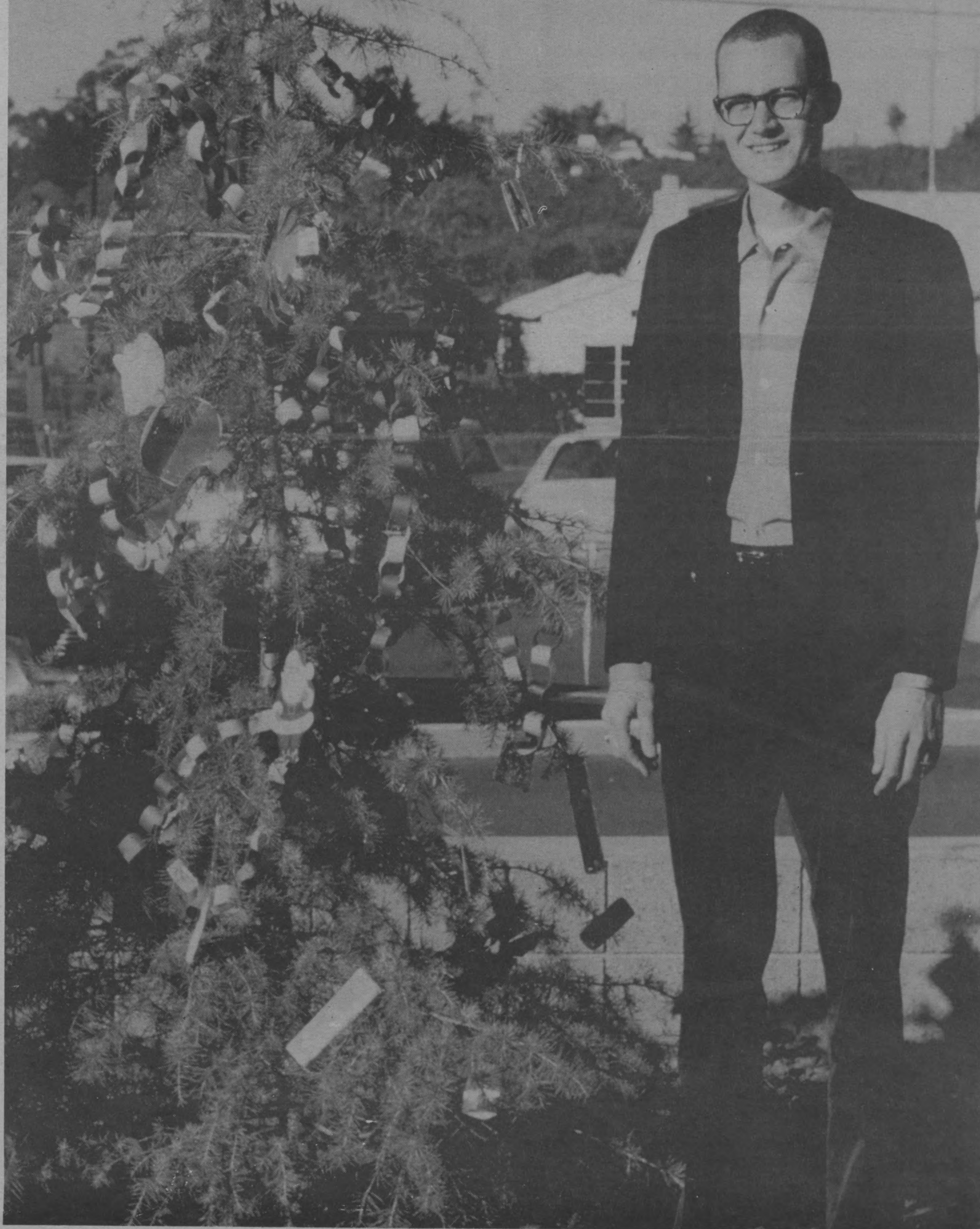


HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Inside, find stories about Barbie dolls and green-haired trolls (p. 2), potted Christmas trees (p. 3), the history of *Cristes Mæsse* (p. 5), presents for UC officials (p. 6), the engineering of Santa's sled (p. 10), as well as a story about tobogganeering on ice (p. 13).



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Your Niece Wants a...

Barbie dolls, G.I. Joes and trolls sell fastest at local toy stores.

By Reynard Van
Nguyen
Staff Writer

Americans came together a month ago and, for the most part, rejected what some saw as a cynical co-option of "family values" by declining to vote George Bush to another term in the White House. But it's another season now, and a time for many in this nation to look back and examine what those family values are all about in time to make those purchases that provide the glue that holds together a healthy household — toys

for the kids. And as the tumultuous year 1992 sighs to a close, it becomes apparent that a renaissance of Toyland Americana is upon our nation's youth. That's right boys and girls — Barbie's back.

Barbie? With Hillary Clinton packing to move onto Pennsylvania Avenue? Believe it, man, it's true. According to Dan, at Kay-Bee in La Cumbre Plaza, shoppers so far have been sticking with traditional favorites — electronic games for boys (a tradition since those bygone days when Nintendo was spelled A-T-A-R-I), and for girls, dolls.

Dolls?

Barbie Dolls. The folks at Kernahan's Toys on State Street agreed. "Dolls," they said. Like collector's dolls? (Kernahan's has those really old-

fashioned pre-aerobics, heads-bigger-than-breasts models.)

"No, like Barbies."

It's not just Barbie's resurgence that indicates this everything-old-is-new-again trend. G.I. Joe, who has been storming faraway beaches since before Ken got his first Malibu tan, has also resurfaced again in his true proportions. While he did make a comeback in the 1980s as a 6-inch "action figure," G.I. Joe has now returned with a vengeance in true, full-sized, just like the good old '70s, doll-like and lifelike size. And in the tradition of the U.S.'s most recent military endeavors, he outnumbers his foes by about 2-to-1 on the toy store shelves.

Now, in past years, the

See BARBIE, p.12A

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A Cut Above: The Eco-Correct Tannenbaum

By Talleen Berberan
Staff Writer

As the demands of capitalism push the yuletide season back ever earlier, thoughts of that perennial holiday symbol, the Christmas tree, sprout in the minds of consumers everywhere.

While wading through the malls of America in search of the perfect acrylic sweater or the latest Michael Bolton CD, they are reminded that Christmas would not be what it is without the faithful *Tannenbaum*. The togetherness of decorating its branches, the danger of the green giant falling over and crushing an unsuspecting family member, the fear that you'll step barefooted onto a glass ornament, all contribute to the thrill that only a Christmas tree can bring.

