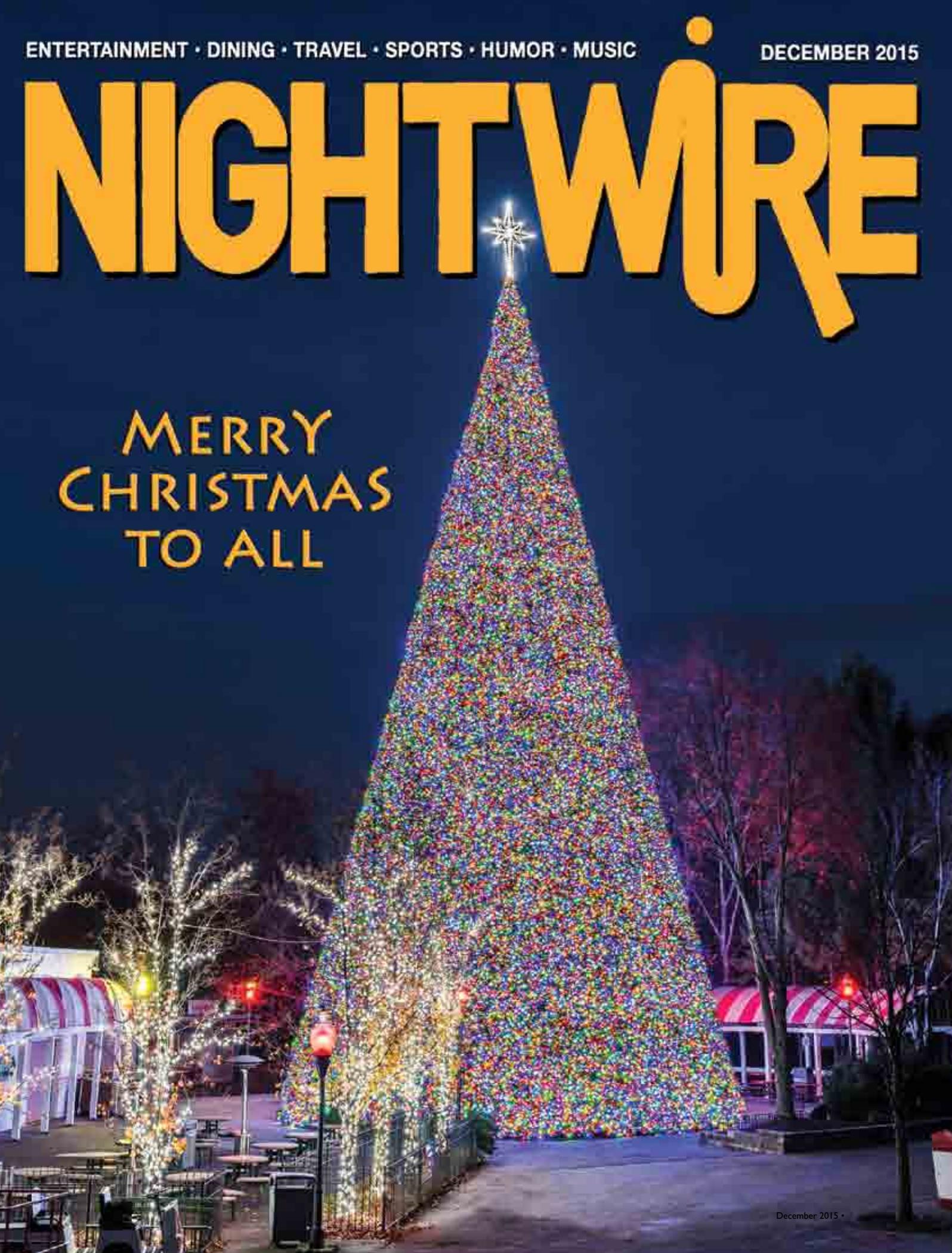


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Nightwire Magazine/  
SX Publications  
303A Bellevue Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15229  
Phone: 412-755-1055  
Fax: 412-755-1056  
www.nightwire.net

**Publisher:** Joyce Campisi  
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# WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE LOCAL ROCK AND ROLL LEGEND?

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO VOTE ON THE 2016 NOMINEES IN  
THIRD ANNUAL PITTSBURGH ROCK 'N ROLL LEGENDS AWARDS™

Tickets on Sale Now for April 28 Event!

The Pittsburgh Rock 'N Roll Legends Awards organizers want to hear from you! Now's your chance to vote for your favorite rock and rollers in the third Annual Pittsburgh Rock 'N Roll Legends Awards. Register now at [www.PittsburghRockLegends.com](http://www.PittsburghRockLegends.com) to receive your ballot in January!

The Pittsburgh-based Cancer Caring Center ([www.cancercaring.org](http://www.cancercaring.org)), which produces and hosts the Pittsburgh Rock 'N Roll Legends Awards ([www.PittsburghRockLegends.com](http://www.PittsburghRockLegends.com)), has announced its 2016 slate of nominees. The signature Awards celebration will be showcased at STAGE AE on the North Shore on Thursday, April 28, 2016, to honor the tremendously talented individuals and organizations that have contributed to the rich history of rock and roll music in the Greater Pittsburgh region, while raising money for the Cancer Caring Center. The event takes on even more significance next year as an official partner in the 2016 Pittsburgh Bicentennial® Celebration. For the third consecutive year, UPMC CancerCenter and UPMC Health Plan are presenting sponsors.

Nominees were selected by the highly knowledgeable Legends Nominating Committee in four categories, with input from the Academy of Voters. The 2016 nominees are:

**A. Modern Era Legends (Solo performer or band with 20+ years in the business – 2 inductees)**

*Billy Price Joe Grushecky Rusted Root The Clarks*

**B. Music Industry Professional Legends (Producer, promoter, manager, etc., with 20+ years in the business – 1 inductee)**

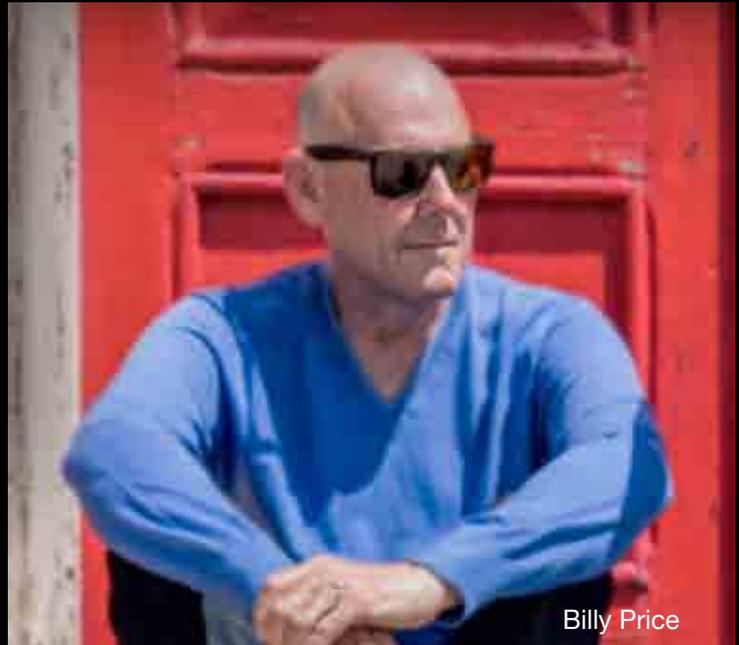
*Henry DeLuca Joe Rock Pat DiCesare*

**C. Legacy Legends (Solo performer or band with 40+ years in the business – 1 inductee)**

*Bobby Vinton The Jaggerz The Skyliners The Vogues*



The Skyliners



Billy Price

**D. Music Broadcaster Legends (DJ or VJ with 20+ years in the business – 1 inductee)**

*Chuck Brinkman Sean McDowell Terry Lee*

\*\* NOTE: The most successful iteration of any band is the one nominated. More nominee info at [www.PittsburghRockLegends.com](http://www.PittsburghRockLegends.com).

Winners of the 2016 awards will be selected through weighted votes cast by the fans and the Pittsburgh Rock 'N Roll Legends Awards Academy of Voters – comprised of nearly 200 local music industry professionals. Fans can register to receive a ballot by signing up now at [www.PittsburghRockLegends.com](http://www.PittsburghRockLegends.com) until voting begins later in January. (Only one vote per email address will be allowed; no registrations accepted once voting begins.) Votes will be reviewed and certified by an independent, third-party panel of judges comprised of a local CPA, a journalist and a federal court judge, assuring the voting process is fair and transparent. Winners will be announced in February. Listen for updates on KDKA-TV, WDVE, 3WS, WXDX and KISS Radio.

The April 28 awards at STAGE AE will feature a number of exciting new elements, special VIPs and guests, an auction and a spectacular performance by area All-Star musicians such as Joe Grushecky, Donnie Iris, B.E. Taylor, Rick Witkowski, Hermie Granati, Billy Price, Ed Manion, Johnny Angel, Rusted Root, Scott Blasey and others.

Ticket for the fundraising celebration are: \$250 VIP Level: One hours open bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres, special commemorative gift, reserved table seating for awards presentation and concert - Doors open: 6:00 pm.

\$150 Gold Level: One hour open bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres, reserved seating at high top table for four for awards presentation and concert - Doors open: 7:00 pm.



Pat DiCesare

\$100 Silver Level: One hour heavy hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, stadium box seats for awards presentation and concert - Doors open: 7:00 pm

The 2015 honorees were Donnie Iris, Porky Chedwick and Lou Christie. Concert promoter Rich Engler was honored as the inaugural inductee in 2014.

Tickets are on sale now and make great holiday gifts for the rock and roll fan on your list!

For more about the Pittsburgh Rock 'N Roll Legends Awards, or to learn more about donating an auction prize, please contact the Center at 412-622-1212 or [info@cancercaring.org](mailto:info@cancercaring.org). For information about becoming a sponsor, please contact Ida D'Errico Associates at 724-260-5331 or [iderrico@comcast.net](mailto:iderrico@comcast.net). Any music industry professional wishing to be considered for membership in the Academy of Voters, please email [mamiller17@comcast.net](mailto:mamiller17@comcast.net). Tickets are on sale now at [www.pittsburghrocklegends.com](http://www.pittsburghrocklegends.com).

About the Pittsburgh Rock 'n Roll Legends Awards

Created by the Cancer Caring Center, the Pittsburgh Rock 'N Roll Legends Awards is a local registry that honors the tremendously talented individuals and organizations that have contributed to the rich history of rock and roll in the Pittsburgh region. Organizers of the Legends Awards and a team of leading local musicians and industry experts have created an entity that will, over time, recognize many individuals who have played an integral role in making rock and roll music part of the fabric of life in Western Pennsylvania.

The permanent Legends display, created by Wendell August Forge, features a hand-crafted metal guitar and a vibrant and striking painting of the city skyline by highly regarded local artist Johno Prascak. It hangs prominently at the Hard Rock Café in Station Square and will be updated as new Legends members are inducted. Follow the Legends on Facebook and Twitter or visit the website at [www.PittsburghRockLegends.com](http://www.PittsburghRockLegends.com). The 2016 event is also an official partner in the 2016 Pittsburgh Bicentennial® Celebration.

#### About the Cancer Caring Center

Since 1988, the Center has been a Pittsburgh-based charity, providing free emotional and social support services to patients and their families. They help those affected by a cancer diagnosis move forward, by offering a wide variety of program-

ming. Services include nearly 20 neighborhood support groups throughout the area, individual and couples counseling, a telephone helpline, a Food Bank for qualifying patients, Reiki, a Young Adult Cancer Support program (YACS), art therapy, "Live Well with Cancer" newsletters and much more. The Center also sponsors Pet Therapy for children at Animal Friends and support groups for children who have a family member with cancer. For more information, visit [www.cancercaring.org](http://www.cancercaring.org). Follow on Twitter and on Facebook.



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# Record-Setting Tree Highlights Holiday Lights

*Kennywood's 5th Annual Holiday Event Features State's Largest Christmas Tree*

Kennywood's Holiday Lights event, sponsored by Duquesne Light, reaches new heights in its fifth year, as a new 90-foot tall Christmas tree—the tallest on record in Pennsylvania—readies to shine on guests.

Kennywood's Holiday Lights begins on Friday, November 27 and continues every Friday, Saturday and Sunday night through December 27 (excluding Christmas Day) from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The 90-foot tree takes a team of eight maintenance workers roughly a week to construct, and will tower over the park's lagoon area. A ceremonial lighting of the tree will be held nightly at 5:30 p.m., followed by the Kennywood Holiday Lights Show (performed every 30 minutes each night).

Also new to this year's Holiday Lights is The Polar Express:



A 4-D Experience, a 15-minute spinoff on the popular holiday movie. The film will be showing in Kennywood's newly constructed 4-D Theater. It is included free with park admission.

The young and young at heart can also enjoy a variety of Kennywood's traditional rides, including The Gingerbread Express and Ghostwood Estate (both with holiday makeovers), the Merry-Go-Round and several Kiddieland rides.

