

LETTERS TO SANTA '09.

(Whitman Browne, December 15, 2009)

Dear Santa:

Global warming seems to be threatening your city and highways, but I expect you will find a way to deliver special Christmas presents. Here is my wish list for 2009.

- (1) Please bring President Obama an expensive, fancy fence like the one the Governor of the Virgin Islands has around his house. Focus the cameras well so that we can easily spot those folk aiming to crash the dinner.
- (2) Bring Governor deJongh Christmas wreaths, bells, dancing Santas, and more cameras for his very special fence. Enquiring minds are still baffled about that mysterious person who escaped even a police report, after crashing a 24 hours watched and guarded fence.
- (3) For Lieutenant Governor Francis, please bring his own airplane with frequent flyer markings and all that. Such an arrangement may cost the territory less to fly him around.
- (4) Ah, Tiger Woods, Tiger Woods, Tiger Woods, bring him some cold showers and buckets unsweetened flavor-full limeaide.
- (5) Instead of copying machines, please bring former Lieut. Gov. Gerard Luz James and his constitution writing team shredders. Make sure they are aboriginals!
- (6) I was suggesting a hard hat for Senator Neville James but you may have to bring him an envelope instead, now that he will have to help with the fight to keep Diageo on the big island.
- (7) Bring the new President of UVI a real Virgin Islands cultural treat for Christmas. Throw in some sweet bread, some guava berry, and some Quelbe Christmas rhythms. Unlike another "too proper" person who has been brought in to lead in education, Dr. Hall has been reaching out to educators here.
- (8) For the Commissioner of Education bring a periscope. Then she can continue to observe the Virgin Islands from a safe, disinterested distance in her cocoon, while she keeps reminiscing about things, "Where I come from," and labeling the Crucians as "prickly." At the same time, Dr. Daggett and his stateside posse are allowed to collect the bulk of money slated to improve public education in the colony.
- (9) Bring the President of the Legislature very special and Presidential splash guards and blinders. He may just need them if things get splashy in 2010.

(10) For the ex-senator who boasts the title “Father of the Senate”, bring a cozy leather chair so he can sit back, connive, suck-up, blow hot air, and wait for the WICO job.

(11) Can you bring the Insular Superintendent for St. Thomas-St. John a copy of the pamphlet Thomas Paine wrote when Britain tried to stifle independent thought in its American colonies? Throw in a U-Haul so she can get rid of all those African dresses. Now that she has been suddenly re-colonized, the experience seems to be “civilizing” her dress style too!

(12) Tyrone Molyneaux has evolved from a pit-bull to being a lap-dog. Bring him the cushy cool-out job he has his eyes on in the Department of Education. Someone worthy can then take up the leadership of AFT Local 1826.

(13) Bring Bishop Lewis the regalia and vestments so that he can be properly inaugurated as Chaplain in Residence, at Government House, provided the Reverend Dr. B. T. does not beat him upstairs to the ceremony.

(14) Please bring for Mrs. Elvira Wattley, the lady who campaigns so faithfully at Emancipation Garden Post Office area for the Red Cross, a bright shining halo, a restful and contented Christmas, and a healthy 2010.

(15) For all the people who go through the grind of pitching tents every morning, then breaking them down every evening, at the Venders’ Plaza, bring them a sympathetic ear, a less stressful solution, and a financially rewarding holiday.

(16) Bring Kenneth Mapp big brooms, small brooms, yard brooms, house brooms, store brooms, local brooms, all kinds of brooms for Christmas.

(17) For Lady Berry, bring a quiet restful Christmas and a “write as you speak” computer, so she can comfortably work on putting her memoirs together in 2010.

(18) Bring former Governor Turnbull a set of “not for travel” tickets, cancelled frequent flyer passes, and finally some driving lessons, so that he can stay in the Virgin Islands and write his book.

(19) Bring Positive Nelson copies of that song by Jimmy Cliff: “Hard Road to Travel On!” It’s a good reggae beat he can strut to.

(20) For Commissioner Smalls of Public Works, bring lots of tried and true calabashes, so that he and his engineers can spend time over the holiday bailing lakes: One in front of Buccaneer Mall, another between the Frenchtown Post Office and Frenchtown Plaza.

(21) Bring two pairs of boxing gloves, with sand inside, for Foncie and Lo-lo. The winner gets fishing rights on the new beach!

(22) Now that Mark Walters of VITEMA has a new building on St. Thomas, bring him the funds for one on St. Croix too.

(23) To prevent radio listeners from spending so much work-time checking out two programs, bring one radio show for Roger Morgan and Mario Morehead together and live. Let Jimmy O'Bryan be the referee.

(24) Bring a GPS unit for each police vehicle so that the chiefs can know where the vehicles are at all times. Someone can also track those parked in Tutu all day.

(25) For Tanny Thomas, bring a very golden parachute and safe landing in Estate Hope.

(26) Please bring a peaceful, warm, and restful Christmas for Mrs. Dotsie Elskoe, "Queen of the Bands." Throw in lots of blessings and reflective contentment for 2010.