

Slimmed-Down Santa

Dear Tim:

I came to the Tremont Center holiday celebration last week to enjoy a little Christmas cheer and see Santa. It's a fun little tradition that I always look forward to. But this year there was something a little different about Santa. He had a broad face and a little round belly, but it never shook when he laughed like a bowl full of jelly. Don't get me wrong, he was a right jolly old elf and everything, but I couldn't help wondering if Santa's on some kind of health kick. That jelly belly is a signature trait. I'd hate to see him losing the essence of his Santa-ness on doctor's orders. You were there. What did you think?

-Believer on Beverly

Dear Believer:

I don't know. I thought Santa looked great. Smelled good, too (he picked up some Old Spice from aisle 5 before his appearance). And even if he did seem a little trimmed down, it's hard to fault the guy. I mean he's not getting



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any younger and that bag of toys isn't getting any lighter (you try lifting thousands of Nintendo Wiis at a time). He may just be like the rest of us baby boomers and be trying to stay active, drop a few and keep Father Time at bay for another year. Whatever keeps him flying is OK with me. So the next time you run into Old St. Nick, don't be suspicious; tell him he looks good. Even Santa's not above a little

flattery. And he may just put a little something extra in your stocking.

Dear Tim:

What's the appropriate pie to serve with Christmas dinner?

-Pie Us on Pinebrook

Dear Pie Us:

I'm in favor of any pie for every dinner, so I may not be the guy to ask. But if you forced me to choose, I'd probably say Bumbleberry. And if you agree, let me know. I'd be happy to order a fresh one for your holiday table from our friends at Just Pies. They bake them right here in Columbus and we can special order them for delivery on the day you like. And just a tip: order two. You can never have enough pie.

Dear Tim:

How did it go this year? Naughty or nice?

-Lister on Lieb

Dear Lister:

Kind of like the economy. It just depended on the day.

Dear Tim is presented as a public service by Tim Huffman, owner of Huffman's Market. Write to him in care of Huffman's Market, 2140 Tremont Center, Upper Arlington, Ohio, 43221, stop by and say hi, or visit www.huffmansmarket.com.