But there is a sinister side to all this merriment. As cash registers ring in the season and schoolchildren fidget beneath reindeer costumes, millions of trees silently meet an untimely end before the tree farmer's ax.

After being doused with green paint to simulate that healthy forest look, they are hacked down, bound up with wire and crammed onto the backs of semi-trucks. Eventually they are unceremoniously dumped onto curbs across the land, creating a gruesome scene of destruction for tree-lovers everywhere. Latter-day Johnny Appleseeds wonder what those trees would have been if they had been allowed to grow into a forest. Visions of wanton, heated rendezvous beneath the pines dance through their heads.

But before giving in to visions of a Christmas chain saw massacre, your local nursery or all-purpose hardware store may have the answer. A variety of unharvested Christmas trees are available, from large potted pines to diminutive holiday bonsais.

According to Bernd Schroeter, manager of La Sumida Nursery on Patterson Avenue, potted trees are easy to grow and last year after year, making them more

economical than cut trees.

"They grow real fast. They'll jump right out at you," he said.

La Sumida offers a range of potted holiday plants, such as the poinsettia, blooming Christmas cacti, and small pine trees that come pre-decorated for the customer on the go.

Still, Schroeter said people buy cut fir trees 80% of the time. A major factor contributing to their popularity is their distinctive aroma, he said. "It's also the most decoratable tree," he added.

Tim O'Toole of Builders Emporium said he prefers to use potted Christmas trees because "it becomes a personal thing with your tree, rather than just cutting one down every year."

Builders Emporium, in addition to cut trees and potted varieties, also sells a rosemary bush shaped like a Christmas tree. Could customers who do a lot of cooking get Christmas cheer and a tasty kitchen spice out of this plant?

"No one's mentioned that before, but I wouldn't see why not," O'Toole said.

For people who desire the perfect tree under which to hide good things that come in small packages, Builders offers a 3-inch-tall bonsai, complete with a red bow.

"I guess you could use it as a Christmas tree. You wouldn't be able to put many decorations on it," O'Toole said.

Although "you can only put like one ball on it," the potted tree has become a tradition for Randy and Mary Quattrin.

"We planted a tree the first Christmas we were married. If we're married for 60 years I guess we'll have 60 trees planted all over the place," Randy said.

For people who prefer to buy cut trees, the county's Solid Waste division offers a Christmas tree recycling program to keep the discarded decorations out of overcrowded landfills.

According to Jennifer Lemay, recycling program manager, the county recycled about 13,300 trees in the Santa Barbara



See TREES, p.12A

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A Brief History of Christmas

By Steven Lynne-Bachelor
Staff Writer

One of the most popular holidays that we celebrate in America is Christmas. Indeed, the history of Christmas is lustrous. Coming from the original Old English *cristes mæsse* (literally, "drunken relatives come over and present you with jello in the shape of a bundt cake"), the word *Christmas* evokes smiles and winks on the faces of children of all ages. Its purpose, in the strictest religious sense, is to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ, a popular figure in early Christian literature. The tradition survives today, worldwide.

Christmas: The Early Years

There was much opposition to the idea of Christmas during the first three centuries of the Christian era. Many religious leaders felt that the celebration of birthdays in general was a particularly pagan custom and that, although a card or a quick phone call was acceptable, a party was out of the question. Nevertheless, true supporters of the cause kept pushing the point, and the first all-out Christmas celebration was held around 200 A.D. in Egypt. The party was a success, even though the caterer was two centuries late as a result of a mix-up



with the candied yams. When most people were finally in agreement on the idea of Christmas, the exact date of the celebration was the next topic of debate. Some background history might be appreciated here.

It seems that Old Maximian, after a botched effort to overthrow Constantine, committed suicide in 310. Galerius died a year later, leaving the entire Roman Empire divided among four Agusti. Well, you can imagine their chagrin when Constantine and Licinius formed an alliance, leaving Maximinus Daia no choice but to team up with Maxentius! Then Constantine ate some bad chili, had a vision and invaded Italy. Shortly after, the Church at Rome de-

cided Dec. 25 was as good a date as any. By the end of the 4th century, everyone had accepted Dec. 25, except for the Eastern churches who favored Jan. 6, saying that Dec. 25 was too close to Thanksgiving. Some Christian factions still acknowledge Jan. 6, calling it "Old Christmas," "Little Christmas" or simply "Good Old January 6th."

One of the reasons Dec. 25 was chosen was because it was also the day that the Romans celebrated the Mithraic feast of the Sun-god. In this way, they were able to combine the pagan observance of the winter solstice with the anniversary of Christ in a way that really wowed 'em. After the

See HISTORY, p.11A

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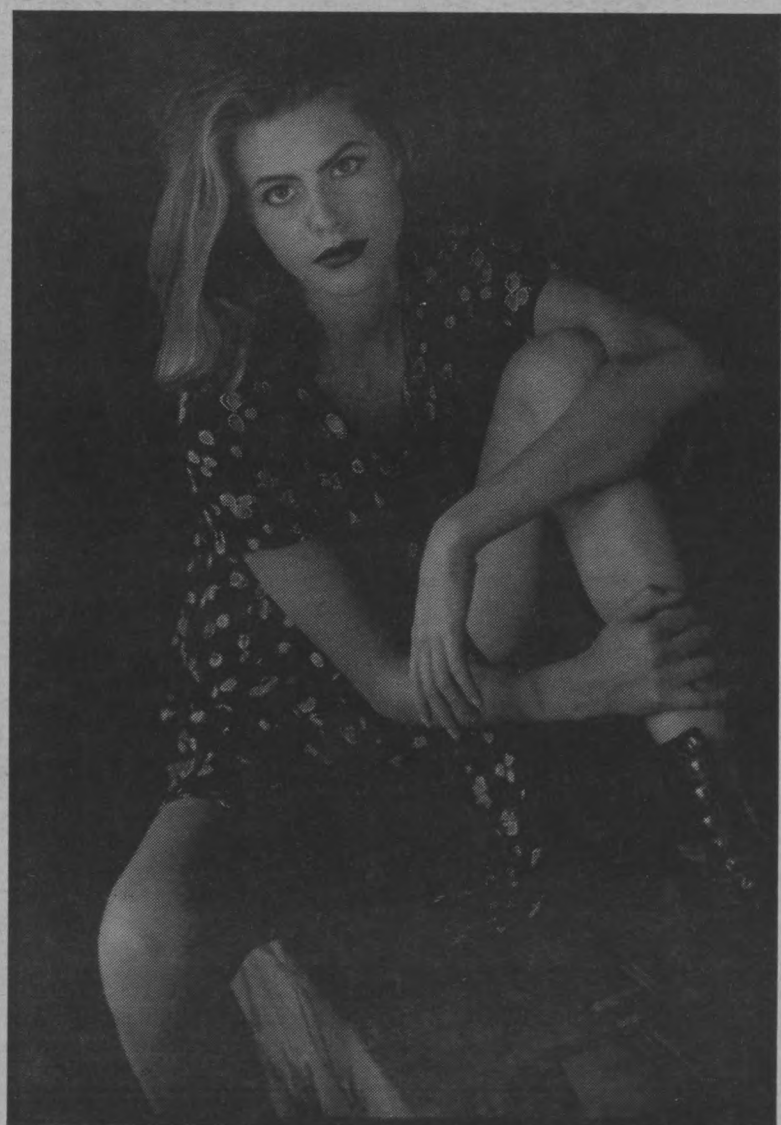


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By GARY LARSON



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Gifts for the Upper-Echelon

Peltason would probably want better state funding for the UC and Jack O'Connell wants an economy 'that will produce jobs, jobs, jobs.'

