

# Happy Christmas! Finals Week!



# San Humbug? Y' betcha!

By Jackie Squires  
Staff Reporter

There is a grave misjustice going on and I want it stopped! For years it's been allowed to continue but no more. I

## Column

am, here and now, calling for an immediate stoppage of the mass exploitation of the good name and image of Santa Claus!!!

This jolly old elf wants

nothing more than to spread around a little holiday cheer and goodness to a world aching for that type of relief. And what does he receive in return? He gets used and abused!

Parents the world over use Santa as a blackmail device against their offspring. Forcing the poor children to go to bed early on the biggest night of the year. Even in mid-summer some parents take advantage of Santa's giving spirit as a means of totalitarian type

behavior modification. All based on the premise than Santa is watching and checking his list and all that. Thus clearing the parents and turning old St. Nick into the bad guy!

Santa's being exploited every time I turn around. Parents aren't the only offenders, money grubbing capitalists are even worse. Everywhere you look Santa is giving free advertising for clothes, turkeys and they even have Santa swilling beer from a mug! Is there

nothing sacred?!?!?!?

However nothing compares to the outrageous imposters roaming the malls of the world in meager impersonations of Kris Kringle. It is a wonder that Santa's reputation can stand up through the generations with this devastation of his persona being committed. Small children are plucked from their parents by a full grown elf (it's amazing what people will do for minimum wage) plopped down on the recently dampened knee of an

ugly old man with bad breath, gastro-intestinal problems and a beard that smells and feels like wet straw. Then to top it all off they try to take the child's picture in order to link the child for all eternity to this mass of Yule Tide Yuk.

I turn to you for help; save Santa's reputation. Do not condone these slanderous tactics now being implored against Mr. Claus. And please refrain from further exploitation of Santa to preserve his image for all eternity!



## The Collegiate Challenge

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Tacoma Community College

December 12, 1988

# Stress: Yule love it

## Family, friends, finals join the holidays

By T. Meyer  
Staff Reporter

"Ho, ho, ho, deck the halls, jingle bells" and "What'd ya get me for Christmas, Mommy?" are familiar phrases we all hear this time of year. Actually we begin to hear and see signs of the Christmas Season in the middle of October. Television advertisements start bombarding us with tempting ideas for gifts from Christmas albums by country-western stars and the Mormon Tabernacle choir to toys ranging from G.I. Joes, Transformers and Leggos to Nintendos, Ataris and MacIntosh computer systems.

There are also grand preparations for family get-togethers, shopping, office parties, and cleaning and decorating.

But for the students at TCC there are the additional burdens of last-minute assignments to get done, final projects and papers to hand in and final exams which leer at us at the end of every quarter.

When we must face all these pressures and deadlines squarely, they appear devastating like "swords of Damoclese." Add the additional activities, responsibilities and pressures demanded by the up and coming holidays some of the students expressed an overwhelming sense of suffocation.

The students with family



Dandruff? No. Ringworm? No. The heartbreak of psoriasis? No. This student is merely responding to the hassles that Christmas can bring...Photo by Claudia Mekins.

and outside work responsibilities seemed to be the most harried, but all students face stress this time of year. Concerns vary. One 25-year old woman said she would rather stay with a family up here rather than travel to visit her parents in Newport Beach, California because of a crisis that erupted in her family this summer. On the other hand, spiritual strength is the glue that holds her family together.

If she goes down she'll be looking forward to her church services which they always attend together. She added, "Christmas is not just glittering lights and a plethora of presents."

Another student, married but with no children, has her family as well as her husband's, 3,000 miles away on the east coast. She went

back last year but the trip was so hectic that this year they want to stay home to spend a restful holiday skiing. When asked if there were anything she could change in her situation where the holidays were concerned, she said, "My husband's a lovable tightwad and keeps cutting my Christmas budget." She loves the crowds, the noise, and all the festivities, but she loves shopping most of all and the

budget restrictions put a cramp in her style. She is looking forward to the three days in a row she won't have to work.

One other student commented, "I love everything but the shopping and especially during December." She said she starts her shopping in August and gets it done by Halloween. "Crowds, noise and all the confusion drive me crazy," she added laughing.

"With all the office and egg-nog parties, my husband laughed when he talked about signing up for the Betty Ford Clinic on January second."

On the other hand, there are those who plan to ignore all the festivities. A male student carrying a full load, said that he and his wife, who works full time to put him through school have given up on Christmas. Their 2-year old son has never celebrated the holidays and they probably won't encourage future celebration.

"What Christmas has become sickens us," he said. "We are also not religious so why be hypocritical?" He concluded, "We have too much to do with work and studies and raising our child to be caught up in the flood of phony celebrations that some use as excuses for getting drunk and overeating."



