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Isla Vista/C.A.C. Advocacy

provides social services and material assistance to homeless, low-income and disadvantaged members of the community of I.V. All gifts donated to the I.V.C.A.C. go directly towards helping local people in need. Gifts could range from 6 cents to help a client get a xerox of a birth certificate, up to \$10 which would buy diapers for a needy family.

The Isla Vista Medical Clinic

located in its beautiful building at the Embarcadero loop has been providing general primary medical care in the community since 1969. Donations to the clinic will help those who cannot afford medical services. On the clinic's wish list is new equipment for laboratory testing.

Isla Vista Mediation Program

provides free mediation services to the I.V. community. Mediation is an effective way of peacefully resolving many kinds of disputes. Your donation will help train community members to mediate conflicts in Isla Vista.

Let Isla Vista Eat (LIVE)

A dollar donated to LIVE helps to supply one free breakfast or one pound of groceries for I.V. Elementary School children, families, low income residents, workers and the homeless in Isla Vista. LIVE helps to feed the needy hospitably in family-oriented environments.



I.V. Community Counseling Center

is an affordable counseling center in Isla Vista for individuals, couples and families. Gifts to the center will help support the Single Parent Project for families in divorce transition. The center offers ongoing groups 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, state licensed preschool, and free afterschool recreation. Best Buddies, tutorial, and safety

Please send your holiday donations payable to the Isla Vista non-profit of your choice! Every donation will help improve the quality of life in Isla Vista.

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This gift idea is a project of the Isla Vista Community Action Network (IVCAN)

An I.V. Ghosttown X-mas

By P.T. Bilgman

His spurs jangled softly as the travel-worn cowboy hoisted 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 extinguishing his cigarette on the butt of his holstered pistol, the cowboy closed his sheepskin-lined parka and nudged Elgar on with his spurs, encouraging the beast downward through the rocky terrain.

After about an hour the pair reached the bottom of the ridge, and, following a dilapidated trail, entered the crisscrossing streets of the small town. A newspaper fluttered by in the cold, driving wind and became mired in the wet gutter. "UCSB Lets Out for

Winter Vacation: Isla Vistans Go Home," 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 — dismounted from the horse and swacked it on the rump, sending it away so that it could graze on the weeds that were growing through the cracked asphalt streets. Unslung 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 abustle with activity and students could be seen gallivanting through the streets discussing Sartre 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

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 dejectedly around the town — these 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.

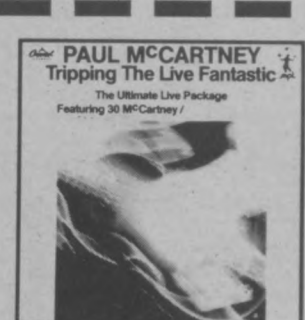
Milo quickly decided that this town certainly wasn't where he wanted to spend any more time, so he whistled a quick "tweet!", and his horse came bounding from around a corner. Milo mounted Elgar, and, as the pair started off out of the small town, Milo knew that he would be back to Isla Vista as soon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

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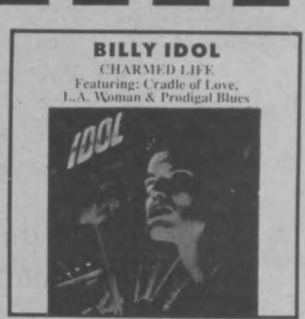
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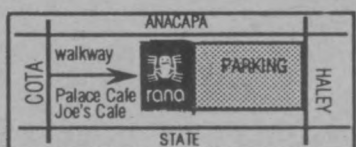
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X-mas Poetry

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 Alfie or Rambo part III. But daddy looked on with discouraging 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 upon ad said "buy now, pay later," but daddy felt helpless inside his big crater. VISA bill, gas bill, BMW payment weighted him down and made him foment. With no hope in sight he prayed for old Reagan, the man who invented our greatest slogan. Bush seemed so cold and miscalculated there were no reasons for joy or being elated. Yes, that was it, he disgustedly 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 drugstore he went with great scurry. "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 tumbled 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 granddaddy 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 mommy 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." Suddenly, 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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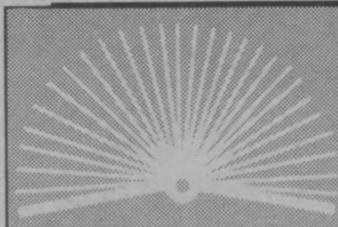
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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