By Heddy McFrisco
Staff Writer

Bumper stickers are nice. They're not too expensive, and there are any number of witty messages available. So I thought Barbara Uehling might like a bumper sticker for Christmas, one that says, "Chancellors do it in the office," or something like that.

Unfortunately, Uehling could not be reached, so we may never know how she'd respond to that.

But she isn't the only one on my Christmas list. Envious over Santa's role as "good cop/bad cop," I've determined to discover for myself just what the people, from upper-echelon university chancellor to sandwich shop owner, want for Christmas this year. What do you covet, people? What is it that makes you tremble with desire and moan, "I want that so bad" to yourself on sleepless nights?

I figured UCen Information might know. Christie van Riet, working behind the desk there, said that "according to statistics, 60% of the population want Superman memorabilia, 20% want a Malcolm X hat, 10% want two front teeth, and 10% want a decent place to live in I.V."

Well, you can see the problem with these statistics right away. It seems obvious that well over 80% of students already own Malcolm X hats, and the percentage of people who want a decent place to live in I.V. should be up into the 90s somewhere, maybe 93, 94, 95%.

I had to ask the people directly. In the UCen

Bookstore stood an important looking man in a bright blue suit and tie. He was reading a book entitled *1,001 Images of Dogs*, a big hardcover with glossy, colorful photos of assorted dogs. I looked at it myself, and it was just jammed with dogs. Cute ones.

But that's not what he wanted. "I know it's a cliché," Phil Spiekerman said, "but I want health and happiness for my family." It turns out that Spiekerman works with UC President Jack Peltason in the General Council in Oakland. He speculated that Peltason might want continued support from the state this Christmas, so that the student fee problem can be resolved. In the meantime, I guess Peltason will just go on voting for backbreaking tuition increases. Who needs Santa?

Ombudsman Geoffrey Wallace's idea of a Christmas present/fee reduction is far more concise. He called and said, "I want a two-part gift. I want a 50% decrease in student fees, along with a 10% increase in faculty salary." When asked if these funds should come from Santa Claus, Wallace said they could come from either Santa or a "fiscally competent state administration."

A representative of Assemblyman Jack O'Connell called and said that Jack wants "transition to an economy that will produce jobs, jobs, jobs," for Christmas. Thanks, Jack!

Mark Chaconas, frisky spokesman for 3rd District Supervisor Bill Wallace, called and said that Wallace wants "10 more votes." Willy Chamberlain



never even called.

Someone called for Michael Huffington and said that he's in Washington right now, but he wants "good health for everyone." Huffington didn't

even own up to the fact that this is a cliché on par with "world peace," or "happiness for my family," but then what can Santa

See PRESENTS, p.7A

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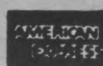
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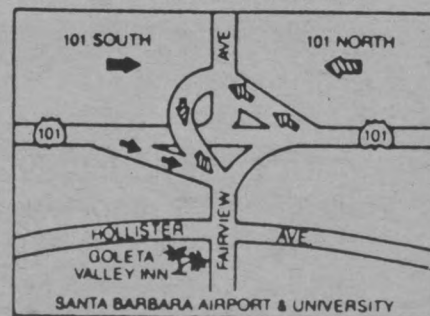
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World Peace, Anyone?

Continued from p.6A
get Huffington that the U.S. Representative hasn't already bought himself?

The economy is definitely influencing people's Christmas wishes. Susette Warynick, owner/manager of Orchid Bowl, asked for an "increase in the bowling business," adding, "after all, we're bowlers," as though bowling were a logical extension of walking on our hind legs. Warynick noted that Orchid Bowl has several open lanes during the holidays, along with Christmas decorations and music. No eggnog, however.

Associated Students President Aaron Jones called the Nexus and said "I want you guys to run that letter I sent in." If that doesn't work out, Jones will settle for a "constitutional restructuring of the regents." I told him I'd work on the regents thing, but no promises on the letter.

Of course the most original Christmas wish came from beatnik English Professor Frank McConnell. I found McConnell down in The Pub, and he took a long drag off his cigarette and said, "I want Mickey Rourke to buy my detective series, so I can make enough money to not only look like David Crosby, but live like him."

But what of the merchants? Bruce the Mobile Merchant said, "I want everyone in Santa Barbara



to have a pair of muckluks." Muckluks are a sort of Afgan stocking, or in Bruce's case they're a stocking stuffer! Bruce will be in front of the UCen 'till Friday.

And "Sam" over at Sam's To Go wanted, "Good health? ... Jesus, this is tough... I hope... is a wish okay? ... I hope everybody gets 'A's this year!" Thanks, Sam!



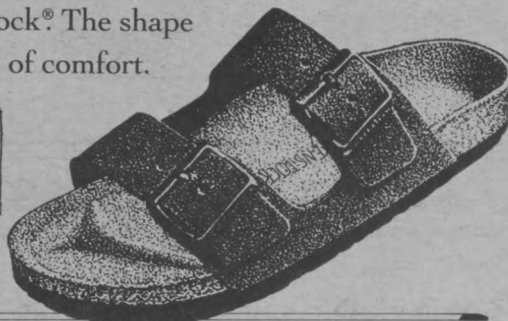
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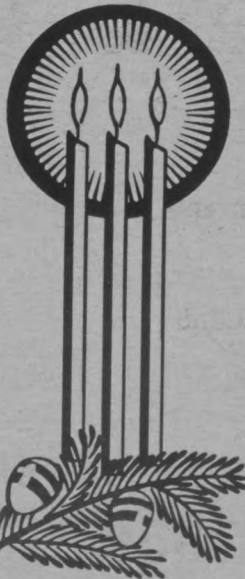
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Jason Robert DiBrezzo, 1972 - 1992

Patrick Richard DuBray, 1950 - 1992

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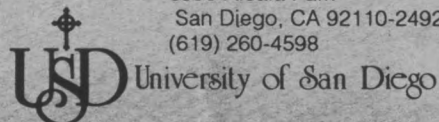
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3. Complete the form below.
4. Your gift card will be mailed by Dec. 17th and your
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5. Thank you!



