



Decorate a tree with imagination

By JOYCE A. VENEZIA
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

No matter how you decorate it, a Christmas tree looks good. Whether covered with fragile glass ornaments handed down from generation to generation or just decorated with simple strings of popcorn and colored paper chains, a tree has a special charm that brings out the innocent childlike side of our nature.

The original Christmas tree ornament is the delicate glass ball. Until World War II, the tiny "storybook" town of Lauscha in Germany supplied virtually all American glass balls. It was typically a family business, with the husband making each ball and his wife and children hand-decorating each one. More than 600 ornaments a day were made.

But glass ornaments are only one type of Christmas tree decoration. Pennsylvania is famous for the many different variations in ornaments that came about in later years.

Old newspapers throughout the state describe many traditions: in York, a tree held "... cakes of various form and quality, drooping from the different limbs; birds of paradise, humming birds, robins, peewees and

a variety of others seem to twitter among the evergreens."

One tree in Norristown held decorated eggs, while another in Lewisburg was decorated with oranges and figs. One tree in Chambersburg was "handsomely decorated... with popcorn balls," and one in Harrisburg held "... strings of apple snitz (unpared) which drooped from the pendant limbs of the pretty holly."

And no good traditional Pennsylvania Christmas would be complete without a Pennsylvania Dutch tree trimmed with — what else? — pretzels! A newspaper tells of students in Norristown who every holiday season marched passed a tree covered with pretzels and were given one as a present. One loyal Pennsylvania Dutchman sent Christmas greetings to his friends using the pretzel as a traditional wish; the card's inscription read, "I wish you a merry Christmas time and a happy New Year, a pretzel as big as a barn-door and a sausage as thick as a stove pipe."

University students are not always fortunate enough to have the family stock of Christmas ornaments: those delicate baubles are usually reserved for the home tree. But if you have a tree in need of decoration and are

looking for ways to trim it, try improvising.

Strings of colored paper, popcorn and cranberries are an inexpensive garlands for winding around the tree. If you are creative apartment dweller, yesterday's can of peas can offer you a bright ornament if you cut the lid into a star shape, or that box of baking cups hidden in the back of the cabinet can provide a colorful clustered ornament.

Decorate your way to someone's stomach by hanging candy, cookies and sticks of gum with colorful wrappers. Or consider the "natural" look by decorating with pine cones, nuts and seed pods.

By simply using your imagination, you can develop an ornament out of almost anything; use eggshells as the early settlers in Norristown did, or try doilies, ribbons, Christmas cards — anything that looks colorful and ingenious.

And yes, Penn State fans, even Penn State Christmas ornaments are available through various companies. The Penn State, the University's alumni magazine, recently advertised for blue and white glass balls decorated with the Nittany Lion, or even needlepoint ornament kits to create modern geometric blue and white ornaments.

Town and campus offer many holiday festivities

By ELLYN HARLEY
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

'Tis the Season to be jolly, and the multitude of activities to be offered during the holidays by both town and gown organizations should be diverse and plentiful enough to keep everyone smiling.

In dorm areas, many residence area governments will be holding winter carnival competitions among dorm floors and West Halls will feature a movie night on Dec. 16. Association of Residence Hall Students President Chris Calkins said.

Events that are part of the International Holiday Festival that began this week will continue until Sunday. Today's events include a holiday luncheon from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Kern Graduate Building Lobby; a wheat weaving craft demonstration from 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. also in the Kern Lobby; and the Walt Disney movie, "Make Mine Music" showing at 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. in 112 Kern.

Friday's activities of the Holiday Festival include a craft demonstration from 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. in Kern Lobby and the "Snowflake Buffet" starting at 6:30 p.m. in 101 Kern.

The younger set is invited to the children's Christmas party from noon until 3:30 p.m. Saturday in the Walnut Building, and later that night, an international coffeehouse will take the stage at 8 in 102 Kern.

Sunday, the public is invited to join in a caroling expedition on campus, which

will set forth at 8 p.m. from Eisenhower Auditorium.

The International Holiday Festival is co-sponsored by several student organizations and administrative units. John A. McCauley, assistant director of Student Activities is the chairman of the University-wide programming committee for the "Intercultural Celebration."

