

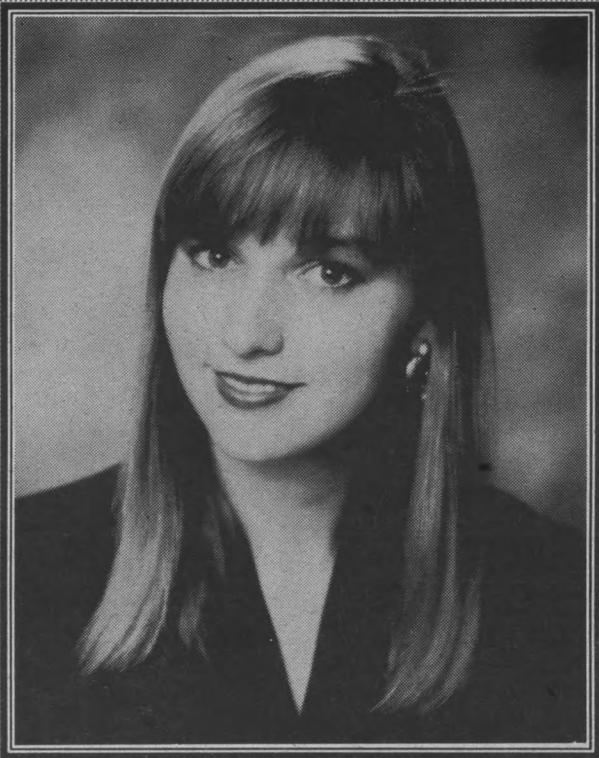
# Holiday

## GIFT GUIDE






## GRADUATION PORTRAITS

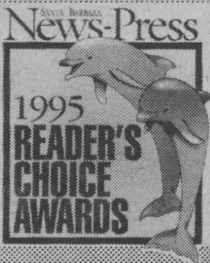


### The Perfect Holiday Gift

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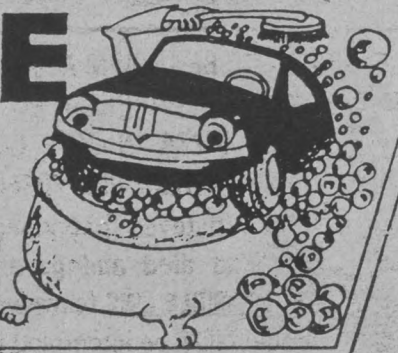


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# HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

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**8a**

**10a**

**!!!**

Antiquing, an adventure for young and old alike, abounds downtown.

Shopping for the (very) underage. Movie tie-ins are everywhere.

Pick up a good book for the parentals.

What to do if your friends need gifts and you're desperate.

Santa no es un santo. A special investigation uncovers the jolly fat man's North Pole sweat-shop.

*Doonesburys* you wouldn't normally get to see are scattered throughout this issue. Enjoy.

ON THE COVER: Carolers carouse at Santa Barbara's Paseo Nuevo mall. Photo by Djamel E. Ramoul.

### Daily Nexus Special Supplements

brought to you by the letter Q and the number  $\pi$   
wishes you and yours the happiest of holidays.

Just remember what Buckaroo Banzai said:

"Now you don't have to be mean, because  
wherever you go, there you are."

Peace

and good luck on your finals.





DJAMEL E. RAMOUL/Daily Nexus

## NOT JUST A NOUN

By Jennifer Handschew

The word "antique," not only a noun, can now be used as a verb. Antiquing has been defined over the past seven years as simply

### BARGAIN SHOPPING

antique shopping. Nowadays, it has become a favorite pastime for baby boomers and Gen X-ers, the famous and the not-so-famous, the rich and the frugal.

Today, antiquing is regarded as an experience rather than a tedious shopping excursion. Through the sights, sounds and even smells, you can revisit your past (or someone else's) or recreate your own present.

During the Christmas season, it is sometimes difficult to find that special gift for that special someone. However, if you do not get out to the shops early enough, that special gift may be out of stock until next year. Don't panic: Might I suggest visiting one of the many antique shops in Santa Barbara? This alternative is cer-

cherished memories of someone's life, maybe your own. Many of the shops in the Santa Barbara area are located on historical grounds. Historic Brinkerhoff Avenue (parallel to Chapala between Haley and Cota streets) is a great example. This avenue houses vintage Victorian homes — some dating back to the early 1800s

**"Antique shops not only carry merchandise, they carry a history."**

tainly much better than elbowing and nudging your way in and out of stores.

Antique shops not only carry merchandise, they carry a history. Each object within them holds

— that have now been converted into antique shops.

Brinkerhoff is a street where people have "com-

See ANTIQUE p. 7A



## GIVE A HUG TO YOUR SPECIAL SOMEONE

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Just in time for holiday travel, Amtrak California has introduced a new luxury Thruway Bus Connection that offers daily service between Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and San Jose. Convenient and economical, it also connects to a Capitol train in San Jose for the trip north to Oakland and Sacramento.

The bus stops at the Santa Barbara Amtrak Station, 209 State Street.

Northbound, the bus departs Santa Barbara at 6:20 a.m. and arrives in San Jose at 12:50 p.m. Capitol train #724 departs 15 minutes later for Sacramento with additional stops enroute, including one in Emeryville where you can hop an Amtrak California bus to San Francisco.

The southbound bus leaves San Jose at 4:50 p.m. and arrives in Santa Barbara at 11:10 p.m. with a stop in San Luis Obispo at 8:30 p.m.

Buy your Amtrak ticket at Dean Travel in the University Center, #2211, or the Santa Barbara Amtrak Station. For more information, call Amtrak at 1-800-USA-RAIL.



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## STOP THE MADNESS!! Potato on pizza is unnatural, subversive AND WRONG!

**ATTENTION!** LET THE TRUTH BE KNOWN: A RADICAL GROUP OF NONCONFORMISTS COMMONLY KNOWN AS CPK (CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN) IS RIGHT NOW SERVING POTATO ON PIZZA IN THIS COMMUNITY! **THIS GOES AGAINST EVERYTHING OUR FOREFATHERS INTENDED PIZZA TO BE!!!**



Rosemary Chicken-Potato Pizza - Radical propaganda thinly veiled in a thin, flaky crust. Don't be fooled by its pizza-like appearance. IT IS THE ENEMY.

Whatever happened to COMMON DECENCY?? Who died and gave CPK the RIGHT to CROSS THE INVISIBLE LINE between the Four Food Groups?? Potatoes should NOT be integrated with Rosemary Chicken, let alone PIZZA! If people start adopting a permissive attitude towards potato on pizza. Next thing you know, it's the COLLAPSE OF CIVILIZATION IN THE FREE WORLD!!! Right now, MILLIONS OF CPK PIZZA-CRAZED "ZOMBIES" walk our streets.

