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The Parthenon

Pleasure Guide

Marshall University Huntington, W.Va. 25701

Monday, Dec. 12, 1977 Vol. 78, No. 60



Inside

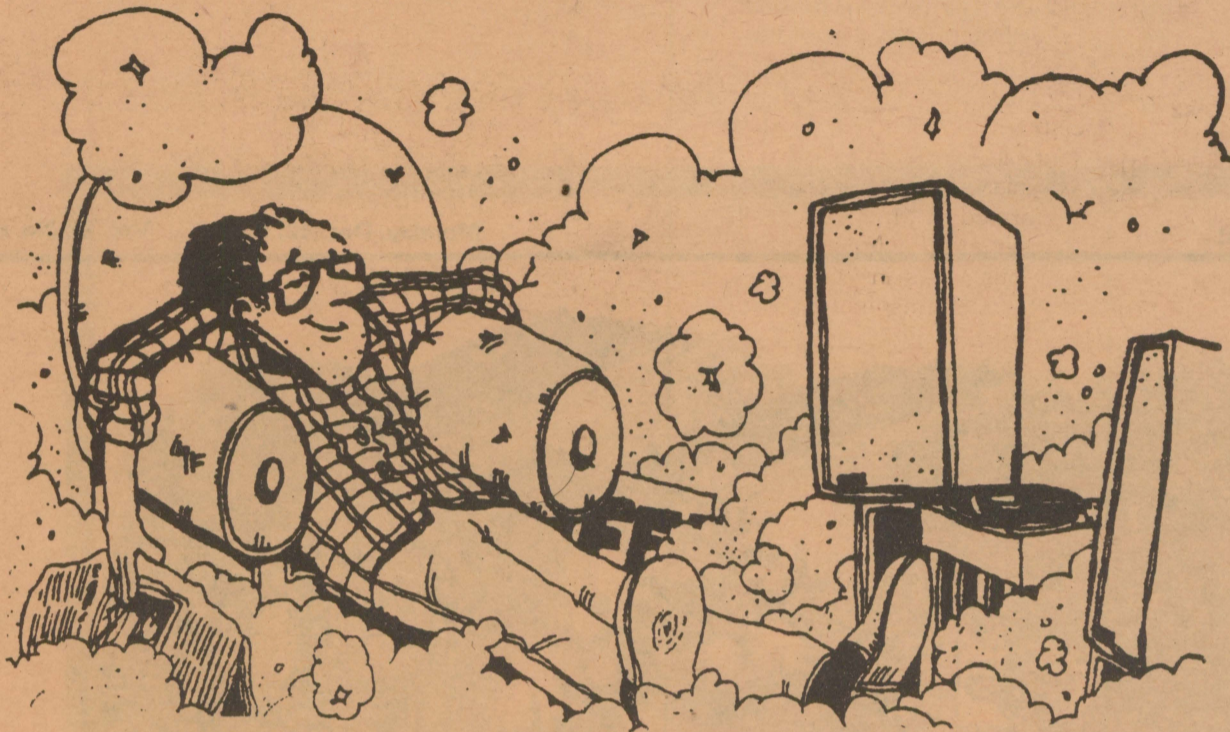
Doing it in the deep—the adventure of scuba diving. Page 4.

A Christmas in Spain where the Wise Men ride. Page 7.

The glitter and the excitement of "Punk Rock" is taking England by storm. Page 10.

Gene Wilder as "The World's Greatest Lover?" Movie preview. Page 8.

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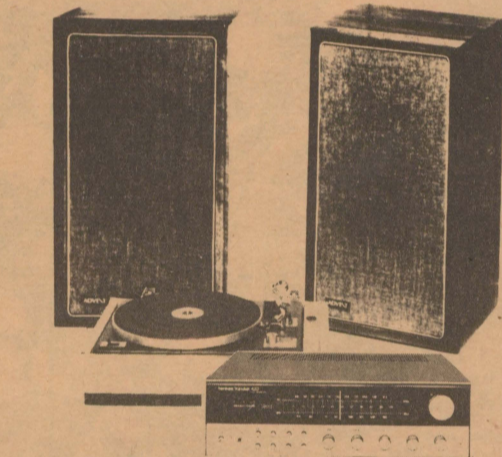
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MU Singers, jazz concerts slated this week

By BEVERLY CHILDERS
 MU students will have a choice of two free winter concerts presented by Marshall's Department of Music this week.

Tonight at 8, the jazz ensemble will perform in Smith Recital Hall.

Tomorrow, the University Singers, MU's "pop music" group, will present its winter concert at 8 p.m. in Old Main Auditorium.

The jazz concert will include works of well-known musicians Stan Kenton, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Maynard Ferguson, Buddy Rich and Thad Jones-Mel Lewis.

The ensemble will also play "Just the Way You Are," an original selection by Paul Jennings, staff arranger. Jennings, a former Marshall student, has created an annual original

composition for the jazz ensemble for the past nine years.

Director of the jazz ensemble, J. D. Folsom, says the 20-member group performs in the manner of the big bands and there is usually "standing room only" at the winter jazz concerts.

