

# Eric and Bing just don't mix...

I know it's mid-November, and those little signs are becoming more apparent as I make my way through this month. But sometimes reminders of the impending Christmas season are a tad too blatant.

A case in point—last night at home. I picked up a five CD changer this week—a nice addition to the home stereo system.

This thing is one of those regular couch potato models, complete with a remote control to save on using up any unwanted energy.

I set it in the shelving unit, connected the appropriate cables to their corresponding jacks, then plugged it in.

Hitting the power button, I savored that one male-dominated feeling every red-blooded man experiences as its lights sprang to life.

It's a sense of quiet satisfaction that makes all males smile inside, as that little bubble of happiness bursts forth and we say to ourselves, "Yeess! It's working..."

The kids had been playing CDs on a Diskman attached to the stereo (the old CD player became a 'skipper'), so I grabbed two of my own CDs to test drive the system.

Inserting Eric Clapton's From the Cradle, and The Eagles' Hell Freezes Over CDs, I pressed the "Play" button as well as "Shuffle" to enjoy an assortment of music from two of my favorite CDs.

I left the room as Daughter Number Four explored the possibilities of the new changer.

She was delighted to learn she could insert more CDs while it was playing.

When I returned, she had filled the remaining three spaces with CDs of her choosing, and left it in "Shuffle" mode.

I had already listened to The Eagles Get Over It, with its wonderful rip-roaring guitar leads, and Eric's acoustic version of Hoochie Coochie Man had just finished.

The noise within the changer indicated it

## A TED BIT



Ted Brown

was making its next random choice as I smiled again, thinking "Damn, this thing is neat..."

The movement stopped, the sound of audio kicking in followed, and I was serenaded....

"I'm dreaming of a White Christmas, just like the ones I used to know..."

For some reason, following Eric Clapton with Bing Crosby's Christmas CD is not really esthetically pleasing. In fact it's almost obscene—particularly in mid-November.

I asked her what she was doing.

"I'm putting on Christmas music, Dad," she grinned. "What do you think I'm doing?"

She had already felt robbed after missing Georgetown's Santa Claus parade last week, and decided to fill that seasonal void with an ample smattering of Bing Crosby, followed by A Superstar Christmas, (I still can't quite accept Bruce Springsteen singing a bump and grind version of Merry Christmas Baby) followed by more traditional Christmas favorites.

All, of course, interspersed with smatterings of The Eagles and Eric Clapton.

Maybe I'm too set in my ways. I truly love Christmas music, and get annoyed at radio stations' lack of air time during the festive season.

But in mid-November, my poor old 40-something system is just not quite ready to hear Bing Crosby warbling White Christmas.

Especially right after Hoochie Coochie Man.

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