

Santa Found

The secret life and identity revealed



(continued from page 1)

Wednesdays and Fridays by refusing to suckle on those days.

When older, Nicholas was an action hero. In order to save three innocent men from getting beheaded, he wrestled the sword away from the executioner and broke through the locked gates of the city while helping the three men escape. It's like a John Wu Christmas story.

Santa also stopped an ancient Hannibal Lecter-like serial killer. A homicidal innkeeper (or butcher) killed three young boys, chopped up their bodies and put the pieces in pickling tubs. Nicholas heard about the murders and raised the boys from the dead, scaring the bejeezus out of the evil innkeeper/butcher, who ran off screaming. Somehow this Christmas story is missed when the cartoons and claymation films come out every year.

He was so bad (in a good way), he even went toe-to-toe with the

Greek goddess, Diana.

However, there was a darker side to the talented Mr. Claus.

He did hard time as a criminal. Yes, Santa was arrested and thrown in prison by the Romans for practicing Christianity.

Thieves were often called "Knights of Saint Nicholas," because he was their patron saint (along with students, teachers, prostitutes, pirates, and pawn-brokers, to name a few).

There is also a bit of scandal involving his remains. Originally buried in Myra (on the coast of modern-day Turkey), his body was "rescued" during the crusades in 1087. He was brought to Bari, Italy, where he rests today. The whole sordid affair is outlined in the 13th-century manuscript, "The Translation of Saint Nicholas," which can be read at www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/nicholas-bari.html.

Turkey, however, claims that they still have three bones of Saint Nicholas, which are on display in

the Archeological Museum in the town of Antalya. One can see a picture of them on the web at www.walkabouttravelgear.com/bones.htm.

"It's very bizarre staring at St. Nick's bones," says the narrator of the web site. "You expect the Easter Bunny's femur to be in the next case over."

On more of an "X-Files" note, there is a phenomenon attributed to Nicholas' remains called "Manna of Saint Nicholas." Apparently, a pure water or oil seeps from the tomb that smells like myrrh and supposedly cures the sick. This was recorded both at his previous tomb (which made it a site of pilgrimage before the move) and his current one.

For more information on the life of Saint Nicholas, read volume 2 of "The Golden Legend," a Medieval text that details the lives of various saints. A translation can be found on the web at www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/goldenlegend/GL-vol2-nicholas.html.

Christmas movie lacks holiday spirit

Jadon Triplett
The Clackamas Print

"Christmas with the Kranks" fell short of being an entertaining holiday film.

To be fair to the filmmakers, they were working with the lamest idea for a movie since "Glitter." The plot centered on the idea of two people wanting to "run away" from Christmas, and the "hilarity" that ensues when their daughter calls at the last minute, announcing her plans to come home for Christmas.

The stars of the film, Tim Allen and Jamie Lee Curtis, were both overacting dramatically. Overacting can be a good thing when it amounts to comedic effect, or even for a kids' movie, which this is, but it didn't really fulfill either of those ends in a satisfactory manner. This is unfortunate, because "Christmas with the Kranks" is billed as a family comedy.

The film does eventually get watchable, about an hour into the film, when we find out that the Krank's daughter is coming home. It's not "pay-eight-bucks" watchable, but it is "illegally-download-the-second-half-of-this-movie-if-you-have-nothing-better-to-do" watchable. This is mostly because of decent performances by sup-

ALLEN

porting actors Dana Akroyd, Cheech Marin, and Per Sullivan plays Dewey Middle, provide some comic relief wise devoted funny.

"Christmas with the Kranks" is a movie choice. Renting. A good Christmas do better to and money. Lampoon's Vacation, other Christmas Santa Claus. In the name of family's sake, to see "Christmas with the Kranks."

Simpson lights up the holiday season

Amanda Polopolus
The Clackamas Print

Before even attempting to untangle last year's multi-colored catastrophe of Christmas lights and decorating that tree, don't forget to pop in those good ol' Christmas tunes.