"What makes jazz exciting is that everybody in the band has a solo—and the solos are never the same," Folsom said. "Because each player composes on the spot, he or she is like a painter who uses the same brush to create different original creations."

The University Singers, an 18-member "pop music group," will sing and dance in the concert, accompanied by a seven-member instrumental group.

They will present rock, folk

and jazz music including hits by Barry Manilow, Chicago, Stevie Wonder, Donnie and Marie Osmond, and Blood, Sweat and Tears. The program will also feature music from the Broadway productions of "Annie" and "A Chorus Line."

The jazz ensemble has just returned from a five-concert tour in West Virginia and Virginia. The group has also performed at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and on previous tours in Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

The University Singers have also performed in the nation's capital and at the Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, the 1977 Forest Festival in Elkins, the Snowshoe Ski Resort and the Huntington Civic Center for the Miss Teen-age West Virginia contest.

The jazz ensemble has achieved regional prominence through sponsorship of and participation in the annual Marshall University Jazz Festival, which attracts hundreds of high school and college students to campus each year for three days of playing and listening to jazz.

Among the well-known jazz artists that have appeared at the festival are Clark Terry, Garry Burton, Art Pepper, Rich Matteson, Buddy Baker, Phil Wilson and the orchestras



Photo by GREG SMITH

Marshall University Singers rehearse

of Stan Kenton and Maynard Ferguson. Woody Herman's orchestra has been booked for the 1978 festival, which is Feb. 15-18 at Smith Music Hall.

Some of the jazz numbers to be played by the ensemble at the winter concert: "Alone

Again (Naturally)," "Blues for Poland," "The First Thing I Do," "La Fiesta," "Wave," "Nice N' Juicy," "Oregon," "Double Fault Blues," "Granada Smoothie," "My Funny Valentine" and "Celebration Suite."

Pleasure Guide

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 Tom Drummond....advertising
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Marshall students do it in . . .

... The Deep

By DAN JIVIDEN

Warm southern beaches mean excitement to many Marshall students, but for some they offer a special form of adventure—scuba diving.

Scuba diving involves the use of a mask, snorkel, fins, tanks containing compressed air (usually 72 cubic inches) and a regulator to control the amount of air or airflow into the diver's lungs. The regulator changes the airflow according to depth. The deeper the dive, the more air is needed.

"I guess it had something to do with excitement and the adventure," says David A. Givens, Melbourne, Fla., senior, when explaining why he took up the sport.

After his family moved to Florida in 1965, Givens struck up a friendship with a lifeguard who taught him the basics of diving in a pond not far from the beach. "It seemed like a safe enough place. That was before there were all those diving schools like they have now," he said.

In three years of "actively diving," Givens says he cannot recall how many dives he made, but many particular experiences stand out. One such instance occurred in Panama while visiting a friend, he said.

Givens was on a diving expedition with several friends. His partner that day was fairly inexperienced and "a little apprehensive." The two were "snorkelling to a little island about 200 yards off for a better view of the area." Part of the way out, Givens said he turned around to find his partner heading back for the rocks they had departed from, leaving him alone.

"I followed him back to find out what was wrong and he told me he saw a barracuda out there. He didn't even tell me about it—just turned around and left me out there."

Marshall offered a course in scuba diving instruction, "two or three semesters ago," Robert C. Saunders, assistant professor of health and physical education and swimming coach, said. The equipment is still in Gullickson Hall and available to other classes, but the scuba course is no longer offered, Saunders said.

Marshall students may still learn the proper methods for scuba diving at the YMCA May building, located at 935 - 10th Ave. The YMCA offers a scuba certification to those who successfully complete its 10-week course.

The course is a "nationally recognized program," which includes rescue techniques, safety precautions and "fun activities," P. Richard Flack, aquatics director, said.

"The final, checkout dive is an open water dive in late April or May. After they make this dive, we give them their certification," Flack said.

The course costs \$40 for "Y" members and \$60 for nonmembers, plus mask, fins and snorkel, which each student buys for his/her own personal use, he said.

"One of our directors has a pro shop, where these items are offered at a discount price," Flack said.

The next course begins Jan. 1, with classes given on successive Wednesdays from 7-10 p.m.

Jonny K. Winkler, social worker for the Department of Welfare and an MU graduate, received certification from the YMCA in Pt. Pleasant. "They take you through one step at a time. On the first day in the pool, they swim you till you drop in order to make sure you are a strong enough swimmer to compensate for any problems you might encounter—like running

out of air while drifting away from the boat."

The sport is initially expensive (mask, fins and snorkel will run a minimum of \$65-75), but once the new diver has purchased his or her equipment, expenses are low, Winkler said.

The tanks and air supply for the YMCA course are provided at no extra charge and other people may have tanks refilled at fire stations or dive shops for, "about \$1.50 to \$2," he said.

