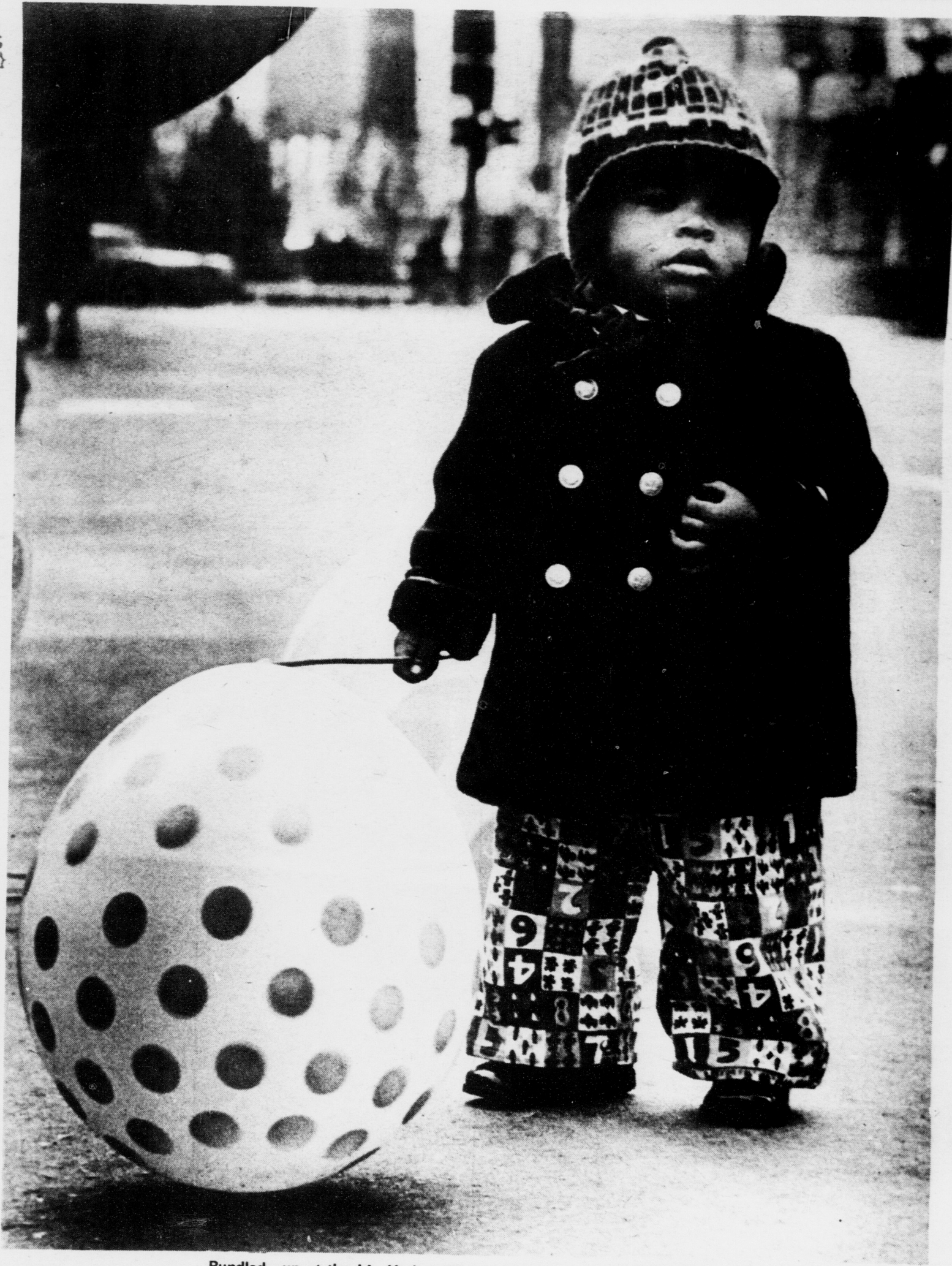


CHRISTMAS

These things and more inside:
Santa Interview p. 3
Museum Gifts p. 5
Albums for Christmas p. 14
Gifts to make p. 18



Bundled up at the J.L. Hudson Thanksgiving Day parade in Detroit.

State News Photographer David Schmier.

Christmas: good time to reflect

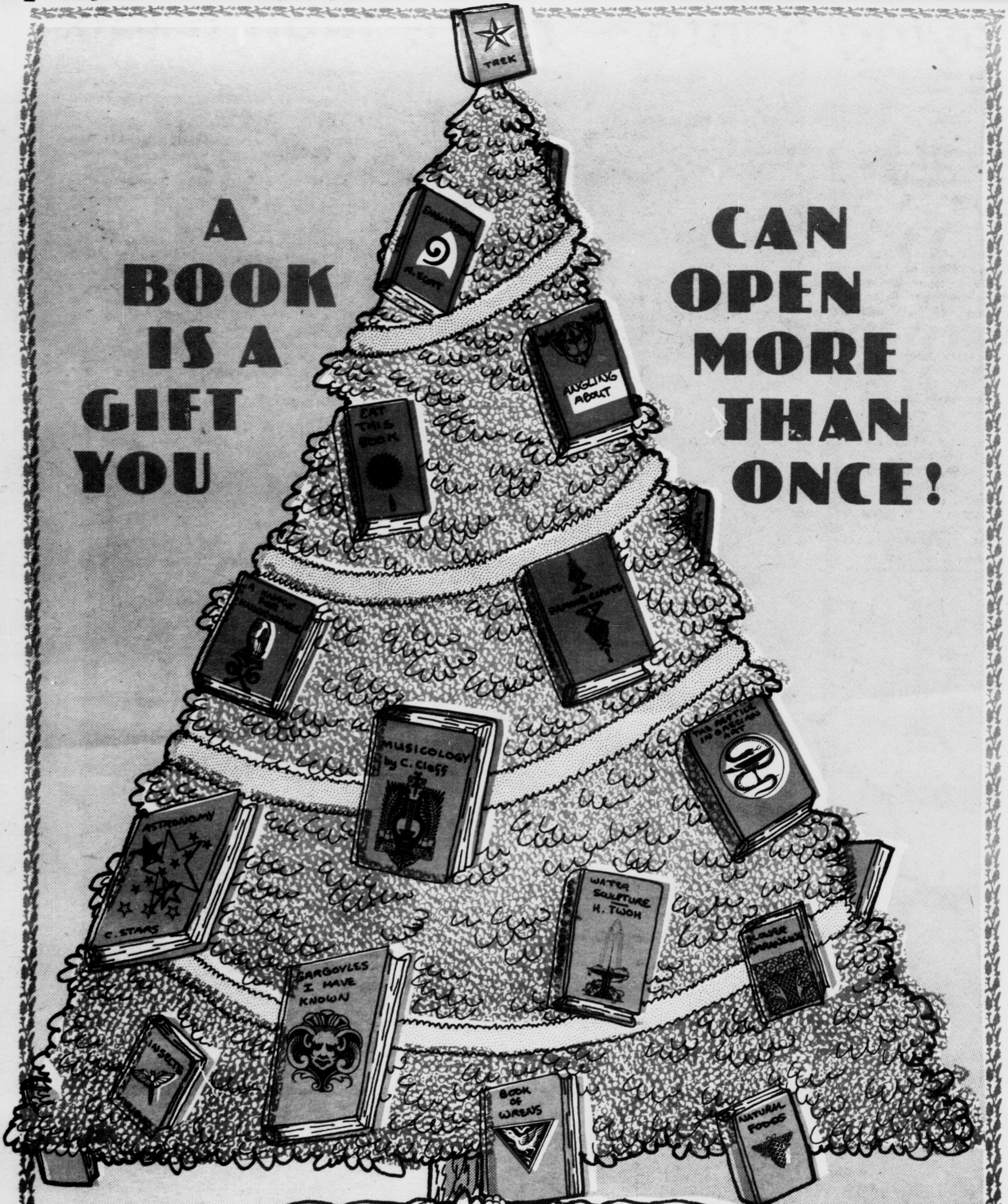
AN ESSAY

It's going to be a bittersweet Christmas 1973. For the first time in a decade there are no American troops in combat zones, and yet the country is facing one of its most serious periods of crisis. This land of plenty has awakened from a slumber of abundance to find many of the commodities we have taken for granted are running low. And war has again taken root in the land held holy by the adherents of so many religions. Peace, long the hopeful watchword of this happy season, still manages to elude our grasp this year. We have hardly extracted ourselves from the bloody bog of Vietnam, only to fend off a temptation to jump into the quicksand of a Mideast confrontation. We are being asked to cut back on our traveling, lower our thermostats, and reduce our Christmas lighting. It would seem that we are approaching a bleak holiday season. Maybe not. This, more than any other Christmas, offers an opportunity to reflect on our abundance and to appreciate all the things we do have. It also gives us cause to take stock of ourselves and the life we live.

The United States, with only 6 per cent of the world's population, uses approximately 30 per cent of its energy resources. Meanwhile, most of the world remains undeveloped and impoverished. Perhaps we should take a good look at ourselves — overfed, rich and mobile as we are — and ask if this is really the way we want to live. We might find that our lives would be a little warmer, our food a little better and our bodies a little healthier by making some changes. In keeping with the spirit of the season, we might all do a little more giving of ourselves to help make the world a little brighter. There are so many things to be done to make our lives better, it is a shame to allow a little apathy to dim the fire of our hearts. It is, after all, so easy to bring some holiday cheer into other people's lives by a visit, a greeting, a smile or a helping hand. This holiday, then, is a good time to make the best of our small inconveniences, like the energy shortage, and spread some cheer and good will among our neighbors.