And the scourge is spreading! **WE MUST TAKE ACTION NOW!**

Let's go back to a simpler time when pizza was a place for pepperoni.

Not Tandoori Chicken, Shrimp Pesto, Peking Duck, Goat Cheese

(Blasphemy!) or Rosemary Chicken-Potato. If we were intended to

taste two different "exotic" foods at the same time, we would have been

BORN WITH TWO TONGUES!! **WAKE UP AND SMELL THE GARLIC!!!**

Every one of CPK's 27 highly addictive, unholy combinations must be

ELIMINATED. TOGETHER, we can stop the crispy, wood-fired

menace! A return to traditional pizza MORALS is **OUR BEST SECURITY FOR OUR FUTURE!!!**

Support our grassroots action group, C.R.U.S.T. (Crusaders Resisting Unnatural Subversive Toppings)!!

**Potatoes Belong on a PLATE!! Not a PIZZA!!!**

**BOYCOTT**

**ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT**

**PIZZAMONGERS!**

Whatever you do, don't

go to Paseo Nuevo Mall

on Chapala.

And, by all means,

don't call (805) 962-4648

for take-out orders.

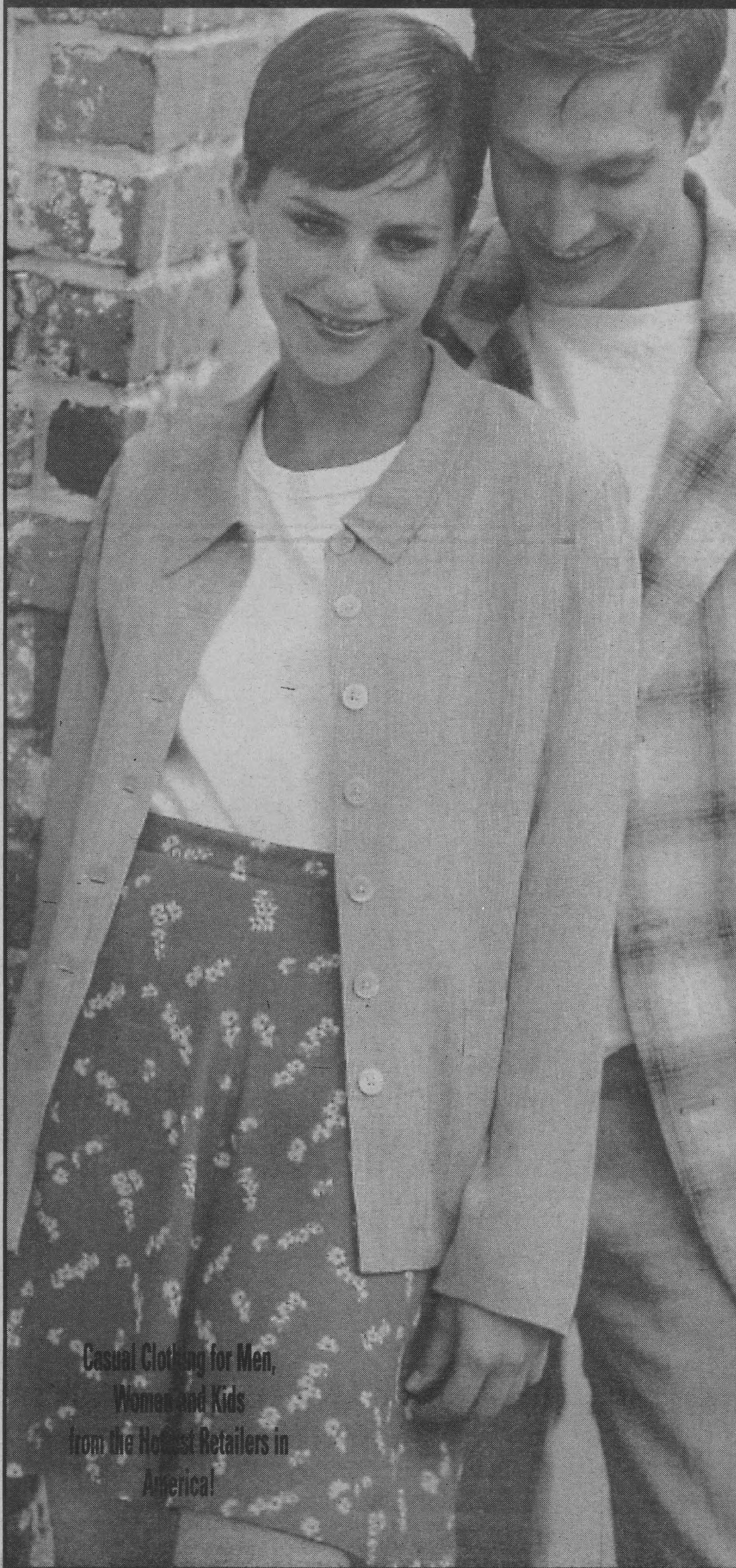


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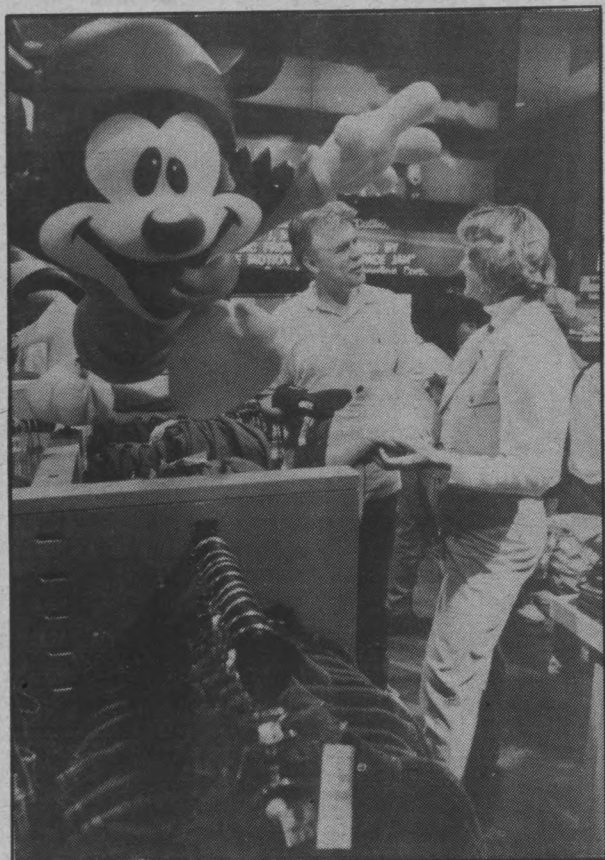
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# TOY STORY



**Braving the wilds for that special kid**

By Davia Gray

Picture a store glowing with lights, sale signs and pyramids of shining new toys. Add hundreds of screaming children, a bunch of frazzled parents, a few overworked employees and a mile-long line, and then you have your average day of Christmas shopping for the pre-pubescent crowd.