The Isla Vista Medical Clinic
located in its beautiful building at the
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general primary medical care in the
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clinic will help those who cannot afford
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is new equipment for laboratory testing.

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Each dollar donated to LIVE helps
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families, low income residents,
workers and the homeless in Isla
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I.V. Community Counseling Center
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Vista for individuals, couples and families.
Gifts to the center will help support the
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for children of divorced parents and adult
children of alcoholics.

Isla Vista Youth Projects

Holiday donations would help purchase a fleet of sand box
trucks for the preschool and craft materials for the recreation
program. Current programs include a low cost preschool and
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I.V. Mural Project

A new outdoor mural project beginning in January
needs donations for paint and brushes.

A Project of IVCAN (Isla Vista Community Action Network) Info: 968-5158

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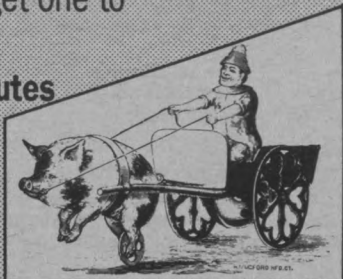
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A Christmas Index

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•Rate at which Santa would have to deliver gifts in order to get one to each person on earth during 24 hours of darkness:

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•Houses per minute (assuming a 2,500 sq. ft. floor plan) that Santa would have to deliver to in order to get his gifts out during 24 hours of darkness:

393,000 houses per second



(Note: These calculations are feeble at best. We just sort of took some figures — like the surface area of the earth, or its total population — and extrapolated the results of a few rather rudimentary computations. But we think there's still a strong moral here: It's highly unlikely that there actually is a Santa Claus. He probably couldn't take the g-forces.)

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Applications available now at the Orientation Office (Bldg. 427), Campus Activities Center (3151 UCen), and all EOP offices (Buildings 406 and 434). Applications are due January 22. All applicants are required to attend one of the following Information Meetings:

Wednesday, Jan. 6	5:00-6:15pm	Old Little Theater (Bldg. 494)
Monday, Jan. 11	4:00-5:15pm	Isla Vista Theater #1
Tuesday, Jan. 12	5:00-6:15pm	Old Little Theater (Bldg. 494)
Thursday, Jan. 14	5:00-6:15pm	Old Little Theater (Bldg. 494)

For more information, call Orientation Programs at 893-3443.

Special arrangements to accommodate a disability may be made upon request for Orientation programs, activities and printed materials.

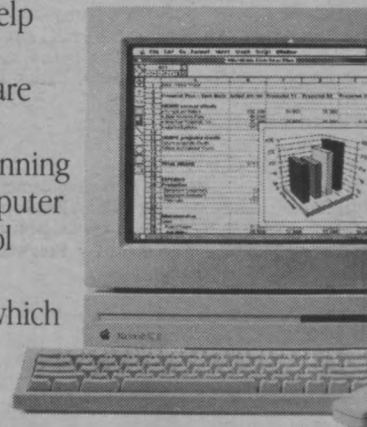


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Jet-Powered Santa?

We figure he'd need jet engines and a million square feet of parachute.

By Alfonso Kelly
Staff Writer

Every Christmas Eve, hundreds of airports across the country call hundreds of radio stations across the country to report that Santa Claus is flying, presumably in a sled, somewhere nearby. Shrouded in the dead of night, a radar blip is all we can see of St. Nick and his presumably impressive rig.

But modern engineering can go a long way toward explaining just how Santa's sled actually soars with the night owls. What follows is pure conjecture by one reporter who has spent months pouring over the latest volumes in aeronautical engineering. Nothing regarding Santa's sled has been proven, but what you are about to read is the most complete effort to date at explaining this

very important part of the miracle of Christmas.

It's all engineering

As any engineer will tell you, flight is no miracle at all. Not hardly. It's all engineering, as a scan of the nation's top engineering journals reveals.

When an object, such as a sled, is heavier than air — as St. Nick's sled is presumed to be — flying requires lift. That lift can be generated in one of two ways: by pushing air down from the sled, or creating a vacuum above the sled. The latter method allows for more speed, and — since rounding the globe in a matter of hours requires speeds upward of 7,000 mph — Santa Claus' sled is thought to use this method.

Making a sled produce lift in this way would most feasibly be achieved by fixing one or more horizontal surfaces to the sled, which would be rounded on top and flat on the bottom. As the sled travels through the sky, the air would pass faster over the rounded

top surface than the flat bottom, and a vacuum would be created, lifting the sled.

But such surfaces — we'll call them "wings" — would only stabilize the sled on one axis. To really stabilize the sled, two more surfaces would need to be fixed to it, one horizontal to serve as small "wings" and one vertical, to keep the sled from spinning. Such an assembly would most feasibly be placed behind the sled, so for now we'll call it a "tail."

Now, traveling 7,000 mph would require two more features: a remarkably strong power source, and a streamlined body, to cut down wind resistance.

First the power. We all know that eight reindeer pull the sled. To do this, the deer would need to be commanding a craft much like the sled itself, but equipped with jet or rocket engines that could put out upwards of 120,000 horsepower. At

See SLED, P.11A



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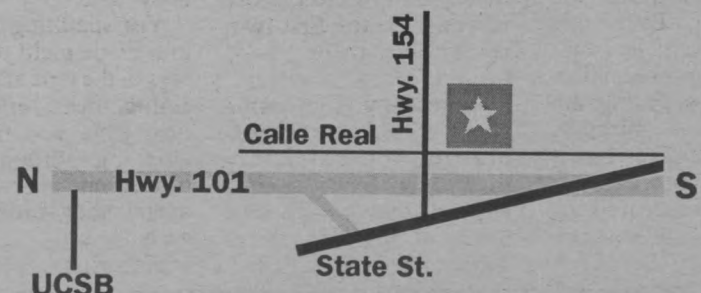
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Details From Christmases Past

Continued from p.1

Reformation, everybody was too busy running around exiling each other to pay much attention, and when nobody was looking, the English Puritans forbade Christmas. This was in the mid-17th century. After a while, it just started up again, no problem.