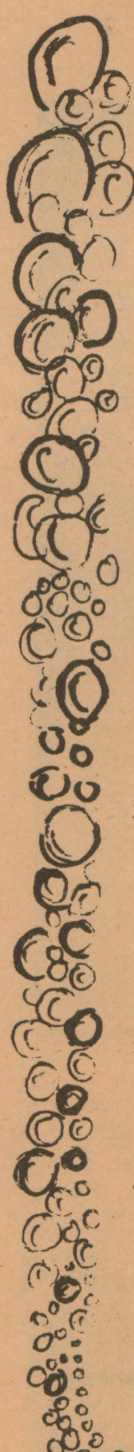
There is one catch, however. "Now days you have to be a certified diver in order to buy the gear," Winkler said. "The reason for this is that a lot of people began scuba diving who hadn't had any training and got themselves killed. You may be able to get some equipment on the black market without your certification, but it won't do you much good—you can't get the air replaced in your tanks without it (certification).

When no ocean is handy, there are some good local spots for the scuba enthusiast to check out, Winkler said. Lake Vesuvius near Ironton, Ohio; Summersville Dam, and Raccoon Creek, which runs through the Bob Evans Farm near Gallipolis, Ohio, all provide watery respite during warm weather.

"You can dive in the (Ohio) River if you've got the guts for it," Winkler said, but added that corrosion inducing elements in the water, "almost zilch" visibility, and "six-foot-long catfish" make the practice less than desirable.

Both Givens and Winkler recommended the sport to anyone, as long as proper instruction was obtained first.

Winkler summed up the pleasures awaiting those who take the plunge: "It's a whole different world, down there. It's beautiful..."



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Does it really matter if you're bad or good?

Humor

By **TONY FITZGERALD**
 "He knows when you are sleeping
 He knows when you're awake
 He knows if you've been bad or good
 So be good for goodness sake!"

No, these words do not refer to either the West Virginia State Police or **The Parthenon** Editor Paul E. Page. These immortal lines refer instead to one of the world's most popular living

fictional characters, Santa Claus.

Santa Claus is easily the greatest living legend. In a recent Lou Harris poll, Claus was found to be almost three times more popular than his nearest competitors: the Easter Bunny, Jack Frost, the Great Pumpkin and Billy Carter.

Claus's popularity might stem from the fact that he annually leaves material things in billions of homes, asking no

reward except some cookies, some milk and maybe a little IBM stock.

However, Claus himself denies the acts that make him famous.

"Actually, I never intentionally leave anything," Claus told us in an exclusive interview. "I'm just forgetful, and I leave things by accident."

"In fact, I forgot to put on my pants before riding in Macy's parade last year," a red-faced Claus admitted.

And, things are not as they used to be at the North Pole either. Elves have been virtually replaced by retired Munchkins from the original cast of "The Wizard of Oz."

In fact, it is not Claus himself who "knows if you've been bad or good."

"It's all too much for one man to take," Claus sighed. "So I have formed the CIA (Christmas Intelligence Agency) to keep tabs on everyone in the

world. It's a big job, and we use electronic surveillance, helicopters, phone taps, spies and pens that squirt poison gas to gather information.

"Actually, it doesn't matter if you're bad or good," Claus admitted. "I'll leave something under the tree, no matter."

"But, if you're really bad," Claus chuckled, "I'll let my reindeer leave something under your tree, too. Ho Ho Ho!" Rudolph, Santa's lead reindeer, has been the subject of much "bad press" during last year.

"It seems that he had started drinking heavily," said Claus. "That's why his nose was red. Anyway, last year he crashed us into the Sears tower."

Claus himself admits to "tying one on" occasionally, such as Christmas Eve in 1965, when he misplaced his reindeer and sleigh for three hours.

"We have to drink a lot," Claus explained. "It's so cold

up here, you could freeze your butt off!"

A grinning Claus then placed his red cap on his head, and opened the door. He trudged through the snow to his sled.

Taking a seat among the millions of toys assembled in his bulging sacks, Claus said the words that traditionally begin his yuletide journeys.

"On Dancer, On Prancer, On Donner and Blitzen," said Claus. "On Ralphie, On Sidney, On Richard M. Nixon." However, rather than flying off into the snowy night, Santa and his sleigh just sat there.

"On Dancer, On Prancer, On Donner and Blitzen," he repeated. "On Ralphie, On Sidney, On Richard M. Nixon."

Nothing happened. His upper lip quivered with frustration.

"It gets great gas mileage," Claus mumbled, "but it's a bitch to start on these cold mornings."

Backgammon gains campus popularity

By **RANDY RAMSEY**

One of the world's oldest betting games often obscured on the back of inexpensive checkerboards is becoming a popular pastime on Marshall's campus.

Backgammon, sometimes referred to as the game of kings, has spread in popularity from the south and on the west coast, now has attracted the interest of several students on campus.

"I like it because it's a game of both luck and strategy," said Mike McAlister, Huntington senior and member of the Marshall Chess Club. "Anyone, even a beginner, can win at backgammon."

"I have only played the game for two weeks," said Gary McAlister, Huntington freshman and brother of Mike McAlister, "and I really like it."

There are 12 parallel lines or wedge-shaped points on each side of the board, making 24 spaces on which a piece can be moved. The pieces, 15 for each player, are placed at designated points on the board with each player having pieces on both sides.

