

Curl up and read the cold days away

Randy Frank
Of The Print

People wanting a good book to read over the holidays may want to indulge in books covering self-therapy, family sagas, entertainment and some new books by America's best authors.

Self-therapy books these days have simply taken the literary world by storm. Two of the most popular publications are "Passages: The Predictable Crisis of Adulthood" by Gail Sheehy and "Your Erroneous Zones" by Dr. Wayne Dyer.

"Passages: The Predictable Crisis of Adulthood" takes the reader through the problems of an adult in his forties and beyond and tries to provide some helpful answers. The book was a number one bestseller in hardback and is also a paperback bestseller.

"Your Erroneous Zones" is also a unique book. Like "Passages," it held a place on both the hardcover and paperback best seller lists at the same time.

"You can control your own destiny and you are the sum total of your own choices" according to this self-help pep talk book also popular among students.

Number one hardcover best-seller "Roots" and author Alex Haley are finally ready to enter the softcover field.

A literary classic, "Roots" tells of Haley's attempt to trace his ancestry back to a small village in Africa then follows them through seven generations of slavery, the civil war and eventually freedom.

Tending to capitalize on the success of "Roots," is Colleen McCullough's "The Thorn Birds." It is the story of three generations of an early Australian family and is second on the hardcover best seller list.

The entertainment business has entered two books that have become very popular among paperback buyers and students.

"Star Wars" by George Lucas is a novelization of America's number one film written by the film's director.

"Elvis: What Happened" is an attempt by Elvis Presley's bodyguards, Sonny West and Steve Dunleavy, to explain the last years of America's number one singing idol. This book is popular among students and in many cases provides a contradictory side to the public life of Presley.

Besides the current trends, some very popular authors have come out with excellent new books.

Leon Uris, the author of such gigantic best sellers as "Battle Cry," "Exodus," and "QBVII," has added another smash seller, "Trinity."

In the giant scope that marks Uris tradition, "Trinity" is an attempt to trace the history of Ireland and bring in to focus the problems of recent years. It is a very popular fiction tale and a bestseller in hardback, paperback and student lists.

Perhaps no other author in recent years has reached the suc-

cess of J. R. Tolkien and his beloved hobbits.

Having written "The Lord of the Rings," which loomed as one of the truly great works of human spirit, Tolkien followed with "The Hobbit" and now his new book entitled "The Silmarillion."

The power and beauty of Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" guarantees in advance the importance and interest of "The Silmarillion," his account of all that happened earlier in his imaginary kingdoms of towers, dwarfs, elves, and men. The longer we look at it, the more impressive "The Lord of the Rings" becomes; and the more we see of Tolkien's other work, the more miraculous it seems that the powers should have granted him that great trilogy," said John Gardner, New York Times Book Review.

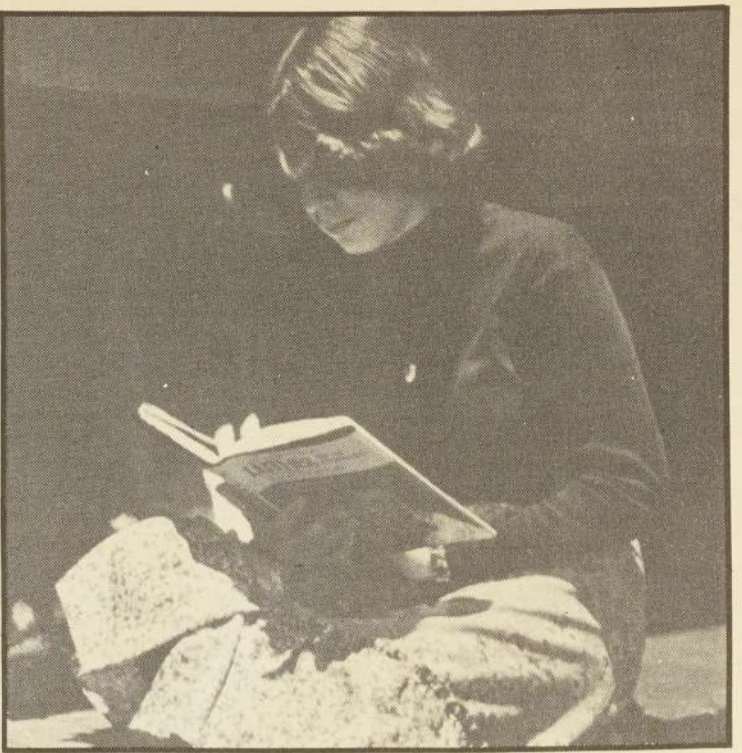
A measure of Tolkien's success is that "The Hobbit" is being made into an animated special for television and "The Silmarillion" has been the best selling hardback for several weeks.

Following his "All Creatures Great and Small" and two subsequent sequels, James Herriot has written some of America's best-loved stories as he tells of a Yorkshire veterinary and his adventures around the turn of the century.

In his latest book, the number one best seller "All Things Wise and Wonderful," Harriot tells of more special animal friends that he and his wife meet.

For those who love humor, humor, Erma Bombeck has come out with another outrageous best-seller entitled "The Grass is Always Greener Over the Septic Tank."

In this book, as well as in her two previous bestsellers "At Wit's End" and "I Lost Everything in Post Nasal Depression," Bombeck



succeeds in finding humor—with all aspects of being a suburban wife choosing a college to worry about her figure and cooking.