X-Mas Gifts For Youthful Siblings

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 en-

tice 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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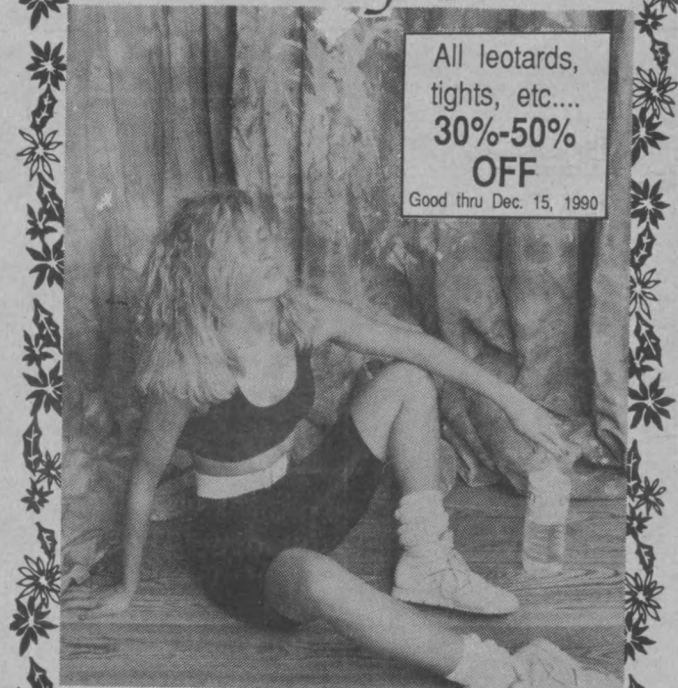
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GIFTS: Buy Gifts

Continued from p.6B for Beddy, Bouncin' Princess and Nitee Nite Pals — no, they're not titles of new porno movies! Ha! 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. *Not!*

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

A perennial favorite is the "talking doll" with the pull string that says five or six different things. The latest and coolest one is the Bart Simpson talking doll, which

goes for about \$25. He's supposed to say, "Au Contraire, Mon Frere" 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.

Action Figures

If your younger brother or sister digs those happening 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, or, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. We thought we had it good with "G.I. Joe with Kung Fu Grip," well take a good hard look at "Michaelangelo with Breakdancing Action." That is technology, and for about \$7, you shouldn't go wrong. If you would feel really good about spending \$60 on your youthful sibling, well then the definite best buy is the TMNT Sewer Hockey. Kind of like foos-

ball, but with our favorite ir-repressible turtles instead of the normal, boring foos-ball guys.

Fake Food

If your brother or sister is too young for the gifts mentioned 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.

Sure, you could go out and buy an expensive gift. As Sammy Hagar 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 Starcade at Disneyland — but definitely go. You owe it to them. C'mon!

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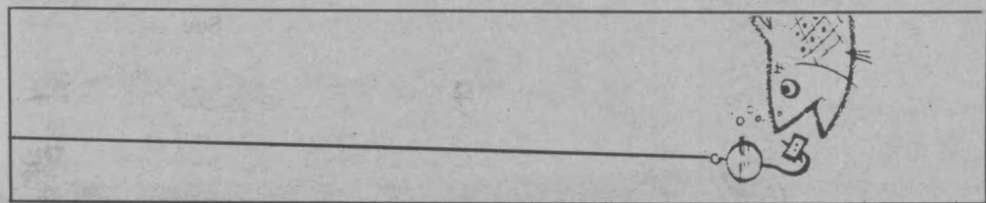
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By Dirk Dan Dave Dunhill

Trouble and legs: these are the two things that came to mind when she walked in ... again.

If I had a nickel for every time she walked into my office — and then out, leaving me with a broken heart and an empty bottle of Party-Time Daiquiri mix — I'd have enough payola to become a major stock holder in Crayola. Her name was Strongbody — Sasha Strongbody.

