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Laura R. Hadley

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independent

Serving Northeastern Illinois University for over a decade

Volume 15, issue 8

Tuesday, December 1, 1998

Chicago, Illinois

Decorations light the way to festivities A guide to shopping, fun, and food in the city

by Thomas J. Foley, Desk Editor

Chicago and its many cultural institutions sponsor many events year round, but this is especially true during the holiday season.

Some events are well-known, others are not. What follows is a partial list of things you might enjoy this holiday season.

First, one of the most traditional things to do around the holidays is to decorate the house with lights and stuff. One of the most elaborate displays takes place in Chicago's Sauganash neighborhood. Anytime after Thanksgiving, up until the new year, you can drive north up Central to Pratt Avenue, turn right and right again, and see some true wonders. You might want to park and walk once you're close as it gets pretty crowded.

The **Goodman Theater** presents *A Christmas Carol*, which runs until December 29. Tickets range from \$27 to \$36, with a special price of \$15 on December 1. Weekends are already sold out, but you might still find some single seats available. The theater is located at 200 S. Columbus Drive. Call 312-443-3800 for ticket information and show times.

The **Joffrey Ballet of Chicago** presents *The Nutcracker*, which runs until December 13. The ballet will be held at the Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress Parkway. Call Ticketmaster at 312-912-1500 for ticket information and show times.

The **Chicago Children's Museum** has an exhibit called *Gingerbread Fantasy Factory*, which runs until January 11. The museum is open Tuesday through

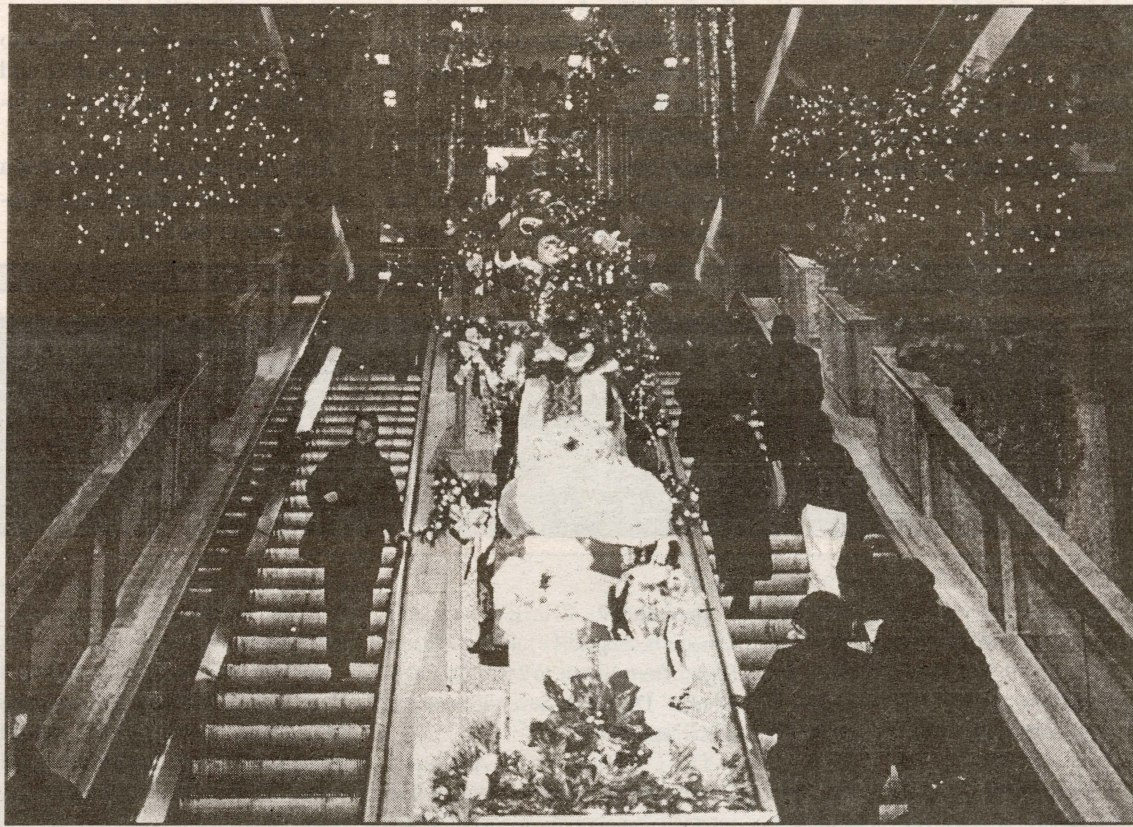
Sunday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and admission is \$6. The museum is located at Navy Pier, 700 E. Grand Ave.

The **Museum of Science and Industry** presents its traditional *Christmas Around the World; Holiday of Lights* exhibit until January 3. The museum is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. and on weekends until 5:30 p.m. Admission is \$7. The Museum of Science and Industry is located at 57th St. and Lake Shore Drive.

The **Chicago Botanic Garden's** annual festival of the holiday season runs until January 4. There will be holiday decorations, a holiday plant sale and various activities. The Chicago Botanic Garden is located at 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, and can be reached at 847-835-5440 with any questions.

The City of Chicago is sponsoring its third annual *Christkindlmarket*, which runs until December 20. The marketplace allows one to experience shopping in a European setting and features gingerbread stands, handmade ornaments, wood carvings, nutcrackers, sausages, hot, spiced wine as well as many other items. The market is open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and is located at Dearborn and Washington streets. For more information, call the German-American Chamber of Commerce at 312-644-2662.

The **Lincoln Park Zoo** is holding a *ZooLights Festival* until January 3. Come celebrate with the animals with dazzling lights, ice carvings and a variety of entertainment. The zoo is open every day from 9 a.m.



Shoppers enjoy the decorations in the lobby of the Water Tower Place on Michigan Avenue.

until 5 p.m. and admission is free. The zoo is located at 2200 N. Cannon Drive, in Lincoln Park.

The **Garfield Park Conservatory** is celebrating the holidays with a *Celebration in Lights* until January 4. The conservatory will magically glow with tiny lights, and visitors will receive a pamphlet describing Santa's journey from the North Pole. The conservatory is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week, and is located at 300 N. Central Park Ave. For more information, call the conservatory at 312-746-5100.

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A Kwanzaa story

by Ida Musini, Staff Writer

More and more African-American families are starting to utter the words Happy Kwanzaa as opposed to Merry Christmas. Kwanzaa, which was developed and initiated by Dr. Maulana Ron Karenga on December 31, 1966, as a way for African-Americans to gather and give thanks to our ancestors.

Kwanzaa is based on the cultural principles of a theory called Kawaia. The theory premise is that social revolutionary change for Black America can be achieved by the act of revealing and disclosing individuals to their cultural heritage. What Dr. Karenga was trying to achieve was unity in the community during a time when Black Americans were at the peak of the Civil Rights movement. He had noted that Black Americans did not have a holiday between

October and December celebrating the growth and development or the essence of us. He also felt that we as a people needed to "reassess, reclaim, recommit, remember, retrieve, resurrect and rejuvenate of the principles (way of life) utilized by Black Americans' ancestors. The principles (way of life) allowed them to endure slavery, racism, and oppressions during the sojourn in America."

Kwanzaa is a way of life; not just a celebration. It is a week of evaluation of ourselves and our history. We relate to our past, reassess our thoughts and practices, and recommit ourselves to the achievement of Black liberation and the betterment of life for all Black Americans.

Kwanzaa is celebrated from December 26 through December 31. During this week we meditate on the following seven principles:

1. UMOJA (Unity) (oo-MOE-jah) – To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.
 2. KUJICHULIA (Self-Determination) (Koo-jee-chagoo-LEE-ah) – To define ourselves and speak for ourselves.
 3. UJIMA (Collective work and Responsibility) (oo-JEE-mah) – To build and maintain our community together and to make our brothers' and sisters' problems and our problems and solve them together.
 4. UJAMAA (Cooperative Economics) (oo-JAH-mah) – To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit together from them.
 5. NIA (Purpose) (nee-AH) – To make as our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore
- see Kwanzaa
page 2

Holiday opens this week at the Stage Center



Photo: Jamey McDunn

Jason Borkowski and Tina Haglund perform in the Stage Center Theatre production of the Philip Barry classic, *Holiday*. The show opens December 3.

