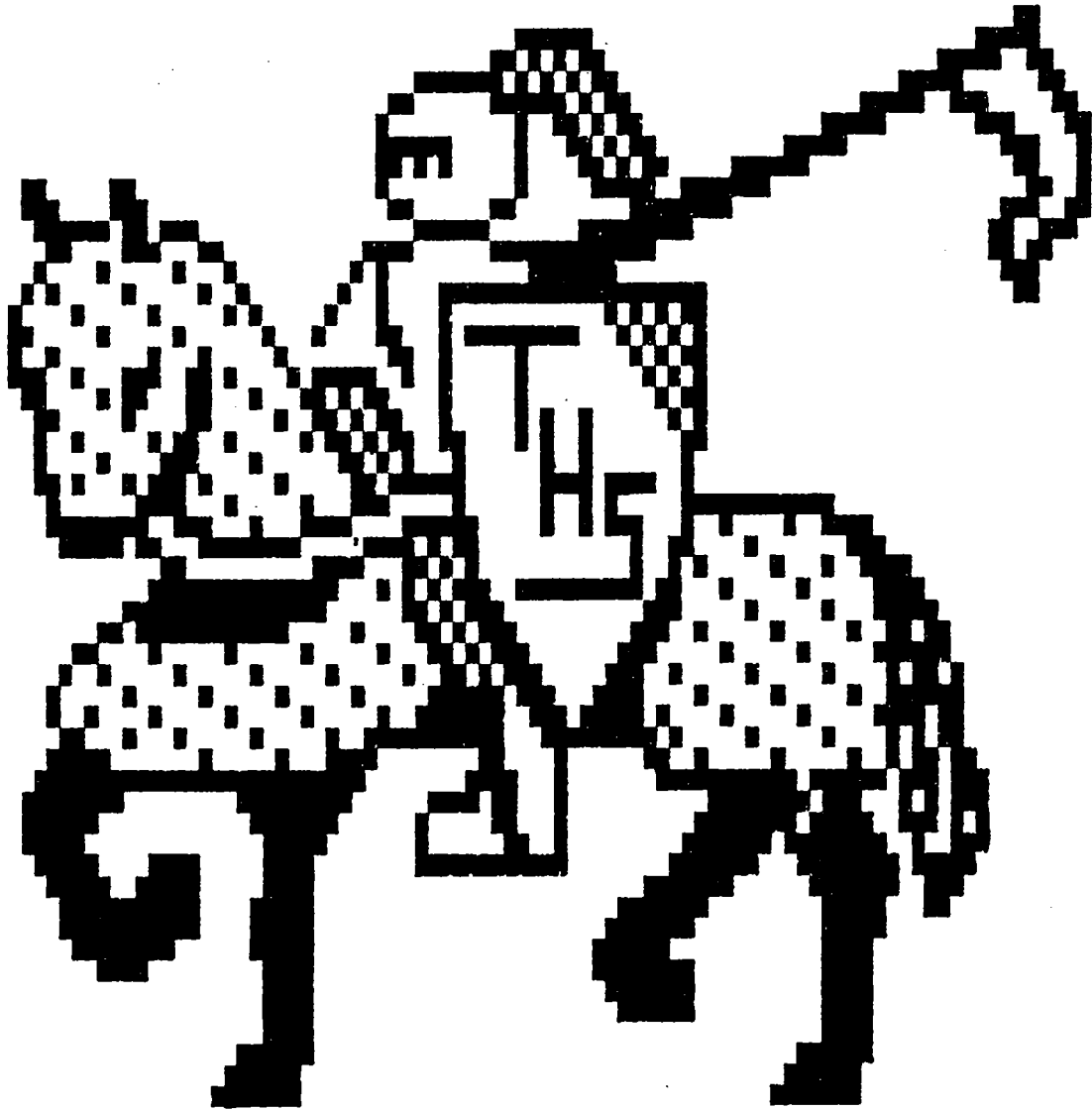


NIGHTLIFE



DECEMBER 86

TORREJON HIGH SCHOOL

**KNIGHTLIFE
TORREJON AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL
APO NEW YORK 09283**

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EDITORIAL POLICY

KNIGHTLIFE is a monthly student publication of the Torrejon American High School. Views expressed in KNIGHTLIFE are solely those of the staff and do not necessarily represent the administration. Letters to the editor, letters to Jake and Janet, submissions and any other correspondents should be put in the KL box in front of Mr. Ludwig's office.

