



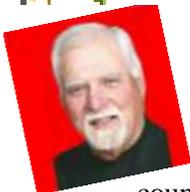
PROBUS Global Newsletter



DECEMBER 2023



From the President



Welcome to the 2023 fourth quarter edition of the PROBUS Global Newsletter. We wish to thank the many PROBUS Global members worldwide who contributed to our newsletter and hope you will enjoy reading its global content.

Probus Global continues to expand with 1200 members from 18 countries. Our members continue to enjoy the PROBUS Global programs offered through the website, the international newsletters, the photos by members, speakers' corner, videos from around the PROBUS world, funny pages, communications programs, via e mail or the chatroom, the travel group and you can go to the club locator, find a member or club anywhere. Please note we have a number of PROBUS Global awards we can present to outstanding PROBUS Global members.

On October 18 PROBUS Global had its fourth quarter management meeting via Zoom which all members are invited to attend, some of the highlights from the session:

- The president's term is up in May 2024, we are seeking nominations for that position.
- The newsletter is published quarterly, and we ask members to continue to submit articles, but also ensure the newsletter is circulated within your clubs and country. (Our own circulation is currently to PG members and those that have made special requests)
- List of presentations on Speakers Corner available anywhere within PG, and PG management members are available to do presentations on PG
- Twining is working, two of our PG members who belong to twinned clubs met "face-to-face" at the general meeting
- PG members hooking up while traveling, we hear stories on a regular basis. Our webmaster was vacationing in Europe, met with our management team in Europe and was able to attend a number of club meetings and social events.
- Reports were received from around the globe, PROBUS Global continues to expand its vision in many regions. We were delighted to receive the detailed report from Europe, they certainly moving in a positive direction. Along with the reports from Canada, South Africa, UK and New Zealand. Carwyn Arnold, President, PROBUS Association of Queensland, a new attendee at our meetings, gave us an insight to events in her area of Australia.
- The focus country for this meeting was New Zealand and Liz Smith, the PG Coordinator for New Zealand, gave an outstanding presentation which is on our website. We would suggest you take the time to view and offer to your members and clubs.

When traveling, you have many PROBUS friends around the world, use your PG system to find the contacts for those new friends.

Enjoy the newsletter and when traveling, your new friends.

Contact PG [here](#)

In this issue

President's Comment	1
Editorial	2
British Christmas Fizz	2
PROBUS Belgium	3
PROBUS Netherlands	3
Hyberland's Silver Jubilee	4
PG Zoom meeting	4
Internet-connected cars	5
Speakers on PG website	5
Feelings, Trust and Intimacy	6
Travels of a Donkey	7
Transatlantic Connections	8
Manipulating literature	9
Rotary Connection	9
NZ tour	9
Humour	10

Contributions welcome (200-500 words) for March issue.

Deadline February 15, 2024

newsletter@probusglobal.org

Richard Furlong



Editorial

Homesickness was identified in 1688 by the Swiss medical student Johannes Hofer, who named it nostalgia from the Greek *nostos*, meaning homecoming, and *algos*, meaning an ache, pain, grief and distress. It was the disease of soldiers, sailors, convicts and slaves. The only effective treatment was to send the afflicted person back to wherever they belonged. There is always nostalgia associated with ageing, because there can be no possibility of a return to an irrecoverable youth. It is a kind of homesickness, and how badly those afflicted suffer seems to depend on how they manage their relationships today, as well as with the past. Sometimes the loss of youth comes with a jolt of emotion that feels like a bereavement. We need to learn how to navigate our relationship with time, and on reaching a calm

acceptance of the distance travelled. Another source of grief is when a person is the last standing, with the loss of friends and family. None of us can avoid the so-called “Age of Grief”, but we can deal with it. Currently, we are all still young enough to be members of PROBUS, so obviously we are taking advantage of sharing friendships with others with the same dilemma. It is one way of dealing. Another is getting involved in club activities and its committee, and avoiding the “I’ve been there and done that” attitude. I’ve heard it often. It may be true, but the secret of coping with age is to continue to push the boundaries, to continue to contribute and to move out of one’s comfort zone. Try something new, but keep up with the old. Make new friends. While you do that, you are alive and managing well, the onset of age.

