

UNCLE JIM'S PROVERBS

by Jim Britell

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Don't assume that someone who likes and forwards something actually read it.

America is devolving from the best country in the world to the least worst.

Loud engines operating near one's genitals induce synthetic feelings of awe and wonder.

All Karl Rove's innovations were introduced in Hitler's four political campaigns.

People who believe America is the world's savior, or its curse, make lousy teachers.

No man can serve two bastards.

Fascists fear their most moderate followers.

Never importune oracles.

For humans, peer group pressure is the strong force.

To make people go crazy, promulgate unrealistic numerical goals and periodically publish the rankings.

Anyone with a computer and printer can promulgate policy.

The real policies of any organization are what its employees actually do.

A boss will never forget a subordinate's attack on the boss's self-image.

You can't manage anything well if you hate it.

Statistics that are easy to collect are easy to fudge.

Don't put anything important in final until someone else reads it.

Never hire anyone until you check references back to their pediatrician.

Mother Nature doesn't love you.

To foresters, manage and kill are synonyms.

People often call things "perfect storms" to obfuscate human agency and blame.

People hate wolves because they remind us we are merely animals.

Making lists of birds may help people but it doesn't help birds.

A wilderness is a place where you can die even if you are careful.

The political smarts of the average ecologist are equal to the ecological smarts of the average politician.

If totalitarianism is ever imposed on America, some outward forms of democracy like voting, free speech and press will be retained.

The largest number most people can comprehend is 20; (possibly 21 for males).

Since only schmucks get W-2's, real men tax income *and* assets.

It only takes a 50% market decline to reverse a 100% increase.

Don't take either side of a bull market personally.

A successful politician or magician must change the locus of your attention and control your thoughts about what you see.

A fool might occasionally create good policy, but never good procedure.

People by the millions don't know the difference between a billion and a trillion.

People only write checks when they are buying something.

Foundations never fund anti-corporate campaigns for the same reason monks don't dissolve monasteries.

You can't remove a pig from a trough with a flipchart.

Democracies can't house soldiers in our homes, so they quarter spreadsheets in our minds.

The devil's in the details because that's where the real policy is.

Only fools act upon obligatory reassurances.

Never confuse shilling and pimping.

For every bone there is a dog.

Don't be a nuisance to yourself or others.

At 70, put away unattainable goals and finish your doable ones.

To grasp email's limitations, inflect sequentially the words; "Her, you should marry?"

If you sell out, make sure you get paid.

In America, the tough guys always get the ground.

Security regulators must walk a fine line between tepidly enforcing laws and ignoring them altogether.

If you control a business plan's assumptions, you can prove trees will grow up to the sky.

Anything truly valuable can't be quantified with numbers.

Public lands only develop "stakeholders" when someone is trying to steal something.

Trend lines never continue in the same direction indefinitely.

In America, once land is stolen fair and square, it's illegal to steal it back.

If you've done nothing wrong, you have nothing to fear; however annoying rich people is usually wrong.

To get excellent medical care, develop interesting problems.

The first obligation of any medical patient is be entertaining.

A little T.S. Eliot is a dangerous thing.

If white people really loved their country they wouldn't have done what they did to it.

Group planning is the use of faux collaboration to achieve complicity with foreordained decisions.

To qualify for any government benefit you must tell one or more lies.

Calls for accountability usually arise after it's too late to get it.

Benefactors fund causes, foundations fund themselves.

To get a progressive to abandon a sensible policy, attack it as racist or sexist.

A forum in which truth is not a defense is a political proceeding.

A tourist is a stranger who is entitled to everything and responsible for nothing.

Truly Christian values would not elevate claims for mercy over those for tolerance.

Idealism is the craving for political processes other than the ones you have.

The message of most American Movies is that only Batman or Clint Eastwood can go up against Mr. Big.

Moderate Republicans are still Republicans.

Dare to be indifferent.

"Consensus based" activism extinguishes advocacy.

Things are stagnating at an alarming rate.

Every American citizen is involved in politics, some people do politics, the rest have it done to them.

When someone says "I'm not getting down to their level", don't expect anything at any level.

Never use locals as hit men.

You can survive a king's wrath but not his courtiers'.

The perfect is the enemy of the good, and so is everything else.

Political alliances break up by last in, first out.

The merger of any two political organizations always creates a third.

Splits in progressive movements usually arise between white men who can't dance and everyone else.

America has a dog in every fight.

Don't expect anything but political decisions from political processes.

The only people who don't know what's best for small towns are the people who live there.

A president's values are reflected by his golf partners.

Most American generals would gladly sacrifice their life for their country, just not their careers.

In the first congressional election after the rapture, D's will pick up 200 seats.

Information is ammunition.

Never eat anything larger than your head.

What you gain in the popcorn you lose in the bananas.

Big planets attract big meteorites.

Compassion absent the ability to say no, is moral idiocy.

People with vision don't need "visioning".

Lapsed Christians still lust for the apocalypse.

A trustworthy person wouldn't say, "Trust me".

Never look directly at a flip chart.

Dotted lines on organizational charts seldom point to buried treasure.

The average manager can generally subdue an above average professional.

A politician's respect for any particular environmental activist varies as the square of the distance between them.

Remove either of the two elements in salt and what's left is poison.

Domesticated animals bring out the worst in wild animals.

People can eventually forgive anything except the theft of their money.

To solve an intractable problem, enlarge it.

Some days it's just one abyss after another.

Life's dissatisfactions are like headaches, curing one doesn't make you happy.

If you fail at being a good example, you can always serve as a good bad-example.