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In the Spirit

A special Christmas section of the College Heights Herald

Inside



Sharing the spirit

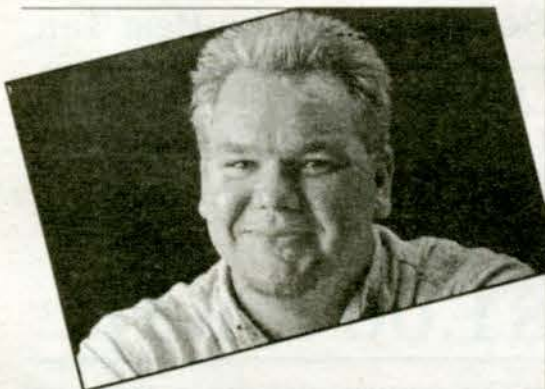
This year, go beyond family and friends to give something special to the community. Inside, you'll find 10 ways to help folks this holiday season. You can donate gifts to kids. Help the elderly. Assist refugees. Build a house. Believe it or not, you can do it, and you can find out how on **page 4**.

Dreaming of a fun Christmas

Bored with the holiday already? Has the yuletide hit low tide? Here are some tips to spice up — not the egg nog — but your upcoming vacation. You can go caroling, "Nutcrack"-ing and ... spelunking? **Page 8**

Many faces of the holiday

Christmas isn't the only way to celebrate this time of year. In fact, Christians are just one group of folks who incorporate giving during the holiday season. Learn more about other holiday traditions on **page 7**.



Ho-ho-Hutchins

For most, Christmas is an explosion of grinning and gift-giving. But for columnist Chris Hutchins, awkwardness is definitely in season. Find out why on **page 2**.



Bobby Hines spends some time with his 11-month-old son Alex after coming home from his job at Lowe's. Bobby was born in Glasgow and was raised in Alvaton. Bobby and Betty Hines have five children and live in the Bryant Way Housing Authority.

THE GIFT OF LOVE

Story by Ryan Clark ♦ Photos by Jonathan Kirshner

*T*here's love in the room. You can feel it. Like a warm coat on a winter's day, it surrounds, comforts and protects you. It's a mother's embrace after you've done something wrong, and a father's pride when you've done something right.

It's hanging on the walls, in intricate picture frames revealing five young faces — none older than seven — who dream of Santa and Rudolph and sleighs and presents and ...

Love.

Even children know Christmas is about love. It's the spirit of the holiday — it's not about how much you get, it's

about how much you give.

And it's captured in the home of Betty Hines. It's a home sponsored by the government housing authority, a unit only big enough for two, but housing seven: Betty, her husband and their five children.

And all the love in the world.

"I remember my first Christmas," Betty said as she sat on the couch at home, playing with her 11-month old son Alex.

"I was four years old, and I got a pink dress."

She looked away, propping Alex up on one knee.

Don't forget first Christmas gift

Christmas can be rough sometimes. It often means really long lines at the mall, higher-than-average prices, too much stress and not enough tidings of comfort and joy.

What is theoretically the most wonderful time of the year can be hampered by raw capitalism.

This can make us forget the first and greatest Christmas gift ever given and why it's so important to give back to others.

As secularized and materialistic as Christmas has become, it's no wonder we forget what we're celebrating, or celebrate simply because that's what we're supposed to do.

In the midst of all this we should never forget the reason for all of this is the birth of Jesus Christ. A gift that is definitely worth celebrating.

Regardless of how much stress we're under during the holidays or any time of year, no matter how dim life may seem, there is someone who will always be there for us to turn to.

Sure, maybe this is a redundant message, but even with the redundancy we still have trouble getting the message.

We all have such hectic lives and must deal with our own problems.

So we forget how lucky we really are. We lack gratitude for blessings we have.

Regardless of whether one celebrates Christmas or their religious persuasion, Jesus' message of peace, love, understanding and forgiveness are principles all can admire and aspire to live up to.

His message of love is why it's better to give than to receive. It's not just about spending money we don't have out of obligation.

It's about showing our love to others the way he showed unconditional love for all, even after being rejected by intolerance of the era.

No matter how dim or stressful life can be, it can't compare to the ultimate sacrifice that was made for us. A sacrifice that offered all of us hope in our own comparatively cushy lives.

We must never forget the less fortunate, because we weren't forgotten.

We must remember no matter how hopeless things seem, there is always hope.

Some have it much worse than we do, and we should follow the example of Jesus by trying to be a light in their lives.

So let's drop some coins (or maybe even a few bills) in the red Salvation Army pot, donate to the food drive and start giving more people our time.

