

A Holiday Gift Guide

... of Sorts

Brought to You by the Creators
of the Daily Friday Magazine

This Snazzy Cover page 1B


A Christmas Column page 2B

The Busiest Answering Machine on Campus .. page 2B

Christmas Wish Lists from People
More Important Than You page 3B

Adventures in Gift Buying page 7B

Find the Drunken Santas



Ten Drunken Santas have escaped into this year's gift guide. Find them and bring them to the Nexus Office before Winter break for an alcoholic treat!

The Top Ten: Messages Left on Prof. Porter Abbot's* Answering Machine Over the Weekend

* Porter Abbott is the name of the professor whose number appears in Every entry for the Faculty and Departmental listings of the new A.S. Directory

10) Fri., 12/1, 2pm — "Uh, yeah, is this like, the Comm Department?"

9) Fri., 12/1, 7pm — "Hello, I'm calling about my Poly Sci paper that was due today [background: 'Dude, where's our pot?']. Yo shut the fuck up!"

8) Sat., 12/2, 8am — "Hi, professor, um, I still want my 'A' and all, but the rectal bleeding hasn't stopped, so I'm going to the cops."

7) Sat., 12/2, 10am — "We've got a serious problem down at the Chem lab. That gerbal we injected with Viagra last Thursday assaulted two lab assistants last night. We need to keep a lid on this thing, so get down here."

6) Sat., 12/2, 5pm — "Listen, I've been in contact with the Chinese government, so if the Physics Dept.'s nuclear arms budget is slashed again, no fears comrade, we're sitting pretty."

see Page 6B

A Christmas Column

My housemate Danny told me last week that he's not asking for any Christmas presents this year. He told his Mom to tell his family to not buy him anything. He also said he didn't plan on getting anybody anything.

"So you're not celebrating Christmas?" I asked.

"I am," he said. "Jesus was cool. I'm just not getting anybody anything."

"You don't want a new bike or anything at all?"

"I told her that if anybody wants to give me a present, it has to be something they made. No Hallmark cards or anything. They can draw me a picture if they want to."

Danny is my cleverest roommate and I'm jacking his idea for a no-gift Christmas. It works for me on two levels. Superficially, my bank account cannot support my own rock and roll lifestyle let alone a spending spree on four immediate family members. But on a second, slightly less shallow level, giving only gifts you created would be a novel way to retain a gift giving tradition without succumbing to all this conspicuous consumption.

People say it's the thought that counts in a gift but that's a load of elf feces in these times. If you get your girlfriend a Sticky Hand from the vending machine at Albertson's, even if you mull over the color for hours trying to figure out which

one goes with her wardrobe, she'll still dump you. The thought usually only counts when you're thinking about

how much a gift costs. 'Are they worth it?' 'What are they getting me?'

Giving someone something you crafted — be it a drawing, poem, letter or sensual message — takes a lot more effort than running into Best Buy for the newest

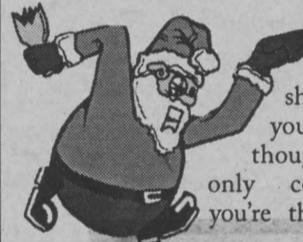
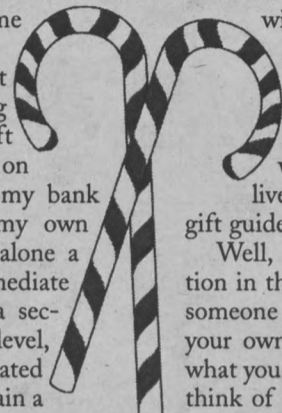
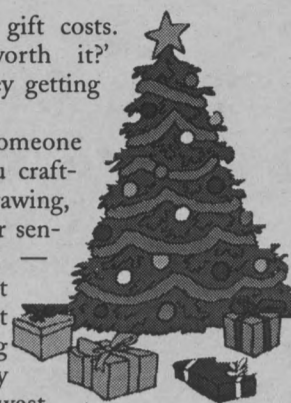
Eminem CD. Being genuinely creative with someone's gift also forces a higher amount of introspection about the recipient of the gift, and your relationship toward them. Many people don't know what the closest people in their lives would like as a gift. Holiday gift guides are produced for this reason.

Well, this guide has only one suggestion in the whole thing. Give that special someone something you've created. Use your own hands and your mind and see what you can come up with. If you cannot think of a single thing you can make for your special someone you should be asking yourself, "how special are they?"

