

Parade boasts floats, people in tacky attire

By The Associated Press
PASADENA, Calif. — The "14th Occasional Pasadena Doo Dah Parade," a tacky ensemble of floats such as the Hibachi "grill team" and an outhouse with Santa's wife inside, weaved through the streets before 50,000 people.

Unlike the traditional Rose Parade, Sunday's Doo Dah boasted few rules, no queen and no formal judging, and featured marchers carrying briefcases, lawn furniture and snow shovels.

The highlight was the Great Zsa Zsa Drill Team, in which several women and one burly man, all dressed as Zsa Zsa Gabor, recreated the actress' infamous policeman-slapping incident with men dressed as Beverly Hills motorcycle officers.

Other favorites were The Texas Chainsaw Massacre Drool Team of the Living Dead Dishonor Guard, featuring marchers with live, running chain saws — with chains removed. There were several Exxon Valdez floats, including one operated by roller skaters who kept falling down and yelling, "The reef, the reef."

The Barbecue & Hibachi Marching Grill Team members banged on barbecues with metal tongs behind a drum major with an ice chest around his neck.

Replicas of bathroom fixtures were popular among entrants, including a Santa Claus who drove a bike equipped with an outhouse, whose door would open to expose a compromised Mrs. Claus.

The Doo Dah parade was first held Jan. 1 1978, when the Rose Parade was switched to Jan. 2 to avoid being held on a Sunday. Last year's event was the 12th parade, creating some confusion over why this year's was dubbed the 14th.

"Well, this is the 'occasional' parade, and 40 or so of my friends celebrated Doo Dah 13 with a pub crawl along the parade route on New Year's Day, while I was out of town," said self-proclaimed Doo Dah Czar Peter Apanel.



In *The Little Mermaid*, the sea princess Ariel is fascinated with everything human, while her friend Flounder wishes she would give up her dream to become human.



Jessica Riggs (Rebecca Harrell) and her Dad, John Riggs (Sam Elliott), discover a very special reindeer in *Prancer*.



In *Back to the Future II*, Jennifer (Elizabeth Shue) and Marty McFly (Michael J. Fox) listen to Doc Brown (Christopher Lloyd) as he insists he must take them to the future.

'Tis the season for MOVIES

By DAVID BOWDEN
Staff Writer

The Christmas season is looming nearer, bringing with it a horde of movies both naughty and nice because, after the summer period, the holiday season is regarded as the second biggest grossing period for the movie industry.

Christmas is one of the times when studios release what they hope to be their biggest and best. There are the guaranteed megahits such as *Back to the Future II* and the possible successes, including *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*.

However, having the big names in a movie does not necessarily ensure quality. For example, *Harlem Nights*, with Eddie Murphy and Richard Pryor, was universally panned by critics.

The following summaries might help the audience in its endless quest for quality motion pictures:

● *Back to the Future II*: Michael J. Fox recreates his role as Marty McFly in the sequel to one of the highest grossing movies of all time.

McFly and mad scientist Doc Brown (again played by Christopher Lloyd) travel to the year 2015, to an alternate 1985, and back once again to 1955.

It will be interesting to see if this movie can keep the goofy humor of the original and not drown the audience in special effects.

● *Christmas Vacation*: Chevy Chase is the dorky dad in yet another *Vacation* movie. After terrorizing Wally-World and Europe, Chase and company relax at home for Christmas.

Unfortunately, Chase's white-trash relatives also drop by for a visit. As with all of Chase's movies, this movie could be either really funny or really awful.

● *Harlem Nights*: Eddie Murphy fancies himself a director and a screenwriter. The plot centers around night club owner Richard Pryor and his hot-headed son (Murphy).

Other stars in the movie: Redd Foxx, Jasmine Guy of "A Different World," Michael Lerner, Della Reese and Arsenio Hall.

● *She-Devil*: Roseanne Barr and Meryl Streep battle over Ed Begley Jr. in this comedy. Barr plays Begley's wife who cheats on her with Streep.

Barr's character is a world apart from her character of the griping mother on television's "Roseanne." She is a psycho nurse with a moustache in this movie.

● *War of the Roses*: Reunites the cast of "Romancing the Stone." Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner play a divorcing couple who fight a lot in this comedy.

This movie could go either way as divorce is not an inherently funny comedic device.

● *Prancer*: A children's movie about one of Santa's reindeers. The reindeer gets lost and winds up with John Riggs (played by gruff but lovable Sam Elliott) and his daughter Jessica.

USC journalism sophomore Corey Ray said that EI-

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Drum Eatenton (Tom Skerritt, r.) proudly announces to party guests that his daughter, Shelby (Julia Roberts), and son-in-law, Jackson Latherie (Dylan McDermott), are soon going to be parents in *Steel Magnolias*.

Amnesty International fights for human rights with letters

By ELIZABETH LYNCH
Staff Writer

Imagine yourself as a college student in Chile. One day you might express your opinion against a new enforced law while engaged in a class discussion.

Within hours after your class is dismissed, you find yourself in jail waiting to be whipped, beaten or ready for another form of torture.

The USC chapter of Amnesty International is there to help prisoners of conscience such as these students.

"For years I was held in a tiny cell. My only human contact was with my torturers. . . On Christmas Eve the door to my cell opened and the guard tossed in a crumpled piece of paper. It said, 'Take heart. The world knows you're alive. We're with you. Regards, Monica, Amnesty International.' That letter saved my

life," said one released prisoner of conscience from Paraguay.

Besides writing to the prisoners themselves, the Amnesty International freedom writers also write letters to the heads of the governments holding these prisoners.

"A government gets hundreds and thousands of letters. They realize what they are doing is wrong and that we're watching. Then, hopefully, the changes come," said Monica Costello, a journalism sophomore and president of USC's Amnesty International chapter.

"Every other Wednesday we set up our table outside of Russell House. There we get about 80 to 90 signatures to petitions demanding the release of several prisoners. We also get about 30 hand-written let-

ters out to governments helping out the prisoner of conscience."

Amnesty International said through their literature that they are an impartial, independent, world-wide movement of people acting on the conviction that governments must not deny individuals of their basic human rights.

"I'm involved with Amnesty International because I think there is a lot of human rights abuses in the world that need to be stopped. Letter writing is just one way of doing it," freshman journalism major Jana Vonn said.

Amnesty International's student program is active in more than 1,700 high schools, colleges and universities around the U.S.

The basic plan of the USC chapter is to work on


special campaigns on behalf of the individual prisoners while educating the campus on human rights, Costello said.

Since the organization was founded in 1961, Amnesty International has worked on behalf of more than 25,000 prisoners around the world. In 1988 alone, the U.S. Amnesty International chapter has helped to release 200 prisoners of conscience.

Beginning Dec. 8, students involved with Amnesty International will sponsor a "Tree of Hope" in which students will be able to buy a holiday greeting card, write a message inside and have it sent to a prisoner of conscience.

On Human Rights Day, Dec. 10, the club will show the Amnesty International Human Rights Tour in Russell House Room 302.

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Carolina Cares Day

USC's Annual Student Charity Drive
Saturday, December 2
10 AM - 4 PM

Volunteers will be collecting canned goods, toys, clothing and monetary donations at the Russell House.

