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**The Nexus**

Holiday Gift Guide!

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An I.V. Ghosttown X-mas

By P.T. Bilgman

His spurs jangled softly as the travel-worn cowboy heisted himself up into the cracked, dusty saddle and positioned himself comfortably for the long, lonely ride ahead. He reached inside his cowhide jacket, brought out a sack containing what remained of his tobacco, and rolled himself a cigarette, which he lit by striking a match against the bottom of his boot. But as he gazed out over the desolate ghost town which stood below the ridge his horse Elgar teetered on, he realized it would a long time before he would once again enter a good, raucous saloon or a racy, dirty brothel, or, in general, engage in any sort of human companionship.

So, sighing and exulting in his cigarette on the butt of his holstered pistol, the cowboy cleared his sheepskin-lined parka and nudged Elgar on with his spurs, encouraging the beast downward through the rocky terrain.

But that time was long ago, way back when the streets were bare, save for the random abandoned cars, skateboards — cluttered day or night. And he remembered how the stores, schools, parks, bars, and restaurants — jingled softly as the traffic flowed through the narrow streets and all sorts of vehicles — bikes, cars, skateboards — cluttered the streets and wreaking havoc with the traffic flow.

That time was long ago, way back when the schools year was in.

Now, during the cold month of December, the sidewalks were empty and the streets were bare, save for the random abandoned vehicle. Although some of the shops remained open, most of them made the unavoidable switch to "limited hours," claiming that there just wasn't enough business to keep longer hours. Yeah, one could get a hot cup of java or a croissant if one was a "day" person, but for night owls like Milo, the town was hell.

Looking about, Milo saw a few people walking dizzily around the town — three folks, Milo knew, were the remnants of the long-gone student body, the ones who didn't save enough money to go skiing, or the ones who couldn't catch a ride back to their homes in Glendale. Milo averted his eyes so as not to make eye contact with these people — he knew what they were going through, and he knew it sucked. Milo really felt for these poor souls.

Milo quickly decided that this town certainly wasn't where he wanted to spend any more time, so he dismounted Elgar, and, as he whistled a quick "tweet!" into the air, the horse bounded off and ran around a corner. Milo mounted Elgar, and, as the pair started off out of the small town, Milo knew that he would be back to Isla Vista as soon as the next school quarter came around. "But until then," Milo whispered to Elgar, "we'll party in Lompoc!"

Christmas Shopping at RANA

Milo strummed a few chords and reminisced about the days when he was washed away. The cowboy's name — dis- (or owning) them!

We have beautiful bathrobes, shorts, shirts, clothing... and more!

Remember: CD Claus knows who has been naughty or nice!

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At UCSB Lets Out for Winter Vacation: Isla Vista Candle Company, the cowboy deciphered from the front page of the paper before it was washed away. The cowboy moved on.

Milo — for that was the cowboy's name — dis-mounted from the horse and swaddled it on the rump, sending it away so that it could graze on the weeds that were growing through the cracked asphalt streets. Unsliding the guitar that was strapped to his back, Milo strummed a few chords and reminisced about the way life used to be in the small seaside community.

He remembered how the sidewalks used to be abutable with activity and students could be seen gallivanting through the streets discussing Sarte and politics. He remembered how the stores, restaurants and markets used to be open at all hours, day or night. And he remembered how there used to be all sorts of vehicles — bikes, cars, skateboards — cluttering the narrow streets and wreaking havoc with the traffic flow.

But that time was long ago, way back when the school year was in.

Now, during the cold month of December, the sidewalks were empty and the streets were bare, save for the random abandoned vehicle. Although some of
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X-mas Poetry

