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November 28, 2005

Planning for Christmas parties easy, fun

By Haley Hughes
Staff Writer

Christmas is next month, but people are already planning their festive holiday parties.

Do not fret if you have no idea how to plan your menu or where to get your decorations. Here are a few helpful tips to guide you to throwing the bash of the year.

But, wait. Before we embark on this party-planning extravaganza, there are four tried-and-true steps you must follow first: 1) Pick your party type. In this case, we're preparing for a Christmas party. 2) Pick a party theme. 3) Plan your menu. 4) Add some special touches.

Now we're ready. Let's begin.

Party Theme/Decorations

FoodNetwork.com suggests, "Instead of preparing traditional [Christmas] dishes, consider establishing a theme for this year's gathering (e.g. Spanish, Italian). Ask each guest to bring a dish based on the theme for a tasty international potluck."

Picking your theme is perhaps the hardest step to accomplish on your pre-party checklist. A theme could be as simple as the color red or green or one as complicated as Christmas in Hawaii. Whatever your theme is, once it's picked, selecting your decorations should be a breeze.

A great place to purchase your decorations and tableware is Party City.

According to Party City's General Manager, Tina Woodward, the Christmas rush comes in waves. It's not until the

last two weeks before Christmas that the customers buying party supplies hit the store, she says.

Everything from disposable silverware, wine and martini glasses, plates and tablecloths are available at Party City, and for very reasonable prices, too. Tableware sets with snowman squares, a folksy Santa and glittery snowflakes are all marked off 50 percent. All items are grouped by color theme so finding those matching napkins and plates is not a problem.

Value packs are also offered in the store. For example, a value pack of 50 winter snowflake plates is only \$4.99.

"You buy more, you get a better price," Woodward explains.

A bargain table located near the cash registers has napkins, plates, cups and tablecloths at prices ranging from \$.99 to \$2.00.

Menu

The food you choose to serve can make or break your party. For small, impromptu celebrations, you can get off with simple finger-foods. For large, formal gatherings, a buffet where everyone serves themselves is appropriate. Either way, food gives you the chance to really wow your guests.

If you have decided to base your soiree around a theme, choose dishes that correlate. You could prepare delicious eats containing cranberries and cherries if your thematic color is red.

Web sites such as www.foodnetwork.com and www.bhg.com – Better Homes and Gardens – are fabulous places to find mouth-watering recipes.

See Party, page 11



Photo by Brandon Morrison | Staff Photographer

Sidelines Holiday Shopping Guide

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~~Christmas~~ Holiday Shopping for Non-Christians



Writer reflects on religious traditions, contrasting with mainstream celebrations

By Sarah Lavery
Staff Writer

Thank God for Seth Cohen and *The OC*. Because of them, "Chrismakkuha" is now a household term; because of them, all of us Jews with a Christmas tree can breathe a little easier.

I grew up in a religiously-split family with a Jewish mother and a father who is, well, not really much of anything

(although he did grow up Catholic against his will). Even though my mother always exposed me to the traditions and ideas of the Jewish faith, I was always allowed to explore and question the legitimacy of my, and all, religions.

I'm not sure if it is for this same reason that I have always celebrated Christmas, always had a tree, always sang "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and always looked

forward to December 25th.

Really, I'm not sure I had any idea that Christmas was at all associated with Jesus and Christianity (I mean, I'd heard the words to "Silent Night" countless times, but ideas about religion are hardly permeable into the mind of a seven year old) until I was well into my teenage-dom.

To me, Hanukkah has always been a celebration of religion, whereas Christmas has one sole purpose: presents, presents and more presents. Each year my family lights the menorah for eight days and the berakhot (blessings) are recited: *I'hadlik neir*

(a general prayer over candles), *she-asah nisim* (a prayer thanking God for performing miracles for our ancestors) and *she-hekhanu* (a general prayer thanking God for allowing us to reach this holiday).

I haven't even received a Hanukkah present since the days of my grandparents, in which case the only one that stands out in my mind is 25¢ Susan B. Anthony's. Not too earth shattering, if you ask me.

Thus, I will always celebrate Christmas (or X-mas, like so many of its non-Christian fans call it), but I will always be a Jew, light the menorah and say the prayers. Maybe it's the conditioning of our consumer-driven society, but the thought of a December without presents to give and get under a beautifully decorated tree leaves me with a feeling of emptiness.

I think people who have grown up with the idea that Christmas equals church, or that the holidays exist to celebrate the birth of Jesus, become nervous at the idea of differing traditions. After all, Christmas is so ingrained into our society among all religions that I'm sure most Hindus, Muslims and Islamists could list off several of its traditions

(I'm not sure it would work the other way around).

Alas, presents are presents, and I don't know anyone who doesn't like getting them, no matter what the occasion. So, what do you do for a friend who doesn't celebrate Christmas? First off, take the time to find out the details. Don't just assume that because they are not Christians, they don't have a tree and they don't accept presents adorned with candy cane wrapping paper.

Secondly, do it appropriately. If they decidedly don't acknowledge any Christmas traditions, make sure to give the gift tastefully, preferably without a Bible verse inscribed within the card.

I have no idea why reindeer, holly, snowflakes, or a jolly, old man with a white beard would offend, but nevertheless, they do represent a religion that your giftee may or may not follow.

Giving the gift in December denotes nothing more than the spirit of winter, but Christmas Eve and Christmas send a different message.

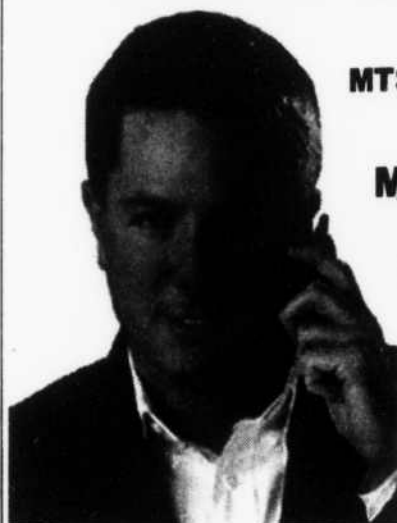
The bottom line is that you can never go wrong with being tasteful and considerate:

See Hanukkah, page 11

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Holiday Graphs

Population Growth in Rutherford County



Graphic by Randy Livingstone | Contributor

Bargain hunter does work for you

Plenty of 'Mom and Pop' shops around Boro offer deals during holiday shopping season

By Meagan Starnes
Contributor

Well, Merry Christmas already! With all of the tidings of great joy and good cheer, final exams, end of the year blow out sales, end of the year bank account over-drafts, and lest not we forget the figgy pudding (whatever that is). This time of year can be down right exasperating. With everything that is expected of us- the college crowd- how are we to balance it all? Let me clarify: when I say "it all" I am exactly referring to a budget.