Reaching out with love and respect for others is a way of at least trying to give back for the awesome gift we were given. It's a gift that should be practiced all year, but one that should be especially remembered on Christmas.

So as we celebrate a holiday often recognized only for Santa Claus and evergreen trees, we should use it as a time to reflect on our higher duties and obligations.

Fred Lucas is a senior print journalism major from London.



Fred Lucas
Commentary

Holiday emotions can't be expressed with material gifts

It's been about five years since I've been able to answer the question that inevitably rolls around every November:

"So, what do you want for Christmas?"

I can't answer that question any more. Much to the frustration of inquisitive family members and friends, I usually shrug and say nothing. Christmas is an awkward holiday for me. I feel embarrassed, bumbling around malls, trying to find gifts.

To me, the holidays are about sharing a love that goes beyond our emotional backyard. They're about exchanging a sense of unity among our family and fellow man. Indeed, Christmas is about giving.

But what, exactly? Presents? This is where I become embarrassed. This holiday is an emotional one. I feel uncomfortable giving a material thing to affirm those emotions. To me, buying my loved ones presents seems so ... inadequate.

Let me explain. For instance: I love my father. But what material thing could I possibly buy that could represent how much I love him? How could a new television set (which is what he's asking for) show my love, my admiration, for him?



Chris Hutchins
Commentary

It can't be done. It's just a TV.

Think about that. It doesn't matter what your motivations are for celebrating this holiday. Material presents during this time of emotional celebration — and introspection — seem out of place. To me, they seem trite.

I buy gifts, of course. But we cannot use the material to prove the emotional. The greatest mistake we make is believing that we can. I suspect many people do this during the holidays.

And that's why I don't want a computer for Christmas. Or a stereo. Or a new car. I don't want boxer shorts, cologne, socks, dress slacks. I don't want silverware, plates, pots, pans or cookbooks.

No. I want what I've wanted every Christmas for the last five

years. I want to be happy and healthy. I want the same for my family. I want dear, true, friends. I want to have conversations that mean something. I want great memories. I want insight into myself and my loved ones.

I want to be loved for who I am, not what I do. I want the respect I try to give any man or woman to be returned.

I want to hug my father and thank him for the positive influence he's had on my life. I want to tell dirty jokes with my sister. I want to swap phone numbers with folks I haven't seen since last Christmas. I want the girl I have a crush on to plant a great big kiss on me under the mistletoe.

What I want for Christmas, you can't buy.

But these things are gifts. And you can give them to me.

For most folks, these are awkward gifts. Some wouldn't consider them gifts at all. There are no receipts, no refunds, no rainchecks. No wrapping paper, bows or ribbons.

But they are gifts.

The best kind.

Chris Hutchins is a senior print journalism major from Louisville.

▶ What's the nicest thing you've done for someone for Christmas?



"I got my best friend a robe in her favorite color that she didn't think she was going to get."

Nadacia Washington
Louisville junior



"I got my girlfriend a huge stuffed Eeyore she really wanted."

Andrew Kirby
Louisville freshman



"This is the first year I've gotten something for my sister. I got her a Western shirt."

Matt Sisley
freshman from Grandview, Ind.



"I served Christmas dinner at a homeless shelter."

Haydee Maur
Louisville sophomore



"I donated a lot of nice clothes to Goodwill."

Angela Crowe
Owensboro sophomore

Merry Christmas from the **Herald** staff. Have a safe and happy holiday break.



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Betty Hines, center, holding Alex, 11 months, talks to her daughters Rene, 7, left, and Sarah, 6, after the girls came home from The Learning Center.

THE GIFT OF LOVE

CONTINUED FROM 1B

"I still have that dress. It was the first one I'd ever gotten."

A mother's wishes

The Hines family is wealthy. Their home isn't the biggest, and they don't shop at the GAP or Abercrombie and Fitch, but they're rich.

"I always heard that your wealth is measured in your family and friends," Betty said. "I really believe that."

After being laid off from a job at a vocational school, Betty needed financial help for the holiday season, which is why her family is receiving aid from the Bryant Way Housing Authority off Scottsville Road. Bobby, her husband of three years, is a delivery driver at Lowe's, and together, they hope to bring a meaningful Christmas to their five children.

"You always want to get them at least one thing they want," Betty said. "To just be able to surprise them and see that flicker in their eyes, see their face just glowing as they tear open the wrapping paper. You just want to see that."

After all, family is everything to her.

It has been ever since Betty was orphaned by people she's never known, and then adopted by those she says are "the only ones I'll ever call my parents."