Holiday Lights features more than one million lights, connected and powered by more than twelve miles of

extension cords—enough cords to connect Kennywood to Heinz Field on Pittsburgh's North Shore!

More than 50 live pine trees will decorate the park thanks to the Indiana Tree Growers Association. Holiday sounds and Christmas carols can be heard each evening with a variety of local performance groups featured each night. Duquesne Light will also raise money for the Dollar Energy Fund, a non-profit organization that provides assistance to income eligible households to help with their energy bills. For every \$5 donation made, attendees will receive a Wattley plush doll.

Tickets for Holiday Lights can be purchased for \$15.99 at participating Giant Eagle locations or bought online at [www.Kennywood.com](http://www.Kennywood.com). Children two years of age and under are free. Parking is also free. To see a full list of activities, plus information on schedules, discounts and more, visit [www.kennywood.com/holidaylights](http://www.kennywood.com/holidaylights).

Kennywood is America's Finest Traditional Amusement Park! The Pittsburgh-area park offers a unique mix of classic rides and modern thrills, including seven roller coasters, a 14-ride Kiddieland, and several attractions that cannot be found anywhere else. Kennywood, founded in 1898, continues to provide unforgettable fun for all ages.



***Kennywood's Holiday Lights begins on Friday, November 27 and continues every Friday, Saturday and Sunday night through December 27 (excluding Christmas Day) from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.***

# At The Movies...

NIGHTWIRE - FILM REVIEWS by FIORE

BEASTS OF NO NATION is the movie no one in the business wants to like. Unfortunately for them, it is a good movie. The film represents alternative distribution, something the Hollywood studios and theatre operators loathe. Remember the firestorm when Mel Gibson opted to release THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST without major studio backing?

Star Idris Elba is also executive producer. He had a vested interest in this movie, however, none of the major studios was interested in it. Committed to tell the story, Elba struck a deal with Netflix. The video service outfit released the film in selected markets and on its video streaming site on the same day. Perhaps inspired by Gibson's rebellion, Elba pushed forward with the Netflix deal despite caveats from studio suits. In the process, he can now add a strong, solid movie to his resume.

BEASTS OF NO NATION tells the tale of one boy, Agu, played convincingly by Abraham Attah, who is forced from his village by one army, only to fall into the clutches of a rival army where he is transformed from little boy to killing machine. The story is enthralling and paints a horrific picture of life in Africa. BEASTS OF NO NATION does not judge Africa life. It does, however, provide a candid look at it through the eyes of a small boy.

Elba is the commandant, a ruthless despot who has a penchant for making little boys military automatons. His performance is strong, but also serves as proof he would not make a good incarnation of James Bond, despite the Hollywood buzz. They serve a supreme ruler, though it's never revealed what motivates the warring factions. Trouble ensues when the supreme commander does not follow a scripted game plan for the commandant.

The best move Elba made, however, was not the deal with Netflix, but rather hiring Cary Fukunaga to work on the film. Originally, Fukunaga was to script and direct the film; however, due to circumstances behind the camera, he also took over the cinematographer duties and served as Camera A operator. Using a series of ND and living grain filters, he gives the film an incredible look. Soon after the release of BEASTS OF NO NATION, Fukunaga was hired by Warner Bros to a multi-million dollar, multi-picture deal.

All told, BEASTS OF NO NATION is certainly worth a look. The cinematography and Agu's story are fascinating celluloid. But, BEASTS OF NO NATION has an even more compelling story in its distribution. The simultaneous release date is coming.



RATING FOR BEASTS OF NO NATION = B

## BRIDGE OF SPIES

BRIDGE OF SPIES is everything one would expect from a Tom Hanks-Steven Spielberg collaboration. It's a stylish drama of an historical incident viewed from the perspective of one of its key players. As such, the film plays more as a character study than an historical oeuvre. When your lead star is Hanks, that's not a bad thing.

Jim Donovan (Hanks) is an insurance lawyer, riding the crest of his professional career when he is asked by the federal government to provide legal defense for Rudolf Abel, a Russian spy, played by

Mark Rylance. No one expects Donovan to win the case, just to go through the motions so the appearance of due process is embodied. However, when he mounts a credible defense, Donovan is naturally reviled by members of a patriotic society. Due to our current situation of treading lightly when it comes to Russia, Abel is not depicted as a sinister spy, but rather spunky comic relief. He makes perfect foil for Hanks' interpretation of Donovan.

Once Abel's trial is over, Donovan is again pressed into service to negotiate a trade between the U.S. and Russia involving Abel and a captured U-2 pilot. Donovan represent the American spirit and the nation's moral convictions; certainly more than an ex-athlete opting for a gender change. The film, under Spielberg's direction, also captures the essence of similar times. Times when the relationship between men and women were better defined, as were relations between countries. Though tense, there were rules and no one used duped dopers, children or women for cowardly suicide attacks.

Director of Photography Janusz Kaminski shoots BRIDGE OF SPIES through predominantly yellow filters, effectively setting a stylistic look to the period piece. Michael Kahn, long time Spielberg collaborator, continues to be one of the best editors in



Hollywood. However, this story is complicated and covers a long period of time with crucial parallel subplots. Though nearly 2- ½ hours in length, the film cannot give credence to all the machinations of this plot, and as such, is too long. Some of the scenes should be on Kahn's work room floor. For example: the training of the U-2 pilots could be told in dialogue and save nearly 20 minutes.

The Hollywood machine is pushing Johnny Depp for Best Actor honors for his portrayal of James 'Whitey' Bulger in BLACK MASS, but Hanks should prove equal competition for him in the run for the gold.

GRADE FOR BRIDGE OF SPIES = B.

Simply, SPECTRE is one of the best in the James Bond series. This statement carries even more gravitas when I emphatically state I do not like Daniel Craig as Bond. He fits the part like a square peg in a round hole. I will be glad to see him vacate the part; Idris Elba is certainly not the answer.

Craig has one more Bond film on his current contract. He is tiring of the role and has so stated in more than one interview. If SPECTRE is his swan song, then he went out in style. But, the true star of the last two Bond films in Director Sam Mendes. He brings Bond back in all his regal glory.

In SKYFALL, he brought back the gadgets, including Bond's treasured Aston Martin, which were stupidly missing from the other films in the Craig series. He also brought back Bond as a rogue and a bit of a knave. When Mendes returned Bond to the wise-cracking, womanizing, heavy drinking spy he is meant to be on screen, viewers responded in a positive box office way. They made SKYFALL the biggest and best Bond since TOMORROW NEVER DIES. Now he follows with SPECTRE.

The problem is Mendes stated he is done with Bond and won't return for another film. That is tragedy. Mendes understands Bond and doesn't allow the character to kowtow to the Hollywood social engineers who find the character too testosterone infused. Without Mendes, the Broccoli estate will be back to square one.

SPECTRE begins like vintage Bond tales, with the spy wrapping up a mission in explosive style. He returns to London only to discover the double-o division is once again, under attack from bureaucrats, hampering his efforts to expose a major crime cabal that even Raymond Reddington would have trouble with.

The embodiment of Bond's frustration is C, played by Andrew Scott. Scott is best known for his role as Professor Moriarty in the excellent BBC production SHERLOCK, with Benedict Cumberbatch. Aiding Bond in his quest for world peace and harmony are Ralph Fiennes as M, Ben Whishaw as Q, Naomie Harris as Money Penny and Rory Kinnear as Chief of Staff, Bill Tanner.

This plotline will sound similar to MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: ROGUE NATION, but screenwriters John Logan and Neal Purvis incorporate a current theme of freedom vs. security to add a bit of freshness. Truly, though, it's Mendes to the rescue as he tantalizes viewers with remnants of Bond's past.

Bond faces Hinx, played by Dave Bautista. He is a near carbon copy of Harold Sakata's portrayal of Oddjob. As a giant of few words, but major violence, Hinx is the archetypical Bond adversary; a merciless, unbeatable foe. Not content with just presenting Hinx, Mendes places the behemoth killer in a train fight with Bond that rivals Bond's (Sean Connery) encounter with Red Grant (Robert Shaw) in FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE.

SPECTRE opens with a scene celebrating the Day of the Dead. It is purloined from LIVE AND LET DIE, complete with Baron Samedi, though there is regrettably, no Geoffrey Holder. And, finally, Bond meets his nemesis, Ernst Stravo Blofeld, in the guise of Christoph Walz. There is a very clever nod to Donald Pleasence's portrayal in YOU ONLY LIVE TWICE.

Anyone who is a Bond fan will revel in this endeavor. The script, under Mendes' direction brings Bond to full glory with frantic fights, nifty gadgets, beautiful women and "gratuitous sex and violence". This is a film that epitomizes excellence in film entertainment and is worth multiple viewings. It will be one you will want to add to your personal video collection and as such earns the Fist of Fiore Award for 2015.

RATING FOR SPECTRE = A



For more reviews and the latest Hollywood news, visit Fiore's web site at: <http://videogod314.wix.com/outtakes>

# First Night Pittsburgh

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust announced that new venues and a new look will be utilized for the 21st annual Highmark First Night Pittsburgh. Each year, approximately 40,000 people ring in the New Year at 150 events at 50 venues throughout the Cultural District. 90% of all events are held indoors. For the fourth consecutive year, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield will serve as the presenting sponsor for the event, produced by the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust.

"Highmark is proud to support the communities we serve," shared Dan Onorato, executive vice president, Highmark Health. "We are proud to be the long-time sponsor of Highmark First Night Pittsburgh, helping the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust highlight all that is great about our city. The Highmark First Night tradition brings families together from across the region, in our cultural district, to celebrate art and culture in a manner that reflects the hope and promise we eagerly anticipate with each new year."

"As the Vice President of Education & Community Engagement, I view Highmark First Night Pittsburgh as one of the most important evenings of the year," shared Janis Burley Wilson of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. "Through music, dance, comedy, visual art and hands-on activities, the Trust welcomes and entertains visitors of all ages, for a joyous celebration of the arts in an alcohol-free atmosphere. What better way to enter into a new year, than with events that nurture an appreciation and understanding of ourselves through the arts?"

Highmark First Night Pittsburgh will kick off with children's fireworks at 6:00 p.m. on the Dollar Bank Stage along with a performance by Beauty Slap. The new local sensation performs electronic music with five horns, a saxophone, a guitar and a DJ.

At the end of the evening, visitors enjoy the Future of Pittsburgh Grand Finale: the countdown to midnight, raising of the 1,000 lbs. Future of Pittsburgh ball 150 feet in the air above Penn Avenue Place, and a spectacular Zambelli fireworks finale; they will also be serenaded by the rockin' sounds of The Swon Brothers on the Highmark Stage. Arista Nashville recording duo The Swon Brothers (Zach and Colton) just released their new single, "Pray For You," the follow-up to their Top 15 debut single, "Later On," which shot to No. 1 on iTunes' Country Top Songs chart within 24 hours of its release and helped earn them a nomination for "Vocal Duo of the Year" at The 48th Annual CMA Awards.



Originally from Oklahoma, the duo first hit the national radar charming fans with their incredible sibling harmonies and fun-loving personalities as finalists on "Team Blake" in Season 4 of NBC's *The Voice*. Find them online at [www.swonbrothers.com](http://www.swonbrothers.com), [Twitter@TheSwonBrothers](https://twitter.com/TheSwonBrothers), and on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/theswonbrothers](http://www.Facebook.com/theswonbrothers).

New attractions taking place throughout the evening include a special vouchered performance by Cello Fury and Texture Contemporary Ballet, which will unite classic, contemporary and rock styles with music and dance. Lee Terbosic Magic and the one-man variety show, Chris Ruggiero join the Highmark First Night line-up for the first year. Gemini Theater Company will present a children's production that utilizes local landmarks and lingo in a story that challenges audiences to help "find a secret treasure on the Great Mon."

Other vouchered performances will include Arcade Comedy Theater, featuring its in-house improvisation team, the First Night Comedy Club at the O'Reilly Theater, which will feature alternating performances by Player One and Aaron Kleiber and T-Robe.

## ADMISSION

All-Access Highmark First Night Pittsburgh buttons (worn by attendees) are available beginning December 3, 2014 at participating Giant Eagle locations; online at [TrustArts.org/First-NightPGH](http://TrustArts.org/First-NightPGH); by phone at 412-456-6666; or at The Box Office at Theater Square, located at 655 Penn Avenue. Buttons cost \$8 in advance or \$10 night-of-event. Children age 5 and under are admitted FREE.

Some indoor performances also require seating vouchers, which are free tickets. They must be reserved to ensure theaters do not fill beyond capacity. Vouchers can be reserved starting December 4th by phone or at The Box Office at Theater Square only. Events requiring vouchers are listed at [TrustArts.org/First-NightPGH](http://TrustArts.org/First-NightPGH).

Want your vouchers sooner? The VIP package, permits special "First Night Friends," to revel with a cause, enjoying priority seating, access, parking, and more! For more information on becoming a part of this special sponsorship opportunity, please call 412-471-6086.

