

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Hanukkah festivities fill holidays

The day after Thanksgiving has always been regarded as the start of the holiday rush. Christmas cards are sent out, presents are bought, and decorations are hung on the newly chopped tree. Families gather around the fireplace and drink eggnog.

Well, I've never sent out Christmas cards and eggnog has never passed my lips. In my family, we light the menorah, sing songs in Yiddish and play dreidel games.

I am Jewish, and Hanukkah is my holiday of choice during the winter months. Try though I might, however, I am unable to escape the Christmas "joy" that inundates the city.

Fairy and multicolored lights line the city streets and tacky plastic Santas urge on even tackier red-nosed reindeer. Enormous red and white striped candy canes stand at attention on street corners.

I can understand why these decorations are erected. Local business people know that the way to make a profit is to appeal to the majority of the population. Granted, most people in the United States celebrate Christmas, but millions of citizens do not.

Ever since I was a small child, the Christmas season has alienated and overpowered me. I have found it very difficult to blindly accept that Christmas is the only holiday that should be acknowledged.

When I was six years old, my mom and I were driving down a major street in my home town of Pasadena, California. I remember stopping for a red light and seeing fake tinsel snowflakes hanging from the street lights. I was very upset and later that day, I dictated a letter to my mom. I informed the mayor of Pasadena that I didn't appreciate the cities failure to acknowledge other cultures and religions. I never received a response.

Many years have passed since I mailed that letter, but the same feelings have continued to plague me. With the dawn of a new holiday season, I have been wonder-



Hanukkah is often neglected during holidays.

MORGAN SMITH/Emerald

ing if other children feel the same way that I did when I was younger.

I recently interviewed three children who spend their days at the child care center on campus. Jonathan and Katie are four years old, and Sunita is three. I had the greatest time interviewing them. It was refreshing to talk to people who are so open and honest.

All three celebrate Christmas, though Sunita couldn't remember much about past Christmases. Katie knows that there are people who don't observe Christmas, but she has never met anyone like this. She informed me that people

who don't celebrate Christmas must feel sad because no one is familiar with their religion.

"No one else knows about their religions because there's no stuff up for them," Katie said.

Sunita was equally sympathetic. She feels sad for the people who don't celebrate Christmas.

"They have to buy Christmas at the store," she said.

Jonathan also doesn't know anyone who does not observe the Christmas ritual. However, he was very enthusiastic about his own yuletide experiences. When

Turn to HANUKKAH, Page 14B

GREAT GIFT IDEAS

Beautiful satin jackets with Western & Southwestern designs

• variety of colors • customized

also:

• Pottery • Prints

• Handmade Rugs & Blankets

• Sweatshirts • Kids' Clothes (from 12 mos.)



Southwest Images

15-C Oakway Mall

686-6745

GREAT GIFT IDEA!

It's more than a card, costs less than a fortune, and guarantees a good time!

Gift Certificates
from **\$5.00**
for professors,
special people,
and friends!

LANE COUNTY ICE

Visa & Mastercard welcome • 687-3615

THE Gazebo RESTAURANT

LUNCH
DINNER
CATERING

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Middle Eastern & Mediterranean Cuisine
19th & Agate • 683-6661

Wear your Santa Suit this holiday season

Condoms Available at Low or No Cost

HIV/AIDS Resource Center..... 3477 E. Amazon Dr.
Phone: 342-5088

UO Student Health Center..... 13th and Agate
Phone: 346-2728

Chicano Affairs..... 944 W. 5th
Phone: 687-2666

Lane County Public Health..... 135 E. 6th
Phone: 687-4041

Whitebird Medical Clinic..... 509 E. 13th St.
Phone: 687-4000

For additional supplies, contact your local pharmacy.

Sponsored by Health Education, Student Health Center

Revo • Ray-Ban • Suncloud • Gargoyles • Oakley • Nikon • Serengeti • Bolle • Big Dogs •

Celebrate the Seasons with SHADES

"REFLECTION IS OUR BUSINESS"

20% OFF selected items with student I.D.

524 Valley River Center • 345-9437

Revo • Ray-Ban • Suncloud • Gargoyles • Oakley • Nikon • Serengeti • Bolle • Big Dogs