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Playing Santa — more than a job

By GARY KORRECK
State News Staff Writer

Contrary to popular belief, Santa Claus is not an old man and he does not make toys just for kids.

He is 36 years old, his name is Jack Kramer, and he makes toys for big people at his job in the Oldsmobile production plant.

One of seven children, Kramer has been Santa to scores of kids since he was 19, spending the last five years at Knapp's department store in Lansing.

"I've always liked kids," he said. "I remember when I was a kid and my mother used to take me to a store in Dearborn and you had to wait in line for two hours to see Santa Claus.

"The Santa they had would just bypass you after such a long wait," he said. "I decided if I was ever a Santa Claus I would give the children a chance to express themselves."

Kramer got his start at home. Each Christmas the family would have a gathering — it still does — and Kramer would play Santa.

Kramer also has played Santa for a number of years to kids in Sparrow Hospital's pediatric ward and anywhere else he gets a call.

One year he went to the Ingham County Medical Center to cheer up a youngster who nurses said had not smiled in 18 days.

"They had a clown there the day before and I called and asked them if they'd had a Santa Claus yet," Kramer said. "I went there and the kid was behind some kind of a cage all glassed in. I went up to it and I don't think he heard me, but he

was laughing.

Kramer's philosophy is simple.

"You've got to have it in your heart," he said.

The salary isn't much — \$2.75 per hour — and a good Santa suit, which he gets from his



employer, goes for around \$400. Kramer got his job at Knapp's when he called to ask them if he could lease a new suit from them because the one he had was wearing out.

The store supplies him with two suits ("a kid might burp up on one and soil it") but he likes the old style hairpieces better than the newer ones.

"The old one looks like the real McCoy," he said. "The new one's white and clean and looks fake."

Kramer says he's never met a kid he did not like and wonders why some people take the job.

"A lot of Santas give you a "Merry Christmas" and that's it," he said. "I try and spend around three minutes with each child; sometimes you have to hurry them along if the line gets big and there are some you can't keep quiet but I've never had a really nasty one."

Kramer said kids have not changed much over the years except that they ask for bigger toys. He remembers many of them and their parents when they come back the next year.

But even Santas need a rest and Kramer is beginning to consider retirement. His job at Oldsmobile prevented him from playing Santa last year and he is pressed for time again this year.

"I guess they like me so well I keep going back," he said.

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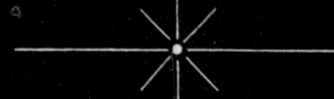
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Julie Nixon Eisenhower

Dear Santa,
Wharton

Dear S. Claus:
Please send me some roses for Christmas and put some coal in the sock of my neighbor Burt Smith. He's not my friend any more so it's OK.
Your friend,
Bo Schembechler

P.S. Don't forget the Buckeye peas.

Dear Santa,
I've really got the hots for Jane Fonda. Can you arrange a session?
Rep. Kirby Holmes

Warren Huff

Claus:
You're the only old man I know I could beat in a paddleball match. If you're ever in town look me up.
C. Patric "Scrooge" Larowe
P.S. If you can't make the trip how's about ordering 500 copies of my book?

Dear Santa,
Warren Huff's hide.
Certain administrators.

Dear Santa,
YOU!!! I'm mad for you! I

thirst for you! I want you!
Xaviera Hollander

Dear Santa:
I tried to reason with them but they wouldn't listen to me. They all had their strawberries. The ensign, he had more than his share of strawberries — and because I tried to find who ate them all, they turned against me...

Captain Queeg

Dear Santa,
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Special Christmas supplement
Friday, November 30, 1973
Michigan State News
East Lansing, Michigan 48824
Special Editor: Liz Driscoll

mary maxim

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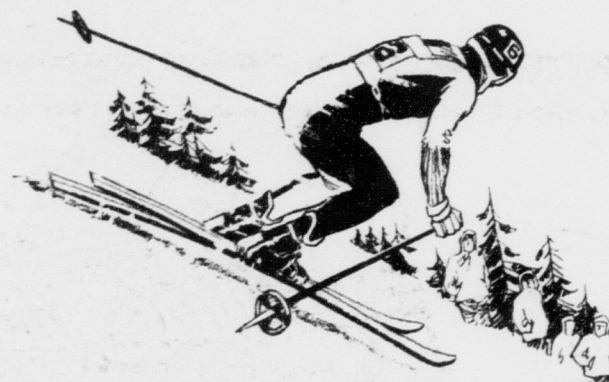
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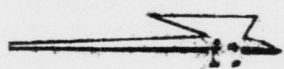
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Santa choo-choo brings presents to Kentucky kids

NEW YORK TIMES

ELKHORN CITY, KY. — Once again, Christmas came early this year for the children of this small mining community and the others along the 93-mile route of the Clinchfield Railroad's Santa Claus special, an engaging combination of public relations and warmheartedness that has become a tradition in these hills and hollows.

Billy Mackell Pierce and Ricky Wayne Belcher, both 11 years old and men of few words, were waiting at the depot at 7 A.M. the other day, when the fog still obscured the hills and there was no one stirring in the shabby streets except an occasional optimistic dog. They remembered last year, Billy said, when Santa "threw out some books," and they were taking no chances of missing this year's goodies.

Since 1942

Elkhorn City is where the train starts; it ends, some six hours of puffing along and more than a ton of candy later, in Kingsport, Tenn. It has run every year since 1942, when many of the children of these valleys came down barefoot to the coal tipples and railroad crossings where the train slows or stops.

Things are better now, but the annual trip — co-sponsored by the railroad and the

Kingsport Chamber of Commerce, which collects and contributes the candy and small presents handed out to the waiting children along the route — seems likely to continue by popular demand.

For the railroad executives and the dozen or so chamber of commerce types who make the trip, riding up to Elkhorn City the night before from the Clinchfield's headquarters in Erwin, Tenn., is a lark.

It costs the Clinchfield about \$3,500 to run the train each year, according to Thomas D. Moore Jr., the general manager. But it is obviously worth it in accrued publicity and local goodwill, not to mention the fun Moore and the local executives who play Santa's helpers have on the trip.

Since 1969, there has been a particular fillic for the

Oldest engine

railroad buffs, if not for the children: the special train is "pulled" — with the necessary aid of two back-up diesel units disguised as coaches — by the Clinchfield's pride and joy, the oldest operating steam engine in this country.

The Clinchfield No. 1, or the Little Steamer, as they call it, is a grown-up's toy, with gleaming brightwork and a great brass bell announcing its arrival along with the hooting steam whistle. It is Moore's particular pet, since it was he who noticed it rusting away on a siding in 1966, a tree growing through its innards, and had it restored to its present glory of steam and brass and shining paint.

Santa sees you

But for the kids who wait at the shuttered depots of tiny towns with names like Dante — pronounced Dant — and Haysi, Va., or at railroad crossings, or just at the edge of the tracks along the way, it is the goodies handed out by Santa that are the lure. This trip, something more than a ton of individually wrapped candy was tossed out of the rear observation car decked with plastic holly, where John Dudney, the Kingsport postmaster making his 26th trip as Santa, assured them that "ole Santa sees you, darlin'."

Dudney was sweltering in his splendid beard and costume in the unseasonable 70-degree sunshine.

But his "ho,ho,ho's" rang out enthusiastically, with the aid of a microphone and a background of taped Christmas music. And Moore and A. W. Coleman, director of the chamber of commerce, were untiring at handing out — more often tossing, since the train came to a full stop rarely — great handfuls of candy and such small presents as note pads, plastic baseballs, badminton sets, books, stuffed animals in plastic bags, boxed lab kits, balloons, small dolls, bags of marbles and pencils.

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Friday, November 30, 1973 7

Families to receive warm gifts

By TRISHA KANE
State News Staff Writer

Needy families in the Lansing area will have warm clothing this Christmas through the efforts of the Office of Black Affairs (OBA), and the Black Greek Council, the organizations sponsoring Project Save.

Renee Williams, OBA manager and coordinator of the program, said Monday that close to \$700 had been pledged by residence hall black caucuses and various private donors for the purchase of winter clothing for the needy. Volunteer worker Donald Haynie said that there is no

deadline for donations because volunteers will remain in the office during the Christmas break.

Money collected before Christmas day will be given to Lansing families recommended to the OBA by the West Side Neighborhood Assn. and Lansing social workers. Williams said the money would probably be given in the form of gift certificates to be used at specific stores to assure that it is spent on clothing.

"Project Save is an ongoing service," Haynie said. "We won't stop after Christmas because the clothing donations are just one concept of the project."

He said that any donations made after Christmas would be used for campus projects needing funds, such as the temporarily defunct Grapevine Journal.

Williams said many donation pledges were received after the free talent show OBA sponsored Nov. 16. Features of the show included the performances by the Black Orpheus Choir, local poets, singers, actors and dancers.

Workers said that the show was a success, but that black faculty members who had received personal letters did not attend the show and had offered almost no support of

the project through donations or soliciting assistance.

"We are trying to establish a good relationship with the outside community through this phase of Project Save even though we do not live in the outside community," Haynie said. "You would think that faculty members, who do live in the Lansing urban area, would care a little more about helping to establish good relations through charity."

Both volunteers agreed that a great amount of leg work, telephone and residence hall soliciting was necessary to get most of the donations, and Williams commented that it

would have been much easier if the office had more volunteer helpers.

"Through Project Save, we have proven that the school and the community can work together," Haynie said, "having a good time but also serving the very important purpose of clothing the needy so that their Christmases will be a little warmer — a little better."