Of course, if I ended up with a Playstation 2 two in my lap come Christmas morn I will not decline. The greedy child in me loves new toys and unreciprocated affection is a sort of default mode after 18 years of free hand outs and a roof over my head.

The point is, I will try to be creative this year, for the sake of my bank account and any stubborn Christmas spirit still flickering despite the downpour of commercial products.

— by D2



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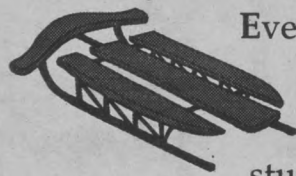


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Christmas Lists of People Much More Important Than You



Everyone would like something special for the holidays, even those with power, wealth and fame. Of course, they already have the cool stuff, so they don't have quite the same petty dreams of a little person like yourself.

But if we learned anything from "Citizen Kane" (and we probably didn't), it is that those things aren't everything. Maybe all someone needs is a lost memory of childhood or the heads of their enemies on pikes. It's the thought that counts.



The Pope

3)

Christmas Wishes

- 1) Peace on Earth
- 2) A nice, flat Earth
- 3) Goodwill towards men
- 4) Trojan condom factory smote by thunderbolt
- 5) Divine guidance
- 6) A new hatband
- 7) Fewer Lutherans
- 8) Geocentric solar system
- 9) Strength as a moral symbol to millions
- 10) Strippers. Lots of 'em.

Ralph Nader

1)

Christmas Wishes

- 1) Forgiveness from 50 million Americans
- 2) Stuffed Spotted Owl
- 3) Someone who will pay attention
- 4) Happy trees
- 6) Federal election funding
- 5) Safe roadways
- 7) Vintage '60s Corvair
- 8) A big, fat spliff
- 9) Really good hair spray
- 10) Snema

Elián Gonzales

2)

Christmas Wishes

- 1) A visa validated for Disneyworld
- 2) Janet Reno dart board
- 3) More Tommy Hilfiger
- 4) Freedom of speech
- 5) Glory for Fidel, the people's savior!
- 6) Fewer relatives
- 7) Expensive therapist
- 8) Virgin Mary
- 9) Dolphins
- 10) Mommy

Charles Manson

4)

Christmas Wishes

- 1) Sunshine
- 2) A fuzzy puppy
- 3) The laughter of children
- 5) Absolute trust from all men and compassion in the hearts of those that judge
- 6) Peace
- 7) Freedom
- 8) True love
- 9) A cabin in the woods
- 10) 12-piece set of Ginsu knives

George W. Bush

5)

Christmas Wishes

- 1) A job like daddy's
- 2) Remote control car
- 3) A red, red wagon
- 4) Playstation 2
- 5) Ball that goes bounsy bounsy
- 6) Grown-up person potty
- 7) Unlimited recess
- 8) Dots gnittirw sdwrakab
- 9) Dreety white happy dust
- 10) Execution of three more retarded minorities.

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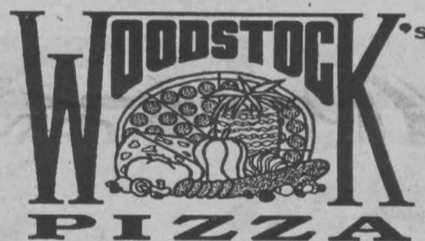


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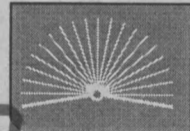
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MESSAGES

Continued from p.2B

5) Sun., 12/3, 12pm — "This message is being sent out to all Relg. Studies professors. The course, 'Jesus Freaks: Prophets or Putzes?' will be added to next quarter's curriculum.

4) Sun., 12/3, 6pm — "I dare you to show up lecture tomorrow you bastard, I fucking dare you."

3) Sun., 12/3, 7pm — "A reminder to Sociology professors, as fun as they may be, the Dept. will not tolerate any more research projects on student orgies."

2) Mon., 12/4, 1pm — "Economics professors are reminded to keep capitalism alive over the holidays. Mock Salvation Army collectors and deliver a swift, Christmas kick in the ass to a lazy homeless person."

1) Mon., 12/4, 4pm — "Prof. Abbott, I'm leaving this message on behalf of A.S. We'd like to apologize if the directory blunder has caused any inconvenience. Again, sorry about dicking things up, but it's still not our fault."



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It's the Thought That Counts, but Five-Finger Discounts Never Hurt

By Alex Ward

Dr. Downs has prescribed me the writing of an essay loosely entitled "The Worst Christmas Present I Ever Got." Rather than delve too deeply into holiday seasons past (a kaleidoscope of broken toys, broken glass and broken fingers), I will focus on Christmas present, pardon the pun. Last weekend, my associate and I decided to attempt a little early shopping (my associate calls any acquisition, legal or not, "shopping").