Christmas: The Traditions

•Perhaps the most eagerly recognized symbol of Christmas is the Christmas tree or *Tannenbaum*. Although historians are divided as to the origin of this tradition, most agree that you should put a tablespoon of sugar in the Christmas tree stand's water supply so that the tree doesn't dry out as fast. The Christmas tree was first brought to England by Prince Albert of Saxony in 1841. His wife, Queen Victoria, was so pleased that she let Prince Albert out of the can, where he was having a hard time breathing.

•Another Christmas time favorite is mistletoe, a parasitic plant that is deadly poisonous if ingested. Mistletoe was sacred among the British Druids, who believed it to have many miraculous powers, not the least of which is the fact that if you eat it, you die. To Romans, the mistletoe was a symbol of peace. When enemies met under it, they dropped their weapons and declared a truce, often deciding to settle their differences through a series of vig-



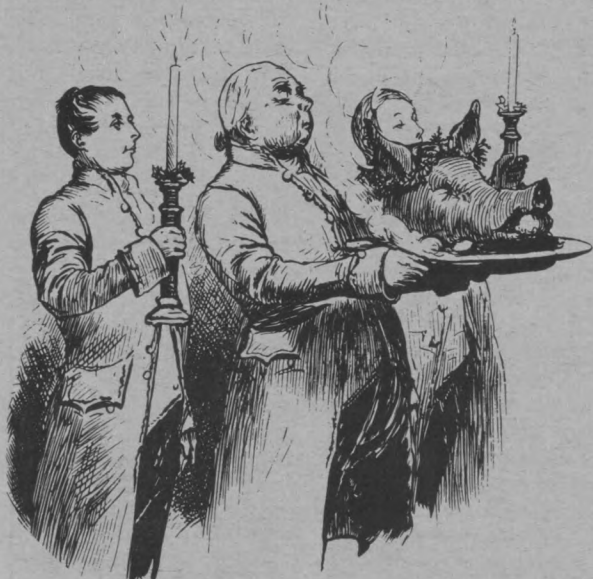
orous massages. Out of this tradition grew the current custom of hanging mistletoe from doorjams and ceilings so you can kiss people you shouldn't be kissing.

•The yule log originated with the Germanic tribes of Northern Europe. It is just like the Christmas tree except that it's smaller, you burn it, and it's a log.

•Gift-giving is often the most exciting element of the Christmas season. No one knows when or where this tradition began, but it's really popular now.

•A favorite among children and fly-by-night charities is the tradition of Kriss Kringle, or the jolly Santa Claus. Santa Claus is based on the real-life character of Saint Nicholas, a gluttonous monk who had an inordinate amount of small men in his employ. In Holland, children leave their little wooden shoes out on the doorstep in hopes that Santa will fill the shoes with candy and toys. In America, children expect the man to force himself down the chimney and leave Nintendos right there in the living room.

•The high point in many English Christmas celebrations is the presentation of the boar's head. After a few hours of dining, the feast culminates when the headwaiter appears with the boar's head on the tray, singing, "The Boar's Head in Hand Bring I."

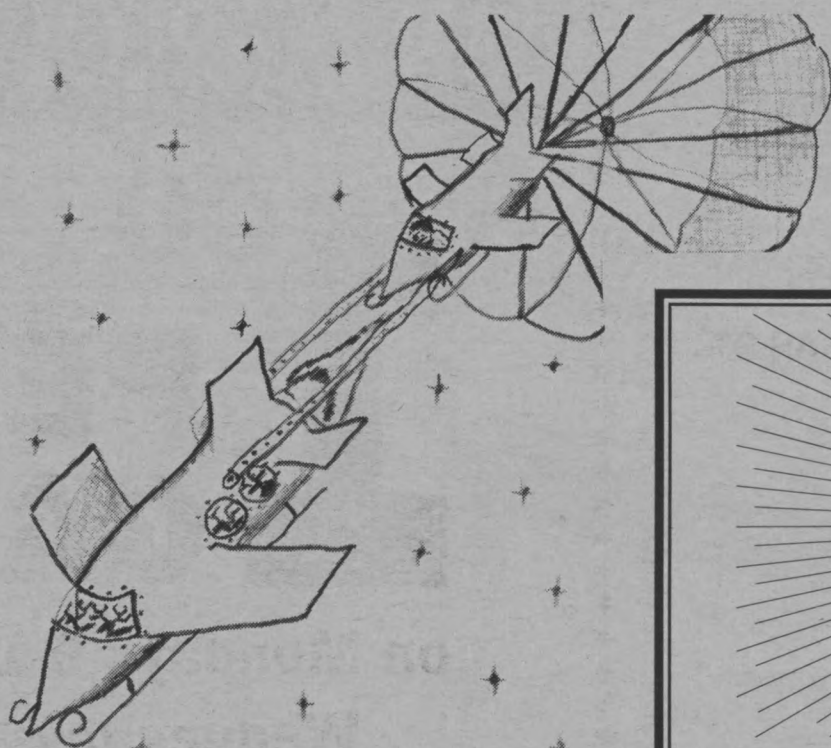


Just Call It the S.S. Santa Claus

Continued from p.10A
those levels, fuel for the engines would be depleted rapidly, and could be replenished via air tanker every two minutes or so of flight.

Now the body — let's call it a "fuselage." Both the sled and the reindeers' towing craft would need to be sleek vessels, constructed out of the latest in carbon composites. Only high-tech materials could be used because the heat generated by traveling 14 times the speed of sound would be tremendous. Perhaps ceramic tiles like those protecting NASA space shuttles would coat all surfaces. Quadruple-paned glass could be used for portholes.

The frequent stops required by the nature of Santa Claus' work pose a unique problem for the jolly old elf. Estimating that the sled vehicle would weigh in at approximately 15,000 lbs., stopping the craft within a minute's time would require at least 1 million square feet of parachute space, securely attached to the vessel's "tail." To carry that much



nylon, a third craft, close in design to the first two, would need to be towed behind.

Repacking the parachutes would take one person approximately three hours, proving conclusively that Santa brings many of his elf helpers with him on the yearly ho-

liday trek.

Yes, spanning the globe in a single night to deliver toys to the girls and boys is a herculean effort. But next time you find your stocking stuffed to the brim, remember it wasn't magic that brought the goodies — it was engineering.



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Trees, Shrubs

Continued from p.3A
area last year. The trees are ground up and used for mulch, and local landscapers, UCSB, parks agencies and the public haul the material away to apply it to yards and gardens, Lemay said.

"We hope we can get even more trees this year," Lemay said.

To find out more about the program, including tree pick-up days, call 568-3051.

The wonders of modern technology have ushered in the era of the artificial tree. Tom Voigt, a clerk at

Thrifty in the University Shopping Center, touted some of the advantages of the faux pine trees, though he conceded that the plastic replicas don't exactly sell like hotcakes.