Mary Wilson



British Christmas Fizz

In 1889, it was claimed that Dom Pérignon, procurator of the Benedictine Abbey of Hautvillers in France, from 1668, was the “inventor”, “creator” or “discoverer” of sparkling champagne. The story of a blind monk having an epiphany, accidentally happening upon the secret to effervescence was seductive. It used divine revelation and French winemaking expertise to create a national symbol tied to the French landscape. But it is not true. Dom Pérignon was trying to improve the still wines of the Champagne region by getting rid of the bubbles. At the time, French glass was too weak to contain the pressure from effervescence. A bigger problem was that French winemakers—and consumers—considered bubbles a fault, a trick to distract the drinker from bad wine. The method for effervescence, strong glass bottles and the use of corks all came from England in the 17th century. English consumers imported wine in barrels from France because when bottled, they taxed wines at a higher rate than those imported in bulk. The wines often deteriorated during the journey across the channel. Once opened, they oxidised quickly, developing an unpleasant flavour. To improve the taste, distributors added honey or syrup made from raisins or sugar. The additional sugar content caused a secondary fermentation – and effervescence. Natural fermentation produces some fizz, but rarely enough to pop a cork without the intervention of a winemaker. So while the wine is French, the fizz is British.

Did you know that both Apple and Android manufacturers advise that rather than giving phone batteries a full top-up, it’s recommended to charge your battery up to just 80% and not allow it to dip under 20%.?

PROBUS Belgium – Celebration of the 25th National PROBUS Day

Gauthier De Brabandere, PG Coordinator – Europe.



Pictured left to right: Thierry Hopchet (Master of Ceremony) Michel van Eeckhout (Event President) and Jean Paul Pannekoek (President, PRPBUS Belgium)

The first PROBUS club in Belgium was called “PROBUS Antwerpen Ring. It was founded on January 26th 1984 by George Dick, a member of Rotary Antwerp Ring. The same year, a second PROBUS club was founded in Huy, in the French-Speaking south of Belgium. Since then, the organisation expanded to

reach 116 clubs and approximately 4,200 members in 2023.

In 1991, the PROBUS club of Huy organised the first “National Day” bringing together members and partners from all clubs in Belgium. On a rotation basis, a National Day has been organised annually by a different PROBUS club or a group of clubs, from 1991 to 2011. Since then, it has organised the National Day every two years, except for the COVID years.

Five PROBUS clubs of the City of Antwerp accepted the challenge to organise the 25th Belgian National PROBUS Day. They were Antwerpen Center, Antwerpen Mercator, Antwerpen Rubens, Antwerpen Schelde II and Voorkepen. A team of thirteen planned a selection of fourteen different cultural visits throughout the City of Antwerp or its harbour. Participants received guided tours either in Dutch or in French - some had to be taken to their specific location by bus.

The 3rd floor of the Antwerp Hilton Hotel was chosen for the morning assembly, registration and dispatching of twenty-four groups to visit the activity of their choice and language. By noon all 464 participants returned to the meeting place for a generous drink and a convivial dinner. During the meal, a few brief speeches were held and everyone took advantage of the opportunity to meet, exchange ideas or recollections and make new acquaintances.

PROBUS Belgium accentuated its international aspirations by welcoming the past president of PROBUS France, Philippe Cattyn, and Jacques Pierre Nollet, in charge of international contacts for PROBUS France and European co-coordinator for PROBUS Global with the undersigned. Everyone returned home with the good feeling of having experienced an interesting visit, having met long-time friends, having made new ones, and enjoying the camaraderie and PROBUS fellowship.

Probus Netherlands held its 16th “Landelijke Dag Probus Nederland”

J.P. Nollet (FR) and G.A. De Brabandere (BE) PG Coordinators- Europe

The tradition of holding a meeting with members representing about 435 PROBUS clubs of The Netherlands could be resumed after the COVID period of 2020-2022. The previous reunion was



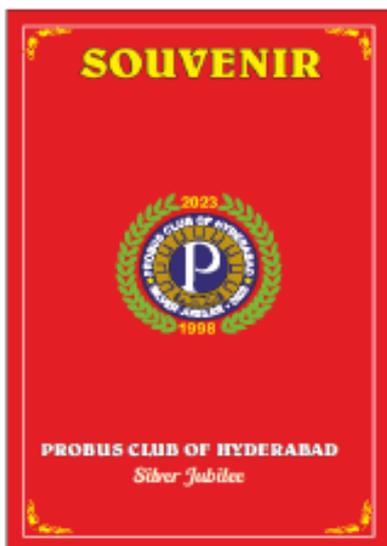
organised in 2019. National president Wouter van Straten and his team hosted the event in Hoeven near the city of Breda. Approximately 250 people gathered in a former catholic seminary built in 1907. After a lengthy period without use, the building has been converted

into a beautiful hotel and convention centre, making use of most of the original layout. It proved to be a practical setting for this reunion.