By Chuck Mosley

Happy-go-lucky kiddies
with toys looked upon
Christmas with great cheer
and joy. The latest models
were new and improved, off
to the rich suburbs mommy,
daddy and son moved. Then
lurking inside the Victorian
house came a high shriek —
unmistakably a mouse.
Young Alfie assumed his
companion to be E.T. or Al-
fie or Rambo part III. But
daddy looked on with dis­
couraging despair because
with his mortgage too high
his sail had no air.
The yuppified daddy so
eager to please had fallen
upon bad fortune — he had
no stock in G.E. His savings
were frozen as was his smile,
his family did not know that
he had taken to Kaya. Ad
ad upon ad said "buy now, pay
later," but daddy felt help­
less inside his big crater.
VISA bill, gas bill, BMW
payment weighted him
down and made him foot­
ment. With no hope in sight
he prayed for old Reagan,
the man who invented our
greatest slogan. Bush
seemed so cold and miscal­
culated there were no rea­
sons for joy or being elated.
Yes, that was it, he disgus­
tedly winced, the
commander-in-chief was
none other than the grinch.
For the first time in
months he was enraged
with fury, off to the drug­
store he went with great
scuny. "Give me dilaudid,
valium and three percotin," the
gallant drug-taker was
no longer sat on the fence.
"Down with George Bush
and his dirty old wars, I
hope he gets crabs or some
hairy old sores."
The man was pissed off,
the economy clattered,
signs said, "Go higher, the
debt does not matter." How
would he buy that Rambo
III doll, when even Sears
did not accept his plastic
bank roll? Unable to buy
another drink on his tab, the
pills kicked in — they gave
his stomach a jab. Unable to
walk out of the bar on his
own, an old man with big
wheels gave him a tow. He
rumbled into a great heap of
paper shreds, the victims of
machines entirely overfed.
Then what to his wondering
eyes did appear, the grinch
who saved Christmas — he
let out a cheer.
Packed with store-
bought goodies, this grand­
daddy did seem. Enough
was enough — he must
wake from this dream. The
old man he had thought a
swindling bum, unraveled a
great wad — a considerable
sum. "Young children can't
starve because they're the
future consumers. Here's
your dumb doll and for
mummy a Hoover." He
stared in amazement at the
kindhearted old chap. "You
must be Saint Nick or an
angel from heaven," he said
with a gasp. "I am your
downtrodden, the one you
abhor, but you and your
kind are really a bore." Sud­
denly, he knew where he'd
seen this great man, on the
street corner with tin cup in
hand.
He woke from the dream
all sweaty and tattered. The
bum he had thought, the
one he had battered. A
warm of affection came over
his heart, he must give to the
needy and even "old farts." So
he gave and he promised
to be good to his soul, as he
came down the steps Alfie
was on patrol. The Rambo
III doll had appeared under
the tree, with a note from
George Bush saying "no one
rides for free."
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By Stephen Lynne-Bachelor

You've got to give your little brother or sister something for Christmas or you're a jerk. Think about what it was like to be a kid, OK?

Things have changed since we were growing up. They have some really cool toys out now. Keep in mind that toy companies in recent years have been forced to compete with MTV and Nintendo in their bid for children's attention. The toys have got to be cool.

For your convenience, we have compiled a list of some groovy and weird toys to buy your little brother or sister. Don't buy 'em a three-piece suit — they'd never wear it — buy 'em something else. Let's take a look at a few of the new toys out now. Huh? Hey!

Rap'n'Rope

My favorite new toy is the Rap'n'Rope. If you don't get it for your brother or sister, get it for yourself. It's just like a regular jump rope, but one of the handles has a speaker in it that plays a rap beat while you skip. The idea behind it, seemingly, is that the child will rap to the beat while he/she jumps rope. The package says: "Blow their minds every time! Rap'n'Rope!" I couldn't agree more. To entice the prospective buyer the package also says: "The super snazzy rhythm SOUND will dazzle everyone on your block as you practice your latest Rap'n'Rope moves." It costs about $10. I want to see my sister jumping around doing rap — don't you? Yes, you do.

Dolls

Rub-a-Dub Dolly, Ready

See GIFTS, p. 7B

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Gifts: Buy Gifts

Continued from p.89

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GIFTS: Buy Gifts

Continued from p.68

For Berry, Bumble, Prin cesa and Nina Dolls — no, they're not titles of new poptoons movied Hat! No, they're names of some new dolls they have out this Christmas. The toy companies have made their dolls so high-tech over the years — with all of their crawling and walking and crying and delivering pizzas and what have you — that I figured that they had used every eye-catching gimmick imaginable.

One of the weirdest is the Magic Nursery Doll ($24). It seems that you buy the doll without knowing whether it is a boy or a girl. Then — and this is where the package gets vague — you discover it's gender in the privacy of your home. The package reads: "Magic Disappearing Robe Reveals a Girl or Boy Surprise!" Indeed!

I don't care what kind — if any — doll you want to give your brother or sister, just as long as it's healthy.

Talking Dolls

One of the weirdest is the "talking doll" with the pull string that says five or six eye-catching gimmick imaginable.

If you want your little brother or sister to tell you to eat his/her shorts, Action Figures

If your younger brother or sister digs those happen ing New Kids on the Block, then they'd really go for a Hangin' Loose New Kids on the Block Fashion Figure. True, the dolls don't look anything like the people they are supposed to be, but do we really want them to? I'd like you to think about that for a minute.

But even cooler than those nutty NKOTB, are the TMNT Ninja Turtles. We thought we had it good with "G.I. Joe with Kung Fu Grip," well take a good hard look at "Michelangelo with Breakdancing Action." That is technology, and for about $8, you shouldn't go wrong. If you would really want them to? I'd like you to think about that for a minute.

