

JANUARY 9, 2012

**COMMENTARY**

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The manner in which the owners went about closing the Marie Callender's in Toluca Lake is despicable.

I happened in just as employees learned of the sale, and not from the owners but from Facebook. I stopped by the next week only to find the owners had arrived just a few minutes earlier and started closing even while customers were dining. One employee had just arrived for her evening shift without prior notice. Another said they were offered no severance pay (despite the reported \$4 million property sale). An Internet search shows other "Perkins and Marie Callender's LLC" locations (both company owned and franchises) were shuttered in a similarly coldhearted fashion.

Many employees had worked at that Marie Callender's in Toluca Lake for years, just because they liked their co-workers and customers so much. With capitalists who treat loyal employees like this, who needs the left to destroy support for the free marketplace?

Capitalism requires consumers to make informed decisions about businesses to support. I hope readers will show their disapproval by getting their pies elsewhere.

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