



We Wish You a Merry Christmas, Just Not in September

By: **Haleigh Beeton**
Staff Writer

The Christmas season has always been jolly and bright. I've loved it my whole life. Christmas has always meant being with family and enjoying the holidays together.

But, when people start decorating in early October, that's when it becomes a major problem...

The past few years, all-scale warehouse stores, such as Sam's Club and Costco, have been putting out their Christmas stuff in the late summer. While the rest of America is swimming and hanging out in the sun, those stores are stocking up for holidays five months away. Seriously? I'm sweating and there is fake snow being thrown around. Do people actually head to Costco to buy outdoor Christmas inflatables in their bathing suit cover ups?

One thing that really bothers me about stores during the holidays is how some stores pushed their hours for Black Friday back into Thanksgiving Day.

Since the hours are extended, workers have to report to work at ridiculous times. Employees are unable to enjoy their Thanksgiving Day with their beloved families.

The tryptophan from the turkey is about to kick in, while they're shoveling their last pieces of food in their mouth getting ready to leave for work.

Thanksgiving has always been important to me. It's all about giving thanks and eating great food with the love of family surrounding you.

Some families, in this changed holiday, were deciding how they were going to stay warm while waiting in the long lines to get the best deal. They're thinking about that rather than being thankful for each other and the things they're given.

Since they have to be present for the great deal, dinner in the line is the only option.

Packing their take out boxes of their Thanksgiving dinner, some families headed out to the long and freezing line. They were sitting around on their cardboard box dinner table saying grace and asking for the cranberry sauce in a can.

A screaming match breaks out because someone forgot the can opener. Nothing like gobbling dagger eyes and swear words instead of stuffing, mashed potatoes and a drumstick.

And don't get me started with the Christmas music in the first week of October.

While *Hocus Pocus* and *Halloween Town* are on Disney Channel, 100.3 WNIC is playing "Jingle Bells" for the eighth time in a row.

Playing Christmas music on the radio in October is too early. I want to be hearing "This Is Halloween," rather than Christmas songs.

Don't get me wrong, I love an occasional Christmas jam. Just not in October when leaves are still half-green.

I think it is one thing to put up outdoor Christmas lights while it's not snowing and not turn

them on but, when houses are all lit up with lights on October 2nd that bothers me. Wait, at least, until the end of November.

I enjoy seeing the lights, but not when I'm looking forward to the Halloween decorations set up to scare trick or treaters.

I can easily get sick of looking at a Christmas tree when they're up in September. There is real beauty in the trees, although, looking at them every day for almost 3 months gets old.

At least wait until late-November to start it all. Before Thanksgiving, there really shouldn't be any Christmas things up but after, go for it. Christmassify everything.

After all, some don't enjoy the holidays because of all the stress of setting things up for the holidays. It goes by so fast that no one can sit back and marvel at the beauty of Halloween, Thanksgiving, and even Christmas.

Everyone is worried about the gifts, the plans, the food, and has no time to stop and find the delight in the wonderful presence of family.

And besides, let's face it. On December 26th, people will be throwing out the Christmas trees and putting out the hearts for Valentine's Day.

Three days after Christmas, I'll already have seen a dozen of cupid's arrows.

Why Christmas Movies Fill Stockings With Meaning

By: **Hailey Dziegelewski**
News Co-Editor

For most families, the 25 days of Christmas, shown on the ABC Fox Family Channel, kicks off the holiday movie watching.

But for mine, the comedy filled favorites, *Elf* and *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, are played all year round and are cherished by my family for their holiday humor.

Who says Santa's elves have to be short and conventional?

Buddy the Elf, from the movie *Elf*, is at least 4 feet taller than the rest of the elves and is devastated to find out his lifestyle at the North Pole wasn't supposed to be. He learns about his biological dad and flees the North Pole in search of him in New York City.

He soon discovers that he doesn't fit in with his real family either and struggles to learn how to live life as a typical human.

This movie is a classic and has always been one of my favorites to watch with my family. It displays the true meaning of Christmas spirit.

"The best way to show Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear," says Buddy. Buddy, being raised by elves, only knows how to act as an elf.

Throughout the movie, he spreads joy to everyone with his elf costume and his ability to make decorations from scratch.

"I like smiling. Smiling's my favorite," as Buddy would say.

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Walter, Buddy's real father, makes his family feel that his work is more important to him than they are. He despises Christmas decorations, activities, and the fun that Buddy provides to his newly met family and friends.

Towards the end of the movie, Walter realizes that his work really isn't what is important. His focus quickly shifts to his family and helping Buddy save Christmas.

Everyone, including adults, must believe in Santa for his sleigh to come off the ground and for him to make his presence in New York. Another movie my family enjoys is *Christmas Vacation*.

Like Clark Griswold, my dad every year covers the outside of my house and trees with numerous light strands.

When he finishes, he calls for the rest of my family to run outside, do the drum roll, as he proudly displays his work. The lights always look absolutely beautiful and they light up the entire street.

Every year my family celebrates a good, old-fashioned family Christmas, just like the Griswold's did.

Things don't always turn out the way we plan, but just like the movie, you never know what's coming next. My favorite part of the movie is when the

whole Griswold family and relatives are gathered around the table for Christmas dinner.

Clark says, "Since this is Aunt Bethany's 80th Christmas, I think she should lead us in the saying of Grace."

Aunt Bethany then begins to state the Pledge of Allegiance.

When comparing the two movies, Clark's character is similar to Walter's.

He relies on his work to make him happy instead of his loved ones. He wishes for a Christmas bonus to pay for an elaborate family gift: a built-in swimming pool.

Eventually, both characters realize what the true meaning of Christmas is to them.

Family. Giving. Sharing.

However, I believe that these gestures should be celebrated all year round.

Making memories and being goofy is what the families in the two movies share.

My family is silly, similar to the two, and that is why these movies are our favorites.

One year, my brother even added syrup to his pumpkin pie that we served for Christmas dessert which we compared to Buddy's sugar addiction. Although I adore several other Christmas movies, these two standout with making me both excited and blessed to share Christmas with the family I love.

They make me laugh all year round as well as bring out the true meaning of the holidays.