Doubts surface over student's rape story

By JACQUELINE PETER
Philadelphia Police are investigating rape allegations made by a student that may have been reported to police a year ago.

A recent rash of sexual offenses has caused concern among students. In recent weeks, police have speculated that the rape occurred on Market Street. But police say the rape was actually reported to them a year ago.

Police are still investigating the incident, but say they have no concrete evidence yet.

Exhaust fumes cited for Stitelar gas leaks

By DEREK WISE
Initial investigations have indicated that the fumes are being created by a gas leak in the basement of the Stitelar building. The gas leak was first discovered by the university's Environmental Health Safety Matthew Finucane said. The leak has been isolated and the university is currently working to contain it.

No longer a network prisoner, cult show to return to area TV

By JOHN MCCLEN
It is probably one of the strangest events that ever made its way to the biggest network. But that's exactly what "The Prisoner" is. The 1967 series was a hit on all three major networks and ran for three years.

The series is about a man who is suddenly left his job. Suddenly, he is given a new government funded task. He is asked to go to a foreign country and track down a group of prisoners that are suspected of being a threat to national security.

But this time, the show is different. Instead of being a political thriller, it is a story about a man who is trying to save the world from an alien invasion. The show is about a man who is trying to save the world from an alien invasion. The show is about a man who is trying to save the world from an alien invasion.

With '83 problems in mind, U. works to prevent frozen pipes

By WILL MARTY
Everyone knows that the winter months can be a challenge for utilities. But this year, Penn students are looking for ways to prevent frozen pipes from causing problems.

A Penn student, John D. Smith, has come up with a plan to prevent frozen pipes on campus. Smith's plan involves using a system of underground pipes to transport water to the different buildings on campus. The system would allow water to flow even in the event of a power outage.

Study: U. outdraws Cornell for frosh

By DEREK WISE
Cornell University has been the top competitor for students in the region's student market, admissions officials said.

But over the past six years, the university has seen a drop in applications, with more students who were accepted by both schools attending the University. The data is based on a survey conducted by the University's admissions office.

University admissions officials say that the university is developing a new development in the region, which will also include the University of Pennsylvania, since the school is not in a direct market competition with Cornell for the top student prospects. The University of Pennsylvania is in the region, but the university has not been a direct competitor with Cornell for the top student prospects.
**Campus Events**

**A listing of University news and events**

**The Daily Pennsylvania Business & Advertising Offices will close early at 3 p.m. today.**

**The last issue of The Daily Pennsylvania for 1984 will be published on Monday.**

**Publication will resume on January 16, 1985.**

**The Daily Pennsylvania Business and Advertising Offices will remain open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday until December 21.**

**The Daily Pennsylvania. Board of Managers**

recognizes the efforts and contributions of the following Business Department Assistant Managers:

**Finance**

David K. Loechner
Catherine G. Saffer

**Production**

Marlene Kagen
Robb Tauber

Thanks for all your hard work!**

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**Campus Events**

**Phone graphs for quality phototypeset 926-1111**

**Gunneri kill two Americans in Iran**

**News in Brief**

**Compiled from Associated Press dispatches**

**Japanese steel cutters to export**

**WASHINGTON** — Japanese steelmakers said yesterday they were "pretty close" to reaching a settlement with the US government over alleged overcharges on their exports to the United States, and the top US trade negotiator said negotiations were "in progress." This is the first time in two years that Tokyo and Washington have met to discuss the matter, which centers on alleged "dumping" of steel from Japan at below cost to the US market.

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The Wrong Perspective

Photographs by
Tommy Leonardi
Adam Gordon
Fritz von Bulow
Noxious Inaction...

It's very easy that some gas fans have been built into the Stroller Daniel classroom. But it's uncommon that the administration does anything about it.

A linguist claims she noticed Physical Plant's Environmental Health and Safety Department was told about the problem until Wednesday. And even if Physical Plant is to blame, it looks like a classroom area, one would hope that maintenance workers might be reminded of something as unusual - and as dangerous - as the stroller.

...and Obnoxious Actions

What started as an open area to discuss the controversial research at the Medical School's Head Injury Research Clinic is turning into an unappealing battle of wills.

Ages ago, it seems, the administration agreed to a request by 13 law school professors to hold a series of discussions on the research. But what started as one of the few possible victories in the long controversy has turned into a boomerang fed by two sides that appear unwilling to compromise.

It is said that the administration is malignly unable to control the agenda for the meeting. At any rate, if the two sides do not meet, the plan for the meeting is off. In this instance, the plan for the meeting is off.

The law professors also should give up their right to have the conference participants view an excerpted version of videotaped research at the head injury clinic.

Even this issue aside, the administration has summarily refused to view the tapes - which are nothing more than stolen property.

And here's the catch: There is no real need for the conference to view the tapes; these issues can be discovered adequately without the making of illegal evidence. Finally, the tapes contain no information which cannot be relayed verbally by the professors at the meeting.

The professional integrity the head of discussions was indeed, a prerequisite one. Unfortunately, this appears impossible, given the lack of a compromise, in essence creating a controversy over nothing.

It's just too bad.

Letters to the Editor

Escort Service: Last Call at 2 a.m.?

To the Editor:

Last Monday night I was in High Room South - 340, waiting for work to call on a marketing project. It was nearing 2 a.m. and I was bored. I don't do much of that, but the thought of walking home by myself at that time and then I looked at Escort Service. I called and the man told me that I would be picked up at 3 a.m. for $10.

The next day I was scheduled to interview the "Office of Public Safety." What public are they keeping? Because it's obviously not the one for me. I do believe that the administration should do something about this.

JODY D. HOBOROWITZ

LGAP Story: Not Self-Hated

To the Editor:

Will you criticize the laggers - or is it really a get-up.

Yes, Yedinsky has been on the G.P. (11-27-84) argued for the laggers generated by "The Rise and Fall of the American Left". Since the New York Times has been re-established in 1964, 10-26-84 has "shut it down" because both the publication of the book and the gas self-hated.

Yedinsky's entire argument hinges on the erroneous premise that "The Rise and Fall of the American Left" is negatively on the lives of lesbians and gay men. It's a self-hating argument, or at least, a self-hating argument which possesses, as Ms. Yedinsky recognizes, the literary beauty of a book with a negative title and the negative title as a subject. Furthermore, the story depicts the lives of a set of people who have had the courage to emerge from the shadows of the American Left and to take a public position in the open.

It's time to stop. It's time to stop. It's time to stop. It's time to stop.

Mr. Yedinsky also disparages the author's use of a pseudonym. There is ample literary precedent for the use of a pseudonym. Would we demand Clemente's Mark, Twain, Mary Evans her George Eliot, or Carolyn Kizer her Jonathos? The story here is not about "secrecy," or the pseudonym "self-oppressed" and "self-opposed." We ask what is more, the aesthetics, the abilities and the knowledge of what she terms a "negative" character means the negative character. Does Philip Roth think that? It's not the same.

Mr. Yedinsky's argument is that the administration is the source.

Towards the Rise and Fall of the American Left...
He's Making His List

Part One: What does Penn want for Christmas? In spite of widespread demands to the contrary, the answer to this question is surprisingly simple: a series of changes thought to be a lot easier to accomplish than the major reforms that many would like to see. Despite being a relatively early date for most students, some in class remain braced for the winter break that is warily held at bay in the form of a debate on what to do about the holidays. Finding that their concerns are valid, a large group of students, faculty, and alumni are engaged in a lively discussion about the best way to use the time before the holidays. As the debate rages on, one thing becomes clear: there is no easy answer.

Part Two: What does the merger and shareholders' approval mean? Despite the optimism expressed by the merger, many are concerned about the future of Penn. The merger is seen as an important step towards the realization of Penn's vision, but it is also a reminder of the challenges that lie ahead. As the debate continues, it becomes clear that there is no single solution to the problems facing the university. Instead, a series of small steps must be taken, each one building on the work of the previous one. Only then can Penn truly make the changes it needs to address the challenges of the 21st century.

Part Three: What is the most beautiful hearing of music that you have ever heard in class? This question taps into a deep human need for connection and appreciation. Music has the power to evoke emotions, transport us to other worlds, and bring us closer together. In this section, we explore the different ways in which music can be experienced and appreciated, and the role it plays in our daily lives. From the intimate setting of a concert hall to the open air of a festival, music is a universal language that brings people together.

DE CASU DIABOLI/James Ross

Growing Up

Or How the Bearer Of Light The Power of Darkness

The light of childhood, like a beacon, guides us towards the unknown. But as we grow older, that light becomes less distinct, and the darkness that surrounds us becomes more apparent. In this essay, I explore the nature of this transition, and the ways in which we navigate it. As we move from the的安全段 to the more challenging ones, we must learn to trust our instincts, to rely on ourselves, and to seek guidance when needed. The path is not always clear, but with perseverance and determination, we can find our way.

Ready...Go!/Ted Kruckel

Lock It Up

By Maye Morrison

The weather is making the city of Philadelphia more secure. You need to take some precautions to make sure that your belongings are safe.

1. If you own a car, make sure to keep it in good condition. This will help to prevent break-ins and theft.
2. If you live in an apartment, make sure to lock your doors and windows.
3. If you use public transportation, be sure to keep an eye on your belongings. This will help to prevent pickpocketing.
4. If you are walking outside, be aware of your surroundings. This will help to prevent muggings.

By the end of the week, we will have written plans for the next phase of the security program. We will be working closely with the local police department to ensure that our plans are effective and that our community is protected.

