

Healthy dose of realism colors my hopes for '91

Shredded wrapping paper adorns the floor, the tree is shedding pine needles like dandruff, and the cat has wreaked havoc on my artful mantelpiece decoration during a marathon battle with the once-lush cedar rope.

Tidings of comfort and joy are gradually giving way to the horrible sinking feeling which comes from overspending on all my credit cards, trying to calculate where the fees for the children's winter activities will come from, and reconciling my savings account total of \$4.23 with a deficit not dissimilar to the recent decrease in Donald Trump's net worth.

A healthy dose of realism has discouraged me from making any New Year's resolutions.

I do, however, have some fervent hopes for 1991 and I would like, as the current parlance has it, to share them with you.

Let 1991 be the year scientists discover that flossing your teeth causes cancer and caffeine is not only harmless but can reverse the aging process.

I'd also like the technology which allows supermarkets not to put prices on



kate's corner

kate gilderdale

their products to be permanently wiped out by a rogue computer virus.

Then I wouldn't have to wait while the unfortunate clerk takes a three-mile hike to the furthest aisle, to substantiate my claim that I've been overcharged 20¢ on a bag of tacos.

In '91 it would be nice if, when I stopped at an untried banking machine, it would furnish me with money instead of a message explaining the network is off line and would I please try later?

Is it too much to hope that, in future, public figures will be allowed to make the occasional off-the-cuff remark which won't be subjected to the kind of scrutiny once reserved by the KGB for interrogations?

Indeed, my fondest wish for the com-

ing year is that the earnest Cromwellian reformers of the present will suddenly and inexplicably be smitten with a sense of humor.

It's a long time until next Christmas, although not so long that I'll actually be

prepared for it, but I hope when it arrives that someone will have come up with an alternative to those infuriating "great more" envelopes inflicted on the long-suffering public by Canada Post.

Unless you're a doctor, or can write the Canadian Constitution on the head of a pin, the minute space remaining after the extra-jumbo Christmas stamps and the box for the postal code have been accommodated, is pathetically inadequate for its purpose.

And if you send cards to people in foreign lands and thus require even more address space, your only recourse is to

stick the stamps where the code is supposed to be. For a word which has recently enjoyed so much use, tolerance has become a scarce commodity of late, as people who claim to embrace the notion spend increasing amounts of time practicing the opposite towards those who fail to share their views. Let's bring back tolerance towards everybody, even the much-maligned majority. I'd like to dedicate 1991 to Eeyore, whose mournful celebration of gloom and doom would embrace the introduction of GST, the prospect of another year of Brian Mulroney and the ever-worsening recession.

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