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Sure, you could go out and buy an expensive gift. As Sammy Hager once said, "Hey!" But to really show that you care about your younger brother or sister, you have to do the right thing. In this writer's opinion, the best thing you can do is find an arcade that has an air hockey game and take him or her there for a day of pure chewing satisfaction. It'll be hard to find the arcade — you may have to go to the Mall and by the way, it definitely goes for about $25. He's supposed to say, "Are Con trollers, More Please!" and, "Whoa, Momma!" and other things, but we could only get him to say, "No Way, Man." Still pretty cool, if you want your little brother or sister to tell you to eat his/her shorts.

Fake Food

If your brother or sister is too young for the gifts men tioned above, try fake food. There is lots of it for some reason. Apparently, fake food is very popular. You can buy all types of fake food. For instance, in the Pepsi Party Pack you can get some fake Pepsi and some plates. Fisher Price offers some fake Big Macs and fake Chicken McNuggets in a "reusable" container. There are other kinds of fake food, too, if you'd like to give those.

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Merry Christmas and...
town and staying with a dame named Noel. Where can I find this broad?” I asked.

Well, since her baby left her, I hear she got a new place to dwell,” he said.

“Where?” I asked.

“I think it’s down at the end of Lonely Street,” he said.

I knew all too well where she was shacked up: The Heartbreak Hotel. I told Joey a D-note for his trouble, and I was on my way.

A few minutes later, I walked into the hotel, into a snarl. Actually, I ran into a fist, and I was off. We were on the list. However, my schnozzola was hurting like a tsetse fly has power — a dead tsetse fly. I was going to wipe the block clean. I had a few screws loose. I was a little double-checking, so to speak — and he said that they just didn’t make it to the standards he required of his clients. They didn’t like that too much, and they’d been on his case ever since.

“Just keep them off me for another week and I’ll be OK,” he said.

“But Claus,” I said, “Jack is going to fat-fry my oriflame if I don’t deliver.”

He put his stubby little finger next to his schnozzola. He always did that. It bugged me. ‘I’ll do you right. Trust me, Dirk.’

I got back to my office around 1 a.m. Was I going to trust the old man? When I opened the door, I found an unexpected early Xmas present. It was Sasha. She wasn’t wearing much, and what she was wearing wasn’t legal in Rhode Island.

After the night kiss, real hard in the two Jills gave me a good-kiss, I said, as a few Abe Lincolns were on the list. However, he had been doing a little investigating of his own — a thing that, we talked goose. After squawking a bit, we talked turkey. After an hour later to Jack Frost.

I limped into the Heartbreak Hotel. I had a few choice words for the desk clerk. He was dressed all in black.

“I’m looking for a guy,” I said, as a few Abe Lincolns found their way into his pocket.

“I don’t know no stinking guys,” he said.

“Oh yeah?” I said, “Well, find me a guy, I think you should meet.” I introduced him to Ben Franklin.

“Wait, I think I might know one or two guys,” he said.

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“You might find that guy in Room 415,” he said.

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He told his gookers to lay off. He then went on to explain that he knew that I was on the trail of “Chris Kringle” and that he wanted a piece of him. Something about a missing G.I. Joe doll and certain stockings a few Christmas back. He said that if I dropped him a line when I find the ‘old elf’ he would not only make it worth my while, but he might be so congenial as to see to it that I wouldn’t find myself doing a little ballet in cement slippers at the bottom of a swimming pool in El Paso, Texas. Jack and the two Jills gave me a good kiss, real hard in the stomach, and they were on their mercy way.

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Christmas Trees: A Mystery Solved

By Matt Curplew

The story of how evergreen trees became associated with Christmas is a tale smacking of ambiguity and intrigue. Just listen to what Collier's Encyclopedia has to say about the matter:

"The custom of trimming and lighting a Christmas tree probably had its origin in the medieval German mystery plays, when a tree, the Paradiesbaum (tree of Paradise) was used to symbolize the garden of Eden."

See what I mean? Not only is the encyclopedia unsure of itself, but it cites mystery plays as the origin of Christmas trees! Call me crazy, but I don’t think that there are enough genuine German mystery plays going on to provide trees for everyone these days! (Tee Hee!)

I think that they are just grown, cut down and sold to an unsuspecting public. In fact, I have proof: Just Wednesday, I drove eight miles North of Goleta to a grove of Monterey Pines that looked suspiciously like Christmas trees for sale. People chose the ones they liked best, cut ’em down and forked up some greenbacks to a guy in a booth. Twenty-one bucks for a four-foot pine on up to $45 for a six foot Noble Fir.