## Peace for a day? ...well, okay

By Maria Hall  
Staff Reporter

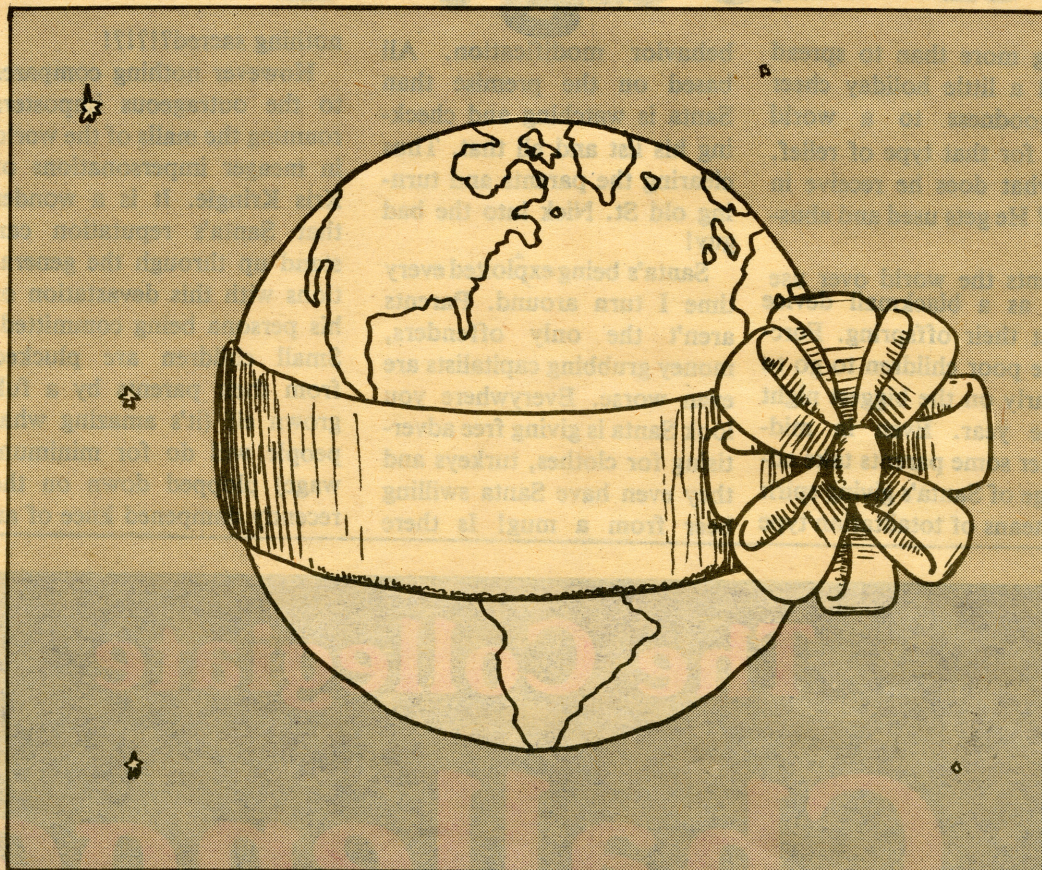
'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring not even a mouse, but by the manger three Wise Men were leaving gifts in the huaraches (Mexican sandals).

Christmas around the world varies from the exotic to the familiar. In other countries Christmas varies from a religious celebration with old traditions to just an excuse for a party. We, at the *Collegiate Challenge*, interviewed people from the campus and surrounding communities about celebrations in their original countries.

Mexico is one country which retains old religious traditions. These traditions are a mixture of Spanish colonial and Indian customs.

Alex Rodriguez explained, "The celebration starts around the 16th of December and continues through the 24th. Each day symbolically represents the journey of the holy family when they wandered prior to the birth. We call it Los Posada (The Steps at the Inn). Most everyone goes out pretending they are the holy family, except those symbolizing the innkeepers."

"They wander around at night with candles. They pretend they are the holy family looking for the Inn. They knock on a door. No one answers. Finally, the innkeeper asks who they are in a song or rhymed verse called Villancicos.



"Someone answers, 'I am a queen,'

"How come you're knocking so late?' the Innkeeper asks.

"This keeps on until someone believes they are the holy family. Then, it's a happy celebration. The children break the pinata. This happens every day."

"We do not give gifts to each other," Rodriguez continued, "but gifts come with the three wise men on the sixth of January. The travelling Wise Men give gifts to the children. Sometime during the morning of January sixth the gifts are placed by the nativity scene."

Unlike Mexicans, many Japanese celebrate Christmas as a secular holiday. Japan, a predominantly Buddhist country, adopted its Christmas celebrations from the U.S.

