

Political Penguin

By Duane Plank

Alrightee, penning this gem as I eagerly await the idiot Richard Heene to be charged with multiple felonies, if that is possible. The “Balloon Buffoon” and his publicity-seeking loser wife have apparently admitted that the flight of fancy was indeed a hoax. And don’t we all hope that the weirdo “storm chaser” has to make restitution for any and all of the expenses accrued during the televised escapade?

Pinhead Heene, chasing fame cuz he is an idiot, can’t even tell the truth to the folks who are closest to him. Ask one Dean Askew, who picked up Weenie Heene at the Sheriff’s office after the wierdo and his co-conspirator wife were allowed to leave wherever they were incarcerated.

Said his former friend, we hope, Dean Askew, when asked why Heene didn’t exit quietly through the backdoor when allowed to leave. Publicity seeker? “He was adamant about going out in front. Then it dawned on me. This man is seeking fame...I got angry. I couldn’t understand why he wouldn’t take the safe route.” Cuz the guy is a publicity-seeking bum?

Heard recently from some of the cannabis smokers out there that something is brewing here in the Great Bankrupt State in regards to medical marijuana. All right folks, may have to *out* some of these people next week, but if I do, they could fire back at me. So, being that I probably have a couple of skeletons in the closet, I will demur. Skeletons, eh? Halloweenie week, right.

Apparently a recent court ruling disallowed a ban on new local pot dispensaries. Seems that there are in the neighborhood of 800 pot palaces in the City of Angels, the most in the country. Good to see LA is number one in something nationally. Sure that wonderful news will make a few of my more enlightened readers blissfully smile.

The folks who want to limit the pot palaces claim that the hangouts lead to a bunch of slacking smokers loitering about, and that leads to more crime in the area. Sounds like stereotyping to me.

Don’t know a ton about the medical benefits of pot, but maybe I should find out if the weed can be used to cure a bad case of runaway cholesterol. Cuz I can’t seem to give up the French fries and hot dogs. Or the jalapenos. Not my fault. The folks that I

hang out with continue to enable me.

Let me get out my little violin and play a sorrowful tune for the 25 or so executive swindlers who had their outrageous pay slashed by Mr. Obama and the folks in Washington. The same people who handed their failed companies tens of billions of dollars each during the initial round of the bailout playoffs. And these guys and gals work for a corporate who’s who in America: AIG, Citigroup, B of A, General Motors Co., Chrysler, and the financing spinoffs of the automakers.

Seems like “we the people: have donated nearly \$250 *billion* to the failed companies, run into the ground by the same folks who were cashing their obscene paychecks as they were pink-slipping long-time employees, and padlocking the doors on manufacturing plants and sales offices.

Hooray for Ken Feinberg, hired by tax scofflaw Tim Geithner, who also happens to be our Treasury Secretary. Feinberg is the one credited with developing the plan to cut the blowhard executives pay. Here are some of the numbers that I saw posted recently. Guy running CitiGroup, the CFO, made more than \$12 mil last year. And his vice-chairman pocketed more than \$10 mil. And they also had a CEO on the payroll pulling down \$9.2 mil.

Course that is dwarfed by the compensation stolen by ex AIG big-wig Martin Sullivan, who pulled down, according to the stuff I read, more than \$19 million. \$19 million. For what? Helping to bankrupt the United States’ economy?

Just to review, these screwed up companies were handed massive amounts of Benjamins when they ran their company not just into the ground, but so far into the abyss that there was no possible way out. They were given the cash under the TARP umbrella. TARP means the Troubled Asset Relief Program. At least the plan has ass in it. It was enacted last fall to save companies “too big to fail.” How is your 401k doing? Too small for anyone to care?

Apparently the income tax-challenged Mr. Geithner was awoken recently when word slipped out that Goldman Sachs, which had taken \$10 bil in bailout cash, was in cahoots to bestow \$20 bil in bonuses this year. Hmmm.

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Dear Carol



Dear Carol,

My husband’s best friend from their army days 10 years ago came to visit. We’ve been married three years and I thought the guy didn’t exist because my husband kept talking about him and how great he is but I’d never seen him. Well, he finally came to visit. He was going to stay three days. That was three weeks ago. He is a nice guy and my husband really likes having him here but he has taken over the basement where we have our computer and entertainment center. He is having a great vacation but it is more work for me, my husband was laid off two months ago and money is tight. Feeding another person is getting difficult and I want my privacy and normal way of life back. My husband is so happy with him here I hesitate to talk about my feelings and I rarely get him alone long enough for a private conversation. I’m getting resentful and angry; I don’t like feeling this way.

Feeling like a Maid

Dear Maid,

Your signature says it all. Your position in the family and relationship with your husband has changed with the extended stay of his

friend. It is time to speak to your husband. Tell the friend you need some private time and ask him to go for a walk. Tell your husband how you feel and how you would like things to be. Think about this ahead of time. Do not make demands; tell him how you would feel if the friend was gone. Try to establish a departure date. If the friend stays for much longer establish some rules about contributing money, doing chores and giving you some time to yourself need to be established. Ask for what you want instead of swallowing anger and becoming bitter and unpleasant to be around.

Dear Carol,

I have started to watch my grandchildren after school each day. They are eight and 11 years old. They expect to have a snack of soft drinks and chips when they get to my house. They are both getting fat and I think one reason is eating all of that sugar and fat each afternoon. Those things are expensive too. I want to give them nutritious food like juice and fruit but they turn their noses up at that. I want them to enjoy coming to my home but I don’t want to feed them junk. What should I do?

Nana

Dear Nana,

Stand your ground! You know what is good for these children and you run your own home. At grandmother’s house we follow grandmother’s rules and that includes healthy, economical snacks. Sometimes children are more willing to eat food they have prepared themselves. Can you teach them to cook or prepare a healthier snack? You may create memories and teach a new skill as you three spend time talking and cooking together.

Send questions to askcarolnow@gmail.com or mail to Herald Publications.

Carol is a Life Coach available for private consultation in person or on the phone. •

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