Each player moves his pieces in a "U" shape, starting at the

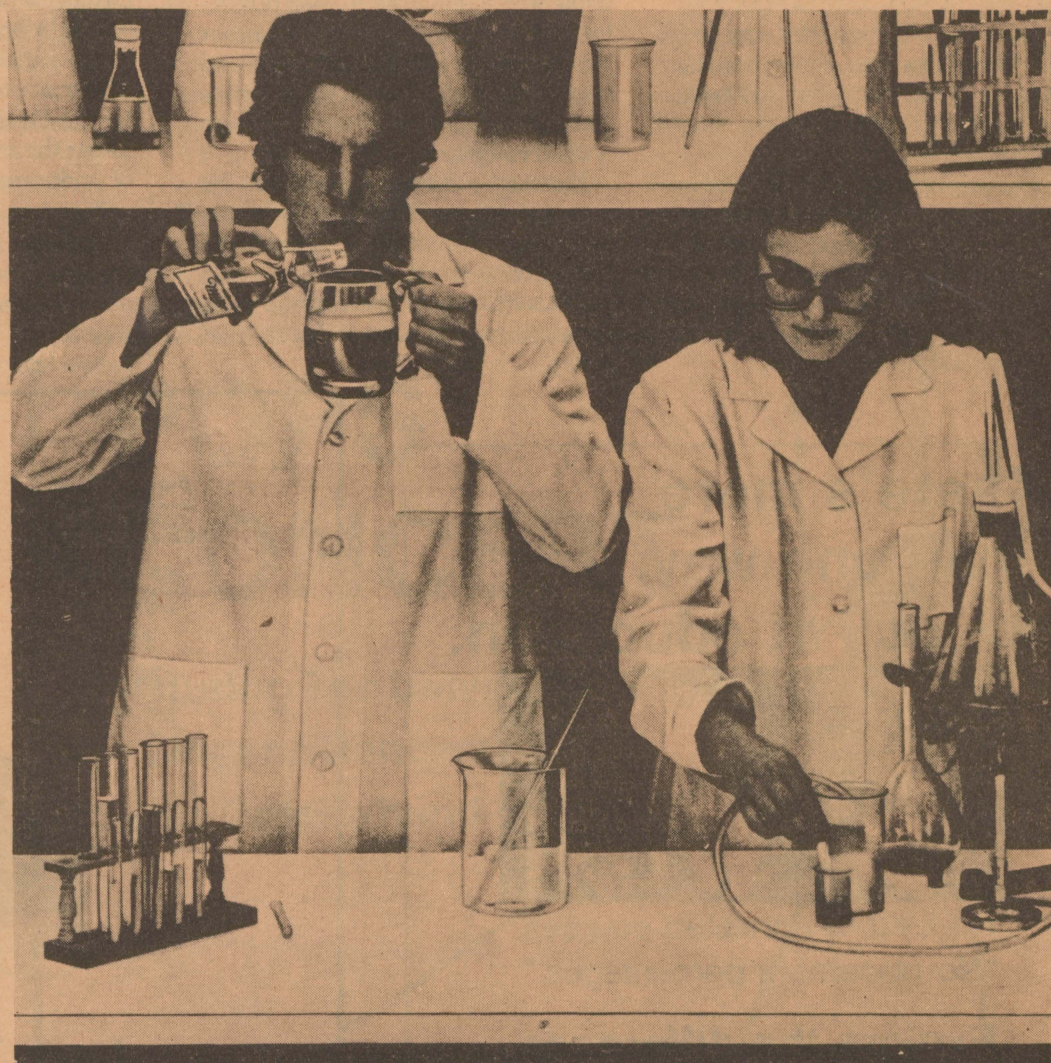
left top corner around to the bottom left corner, or from the right top corner around to the bottom right corner, depending on the side the player is on.

When the pieces reach the bottom end of the board known as the "home table," they are "borne off," removed from the board. When all of one player's pieces are off the board, he is the winner, but his pieces cannot be borne off until all of them have reached the home table.

It first became popular in France and England in the seventeenth century, and probably grew out of parcheesi, a game it greatly resembles.

"I have only played the game for a week, but I like it because it's different," said Paul Harless, Huntington sophomore and a state chess champion.

"A few of us are talking about having a backgammon tournament next Thursday in the game room of Memorial Student Union, but nothing is definite," Mike McAlister said. "If we do have it there will be an entry fee of \$2 and the money will go for first, second, and



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Christmas traditions

a plump Santa in his sleigh . . .

By BEVERLY CHILDERS

Every Christmas there are youngsters who wonder how "jolly plump old Santa Claus gets down the chimney" and if there isn't a chimney, how Santa will get into the house to put presents under the Christmas tree.

Ten days before Christmas, families pull dusty ornaments out of a box and hang them on evergreen boughs in the corner of the living room.

The holiday comes and folks young and old laughingly pull someone under the mistletoe for a kiss.

Presents are exchanged in home, school, office and church. Even the mailman finds "socks in the box."