Taehiko Mimura said, "Most adults drink and make a mess of a bar. They don't know the meaning of Christmas. They just celebrate it because Americans celebrate it. Japan is susceptible to foreign influence."

Michiko Hojo nodded in agreement, but added, "We put up a tree in the house and decorate it with lights and a star. The day before Christmas we exchange presents. On Christmas morn-

ing we sing Jingle Bells and Silent Night. I would have a party with my friends."

Koreans also celebrate Christmas with a mixture of religious and secular activities.

"Christmas is not originally a tradition for the Korean people. They adopted it from Americans," explained TCC Business student Sung Kang.

"It is a national holiday. So, department stores have Santa Claus and put up a big Christmas Tree. Little kids hang up stockings, and people exchange gifts. Christians go to church on Christmas Day. It is a time to spend with friends," continued Kang who

is a Christian in a Buddhist family.

Christmas in France combines years of religious and family traditions.

Agnes Outre said, "We are Catholics, so we attend Mass at midnight on the 24th. This is a special ceremony with a lot of singing. People who do not usually attend church even come at Christmas."

Outre said at church there was always a big nativity scene called a creche with figures representing Mary, Joseph and the shepherds.

Although the French borrowed the creche from Italy and Christmas trees from Germany, they do have their own distinctive traditions.

Agnes Outre said, "After church they go home and have a party at one or two a.m. They have a meal with something unusual or expensive like turkey, goose, oyster or salmon. We have a special chocolate cake called Buche de Noel (Yule Log) with a Santa Claus or little toys on top.

"When children come home from church they usually find a big gift or toys inside their shoes. The shoes are set under the bottom of a tree decorated with silver paper chains and lights."

To lure Santa Claus, French children sing a song called "Petit Papa Noel." In the song children request "Don't forget my shoes."

Shoes?! Why not? Move over stockings, it's time to pin huaraches on the fireplace mantle and wait for Petit Papa Noel!

## Highco trims the campus grounds

By Susan Higgins  
Staff Reporter

If you noticed a more festive feeling on the TCC campus or wondered how the light poles changed into candy canes, Robyn Highco, Grounds Maintenance, organized this revival of campus during this fateful finals week.

On Saturday, December 3, Highco, along with the faculty, staff and students, decorated Bldg. 7, the library, and main plaza.

For the first time the campus has displayed some holiday hoopla with adornments of wreaths and streamers. The ornamentation is "strictly non-religious, celebrating the festivity of having fun," said Highco.

In October, after Highco developed her ideas to decorate the campus at Christmas and gathered input from students and staff, she



Robyn Highco, campus Christmas decoration coordinator, smiles with holiday glee as a wreath is placed outside the library.

presented her proposal to the College Council. She then met with Student Body President Kelli Forrer to get others involved.

Highco would like the trimming of TCC to become a yearly yuletide event.

"Hopefully we will get an earlier start next year and expand beyond the main plaza."

Funds for the decorations were donated by the people of Grounds Maintenance, the Library, Cafeteria, and Bldg. 7.



Vanessa Veda

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# Piano lab broadens experience

## Instructor Schmidt stresses achievement

By Cindy Marcoc  
Staff Reporter

The TCC piano lab has 24 electric pianos, but the facility has a capacity of only 15 students per class. This is the only thing that doesn't make sense about the room.

The classes taught in the Piano Lab are Class Piano I, II and III which will be offered at 12:30, 10:30 and 11:30 consecutively on Tuesdays and Thursdays next quarter. There is also a non-credit evening piano class offered on Wednesdays from 7-8:30, according to the TCC Winter Schedule.

Students taking Class Piano have many different interests. "The students are totally varied so the class is individually oriented," said Diane Schmidt, instructor of the credit classes. Interests include, but are not limited to classical, religious, elementary school music, pop and rock.

"Most students take the class because they want to learn something new" according to Schmidt. The class will fill requirements as either Humanities or electives though. And, you can get the credit without taking any exams. The grade for the class is based on improvement and on a performance given to only the instructor at the end of the quarter.

Class Piano I is geared toward the true beginner. "The assumption made in Piano I is that the student has absolutely no experience," said Schmidt. "It's a good way to try at the piano without actually buying one. Besides the lab, TCC also has many other pianos to practice on." Schmidt recommends spending a lot of time playing on many different pianos before actually purchasing one.

Electric keyboards are very versatile and have become extremely popular. Fifteen million keyboards have been sold in the last five years with prices starting as low as \$40. According to Schmidt

another reason for the popularity of the keyboard is that there are so many that are portable and therefore more



The Beethovens of the future getting their training in Class Piano I.  
Photo by Claudia Mekins.

sociable (like a guitar or a banjo).