# Pittsburgh Public Theater Presents Hooking Up With Second City



Chicago's renowned comedy troupe, The Second City, keeps the New Year's party going January 7-9 at Pittsburgh Public Theater with *Hooking Up With The Second City*, their wild new show about relationships. In fast-paced sketches, wacky songs and The Second City's trademark improv, *Hooking Up With The Second City* looks at romance, rancor and all the crazy things we do for love.

*Hooking Up With The Second City* runs for four performances only at the O'Reilly Theater, Pittsburgh Public Theater's home in the heart of Downtown's Cultural District. Show times are: Thursday, Jan. 7 at 8 pm; Friday, Jan. 8 at 8 pm; and Saturday, Jan. 9 at 5:30 and 9 pm. A cash bar will be open in The Public's main lobby. For tickets call 412.316.1600 or visit [ppt.org](http://ppt.org).

**Ticket Prices: \$30-\$50 with tickets for students and anyone age 26 and younger available for \$15.75. Cabaret tables with seating for four, including cash bar service, are available for \$220. Discounts for groups of 10+ are available by contacting Casey Helm at 412.316.8200 ext. 704 or [chelm@ppt.org](mailto:chelm@ppt.org).**

**For tickets call 412.316.1600 or visit [ppt.org](http://ppt.org)**

The Second City is the company that gave Tina Fey, Steve Carell, Stephen Colbert and many other famed funny people their start. The Second City's touring shows feature the next generation of the comedy world's best and brightest. Directed by Anneliese Toft, the *Hooking Up With The Second City* cast includes Ali Barthwell, Kelsey Kinney, Martin Morrow, Charles Pettitt, Jasbir Singh and Casey Whitaker. The music director and onstage accompanist is Vinnie Pillarella and the stage manager is Jake Allen Miller.

# Breckenridge Brewery

by Brian Meyer

It seems like there's a new brewery opening every few weeks with a variety of new and weird brews to offer the world. Sure, these new guys are great, but at the core of the craft beer world are breweries that have been around since the term "craft beer" wasn't in our collective lexicon just yet. Breweries like Colorado's Breckenridge Brewery, which opened its doors in February of 1990 and set the foundation for the new breweries we all love today. It's thanks to breweries like Breckenridge that we have the term craft beer today.

While the original brewpub, which is still open today, was only capable of brewing around 3,000 barrels of beer each year, their current location puts out a massive 66,000 barrels of beer each year. It's no wonder Breckenridge is in the top 50 US breweries when it comes to sales.

With a history longer than most, and some of the best beer around, it's no wonder that Breckenridge Brewery is still going strong.

## The Brewery

Located in the town of Breckenridge, Colorado the first iteration of Breckenridge Brewery opened its doors to the public in February of 1990, making it only the third brewpub in the state. Richard Squire, the founder of Breckenridge Brewery opened the brewpub on the historic main street of Breckenridge hoping to bring great beer to the masses. Paired with amazing home-made food the beer basically sold itself, pushing Squire to open a second location only two years later in Denver.

As luck would have it, directly across the street from Breckenridge's second location would turn out to be the new home to none other than the Colorado Rockies baseball team in 1995. This influx thirsty patrons meant Squire's team couldn't make beer at the rate it was being consumed. Early last year, Breckenridge Brewery announced the plans for its new 85,000 sq. ft., \$35 Million brewery and Farmhouse restaurant, located on a 12-acre country spread along the South Platte River in Littleton, CO.

Breckenridge Brewery opened the doors to the new brewery with an initial capacity of 150,000 bbl/

year, and that will be expandable to about 300,000 bbl / year before needing to build any additional structures. The brewery, ranked the 40th largest U.S. Craft Brewery in 2013, has posted higher than 20% growth for the past four years. The new production facility will allow Breckenridge Brewery to continue this growth in a sustainable manner. Currently, the Denver brewery is at maximum capacity, operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, just to meet demand.

Today Breckenridge operates five separate brewpubs and ale houses in Colorado, and distribute their beer to 32 states.

Here in Pittsburgh we're lucky enough to get Breckenridge beer just as fresh as they do in Colorado.

## The Never Summer Program

When you think of Colorado the image that most likely comes to your head is one of snowy mountains and skiers and snowboarders flying down said mountains. Breckenridge Brewery is more than aware of this idea and with the help of the aptly named Never Summer Industries, they are once again working together to welcome the winter sports season.

While most of us think baseball when we hear about opening day, the folks at Never Summer Industries think snow. The partnership between Breckenridge and Never Summer Industries celebrated the opening day of winter sports in Colorado starting on November 7th this year, with the celebration going well into December.

For Never Summer's part they create a custom snowboard featuring the Breckenridge logo and for Breckenridge Brewery's part they host parties throughout Colorado featuring their great beer. As winter comes it may truly feel that it will never be summer again, but with beer like Breckenridge offers, that might just be ok.

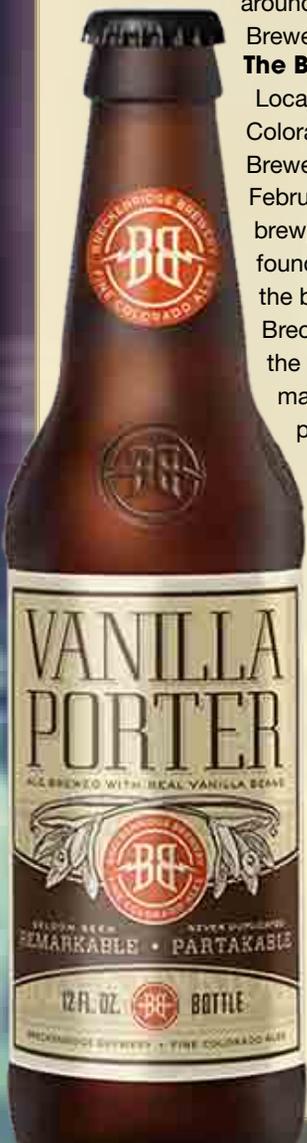
## The Beers

When it comes down to it, beer is really what it's all about, right? And when it comes to Breckenridge Brewery the beer is definitely the star attraction. From year round favorites to seasonal offerings to a mixed 12-pack for those of us that are indecisive; there really is something for everyone at Breckenridge Brewery.

## All Year

At the core of any brewery are their year-round offerings. While seasonal wonders are great, without a solid core of great beer the seasonal beers would never see the light of day.

**Breck IPA** - A great IPA is at the core of any solid beer lineup, and after a scrutiny of ingredients and experimentation



with process, Breckenridge Brewery made what they consider a true leader in the IPA world. Breck IPA features a prominent fruity and floral aroma that gives way to a well-balanced taste and body thanks to the choice in malts used in the beer. Unlike many other IPAs, the true secret ingredient in Breck IPA is a rare malt variety that lends the perfect balance to this 6.3% ABV beer.

**Avalanche Ale** – First brewed in 1988 by founder Richard Squire himself, Avalanche Ale is an amber ale that’s considered the cornerstone of Breckenridge Brewery’s offerings. Brewed using both caramel and pale malts, this beer is balanced out with just enough hops to give the beer the full package. Avalanche Ale comes in at a sessionable 4.4% ABV that finishes smooth and is surprisingly easy to drink.

**Vanilla Porter** – Dark and malty, this beer has a vanilla character that pairs perfectly with the chocolate and roasted nut flavor that’s balanced perfectly in this beauty of a beer. The chocolate and roasted nut come to this beer via the malts used in this beer, with the vanilla coming all the way from Papua New Guinea and Madagascar. Breckenridge’s Vanilla Porter comes in at 4.7% ABV, making it a great beer year round.

**Oatmeal Stout** – Bold, smooth, and full of dark-roasted coffee aromas and flavor, Oatmeal Stout by Breckenridge Brewery is, as they say dark in character, not in spirit. Breckenridge uses a spirituous dose of flaked oatmeal to give this beer a creamy body and a semi-dry finish. All total, this 4.9% ABV beer is dark without being overly heavy.

**471 IPA** – Brewed in small batches to focus on the big flavor, 471 Small Batch IPA from Breckenridge Brewery is an aggressively strong IPA that uses five different malts and four different hop varieties for a depth of flavor and aroma that is far more than the sum of its parts. 471 IPA comes in at a hefty 9.2% ABV that starts with a moderate sweetness up from with a dry bitterness on the finish. If you’re looking for the biggest kid on the block, this is definitely what you’re wanting.

**Variety Pack** – Is deciding on one single beer too difficult for you? If you’re of the indecisive persuasion, the Rocky Mountain Sampler from Breckenridge Brewery is right for you. The 12-pack sampler features three each of four different beers including the Avalanche Ale, Vanilla Porter, as well as a seasonal beer and one of the Mountain Series of brews, a special lineup of beers from Breckenridge Brewery.

### Seasonal

The great things about the seasons are that they’re always changing. Along with the change in weather comes a change in those special beers we get to enjoy each year. As winter closes in we look to the holiday and winter beers to keep us warm on the long, cold winter nights as we all wait for spring to thaw us out.

**Christmas Ale** – Each year Breckenridge Brewery releases their Christmas Ale to welcome the season in style. This 7.4% ABV beer is full-bodied with a noticeable caramel character that’s backed up with notes of chocolate and just enough bitterness to be present without impacting the amazing holiday flavor. Brewed in the style of a winter warmer, this American Strong Ale is dark and delicious, something you’ll love to drink by the fire on a chilly night.

Other seasonal beers from Breckenridge include their Ophelia Hoppy Wheat, Summerbright Ale, and Autumn Ale, each available in their respective seasons.

Breckenridge Brewery is proudly distributed in and around the Pittsburgh area by Frank Fuhrer Wholesale.



# A Blizzard of Beers for the Holiday Season

by Brian Meyer

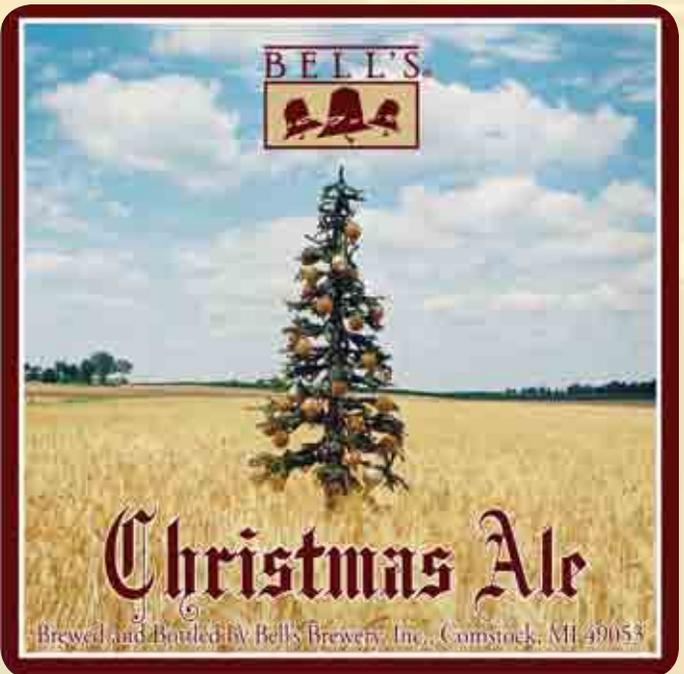
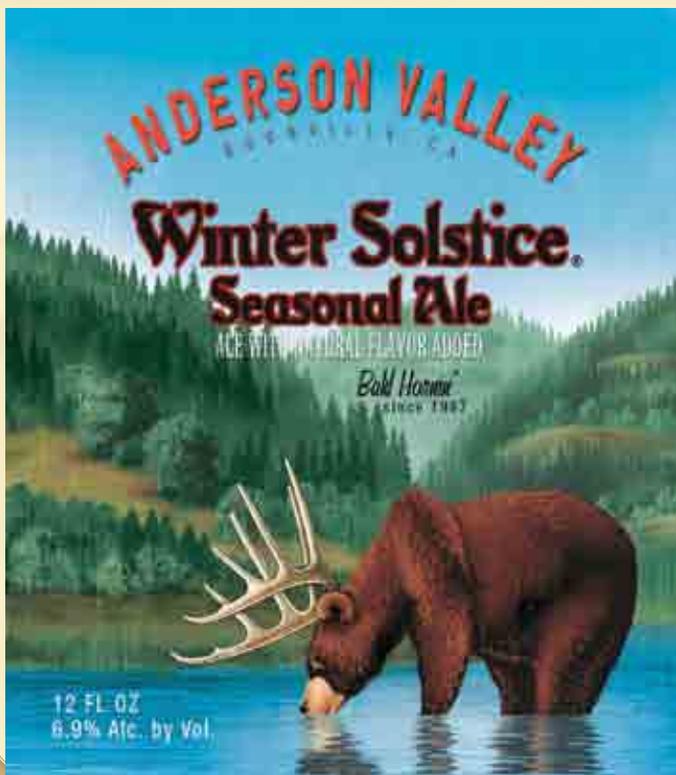
With Thanksgiving both literally and figuratively under our belts it's time to start thinking about jingle bells, reindeer, and a particular fat man in a red suit. As we get into the heart of the winter months, one of the most interesting seasons for craft beer fully kicks off. Winter seasonal beers run the gamut from spicy and complex to big and bitter. It's this range in the seasonal beers that makes them so great in these darker, colder months.

