

Crystal Ball:

It's time to unpack the old crystal ball and take a look into the near future. I like to do this every so often if for no other reason than to keep my prescient orb in shape. It's a well known fact that crystal balls are like pearls. You keep them lustrous by using them. So here goes.

Full body scans will become the standard at airports around the world. The U.S. will lag far behind because of our famous sense of the sanctity of the individual. One of these days we'll get the idea that we're all in this together and that the potential for abuse of private images might just be outweighed by the potential for the terrible deaths of two or three hundred airline passengers. In the meantime we'll keep frisking toddlers and grannies just to show that we really do care about safe travel. Secretary Napolitano will tell us how many nana nukes and baby bombers have been thwarted. She will retract those claims the very next day.

Reality TV will reach its peak with a show from Houston, MN. A bunch of self absorbed twenty-somethings from L.A. and New York will be dropped at the corner of Ellsworth and Cedar in the middle of February. The overwhelming combination of fierce weather and their own pettiness will cause them to actually start chewing on each other, for real. One by one each will be nibbled and noshed by the other until all of them will require an emergency medical exit from the game. The ratings will go through the roof. Minot will lobby hard to host the next season but narrowly lose the show to a revitalized Rushford. It will be a breakthrough moment for Survivor. Because the game will be played in frigid conditions for the first time, the contestants will actually remain fully clothed!

Kim Il Jung, The Perpetual Light of chronically blacked out North Korea will threaten once again to detonate nuclear devices. President Obama will break with the policies of the past and cut off the flow of hair spray into that desolate country. Kim will be devastated, forced to hide from the public, doomed to an endless string of bad hair days. His son, The Perpetual Light Lite, will succeed Papa and again threaten to detonate nuclear devices. This will force the President to order that North Korea be sawed off the mainland and floated far out to sea where they can detonate anything they want.

Tom Tancredo, the Arizona dimwit, will form a posse and stand at the Nogales border daring illegals to try a crossing on his watch. He will mistakenly shoot a federal agent who is passing money to an informant who is giving evidence against the gun dealer who sold Tancredo his Glock with which he shot the federal agent. Former Representative Tancredo will be tried and exonerated by a jury of his sun-baked peers. He will retire from public life in disgrace after it is revealed that his landscaper, pool cleaner, basement remodeler and barber are all illegal immigrants. He will swear that he didn't know that illegals got real jobs; he thought they were all just crooks and terrorists.

Joe Lieberman will take a lunch with Elmer Fudd in a D.C. restaurant. Their uncanny similarities will be the talk of the room. Diners will point and stare. The people one table over will mistakenly ask the Senator for Elmer's autograph. A child will say, "Mommy, how can there be two Elmer Fudds?" She will say, "There aren't two dear. The one in the suit is just pretending. He does it all the time."

The great State of Texas will be granted its delusional wish and be excused from the Union. It will be gift wrapped by Christo and given back to Mexico in a surprise gesture of reconciliation. This will create thousand of miles of new, crossable border. Politicians and fence manufacturers alike will rush to the fresh frontier in Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. Bobby Jindall will get a mulligan and make the most of it. The squeaky voiced son of immigrants will lead a national surge of immigrant bashing, deporting his own parents. He and Lou Dobbs will join together to head a third party with a Neo-Know Nothing message. This will drastically reduce the size of the Tea Party Movement as there are only so many wild eyed nuts to go around.

And finally, my crystal ball tells me that Republicans and Democrats will finally get over the urge to backstab and sucker punch each other. A new era of cooperation and generosity will be ushered in when Joe Biden and Dick Cheney co host the Miss America Pageant. Wait a minute; there must be something wrong with this thing, a crack or fogging or something. I can believe everything else. But this business about politicians getting along, I don't think so. I'd better take it into the shop and have it checked.

I'll get back to you about the Miss America thing.