My name is Dunhill — Dirk Dan Dave Dunhill. I'm an eye — a private eye. "Dunhill," she said, "I need your help."

Sure, she needed my help. She needed my help like Mrs. Paul needed Charlie the Tuna's help. She just wanted to reel me in, skin me, roll me in some sticky stuff, bread me in a light, flaky coating and precook

me. I didn't believe her for two slugs from Albert "Tootsie" Herbert's Chicago Typewriter, but I went along with her anyway.

"I need you to find a man," she said.

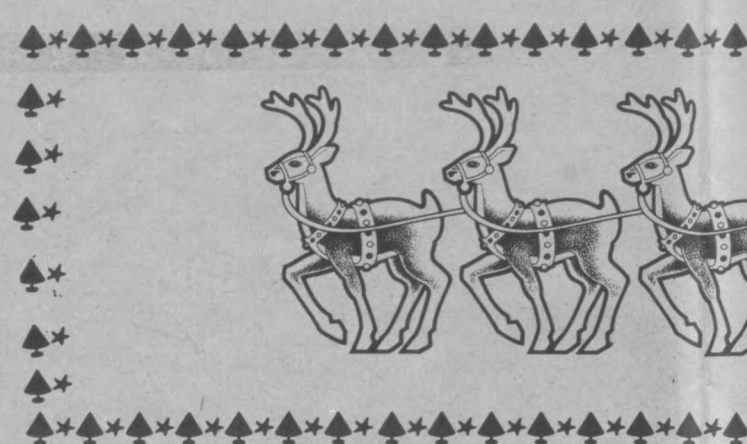
"Who?" I said.

"Claus — Nick Claus," she said.

Nothing, I said. I knew old Nick. A real saint, that Nick was. I hadn't seen him since that Elvis concert when The King kept forgetting his lines. I told her I'd take the case. Claus was an easy guy to find, especially around Christmas time.

Lepke's Palace of Slurpees was the place to go in this town when you were looking for somebody. And as sure as four grocery carts don't make a dozen, that's where I went.

The dive was run by Joey Wiener. Joey served in WWII under Captain Jimmie Dean but always wished he'd served under my commander, Captain O. Meyer.



Maybe if he had, that shrapnel wouldn't have blown off the left-rear part of his tongue, leaving him unable to taste salty things for the rest of his life. Many drunken nights had found him telling me how much he missed peanuts.

After a little chat with The Wiener, I got straight to brass tacks.

"I'm looking for a guy," I said.

Joey was never a guy to mix words. "for you looking Who are?" Or maybe he was.

"Nick Claus," I said.

I was lucky — lucky like a kid going to prom with a hired "date." Joey knew all about Nick. He had changed his name to Kringle — Chris Kringle. Since Elvis died, the man had put on quite a bit of weight and moved up north. But the word on the street was that he was back in

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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 shackled up: The Heartbreak Hotel. I slid Joey a D-note for his trouble, and I was on my way.

About halfway to the hotel, I ran into a snafu. Actually, I ran into a fist, and I was out like yesterday's ham sandwich. When I came to, my schnozzola was hurting like a blowfish caught in an air compressor. I looked up see who had been nipping at my nose.

It was Jack Frost. This pint-size poophead had been a thorn in my head since the Roland Onions case so many years back. Just because he was the third cousin of notorious underworld figure Monroe "Mr. Freeze" Frost, he thought he was big crackers. Sure, he had power — power like a tsetse fly has power — a dead tsetse fly. I was going to wipe the block with him.

Before I could get to my feet, someone else beat me to it. I found myself pinned to the wall by two of Frost's Thugs.

"Good news, Dunhill,"

he said. "Cousin Monroe is in Asia conducting a land war, and he's put me in charge. I got a little favor to ask of you."

"Maybe if you get Lulu and Nadia here off my back, I might be inclined to aid your cause," I said.

He told his goobers 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 in a certain stocking a few Christmases back. He said that if I drop 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-night kiss, real hard in the stomach, and they were on their merry way.

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, here's 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.

"I'm looking for a guy named 'Chris Kringle,'" I said and introduced him to Herbert Hoover.

"You might find that guy in Room 4H," he said.