High-tech items are always at the top of the gift list. Radio-controlled cars and video games are top sellers, according to Cheryl Zaffruto, Kay-Bee Toys manager.

"The new Nintendo video system is definitely the number-one seller because it's the latest tech-

See KIDS p.13A



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# BRIEF LESSONS IN BRIBERY Doonesbury

By Chris Koch

For students, the stress and fatigue of Fall Quarter is coming to a close, nearing a time to refresh and renew in preparation for the next grueling term. Thoughts turn to home-cooked meals and plenty of sleep — and to holiday shopping.

While a few brave souls dare to laugh in the face of studying for finals by opting to get their shopping done early, many instead are forced to cram in a quick trip to the mall in the desperate hope of a one-stop miracle. This can be especially true when shopping for dear ol' mom and dad. Since conversations with parental units during the school year often center around the need for

money, holiday wish lists can be lost in the mire.

Fortunately, there is hope for burned-out, gift-giving students looking for one place to find the perfect presents for mother

**"If you're in a really big hurry, here are a few suggestions...."**

and father. Located on State Street, the Earthling Bookshop is just what the doctor ordered for a convenient and relaxing shopping trip. Complete with a cafe and seating around a fireplace amid bookshelves, Earthling provides a soothing and unhurried attitude toward book buying, a plus during this frenzied season.

You want books? Earthling has 'em. Lots of 'em. With thousands of titles gracing the shelves, Earthling is a dream come true for students looking for the ideal book. And

such a large number won't be intimidating, either, thanks to the helpful staff willing to guide you to that perfect tome.

If you're in a really big hurry, here are a few suggestions to speed you through your holiday shopping:

• For Mom, *We Were the Mulvaney* (\$24.95) by Joyce Carol Oates is a story

about a New York countryside family living a seemingly perfect life until their daughter commits an unspeakable act that nearly tears them apart and ostracizes them from the town.

• For Dad, *The Last Don* (\$25.95) by Mario Puzo, is a loose sequel to the *Godfather* series, detailing the waning power of America's most powerful (fictional) mafia family.

• For the budget-conscious, plenty of low-cost titles are available, including *A Field Guide to Germs*, priced at an easy-on-the-pocketbook \$2.99. This book, by Wayne Biddle, offers a semiserious look at 100 of the most common and dangerous

See BOOKS p.15A



continued on p. 8A

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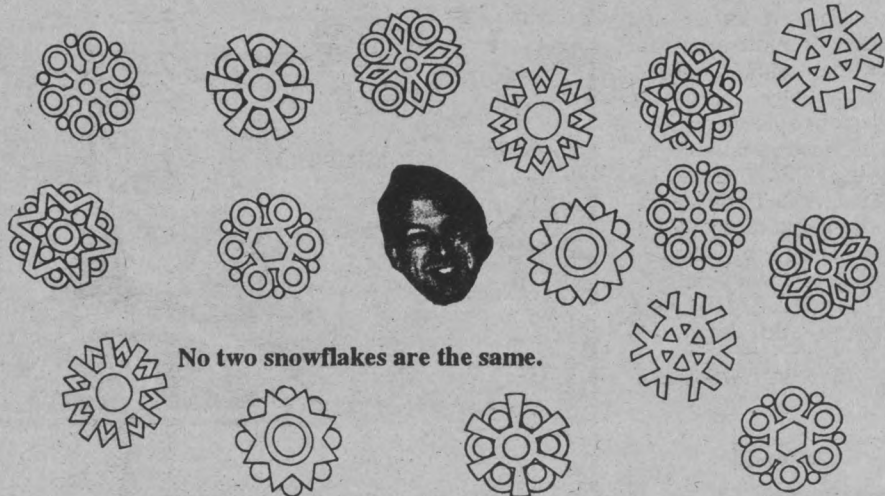
## ANTIQUE

Continued from p.3A  
bined their commercial business with their residence to maintain stability," adding a touch of personal involvement, said Robert Livernois, a 30-year resident and local business owner. This personal involvement is needed to keep Brinker-

hoff thriving. A genuine care and love for the business keeps these vendors going and keeps customers coming back.

The second annual Christmas Fair on Brinkerhoff Avenue is planned for next Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. All shops will open their doors for the Christmas season. Food and fun will be provided by Brinkerhoff residents.

So if you're looking for anything from Asian artifacts to Zippo lighters from the Vietnam War, there are over 45 shops to choose from within the Santa Barbara and Summerland areas. Whether it's antique furniture, jewelry or that peculiar collectible, these shops can cater to your interests as well as your pocketbook.



No two snowflakes are the same.

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| Jason Work                | 1994 | Anthropology           |
| Tish Figueroa             | 1993 | Political Science      |
| Rich Frank                | 1993 | English                |
| Adam Henning              | 1993 | Sociology              |
| Nicole Morgan             | 1993 | English                |
| Chris Nardone             | 1993 | History                |
| Andrea Aston-Spears       | 1993 | Law & Society          |
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# LAST MINUTE SHOPPING?

By Nick Robertson

Since part of being a college student entails maintaining a large circle of friends, around the holiday season, you might feel the pressure to buy them all gifts. While this may be materialistic, hey, we live in Southern California. Deal with it.

But unless you're a homebody whose best friends are Steve Urkel and Sabrina the teenage witch, from ABC's TGIF lineup, the annual season of giving presents a considerable hardship when your 35 friends all bring you goods from near and far and all you have for them is pocket lint and sorry excuses. How do you avoid offending your pals while keeping enough dough in the bank to pay those bottled water bills?

Well, don't fret. There are many ways that you can bestow gifts upon your chums without spending cash in extravagant sums. All it takes to keep your friends happy (and, of course, to receive many a gift in return) is a little planning and a sharp eye for bargains.

The sensible situation is to gather your friends together a few weeks beforehand — or, uh, now — and put all of your names in a hat, each draw a name and give that person one really nice gift. While this is a good system, inevitably, one person will "just have to" get something they see at the mall for someone in particular, starting a chain reaction breeding anger and contempt for all involved. So

See GIFTS p.16A



**"Hey, we live in Southern California.  
Deal with it."**

Because  
all-nighters  
aren't always  
spent in  
the library.