Several topics of general interest, impacting society as a whole, were discussed in morning and afternoon sessions, and complemented with specific PROBUS-related topics which generated active debates and exchanges of opinions and suggestions. The excellent weather allowed us to eat lunch either indoors or outdoors, with plenty of contact among the attendees.

Jacques Pierre Nollet (FR) and **Gauthier De Brabandere** (BE) were invited not only in their capacity as international relations officers for PROBUS France and PROBUS Belgium but also as team members of PROBUS Global for Europe. They could respond to several questions related to mutual exchanges amongst the three countries, as well as interest in PROBUS Global.

The long-time friendships between the PROBUS organisations of the three countries were given a new impetus by this international presence. We are sure that this will facilitate more exchanges as well as generate increased Dutch membership thank the entire team of PROBUS Netherlands for their input and friendship!



PROBUS Club of Hyderabad's Silver Jubilee

The last issue of this newsletter carried a picture of the certificate sent by PROBUS Global on the occasion of The Hyderabad Club's (India) 25th anniversary. Members had a wow of a time, as evidenced in the report in its newsletter, available on PG's website. Pictured left is a souvenir designed to showcase the club's activities of the past two and a half decades. It also paves the way for an enthusiastic journey towards the Club's Golden Jubilee. The souvenir was produced by a committee, headed by **Dr RHG Rau**, PG's Indian co-ordinator.

PG Zoom meeting

PROBUS Global held a Zoom meeting for its Management Team and members in mid-October. Subjects touched on were:

- That the President's three-year term will finish in May next year. Volunteers are sought to take on this role when the time comes.
- Given financial constraints and the international nature of PG, its registration has not progressed.
- PG is looking to expand its coordinator program.

- PG has gradual growth, and members are encouraged to promote PG and circulate its newsletter each quarter.
- At the time of the meeting, PG had 1174 members.
- Updating membership information is a constant, but those contacted are always helpful and cooperative.
- Newsletter contributions about ideas and interests are welcome from the whole PG community, not just the management team.
- The South African attrition has stabilised.
- Two new clubs have been chartered in Belgium and another two are preparing for charter -one in Ypres, the other in Brussels - early next year. Also, one new club was chartered in the north of France earlier this year.
- PG in the Netherlands gained many new members after being featured in the PROBUS Netherlands newsletter.



Liz Smith – Zoom screenshot

Following the formal part of the video meeting, the President invited all PG members to submit ideas for the agenda for the next Zoom meeting. **Liz Smith**, the NZ coordinator, was the keynote speaker. She screened her own very professionally produced video about the history, culture and beauty of New Zealand. The travelogue made one year to be there. **It, and the whole conference video are available on the PG website.**

Internet-connected cars and Privacy



Cars with internet-connected features are fast becoming data-harvesting machines – so-called “privacy nightmare on wheels”. They can collect data via cameras, microphones, sensors, and connected phones and apps. Generally, privacy laws need urgent reform if the data are to be kept safe. Cars collect a range of customer data, from facial expressions, to sexual activity, to when, where and how people drive. With

the exception of a few US states, privacy laws are insufficient to protect the vast amount of personal data collected and shared by car companies. Disclosures are not demanded about what happens to the collected data. It used to be the vehicle data was accessed only when the car was physically connected to diagnostic equipment. Now, they can exchange information wirelessly. Cars even take footage of people outside their cars. (According to reports, Tesla employees internally circulated [intimate footage](#) collected from people’s private cars for their own amusement). Upgraded privacy laws require coordination between government agencies worldwide to safeguard drivers' privacy.

Need a Speaker for your Meeting?

Check out the Speakers’ Corner <https://probusglobal.org/Speakers/> on the PG website. Some charge a fee, some are free and others ask the club to make a donation to a charity. There is another place on the site where you can source free speakers. Every time PG holds a Zoom meeting, a keynote speaker talks about their country, its culture, or its history and its attributes. Some may also speak about PROBUS activities. These talks can be downloaded and shown to your club, especially in an emergency.

Feelings, Trust and Intimacy

Roberta Cava, Probus Club of Robina, Queensland, Australia.

