

Tall tea cups, sandblasting part of secret university plot

By SCOTT PRUDEN
Staff writer

It's happening again, and this time it's personal.

The folks from Marriott, in a move to cut costs or get the anti-chlorofluorocarbon people off their backs, have gone back to the dreaded tall drink cups.

You know why, too. They're obscenely top heavy, and as much as they might help keep the ozone layer from breaking down, they still make your average, everyday dextrous tray carrier look like a klutz and a complete idiot.

I know, because some poor guy looked like a klutz and a complete idiot the other night when he dumped his sweet tea with lemon all over my right leg.

He was embarrassed. I was embarrassed. He was apologetic. I was forgiving. He even offered to pay for the chocolate chip cookie that perished in the fray and get my pants cleaned for me.

I almost took him up on his first offer, but on his second offer, I'm just not the kind of guy who would just strip down to my skivvies while waiting in line at the Grand Marketplace.

Actually, I've decided that things like the dreaded too-tall tea cups are planned by the university's secret propaganda and covert operations division, the Department of Morale Reduction.

Yes, a secret operation working from within the university administration, no doubt without the knowledge of even our highest ranking officials. Somewhere, lurking in the echoing halls of the administration building is USC's own Ollie North, formulating devious plans to drag down the spirit of its students.

After all, who do you think is responsible for things like toppling tea cups? No sensible person

Scott Pruden's Lifestyles

would go out of their way to make people spill tea all over the floor of their own establishment, now would they?

And for the life of me, I can't imagine who would want to chop down some of the nicest trees on campus. One behind my dorm got iced just as school started, and that's put a downer on my whole semester.

Only such an insidious organization would ever befuddle students so well by authorizing that Woodrow be sandblasted and painted, and then sandblasted and chipped and then painted again, all within two years? What's the point?

Maybe whatever bozo that approved this has seen too many Bugs Bunny cartoons and figures he'll eventually get to that one elusive stone that holds the key to riches, fame, and a speaking tour of Donahue, Oprah and Sally Jessie.

Yes, they must be looking for the singing frog.

And don't even pretend you don't know what I'm talking about. You're not so mature that you don't remember that little green amphibian, derby in one hand and cane in the other, popping out of its box and singing "Hello, my baby! Hello, my honey! Hello, my ragtime gal!"

It's quite obvious that some loon somewhere in the administration building has gotten it into their head that that little frog really exists and is hiding somewhere inside the superstructure of Woodrow.

Well, I've got news for them. This is USC, and if there's going to be any animal singing and dancing, it's going to be a squirrel.



The Christmas tree at USC President James Holderman's home.

By KATHY HEBERGER
Staff Writer

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at USC and in the downtown area as students and the city get into the festive mood.

"We were feeling that impending doom of semester exams so we decided to go out and decorate," mathematics senior Boyce Lawton said.

His two-foot pre-decorated real Norfolk Island pine's lights sparkle through a thin layer of frosty snowflakes from his second floor Harper apartment window.

Lawton and his roommate, finance junior Jim Dickson, made two trips to K-Mart for the materials — four strands of lights, mistletoe, two Christmas stockings and Santa caps, three cans of snow, three "Merry Christmas" signs and the pine.

"We were in the Christmas mode," Rigby said.

Freshmen Julie Eyerman and Tricia Leathers also made the trek to K-Mart. "That's where it all started. We were looking for some Christmas decorations, and we saw him sitting there among the larger trees," Eyerman said of the two-foot plastic Canadian pine in their Baker dorm room. "We charged him," she said.

Their tree features a 20-piece light set, mi-

niature gift boxes and a pair of plaid boxer shorts as a tree skirt.

"The key word for our decorating is economize, economize, economize," Leathers said.

Freshman Catherine Binuya took the homemade approach, making intricate paper snowflakes to decorate her fourth floor Wade Hampton window. She also has a Santa and sleigh scene on the wall outside her door. "I needed something festive to get me in the Christmas spirit . . . and it was a good excuse not to study for a while," she said.

Horseshoe residents Frank Addy and Craig Rigby's different approaches to Christmas decorating show in their neighboring Harper windows. Addy's tree achieves the classical look with its red velvet bows, hand-made popcorn strand and white lights, and Rigby's creation, a strand of electric lights shaped into a tree, is original.

"We like to bring some humor into this time before exams. I do variations of the tree each year," Rigby, a hotel, restaurant and tourism senior, said.

The Horseshoe also features the USC President James Holderman's Williamsburg-style home decorated with white lights and fruit-laden wreaths, the university's Christmas tree on Sumter Street and lamp posts

Deck the halls

Students, university decorate to get into the holiday spirit

with bows and pine branches.

"All these decorations bring out the Christmas spirit. They get me so into the mood of Christmas that I want to go home and help my family decorate," journalism freshman Kristen Black said.