To Betty, family is the root of happiness. And she wishes so much to pass on that love and respect to her own children — especially at Christmas.

"This is the season for family, of taking care of everybody that you love and just being together," she said. "I wish we were better

off so we could give more, but we give what we can."

Last month, the Hines family donated the children's old toys to the Salvation Army so other children could have Santa Claus bring them something new on Christmas. It's a case of a family not having that much, but still giving what they can.

Josh, the Hines' four-year-old son, sat intently playing a video game until the magic words "Santa Claus" were overheard.

"I want to go see Santa," he said, hopping from one foot to the other. "I have to go to see Santa. I want everything!"

Betty's eyes grew moist.

A helping hand

Cathy Parker is a 28-year-old junior majoring in social work at Western. She not only likes helping people, it's her job. That's why she works part-time as a specialist at Life Skills, a corporation that brings relief to underprivileged families.

"I work the after-school programs, mentoring programs and do volunteer work with the youth," Parker said. "We try to give them something to do and help them with their school work."

And Parker has been lending a helping hand to the Hines family.

"Over here at Bryant Way, we have so many families request help for the holidays," Parker said. "What I do is choose the ones that need it the most. I noticed Betty had five kids and I thought she probably needed some help, but my goal is to help them, be there for them, be a positive role model and be someone they can talk to."

According to Betty, Parker was right — her family did need help.

"She helps us out so much," Betty said. "She gives the kids help with their school work and gives them things to do. They really understand what they're doing, and it makes Christmas a better time."

Parker said she understands how to relate to low-income families, because she came from a similar background. Coming from a family of five, she could sense her family's financial situation even at a young age.

"We had our basic needs, like food and stuff," she said. "But we never had money to do other things, like take vacations."

"That's why I want to help people so much. Christmas is about helping people, about setting your feelings aside for a moment — or in my case, a career."

Holy night

But Betty has feelings she can't set aside.

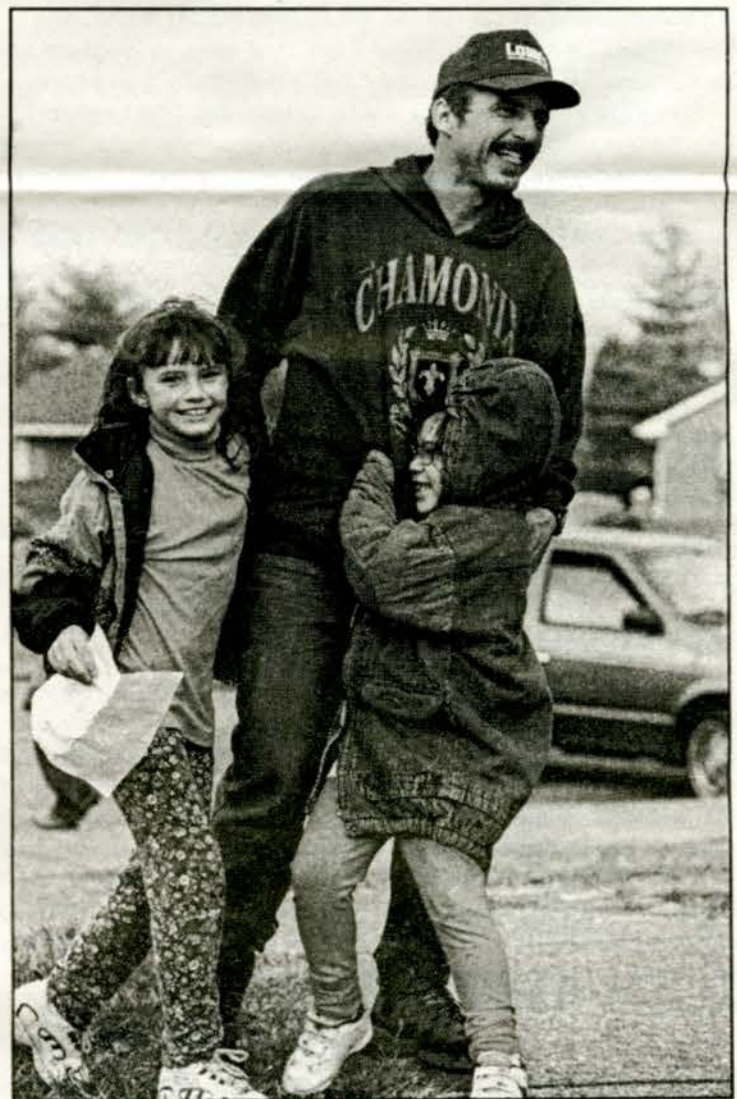
God occupies a huge place in her heart.