See the review on
page 10.

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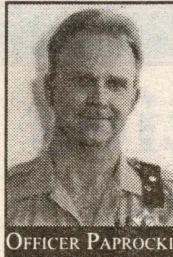
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Campus police report

For jump starts, auto lockouts, and all emergencies, please contact Public Safety at extension 200

November 7

Station Info: A faculty member reported his vehicle stolen from Bryn Mawr Ave.



OFFICER PAPROCKI

November 8

Station Info: A staff member reported unknown persons using office material in the Science Building.

A student reported his auto damaged by a fallen tree limb on Bryn Mawr. A loss of \$500.

Medical Assist: A non-student fell in the Classroom Building. A parent transported her to the hospital.

November 11

Theft: A visitor to the campus reported a \$145 cellular phone stolen from the D-Building.

November 12

Theft: A student reported her purse left in the Science Building. When she returned, it was gone. A loss of \$170.

November 13

Criminal Damage: Graffiti was reported in the D-Building and the B-Wing.

November 16

Station Info: A staff member reported finding rooms unlocked in a secure area. An investigation is being done.

Disorderly Conduct: An unknown person threw a large gourd at an instructor during a class in the classroom building. No motive

could be found, nor was a description of the offender given.

Station Info: Two letters in envelopes were received in the university mail room. Both had offensive political and religious material written on the front.

Medical Assist: An instructor collapsed in the Science Building. He refused medical attention and was later taken by a friend.

November 17

Criminal Damage: More graffiti was reported in the campus.

Theft: A student reported his auto lock pulled out of the car door and a \$200 tape deck stolen in the D-Lot.

Theft: Another student reported a \$250 tape deck stolen from a damaged auto in the D-Lot.

Theft: Another student reported a \$350 tape deck stolen from her auto while it was parked on Bryn Mawr Ave.

November 20

Station Info: A staff member reported porno material on his e-mail. This was tracked to hackers and reported.

Medical Assist: A student was injured in the day care center. His parents were notified after being treated by health services.

Theft: A cardboard figure and tee-shirt were stolen by unknown person(s). A loss of \$25.

Disturbance: A student was escorted from the classroom building after becoming upset about some papers he wrote. He was directed to the Deans Office.

November 23

Theft: A contract worker reported copper piping stolen from the new Arts Building area. A loss of \$80.

Kwanzaa

continued from page 1

our people to their traditional greatness.

6. KUUMBA (Creativity) (koo-OOM-bah) – To do always as much as we can, in the way that we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than when we inherited it.

7. IMANI (Faith) (ee-MAH-nee) – To believe with all our hearts in our parents, our teachers, our leaders, our people and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Let us as individuals become leaders within our own families by being the impetus for unity and celebration of a not so new, but custom-made holiday that calls us to Sankofa, which is looking to your past histories to understand your journey into the future. HARAMBE!!!

Around Campus

In the spirit of this season of joy, NEIU has many uplifting events taking place all around. Some are celebratory, some are informational and some are inspirational, so let's see what's happening in the final two weeks of the fall semester.

December 1: The Foreign Languages Department is holding a reception in the Foreign Languages Lab in Room A-133 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Que Ondee Sola and the Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS) is sponsoring a video presentation entitled *Mi Puerto Rico* in their office (Room E-041) from 9:25 to 10:40 and again from 1:40 to 2:50. **Important note:** Refreshments will be served!

The Political Science Department and the Politics Club are sponsoring a presentation entitled *The New European Security Dimension: Poland's Place in the Newly-Enlarged NATO* by Polish Consul Jacek Sawicz in SCI-317 from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. A reception follows. **Important note:** Light refreshments will be served!

The Music Department is sponsoring a concert by the NEIU Chorus in the Auditorium from 7:30 to

9 p.m.

December 2: CHMEXLA Student Union is hosting a bake sale in the Village Square from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., so forget Dunkin' Donuts or Seven-Eleven and check 'em out!

The Office of Academic Development is sponsoring a live interactive national videoconference entitled *Blacks and Latinos in Higher Education: Coalition or Competition* in the Golden Eagles Room from noon until 2 p.m. Brown bag lunches are welcome, and so is everyone else! For more information, call Academic Development at ext. 6258.

Que Ondee Sola and UPRS are sponsoring a *Cuatro* performance in the TV Room of the Student Lounge from noon until 2:30 p.m.

The Music Department is sponsoring a concert by, appropriately enough, the NEIU Concert Band in the Auditorium starting at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. Call 773-794-3042 for more information.

December 3: *Que Ondee Sola* and UPRS are sponsoring a discussion led by the multi-talented Ramon Lopez on *The History of the last 100 Years in*

Puerto Rico in the Golden Eagles Room from 1:40 to 2:50 p.m. **Important note:** Refreshments will be served!

Also from 1:40 to 2:50 p.m., there will be a meeting in CLS-4006 providing general information on Study Abroad opportunities. For more information, call Robee Fuller (check spelling) at ext. 6651.

The Future Teachers Club is sponsoring a Bake Sale from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the Village Square. Find out what they've learned about baking.

The Music Department is sponsoring a concert by the renowned NEIU Jazz Ensemble at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium. The Jazz Ensemble will be featuring the music of Billy Strayhorn, Bill Holman and Dick Lieb. Admission is free. Call 773-794-3042 for more information. This one is strongly recommended for all music lovers.

The Stage Center Theatre production of *Holiday*, opens this evening at 7:30. See page 10 for the review and additional showdates.

December 4: UPRS and *Que Ondee Sola* are sponsoring a panel discussion entitled *The Problems facing Puerto Ricans: A Look into the Past, Present*

and Future from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Golden Eagles Room. Panelists include keynote speaker Jose Lopez, Dr. Nilda Flores, Mervin Mendez, and Marvin Garcia. **Important note:** Refreshments will be served!

The Music Department is sponsoring another concert, this time by the NEIU Children's Choir, from 7:30 until 9:30 p.m. in the Auditorium. Don't miss it.

December 7: The Northeastern Programming Board is sponsoring a Coffeehouse event from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. in the Village Square. Come on out for some coffee, entertainment and good times. It is also Pearl Harbor Day, so please take a minute to reflect on all the unfortunate men and women who gave their lives that day.

December 8: The Music Department is sponsoring a dance performance entitled *Tales of Spain* in the Auditorium from 10:30 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. There will also be performances on December 9 and 10.

The Dean of Students Office is hosting an *Immaculate Conception Mass* in the Library Lounge from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

December 12: The Music Department is sponsoring a dance

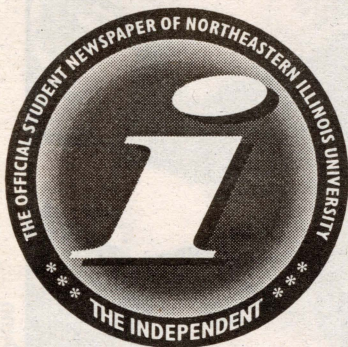
performance by the renowned Ensemble Espanol in the Auditorium from 8 to 10 p.m.

December 13: The Music Department is sponsoring a dance performance by the renowned Ensemble Espanol in the Auditorium from 3 to 6 p.m.

December 14: Final exams begin. For some, this will be a day that will live in infamy.

December 15: The final issue of the *Independent* for the year 1998 hits the stands. Rumor has it that reading it is an acceptable excuse for not studying for exams (it won't help your grade any, but it's still a good excuse).

Well, that's it through the end of the semester. Congrats to all the grads, and see you soon to all the returning students, as well as a hearty welcome to all the incoming students, be ye freshmen (freshpersons?) or transfer students. A special thanks goes out to all the wonderful people in University Events for all their help with this column. Until next time, have a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, a Cheery Kwanzaa, and a Real Good Ramadan. See 'ya!



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Once upon a time there was Christmas

by Thomas J. Foley, Desk Editor

On the surface, the origin of Christmas seems pretty straightforward and logical: It is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. This is so, but it's not as simple as that.

