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A Christmas Herald



Ho, ho, ho

Children line city streets to greet Santa Claus at parade

By ALLISON TUTT

Surrounded by sights and sounds of Saturday morning's 1989 Bowling Green Christmas Parade, wide-eyed Jason Miller, saluted and picked up his feet in rhythm with the Christmas music of a band marching by.

But the holiday cheer apparently wasn't so infectious for all the young spectators.

Standing by Miller on the curb, 7-year-old Jerry Pardue Jr. covered his ears until the band's sound faded and another parade entry drew near.

The crowd of children and adults circled the path of the

parade, which started at 8th and State streets, went down 11th Street and ended at 8th and College streets.

Parade chairman Al Smith said about 3,000 to 4,000 people participated in the parade of floats, bands and groups that gathered to welcome Christmas. About 150 entries — Big Red and Western's Spirit Masters among them — were involved.

The parade was capped by a traditional Santa, being pulled along the parade route in his sleigh by a not-so-traditional John Deere tractor.

"You wouldn't be a kid if you didn't come to the parade," said

Jerry Pardue Sr., who has brought his son every year. Smith said the event has been a longstanding tradition for the past 40 years.

The younger Pardue chuckled as a clown dressed as a baseball player strolled by. Standing near him, Miller, of Richardsville, reacted by sticking his tongue out at the clown and wriggling his hands from his ears.

Jonell Dalton, of Bowling Green, said she brought her grandchildren to boost their Christmas spirit.

"Just seeing all the Christmas floats, Christmas music gets everybody in the mood," she said.

"It's fun," said Dalton's 10-year-old granddaughter Jessica Anderson, adding that, "I'd rather be in it."

Bowling Green resident Faye Sweeney admitted she came for her own amusement as well as that of her children.

"I like to hear the bands, plus they like Santa," Sweeney said, as she watched her four sons' eyes light up as they viewed the parade.

Before the parade started, Dawn Bodkin, a 12-year-old who has marched in it before, said she enjoyed the atmosphere. She added that "sometimes you get tired of walking, but it's still fun."

Her Girl Scout troop carried colorful flags representing the states.

Twelve-year-old Sarah Greer and her friend came for a ride in the car carrying the mayor that was driven by her father.

But Greer said they were also there for another reason. "We're in so we can blow kisses to our boyfriends."

The great thing about the parade is that it boosts spirit by getting everyone together, Rockfield resident Gary Pardue said but "they ought to have somebody come by with some snow."

HARK!

On the cover

The man behind the mask is Bowling Green freshman Matt Reimer, who listens to 5-year-old Melinda Stamps of Bowling Green. "The suit gets a little hot and itchy," Reimer said, "but it's really fun." See **YOUNG SANTA**, Page 7B

Photo by Jeanie Adams/Herald

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Kids clamor for Batman toys, Ninja Turtles

By GINA KINSLOW

Toys with a Batman theme are what most children are asking Santa Claus for this Christmas, according to toy store employees.

But Upsy-Daisy, Betsy-Wetsy, Holiday Barbie, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and Nintendo tapes and systems are running a close second.

Janie Cardwell, a Bowling Green senior, was searching Saturday at Greenwood Mall for toys with the Batman theme, for her son Andrew.

The items are so popular that she's only been able to find one Batman item that her son wanted for Christmas, she said.

"I just came from Roses, and they just happened to have a Batmobile," Cardwell said.

"Now I would like to find one of the Batman figurines."

Last Tuesday, Toys "R" Us, at 3000 Scottsville Road, was sold out of Batman theme toys. It also received 12 phone calls for Batman figures and other Batman items that day, said a store employee.

Andy Martin, an 8-year-old from Bowling Green who was wearing a Batman sweatshirt, said he was looking for Batmobile and Batman figures. He was in a toy store in the Mall on Saturday shopping with his mom, Joyce Martin.

Andy was also looking for accessories for Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, which are also popular this Christmas season.

Shane Johnston, who was fooling around with a fake guitar in a toy store at the Mall, said he wants a Nintendo game for Christmas because he likes playing video games.

Johnston, a 9-year-old from Bowling Green, was joined by Sheena, his 6-year-old sister. She said she just wants a baby doll for Christmas.

Unlike Batman theme toys, Nintendo games and systems aren't as popular as they were last Christmas.