I introduced him to Marty Hiffenhigh, who was standing next to me, and I was off. Nice guy — nice like greasy pig snouts, with lots of butter.

Noel wasn't there, but Nick was. He had put on some weight and, he still wore lots of red. He was a weird one. After squawking a bit, we talked turkey. After that, we talked goose.

"Nick, I got a couple of swell folks who want to talk to you," I said.

"Who are they?" he asked.

"Strongbody and Frost," I said

"The roto-rooters?" he asked.

"No, the dame and the thug," I said.

From that point on, it all came back to him like pink cadillacs to people who sent Elvis Presley scarves. He was making a run a few years back, and these two were on the list. However, he had been doing a little investigating of his own — a

little double-checking, so to speak — and he saw 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 fritter 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.

"You got something for me, Dirk?" she said, "Cuz if you do, I got something for you."

I looked at her and thought long and hard and wide. I made a choice.

"I ain't seen him."

I said the same thing an hour later to Jack Frost.

Some things are better than others.

Case closed.

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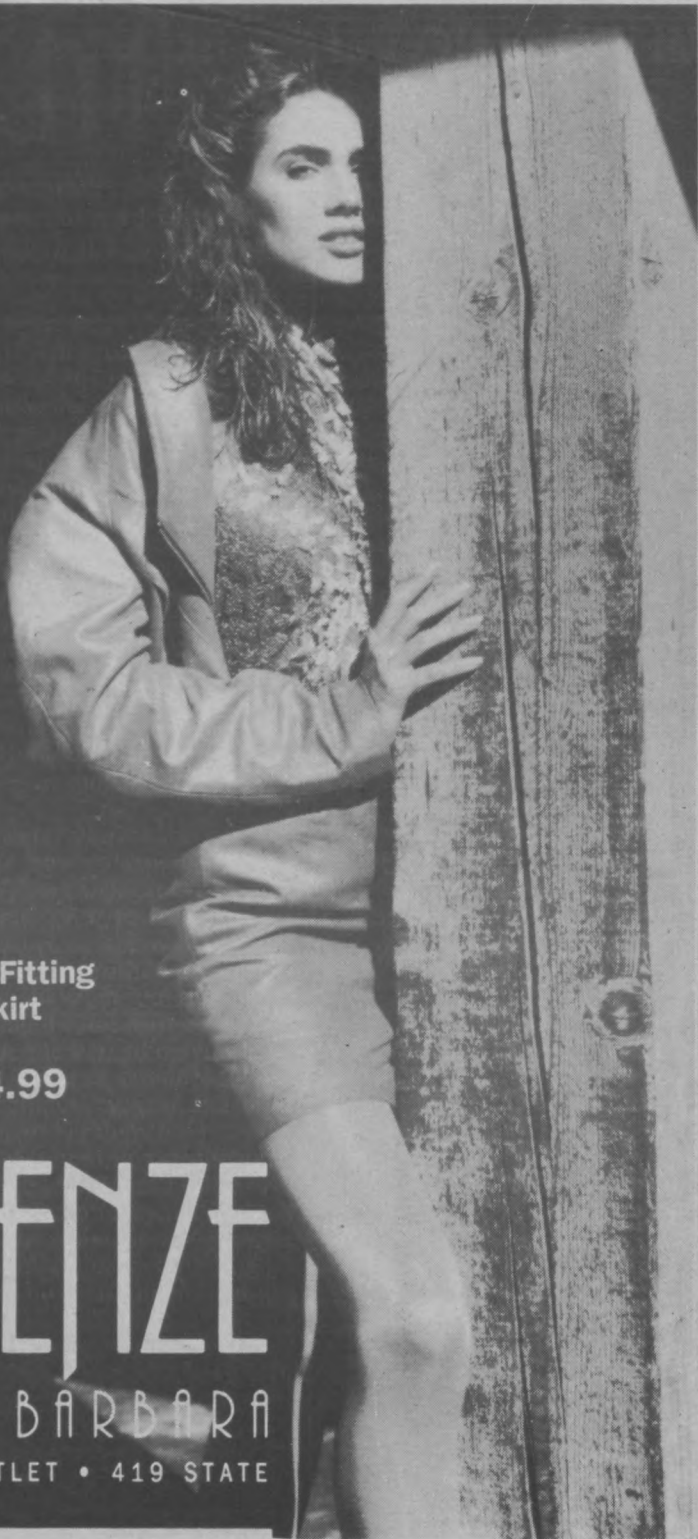
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Christmas Trees: A Mystery Solved

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 *Paradeisbaum* (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 growin' 20,000 livin' logs for fun. Do you?