Excitement about going home is the theme of the Freshman Council and CPU's "Countdown to Christmas" activities. The groups will sponsor the "Beat the Clock" dance this Saturday from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., and Bill Murray's *Scrooged* will be at the CPU theater Thursday through Saturday at \$2 admission.

● Campus dining halls are having Christmas specials to abate students until they can get some of mom's ham and cabbage.

On Thursday night, a candlelit and table-clothed Patterson Hall will have a buffet line with chefs in full attire to carve all-you-can-eat ham and chicken.

"We want to give every thing a homey atmosphere," said Angela Evans, the Marriot Food Services employee who has decorated The Patio for the past two years.

● Bates House will have its Christmas

See CHRISTMAS page 5

Woods leaves wife; Vaughn says drugs don't help music

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Actor James Woods and his wife, Sarah Marie Owen, have separated after four months of marriage, citing irreconcilable differences.

Documents filed in Superior Court by Woods' lawyer, Dennis Wasser, said the couple separated Nov. 6, and all property had been divided. Woods initiated the filing for legal separation.

Woods, 42, and Owen, 26, have no children.

Woods won television Emmy Awards in 1987 for his portrayal of the mentally ill brother of James Garner in "Promise" and in 1989 for the title character in "My Name Is Bill W." Owen is a horse trainer.

It was Woods' second marriage and the first for Owen.

People in the news

LOS ANGELES — Actor Randy Quaid says he was leary about reprising his role as Chevy Chase's chiseling country cousin in the movie *Christmas Vacation*.

The cousin, Eddie, first turned up in the original *National Lampoon's Vacation* in 1983.

Quaid has balanced comic roles with a serious acting career that included an Oscar nomination for his kleptomaniac sailor in the 1973 film *The Last Detail*. "I love playing Eddie. But, I didn't want to reprise

the role because I want to get away from playing those kinds of characters," Quaid said in a recent interview.

"But, I read the script, and it was just so funny; I couldn't wait to say some of the lines," he said.

NEW YORK — Rather than inspiring creativity, drugs more often hamper musicians, blues guitarist Stevie Ray Vaughan and other artists say in the December issue of *Musician* magazine.

"The obsession with the quick fix becomes not just a crutch, but everything to us," said Vaughan, who recently kicked a long-term drug habit. "And then what really matters gets pushed out the window."

The Red Hot Chili Peppers' latest album, *Mother's Milk*, includes an anti-drug anthem inspired by the recent death of the band's guitarist, Hillel Slovak, from a heroin overdose. "Losing your best friend at the age of 26 is a mind- and soul-blower," said Anthony Kie-

dis, the funk band's lead singer.

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Three Rolling Stones concerts this month will boost business during a usually slow time, Atlantic City officials predict.

"It will help fill a slight void between the wind-up of the conventions and the holiday season," said John Fox of the Atlantic City Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The Stones have performances scheduled for Dec. 17, 19 and 20.

The first of 19 forklifts to set up the massive stage needed for the venerable rock 'n' rollers' "Steel Wheels" concert began arriving Monday, said Dave Coskey, a spokesman for Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino.

Billionaire developer Donald Trump is co-sponsoring the shows, which are the last of the Stones tour.

Ad

DON'T CHICKEN OUT.

EXCUSES DON'T SAVE LIVES. BLOOD DOES.

American Red Cross

We'll Help Will You?

SEASON'S GREETINGS

RUSSELL HOUSE

CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

AUDIO AND CALCULATOR SALE
WITH ANY ITEM COSTING \$7.50 OR MORE, CHOOSE A FREE GIFT FROM OUR PRE-SELECTED GROUP OF STEREO HEADPHONES, TAPES, AND CD'S. VALUES UP TO \$12.00! (Offer Valid While Quantities Last.)

ALL RECORDS, PRE-RECORDED TAPES, AND CD'S
10% OFF

SONY "POPS" BLANK VIDEO TAPES (T-120) - \$3.99 EACH

"YOUR EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER"

WUSC-FM

AWESOME ALTERNATIVE 90.5

UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE
Russell House

NEED CASH FOR CHRISTMAS?
Sell Your Books

UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE BUY BACK POLICY

The University Bookstore will be purchasing books that are in adequate condition for resale during our Buy Back days according to the following guidelines:

Buy Back Fact #1:
Customers selling books they purchased new which have been requested by faculty as textbooks will be paid 1/2 of the new price.

Buy Back Fact #2:
Customers selling used books which have been requested by faculty as textbooks will be paid 1/2 of the new price.

Buy Back Fact #3:
Some of the books you have will not be used again next semester. Wallace's College Book Company provides you with a national market for these books. They pay top dollar for all books with a resale value. Please be assured that the University Bookstore is committed to purchasing your books in the most equitable manner possible.

WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS ON DATES, TIMES, AND BONUS SPECIALS

USC UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE

"YOUR EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER"

UB-401