"Nintendo is kind of slow," said

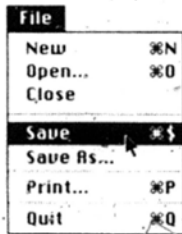
Debbie Stoner, assistant manager of Playland, a toy store in the Mall. "Nothing Nintendo is hot this season."

But Nintendo games were selling well at Kay-Bee Hobby Shop in the Mall as of last Tuesday, said Larry McEwen, manager for Kay-Bee Hobby Shop at Greenwood Mall.

Of 15 in stock, all were sold, McEwen said.

Prices for toys with the Batman theme range from \$4.99 to \$29.99. Nintendo items range from \$25 to \$149, and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle figures range from \$3.99 to \$16.

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Blue Christmas

Holidays can be sad times for some people

By TRACY DICE

'Tis the season to be jolly, but the holidays can make some people feel less than joyful.

Unfulfilled expectations are causes of holiday depression, according to Pat Wilson, who answers the Helpline at the Life-skills Clinic in Bowling Green.

"The whole world is telling you to be happy, and when real life is not like that, you get depressed," Wilson said.

According to the magazine Psychology Today, Christmas is a symbolic occasion in which memories of a glorious childhood help create expectations that are bound to be disappointing.

"Everyone expects their family to be like Beaver Cleaver's, and they usually aren't," Wilson said.

Holiday depression is very common and can be serious. "We get a lot of suicide calls at this time of year," Wilson said.

People mention marital problems, family disharmony and not having enough money for gifts as reasons for their depression, she said.

Shane Koch, a Louisville senior, said he's been depressed at Christmas the past two years because he had to stay in Bowling Green to work. "It was no fun because I could only go home for one day and then come back," he said. "It gets kind of lonely when you have to stay down here."

Food can be fanciful gift for the holiday

By GARY HOUGHENS

If you want to give a unique gift that's easy to find and will be appreciated, this Christmas you might consider giving food, said a Western home economics professor.

The variety of edible gifts is limitless, according to Shirley Gibbs, coordinator of food and nutrition in the home economics and family living department.

Very traditional gifts include bread and cakes, such as banana and sourdough bread and Kentucky whiskey and bourbon cakes, Gibbs said.

"A popular holiday food in this region is the old Kentucky stack cake," which is made of seven or eight layers of ginger bread and dried apples, she said. Another good Christmas gift is a yule log, a chocolate cake cooked like a jelly roll.

For simpler gifts, Gibbs suggested sweet and spicy nuts, cranberry relish, cheeseballs or teas and coffees, many of which can be made with a blender.

For those who don't cook, there are almost as many different kinds of pre-packaged food gifts available as there are original

recipes. The commercial aspect of the season also bothers Koch. "There's a lot of hype," he said. "I think a lot of people try to make a dollar off of it. It's not your traditional family thing anymore."

Memories of significant people from a person's past can cause feelings of depression, said psychology professor Dr. Lynn Clark.

Steve Osborne, an Evansville junior, said memories of his grandparents who are now dead causes him to feel sad during the holidays. "We used to always spend Christmas there, and we can't anymore," he said.

Clark said college students can be more affected by holiday depression if they have done poorly in school and have to come home and face their parents.

Symptoms of depression include an excessive need for sleep, feeling despondent and a negative view of the future, he said.

Wilson said by not getting expectations up and setting themselves up for disappointment, people can get over the holiday blues. She recommends spending time with good friends and planning for the holiday financially.

"You don't have to buy expensive gifts if you can't afford them," she said.

Wilson also said anyone feeling depressed who would like to talk should call the Helpline at 843-HELP.

recipes.

The Peanut Shack in Greenwood Mall offers a variety of candy in colorful Christmas tins, including sugar-free peanut and almond clusters.

Several companies offer gift packages of meats and cheeses. Hickory Farms, which has a booth set up in the Mall offers edible gifts from \$5 to more than \$35. Their products include single cheeseballs and beefsticks and simple-to-elaborate combinations of meats and cheeses, honey, dried fruits, jams and jellies.

Hickory Farms will ship a gift box anywhere in the United States and Canada and guarantees that it will be delivered before Christmas if it's purchased before Dec. 17.

