



Night before Christmas comes early

By Stash Figlewski

In the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, with the pressure to buy the perfect gift, to make time to do all of the activities that must be done and to somehow avoid the dreaded fruitcake without hurting Grandma's feelings, people sometimes forget what the true meaning of Christmas is all about.

Wes Brown Julie Parish, Clay Harwood, Laura Munden and Brooke Adkins have not forgotten the meaning of Christmas. On Dec. 7 they put on a play--not at school and not for a school assignment. They put on a play for the children hospi-

talized at Nash General Hospital because they wanted to bring joy to the children.

They presented "The Night Before Christmas." The five dressed in old-fashioned pajamas and Santa hats.

A narrator told the story and the students acted as the children whose dreams were filled with sugar plums.

Musical interludes interrupted the narrative. Songs included "Frosty, the Snowman," "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer," and "Here Comes Santa Claus."

Much to the delight of the children who packed into the hospital cafeteria, Santa Claus made an appearance and brought gifts to the youngsters and took requests from them

Trekkies happy with flick

By Ashley Avery

"Warp speed. Engage!" Those are words that Star Trek fans and non-fans alike know and they were the words most prominently used in the movie, *Star Trek: First Contact*.

There is a common misconception that to enjoy a Star Trek movie, the viewer has to be a Trekkie, but I can tell you that that is not true.

Star Trek: First Contact is an action-packed introduction to the Star Trek world and provides a look at their worst enemy, a group of half-man, half-machine beings called the Borg.

In the movie Captain Picard, played by Patrick Stewart, and his crew are testing the new Enterprise, when a call comes in that the Borg are attacking Earth. The Enterprise rushes to Earth in an attempt to defeat the Borg, but they are too late. The crew of the Enterprise find that the Borg have traveled back in time. The Enterprise has no choice but to follow. They find that they are just in time to save a historical figure from certain doom.

The Borg are bent on capturing Earth. Will Captain Picard have to destroy the Enterprise? Will he have to destroy Data? Will they ever get back to their own time? To discover the answers, you will have to see the movie?

Star Trek: First Contact is full of surprises. The movie was directed by Jonathan Frakes, who also plays Commander William Riker, Picard's first officer. Frakes shows his skill at putting together a movie that is as dramatic as it is action-filled.

The movie also introduces a score of new, although short-lived characters, including the villainous Borg queen, who remains an enigma throughout the movie.

Star Trek: First Contact is a movie most will like. It's exciting, captivating and the special effects will leave the viewer breathless. I say to everyone -- fan or not--go see *Star Trek: First Contact*. It's worth your time and money.



Pat goes phishing in Charlotte

It was probably about four years ago when I first heard the music of a band called Phish. A lot of people had still not heard of them, but their popularity was rising fast, particularly on the East coast. When I first listened to them, I did not like too much of what I heard. The instrumental music was extremely intricate and hard to follow sometimes, which I liked, but the lyrics and Anastasio's voice did not sit well with me. It seemed to me that all they did was write the music and then throw in a couple lyrics that had nothing to do with anything.

In a way I was right, but not completely. It seems to me now, after I gained a new respect for Phish, that the many songs have extremely intellectual lyrics to go along with the music. I was particularly impressed with their new album, *Billy Breathes*, which, to me is the best Phish album I have ever heard. Many long time Phish fans disagree with me, however.

I think the reason I did not enjoy Phish's music very much had to do with a comment that the friend who introduced me to the music made. He told me that Phish was the "Grateful Dead of the '90s." I remember this actually made me a little angry at the time, and I still do not believe it. To me, their music would never flow at all, let alone the way The Dead's

Musical Notes

By Pat Farnsworth

did. After a while, I began to listen to a couple of Phish bootlegs that I thought were all right, but I still would not buy any of their albums.

Finally, I began to think that they were good enough to see live, and everybody I talked to said that they put on a great show, so I went to Charlotte with a couple of guys and saw them live. That was most definitely what changed the way I saw Phish. Their music did not flow the way The Dead's did, but it flowed in a different way that defied comparison.

The show attracted the same scene, and the fans often alternate tours between Phish and The Dead. I enjoyed the music so much that I acquired a couple tapes of really good shows that I borrowed or copied from my friends. This year, when their new album came out, I bought it and loved it. After this I went and saw them in Charlotte again and had a blast.

The show was in October, the weekend before Halloween. Three of my friends and I bought tickets and drove up to Charlotte.

First, we drove to the closest camp site, which was actually in South Carolina. This was fine because the coliseum is right on the border any way. We got to the campsite and set up our tents. Most of the people there were going to see Phish except for some elderly people right next to us in a mobile home. The sign in front of the campsite read "Campground Halloween Massacre," which we were kind of wondering about, but we figured that we would find out later. We set up our tents and made preparations to go to the show, then we left.

As always, the parking lot scene at The Coliseum was fun. We hung around for a while and met up with some friends of ours who were sitting in the same area seats as we were and then we went up. There were so many people trying to get in the building before the show that the staff would only let small groups of people walk up to the doors at one time. This was really annoying considering that we could hear the music start, but I guess it was necessary, because I know if they weren't there I would have been running and bumping into people to get to my seat for the opener.

Phish started out with "Free," the first single from *Billy Breathes*. Then they played the second song from the new album, "Waste", which was one of my fa-

vorite songs all night. The song that really sealed it for me was "Run Like An Antelope", which is a natural crowd pleaser. The whole show was full of energy. It was like you couldn't sit down, if you wanted to. We were directly to the right of the band and the view was pretty good. It was pretty warm in the Coliseum and the smoke was thick, but nobody really cared. The building is set up so that everyone gets a good look at the stage, so they have to make the seats go higher up. If you were on one of the really high rows then you were probably completely enveloped in a cloud of smoke, which could have been fun depending on how much oxygen you think you needed.

After the show was over, we headed back to the campsite. By the time we got there, it was packed. It was like the parking lot all night, except there were no cops at the campsite. The people that worked at the campsite were dressed up in Halloween costumes and there was some guy giving people tractor rides around the grounds until 4 a.m. All night people walked around with giant green, blue and pink balloons.

The show was one of the greatest ever. It was probably the most fun the human body can handle without keeling over..