Quotation of the Day

"The International City will be Philadelphia style. We can never imagine another divided Front. William Rush MM.PORTERMAN on his plans to ennoble Philadelphia into a great city"
Seems Letters at our cooperation attempt to discuss the issues surrounding controversial research at the Medical School. Head Injury Research Clinic is turning into an unpromising battle of wills.

Ages ago, it seems, the administration agreed to a request by 11 Law School professors to hold a series of discussions on the research. But what started as one of the first positive developments in the long controversy has turned into a bucking feed by two sides that appear unwilling to compromise.

So it seems that the administration is insisting on pre-determining the agenda for the meetings. After all, it was the professors who raised the issue in the first place. Very soon, the two sides will switch their focus to the importance of patient confidentiality. It appears to be a decision to forbid the presence of non-professionals, including the press, at the meeting.

As long as the professor assure the administration that the adviser will not otherwise involve him or her, the law professors at the conference will interpret a request by 13 Law School professors to hold a promise for an exchange on the research. But this promise has now succeeded in obscuring that the professors at the meeting.

I have heard that the advisor will not otherwise involve him or her, the law professors at the conference will interpret a request by 13 Law School professors to hold a promise for an exchange on the research. But this promise has now succeeded in obscuring that the professors at the meeting.

The health and safety of members of the Medical School community were at stake, and at the very least, the administration should call an independent panel to review the research.

The recent rash of crimes and sexual assault has again highlighted the inherent dangers of attending a school in an urban community. It is ironic that this problem has been revealed in the need to take care when walking around campus.

Both top law schools are at the center of numerous allegations about sexual misconduct and harassment.

WAKE THE KIDS/ Stefan Fatsis
Under Fire

When a newspaper, magazine or television network is confronted with information that could potentially damage the reputation of an individual or organization, they have a responsibility to interpret the information accurately. This is especially true when it comes to sensitive topics such as corruption or illegal activity.

The recent controversy surrounding the investigation of a high-profile political figure highlights the importance of accurate reporting. The investigation, which was conducted by a prominent law firm, has raised questions about the individual's involvement in a byzantine network of corruption.

The investigation was conducted by a prominent law firm, which is known for its expertise in handling complex cases. However, the results of the investigation have been met with skepticism by some members of the public.

It's important to consider the potential consequences of inaccurate reporting. If a newspaper, magazine or television network fails to accurately report the information, it could lead to a loss of trust among readers or viewers.

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De Casu Diaboli/James Ross

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of Satan.

de Casu Diaboli/James Ross

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The fact is, good ideas don't care who has them. What good ideas
do care about is who recognizes them. Your chance for recognition is
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Amnesty Intl’s sets events series
Group seeks to publicize human rights abuses

By LAURA CARRIHER
The University chapter of International Amnesty (IA) is participating in the world wide "Stop Torture Week," an event where students can write letters to the governments of Brazil, the Soviet Union, and the Philippines pretending the torture of their own students.
The group also will sponsor a series of speeches and films designed to raise awareness of human rights abuses.

The activities will end Monday, Human Rights Day, the 58th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. The group will sponsor a display of information about torture. The display will be in Houston Hall from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. After the speakers, the audience will be asked to write letters which will be sent to the corner of 36th and Walnut Streets to International Amnesty Group in New York.

According to Isabel Sardas, president of the University chapter, "Writing is a very important part of the group’s activities."
The chapter is a member of A.I., because most of the governments employing torture have signed international agreements condemning its practice," Sardas said Wednesday.

Sardas said that by pressuring the governments with a real campaign, the group hopes to demonstrate awareness of the human rights abuses throughout the world.

Sardas said the basic purpose of the group is to educate the community about the severity of the problem of human rights abuses.

The group, which has 600 members in countries throughout the world, seeks to release all prisoners on political grounds to assure them and the world that they will not be sent back to jail.

The group is trying to end all forms of torture.

We want to see the changing profile of where students are interested in going to school, and also to see the other schools that Penn students compete against. We want to keep track of how competitive we are in the media for students.

We added that although the list is relatively static, smaller shifts have been noticed. We added that the University's chapter, "We keep a pretty good left on, and we think our competition is with the Iron and good price of private schools." Senior Patrow, vice president of the University chapter, "we really want to make students aware of the human rights abuses."

We are no competition for Harvard. We do very well with Cornell and the other schools that Penn students compete against. We want to keep track of how competitive we are in the media for students.

We added that, although the list is relatively static, smaller shifts have been noticed. We added that it is important to keep the list in case there is a large and sudden shift in competition.

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Speaker: Robin Porter

Admission FREE. Lunch Provided RSVP 386-0234

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Complete Handicapped Access

Attendance 11:00 A.M. Worship Service invited but optional.

**W. U. TWINERIZES RESIDENCES**

To those of you who we have not had the opportunity to

**STUDENT RAPE INCIDENT**

(Continued from page 1)

Weberstein said that the Sex Crimes Unit of the Philadelphia Police Department tends to have more

**Thank you for recycling**

this newspaper

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**SPEECH SET ON ETHIOPIAN FAMINE**

KYW REPORTER TO DISCUSS AREA TRIP

By TRICIA ORSTEAD

Calling it "the most demanding crisis of our time...of this decade," KYW television commentator Jack<br>McKee was named as the first recipient of a special award for having brought the famine in Ethiopia to the<br>attention of the American public. McKee was welcomed at the ceremony by the Union League, which is com-<br>mitted to the Christian Association, World Vision, and the Refugio Center.

**Srebrenica**

Kaiser's permanent home, the uninsured, and the innocent "They're trying to understand their situation, and what the current proposals are of the U.S. and Ethio-<br>

---

**THE ONLY X-RATED OMELETTES IN PHILADELPHIA**

We have an omelette called "Mengele A Toast" an omelette with 4 eggs, 2 pork chops, 1 ham, and a serving of bread, biergarten. It's a serious eating experience that would not be a success were it not for the !

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For over seven years, many of you have been steady customers here at my salon, NEW YORK, NEW YORK. To thank you for your patronage for all these years, we'd like to make the WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12, 1984 PENN APPRECIATION WEEK. All services, which include cutting, perming, and coloring will be 10% off with student ID.

To those of you who we have not had the opportunity to serve, please feel free to take advantage of this special offer, too. We're sure that after just one visit, you'll be another happy client as well.

**Sincerely,**

**JERRY AND MICKEY BELL**

Owners, New York, New York

2012 Walnut Street

567-2722

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**CHURCH OF THE SAVIOR**

3373 CHESTNUT ST.
PENN SYLVANIA, PA. 19104

The Historical Brownstone Church Located 380 at Ludlow Sts. (Between Chestnut and Market Sts. on 38th)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 1984

11:00 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST

Topic: “CHRISTIANITY IN THE 20TH C.”

Speaker: Robin Porter

Admission FREE. Lunch Provided RSVP 386-0234

All are Welcome. Nurse Care Available

Complete Handicapped Access

Attendance 11:00 A.M. Worship Service invited but optional.

---

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2012 Walnut Street

567-2722
Cult TV show 'The Prisoner' readies for run on PBS station

"A rerun from last year, "The Prisoner" gradually loses many fans since the average life of a TV show," Quarrington said. "I'm not sure we'll be able to see the entire series, but we can expect the show to be very interesting."

Quarrington said he hopes the series will attract a new generation of viewers this time around.

"It is one of those cult series we hope will appeal to old viewers as well as a new generation," he said. "It would probably be popular to those who have a certain queasiness that works well with, viewing."

Due to a production error, photographic credits were inadvertently omitted from yesterday's Holiday Shopping Guide supplement to the DP. The photo essay was by Adam Gordon, and other pictures were taken by Fritz von Bulow, Scott Langston, Tommy Leonardi, Marc Poulshock and Gail Schwartz. Dan Schmutter was the Photo Day Editor for the supplement.
**PENN BALALAICA ORCHESTRA**

December 7 at 7:30 PM

Happy Hour

Pitchers

D.J. and Dancing

Overpriced taxi rides

(Continued from page 1)

They have been involved in a cab rate, although they might get a receipt from a problem their license with the Future w/a Visa

Wear your favorite "Christmas Tree" hat to the drive. This is the first time we've tried something like this, and we're excited. We feel that large bars prevent enough pressure directly, and that the hazy situation have been in the student's report. Depending on the weather, you can expect things to be a little bit more congested around the block.

We would also like to make you aware of the services we offer in relation to reviewing campus productions.

We are offering free pickup service to both you and your students, and at a very low cost.

Please give us a chance. We're sure our service will satisfy you.
Two Socialist Party members chosen to PPU executive board

D. WILFRED

The Penn Political Union chose two Socialist Party members as chairmen of their election organization which represents political discussions and speakers on campus. PPU is comprised of four parties representing different political philosophies.

Lancaster, a College junior, said last night that while the organization has lost membership under his leadership, he is proud that he added a new party, the Socialist Party. "I think the [Presidential] election resulted in some disillusionment in students," Popkin said. "Vote hoping that now that the effects of the elections are known, students will be concerned with the issues."

Caspar Weinberger and Robert MacNeil, Secretary of State, will be one of the speakers in the PPU, which will be represented by two members on the board for the first time, came as a surprise to most PPU members.

One of the goals is to increase PPU membership, which fell from 40 to 25 over the past year. "Primarily the goal is to get as many people involved as we can," Schwitser said, "We're under the impression that the only way to spread this is to get people to speak on the campus and publicize the name of the PPU." He attributed the decline in membership to the need to change PPU's name, "People want to get active in the election went to organizations such as the College Democrats and College Republicans, which directly worked for candidates," he said.