DRAMA CLUB PUTS ON PLAYS
by Kate Avery and Elena Foley

The Man Who Came To Dinner was presented by the drama club on the 20th and 21st of November, and despite the nervousness of the cast and director Jan Meyers, was a success.

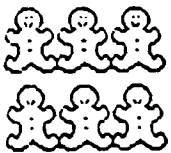
The lead was originally to be played by Todd Boucher. However, he had to go to the States on emergency leave, and Mr. Al Meyers agreed to take over, filling the part of Mr. Whiteside extremely well. The entire cast included twenty-six members.

The drama club is currently rehearsing a new play for the Christmas season. The play, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, is student-directed by Elena Foley, and will be presented to the Torrejon and Royal Oaks Elementary Schools on the fifteenth and the sixteenth of December.

The drama class will also be presenting a choral reading for the PWOC.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT
by Sheri Saiter

Torrejon High School's combined bands and chorus performed their annual Christmas concert on the 17th of December. Many parents and students who wished to hear some good music, conducted by Mr. Glaysher, attended.



JROTC RAISES FUNDS
by Debbie Hersman

The cadets in JROTC have been hard at work this holiday season raising funds. The cadet squadron needs over \$5,000 to send their drill teams to England for competition in the spring.

The squadron held its annual March-a-thon on the 22 of November and has raised over \$2,000 in pledges. The cadets are also selling Christmas trees at the Base swimming pool on weekends and after school until Christmas. In addition, bake sales and games of skill are being held in front of the BX during the holiday weekends.

Good luck to the Spain 71st in accomplishing its fund raising goals.

NEW PRINCIPAL NAMED
by Debbie Hersman

THS would like to welcome our new principal, Mr. Ira Scheier. He has served with distinction in a wide variety of responsible positions with DODDS. Since August 1982 he has served as the principal of Izmir Elementary/High School in Turkey.

Mr. Scheier's date of arrival at THS has not been established as of yet.

MADRID CONNECTION ENTERTAINS
by Maria Soler

The Madrid Connection, sponsored by Mrs. Meyers, is a group of talented students from THS who perform songs and dances for the schools. This organization consists of Aimee Converse, Todd Boucher, Lee Cervantes, Beverly Smith, Luisa Milliken, Jay Lopez, Trey McCartt, Robin Hale, Amanda Phillips, Margo Tucker, Elena Foley, Gina Soborra, Adrienne Poli, Kris Hays, and Cathy Hanoch.

The students are directed by Aimee Converse, who makes the Madrid Connection a reality and does all the choreography. They are able to dance to live music with the help of a drummer, Angela Goodale, and pianists Mrs. Converse and Amanda Phillips.

The group has put together six songs and dances for the Christmas show put on by the drama club for the elementary school. They are also planning Study Hall shows at THS.

THS DECORATES FOR CHRISTMAS
by Billy Martinez

THS students are buying everything from bows to wrapping paper as the tension mounts as to which class will win the Christmas door decorating prize.

Each class is assigned a hallway to decorate. Some are using pictures of Santa and some of Christ.

Winners will be announced in the daily bulletin.

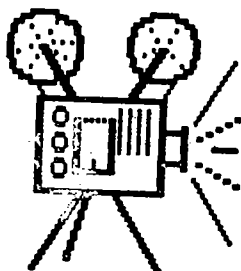
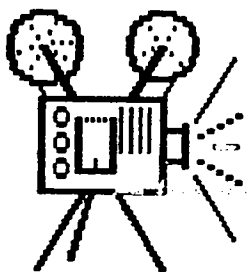
MOVIE OF THE MONTH

by Tami Williams

Having asked around, I have discovered that the "movie of the month" is Top Gun. The blockbuster story is about the "cream of the crop", U.S. Navy's elite fighter pilot training center in California.

The main attraction of Top Gun was, to the female section of the audience, Tom Cruise. Most girls were melting in their seats at the sight of him, and the guys weren't too bad off, considering that they had co-star Kelly McGillis to admire. The two definitely played their roles well, attracting large audiences at all showings. In fact, the base movie theater was completely sold out the first few nights it played.

