

Signs heralding the holiday season

By **Walters**

Culture Editor

Holidays are approaching, decorations spring up, music blasts out the sound of their coming

The season of ridiculously crowded, flamboyant decorations and cheesy songs, that is the holiday season. It seems like the holidays keep "starting" every year. As soon as, or sometimes even before, the season is over, signs herald the coming of

the season.

What is it about the holiday times that make everyone want them to be so long?

Is it the connection that it has to thoughts of happiness and goodwill toward all men?

Who knows, maybe some kids are actually not afraid of a fat man in a red suit coming down their chimney at night to bring them presents.

Whatever the reason may be for the holiday season becoming longer, the signs that it is approaching appear to be multiplying as well.

Winter time has its normal signs popping up everywhere, such as coats, jackets, hats and sweaters

being broken out of the back of the closet, or the inevitable coming of almost endless rain in Oregon.

But then there are those who specifically proclaim just how quickly the holidays are approaching.

"The mall — how crowded it gets ... shopping and maxing out your credit cards" are the first signs that the holidays have begun, said student Kim Miller.

And then there is television — December is the official month when all movies having

anything to do with winter, and especially Christmas, get played. "Jingle All The Way," the original "Home Alone," "It's a Wonderful Life" and "Santa Claus" are just a few of those that seem to be on the tube every single year.

"The Santa Claus' movies with Tim Allen; those are so funny," Miller said.

That is not even counting the children's movies that are shown every single year without fail — "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," anyone?

"Frosty the Snowman" — I see it all the time," Eric Wenlund said.

Nate Courtney knows that the holidays are here when he starts "hearing all the (Christmas) songs on the radio."

Usually, right around the end of Thanksgiving is when radio stations go into a holiday-song frenzy which lasts until the end of December. The most ridiculous song played might possibly be "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas." Really, is there anybody

who actually thinks that is going to happen in this part of Oregon?

Even Starbucks starts using holiday cups for their hot drinks around the beginning of November.

Where will it all end? Only time will tell.



All photos by Andrea Simpson Clackamas Print

LEFT: Several penguin cookies wear frosting scarves and happy expressions.
 ABOVE: Trees are covered with holiday decorations inside the Clackamas Town Center.
 RIGHT: The Starbucks Coffee cup, covered in snowflakes, with a holiday sleeve encircling it for good measure.

Mythological story comes to theaters

By **Kornafel**

Clackamas Print

Beowulf: The Anglo-Saxon Epic is now an enterprising motion picture

The ancient Anglo-Saxon legend of "Beowulf" hits the big screen in a new motion picture. The legend of "Beowulf" is an Anglo-Saxon epic poem written in the eighth and eleventh centuries. It tells the story of a warrior named Beowulf who battles three antagonists: a monster named Grendel that terrorizes the Danish king's Mead Hall, the dragon's mother and a

movie is a fully animated fantasy that seeks to explain some of the events behind the mon

sters. Why does Grendel attack Mead Hall? What is Grendel's mother? Why was the dragon in Grendel's cave?

J.R.R. Tolkien's main inspiration to write "Lord of the Rings" was the story of "Beowulf," and it shows in this film. The Danish town surrounding the hall is a close representation of Edoras, the town of King Théoden of Rohan. Mead Hall looks like the Golden Hall of Edoras, and the monster Grendel immediately reminds the viewer of Gollum from "Lord of the Rings."

As a movie, "Beowulf" is very entertaining. The voice acting by Anthony Hopkins and Angelina Jolie is well-done. Anyone who has read the poem will notice that Hollywood took some creative liberties in attempting to clarify parts of the plot that were left up to the reader's imagination in the initial story.

Beowulf tells the original

legend throughout the film, putting his own spin on the truth. No one but he knows what actually happened, so those who would later write of the tale would relay his version of the story.

In the poem Beowulf is portrayed as a great hero who bravely confronts and slays the monsters without any regard for his own well-being. In the movie, although still a brave hero, he is very arrogant and somewhat narcissistic. He makes mistakes, lies, and in the end, it only harms him and those he cares about.

Devout Christians may be turned off by the heavy paganistic imagery and seemingly anti-Christian tone of the film. In one scene, the dragon burns a church.

Keep in mind that the story of "Beowulf" was told by Pagans long before the time of Christ, and it wasn't officially written until the clergy, who were the only literate men of their time, actually put it on paper.

The movie is for fans of the fantasy genre, the "Beowulf" poem and heroic pictures.

Devout Christians and scholars of Anglo-Saxon mythology should keep an open mind when seeing this film — it's just a movie.



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"Beowulf" is playing nationwide in theaters, including Regal Cinema off Avenue in Oregon City, just a couple of miles from the college.