Schwitser said his organization is already working to attract political speakers to campus. "What's happening is that members are 'working for candidates,'" he said. "But in the election that's over, we're trying to attract new Penn Democrats in the area. Bill Bradley, Deputy Secretary Caspar Weinberger and Congresswoman Barbara Boxer will be the most popular speakers for us," Schwitser said. "Speaking is a way to increase PPU membership, which fell from 40 to 25 over the past year."

The large success of the Socialist Organization, which will be represented by two members on the board for the first time, came as a surprise to most PPU members. "I think the [Presidential] election resulted in some disillusionment in students," Popkin said. "Vote hoping that now that the effects of the elections are known, students will be concerned with the issues."

BET: Yesterday's ad on Page 2 was wrong. This is the only staff that matters. And we want ya back too. 'Cause we need that story for Monday.

-Mike, Ames and the gang
It's Christmas once again, and as usual, we have no more (or less) of a snow day than the year before. But that never stops the joy we have this time of year, for it’s friends, the toys you decorate a special Christmas tree.

Merry Christmas!
To: Mary Francis, and Sharon
From: You know who.

“Grand Opening”

D & L
Automotive Technicians Inc.
Dec. 10, 1984
To
Dec. 29, 1984
Special with this Ad
Front End Alignment
$14.95 "Most - Cars"
Part & Labor Additional if Needed.
Call 222-5703
For Appointment Today
Also, Brakes-Tune Up's Inspections

Welcome to the taste of just pure beer.

At Miller High Life we begin with
natural ingredients, like water, barley, hops. That’s why Miller High Life so it contains no
additives and no preservatives. So
nothing comes between you and the
taste of just pure beer.

Welcome to Miller time.

STUDY IN ITALY
JUNE 1985
VILLANOVA-ROSEMONT
SUMMER PROGRAM IN
ITALY
4 CREDITS
STUDY: Art History, Italian, Studio Art & History
12 DAYS: Rome, Venice CONTACT: Dr. George Baker,
Art & Art History, Villanova University, Villanova, PA 19085
(215) 596-8100

Happy Hanukkah!
Begin the Festival of
Lights on Thursday, Dec. 19 by sharing your gifts in a card
from Hallmark.

HOUSTON HALL
CARDS
HOUSTON HALL
HALL
3417 SPRUCE
LOWER LEVEL

© 1984 Beer Brewed by Miller Brewing Co., Milwaukee, WI
Fencers face Harvard, Temple in first matches

Continued from back page

Freshman Andrew Baxter was the I usterns champ - last year. "I would like to encourage students to be a part of these projects," said. "There are opportunities for the whole University." Perlmutter was selected to prepare the project's strategy because he had worked with Viharton's Worldwide Institution Research Center on a proj- ect for France. "They had read about the French government for planning the future of Paris in the year 2001," he explained.

The project we had done for the French government included an International City in the world of the future. "Better government for planning the future." Perlmutter said. "They had read about the French government for planning the future of Paris in the year 2001," he explained.

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Whether you've skied three limes - or three hundred - to the fine art of apexing all the new Elk Mountain - Pennsylvania: 2012 Walnut St.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Public Student's Operated ESCORT SERVICE 898 - R-I-D-E HOURS Sundays thru Thursdays - 4:30 PM - 2:00 AM Fridays and Saturdays - 4:30 PM - 4:00 AM University Day is Exempt CLOSED December 24 thru January 1

BOUNDARIES East to 300 Street West to 48th Street North to Baring Street South to Woodward Avenue

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Penn Bus Regular Schedule thru December 22 Service Resumes January 2

CAMPUS COPY CENTER
3736 Walnut Street 386-6114

CAMPUS COPY CENTER TOMORROW'S PRINTING CENTER TODAY!

THE ALL NEW, FULLY COMPUTERIZED XEROX 9900 SEEING IS BELIEVING!
Come in NOW For A Demonstration of the New "Miracle Machine" by Xerox

Penn dances with Owls

In 13 impressive minutes failsided, the superintendent scored six points, 2.2 shooting from the floor and the line.

"We'll try to get it inside," Ornstein said. "With the new rules, we're going to do a lot of offense on the perimeter and then try to open up the frontcourt for some driving ability.

But it was a game of points between two teams that had been coached by the same man, and the Owls came out on top.

The Owls scored six of their first seven points, with Ornstein hitting a 3-pointer for the lead.

A 3-pointer by Ornstein gave the Owls the lead back,

But the Owls weren't done yet.

A 3-pointer by Ornstein gave the Owls the lead back,

And then another 3-pointer by Ornstein gave the Owls the lead back,

The Owls were up 9-5,

And then another 3-pointer by Ornstein gave the Owls the lead back,

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The Owls were up 9-5,
Hey Ron —
For a news weeenie, you’re not half bad. Thanks for pitching in with Truck and Stuff.

Classified Ads

Wednesday, December 7, 1984

PENN WEEKEND

W. Swimming hosts Villanova
tomorrow, 1 P.M.

BY J. SCHWARTZMAN

After winning the Ivy League title for the sixth straight year, the Penn men’s swimming team (3-0) is in assembly awaiting in match with Villanova. The Quakers and Wildcat are two very evenly matched teams. Penn’s only loss this season was in the hands of Princeton. Villanova is 3-1 so far, and is the only other teams to beat the Quakers and by practically the same margin. “It’s going to be very close,” Penn description Tom Lasko said. “We’ll have to take it easy; even. We’ll have to be careful, the little things that we beat, can’t make the big differences in this match in backstroke and diving events. Performed in all these, particularly from Linda Fitch, looking very strong against Lasko, and we hope to continue their success.” The Quakers, who have beaten the Wildcats in several meets are beginning to find the pressure of being able to lose their arch-rivals, and are hoping that a breakthrough will come soon. “It’s our last meet this season,” captain Jennifer Howard said. “It’s very close, and we have to win.”

M. Track at George Mason
tomorrow

By K. D. GUS

Saturday Penn’s men’s track team for Mason Mondscheien takes his team to George Mason University for the Parish Invitational tomorrow. The teams, including Maryland, George Mason, and Navy, are scheduled to compete in nearly 20 meets.

There will be no racing in the men’s track as last week’s developmental meet at Princeton. However, there is a significant difference between this week and last week. There is a limit of three competitions per team in each event, unlike at Princeton, where there was none.

Despite this, and the fact that this is the Quakers’ last pre-season invitation meet until January 11, Mondscheien is keeping the team in shape.

“We’re not going in here like it’s a real Invitational,” he said. “We’re going to get in shape first. That’s the reason why I had (the IAN) that we did last week. It’s a faster track than Princeton.”

As President, Mondscheien continues to place the men’s swimming championships in the 35-pound weight throw and freshman for the Quakers.

But Mondscheien is more concerned with how his team will handle the matches. “This is really a crucial part of the season,” Mondscheien said. “The kids are coming off the break, and the team. I’m not hoping that they will have good enough practice and competition to carry us over the Christmas break.

CAROLINE'S

INTRODUCING JOSIE TIPS

a wonderful new technique that coats and seals tips with a sturdy glass-like finish. Helps your own Nails to grow, without harming them $36

Waxing from head to toe (brow $5.50) Facials (Bio-Peeling special $32) Consultations $10 (Color draping $85)

LINGERIE MAKE-UP's up-make

1737 Chestnut St. N,568-1101) Mon-Sat. 10-6

Housing Musi gat out ot 1****

'InQ A cut & OV* *87 7047 or 387 5457

The University Writing Center

Special no-end-of-semester Drop-In Hours

Friday, November 30
Friday, December 7

from 1 to 3
from 3 to 5

Mon / Tues / Wed / Dec. 10. 11. 12

from 10 to 12 and from 1 to 3

Waxing from head to toe (brow $5.50) Facials (Bio-Peeling special $32) Consultations $10 (Color draping $85)

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type.
W. Cagers ready for Explorers

Winless Quakers face La Salle tomorrow at the Palestra

Tomek, the Quakers' Thursday night opponent, is a Palestra team before, although they had been picked to win the Explorers were one that shall never forget. In that game, the Quakers were in the locker room at halftime down by 11 points, but ended up winning by 11.

"It turned into an emotional night," Ashley said of the West Point game. "We didn't show the hurt and the ability to shoot over the zone defense." Nonetheless, this year's Explorers upset remains an enigma to Penn 83-81 at Philadelphia Big Five. The Quakers don't know why their defense isn't good enough, Penn might remain flexible.

"If they play a zone defense, they might want to get up close to the floor, but then they've got to able to take a shot. We don't hate a lot of depth," Ashley said. "Maybe we're not as a hard time playing as we want to, but we're not as a hard time playing as we want to, but we're not+

By ANNE MAHI

The 1984 All-Ivy football team, as announced Thursday afternoon, is headline by Columbia's quarterback John McNamara, who was named All-Ivy for the first time. McNamara was named to the team for his offensive excellence, with six 100-yard rushing games and 15 total touchdowns.

The Columbia receiver, who has had a hand in the team's success in recent years, was named to the team for his ability to make big plays in key situations. He is the Ivy League's leading receiver in receptions and yards, and has also been named to the team for his ability to consistently make big plays.

The Quakers named to All-Ivy Football, Soccer teams

While the 1984 All-Ivy football team was announced Thursday afternoon, the All-Ivy Soccer team was announced earlier in the week. The team was headlined by Columbia's guard, who was named to the team for his ability to consistently make big plays in key situations. He is the Ivy League's leading receiver in receptions and yards, and has also been named to the team for his ability to consistently make big plays.