Diane Schmidt is a very talented, enthusiastic and qualified instructor. She got her B.A. in music at UPS and her M.A. in Music Theory and Composition at the University of Washington. Schmidt's philosophy of music is that it's all worthwhile and no particular style is better than another. She believes that a broad musical interest is an attitude necessary for teaching a variety of students.

Besides teaching at TCC, Schmidt also gives private music lessons, performs in the Diane Schmidt Trio and has performed with both the Seattle and Tacoma Symphonies, the Philadelphia String Quartet and such artists as Sergio Mendes and Luciano Pavarotti.

More information on Class Piano can be obtained by contacting Diane Schmidt. Her office is in Bldg. 9.

# Nutcracker brings student back to St. Nick

By Sydney Ann Edelbrock  
Staff Reporter

Do you remember what it was like being 9 years old on

Christmas Eve? Peeking in the closet to see if your parents have gotten you that bicycle yet and if they haven't, start dropping heavy hints.

Whispering among your friends about what you hope to get for Christmas. All the food and smiling relatives you see only once a year, and who could forget staying up all night, waiting for it to be 6 a.m. so you could jump out of bed and run into the living room and see what presents were yours.

Now that I'm 20 and have moved out of my parents' house, Christmas seems to lose it's magic. I don't believe in Santa Claus anymore. It is no longer imperative for me to have a Barbie Dream House and since I'm living off my own money I can eat chocolate until I'm sick anytime of the year.

The mall is another story. I spend all day pushing through crowds of grumpy rude people, struggling to find that

perfect gift for my Uncle Don, who as far as I know doesn't particularly like anything. As usual I end up spending three hours and \$20 on two pairs of argyle socks. (Same as last year).

When I was younger my parents did all the shopping and signed my name to it. All I had to do was be present in the living room on Christmas morning to unwrap all of my gifts.

Last year a friend bought me tickets to see the Nutcracker Ballet done by the Pacific Northwest Ballet Company. Since I am interested in anything theatrical, I went.

It was the most outstanding performance I had ever seen. The set was amazing. It would move and change before my eyes from one scene to another. The dancing was spectacular, each scene told a complete story without any words being spoken. I found myself transfixed by the music and dancing and all the feelings I had about Christmas over 10 years ago came rushing back. I felt like I was 9

all over again trying to control the ecstatic jittery apprehension of Christmas.

I realized then that it wasn't all the toys or food or all the attention that made Christmas special; it was all the beliefs that Christmas held for me. I believed in Santa, a wonderful person who spent all his time making toys for kids and never asked for anything in return. I believed in Peace on Earth, how could anyone fight when it was Christmas and there was so much love and sharing going on? And I believed in sharing, with my family and with those less fortunate than I was. I knew that maybe a can of chicken soup to the Salvation Army wasn't going to change the world but I hoped it might have helped one person, just a little bit.

Over the years I have become cynical, caught up in the superficial mall attitude of Christmas. I believe that seeing the Nutcracker has changed me a little. I still don't believe in Santa Claus but I do believe that world peace is obtainable.

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# Titan hoopsters take opener

## Defense sparks comeback win

By Fritz Riddle  
Sports Editor

The first two home games for the Tacoma Community College Mens' Basketball team showed they were full of hustle and hard work as the Titans proved to be too much for Bellevue and Shoreline.

In the home opener against Shoreline TCC shot 54% in the second half to run away from the Samurai 87-72.

Shoreline opened up a 23-10 lead with a three point basket by Raymond Toller. TCC then came to life in the last ten minutes of the first half. The defense provided the spark the Titans' needed by holding Shoreline to only 13 points for the remainder of the half. "We played tougher defense and changed our offense in order to find the open man better," Coach Ron Billings said. Brent Ringenbach and Chris Kovacs were those open men as TCC scored 27 points to take the halftime lead 37-36.

"We did not come out with a high intensity level to start the game," Kovacs said. Ringenbach had 18 points and Kovacs had 21 points to lead the Titans in scoring.