Next, I went to Lucky, where they sold little baby trees openly, over the counter. Teensy weensy fir trees, from \$3.64 to 11 bucksies.

Were these Christmas "bushes" ever in mystery plays? I don't think so.

"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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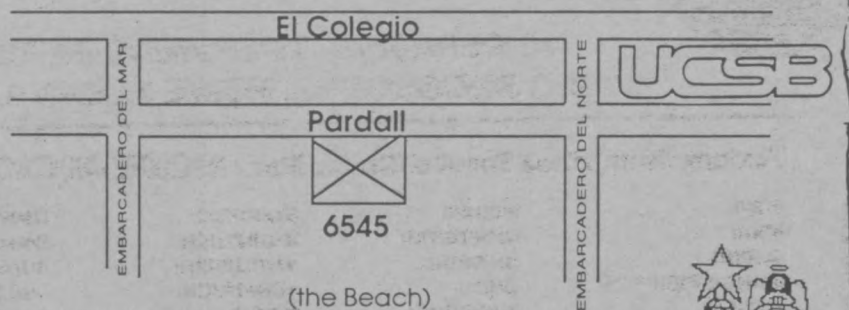
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TREE: Helpful Hints

Continued from p.10B
nings in pagan tree worship rituals in ancient Rome and Egypt.

My own hypothesis is that Christmas tree purchasing began shortly after the peppy tune "O Christmas 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 parents 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, because a tree can drink a gallon every two days, and it will stay green longer if it does. Plus, throw a little sugar 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.

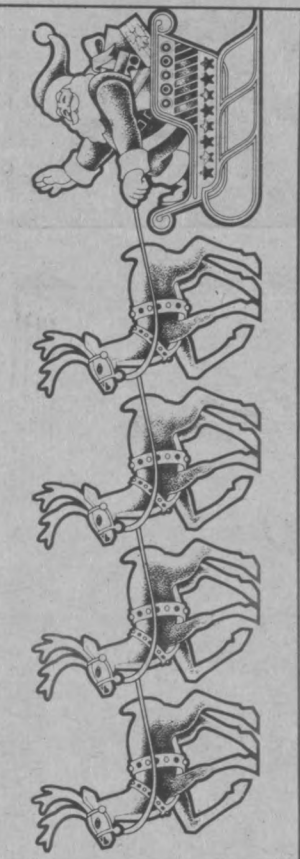
- Anything can constitute a tree decoration, from a string of popcorn or a candy

cane to dirty laundry. Be creative. Remember, there's no definitive origin of the tree. Maybe it symbolizes a coming abundance of maple syrup, maybe it doesn't symbolize 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 Christmas season only lasts two brief months, and then you gotta gear up for Valentine's Day. Awwright!