Fencers battle with bitter rivals

Penn faces Harvard, Temple in first matches of year

For the moment, though, no one around the Palestra is the same as last year. Penn faces Harvard, Temple in first matches of year.

"We'll have to play good defense," Lindstedt said. "In last game, Penn held Temple to six points in the second half. But play a team like Temple, you've got to have your men on their toes. They play a man to man defense, which we don't have much experience in."

Lindstedt said the team will be dictated by how well the team performs in last night's game. Temple nearly bombed Villanusa, and will be looking for a good performance in last night's game.

Three members of Penn's 9-2-1 senior team were named to the All-Ivy Soccer team. The team was headlined by Columbia's guard, who was named to the team for his ability to consistently make big plays in key situations. He is the Ivy League's leading receiver in receptions and yards, and has also been named to the team for his ability to consistently make big plays.

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Holiday Shopping Guide
A Supplement to
The Daily Pennsylvanian
Friday, December 7, 1984

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Fritz von Bulow
Photography Editor
Meg Baum
Production Manager
Wendy Freund
Advertising Assistant
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Business Manager
Laura Ertel
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Alexis Kidd
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Eric Jacobs
General Manager

Special thanks to: Carole Burns, W. Owen Lampe, Will Martyn, Oreta Richardson and Helen Sessions

Cover picture: Santa and Tanya discussing her Christmas list at the Gallery. Photo by Fritz von Bulow.

Table of Contents

Of Cabbage Patch and kings
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Santa makes comfortable chair
The city's Santa Claus population increases each year to provide children with laps on which to sit and tell their Christmas wishes. By Christopher Downey. Page 5.

Have a jolly, vinyl Christmas
Kenny and Dolly top the growing list of musicians who have released Christmas records. By Taub Swartz. Page 7.

Administering the holiday spirit
President Sheldon Hackney and others prepare to celebrate during winter vacation. By Laura Michaels. Page 8.

The Grinch and friends return
Rudolph, Frosty, the Heat Miser and other favorites are back for yet another season of television specials. By Carole Burns and Mary Ellen Crowley. Page 8.

Bring 'em back intact
As sales clerks contemplate their post-Christmas return to work, they are not cringing over the thought that many gifts will be returning as well. By Shifra Diamond. Page 10.

How to wrap a present
A photo essay on this easy-to-learn, difficult-to-master task. By Adam Gordon. Page 12.

Letters to Santa
They are addressed to the North Pole, end up in the Philadelphia post office but they do get read. By Dan Solsburg. Page 14.

Volunteers bring holiday cheer
The Salvation Army and Trevor's Campaign are two local organizations aimed bringing happy holidays to the less fortunate. By Robert Poster. Page 16.

Mummers the word
Most students are home, but the Mummers Parade on New Year's Day is one of Philadelphia's oldest traditions. By Potty Kirlin. Page 16.

Say it in Tagalog

The ghost of bad Christmas presents
Aroma disk players, Santa toilet Odors and Michael Jackson dolls are just a few of the many gifts to avoid this season. By Michael Nadel. Page 23.
Tis the season for Cabbage Patch

Popular gifts repeat in 1984

By LAURA SHAW

The craze continues.

For the second year in a row the most popular children's gift of the holiday season appears to be the Cabbage Patch Doll. People are once again lining up to buy them. Lots of them. So many, in fact, that they are out of stock almost everywhere.

This year, the onslaught of imitations and look-alikes has provided the Cabbage Patch industry with competition. But, despite the many substitutes lining toystore shelves, children — and their parents — seem to want only the real article.

"Nothing can take the place of the Cabbage Patch," said a sales clerk at Wanamakers (13th and Market Streets) who refused to identify herself. "We sell them out. They keep coming in, and we keep selling out."

Toys 'R Us (2703-2817 S. 3rd Street), which would be selling Cabbage Patch dolls for $27.97 if they had any left, also cannot keep them in stock. The waiting list is extensive for potential adoptive parents.

However, other dolls, seemingly as attractive as the puckered-faced Cabbage Patch originals, are available in assorted shapes, sizes and prices.

For those who might not want to spend the $40 Wanamakers charges for a Cabbage Patch doll, the toy industry now offers Flower Kids for $16.99. These Kids must have sprouted from a less desirable garden because Wanamakers, although completely out of Cabbage Patch dolls, was stocked from floor to ceiling with Flower children.

For the more status conscious, Wanamakers also has an ample supply of $88 T.J. Tots, which are pretty much indistinguishable from the Cabbage Patchers. The Wanamakers sales clerk said she does not know why Tots are $58 more expensive than Cabbage Patch dolls — the only visible justification is the elaborately knitted hairstyles on most T.J. Tots, although some had almost no hair at all.

The unidentified clerk at Wanamakers said these imitations are enjoying a limited amount of sales success but are in no way challenging the dominance of Cabbage Patch dolls.

One possible explanation for the Cabbage Patch popularity is the mystique surrounding each doll. Along with each doll, the purchaser receives adoption papers and a pamphlet telling the heart-rendering story of how the Cabbage Patch children came to be. According to this story, the pitiful children grew out of a cabbage patch and are now in search of families to give them love.

The apparent success of this mythical tale has led to the marketing of other toys with similarly dramatic stories behind them.

Rainbow Brite and the Sprites are a series of stuffed creatures who hail from Rainbow Land. In this wonderful place, Rainbow Brite, a strawberry blond doll with a purple star on her face, and the multi-colored furry Sprites are always having their fun interrupted by the evil Murky Dismal and his sidekick Lurky.

Murky Dismal is a pudgy green doll with a mustache and one eyebrow that stretches across his forehead. Lurky, a round, brown, furry animal clad in orange sneakers, is an unwilling accomplice to Murky's jerky deeds. In the Rainbow Land pamphlet's story, Lurky keeps saying things like, "Murky Dismal sure is mean."

In any case, the series includes 10 separate items designed to capture the heart of any holiday shopper. As the story goes, "Rainbow Brite and her friends/Know wishes come true/in Rainbow Land, they always do!" No Rainbow Land collection is complete without all 10 dolls.

According to another nameless Wanamakers saleswoman, these toys are selling well, but nowhere near as well as the Cabbage Patch dolls.

One mother picked out an array of Rainbow Land creatures to bring her two children, five and seven-years-old. "I just think they're so cute," she said.

However, Kelly, a discriminating six-year-old shopper did not seem to like the Lucky animal. "It looks funny," she said, adding that she remains faithful to her two Cabbage Patch dolls named Patty and Cindy.

Of course, most boys over the age of four are not interested in dolls — Cabbage Patch or otherwise. Thus the toy industry offers a variety of mechanical toys for boys.

According to the first Wanamakers' saleswoman, toys called Transformers are the most popular items among boys this year.

Transformers are toys that change their form. For instance, a robot Transformer can become a car or an airplane. They cost an average of about $10, and Wanamakers' stock of transformers is rapidly dwindling.

Members of Cub Scout Troop 139 from Bucks County were fascinated by the Robortron, a Transformer which changes to a motorized vehicle and costs $3.49.

Seven Cub Scouts had to be physically removed by several den mothers from the Robortron display in Wanamakers.

Seven Cub Scouts have a new request for Santa: "You can't keep adding to your list, Michael," one troop member's mother told him.

Toy stores are also stocking gifts for adults this year as the popularity of trivia continues. The ever-popular Trivial Pursuit has toy stores teeming with adults who want to buy the challenging game for themselves.

Like the Cabbage Patch doll phenomenon, the Trivial Pursuit craze has also given rise to a number of imitations.

The original Trivial Pursuit can be bought for $35 at Wanamakers, with supplementary question boxes (i.e. Baby Boomer Edition) going for $25. T.V. Trivia, a new trivial product, costs $25. Music fans can choose between the $24.99 Rock Trivia, the $35 Beatlemania Trivia and the $20.99 Solid Gold Music Trivia games.

And after the fads, there are the old standbys. Toy stores are also stocked with favorite oldies such as teddy bears, Barbie dolls, Raggedy Ann and Andy, Muppets, trains, planes, cars and robots.

But for many, only what's "in" will do. And this year, it's the Cabbage Patch doll.

One mother seemed to be having a hard time understanding this concept in Wanamakers. "Isn't this doll lovely?" she asked, pointing to a $88 T.J. Tot.

"Wouldn't you like this, Janie?"


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Have a seat
Santa’s knee a soft spot for kids

By CHRISTOPHER DOWNEY

The sign reads: “Christmas Show to Begin in 5:00 minutes.” A crowd of shoppers gather on the ground floor of John Wanamaker (11th and Market Streets), clutching babies, packages and wrapping paper. The sagging shoulders of exhaustion give way to the eager smiles of anticipation.

It starts. Accompanied by the classical orchestration of popular Christmas songs, the neon sign animates the likes of Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer and old Sant Nick himself. The fountain erupts at the climax as elves prance about the majestic sleigh to the strains of Handel’s “Messiah.” When it’s over, parents look at the faces of their children. They look for the expressions they had many years ago.

Out of all Philadelphia department stores, Wanamaker probably does the most to create Christmas mythology around the nightmarish experience of Holiday shopping. Christmas is the most easily exploited holiday because it would take a cruel and vindictive person to deprive a child of the precious belief in a man in a red suit who rewards good behavior at year’s end with a saccharine happiness.

So during each holiday season, parents frantically lead their children to the man himself.