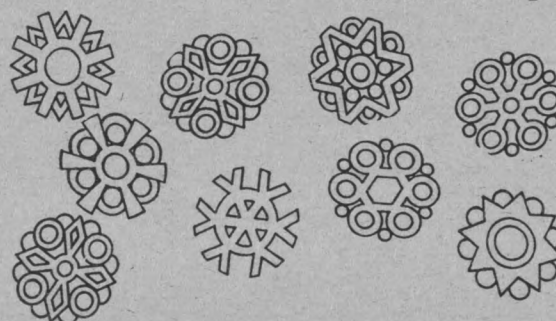


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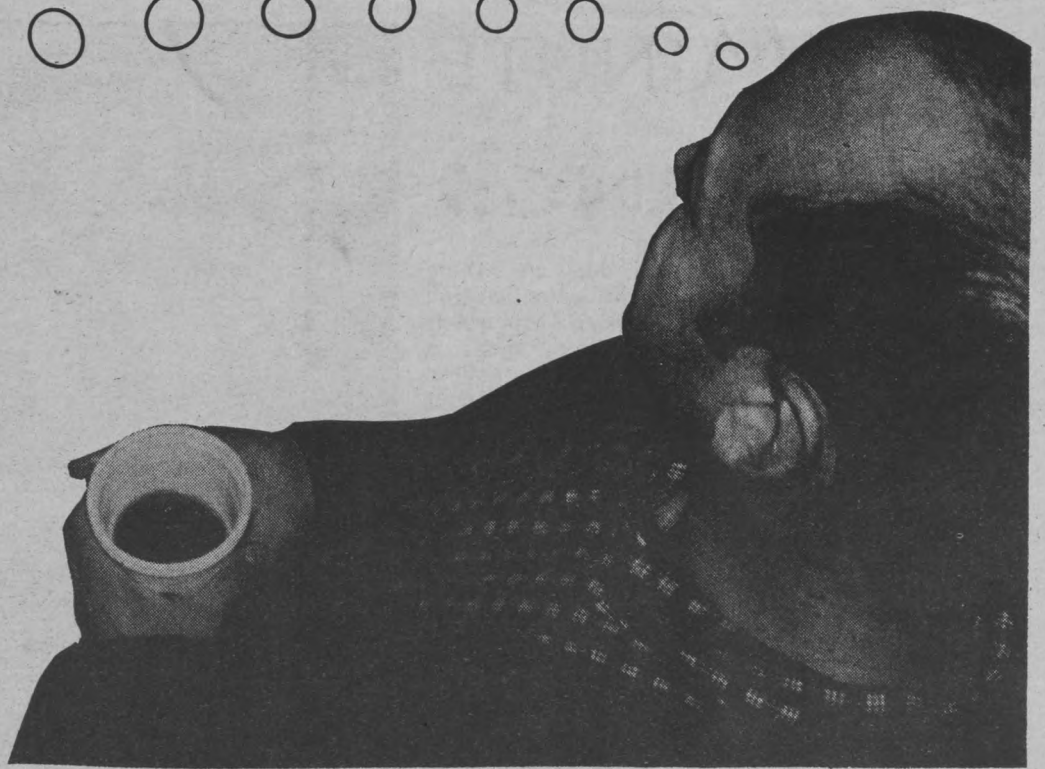


continued on p. 9A





I wonder what cool gifts they'll get me from this nifty Nexus Gift Guide!



continued on p. 15A

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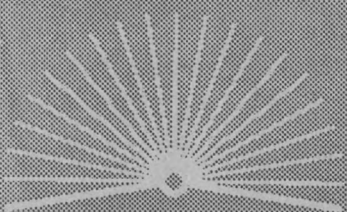
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# KRISS KRINGLE CAUGHT ON TAPE

A YULETIDE SATIRE BY MARC VALLES

It all started when I was a kid. Every Christmas, I would eagerly anticipate the arrival of more additions to my material wealth, whether they were sent by friends, relatives or imaginary jolly fat men in red suits in whom I'd long since stopped believing.

Strangely enough, even after my crisis in faith, Santa's gifts kept coming year after year. Which was fine by me, even though, by my own estimates, I hadn't been a "good boy" for 12 years, six months and two days. What was really unsettling, though, was that over the years, I began to notice a change in the quality of the toys.

At first it was well-nigh imperceptible. The plastic seemed cheaper somehow, or the paint had been smudged, or there were typos on the box. After the initial realization, I cataloged the decline and fall of Santa's performance record: first, toys that were shoddy imitations of the latest fad arrived in my stocking, and then toys that didn't even work, and finally, toys that were missing parts or

whose life expectancy — from the time you removed them from the box to the time you broke them by reading the poorly worded instructions for assembly — could be measured in minutes.

I'd had enough, I told myself. Something had to be done about this.

But that was before I got the package that changed my life.

It was last year. Santa had, as



## THE LABOR LEADER

Last seen in this photo taken in happier days, Bob "Che" Jones vanished mysteriously on the eve of the strike. While some speculate Bob may have fled to South America (note shape of beard), others suspect foul play — from a certain man in a certain red suit....

was now usual, neglected to bring me anything I had requested. Instead, I got a teddy bear.

This, however, was no ordinary teddy bear. As soon as I liberated it from its gift-wrapped prison, its head broke off, spewing stuffing all over the rug as it swung to and fro from its ratty body, dangling by a few threads. "Standard post-early '80s Kringle workmanship," I muttered to myself before peering into the bear's exposed abdominal cavity to discover rolls of ... paper.

Puzzled, I extracted the papers from the ex-bear and unrolled them. What I found not only restored my belief in Santa Claus, but shocked me to such a degree that then and there I resolved to book a flight to the North Pole and administer some journalistic justice.

The message, scrawled in Crayola red on toilet paper, read as follows:

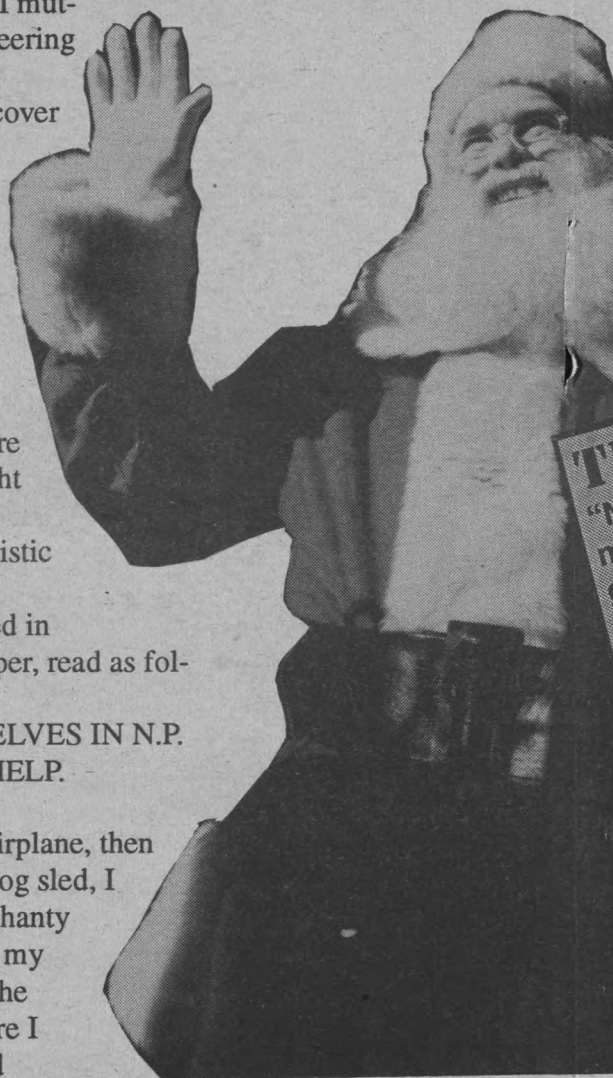
SANTA HOLDING ELVES IN N.P. SWEATSHOP. SEND HELP.