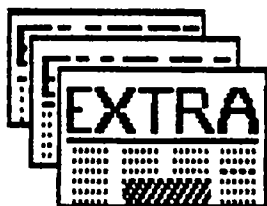
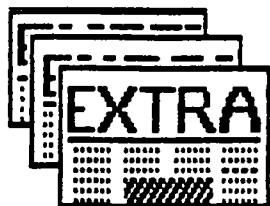
The story-line: a brash, pugnacious, first-rate fighter pilot has personal encounters that sometimes interfere with his flying. This inspirational feature is packed with special effects and a sky-scraping culmination. It's a show that no one should miss!



POLL TO BE TAKEN
by Janet Correll

The purpose of the Knightlife staff has always been to keep the students well-informed as to what is going on at THS. The staff also aims to entertain its readers. Much effort is put into making the newspaper the best it can be, and this year, we believe we have made a strong start.

Articles about school activities, news on sports, and editorials are included in each issue. These, we think, are of interest to the students, but we are having a poll to see what you think. If you have some constructive criticism, or would like to see more of something, please drop a note into the red KL box in front of the main office, or give it to one of the editors. Remember, Knightlife is serving you, and needs your help to make room for improvement.

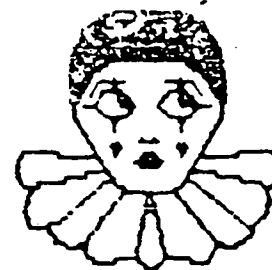


BOOK REVIEW

by Sylvia Singleton

I'm Not Your Other Half, a novel by Caroline Cooney, deals with the seemingly simple, yet complex, situation of falling in love. Fraser Mackendrik is the main character, and a very straight-minded one. She falls in love with Michael Hollander, while her best friend Annie falls for another boy, practically on the same day. What could be more perfect? But it is only Fraser, who, perhaps because of the fear of "losing" her identity, notices that, slowly, she is being swallowed up into Michael's life, dropping everything just to spend time with him. This bothers Fraser, while Annie thinks it's perfectly natural. Here is where you notice the real difference between these two young women. Fraser believes she can--should--be her own person and be in love with Michael at the same time.

I agree with her. But she and I seem to be the only ones who think so...I'm not going to reveal what happens to Michael and Fraser, but I recommend this book to everyone; it gives you things to think about, as far as relationships are concerned.



PLAY IS A SUCCESS
by Scott Greeson

The Man Who Came to Dinner was a very successful play, brilliantly presented due to the direction of Mrs. Meyers, who was very pleased at how well it went. The actors and actresses were rather nervous, they said, but once they got on stage, the play ran smoother than a knife through butter.

Mr. Meyers did an excellent job as Mr. Whiteside, on short notice. He came in to take over the part a week before the play, due to Todd Boucher's emergency leave.

Laughter was everywhere, and the audience really seemed to enjoy the production.

Dear Jake and Janet

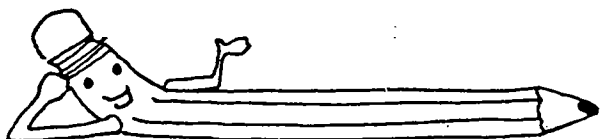
Dear Jake and Janet,

I am such a beautiful person, but the problem is that no one else thinks so. I wish that, for once, a guy would notice me.

WANTING TO BE WANTED!

Dear Wanting,

I think it's great that you feel you're a beautiful person! Not a lot of people feel that way, and that makes you a very special person. Guys probably have noticed, but maybe they are shy, or you could have scared them off by the way you act. Everyone wants to be wanted. I know I do! I'm pretty sure you'll find a guy that thinks you're beautiful. But nothing comes quick and easy in this world--you must be patient. You must also have faith in yourself and everything will turn out O.K.



Dear Jake and Janet,

There's this gal I like, but everyone else likes her, too. I'm afraid she'll never notice me because people think I'm a nerd. But I'm madly in love!

NERDS ARE COOL

Dear Nerd,

If you really like her, it doesn't matter what you are. Do you really believe that you're a nerd? What's your definition of a nerd? Everyone has his own styles and ideas, and we should be adult enough to accept that. If this girl doesn't like you because she thinks you're a nerd, then she'll never really know you. If she doesn't give you a chance, then maybe she really isn't worth it. There are a lot of girls who would give you a chance, if you would stop putting yourself down. Have self-confidence and fight for your respect!

If you have more problems, you might want to speak to a peer facilitator.

'86-'87 PREDICTIONS (SORT OF) III
SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EDITION
by Jimmy Chambliss

For a little change of pace, I've juiced up my \$19.95 crystal ball to predict what some people might get for Christmas (and I'm sure ol' Saint Nick would have a "beep" trying to get these things into his sleigh, let alone get them period.)

