

TABOO OPINIONS #76

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11-25-05 A FEW TABOO THINGS

CHRISTMAS is a word increasingly becoming seriously politically incorrect. I noticed thirty years ago how, during the (then) Christmas selling season, the advertising circulars and enclosures in the daily and Sunday paper were increasingly and more and more often titled 'Holiday Sale' or variations.

Christmas season was becoming secularized. The mass retail chains (and their alert lower-level imitators) were somehow uncomfortable with the religious aspect of Christmas, probably because Christ [that anti-business, anti-commerce religious extremist!] was a bad BUY! Symbol.

Imagine wrecking the money changing business in the temple, caring about the poor and sick, and generally preaching power to the people! Why, the man was a Communist!

And I remember a song written and performed by Stan Freberg in the 1950s (a taboo comic now, and a taboo song) called "Green Christmas" which mocked the selling mania of the changing "Christmas" season.

Try calling a 'golden oldie' radio station now and requesting "Green Christmas" and listen to the broken connection or the lame excuses.

It occurs to me now that as the 'giving' religious impetus of Christmas is further and further diminished by the corporate profit imperative and its 'memory hole' role for Christ and Christmas, the subconscious need to buy and give is now only commercial ritual and advertising-impelled duty fueled by a terrible need to be given or somehow get the newest, most-highly-hyped 'hot' "gift" of the moment.

And with only Commercial Need behind the "gift-giving" season, some year a great wave of revulsion will sweep the nation---and "The Christian World"?---and people will rebel against the advertising and promotion and will hugely de-emphasize exchanging gifts.

Perhaps a new religion will emerge and change the insane dynamic of our MUST BUY conditioning.

I just watched a news clip of consumers trampling each other to the floor in their greed to get to a BARGAIN at 5 am this morning in a special store sale on 'Black Friday'.

The business gurus say that the 'consumer' is crucial to our economy---BUY OR DIE!---is the message, and the implication is that saving money and not buying and not going further into debt is anti-American and treasonous!

Soon I expect the latest war to be sold as necessary to the economy. And if we lose this war we'll just have to start another! Your job depends on it!

I note that scientists now have proof that global warming is caused by vastly excessive fossil fuel burning, and, of course, **if this goes on...**

But not to worry! My belief is that we are now at Peak Oil time, and in the next few years the supply of oil will begin to diminish, no matter what we are willing to pay, or who we are willing to kill, and that our ancient BITCH MOTHER EARTH environment will be saved by the increasing exhaustion of the supply of crude oil.

Then we can all live and freeze in our immovable cars and enjoy the smog-free air.

END TABOO OPINIONS #76