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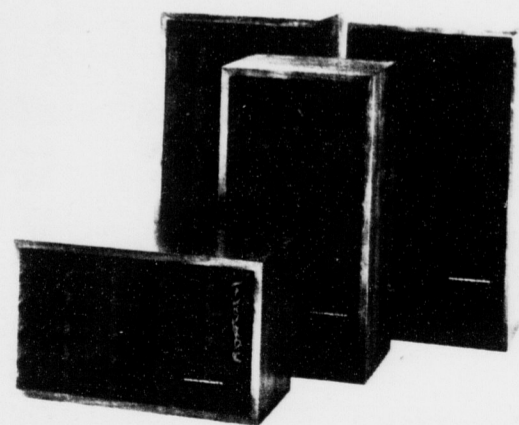
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Shopping takes a lot of foot-wearying time, so it is nice to take a short rest now and then. State News photo by David Schmier



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Christmases get merry ho-ho-hos

By MAUREEN McDONALD
State News Staff Writer

Eight tiny reindeer and four large Santas frolic in the back yard of the Richard Christmas home in Lansing.

For the extensive Christmas family, numbering at least 52 in Michigan, it is Christmas every day of the year. And that means prank phone calls, amazed sales clerks and a yearly family reunion in July.

"You have no idea what it feels like to be woke up at 3 a.m. to hear a drunk say 'ho, ho, ho, how's your reindeer,'" says Richard Jr., 32.

His father, Richard Sr., 70, replies differently to reindeer questions. He sells Christmas lawn decorations throughout the state. For now, the reindeer and Santa displays are corralled in the back yard. The family recently moved into a residentially zoned home at 1735 Boston Blvd., and the city does not permit home businesses in that area, Richard Sr. said.

Until this year the family had no outdoor Christmas displays. "I was so busy building displays for other people I had no time for myself," Richard Sr. said.

Richard Jr., dresses up as Santa Claus at various discount department stores during the holidays. But he is out of work this year because of a back injury.

"When I'd go looking for a job as Santa Claus the personnel department wouldn't believe me," Richard Jr. said. "They would always ask me to show my birth certificate."

"That's something in itself," his mother, Dorthea, piped in. "Richard was born on April Fool's day." (And Richard blushed as red as Rudolph's nose.)

Richard Jr. started a campaign last spring for another holiday, Moon Day, to be commemorated July 26. Though he convinced Alabama Gov. George Wallace of the idea, the various congressmen and legislators he contacted were somewhat leery about it.

Richard Jr.'s latest project is creating the Christmas "tree" — a listing of all the Christmas families in the country. He has been hunting through the U.S. Census reports from 1850 to the present, as well as national phone books to collect the history of the Christmas clan. He has learned of 200 Christmas families so far.

Richard Jr. claims his family came from England in 1850, when it changed its name from Noel to Christmas. Ingham County does not have record of the name change, but Dorthea, 73, still makes the famed Christmas pudding, which was handed down through generations from the Noel family, at holiday time.

The present family includes three merry cousins, though only one spells her name Merry Christmas. Richard Jr. said one cousin was glad to change her name when she got married.

Four Christmas families live in the Lansing area, including one in Bath which has 12 children. "I guess the Christmases won't wear out for a long time," Richard Jr. noted.

And so, on go the prank calls wishing the family a "Merry Christmas" in July, asking for Santa and ho-ho-hoing in the middle of the night.

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Jews celebrate sacred holiday

By LARRY MORGAN
State News Staff Writer

December 20 marks the beginning of the most important of the Jewish holidays, Hanukah. Embedded in the tradition of Hanukah, the lighting of the menorah, a nine-branch candelabra, and the giving of one gift each of the eight days of the fete, is one of the greatest fights for freedom ever recorded.

Hanukah, which in Hebrew means dedication, began when

a Jew named Mattathiah began a revolution in the city of Modin outside Jerusalem to recapture the temple of Jerusalem. The temple had been taken over by the Syrians. After two years of guerrilla fighting and the death of Mattathiah, his son Judah Maccabee, became the holy leader and took over the fight with an army of Jews and drove the Syrians out of Israel.

The Syrians had hung portraits of their Emperor in the temple and had made

sacrifices of pork meat, which is not kosher, which desecrated the temple. Sacrifices and possession of images of their god are both strictly against the Jewish faith.

The menorah in the temple, which had previously had an eternal flame, had gone out. The Jews wanted to relight this very important symbol, but had only enough olive oil fuel to last for a couple of days.

Since it meant so much to them, the Jews lit the menorah

anyway, and with some luck the olive oil lasted eight days. It allowed enough time to get more olive oil to keep the menorah lit.

The relighting of the menorah began the tradition of Hanukah, which today is celebrated by each Jewish family that has a menorah in the home. The ceremony consists of lighting one candle each day for eight days along with the Shamus candle. A prayer is said after each candle is lit.

Though Hanukah has nothing in common with Christmas, the giving of gifts each day of Hanukah came with the tradition of Christmas, Barney Sternfield, Hillel president, said.

The fact that Hanukah came as a result of an actual historical event and that the guerrilla warfare used by Maccabee was the first warfare of that type ever recorded, make the tradition of Hanukah even more meaningful to all Jews, Sternfield said.

"It's essentially a festival of freedom," he said, "of people who strongly believed in their religion and wanted to be what they were and to be free.

"It's the obligation of every Jewish person to fight against oppression," Sternfield added.

Eyes shine as kids talk of St. Nick

Belief in Santa Claus seems to fade at about the third grade, though several East Lansing third-graders interviewed at Glencairn School this week still confessed to believe in a Christmas spirit.

The pretense of believing in Santa Claus is frequently maintained for the benefit of younger brothers and sisters.

One girl said she thought Santa had a key to every house, because so many houses do not have chimneys any more.

Kindergartners still believe in Santa Claus, and their eyes light up when they talk about the holidays. A kindergarten group seemed more excited by the preparations for the holidays than did the older children.

A boy said he knew what Santa looked like because his father was Santa Claus at a party.

The children requested traditional gifts like toy soldiers, dolls and doll houses. One third-grade girl said she wanted a baby for Christmas.

The children were disturbed by the lack of holiday lighting caused by the energy crisis.

"The best part of Christmas is the lights on the Christmas tree," Tracey, a third-grader, protested.

The children blamed the city council's decision not to put up holiday decorations on the energy crisis. "Did Nixon ever look at downtown East Lansing in the night time?" a third-grade boy, Neil, asked. "Why do they have to use lights in holiday decorations?"

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page 16

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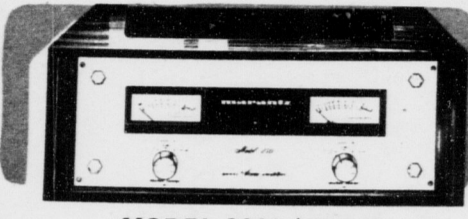
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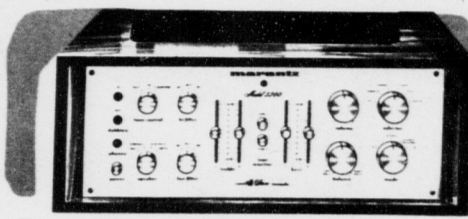
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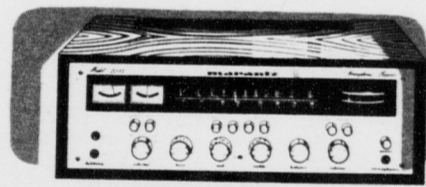
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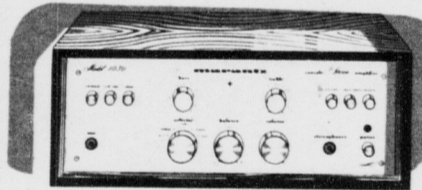
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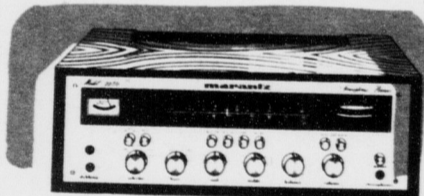
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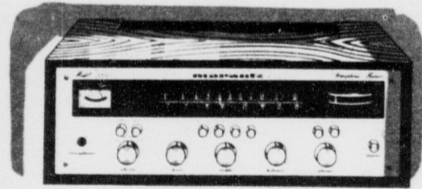
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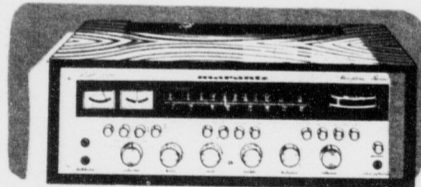
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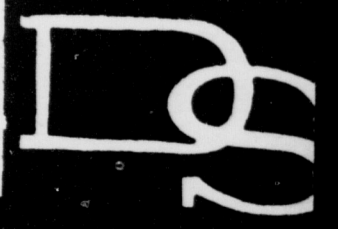