Aimee Converse: a whole punk wardrobe so she can finally change her image.

Debbie Hersman: a K-9 enamel pin or a million bucks. (Due to satellite malfunction, the crystal ball can't tell which present Debbie will get.)

Elena Foley: an electric chair to improve her attitude problem.

Erik Schwalier: time in a Turkish prison to improve HIS attitude problem.

Don Dunkle: a six-month training course with the Marines and a large life insurance policy.

Willy Burks: a six-month training course with John McEnroe and a very large life insurance policy.

Brad McCoy: a hole in the head.

The Torrejon Red Football Team: a very sedated White team to trash during the next Homecoming game.

Mr. Hoge: a one-way ticket to Tibet to find Utopia (or, at least, a good restaurant).

Josh Barker, Anthony Gaviola, Joe Day, and Bill Giannaris: a movie deal with Steven Spielberg to make a sequel to E.T.

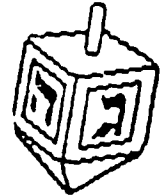
Leslie Mace, Tami Williams, Angela Owens, and Eve Nolan: places on the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleading Squad.

DeeDee Correll: a job as editor of the National Enquirer.

And finally, Jimmy Chambliss: a girlfriend (probably Debbie Hersman, Aimee Converse, or Christina Gahan) and a best seller with his name on it.

So much for my would-be Christmas list. The \$19.95 crystal ball will be back next time with new predictions for new personalities. (Meaning no more reruns with people who have already been in Predictions (Sort Of).) See y'all in Predictions (Sort Of) IV!

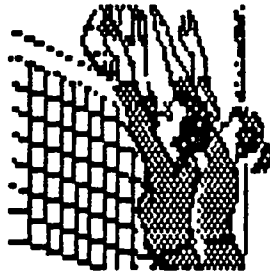
SENIOR SPOTLIGHT
by Debbie Hersman



Name: Marcelinda F. Shinault
 Nickname: Buckwheat
 Birthday: During lover's month
 Best Moment: High school years
 Worst Moment: Getting a "D" in Itakura
 Pet Peeve: Gossip

FAVORITES:

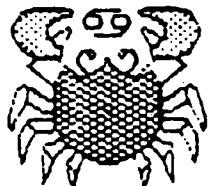
Food: Everything!
 Song: "Baby Come Back to Me"
 TV Show: "Miami Vice"
 Movie: "Top Gun"
 Pastime: Guy watching
 After Grad plans: Travel Europe
 Color: Grey



Name: Berness W. Swan
 Nickname: K.I.D.E. (KID)
 Birthday: The day after summer
 Best Moment: When I found out my mom was going to have another baby.
 Worst moment: Losing a good friend in this school.

FAVORITES:

Food: Pizza
 Song: "Girl Talk" by Boogie Boys
 TV Show: "Miami Vice"
 Movie: "Back To The Future"
 Pastime: Being with friends
 After Grad plans: Attend Villanova
 Color: Blue



THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS
by Tami Williams

Christmas is more than a break from school. It is a time to be jubilant. It is a time of giving. The word "Christmas" [Christ's mass] on the Christian calendar is the feast of the nativity of Jesus Christ. It ranks after Easter, Pentecost, and Epiphany in importance and did not become widespread until the 4th century.

The customs of the yule log, caroling, mistletoe, and gifts at Christmas are English. Elsewhere, gifts are given at other times, as at Epiphany in Spain. Christmas cards, common greetings at this time of year, first appeared in 1846.

The concept of a jolly Santa Claus is traditionally identified with a 4th-century bishop of Myra in Asia Minor. In the Netherlands and other countries, Saint Nicholas's feast (Dec.6) is a children's holiday. He was first made popular in the 19th century, when the English in New York adopted him from the Dutch, calling him Santa Claus.

The Christmas tree was a medieval German tradition which gradually spread throughout the Western world. Midnight mass is a familiar religious observance among Roman Catholics and some Protestants.

Of all the rich Christmas traditions, there is something for everyone, so be sure to get involved during this holiday season, and have a merry Christmas!