I did.

Traveling at first by airplane, then by ship and finally, by dog sled, I arrived at a North Pole shanty town. Stopping to water my huskies, I asked one of the pointy-eared locals where I might find a bit of liquid

refreshment to brace me against the nip of Arctic winds before I could reach whatever wintry metropolis Santa's toy factories.

In response to my earnest faux-Vulcan guffawed so hard that bells on the tips of his curly whiskers verily shake and tinkle in time with his bouncing diaphragm. He then



EX-TEDDY BEAR SKINNED RED-NOSED REINDEER JOLLY FAT SLAVE DRIVER

GERMOND THE BELTWAY THE MAGIC KINGDOM DJIBOUTI THE BIGGEST UN

Getting nothing  
out of your  
independent  
study in

# Virtual Scuba?





me against the bite  
nds before I headed to  
ropolis was home to

earnest query, the  
ed so hard that the  
is curled-up toes did  
le in time with his  
. He then rather

cheerlessly informed me that every bar in  
town had closed, and that the snowy slum  
in which I stood was indeed Claus Central  
— or had been, at least until the Fat Man  
packed up shop and went further north,  
firing all his workers and replacing them  
with (shudder) non-union employees.

As if to further shatter my naiveté, the  
now crestfallen elf tragically swept out his  
arm, as if to invite me to survey the dilapi-  
dated remains of what had once been the  
world's largest industrial toy-making  
boomtown. Indeed, I did, and it was  
depressing. Whole streets sat silent in  
between bare-faced, boarded-up buildings.  
A broken-down barbershop pole leaned  
precariouly toward the horizon in the

center of the town. The  
pole had long since  
ceased to spin. It was  
sad.

"Where does Kriss  
Kringle house his  
massive factories, if  
not the North Pole?"  
I asked, only to be  
met with bitter  
shrugs. From  
everyone.

As I padded  
across town  
from shack to  
shack, I saw a

scrawny elf woman leading a  
reindeer out into an open courtyard. Taken  
aback by the scene, I noticed the rein-  
deer had a red, glowing nose! It was  
Rudolph! Alas, no sooner did I rec-  
ognize the famed reindeer of holiday

lore than did the  
elfin strumpet pro-  
duce a hatchet  
from beneath her  
tattered robes and  
cleave poor  
Rudolph's skull in  
two.

As his dying  
bleat rang out  
across the frigid  
air, it joined with my  
bewildered cries. "What  
are you doing,  
woman?!?"

"Well, folks got  
to survive some-  
how. I raise these  
here reindeer for  
pets 'n' food,"  
she said as she  
proceeded to  
skin and gut  
the carcass.

"But you  
just killed  
Rudolph."

"Aw, shucks,  
that weren't Rudolph."

"No?"

"Naw, I killed him years ago. I'm  
wearin' him now."

This was beyond endurance. How could  
Santa do this? How could he take off and  
leave an entire town of elves to wallow in  
economic stagnation, decline and depravi-  
ty, their only recourse to slaughter every-  
one's favorite Christmas carol for food  
and shelter?



## THE FAT MAN

"No pictures!" pleads Santa,  
met by media hordes at the  
gates of his posh North Pole  
compound. Unable to long  
withstand the bright gaze of  
justice (or the flashbulbs),  
the fat capitalist bastard  
quickly turned tail and ran  
back inside his gated fortress  
of oppression.

**THE STANDOFF**  
Negotiations reached a low  
point as Bob's comrades  
learned of his disappearance  
and took up arms outside  
Kringle's mansion. Only the  
appearance of Mrs. Claus led  
to the lessening of tensions  
as she handed out \$100 bills  
to the crowd, which then  
chose to disperse.

Fearing I would next see  
Frosty the Snowman made into a  
Slurpee, I beat a quick retreat  
back to the sled. There was no use  
looking for a sweatshop here. The  
townsfolk would have surely stoned  
Santa and his scabs on sight. I was begin-  
ning to think I might have to search the  
world over for the criminal Claus.

... Until I saw a large crowd gathering  
in front of the barbershop pole. They  
looked angry and spoke among them-  
selves in growls and yelps of indignation.

.....  
see **SANTA** p. 13A

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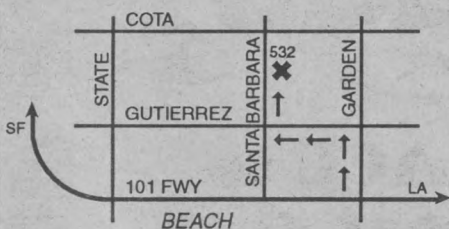
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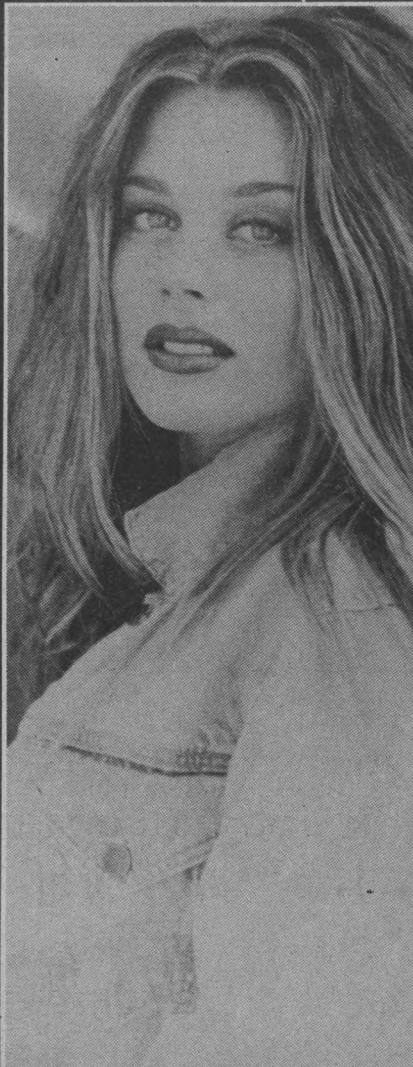
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## KIDS

Continued from p.5A  
nology," she said. "And a lot of Star Wars stuff, and anything Elmo is selling well too."

The Nintendo system costs about \$200, a little pricey for most students, but a two-pack of Star Wars figurines is only \$11.99 and individual toys are cheaper. And for the less aggressive youngster, Jewel Hair Barbie is \$15.99. Some Barbies are marked down to under \$5, Zaffruto said.

