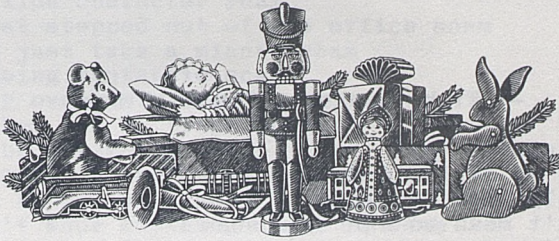


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I W A N T T O M A K E O N E T H I N G P E R F E C T L Y C L E A R

Rap Singer Sistah Souljah, who said black people should take a week off from killing each other and kill whites actually meant that racial tensions were running high, and that blacks and whites should sit down and calmly discuss their differences.

Democratic Presidential Candidate Bill Clinton, who decried Sistah Souljah's statement, actually meant that it might be misconstrued, and that he and she and Reverend Jesse Jackson should sit down and rap, because he had a lot to learn.

Republican President George Bush, who promised, "Read my lips. No new taxes," actually meant that he would try not to raise taxes, but that as President, he needed flexibility, and should not be held to statements made in one set of circumstances, when circumstances changed.

Erstwhile Presidential Candidate Ross Perot, who said that he would not appoint gays to sensitive government positions, actually meant that it wouldn't be fair

to gays since it could expose them to blackmail and other stressors — though the matter was moot, in point of fact, since people's sex lives were none of his concern.

Poet Robert Frost, who said that "Poetry is metaphor ... saying one thing and meaning another," actually meant that poetry is the one written art which can't be translated, and therefore says exactly what it means.

SCAMS

— With thanks to Joe Williams

You can't escape 'em.
The Forgot my billfold scam
The I barely know you scam
The I didn't mean to hurt you scam
The Be good and you'll go to heaven scam
The I'm sorry to say no scam
The I'm on my period scam
The scam of the blind reading and the impartial judge
The I've got a boyfriend scam
The I like this, but we're overstocked now scam
The You need more education scam
The You're overqualified scam
The Don't take this personally scam
The It's just temporary scam
The Budget Crisis scam
The I just want to be friends scam
The I'm not mad, I'm disappointed in you scam
The I'm not ready to commit scam
The scam that there's plenty for everyone
The You're being petty scam
The I didn't mean how it sounded scam
The I'm just kidding scam
The I don't want to change you scam
The I love you just the way you are scam
The I made it on my own scam
The I do my work and let fame take care of itself scam
The honesty scam
The respect the law, the cops, the government, your
elders, scam
The I'll get back to you scam
The "Helps prevent" scam
The Safe Sex scam
The It's for a good cause scam
The Postage and Handling scam
The It's only fair scam
The I'm concerned about you scam