An elaborate red train is suspended over the toy section and children anxiously wait in line to get an aerial view of their Christmas booty. Continuing past the train ride to the other end of the floor, a young woman stands in front of a dark blue curtain. A sign hangs overhead. It reads, “THE NORTH POLE.”

“Would you like to see Santa?” she asks.

A mother has to casually restrain her four-year-old son as he leads her through the curtain. Inside the boy discovers a small, sky-blue room adorned with pointed, snow-capped windows. To the right is a cardboard fireplace with plastic pink poinsettias. The boy knows he has arrived.

A young man lifts the boy up and places him on another man’s knee. This man is very old and very fat. He is wearing a red suit and a long white beard. The boy shoots a quick glance over to his father standing behind a metal barricade. Another man appears from behind a wall and starts snapping his fingers.

“He says – look over here,” he says. “Cmon! That’s the way you’d smile for your girlfriend?”

The boy is four years old. Chances are he isn’t ready to be pressured into any serious commitment yet.

The boy looks at this man, and there is a flash. The man in the beard starts talking to him.

“What do you want for Christmas?” he asks.

This is a question for which the boy has prepared – for some weeks now.

“I want Snake Master and a Skelator,” the boy says.

The man in the funny suit bounces him on his knee.

“Santa’ll bring you some surprises,” he says.

The young man picks up the boy and puts him in the outstretched arms of his mother. A woman and her three daughters arrives. The cycle continues.

The suit he wears belongs to the store, but it’s the man beneath the board who is Santa Claus here. Originally a salesmen for Gimbel’s, Frank Kilcoyne was asked to be Santa Claus 35 years ago. Kilcoyne took the job at Wanamaker, and although officially retired from sales now, he’s been Santa ever since.

“Most little kids want the same things, toy trucks and dolls,” he said. “Sometimes a kid will bring in a picture, from a newspaper or magazine of what he wants. A boy once asked me for a pony. His father just stood there and shook his head.”

“One boy asked me for a blonde once – 36-24-36. His dad put him up to it.” Kilcoyne added. “I told him, ‘If Santa could get that for you, I’d keep it for myself.’”

Joseph Washington, the young man who has been Santa’s helper for a few years, said that most children’s requests this year have been perfectly standard.

“The older ones who watch television want Cabbage Patch Dolls and Transformers this year,” Washington said.

Curtis Sullivan, the man behind the camera, has been Santa’s photographer for two years.

“I wasn’t good at this job until I really learned to understand children,” he said. “A lot of the time you have to understand the child’s ego.”

“You gotta get loose,” Sullivan added. “This is different from taking pictures of girls in bikinis. This is getting back to the basics.”

Sullivan said that although in the past he has used props to get the children to smile.

“Last year I worked with a big, brown Grover doll, and this year I was going to dress in a clown suit,” he said, adding that the store would not let him dress up.

Washington said that one characteristic of kids visiting Santa Claus is their unpredictability.

“Some of these kids make it from my arms to his lap and then all of a sudden they start crying,” he said.

As if to demonstrate this phenomenon, Washington helped a young girl onto Santa’s lap. Almost immediately she started bawling.

“See what I mean?” Washington said. “A dozen kids will come through here now, and I guarantee they’ll start crying. That’s just the way it goes. I guess.”

The girl’s mother sympathized. “I know this is a scary experience,” she said.

The Santa Claus at the Gallery (9th and Market Streets) is not only experienced at his job, but he is committed. Thus he refuses to offer any identification other than Santa Claus.

“I was asked to substitute for Santa 22 years ago, and I’ve been doing this ever since,” Claus said. “I won’t give my name to anybody. When I put on this suit I’m Santa Claus.”

And this Santa Claus has many talents.

“I sing too, got a show coming up at 1 p.m.” he said. “I mostly do the holiday stuff.”

The little blue room at the Gallery, no fake fireplace. Santa sits in a wood ed gazebo in the center of the mall walkway – a no-frills Santa, perhaps, but an opinionated Santa nonetheless.

“No, a woman can’t be Santa. Kids are smart now, you can’t put something like that over on them,” he said.

A slow but steady stream of children had their photo taken with this Santa. A little boy combed his hair quickly before sitting on Santa’s lap.

“I want Snake Master and Dragon Walker for Christmas,” the boy said.

Santa looked up from the boy.

“Most kids ask for the same things, toys and stuff,” he said.

“Once a kid asked for a job for his parents once.”

He was indignant about a recent upsurge of people wanting to dash the image of Santa Claus.

“A bunch of medical students asked me to go on a movie with a hatchet and a knife – they wanted me to depict violence,” he said. “I absolutely refused, they said they’d get the other Santa from the store. I went to the managers and told them not to do that. It’s like that movie that was out. For Santa Claus to depict violence is sick.”

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Musicians catch the holiday spirit
By TAUB SWARTZ

So it's Christmas time and you dust off the old turntable and search for some music to put you in the yuletide spirit. "Let's Go Crazy" doesn't fit the bill, and "New Year's Day" seems a bit distant and untimely. "Havanagaila" doesn't cut it either.

As happens every year, several major musical artists have put out albums and singles with holiday songs just in time for the post-Thanksgiving Day rush on record stores and other retailers.

Kenny and Dolly Christmas, from, you guessed it, Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton, on RCA, is one of this year's major commercial Christmas music efforts.

"I love Christmas and Christmas music, and I love Kenny and Dolly," said Helen Warren, a receptionist for RCA, A & M and Associated Labels. "But if you're into hard rock, you probably won't like it." She added that the LP has spawned several singles including "Winter Wonderland" and "The Greatest Gift of All."

Warren said the season's other RCA releases include a Rockin' Little Christmas from Debbie Allen and A Blue Christmas, White Christmas from Waylon Jennings. For those looking for some Christmas rhythm and blues, Warren cited the 12-inch single, "It Won't Be Christmas Without My Baby" by Joan Ellis on the Total Experience label.

From Arista, Warren continued, comes a re-release of the Kinks' "Father Christmas," along with Ray "Ghostbusters" Parker, Jr. singing

Roderick Thomas displays Sam Goody's Christmas record selection

"Christmas Time is Here."

The Christmas push at Warner-Elektro-Atlantic, however, has not been quite as prolific. Sue Costello, a staff member of the WEA Promotions Department, said that the company has achieved past successes with the album Merry Twasmas by Conway Twitty two years ago and the single "Please Come Home for Christmas" by the Eagles.

Costello said that WEA does little in the way of marketing new Christmas music, relying instead on the sales of old favorites.

On MCA, Barbara Mandrell has released an LP Christmas at Our House, and the Oak Ridge Boys put out the aptly-named Oak Ridge Boys at Christmas. A secretary at the Motown division of MCA, who wished to remain anonymous, said last week that Motown has released nothing new for the holidays thus far, but a release later in the month is possible.

Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer by Elmo and Patsy has been released on CBS and features the title cut and a cover version of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

"We don't really put out many special Christmas releases," said a CBS official who wished not to be named. "We just give stores a standard catalogue of past releases." Previous holiday successes on CBS have come from Willie Nelson with Pretty Paper and various LP's by Johnny Mathis and Barbra Streisand.

As for Chrysalis Records, "We have no plans for major Christmas release at this time," said Nancy Guckman, Chrysalis receptionist. A spokesman for Polygram said her company does not have holiday-related records in the works either.

The consensus around local record stores is that customers often shop for new copies of records they already own which are scratched, beyond repair. Favorites include O Holy Night by Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo's Christmas LP and anything by Bing Crosby.

Handel's Messiah, Barbara Streisand's Christmas, Nat King Cole's Christmas and Johnny Mathis albums have been the top-selling Christmas LP's at the Listening Booth at 15th and Chestnut Streets.

"These four albums have been the hottest selling Christmas albums in this store over the past 10 years," said long-time store manager Gladys Green. "We also have some old Motown releases that are moving pretty well."

Other old standbys include Bruce Springsteen's rendering of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" and Bing Crosby and David Bowie singing "The Little Drummer Boy." They have a video too — br-rump ha bump bump. Groove on.

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CHINESE RESTAURANT
Administrators ready for family celebrations

By LAURA MICHAELIS

A
dministrators are people too. In fact, just like students, they have families, friends, too much work and various other idiosyncrasies. They even look forward to winter break. Some will travel around home doing nothing.

Christmas at Eisenlohr Hall, the home of the Hackneys, sounds particularly inviting. Although President Sheldon Hackney said he plans to spend most of his vacation barricaded in his study, working on his history courses for next semester, the family observes a number of traditions which will continue this year.

The president said his family's Christmases are usually spent at home in Philadelphia. Christmas Eve includes shopping, visiting the Christmas lights downtown in Center City and going to Midnight Mass.

"I really enjoy taking all the kids to shop on Christmas Eve," Hackney explained last week. "We spend the day together, and then pick up my wife for Midnight Mass. It's really a time for the whole family to be together."

The family also participates in the more common customs of baking Christmas cookies and eating a big Christmas dinner. Also, each member of the family gets to bring home a friend to visit for at least part of the vacation. Hackney said he has a special project for his break.

"My project for the holiday period is to move the Curtis Organ into my living room," he said. "There, we'll have a special concert of Christmas Carols for Friends of the Curtis Organ." He added that is number one Christmas wish is an editorial in the DP "about what a terrific University this is and what a privilege it is to attend it."

Provost Thomas Ehrlich revealed pretty typical holiday plans. He said he is going to spend his vacation time sleeping, eating, reading and seeing friends and relatives. He added his friends and family will be in Philadelphia during Christmas vacation, and his children will also return home.

"All of our family will be together, and that is the best part of the vacation," he said last week. "Our two children who are away from home only get to come home three times a year."