Coincidence? You make the call.

I don’t think they were growing 20,000 live’r logs for fun. Do you?

Next, I went to Lucky, where they sold little baby trees openly, over the counter. Teeny weeny fir trees, from $3.64 to 11 bucks.

Were these Christmas “bushes” ever in mystery plays? I don’t think so.

“T’emselves,” p.11B

The use of evergreens to decorate homes at Christmas time has an unmistakably pre-Christian origin.”

Collier’s again. That book’s cynical to the bone! It says during the celebration of the Roman Saturnalia, evergreens were used for decorations! Go figure. And others contend that the Xmas greenery has its begin-

See TREES, p.11B

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Continued from p.10B

My own hypothesis is that Christmas tree pur­

chasing began shortly after

the peppy tune "O Christ­

mas Tree" was composed. Don't you think?

Whatever the origin, I tell

you this: Whether you go

out and buy a tree 'cause

they smell nice or your pa­

rents did it or you were

simply overwhelmed with

Christmas spirit, here's a

few things to keep in mind:

• A fresh-cut tree will stay

green longer than a pre-cut

tree, and an artificial tree

will last longer than either

of them.

• Put the tree in a bucket

stand that holds water, be­

cause a tree can drink a gal­

lon every two days, and it

will stay green longer if it

does. Plus, throw a little su­

gar in the water; it helps too.

• The closer it gets to

Christmas — like the day

before — the less money the

tree will cost. The day after,

people will virtually pay you

to take them away.

• Anything can constitute

a tree decoration, from a

string of popcorn or a candy

cane to dirty laundry. Be

creative. Remember, there's

no definitive origin of the

tree. Maybe it symbolizes a

coming abundance of maple

crump, maybe it doesn't sym­

bolize anything, maybe it's

more trouble than it's

worth. Why not use it to

make a political statement

about the greenhouse effect

or something! Or put it in an

unorthodox place or hang it

upside-down! I mean, what

the heck!

Have fun with it while

you can, 'cause the Christ­

mas season only lasts two

brief months, and then you

gotta gear up for Valentine's

Day. Awright!

MERRY HO! HO!

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Owner/Perm Specialist

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UCSB Faculty Women's Club Scholarships
APPLY NOW!!

The UCSB Faculty Women's Club will award scholarships of up to $1000 to promising full-time sophomores and juniors now enrolled at the university and continuing at UCSB for the academic year 1991-92.

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Be sure to include your present GPA through Fall Quarter and your Perm Number, college address and a telephone number where you can be reached presently and at the beginning of Spring Quarter. Personal interviews with selected candidates will be scheduled during the second week of April, 1991. Scholarship recipients will be chosen from the students interviewed.

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UCen
All-Nighter
Sunday
December 2

The UCen will be open all night on December 2 for students preparing for finals.

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Take a study break at 9:15 pm and listen to the sounds of acoustic singer/songwriter
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UCEN PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
Top 28 Reasons To Stay in I.V. For X-Mas

By Alex Sansola

Ah, Isla Vista in the winter! While most of UCSB's multitudes go road-bound upon completion of their finals, a knowing few stalwarts remain in this pleasant Vista-by-the-sea to ring through the holidays with the bells of Storke Tower.

Students stay here for many reasons: some hold year-round jobs locally that others lack these same jobs that might have provided Gibbs for Tocofare; others lack these jobs that might have provided Gibbs for Tocofare; and some hold their finals, a knowing few

bound upon completion of their finals, a knowing few

connoisseur of fine environment maintains Isla Vista for his winter time:

• Nexus Editor in Chief suggests that travel to Iraq is discouraged this time of year.
• Cheap fruitcake to be had the day after at Rexall
• Blinking lights on Storke Tower say “Merry Christmas Hat” in Morse code
• Loud music stops at 10 p.m. every night of the week
• Shorter lines at kegs
• Costumed revelers packed shoulder to shoulder on Estero Road on Christmas Eve
• Convenient cliffs provide the “suicide option” for recipients of stockings bulging with Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
• Telephone Registration is a local call
• Muffins! Muffins!
• Peppermint Pies
• Peppermint Pies
• Peppermint Pies
• Christmas trees doused with gasoline and set adrift between Girvetz and library parking lot
• Christmas morning as Camarillo Police are busied with extraction of inebriated descenders
• University offers “King for a Day” program where interested students get to switch jobs with administrative student of choice for a whole day
• Woodstock’s “Eggnog-9-Pine” Pizza
• Vision of sugarplums dance at the Grind
• The salmon are running
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