But how many stop to wonder why Christmas is celebrated this way and that? Historians say most holiday customs are cosmopolitan and have mythological or pagan, rather than Christian origins.

The original jolly saint who brought gifts to children during the night is St. Nicholas, a fourth-century bishop in Asia Minor. Today, the feast of St. Nicholas is still celebrated on Dec. 6 in many European countries.

"St. Nick" was so named Santa Claus by early Dutch settlers. And the poem that began with the words "Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house..." started the colorful traditional belief by children of Santa and his reindeer-drawn sleigh and a "right jolly old elf" sliding down the chimney with a sack full of toys.

About the time of the original St. Nicholas, the Christian church set the date of its Nativity for Dec. 25. The pagan festival, winter solstice, which also began on or about Dec. 25, became a religious holiday.

The decorated Christmas tree is said to have originated with St. Boniface, an English missionary to Germany in the eighth century, who dedicated a holy tree to the church. Historians say Martin Luther decorated the first Christmas tree to show his wife how stars tinkle through frosty evergreen boughs on a winter night.

Hessian soldiers introduced the custom of decorating the Christmas tree to America during the Revolutionary War. The first decorations were candles, later to be replaced by the electric lights used today.



While Americans sit down to the traditional Christmas dinner of turkey and cranberries, families in England sit down to a holiday feast of roast goose and plum pudding. The traditional festive dinner in France is turkey; in Greece, fried cakes, and in Sweden, Finland and Denmark, dried fish and boiled rice.

Though Christmas celebrations in this country resemble most European festivities, Christmas holidays in South America resemble the Fourth of July because of people setting off fireworks in summerlike weather.

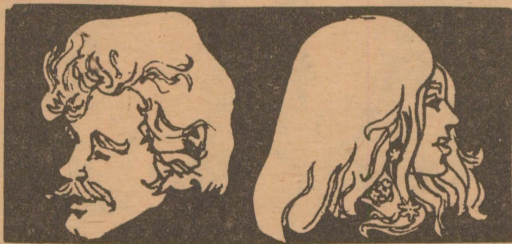
Santa doesn't visit Italian children and their Christmas is more like Halloween. They receive their gifts from a witch called Befana, who is dressed in rags and rides on a broom. Befana comes down the chimney on Jan. 5 and leaves presents for the good children and ashes for the bad.

In Greece, Christmas legend has a half-human monster called Karkant-zari roaming the streets for 12 days, creating mischief. The monster doesn't bother homes where old leather shoes are being burned or homes which have been sprinkled with holy water by the priest.

The mistletoe plant is mentioned in Norse mythology in the story of Balder. The custom of hanging it from the ceiling came from the Druids, who believed the mistletoe would bring good luck to a house as long as it didn't touch the ground. The mistletoe kiss is also attributed to the Druids, who believed a kiss under the mistletoe meant a promise of enduring love and of marriage.

The custom of giving gifts at Christmas possibly stems from two origins: the gifts of the three wise men to the Christ child and the custom of exchanging gifts during pagan festivals.

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... or a bearded king on his camel

By VALERIE BRAND

It's a crowded department store teeming with mobs of anxious shoppers. A bearded man in silk-like robes sits on a throne as children timidly wait to petition him.

He discusses the health of his camels with them and cautions them to be good till Jan. 6 when he and two of his friends will deliver gifts around the world.

This is a typical scene in Spain at Christmas time. The wise men wander about the stores talking to children about their Christmas wishes. The children even write letters to them, telling them about their year and what they would like as gifts. Manena Fayos, Madrid, Spain, sophomore, and Pierre Fauvre, Brest, France, graduate student, say some American customs are quite different from their countries.

Santa Claus doesn't exist in Spain, according to Fayos. Instead, the three wise men, kings of the Orient, deliver gifts to the children at Epiphany. If the children are not good during the year, they receive coal instead of gifts and toys.



Epiphany is Jan. 6, when the original wise men arrived to pay tribute to the baby Jesus. Fayos described this as "kings of the Earth bowing in front of the king of Heaven."

On the other hand, Santa is an important tradition in France, according to Fauvre. On Christmas Eve, the children place their shoes under the Christmas tree to show Santa Claus how many children are in the family.

After the children go to bed, the adults exchange gifts.

At midnight in Spain everyone goes to Christmas mass.

Turkey is as traditional for Christmas dinner in Spain and France as it is in America. A sweet confection at Christmas time in Spain is called turrón. It is made from almonds and honey and Fayos says it is very typical of Christmas in Spain. "It's almost like cranberries for Thanksgiving," she said.

"Buche de Noel" is the popular French sweet. Translated "log of Christmas," Fauvre describes it as having a vanilla ice cream center wrapped in cake. The outside is covered with chocolate and vanilla cream.

New Year's Eve is a big party night for everyone in Spain and France, as it is in America. At midnight typical toasts are presented in France with wine and French champagne, Fauvre said.

For New Year's meals, oysters and white wine are most common in France. Sometimes there is another big meal in Spain, too.

Epiphany, which is on Jan. 6, has a custom similar in both countries. A

large ring cake is decorated with candied fruits, and the ring contains a charm somewhere. The Spaniard who gets the charm in the cake must pay the host for the cake.