"They're drought-proof. They're good for people with allergies, and you don't have to buy a new one every year," he said.

But even the untrained eye will most likely pick out an artificial tree rather quickly, Voigt acknowledged.

"Not many pine trees in the wild have needles on their trunks," he admitted.

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Barbie's Back!

Continued from p.2A
toy market has suffered the oppressive domination of a single hot item during the holiday season. From the Mickey Mouse Turnover Choo-Choo to Cabbage Patch Dolls (Remember when people were killing for those?) to Transformers to Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, kids have single-mindedly clamored for the hottest, most widely publicized, toy to break come Christmas morn. This year? Trolls.

"Trolls," they said at Kernahan's.

"Oh, and trolls," at Kay-Bee.

"We've got a lot of trolls," at Toms Toy World.

Is this the herald of yet the latest in a sequence of increasingly perverse toy ideas like Slime or Madballs or Talking Pee-Wee or whatever? Are we going to see our nation's tots totting wart-ridden, billy goat-chomping, sewer-dwelling, vaguely Alice Cooperesque cuddle buddies? Alas, no. Alas, the truth is much less provocative. I'll put it this way—in

grade school, did you or one of your friends or irritants ever stick this plastic dwarf with big hair on the end of a pencil and spin it around and have the hair friz out? That was a troll. Only now, he's big. Now, he's everywhere. No pencils up the rear for Mr. Troll.

I went down to Toms Toy World (I swear there was no apostrophe on any of their signs) to check out the trolls. They had Scottish trolls with kilts and plaid hair, Hawaiian trolls with grass skirts and secondary sex characteristics, Kimonoed trolls, punk rock trolls, all kinds of trolls. It was like It's A Small Troll World. And they all had that same dopey grin, that same Yahoo Serious hairdo. Trolls!

Nevertheless, the troll phenomenon fits the trend of the season—updated versions of decades-old little humanoid surrogates for throwbacks of all ages to invest with a personality, as even God cannot do, impress the neighbors, or stick upon the shelf. Or maybe not. There's always "Operation: The Wacky Doctor's Game."



Christmas Fiction

Our Boy Gets His Toboggan

By Agamemnon Züme
Staff Writer

For better or worse, I'll probably never forget the Christmas my parents tried to kill off all three of our family's male offspring in one fell swoop.

For the sake of clarity, I should point out that the Christmas of which I speak was by no means exceptional in this sense. For example, one year they gave me and J.D. — the second oldest behind me — BB guns. This tragic decision could be attributed to oversight or temporary madness were it not for the fact that they presented my youngest brother, Rob, with a suit of plastic Roman armor on the selfsame day.

Because of their choice of gifts, Christmas time always offered our parents the rare opportunity to gripe not only about the prices of their deadly presents, but also about the rising costs of medical treatment.

Nevertheless, the one year they really made an all out effort to wipe us out still stands out in my memory with terrifying clarity.

Up until Christmas, it had been shaping up to be a fine ninth year for me. School was let out two days earlier than expected because an icy arctic front deposited a thick layer of snow on our town, clogging the streets and dragging tree limbs groundward in great sagging arches. The weather warned the afternoon after the storm's passage, leaving

icy slush on the streets and softening the snow on our favorite sledding spot, which we called The Hill. The Hill's steep incline of powdery flakes was soon transformed into a tightly packed and brutally fast slide by the repeated passage of our slickers and runner sleds.

But as night fell, a bitter cold descended. Slush became rockscabble ice, and moist, hard-packed sledding trails metamorphosed into icy and uncontrollable permafrost launch pads.

For a week, the frigid weather held, and Christmas Day was at hand. The gifts piled up under the tree. The dogs chewed contentedly on fragile

wooden ornaments and Christmas lights. A fire roared in the hearth — and briefly in the living room. My father stamped the latter blaze out, only partially destroying the Christmas tree.

Finally, morning came and we raged like vandals through the boxes and packages which had once rested so peacefully under the tree. Soon the floor was strewn with mangled wrapping paper and discarded boxes. Our booty was (fairly) neatly stacked in the corners, and we were all quite satisfied.

But no! We were not done yet! Our parents had yet to bring out The Gift. They waited patiently, fiendish smirks flickering

across their cheery holiday countenances. I think they'd let my little sister in on the secret of The Gift, because she kept asking if she could have our stuff when we were gone. However, she was prone to bizarre behavior, and we merely slapped her around each time she offered up her strange query.

In the afternoon, we pulled on snowsuits, boots, mittens and caps, preparing for a good old-fashioned game of snow football. It was then that our parents approached us.

"Where are you kids off to?" my mother asked, innocently enough.

See FICTION, p.14A



Oh! Here's a merry Christmas!

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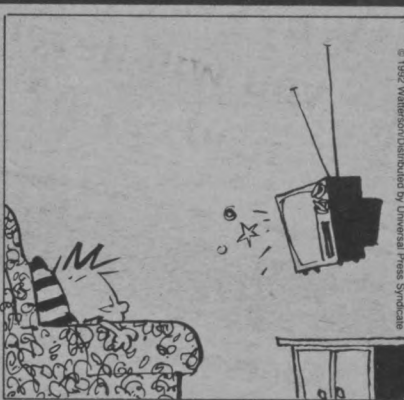
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'A Howling Human Outrigger'

Continued from p.13A
"Mmpht tophay oot-vall," I responded through my ski mask and scarf.

"To play football?" Dad said with mock surprise. "Isn't there something you'd rather do?"

"Ike ut?" we answered in unison.

"Like ..."
My dad was reaching into the closet.

"Like ... go ride your new sled!?" Mom gushed as Dad dragged The Gift into the open.

It was indeed a beauty. Made of heavy industrial-strength 24-gauge plastic and bright red in color,

The Gift was nearly 6-feet long. It was shaped like a shallow butter dish, and had three sets of yellow plastic handles down the sides. My mom said it was a toboggan, but we immediately dubbed it the "Banana Boat." I have no idea why.

So we didn't play football that day. In point of fact, none of us would be playing football for a while after that day. Instead, our parents marched us off to our deaths — or at least near deaths. They insisted that the alley was too dangerous for sledding, and instead we struck off for The Hill.

Along the way our parents trudged along behind us, offering meager encouragement and saying they wanted "to watch." Sickos.

The Hill started out at

about a 75-degree angle, steepened slightly for about 40 yards, then began to level out. Immediately after the transition, right smack dab in the middle of the run, some local idiots had constructed a massive snow ramp, carefully designed to maximize altitudinal projection. After the ramp, The Hill quickly flattened out into an open meadow lined with thick-trunked oak trees.