Humankind has celebrated around this time of year in almost every culture for many years, well before there was a Christ, or a Hanukkah, or a Ramadan. Most celebrations centered around the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year in the northern hemisphere. On this day, which generally is on or around December 20 (it will occur at 7:56 p.m., CST on December 21 this year), the earth's northern hemisphere is leaning farthest away from the sun. This causes the sun to have its lowest arc in the sky.

Many cultural anthropologists theorize that the reason for celebrating this celestial event lies in a fear that the failing light might never return without intervention by humans appealing to their gods. As this seemed to work, (the sun and the light always came back), the intervention gradually turned into a festival, often lasting many days. The Egyptians, Romans and Persians developed ritual festivals that each lasted 12 days, which is reflected in modern times by concepts such as the "12 Days of Christmas."

The Egyptians developed this 12 day idea as a reflection of the 12 divisions of their sun calendar. The Persian version, known as

Sacaea, was adopted originally from the Babylonians, and had many themes, one of which was the temporary subversion of order. Slaves and masters changed places. A mock king was crowned. Masquerades were held. Eventually, the Egyptian and Persian festivals merged in ancient Rome, in a festival known as Saturnalia. This was a festival dedicated to the Roman god of the seed time, Saturn.

During Saturnalia, the usual order of business was suspended. Grudges and quarrels were forgotten, wars were postponed, Courts, businesses and schools closed (a tradition that has lasted to this day), cross-dressing, masquerades and partying prevailed, and the mock king, the Lord of Misrule, was crowned. Candles and lamps were often lit to chase away evil spirits. As Roman society became more licentious, however, so did the celebration of Saturnalia.

Enter the cult of Christianity. In the Roman Empire, gods were community responsibilities, as was pleasing them. Christians, who were growing in number thanks to the efforts of people like St. Paul, could not worship "false gods," and refused to take part in these festivals dedicated to other gods. This was seen as a threat to the municipality, and so many Christians were persecuted.

As the Roman Empire reached its greatest boundaries and began to splinter, it also incorporated many other beliefs into it, in an effort to maintain its maximum

size and power. Thus, in the third and fourth centuries C.E., the rise of mystery religions began. Chief among them, of course, was Christianity, but others, such as the cult of Sol Invictus and Mithraism (both monotheistic forms of sun worship), also rose. Traditional Romans became alarmed.

Finally, an emperor came to power who changed all that. Constantine made Christianity an allowed religion, and also moved the celebration of Christ's birthday officially to December 25. It had been celebrated on January 6, which had been the twelfth day of the Saturnalia festival, and is still known as Twelfth Night. Some authors claim that this was because Constantine, as a secret follower of Sol Invictus, wanted to blur the distinctions among Christianity (now the majority religion), Mithraism and Sol Invictus. A state religion that included all other cults helped Constantine achieve his obsessive goal of unity in all things.

Constantine also decreed Sunday, the day of worship for the cult of Sol Invictus, would be the official day of rest. Prior to that, the Christian holy day had been Saturday, like the Jewish Sabbath. The cult of Sol Invictus also held a major holiday on December 25, Natilis Invictus, the rebirth of the sun, or the solstice. While these actions are not proof of Constantine's sun worshiping affiliation, it makes for a strong argument in that favor. It did,



Photo: Luke Stinson

however, have an obvious, lasting and strong impact on Christmas celebration as we know it.

Up north, where growing seasons were shorter and the loss of light on the winter solstice was more noticeable, other traditions developed which also impacted our celebration of Christmas today. The Celts and Germanic

tribes celebrated the solstice as an ebb tide of light, the point at which the light is at its lowest level, but more significantly, the point at which the light begins to return. From the solstice on, the days get longer, and the northern tribes celebrated this turn in the

see Christmas

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Hanukkah: a folksy history

by Norman Gibbons, Special Contributor

Alexander the Great was 20 years old when he conquered almost the entire known world in the next 13 years. 13 years! His empire stretched from Iberia that we now call Spain, east beyond the Caspian sea, north over most of Europe, and south to Ethiopia and India.

How do you conquer the world in 13 years? How should I know? I had all I could do with a Jewish mother!

Alexander died, years passed, and generals divided the empire. Thus it was in Judea in the year 175 BCE, when the Seleucid King Antiochus IV was the ambitious ruler of Syria and the wannabe conqueror of Egypt. When Antiochus attacked Egypt, the Romans pushed his armies back into Judea. Here he was in Judea, a general with an army, and he was bartering for food and sandals for his troops. Antiochus needed the wealth of a temple.

The Hebrew Temple of Yahweh glittered in Jerusalem. Its coffers overflowed with the gifts and treasure sacrificed by the true believers. Antiochus wanted that wealth, the whole nine yards. This was in the Seleucid year 145, which we call 168 BCE. Antiochus wanted an empire with one religion,

his religion, with one voice, his voice, and with one head, his head. This he called Hellenization. Antiochus planned to kill all the Jewish men, and to use their women and children like so many bushels of wheat. He told himself, "We'll sell them all for slaves, hey, you like that?" And of course he answered, "Yes."

Antiochus IV attacked Jerusalem in 168 BCE, defiled the Hebrew Temple, and fortified the Acra, the citadel built in Jerusalem on the site of the old city of David. His soldiers installed pagan Gods in the remains of the Temple. Then Antiochus extended his avarice to towns near Jerusalem. Modi'in was a day's walk from Jerusalem if you're feeling good, and nearer by camel-back.

Mattathias of Modi'in was the father of Judas the Maccabee, A.K.A. Judas the Hammer, who had four brothers. Mattathias was a priest at the Hebrew Temple in Modi'in, and when the Syrian soldiers came with their idols, Mattathias killed their captain. More soldiers attacked the Temple in Modi'in. When soldiers come, people die.

Mattathias and his five sons fled to the hills where they gathered with

other refugees. They would ambush Syrian patrols, stealing horses and supplies. Little bands of guerillas would attack Syrian outposts, killing soldiers and liberating arms and food. They say that enough ants can kill an elephant. Judas the Maccabee became a hero and a household word by his leadership of this revolt.

When the sons of Mattathias liberated Jerusalem they rebuilt the Hebrew Temple. There was celebration in Judea. Then they discovered they had enough consecrated lamp oil to light the Temple for only one day. Hebrews and Jews throughout the world still celebrate the Maccabees and the fact that one day's lamp oil lit the newly rebuilt Temple for eight days. This is today the eight-day holiday of Hanukkah, even if you spell it "Chanukah."

Hanukkah falls at more or less the same time of year as Kwanzaa and Christmas. Dull and unimaginative people will tell you this holiday time is because of the oncoming bleak months of winter, and will speak pessimistically of days before central heating systems. But you and I will practice our winter celebrations with a wink at these unbelievers. You and I, we know better.

Even the geese head home for the holidays.



Photo: Estelle Martin

Photo: Luke Stinson



Grinch steals away at Marshall Fields.

City fun

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The **Chicago Cultural Center** has something for everyone (almost) with its *In the Spirit* commemoration of the holidays until December 31. The Center features Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa performances of music, dance, theater and film. The Center is open Monday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is closed holidays. The Center is located at 78 E. Washington St. For more information call 312-744-6630.

The **Ukrainian National Museum** is sponsoring a *Ukrainian Christmas Celebration* until January 30. The museum is open Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. and is located at 721 N. Oakley. For admissions and other information, call 312-421-8020.

The **Prairie Avenue House Museum** is presenting a *Holiday Candlelight Tour of Widow Clarke and Glessner Houses* on December 5, 6, and 12. These historic Chicago homes will be decorated in traditional Victorian finery. The museum is open from Wednesday through Sunday, providing tours of the Glessner House at 1 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m., and tours of the Clarke House at noon, 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. The museum office is located at 1800 S. Prairie. For more information, call 312-326-1480.

Celebrate the holiday with Barney and a Japanese Santa by taking part in the **Japanese American Service Committee's Komodo Matsuri/Japanese Children's Festival**, on December 5, from 10:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. This *Holiday Delights* festival will provide entertainment for the whole family, including games, toys, contests, prizes, performances, unusual gifts, and lots of food, including sushi, teriyaki, and baked goods. The Japanese American Service Committee is located at 4427 N. Clark St. For more information, call 773-275-7212.