VIEW OF THE WORLD
STUDENT BEHAVIOR: CASA ANIMAL, ESPANA
by Jimmy Chambliss

Christmas is almost upon us. Santa is hot-rodding his anti-radar sleigh, ready for his annual global gift giveaway (how that guy enters restricted airspace without getting blown away really confuses me.). His X-mas list is almost complete, but if he ever found out what's happening at our school, he'd make the world's record for most changes on a legal document. Why do I make such a statement? Because our behavior in school STINKS! Why do I make that statement? Keep reading.

One of the problems with the generation gap is that we youth don't respect authority. Take the example of a certain U.S. History class that had a sub. Most of the kids were creating all kinds of mayhem, such as talking, eating in class, showing disrespect to the teacher, not doing their work, and generally messing around. Even when the sub threatened to send for the principal, the jerks kept the riot going. The result: four kids were sent to Detention City and the rest of the class got some severe rear-kicking and chewing out by the regular teacher.

If this sounds familiar, it should. Nine times out of ten, students start running amuck when a sub is in the classroom. (Makes you wonder if they apply for combat pay, doesn't it?)

Substitute teacher abuse ain't the only form of misbehavior. Cussing, graffiti, disrespect to people, and the ol' favorite--prank playing--and heavy metal racket are all forms of student misconduct. Failing students aren't the only bunch misbehaving. The high-and-mighty NHS and NJHS have raised Cain in one form or another at times. (Shocking, isn't it?)

If this keeps up, we may have to declare this place a war zone. If that happens, it'll be a dark day in education.

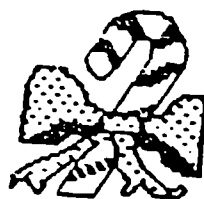
Most people (the majority are teachers) don't like to see today's youth going berserk in public, and this American is no exception. I'm ashamed that a few clowns are tarnishing THS's image. There are places where people can blow off steam, but this school isn't one of them. There oughta be a little more cruise control when a sub is in a classroom. We should watch the language when we're on school grounds (Off grounds is another ballgame.), keep our artistic impulses on paper, exercise a little more intrascholastic equality (that means no teasing each other), and try to keep our animal selves at bay. (And while we're at it, the NHS & NJHS oughta exert a little riot control over themselves. "Letting a little hair down" is

one thing. Going all-out ape is quite another.) Let's not have any incidents where riot cops and the Marines are called in to keep order. The school will be better off.

This is Jimmy Chambliss for VIEW OF THE WORLD now arming my anti-aircraft guns. There's some clown in a red suit and sleigh that's disturbing my sleep and I want to shut him up.....permanent-like.

P.S. If you want your opinion about this month's topic or any other business on the paper, send all letters, postcards, love notes, death threats, and letter bombs to me personally or the red KL box. No violence or vulgar language, please. Let's keep it clean.

P.P.S. I want to wish y'all a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hannakah, or whatever your local religion calls the day of gift-giving.



SEASON'S GREETINGS IN MY HOME
by Judy Converse

Christmas has changed a lot since I was younger. As a child, I couldn't sit still waiting for the fudge, snow, and never-ending pile of presents that come with Christmas. As I age, though, the seasons rush up and smack me after Thanksgiving.

I am like my family in that we are always behind. We are always the last in the neighborhood to put up our tree and wreaths. We also are late to the Christmas Eve service at the chapel every year without fail.

Another tradition my family keeps up is doubling all our recipes due to the fact that we burn at least half of everything we bake. The burnt smell in the house just adds to that familiar feeling of another season's greetings.





**KNIGHTLIFE'S QUESTION FOR
DECEMBER**
by Debbie Hersman

When several students at THS were asked what they wanted for Christmas, these were their replies:

"Tom Cruise!"
VALEPIE HERSMAN

"Richie Sambora's guitar and a
good-looking chick"
JAVIER DOWNEY

"To see Iron Maiden in concert and to go
on a ski trip with..."
CHRISTINA GAHAN

"A red 944 convertible Porsche"
JAVIER DE JESUS

"A wild party!"
CARLO VIDAL

"A moped"
SUSANNA ROJAS

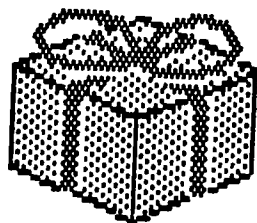
"A trip to Hawaii"
KRISSIE LUDWIG

"Just as many good classes next semester
as I have this semester"
MS. GERHARTZ

"I want to be able to stay in La Maddalena
longer"
SCOTT MINTON

"A moped"
BERT MIRANDA

"Stay on a deserted island with Tom
Cruise"
DEEDEE CORRELL



**CELEBRATIONS OF HANNAKUH AND THE
THREE KINGS**
by Luisa Milliken

December brings about more than one festive occasion; I'll tell you about two of my favorites.

