

Holiday ENTERTAINMENT

Holiday Gifts Of Electrically-Powered Tools

Holiday gifts of electrically-powered tools, small appliances, electronic equipment and toys bring hours of happiness and practical use to adults and children.

Pacific Power manager Carl Talton says the best way to use the gifts is to follow the manufacturers' operating and safety instructions.

"In some cases, children may be too young to plug an electrical cord into the wall," Talton said. "In that case, some basic supervision can usually eliminate any potential hazard."

When using electric tools and appliances, remember that the ground plug has been wired with operator safety in mind. Removing the plug eliminates the safe-guard built in by the manufacturer.

Installation of outdoor antennas and satellite dishes should always include a visu-

al check above and around for overhead electrical wires. If there's any question, the installation should be moved to a safer location.

All sensitive electronic devices should be plugged into a UL-approved "breaker strip" to help prevent damage from static charges or other unusual changes in voltage that might damage circuitry.

Finally, if a favorite "vintage train" is coming out of retirement to circle the tree, Talton suggested careful inspection of connections and wiring, as well as inspection of the Christmas lights themselves, to make certain there are no frayed wires. It's always best to unplug the Christmas tree lights when leaving home, as well.

"All of us at Pacific Power wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season," Talton concluded.

The Gadget Guy Offers Tips

On Buying Electronic Devices Buzz...blip...whrr...bleep. These are the sounds of the new generation of electronic gizmos. Sometimes the latest, zaniest electronic products make the best holiday gifts for those people who seem to have everything. Today there are electronic gadgets available for every thing imaginable -- from a portable book-jacket with a built-in reading lamp to a portable sports stereo that tracks mileage and counts calories.

"Electronic gadgets make great presents for kids and big kids because of their long-lasting fun," says Dick DeBartolo, the "Gadget and Gizmo Guy" and recognized electronic device expert who shares his expertise through his weekly appearances on CNBC's Steals & Deals. "An electronic gizmo that holds your interest may very well do the same for the person you're shopping for."

In addition to his CNBC television work, Mr. DeBartolo, a 30-year veteran contributing editor to Mad Magazine, regularly appears for consumer segments on ABC-TV's Live! With Regis & Kathie Lee. As a con-

sumer reporter, he gives tips on electronics buying do's and don'ts throughout the year, with particular emphasis during the holiday shopping season.

DeBartolo offers the following advice to holiday shoppers on purchasing electronic gifts.

BEFORE YOU BUY...

It pays to spend a little time doing research before buying. Check catalogs, circulars and retail store specializing in electronics to compare brands, prices and available features.

If you can wait until a new product is available in a number of stores, you're likely to save money. Usually in the first two or three months, brand new gadgets sell for the full manufacturer's suggested retail price and are only featured in specialty stores.

Don't always be impressed by products that offer a multitude of tempting yet obscure features. The best value in electronic devices, such as CD players and portable audio systems, are generally in the mid-price units. These mid-level electronic de-

VICES usually have all the key features you will need, at a more reasonable price. If you're not sure which features are important, ask friends who have similar products.

Never leave the store without

making sure that you have everything you will need to operate your new gadget. This may include accessories such as adapters, cables, batteries, headphones, etc.

Examine everything in the box to determine that nothing is missing.

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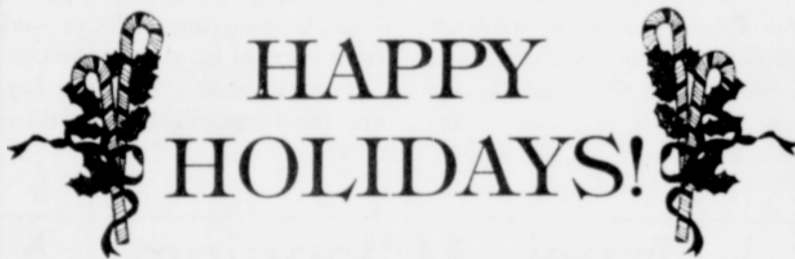
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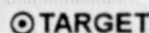
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KWANZAA Calendar of Events

- December 3 UMOJA (Unity)
Saturday Open House 12 - 3 pm
- December 4 KUJICHAGULIA (Self
Sunday Determination) 6 - 9 pm
- December 11 UJIMA (Collective Work
Sunday and Responsibility)
Exhibit/Reception 2 - 6 pm
- December 12 UJAMAA (Cooperative
Monday Economics) 6 - 9 pm
- December 18 NIA (Purpose) 4 - 6 pm
Sunday
- December 20 KUUMBA (Creativity)
Tuesday 12 - 2 pm
- December 22 IMANI (Faith) 6 - 6:45 pm
Thursday Inner City Student Performance 7 pm



DEC. 1 - 31, 1994



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