

Subdued XMAS News Flash

DEAN SENDS X-MAS GREETINGS

Bringing back the use of "eschewing" this year!

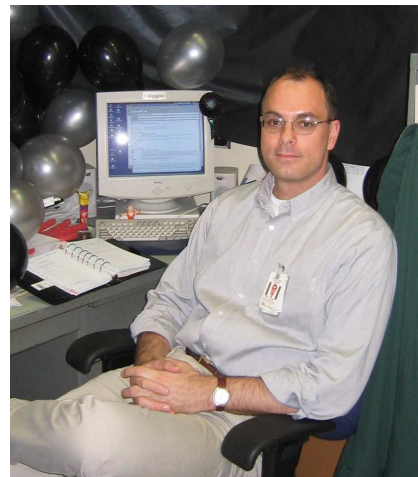
Merry Christmas to you and yours. I hope this holiday season finds everyone happy and healthy.

Christmas is truly a magical time of year when Australians take time to sit back and complain about the awful heat while they battle eighty-seven different types of venomous snakes and even an even greater number of poisonous insects, while still somehow trying to maintain a tradition that involves snowmen and other stereotypes of the season. It really makes you think, doesn't it? No? Me neither.

What I do think about is trying to come up with some material to include in this Newsletter that will properly convey my thoughts and impressions in regards to the Christmas season. Something that brings home to you how I feel about the season without resorting to tired clichés and hackneyed sayings. Too bad that's not going to happen.

But as is generally the case, I can once again report that there's nothing new to report. Oh sure, we're busier at work than you might think for someone whose job it is to support space shuttle missions. Why there's even a parable that helps describe the situation we're in these days. It goes: I was sad when I met a man who had no shoes, until I met a man who had to work on endless tasks that were due yesterday and could you please take a look at this before you leave. Okay, maybe that isn't the best parable you've ever read, or even a parable at all, but it could be the worst.

But my life isn't all about work as there has to be some play as well. After all, all work and no play makes Jack Nicholson wander the hallways of a mansion with an axe looking for people to make kindling of. So I've thrown a few parties, been to some parties, and even been to a few movies where the partying was kept to a bare minimum. But as for that trip home that I keep saying I'm going to make, it'll happen some day. Some day.



THIS IS WHAT I LOOKED LIKE ON MY 40TH BIRTHDAY. I'VE AGED HORRIBLY SINCE THEN.

So sitting here (no, not in the above picture, here at my computer at home) and wracking my brain to come up with something - anything - that I might have done in the last year that would be worthy of relating in this newsletter I have come to the realization that most of my more memorable moments aren't really all that Christmas-like. I mean after all, do you really want to be reading about loud parties with people dancing on tables, the hazy memories of my last trip to Mardi Gras, or sordid tales of late nights in the hot tub? You would? Well it ain't gonna happen! This is a family newsletter and don't you forget it!

However, if I were to relate the sordid details of such events you could probably find them at:

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Dean_Lenort/homepage.htm

So even though it might appear I'm doing nothing these days, it's actually been a pretty good year. And as always, it's my sincere hope that this holiday season is a good one full of fun and cheer for you and yours.

Dean

P.S. Oops! How could I forget? Eschewing! And I really mean that.

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