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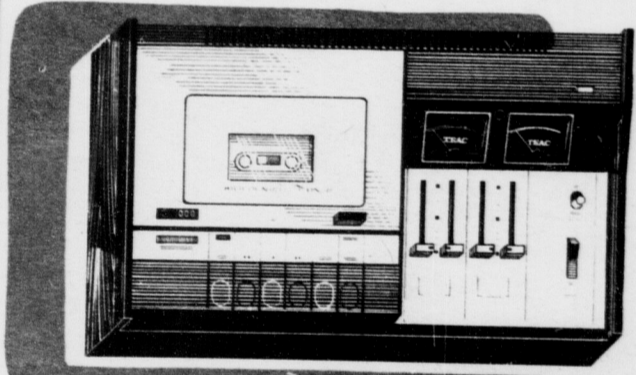
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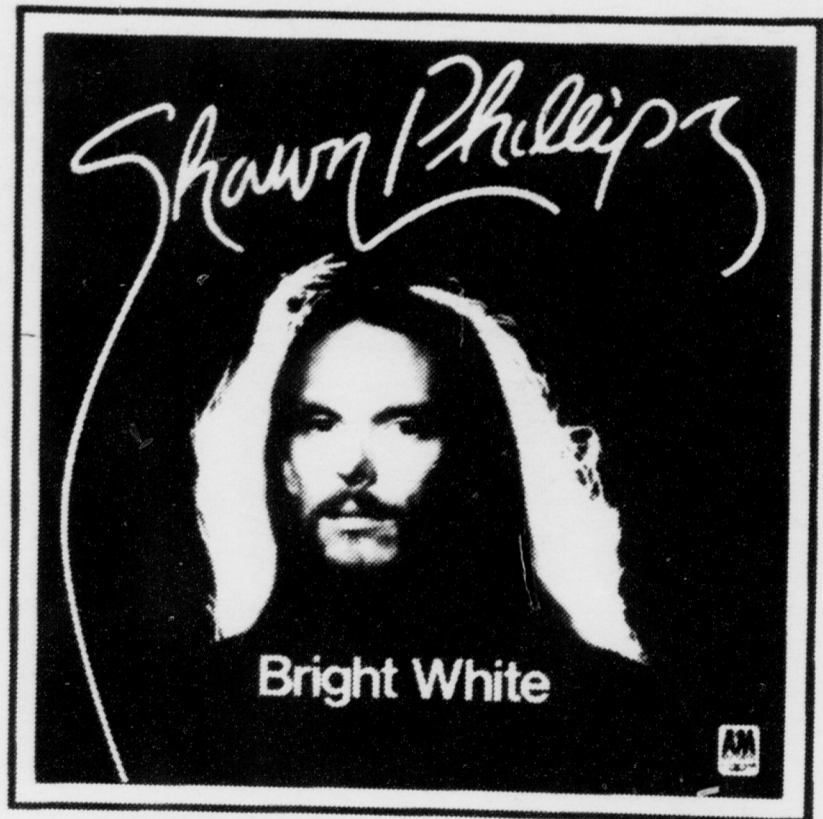
Without music life v



A brilliant first album from The Ozark Mountain Daredevils. Includes "Country Girl" and "Within Without."



After three highly acclaimed albums, Grin has gone crazy. This, their A&M debut, includes "True Thrill."

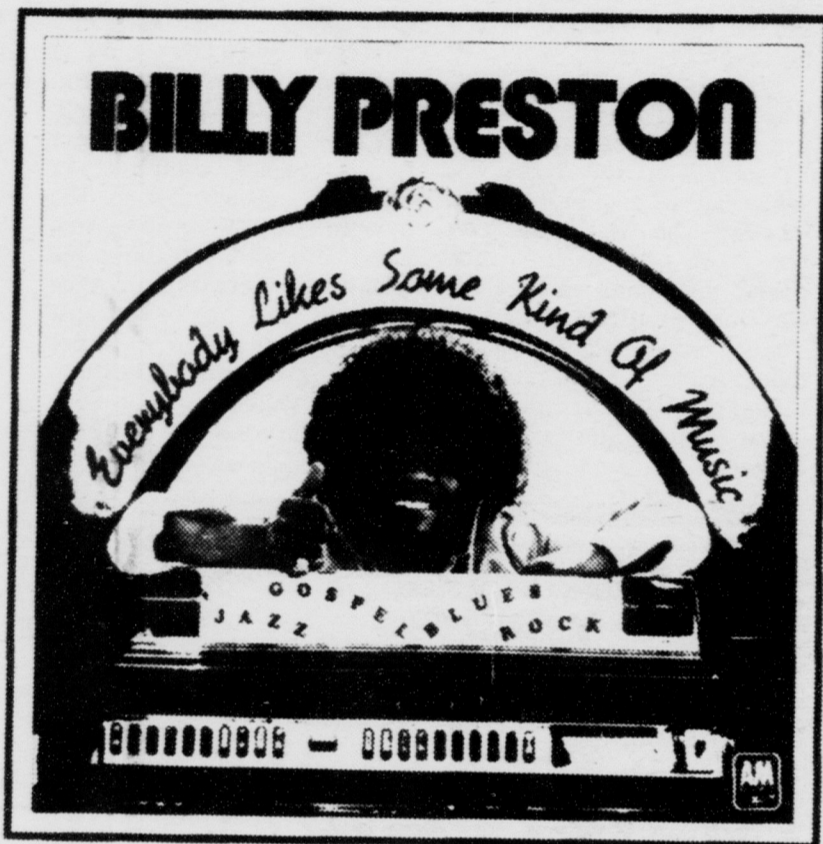


Shawn's fifth album is enough to make you get his first four. Includes "Bright White," the title single.

Give music for Christma

would be a mistake.

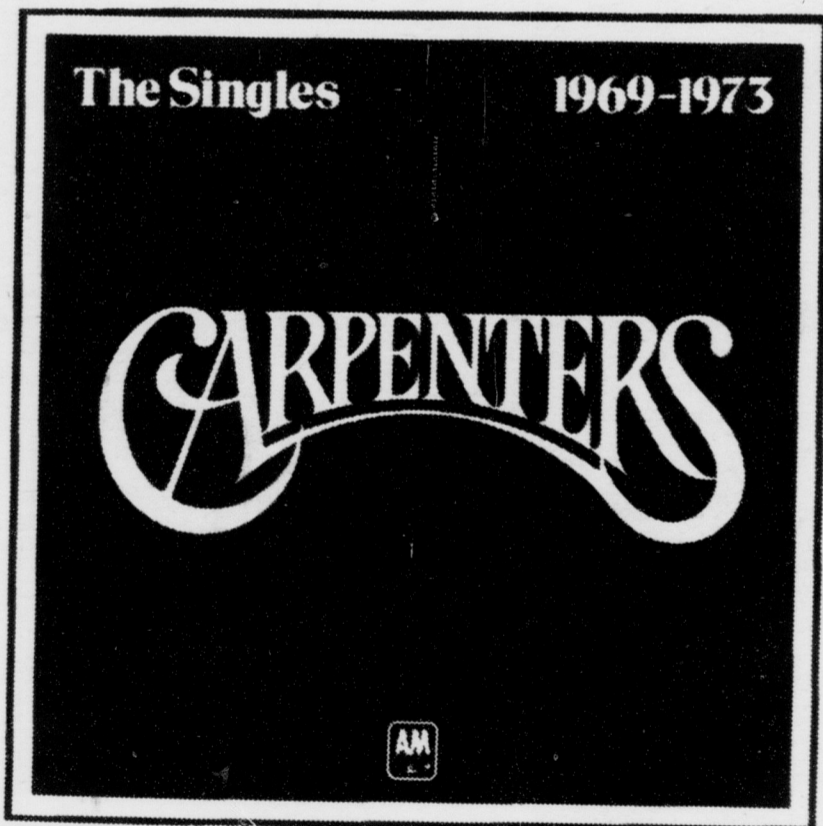
-F. W. Nietzsche



Billy's latest includes "Space Race," his smash follow-up to "Outa-Space" and "Will It Go Round In Circles."



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New albums abound for holidays

By DAVE Di MARTINO
State News Reviewer

Christmas brings more than good cheer, it brings money to a good many people. And the American record industry,

realizing this, has artificially created a Christmas rush period, in which literally hundreds of new albums are released, almost simultaneously, toward the end of the year.

This year is no exception. There are an incredible number of new albums in the market this season, all of which are eagerly awaiting your Christmas cash. To alleviate any of the obvious problems

inherent in such confusion, here is a list of albums that has been methodically compiled and reviewed for your pleasure. Hopefully, this guide can help not only as a reminder of what new albums have been released, but also as an indicator of what might make an appropriate gift for the Christmas buyer.

To begin, most of the major recording artists have unleashed their Christmas gifts on the public already. Watch for such things as:

"Quadrophenia," by The Who: Their newest release, which certainly takes off where "Tommy" left off. There was somewhat of a question as to whether The Who could ever top their "pinnacle" rock opera; this album answers the questions positively. Based on a much more credible concept than "Tommy," namely mental illness, "Quadrophenia" incorporates the character elements of each individual

group member successfully and gives the group a chance to prove that there is much more to them than their pleas to be seen, felt or touched. Townshend's composition talents have increased, and this album reinstates The Who as the premier guiding force in the music industry.

"Welcome," by Santana: Carlos Santana has been heading in this direction for a long time. This summer's shared venture with Mahavishnu John McLaughlin, "Love Devotion & Surrender," has in a way opened the door for a higher evolution in Santana's music. Jazz is the byword for the group these days. This album features the talent of McLaughlin, Alice Coltrane and famed vocalist Leon Thomas — and the entire album seems to beautifully merge together into one musical corporation. The New elements of each individual


continued on page 16

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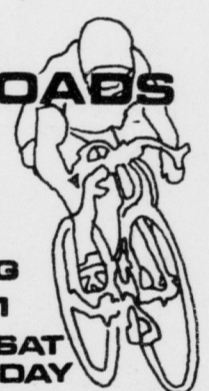
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By LEONARD N. PENIX

What do you do after the residence halls close for the holidays if your home is in Northern Mongolia and you just spent your last five bucks on Christmas cards?

