

Simon: Hello, Simon! Are you feeling festive in this special seasonal interview?

Simon: I sure am, you?

Simon: Yip.

Simon: I really am. I'm even feeling a little bipolar.

Simon: I'm happy for you.

Simon: Wooheoo.

Simon: Maybe you'd like to start light and talk about something non-Christmassy, to give the reader something to look forward to later?

Simon: Sure. When in school, my R.E. teacher told the class to think of two things that never change for homework, because I think Buddhists believe that EVERYTHING changes. I'm not sure what he was hoping for. Maybe he'd love to say to a Buddhist 'Ha! You're wrong!' He was after all, a devout Christian. I certainly can't think of anything that changes. I thought of a couple things that don't change very much, but when a classmate said he couldn't think of anything, the teacher had a go at him! For understanding the laws of physics! If anything he was being wise!

Simon: That's not festive...

Simon: He was a nice person, but unreasonable.

Simon: I see. Have you ever been abroad?

Simon: I've been to a few countries, and I guess I liked America the most. They do most things very well, I like the weather, the scenery, the city layouts make perfect sense, most of the food is great, but they have the chocolates of a third world country. I've never understood why. I mean the recipe of the good stuff isn't exactly secret or even classified, and it's not particularly complex or expensive, so who's stopping the supply of reasonable quality cocoa? Having said that, Hershey's Cookies and Cream is actually fairly decent.

Simon: It could be worse, though. In Africa, cookies made from dirt are a thing. Apparently the aftertaste lasts hours.

Simon: They're for very desperate people, though...

Simon: And of course, there are no desperate people in America, because they can't get lost.

Simon: Well not in cities, anyway, as is my understanding - lots of straight, predictable roads, right? In a previous blog, you talked about how the film 'Capone' had very bad acting, where the main character had a very strange voice...

Simon: Yes, I read that many of the Italian words he spoke were pronounced wrong.

It surprised me that was pointed out, as everything was pronounced wrong.

Simon: Ok! That was the warmup, now how about something Christmassy??

Simon: Here are TWO palindromes! A real Christmas double whammy. Interestingly, they also mean the same both ways round: Special Christmas Podcast, Podcast Christmas Special, AND Scenery Christmas Special, Special Christmas Scenery.

Simon: Wow. To stop people being overstimulated, maybe you'd like to give a non festive anecdote? What was your most embarrassing experience in school? Other than people thinking you couldn't spell your own name?

Simon: When performing a gig on the school holiday in Spain, I wasn't quite with it at the time, and thought I could wing my way through a song by not playing in time and playing completely wrong chords. Basically I did whatever I liked. Again, not all there. Turns out I got a very bad reaction from everyone, but thankfully because I was schizophrenic, I didn't care. Phew. The condition isn't ALL bad.

Simon: Not Christmassy, but still a positive story...

Simon: Maybe even inspiring.

Simon: Did you tarnish the reputation of your school's music department?

Simon: I must have done. The Spaniards must have been thinking 'these people are MORONS'. In my defence, I'm not even sure I'd even listened to the song before I performed it.

Simon: There you go. You had an excuse.

Simon: Exactly, exactly.

Simon: Did you tarnish the school's reputation in any other ways?

Simon: Just me being there didn't really help things.

Simon: I see. Is there a place you feel particularly welcome?

Simon: Charity shops! I recently bought four albums in one go. One was a replacement of the first CD I ever bought - The Cream of Clapton. I first got that when I really didn't know much about music and thought that was as good as rock music gets. Especially with words such as 'cream' in the title and I'm all about hot chocolate and cream. You know who should really call themselves 'cream'? Van Halen. THAT'S good stuff. Interestingly the band were going to call themselves 'Rat Salad', which is more or less the opposite of cream in terms of desirability, but with a bit of mustard? Who knows? The shopkeeper said she liked Eric Clapton, too. I didn't say I already own the CD as that could make me look mental.

Simon: Great stuff. And what about your other three?

Simon: I scratched one of the CD cases, so I thought 'screw it, I'm not going to bother listening to the music'; one album didn't come with a CD, and the other wasn't very good.