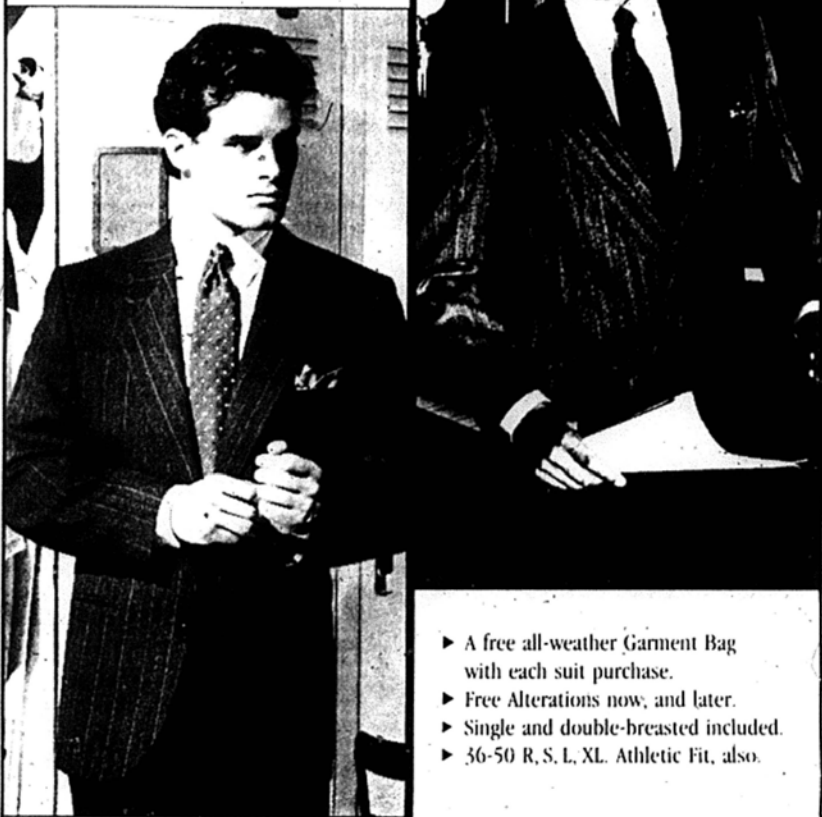
Gibbs said the most popular food gift is, of course, the fruitcake, which brings to mind the eternal question: "What exactly goes into a fruitcake?"

"There are about as many recipes as you can imagine," she said, "involving whatever variety of nuts and candied fruits you want."

"It makes the gift seem a little more special."

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Weaves, wigs highlight holiday hair styles

By ANYA LOCKERT

Women who want a creative and manageable change of hair style for the holidays are investing in hair weaves, wigs and other hair pieces, stylists say.

Carol Bentley, owner and hair stylist at Creative Cutters on Magnolia Avenue, said wigs and hair pieces look more natural than they used to.

"Wigs were once set in a style, but now they can be washed, rolled and styled," she said.

Although wigs have improved dramatically, Bentley said hair weaving, which was once exclusive to movie stars, is much more popular.

"Hair weaves enable girls that just want their hair long for special occasions to get it immediately instead of waiting for theirs to grow out," she said. "A lot of girls also get long hair because their male friends like long hair and it turns them on."

Hair pieces, weaves, and wigs are very similar to natural hair. "They have the body and shine of natural hair, and they are thicker and longer," she added. Weaves are usually made from Korean hair.

The weaving process is done by taking Korean hair and braiding it to sections of the person's real hair. The process usually takes

two to three hours and customers are allowed to choose between permed or straight hair. The cost of the hair weave is \$39 to \$59, depending on the length of the hair, plus an additional \$20 per section of hair.

Weaved hair can be washed just like the natural thing, Bentley said. It can also be dyed to meet the wearer's taste.

Bentley said you can keep the weave on indefinitely, but it should be tightened every four to eight weeks.

Hair pieces and wigs are also good for the hair, according to Gretchen Campbell, a hair stylist at Chic Wigs in Greenwood Mall on Scottsville Road.

"Hair weaves and wigs allow the hair to grow longer and thicker because it is not pulled and tugged as much," she said. "But if done incorrectly, a weave could cause breakage."

Monique Taylor, a Louisville sophomore, said she once had hair extensions and was satisfied with them.