We are all consumed by the poor college student psychosis, but it is more deeply felt during this season of giving. Luckily, you have someone on your side to sift through the so called "blow out" sales and deliver unto you local gift-getting spots and price effective gift-giving ideas.

There are always Target, Wal-Mart and the multitude of malls in the mid-state to give you business, but there is a plethora of "mom and pop" stores just down the road from campus where merchandise is reasonably priced and always makes for a great gift.

The first stop is Digital Planet. This media mecca actually has two location- and was featured in Billboard Magazine. The original store is on the corner of Lytle and Maple Street and has been in business for 13 years. The

second and larger of the two is across the street from the Stones River Mall. Their clientele includes everyone from the MTSU crowd to people from all over Middle Tennessee.

"We get all the college students and most of middle Tennessee...The thing that makes our store so appealing is that we have a lot of hard to find stuff that retail stores don't. We have a big back catalogue of music and movies," CEO/President of Digital Planet, Michael Morrison an MTSU alumnus says.

This store's angle is buying used merchandise from the public then selling it below retail.

"We try to sell all our merchandise at least 30 percent to 50 percent below retail price...the prices range anywhere from one dollar to one hundred dollars," says Morrison.

Their stock includes new and pre-owned CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes, cassette tapes, vinyl albums, posters from all genres and decades, as well as video games and gaming systems of all kinds.

"About 90 percent of our stock is used and about 10 percent is new," Morrison says.

All CDs, movies and games are discounted, at the register, an additional three dollars below the sticker price.

The next store I would recommend is Sugarees, a very stylish and nicely

See Shopping, page 13



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Festive, cheap decorations right at your front door

Getting in Christmas mood may be more cost-effective than thought

By Jessica Teeple
Staff Writer

Most people like Christmas because of the presents. Almost everyone (at least everyone who likes Christmas) gets a lot of joy out of decorating for Christmas. However, decorating on a college student's budget can often be difficult, even when one is merely decorating a door, as in the case of the many students that live in dorms or even apartments. A festive door can be achieved, though, with a simple trip to a couple low-budget stores.

Let's start with the stockings. At the Dollar Tree, where everything is actually a dollar, you can get various sorts of decorated stockings, such as the ones seen in the picture (with names applied using glitter glue from Michael's Arts & Crafts), or even plush stockings. If you want something more durable, more festive, and/or gaudier, you can go to Big Lots where stockings will cost you \$1.99 to \$5.99, depending on just how fancy you want them to be.

Then there are, of course, garlands. Available at both Big Lots and the Dollar Tree,

there are small differences. Both stores also feature wired garland that looks something like what fake trees are made out of. Big Lots has them at 9' with foil mixed in for \$1.99, while Dollar Tree has 15' of plain wired green garland for \$1. A clever idea for using these would be to sculpt them into a tree shape on your door and hang ornaments on it. You can get packs of small ornaments at both stores. If you use this idea, put some sort of covering on your door because that sucker is going to need glue. You can foil door covers in Christmas colors and patterns at Dollar Tree (as seen in picture).

Besides the door, you can decorate around the interior with Christmas figurines (available at Dollar Tree), a variety of tin, cardboard, velvet, and foil boxes (Big Lots, \$1-\$6), window clings (Dollar Tree), Santa hats (Dollar Tree, available in red, baby blue, and powder pink), doormats and placemats (Dollar Tree and K-Mart \$1.49) and giant plastic candy canes (K-Mart \$1.99).

Though not what one might call "cheap," for those who can't resist, K-Mart also has various musical dancing robotic toys for \$17-\$20.

Last, but not least, there's the important thing that was mentioned at the beginning of the article ? gifts. Now, of course, you already know what to get your friends, but

See Decoration, page 15

Photo by Jessica Teeple | Contributor

Dorm room doors don't have to be drab and boring during the holiday season. By grabbing a few basic materials from any hobby store, one can make their dorm entrance festive and fun.



Hating consumerism doesn't mean I don't want an iPod

The Christmas season is coming fast. While the beginning of Advent (November 27) is the official first day of the Christmas season, we all know that Christmas really starts the day after Thanksgiving (November 25.)

Why is this so? It is because all of our great corporations and companies picked this day to begin marketing Christmas items and products. This period of consumerism is called the fourth quarter.

Sigh. Christmas used to be such a meaningful holiday. It started out with a baby in a manger and a lovely nativity scene with innocent sheep and a mother and father caring for their newborn. Those wise men provided gifts that sounded unique and extravagant just by their names: frankincense, myrrh and gold.

Anyway, I was looking online to find out what these items really are. I found a Web site called www.nice-toys.com and they are actually trying to sell the "original Christmas gifts." That's right; they are selling frankincense, myrrh and gold for \$89.99. The frankincense and myrrh come in bottles that look like cough syrup bottles. On the label is the name of the



Commentary

Andrew Johnson
Staff Columnist

product. The gold just looks like glitter in a plastic tube.

What is this world coming to? How dare those companies take something so meaningful and turn it into a marketable product. Maybe they should also think about selling the Garden of Eden.

Am I being too hard on these companies? They are only trying to make a profit. Besides, I am a consumer myself. We all are. I hate the idea of consumerism because that's all Christmas is about anymore, but that doesn't change the fact that I want an iPod.

In fact, according to the Boston Globe, iPod just made an appearance on the National Retail Federation's annual list of the top 10 categories of toys, which was released on Wednesday. While Barbie is still number one for girls, the iPod debuted at

number six. Last year, the iPod was all the rage for adults, but now it is becoming increasingly popular with children.

Also new on the list is the Xbox 360, which debuted at number six for most popular among boys. I have been playing Halo 2 way too much. I'm trying to take a break, but if I end up getting an Xbox 360, the mayhem may continue.

Sure, Christmas is supposed to be about spending time with the family and drinking spiked eggnog. But we all get wrapped up in the consumerism. The media defines our lives and we are its slaves. I want to see my family, but I will still be disappointed if I don't get that iPod. Maybe if my parents give me money I could save up for one. Also, my birthday is January 18, so anything I don't get for Christmas, I usually ask for it on my birthday. I am so evil.

We all crave the latest technology. I feel so stupid walking around campus with my CD player when everyone else has an iPod. You feel left out when you don't have that new technology. And nobody really needs an iPod or an Xbox 360.