This is the kind of problem which would face MSU foreign students this Christmas without August Benson and his staff at the International Center.

Benson, foreign student adviser, said that three major programs are being offered through the University this year.

One, the Friendship International House, sponsored by the Baptist ministry, enables foreign students to travel anywhere in the United States.

They will receive free room and board in American homes, student centers, or church dormitories across the country.

Students need only pay for their transportation to the nearest friendship headquarters.

The program also consists of skating parties, movies, TV, basketball and an opportunity for English improvement.

Another program, affiliated with the YWCA, allows students to travel anywhere in the United States for \$99.

At MSU, the Community Committee for International Programs, which helps foreign students to become involved in the community, also provides an attractive program.

Staffed by volunteers from MSU and East Lansing, the committee assigns interested foreign students a host family upon enrolling at MSU.

The host family acts as a home away from home for a student from abroad during his college stay.

Many families will take in their students over the break.

For those students not taking advantage of these programs, holiday housing will be provided at Holmes Hall.

Benson estimates only 8 to 10 students, mostly new international students enrolling for winter term, will live there during this break.

A Christmas dinner will be provided for those remaining on campus.

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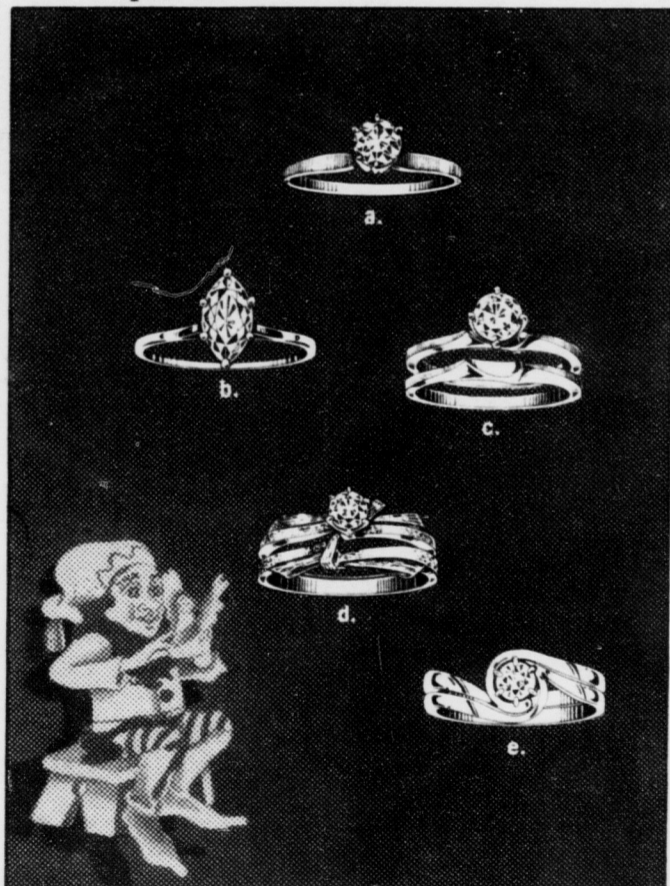
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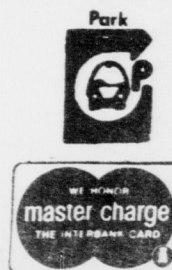
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Albums released for holidays

continued from page 14

Santana Band has matured tremendously.

"Ringo," by Ringo Star; "Mind Games," by John Lennon; The Beatles, or the remains of the Beatles, are ever-present, it seems. Both of these albums are quite good, though Lennon's talent for melody seems to be on the decline. I would recommend "Ringo" for a few reasons: First, all the Beatles are featured on this album, either separately or in groups of two with Ringo and, secondly, because the music is surprisingly good. Ringo still seems to have that bit of Beatle "magic" about him that his cohorts have lost in the past few years. Also, "Feeling the Space," by the ever-popular Yoko Ono, is a nice surprise — actually it is a pretty classy album. See for yourself. On the way, too, is Paul McCartney and Wings' Christmas album. Look out.

"Goodbye Yellow Brick

Road," by Elton John: An album that demonstrates the joys of having talent. I would be inclined to say this two-record set is a bit too much; the better material should have been released on just one disc — things wear thin. Nonetheless, this is a highly enjoyable album, with much good musicianship involved. If for some reason, you have had your doubts about Elton's talents, one listen to this will probably make your mind up, one way or the other.

"Laid Back," by Gregg Allman: The only Allman brother left has produced an extremely fine album that has toned down the obvious talent of the Allman Brothers Band, to allow the showcasing of Gregg Allman. The album is indeed laid back and quite smooth. Vocals are particularly emphasized here, and the results surpass most expectations.

"Moondog Matinee," by The Band: An album that seems to have arrived out of nowhere, "Moondog" takes classics of the '50s and classics of rhythm and blues, as opposed to teenage rock 'n' roll, and gives them a fine new musical setting. The only disappointment would have to be the lack of new material written by Robbie Robertson. Certainly an extremely talented writer, Robertson has not produced any new material for almost two years. Perhaps the ensuing national tour with Bob Dylan will give birth to more creative vibrations.

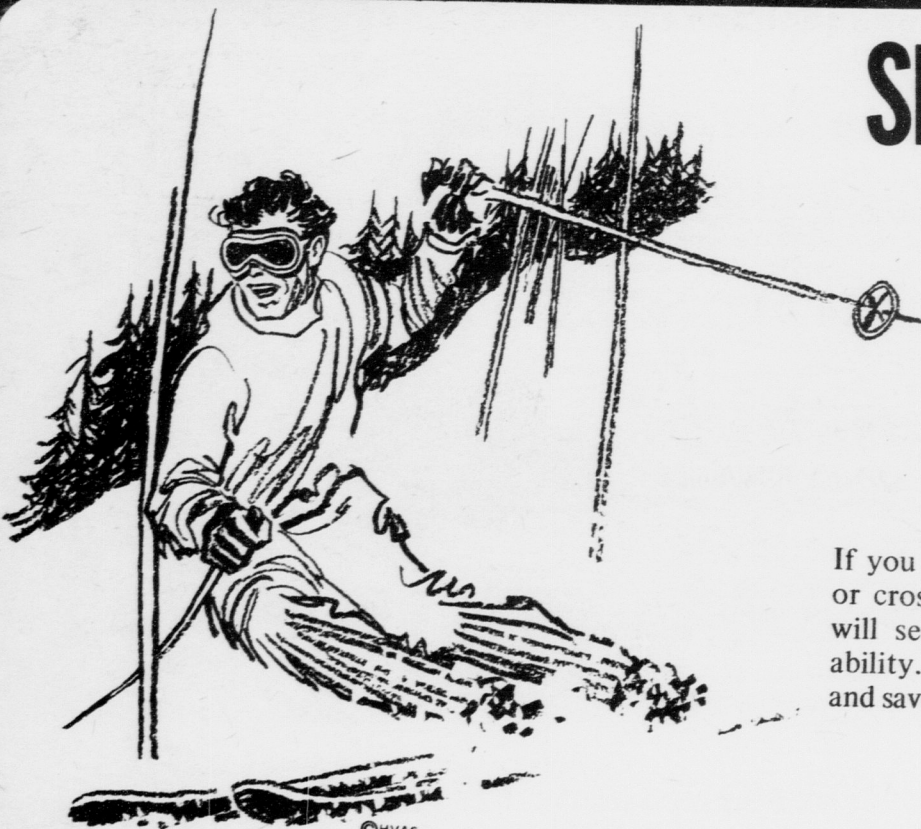
"The Beach Boys in Concert:" This is a superb album, and probably would make the ultimate Christmas gift — it exudes nothing but happiness. This consistently excellent group has proven its worth over the past decade, and now its classics have been done quite superlatively. These classics are not necessarily the most popular tunes the Beach Boys have performed, but the more artistically successful songs which have been chosen for performance. The resulting concert is excellent.

"Berlin," by Lou Reed: Previously reviewed in the State News, there is no need to reiterate that this album is most likely the best album released this year. Unfortunately, the entire album package, and Reed's message behind it, do not particularly seem in the best of holiday spirit. A little bit of good taste is in order here, I would say.

"Pin Ups," by David Bowie: This is a great album. It would probably make a good Christmas present, though at this time I suppose everyone who wants the damn thing probably already has it.

"Brain Salad Surgery," by Emerson, Lake and Palmer: Finally, a new release from this extremely popular group: The new album seems much more restrained and tasteful than their two previous efforts. This time, the class of the group seems authentic, and the musicianship shows it. This

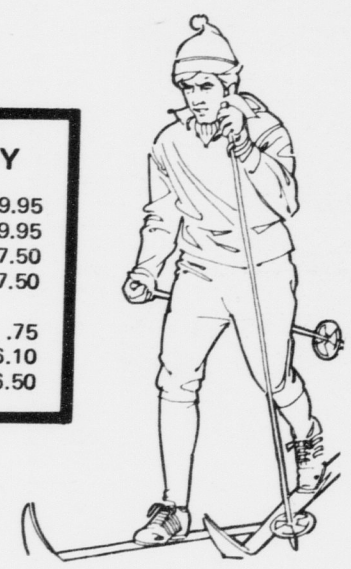
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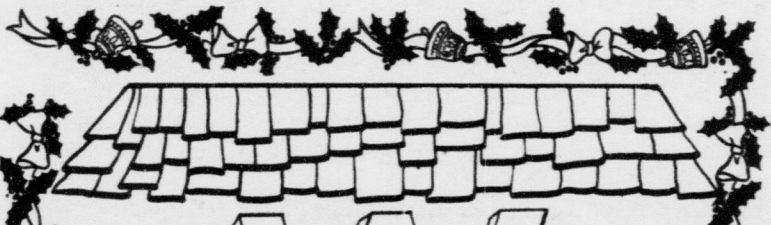
OLIN VOLKL
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Theater group to give musical play for children

The Dept. of Theater has a tuneful Christmas present for the children of the Lansing area. "Babes in Toyland," Victor Herbert's enchanting children's musical, will be the second production of the 1973 - 74 Arena Theater season. Set in the fantasy world of Mother Goose Land, this comical adventure for all ages follows the plight of Mary and Alan, two young lovers who are pursued by the villainous Barnaby at Toyland. The musical score includes the popular "Toyland" and the exciting military dance "March of the Toys."