Fayos said television was watched at midnight. In the center of Madrid stands a government building, on which a large clock rests. The courtyard in front of the building is called the "puerta del sol" or "gate of the sun." At midnight everyone watches on television as the clock strikes 12. As each gong strikes, every Spaniard eats a grape. Fayos says this is a "ritual, blessing, hope you have a good year" custom.

She said everyone in Spain eats grapes, no matter what they're doing. "You're not a Spaniard if you don't eat your grapes," she said.

As Santa Claus rides across the sky in his reindeer-powered sleigh in America, the three wise men will be making their trek atop their camels in Spain. While children leave cookies and milk for Santa in America, their French counterparts will be placing their shoes under the Christmas tree. And in Spain, children will be leaving brandy and cake for the kings of the Orient.

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Is Gene Wilder...

... 'The World's Greatest Lover?'



Gene Wilder is "The World's Greatest Lover" with Carol Kane as Annie.

By JOHN R. MULLENS

Twentieth Century-Fox's "The World's Greatest Lover" is a mixture of outrageous comedy that is at the same time touching.

It was written and directed by Gene Wilder, who also stars with Carol Kane and Dom DeLuise.

Blending romance with the misadventures of a gallery of off-beat characters, it reflects the sensibilities of its creator, one of the few film directors today who can properly lay claim to the term "comedy."

Shot largely on the sound stage at 20th Century-Fox and in locations around Los Angeles (including the gates of Paramount Studios), the movie tells the story of Rudy Hickman (Gene Wilder), a neurotic baker in Milwaukee in 1926.

Rudy manages to bungle just about every bakery operation he takes on, and before long, he follows his compulsive dreams of fame and romance to Hollywood during a talent search for a rival to the great Rudolph Valentino. Rudy's beloved but naive wife Annie (Carol Kane), who has secret fantasies she would never dare tell the unpredictable Rudy, falls for Valentino's charms, and leaves Rudy in the middle of the night.

Unpredictable complications set in, making for

much heartbreak and hilarity, and the outcome is as unlikely as the hero himself.

As in the case of his earlier film, "Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother," a special problem was presented by Wilder's appearance in scenes of madcap physical comedy that he also had to direct.

An exception was a scene in a bakery in which Wilder was trapped on a conveyer belt, carried along, frosted like a cake and covered with sequins, then boxed and tied with a ribbon. There was a good deal of surrounding comedy action, and timing was crucial.

Such discipline and concern over creating just the right humor have provided movie audiences with the kind of outlandish but gentle entertainment that has become the Wilder trademark. Some of his most notable acting appearances have been in "Quackser Fortune has a Cousin in the Bronx"; three pictures directed by Mel Brooks—"The Producers" (for which Wilder was nominated for an Academy Award), "Blazing Saddles" and "Young Frankenstein;" and more recently in "Silver Streak," one of the most popular of last year's Christmas releases.

He has emerged as the cinema's new Romantic Clown, with a mystique and following all his own.

Once, in Europe, Simone Signoret stopped him to say she has seen "The Producers" 14 times. Peter Sellers tried to get him to do Leo Bloom (his character in "The Producers") who poses for snapshots, and George Harrison knows the best lines from the film by heart.

Such cult followers—and the public at large—will not be disappointed by "The World's Greatest Lover." In it, they are treated to some of the funniest moments Wilder has ever committed to film. The aforementioned bakery scene, in which Rudy escapes being sent out with other boxed cakes only after accidentally dumping a sack of flour over the head of his enormously fat supervisor...Rudy, welcoming his Uncle Harry (who he wants to impress) to his flooded hotel suite and nonchalantly inviting him to swim laps in the sunken living room...Rudy, to discourage his wife's infatuation with the great screen lover, actually getting Valentino to disguise Rudy as Valentino, just in time to greet her himself in a magnificent Arabian tent. Also, Rudy ends up making love to his wife knowing that she thinks she is being made love to by Rudolph Valentino.

"The World's Greatest Lover" will open at the Keith-Albee Theatre Dec. 21.

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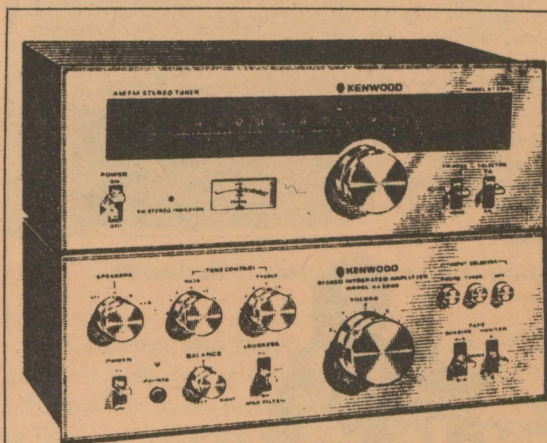


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Punk Rock

New style of music finds home in England and New York City

By TONY FITZGERALD
Malcolm McClaren, manager of Britain's infamous **Sex Pistols**, says that "the playing is not the big deal. It's the attitude that counts."