Do you enjoy singing, but can't stand critics? Why not join the **Lincoln Park Zoo** in *Caroling to the Animals* on December 6? At least the animals can't criticize your caroling. The zoo is open that Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is located at 2200 N. Cannon Drive, in Lincoln Park. Call 312-742-2000 for more information.

The **Swedish American Museum Center** will present a *Julmarknad* (Christmasfest) on December 6 and 7. The museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The museum is located at 5211 N. Clark St. Call 773-728-8111 for more information.

The **Chicago Theater** presents the *Harlem Nutcracker* from December 8 through December 13. For show times and ticket information, call 312-902-1500.

The **Brookfield Zoo** presents their annual *Holiday Magic Festival* from December 11 through 13, and

December 18 through 20. There will be thousands of twinkling lights, Santa and Mrs. Claus, celebrity storytellers and more. The zoo is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults, and parking is \$4. The zoo is located at the corner of 1st Avenue and 31st St. in Brookfield. For more information, call 708-485-0263.

The **Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio** exhibits a *Turn of the Century Christmas* on Saturday, December 12 and 19. Tours run every 15 minutes from 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. and tickets, available on a first come basis, are often sold out ahead of time, so go early. The Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio is located at 951 Chicago Ave. in Oak Park. For more information, call 708-848-1976.

The **Field Museum of Natural History** presents the *Santa Lucia Festival of the Lights* on December 12 and 13, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Santa Lucia is a uniquely Swedish tradition that marks the beginning of the Christmas season. There will be Swedish fiddlers, a Nordic dance troupe, Scandinavian turning dancers, a Swedish children's folk dance group, a Lucia procession, puppet performances and much more. The festivities are free with museum admission, which costs \$7, \$3 for students with ID. The museum is located at Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive. For more information, call 312-922-9410, extension 497.

The **Spertus Institute** presents *Hanukkah Happening*, a family program on December 13, at 1 p.m.

at the Spertus Museum, 618 S. Michigan Ave. For more information, call 312-322-1747.

The **Auditorium Theatre** presents a *Home for the Holidays Community Sing-Along*, from December 15 to January 1. The Auditorium Theatre is located at 50 E. Congress Parkway. Call 312-922-2110 for more information.

The **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** hosts their *Fourth Annual Christmas Spectacular and Sing Along* from December 19 through 23. The Orchestra is located at 200 S. Michigan Ave. Call 312-294-3000 for ticket and show information.

The **South Shore Cultural Center** presents a *Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration* December 19 and 20. This provides people with a chance to learn all about African American holiday traditions. The Center is located at 7059 S. South Shore Drive. Call 312-744-2536 for more information.

The **Civic Opera House** presents the *Do-It-Yourself Messiah* on December 20 and 21. The Opera House is located at 20 N. Wacker Drive. Call 312-904-2507 for more information.

Chicago Neighborhood Tours will sponsor a *Hanukkah in Chicago* tour on December 20. The tour leaves the Chicago Cultural Center at noon and returns at 4 p.m. The tour explores the Jewish culture and influence on Chicago's past and present. Tickets may be purchased at the Chicago Cultural Center shop at 77 E. Randolph St. or by phone at 312-742-1190. This is also the number to call for more information.

Maybe you're more into sports. In

that case, **McCormick Place** is the site for you on December 26 and 27, for *Mayor Daley's Fourth Annual Holiday Hoops 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament*. McCormick Place is located at 2200 S. King Drive. Call 312-744-3315 for more information.

The **Shedd Aquarium** sponsors a *Kiddie New Year* on December 31, from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. This is a family-oriented party for kids. Admission to the aquarium is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and kids. Admission to the aquarium and the oceanarium is \$11 for adults, \$9 for seniors and kids. The Shedd is located at Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive. Call 312-939-2438 for more information.

The **Mayor's Office of Substance Abuse Policy** is sponsoring *S.A.F.E. Nights* from December 30 through January 1. There will be approximately 80 locations throughout Chicago's neighborhoods. Some of the events include DJ's, dancing, clowns, and magicians. This is an alcohol-free family event. For information on the location nearest you, call 312-747-2606.

Another good way to ring in the new year is to walk the Chicago River in the *New Year's Eve Hotel River Walk* on December 31. There will be live entertainment and seasonal treats at many of Chicago's riverfront hotel lobbies. At midnight the city touches off a fireworks display along the river and at Navy Pier. Special hotel packages are available. For more information, call 312-744-3315.

Well, that's it. Have a safe, fun, and joyous holiday season, whatever you may celebrate.

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Period	CREF Stock Account Star Rating/ Number of Domestic Equity Accounts Rated	CREF Global Equities Account Star Rating/ Number of International Equity Accounts Rated	CREF Equity Index Account Star Rating/ Number of Domestic Equity Accounts Rated	CREF Growth Account Star Rating/ Number of Domestic Equity Accounts Rated	CREF Bond Market Account Star Rating/ Number of Fixed Income Accounts Rated	CREF Social Choice Account Star Rating/ Number of Domestic Equity Accounts Rated
3-Year	4/2,120	4/459	5/2,120	5/2,120	4/719	4/2,120
5-Year	4/1,363	5/235	N/A	N/A	4/487	4/1,363
10-Year	4/674	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Morningstar does not rate money market accounts, and the other TIAA-CREF accounts (TIAA Real Estate and CREF Inflation-Linked Bond) are too new to be rated. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Accumulation unit values and returns will vary. **These top ratings are based on TIAA’s exceptional financial strength, claims-paying ability and overall operating performance. †Based on assets under management. ***Standard & Poor’s Insurance Rating Analysis, 1998; Lipper Analytical Services, Inc., *Lipper-Directors’ Analytical Data*, 1998 (Quarterly). CREF certificates and interests in the TIAA Real Estate Account are distributed by TIAA-CREF Individual and Institutional Services. For more complete information, including charges and expenses, call 1 800 842-2733, extension 5509, for the CREF and TIAA Real Estate Account prospectuses. Read them carefully before you invest or send money.



Another Perspective



Editorial

It takes a global village

Pocket your Christmas carols and nurse your eggnog and American traditions. Here's a peek at how other countries celebrate Christmas.

Whereas Christmas celebrations are confined to two days at most for Americans, celebrations in other countries linger. In northwest **India**, the tribal Christians of the Bhil folk, an aboriginal people, travel for seven nights singing Christmas carols throughout town. Incidentally, Indian services are comparably longer than American church services. The main service on Christmas day begins at midnight and endures for two or three hours, with hundreds of communicants and many children massed together on the central floor.

In **Mexico**, festivities and candlelit processions commence on December 16 and are laid to rest on Christmas day. Holiday festivities culminate on "Noche Buena," or Christmas Eve with a late-night mass, followed by a dinner of homemade tamales, Biscayan cod, and other regional dishes. The evening is toasted with the exchange of gifts, and sparklers and pinatas for the children. If you're spending winter vacation in Mexico, don't bother cleaning out your chimney for Santa. The "reyes magos" (Magi) might pull an appearance instead.

Mexico may lack a Santa, but **Iceland** is sure to compensate. Icelandic children listen from their slumbers for thirteen Santas starting December 12. Except they don't leave gifts; they take them. Candle Beggar snatches candles. Meat Hooker stealths off with the roast. Door Slammer has escaped kleptomania, but has the naughty habit of slamming doors. All of the 13 mischievous Santas are said to be descendants of Gryla the Ogre.

Music is seemingly an universal accompaniment to international Christmas celebrations. Children in India dance to the accompaniment of drums and cymbals. In **Greece**, tinkling steel triangles are an added instrument. Carolers are rewarded with figs, walnuts, almonds, and sweets in the villages and money in the town. If you think Indians are up late for mass, Greek churches open their doors for Christmas mass at four in the morning, ending just before daybreak. In former Greek tradition, it was believed that if one was to burn their old shoes on Christmas, they would be prudishly avoiding misfortune in the coming year.