"My wife hardly talks to me anymore. She's mad at me because I won't talk about what's 'inside' me - that I keep too much to myself and don't share my feelings with her. She tells me that she wants more intimacy, but I don't understand exactly what she wants from me?"

Intimacy involves having complete trust in another person. It is obtained by "letting feelings all hang out". This involves revealing *true* feelings about what the other person does and considering their feelings when communicating with them.

When we look at relationships that survive, the couple are good friends and treat each other with respect. They have shared values and trust one another. Trust is the foundation of the relationship and without it, they don't feel safe. If they don't feel safe, they can't be vulnerable. If they're not vulnerable, they can't be intimate.

People when getting to know each other (of the same or mixed gender) take several steps to arrive at intimacy. One person reveals trusting information. The second person accepts that trust and reveals similar information. As they reveal more and more, their trust grows. This process could be almost instantaneous or could take months, depending on the comfort zone of the participants.

The feeling of intimacy could end suddenly should one person do something that the other sees as a betrayal of their trust. The ultimate betrayal between couples is infidelity.

In marriage, women use talk to create intimacy, where they openly express their feelings and thoughts. Men use non-verbal communication, such as touch. If they give others (even their wives) the weaponry (talk about their weaknesses) it could be used against them in the future - so they clam up and resist verbal intimacy.

Most women are comfortable admitting negative feelings, but society has almost forbidden men to disclose perceived weaknesses. Therefore, their options are limited in expressing their feelings. Society says they're allowed to show happiness and anger but they are not allowed to show anything between those two emotions. When men feel anxious, disappointed, jealous, sad, hurt, rejected, stupid, intimidated, insecure, ashamed, or ignored, their outward appearance can show misleading verbal and non-verbal signs and cues of their feelings. On the other hand, when some women get angry, they end up in tears. This gives men the impression that she's feeling hurt, which adds to men's confusion.

Some men take the chance and confide their innermost feelings to their wives. Unfortunately, their wives often don't keep that information to themselves. That's when trust becomes an issue. Women should be careful not to reveal to others, their husband's confidential disclosures about their feelings.

Roberta Cava is the author of over 60 books. www.dealingwithdifficultpeople.info



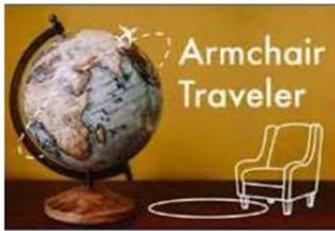
Thank you to The PROBUS Club of Newmarket (Canada) for sharing with us the video of the 99th birthday celebration for your member **Jim Parkes**.

PG has had requests about twinning with other clubs in various countries. They ask how to go about it and what are the benefits. We suggest that any club which wishes to twin, ask those clubs which have already twinned. The list appears at:

<https://probusglobal.org/Clubs/search.php?search=twi>

PROBUS GLOBAL

Wishes all members and readers a joyous Festive Season



Travels of a Donkey

Part Seven



*From the pen of the NEWBURGH
(incorporating International)
Correspondent of the PG
Newsletter (Reuters Syndicated)*

Greetings Dear Reader or as we say in the North East of Scotland “Fit like foo’re ye deein?” Standard reply “Nae bad!”. Translation – “How are you?” – answer “Not bad”

Herewith intro to Parliamo Buchan or Doric or “Mither Tongue” as spoken by the indigenous inmates of Aberdeenshire and points North. Should any PG Members feel the desperate urge to visit this neck of the woods a couple of useless phrases to make your nightmare more palatable:

“So, foo div ye spik i’ Doric?” - “So, how do you speak Doric?”

Doric words can differ from town to town. If you’re from Peterhead, you might refer to a seagull as a ‘pyool’ but in Aberdeen, the same bird would be known as a ‘scurry’. And in Buckie it’s a ‘gow’. There are also many variations in the spellings of the words, due to differences in localised pronunciation and phonetics. The word ‘Pyool’ for instance could also be written as ‘pule’, ‘pool’ or ‘pyewel’ depending on which town you are from.

“Far div ye bide?” - “Where do you live?” – Beware, the answer could lead you down a rocky and unsurmountable road of politics, religion and the inevitable “Oh me n the wife visited ??? – awfa freenly folk but widna ging back!” (Friendly people but wouldn’t consider returning).

“Dinnae fash yersel” - Don’t trouble yourself”

“Cam ower an gie’s a bosie” - “Come over and give me a cuddle” – Not recommended for use during a night out in Aberdeen or the other parochial outposts in the vicinity and especially not with a full head of steam. The locals are likely to misconstrue this innocent request.