McClaren is talking about the spirit of the new music that is taking Britain (and to a lesser extent, America) by storm. It's called punk rock (or New Wave).

There are two different centers of punk rock. They are England and New York.

In England, where American rockers **The Ramones** are about the favorite band among teens, this whole New Wave thing is taken much more seriously. It's more than just music there; it's a fashion. British punks perforate their cheeks with safety pins. They dress in grubby costumes, some held together by safety pins. Observers have surmised that they are the first generation of Britishers to not believe the old axiom: "There will

always be an England."

This may be why the **Sex Pistols** rose to prominence. This quartet sings about being a kid in England now. The music is a cross between early **Stones** and **Who**, and lyrics are as raw and hostile as boiling sulfur. Their singles have all been banned by the B.B.C., yet have all paradoxically hit the top of England charts.

The **Pistols** are led by vocalist Johnny Rotten, a lizard-like character who sneers rather than sings. The antics of the **Pistols** have cost them many record company contracts. They are rock's new "bad boys," as **The Rolling Stones** were a decade before.

The **Sex Pistols'** first album is finally out, the group managing to fit all three of its British hits ("God Save The Queen," "Anarchy In The U.K." and "Pretty Vacant") on one album.

Another hot punk rock band is **The Damned**. Less musical than the **Sex Pistols** (yes, it is

possible), **The Damned** calls up images of the now defunct **New York Dolls** and **Iggy** and the **Stooges**. Also, their lead singer Dave "Transyl" Vanian dresses like a vampire on stage.

More skilled than **The Damned** are **Clash**. The **Clash** sound a lot like the early **Stones** and are actually the most intelligent punk rockers around. Their first L.P. is recommended.

The **Stranglers** are a fierce crew of sub-humans who just happen to be just about the strangest punk rock group. They have out two warped albums of violent rock with wheedling Farfisa organ throughout. A good group for really wierd people.

Two other important British punk rockers are **The Jam** and **Ultravox!** **Ultravox!** (always written with an exclamation point, incidentally) is not an actual punk band, since their music is closer to hard-rock David Bowie. But they look like punks, and many of their songs

such as "I Want To Be A Machine" and "Sat'day Night In The City of the Dead" express the same sentiments. **The Jam**, on the other hand, sound exactly like early **Who**, and even do a version of "The Batman Theme" on their first disc "In The City."

American punk rockers are less vehement and more intellectual than their British counterparts. Many of them are accomplished musicians, as opposed to the enthusiastic amateurism of English rockers.

The best of the bunch is the New York band **Television**. Their debut album "Marquee Moon" was a major cult item last year, and the album won critical acclaim in almost all the music press. Led by visionary songster Tom Verlaine, the group meshes **Iggy Pop/Lou Reed** lyrics with a musical hybrid somewhere between the **Grateful Dead** and traditional punk rockers.

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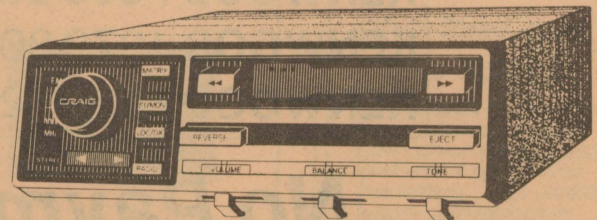
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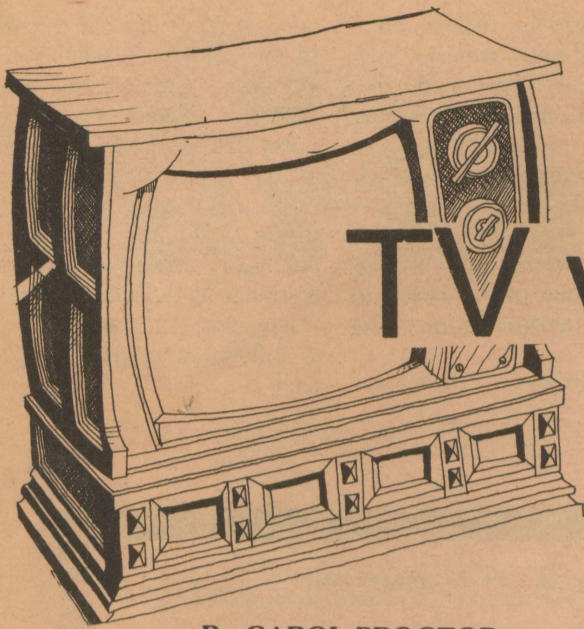


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TV violence

No proven evidence exists about its effects on people

By CAROL PROCTOR

All evidence suggesting that violence on television influences people, especially children, is based on assumptions and no real, proven evidence is available to support the theory, said C. Bosworth Johnson, associate professor of journalism.

Recently, even a court of law agreed. In a Florida case, the judge summoned a psychologist to discuss the defendant's claims that he had committed a felony crime with violence because of the influence of violence on television.

When the psychologist began making assumptions based on given factors, the judge explained that a court of law deals with proven evidence, not assumptions.

