

Money is the root of...everything

By Arthur Hoppe

Once upon a time, there was a man named Ebenezer Snatchit who at last was positive he had discovered The True Secret of Happiness.

When he was a little boy, he thought money was the secret. "What do you want to be when you grow up, dear?" his parents would smilingly ask.

"Rich," Ebenezer would snap.

While they admired Ebenezer's ambition, his parents were concerned by his single-mindedness. "Happiness, Ebenezer," his mother would caution, "comes from being happy with your family, your health, your work, your home, your community and your leisure time."

"Remember, Ebenezer," his father would say sternly, "money can't buy happiness."

They taught Ebenezer songs like "The Best Things in Life Are Free" and "I've Got a Pocket Full of Dreams." They took him to plays filled with joyous shepherds and

shepherdesses. And they took him to movies in which the rich were always mean and unhappy and the poor found life a bowl of cherries.

In school, Ebenezer learned about poor King Midas. And in church the preacher preached every Sunday about the evils of money, usually just before he passed the collection plate.

Like most Americans, however, Ebenezer somehow ignored such talk and went right on struggling to get rich. Finally, he became a wealthy slumlord. But he felt uneasy. "Maybe I would be happier after all," he worried aloud, "if I were poor."

That very night, The Good Fairy visited Ebenezer. "I have come," she said firmly, "to show you the tenants you so unhappily exploit."

She showed him Little Nell, a beautiful girl who labored 16 hours a day in a sweet shop to support her aged mother. She showed him Tiny Tim, a brave little lad who

peddled newspapers 16 hours a day to support his aged dog. She showed him Mother MacCree, a kindly matron who sewed jute sacks 16 hours a day to support her aged heroin habit. And she showed him many more of the same.

By now, Ebenezer was in tears. "You see now that

innocent bystander

money can't buy happiness," said The Good Fairy sternly. "Thus, to be happy, you must give all your money away to these poor, suffering people and take a vow of poverty."

"I will, I will!" cried Ebenezer. And he would have, too, if he hadn't read last Sunday's Gallup Poll taken in 70 different nations. It proved that rich people all around the world were far, far happier about their families, their health, their work, their homes, their communities and their leisure time than poor people.

Ebenezer promptly told his lawyers to raise his rents 32 per cent and flew off to Florida to buy a 14-bedroom condominium in which he confidently planned to live happily every after.

MORAL: Money can't buy happiness. But it sure does up your odds.

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Stay away from use of superfluous 'of'

By Theodore M. Bernstein

Neither *offal* nor *awful*. The headline read, "Taking the Wraps Off of Egypt," and Prof. Stanley Goodman of Boca Raton, Fla., writes that he believes the *of* is superfluous. He is right; the *of* is completely unnecessary. In a

bernstein on words

sentence such as "He stole 25 bucks *off of* me," the *of* is definitely wrong because the *off* is wrong; it should be *from*.

Hi Jack. A colloquial term that for a long, long time was widely used but has almost faded away in recent years is *jack-a-dandy*, which is also spelled *jack-o-dandy* and sometimes appears as just *Jack Dandy*. Martin E. Judge of

Cherry Hill, H.J., inquires about the term, but there isn't much to say about it. It means an insignificant foppish little chap. For centuries the word *jack* has been used to designate a male member of the common people and *dandy*, of course, is a man whose main interest in life is clothes. According to Eric Partridge's Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English, *jack-a-dandy* dates back to 1630.

Word oddities. When a TV weatherman says it may rain and advises his listeners to carry a *bumbershoot*, Elaine H. Stallworth of Willow Grove, Pa., gets interested. She wants to know where the word comes from. It's American jocular slang and it combines a slight distortion of the *umbr-* part of *umbrella* with the *-chute* part of *parachute*. Of course if you want to look a little summery during a winter rain you can carry a *bumbersoll*, which works the idea of *parasol* into your protective device. In each of these two divisions there are many variations so you will be happy, come rain or come shine.

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PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD

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crossword puzzle

Edited by WILL WENG

ACROSS	DOWN	30 Chemical ending	48 Maltreat
1 Hired hands	1 Western critter	32 Glass ingredient	49 Burned up
5 Soho hoosegow	2 Famed Latin phrase	34 Signature of a famed American	50 Cleaned up
9 Harness parts	3 Kind of year	35 Jewish month	52 Cordial flavor
14 Great Barrier Island	4 Like 34 Down	36 Magnifier	54 Famed W. W. II prisoner
15 In a bad way	5 Gadget	37 Gaelic	55 Latin field
16 Cancel	6 Egyptian dancing girl	39 Bill	56 Distinctive
17 Word for 34 Down	7 Palm leaf: Var.	40 Language: Abbr.	57 Sweetsop
19 Henna job	8 Part of L.B.J.	45 Boring tool	58 — up (botch)
20 Kind of court	9 Bandman Alpert	46 Mardi —	61 W. W. II area
21 Word for 34 Down	10 Songs	47 Stationed	
23 U. N. group	11 Large sea ray		
24 Boston's red items	12 Letters		
25 Back-talk	13 Forward-looking ones		
26 Long-haired dogs	16 Fish		
29 Numerical prefix	22 Eulogize		
31 Plunder	24 Word for 34 Down		
32 Juan or Cristobal	26 High mountain, to Italians		
33 Merchant's sign	27 Plane maneuver		
38 Words for 34 Down	28 Intestine: Prefix		
41 On a heroic scale	29 Moccasin		
42 Hindu cymbals			
43 Webster and Beard, to friends			
44 Dogmatic one			
46 English field growth			
47 Jump — (abscond)			
51 Geometric figure: Abbr.			
52 Indonesian islands			
53 First name of rival of 34 Down			
55 Petals, for staple, e.g.			
59 Smooth			
60 Do a job à la 34 Down			
62 Park in the Rockies			
63 Paris seasons			
64 Greek god			
65 Realtors' papers			
66 Sped			
67 Seminar: Abbr.			

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