What better way to celebrate the coming winter season than with some amazing beers from near and far. The best thing about winter seasonal beers is that there truly is something for everyone, so check out our blizzard of winter beers and maybe you'll even find something better than cookies and milk to leave Old Saint Nick this year.

## Anderson Valley Brewing

Anderson Valley was founded in 1987 and since then has grown into a respected brewery that produces everything from the tried and true styles to the wild and interesting Highway 128 series. As with every winter season AVBC is once again releasing their Winter Solstice, their take on the classic winter warmer style. At 6.9% ABV, this beer pours a light copper with a thick and creamy head. You'll taste sweet malt and caramel as well as some nutty tastes in the background.

Speaking of the Highway 128 series, Anderson Valley's Blood Orange Gose is returning for a second year. This beer comes in at 4.2% ABV and is one of the most interesting beers in our list. Gose (pronounced g z-uh) beers are traditionally salty, sour, and usually have a dry finish. While these are highly sought-after beers for those experienced in weird beers, to make the beer more palatable to a larger audience Anderson Valley added the citrus tang of blood oranges to give this beer a tart taste that pairs perfectly with the slight sourness of the Gose style.



## Bell's Brewery

Bell's Brewery is no stranger to seasonal beers, and their ever-popular Winter White Ale is making its seasonal return once again this year. An odd entry into our list, this beer is a wheat ale fermented with Belgian yeast to give it subtle banana and clove flavors with no spices added, and at 5% ABV it's very easy to drink and very refreshing.

Celebrating the season, Bell's is once again releasing their Christmas Ale, a 5.5% Scottish ale that only uses Michigan-grown barley and hops to give this beer its unique taste, once again with no spices added.

## Dogfish Head Brewing

Dogfish Head is known for their variety of beers and unique styles, and the winter months are no exception. Returning for a third year is their Piercing Pils, a Czech style pilsner that's brewed with white pear tea and pear juice. Brewed with spicy Saaz hops, this 6% ABV beer is a unique take on a classic style.

## East End Brewing

Hoping to clear the snow and warm things up for everyone in Pittsburgh, Scott Smith and head brewer Brenden Bensen from East End Brewing brew Snow Melt Winter Ale each year, and even though this substantial 7% ABV beer helps, the snow still seems to stick. This nearly pitch black ale has a unique malt character and a bright hop flavor with hints of pine. This beer will definitely help keep you warm and while we all can't wait for it to warm up, at least we have this to clear the snow for us.

## Erie Brewing

Most of us usually steer clear of Johnny Law when drinking; Erie Brewing's Ol' Red Cease & Desist is an up-front powerful ale that makes its own set of laws about what a winter beer

should be. Coming in at 10.1% ABV, this beer has a balanced mix of oak, spices, dark fruits, and even a little caramel. While the alcohol and flavors are up-front about their intentions, this beer finishes smooth and easy to drink.

Returning for a second round this year is Erie Brewing's Skipper Stout. This winter seasonal is brewed with three different types of coffee and crème brûlée for a bold flavor with a smooth and slightly sweet finish. Named after Erie Brewing's brewdog Skipper, this 7.2% ABV stout is sure to find quite a few good homes this year.

### Heavy Seas Beer

Heavy Seas is known for great beer, and their winter seasonal Winter Storm is no exception. This winter ale draws its hops from the West Coast as well as the UK to give it quite the pronounced bitterness. Pale and dark malt mix, giving Winter Storm a tawny color and hefty body. Brewed as an imperial extra special bitter (ESB), this 7.5% beer will get you through any storm.

### Jack's Hard Cider

Splitting up this all-beer list is the always great Jack's Hard Cider with their Dry Hopped Cider. The handmade cider maker takes classic American hops and adds them throughout the fermentation process of this dry cider to give it pleasant citrus and herbal aromas and flavors. If you've had enough beer and need a break, this 5.5% ABV cider might be just the change you're looking for. You'd be hard pressed to find a better cider, or a better cider pun.

### Smuttnose Brewing

For those that love their Belgian-style beers, Smuttnose Brewing has their Winter Ale, a 5.8% Belgian Dubbel that's brewed with a special Trappist ale yeast. This beer features fruity aromas and flavors as well as a soft hop background. Mellow but surprisingly complex, Smuttnose's Winter Ale is perfect for the winter months when you're not looking for a big alcohol kick.

### Spring House Brewing

Big dark beers seem to be the trend for the colder months, and not to be the ones to buck the trend, Spring House Brewing from Lancaster, Pa offers their Kerplunk! Imperial Chocolate Stout. This 8.1% ABV beer is named for the sound made as large amounts of Wilbur chocolate and West Coast hops are added to the brew kettle. Also the name of my favorite Green Day album, Kerplunk! features rich caramel sweetness that's backed up by a deep-roasted heartiness that's so present you might think you can bite into it.

### Stone Brewing

A crowd favorite amongst craft beer fans, Stone Brewing makes a variety of amazing beers year round, but saves a few of them specifically for the winter months. For example, take their Bastard lineup of intense beers. This year Stone Brewing is making your life easy by offering them in a gift box with all four varieties.

First, you get the original Arrogant Bastard, the bigger badder Double Bastard, Oaked Arrogant Bastard, and the Depth Charged Double Bastard. Wish someone you love (or yourself for that matter) a special Arrogant holiday this season.

When it comes to IPAs, the fresher the better. With this in mind Stone Brewing makes their Enjoy By series of beers, each meant to be enjoyed before the surprisingly close expi-



ration dates. The most recent of these is the aptly named Enjoy By 12-25-15. The Enjoy By series of beers are meant to be enjoyed as soon as possible and never aged. This 9.4% ABV beer is described by Stone as "devastatingly fresh" as well as floral, citrusy, and amazing. While you won't melt if you drink this beer past its Enjoy By date, Stone feels so strongly that this is the best date for the beer to be drunk by, they make it part of the name of the beer.

### Troegs Brewing

Coming back for a second year this winter season from Troegs is their Blizzard of Hops winter IPA. This 6.4% ABV beer has notes of pine and citrus in it as well as a solid malt backbone. If you're tired of spiced and flavored beers this holiday season, Blizzard of Hops is one beer you can't miss.

### Victory Brewing

Victory Brewing out of Downingtown PA has quite the catalog of beers available throughout the year, but they wait until the winter months to release some of their best beers. First up is Winter Cheers. This 6.7% ABV wheat beer uses Tettnang and Citra hops to make a hoppy wheat beer that's ready to warm you up and give some winter cheer to spread.

### Weyerbacher Brewing

Wrapping things up is the semi-local Weyerbacher Brewery from Easton, PA. Weyerbacher brews their Winter Ale to be a malty beer with hints of Simcoe and Fuggle hops that comes in at 5.6% ABV. Winter Ale has a deep roasted taste that is balanced with a dry finish, making it a great cold weather beer.

Each of these beers are proudly distributed in and around the Pittsburgh area by Vecenie's Distributing.

# Spirits: Highlights from 2015 Whiskey Festival - October 30 - Rivers Casino

The Pittsburgh Whiskey & Fine Spirits Festival was held on Friday, October 30, at Rivers Casino and it was swinging with spirits of the 1920's like none other than the Pittsburgh Whiskey Festival could. Vendors brought out the 20's spirit with spats, cloche hats, greased hair and even some Charleston moves. This event was definitely the bee's knees.

This event was the ninth year for the Pittsburgh Whiskey Festival and it was truly incredible, there were over 300 varieties of whiskey,

scotch, vodka, gin, rum, tequila, and cordials, all laid out by the finest purveyors of distilled spirits from around the world. Also on hand, a roster heavy with the most knowledgeable mixologists, distillers, brand ambassadors and industry personalities to help guide, inform, and entertain you.

Dale Markham our host for the evening gave us a great tip ... he said "be sure and visit the dining area adjacent to the event." There we found an amazing assortment of fabulous foods, desserts and





what seemed like never ending choices. Plus the best part it was all included in the ticket price. The Rivers Casino buffet selection of food is outstanding and truly delicious! If you missed this years Whiskey Festival, you missed a great event.... start planning for 2016 now, so that you don't miss the Tenth Annual Pittsburgh Whiskey Festival, I personally can't wait to see what they have planned. The festival generally takes place in October so be sure to check out their website in the coming months for the 2016 date! [www.PittsburghWhiskeyFestival.com](http://www.PittsburghWhiskeyFestival.com)

Last, but certainly not least, everyone was there to have a good time and sample some exquisite examples of distilled craftsmanship, but the Whiskey Festival also has a mission; raising money for their charity, Team Tassy. With every ticket purchased two dollars was donated to Team Tassy. In addition they held a silent auction where you could bid on some amazing items. All proceeds from the the auction were also donated to Team Tassy. To learn more about Team Tassy visit [TeamTassy.Org](http://TeamTassy.Org).

# 2015 Nightwire Holiday Gift Guide



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# Happy Holidays from Western PA Humane Society

Carrie Nardini  
Communications Manager

As the holidays draw near, we often think of family and the importance of being together. The need to connect with family and friends seems even greater during this season. That need is no different for our furry friends at the Western PA Humane Society. There are so many wonderful, loving adoptable pets waiting for their forever homes in animal shelters all across the country. They are yearning for a family and a home of their own. And, often, once you lay eyes on that cuddly kitten, sweet puppy dog, or fluffy bunny, you realize that they are just what you need to complete your very own family.

The holidays also remind us of how important it is to care for others and how impactful it can be to give back to the community. Every day at the Western PA Humane Society heartstrings are tugged, lives are saved, and Pittsburghers are giving back. Just walking through our open doors you feel the energy and see our work in action as Pittsburgh's Center for Pet Ownership. Our in-house wellness clinic is full of patients, and our volunteers are cuddling cats, hosting bunny romps, and walking dogs. Our staff are meeting with potential adopters to help them learn about our adoptable pets and match them with their new best friend. It's a flurry of activity.

There are many ways to get involved to save the lives of animals in need. Even if you can't adopt you can join us this December for a number of special events like our Holiday Market or our pet photos with Santa to name a few (both taking place on December 5). Come in for a visit to our new Volunteer and Community Engagement Center to learn how you can make a



difference in whatever time that you might have available. It's easy to drop by for an hour to cuddle cats, walk dogs, or to make donations of blankets, newspaper, food and other items a part of your weekly routine.

The Western PA Humane Society is the work of the community: our board, volunteers, staff, and supporters all impact the lives of homeless pets every day. Join us in that work in any way you can.

This season, while you consider your year-end giving, please put WPHS at the top of your list. Come in and visit, we'd be happy to give you a tour. Bring your co-workers or family for a day of service, or even better, when you are ready, choose WPHS as

your destination for your newest furry family members.

There are so many stories to tell about animals who had nowhere else to go. They came through our doors in need of medical care and nurturing to get ready to be adoptable. One of the hundreds of stories is that of little Nina the shih-ztu mix that came to us when her elderly owner was no longer able to care for her. Little Nina had incredibly matted fur that was pulling at her thin skin, and toenails that had overgrown and needed repair. Her personality though was infectious and she gave a playful wag to everyone she met, quickly finding her way into our hearts.

Her forever mom saw her at a community event with the Carnegie Arts & Lecture Series where Nina greeted attendees along with WPHS. One look and she couldn't get Nina out of her

the gift that we need.

As you consider your holiday and year-end charitable donations, we ask you help us in our mission to save and enrich the lives of homeless pets at WPHS as we work tirelessly to care for them and find them loving forever homes. If giving through the United Way, please use code 621 and our Combined Federal Campaign code is 27575. If giving as a gift as a memorial or in honor of someone else, please let us know so that we can send a personalized Thank You from one of our shelter pets. To learn more or give online visit [www.wpahumane.org](http://www.wpahumane.org).

From all of the four legged and two legged friends and family at WPHS, we wish you and yours a very happy, healthy holiday season!



mind. After discussing the possibilities with her family, Nina's mom brought her daughter and boyfriend in for a meet and greet. When they arrived, Nina was meeting with another family. Luckily for them all, that first match was not made. Nina was not compatible with the family's dog and so she was ready for another try! The rest is history and Nina is now the sweetheart of her entire family. This story would not have been possible without a team that includes WPHS supporters whose donations fuel the hundreds of good stories that are told every month through WPHS.

We are so honored to feel that holiday spirit all year long. Watching hearts open up to one another and seeing firsthand how a family expands to welcome a new family member is all of



# Holiday Travel Tips from USA TODAY Road Warriors

It's that time of year.

Folks are gearing up to visit relatives and friends for the holidays. As stressful as traveling can be even during the calmest of seasons, navigating the crowds, lines and potential delays nearly ubiquitous through the New Year can be downright dizzying for the occasional flier.

To make that trip to Grandma's house go a little smoother, USA Today's frequent flying panel of Road Warriors offers its top tips for holiday travel.

First off, "book the first flight of the day," says Amy Sewell, a style expert based in Manhattan. "It's not fun to get up early, but early flights generally leave on time. To minimize the risk of missing a connection, never book a layover of less than two hours."

