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Better to give than receive

By Darla Jackson
Emerald Supplements Editor

As most of us struggling college students realize, the Christmas season and the 11 months leading up to it can be mighty tight on the old wallet.

Don't you get sick of your family expecting loads of lavish gifts when they know you're as poor as a church mouse? The following scenario can be used effectively to avoid spending virtually anything this Christmas.

(Arriving home from college): Hello, my wonderful family members! Yes, I'm back to celebrate this glorious season with you. And of course I've brought presents galore, so we may as well get down to business, right?

Mom, since I know how you love to try new recipes and exotic foods, I brought you a Eugene gourmet specialty. It's called Top Ramen, and it's kind of along the lines of caviar or lobster; it's exotic, expensive and unavailable to the lower classes. And yes, I've brought you a whole tub of the stuff!

Dad, I know you're going to be equally thrilled with your present. Did you know the Super Bowl is being played in New Orleans this year? Well, I took the liberty of calling airlines, hotels and rental car companies in the area to check their prices and availability for the game. Here's a

list of prices and stuff—now all you have to do is fork out the money for all this! Oh yeah, I guess you also have to worry about getting a ticket. But hey, I'll leave that little detail up to you.

For my big brother and sister-in-law, I'm giving you this lovely book for your coffee table. What? You say it looks a lot like a textbook from my astronomy class? Well maybe it is, but seeing how I can't sell this one back I figured I should get some use from it, right?

For my big sister, who is now a successful CPA and is the epitome of yuppie-dom, I'd just like to compare our lives for a moment. You live in a penthouse apartment and get to float along the Caribbean on vacations. I, on the other hand, live in a pig pen apartment and the only thing I'm floating on is a loan.

So seeing how you love taking trips, I'm gonna give you a big guilt trip this year. Oh, lighten up, I'm just teasing.

For my wonderful little brother who's just starting college, I'm giving you some really helpful hints on how to pull this stunt off next year at Christmas.

Okay, I'm ready to tear into all my presents from ya'll. Why is everybody scowling at me? Come on, have an open mind here! Jeez, I guess we can tell which one of us has been attending a liberal college full of free thinkers and who hasn't, now can't we?

Twas the night before Christmas and inside the



Lay the best Christmas present attached to a



A Macintosh computer sat under the



Wondering where on campus it would soon be.

College students were settled all snug in their



While visions of



danced in their heads.

They know that a Mac as a



is great,

For making their projects look sharp and first-rate.

Then across campus there arose such a clatter.

All the students awoke to see what was the matter.

It was



who from atop his red



Yelled loudly to all, "Students hear what I say!"

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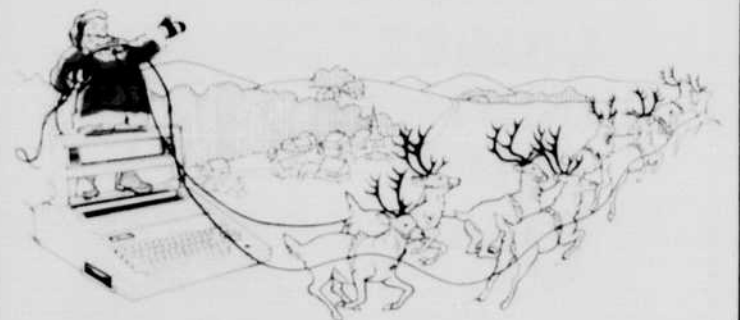
Plus a great financing program," Santa said with a laugh.

Then Santa drove off and threw these words back,

"Merry Christmas to all, Hope you all get a Mac!"

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