"Weaves are good because everyone is not fortunate enough to have good hair and so a hair weave gives them instant long hair," she said. "I also like the weave because you don't have to worry about getting up and blow-drying or curling your hair."

Baubles, bangles and beads; Oh, my

By KARLA TURNER

All that glitters is gold — or at least metallic when it comes to accessories this Christmas season.

Baubles, bangles and beads have taken over Greenwood Mall in a shimmering display of Christmas cheer. Large, cumbersome strands of pearls and gold chain-links adorn mannequins' waists and necks.

Gold jewelry and metallic scarves are leading the pack of holiday accessories for women who want to be the belle of the Christmas ball.

"Accessories change the look of an outfit," said Marie Crews, an employee at Embry's Accents in the Mall on Scottsville Road. "They can dress it up or down."

Though the store has only been open for a few months, business is brisk, Crews said.

"Christmas is the biggest season for accessories," she said. "They add that special something."

Casual Corner in the mall is focusing on rhinestones, crystals and the gold coin look of Chanel. Janet Freeman, Casual Corner manager, considers the holiday rush for gold, flash and color in accessories, "a seasonal attitude," she said. "It's just the finishing touch. An outfit just doesn't look right without the right necklace and earrings."

Some of those earrings are actually small Christmas tree balls and miniature packages with red and green bows. But fashion conscious women won't be hanging ropes of shiny garland around their necks. Instead, they're buying metallic scarves and sashes this year.

"Metallics are in for holidays," Crews said.

Clothes and jewelry aren't the only accessories decking the malls. Makeup is also being scooped up by savvy shoppers.

Merle Norman, a store known for its makeovers, is finding that people don't have time to become beautiful in the store, but they

buy it to go.

"They want color and new makeup, but they don't want the makeover," said owner Pam Jordan. Instead, shoppers are hastily buying "brighter colors" because "most of the parties are coming up."

Men are going to be at those parties, too. They can dress to kill if they invest in the flashy gold and diamond tie tacks available at the mall.

A whimsical, holiday find for men is brick red ties with Santa, Frosty and Christmas trees painted on them. Really brave guys can wear musical boxer shorts with Santa in a pink Cadillac. The shorts even play "Jingle Bells," with the help of an electronic device sewn into them.

Accessories seem to be the easiest, most fun gift to give to yourself and others this Christmas, Freeman said. They're "the best no-size gift you can give away."

Michelle Williams, a Jefferson-town freshman, has had hair extensions since May of this year to protect her natural hair and

because it's easier to maintain. She also said that anyone that wants a weave should get it.

"I think if someone chooses to

have whatever they want in their hair and it enhances their appearance and they can afford it, they should do it," she said.



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A campus flavor

Have yourself a Western Christmas

By ANYA LOCKERT

If you are having trouble finding Christmas bargains to fit your budget, campus stores may have the perfect solution.

The College Heights Bookstore in the university center sells everything from souvenir cups with the Western logo, starting at \$2, to walnut desk accessories, which range from \$17 to \$60.

Buddy Childress, bookstore director, said the most popular items are the sweat suits and Western shirts, which sell for \$10 to \$40. He also said that all items with the school logo on them sell well.

In addition the bookstore offers a wide variety of Christmas cards, plush toys and other novelty items. Childress said the items sell well for one reason.

"This is the only place in town where you can get a lot of items with the school insignia on them," he said.

For those with a sweet tooth, the university center candy store offers quite a selection.

Jim Kelly, an employee at the candy store, said it offers a combination of chocolate Santas, candy bells, peppermint candy canes

“

This is the only place in town where you can get a lot of items with the school insignia on them.

”

Buddy Childress

and peanut butter and chocolate Santas. These treats cost between 10 and 40 cents. Kelly said the store also sells WKU hats, souvenir cups, plush toys, school buttons, and other items with the school insignia.

Unlike the candy store, The Kentucky Museum Gift Shop sells everything from card holders at \$7.50 to baskets made by Kentuckians for up to \$75.

Holly Ingling, a gift shop employee, said the museum tries to get most of the items from Kentucky, but that's not always possible.

"Because the items are handmade and unique, that's a major

appeal. But a lot of people say they want something from Kentucky to give to a relative or friend that lives in Kentucky, and we have these types of things," Ingling said.