On the day of your trip, there are a few things you can — and should do — before you even leave the house.

For instance, "download your airline's app and check it for gate assignments, flight times, seat assignments," says Jim Sill, a director of global development who's based in Costa Mesa, Calif.

When you're packing, "think about that carry-on," he advises. "Everyone will be taking up overhead bin space. If you board too late, you will be struggling to find a spot for it. Is it really that important to carry it on? With a flexible schedule and a few extra bucks (to check a bag), you can avoid so much stress."

If you do decide to check a bag, "never pack items like medicine or valuables," says Tim Beyrau, an airline pilot based in Mandeville, La. "Consider weighing your checked bags beforehand to ensure you don't go over the weight limits and incur extra charges."

You can also pack a lunch. "Know that you can bring food and drinks on board airplanes," Beyrau says, "but not alcohol due to FAA regulations." Make sure what you pack is allowed through TSA checkpoints.

What you wear can be as important as what you toss into your suitcase. "Wear easy on/off shoes to expedite security," says Sill, who recommends taking off your belt and clearing out your pockets — placing whatever is inside in a baggie — before you even line up at the screening checkpoint. "Wear layers on planes. It can be hot one minute and really cold the next."

Bring a water bottle. "Empty it before security," Sill says, "and fill it right back up afterward."

One of the most frustrating aspects of a trip can be when your flight is canceled. If that happens, it pays to be strategic. "If your flight is canceled, contact the airline by phone while standing in line for customer service," says Trish Bigler of Phoenix. "If your flight is overbooked, look at nearby cities. Always have Plan B available to suggest to the agent. And ask nicely."

A booking app can come in handy during such emergencies. Lisa Finstein, a clinical research associate who lives in Manchester, N.H., recommends Kayak "to make those last-minute hotel reservations when you get stuck in Detroit due to weather or rent a car in Philly when your flight is canceled."

Though the unexpected can strike at any time, it's a good idea to check the weather forecast beforehand for the days around your trip. "If bad weather is expected, airlines will generally allow you to change flights at no cost," says Ashok Raiji, director at a building design firm, who is based in Yonkers, N.Y. "If your schedule is flexible, you could leave a day in advance of the bad weather."

Many airports are upping their game, adding high-end restaurants, spa services and even amenities such as walking trails. Fliers may want to take advantage as they wait to board their flights.

"Get there early," suggests Sheri Spero of New York City. "Enjoy the lounges. Take baggies for the extra goodies."

Spero says, "If parking at the airport ... take a picture of the lane sign, so you don't forget where you left the car." If you park at Pittsburgh International Airport and forget where you parked, no worries, just jump aboard the parking shuttle and tell the driver your license plate number, he will phone security and zip zap find your car, no hassle, no worries!

Sewell says there's perhaps one thing to remember above all else. "Pack a good attitude and create a happy zone around you," she says. "A positive attitude is infectious and will make travel more pleasant for you, your family, gate agents and fellow travelers."

Safe travels this holiday season..... We Wish You a Very Merry Christmas!!

# Humor

## Christmas Humor

Q: What do you do if Santa gets stuck in your chimney?

A: Pour Santa flush on him.

---

The judge asked the defendant what he was charged with.

“Doing my Christmas shopping early,” was the reply.

“That not illegal!. How early were you shopping?”

“Before the store was open.”

---

How do you know Santa has to be a man?

No woman is going to wear the same outfit year after year.

---

Maria went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards.

‘What denomination?’ asked the clerk.

‘Oh! Good heavens! Have we come to this?’ said Maria, ‘Well give me 50 Methodist and 50 Church of England ones please.’

---

What did the reindeer say before launching into his comedy routine?

This will sleigh you.

---

Christmas: The time when everyone gets Santamental.

## The top 18 ways to confuse Santa Claus

1. Instead of milk and cookies, leave him a salad, and a note explaining that you think he could stand to lose a few pounds.
2. While he’s in the house, go find his sleigh and write him a speeding ticket.
3. Leave him a note, explaining that you’ve gone away for the holidays. Ask if he would mind watering your plants.
4. While he’s in the house, replace all his reindeer with exact replicas. Then wait and see what happens when he tries to get them to fly.
5. Keep an angry bull in your living room. If you think a bull goes crazy when he sees a little red cape, wait until he sees that big, red Santa suit!
6. Build an army of mean-looking snowmen on the roof, holding signs that say “We hate Christmas,” and “Go away Santa”.
7. Leave a note by the telephone, telling Santa that Mrs. Claus called and wanted to remind him to pick up some milk and a loaf of bread on his way home.
8. Set a bear trap at the bottom of the chimney. Wait for Santa to get caught in it, and then explain that you’re sorry, but from a distance, he looked like a bear.
9. While he’s in the house, find the sleigh and sit in it. As soon as he comes back and sees you, tell him that he shouldn’t have missed that last payment, and take off.
10. Leave a plate filled with cookies and a glass of milk out, with a note that says, “For The Tooth Fairy.” Leave another plate out with

half a stale cookie and a few drops of skim milk in a dirty glass with a note that says, “For Santa”.

11. Take everything out of your house as if it’s just been robbed. When Santa arrives, show up dressed like a policeman and say, “Well, well. They always return to the scene of the crime.”

12. Leave out a copy of your Christmas list with last-minute changes and corrections.

13. While he’s in the house, cover the top of the chimney with barbed wire.

14. Leave lots of hunting trophies and guns out where Santa’s sure to see them. Go outside, yell, “Ooh! Look! A deer! And he’s got a red nose!” and fire a gun.

15. Leave Santa a note, explaining that you’ve moved. Include a map with unclear and hard-to-read directions to your new house.

16. Leave out a Santa suit, with a dry-cleaning bill.

17. Paint “hoof-prints” all over your face and clothes. While he’s in the house, go out on the roof. When he comes back up, act like you’ve been “trampled.” Threaten to sue.

18. Instead of ornaments, decorate your tree with Easter eggs. Dress up like the Easter Bunny. Wait for Santa to come and then say, “This neighborhood ain’t big enough for the both of us.”

---

Sometimes Santa will fall down a chimney. Then he’s Santa Klutz.

---

Just before Christmas, two brothers were spending the night at their Grandma’s house. At bed time, they knelt down to say their prayers. As they closed their eyes, one boy said in a loud voice, “Dear Lord, please ask Santa Claus to bring me a Wii, a telescope and a new bike.” His older brother said, “Why are you shouting? God isn’t deaf.” “I know,” said his brother, “but Grandma is.”

---

There were two blondes who went deep into the frozen woods searching for a Christmas tree. After hours of subzero temperatures a few close calls with hungry wolves, one blonde turned to the other and said, “I’m chopping down the next tree I see. I don’t care whether it’s decorated or not!”

---

Q. What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

A. It’s Christmas, Eve.

---

The Santa Claus at the shopping mall was very surprised when Emily, young lady aged about 20 years old walked up and sat on his lap. Now, we all know that Santa doesn’t usually take requests from adults, but she smiled very nicely at him, so he asked her, ‘What do you want for Christmas?’ ‘Something for my mother, please,’ replied Emily sweetly. ‘Something for your mother? Well, that’s very loving and thoughtful of you,’ smiled Santa. ‘What do would you like me to bring her?’ Without turning a hair Emily answered quickly, ‘A son-in-law.’

# Humor

Q: What is a webmaster's favorite hymn?

A: Oh, dot com all ye faithful!

---

Q: Did you hear that one of Santa's reindeer now works for Proctor and Gamble?

A: Its true . . . Comet cleans sinks!

---

On Christmas morning a cop on horseback is sitting at a traffic light and next to him is a kid on his shiny new bike. The cop says to the kid, "Nice bike you got there. Did Santa bring that to you?" The kid says, "Yeah." The cop says, "Well, next year tell Santa to put a tail-light on that bike." The cop then proceeds to issue the kid a \$20.00 bicycle safety violation ticket. The kid takes the ticket and before he rides off says, "By the way, that's a nice horse you got there. Did Santa bring that to you?" Humoring the kid, the cop says, "Yeah, he sure did." The kid says, "Well, next year tell Santa to put the stupidity in the horse's brain instead of on his back."

---

"Here's a Christmas request I can't give," Santa said to Mrs. Claus.

"Why not?" asked Mrs. Claus. "Here, read the letter."

Dear Santa,

Will you please bring me some crocodile shoes for Christmas?

Thanks,

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Pete

"But you have lots of crocodile shoes," said Mrs. Claus. "Why can't you give him a pair?" "Because he didn't tell me what size his crocodile wears."

---

Q: What's a good holiday tip?

A: Never catch snowflakes with your tongue until all the birds have gone south for the winter.

---

Christmas tag-sale. Handmade gifts for that hard-to-find person.

---

What do you call the fear of getting stuck in a chimney?

Santaclaustrophobia

---

Q: Why is Christmas just like a day at the office?

A: You do all the work and the fat guy with the suit gets all the credit.

---

## **Twas the Night Before Christmas - Military Version**

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the skies,  
Air defenses were up, with electronic eyes.

Combat pilots were nestled in ready-room beds,  
As enemy silhouettes danced in their heads.

Every jet on the apron, each SAM in its tube,  
Was triply-redundant, linked to the Blue Cube,  
And ELINT and AWACS gave coverage so dense  
That nothing that flew could slip through our defense.

When out of the klaxon arose such a clatter  
I dashed to the screen to see what was the matter;  
I increased the gain and then, quick as a flash,  
Fine-adjusted the filters to damp out the hash.

And there found the source of the warning we'd heeded:  
An incoming blip, by eight escorts preceded.

"Alert status red!" went the word down the wire,  
As we gave every system the codes that meant "FIRE!"

On Aegis! Up Patriot, Phalanx and Hawk!  
And scramble our fighters--let's send the whole flock!  
Launch decoys and missiles! Use chaff by the yard!  
Get the kitchen sink up! Call the National Guard!

They turned toward the target, moved toward it, converged.  
Till the tracks on the radar all finally merged,  
And the sky was lit up with a demonic light,  
As the foe met his fate in the high arctic night.

So we sent out some recon to look for debris,  
Yet all that they found, both on land and on sea

Were some toys, a red hat, a charred left leather boot,  
Broken sleigh bells, white hair, and a deer's parachute.

Now it isn't quite Christmas, with Saint Nick shot down.  
There are unhappy kids in each village and town.  
For the Spirit of Christmas can't hope to evade  
All the web of defenses we've carefully made.

But a crash program's on: Working hard, night and day,  
All the elves are constructing a radar-proof sleigh.  
So let's wait for next Christmas, in cheer and in health,  
For the future has hope: Santa's coming by stealth!

Q. How is the Italian version of Christmas different?

A. One Mary, one Jesus, and 32 Wise guys.

Q. What happened when the snowwoman got angry at the snowman?

A. She gave him the cold shoulder.

Q: How come you never hear anything about the 10th reindeer "Olive" ?

A: Yeah, you know, "Olive the other reindeer, used to laugh and call him names"

What do lions sing at Christmas?

Jungle bells!

## Christmas Carols for the Psychiatrically Challenged

Schizophrenia --- Do You Hear What I Hear?

Multiple Personality Disorder --- We Three Queens Disoriented Are

Dementia --- I Think I'll be Home for Christmas

Narcissistic --- Hark the Herald Angles Sing About Me

Manic --- Deck the Halls and Walls and House and Lawn and Streets and Stores and Office and Town and Cars and Busses and Trucks and trees and Fire Hydrants and.....

Paranoid --- Santa Claus is Coming to Get me

Borderline Personality Disorder --- Thoughts of Roasting on an Open Fire

Personality Disorder --- You Better Watch Out, I'm Gonna Cry, I'm Gonna Pout, Maybe I'll tell You Why

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder --- Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells...

Q: What was so good about the neurotic doll the girl was given for Christmas?

A: It was wound up already.

Santa goes up and down so many chimneys that he's thinking of getting a yearly flu shot?

A man went to his psychiatrist and said,

"What's wrong with me? I'm afraid of Santa."

The psychiatrist said, "You must be Claustrofobic"

Shortly before Christmas, a business man was anxious to get home. The business trip had been grueling and he was not in a particularly good mood. The airport loudspeakers blared Christmas carols he was sick of hearing them. He thought their decorations were tacky. The worst decoration, he thought, was the plastic mistletoe hung over the luggage scale. Being in a grumpy mood, he said to the woman at the counter, "You know, even if I weren't married, I wouldn't kiss you." "That's not what it's there for," said the attendant. "It's so you can kiss your luggage goodbye."

Q: What goes Ho, Ho, Swoosh, Ho, Ho, Swoosh?

A: Santa caught in a revolving door!