"Babes in Toyland" features a gallery of charming characters including Mary Contrary, Tom the Piper's son, a domineering widow, a fairy queen, a lovable toymaker, an evil spider and a heroic bear. Jerry Ziaja will appear as the hero Alan. Nancy Baumgartel will be seen as the sweet heroine Mary and Carl Saloga will play the wicked Barnaby. Others in the cast include Elma McRae, Richard Chew and Robert Novak.

Director and coordinator of children's theater at MSU, John Baldwin, will also be directing "Babes in Toyland." The production will open in the Arena Theater Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 8 and 9 at 2 and 7 p.m. Children's group rates are available. Tickets may be purchased at the Fairchild Theater Box Office beginning Monday for \$1 each. For more information call 355-0148.



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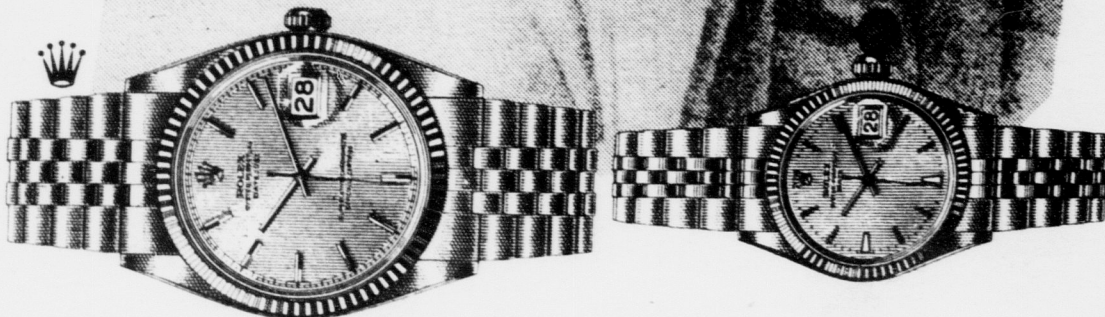
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Create presents this Christmas

By SUSAN AGER
 State News Staff Writer

If post - preregistration blues leave your pockets and checking account bare, shop your mind and your skills for Christmas gifts instead.

Remember that a gift is precious because it comes from you, either as a token of love, appreciation or respect. If you are not giving it for one of those reasons, then do not give it.

The best gifts are those that are the hardest to give — that either take time or great effort to sacrifice. Giving a book you have enjoyed, a plant you have nurtured to maturity or a painting you have gazed at for many hours can mean more to someone who knows you than spending any amount of money.

Philosophers talk of giving of yourself, usually only figuratively. But for someone you have not seen for awhile, the best gift might be a visit from you, a stroll together in the park, a day shopping with grandma (or even mom), — simply your time and attention.

Everyone likes to eat. Make (do not buy) some chocolate chip cookies or some licorice ice cream or some rhubarb relish for a friend.

Most people also like reminders of things (and people) they love. Borrow a camera if you have to and take a picture of a scene (or a person, even yourself) a friend might enjoy. Frame it yourself in an old frame or one you have varnished.

Make promises, promises you can keep. Tell your girlfriend you will take her wherever she wants to go before the bells of 1974 chime. Tell your mom you will give her a permanent the next time she needs one.

Make a very personal memory box. Use ticket stubs, pictures and words from magazines and other junk. Glue everything randomly onto a cigar box, then coat with a thin layer of Elmer's glue which will leave the box smooth and shiny.

Even the smallest gift becomes an exciting surprise when it comes in the mail. Wrap it in good old brown paper, tie it with string...and remember to send it early, even if only to someone in your own house. Crayon "Do not open till Christmas" in strategic spots.

For friends or family far from home, pack some snow in a baby food jar, and send it along with a spring from the family Christmas tree.

Give a kiss to someone you normally would not this Christmas.


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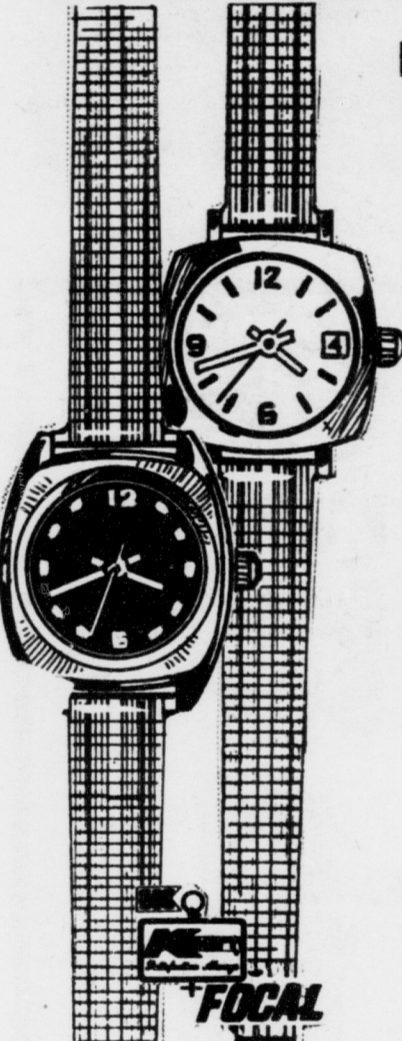
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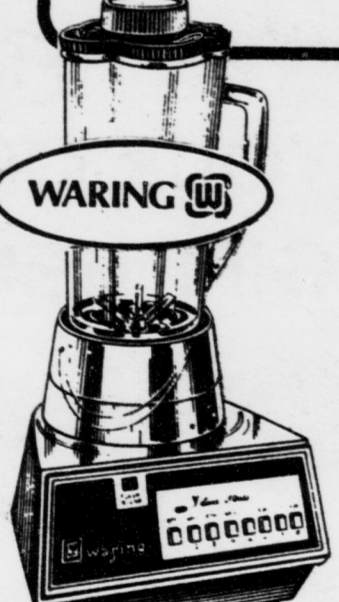
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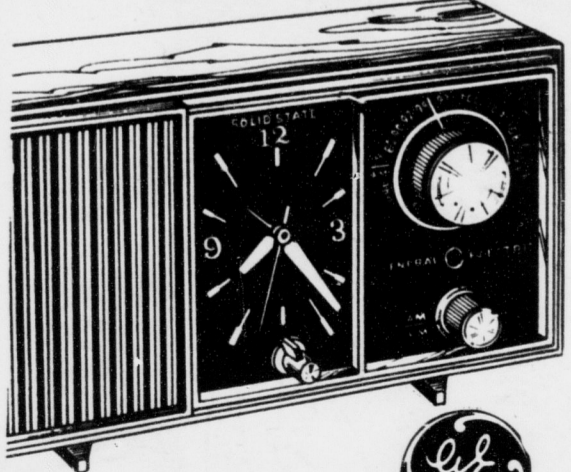
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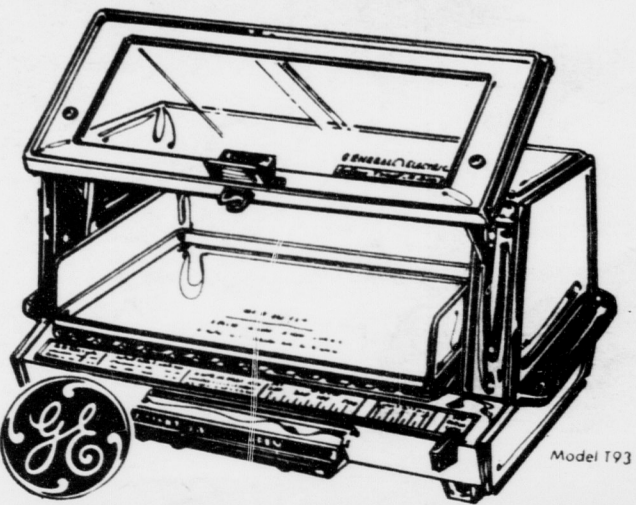
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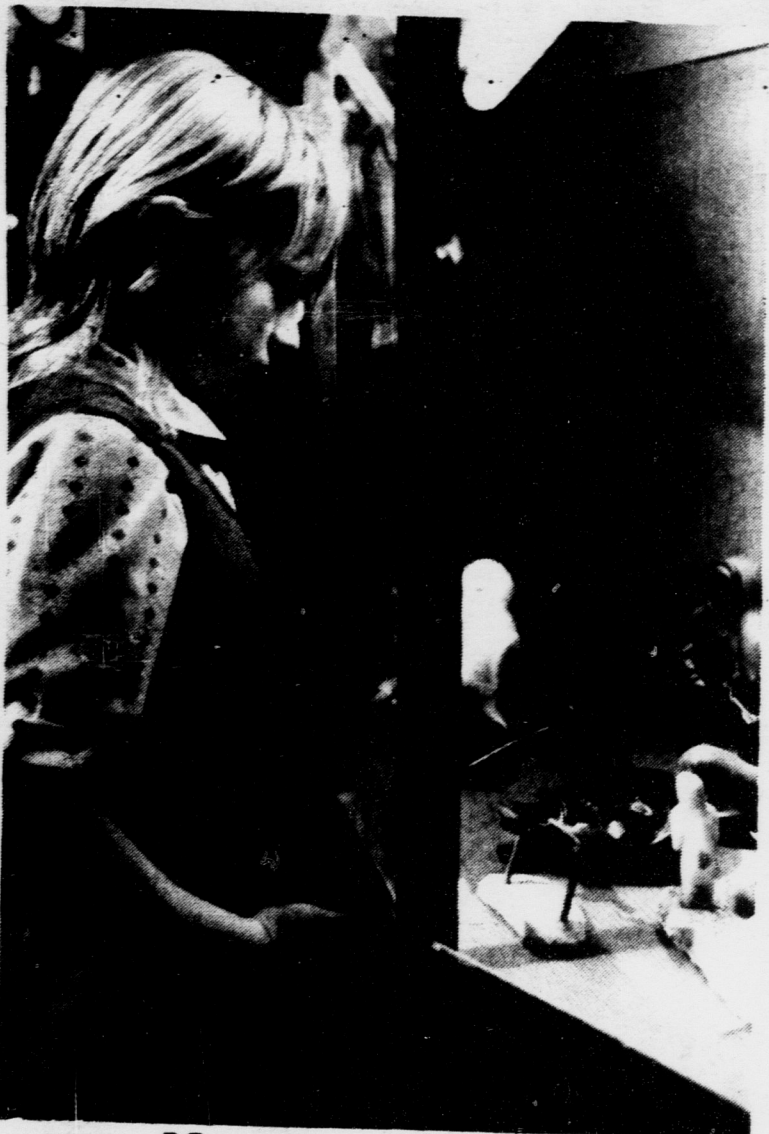
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Michigan State News, East Lansing, Michigan