“Like snaa aff a dyke” - “Like snow off a wall” (literally - pretty quickly); an example of this could be: In the northeast, things like good rowies (a tasty, flaky, savoury bread roll) don’t ‘sell out quickly’; they go ‘like snaa aff a dyke” – Rowies are notorious for their unhealthy attributes and should be treated in the same manner as nuclear waste, however, they’re “Awfa fine!” (Tasty).

Some of the more personal greetings...

“Yer lookin affa peelie-wally. Fit’s a dee?” “You look a bit off-colour. What’s wrong with you?”

Not to be confused with a possible answer - “The Dee’s a river!”

“Fit ye haein?” “I’ll hae a pint. Cheers min!” - “What would you like to drink?”

“I’ll have a pint. Good health!” (Basic Ice-breaker).

If you’d like pronunciations of the above phrases tune in to some of the PG Zoom meetings and I’ll happily oblige. Equally, I’m happy to dig out some of the local vernacular for your edification and add them to my quarterly ramblings. The latter sentence is just to prove I do speak English as well. Sad to relate that I didn’t make my Annual Pilgrimage to Croatia and as a result unable to top up with the local vino and homebrew, hence the intro above. My liver did utter a sigh of relief but as winter’s drawing in (did it ever leave?), it brings with it the dreaded SAD Syndrome and perpetual Twilight Zone.

I once asked a Norwegian Colleague how he dealt with this matter.

“ No problem” he replied, “ I bought a house in Spain”.

So, until my next communication...

“Lang may yer lum reek”. Work that one out yersel – Slainte!

Any comments – I’d love to hear from you – graham@mmsgam.co.uk.

‘till next time

Transatlantic Connections

Peter Jennings –PG Webmaster



Gauthier de Brabandere,
Kortrijk and Peter Jennings

In September I headed off to France to attend the 50th anniversary of Coupe Icare, a celebration of free flight and paragliding. Having rented a camper and having a few days to spare en route, I contacted Jacques Pierre Nollet of PROBUS France and Gauthier de Brabandere of PROBUS Belgium and suggested we meet for lunch. Despite being in two different countries, they actually live only a few kilometres apart.

As it happened, they had already planned a gathering of French and Belgian PROBUS club members in Kortrijk (Courtrai) and they generously invited me to join them. The schedule involved a morning historical tour of the town followed by an afternoon luncheon. How could I refuse?

Gauthier invited me to park my hired campervan in his driveway overnight and that was ideal. On the morning tour, we discovered the history of the

town straddling the River Leie, as evidenced by the buildings and monuments and heard of the Battle of the Golden Spurs in 1302, commemorated to this day.

A convivial afternoon was spent in PROBUS discussions over wine and excellent food. The women from the mixed clubs of Belgium attempted to reason with the French men who have no women in any of their clubs.

Gauthier and Bea were generous hosts. I thank them for their warm hospitality. I hope we will get together again soon.



Pierre Evrard, Paris,
and Peter Jennings

A few weeks later, in Paris, I encountered Pierre Evrard, another PG member and a contributor to the PG Photo Group, at the Photography Salon in the Open Eye booth. He is the Director of Publication of this inspiring magazine.

PROBUS Global was responsible for facilitating these new friendships across the pond. We encourage all members to take advantage of our membership and club listings when they go abroad.

Manipulating Literature

Most people are aware that classic fiction, such as those by Virginia Woolf, Hemmingway, Agatha Christie, and PG Wodehouse among many others, is being manipulated to become “politically correct”. To what end are these decisions being made? On what authority does someone decide to alter a writer’s work to accommodate their own values? What does all this say about our attitudes and responsibilities toward the past? Publishers are mandating changes or adding disclaimers, and books are becoming culture-war fodder.

Those who would “clean up” the classics, and their conservative opponents, are entangled in a moral battle that encourages the application of the same ethical criteria to books that might be applied to elected officials or ministers of religion. Is the rewriting vandalism or do we expect a degree of moral instruction in a book, as to how we should or should not live? To treat books as objects that can be modified to suit the mood of the times is to risk a loss of history. Historically, literature has evolved through systems of patronage and copyright,

gatekeeping publishers and nepotistic periodicals. The best literature can be spiky, ambiguous, difficult, cruel, strange, unpredictable, hectoring and unpleasant. It is not the job of a book to ease the life of its reader. Sometimes, the moral authority to make changes on behalf of an audience is

sourced from the imperative to keep property such as James Bond or Willy Wonka marketable. Is that a good enough excuse? The jury is still out on that, but realistically, commercial interests have always changed history.