She's a regular member of the Unity General Baptist Church, where she directs the choir. She's a leader in the youth ministry. And she wants to instill the same faith into her children.

"God's seen me and my family through a lot of stuff," she said. "He's gotten me through a lot of tough stuff that I thought I'd never live through."

Like her abusive marriage to her first husband, or the adoption when she was so young.

But her faith has kept her strong. She recalls how her adoptive father used to read the real meaning of Christmas from the family's Bible. And now, when she takes her children to church



Rene and Sarah greet their father, Bobby Hines, after coming home from work.

they sing long and loud:

*"Father Abraham had many sons
Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you ..."*

Betty wants to keep doing this for her children, keep encouraging their faith, and keep the meaning alive. Christmas is cherished for many reasons, but in Betty's home, it rejuvenates faith and hope.

"We're trying to save up money to get us a place out in the country," Betty said. "A place where the kids can run and play, a place where we can get some dogs and settle down. I think we'll have that place in five years. That's our goal."

And when they find a new home, you can bet the spirit and hope of the Hines family will fill its spacious rooms.

As certain as Christmastime, their love will never change.

Remember how we used to beg our parents mercilessly at Christmas? A Nintendo was all we wanted, or a Cabbage Patch Kid, or the newest G.I. Joe.

It was amazing how that one present we really, really, *really* wanted always had a way of showing up under the tree on Christmas morning.

But for some kids, those big boxes wrapped in shiny red paper never show up. Their homes just aren't on Rudolph and Santa's map.

You can change that. You can draw Santa a new map that includes the home of one more underprivileged child.

1 Adopt-A-Child

What: The Department of Housing and Residence Life is sponsoring this year's Adopt-A-Child program. Students can sign up in their dorms and will receive the name of a child to purchase clothing or toys for the holiday season.

When: Gifts are due from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 9 in West Hall Cellar.

Contact: Pam Scott at 745-5046

Details: With this program, students here at Western have the opportunity to provide gifts for three organizations: Potter Children's Home, Girls Inc., and the WKU Child Development Center.

Louisville sophomore Lori Levinstone has been involved with volunteering at Christmas for four years. At home, she likes to participate in the Angel Tree, and here at Western she has participated in the Adopt-A-Child program for two years.

She said volunteering is a way to help out and to give something to kids who really need it. She'll keep volunteering because she says it's fun and she has always liked to help. In fact, Levinstone won't stop at the holidays, but will continue throughout the year.

"It's my New Year's Resolution to volunteer more," she said.

2 American Cancer Society

What: The American Cancer Society of Warren County is having their annual Holiday Greetings Program.

When: Donations are being accepted for the program until Dec. 10.

Contact: Kyla Harrison at 782-3654

Details: Faculty and students can take part by sending a check of \$20 or more to the organization. Money collected will go towards cancer research, education, advocacy and support for families of cancer patients. Those who donate money will have their name added to a list of donors that will be published in the Park City Daily News.

"We could utilize students as volunteers," said Kyla Harrison, Income Development and Project Manager for the American Cancer Society of Warren County. "Students could also collect money door to door for us, and make a donation with the money that they collect."

3 Community Action of Southern Kentucky

What: Community Action sponsors programs for senior citizens, adult education and child care.

When: The programs run year-round, and students can help out anytime during this semester or the upcoming spring semester.

Contact: T.J. Shockley at 782-3162

Details: Shockley said the senior citizen programs provide activities to aid the social and nutritional well-being of senior citizens. She also noted that the adult education program helps adults and out-of-school youths with GED prep courses, life-skills programs and job readiness. Shockley also noted that students could easily help out with Community Action's child care program by assisting the children with

10 ways to help

Giving a helping hand this Christmas just got a little easier. Just pick a passion and go make someone smile.

STORY BY ERICA WALSH AND REX HALL JR.



Another volunteer helps children while they play at the Boy's Club in Bowling Green.

Krystal Kinnunen/Herald



Krystal Kinnunen/Herald

Bremen senior Peggy Tooley supervises children at the Boys' Club in Bowling Green on Thursday, Dec. 2.

homework and reading, and having a mentoring role in a child's life.

"From my experience, people that volunteer get back a lot more than they give," Shockley said.

4 Greenview Hospital

What: Volunteer programs are always available at Greenview. This year, the hospital is offering a new program, the Santa's Little Helpers Workshop. The workshop is looking for volunteers to help wrap presents, run holiday errands and basically just help out at the hospital.

When: Opportunities are available from now until Dec. 24.