A Jewish holiday called Hannakuh is also known as the Festival of Lights. This holiday began with the celebration of the defeat of the Syrians by the Jewish. As a result of the victory, the Jews were able to return to their temple. The Jewish wanted to rededicate the temple, and make it holy again. But they found themselves low on sacred oil for burning and knew that it would take at least a week to make more. By some miracle, however, the one-day supply of oil lasted eight days. Now a candle is lit every year on the first night, two on the second day, and so on until the eighth of day of Hannakuh. This year's festival begins on the 27th of December and ends on the third of January. This occasion is a happy one in which presents are exchanged and parties are given.

The second celebration is actually a version of our American-style Christmas. The Spanish acknowledge Christmas, and celebrate it with special masses and family get-togethers. However, it's not until January sixth that gifts are exchanged. This special day is known as Three Kings' Day, referring to the three kings who followed the Star's light to Bethlehem in their search for Jesus.

These are not the only celebrations, but just examples of the festivities that occur during this light-hearted time of year. No matter what occasion you are celebrating, take care and have a very merry season!

WHAT'S FILLING UP SANTA'S SACK?
by DeeDee Correll

When I read Jimmy's Predictions (Sort Of) for this Christmas edition, I couldn't resist asking Santa to lengthen the list. It took a little pleading, but he finally agreed to bring a few more goodies for people at THS, all of which I'm sure the recipients will love. Merry Christmas, everyone!!!

To Kelly Farrell goes the assurance of a lifelong position as overseer of ALL waiters at the O' Club.

Daniel Wheeler has the choice of (a) an endless night with Christie Brinkley PLUS the loan of my Porsche or (b) all the books he can cart out of the library in a wheelbarrow.

An extra-large mirror will be put in the back of Ms. Meyer's room especially for Rick Davis so he can preen every time he's giving a speech.

When Eric Kim opens his present, he's going to find one unsmiling ROTC face mask to pull on during those emergencies when it's NOT appropriate to giggle.

Mr. Whitley gets Margo Tucker's FREE babysitting services for his daughter, so he can party all night without costing himself a cent.

To dog-lover Michelle Santiago, a kennel of adorable cats, so she will realize the error of her ways...

Mr. Thompson (art teacher) can expect an attentive class for at least three of his films, and the other Mr. T. can have all the zinc his little heart desires, AND a few beach towels, if he promises to stop whipping them at people.

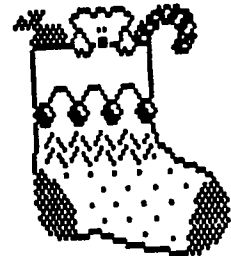
A monogrammed calculator goes to Tim Schneider, so mine can get a rest before all its solar power runs out.

A broom with a golden handle will be sticking out of Alonzo Sanchez's stocking, because he's VERY talented when it comes to slave labor.

Since it's Christmastime, why not indulge? For myself, I'm going to make a tradeoff with Debbie Hersman; my sister Janet for her darling, little sister Valerie (and sidekick Stephanie Skogstrand, of course) for the rest of 1986.

One final, last-minute gift: a warehouse of extra-large sink plugs fitted specially for the mouths of Hank, Dane, Brad, and Robert AND a

year's subscription to the Stars and Stripes so they can read the Miss Manners column.



"HOW MY FAMILY GETS READY FOR X-MAS"
by Mike Lemons

In our house, Christmas preparations begin early and organized, and end up with last-minute rush hour catastrophes. Around the middle of November, Christmas lists will be posted in the kitchen. There they will sit to be written on or ignored until three weeks before Christmas. At this point, full realization of the effects of our procrastination will hit us. This is when Christmas gets really interesting. A tree will be hastily bought, brought home, and set on the back porch, never to be seen again until three days before Christmas. No longer will weekends be spent relaxing. Instead, our Saturday mornings will be spent in the middle of a shopping mall, surrounded by harrassed mothers and fathers in the same dilemma. The tree will be put up in a grueling one-day marathon. Cookies will be made. Wreaths hung. Turkey bought. Gifts wrapped....And then, on Christmas morning, we will wake up, and come down the stairs smiling!