It was coming up to Christmas and Sammy asked his mom if he could have a new bike. So, she told him that the best idea would be to write to Santa Claus. But Sam, having just played a vital role in the school nativity play, said he would prefer to write to the baby Jesus. So his mom told him that would be fine. Sam went to his room and wrote ' Dear Jesus, I have been a very good boy and would like

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# Humor

to have a bike for Christmas.' But he wasn't very happy when he read it over. So he decided to try again and this time he wrote 'Dear Jesus, I'm a good boy most of the time and would like a bike for Christmas.' He read it back and wasn't happy with that one either. He tried a third version. 'Dear Jesus, I could be a good boy if I tried hard and especially if I had a new bike.' He read that one too, but he still wasn't satisfied. So, he decided to go out for a walk while he thought about a better approach. After a short time he passed a house with a small statue of the Virgin Mary in the front garden. He crept in, stuffed the statue under his coat, hurried home and hid it under the bed. Then he wrote this letter. 'Dear Jesus, If you want to see your mother again, you'd better send me a new bike.'

Mom, can I please have a cat for Christmas? No. You'll have turkey the same as the rest of us.

It was Christmas Eve in at the meat counter and a woman was anxiously picking over the last few remaining turkeys in the hope of finding a large one. In desperation she called over a shop assistant and said, 'Excuse me. Do these turkeys get any bigger?' 'No, madam, 'he replied, 'they're all dead.'

Q: Why was Santa's little helper depressed?

A: Because he had low elf esteem.

Q: What do you get when you cross an archer with a gift-wrapper?

A: Ribbon hood.

What's red and white and black all over? Santa Claus after he slid down the chimney.

Santa and his reindeer need to be really quiet when they deliver presents so no one will know they are there. One Christmas Eve when they landed on a roof top, there was a loud, "Snort, snort, sniff, honk, honk, sniff." "Shhh," said Santa and he proceeded to

get out of the sleigh. Once again, louder this time, there was a "Snort, snort, sniff, honk, honk, sniff." Dogs began to bark in the neighborhood. "Shhh," Santa said again, "Stop doing that." He started to lift his sack of toys out of the sleigh when he heard it again, even louder. "SNORT, SNORT, SNIFF, HONK, HONK, SNIFF." Lights came on all over the neighborhood. Some people opened their windows and stuck out their heads trying to see where the noise came from. Horrified, Santa jumped back in the sled and flew off to the North Pole. When he got there, he lined up all the reindeer and said, "OK, we are not going to deliver any more presents until the reindeer who is trying to be funny by making those noises confesses and apologizes." He waited. No reindeer came forward. "I know who it is," said Santa. He held up a piece of paper. "I've written your name here and I will read it. But I want to give you a chance to do the right thing," Still no reindeer came forward. So Santa did the only thing he could. He



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read off the rude-nosed reindeer.

How do snowmen get around?

On their icicles.

Christmas is just plain weird. What other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree in your living room eating candy and snacks out of your socks?

Q: What do you call a bunch of grandmasters of chess bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?

A: Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!

Q: What do you get if you deep fry Santa Claus?

A: Crisp Cringle.

It was Christmas and everyone seemed to be having a great time, but Father O'Rourke was not. He suddenly said to Father Kelly 'You know what. I'm fed up with all this good behavior and clean living. Why don't go out and have good old sinful night out. We could drink, go with loose women and do whatever takes our fancy.' Are you mad?' replied Father Kelly 'This is a small town. Everyone knows who we are.' 'I don't mean we should do it here.' said his colleague. 'We could dress like everyone else and take the train to the city.' After much persuasion Father Kelly agreed to do so and off they went that night and partied until morning. They arrived home very much the worse for wear and it was then that the enormity of what they had done began to dawn on Father Kelly. 'Oh my God. We're going to have to confess our misdemeanor.' 'Don't worry.' replied Father O'Rourke 'I've already thought about this. You get changed and go into the confessional and I'll tell you all about my misdeeds and you can absolve me. Then, I'll do the same for you.' So, a short while later Father O'Rourke went to the church and entered the confessional. 'Father, forgive me for I have sinned. I went out with a friend to celebrate Christmas eve night and got drunk, had sexual relations with women, danced to wicked music and used foul language.' Father Kelly replied 'God is patient and forgiving and so am I. Do five Our Fathers, five Hail Mary's and your sins will be forgiven.' A short while later their positions were reversed and Father Kelly confessed everything in great detail. 'This is an outrage.' exclaimed Father O'Rourke. 'What kind of priest are you? Do five hundred Our Fathers, Five hundred Hail Mary's, donate all you income for the next three months to the church, go right round the church on your knees fifty times, asking God's forgiveness as you do so. Then come back to me and maybe I'll consider absolution.' 'What?' said the astonished Father Kelly 'What about our agreement?' Father O'Rourke replied 'What I do with my time off is one thing, but I take my job very seriously.'

If Santa gets stuck in the chimney, you can get him out by pouring Santa Flush on him.

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# Humor

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

A: Snowflakes.

Q: How do sheep in Mexico say Merry Christmas?

A: Fleece Navidad!

What does Santa call reindeer that don't work?

Dinner.

On the Sunday before Christmas Reverend Billy Graham was walking down Highland Street in Mt Holly, North Carolina on his way to see a parishioner. However, he wanted to post a parcel urgently so he asked a young boy where he could find the post office. When the boy had directed him, Reverend Graham thanked him and said, 'If you'll come to the Church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven.' The boy replied, 'I think I'll give your sermon a miss. If you don't even know your way to the post office, how will you lead me to heaven?'

Q: What was wrong with the boy's brand new toy electric train set he received for Christmas?

A: Forty feet of track - all straight!

Q: What did the ghosts say to Santa Claus?

A: We'll have a boo Christmas without you.

Q: What nationality is Santa Claus?

A: North Polish.

Q: What do elves learn in school?

A: The Elf-abet!

Q: Why did Santa spell Christmas N-O-E?

A: Because the angel had said, "No LI!"

When you consider Christmas, there are four stages in your life:-

- 1) You believe in Santa
- 2) You don't believe in Santa
- 3) You are Santa
- 4) You look like Santa

Christmas Humor:

One Christmas, Joe and Peter built a skating rink in the middle of a field. A shepherd leading his flock decided to take a shortcut across the rink. The sheep, however, were afraid of the ice and wouldn't cross it. Desperate, the shepherd began tugging them to the other side. 'Look at that,' remarked Peter to Joe, 'That guy is trying to pull the wool over our ice!'

Q. What do you get if you cross Santa with a detective ?

A. Santa Clues!

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The advertisement features a central computer monitor displaying a stylized black whale logo with red flames above it. To the left of the monitor, there is a collage of various design samples including business cards, a poster with a woman's face, a 'SCOA' logo, a 'SPAGHETTI WESTERN' poster, and a 'EAT Drink MARRIED' sign. The background is a light gray gradient.

Q: Why does Santa Claus go down the chimney on Christmas Eve?

A: Because it "soots" him!

Q: What happened when Guy ate the Christmas decorations?

A: He went down with tinsel-itis.

Top Ten Things To Say About A Christmas Gift You Don't Like

10. Hey! There's a gift!
9. Well, well, well ...
8. Boy, if I had not recently shot up 4 sizes that would've fit.
7. This is perfect for wearing around the basement.
6. Gosh. I hope this never catches fire! It is fire season though. There are lots of unexplained fires.
5. If the dog buries it, I'll be furious!
4. I love it -- but I fear the jealousy it will inspire.
3. Sadly, tomorrow I enter the Federal Witness Protection Program.
2. To think -- I got this the year I vowed to give all my gifts to charity.

And the Number One Thing to say about a Christmas gift you don't like:

1. "I really don't deserve this."

## Christmas Eve Shopping:

A couple was Christmas shopping at the mall on Christmas Eve and the mall was packed. As the wife walked through the mall she was surprised to look up and see her husband nowhere to be found. She was quite upset because they had a lot to do. Because she was so worried, she called him on her mobile phone to ask him where he was. In a calm voice, the husband said, "Honey, you remember the jewelry store we went into about 5 years ago where you fell in love with that diamond necklace that we could not afford and I told you that I would get it for you one day?" The wife choked up and started to cry and said, "Yes, I remember that jewelry store." He said, "Well, I'm in the bar right next to it."

## Three Blondes and The Texas Highway Patrol:

Three blondes were all applying for the last available position on the Texas Highway Patrol. The detective conducting the interview looked at the three of them and said, "So y'all want to be cops, huh?" The blondes all nodded. The detective got up, opened a file drawer, and pulled out a folder. Sitting back down, he opened it, pulled out a picture, and said, "To be a detective, you have to be able to detect. You must be able to notice things such as distinguishing features and oddities like scars and so forth." So saying, he stuck the photo in the face of the first blonde and withdrew it after about two seconds. "Now," he said, "did you notice any dis-



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tinguishing features about this man?" The blonde immediately said, "Yes, I did. He has only one eye!" The detective shook his head and said, "Of course he has only one eye in this picture! It's a profile of his face! You're dismissed!" The first blonde hung her head and walked out of the office. The detective then turned to the second blonde, stuck the photo in her face for two seconds, pulled it back, and said, "What about you? Notice anything unusual or outstanding about this man?" "Yes! He only has one ear!" The detective put his head in his hands and exclaimed, "Didn't you hear what I just told the other lady? This is a profile of the man's face! Of course you can only see one ear! You're excused too!" The second blonde sheepishly walked out of the office. The detective turned his attention to the third and last blonde and said, "This is probably a waste of time, but.....". He flashed the photo in her face for a couple of seconds and withdrew it, saying, "All right, did you notice anything distinguishing or unusual about this man?" The blonde said, "I sure did. This man wears contact lenses." The detective frowned, took another look at the picture, and began looking at some of the papers in the folder. He looked up at the blonde with a puzzled expression and said, "You're absolutely right! His bio says he wears contacts! How in the world could you tell that by looking at his picture?" The blonde rolled her eyes and said, "Well, Helloooooooooooooo! With only one eye and one ear, he certainly can't wear glasses."

## POLITICALLY CORRECT VERSION OF THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS:

Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...  
How to live in a world that's politically correct?  
His workers no longer would answer to "Elves"  
"Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves  
And labor conditions at the north pole  
Were alleged by the union to stifle the soul  
Four reindeer had vanished, without much propriety  
Released to the wilds by the Humane Society  
And equal employment had made it quite clear  
That Santa had better not use just reindeer  
So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid  
Were replaced with 4 pigs, and you know that looked stupid!  
The runners had been removed from his sleigh;  
The ruts were termed dangerous by the E P A  
And people had started to call for the cops  
When they heard sled noises on their roof-tops  
Second-hand smoke from his pipe had his workers quite frightened  
His fur trimmed red suit was called "Unenlightened"  
And to show you the strangeness of life's ebbs and flows  
Rudolf was suing over unauthorized use of his nose  
And had gone on Geraldo, in front of the nation  
Demanding millions in over-due compensation  
So, half of the reindeer were gone; and his wife  
Who suddenly said she'd enough of this life  
Joined a self-help group, packed, and left in a whiz  
Demanding from now on her title was Ms  
And as for the gifts, why, he'd ne'er had a notion  
That making a choice could cause so much commotion  
Nothing of leather, nothing of fur  
Which meant nothing for him. And nothing for her  
Nothing that might be construed to pollute  
Nothing to aim. Nothing to shoot  
Nothing that clamored or made lots of noise  
Nothing for just girls. Or just for boys  
Nothing that claimed to be gender specific  
Nothing that's warlike or non-pacific  
No candy or sweets ... they were bad for the tooth  
Nothing that seemed to embellish the truth  
And fairy tales, while not yet forbidden  
Were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden  
For they raised the hackles of those psychological  
Who claimed the only good gift was ecological  
No baseball, no football ... someone could get hurt;  
Besides; playing sports exposed kids to dirt  
Dolls were said to be sexist, and should be passé;  
And Nintendo would rot your entire brain away  
So Santa just stood there, disheveled, perplexed;  
He just could not figure out what to do next  
He tried to be merry, tried to be gay  
But you've got to be careful with that word today  
His sack was quite empty, limp to the ground;



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Nothing fully acceptable was to be found  
 Something special was needed, a gift that he might  
 Give to all without angering the left or the right  
 A gift that would satisfy, with no indecision  
 Each group of people, every religion;  
 Every ethnicity, every hue  
 Everyone, everywhere ... even you  
 So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth ...  
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**IMMEDIATE DOWNSIZING MEASURES EMPLOYED**

The recent announcement that Donner and Blitzen have elected to take the early reindeer retirement package has triggered a good deal of concern about whether they will be replaced, and about other restructuring decisions at the North Pole. Streamlining is due to the North Pole's loss of dominance of this season's gift distribution business. Home shopping channels, the Internet, and mail order catalogs have diminished Santa's market share. He could not sit idly by and permit further erosion of the profit picture. The reindeer downsizing was made possible through the purchase of a late model Japanese sled for the CEO's annual trip. Improved productivity from Dasher and Dancer--who will retrain at the Harvard Business School--is anticipated. Reduction in reindeer will also lessen airborne environmental emissions for which the North Pole

has received unfavorable press. I am pleased to inform you that Rudolph's role will not be disturbed. Tradition still counts for something at the North Pole.

**IS THERE A SANTA?**

A few days after Christmas, my six year son and I were talking. He asked, "Mom, is there a Santa Claus?" "Well, what do you think?" I asked him. He replied, "Well, my X Box that I got and my gifts from Santa were wrapped in the same kind of wrapping paper." He thought for a minute and said, "I'll tell you what ... you and Dad can go on buying me presents and let's just forget we ever had this talk!"