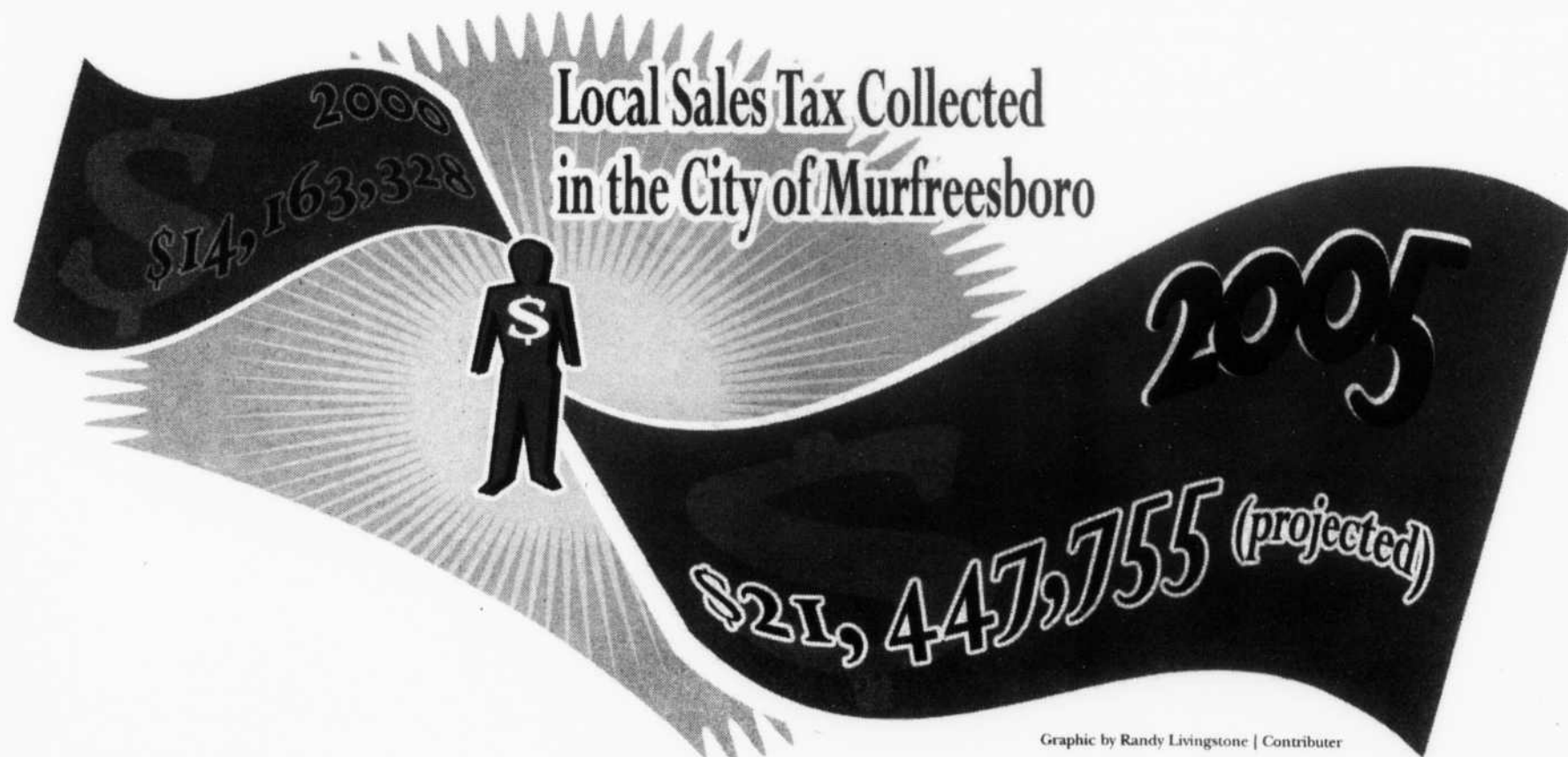
This is the problem with our consumerism. We sometimes blame the media and these corporations for plaguing our lives with commercials and marketing schemes, but we have our own free will. We could choose to ignore these Christmas discounts and half-price Tickle-me-Elmos. So I have devised some alternative presents for Christmas where you don't need to buy much at all.

- Make your mom or dad a photo album. God knows they have one already, but if you made it, it would make it more special. All you would have to buy is a photo-album notebook, or you could even make a collage of pictures on a piece of poster board. My sister did this and my parents loved it. Be sure to leave off those pictures of you doing a keg-stand at the block party and that one where you passed out and everyone wrote all over you.

- Give your brother or sister an "I promise to be nice to you for a week" card. Sounds cheesy but it really works. I gave one of these to my brother. And he used it during the summer, right after he drenched me

See Consumerism, page 6

Holiday Graphics



Graphic by Randy Livingstone | Contributor

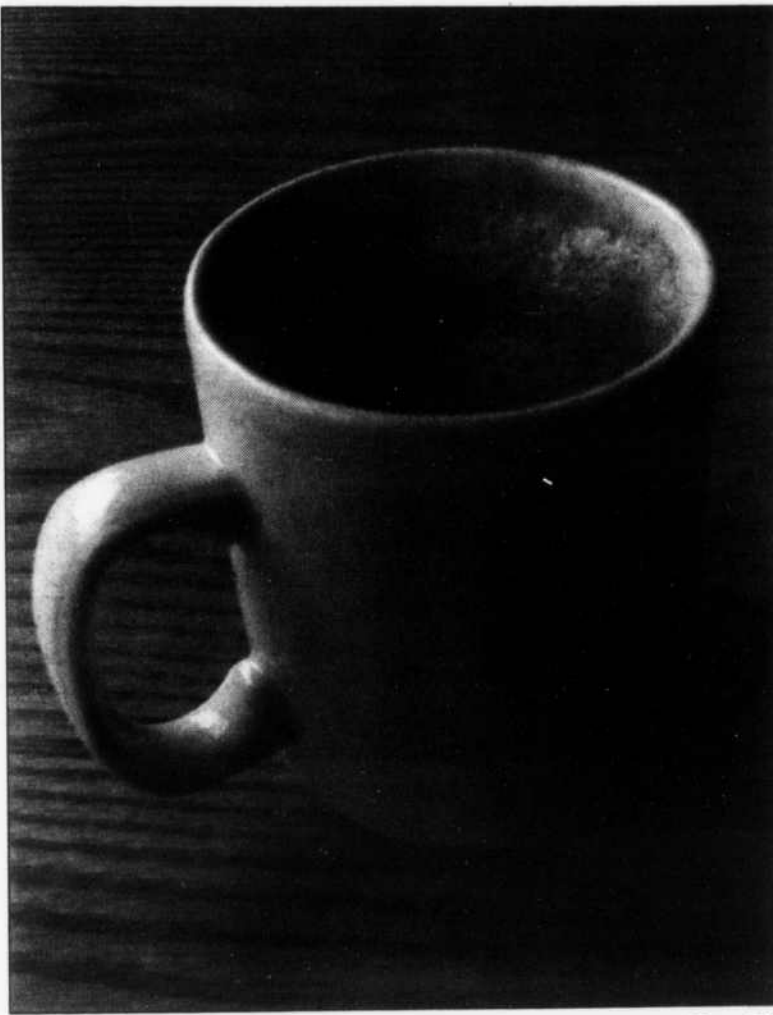


Image courtesy MorgueFile

Remember gift-giving etiquette

Watch out for thin lines when giving gifts to bosses, coworkers or professors

By Brandi Fleck
Features Editor

The gift giving season has no limits on how much one should give to any number of people, but rules do apply to the process depending on who the recipient is.