Want to buy a peacock for a gift?



Museum musing

Cheryl Keck, Lansing, inspects some of the gifts available at the MSU Museum gift shop.
State News photo by David Schmier

By DIANA BUCHANAN
State News Staff Writer

Instead of trying to buy a partridge in a pear tree for Christmas this year why not buy a Bogorodsk pecking peacock? The MSU Museum gift emporium has many unique gifts — everything from the Russian peacock to snuff bottles from the Peoples Republic of China.

The prices range from a nominal 5 cents for a printed card to \$500 for an American Indian turquoise and silver squash blossom necklace. Almost the entire selection of gifts are one of a kind and usually handmade.

The gift shop is newly remodeled from a counter space in the first floor lobby to a shop with glass cases, tiffany-style lamps and items from all over the world for the gift seeker to find.

"The shop has been open for about eight years, but now we're trying to gear the items toward the American crafts. For Christmas there will be some homemade crafts from the Appalachian area and glass snow balls like the original ones with Kris Kringle in them," Carole Long, manager of the Museum shop, said.

The shop is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends from 1 to 5 p.m. The crafts the shop displays are often examples of what the Museum has in its own academic displays.

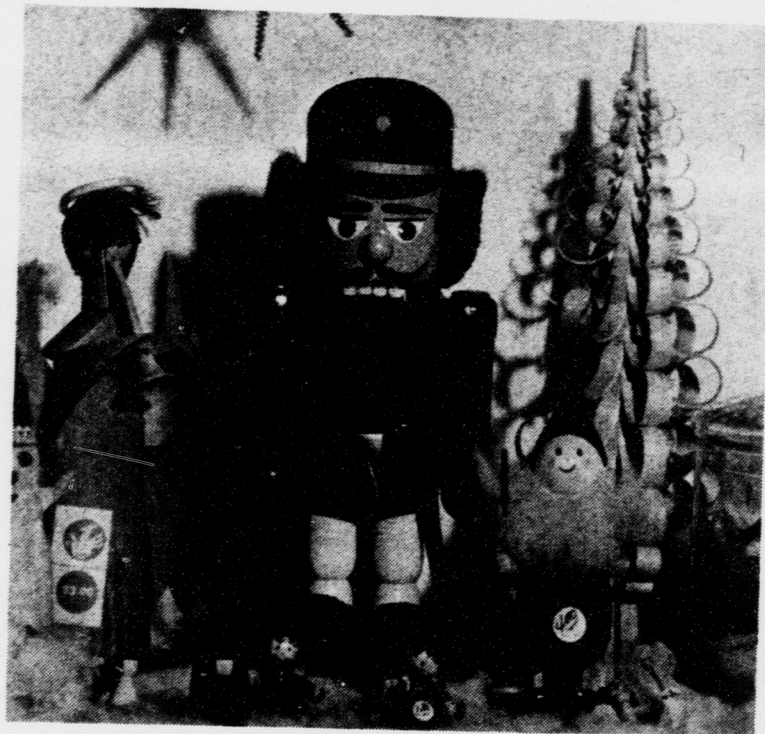
"Some of the crafts have been picked up by people while they traveled and brought to the Museum to be sold. We have a lot of things that no one else in town has. I looked around, so I know," Long said.

Prices are usually lower at the shop than at other stores where the items can be bought.

"The same squash blossom necklace that we have for \$500 I've seen advertised for \$750 in large department stores." Long

said. The shop has puppets from Formosa, papier-mache boxes and maks from India, colored leather purses from the West African Hausa tribe, as well as Christmas ornaments from Germany, Sweden and Austria.

The shop can supply an array of gifts from cookbooks to original wall hangings to toys and jewelry to satisfy most any taste and will be open until Christmas Eve, in addition to the regular term.



Gift ideas

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM YOUR OFF-CAMPUS GIFT HEADQUARTERS



Campus Book Store



Albums good for gift giving

continued from page 16

album is highly recommended — watch out for the cover art.

"Live Dates," by Wishbone Ash: A promising group from England continues to show their promise. Most of the group's more famous songs can be found redone here. I can not help thinking that if this group would just add a decent singer and songwriter, they would be an unstoppable powerhouse group. Still, no complaints with this album.

"Selling England By the Pound," by Genesis: If ever I was to recommend an album that should be immediately purchased, even if unheard, it would have to be this one. A tremendously popular group in England, Genesis is just beginning to break into the American music scene. This, their fourth (believe it or not) American album, displays the group at its finest. Imagine a cross between Jethro Tull, King Crimson, Yes, Family and Emerson, Lake and Palmer, and you will have a good idea of what this very progressive group sounds like. No questions — you must buy this album.

"Preservation Act One," by the Kinks: This is a welcome album from one of the world's greatest, and longest-lived, groups in the music business. Ray Davies, singer and songwriter beyond compare, has composed a sequel to the Kink's ultimate album, "The Village Green Preservation Society." And, as usual, when Davies writes of his English homeland, he is at his creative best. Do not pass this album up.

"Witness," by Spooky Tooth: After their reformation, this group has been touring quite rigorously in the United States. Surprisingly enough, they have managed to record a new album, somewhere in between stops. The record does not immediately reach out and grab you, as was the case with the Spooky Tooth of old — but it certainly grows on you. The more listens it gets, the better it sounds. A worthy successor to "You Broke My Heart, So I Busted Your Jaw."

"Inside out," by John Martyn: An amazingly beautiful album. Martyn was last seen in the United States on tour with Traffic and Free, and he reportedly stole the show several times. His newest release is perhaps his most peaceful, and soothingly smooth. I do not know of anyone who does not like this artist after first hearing his music.

"Space Ritual," by Hawkwind: Science-fiction rock and roll here, along with a lot of fun. This group specializes in effects — musical repetition and wild synthesizers along with blaring saxophones are a constant in their music. This, a live performance of their "Space Ritual," is certainly not a disappointment by any means. Parts of the narration were written in collaboration with British science-fiction writer Michael Moorcock. Space rock, if desired, can be better found in today's typically avant-garde European groups, such as Amon Duul II, Can, Magma, Neu and others in that genre. However, Hawkwind is simply the most accessible space group around . . . and they are fun, too! Give your mother a copy for Christmas and watch the happy results.

In conclusion, I would say that there is one album that stands out as a totally unique musical recording. It is the one-of-a-kind masterpiece that appeals to almost every musical taste conceivable. Called "Tubular Bells," the album was recorded solely by Michael Oldfield, an English youth who spent months playing and overdubbing a startling array of musical instruments, to produce this continuously flowing, perpetually moving instrumental composition.

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FAA, unionizing ground St. Nick

By JONATHAN S. KAUFMAN
State News Staff Writer

It was the night before Christmas. As Santa Claus greased the runners of his sled, there came a knock at the door.

"Who are you?" asked the jolly old elf. "Another damned reporter that wants an interview — right in the middle of the busy season!"

"Are you Claus, alias Kris Kringle, alias St. Nicholas?" asked the visitor, flashing a badge. "I'm from the Federal Aviation Administration — we understand you're planning an overflight of the continental United States."

"I should say so," said Santa. "I've been making 'em for the last 2,000 years."

"Then let me see your license."

"My what?"

"Your license."

"I need a license to fly my miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer?"

"Just as I thought," sighed the official, "no license." He wrote out a summons and handed it to Santa. "You're grounded for the duration, Claus," he said, and left.

"Bureaucrat," muttered Santa, as an elf carrying a picket sign walked into the room. The sign, with the symbol of a black reindeer, carried the words "Viva la Huelga!"

"What's this?" asked Santa.