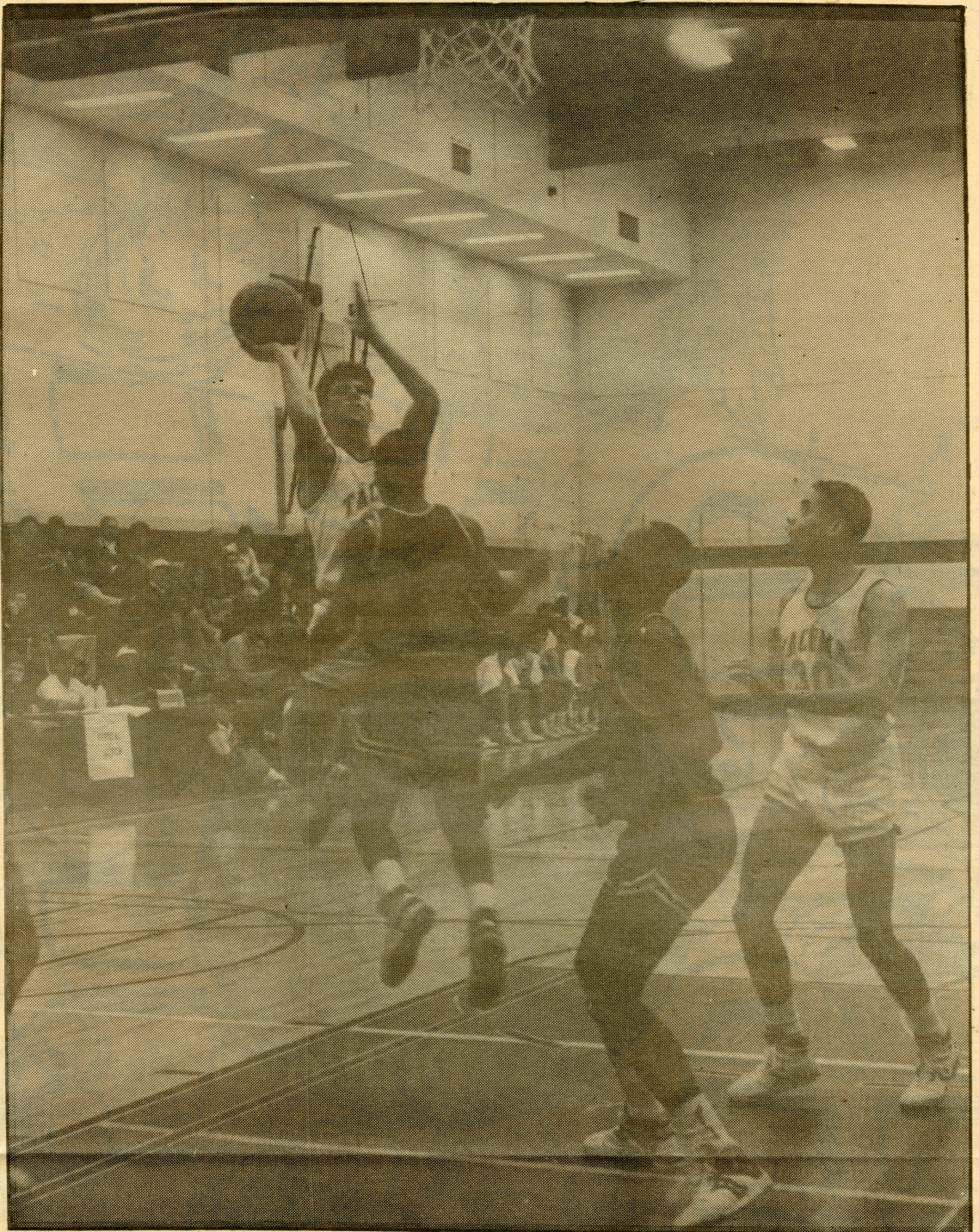
Scott Leingang (8 pts.) and Chris Westby (5 pts.) came off the bench and provided some energy. "More motivation from the subs makes this year's team different than last year's team," Jarrod Davis said. TCC shot a dismal 37% from the field in the first half.

The second half was a different story because the Titans scored 50 points and held Shoreline to 36. Donelson Williams had 11 points for the game and dominated the glass with 20 rebounds. Kovacs added 9 rebounds to make sure Shoreline did not get second shots. Kovacs, Leingang, Westby, Cocke and Williams produced a 14-7 run to make the score 67-54 with a little over nine minutes remaining. Kovacs then scored six straight points to cap a 8-2 run to put the game out of reach 75-56.

The Helmsmen of Bellevue came to town the next night looking to avenge the loss to TCC in the Green River tournament. Davis led the Titans in scoring with 27 points and hit two out of the first three shots TCC took. The game went back and forth until a Larry Foster three pointer put the Titans in the lead for good. Davis had three shots in a row during a 14-2 run late in the first half to put TCC ahead by eight at halftime, 46-38.

"Our ability to use the shot clock and find the open man was a great asset to us in the first half against Bellevue," Billings said.

"Good hustle and we worked for shots..." Ringenbach said made the difference against Bellevue. Ringenbach had 13 points and 11 assists. "We like to run our fast break and get easier baskets," Ringenbach continued, "We know we are not as talented so



Marcus McLain (right) watches Brent Ringenbach sail skyward against a Bellevue guard. The Titan sailed over the Helmsmen 95-72. Photo by Claudia Mekins.

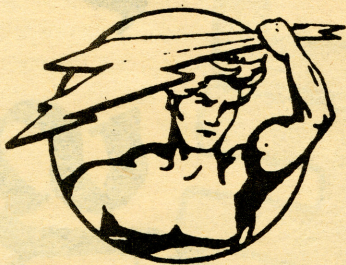
we work harder on defense."