"Because of pay inequality, there are not as many gift giving opportunities from employee to boss and the boss doesn't expect gifts," Virginia Hemby-Grubb, associate business professor says.

However, if an employee does want to give his or her boss a gift, Hemby says that one must determine if they want the gift to be temporary or enduring, personal or professional.

Good gifts for bosses

include clocks, pens, plants and Hemby says that food is always a good idea even though the most appropriate gift from an employee to a boss is simply a card.

"Usually [I give] something inexpensive but still worth it like a cute scarf," Kimmie Jones, senior advertising major and Victoria Secret at Cool Springs employee says.

Jones says she wouldn't spend more than \$15 on a gift of this nature but would rather go in with a group of people to purchase the gift so it will be nicer and won't "clutter their house and get thrown away."

Public relations senior, Rebekah Sitz, agrees that \$15 to \$20 should be the minimum amount spent on bosses, coworkers or professors, but thinks that an individually given gift is more personal and creative than pitching in with a big group.

However, a gift giver must remember that not everyone celebrates Christmas, so its appropriate to give gifts anytime between Thanksgiving and New Year's for the season, but not the actual holiday Hemby says.

"Bosses may give gifts to employees because they're the leaders and traditionally make

more money," Hemby says. "It's the responsibility of them as official company representative to give gifts to employees and they should all be treated equally."

As an employee, Jones says she's received such gifts from the higher ups as coffee mugs with company logos on them and upcoming product samples from Victoria's Secret.

"Bath products are OK, but only if you know what [the receiver] likes. Otherwise don't do it! I have a whole drawer full of scents that I don't like," Jones says. "Also, don't buy them anything Christmas themed for Christmas. Those things have a short shelf life."

Also, when bosses or professors give gifts to employees or students, Hemby says if every present is not equal and distinguishes one group from another this builds resentment. In her personal experience for a company she once worked for the personnel staff was always taken out to lunch but the administrative staff was given donuts and this led to problems.

Ultimately, its up to the employee or boss to give gifts to each other but its not necessary.

"Some people do it just because they're in a very giving spirit at the holiday season," Hemby says. ♦



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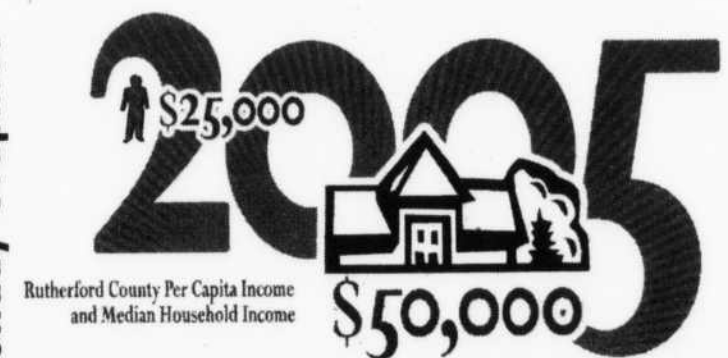
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Holiday Graphics



Graphic by Randy Livingstone | Contributor

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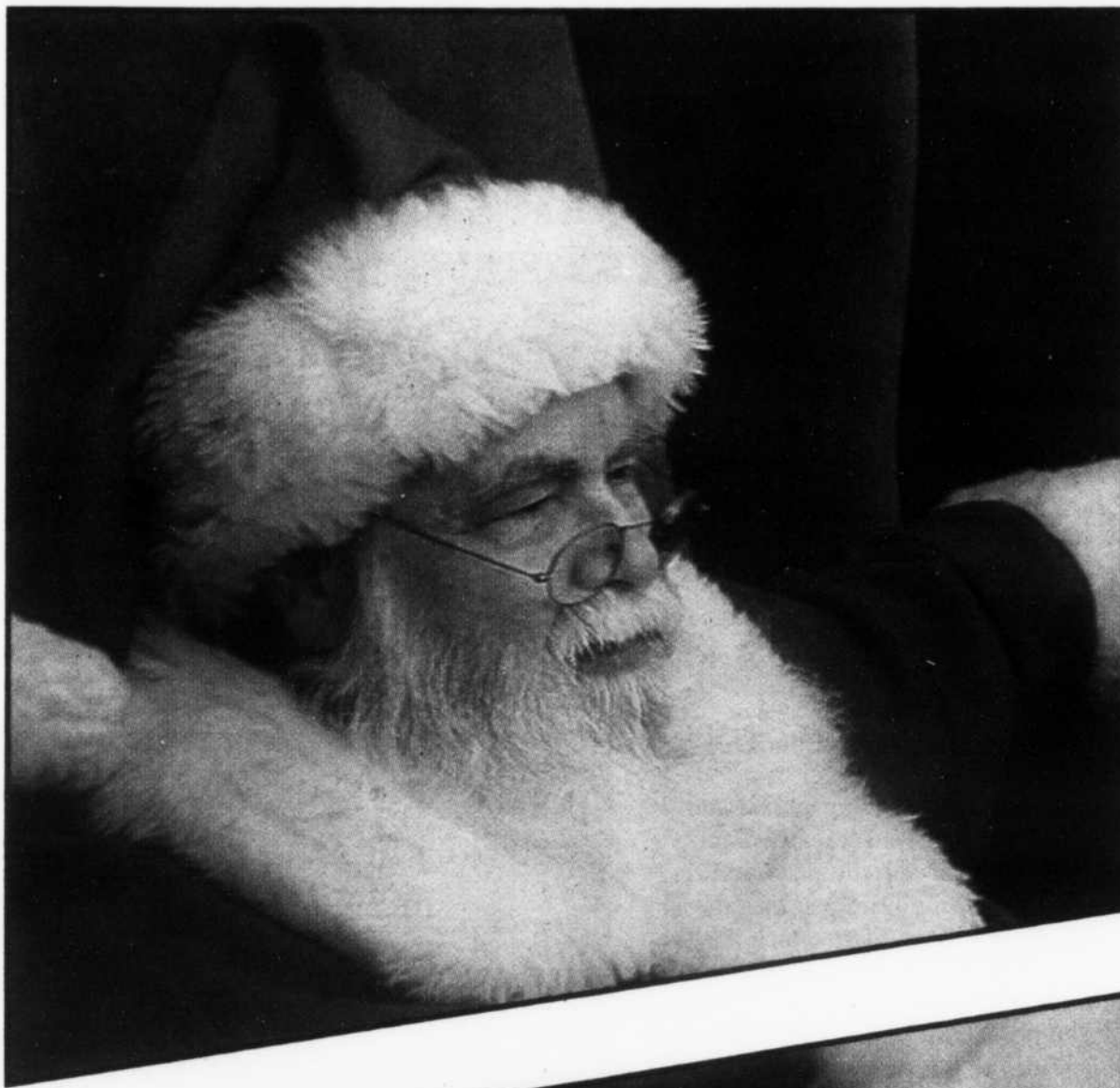


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Photos by Brandon Morrison | Staff Photographer
Santa Claus took time out of his busy holiday schedule to talk to Sidelines about his favorite foods, his time spent offseason and how he feels he affects children's lives.

