

Let's Get Real

The rush to sell Christmas was worse than ever this year. I heard the Xmas Muzak tinkling in the stores and saw the sneaky little snowflake themes creeping into the window displays way before Halloween. In the news, there has been all sorts of whining about businesses hoping to score big during the holidays, and how they were getting all depressed because savvy shoppers were waiting for Black Friday and Cyber Monday, and “Oh dear, how can we get those skinflints to open their wallets and spend more money on stuff they don't really need or want?” The net result of all this premature pushing of holiday sales and phony cheer has got me all riled up, so I need to share my Bah Humbug feelings with you and ask you if you feel the same way. Just to be fair and balanced, not totally Scrooge-like, I declare I do love Christmas lights and music, fruitcake and eggnog, beautiful artistic Christmas cards and decorations, the smell of pine trees, the cool air, the long dark nights, etc. This would be my favorite time of year, except for all the commercial blarney. I think the solution would be to make Christmas (and Hanukkah and Kwanzaa) more like Thanksgiving, focused on family, friends, feasting, football, and fun, without so much advertising and materialism. So my Christmas letter to Santa whoever-you-are goes like this: “Please give the holidays back to the people. It's a people's celebration of the winter solstice, not a damn business solution.”

There, now I got that off my chest. Since I have already admitted that I love fruitcake (especially my favorite, Cavendish of Vermont, made with REAL dried fruit and no little candied green and red bits), please do enjoy your holiday treats, whether musical or social or gustatory, and don't let my little seasonal rant bring you down. I recommend skipping the mall and take a trip to Pacifica's finest bakery, Mazzetti's, to stock up on its famous pumpkin pie and the unusual chess pie (crunchy pecans and no yucky yellow custard). HO HO HO!

Rain Barrels

Check with the local water company (North Coast County Water District) in Pacifica for information about getting rain barrels in your yard to collect "free water" to use on your garden. There may be some expenses involved, but they are, of course, offset by savings on your water bill, not to mention the huge karmic payback you get for helping the environment.

Big Cat Week

If you missed last week's Big Cat series on National Geographic Wild (check your Comcast cable on-demand service), you are still in for a treat. I recorded them all and am binge-watching these fabulous documentaries starring lions, tigers, cougars, cheetahs, jaguars, leopards, and more.

Swami Sez

“Australia is known as Down Under. Is there an Up Over somewhere?” (Scott McKellar)

Mayburritoville

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