The Rotary Connection

Merv Richens – PG Coordinator Australia

Initially a Rotary project, PROBUS is still considered part of the “Family of Rotary” although now PROBUS clubs are independent of Rotary and are essentially social clubs for senior members of communities.

Rotary clubs around this global village are known as “Service Clubs” meaning that members serve their community and the world community through running projects. These projects generally require the raising of funds which members do by various means. In Australia it is often by having a stall at a hardware store or community event, selling sausages (or snags as we call them) cooked on a barbeque with onions and folded into a slice of bread.

Probus members in Australia sometimes volunteer to help their sponsor Rotary Club, especially if funds are being raised for a worthy cause such as providing a “Shelter Box” to send to refugees in another country. A “Shelter Box” is a box that contains a tent, water purifier and enough living essentials to house and help a small family survive.

Rotary Clubs often get quite involved with programs for young people. One such program is called RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award). This program originated in Queensland, Australia – but has now been adopted by Rotary International and is being run in many countries around the world. It is a week-long program for young people between the ages of 20 and 28 who have shown some leadership potential. It helps develop these skills and draws out the full potential of these young people.

Members of PROBUS Clubs may have grandchildren suitable as candidates so it would be good to have a connection with a local Rotary club when they are seeking candidates.

Although PROBUS clubs do not do community projects or raise funds, many Probians are happy join Rotarians to do volunteer work and most local Rotary Clubs would welcome offers of assistance.

Rotary Clubs globally are still raising funds to eradicate Polio and there may be opportunities for PROBUS members to assist with this.

I encourage members of our PROBUS Global community to seek out Rotary clubs in their area and invite one of their members as a guest speaker to your Club to explain the projects they are working on, both locally and internationally.

By the two organisations working together, we can all help make the global community a better place for everyone.

New Zealand will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of PROBUS in November 2024. As part of the celebrations, a comprehensive 14-day tour of NZ has been compiled, including lunch with the PROBUS Club of Kapiti, NZ's first PROBUS club. For more information and a brochure, contact Gerard McManus, gerardm@tradetravel.com

Christmas cracker jokes

Humour

Q: What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa?

A: A rebel without a Claus.

Q: What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?

A: The Christmas alphabet has Noel.

Q: What nationality is Santa Claus?

A: North Polish.

Q: What do you call Santa if he also lives in the South Pole?

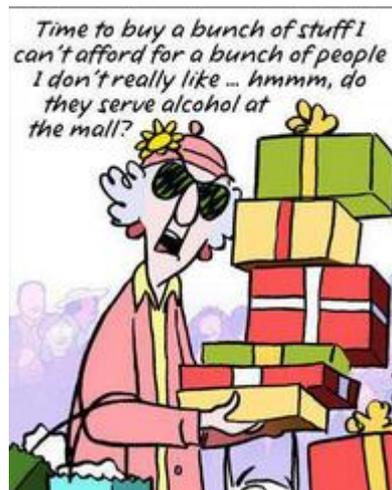
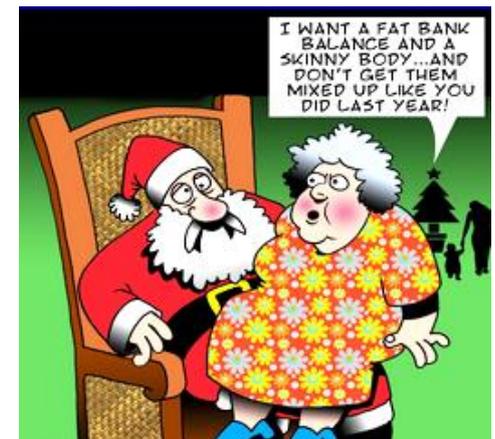
A: Bi-Polar.

Q: What do you call Santa's helpers?

A: Subordinate clauses.

Q: What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?

A: Claustrophobic.



A man bought his wife a beautiful diamond ring for Christmas. After hearing about this extravagant gift, a friend of his said, "I thought she wanted one of those sporty four-wheel-drive vehicles." "She did," he replied. "But where was I going to find a fake Jeep?"

As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas?" The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped: "Didn't you get my e-mail?"