Some Greeks do not celebrate Christmas with gifts or Christmas trees (although research indicates Christmas celebrations internationally have become more Americanized). In Greece, a priest traditionally protects villages by throwing a cross into water to drive the kallikantzari (gremlin-like spirits) away. To ensure the phantoms are not hiding or lurking, the priest sprinkles holy water on each of the village houses.

Fires are crucial in religious celebrations in **Iraq**. After storytelling, families light a thorn bush in the yards of their home. If the thorns burn to ashes, it signifies good luck. While the fire burns, the family sing traditional songs. Once the fire simmers into cinders and ashes, everyone jumps over the mound three times, entitling each a wish. On Christmas day, another bonfire is lit. It marks the commencement of the festival and blazes in the churchyard. In the ceremony, the bishop enters, carrying a red pillow with a figure of Baby Jesus. The bishop blesses each member of the church with a touch. The touch is passed, rippling throughout the Church, until it touches everyone.

Singapore and **Australia** alike celebrate their Christmases akin to Americans. Christmas in Singapore is marked by the twinkling electric lights and lively decorations up and down the main streets. Australia, a culturally diverse society, celebrates Christmas in no set particular tradition, although Christmas is popularly celebrated on the beach, something most Chicagoans will never do.

In **Portugal**, the souls of deceased ancestors are said to visit on Christmas Eve. Families traditionally welcomed them and honored their presence, leaving crumbs out on the hearth for their guests. In older tradition, it was custom to leave seeds on the hearth instead, so that the spirits could return with plentiful fruits and grains for the harvest in the afterlife.

Traditional **Swedish** celebrations fail to stray from superstitions. If a cock crows at day-break on Christmas morning, beware, trolls roam about.

Youth in **Poland** have customarily kept an ear out for barking dogs throughout the holiday season. The direction from which the bark resonates from is said to forecast where the future spouse resides. Young girls were often told that on Christmas Eve if they are to wash their face and leave it wet, leaving a towel on the footboard of their bed, their dreams will forecast their future husband. Whomever hands the girl the towel in her reverie is said to be the man she is to marry. Another belief involves a girl going to a river to discover her future husband's occupation. If she is to pull out a branch, or piece of wood, he will be a carpenter. Iron, a blacksmith. Leather, a shoemaker, and so forth.

Forecasting one's future marital status appears to be common tradition in various cultures. In England, it is believed that if a rooster crows when a girl knocks on the henhouse door, she will marry in the next year.

America itself doesn't have a history free from superstitions, though instead of predicting, they focus on feasting. It has been said that if you eat an apple on Christmas Eve, you will be blessed with good health in the coming year. However, if you refuse mince pie at supper, you will have bad luck the proceeding day. Good luck is said to accompany a constant fire throughout the holiday season (just be sure its in the hearth and not consuming the house).

And for those of you who just have the damdest time avoiding family feuds at holiday gatherings, please be so resourceful as to place all shoes on their side. It has been said that this prevents those eggnog laden family feuds from arising.

Quotables...

On Religion and Spirituality

"Religion is for those who fear the wrath of hell; spirituality is for those who have been there."

Unknown

"For behold, ye do love money, and your substance, and your fine apparel, and the adorning of your churches, more than you love the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted."

From 8:37, the Book of Mormon

"Man is always the imperceptible atom always trying to become one with God."

Henry Adams

"The blackest billingsgate, the most ungentlemanly insolence, the most yahooist brutality, is patently endured, countenanced, propagated, and applauded. But touch a solemn truth in collision with the dogma of a sect, though capable of the clearest proof, and you will find you have disturbed a nest, and the hornets will swarm about your eyes and hand, and fly into your face and eyes."

John Adams

Voice of the Campus

Freshman Chronicles: The mystery of Kwanzaa

Being that I am a native of Ghana, West Africa, whenever I hear the word, "African," I take sudden interest. Not surprisingly, when I heard Kwanzaa was being referred to as an "African holiday," I wondered why I had never heard of it.

As more and more people handed out "Happy Kwanzaa" cards to me in place of Christmas ones, my confusion concerning Kwanzaa deepened. Thus, as with any other thing that is brought to my attention. I decided to decode the mystery of Kwanzaa that surrounded me, and find out if it was truly an African holiday, or simply a misconception that desperately needed cleanup.

In the aftermath of the Watts riot in 1965, many African-Americans desired a stronger sense of community that once existed. Dr.

Maulana Karenga, a professor of African-American studies at California State University, felt that the solution would require African-Americans to reconnect with their African heritage, and created Kwanzaa in 1966. Dr. Karenga developed seven goals, as well as the



JEMIMAH NOONOO

traditions and symbols of Kwanzaa, by studying the traditions of several African tribes' cultures and their harvest celebrations.

The word Kwanzaa comes from the Kiswahili word meaning "first fruit." The holiday lasts from December 26 through January 1, and is based on seven principles:

Unity, Self-determination, Collective work and responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith.

With all this background information, it is easy to see why Kwanzaa is sometimes referred to as an African holiday. However, an apt definition is desperately needed. The idea for Kwanzaa was taken from several harvest celebrations in Africa, not Kwanzaa itself. Thus, Kwanzaa is a unique African-American celebration with focus on traditional African values.

In reviewing Kwanzaa, one could argue that since it was taken from African harvest celebrations, it is slightly African. Unfortunately, my friends, that argument holds no ground here. Something that is Pseudo-African is not African at all.

All this talk about Africa and what's African brings me to another point. Although we have seen that Kwanzaa is not a holiday indigenous to Africa, because it was being linked to Africans people assumed I would celebrate it. These individuals, though good intentioned, were vastly uninformed. If an event (such as Okyri, a harvest celebration conducted in the central region of Ghana by my ethnic group, the Fante) is termed an African holiday, that does not mean that every single person in Africa, regardless of region, celebrates it. Again, some of our history classes have failed us, as certain individuals still perceive Africa as a country, not unique and powerful continent. What is true for some in Africa is not true for all in Africa, and never has been.



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DOCTOR HOLLYWOOD

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BOOTY LAROUX

The Question:

My boyfriend and I were supposed to go visit his family and enjoy the holiday break in Florida. The other day, though, he told me about an old friend of his from college who has invited us to visit her in California. I have never heard about her before and don't know if I should go with. What should I do?

--Change of Plans



DOC HOLLYWOOD

Dear Plans:

Well it looks to me as if he is giving you the choice. And deciding is exactly what you need to at this point. But the issue at hand is whether you are over reacting to a problem that may only be in your head. Jealousy and paranoia may not be easy to handle, and since we are all human, I will overlook it as one of your flaws.

"But what would Booty do?" one may ask. Booty is seeing right through this: he invites you to see his family, then changes his mind to go have some fun in California. What it may be is that he may think that you might get bored visiting family, and seeing that his friend may have time for the both of you, HEY, why not!

I really don't think he would invite his girlfriend to go spend the holidays with a girl that he has a woody for, not unless he is considering a party in bed for three.

Just because you may not have met this girl before, who cares? Meet her now! Booty may know that you may feel insecure meeting our lover's friends and all that measuring up that we have to do, but hey, it can't be that bad. If she turns out to be a bitch, then I say fuck that ho! Who the hell is she? Nobody that lives over 2000 miles away.

But before thinking of her as a possibility look into the matter. Find out if she was an ex. Is this their first time reuniting since the broken off relationship? Where do things stand? Is she involved now? - This may prove to set your mind at ease.

But if you do really want to meet his family, then you should go. But don't pick the family as the easy way out- only do it if you want to.

But be prepared for the brick like fruit cakes, smelly old people, and drooling as others open their presents, while you are back here at home.

What ever the case, do what you want. Because as much as I tell you bitches till I am blue in the face, you still end up doing something irrational, and then here we are all over again.

Have a great holiday.

Love, Booty

Hmmmm.....

Sounds like an interesting predicament. After reading over the question several times, I am wondering how you never heard about this alleged "friend" in California before. As suspicious as it may sound, don't let your imagination conjure up crazy conclusions.

You may want to go to Florida with your boyfriend, but if he doesn't want to go, most likely, you won't be able to.

