

So Many Why's

By Hap Hansen

Why is our political system so broken? Why are Democrats and Republicans on opposite sides on nearly every issue? Why do physicians continue prescribing opioids that are making some patients become addicted and even die? Why is Christmas becoming more and more about giving presents and less and less about celebrating the birth of Christ? Why are auto and truck drivers becoming less and less courteous? Why don't drivers stop at stop signs in Windsor Gardens? Why do payrolls stay nearly the same when corporations are making more and more money? Why do food processors add more sugar, fat and salt to products when it's not needed? Why do we have a twenty trillion dollar Federal deficit? How will that ever be reduced or paid?

Let me put a trillion dollars in some kind of perspective. Assume a child born today had a 100-year life expectancy. That child could spend \$27 million every day of its 100-year life and would not have spent a trillion dollars!

Why aren't wind and solar energy being developed at a faster pace? Why can't we find a cure for Alzheimer's, heart disease and other eventually fatal maladies? Why do non-handicapped people park in spots that say "Handicapped only"? Why do we see dozens of ads on TV where ambulance chasing lawyers promise you a lot of money if you've been injured in an accident? Why can't manufacturers develop packaging that will decay, instead of fouling our rivers, oceans and landfills? Why do I feel guilty when I consume food that is one day past its 'use-by' date?

OK. Enough of this serious stuff. Now for some nonsense why's. Why am I going bald when many others are not? Why do I gain weight, even on a diet of carrots and celery? Why can't I suppress a burp, or other bodily noise, when I am in mixed company? Why is it, when I meet a lady, I can no longer hold my stomach in? On a similar line, why does leather shrink? I know it does, because all my belts are too short! Why is it, that nearly every year I lose yardage on the golf course when using the same club? A few years ago, still losing yardage, I was playing with a friend and told him, "I think I will have the loft, lie and shaft measured on these clubs to make sure they're accurate." He said, "Hap, before you do that, why don't you check your birth certificate?"

Happy New Year!