The Bowling Green senior said the shop's best sellers are cooling racks, used for cooling breads and pastries, for \$3.98 to \$12.98; Kentucky throw rugs for \$35; handmade potpourri and ceramic Christmas ornaments, for \$1 to \$25; afghans, for \$20 to \$40; Kentucky-made stuffed black sheep, for \$14.98 to \$35; and handmade Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls, for \$25 each.

The gift shop also sells hand puppets, napkin tifs, stuffed animals by Dakin, Christmas wrapping paper, handmade aprons, wooden folklore toys, Christmas hanging stockings and tobacco reefs. These items sell for 85 cents to \$60.

As a salute to the museum's 50th anniversary, Princess Heather scarfs with "The Kentucky Museum" written on them have been reproduced from a quilt on the third floor of the museum and are being sold for \$12.98.

And for that special spitz on your list, . . .

By ANGIE JONES

The question used to be, "How much is that doggy in the window?"

These days, however, "How much is that doggy bone in the window?" may be more in tune with the times.

According to Barbara Moore, owner and manager of Petland in Greenwood Mall, pets aren't as popular for holiday gifts as they used to be. But pet accessories are a booming business.

Moore said pet owners buy treats and toys to include their dogs and cats in the family gift-opening.

Moore said \$2 will buy a dog Choo-Hooves, the newest item on the market.

The Choo-Hooves are actually horse hooves for dogs to chew as a source of calcium and protein.

Want to teach your dog tricks? Moore said Bruno Drops are good for training.

The drops, which look like chocolate but are made of

pureed rawhide with carob (a substance similar to chocolate), are \$4.99 a bag.

Another doggy treat is Her-chew's, a take-off of the Hershey's chocolate bar. Her-chew's are rawhide sticks also made with carob. A package of six is \$1.99.

The newest toy for cats is the Ice Punch for \$3.99. It's a rubber and foam ice cream cone. With a push of the button you can send the ice cream (string-attached) flying across the room — and your cat with it.

"You can sit in your recliner and never have to get up to play with your cat," Moore said.

The traditional stuffed mouse or sponge ball is always a hit, she said, and there are stockings and squeeze toys for both dogs and cats at varying prices.

Picture this: The stockings hang from the mantle, one for each member of the family — Father, Mother, Sally, Timmy . . . and Spot.

After all, as Moore said, "pets need Christmas, too."

Trendy toys for the hip at heart

By JAMIE LAWSON

Wide-eyed children perched on Santa's lap wish for toys, but what can college students ask for now that they're too big for Barbie and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles?

Anything, from the weird to the wonderful, can be found in local stores.

"We're selling tons of calendars," said Lisa Cummings at Waldenbooks in Greenwood Mall. Calendars featuring everything from bikini-clad women to Georgia O'Keefe paintings are gifts to look at all year.

Books about rock stars are popular too, Cummings said. "Rolling Stone — The Photographs" is packed full of photos from the music magazine. It also has a snazzy picture of Tina Turner on the front. For \$50, you can put it on your coffee table to impress your friends.

Books about vintage groups such as the Beatles, the Doors and Led Zeppelin are also trendy, said Cummings.

For a novel gift, check out Sonic Rockers, plastic blue-haired dolls that sway to music while holding tiger-striped guitars.

If the beach is more your scene, check out the competing Dancing Palm Trees. Both can be found at Spencer Gifts in the mall for about \$20.

"Anything neon" is also hot this Christmas, said Darlene Vincent, manager at Spencer Gifts.

If the phone rings in the middle of the night you won't have any trouble reaching for Roxanne — The European Designed Telephone — in neon blue and pink. It's not for penny pinchers, though. Spencer carries it for \$169.99. But a cheaper version, the trimline Rhonda Neon Telephone, is available for \$129.99 in

aqua and lavender.

Another trendy phone is Glow Talk, which lights up when it rings. Spencer carries it for \$59.99.

Another unique gift is Sea, Sight and Sound for \$89.99. It's a clear oblong box which contains a blue substance that mimics the waves of the ocean when it's tilted.

For music lovers, anthology boxes that contain all of a musician's songs are popular this Christmas, said Glenda Wheel at Musieland in the mall. Rockers such as Eric Clapton, Rod Stewart, David Bowie and the Rolling Stones all have collections that come in cassette, compact discs or albums.

Cassette singles, a modern form of the 45 rpm record, are also popular stocking stuffers this year, Wheel said. Most are under \$3.