Contact: Becky Sims at 796-8176

Details: Everyone could use a little help during the holidays, including those who help year-round, like hospital employees. The Santa's Little Helpers Workshop gives employees who are on call at the hospital and don't have a lot of time to wrap presents or run errands the chance to get

some of that completed by volunteers. This unique program allows people a chance to give back to those who are usually in the caretaking role. Other opportunities include group caroling or preparing tray favors, which are cards and gifts that can be sent up to the patients on their meal trays.

5 Habitat For Humanity

What: Habitat For Humanity of Bowling Green is trying to finish the building of five houses which will provide homes for Bowling Green families.

When: The organization is working from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Saturday.

Contact: Garth Whicker at 843-6027

Details: "We're trying to get the houses done so the families can be in them by Christmas," Whicker said. "We're hoping to have the first three houses done by the first week of December and the other two by Christmas. We need the help with building the houses. We provide all the materials for those who help out."

6 Hospice of Southern Kentucky

What: The Light Up a Life Tree is being sponsored by Hospice and is on display at Greenwood Mall. Volunteers are needed to help work at the tree in two-hour shifts.

When: Nov. 30-Dec. 23

Contact: Hospice at 782-3402

Details: Hospice of Southern Kentucky serves more than the Bowling Green area, so with just one donation to the Light Up a Life Tree, eight counties are reached. The donations are made in memory or in honor of anyone the donor chooses. When a donation is made, another light appears on the Tree. The money will go to help those who are terminally ill pay for health insurance or to help the families of those who are terminally ill.

7 Kids On the Block

What: Kids On the Block is having their annual penny drive and are distributing 250 to 300 large water bottles to schools in Allen, Barren, Logan and

Warren counties for pennies to be collected in. The program is looking for volunteers to help distribute these large water bottles and help collect the bottles and money at the end of the penny drive.

When: The annual penny drive will take place from Dec. 13 to the middle of February.

Contact: Alice Kummer at 842-2259

Details: Last year Kids On the Block raised over \$8,000 dollars, and are hoping to raise \$10,000 dollars this year, for their programs going. The organization puts on educational puppetry programs for young students dealing with handicap awareness, cultural diversity awareness, child abuse prevention, substance abuse prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, and AIDS awareness.

"We will be needing lots of volunteers for this project," Kummer noted. "We will be handing out the water bottles prior to the school closing for the holidays."

8 Refugee Assistance Society

What: Refugee Assistance is holding a Christmas party at Creative Solutions on Scottsville Road.

Volunteers can help children make gifts, cards or ornaments for their family and friends. Also, a group from Refugee Assistance is taking a trip to Opryland to view Christmas lights. Volunteers are welcome to go along and spend time with the group. Barnes & Noble is also sponsoring a Christmas Tree book drive for the society. It works similar to the Angel Tree, where sponsors receive the age and sex of a child, then pick out a book to give them for the gift. As it gets closer to Christmas, volunteers are needed to help distribute gifts provided by other organizations to the families involved with Refugee Assistance.

When: The party at Creative Solutions will be held from 5:50 to 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 7 and 8. The trip to Opryland takes place on Dec. 11.

Contact: Party and Barnes & Noble contact: Nancy Franklin at 846-2199; Opryland contact: Clayton Clark at 843-6436; Gift distribution contact: Judy Thompson at 846-2199.

Details: Right now at Refugee Assistance there are numerous groups from around the world, including Kosovo Albanians, Vietnamese and Bosnians, all needing a little help for the holidays. Not everyone celebrates Christmas, but that doesn't stop Refugee Assistance from helping out. According to Nancy Franklin, a worker at the society, most everyone is receptive of a little gift or help, especially when they are in a new place. Franklin thinks volunteering will be a fun experience and a good opportunity to help people from all different countries who need it.

9 Salvation Army

What: The Salvation Army is offering two programs this holiday season; The Angel Tree and bell-ringing.

When: The Angel Tree runs from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday afternoons through Dec. 19. Bell ringers are needed from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday until Dec. 23.

Contact: Joyce Lance or Naomi Lyles at 843-3485

Details: Each year the Angel Tree helps individual "angels" and families by purchasing clothing, toys or other needs. Each family fills out a wish list, and once a family has been sponsored, an angel is hung on the Tree.

Bell-ringing opportunities are available each year. For two hours at a time, bell-ringers stand at each of the 12 locations ringing bells and accepting donations through the "kettle effort."

Joyce Lance has been involved with the Salvation Army for 45 years. Each year at Christmas they receive more than 150-200 volunteers, and over 800 families apply for assistance.