**Rudolph:**

A Russian couple are walking when it begins to precipitate. The man, Rudolph tells his wife it is raining but she insists that it is snowing. Again and again she says that it is snowing but again and again he says that it is raining. Once more she says to him, Rudolph, it definitely is snowing to which he replies, "Rudolph the red knows rain dear".

**ANNUAL OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY:**

FROM: Patty Lewis, Human Resources Director

TO: All Employees

DATE: December 1

RE: Annual Office Christmas Party

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place on December 23, starting at noon in the private function room at the Grill House. There will be a cash bar and plenty of drinks! We'll have a small band playing traditional carols. Feel free to sing along. And don't be surprised if our CEO shows up dressed as Santa Claus! A Christmas tree will be lit at 1:00 p.m. Exchange of gifts among employees can be done at that time, however, no gift should be over \$10.00 to make the giving of gifts easy for everyone's pockets. This gathering is only for employees! A special announcement will be made by our CEO at that time! Merry Christmas to you and your family.

Patty

+++++

FROM: Patty Lewis, Human Resources Director

TO: All Employees

DATE: December 2

RE: Holiday Party

In no way was yesterday's memo intended to exclude our Jewish employees. We recognize that Chanukah is an important holiday, which often coincides with Christmas, though unfortunately not this year. However, from now on we're calling it our "Holiday Party." The same policy applies to any other employees who are not Christians or those still celebrating Reconciliation Day. There will be no Christmas tree present. No Christmas carols sung. We will have other types of music for your enjoyment. Happy now? Happy Holidays to you and your family.

Patty

+++++

FROM: Patty Lewis, Human Resources Director

TO: All Employees

DATE: December 3

RE: Holiday Party

Regarding the note I received from a member of Alcoholics Anonymous requesting a non-drinking table... you didn't sign your name. I'm happy to accommodate this request, but if I put a sign on a table that reads "AA Only" you wouldn't be anonymous anymore. How am I supposed to handle this? Somebody? Forget about the gift exchange, no gifts are allowed since the union members feel that \$10.00 is too much money and executives believe \$10.00 is a little chintzy. **NO GIFT EXCHANGE WILL BE ALLOWED.**

Patty

+++++

FROM: Patty Lewis, Human Resources Director

TO: All Employees

DATE: December 7

RE: Holiday Party

What a diverse group we are! I've arranged for members of Weight Watchers to sit farthest from the dessert buffet and pregnant women will get the table closest to the restrooms. Gays are allowed to sit with each other. Lesbians do not have to sit with gay men, each will have their own table. Yes, there will be a flower arrangement for the gay men's table. However, to the person asking permission to cross dress, no cross dressing allowed. We will have booster seats for short people. Low-fat food will be

available for those on a diet. We cannot control the salt used in the food we suggest for those people with high blood pressure to taste first. There will be fresh fruits as dessert for Diabetics; the restaurant cannot supply "No Sugar" desserts. Sorry! Did I miss anything?!?!?

Patty

++++  
FROM: Patty Lewis, Human Resources Director

TO: All Employees

DATE: December 10

RE: The Holiday Party

Vegetarians!! I've had it with you people!!!

We're going to keep this party at the Grill House whether you like it or not, so you can sit quietly at the table furthest from the "grill of death," as you so quaintly put it, and you'll get your salad bar, including organic lettuce and tomatoes. But you know, tomatoes have feelings, too. They scream when you slice them. I've heard them scream. I'm hearing them scream right NOW! I hope you all have a rotten holiday! Drive drunk and die, you hear me?

Patty

++++  
FROM: Joan Bishop, Acting Human Resources Director

DATE: December 14

RE: Patty Lewis and Holiday Party

I'm sure I speak for all of us in wishing Patty Lewis a speedy recovery and I'll continue to forward your cards to her. In the meantime, management has decided to cancel our Holiday Party and give everyone the afternoon of the 23rd off with full pay. Happy Holidays!

PS: HAVE A FANTASTIC WEEKEND!!!

### MISTLETOE:

It was the beginning of December. The trip had gone reasonably well, and he was ready to go back. The airport on the other hand had turned a tacky red and green, and loudspeakers blared annoying elevator renditions of cherished Christmas carols. Being someone who took Christmas very seriously, and being slightly tired, he was not in a particularly good mood. Going to check in his luggage (which, for some reason, had become one suitcase with entirely new clothes), he saw hanging mistletoe. Not real mistletoe, but very cheap plastic with red paint on some of the rounder parts

and green paint on some of the flatter and "pointier" parts, that could be taken for mistletoe only in a very Picasso sort of way. With a considerable degree of irritation and nowhere else to vent it, he said to the lady attendant, "Even if I were not married, I would not want to kiss you under such a ghastly mockery of mistletoe." "Sir, look more closely at where the mistletoe is." (pause) "Ok, I see that it's above the luggage scale, which is the place you'd have to step forward for a kiss." "That's not why it's there." (pause) "Ok, I give up. Why is it there?" "It's there so you can kiss your luggage goodbye."

Santa Hates Your Kid

8. Kid's letter to North Pole comes back stamped, "Dream on, Kid!"

7. Kid asks for new bike, gets pack of gum.

6. Along with presents, Santa leaves hefty bill for shipping and handling.

5. By the time he gets to your house, all he has left is foam packing.

4. Christmas day, your kid wakes up with a Reindeer head in his bed.

3. Instead of "Naughty" or "Nice", Santa has him on the stupid list.

2. Labels on all your kid's toys read "Straight from Craptown."

1. Four words: "Off my lap, Tubby!"

### Short Father Christmas

What do you get if you cross Father Christmas with a detective?  
Santa Clues!

Father Christmas win a saucepan in a competition.  
Now that's what you call pot luck!

What do the reindeer sing to Father Christmas on his birthday?  
Freeze a jolly good fellow!

What do you call a man who claps at Christmas?  
Santappliance!

Twinkle Twinkle chocolate bar

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Santa drives a rusty car  
 Press the starter  
 Press the choke  
 Off he goes in a cloud of smoke !

Who delivers presents to baby sharks at Christmas ?  
 Santa Jaws !

Why does Father Christmas like to work in the garden ?  
 Because he likes to hoe, hoe, hoe !

Why is a cat on a beach like Christmas ?  
 Because they both have "Sandy claws" !

What's Father Christmas called when he takes a rest while delivering presents ?  
 Santa pause !

Question and Answer Christmas Jokes  
 Q: What do elves learn in school?  
 A: The Elf-abet!

Q: What's the most popular wine at Christmas?  
 A: "I don't like sprouts" !

Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?  
 A: Frostbite.

Q: Why do birds fly south for the winter ?  
 A: Because it's too far to walk.

Q: What kind of bird can write?  
 A: A PENguin.

Q: What do you call a cat on the beach at Christmas time?  
 A: Sandy Claus!

Q: How do sheep in Mexico say Merry Christmas?  
 A: Fleece Navidad!

Q: What nationality is Santa Claus?  
 A: North Polish.

Q: What do you get if you deep fry Santa Claus?  
 A: Crisp Cringle.

Q: What did Santa shout to his toys on Christmas Eve?  
 A: Okay everyone, sack time!!

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?  
 A: Snowflakes.

Q: Why did the elf push his bed into the fireplace?  
 A: He wanted to sleep like a log.

Q: Why did Santa spell Christmas N-O-E?

A: Because the angel had said, "No LI!"

Q: What goes Ho, Ho, Swoosh, Ho, Ho, Swoosh?

A: Santa caught in a revolving door!

Q: What do you do if Santa gets stuck in your chimney?

A: Pour Santa flush on him.

Q: Did you hear that one of Santa's reindeer now works for Proctor and Gambel?

A: Its true . . . Comet cleans sinks!

Q: Why does Scrooge love Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer?

A: Because every buck is dear to him.

Q: How come you never hear anything about the 10th reindeer "Olive" ?

A: Yeah, you know, "Olive the other reindeer, used to laugh and call him names"

Q: Why is Christmas just like a day at the office?

A: You do all the work and the fat guy with the suit gets all the credit.

Q: What's a good holiday tip?

A: Never catch snowflakes with your tongue until all the birds have gone south for the winter.

Ten things to say about gifts you don't like

10. Boy, if I had not recently shot up four sizes, that would've fit.

9. It would be a shame if the garbage man ever accidentally took this from me.

8. Perfect for wearing in the basement.

7. Well, well, well...

6. I really don't deserve this.

5. Gosh, I hope this never catches fire!

4. I Love it, but I fear the jealousy it will inspire.

3. If the dog buries it, I'll be furious!

2. Sadly, tomorrow I enter the federal witness protection program.

1. To think I got this the year I vowed to give all my gifts to charity.



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## Ten worst gifts to buy a woman

1. Never give a woman any kind of household appliance or something that is going to make “housework” easier. For instance, a blender, a toaster, a new vacuum, one of those mops they advertise on tv that does everything but suck the life out of you, anything in a infomercial. One allowed choice is a new washing machine with a turbo spin cycle. (Makes laundry day go by pretty fast when you can at least sit on it during spin-dry and end up smiling the rest of the day.)
2. Any bulk cleaning supplies, “honey, I got you that large box of Tide you have been wanting.” “This Windex should last you a while.” “I got a good deal on the industrial strength toilet bowl cleaner.” All I can say is, be prepared to run. I have faith that if you would have at least stopped and thought about what would be a much more intimate gift, you would have had the sense to spring for the \$5 Chia Pet you were eyeing in Kmart.
3. Any sharp objects made by Ronco which slices or dices, or a set of ginsu knives. These may one day be used as a weapon against you when you come home with lipstick on your collar after a “night out with the boys.”
4. Do not buy gifts for yourself and pretend they are for her. “Honey, I’m sure you’ll get a lot of use out of the new drill I bought you.” By then she will have put it to good use by drilling a quarter inch hole into the side of your skull for even thinking she would accept such a lame gift. After a gift like this, you probably won’t be around for NEXT Christmas.
5. Any lingerie made of flannel, such as a pair of feet pajamas with a trap door in back. A Little Mermaid or Barney cartoon character night-gown. It gives her the idea that you do not consider her the beautiful woman that she is. Take out that wallet and buy her something sexy from Victoria Secret (just like you did for your mistress or other girlfriend).
6. No name perfume which costs you \$1.99, such as Eu de Toilet, which actually smells like the bathroom, moldy fruit, or your dirty socks. If you are going to buy her perfume, spring for the brand names.
7. Any type of cubic zirconium jewelry you see on the Home Shopping Network. It will be quite embarrassing when she is showing off that fabulous diamond to her friends and tries to cut glass with it. (We actually test them you know.) Also, now would not be a good time to buy her that set of diamond nipple clamps you always wanted to, you know how we like to show off our jewelry and it could get embarrassing at the New Year’s party when she decides to show them off to your buddies.
8. Please do not buy her clothes because you think for one minute you have good taste in woman’s clothing. Well, perhaps you might if you are a transvestite, but all in all, believe me, she’ll smile and say its beautiful while choking back tears and mumbling under her breath, “were the hell would I ever wear this outfit without being arrested for bad taste?” An additional hint, plaids do not go with stripes (even

though you think your golfing outfit looks just fine). Its a known fact to the rest of the world that that is a taboo. In the Northeast, that's like wearing white after Labor Day.

9. Do not give her a gift certificate to Jenny Craig or Weight Watchers. Most men would know better, especially the ones who have learned the correct response to "do these pants make me look fat." If you are one of the poor souls who still doesn't get it and purchased a gift like this, be prepared for the silent treatment for a month. (Although that may be something you would actually look forward to.) A better alternative would be hiring a Chippendale dancer as a personal trainer to get her motivated into getting fit.

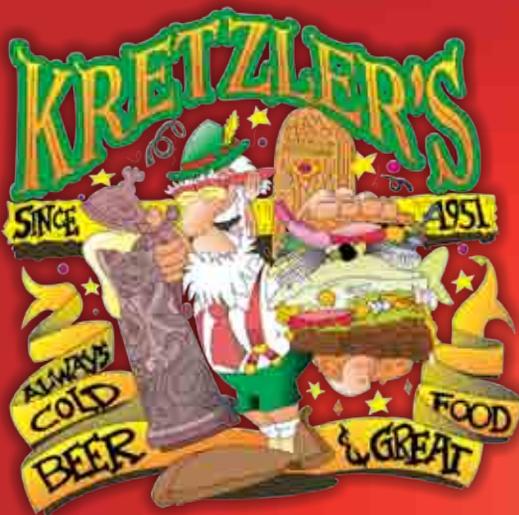
10. Last but not least, never buy a woman anti-wrinkle cream, or a book on "How not to be Nasty Sunday through Saturday." These are not considered gifts, they are considered reasons for seriously injuring the person who bought it and just may stand up in court of law.