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Photos by Jeanie Adams/Herald

Nancy Keyser, a volunteer for the Kentucky Museum's holiday program, enjoys a quiet moment before a group of children arrive to hear her traditional stories, yesterday.



(Above) Second-graders Brooke Beckner and Heidi Salsman, both 7, listen attentively to Christmas tales from 100 years ago. (Right) Meyers displays an antique China doll called a Frozen Charlotte, named after a young girl who died from riot wearing a coat in the cold.



Christmas of the past comes alive at museum

Herald staff report

More than 4,000 first- through fourth-graders will be told to close their eyes and drift back in time to a Christmas more than 100 years ago at the Kentucky Museum's holiday program.

During the next two weeks, volunteers for the fourth annual "The American Traditional Christmas Program" will guide children from nine surrounding counties through the Victorian Gallery's 1860's setting with the fresh evergreen smell of a Christmas tree and sights of traditional toys and Christmas cards.

Others, like Nancy Keyser, will tell stories about sleigh rides and old-fashioned Christmas festivities.

Taken away from the modern materialistic traditions of spending the Christmas season in malls, the youngsters will be reminded of times when Christmas trees could be decorated by stringing popcorn and making paper decorations.

They will also learn the origins of "Twas the Night Before Christmas." The hour-long program will include an animated film telling how the story was written.

Shows are held at 9 and 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. today through Friday and at the same times Dec. 11 through 15.

Thursday, December 7, 1989 is the LAST DAY for students to cash personal checks at the ticket window at Downing University Center.

Friday, December 8, 1989 is the LAST DAY for students to cash personal checks in the cashier's office.

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Army's angels bring salvation to needy children

By S. KAYE SUMMERS

As Leisa Cowles rounded the Christmas tree of angels, gold ribbon and white lights, she took an ornament off — rather than putting it on.

Out of a crowd of weekend shoppers at Greenwood Mall, Cowles, a Bowling Green resident, chose an angel from the Salvation Army's Angel Tree.

The angels list children of needy families who are usually age 12 and younger. The sex and

age of the children are listed, as well as the clothes and shoe sizes, said Sandy Reasoner, secretary of the Salvation Army at 401 West Main St.

People who pick angels don't have to buy clothes or shoes, but that information was listed because many people request their sizes, Reasoner said. Gifts can be returned to the Service Stop, a station in the mall, for free gift wrapping. The Service Stop keeps the gifts for the Salvation Army to pick up.

Families can fill out applications to have their children's names placed on angels or be recommended, Reasoner said. Most are on a fixed income, are laid off or are on welfare, she added.

As she studied the angels, Cowles' emotions collected in her eyes. "I just have a soft heart for the children," she said.

Cowles chose an angel listing a nine-year-old girl. The home of the girl and her mother, a single parent on Aid to Families with

Dependent Children program, was recently destroyed by fire.

"I have a little girl, and it's sad to see that some kids don't get anything at all," Cowles said.

She said she also chose the angel she could afford. So far, Cowles has got a food basket, a Barbie doll and clothes, a paint-by-the-numbers kit, a jogging suit, high-top tennis shoes and a winter coat.

The coat was her 10-year-old daughter's and was still in "real good shape," she said.

The Angel Tree is a nationwide program, but it's up to the Salvation Army's local chapter to establish one, Reasoner said.

Michelle Payne bought a panda bear for her angel, a one-year-old girl, because she said she felt sorry for the poor. The Glasgow resident said she chose a girl because they're "easier to buy for than boys."

"I felt really good after purchasing the bear," she said. "I'm doing something for someone else that doesn't have anything else."

Young Santa listens to hopes and dreams

By LAURA HOWARD

Since the Christmas season began two weeks ago, Matt Reimer said he has had about 5,000 children sit on his lap.

Some pull on his fake beard, some cry and just stare at him. But, mostly, they tell him what they want for Christmas.

This year Reimer is Santa Claus to some of those who visit Greenwood Mall on Scottsville Road.

"The suit gets a little hot and itchy, but it's really fun," Reimer, a Bowling Green freshman, said while removing the pants of the red and white costume that identifies him as Santa.

Mall personnel approached him about playing the part one day while he was working his regular job at Sears. He said his experiences with his young nieces and nephews provided a perfect background for the position.