Unlike students, Ehrlich does not have finals before vacation, but his work continues right through the break.

"The truth is, most of the vacation time is spent working off lost time," he grumbled.

Ehrlich, who used to live in Palo Alto, California, said he feels that Philadelphia's winter climate is certainly more in the spirit of the holiday season than the weather in California, although snow was always three hours away.

"The notion of a white, cold Christmas was non-existent in California," he said. "But tennis in Palo Alto during winter vacation was always an enjoyable way to spend my break."

In contrast, Vice Provost for University Life James Bishop said last week that he plans to think about his work as little as possible over vacation. His plans for vacation include a trip home to Memphis and a visit with friends in Amherst.

"I hope to be able to read something other than movos — some true fiction as opposed to memoranda," he said.

Bishop said he travels each year to Memphis, the home of his parents, nieces and nephews and grandnephews. On Christmas Eve, the entire family gets together in one house for a big Christmas dinner, and little ones sleep over.

Christmas morning is no less active as the entire family meets again for a big breakfast, Christmas music and gift giving.

"I'm looking especially forward to refreshing relationships with my family and friends," Bishop said. "There are a number of big dances and parties planned, which I really enjoy. That's something that you don't get much at Penn — plain dancing."

Lucy and Sheldon Hackney gather Christmas warmth in Eisenlohr Hall

He added that his best vacations include at least some snow.

"I love to go skiing over break, either downhill or cross-country," he said. "Hopefully Amherst will have the appropriate weather."

What does Bishop want most for Christmas?

"Of course, one could wish for nothing more than more prospects for lasting peace in this world," he said.

English Department Chairman Robert Lucid, a resident of Hill College house, said last week that he and his wife spend each Christmas break attending a program held by the Modern Language Association, an organization of professionals involved in the study and teaching of modern languages.

"Each Christmas we usually do the same thing," he said. "We spend Christmas with our son here in Philadelphia, and after Christmas we go to the Modern Language Conference."

This year it's being held in Washington D.C., so we'll be visiting there from the 26th to the 30th."

Lucid said he has been the chairman of the Conference for five years and has spent his vacations in New York, San Francisco, Chicago and other places. Because of their extensive involvement in the Conference, he and his wife have developed a lot of close friends at the Conference.

"The Conference is a combination of professional and social activities," Lucid said. "There are lots of places to go in the evening, and we get to see a lot of people that we haven't seen for years. It's not a bad way to spend the holiday."

HOLIDAY SHOPPING GUIDE — Friday, December 7, 1984

'Grinch' No. 1

By CAROLE BURNS and MARY ELLEN CROWLEY

As the weather outside turns frightful, and computer work becomes a byteful, and as long as there's so much to fear, let's watch Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer.

"Unfortunately, that aired on Saturday night, but the holiday television season remains a happy place for University students nonetheless. Almost every student has a favorite seasonal television. Even student leaders spend their spare time watching all the shows, so they can give their educated opinions of the best holiday special of all.

Mask and Wigger Mark Cronin: "I like the new two-hour Love Boat Christmas special because Rudolph, Frosty and the Grinch all find romance in the Caribbean — except Frosty. I guess, who becomes part of the Carribbean."

Band Drum Major Chris Marie: "My favorite Christmas special is Hawaii Five-O just because I'm in the band. But really, I love my favorite in the Grinch. But I'd like it better if the Grinch would throw all the presents over the cliff. Even when I was a little kid I rooted for the Grinch.""

Quaker Quarterback John Megheean: "Without a doubt the Grinch. I love it. I can't imagine not watching it. It's just too good to party at it. The Grinch's dog is the key."

Delta Upsilon President Dave Foreman: "Of course Frosty the Snowman. I love living where I used to be a snowman."

For those who must kris-cross studying with season cheer and haven't found the above suggestions helpful, here are the official ratings of the better holiday shows.

The Grinch Stole Christmas. This seems to be by far the most popular among college students with groups of high rise residents gathering in the lounges of their building each year to watch it. While the Grinch himself is extremely effective as a modern-day Scrooge, his dog Max is the most memorable character of the Christmas season since he always gets his point across without saying a word. Rating: A+."

A Charlie Brown Christmas — Chuck and his cohorts succeed in creating genuine holiday spirit in their program. Linus stands out in the special's most touching scene for knowing the true meaning of Christmas, and the small Christmas tree represents the season's most animate (inanimate) character. Rating: A+."

Twas the Night Before Christmas — This animated special, which stars the voice of Fred Gray (we don't know where the rest of him is) is relatively new but a favorite among those who love seen."

The story of the intellectual mouse who doesn't believe in Santa Claus but nevertheless manages to fix the clock is well worth watching — it really brings Clement Moore's poem to life. The music is truly outstanding. Rating: B+."

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer — Rudolph himself is somewhat wimpy, but one must pity any reindeer who can be confused with a traffic light. Yet despite his many downfalls, he manages to snap himself a girlfriend, Colette, who says he's cute. Part of our red-nosed friend's charm is that he is laughed at and called names — everyone loves an underdog.

Other memorable characters include the Abominable Snowman and Hecibie the dentist. And although the show depicts Santa Claus as somewhat less than constantly jolly, Mrs. Claus is a typical grandmother-figure who is always forcing food and warm clothes.

(Continued on Page 15)
HOLIDAY SHOPPING GUIDE – Friday, December 7, 1984

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HOLIDAY SHOPPING GUIDE — Friday, December 7, 1984

Clerks looking forward to many happy returns

By SHIFRA DIAMOND

December 26. The day when hordes of disappointed present-getters return their wrong gifts. Visions of apocolypse.

Surprise, Salespeople, after a hectic month of helping people find the perfect gift, are not upset at the prospect of processing returns of these presents.

"It's not a hassle - it's intense," said Annette Vesper, a co-manager of the Merry-Go-Round, a clothing store in the Gallery (9th and Market Streets).

Orlando Rivera, a salesman at Kaybee Toy Store in the Gallery, said he is also looking forward to the mayhem of return policy.

"The store will be a mess, but the sales will be great," he said. "Right after Christmas they'll start (for just that week -)" River added that the kids usually bring their parents to the store to pick out new toys, but "the parents don't really seem to mind."

But Kathy Benjamin, a supervisor at Gimbel's in the Gallery, said returns in the toy department are rare.

"Rarely anybody returns a toy unless it's damaged," Benjamin said. "I don't know many kids that say, 'I don't like it' if it's a toy." She added that once a toy's box has been opened, the store will not accept it back.

At several stores the period during which people return Christmas gifts lasts well beyond December 26. Urban Outfitters, an all-purpose store whose five branches are almost all located near universities, expands its usual return policy at Christmas so student will have a chance to return gifts.

"I'd say the student business is probably 80 percent of our business," said Ron Yang, manager of the Urban Outfitters in the Warehouse (4040 Locust Street). He added that to accommodate these customers, the store allows holiday gifts to be exchanged until January 31. Like many other stores, however, Urban Outfitters will only refund cash for an item if the customer has the receipt.

"Usually, when someone returns something, they're more than happy to exchange it," Yang said.

A sign above the cash register at The Limited, a women's clothing store in the Gallery, declares: "Merry Christmas, America! No sale is ever final. If it doesn't fit. If it's not her color, she doesn't like it. Whatever. SHE CAN BRING IT BACK! To any Limited Store. Anywhere. Anytime. NO PROBLEM!"

Madeline Cottone, a saleswoman at The Limited, said she feels her store's return policy is especially flexible.

"If you don't have a receipt, you get the latest markdown price and can exchange the gift for either another item or a store credit," Cottone said, adding that store credit can be redeemed at any of The Limited's stores across the country as late as a year after receiving it.

Kathy McKonly, a department manager at Strawbridge and Clothier in the Gallery, also boasted of her store's return policy.

"One reason that people come to Strawbridge's is that we have a more lenient return policy than most," McKonly said, adding that customers can not only exchange a gift, but also get cash back in return without a receipt. "Most of the time we get honest people. We figure that for the 1 percent that cheats us out - that's O.K."

Elophia Singleton, assistant manager at Casual Corner in the Gallery, said her store also refunds money for returned gifts.

"Hey, if you want your money back, you got it," Singleton said. "It's more of a hassle to us if we don't accept it."

A saleswoman at the Market in John Wanamaker (13th and Market Streets), where the most popular gifts include fruit cakes and jars of preserves, said refunds are given for food items "as long as you have the receipt and as long as it's not opened."

Those planning to buy clothes as gifts should beware because clothing is one of the most often returned presents at Christmas - although people who return clothes often feel guilt doing so.

"The women will come in and say, 'My husband bought it for me, and I don't want him to know, so if he comes in, don't tell him I returned it'" Singleton at Casual Corner said.

Yang said that at Urban Outfitters, "the trendier items get returned, because people's taste differ. Like certain styles that you might like, I might not."

But he added that in spite of the high return rate of clothing, trendy clothing brands such as Girsbeau and Esprit are expected to be this season's hottest selling items.

McKonly said that gifts for kids are often returned at Strawbridge.

"Most of the things that the parents buy for their kids come back," she said, adding that men are often confused when they buy clothing in the first place.

"The men especially, when they come in, are totally lost," McKonly said. "They come in with a slip of paper that says, 'Jordache Painted-on jeans,' and we don't have them. So they have to buy something else."
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Dear Santa

By DAN SALSBURG

"D"ear Santa. Would you like beer or milk and what would you like for cookies? Love. 

David.