For less traditional gifts, the Game Keeper offers a variety of games for all ages. One of the most popular items is Mystic Sticks, sold for \$24.99. The object of the game activity is to keep one vertical stick in the air by hitting it with two horizontal sticks, according to Game Keeper sales associate Chris Williams.

"Kids love juggling things, and actually, they [Mystic Sticks] are considered to be the '90s version of the hula hoop," he said.

For kids masquerading as adults, games like Sequence are the top sellers, ranging from \$23-\$50. For the serious game player, there is a \$12,000 roulette

wheel available from Game Keeper's catalog and an intricate Romans-vs.-Barbarians chess set for \$290.

Natural Wonders is the place to shop for the eco-sensitive kid. One of the most unique items is an adoption kit available to help save your choice of African plains, dolphins or wolves for \$20-\$25. The Beanie Babies stuffed penguins are the current best

**"Natural Wonders is the place to shop for the eco-sensitive kid."**

seller, according to a Natural Wonders employee.

"They are the latest craze. They've gotten a lot of publicity, and they've been on morning talk shows. They are cute, cuddly, limited edition items. Once they are gone, they are going to be collector's items," he said.

Also popular is the Star Saucer selling for \$15, and with the Star Trek crystal-growing kit, kids can grow

their very own dilithium crystals for \$30.

Cartoon-crazed kids will be more than happy to get something from the Warner Bros. Store, where Space Jam paraphernalia is selling out, according to Manager Deanne Philips. Merchandise, from action figures to socks, is available from \$8-\$48.

Dalmatian fan April Rodriguez, age 9, loves the stuffed puppies available at the Disney Store for \$25.

"I want one just like in the movie," she said. "They're cute, and I like to hug them."

The new *101 Dalmatians* movie has sparked a lot of interest in the spotted Disney products, according to a Disney representative.

If shopping for that special youngster still seems daunting, never fear, there are still a few options left. You can just forgo the gift and chalk it up as an early lesson in disappointment for the tyke. Or for the more practical gift-giver, you can always go to your neighborhood liquor store and pick up one of those fake beepers filled with gum — they always bring a smile. And if that doesn't work, remember, it's the thought that counts.

bursting into tears, which steamed, streaming down his cheeks.

"Bob," I soon learned, was Bob Jones, an elf's elf if ever there was one. Called "Che" by his friends and associates, Jones had vanished over ten years ago on the eve of a strike against Kringle Inc. — a strike Jones had

been at the forefront of and a strike that crumpled under Claus' iron heel soon after the charismatic elf's disappearance.

Every year since, their leader and livelihood having vanished, the townsfolk gathered at the barbershop pole for a moment

See SANTA p.18A

## SANTA

Continued from p.11A

Several of them had guns and pitchforks. Nearing the back of the crowd, I asked an elderly bystander what all the fuss was about.

"They got Bob," was all the old elf could say before

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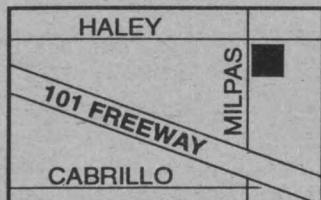


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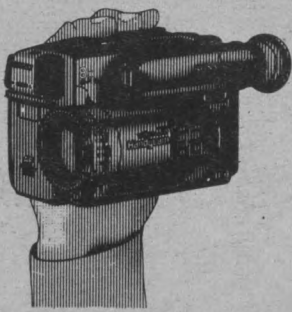


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late JOCK

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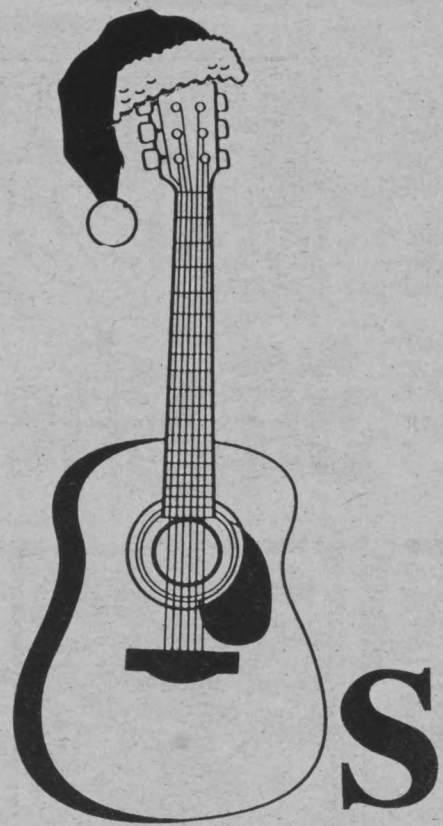
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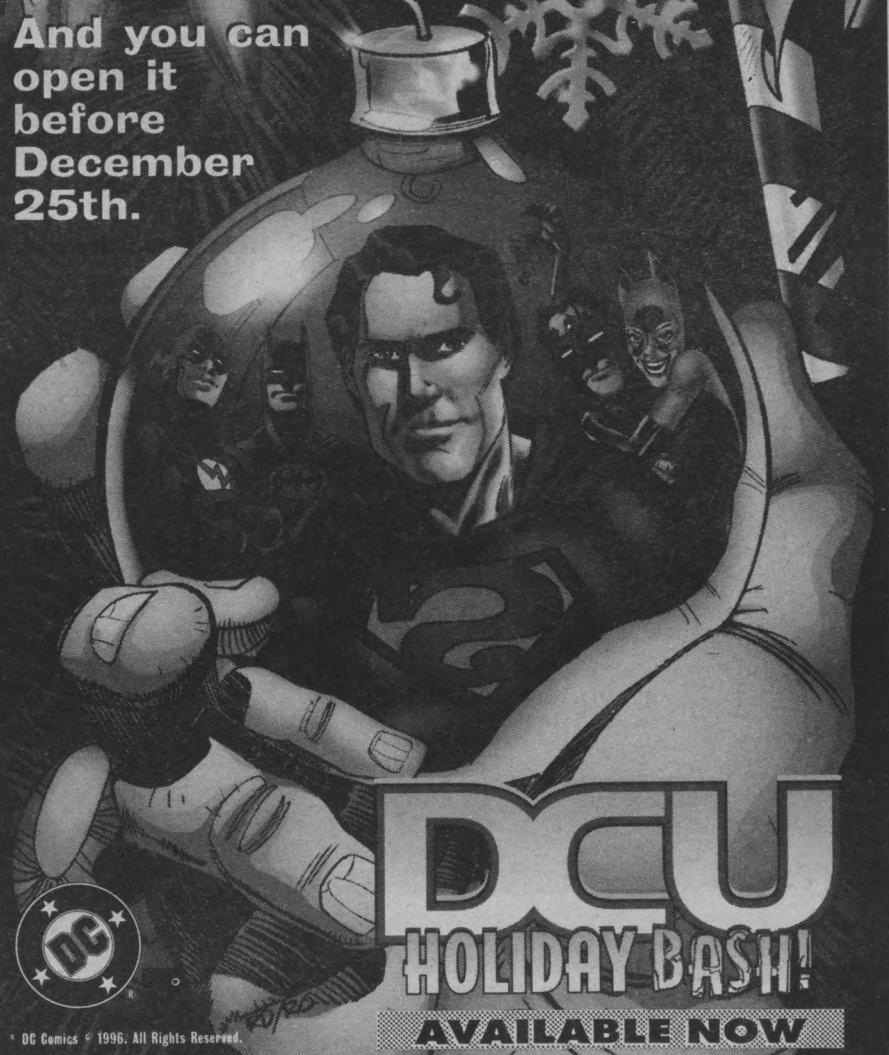
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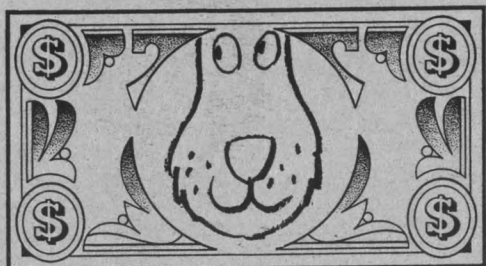