The Salvation Army helps everyone in need, regardless of age, race or sex.

"It's a time to give some of ourselves away," Lance said.

10 War Memorial Boys & Girls Club

What: The Boys and Girls Club will hold their annual shopping spree at Houchens at Sugar Maple Square. A group of 40 children will shop for food for themselves and their families. They will also host a Christmas party at the Boys and Girls Club on West 11th Street for the children.

When: The shopping spree at Houchens will run between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. on Dec. 18, and the Christmas party will be held on Dec. 22.

Contact: Stan England at 843-6466

Details: "For students who come out to Houchens and help us, we would like them to take one of the kids and spend about an hour with them and help them shop for the food they will be purchasing for their families," England said. "With the Christmas party, the students can help us to carry out the party, control the crowds, and take part in the party and be a kid that day. It would be a fun activity for them."

A Century On The Hill

A look back at the people and events in Western's past

'Plaything' Big Red is creator's personality

On Dec. 1, 1979 at Diddle Arena, Santa Claus came to deliver a large Christmas present to men's basketball coach Gene Keady during halftime. Out of a large box burst Big Red, and a permanent fixture on the Hill was born. The following is a story about Ralph Carey, the inventor and first to perform as the lovable mascot. It first appeared in the Herald on Feb. 7, 1980.

BY MARK HEATH
Herald reporter

When Western's cheerleaders scream "Go Big Red. Go Big Red," it's difficult to tell whether they are rooting for Western's athletic teams or the new team mascot, Big Red.

Red busies himself during ball games by shaking hands, mimicking the cheerleaders and swallowing an occasional basketball.

Big Red goes by another name in his time off — he's Ralph Carey, public relations senior from Cincinnati, Ohio.

He assumed the pseudonym after last year's mascot, Mr. Hilltopper, was fired in favor of an animated character that Carey designed.

Carey seemed to be the perfect Red, having portrayed several Hanna-Barbara cartoon

characters at a summer job at King's Island amusement park.

"In a way Big Red is partly me," Carey said of the fuzzy red blob. "It is my personality," he said.

"Big Red has been just great," basketball coach Gene Keady said. "He brings out fans because little kids want to watch him, and that brings parents out.

"He has been entertaining and is good for the school's spirit. I think he will be part of our total program."

Carey also believes that children see Big Red as a large plaything. He is often seen on the sideline entertaining the children. Carey also said he is pleased with the response from the student section.

"I guess being Big Red was a nice experience. I did a lot of things here, but this is probably the neatest way to say goodbye to Western. I can come back in 20 years and he could still be here."

— Ralph Carey
the first Big Red

here, but this is probably the neatest way to say goodbye to Western. I can come back in 20 years, and he could still be here."

Carey is now training Russ Skog, a Des Moines, Iowa sophomore, to fill Big Red's furry interior next year.

Meanwhile, Big Red is receiving attention from other parts of the country. Carey said a Texas college has asked him to design a mascot for them — similar to the Big Red concept.

"I guess being Big Red was a nice experience," Carey said. "I did a lot of things



Big Red supports 9-year-old Shannon Riley, a fourth-grade student from Alvston Elementary, as she supports the team during the Eastern game.



Big Red, left, rarely misses a chance to hide an official, as he does with referee Robert Bell in this game against Morehead State. His stuffed toy-like appearance makes Big Red a luggable leaning post for two of Western's cheerleaders during the Eastern game.

Photos by Crystal Cunningham

'Plaything' Big Red is creator's personality

By MARK HEATH

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Kathleen Flynn/Herald

Jim Weaver, of Greenwood, Ind., rings a bell for the Salvation Army last night in front of Wal-Mart. He has come to Bowling Green for six years during the Christmas season. "I love the corps down here. They help me out a lot," he said.

Christmas everywhere

Other religions celebrate, too

BY BRANDY WARREN
Herald Reporter

Feliz Navidad. Joyeux Noël. Frohe Weihnachten. Buon Natale. God Jul.

There are plenty of ways to wish someone a Merry Christmas around the world. Similarly, cultures and religions of the world have different ways to celebrate the holidays.

In America, of course, church going and family gatherings have always been part of the honoring of the birth of Jesus Christ. Many other traditions have developed over time, including gift giving, Santa Claus and the decorating of homes.

Different countries, however, have different traditions. Soleil Archila, a junior from Guatemala, described a typical Christmas in her country.

"Christmas is a big deal. It's like having a big party," Archila said. In Guatemala, families gather before midnight at one family member's home. The house is decorated with a Christmas tree. Under the tree, a nativity scene is displayed featuring a covered baby Jesus. At midnight, the family gathers and uncovers the baby as a symbol of the birth of Christ.