An interview with SANTA

By Brandi Fleck

Sidelines decided Santa Claus at Hickory Hollow could offer insight into this holiday season's hottest gift ideas. Mainly, we just wanted to know what was on his mind. I don't know why Brandon and I thought we could get pictures and an interview without sitting on Santa's lap.

We broke during the interview to watch Santa speak with other eager children on his lap who had tons of questions about Christmas trees. One little girl needed coaxing. Maybe it was his big red suit or his white as snow beard, but the little girl's mom had to stand right there with her to make him less intimidating. Santa just smiled and tried to talk to her while the camera flashed.



SIDELINES: WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE TREAT TO BE LEFT ON CHRISTMAS EVE?

SANTA: NOW THAT'S A REAL ISSUE BECAUSE EVERYBODY THINKS ITS CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES AND I REALLY PREFER *OATMEAL AND RAISIN* COOKIES AND WHEN [PEOPLE] ASK I'M REALLY AFRAID TO DISILLUSION THEM.

Sidelines: Describe a typical day in your life during the holiday season.

Santa: I sit here all day long. Occasionally a kid comes by. Later on it gets a little more interesting and not varied at all. We take some pictures – in December pictures are a bigger part of the deal, but at this time we just talk, sometimes for five minutes or more. So many kids are afraid of me.

I wrote a letter to the editor about it. I'd say children from 1 to 3 years-old view Santa at best with deep suspicion. I have to be careful when waiting on the elevator because if the doors open and there's a little kid – some just scream. Then a few kids come over and over and over.

One little girl has been coming for three years and I guess she's 5 now. I was in line at McDonalds and she got behind me in line (it was arranged, of course) and she just screamed, 'That's Santa Claus!' I said, 'What's your name little girl?' and she said, 'Silly Santa, you know who I am.' But Santa's old and forgetful too so I ask names. I absolutely love this job and its not hard.

It consumes two months of my life and my wife thinks she's a widow but even kids who don't like me, I love 'em and I tell 'em I love 'em.

Sidelines: Describe a typical day in your life during the off season.

Santa: I take a month or two to kinda recover. Christmas Eve wears everybody out. Magic takes care of being able to make the trip but it doesn't make it less tiring. The reindeer are getting in shape – they run every morning. They're back at the pole working out.

Sidelines: What's your favorite part of the job?

Santa: I think I'm pretty smart. After we rest we begin production planning. We keep an eye on new products. I have a deal with the patent office that I can knock off anything I can get. Mr. Jake is my chief engineer. He's about 3-foot-6-inch, 80 lbs, big strong guy. He can reverse engineer almost anything. When the kids ask for something I've never heard of, Jake'll know about it. The deer only have to work one day, they've got an easy life. Rudolph is getting a little old. I've had the others so long the same magic that keeps me from aging works for them. Rudolph wasn't around till the 50s so he's getting' some age on 'em.

Sidelines: Do you ever leave the North Pole in the off season?

Santa: Yes, I keep watch on the kids and spend lots of time down in the world we call it while Jake runs the shop. [Mrs. Claus] and I just travel the world during the spring and summer.

Sidelines: Do you ever get recognized in the off season?

Santa: That doesn't bother me. I don't mind being recognized. I tell them yes I am Santa Claus.

Sidelines: Do you give gifts to college students or just small children?

Santa: Generally, the things we make (we do make everything I give) don't appeal to college students. I made some money once and I got in serious trouble. Secret service sent somebody up to see me. I

See Santa, page 12

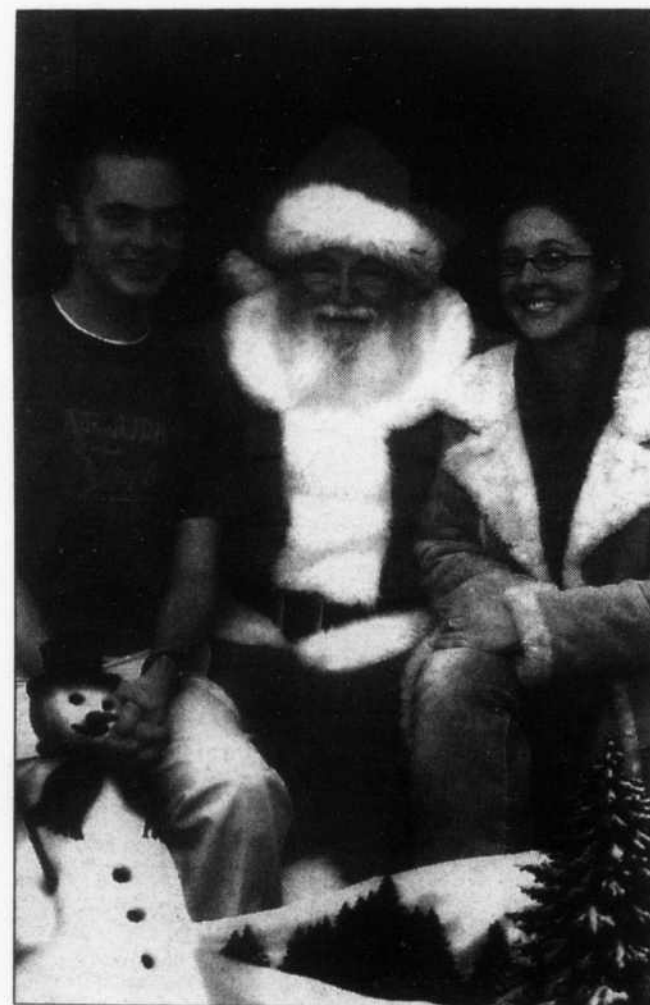


Photo provided
Sidelines' staffers Brandon Morrison and Brandi Fleck pose for a photo with Saint Nick himself.