"I don't get tired of having the little kids climb on me," he said. "I always entertain some of the little ones in my family when they come down. Plus I've worked with some of the kids in my mom's classes before." His mother teaches second grade at Rockfield Elementary School.

"But someone did set a kid on me the other day that was a little damp," he said with a grimace. "That wasn't the sweetest thing in the world."

Budget time and money

By TRAVIS GREEN

Christmas is the traditional time to experience the joy of giving. However, spending too much on gifts or poor money management can turn the holidays into a nightmare.

Joyce Rasdall, a home economics professor, said the first key to budgeting money is time.

Shoppers in a hurry tend to spend more money because they don't look for the bargains, she said.

So, "take time out to look at sales brochures in newspapers and tabloids to see what's on sale," Rasdall said. "It will not only save you money, but you can pick out what you want to buy before you

go, thus saving time." A line of children waiting to see Reimer extends about 100 feet down the thoroughfare at the mall, ending at the stage beside the clock adjacent to the Food Court. After they visit him, many sit around the edge of the stage he sits on and watch him.

Most of the children who come to see him this year have Christmas dreams they expect Santa to fulfill, he said. Others are there only because their parents want them to have the traditional picture taken with Santa.

"The kids really behave and act nice," he said. "Most of them still believe in Santa and are glad to see me. But there was this one older kid who kept trying to de-beard me because he knew I wasn't real. He kept coming back."

The other four "Santas" who are working at the mall this year are closer to the age most people would expect Santa to be, unlike the 18-year-old Reimer. One is 34, and the others are in their 50s and 60s, he said.

Reimer said he hopes having this job that allows him to work with people will help him decide on a career and give him a unique job experience. He mentioned a career in public relations as a possibility.

"I've learned to deal more with little children and have a lot of patience," he said. "A lot of patience."

go, thus saving time."

"Shopping weeks and even months ahead of time is very economical (too)," she said.

Setting a limit is another major key to managing money, Rasdall said. "The clearer the goal, the less likely you are to go over it."

Shopping at hours when stores aren't busy is a positive thing, too, Rasdall said, because there isn't as much of a hurry to get the gifts and get out.

"The best times would be soon after the store opens or during the evening meal hour — around six o'clock."

Credit cards are okay, Rasdall said, but shoppers should pay the bill promptly to avoid high interest rates.

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Gifts from discount stores please penny pinchers

By TRAVIS GREEN

During the Christmas season, some students may be in panic when faced with a growing gift list and a shrinking amount of cash.

But for the smart shopper, various discount stores around Bowling Green offer gifts that are both practical and economical.

This, That and the Other, a discount store at 1658 Campbell Lane, offers a close substitute to expensive gold jewelry found elsewhere, said Roger Doyel, the

owner.

"It's called gold vermeil," Doyel said. "It's sterling silver dipped three times in 14-karat gold and a bonding. It looks just like 14-karat gold jewelry at a tenth of the price."

Doyel said the individual prices for the jewelry depend on the length, width and weight. Prices range from \$29 to \$100.

Stereos and exercise equipment can also be bought at discount prices, Doyel said.

"You can find exercise equip-

ment here for \$60 to \$65 that would normally cost you a few hundred dollars at the mall," Doyel said.

Clothes are also another traditional gift that can be found for relatively cheap prices.

Wal-Mart, near Greenwood Mall on Scottsville Road, offers a variety of styles, designs and colors in sweaters ranging from \$16 to \$19.

Fleece wear, also found at Wal-Mart, is a gift that doesn't take much out of the pocket book at

\$5.50 each for women's items and \$6.38 each for men's items. Both are available in a rainbow of colors.

Payless Shoe Source in the Greenwood Mall offers Christmas gifts that fit into a limited Christmas budget.

"We have some western style boots that have been selling really well," said Ronnie Tidwell, store manager. "They are full-length women's boots for \$9.99."

Tidwell said the Sebago style in men's shoes is also an inexpensive

gift at \$10.99 a pair.

Dollar General Store offers gifts of candy, flowers, plants and household items for prices from \$2 to \$5.

If none of those gifts fits the bill, Big Lots, at the Bowling Green Mall is always an alternative.

"Everything in our store is on sale," said Liz Conway, a worker at Big Lots. "We get everything we sell through buying out other stores that are bankrupt or going out of business."

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