Afterwards, family members hug and wish each other a Merry Christmas. Presents are opened and a meal that may include either turkey or tamales is served. The festivities continue when young children light fireworks outside. Celebrations may continue into the early morning.

"It's so happy," Archila said. "The music, the firecrackers, the presents, the food...."

In Greece, on Christmas Eve, children go from house to house

singing songs about the birth of Christ. In Russia, some people fast before Christmas. When the first star appears on Christmas Eve, a 12-course feast begins. In Sweden, the holiday season begins on Dec. 13 with the celebration of Santa Lucia's Day.

The day honors an Italian girl who, according to legend, was burned at the stake when she refused to deny her Christian faith and marry a pagan. In honor of Lucia, young girls walk in a procession wearing white robes with red sashes and crowns of greenery and candles, singing songs and handing out gingerbread cookies.

Bosnia Senior Bisera Handzic described the holiday season in her homeland. The country is home to three main religious groups: Muslims, Catholics and Orthodox Christians. On Christmas Day, the entire family gathers for a Christmas lunch.

Handzic remembered a tradition that her grandmother helped carry on, in which a large cookie would be made with a coin baked into the dough. The cookie would be cut into pieces that equaled the number of people present.

Whoever received the piece with the coin inside was said to have good luck with money in the upcoming year. Handzic, an Orthodox Christian, said that on Christmas Eve, people would visit.

Handzic said that most of the celebrating however, is done for New Year's Day. A tree is decorated for New Year's Day and that is also when Santa Claus visits and presents are opened.

Christmas, however, is far from the only holiday celebrated during December. Other holidays include Kwanzaa and Hanukkah.

Kwanzaa is an African-American holiday that is celebrated throughout the world, honoring family, community and culture. Kwanzaa begins on Dec. 26 and

continues through January. It is organized around five activities: the gathering of family and friends; the honoring of the creator; the commemoration of past ancestors; recommitment to the highest ideals of the African community; and the celebration of the "Good of Life."

One of the main traditions is the lighting of the mishumaa of Kwanzaa, where a candle is lit for each day of the Seven Principles: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. The holiday ends with a day of assessment where the people consider their worthiness in family, community, and culture.

Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday that is celebrated over eight days. The holiday commemorates the rededication of the temple of Jerusalem. The Romans once harmed the temple, which housed the eternal flame — a symbol of the light of God.

After the temple was harmed, there was only enough oil to keep the flame burning for one day. But miraculously, the flame stayed true to its name, continuing to burn for eight days until oil could be found.

Today, the Menorah represents the eight days and eight nights that the eternal flame burned. A candle is lit for each night the flame burned, until the eighth night when all candles are burning.

"It's the time of year to get close to one another again and to have fun," said Louisville freshman Lori Livingstone. "It's a time to celebrate your heritage and your traditions."

Livingstone's house contains both a Christmas tree and a Menorah because both religions are present in her home. She celebrates Hanukkah with her father by lighting the Menorah and saying a prayer.

Other holiday traditions include making potato latkes. Some Jewish families decorate their homes with blue lights during the holidays or hang banners that say "Happy Hanukkah."

But even though the meanings and traditions for celebrations vary around the world, one idea remains evident: the holidays are time for family and togetherness.