## BOOKS

Continued from p.6A  
viruses, bacteria and other disease-causing nasties, as well as their effects on and parallels to society.

If a book doesn't quite fit the bill, Earthling also provides calendars as a terrific alternative.

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## Bite the Bait



continued on p. 16A

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**THE MIRROR HAS**  
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2:00 (5:00) 8:00

**RANSOM (R)**  
Fri-Sun - 2:10 (4:00) (5:15)  
7:00 8:15 9:45  
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**FIRST CONTACT (PG-13)**  
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618 STATE STREET - S.B.

**SNEAK PREVIEW SATURDAY - 8:00 PM**  
**★ MY FELLOW AMERICANS (PG-13)**

**STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT**  
(PG-13) Fri-Sun -  
12:15 1:25 (4:10) 7:00 9:45  
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2:30 (4:10) (5:30) 7:00 8:15  
Playing On 2 Screens

**THE ENGLISH PATIENT (R)**  
Fri-Sun - 12:30 (4:20) 8:00  
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### SPACE JAM (PG)

Fri & Sun -

12:20 2:40 (5:00) 7:20 9:30

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**FINZI-CONTINIS (R)**  
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251 N. FAIRVIEW - GOLETA

**★ 101 DALMATIANS (G)**  
Fri - (5:15) 8:00 only  
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Mon-Thurs - (5:30) 8:00 only

**SPACE JAM (PG)**  
Fri - (5:30) 8:15 only  
Sat-Sun - 12:20 2:45 (5:30) 8:15  
Mon-Thurs - (5:45) 8:15 only

### FIESTA 5

916 STATE STREET - S.B.

**SNEAK PREVIEW SUNDAY**  
**★ THE PREACHER'S WIFE (PG)**  
Sun - 5:00 PM

**★ 101 DALMATIANS (G)**  
Fri & Sat - 12:00 1:00 2:00  
2:45 (4:00) (4:45) (5:30)  
6:45 7:30 8:15 9:15  
Sun - 12:00 1:00 2:00  
2:45 (4:00) (5:30)  
6:45 7:30 8:15 9:15  
Mon-Thurs - 2:00 3:00 (4:00)  
(5:00) (5:45) 6:45 7:45  
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### ROMEO & JULIET (PG-13)

Fri-Sun - 1:20 7:00 9:45

Mon-Thurs - (5:20) 8:00 only

### JINGLE ALL THE WAY (PG)

Fri-Sun -

12:15 2:35 (5:00) 7:20 9:30

Mon-Thurs - 2:40 (5:10) 7:30

SET IT OFF (R)

Fri-Sun - (4:15) 9:40 only

Mon-Thurs - 2:20 8:15 only

### CINEMA TWIN

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**JINGLE ALL THE WAY (PG)**

Fri & Mon-Thurs - (5:40) 8:00 only

Sat-Sun - 2:40 (5:40) 8:00

**RANSOM (R)**

Fri & Mon-Thurs - (5:20) 8:15 only

Sat-Sun - 2:30 (5:20) 8:15

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## GIFTS

Continued from p.8A unless you've got purist friends, avoid this logical approach.

Now if you want the easy way out, the state can help you with its designer holiday lottery-scratcher tickets, conveniently labeled with a "TO" and "FROM" for you to fill in at your leisure. This gift has many pluses: It's only a buck, you could hypothetically make your friends rich, and it helps out the public schools.

However, the drawbacks are formidable: Your friends will know that you only spent a buck on them; if one of the tickets pays off, you will forever kick yourself for giving it away; and whenever the public schools ask the government for sorely needed funds, the sneaky politicians dodge the request by saying, "Hey, you already got all of the money from the lottery! Try again next year...."

For these reasons, you may want to seek out more sentimental gifts that don't cost very much, but will get an "Awww" every time your friend shows them to others while you stand by in modest smugness. These kinds of presents include tiny glass figurines, bead necklaces, clay statuettes, miniature wooden

toys and the ever-useful ashtray (for smokers of all kinds). These have the advantage of being relatively cheap, distinctive and serve as a memento of your years into the future, until the gift falls into the garbage disposal on its precarious position on the kitchen-sink windowsill.

The best place to find these offerings is at the counter of your favorite boutiques and card stores or tucked away under shelves of shoes at your friendly neighborhood thrift shop. Garage sales are good for this too, but you're going to need to set up a serious Goleta dragnet to find a family selling their useless trinkets on the driveway in the middle of December. The easiest way to find these many cheap gifts is to nonchalantly look for them while you shop for the few expensive gifts reserved for close family and significant others.

Thus, with minimal initiative and even less cash, you can find the many presents your friends crave without selling your bus ticket home for the holidays. Or, if you want to take a gamble, you can buy the aforementioned lottery tickets for yourself, hoping that one will pay off big, and then you can buy really nice presents for everyone.

