

# Fact & Opinion

by Stephan Macleod

**FACT:** Real Christmas trees are an all-American product, grown in all 50 states, including Alaska and Hawaii.

**OPINION:** Fake Christmas trees are made in sweatshops in Taiwan along with bootleg Backstreet Boys merchandise.

**FACT:** Real Christmas trees are a renewable, recyclable resource. Artificial trees contain non-biodegradable plastics and metals.

**OPINION:** I'd prefer plastics and metals in my Christmas tree than an angry woodpecker.

**FACT:** There are about 1 million acres in production for growing Christmas trees. Each acre provides the daily oxygen requirements of 18 people.

**OPINION:** Who cares about oxygen? I just want my damn presents.

**FACT:** The Christmas card was started in England in 1843.

**OPINION:** It had this dirty limerick written on it: There was a guy from the North Pole. He filled children's stockings with coal. The kids thought this was not right, so they stayed up Christmas night and tore this guy a new hole.

**FACT:** In Ireland it is believed the gates of Heaven open at midnight on Christmas Eve. Those who die then go straight to Heaven.

**OPINION:** If you die at 11:59, you're up Shit's Creek with a turd for a paddle.

**FACT:** Oliver Cromwell banned Christmas Carols in England between 1649 and 1660.

**OPINION:** He didn't like

anything he couldn't breakdance to.

**FACT:** The Puritans in America tried to make Thanksgiving Day the most important annual festival instead of Christmas.

**OPINION:** When Thanksgiving didn't catch on, the Puritans tried to implicate Santa Claus in a sex scandal with Monica Lewinsky.

**FACT:** St Francis of Assisi introduced Christmas Carols to formal church services.

**OPINION:** Kiss my ass, Assisi!

**FACT:** Snow on Christmas means Easter will be green.

**OPINION:** I don't care what color Easter will be, I can't stand listening to Snow's hit song, "Informer."

**FACT:** The first printed reference to Christmas trees appeared in Germany in 1531.

**OPINION:** It was used to describe a guy's naughty bits.

**FACT:** In 1836, Alabama was the first state in the USA to declare Christmas a legal holiday.

**OPINION:** Alabama was also the first state to legalize marrying your sister, but that didn't catch on.

**FACT:** In 1907, Oklahoma became the last USA state to declare Christmas a legal holiday.

**OPINION:** They had a difficult time deciding which was more important: Christmas

or St. Patrick's Day.

**FACT:** In 1937, the first postage stamp to commemorate Christmas was issued in Austria.

**OPINION:** Controversy erupted over whether the stamp should portray Jesus when he was young or older.

**FACT:** In 1834, Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert brought the first Christmas tree to Windsor Castle for the Royal family.

**OPINION:** The inbred, tea-drinkers used it as a home for their pet monkeys.

**FACT:** Some priests in Australia advise you to say "Happy Christmas", not "Merry Christmas", because Merry has connotations of getting drunk.

**OPINION:** Australians can find connotations of getting drunk in almost every word. If you told an Australian to go f#ck a kangaroo, he'd think you were offering him a beer.

**FACT:** In Scandinavia a variety of Christmas gnomes are the mythical gift givers, not Santa Claus.

**OPINION:** If I thought a bunch of gnomes had gifts for me, I'd think twice before driving over them with a lawnmower.

**FACT:** The first American Christmas carol was written in 1649 by a minister named John de Brebeur and is called "Jesus is Born".

**OPINION:** The second American Christmas carol was "Christmas in Hollis" by Run DMC.

**FACT:** Alice Cooper was born on December 25.

**OPINION:** People seem to forget that Christmas is a

time to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Alice Cooper.

**FACT:** The biggest selling Christmas single of all time is Bing Crosby's "White Christmas."

**OPINION:** "Genie in a Bottle" is the third biggest Christmas single.

**FACT:** In Greece, some people burn their old shoes during the Christmas season to prevent misfortunes in the coming year.

**OPINION:** I don't think burning your shoes will prevent misfortune unless you take them off your feet first.

**FACT:** In the Swedish countryside there is a superstition that trolls roam about from cock crow to daybreak on Christmas morning.

**OPINION:** A lot of innocent, ugly children are shot in Sweden every Christmas because they look like trolls.

**FACT:** "He who has no Christmas in his heart will never find Christmas under a tree."

**OPINION:** If I had Christmas in my heart, I'd ask my doctor how long I had to live. I once had Groundhog Day in my kidneys, but I'm better now.

**FACT:** St Nicholas was eventually named the patron saint of children, sailors, Russia and Greece.

**OPINION:** Sailors eventually changed their patron Saint to one of the guys from the Village People.

**FACT:** Santa Claus will not arrive this Christmas unless the children go to sleep early.

**OPINION:** He doesn't like the children to be awake

while he reads their diaries.

**FACT:** Holly is the most popular Christmas plant. It was once believed that it was a protection against witches and the evil eye.

**OPINION:** Next time someone gives you the evil eye, throw a holly at him. Or better yet, kick them in the nuts.

**FACT:** Did you know that every acre of farmed Christmas trees supplies the daily oxygen needs of 18 people?

**OPINION:** Yeah, I already said that earlier.

**FACT:** An estimated 27 million household (in the U.S.) give Christmas presents to their dogs and 6 million give birthday present to their cats.

**OPINION:** Americans want to show their pets how much they appreciate having their legs humped.

**FACT:** The Three Wise Men brought three gifts to honor Christ: gold, frankincense (a resin burned in the worship of God) and myrrh (a plant oil used to bury the dead and a symbol of mortality).

**OPINION:** The Three Stooges brought their unique brand of humor. Jesus liked Moe better than myrrh.

**FACT:** In Devonshire, England, a girl raps at the henhouse door on Christmas Eve. If a rooster crows, she will marry within the year.

**OPINION:** My homeboys rap at all sorts of henhouses, chickens are down with our phat rhymes, yo. Merry Christmas, suckas. S Mack out like No Doubt.