In the second half Williams scored the first basket and grabbed the first rebound to set the stage for the half. Williams moved some furniture inside to pull down

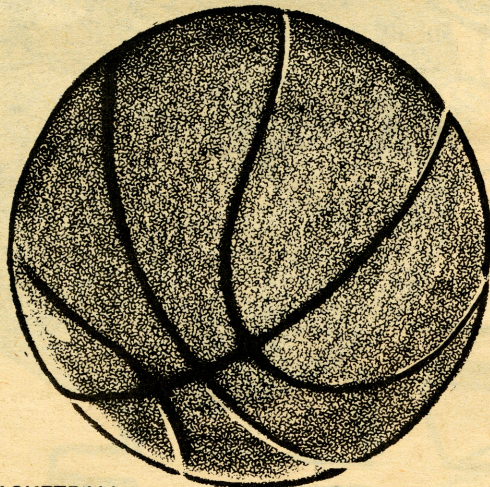
some big rebounds against some tall trees that Bellevue uses inside. Bellevue went on 11-5 despite Williams' actions and closed the gap to 55-51 TCC.

The Titans became hungry

again and stiffened up the defense by helping each other out in their man to man defense. Davis sank two shots in a row to ignite a 16-5 run and put the Helmsman away for good, 95-72.



**Titan  
Athletics**



### MENS BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Dec. 14	Edmonds	Edmonds	8:00
Dec. 16-17-18	Christmas Tourney	Bellevue	TBA
Dec. 22	Edmonds	Tacoma	8:00
Jan. 7	Centralia	Tacoma	8:00
Jan. 11	Clark	Clark	8:00
Jan. 14	Pierce	Tacoma	8:00
Jan. 18	Grays Harbor	Tacoma	8:00

### WOMENS BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Dec. 17	Spokane	Tacoma	6:00
Dec. 19	Shoreline	Shoreline	6:00
Dec. 22	Walla Walla	Tacoma	6:00
Dec. 28-29-30	Desert Tourney	Palm Springs, CA	TBA
Jan. 3	Skagit Valley	Tacoma	5:30
Jan. 7	Centralia	Tacoma	6:00
Jan. 11	Clark	Clark	6:00
Jan. 14	Pierce	Tacoma	6:00

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## Lady Titans begin season in a very positive way

By Fritz Riddle  
Sports Editor

The Lady Titans' Basketball team opened their home season on a positive note by beating Everett 60-49. The Lady Titans' defense played well and the offense got going late in the first half. Jennifer Houx was the tallest girl on the court and that made for easy pickings' inside the paint.

Two days later Bellevue visited Tacoma Community College looking for a win. Tacoma forced 29 turnovers as the press worked early on. Bellevue shot 36% from the field but went on to the charity stripe 12 times and converted eight of them. The officials were whistle happy in the first half. Bellevue led at halftime 24-19.

"Our rebounding was terrible," Coach Jerry Shain said. Bellevue got second shots at will in the beginning of the second half. Turnovers then started hurting TCC and they fell behind by eight 38-30. With the offense struggling the defense took charge. The press was still working and when Bellevue moved the ball into the front court TCC blocked shots. The Lady Titans blocked three shots in a row. Houx went 0-4 in shooting and



Jerry Shain calmly coaches the technique of the full court press. The Lady Titans used the press successfully against Bellevue, but fell short on the scoreboard 52-51. Photo by Claudia Mekins.

the Lady Titans still managed to move within a point of the lead 50-49. Trish Doss then missed the front end of a one and one and Bellevue converted their opportunity to put

them ahead by three with under a minute to go. Lori Martell then found Doss under the basket for an easy two but it wasn't enough.



Trish Doss shoots over a Bellevue woman. Photo by Claudia Mekins.

## Soccer Titans place 3rd in state Bonus : Keegan named coach of the year

By Fritz Riddle  
Sports Editor

TCC lost their semi-final to Skagit Valley in overtime.

"We lost a game we should have won," head coach Tom Keegan said.

The first time Skagit Valley got the ball in the Titans' end of the field they scored on a dead ball. TCC fought hard and their efforts paid off when Chris Ruffner headed the tying goal in.

"We used a play called 'mixer'," Keegan said. 'Mixer' was executed to perfection by Jim Haima, David Pool, and Ruffner for the goal. Haima kicked the ball high, Pool headed it backwards and Ruffner headed it into the net.