WEEKEND SHOWCLOCK

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College Heights Herald

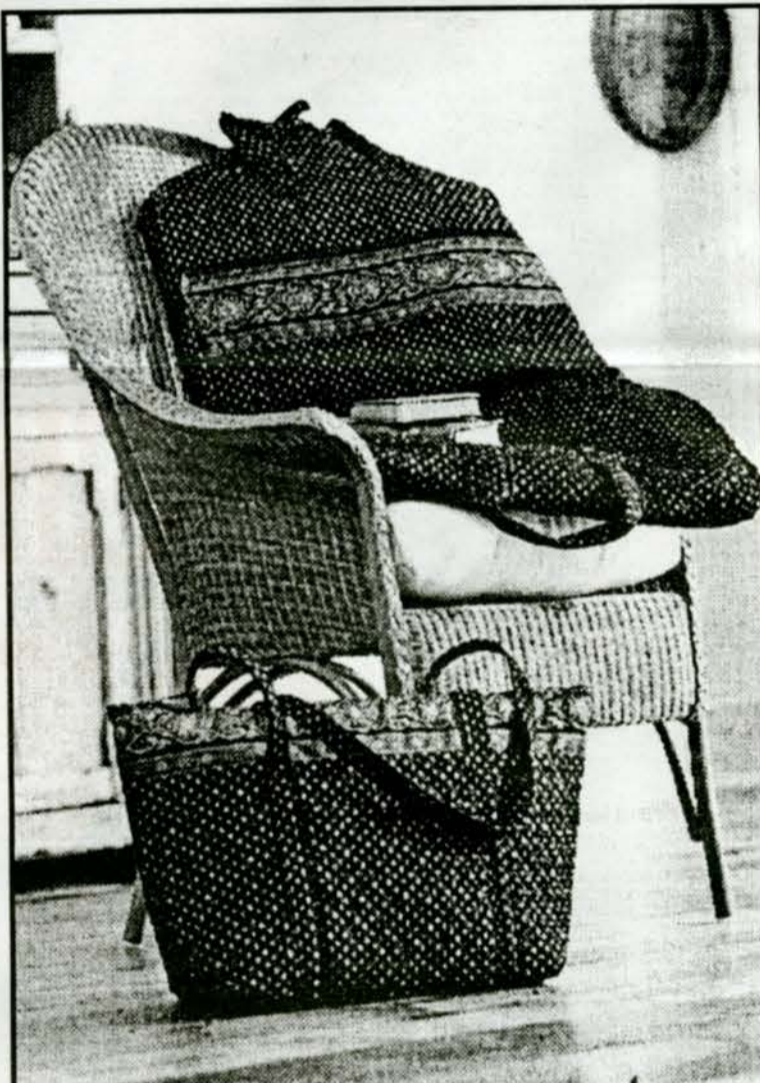
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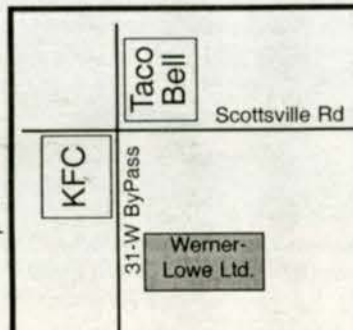
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Christmas fun coming your way

BY JUSTIN ESLINGER
Herald reporter

You've decked the halls. You've experienced the fun of riding in a one-horse open sleigh. You've stacked all 12 partridges and pear trees in the back. Now what are you going to do?

The holiday season offers an abundance of things to do, from singing Christmas carols to looking at the twinkling Christmas lights, and most of them are pretty darn cheap. So don't sit around waiting for the Emmet Otter's Jug Band Christmas rerun. Go out and experience some of the sights and sounds of the season.

Carols in the Square

This is the first year that the First Baptist Church is putting on this holiday event. Carols in the Square will be at 7 p.m. Friday Dec. 17. The idea behind this event is that this is not just a concert, but a chance to get a lot of people together to sing Christmas carols, said Richard Suggs, the minister of music at the church.

The church choir will be there to help lead the singing and help get everyone through all the verses of "Oh Christmas Tree."

Suggs said this will be a fun event for everyone to get involved with.

"This is a gesture of this church to the community to enjoy one another, and have some fun singing songs," he said. For more information call 842-0331.

Riverview's Victorian Holiday

Anyone wondering how people celebrated Christmas at the turn of the last century can check out the historic Riverview house. Travel back in time on a tour of this 19th century house all decked out in full holiday regalia. The parlor is decorated with a Christmas tree, complete with home made decorations, and the dining room is set up for a Victorian Christmas party.

Riverview Victorian Holiday Tours will be given from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Dec. 18; admission is \$3.50 for adults and \$1.50 for students. For more information call (270) 843-5565.

Living Christmas Tree

The Glendale Baptist Church is putting on its Living Christmas Tree musical event. The church choir will form a giant Christmas tree and lead the holiday singing. The singing goes down at 7 p.m. Dec. 12, 13 and 15, and is free to the public. For more info call 781-1708.

Mammoth Cave Rocks

Celebrate Christmas underground for a change. The park service is offering its annual Christmas music and singing at 2:15 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, and is free to the public. As you climb down into the cave you can hear the Caveman Barbershop Chorus, the Edmonson County High School Chorus and the Hart County High School Chorus.

There is quite a bit of walking, so be sure to wear comfy shoes. The park service also says to dress warmly because the cave can get kind of chilly, which is why they are having free cider afterwards. For more info call (270) 758-2254.

The Nutcracker Ballet

If you're up to driving, the Kentucky Center for the Arts in Louisville is presenting its major holiday event, the Nutcracker Ballet. The ballet is running from Dec. 11 to Dec. 23. For more information please call 1-800-775-7777.



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