The judge once again asked if proven evidence existed on the influences of television violence, and the psychologist said no.

Johnson said a few years ago, highly visible and highly vocal groups of people began demanding the removal of violence from television programs, and television networks began meeting these demands.

"Anytime there is a public

outcry, they get heard," Johnson said. This is the way it should be, he added.

However, whether this lessening in television violence was what the entire public wanted is another matter because only the highly vocal and highly visible groups were heard.

"What we really want to ask ourselves is whether we are having violence for violence's sake or for the dramatic effects," Johnson said.

Violence is part of a dramatic presentation and constitutes much of life, he said.

Some Broadway shows are talky and they can make it very well profitably, but television shows cannot, he said. Television is highly visible and must deal with life, and violence is a part of life.

"We live in a fairly violent society and other pressures influence children besides television, which I am not prepared to say has much effect at all.

"I believe the major influences in a child's life are the home and family," he said.

"I believe that my wife and I were the major influences in our five children's lives until they went to school and then teachers took over."

Although influence of violence is still debated by authorities and groups, the issue this year is the influence of sex on television.

The number of scenes involving sex will probably also lessen when the highly vocal and highly visible groups begin

making more demands, he said. Johnson said one network executive said he expected television to one day provide nudity, sex, violence as well as other forms of entertainment so people will have a choice.

"I personally am not in favor

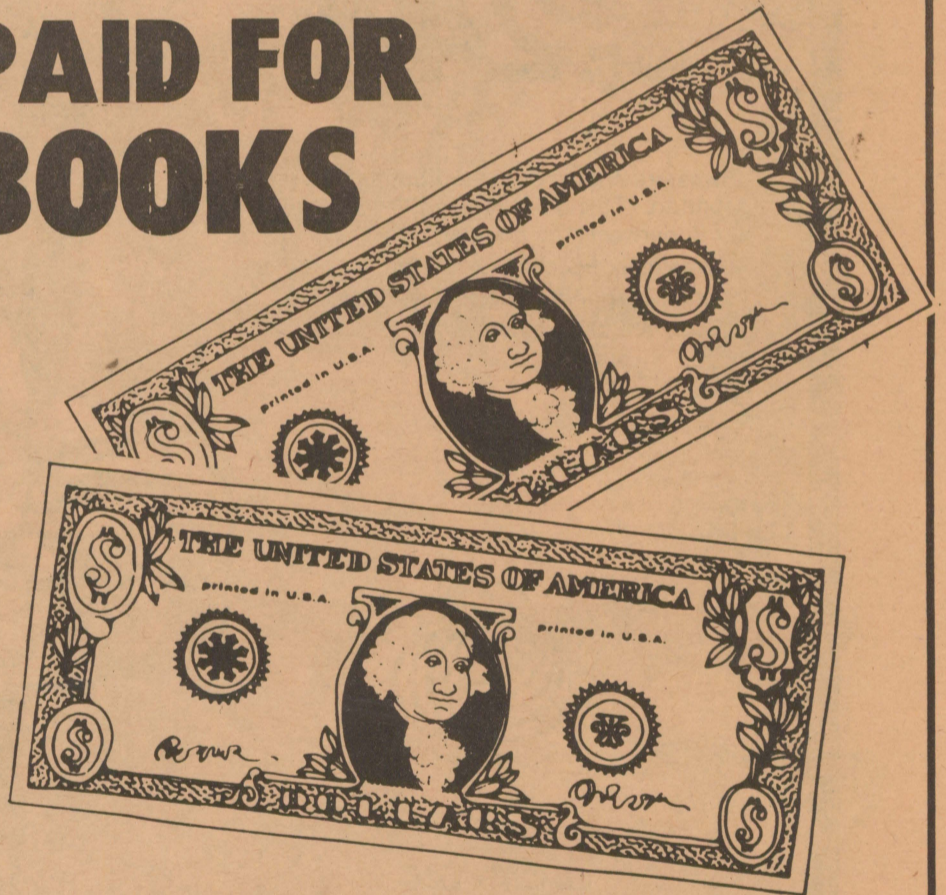
of this. I would not want television to come to this.

"I believe television is a follower of society, not a leader of society," Johnson said. "For example, when I was news director for WSAZ, a man working for the Charleston

(Continued on page 12)

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Media violence: how much effect does it really have?

(Continued from page 11)

studio would often do editorials and articles on smog and pollution in South Charleston during the 1960s, no one paid attention."

It wasn't until the 1970s, after the college students began speaking out and ecology became an issue, that people listened to what was going on and took action, he added.

It's hard to say how much of an effect, if any, television has on people. Johnson said.

"Did radio cause this generation to be more violent? We had to visualize scenes in our minds with radio," Johnson said.

"Did 'The Scarlet Letter' cause women of the 1800's to be more promiscuous?" he asked.

All evidence thus far

suggesting violence in the mass media, especially television, is influential to children and/or adults is based on assumptions, said Johnson.

"I'm not going to say evidence won't be found to prove influential effects of television, but with what evidence is available now, I'm not prepared to claim television is influential or harmful," he said

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