From Party, page 2

think non-themed wrapping-paper (solid colored or secular decorations), a card that expresses nothing more than your adoration for them, and a time that is reflective of the spirit of winter rather than a specific holiday.

As a non-Christian in the Bible-belt, I would find nothing wrong with a Christmas

theme gift because I do, in fact, have a tree in my home. However, it's always better to be safe than sorry, so if you're not sure, stick with being tactful rather than assuming.

My entire life, I've celebrated my own version of Chrismakkuh before Seth Cohen coined the clever term; Christmas is for the conven-

ience of palpable holiday spirit, and Hanukkah for the celebration of my religion. This year, though, for the first time I can remember, Hanukkah starts on December 25th (all of you with Jewish friends are in luck).

But, honestly, what person, no matter what religion or race, turns down a good present? ♦

From Hannukah, page 3

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But, honestly, what person, no matter what religion or race, turns down a good present? ♦

From Consumerism, page 6

with a hose. Damn brothers!

• Okay, so I know you're still going to buy that iPod, but you should dress up like Santa Claus yourself, take all the presents under the tree, and then show up the next morning with all the presents in a trash bag. Then you can hand them out one by one. Okay, so this doesn't really have anything to do with consumerism but it will scare the hell out of your family. And they won't ever question your Christmas spirit again. (You should drink some spiked eggnog before engaging in this endeavor.)

My point is that the people you are with and the good times, not the latest technology, should define Christmas. This doesn't mean that you can't get that iPod or that Xbox 360, but these things shouldn't be the highlight of Christmas. Family first! ♦



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From Santa, page 10

get lots of requests for cars and we make some up to this size [Santa says while holding his hands about a foot apart] and that's it. We make diamonds out of coke bottle bottoms.

Sidelines: What's the best gift you've ever given to someone?

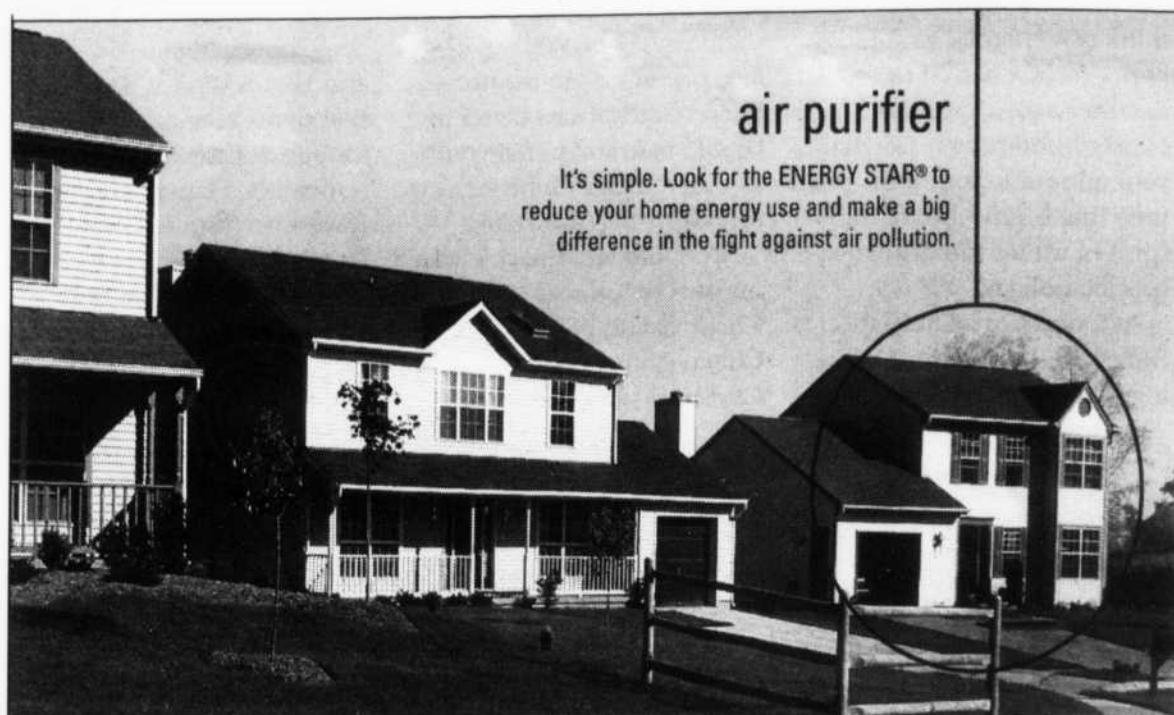
Santa: For animals I have to have permission of the parents because I can't bring a horse if you're going to keep it in your closet. We don't make animals but I can arrange for stuff like that. I have connections.

Sidelines: What's your favorite treat to be left on Christmas Eve?

Santa: Now that's a real issue because everybody thinks its chocolate chip cookies and I really prefer oatmeal and raisin cookies and when [people] ask I'm really afraid to disillusion them.

Sidelines: Do you get along with the Easter Bunny?

Santa: I don't know that I've ever met the guy. I do know this is his chair. Someone told me the purple chair belongs to the Easter Bunny. In that part of spring we're involved in production planning and I don't think he's equipped to see me even though he's pretty furry. But Snowbird, he's a friend of mine. He sat on my lap last year and we got our picture. ♦




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From Shopping, page 4

priced shopping destination. This store is situated next door to Digital Planet on the corner of Lytle and Maple Street.

"Sugarees has been in business for one year next month," proprietress Staci Higdon says.

Her collection features new and vintage clothing for both men and women, jewelry and shoes. It's a big city boutique without the high fashion prices. This store is special in that it boasts local jewelry designed by Glory Alice, an MTSU student, as well as other local artists' paintings, sculptures and photographs.

"I get college students mostly, but I see a nice variety of people all the way from elementary school chil-

dren, to Red Hat Ladies, to business people from the square," says Higdon.

Her prices range from \$.50 to \$159. Currently, leather bracelets are 25 percent off the sticker price.

The third place I visited is The Red Door directly across the street from the AmSouth Bank on Church Street. This store has everything from furniture to trendy handbags.

"The uniqueness and variety of our store stands out, we carry furniture, home decor, purses, jewelry. There is something for everyone" owner Carla Rabon says.

Her collection of accessories and house wares is both affordable and cute.

Next up, we have Bink's Outfitters, a great outdoors store in the public square.

Fully equipped with everything one could need for a weekend of roughing it, this store also includes an unmoving 40 percent off display which includes name brands Chacos, Clarks and Life is Good. The best bargain I stumbled across was The Eagles Nest Outfitters Hammock priced at \$49.99 for a single nest, and \$59.99 for a double nest.

Bink's Outfitters carries a large, colorful stock of Crocs shoes and galoshes, an abundance of freeze dried meals, back packs, and many other sport utility accessories.