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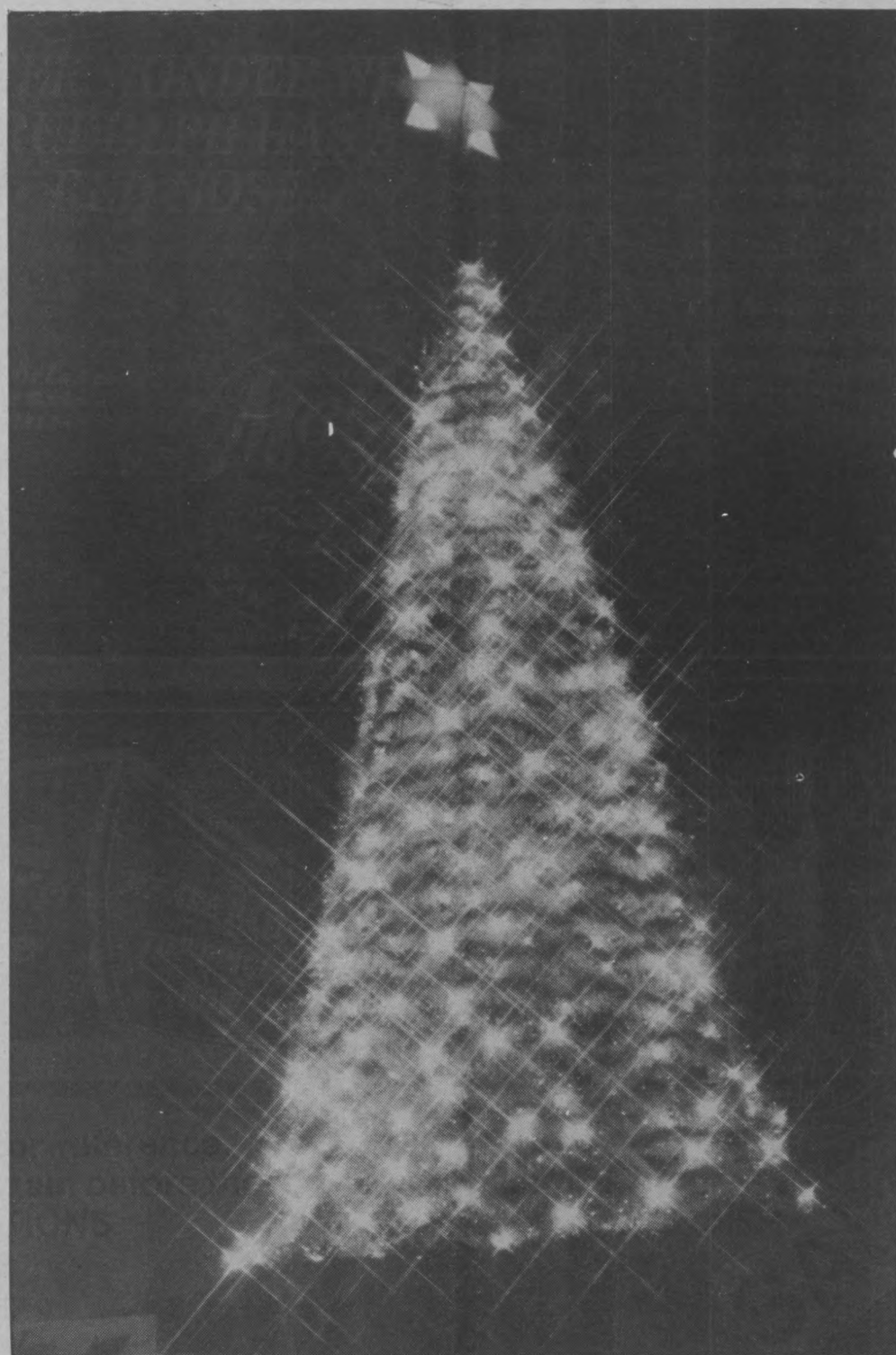


