

# Standard Journal

## 2015 Rearview Awards I

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Man's bites dog trophy: Toys "R" Us rolled out a new toy this year that's a microphone and stand which radiates laughter and applause whenever your child speaks into the microphone. They'll think they're terrific whether they are or not. This is a way for parents to create a little Frankenstein without running up the electricity bill. It should have taken home the best earth saving toy award at the recent U.N. Climate Change Conference in Paris.

Word of the Year I: Deicing: verb, to use an electronic handheld device to occupy and numb your brain in a vain attempt to alleviate boredom while avoiding physical activity. "Did you see Vinny?" "Yeah, he's up in his room with Vic doing what they do best, deicing."

Word of the Year II: Hillionaire: noun, a liberal who is worth hundreds of millions yet claims to be dead broke.

Phrase of the Year: Safe Space: A college campus liberal romper-room full of self-entitled, "everyone-gets-a-trophy" pansies that is void of critical thinking, divergent opinions and reality.

Question of the year: In what part of the world is the situation better for the United States since Barack Obama became your president and Hillary Clinton and John Kerry became your Secretary of State?

Untrustworthy medal: The Federal Government. According to Uncle Sam a record 94.4 million Americans are employed. This is nearly one-third of the country's population, while Uncle Sam insists the official unemployment rate is 5 percent.

Statistic of the Year I: According to the Census Bureau, more Americans are on welfare than have full-time jobs. According to the Cato Institute, welfare now pays more than minimum-wage work in 35 states. The growing culture of dependency is overwhelming and an underreported scandal of epic proportions.

Statistic of the Year II: Tiger Woods was the number one golfer for years and is now rated somewhere around 400. Woods ended his relationship with skier Lindsey Vonn, who was originally drawn to him because she was impressed with how fast he could go downhill. The PGA Tour needs Woods as he is always good for ratings as viewership is down when he's not in a tournament.

Worst headline: N.Y. Daily News “God Can’t Fix This.” Such an obnoxious headline belittled people of faith for praying. For any newspaper to use their front page to ridicule people of faith after the massacre in San Bernardino, Calif. is inexcusable. The secular news media continues with their anti-religious bigotry that has gone on for years. They seemingly dismiss that Islamists believe the U.S. to be the Great Satan and that such bigotry against God only deepens their hatred for us. We offer prayers because that’s what faithful people do. God will fix it when he changes the hearts and minds of men once we pray for them. As a seemingly endless stream of tragedies befalls society, we should be praying more, not less.

Newest rap star: Hulk Hogan. Earlier this year, World Wrestling Entertainment cut ties with Hulk Hogan after he was recorded repeatedly saying the N-word while making a sex tape with his best friend’s wife. It earned the Hulkster my nomination for 2015’s best new rap artist.

Top Chuck Stroup observation: The Ringling Brothers Circus gave in to animal rights activists when they announced elephants will be eliminated from all shows over the next three years. This move will be a career killer for many. Now, all those clowns who follow the elephants with shovels will have to return to their former job as Washington D.C. press secretaries.

Best cartoon email: Most folks are familiar with Michelangelo’s masterful work on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, showing God, the bearer of life, reaching out to touch his finger to that of Adam. Someone sent me a cartoon recently that showed God holding out, not a finger, but a human brain to his creation, and Adam replying: “No thanks, I’m a liberal.”

Persian of the year: Obama. With the nuclear deal he cut with the Iranian mullahs, he was the unanimous choice, worldwide.

Finest halftime presentation: Syracuse University. During a halftime ceremony at a February basketball game, Syracuse University retired former player Roosevelt Bouie’s jersey. But the jersey presented to Bouie misspelled his name. Instead of Bouie, the name “Bowie” was on the jersey presented the former basketball legend. Given the student-athlete academic standards at Syracuse, they only missed it by one letter earning the athletic department a solid B plus.

Part two is next week.

To all, a happy and healthy 2016.