Finally, I'll mention an unorthodox method quickly becoming a tradition-online shopping.

"Mid-October to November there is almost a 150 per-

cent increase in online sales. The Christmas economy is shifting to online entrepreneurs," according to Tom Peterson, the owner of On-markets.net, who does his business on West Lytle Street alongside Digital Planet and Sugarees.

He runs an online consignment store. His business card reads, "Bring us your items. We sell them online. We send you a check." It's as simple as that.

"We get bigger business after Christmas. Students realize while an iPod is great, it's also \$200 they could put toward books or heat," says Peterson. "I deal in electronics more than anything."

While his business is a definite way for you, the con-

sumer, to profit, it opens one's mind to the possibility of e-commerce.

He gave me some tips for safe and successful online shopping that apply year round. Always ask if they (the seller) provide a shipment tracking number.

Check to see if there is a third party 'A-Z' guarantee, and don't wait until the week before Christmas to place your bid or make your purchase.

Of course, my findings are the product of a single afternoon's venture. But don't wait too long to begin your holiday gift hunting because the giving is better than receiving. And if you ask me the shopping is the best of the three! ♦

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What do I do with all these leftovers?

By Brandon Morrison
Staff Writer

With the upcoming holiday season fast approaching us, thoughts can drift towards pleasant memories of huge, shared meals around the dinner table. Fortunately for most college students, the most effort that goes into the planning of such meals is minimal at most.

Even better, once the food is prepared and eaten, there are usually mounds of leftovers for everyone. Since no self-respecting college student can ever let food go to waste, many end up with an extra pound or two of turkey, potatoes or some other mound of food.

Here are some recipes one can use to spice up some leftover ingredients from the usual turkey leftovers from holiday meals. ♦

Turkey and Hot Peppers Quesadillas

Recipe from Butterball: www.butterball.com

Cooking Method: Sautee
Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cooking Time: 10-20 minutes
Makes: 4 servings

Ingredients

1 package (6 ounces) Butterball® Fat Free Honey Roasted Turkey Breast, (thin sliced)
8 slices Swiss cheese
1/4 cup chopped bottled or canned roasted red peppers
4 flour tortillas (10 inch)
1 tablespoon margarine, butter or olive oil

Directions

Place equal amounts of turkey, cheese and roasted peppers on each of 2 tortillas. Season with salt and pepper. Top each with another tortilla.

Place a 12-inch nonstick skillet over medium heat until hot. Add margarine or olive oil. Tilt skillet to coat bottom. Carefully add the tortillas and cook 3 minutes on each side, pressing down on top with a spatula, or until the cheese is melted and the tortillas are golden.

Remove from pan and cut into wedges.

Turkey Veggie Bagel Sandwich

Recipe from Butterball - www.butterball.com

Cooking Method: No Cook
Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cooking Time: 10-20 minutes
Makes: 1 serving

Ingredients

1 small Romaine lettuce leaf
1 onion bagel, cut in half
2 slices Butterball® Premium Carved Honey Roasted & Smoked Turkey Breast, (from 5-oz. package)
4 cucumber slices
1 radish, sliced thin
1 tablespoon light cream cheese with chives and onions
2 tablespoons shredded carrots

Directions

Place lettuce leaf on bottom half of bagel. Top with turkey, cucumber and radish. Spread cream cheese on top half of bagel and sprinkle with carrot. Complete sandwich with top half of bagel.

Serve immediately or wrap and keep cold for a take-with sandwich.

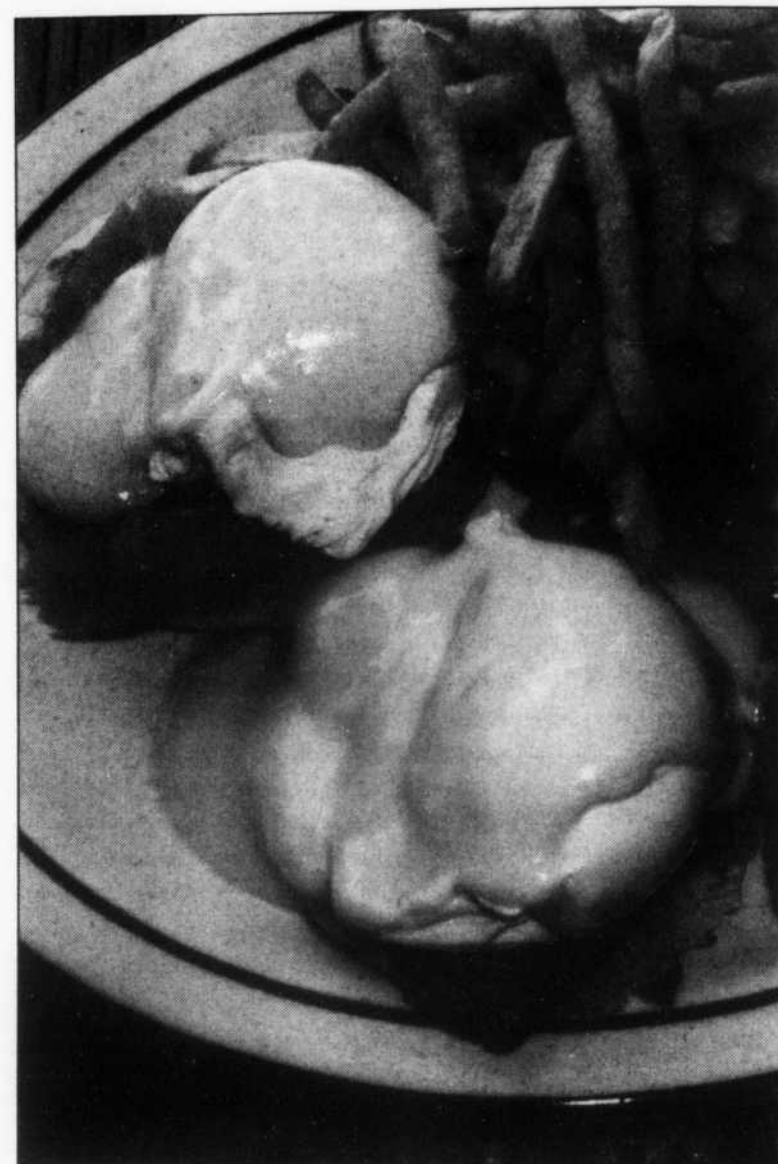


Photo provided by morguefile.com

Easy Cheesy Potato Chowder

Recipe from Betty Crocker www.bettycrocker.com

Ingredients

1 package Chicken Helper® chicken & potatoes au gratin
1 can (11 ounces) Green Giant® Mexicorn® whole kernel corn with red and green peppers, undrained
2 cups water
3 cups milk
2 cups cut-up cooked chicken or turkey (10 ounces)
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese (4 ounces)

Heat uncooked potatoes, sauce mix, corn, water, milk and chicken to boiling in dutch oven, stirring constantly; reduce heat. Cover and simmer 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in cheese; sprinkle with topping.