The game ended in a 1-1 tie and had to be sent into a ten-minute overtime. Two overtimes later the score remained tied. Penalty kicks were then called upon to determine the winner. Unfortunately the result was not the same as a contest against Bellevue. A tough loss. "We showed character by coming back



Tom Keegan, named coach of the year for the 1988 season watches intently during an earlier game. This photo was reproduced in the Morning News Tribune. Photo by Claudia Mekins.

from a 1-0 deficit," Keegan said. "We were unlucky, their keeper made great saves... missed opportunities were the reasons we lost," Keegan added.

The consolation game against Pierce was a positive

way to end a great season. "This was the last time that these guys get to play with each other so I told them to play with some pride and have fun," Keegan said.

The first goal was scored by

Robin Malmanger on a nice pass from Pool. TCC took the 1-0 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Pierce tied the game at one goal apiece. Mondo Lopez ended that rather quickly with a rifle shot past the Red Raider

keeper. Haima followed suit with a powerful shot of his own to put TCC up 3-1. Pierce ended the scoring by making one last desperation goal.

The Titans' soccer team had a record season. The team set new team records such as most goals for a season—61, Shut-outs—6, and most wins—16. Malmanger set two individual season records; Most goals—23, and most points—51.

First team all-league honors went to: Defenders Matt Stroup and Haima; midfielders, Joe Hill and Pool; forward Malmanger.

Second team all-league honors went to: Goalie Corey Brown; defender Rob Portmann; midfielder Devin Kuenstler; forward Chris Ruffner.

Coach of the Year honors went to Keegan. Congratulations to these and all of the Mens' soccer team for a job well done. At TCC there is a winning tradition among the soccer circle and this years' team proudly kept that going.



# The Last Testament...

Page 8, The Collegiate Challenge, December 12, 1988

## Toy drive continues

By Claudia Mekins  
Managing Editor

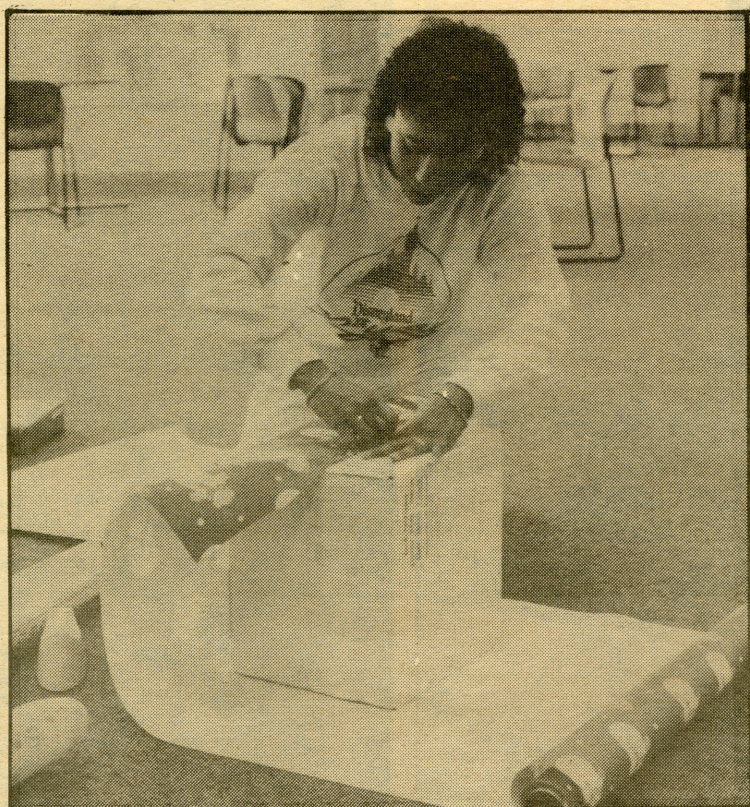
Thanks to Kelli Forrer, the Toy Drive Committee and many other generous participants, 250 homeless children will receive toys for Christmas this year.

The gift-wrapped presents will be delivered to 12 local shelters for homeless children on December 23, Forrer said.

In addition to the 12 shelters, the committee is giving gifts to 40 children at the YWCA school project. Forrer explained that the project is a "regular school for homeless kids from kindergarten through the eighth grade."

Forrer's group has a big day planned for the children at the project school on December 20.

Forrer gave the committee of eager volunteers a brief outline of the upcoming events at the project school. At 8:30 a.m. the volunteers will arrive. Breakfast, courtesy of McDonald's, will be served at 9:30. At 11:00 Santa will arrive.



Kelli Forrer likes to wrap. Photo by Claudia Mekins

rive. Lunch will be served at noon and the busses will arrive at 1:30 to take the children back to their various shelters.

The committee has collected toys from local merchants,

TCC students, staff and faculty, and other donors.

According to Forrer, the committee has also collected approximately \$100 in donations.