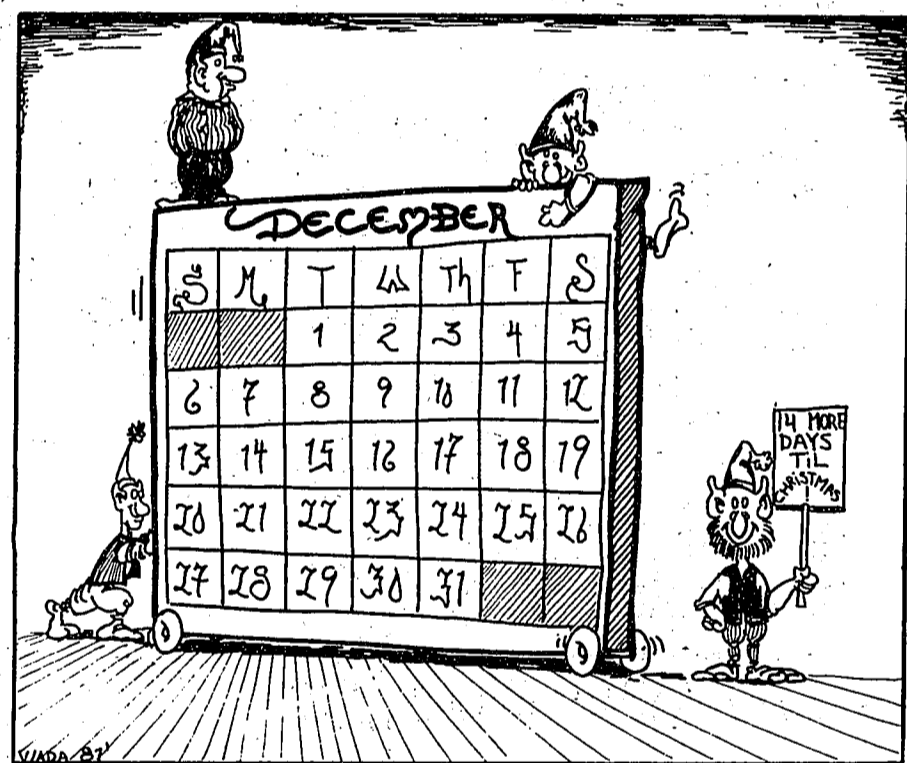
December is a time for music, and everyone from well-rehearsed singers in choirs, to bands and orchestras, to spur-of-the-moment catolers will be happily harmonizing for the holidays.

The University Choir will present a Christmas Festival concert in conjunction with the University Symphony Orchestra, with Raymond Brown and Smith Toulson conducting, at 8 p.m. Dec. 12 in Eisenhower Auditorium.

Also on Dec. 12, the State College Area High School Acappella Choir and Choral Choir will present a combined concert at 8 p.m. Saturday in the State College High School Auditorium. The concert is open to the public.

Many campus, religious and community groups will be bestowing hot chocolate, popcorn, hot apple cider, and Christmas carols upon downtown shoppers during the Holiday season, said Pat Williams, Community Involvement representative for the Downtown Business Association.

Centre Halls and Pollock-Nittany Halls students will be Christmas caroling at 7:30 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday respectively. Other groups caroling



downtown during the holidays are the State College Guild of Organists tomorrow, and Sanctuary Choir from Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church on Friday, Dec. 18.

As well as sponsoring the numerous sidewalk events of the season and the community Christmas tree on the corner of College Avenue and South Allen Street, the DBA will also sponsor the appearances of the North Pole's number one citizen in the downtown area, DBA chairman Ted Connelly said.

Although the volume of holiday-time activities diminishes after most University students head home on Dec. 18 or 19, State College residents will not stop enjoying themselves. Girl Scout Troop 1171 will be caroling

from 7 to 8 p.m. Dec. 21 downtown.

The State College Kiwanis members will be giving away popcorn balls by G.C. Murphy's from 6 to 9 p.m. on Dec. 22 and entertainment will be provided by Sweet Adelines, Nittany Knights and the State College High School Brass Ensemble while passers-by munch on popcorn.

And State High students, who cannot get into downtown establishments to hear local bands, will have one of those hands come to them when Menagerie visits the State College High School auditorium. The Menagerie foursome of Kevin Dremel, Randy Hughes, Glenn Kidder and Jon Rounds is scheduled to perform from 8 to 9:15 p.m. on Dec. 22, and tickets are available at the High School.



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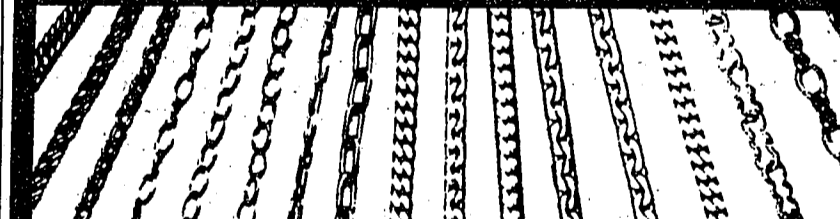
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