



Portland Xmas News

Wholly unreliable updates from around the world

Issue 1

SANTA TOP STORY

Reindeer Food Prices through the roof and not coming down soon according to experts

Eliser Fert - Economics Reporter

Greenland, Dec 1st; Reindeer food prices have gone absolutely crackers according to RBC (Royal Bank of Christmas) and are threatening to interrupt deliveries of toys to good girls and boys. "Unprecedented increases in the price of gas, as a result of another small man with anger issues, have driven fertiliser prices through the roof, which in turn have driven the basic cost of reindeer food as high as Santa's sleigh" said Pixie Boot, RBC Chief Economist.

One analyst that we spoke to said that there is a general misconception that Santa's Reindeers can fly on the back of good wishes and fairy dust. "The reality is that those bad boys get through enormous amounts of food and Santa has been struggling to keep up with the high prices".

"Take Blitzen for example. The lad's an absolute monster and gets through 8 sacks of reindeer grub every day. Without that, he just can't generate the power to get the sleigh off the ground."

Santa's Press Office acknowledged that there were some issues, although highlighted that "Big Red Nose" has been a liquid diet for many years. As a result, gift distribution to well-behaved children would not be affected. However, girls and boys who have demonstrated borderline good / bad behaviour in 2022 should probably be a bit worried.



Rudolph in familiar pose. According to insiders, the self-proclaimed "leader of the pack" hasn't touched reindeer food since the 1950's. Instead he has survived on liquid lunhes, comprising a half bottle of Pol Roger, 2 sherries, 3 pints of mild, a half-carafe of claret and a quart of brandy.

King Charles III to drive tanker in 2023

Balthazar - Royal Correspondent

Rumours were circulating last night that the new King will be swapping his robes, crown and all that other stuff for a job transporting supermarket petrol. Charles insists on only driving a Scania and...P3



Krampus Claus (above) tormenting children and generally revelling in the fact that 2022 has been such a rubbish year

Noel the First - Business Correspondent

Krampus Claus expecting best ever year in 2022

Kramazon Inc. on schedule to deliver record amount of misery

South Pole, December 2022;

Santa's errant cousin Krampus Claus was in buoyant mood yesterday evening as he presented bumper 2022 year-end figures.

"Quite frankly, everything that could have gone wrong has gone wrong this year" said Krampus, before kicking a small-boy's football over the fence. "We've had a war, little meaningful environmental progress and now, nobody can afford to buy anything. In fact, you could say we have had a Christmas Cracker of a year. Ha-ha"

When pressed further, Krampus was happy to explore the success of Kramazon Inc beyond the obvious advantages of ignoring environmental rules, not paying taxes and wantonly exploiting their workforce. "There are now 2.675bn children of present receiving age in the world" said the malign one as he picked his teeth "and the reality is that many of those girls and boys are growing up in areas a long way from the North Pole."

"Old white beard just doesn't have the resources any more to make all these deliveries and for all his efforts on loyalty and retention, he has no other choice but to pass customers on to me. The bottom line is that we can flout the rules, whilst Santa can't. More fool him I say"

Once he had readjusted his crotch area, Krampus went on "The key is to keep posting on social media with phrases like '@bekind', 'thoughts and prayers' and '#mindfulness' and then everyone thinks you're OK". The Kramp then leaned over, grabbed a sausage from a journalist's plate and flatulated loudly into his micro-phone.

Chief Marketing Officer Bozo Johnson then took over to launch Kramazon's "2023 Shower", with Vladimir Putin as the keynote speaker. He will present on "The lost art of taking things that aren't yours".

Activists throw some soup at a soup factory

Extraordinary broth scoop

The Soup & Bisque Terror Squad was responding to reports in Barnsley of Just Stop Oil protestors throwing soup at a soup factory. Nobody has any idea why. Full story cont. page 12

New Book Launch

"Diary of a Misunderstood King"

Jericho; All round bad-guy and Judean King Herod, is seeking to redress the "balance", with his new book. Portland arts critic Donnie Trump reviews the rewriting of history on Page 8.