My associate's quest was a new scent for the new year. Since her old scent was cigarettes and gin, I decided to endorse the search. We boarded my (still) futuristic car and drove into the *nouveau riche* jungle that flanks State Street. The locals were breathing fire — as late November is now generally believed to be the height of the Christmas season. We parked the space car and headed into the heart of the jungle. My lawyer advises against use of the name of the store, but suffice it

to say that it is old, wealthy and well known.

My associate, with her keen nose and bloodthirsty urge for perfume, guided us surely to the fragrance counter. She had set her sights, like a lioness in a drought, on the weakest sales girl, looking pale and anorexic in her feeble white lab coat. I knew blood and perfume would flow like water

in the aisles, but all a bystander could do was provoke and observe. I assured the white coat that money was no object. Whether she took this to mean that we had none, or that my fantastic wealth neutralized the cost of the most flagrantly over-priced scent, I cannot say.

Of all the world's perfumes, colognes and eaus de toilet, this, this, this olfactory reminder of eighth grade and sweaty Third World airports was what I merited in the eyes (nose?) of my dear associate.

The last two only smelled of meat and bread; wishful thinking, I guess. As you know, dear reader, my associate is a foreigner, and a sophisticated one at that. She quickly dispatched with the Ralph Laurens and Tommy Hilfigers and

narrowed her laserlike search to the Armanis, the YSLs and the Michael Kors. Only the best for my associate.

After a half an hour my head was spinning, and my stomach was reeling; all the coffee beans in Colombia could not revive my sense of smell, but between the white coat and my associate, the dance continued. What the white coat didn't realize, couldn't realize, was that she was being worn down for the kill. My associate was only toying with her, as a cat plays with a mouse long after the mouse has lost all chance of escape.

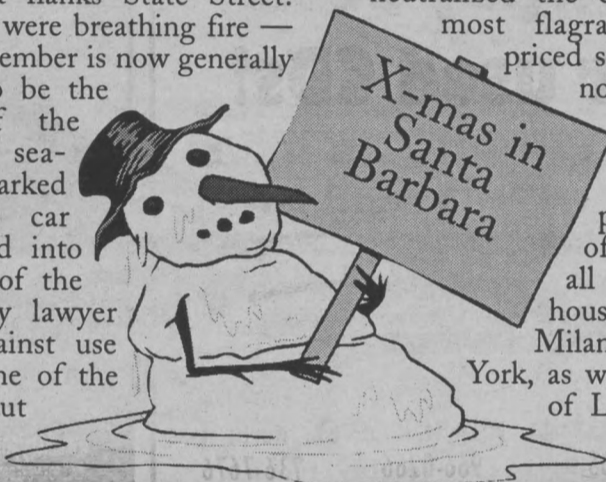
I could see eyes on both sides of the counter narrowing as small cards of spritzed toilet water were traded, critiqued and discarded.

White coat was beginning to see that she was outmatched, fighting out of her weight. My associate berated every offering with blistering cruelty and efficiency. One was too sweet, another too heady, another too waxy, another too young. We all knew that white coat was close to tears; after all, she must have had favorite scents, and no doubt they had fallen down the wayside of the battle of the smells.

From where I stood, between the security cameras and my associate, I was free to watch as \$80 bottles disappeared into my associate's deep pockets. Ferrago, Chanel, Armani, all into the coat ...

Which brings us to our bland epiphany. Once safely back in the space car, airlocked and gleaming clean, my associate presented me, as if with a shining turd, an enormous green bottle of Polo. Of all the world's perfumes, colognes and eaus de toilets, this, this, this olfactory reminder of eighth grade and sweaty Third World airports was what I merited in the eyes (nose?) of my dear associate.

I have exceeded my ordained word count, and have only just hit upon my title: The worst Christmas present I ever got was a stolen bottle of Polo cologne.



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MEN BURP 4.7 TIMES PER DAY WHILE WOMEN BURP 2.1 TIMES PER DAY.

8% OF COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVE NOT WATCHED T.V. IN THE LAST WEEK.

NEARLY 2/3 OF COLLEGE STUDENTS DRINK ON AVERAGE LESS THAN ONE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE PER DAY.*


ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR AMERICANS HAS APPEARED ON TV.

3.9% OF WOMEN DON'T WEAR ANY UNDERWEAR. 6.4% OF MEN GO COMMANDO.

*SOURCE: CORE INSTITUTE 1999

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