Silver Linings

One Advantage . . . of baldness -- it's neat. *(Voice for Health)*

The most delightful benefit of being bald is that one can hear snowflakes. *(R. G. Daniels, in The Observer, London)*

One Good Thing . . . about a dark skirt is that it’s the best thing for removing dog hairs from the sofa. *(Jane Goodsell, Press Associates)*

The silver lining is easier to find in someone else's cloud. *(Good Reading)*

A man I know was railing about his family doctor. “Never can get him,” he said indignantly. “Try to reach him on the phone and his nurse says he’s out making house calls. Try to see him at the office, it’s the same thing – he’s out making house calls. I’ve had him for three years now, and nine times out of ten when I need him he’s out making house calls.” “Why did you go to this doctor in the first place?” I said. “Because,” he answered, “he makes house calls.” *(Norton Mockridge, United Feature Syndicate)*

**More than 3,000 people have registered to vote in Ferguson, Missouri -- a suburb of St. Louis with a population of 21,000 people -- since the fatal shooting of unarmed black teenager Michael Brown in August. *(USAToday.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 17, 2014)***

**A shipwreck that changed us forever: The Sewol ferry disaster is forcing South Korea to reform its irresponsible ways, said Sah Dongseok. We will never stop mourning the hundreds of children who died because of “the incompetence of adults.” But we are collectively remaking our nation into a “safer and corruption-free country.” Already, officials have noticed a drop in traffic violations, such as jaywalking and running red lights. On an anecdotal level, many parents have talked of their horror at the pitiful fate of those teens ‘who faithfully obeyed” the ferry captain’sorder to stay put in the cabins – the same cabins where their corpses were later found. Now, parents say they are resolved to “let their children make their own decisions and stand on their own feet.” This would be a revolution in Korean society. But above all, we must change our corporate and governance cultures. The ferry disaster was the result of decades of “regulatory violations, poor safety training, and a woeful lack of oversight – all attributable to our desire to maximize profits.” We have a historic chance to pass legislation that will end the rampant corruption that now reigns. If we seize it, we will give this “sacrifice of young students” some meaning. *(The Week magazine, June 13, 2014)***

**One Good Thing . . . about food costs going up. Every day there's an announcement that the stuff is bad for you anyway. (*Bill Vaughn)***

One Good Thing . . . about getting older. All the people you could have married now look like the one you did. *(Orben's Current Comedy)*

While the Great Depression affected most of the U.S. it is estimated that up to 40 percent of the population never had to endure any real hardship at all. *(Charlotte Lowe, in Useless History Fact-O-Pedia, p. 120)*

Look at the bright side. The Great Fire of London of 1666 may have destroyed much of the center of London, but it also killed off most of the rats and fleas carrying the plague known as the Black Death. *(Charlotte Lowe, in Useless History Fact-O-Pedia, p. 122)*

**“It’s global warming, stupid,” said Paul Barrett of Bloomberg**

**Businessweek. If there is any silver lining to Hurricane Sandy, the 1,000-mile-wide super-storm that has left at least 106 dead, up to $50 billion in damage, and millions of homes without power across New York and New Jersey, it’s that we can finally stop squabbling about whether climate change is real. Hurricanes draw their energy from the warmth of the sea, and this year brought record-high ocean temperatures. Sandy emerged very late in the hurricane season, yet swelled into the strongest recorded storm ever to make landfall in the Northeast, inundating New Jersey and the New York metropolitan area in a tsunami-like surge that filled the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel with 12 feet of water, flooded every downtown subway tunnel, and devastated dozens of communities. This will surely be a “galvanizing moment” for public attitudes on climate change, said Bettina Boxall in the Los Angeles Times. The nation has seen a hurricane leave our greatest city dark and under water, a few months after 110-degree temperatures and severe drought withered half the U.S. “It’s getting more and more difficult for people to deny what everybody sees with their own eyes,” says climatologist Scott Mandia. “People are starting to connect the dots.” *(The Week magazine, November 16, 2012)***

**At least the kids are enjoying inflation; they always did prefer hamburgers and hot dogs to steak. *(James Holt McGavran, in Ideas for Better Living)***

Be grateful for little things. It’s true that the world is getting crowded, but can you imagine if Noah had taken four of everything? *(Orben’s Comedy Fillers)*

One Advantage . . . of living in the past -- it's cheaper. *(Quoted in Grit)*

**It’s a common practice to criticize nosy neighbors, but they are the best crime protection your house can have. *(Quoted in Chicago Daily News)***

**One Good Thing . . . about paying a compliment is that it doesn’t cost a cent more than it used to. *(Al Bernstein)***

**One Good Thing . . . about punctuality is that it’s a sure way to help you enjoy a few minutes of privacy. *(O. A. Battista)***

**One Good Thing . . . about repeating your mistakes is that you know when to cringe. *(Doug Larson, United Feature Syndicate)***

One Good Thing . . . about rutabagas is that they provide something for parsnips to taste better than. *(Jane Goodsell, Press Associates)*

One Advantage . . . of sleepwalking -- you get rest, and exercise at the same time. *(Mark Beltaire, in Detroit Free Press)*

One Good Thing . . . about snoring. It's so simple you can do it in your sleep. *(Ashley Cooper, in Charleston, S.C. , News and Courier)*

**The upside of taking in more Muslims: If we want to persuade Europeans to accept hundreds of thousands of Muslim refugees, we'll have to tell them what's in it for them, said Pierre Micheletti. Compassion, easily awakened by photos of dead children, "soon reaches its limit" once the crowds of desperate people actually arrive, dressed in foreign garb and speaking Arabic or other tongues. That's why European leaders should tell their electorates that these refugees from Syria, Iraq, and elsewhere have something crucial to offer Western society: They can "bear witness to the atrocities" wrought by radical Islam. Europeans are already panicked over the trend toward home-grown jihadism. Germany, France, Denmark and the U.K. have seen hundreds of their Muslim youth heed the call of ISIS and travel to Syria and Iraq for terrorist training. Every country fears another jihadist strike on European soil like the January attack on the Charlie Hebdo office in Paris.. The refugees can help prevent such a tragedy. As they mix with our own Muslim populations, they will report the horrors of life under the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, the terrible mistakes perpetrated in the name of a warped view of religion. They will provide "a natural vaccine" against Islamist fundamentalism. That's a shot in the arm Europe needs. (*The Week magazine, October 9, 2015)***

**One Advantage . . . of talking to yourself is that you know at least somebody's listening. *(Franklin P. Jones, in Quote magazine)***

**One Good Thing . . . about an unlisted number. If you get a crank phone call, at least it's from a friend. *(Earl Wilson)***

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