Our parents stood near the trees, presumably a safe distance from the bottom of The Hill, watching eagerly as we three boys ascended the peak. We wasted no time on petty calculations or practice runs. Positioning ourselves so as to pass safely to one side of the ramp, we piled in single file and shoved off. I was in the very back of the boat,

J.D. took the helm, and Rob sat in the middle. The boat, despite its flashy fire engine colors, seemed slow and cumbersome. This impression lasted for about 1 1/2 seconds, at which point we accelerated to the speed of sound.

It would have been awful enough to witness the stark terror in our parents' eyes as their jaws slackened and they gazed up at the three huddled youths and the Banana Boat plummeting toward them. The horror was compounded by the fact that, even as Mom and Dad turned to flee, the Banana Boat caught an edge and veered wildly toward the center of the run.

I could see J.D. trying to bail out, but he was firmly locked in what is commonly referred to as a death grip between Rob's knees. I was momentarily incapable of any motor functions. As we began to plane and actually achieved low-level flight, the Banana Boat initiated a slow and dreamy rotation. Thus, we were travelling sideways when we hit the ramp.

In the air the sled continued its rotation, eventually landing lightly about 30 feet beyond the ramp. However, we were no longer in contact with the sled and did not continue rotating. We remained locked together in seated position as we hurtled through the air. J.D. was cursing like a sailor. Rob and I remained grimly quiet.

The impact of landing jarred my arms from Rob's shoulders and threw me flat on my back. Rob gripped my ankles tenaciously in his armpits. J.D. was twisted halfway around, but he too was unable to escape Rob's determined grasp. Rob himself landed directly in the center of the Banana Boat, which hadn't lost much speed during its lengthy flight.

Away we went, like some terribly howling human outrigger, toward the trees. The Banana Boat chose a rather large and barked tree, and plowed into it without a great deal of ceremony.

Rob flew headlong into the trunk. J.D. and I, still shackled by Rob's grip, cracked like whips on the far side of the tree, head to head. It was only as we all lay groaning in the snow that Rob relaxed his hold on us.

By the time the world came back into focus, our parents were standing over us with concerned expressions on their faces. They were no doubt disappointed at detecting signs of life from our twitching forms. They attempted to cover up their scheme by rushing us to the hospital and complaining animatedly about the cost of stitches. But we knew.

We kept quiet, but we knew they'd tried to get us, and from that day on, Christmas has always had a flavor of tragedy in our house — a scent of doom. A Ghost of Christmas Past, if you will.

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<p>NEWSPAPER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everything that is delivered with the newspaper can be recycled. Please DO NOT put other paper material—cardboard, magazines, office mail, junk mail—in with the newspaper. 	<p>ALUMINUM CANS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All aluminum cans are accepted. Cans MUST be flattened. Please: NO tin (steel) cans, aluminum foil or pie plates and no aerosol cans.
<p>GLASS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All types and colors of glass bottles and jars are accepted. PLEASE SORT GLASS AND PLACE IT IN THE PROPER BIN! Wash only if very dirty. Remove caps. Please: NO ceramics, window pane glass, light bulbs, or mirrors. 	<p>#1 PET PLASTIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All #1 PET (i.e., soda bottles) is accepted. CAPS MUST BE REMOVED, AND BOTTLES MUST BE FLATTENED.

WHERE CAN YOU RECYCLE?

- Northwest corner of the Estero Road/Camino del Sur intersection.
- Trigo Pasado Park on Pasado Road between Camino del Sur and Camino Pescadero.
- Anisq'Oyo Park at the Embarcadero del Norte/Madrid Road intersection.

DO NOT LEAVE UNACCEPTED MATERIALS OR TRASH AT THE SITES...DOING SO MAY PLACE THE PROGRAM IN JEOPARDY!

CEC's Recycling Hotline for additional recycling information: 963-0582

Give them all
Craven A
this Xmas



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PERSONALS

A very nice, good-looking, financially independent '80s UCSB grad seeks sweet, intelligent, beautiful female grad student for possible relationship.
P.O. Box 60205, SB, 93160

I'm crushed, Darling. I was watching the news when I saw you schmoozing with him. I know that I'm just an overrated young actor, but you dumped me for him? He's married, with a twelve year old daughter no less. I know he's the President and all, Darling, but he's just using you as a propaganda tool. You can do better. Write back, please, in the NEXUS PERSONALS.

Happy Norma Appreciation Day to Norma Burris! From your Loving & Appreciating Admirers

Holy Amazing Female Batman!

I met U on your 20th B-day at Orchid Bowl, Tues. Nov 24 around midnight. I didn't even catch your name, but U made quite an impression on me. Call Mike 564-2990

Thank you for returning lost Dos disk on 11/22/92 p.m. Have a good holiday. Good luck on finals. Thank you again.

Tiffany: Call me before Grateful Dead and Tahoe. I found SB Roasting Co. Thanks for your tip. Ton

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HELP WANTED

BAGEL CAFE
Morning people needed for winter quarter. Must be responsible, outgoing, honest, and prompt. Pick up application at Bagel Cafe.

BARTENDER & COCKTAIL WAITRESS needed, exp. P/T. Apply at 290 Storke Rd after 3:30. Ask for Steve or TJ 968-1308.

DON'T DELAY!! CALL UCSB Telefund. Earn \$8-\$12/hr., work p/t at night. Convenient location. We need students to work thru the holiday season. CALL NOW! 893-4351.

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Sales & mgt positions offering full-time pay for part-time work. Flex hours, immed openings. Full trng. 563-4078.

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Weekend Help Wanted
Child care 48hrs.
Fri 5pm-Sun 5pm
Please call Nancy @ 969-3349

Winter break job. Disabled grad student seeks student to help with exercises, household tasks, errands. Mostly evenings (8-12 or 9-1 for example). CDL, SSN needed. Car preferred but not essential. 25-30 hrs/wk during break at \$5.30/hr. Some limited hrs possible wnter qtr. Call Pete 562-5291

FOR SALE

80 Rabbit New Tires-Battery water pump \$1200 OBO 78 Honda motorcycle 400cc NEW tires 500 OBO 685-5261.

Honda Aero 50 Scooter. Great Cond. \$475 968-5147

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Excellent running condition. Low miles-79K, Copper color, AM/FM Cass., 5spd., sunroof, AC, Cruise, 963-1379.

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1F BRAND NEW, HUGE, BEAUTIFUL HOUSE IN I.V. PRKNG, W/D, LARGE BACKYD + PATIO, DISHWASHER, VOLLEYBALL CT. MOVE IN NOW OR JAN. TIL JUNE. 685-1140 (310)839-8569 COLLECT OK

1F TO SHARE ROOM FOR WINTER SPRING QTRS! PRETTY & CLEAN APT. MINS FROM UCSB CAMPUS \$281mo. CALL AMANDA 685-9205.