Simon: You got ripped off?

Simon: I sure did. Luckily the album with the missing music was a bit rubbish. I checked on Youtube.

Simon: Ever been accused of vandalism?

Simon: I could have been. Two days ago, when in the gym car park, I (accidentally) hit a car with my ear protectors. Not hard at all, but enough to worry me. I did a little test and hit my car with the same item to see if it caused a scratch. If someone saw me doing that, God knows what was going through his mind. An aggressive and self-destructive micro crime spree, triggered by some inner demon? Unfortunately it was night, so I couldn't really see anything, but I think I should be fine. But in the very small chance I'm not, the owner of the car soon appeared, and I looked right at him with my offending item in hand.

Simon: 'That madman Simon has been hitting all the cars with headphones!'

Simon: Yes, that's the kind of rumour I'm worried about. It could look like in my own mind I'm a real badass, but of course, I'd be no more than a small time felon.

Simon: Right, very small. You'd only ever appear on the news if it was a particularly uneventful day.

Simon: I'd hope. Making things worse, I would have been looking thoughtful at the time. It could have looked like I was thinking 'How can I get away with this rampage?' but again, I actually had good intentions.

Simon: Are you going to binge on chocolates this Christmas?

Simon: I sure am. Mince pies, too. I actually ate a small amount of chocs, just now. It's genuinely almost as if I can feel their lack of nutrition, it's weird.

Simon: Are you going to watch Home Alone when it's on TV?

Simon: I think so...

Simon: You're not a bit old for it?

Simon: Nope.

Simon: I think you are...

Simon: I disagree.

Simon: Why?

Simon: Google says it has violence, coarse language and some sexual references...

Simon: It's not exactly a porno is it, though?

Simon: No, but it is viewing for the whole family.

Simon: But you'll be on your own...

Simon: My dad will be downstairs.

Simon: Ok. What do you like about the film?

Simon: I like the way it features Macaulay Culkin before he went slightly mad and formed a band that only sings about pizza.

Simon: Hypocrite, much?

Simon: Nope, fair point.

Simon: What else do you like?

Simon: I just think it's a nice upbeat film. I usually like watching movies where the main character dies/shoots himself in the face and lives (i.e. The Wrestler, and Fight Club), for just a few days of the year, it's time to be fun.

Simon: Maybe watch a comedy film?

Simon: Home Alone is a comedy.

Simon: Is there anything that's bugging you, right now? (Other than me).

Simon: Sometimes because my life is so unbelievably weird, part of me sometimes wonders is anything is really real. I'm just a tiny bit worried about dying before Christmas. Then the person/deity/whatever responsible would just be like 'Powned!'

Simon: Wow.

Simon: I'm not saying those kind of thoughts are keeping me up at night, but they are thoughts nonetheless.

Simon: You think your life is a prank?

Simon: Sometimes, yeah!

Simon: To cheer you up a bit, maybe you'd like to talk about one of your achievements?

Simon: I've never run over a squirrel...

Simon: That's something!

Simon: Yeah. I was considering pointing out that fact on my homepage, but I don't know. A bit random?

Simon: No, no, it shows your caring side. A lesser man would want to run over squirrels.

Simon: As a kind of game, you mean?

Simon: Right.

Simon: No, I'm not into that at all...

Simon: :) Do you have any more facts about your uncle?

Simon: Nothing is springing to mind right now, but maybe you'd like to hear some of the bands he's been in?

Simon: Sure...

Simon: Uncle Terry's World of Fun, Uncle Terry's Intellectual Odyssey, Uncle Terry and the Biscuit Bees, Uncle Terry and...

Simon: I get the point. What kind of music does he play?

Simon: Jazz.

Simon: Traditional jazz?

Simon: There's a definitely something not quite right about it...

Simon: I bet. Good, though?

Simon: Absolutely dreadful.

Simon: Which is why I haven't heard of the groups?

Simon: There you go.

Simon: And on that positive note, would you like to end things here?

Simon: Yes! Merry Christmas!

Simon: Woohooo!

Simon: Wooooo!!