During the past month, the Philadelphia Post Office has received more than 10,000 letters from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., Delaware, parts of New York and sections of the Carolinas addressed to Santa Claus. These letters never reach the North Pole, but many are answered by various charities and individuals.

U.S. Postal Service Public Information Officer Austin Culmer said last week that a large portion of the letters are picked up at the Mayfair and Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parades. "We have a half-dozen letter carriers walking in the parade with mail carts, and there is also a mail truck going around," Culmer said. "We get a hamper of mail from that."

Culmer added that three or four employees are transferred to his office to sort through the large volume of letters. "We go through all of the letters and pick out the needy ones," he said. "When charity organizations contact us, we tell them who are the needy children."

Many of the letters received are rather humorous, and most mention how good a child has been for the past year. One letter from a boy named Joey read, "I have tried to be a good boy this year. I don't pee-pee in my pants anymore. Sometimes I have an accidental pee in the bed, but Mommy said that's O.K."

Other children admit to being mischievous but try to justify their acts. A girl named Bonnie told Santa, "I don't like Linda. I admit I was a little bad. However, I did have fun along the way. But, if you don't mind, could you please bring me and Betty some strawberry wine?"

Some children tried to bribe Santa, while others threatened him. A girl named Amy wrote, "I will give you milk and cookies and carrots for your reindeer. I will give you a sticker."

One boy sent Santa a list of 42 items and wrote, "I don't need all these things. I do want some, and I mean it."

And this year Santa received a chain letter which threatened Mr. Claus if he failed to send out 20 copies of the same letter. It told Santa that if he complied with the directions of the letter he could get a better job.

"Lorraine Pfeiffer, one of Santa's helpers at the post office, explained that it is common for children to send long lists. "This one kid had a list of 100 things with prices next to them," she said. "If you can't get me all of them, get me some."

Foilia added that many letters include pictures of toys and pages from catalogues.

A few of the letters asked for Santa to send potential mates. A girl named Bridgette wrote, "Please bring me $3 million and a cute 12-year-old boy who is rich."

Another child, Theresa, asked for Santa to send her the man of her dreams. "Please send me one medium-sized, dark eyed, dark haired disc jockey," she wrote.

Kolly from Folsum, Pennsylvania, told Santa of her disdain for a television commercial that questioned his existence. "I heard a commercial, and it was making fun of you. The next time my mom hears the commercial, she's going to call them up and complain," she wrote.

Many children wished Santa a nice trip. A boy named Robby wrote, "Be careful, don't fall in the snow. Don't let the reindeers get lost."

Megan from Philadelphia agreed with Robby's sentiments. "Have a safe trip and say hello to Rudolf," she said.

Richie warned Santa of his family's new dog, "Be careful coming in our house this year. We have a new big dog, Zephyr. But he'll like you cause I'll tell him to be good and maybe you'll bring him a bone," the letter stated.

A boy named Frank expressed his desperation that Santa had not returned his previous letter. "I know you love me. I want to love you, too. This is my second letter."

Not all of the letters are humorous, though. Some can be very touching, such as the one Feiola opened last Friday from a 14-year-old girl from Chicago crying for help for her three-month-old daughter.

Another letter from a girl named Darleen asked Santa to help reunite her parents. "Can I have for me my mom and dad together? Please, that's all I want. O.K., and maybe a new sock and a dress please," she wrote.

Culmer explained that it was letters such as these that were photocopied and given to the charities and individuals.

He added that Johnny Carson each year solicits donations from people in New York for the needy children.

"We don't get the money here," Culmer noted. "But we do have organizations and individuals who answer needy letters and send presents."
Television holiday specials

(Continued from Page 8)

**December specials**

on people.

The music in Rudolph, warmed by the
narrating voice of Burl Ives, shines with
such songs as "Holly Jolly Christmas" and "Misfit," "Silver and Gold" as well as
the renowned title song.

Rating: 

The Year Without A Santa Claus -
This program, better known as the "I'm
Mr. Heat Miser/I'm Mr. Snow" show, has
given America some of the season's most
memorable characters. While the per-
sonalities of Father Time and Baby New
Year are flat and the show's plot is sappy,
Heat Miser and Cold Miser emerge as
the hottest and coolest characters,
respectively, of the Christmas season.

In the same vein, the music in the show
shines, demonstrated by the fact that
while few students can name the show,
many can hum a few bars of "I'm Mr.
Heat Miser." But the flaky lyrics are the
best part. Rating: 

Santa Claus Is Coming to Town -
You'd better watch out to see when this
one airs. The narration by Fred Astaire
suggests that some of this special will
revolve around feet, as indeed it does.
The song "Put One Foot In Front Of The
Other" is a classic, and the red-haired
Kris Kringle is outshone only by
Burgermeistermeisterburger.

Rating: 

Frosty the Snowman - Although many
students hold Frosty, his two coal eyes
and his carrot nose dear, many think
Frosty should have stuck to
bachelorhood - the Yoko-like Crystal is
deadly. The Frosty spinoff is saved only
by its title song and the still-lovable pro-
tagonist. Rating: for Bachelor Frosty,
for Family Snowman Frosty.

Of course there are many other holiday
specials being aired this season. Maybe
next year the Cabbage Patch and Smurfs
Christmas shows will be considered
classics too. Ho ho ho.

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City volunteers give holiday cheer

By ROBERT PASTER

The holiday season is supposed to be a happy one, so several local organizations are trying to spread some joy to those less fortunate.

The holiday season is supposed to be a happy one, so several local organizations are trying to spread some joy to those less fortunate.

Campus groups traditionally do not offer volunteer opportunities during the holidays since most students go home, but several citywide organizations are looking for volunteers.

The Salvation Army (701 N. Broad Street) offers several ways volunteers can serve. Direct service volunteers are needed to sew, bake, prepare food, make phone calls, prepare mailings and type. Visitation volunteers visit hospitals, nursing homes and U.S. Military Veterans’ Hospitals.

Also during the holiday season, volunteers are needed to dress dolls, fill Christmas stockings and give parties for children.

Emily Klink, Salvation Army director of volunteers, said she hopes some university students volunteer their services.

“Any university students willing to volunteer their time and effort would be most appreciated,” Klink said.

Interested students may contact: Klink at 787-2804.

Another volunteer opportunity is offered by Trevor’s Campaign (1618 W. Total St.). According to Frank Ferrell, the organization started December 8, 1983, when his 11-year-old son, Trevor, saw street people on television and decided he wanted to help them. By February 1984, Trevor’s Place had been founded.

Trevor’s Place is an old house that was donated to the campaign by the People’s Mission Church. All charitable programs are coordinated from this location, and 15 homeless people live in the house, which can accommodate up to 100.

But although Trevon originated the program, he has let his father handle responsibilities as well. Mr. Ferrell is in charge of coordinating operations.

“Trevor has dumped some big shoes in my lap to fill,” Mr. Ferrell said.

Trevor’s Campaign has spread nationwide. Branches have opened in Seattle, Massachusetts, Oklahoma City and San Francisco.

Trevor has received national recognition. Recently, Trevor received the International Integrity Award along with Mother Theresa.

Mr. Ferrell said the Campaign distributes meals to street people from a van that was donated to the organization. Unfortunately, he said, the van is old and breaking down, so the Campaign is currently hoping for someone in the area to donate a catering truck.

Lauren Gjelda, head of volunteers for Trevor’s Campaign, said the Campaign is also in need of people.

“Volunteers are needed to go out in the van to serve food to the homeless, to cook food, to solicit food donations, to do some plumbing at Trevor’s Place and to work with the residents of Trevor’s Place,” Gjelda said.

Mr. Ferrell said he is excited at the prospect of getting University volunteers. “That would be wonderful,” he said. “We could really use some volunteers, especially at this time of year.”

People interested in volunteering with Trevor’s Campaign can call 649-6400.

Mummers march with tradition in festive New Year’s celebration

By PATTY KIRLIN

Students who are away during winter vacation will miss one of Philadelphia’s greatest attractions: the Mummers Parade on New Year’s Day.

The Mummers Parade, the longest parade in the world, runs each year from early in the morning until late at night. More than 25,000 people participate in the colorful parade, which is one of the oldest traditions in Philadelphia.

“It started as a regular neighborhood celebration in 1640 when immigrants from Sweden and Finland began to settle in the area,” said Palma Lucas, the admissions manager in the Mummers Museum at the corner of 2nd Street and Washington Avenue. “Then in 1900, the English had a custom of mumming plays. They would go from one house to another performing little plays.”

She added that as more ethnic groups settled in Philadelphia, more customs and celebrations were introduced to the area.

Each ethnic group had celebrations for Christmas and New Year’s. This would last for two weeks,” Lucas said. “In 1901, the city sponsored the first New Year’s Day Parade.”

Bernie Romani, a member of the Havertown New Year’s Brigade, said that before the parade became organized, New Year’s celebrations in Philadelphia were characterized by chaos and drunkenness. Mr. Romani said that people would traditionally dress in costume, knock on doors and say, “Give us liquor. Give us gin. Open the door, and let us in.”

He added that a group of people called the New Year’s Shooters ushered in the New Year regularly. “They were called that because they would shoot guns into the air,” Romani said, adding that most of the chaos was in South Philadelphia.

“It started to get unruly with fights,” he said. “Then the city decided to give a prize to control it. They figured the best place to control it was on Broad Street.”

Since 1901 the Mummers Parade has run on Broad Street with prizes being awarded in a variety of categories. “Officially the first Comic unit begins at 7:45 in the morning at Broad and Snyder, and the parade ends 10 or 11 hours later at Broad and Arch,” Lucas said. “The first unit hits the judging area at 9 or 9:15 in the morning.”

