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**Santa says, “I’m running.”**

**By Curtis Seltzer**

**BLUE GRASS, Va.**—Many Republicans and Democrats are unhappy with their respective 2012 presidential choices.

For that reason, I assigned cub reporter, Scoop Seltzer, a founding member of the Blue Grass media elite, to recruit a candidate who would appeal to both sides. Neither Scoop nor I see any conflict of interest in having him brew up news that he then serves.

Scoop vetted dozens of semi-palatable candidates, ranging from small bums on Main Street to Big Bums on Wall Street. Here, then, is his exclusive interview with the next President of the United States, Santa Claus.

Scoop: *Your eyes—how they twinkle, your dimples how merry.*

*Your cheeks are like roses, your nose is real hairy.*

Santa: *I dress all in fur though PETA objects,*

*I smoke like a chimney, on my insurance collect.*

*I’m fat as a mole and sooty to boot,*

*But year after year, I deliver the loot.*

Scoop: Santa, what is your chief qualification for occupying the President’s chair in the Oval Office?

Santa: I’m an excellent sitter. I don’t slouch or fidget like a lot of little boys. And I don’t fall off my seat in public, if that’s what you’re getting at.

Scoop: Do you think you’re the smartest guy in the room?

Santa: Is anyone else in the room?

Scoop: Do you think you’re smart enough to be President?

Santa: Flying reindeer haul me around the world in one night. I slide down the insides of chimneys that are no wider than my thigh. That says a lot, doesn’t it?

Scoop: It says you’re an illusionist and slicker than an oiled eel.

Santa: Both skills will be needed in the White House. Next question.

Scoop: America has a terrible budget problem. How are you with numbers?

Santa: I’d say, good. I’m best at counting. But I hold my own in subtraction and division. too.

Scoop: Subtraction and division will appeal to certain segments of the voting public. How about social issues. What's your position on teen sex?

Santa: I was 100 percent in favor of it back in high school. Now, I'm against it unless they're already pregnant. I also support the first 10 Commandments, the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution and the first 10 letters in the English alphabet.

Scoop: How would you break the deadlock in Washington between Republicans and Democrats?

Santa: I'd throw a Christmas party. The elephants would pin their tails on the donkeys, and the boy donkeys would spin the bottle for girl elephants. I'd teach Washington how to eggnog together, not separately.

Scoop: Be serious.

Santa: You need to understand that I'm a right jolly old elf. Since I'm compulsively merry, my center of gravity is as low as it gets. Let Santa be Santa!

Scoop: Come on. What do you think about money in politics?

Santa: It's a perfect free market based on supply and demand. Politicians are bought openly, regularly and legally. They sell themselves the same way. It's the only example of pure capitalism left in the country.

Scoop: Well, that's blunt enough. So would you do anything about it?

Santa: I'd shake their booties like a bowlful of jelly.

Scoop: No, really.

Santa: I'd shame Congress into passing a law that requires a legislator to recuse himself from any vote that benefits an organized group which contributed directly or indirectly to his campaign. I'd also prohibit all lobbying once a politician leaves office. That might clean up the mess at the margins.

Scoop: Do you have any skeletons in your closet?

Santa: What closet? I haven't had a change of clothes since 1823 when that New York professor, Clement Moore, blew my cover with that poem he tossed off for his kids.

Scoop: Some say it was Henry Livingston, Jr., who wrote it.

Santa: Wouldn't surprise me. In certain circles, Moore is still remembered for his 1804 page-turner Observations Upon Certain Passages in Mr. Jefferson's Notes on Virginia, Which Appear to Have a Tendency to Subvert Religion and Establish a False Philosophy. He also wrote a real thriller in 1850 about George Castriot, the King of Albania.

Scoop: Skeletons?

Santa: I saw no skeletons or mistresses in my closet the last time I looked. They either skedaddled or Mrs. Claus pitched them last spring.

Scoop: Is there a scandal waiting to blow up your candidacy?

Santa: The only groping I do is for meaning...and seconds on dessert.

Scoop: Do you have a birth certificate?

Santa: Is Rudolph a blue-nosed reindeer?

Scoop: Are you a U.S. citizen?

Santa: Son, let's just assume that if anyone challenges the integrity of Santa Claus they will face the awful wrath of children everywhere, including those under 21.

Scoop: What kind of tax policies would you offer the electorate?

Santa: Chocolate-covered with festive red and green sugar sprinkles.

Scoop: Seriously.

Santa: Because we operate an off-shore, non-profit organization located at the North Pole on international ice that no one owns, my workshop is sheltered from all taxes, foreign and domestic.

Scoop: Where does your money come from?

Santa: What money? No one pays me to do anything.

Scoop: So how do you buy the materials and labor to produce toys for millions of kids on Christmas Eve?

Santa: You don't really think I do that, do you?

Scoop: Yes, Santa, I do. You the man!

Santa: Send me a résumé, kid. You're cabinet material. Look out, Washington, Santa Claus is comin' to town

Curtis Seltzer is a land consultant, columnist and author of **How To Be a DIRT-SMART Buyer of Country Property**, available at [www.curtis-seltzer.com](http://www.curtis-seltzer.com) where his columns are posted. His latest books, **Land Matters** and **Blue Grass Notes**, are available through his website.