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continued on p. 17A

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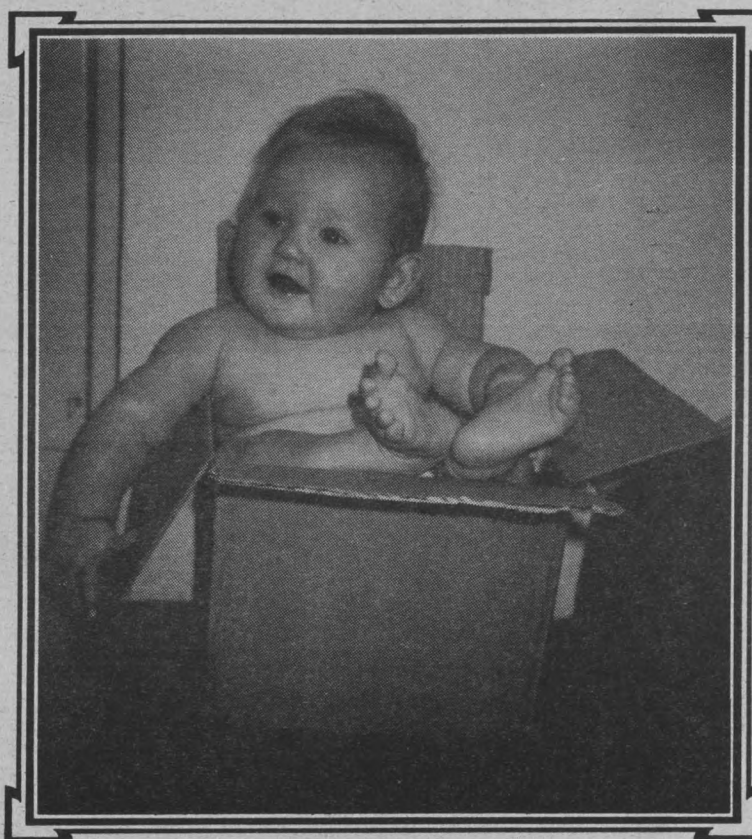




continued on p. 19A

## Patty Montana

### CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES



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## SANTA

**Continued from p.13A**  
of silence. And every year since, rumors — wild rumors — have flown as to just who was responsible for Jones' removal from the scene.

Except that this year there was no silence festering under the barbershop pole. This year the rumors and resentment were wilder than ever, and the townsfolk were going to do something about it. Because this year somebody had managed to find out just where Kriss Kringle had relocated his trillionaire rear end — over the icecaps, 35 miles to the southeast.

The elves were moving out on foot. Quickly, I thought of a plan and ran for my sled. If I was lucky, I reasoned, I could beat them there, uncover the sordid truth about Santa Claus and sic the media jackals of the world on his ermine underwear-wearin' behind. And maybe avert a lynching as well.

Quickly, the elves leapt to the conclusion that I was a Clausite spy out to warn the fat man before they could string him up.

I was in trouble. Mush, damn ye! On Blitz! On Brokaw! On Povich! On Rather! Yah!

Eat my snow, you de-ranked deer-skinners.

Leaving the Lilliputian Leonard Nimoy's in my proverbial dust, I sped southward, and in no time at all, the Claus compound loomed before me. I had to make the most of my time before the mob caught up to me.

Inside the compound, Claus had no idea what was about to hit the fan. He had probably been napping before I woke him up. At least, that was my guess — he had red circles under his eyes when he came into the massive office I had been shown into by his Bib Fortuna only moments before.

Seeing his plumpness astride the door frame took my breath away. Here I was, a rogue reporter about to uncover the world's most beloved holiday figure as a union-busting, racketeering, sweatshop-running slave driver, and there he was, undulating into his chair like an evil Jack Germond. I was speechless.

"I'm speechless," I said. I had conned my way into an audience with the Fat

Man by posing as a, shall we say, *supplier* of, er, extralegal labor. Yes, I was a coyote, damn it, and I was going to pull the wool over this man's beady eyes — this man who'd been fleecing the whole of little-kid-dom for generations.

"So, Santa, how's the old profit margin?"

"Ho, ho, ho! Couldn't be better! We topped last quarter's average by 25 percent!"

"Uh-huh. Say ... would you be interested in, ah, some extralegal — er, I mean cheap — workers?"

"Why, how cheap are you talking about, boy?"

My heart was pounding like a bad drum solo. He was going for it. "Well, less-see. ... I believe I could get you some Sri Lankans for 35 cents a day each. Or 5-year-olds from Guam. Or — and this is my special offer — the entire cast of *Saturday Night Live*. They'll do whatever work you want for a quarter a day. Buy now, and I'll throw in the writers for a nickel a day. Hell, you can have 'em for free."

"Sounds bully, lad —"

"Oh, one more thing, Kriss — may I call you Kriss? — I'll need to know which country my poorly ventilated steamer needs to set sail for right away. Where do you keep your sweatshop?"

"Djibouti. You can't miss it. It's built right on top of Bob Jones' grave."

"AHA! I'VE GOT YOU NOW, YOU FAT BASTARD!" I cried, ripping the tape recorder from my vest pocket and spinning it around by its cable, twirling it around my head like a lariat as I did a dance of victory. The cable, you see, was connected to a transmitter in my belt. And the transmitter — oh, delicious! — had been beaming the last five minutes of conversation back to my sled, where my mini-media satellite dish had been feeding it to every news station and wire service in the world!!!!

Well, to make a long story short — too late — Santa had his major domo toss me out on my butt in the cold snow, but on my third bounce out the door, I could already see two hordes approaching the compound from the north and south.

The media, who had been monitoring the sting en route from Los Angeles, nearly trampled the poor elves, who'd been watch-

See SANTA p.19A

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## SANTA

Continued from p.18A  
ing the whole affair unfold on their portable Sony Magnavoxes as they made the trek to Claus' mansion. All hell broke loose as the enraged ex-workers lay siege to the compound.

What followed has to rank among the top disappointments in my life. Just as the elves were firing their AK-47s into the air and trying to burn Kringle in effigy — their matches wouldn't stay lit — Santa's damage control people swung into high gear.

Mrs. Claus emerged from the compound and pacified everybody by strewing the snow with \$100 bills and offering the elves new jobs — as writers for SNL. In the ensuing ruckus, nobody bothered to remember what happened to Bob Jones. I guess old Che's bones are still encased in a block of cement somewhere in Djibouti. Ah, well.

As for me, somebody had swiped the sled and the lads while I was nailing Kringle, so I had to bum a ride back to Goleta in the Action News chopper. It's just as well — I probably would have had to sell the dogs at the North Pole just to get enough money for air fare back to the states, and who knows what exotic dish they might have ended up as. At least now I know some reporter from Greenland is making good use of them.

The same I can't say for Kringle. One of these days, I'll nab him on a charge he won't be able to gloss over — not with all the spin-meisters in Magic Kingdom and the Beltway put together. Or is it the Beltway and the Magic Kingdom? Who knows.

Anyway, one thing's for sure — now that SNL's got some new writers, it might pull out of that rut it's been stuck in since forever. On the other hand, we're all going to be getting some pretty unfunny toys this Christmas.



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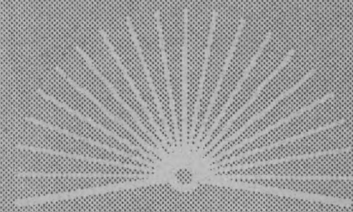
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