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From Decorations, page 5

what about spreading the cheer a little further?

Hand out some candy canes! Candy isn't just for Halloween. So pick yourself up a little pouch that'll hang on the door knob (the one in the picture was obtained at a Dollar General for \$1) and stuff it full of candy canes.

Don't want to be so ordinary? There are non-traditional candy canes everywhere. Big Lots has a few flavors, including peach, cherry, blueberry and pina colada for \$.99-\$1.99. Dollar Tree has DumDum candy canes in 12 packs of peppermint, cinnamon, cherry and blueberry. At K-Mart you can buy 12-packs of candy canes for \$1.99 with varieties such as SweetTarts (which includes Green Apple, Cherry and Blue Punch flavors), Gobstopper (which includes green, white, and red, and they change colors and flavors the way traditional gobstoppers do) and Spree.

Helpful tips for door decorating

- Dorms usually have rules about only using masking tape as an adhesive to doors and walls. To get the door covering on as well as possible, tape a strip of masking tape along front edges of the door. Then, apply double-sided Scotch tape to the back of that. This works much better than tape-loops but comes off as easier than just using double-sided tape.

- Don't expect perfection. The only people that do it perfectly are people who have been practicing for years and people who are wound so tightly that they give themselves stomach trouble.

- Mistakes can be cute.

- Completely cover the backs of all large objects (such as the stockings and George the Snowman, pictured) with loops of wide tape. Hit them occasionally to make sure that they are still secure.

- Put your names and room number somewhere on the door. (such as stockings and snowmen) This way, people will know how to tell other people where your door is and what to call you when they congratulate you.

Remember that you have to take it down.

Where to find the closest stores to campus:

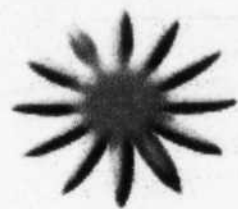
Dollar Tree 1628 N Tennessee Blvd

Big Lots 1220 NW Broad St

& Stones River plz.

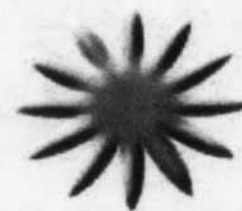
K-Mart 1266 NW Broad St.

Picture: Door decorated by author with door cover from Dollar Tree, foam stick-on letters and figures from Michael's Arts & Crafts, stockings from Dollar Tree, glitter glue from Michael's Arts & Crafts, candy canes from Big Lots, and bag from Dollar General. George the Snowman was made with a foam sheet from Michael's Arts & Crafts. ♦

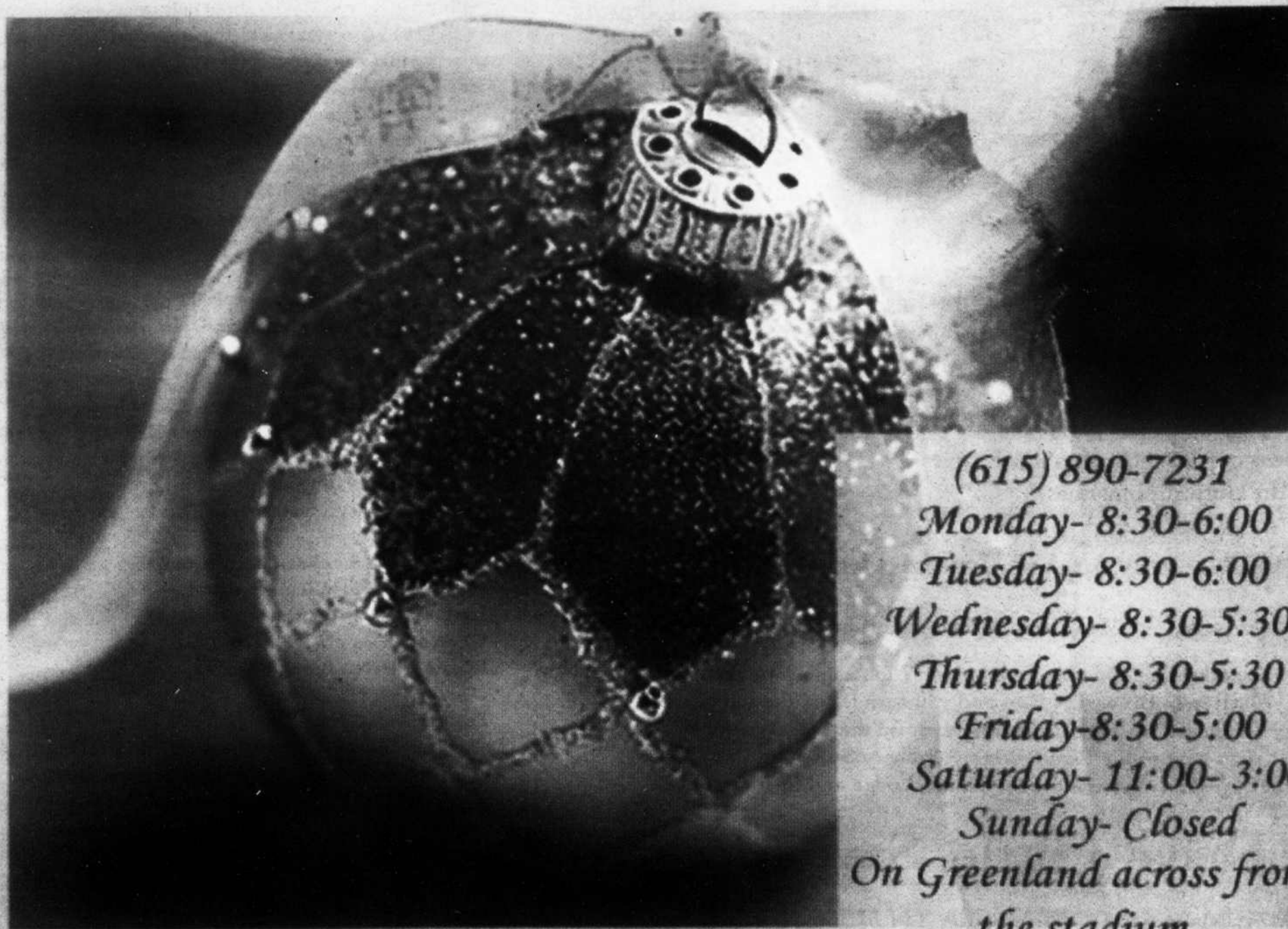


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