However, I suggest you talk about this trip to meet an old classmate. Ask him if he's planning on just meeting this friend for a day or so. Perhaps you can all go out to Universal Studios (all the better to keep an eye on that gorgeous hunk!). If he's not going to sleep at her place, and spend every dying hour there (if he does, maybe you should reconsider this relationship), you could spend romantic moonlit nights strolling along the beach... just you and him... arm in arm... soothing sounds of crashing waves in the background... passionate, screaming sex for hours on end. ...hmmmm all this sex talk...

15 minutes later.

-ahem- Are you one of those jealous types? By the way your question was written, I believe you feel some jealousy, or at least have a problem with this woman you've never seen before. Chances are, if you go with him to California, you're going to be jealous/angry/upset every time you see that other woman around your boyfriend. Don't lie to yourself, because acting happy and OK with the situation isn't going to make you feel better or help the relationship.

You can either go with him, or not. You kinda did forget your family exists. You could spend Christmas with them (did this idea ever come to mind?). I believe thought that it would be better to go with him to California. All the better to make sure he isn't doing anything he shouldn't? The three of you could sightsee, and go shopping around Hollywood.

Have you heard of the saying, "Two's company, three's a crowd?" Nobody wants to feel like a third wheel, and if your boyfriend spends more time talking with her about good times in high school, you're going to be annoyed. It would make you feel better if it was maybe... a double date? That way you don't need to worry about that California hussy digging her claws into your man.

Talk with your boyfriend. Communication is the key to success! I mean, just look at how many *Men Are From Mars and Women Are From Venus* books have been sold!

(I kind have read all three of the books in the series, including, *Mars and Venus Together Forever*).

Think about what I said for a while, and if you feel you agree with what I am trying to say, by all means tell him you'll go on this trip. Make it a point to tell him you'd like to meet this friend of his in a double date, or some activity where the other girl can bring some guy along (remember: this is so you don't have to get worried about her making moves on your man). Usually, boyfriends will understand if you tell them how you feel about the situation.

Hope you get a gorgeous tan by the time you come back!

-Doctor Hollywood

Christmas

continued from page 3

'tide' of light in a festival known as Yuletide.

Evergreens were prized by these tribes during Yuletide as a symbol of rebirth and life amid slumbering winter. Holly, however, was more highly prized, as it prickliness would snag or capture evil spirits, which were more abundant in the increased darkness. The idea was to hang holly outside doors, windows and fireplaces to catch the evil spirits before they could enter and do harm.

Santa Claus, a symbol of Christmas wholly unrelated to Christ (even though he's sometimes referred to as St. Nick), probably got his beginnings in the Scandinavian tradition of the Yule Elf (or Julevenn in Norway), who rides around on the Yule Goat delivering presents and receiving offerings of porridge. The Yule Elf is called the Jultomten in Sweden and the Jule-nissen in Denmark. From Iceland comes the tradition of the Yule Cat, a more sinister manifestation indeed! The Yule Cat comes every Yuletide to devour lazy humans who didn't finish all their work on the autumn wool.

Finally, where the heck does mistletoe fit into the picture? Known as the golden bough, mistletoe was sacred to the Druids and the Norsemen. Native Americans used it to heal toothaches, measles and dog bites. It was also the plant of peace

in Scandinavian antiquity. Druids used it in a special ceremony, held five days after the new moon following the winter solstice. They would harvest it from a holy oak with a golden sickle, and the mistletoe had to be caught before it hit the ground. It was then used as a protection against evil.

The kissing tradition, however, comes from Norse mythology. The Norse god Balder, son of the goddess Frigga, was loved very much by his mother. Frigga, the goddess of love and beauty, wanted to see that no harm ever befell Balder, so she went through the world and made everything that sprang from the four elements (fire, water, air and earth) promise never to inflict any harm on Balder. She must have missed mistletoe, though.

Loki, the Norse god of evil, fashioned an arrow from mistletoe and got Balder's blind brother Hoder to shoot the arrow at Balder, who fell dead. Frigga's tears became the mistletoe's white berries. Balder was eventually restored to life, and Frigga was so overjoyed that Frigga made mistletoe a symbol of love and promised to bestow a kiss on anyone who passed under it.

Enjoy the Holiday Season.

Many thanks to the following sources for their invaluable information: *Ancient Origins web site (www.candlegrove.com)*; *Holy Blood Holy Grail (get author)*; and *the Circle Sanctuary Winter Solstice Information Source*.

The Union for Puerto Rican (UPRS) Students and Que Ondee Sola Presents

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Tuesday, December 1, 1998

Mi Puerto Rico

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Refreshments will be served

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Aguinaldos Navideños (Puerto Rican Christmas Music)

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Discussion

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Discussion lead by Ramón López. A look into Puerto Rican history from the Spanish-American War to the present.

Friday, December 4, 1998

The Problem facing Puerto Ricans: A look into the past, present, and future Symposium

6:00 — 9:00 PM • Golden Eagles Room

Refreshments will be served.

Panelists:

Dr. Nilda Flores - Speaking on the sterilization of Puerto Rican Women

Mervin Mendez - The displacing of Puerto Rican communities throughout Chicago

Marvin Garcia - The educational problems

Jose Lopez will be the keynote speaker

For more information call Que Ondee Sola at ext. 3805

THIS MAN'S WORLD

GIFTS THAT KEEP GIVING



JOHN ROSSI

With Christmas just around the corner, it might be appropriate to provide tips for those of you who are "gift buying challenged." It seems a rather simple task, but before you buy that Chia Pet, or something that does decorative things with a potato, I suggest you might want to read further.

First, it is a good idea to make a list of all the people you wish to remember. Be sure to jot down any hobbies or special interests that the person might have. For example, on my list, under Uncle Mario, it might say hobbies- drinking, carousing, laughing at his own jokes, being obnoxious. I decided the best present for him would be a gift certificate at his favorite bar along with some pamphlets I got at the local pharmacy. The pamphlets feature stupid jokes told by an animated enlarged liver. Another pamphlet has an animated canker sore talking frankly in *Herpes- The Love Bug*— not to be confused with the Disney movie of the same name.

For the bulk of your holiday shopping, I suggest you begin at a mall. There are 43,000 stores in your average mall, and even though they all feature the same merchandise, you're sure to get some ideas. The specialty stores can be helpful. On my way to *I Sing The Body Electrolysis* to get cousin Carmella a gift certificate for an upper lip and sideburn treatment, I passed shops with intriguing names like *Sammy's Chamois Shop*, *The Cheese Choice*, (I walked past this store holding my breath) *Pete's Pistol Palace*, (I walked past this shop holding my wallet) *Toe Nail Clipper Emporium* and of course *Weasel World*.

Sometimes I just walk into a store looking for ideas. Visualize the person you're buying for. Uncle Aldi's a 10 pound Salami, Aunt Angeline's a cheese log with onions - you get the idea.

Now for that special person on your list, your boyfriend/girlfriend, husband/wife significant other/life-partner (remember, I can only speak for the men here). Many men choose to buy useless kitchen gadgets for their wives or girlfriends such as cottage cheese sorters or semi-automatic salad shooters capable of firing 30 rounds a second because of his fondness for useless gadgets. Here's a clue guys: don't. It may be true that men love it when they receive something that grinds, files, sands, dadoes, drills, makes a lot of dust and noise or generally just looks impressive hanging on the pegboard in the garage, but women wish to disassociate themselves entirely from the kitchen, especially around the holidays. In my house my wife considers the kitchen the spare room, and the only thing I could buy her for the kitchen that she might like would be a chef. So put the bread making machine down and quietly walk out of the store. What if she has specifically asked for a bread making machine? My answer would still be don't. In her secret heart of hearts she would prefer that you buy her something shiny. We'll get to that in a minute.

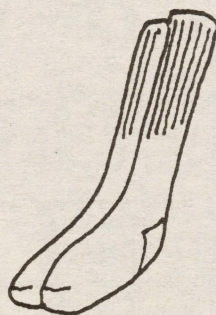
Another item you might be tempted to purchase is something soft, silky and sexy she can wear close to the skin. Beware of these stores. Inside these places there are female salespeople who, just like most salespersons, will lie to you. They'll tell you how getting these skimpy little things makes a woman feel "special." Then they will hold off giggling until you have left the store. You might fail yourself and buy her the lacy little thing you saw in the window, but if you do, instead of feeling "special" you'll be making her feel like something else. She may even tell you that the gift you just bought her was really for yourself. You remember how women wish to disassociate themselves with the kitchen? The same holds true of the bedroom. Most men would love it if their woman bought them sexy underwear, we like feeling like an object, but you will be cold sleeping in the garage wearing nothing but a red lace teddy. Just take my word for it.