1 BEDROOM
Super clean, xtra large 1 bedroom. Most utilities paid. Furn/furnum, private parking & BBQ area. Available now! Month to Month or Year Lease.
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ALL UTIL PD 2bdr 2bath UNF apt at 6656 Picasso #H. \$750/mo thru Aug. Parking and laundry SFM VDM 685-4506.

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FURNISHED 2bdr 1bath apt, 3 tenants max. 6639 Picasso #8, laundry, parking. Lease thru 6/15 or 8/15 \$820/mo. SFM VDM at 685-4506.

FURNISHED 1bdr apts at 6639 Picasso. Parking & laundry for only \$575/mo. SFM VDM at 685-4506.

HUGE 2bdr 2bath apts at 6552/6558 Segovia. Parking & laundry. \$1040/mo thru Aug. Lower rent for less tenants. SFM VDM 685-4506.

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Huge Room MST J and Bath \$275 ea. 2ppl /all 1/1 Call 968-5900 Maria or KT

Month to Month 1bd apt. Dep + 1st month only! Sand volleyball/basketball next door 968-2143 10-10pm

NEW HOUSE for six people \$2200 mo. 1st mo free. 5BD 3 1/2BA 6789-B Estero Rd. Quiet Street Call 962-1895

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PETOK at 6559/6561 ST. 2bdr 1bath apts for \$990/mo thru Aug. Lower rent for less tenants. SFM VDM 685-4506.

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Room for rent in 2 brm apt. Downtown classic Victorian \$340 mo/leg. Call 962-8127

WE NEED SOMEONE TO TAKE OVER OUR LEASE! 7MO LEASE, 1BDRM/1BTH IV APMT \$650/P/M AVAIL JAN 1! CALL ASAP 968-0339.

Your own room for Wnter Qtr \$235/mo 6503 Del Playa. As close to school & the beach as possible 685-8064.

ROOMMATES

1 FEMALE TO SHARE ROOM IN BEAUTIFUL, QUIET WESTLY LOCATION. FURNISHED, WASHER/ DRYER, FIREPLACE, HUGE, CLEAN KITCHEN. CALL US 685-9313.

1 Fem N/S share with 3 Fem 2BDRM, large deck, 6614B Del Playa \$350 pls 685-0508, 685-9112 or collect 510-283-5966.

1 FM needed to share large room winter spring qtrs in beautiful house on Sabado. House provides dishwasher, fireplace, washer, dryer, pool. \$325 pr mo. Call TASHA 685-3939

1 FM ROOMMATE NEEDED AVAIL. NOW CALL KATHIE 968-0220

1F N/S to share room in Goleta for Winter Qtr. 10 min bike to UCSB. \$212 mo. Call Mary 685-6383 ASAP!!

1F needed to share 1bdrm apt on Picasso. Start 1/1 thru June. I smoke. U can't be allergic to cats. Call 685-8096

1F Roommate wanted to share lg room in Goleta condo. Only \$230/mo- pool, laundry, close to tennis cts and bus stop. Call 685-2966.

1F share room wtr/spg in IV \$305/mo. New, all female house. Laundry, huge kitchen, balcony, quiet & clean call Amy 685-3733.

1F WANTED TO SHARE LRG 1 BDRM APT IN ELLWOOD AREA 3MI TO CAMPUS QUIET ROOMMATE \$300MO. + UTL. JACUZZI 968-5147.

1M/F ROOMMATE. YOUR OWN ROOM AT 6618 DEL PLAYA B. PARKING LAUNDRY BACKYARD GREAT HOUSE \$398/M ADAM 685-1344.

1M needed to share double Fountainebleu \$370/mo. with room, board, utila, furnished. CALL ZAC 685-4865.

1M ROOMMATE NEEDED FOR MASTER ROOM, HOUSE 6692 TRIGO, WASHER, PARKING, SHARE \$350MO. CALL 968-6451.

1 M ROOMMATE NEEDED 6531 Sabado. Spacious 2 Story, New Carpet, Clean, Close to School. 685-3861

1M roommate for wtr/spring qtr \$325 per mo. 833 Embarcadero del Mar #15 Fully furn, near campus, prkng avail, swimming pool, call Luis at 685-5266 after six.

1M roommate needed to share clean, quiet 1bdrm apt. close to campus. \$287/mo Tom 685-0621

1M to share huge room for winter, spring qtrs. Apt. is well furnished and very clean. Private parking also \$312/mo, 6782 DP #2. Call Dave at 685-1444.

1 or 2 M/F roommates needed to take over lease at 6625 Sueno for Win/Spring qtr. Clean & quiet call Stein 685-2549

1 or 2, M or F Roommates for Win & Spring qtrs. Big, Clean room, Parking 6782 Del Playa #2 \$450 single \$275 double PH 685-1444

2M/F needed to take lease 6763 Sueno duplex 3rms share w/4males \$350/mo each 685-7091.

Avail now pets OK \$218 share or own for \$425. Off st prkng, lndry call 685-1681

Gay or bi male to share 2BD, 2BA luxury in Montecito. Incl. own room, bath, balcony. Pool, parking. NS. \$475+1/2 El. 969-2229.

Huge studio style room w/prvt. bath/entr. in NICE, QUIET, CLEAN Gol. home. Huge kit., nice yard, firepl, w/d, no pets. Call Kali 685-2168

M/F 2br/2ba to share great place 6531 Sabado Tarde #B8 Call Nicole 968-8202 \$306 one or two roommates needed.

One male roommate needed to share a room. 6625 Del Playa #5 oceanside. \$285 a month. Call 685-9500.

NEED 1F/M UNTIL WTR QTR Private, clean, spacious house-mellow! Fenced in, fruit trees, decks 6648 DP Call Miranda 685-8283 lv msg. CHEAP-MAKE AN OFFER- PETS OK

PLEASE RENT! Share Room 2BDR 2BA Apt 278/mo & dep & Last mo. Fun Roommates. Laundry Facil. Call Now. Kristina 685-2600

Roommate wanted for own room in spacious Goleta Apt \$375 Mo to Mo, move in Dec or Jan - Must see 683-9443

Tired of I.V., roommate, or unreasonable rent? N/S/F needed for wnter & spring. Cute apt. Close to campus. 683-4331

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GREEK MESSAGES

Chi Delta Theta
Big Sis Ms. Hee Hee
More precious moments are in the future.
Love, Your Lil Sis-Miho

GAMMA PHI'S
Good luck on finals and have a great holiday break

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