"We're unionizing, Claus," said the elf. "For 2,000 years we've built your crummy toys for girls and boys, and we haven't even gotten a pension."

"But I thought—"

"Thirty and out or we strike, old man!" Quickly the elves formed a picket line around their workshop, and began chanting "Boycott street corners and department stores, down with ho, ho, ho," just as the television news cameras arrived.

Santa, realizing he was behind schedule, started to fill his giant bag of toys himself ("Scab, scab," cried the elves) when another government agent walked in and demanded to know where the reindeer were.

"What's it to you?" said Santa, now thoroughly exasperated.

"Defense Dept.," said the agent. "We couldn't get enough oil to run our military machine, so..." And he headed toward the stables.

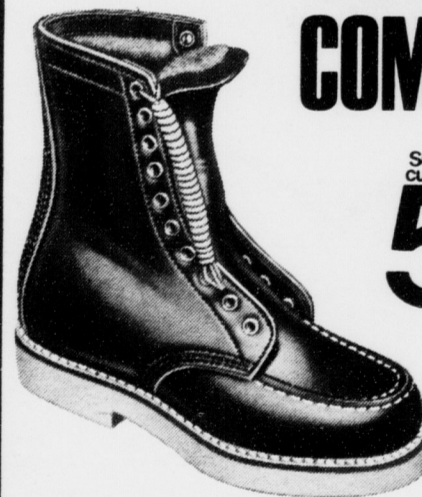
"But reindeer can't be used to pull around tanks and jeeps!.. Santa shouted.

"Don't worry," said the agent, "if they don't work out, there's always the meat shortage."

Mass conscription over, Santa was left in a now - deserted workroom with just a bag of toys and an immense pile of reindeer dung.

Winding his weary way to the bus stop, the twinkle in his eye gone, the rosy cheeks now somewhat sallow, an ache in his shoulder from carrying the toys, Santa was mugged by a polar bear.

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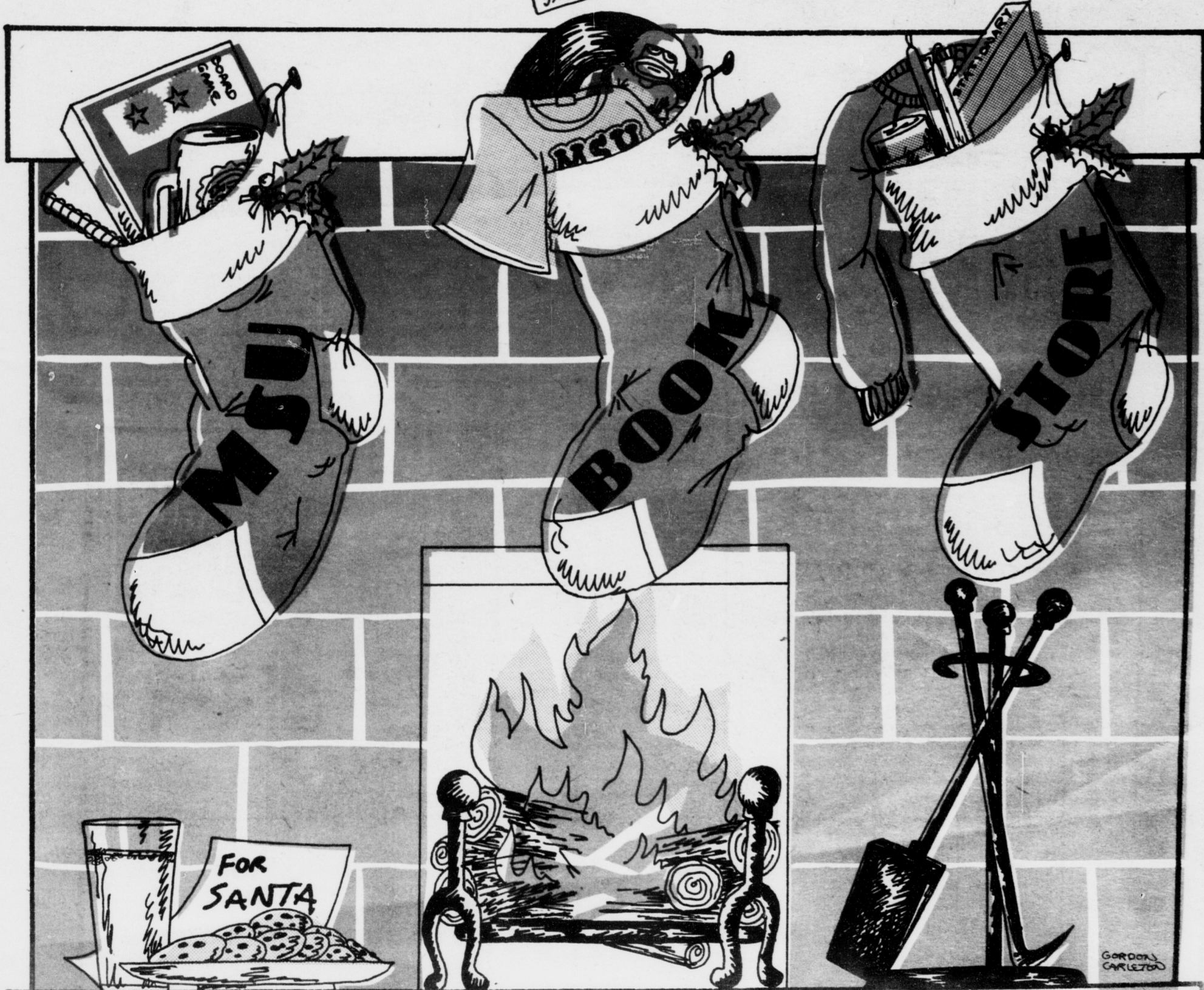
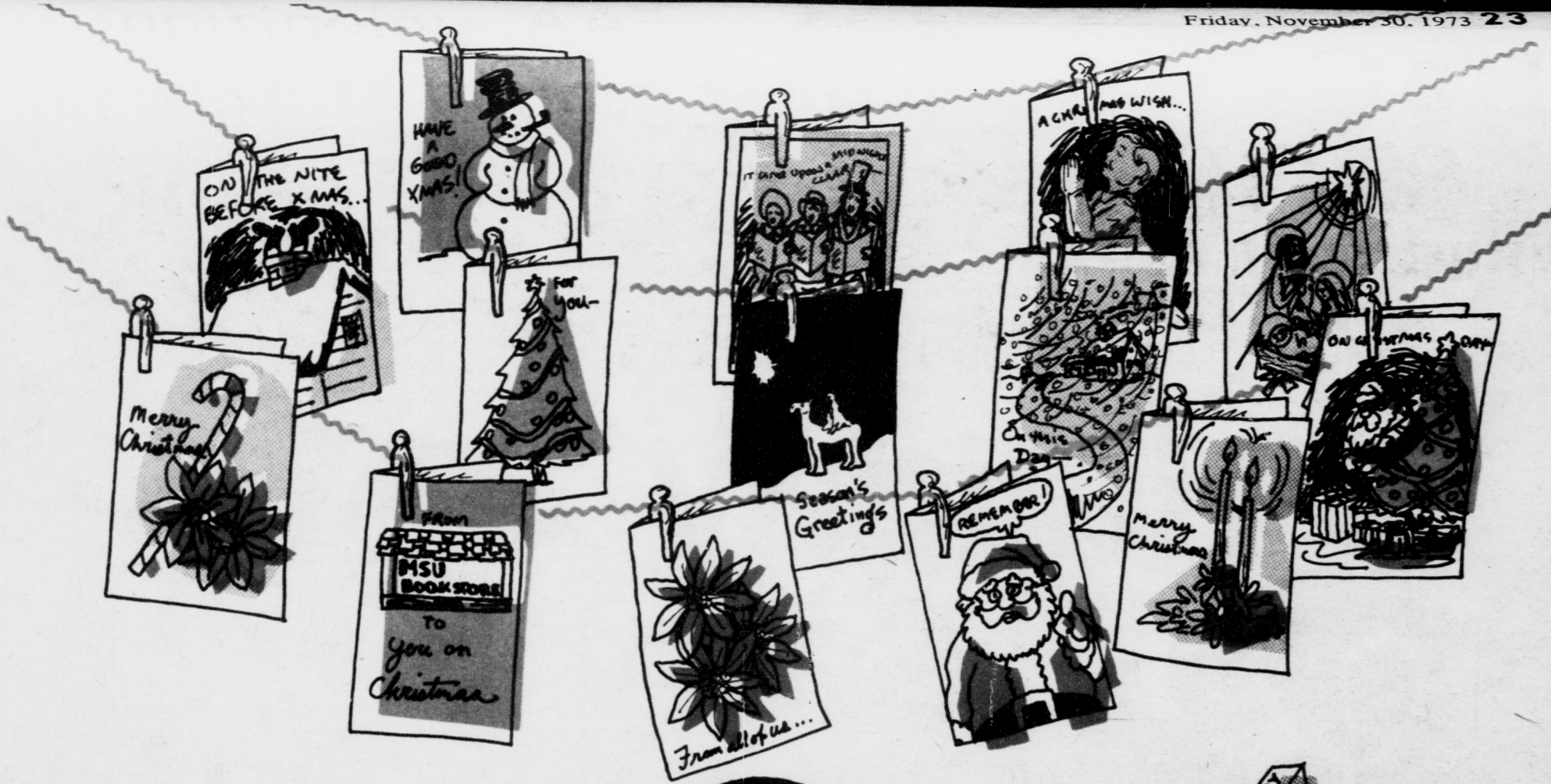
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