### A Martha Stewart Christmas

Dear Santa:

I rarely ask for much. This year is no exception. I don't need diamond earrings, handy slicer-dicers or comfy slippers. I only want one little thing, and I want it deeply. I want to slap Martha Stewart. Now, hear me out, Santa. I won't scar her or draw blood or any-

thing. Just one good smack, right across her smug little cheek. I get all cozy inside just thinking about it. Don't grant this wish just for me, do it for thousands of women across the country. Through sheer vicarious satisfaction, you'll be giving a gift to us all. Those of us leading average, garden variety lives aren't concerned with gracious living. We feel pretty good about ourselves if our paper plates match when we stack them on the counter, buffet-style for dinner. We're tired of Martha showing us how to make centerpieces from hollyhock dipped in 18-carat gold. We're plumb out of liquid gold. Unless it's of the furniture polish variety. We can't whip up Martha's creamy holiday sauce, spiced with turmeric. Most of us can't even say turmeric, let alone figure out what to do with it. OK, Santa, maybe you think I'm being a little harsh. But I'll bet with all the holiday rush you didn't catch that interview with Martha in last week's USA Weekend. I'm surprised there was enough room on the page for her ego. We discovered that not only does Martha avoid take-out pizza (she's only ordered it once), she refuses to eat it cold (No cold pizza? Is Martha Stewart living?) When it was pointed out that she could microwave it, she replied, "I don't have a microwave." The reporter, Jeffrey Zaslow, noted that she said this "in a tone that suggests you shouldn't either." Well, lah-dee-dah. Imagine that, Santa! That lovely microwave you brought me years ago, in which I've learned to make complicated dishes like popcorn and hot chocolate, has been declared undesirable by Queen Martha. What next? The coffee maker?



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In the article, we learned that Martha has 40 sets of dishes adorning an entire wall in her home. Forty sets. Can you spell “overkill”? And neatly put away, no less. If my dishes make it to the dishwasher that qualifies as “put away” in my house! Martha tells us she’s already making homemade holiday gifts for friends. “Last year, I made amazing silk-lined scarves for everyone,” she boasts. Not just scarves mind you. Amazing scarves. Martha’s obviously not shy about giving herself a little pat on the back. In fact, she does so with such frequency that one has to wonder if her back is black and blue. She goes on to tell us that “homemaking is glamour for the 90s,” and says her most glamorous friends are “interested in stain removal, how to iron a monogram, and how to fold a towel.” I have one piece of advice, Martha: “Get new friends.” Glamorous friends fly to Paris on a whim. They drift past the Greek Islands on yachts, sipping champagne from crystal goblets. They step out for the evening in shimmering satin gowns, whisked away by tuxedoed chauffeurs. They do not spend their days pondering the finer art of toilet bowl sanitation. Zaslow notes that Martha was named one of America’s 25 most influential people by Time magazine (nosing out Mother Theresa, Madeline Allbright and Maya Angelou, no doubt).

The proof of Martha’s influence: after she bought white-fleshed peaches in the supermarket, Martha says, “People saw me buy them. In an instant, they were all gone.” I hope Martha never decides to jump off a bridge. A guest in Martha’s home told Zaslow how Martha gets up early to rollerblade with her dogs to pick fresh wild blackberries for breakfast. This confirms what I’ve suspected about Martha all along: She’s obviously got too much time on her hands. Teaching the dogs to rollerblade. What a show off. If you think the dogs are spoiled, listen to how Martha treats her friends: She gave one friend all 272 books from the Knopf Everyman Library. It didn’t cost much. Pocket change, really. Just \$5,000. But what price friendship, right?

When asked if others should envy her, Martha replies, “Don’t envy me. I’m doing this because I’m a natural teacher. You shouldn’t

envy teachers. You should listen to them.” Zaslow must have slit a seam in Martha’s ego at this point, because once the hot air came hissing out, it couldn’t be held back. “Being an overachiever is nothing despicable. It is only admirable. Never lower your standards,” says Martha. And of her Web Page on the Internet, Martha declares herself an “important presence” as she graciously helps people organize their sad, tacky little lives. There you have it, Santa. If there was ever someone who deserved a good smack, it’s Martha Stewart. But I bet I won’t get my gift this year. You probably want to smack her yourself.

### THE GOLFERS:

A priest, a doctor, and an engineer were waiting one morning for a particularly slow group of golfers. The engineer fumed, “What’s with those blokes? We must have been waiting for fifteen minutes!” The doctor chimed in, “I don’t know, but I’ve never seen such inept golf!” The priest said, “Here comes the greens keeper. Let’s have a word with him.” He said, “Hello, George! what’s wrong with that group ahead of us? They’re rather slow, aren’t they?” The greens keeper replied, “Oh, yes. That’s a group of blind fire fighters. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play for free anytime.” The group fell silent for a moment. The priest said, “That’s so sad. I think I will say a special prayer for them tonight.” The doctor said, “Good idea. I’m going to contact my ophthalmologist colleague and see if there’s anything he can do for them.” The engineer said, “Why can’t they play at night?”

### EGGS:

A wife was making a breakfast of fried eggs for her husband. Suddenly, her husband burst into the kitchen. “Careful ... CAREFUL! Put in some more butter! Oh my GOD! You’re cooking too many at once. TOO MANY! TURN THEM!! TURN THEM NOW!!! We need more butter. Oh my GOD! WHERE are we going to get MORE BUTTER? They’re going to STICK! Care-

ful ... CAREFUL! I said be CAREFUL! You NEVER listen to me when you're cooking! Never! Turn them! Hurry up! Are you CRAZY? Have you LOST your mind? Don't forget to salt them. You know you always forget to salt them. Use the salt. USE THE SALT! THE SALT!" The wife stared at him. "What the hell is wrong with you? You think I don't know how to fry a couple of eggs?" The husband calmly replied, "I wanted to show you what it feels like when I'm driving."

### Famous Quotes On Drinking:

"Sometimes when I reflect back on all the wine I drink I feel shamed. Then I look into the glass and think about the workers in the vineyards and all of their hopes and dreams If I didn't drink this wine, they might be out of work and their dreams would be shattered. Then I say to myself, "It is better that I drink this wine and let their dreams come true than be selfish and worry about my liver."

~ Jack Handy **WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol may leave you wondering what the hell happened to your bra and panties.

---

"I feel sorry for people who don't drink. When they wake up in the morning, that's as good as they're going to feel all day. "

~ Frank Sinatra

**WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol may create the illusion that you are tougher, smarter, faster and better looking than most people.

---

"When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading."

~ Henny Youngman

**WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol may lead you to think people are laughing WITH you.

---

"24 hours in a day, 24 beers in a case. Coincidence? I think not."

~ Stephen Wright

**WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol may cause you to think you can sing.

---

"When we drink, we get drunk. When we get drunk, we fall asleep. When we fall asleep, we commit no sin. When we commit no sin, we go to heaven. So, let's all get drunk and go to heaven!"

~ Brian O'Rourke

**WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol may cause pregnancy. !

---

"Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy."

~ Benjamin Franklin

**WARNING:** The consumption of alcohol is a major factor in dancing like a retard.



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“Without question, the greatest invention in the history of mankind is beer. Oh, I grant you that the wheel was also a fine invention, but the wheel does not go nearly as well with pizza.”

~ Dave Barry

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol may cause you to tell your friends over and over again that you love them.

To some it's a six-pack, to me it's a Support Group. Salvation in a can!

~ Dave Howell

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol may make you think you can logically converse with members of the opposite sex without spitting.

And saving the best for last, as explained by Cliff Clavin, of Cheers. One afternoon at Cheers, Cliff Clavin was explaining the Buffalo Theory to his buddy Norm.

Here's how it went:

“Well ya see, Norm, it's like this... A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first This natural selection is

good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. That's why you always feel smarter after a few beers.”

WARNING: The consumption of alcohol may make you think you are whispering when you are not. . Help keep Bartender's Employed - Drink more Alcohol!

## UNDERSTANDING WOMAN'S PROBLEMS:

Okay, Okay, it finally all makes sense now.. I never looked at it this way before:

- MENTal illness
- MENstrual cramps
- MENtal breakdown
- MENopause
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**THINGS I'VE LEARNED FROM MY KIDS:**

For those who already have children past this age, this is hilarious  
For those who have children nearing this age, this is a warning. For those who have not yet had children, this is birth control. The following came from an anonymous mother here in Pittsburgh, PA!

Things I've learned from my children (Honest and No Kidding):

- 1. A king size waterbed holds enough water to fill a 2,000 sq.foot house 4 inches deep.
- 2. If you spray hair spray on dust bunnies and run over them with roller blades, they can ignite.
- 3. A 3-year-old's voice is louder than 200 adults in a crowded restaurant.
- 4. If you hook a dog leash over a ceiling fan, the motor is not strong enough to rotate a 42 pound boy wearing Batman underwear and a superman cape. It is strong enough, however, to spread paint on all four walls of a 20 X 20 foot room.
- 5. You should not throw baseballs up when the ceiling fan is on. When using the ceiling fan as a bat, you have to throw the ball up a few times before you get a hit. A ceiling fan can hit a baseball a long way.

- 6. The glass in windows (even double pane) doesn't stop a baseball hit by a ceiling fan.
- 7. When you hear the toilet flush and the words "Uh-oh," it's already too late.
- 8. Brake fluid mixed with Clorox makes smoke, and lots of it.
- 9. A six-year-old can start a fire with a flint rock even though a 36-year-old man says they can only do it in the movies. A magnifying glass can start a fire even on an overcast day.
- 10. Certain Lego's will pass through the digestive tract of a four-year-old.
- 11. Play Dough and Microwave should never be used in the same sentence.
- 12. Super glue is forever.
- 13. No matter how much Jell-O you put in a swimming pool you still can't walk on water.
- 14. Pool filters do not like Jell-O.
- 15. DVD players do not eject PB&J sandwiches even though TV commercials show they do.
- 16. Garbage bags do not make good parachutes.
- 17. Marbles in gas tanks make lots of noise when driving.
- 18. You probably do not want to know what that odor is.
- 19. Always look in the oven before you turn it on. Plastic toys do not like ovens.
- 20. The fire department in Pittsburgh has a 5 minute response time.
- 21. The spin cycle on the washing machine does not make earth



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worms dizzy. It will however make cats dizzy and cats throw up twice their body weight when dizzy.

### WASHINGTON POST'S STYLE INVITATIONAL:

The Washington Post's Style Invitational asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition.

Recent winners:

**Intoxication:** Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

**Reintarnation:** Coming back to life as a hillbilly.

**Foreplay:** Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of getting laid.

**Giraffiti:** Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.

**Sarchasm:** The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

**Inoculatte:** To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.

**Hipatitis:** Terminal coolness.

**Osteopornosis:** A degenerate disease.

**Karmageddon:** It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.

**Glibido:** All talk and no action.

**Dopeler effect:** The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

**Ignoranus:** A person who's both stupid and an asshole.

**HR DIRECTOR:**

One day while walking down the street a highly successful HR Director was tragically hit by a bus and she died, Her soul arrived up in heaven where she was met at the Pearly Gates by St. Peter himself.

Welcome to Heaven," said St. Peter. "Before you get settled in though, it seems we have a problem. You see, strangely enough, we've never once had a Human Resources Director make it this far and we're not really sure what to do with you."

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“No problem, just let me in” said the woman. “ Well, I’d like to, but I have higher orders. What we’re going to do is let you have a day in Hell and a day in Heaven and then you can choose whichever one you want to spend an eternity in.”

“Actually, I think I’ve made up my mind, I prefer to stay in Heaven,” said the woman. “Sorry, we have rules...” And with that St. Peter put the executive in an elevator and it went down-down-down to hell. The doors opened and she found herself stepping out onto the putting green of a beautiful golf course. In the distance was a country club and standing in front of her were all her friends -- fellow executives that she had worked with and they were all dressed in evening gowns and cheering for her.

They ran up and kissed her on both cheeks and they talked about old times. They played an excellent round of golf and at night went to the country club where she enjoyed an excellent steak and lobster dinner. She met the Devil who was actually a really nice guy (kinda cute) and she had a great time telling jokes and dancing. She was having such a good time that before she knew it, it was time to leave. Everybody shook her hand and waved good-bye as she got on the elevator. The elevator went up-up-up and opened back up at the Pearly Gates and found St. Peter waiting for her.

“Now it’s time to spend a day in heaven,” he said. So she spent the next 24 hours lounging around on clouds and playing the harp and singing. She had a great time and before she knew it her 24 hours were up and St. Peter came and got her. “So, you’ve spent a day in hell and you’ve spent a day in heaven. Now you must choose your eternity,” he said. The woman paused for a second and then replied, “Well, I never thought I’d say this, I mean, Heaven has been really great and all, but I think I had a better time in Hell.”

So St. Peter escorted her to the elevator and again she went down-down-down back to Hell. When the doors of the elevator opened she found herself standing in a desolate wasteland covered in garbage and filth. She saw her friends were dressed in rags and were picking up the garbage and putting it in sacks. The Devil came up to her and put his arm around her.

I don’t understand,” stammered the woman, “yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and a country club and we ate lobster and we danced and had a great time. Now all there is, is a wasteland of garbage and all my friends look miserable.”

The Devil looked at her and smiled. “Yesterday we were recruiting you, today you’re staff...”



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