She added that the parade has changed in many ways since 1901. “Now there are rules and regulations that govern each division,” she said. “Those rules come through the Mummers Association and the city.”

Lucas said the parade is divided into four sections: the Comics, the Fancies, the String Bands and the Fancy Brigades.

“The Comic organization is the oldest in the parade,” Romani said. “It originally started before the 1900’s when each club wasn’t organized.”

(Continued on Page 19)
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Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season to the Students of the University of Pennsylvania from the Philadelphia Inquirer
Mummers step with tradition

(Continued from Page 16)

He added that the Comics perform little skills throughout the parade. "A lot of things earlier used to ridicule the city," he said. "They used to do everything, even the obscene. Now they try and mimic, but it's not really bad."

Lucas said many stories surround the Mummers' Parade since it has a formal written history. Stories have been handed down by word of mouth. Resulting in differences of opinion as to origins of various aspects of the parade — such as the Mummers Straw.

"Some say it started around the Civil War — others say later," Lucas said of the little dance people perform throughout the parade. "Some say it was one String Band captain who had a bad leg, and that was how it started. They liked the way he was dancing and copied it."

The parade is still predominantly male, but Lucas said that before 1975 women were not officially allowed to march. She added that females have always participated in all aspects of the parade, especially in making the costumes. "Officially, we could definitely say 1975 [was] when one String Band had five female members," Lucas said. "There are more women in all divisions today."

Romani said that in place of real women, men dress up like them. "They used to have female impersonators," he said. "They also have 'winches' and 'dudes.' The 'winches' make up like mammys in the South. And they did away with the black face a few years ago. Now they use colors like gold. The 'dudes' dress in black suits, high hats and tails." He added that the 'winches' and 'dudes' do not register for the parade but just spontaneously join it.

The preparations for the parade by the bands and brigades begin long before New Year's Day, sometimes more than a year earlier. "The thinking part takes a while," said Lucas. "Also, the bands and brigades need to be registered. We start right after the parade. My husband and a few others are already planning for 1986."

"Each band and each brigade have to come up with a completely brand new theme each year," she added. "There is no general theme to the whole parade."

Lucas said that one of the major drawbacks to participating in the parade is the cost. Groups must pay for their own costumes — which tend to be very expensive — on their own except for fundraising and prize money.

"We're not allowed commercial sponsors," Lucas said, adding that 35 members of a String Band ranges from $16,000 to $40,000. She also said that full mature ostrich plumes — a common costume ornament — cost between $36 and $38 each.

"Some people even have had to mortgage their houses, especially before 1975 and 1976 before they raised the amount of prize money," Lucas said. "Now prize money doesn't even cover the cost for a lot of members. It's a little over $200,000 a year altogether. Even winning first prize doesn't cover one fourth of it."

"The prize money is allocated by City Council through the Department of Recreation," she added.

Lucas said the family is a major aspect of the parade. "Almost every single club has combinations of fathers and sons," she said. "Some have three generations or even four generations. Also, a lot of young people are now joining that have no one in their family in it."

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Beware of seasonal shlock

By MICHAEL NAIDUS

With scarcely three weeks left until Christmas Day and less until Chanukah, most shoppers have already begun to experience the frustration of seeking out just the right presents for everyone on their holiday gift lists.

Every shopper can share in the agony of out-of-stock sizes, unmatched colors and "near-perfect" gift items, as well as understanding the endless hours spent traipsing through malls and up and down streets. But if you understand the pain, also understand that there's a plausible alternative, one that almost nobody has the time to experience: compiling a list of all the things not to buy as holiday gifts.

There are several types of presents that make absolutely awful Christmas gifts, the first being items that are absolutely awful anytime of year, but especially now.

Start your holiday shopping trip by not purchasing an Aromance 2100 Aroma Disc Player -- an electronic fragrance machine that plays "smell records" to change the atmosphere of a room.

The Aromance -- a rip-off at any price -- is available for only $25 at John Wanamaker (13th and Market Streets), where you can also choose not to buy any or all of the dozen or so records that are for sale.

With titles like "Men's World," "Hay Ride," "Seduction," "Fireplace" and "Winter-time," it's easy not to take this item home. But my least favorite offering is called 'Baby Powder," which the package describes as "the warm fragrance memories for a baby's room... just for the memory." Still empty-handed, it's time not to buy some more practical items -- items like underwear. Inappropriate all year round. For $300, Playboy Briefs are on sale throughout the Center City shopping districts. But they are most prominently on display at Mike Stevens in The Gallery (9th and Market Streets), where you can tell the salesperson you aren't biting at the $5 price.

Equally amusing are several other types of un-usual underewear. Back at Wanamaker's, please don't buy the whole ugly Hawaiian-type boxer shorts, available in a variety of offensive pastels for only $12 a pair. Or down the hall, give poor Santa a break by not purchasing the "I'm all wrapped up in you" briefs, which picture the rotund hero hugging his wife. Somehow, Mr. and Mrs. Claus don't belong over one's genitals.

For the fashion conscious -- who are now deep into flourescent clothing -- there's one shirt that absolutely must be avoided. Orange or green glow-in-the-dark shirts, available at Marianne in the Gallery, feature white shoe prints across the chest. A variety has someone's hand prints plastered across the front. Thankfully, these $15 shirts have not appeared at any other store yet. Nor are they disappearing too fast from Marianne's shelves.

Moving out of the dressing room and into the kitchen, there's a truly remarkable apparatus on sale in Wanamaker's. For a mere $299.99, the Farberware Electronic Ultrachef will provide anyone with the ultimate in easy cooking. It also solves the space problem for dormitory chefs.

The Ultrachef indeed sounds amazing. The idea is that it will prepare any meal or item -- start to finish -- inside its cylindrical oven. It does everything except eat the food inside the one cylinder: mix, stir, chop, sautee, bake, blend -- you name it. Just put the ingredients inside, press the right buttons and voila! you've got a meal. For $300. Says Wanamaker's salesperson Cynthia Brooks, "It looks like a cement mixer, but makes everything from fudge to roast beef from start to finish."

"I've never sold one," she adds.

Moving out of the kitchen and into the bathroom, a horridly insensitive gift is the Soehnle digital scale. For $70 at several stores, the scale gives you an electronic readout of how much you're overweight.

The scale has one major flaw. Its thin width makes it extraordinarily difficult to kick.

Christianstine brings out the worst in marketers and developers and perhaps the worst of the worst is available in every store.

In the Gallery's Linen Barn, buried appropriately on a bottom shelf, are a pile of round, green-red-and-white Santa faces in fluffy yarn. They're toilet bowl covers. Price: $6 apiece.

Over in the Reading Terminal Farmers Market (12th and Arch Streets), you can purchase a Christmas wreath composed entirely of chile peppers. Using the $30 at the 12th Street Cantina to buy some tacos, which are much better tasting and don't smell up a room as long, might be a better

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Shlock presents to avoid

(Continued from Page 22)

... But perhaps the most offensive, silliest, crudest and go-for-the-cheap-laughs gift is sold down the hall at "Only Happiness."

... There, you should ask to see - but not buy - the newest in adult party games, called "Pin the Macho on the Man."

... Without becoming too graphic, the toy features a life-size poster of a well-built and very nude male model, with only an anatomy target over his groin.

... The game also comes with a set of half a dozen phaluses — with variations that you have to see to believe - which players try to pin on the right spot. For $11, pass up the chance.

... But the 1980s, so far, has been the decade of fads, and this year is no exception.

... Still popular is last year's hot-selling Trivial Pursuit, something not utterly inappropriate to buy. But the various card sets that have hit the market since Trivial became a national craze are to be feared and sneered at. Particularly, don't buy the Biblical Trivia Card Set, which boasts questions about both the New and Old Testaments in its stock.

... For the kids, the trendiness gets even worse.

... Especially abominable is the absolute plethora of Cabbage Patch Kids items which stock the shelves of nearly every store in Center City.

... A partial list of available items is enough to turn the stomach. Witness:

... Erasers, crayons, paint-a-figure sets, stamp sets, soft travel bags, vanity centers, poseable figures, baby clothes, crawling babies, three-position rockers, a book called My Cabbage Patch and Me, patches, postcards, stickers, fuzzy stickers, ceramic pieces, buttons, mirrors, comb sets, nightlights, mugs, calendars, juice glass sets, stools, craft parts, photo albums, autograph books, wallets, baby care sets and banks.

... Adults, meanwhile, should avoid the Cabbage Patch monstrosity by not going near the atrocious Cabbage Patch slippers, earmuffs, or Christmas Tree ornaments, available at far too many places for far too much money.

... Better just buy the bank and put the rest of your money in it.

... And don't be out of date with your gifts either: Michael Jackson dolls and E.T. dolls (especially cheap, ugly ones) are simply gauche.

... Also to be loathed are the horrible Clara Peller kitchen utensils - potholders, oven mitts and dish towels which all scream, "Where's the Beef?"

... When you get right down to it, though, there's one thing which should be especially, completely, wholeheartedly and unanimously avoided when holiday shopping.

... It's expensive, not really fun to buy or to get, and just plain boring.

... You can choose not to buy it almost anywhere, but it's easiest to ignore in the Gallery, where gift packages of the stuff sell for about $25.

... So whatever you do, don't buy these. Not at Hickory Farms, not anywhere.

... Because that's a gift that just plain stinks. And if you think that's a bad pun, how about the one on the Hickory Farms sign:

... "Season's Eatings."

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