Dare to remove your sacred Mariah Carey Christmas CD (only for a little while, I promise!) and replace it with America's sweetheart, Jessica Simpson's "ReJOYCE: The Christmas Album."

Simpson has actually released two separate Christmas CDs. One is a seven track sample CD sold exclusively at 7-11 stores, and the other is the full 11 track album which includes six of the songs on the sample CD.

The sample CD includes great Christmas favorites such as "Let It Snow," "What Christmas Means to Me," and "The Little Drummer Boy," which is a duet with Jessica's younger sister, Ashlee Simpson.

But we must ask ourselves: Are seven songs really going to fulfill our craving for festive music? Of course not, which is why sly Mrs. Lachey came out with two albums.

Her album "ReJOYCE" was named after her late grandmother, Joyce Adams Simpson, better known as "Nanny." On the back of Jessica's album there is a picture of her with her grandmother and below it a note of dedication from Simpson to her "Nanny."

On the sample CD the hard-to-get acoustic version of her last single, "Angels," is the one track that the album lacks. However, the sampler CD shall not

overcome the almighty album, as "ReJOYCE" has 5 additional tracks that the limited-edition 7-11 CD lacks.

"ReJOYCE" includes a duet of "Baby It's Cold Outside" with husband Nick Lachey of the almost-forgotten boy band, 98 Degrees.

After the highly publicized duet "Where You Are" that the couple released before their marriage and their overly popular reality show "Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica," I think that a duet on this CD was sort of monotonous, and it's not

were without.

"ReJOYCE" includes eight well known Christmas classics such as "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire" and "O Holy Night." With each song, Jessica's unmistakably unique voice pierces your soul and brings forth the Christmas spirit.

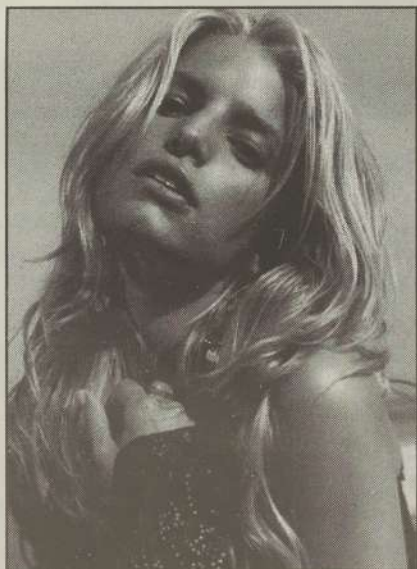
"ReJOYCE" also includes the somewhat disturbing and peculiar track, "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus." Perhaps this song is familiar and typical to some, but for me, I find the lyrics somewhat strange—but I can't complain about the melody. The other track I was unfamiliar with was "Breath Of Heaven (Mary's Song)," which will take some getting used to, considering that Christmas songs from Mary's perspective are almost non-existent.

Nevertheless, Jessica's voice and her updated version of classics are soulful and traditional. This is just what you would expect from the pop idol.

If you need a great stocking stuffer, I would suggest the limited edition, \$7 sample Christmas CD. If you're looking for a gift, of course, the full \$14 album would be a better choice. Then again, why not give both?

"ReJOYCE" delivers a sweet and cozy Christmas feeling that makes you want to put on that knitted Christmas sweater grandma made you and sip hot chocolate by the fire with your family.

Christmas wouldn't be complete without Christmas carols, and we only get one part of the year to enjoy these blissful songs, unless you believe in the Christmas-in-June theory. So hurry and pop in that "ReJOYCE" CD, pull the cookies out of the oven, and enjoy while you can!



SIMPSON

Internet Photo

really a surprise that Nick Lachey was featured on a Jessica Simpson album. His status seems to have transformed from boy-band heart-throb to sexy superstar Jessica's sidekick.

While Nick and Ashlee have established themselves in the music industry, I don't think that their performance on her album is going to make people want to go out and buy it any more than if it

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