Yuletide Hammerblow!

Christmas Trees to go on strike

“Everyone else is on strike, so why can’t we”?

Story by Noddy Holder

Christmas Trees around the world are to go on strike and are refusing to partake in Christmas celebrations.

Citing zero career development opportunities and a complete lack of appreciation of just how important they are to Christmas celebrations, the Local & Global Tree Collective (LGBTC) is calling on all Christmas Trees to stop growing, refuse to be cut-down and boycott Eddie Stobart - who are accused of transporting Christmas trees under the most inhumane conditions.

“We refuse to be patronised and objectified any longer”, said Leader of the Global Christmas Tree Solidarity Union, Fearnie T Ree (they / them / it).

“Besides everyone is on strike now, so

why can’t we?” it continued. “We propose that with immediate effect, all Xmas trees down tools and walk-out (although clearly we recognize that with roots in the ground, this last bit will be difficult)”. Ree added.

The OFT (Office of Festive Trading) has promised to look into the treatment of Christmas Trees, just when it becomes clear that the relevant Government Minister has been in the job for longer than 8 minutes.

However, the OFT also confirmed that the controversial issue of “butt rot” will not form part of their investigation.

A spokesman said via Zoom “can you hear me? Am I muted? Hold-on”. Another spokesman with a better connection said “we appreciate that the spraying of tree stumps with aqueous

urea solutions to stop the spread of fungus is controversial for the Tree+ community, but to be frank, no-one in the office can say “butt rot” without laughing.

It seems though that the LGBTC may have the last laugh. “Let’s see how Christmas goes without us” said Fearnie T Ree.



An angry Christmas Tree yesterday



A tearful Mrs Claus announces her resignation. Critics said she was never up to the job, looked like a rabbit in the headlights for most of her 3 hours in charge and that power had made her a complete mentalist.

Polar Leadership Chaos!

Santa replaced by Mrs Claus

But she only lasts 4 hours in-situ before resigning

Liz Claus’s radical approach to the festive economy - nicknamed Clausonomics by precisely nobody - was over only 4 hours after she took over as CEO of North Pole Inc, from previous boss St Nicholas.

Having pushed Chief Reindeer Rudolph “under the bus” for his nativity budget, there was really nowhere to go for Mrs C, other than straight down the chimney.

HMRC (Her Majesty’s Revenue for Christmas) had already warned that the

North Pole would go bust even before the children had unwrapped presents, whilst the Bank of Lapland bail-out meant that Boxing Day was to be renamed Boxing Hour.

Also unpopular was Mrs C’s proposal to set tinsel tariffs according to the marginal cost of baubles. “That suggestion was nuts”, said Elf Union Leader Red Dwarf. “The only place with a comparative system is the UK, where they price electricity off the price of gas not used to make electricity” Full story Page 3 (alongside a robin with a sizzling red breast)

Polar blast exclusive!

Present pipeline blown up

KC suspected - he accuses Santa

The main arctic present pipeline was blown up last night according to GCHQ (Gnome Communications HQ), who are blaming South Pole agitators. But Krampus himself has accused Santa. “It’s obvious that the pipeline was blown up by Santa and his decadent Elf followers” said a Spokesthing. Santa was unavailable for comment on account of being very busy at the moment.

Earl’s Court, London

Lubricants Industry to sponsor New Year Festival of Erotica

“Ill-judged decision” says UK Trade Assoc

Several lube companies are opposing the sponsorship of next year’s Festival of Erotica. German company Fuchs have been particularly hostile to the idea: “This is a major setback”, said a spokesman. “We’ve spent years trying to stop clients mispronouncing our name and this event will not help” (Editor Note: Fuchs rhymes with “Dukes”, rather than “Ducks”)



A Duke and a Duck yesterday.