



Christmas festivals vary from place to place

During the holiday season, only one thing is a given — vacation. Aside from that, the seasonal celebration varies from home to home, country to country.

Hanukkah, celebrated by the Jewish people around the world, is also called the Feast of Lights or the Feast of Dedication. It begins on the 25th day of Kislev, the ninth sacred

month of the Jewish calendar. The celebration lasts eight days.

On December nights, one can see through the windows of Jewish homes small flicker-

ing candles set in an eight-branched candelabra. On the first night of Hanukkah, a single candle is lit, and an additional light is kindled each successive night.

Before the lights are kindled, blessings are said as a spiritual symbol of relighting the Temple Candelabra, whose light symbolizes the eternal light shining through the spirit of the Jewish people.

Japan's Christmas celebration has become an indispensable part of the year-end Buddhist celebration. There is a custom in Japan of giving gifts to intimate friends as a mark of "O-Seibo," meaning year-end greeting.

Today, most people practice gift giving in the name of Christmas, and the season is filled with lights, food, shopping and Santa Claus. However, the Christmas season has no religious connections with most of the Japanese people.

After Christmas, there are only six more days in the old year. The greatest day in the nation is the New Year. On New Year's Eve, adults stay up from the nightwatch which rings at midnight. It sounds 108 times to purge the 108 human weaknesses described in Buddha's teachings.

Mexico's greatest religious festival, the Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe, falls on Dec. 12. It commemorates the appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary to a Native American convert named Juan Diego, on Dec. 12 in the year 1531. Holiday festivities include parties and the breaking of pinatas.

The rest of the world's Christians have Christmas celebrations on other days, most on Dec. 25. Literally Christ's Mass, Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Christ, and is the greatest of Christian holidays. The date of Dec. 25 was presumably established by Pope Julius I in the first half of the fourth century. The date signifies the birth of Christ to the Virgin Mary in a manger in the town of Bethlehem. The holiday has come to include Santa Claus, or St. Nicholas, the Patron Saint of Children who now personifies the religious and holiday spirit of Christmas.

Ask your folks for the present with a future.



Your parents *know* you're serious about having fun. Now show them how serious you are about making the most of your studies. Ask for the IBM® Personal System/2.™

The IBM PS/2™ is the perfect companion for everything from late-night studying to last-minute revisions. It helps you organize your notes, write and revise papers, produce high-quality graphics to make all your work look sharper, and more. And you'll even save money with a great student discount.

The IBM PS/2 could be your answer to getting more out of college. And still leave you time to have fun.

Microcomputer Support Lab
202 Computing Center • 346-4402
Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

IBM, Personal System/2 and PS/2 are registered trademarks of IBM Corp.

Ken's DRY CLEANING

Open M-F
same day
service
before 1:00pm
• 1337 Hilyard •



Don't let your friends
get away for the Holidays
without a word from you.
**MERRY
MESSAGES**
FROM AROUND THE WORLD
are coming to town Dec 7
ONLY
50¢ PER LINE!
\$1.50 FOR ART!
Don't miss the deadline!
December 6, 1 p.m.!
Place ads at
Rm 300, EMU • UO Bookstore
EMU Main Desk