My advice—jewelry. You can't go wrong with this choice, unless it is something gaudy, like a 14K gold brooch honoring the 1969 moon landing. By the way, if anyone would be interested in buying something like that let me know.

Be sure NOT to buy your jewelry where it's displayed next to the weedwackers or incontinence products, this is usually not a sign of quality. Buy it at a reputable jeweler, but don't spend too much! I found out the hard way that this can also backfire on you due to something women call a gift "comfort level." She may get angry that you have spent far too much past her particular "comfort level" and you will still find yourself in trouble. What is the comfort level? Beats the hell out of me, don't we have enough to worry about trying to find the G-spot and now we're supposed to be worried about something called a "comfort level?"

Lastly, do what I always do— include the receipt with the card and you'll be sure to have a safe and happy holiday.

GET WARMED UP AT



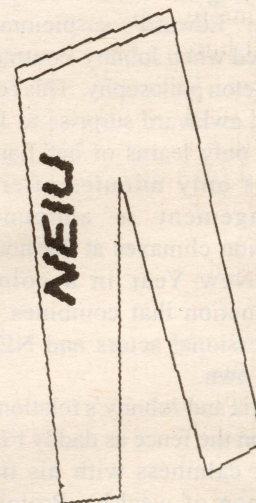
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Have a dysfunctional *Holiday* season

by Dave Grzelak, REV Editor

Think you have it tough, with the seemingly inevitable family gripes and squabbles during the holidays? You'll go home appreciative of the degree of dysfunctionality after seeing *Holiday*, written by Philip Barry and directed by Northeastern student Michael Buino.

Set in the 1930's, *Holiday* lets the audience peek in on three tumultuous evenings, two parties, forbidden love and unfulfilled dreams, all under one roof.

Trouble arrives at the Seton mansion when wealthy Julia brings fiancé Johnny Case home to daddy Edward, who suspects Johnny is more interested in marrying the Seton money than Julia. Edward's suspicions are piqued when Johnny contradicts the Seton philosophy. This comes as an awkward surprise to Julia, who only learns of her fiancé's plans only minutes after the engagement is announced. Tension climaxes at the hour of the New Year in a colorful production that combines both professional actors and NEIU's very own.

Julia and Johnny's relationship sits on the fence as daddy tries to coax calmness with his trusty weapon of wealth. Promising Johnny a firm foothold in the Seton temple of worship, the business world, Edward attempts to buy Julia's happiness and bargain off Johnny's dream to live his life in his own way. Johnny comes dangerously close to selling, but a surprising twist is thrown into an evening already tied in knots.

In enters Julia's sister Linda, played by Tina Haglund, who both takes a lesson from Johnny's quest for freedom and teaches a

lesson in self-preservation. Linda steals away from the her father's pretentious guests and throws a New Year's gathering of her own with her closest friends. When Johnny peeks into the party, he is reminded by Linda's fun-loving friends of his desire to enjoy the fruits of wealth, later inspiring him to give Julia an ultimatum. A revealing conversation and ten minutes alone with Linda affirms this need and alters not only the course of New Year's Eve, but dramatically redirects the future of both Linda and Johnny.

The evening is transformed into a three ring circus with the Seton siblings. While Julia attempts to save face, charming sister Linda attempts to save herself and brother Ned from the rigid lifestyle of the rich that becomes only too apparent when Johnny rocks the boat of Seton tradition. And all the while, Ned, played by the amusing Juan Carlos Panizo, observes the unfolding of chaos from his inebriated corner with a glass of scotch in his hand.

Holiday hosts an array of lively characters including Linda's fun-loving friends, the Potters and the unanimously disliked relatives, Seton and Laura Cram.

The show marks the 1930's, bringing Stage Center Theatre a decade closer to its countdown to 2000. Will pragmatics or existentialism decide Johnny's future? Stay tuned.

Holiday will be gracing the Stage Center Theatre Thursday through Saturday nights, December 3-5, 10-12, and 17-19. Showtime is 7:30. The box office can be reached at (773)794-6652.



Photo: Jamey McDunn

The Stage Center Theatre production of the Phillip Barry comedy *Holiday* opens December 3.

Where do you take the kids for the holidays? Kids theatre!

by Dave Grzelak, REV Editor

There is an option for you to keep your kids or young relatives/friends out of the snow and cold this holiday season: theatre for kids. Listed below are two shows that will keep the kids entertained for awhile at reasonable prices.

Frosty Returns

Location:

The Old Town School of Music

Presented by:

Emerald City Theatre Company (ECTC)

The story of Frosty the Snowman is brought to stage in this world premiere. Company manager Rita Vreeland claims that this production stays away from what makes some theater "boring." "Our aim is to make children's theatre fun and exciting," Vreeland said. With a live jazz pianist accompanying swing-style dancing, *Frosty Returns* promises to be an upbeat show.

Their focus on the family is part of the ECTC mission statement. According to Vreeland, the ECTC is the only theatre specifically geared exclusively toward family entertainment. And going into their third season, ECTC has topped 6,000 in total attendance and has



Frosty Returns plays at the Old Town School of Music.

higher goals in mind down the road.

"One of our ultimate goals is to have shows tailored toward all age groups. And with the focuses of families continually changing, that

becomes a challenge," Vreeland said. The current focus of the shows is for kids ages 2-10.

Part of the reason for ECTC's aggressive moves toward the future

is the result of a recent move to a venue that better suited the needs for ECTC performances. Having rented time at the Athenaeum main stage and the Theatre Building on Belmont, a necessity for future growth was to have a permanent performance place. This is where The Old Town School of Music enters the ECTC long-run picture. "Moving into Old Town (School of Music) is a big deal. It's nice to have a place to identify with like Old Town. The neighborhood surrounding Old Town is very kid friendly, so it seemed like a natural fit," Vreeland said.

Frosty Returns seems to be a natural fit for family entertainment. The show runs through January 10 on Saturdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for children under 12 and \$10 for adults. For more information, call (773) 728-6000.

A Christmas Carol

Location: **The Drury Lane Oakbrook Theatre**

In its sixth year at the Drury Lane, this production of the Dickens' holiday story combines the experience of live theatre with a literary classic. And with the plush red velvet seats and elegant crystal

chandeliers, the spacious surroundings of Drury Lane can make the first-time theatregoers experience quite memorable.

The box office generated by this production is memorable for the owners of Drury Lane. "This production always does very well, especially with school groups. It seems like 'if we put it on stage, they will come,'" said Maggie Cross, publicity representative for the theatre. "We usually run about 37-40 performances from the opening of the show to the close. And most weekday performances are sellouts. It's a good family show, and really good for kids," she said.

A Christmas Carol runs through December 23 and showtimes vary. Tickets are \$6 for adults and children. For more information, call (630) 530-0111.

More holiday theatre for kids...

The Holiday Game Show

Location: **Lincoln Park Cultural Center, 2045 N. Lincoln Park West**
For more info: (773) 929-6288

A Child's Christmas in Wales and Other Holiday Tales

Location: **Playhouse 111, 111 N. Hale in Wheaton**
For more info: (630) 260-1820

Speakeing for the Choir kids



Photo by Kameron Flynn/The Daily Northwestern

The Children's Choir at a springtime performance from earlier this year. They perform here on December 4.

by Dave Grzelak, REV Editor

When the NEIU Children's Choir performs, it's an example of communities at work. Nine years ago, NEIU's Dr. Constance Speake spoke to the community, not too

many listened. "I lived in this neighborhood (around NEIU), and I noticed there were a lot of kids (2nd grade through junior high) in the neighborhood. And I love working with kids and teaching them music, so I thought of starting up a

Children's Choir for the local kids. I did a lot of recruitment through schools, churches, and local businesses. The first year, I wound up with two kids."