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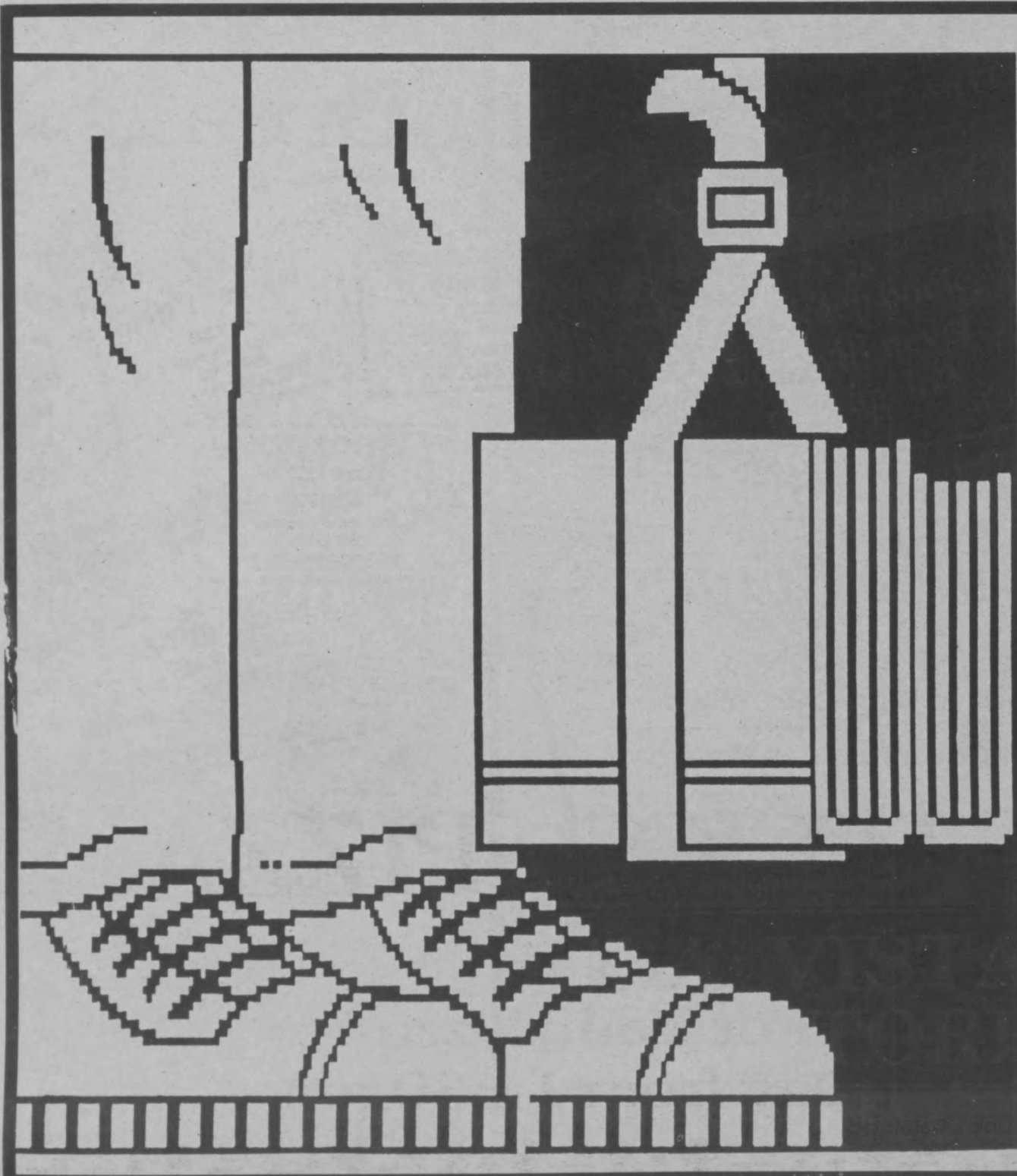
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Top 28 Reasons To Stay in I.V. For X-Mas

By Alex Sansola

Ah, Isla Vista in the wintertime! 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 offer financial incentive to remain; others lack these same jobs that might have provided gelb for locofare; others simply hate their dad.

But some stay because of the bounty of cheer that this scenic burg has to offer during the ski season.

I should like therefore to offer, assisted by my faithful sidekick Wom, a brief catalog of reasons why the true connoisseur of fine environment chooses Isla Vista for his Wintertide:

• 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

• Dog Shit Park looks so lovely covered in snow

• 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 Turtlage

• Telephone Registration is a local call

• Muffins! Muffins! Muffins!

• Peppermint Fries

• Lower demand drives pot prices way down, brah

• Temporarily abandoned house pets will love you for pennies a day

• Championship ice skating on the Lagoon

• Nostalgia-scented chimney smoke drifting east from the 6900 block, where they have fireplaces

• Trash-scented campfire smoke drifting west from Anisq'Oyo park, where they don't

• Possums, possums, everywhere

• Neonwear shortage drives prices way down, brah

• Winchell's is open 24 hours a day!