## Counselor's Corner

Free advice from the counseling center

By Keith Lewis  
Counselor

The spirit of the season is upon us. As we travel to visit family, friends and loved ones many of us start off full of joyous thoughts of what the reunion might bring. While this gathering of friends and loved ones is for the most part refreshing, for many, the days events will also bring ghosts from the past; of loved ones missing, of financial problems, of broken family ties, and of goals not yet met.

There are many ways in which individuals attempt to cope with their personal "ghost." Many will try to eat or drink them away, while others will run away through sleep, anger or other forms of depressive activities. There are those of us who will try to deny their existence by declaring that their ghost does not exist (or that their ghost does not bother them) and a few will try to make a pact with their ghost by declaring that if they could make changes, they would.

If you are finding out that your ghosts are frightening

you out of your holiday cheer then drop into the Counseling Center to have your ghost exorcised by one of the original ghost busters.

One gift which you can give yourself this season is the gift of friendship which will surely help subdue any ghost which might cross your path.

### The Gift of Friendship

Friendship is a priceless gift  
That cannot be bought or sold,  
But its value is far greater  
Than a mountain made of gold—  
For gold is cold and lifeless,  
It can neither see nor hear  
And in time of trouble  
It is powerless to cheer—  
It has no ears to listen,  
No heart to understand,  
It cannot bring you comfort  
Or reach out a helping hand—  
So when you ask God for a gift,  
Be thankful if he sends  
Not diamonds, pearls, or riches,  
But the love of a real true friend.  
—Author Unknown

Have a safe and wonderful Christmas season and don't let the ghosts get you down.

See? Now if you had advertised in the Collegiate Challenge your Christmas profits would have been prodigious. Whatever that means...

## Collegiate Classifieds

### Real Ads

Room for rent: sauna, pool, exercise room, all utilities paid, use of kitchen and living room included, private bathroom, close to campus, \$200 per month, call Ms. White at 759-4410.

### Not Real Ads

Wanted: People to come up with funny lines like this: Why is blowing your nose and Christmas so similar? Because no matter how hard you try, you still don't get what you want. Ha! Respond: Collegiate Challenge, Box 4.

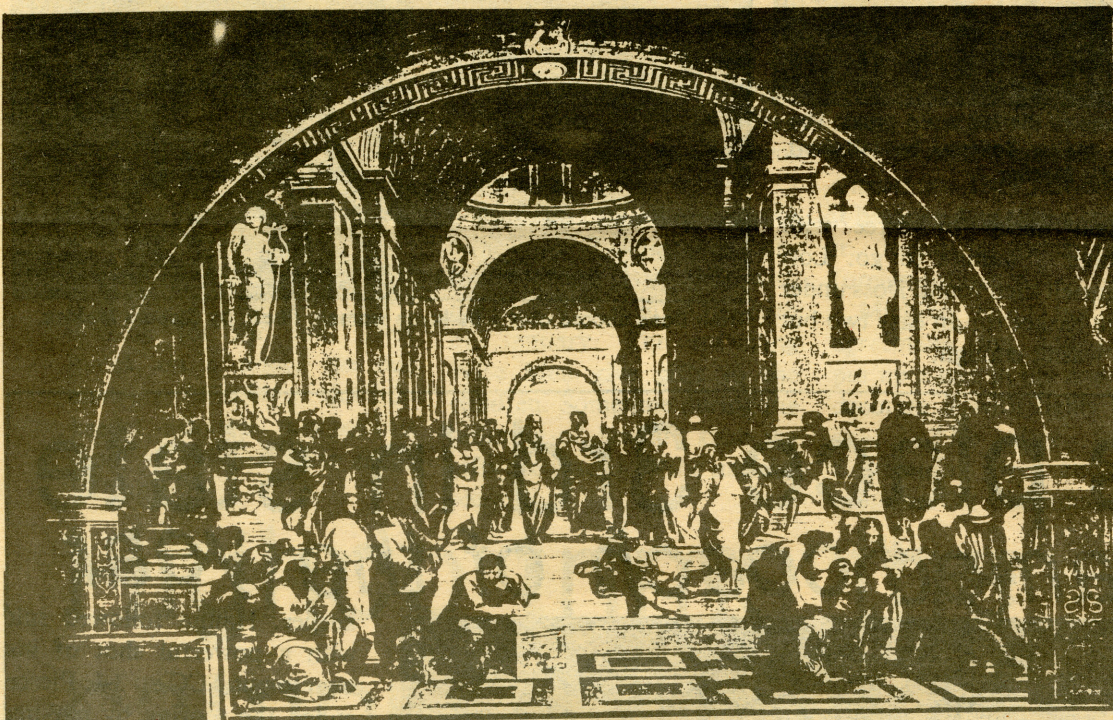
Wanted: Charwoman to come to our abode and clean the mess from the fireplace. Santa made a test run and we lit up a log...



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