But the next year, the choir had grown to seven

kids. And with partial funding provided by the Hollywood-North Park Neighborhood Association, the choir continues to grow. This year's performance features over 30 choir members. "Now, the choir mainly grows by word of mouth," Dr. Speake said.

One-third of this year's choir are new and mainly young (2nd and 3rd graders) which affects the performance pieces chosen. "I don't always know who I'm going to have (on a year-to-year basis). I try to adjust to the kids' talents. But in general, I choose pieces for variety in period, tonality, style, and texture. Because of the amount of young members of the chorus who can't learn or develop as quickly as the older members, this year's program will feature the older kids and more

instrumentals," Dr. Speake said.

Ninth-grader Matthew Bain, who has been a choir member since second-grade, will perform Mozart's Sonatina, accompanied by Dr. Speake on piano. Soprano Katie Martens and sixth-grade flautist Rebecca Popa will interpret the 18th century piece by Carey, A Pastoral. Other highlights include performances by the choir "senior" members along with opening and closing pieces performed by the full choir.

But Dr. Speake sees the choir as more than isolated performances. "Although this is a 'choir,' I see it as developing children's musicianship through reading music and ear training (to recognize types of music). These are skills they can keep for a lifetime," Dr. Speake said.

Concert band's Cofer is full (time)

by Dave Grzelak, REV Editor

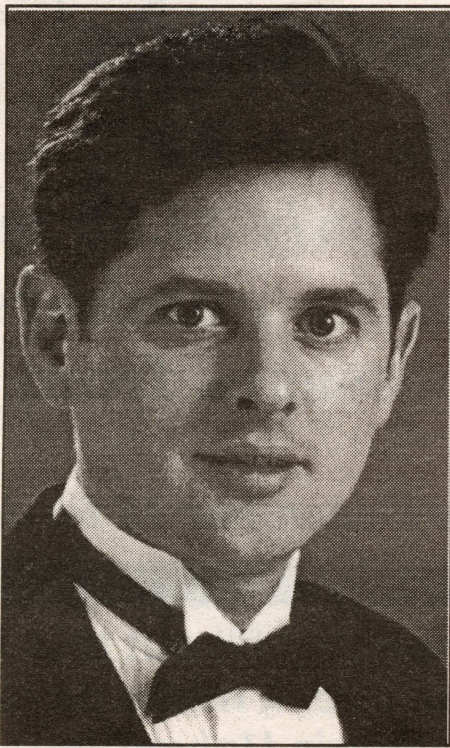
It would stand to figure that the title "Director" should entail full-time responsibilities. Whether it's being the director of a movie or a director of operations, the title assumes a certain level of dedication. If the title director was connected to the phrase NEIU Concert Band, the

title assumed a part-time status---until this year. Dr. Shayne Cofer has assumed that title and the challenge of building the program. "Some part-time band directors have little or no vested interest in developing a program. Being full-time, I do have a vested

years before the current swing revival. After earning his Masters and Ph.D. at the University of Iowa, he taught at the University of Toledo before coming to NEIU. And even though the program here is "small," Dr. Cofer realizes the special aspects of the Concert Band.

"Although there are only 27 members, the diversity of age, experience, and culture of the band members is incredible," Dr. Cofer said. "And with the diversity in ages, the levels of experience are shared and benefits the entire band."

The program that the Concert Band will perform on December 2 (7:30 p.m.,



Dr. Shayne Cofer, Concert Band

interest," Dr. Cofer said. "The program here is small and I've been out recruiting in the area high schools and junior colleges. Fortunately, I have a major selling point in the form of the new Arts building that is opening next semester. And with the new building hopefully will come new funding for new instruments and a dedication to building the program."

His career reflects Dr. Cofer's dedication to his craft. He taught fifth through twelfth grade band, chorus, and elementary music in Northern Idaho. During this time, he played saxophone and clarinet in local Idaho swing bands,

Auditorium) features a diverse mix of American and British folk songs. Four of the six pieces are written by contemporary band composers such as Charles Carter, W. Francis McBeth and Pierre LaPlante. "There are a lot of good band arrangements in folk songs, and I wanted to stay away from typical traditional holiday music and offer something different," Dr. Cofer said. He also will offer something different for the future of the Concert Band---full-time dedication to full-time growth.

Nothin' to Do for the holidays

Skate on State

by Dave Grzelak, REV Editor

Wear that extra pillow on your bottom.

Skate on State is back in its traditional location, the heart of downtown Chicago at the corner of State and Randolph. The 100 foot by 200 foot Olympic-style outdoor skating rink is free of charge and is open November 27 through February 28, seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (closed on December 25). On Thursday nights "Late Skate Dates," the rink is open until 9:45 p.m.

The rink features new canopy lights over the rink along with heated reviewing decks, warming trailers, and a pro shop. Free skating lessons are available on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Local skaters perform free shows every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 11 a.m.

Skate rental is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children under 12 per session. If you have a group and feel the need to bond, private party rentals of the rink are also available.

For more information, contact the Mayor's Office of Special Events at (312) 744-3315.

On Campus

All performances are held at the Auditorium.

NEIU Chorus

Michael Melton, Director

Tuesday, December 1 (7:30 p.m.)

NEIU Concert Band

Shayne Cofer, Director

Wednesday, December 2 (7:30 p.m.)

NEIU Jazz Ensemble

Mayo Tiana, Director

Thursday, December 3 (7:30 p.m.)

Children's Choir

Constance Speake, Director

Friday, December 4 (7:30 p.m.)

Tales of Spain Ensemble Espanol Spanish Dance Theatre

Dame Libby Komaiko, Director

Tuesday, December 9 10:15 a.m and 11:45 a.m.

Ensemble Espanol Spanish Dance Theatre

Dame Libby Komaiko, Director

Friday & Saturday, December 11 and 12 8:00 p.m.



Help Wanted

Pet Sitters Wanted. Want to get in shape while earning money? Busy Evanston based Pet Sitting Company looking for self-motivated pet sitters, Northshore area. Mon-Fri afternoons, some weekends and holidays, a.m. and p.m. shifts available. Must have a reliable car, love working with animals and enjoy walking outdoors. \$8/9 hr. Call Mon-Fri @ 847/328-0460

For Rent

Apartment for rent. Wilson/Kimball area. \$700+ utilities. 2 bdrm, new kitchen & carpeting. Garage available. Call Dan days at 773/525-2291 or evenings 773/583-0753.

Announcements

Mass and party for Feast of the

Immaculate Conception. 1:40p.m. Tuesday, December 8, Ronald Williams Library Basement Classroom. Call Karen for details @ x5580.

Personals

To Susan: One of the nicest people I know. Best wishes on your birthday. You are really a great friend. Keep in touch. Gil

Good luck during finals. Study hard!

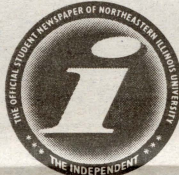
Correction:

In the November 17 issue, the *Independent* failed to credit staff photographer Jamey McDunn for his photos of the International Day festivities on pages 1 and 4, and his photo of *Holiday* on page 2 of REV.

In addition, staffer Bill Edwards failed to receive credit for his Chinese Acrobat photos on page 1.

We apologize to our readers and our hardworking staff members for this oversight.

Take time out to read the last issue of the semester. It hits stands December 15.



SELL IT

"The **best** single way to reach over **5000** at NEIU!"

Instructions:

- (1) Detach & completely fill out this form
- (2) Please enclose check made payable to **Northeastern Illinois University**
- (3) All ads must be pre-paid or will not be printed
- (4) Deadline is 2 pm CST Tuesday prior to publication date



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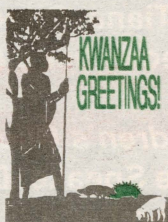
Call 773-794-2812 for more information.

by John Prusko, Jr. 08.10.97

Independent Holiday Classifieds!

Available Graphics:

.....
(Please circle one)



Greetings



20 words for \$2

Pick a graphic for only \$1.00 more. Please no telephone numbers or addresses, just messages from you to a friend.

Ads will run in the December 15 issue.

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