• Mons Pubis

• All-you-can-skate between Girvetz and library Christmas morning as Campus Police are busied with extraction of inebriated would-be chimney descenders

• University offers "King for a Day" program where interested students get to switch jobs with administrator of choice for a whole day

• Woodstock's "Eggnog-n-Pine" Pizza

• Visions of sugarplums dance at the Grad

• The salmon are running

• Christmas trees doused with gasoline and set adrift add an attractive touch to early January sunset

• Foot Patrol equestrian caroling unit hands out candy canes with every citation

• Absence of student population drives UCen/RecCen price way up, brah



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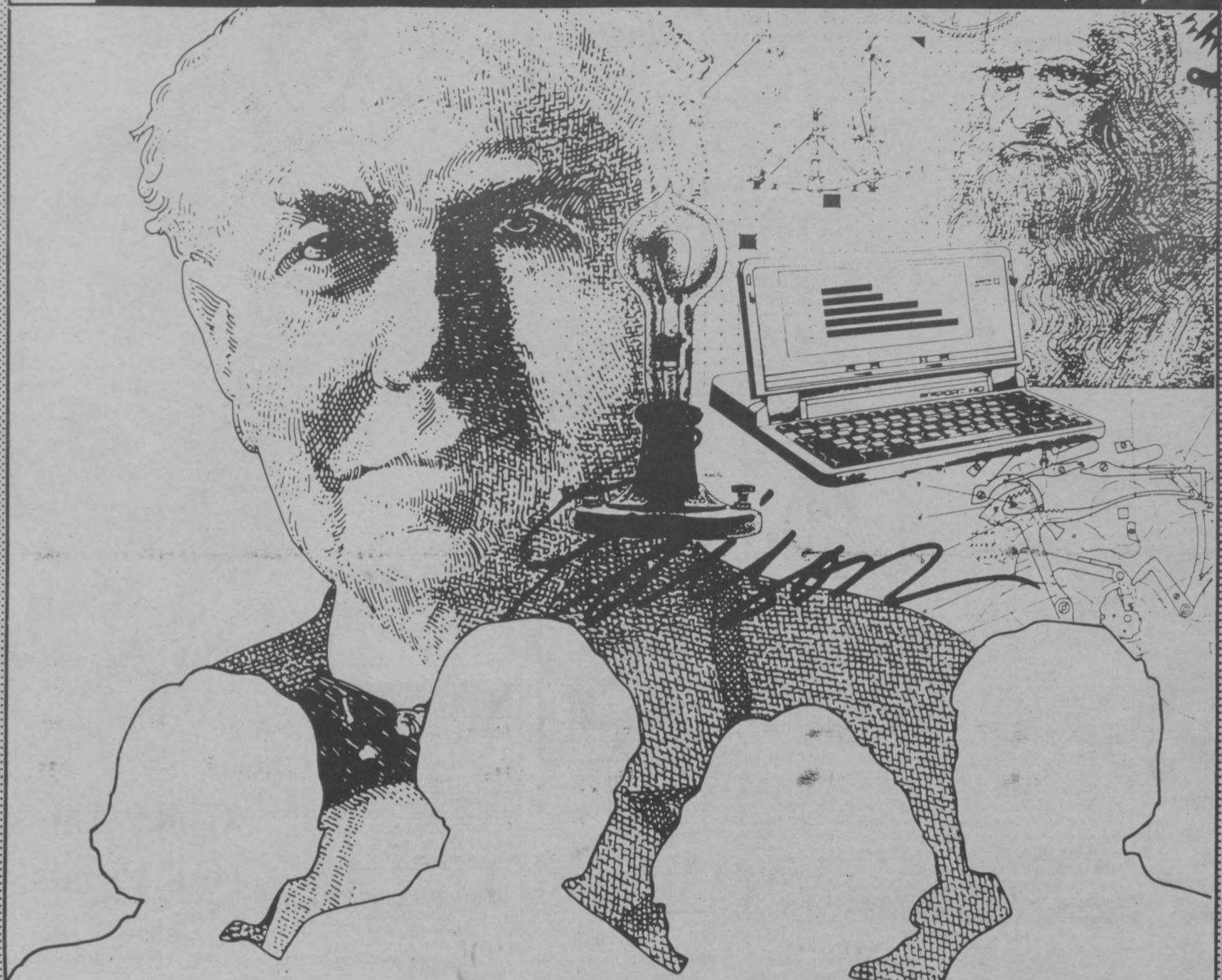
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