One of America's genuine humorists, Bombeck has a syndicated newspaper column called "At Wit's End" and has a segment on the television program Good Morning America.

For those people who enjoy sports of any kind or good stories about old fashioned heroes, read "Bruce Jenner: The Decathlon Challenge" by Bruce Jenner.

Jenner does a good job bringing the reader in to a better understanding of what the decathlon entails. He takes his reader through early decathlon days, some of his more famous decathalons and the days leading to the Montreal Olympics where his world record attempt took place.

It is a good book, but has not quite received as popular acclaim as the aforementioned books as it is limited, for the most part, to sport enthusiasts.

Great gifts for student budgets

By Hallie Brown
Of The Print

Christmas is almost here, and along with that is the decision of what to get as presents. Many gifts are too expensive for a student who is on a very light budget. Here are some gift ideas that might be within the budget.

Homemade gifts are a hit with everyone. Parents and grandparents are especially prone to like the gift you made yourself.

Depending on age, there are many gifts to buy for that brother or sister of yours. Posters for room decorations are popular with youngsters. Car, boat and plane models are usually appreciated by the younger ones.

For the intellectual siblings there are many good books and puzzles. Albums and tapes are good gifts provided one has the equipment to use the gifts. A lasting, growing reminder of Christmas could be a plant.

For Mom, you could put a favorite perfume or candy in her stocking. Jewelry like necklaces, rings and watches always seem to appeal to mothers. Sometimes small appliances are both useful and welcome. A big hit with every mother, are flowers. Half a dozen roses are a great way to say "Merry Christmas, Mom."

Dad might need new slippers for Christmas. Or perhaps a new watch. A pooling of money between brothers and sisters could buy Dad a new digital watch. Thus, you could get him a special pre-

sent without a lot of money. Desk thermometers and ornaments make a nice addition to a businessman's desk at work.

A favorite gift for parents is a group picture of the children. By again combing everyone's money, you can give a nice present that will be appreciated for many years to come.

For the relatives who live in distant cities, a Hickory Farms gift pack can be sent. Another idea is to send a bouquet of nice flowers.

So buying the right present is really not that hard. The important thing is to shop early in order to get the best selection.

Personalize gifts / make your own

Joy Williams
Of The Print

A commercialized Christmas descends upon the public as they are getting ready for Halloween and continues through the Christmas holidays and even after. In defiance to the commercialization, more and more people are longing for an old-fashioned Christmas.

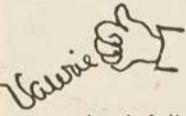
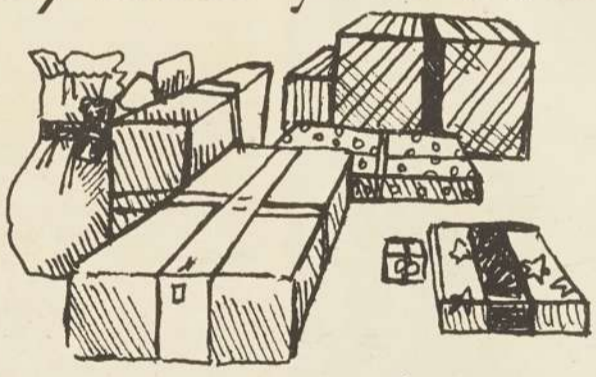
In returning to the old-fashioned Christmas many people are making gifts rather than buying them, even though the manufacturers are busily coming up with unique ideas such as a doll that can get a suntan and a cow that children can actually milk.

People are sidatified with the high prices of these gifts and the often inferior quality of merchandise. Because of this, imaginations are being used to come up with original gifts or at least homemade gifts that cost less and have that personal touch.

Macrame is a popular gift. A variety of things can be created such as plant pot holders and wall hangings which sometimes run over \$50 in the stores, but can be made for about half price or less.

Some other gifts to make are crocheted items and knit items, dried flower arrangements, quilts and afghans.

Another idea is to make kahlua in dark bottles, with your own



labels decorated with Christmas ornaments. The recipe is as follows:

- Two fifths vodka
- 6 c. of water
- 6 c. of sugar
- 3 oz. of Yuban instant coffee
- 1 vanilla bean

Heat water in a large kettle, add sugar and coffee. Heat until sugar dissolves, then let it cool. Next add liquor, pour into a crock and the vanillia bean. Let it stand for a week then bottle the liquid in brown bottles. Finally, let the ingredients age for three to four weeks.

Unique place mats can be made by cutting out a piece of crinoline the size the place mat is to be. Cut out old Christmas cards or other kinds of cards and place them in a design on the material with a paste of Elmer's glue and water.

Christmas ornaments for the tree can be created with Christ-

mas cards, tinfoil, ribbon, or anything else your imagination can come up with. The ornaments will be something personal that can be used from year to year.

Candle-making is fun for the whole family and economical. Dip candles are the easiest. The following explanation tells how to make dip candles.

Melt wax in a three-pound coffee can. Take a wick (or make your own with a string dipped in borax solution), dip in the wax then into cold water. Continue to dip into wax and then water until the candle reaches the desired size. The candle can be molded as it is dipped as it will be soft and pliable. Another idea is to paint wax on a balloon until several layers have been applied. Then it can be dipped into the wax without fear of the balloon breaking. Place a small candle inside and it will create a nice glow.

